

# initial email from C. Lange

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Conversation: [jacobs-gsa](#) Proposal for an European election campaign at Jacobs

Subject: [jacobs-gsa](#) Proposal for an European election campaign at Jacobs

Dear all,

are there any plans about bringing the EU election campaign to the campus? If not, let me propose to do so. A very large number of potential voters is on campus (e.g. more than 200 Romanians and Bulgarians), and they should be made aware and mobilized.

A similar effort was made for the Bürgerschaft election in 2007 – not sure how the turnout was, but I highly respect that the effort was made at all. Or consider the great interest that the US presidential elections gained (thanks to Jessica's commitment) – well, for sure they are a bit sexier than the EU parliament elections, but on the other hand only very few Jacobs students (around 20? 30?) were actually entitled to vote, compared to some 600 (estimated) for the EU. Plus some 100  students from future EU members like Macedonia.

For those who don't know me: I'm a Ph.D. student in smart systems, former member of the GSA board, and highly interested in politics – not a member of any political organization, though. See my work homepage at <http://kwarc.info/clange>, and my facebook profile at <http://www.facebook.com/home.php#/profile.php?id=691382900&v=info&viewas=691382900>.

Now there are certain things I'm not completely sure about, but maybe you can help:

1. What can foreigners vote if they vote in Germany? I think the same parties as Germans, right? That is, one should try to explain to them
  - a) what the general profiles of those parties are
  - b) what those parties want to do on EU level
  - c) what potential effects this could have for their home countries (consider e.g. the CDU being against the admission of Turkey into the EU and the potential effects for the neighbour Bulgaria)
  - d) what effects this has on Germany... in this order, I think
2. I think they are entitled to vote in Germany, as they have their main residence here, right? How about voting in their home country? Can they alternatively do that? Then, many students might prefer that. Still, an on-campus campaign would be helpful for that – then more focused on the European level than the national level.
3. In 2007, our fellow students translated the Wahl-o-mat texts (<http://www.wahl-o-mat.de>, a voting decision support web site) to English. Do you know if there will again be a Wahl-o-mat setup for this election?
4. Does anybody have connections to local representatives of the parties, who we could invite to campus?

That is

- the students should be informed about the importance of their vote, about the choice they have.
- Then, we need to convince local politicians of the huge potential of hundreds of votes used or wasted. And they need to be briefed to make sure they understand what audience they are talking to. (E.g. they should be able to speak English, and they should not abuse the EU campaign for protesting against certain affairs of German domestic policy.)
- We should also have panel discussions with professors from political/social sciences
- and maybe some open space forum or contest to allow the students to express their vision of Europe.

Unfortunately, I won't be able to contribute too much right before the elections, as I am going to graduate later this year and I'll be on a conference in the week before the elections. But anyway, I'd first like to learn about your opinions and ideas.

Cheers,

Christoph

PS: Does the USG have a central e-mail address? I couldn't find any. Sorry if I missed some members.

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