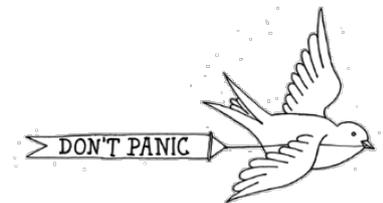


Pushing things forward?!

Experiences from & Perspectives for (activist)
politics in Europe

Discussion

freedom not fear Brussels 2011

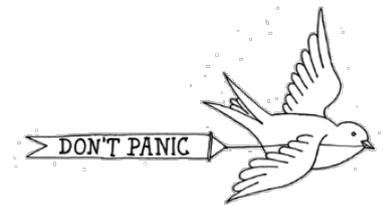


Before we start

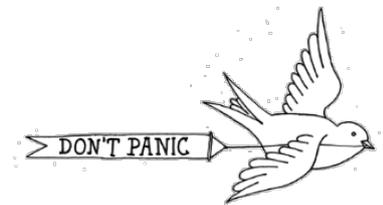
This is meant to be an open discussion – not a lecture.

If anyone does not want his/her input to be written down/put into one of the graphics please tell us.

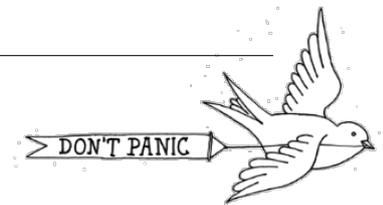
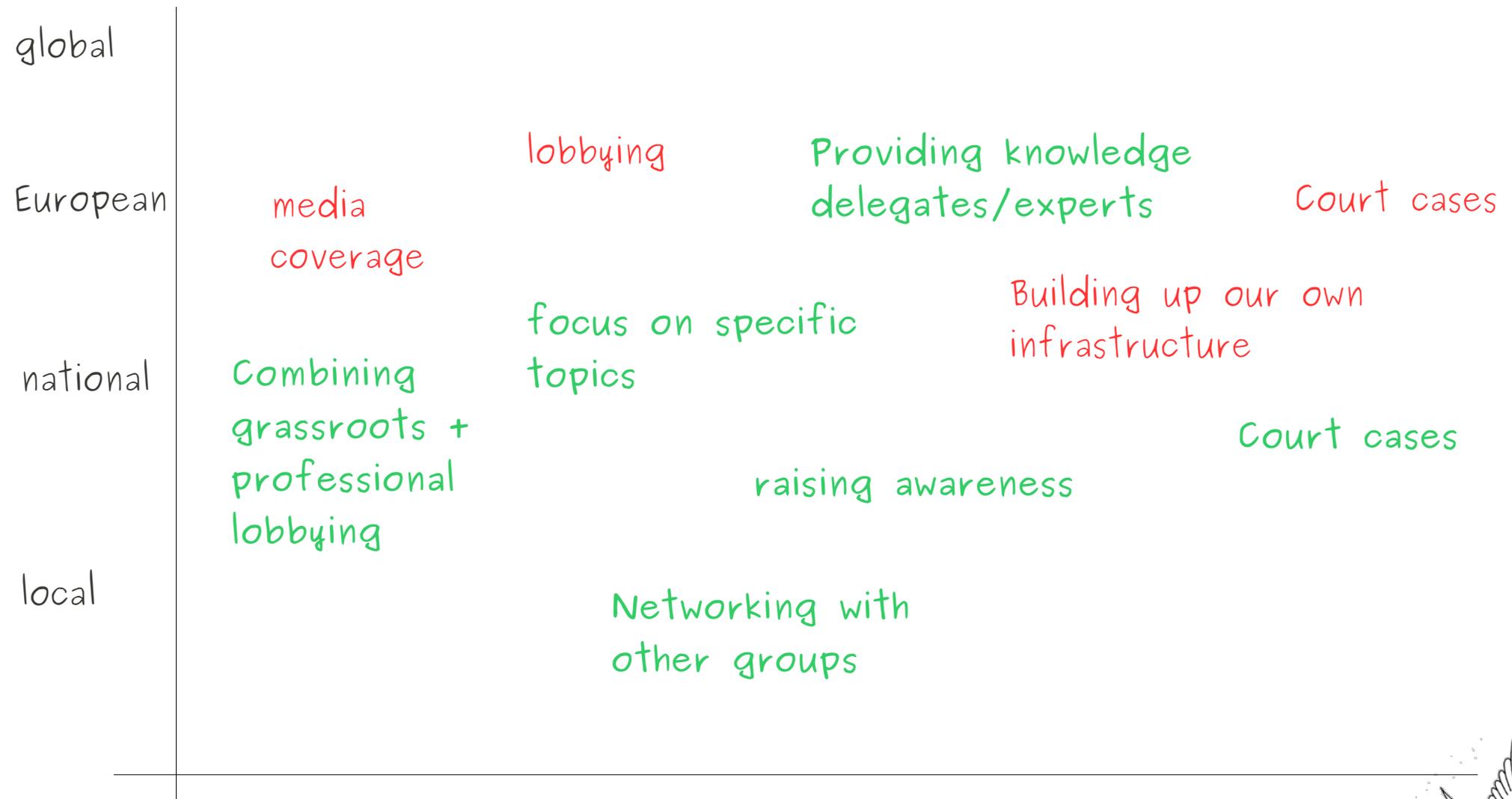
If you share your experiences with us keep your own privacy in mind.



status quo?



