



## EUROPEAN IDENTITY FOR A NEW DECADE

The political season was opened in Brussels with the EPP Political assembly. EDS was present and opened strongly by putting forward a resolution on European Identity. The European elections in 2014, the first elections to be had under the Lisbon treaty, are just around the corner. EPP must be prepared to face the new challenges.

The future comes again one step closer when the The European electorate will elect an empowered parliament that for the first time has a concrete mandate. Alas, there is a gaping cap between the sweet talk of the elite in Brussels and the regular voter. Mistrust towards the Union grows every day, populist nationalist movements don't hesitate to capitalise on the present problems and rally support in more and more countries.

We must be prepared. In 2014 The Centre Right must be able to raise above petty politicking and be able to send a clear message: The European project has not failed. It can be born into a new blossoming if we only do responsible decisions. The European citizens have to be given reasons to be proud of being European. We are responsible for getting the message through. The work starts today!

**Juraj ANTAL**  
Chairman, European Democrat Students



## POLITICAL SEASON OPENED IN BRUSSELS

The launch of the political autumn in Brussels begin of the week was keeping the new EDS leadership busy, just one day after concluding the Prague Council Meeting. Newly elected Chairman Juraj ANTAL, joined by former Chairman and now Honorary Chairman Bence BAUER, alongside new Secretary General Samuli KAURANNE and Deputy Secretary General Dace SPELMANE attended the most important meetings and presented the new Bureau and EDS work plan to a number of officials.

After conducting the last part of changeover meetings, the new leadership was officially introduced to EPP President Wilfried MARTENS who showed big interest in the EDS activities. Also EPP Secretary General Antonio LOPEZ-ISTURIZ congratulated the new Bureau and was confident to continue the good relations and the fruitful cooperation.

EPP Deputy Secretary General Luc VANDEPUTTE underlined the constant work EDS is contributing to the EPP. As a sign of this, EDS will be present at the EPP Congress in Marseille with large numbers. During all meetings, EDS publications Annual Report, BullsEye and the special WinterU booklet about the Visegrad panels were presented and gladly welcomed by all partners.



## CONSERVATIVES WIN IN NORWAY

Local elections took place in Norway on 12th September. The Conservative Party Høyre achieved its best results since the 70s in many parts of the country, and won in almost all of Norway's cities. One of the best results came from Tromsø municipality, where Høyre progressed from 11,6 % in 2007 to 36 %.

Many students from EDS member organisation HSF stood up as candidates, and were also elected. Among these were Co-Chairwoman of EDS Working Group for Human Rights Charlotte SPURKELAND in Bergen, former EDS Vice Chairman Andreas WILLERSRUD in Tromsø and the new HSF Chairman Morten OLIMB in Lunner.

On the other side, the ruling Labour Party also achieved record results in the elections, illustrating that in the aftermath of the the terrorist acts in Oslo and on Utøya, Norwegians prefer the "safe" parties, rather than the progress and the socialist parties who got their worst results in years.

In the polls, if the parliament elections took place today, Høyre would receive around 30% of the votes nationally. Høyre has thus stabilised itself as the largest party on the non-socialist wing in Norwegian politics after several years of losing voters to the libertarian progress party. Høyre's Chairwoman Erna SOLBERG now looks like the strongest candidate for the next Prime Minister. The national elections will take place in September 2013.

## EDS SEMINAR ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN PRAGUE



The first Seminar & Council Meeting of the working year was organised from September 13 to 18 in Prague, Czech Republic, by our friends from Mladí Konzervativci (MK). The Event was kindly supported by the Council of Europe.

During the six days the delegates were able to deepen their knowledge about issues of environment and energy, and get a Central European view on what has happened on this field since the fall of the wall, and what still remains to be done. The delegates also had a chance to get a better understanding on what the Council of Europe does and what are their priorities in these issues.

In other parts of the programme, the delegates also had the possibility to visit the Czech Parliament, the Prague Castle and attend a boat trip on Moldau, as well as gain a number of other interesting experiences, which gave the group as a whole a better understanding of the Czech society and culture.

EDS wishes to thank the organisers, and everybody who contributed to a very interesting and intellectually stimulating event.

