

Importance of the smaller parties in my country and in the EU

Political movement's chances in the EU

In my research, I would like to illustrate the situation and the importance of the small parties which first formed as a movement in the European Union, and compare it with the Hungarian context. Initially I want to show you the French En Marche! first, then I will represent the Italian Five Star movement.

Emmanuel Macron founded a political movement called En Marche! on 6 April 2016¹ and a year later the establishment of the movement was built, Macron won the 2017 presidential election. In the first round, those candidates who could collect the two most votes can qualify themselves to the second round. Marine Le Pen the candidate of the extreme-right and the centralist Macron could reach this result. In the second round Macron earned 66.1% of the valid votes.² En Marche! is to overcome the boundaries of traditional political divisions, to offer an alternative to the great parties in French politics and to renew France.³ In May 2017 it became a party with the new name (La République En Marche!) was launched at the 2017 French parliamentary elections where 309 seats in the Lower House were obtained from 577, and 26 seats in the Senate from 348.⁴

What does this mean for the EU policy? During his first year in office, Macron outlined a series of proposals for reforming European institutions. First of all he wants a two-speed EU which would allow common affairs between countries which want to work towards further integration while others can choose to maintain the status quo.⁵ Macron believes a separate parliament comprising elected members from eurozone countries would allow them to decide on matters that do not affect EU member states that not adopt the euro yet. He wants to create a post for

¹ En Marche official website

Source: <https://en-marche.fr/le-mouvement> 2018.03.21.

² France24: Emmanuel Macron président: les raisons d'une victoire

Source: <http://www.france24.com/fr/20170507-france-presidentielle-2017-emmanuel-macron-elui-president-raisons-succes-victoire-marche> 2018.01.07.

³ Le monde: Emmanuel Macron lance un « mouvement politique nouveau » baptisé « En marche ! »

Source: http://www.lemonde.fr/politique/article/2016/04/06/emmanuel-macron-lance-un-mouvement-politique-nouveau-baptise-en-marche_4897274_823448.html 2018.03.02.

⁴ Assemblée Nationale official website

Source: <http://www2.assemblee-nationale.fr/qui> 2018.04.15.

⁵ Macron Takes Aim at European Politics

Source: <https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/macron-2019-european-parliament-election-by-mark-leonard-2018-03?barrier=accesspaylog> 2018.08.02.

an EU finance minister, establish a joint eurozone budget, to institute a body tasked with overseeing bloc-wide economic policy.⁶

In July 2018 he agreed on several key issues with Angela Merkel that the French-German government should work together to make proposals how to renew the EU. They agreed several topics. Like the size of the European Commission should be reduced, introduce a „transnational election list” institution from the EP election of 2024. The two government also urges the EU to develop its defense capability and to change its foreign policy making in this proposals.⁷

I consider it important to mention the Italian Five Star Movement as well. Beppe Grillo, a comedian, political activist and entrepreneur Gianroberto Casaleggio founded the movement in 2009 in Milan. The breakthrough was achieved in the 2012 municipal elections: in the 4 municipalities the mayor of the party became the mayor. The movement was transformed into a party in 2013, winning in all the constituencies of several provinces in those southern and northern regions where the right and the Northern League were very strong. In the 2013 parliamentary elections in Italy, 25.5% achieved as the third force. The party won 109 mandate of the representative and 54 mandate of the Senators. The party won 17 seats in the 2014 European elections in Italy and was the second power behind the left Democratic Party. The 2016 Roman mayor election was won by the 5-star Virginia Raggi against the Democratic and she became the first female mayor of Rome.⁸ In the 2018 parliamentary elections in Italy, the M5S became the strongest party, starting to stand alone in all the southern Italian provinces, despite the fact that the center-right party alliance had preceded it altogether. Italy’s coalition government made up of the far-right League and the populist M5S.⁹

What does this mean for the EU policy? It is already a matter of concern that the government is EU-skeptical, because it can affect the election and later the functioning of the new European Parliament, but there are more critic issues as well. Another problem is that Italy have a very good relationship with Russia, and Grillo adding a diplomatic attack on the EU saying the bloc’s regulations distort treaties that were right for EU citizens. In his opinion there are two

⁶ How France's Emmanuel Macron wants to reform the EU

Source: <https://www.dw.com/en/how-frances-emmanuel-macron-wants-to-reform-the-eu/a-43002078> 2018.08.02.