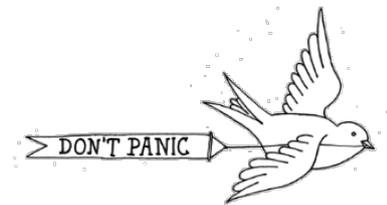
Experiences & opinions - what's working / what's not working?



Court cases

Working in terms of „self-defense“ (getting rid of surveillance measures) and to generate media coverage/awareness (national level)

Not working in terms of changing the paradigm of security laws or the political debate, especially on a European level.

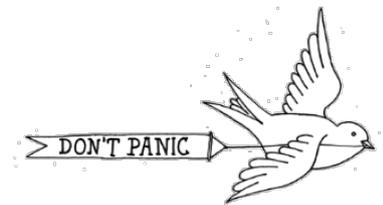


Media coverage

Is hard to pull off on a European level. On a national level it is possible and can be very effective if successful.

Nevertheless our impact on traditional/mainstream media is tiny compared to the possibilities of political parties/lobbyist groups.

Social media can be useful for campaigns but there is the problem of privacy concerns (facebook, ...)



Lobbying/Knowledge providing

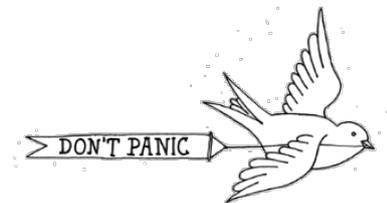
Lobbying

If it is done, it is effective.

However we do not have the resources to do it on a regular basis or to compete with the professional interest groups.

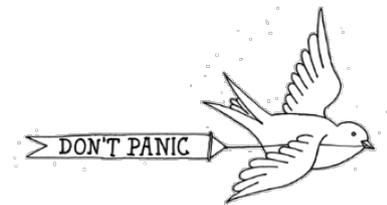
Knowledge providing

Giving European politicians background information and explaining them our concerns generated positive feedback in the majority of cases.



Focus on a specific topic

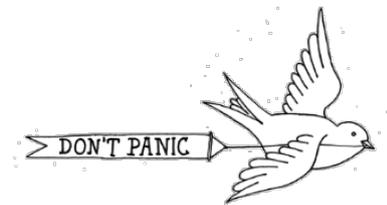
This enables us to become recognized as experts for a topic on our opinions to be heard. It works really well on a local & national base and there is also some success on the European level.



Networking with other groups

Networking with other political/social activists works good on a local level but has not been done on a European scale and regular basis yet.

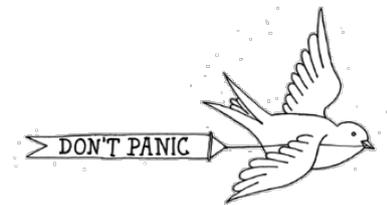
There are some connections to Labour unions on a national level.



Raising awareness

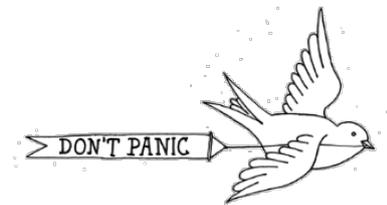
Can be seen as the key to change the overall political paradigm of surveillance instead of fear.

On a national level it worked well on some occasions (e.g. the censorship debate in Germany, various surveillance scandals) but not on a broader scale.



Infrastructure

We are lacking an own infrastrucure to do political work on a European level. (This is not meant to discredit the great work of the Brussel's activists - we just need more of you.)

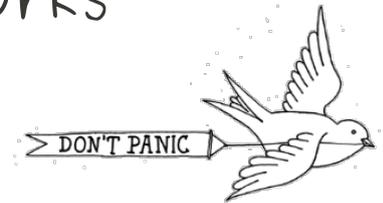


Perspectives!?! – Some notes

Lobbying (professional?) powered by a strong grassroots base. Expanding knowledge providing for politicians in the media.

Using/expanding existing platforms and/or networks of other groups (NGOs, ...)

Building up stronger relationships or networks throughout Europe.

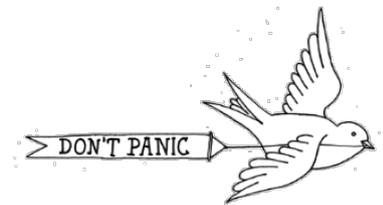


Perspectives!?! – Some notes

Raising awareness for EU-politics and their impact on national/local politics.

Generating stronger media coverage for EU-politics and problems.

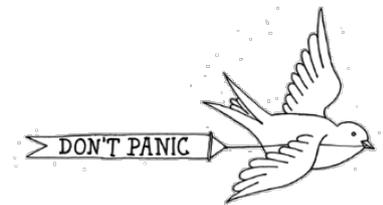
Using storytelling to get more and effective media coverage.



„Results“

We have a shared understanding that we need and want to get activist politics going on a European level.

This could be started as a network of (heterogenous) groups / individuals that is based on projects and/or knowledge sharing.

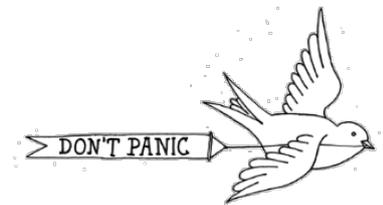


„Results“

We need a structure/network to work together on an international base. The structure should

- be easy to use
- be open to anybody
- provide added value (not another mailing list/social network/wiki)

We should not focus on technical details too much but more on getting things started.



Further steps

Staying in contact via the international mailinglist of the AK Vorrat.

Start working by setting up/using a platform. A crabgrass group (either on we.riseup.net or an own server) could be an option.

