

Experience from Poland: public hearings

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Obywatele RP (Citizens of Poland)



Active as an informal group
since 2016.

Fields of activity:

- Human rights
- Rule of law
- **Democracy and civil society.**

Our activities concerning civil society and elections

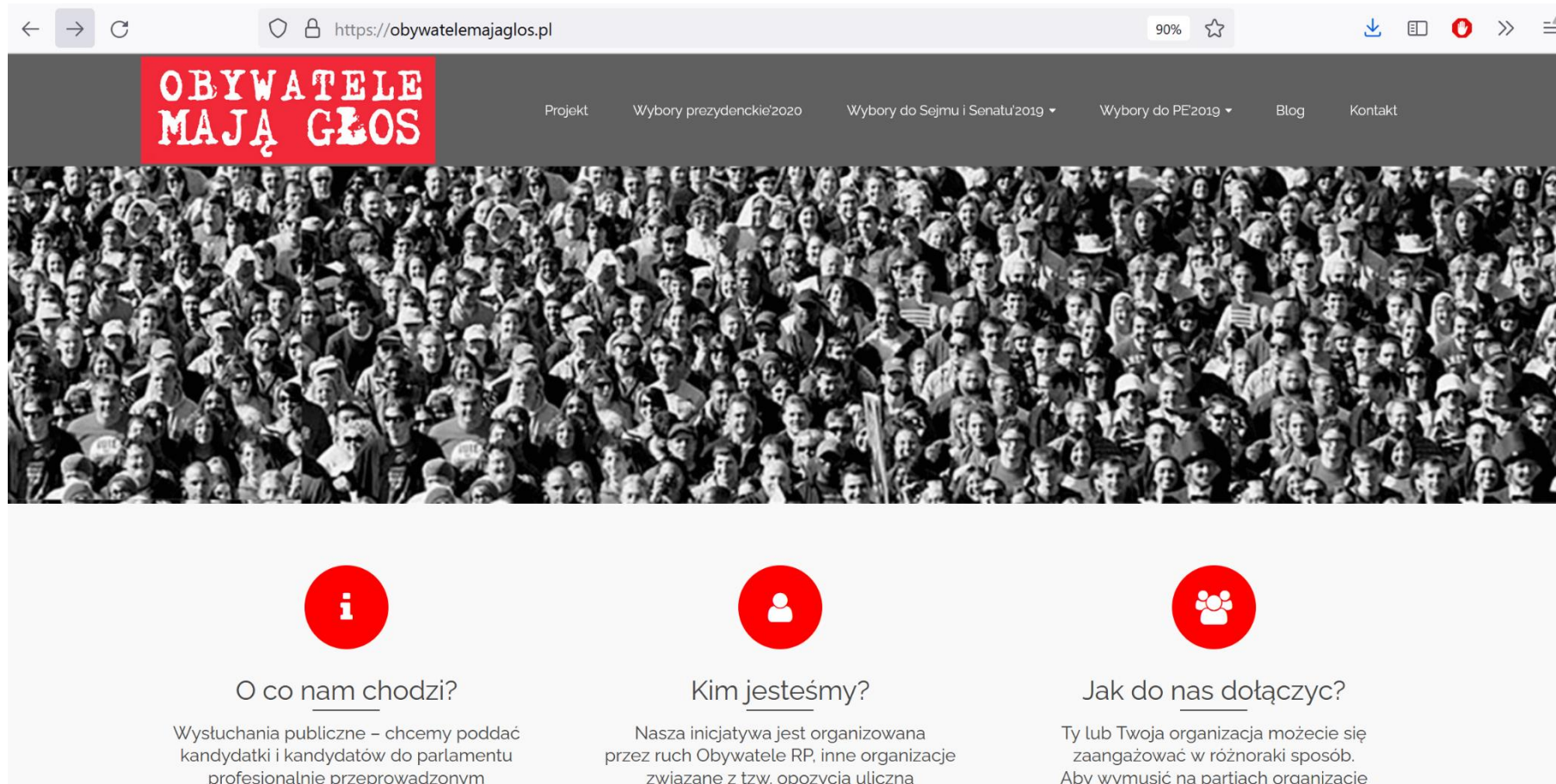
- Lobbying for open primary elections (since 2018)
- Public hearings of the candidates (2019 EU Parliament election)



2019 European Parliament election

- 52 seats
- 19 constituencies
- 27 seats won by Law and Justice
- 22 seats won by European Coalition
- 3 seats won by *Wiosna* (Spring)

Public hearings of the candidates (*Obywatele mają głos* Citizens have voice/vote)



The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the website <https://obywatelamajaglos.pl>. The browser's address bar shows the URL and a 90% zoom level. The website's header features a red logo with the text "OBYWATELE MAJĄ GŁOS" in white, bold, uppercase letters. To the right of the logo is a navigation menu with the following items: "Projekt", "Wybory prezydenckie'2020", "Wybory do Sejmu i Senatu'2019", "Wybory do PE'2019", "Blog", and "Kontakt". Below the header is a large, black and white photograph of a dense crowd of people. The main content area is white and contains three columns of text, each preceded by a red circular icon. The first column has an information icon (i), the second has a person icon, and the third has a group of people icon.

O co nam chodzi?
Wystuchania publiczne – chcemy poddać kandydatki i kandydatów do parlamentu profesjonalnie przeprowadzonym

Kim jesteśmy?
Nasza inicjatywa jest organizowana przez ruch Obywatele RP, inne organizacje związane z tzw. opozycją uliczną

Jak do nas dołączyć?
Ty lub Twoja organizacja możecie się zaangażować w różnoraki sposób. Aby wymusić na partiach organizację

OBYWATELE MAJĄ GŁOS

Wysłuchania publiczne kandydatów i kandydatek do PE
przykładowy schemat scenariusza



An example flowchart of a public hearing of one candidate.

Participants: a candidate, a moderator, an audience (live and on-line), an expert, journalists (optional).

- Greetings and presentation of the rules by the moderator.
- One question on current affairs (asked by the moderator).
- Two questions concerning the biography of the candidate and his/her political plans (asked by the moderator).
- **Two questions from the list, selected by the audience.**
- Three questions from the journalists.
- **Two questions from the list, selected by the audience.**
- **One question from the list, selected by the expert.**
- **Commentary from the expert.**
- **3-4 questions from the on-line audience (questions proposed in advance and voted on).**
- Summary.



Questions

- **45 general questions in 12 fields:**
 - Migrations
 - International politics
 - Education and culture.
 - Forms of government of EU
 - Civil liberties
 - Social policy
 - EU budget and finances
 - Economy
 - Agriculture and fishery
 - Security
 - Internet and communication
 - Energy, environment, climate
- **8 questions concerning biography and political plans of the candidate.**

<https://obywatelemajaglos.pl/pytania-do-kandydatow-do-pe/>

(Questions in cooperation with Stowarzyszenie 61).

Outcome of 2019 public hearings

- 17 hearings
- 36 candidates
- recommendations
- Strengthens public debate, facilitates making informed decisions.