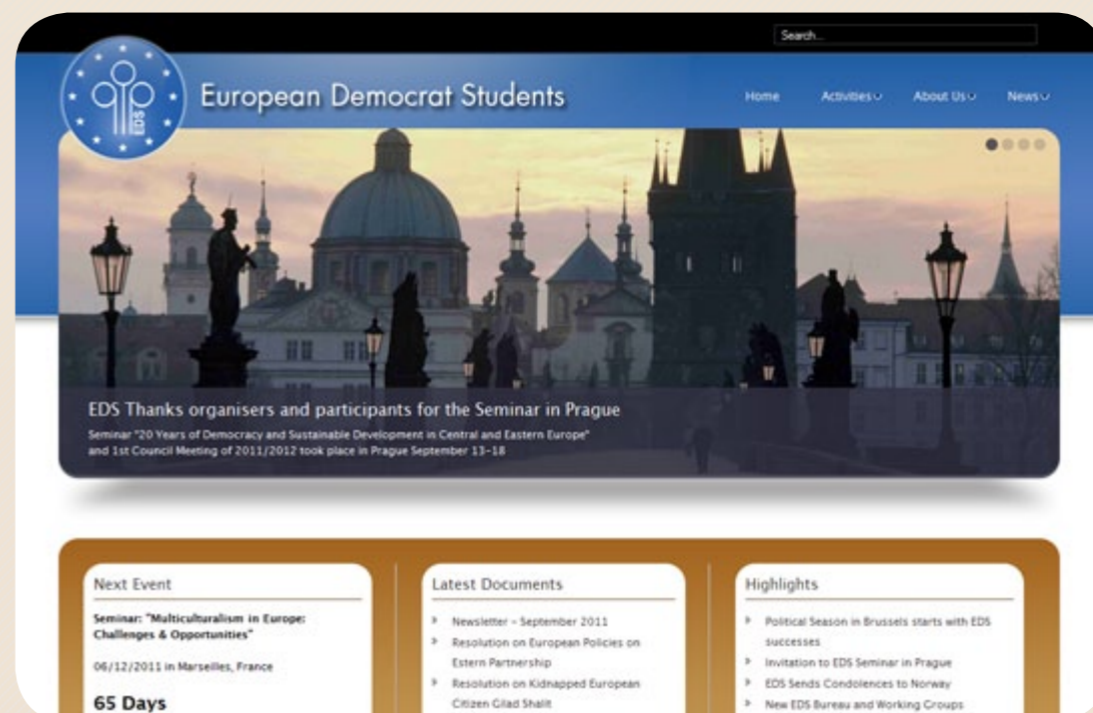


## EDS LAUNCHES A NEW WEBSITE

EDS launched a new website during the Seminar in Prague. The new website features not only a brand new visual look, but also improved navigation for easier access to all the content.

A special emphasis was also put to the new front page, which now clearly features only the most essential aspects of our operation – latest news, latest documents and next events.

Come and see it for yourself at [www.edsnet.eu](http://www.edsnet.eu)!



## BULLSEYE TAKES ON THE ENVIRONMENT

The latest issue of the BullsEye magazine was also published in Prague. The new edition takes on the topics of Environment and Ecology.

The issue also features an insight to the Debt crisis in Greece from the Greek point of view, as well as feature articles on the Croatian accession to the EU and on the status of the democratisation process in Moldova and Georgia.

You can read the issue online at [www.edsnet.eu](http://www.edsnet.eu)



## CIVIC ACADEMY IN SOPOT, POLAND

EDS took actively part in the European Forum for New Ideas and Civic Academy in Sopot, near Gdansk, Poland. The purpose of the Forum is to help EU and Eastern Partnership countries to understand the meaning of responsibility both in public service and corporate activities, as well as to discuss critical challenges Europe and the world are currently facing.

The Civic Academy is a companion program of the European Forum of New Ideas. It is a business summit organised on the occasion of the Polish Presidency in the Council of the European Union under honorary patronage of Bronisław KOMOROWSKI, President of the Republic of Poland, Herman VAN ROMPUY, President of the European Council and Jerzy BUZEK, President of the European Parliament. EDS was represented in the summit by Director of Policy Gintarė NARKEVIČIŪTĖ.



**EUROPEJSKIE FORUM  
NOWYCH IDEI**  
Sopot | 28-30.09.2011

## NEXT EDS EVENTS

### DECEMBER 7 - 11, 2011

"Multiculturalism in Europe: Challenges and Opportunities"

**Seminar and Council Meeting in Marseille, France**

Registration opens on Monday October 31 at [edsnet.eu](http://edsnet.eu).

### FEBRUARY 21 - 26, 2012

"Democratisation Process in the Balkans:  
Promoting European values and Human Rights."

**XXII. Winter University in Rijeka, Croatia**

More information available soon online at [edsnet.eu](http://edsnet.eu).

