

Social media driving right-wing Europe

The rise of the far right across Europe is linked to the impact of social media, as a new generation of young supporters embrace hardline nationalist extremism and anti-immigrant groups

GERMANY

Four years ago German BfV security agency estimated there were 25,000 right-wing extremists, of which 5,600 were neo-Nazis

Pegida:

Anti-Islamic

movement founded in Dresden, October 2014. Since February, number of supporters on its official Facebook profile has grown by 13%

f 179,580 *Facebook likes* Nov 2015*

National Democratic Party

of Germany: Neo-Nazi party has one Member of European Parliament

f 140,560

UNITED KINGDOM

Britain First: Far-right, anti-Islamist, nationalist party. Facebook support has grown 37% since April

f 1,000,380

English Defence League:

Far-right, anti-Islamist.

Support has grown 22% since April

f 232,000

HUNGARY

Jobbik: Extremist party is third largest in National Assembly

f 301,460

FRANCE

Front National: Far-right. Has 24 MEPs. Facebook support has surged 66% since April. Leader **Marine Le Pen** is high in polls for presidential election

f 281,320

AUSTRIA

Freedom Party:

Right-wing, anti-immigration.

Support up 50% since April

f 260,360

SWEDEN

Sweden Democrats:

Anti-immigration. 49 seats in 349-seat parliament, 2 MEPs.

Facebook support up 17% since April

f 103,090

NORWAY

Progress Party: Right-

wing party has 29 seats in 169-seat parliament. Facebook support up 22%

f 83,170

DENMARK

Danish People's

Party: Far-right. Has

37 seats in 179-seat parliament and 4 MEPs. Social media support up 76% since April

f 58,290



*Every time someone "likes" a Facebook page or comment, it is exposed to an average 136 other people, who then can "like" it to others

Sources: Facebook, Spiegel, vocativ.com

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