⁷ Merkel, Macron bridge differences on EU reform

Source: <https://www.politico.eu/article/angela-merkel-emmanuel-macron-bridge-differences-on-eu-reform-france-germany/> 2018.08.02.

⁸ Who is Beppe Grillo and what is Five Star Movement?

Source: <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/who-is-beppe-grillo-five-star-movement-italy-referendum-party-matteo-renzi-resigns-a7456106.html> 2018.08.03.

⁹ Five Things to Know About Italy's Populist Coalition Government

Source: <http://time.com/5280993/m5s-lega-italy-populist-coalition/> 2018.08.03.

economies right now in the EU, the one of the North and the one of the South of Europe, and Italians are in the South, so they ready to strike proposing a referendum on the eurozone, a move that could cause the exit of Italy from the bloc. Even so Italy's euro zone exit has little chance.¹⁰ In July 2018 Italy's government sabotaged the EU summit too, Giuseppe Conte blocked all joint decisions because of the migration issues. Italy's government has adopted a harder line on migrants arrivals and Rome wants more help from the rest of the Continent, as the country has been the landing point for the majority of migrants. France and several other European Union countries including Italy have reached an agreement on new wording for migration conclusions at a leader's summit in Brussels even since, but it also shows that Italy have a strong influence on the EU issues.¹¹

In Hungary, there is a strong fragmentation on the opposition side, there are so many small parties, but I would like to introduce Momentum Mozgalom, since it was a political movement first, and then became a party.

According to the results of the French president election, and the Italy parliamentary election the question happens to be relevant whether this success is accessible in Hungary or not.

As the first political action of the Momentum Mozgalom, the movement reached a significant mobilization organizing an initiative against the 2024 Olympic games would have been held by Budapest, called „Nolimpia”. The second step was transforming the movement into a party, regarding the effects shaped the campaign strategy. As the outcomes are revealed of the parliamentary election of 2018, we are now acknowledged the final result of Momentum which has passed the 3%. Thus, the party can afford for the state-support so the operation of the party would be financed until the next election. Since Momentum gained the greatest rise among the supporters on the opposition side, this new participant of the Hungarian politics can be considered the most successful party of the 2018 election. But this is not enough to work within the European Union, and to become influential political actor.

Macron's En Marche! has a special rule and domination in the EU and they want to several reforms. Italy's 5S could take-down the Europe Union, and has a huge role because of the migration, so this two initially little movement's has become influential partys who has power

¹⁰ EU ON BRINK: Italy's rebels demand euro referendum - 'we need PLAN B'
Source: <https://www.express.co.uk/news/world/955244/italy-news-five-star-movement-beppe-grillo-european-union-referendum-euro-italexit> 2018.08.02.

¹¹ France and Italy have reached a preliminary agreement on a proposal on migration
Source: http://www.euronews.com/2018/06/28/france-and-italy-have-reached-a-preliminary-agreement-on-a-proposal-on-migration?utm_term=Autofeed&utm_campaign=Echobox&utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Twitter#Echobox=1530221536 2018.08.02.

to the EU politics as well, but what about Hungary? In my opinion the situation in Hungary can be traced back to the fact that the leader party of the country, Fidesz, has convinced the electorate with its anti-immigrant, fear-provoking policy, and in Hungary we can not speak of political apathy, the people are interested in politics better than before, this can be seen from the Fidesz's superior victory in the 2018 elections. Hungary has never had much influence on international, European politics, but taking advantage of the migratory crisis it does not depend on the size of the ruling party. Of course, it does not depend on the other EU countries either, but in other countries it does not choke so strongly the small parties, so there is a possibility of a level rise like En Marche! and 5S.