

Q & A - Reasons for a Green online primary

Visibility

First time that a European wide primary is being organised by any party; if organised right, it could bring a lot of media attention, especially national parties will profit from it.

Progressive

The Greens are frontrunners in creating more of European political space and show it by this innovative pan-European campaign.

Democracy

The Greens have advocated direct democracy for a long time, and this is a perfect opportunity to show Europe that we are serious about it. All Europeans who sympathise with our green goals have the chance to vote, because we want the people to be in charge of who is going to lead the Greens in the campaign.

Attract new People

The number of people we would be able to attract, and bind to the Green campaign, is great. We look outside the party membership to potential new voters and possible new members for the national parties.

Mobilisation instrument

Not only for the European campaign, but also for the member parties, without a huge organizational burden on their shoulders. Our online voters will, in the end, vote for a national Green party.

Donations

We do not ask for a payment per vote, but we will ask for donations. This means that more budget can actually be spent on other elements of the campaign, allowing us particularly to allocate more funds to strengthening the transnational campaign activities.

Early campaign start

While the European elections are still a few months away, this is a perfect opportunity to build momentum for the EU elections by the national parties. Media attention will be there, covering our political message, in an early stage of the campaign.

National benefits

We will organize online debates, chat sessions and hangouts with the candidates, during the campaign leading up to the online election. This will give the opportunity to people to get to know the candidates not only on a European level, but also our common green goals and issues.

Member parties will be able to make use of this, to promote their own campaign. The candidate will travel to a lot of the 28 EU countries, and can participate as the 'European face' in national campaign events.

Unknown candidate

The Greens have to elect a Green leading candidate (or two) anyway. This candidate might not be known in many countries right now. However open would certainly increase the attention for the candidate that is needed during the general campaign.

The other political families

Will also select a leading candidate, we want to be part of the debates and we want to show that our candidate has the maximum legitimacy. In every debate the primary will be highlighted, this means extra attention for our candidate.

Can we exclude any mistake?

No we can't, but we can guarantee a safe and secure and anonymous system.

What will we do with all the data?

We will not store any data and use for example the email addresses of the voters without their consent.

Data storage

Will take place in Europe and according to our high Green standards.

Can the EGP Office do this?

No, we need a renowned company with a lot of experience and good credentials! We choose to do this and we must do it well and that means that we take care of the conditions that are necessary to fulfill the task.

Transparency and auditing

Several organisations in the field of direct democracy have pointed out to us that it is necessary not only to organise this process from a technical point in a convincing way, but also from a point of transparency and auditing. When we will organise the primary we will also guarantee internal and external monitoring of the process. To begin with an internal electoral board in which we will include experts of some of our member parties, an advisory board, with experts with a technical background and with a direct democracy background. Further we will organise an internal and external auditing process. Part of the testing phase of any electronic (reliable) primary is done in such a way that the system is tested and tested again by experts and geeks. Normally hackers are invited for such a testing phase.

Experience with transnational online voting

We are not the first to organise this on a transnational level, however we would be the first political party on the European level. We know that the socialist will use the online primary in some member states as part of their procedure, but none of the political families will do as we would.

Regrets?

No, as far as we have researched, all who have conducted this in a thorough way are happy with the results and are investigating how to further use the instrument. Online voting has huge advantages, it is cheap, easy to use, very low thresholds and people can do it from everywhere. You do not waste paper and has a low carbon footprint.

Who will participate in the vote?

People will not start looking for us, so we have to mobilise through our member parties. We also need a dedicated media and online strategy. Together with the support of citizens organisations we consider that we would mobilise huge numbers of voters.