

**Key Pages From the 2015 Annual Report of
The Online Progressive Engagement Network:**

**Compiled by Vivian Krause
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@FairQuestions



2015 Annual Report

OPEN's 501(c)(3) work is fiscally sponsored by CEL Education Fund, incorporated in California. Citizen Engagement Laboratory fiscally sponsors OPEN's 501(c)(4) work. CEL Education Fund and Citizen Engagement Laboratory function as a (c)3/(c)4 tandem organization in accordance with a resource sharing agreement.

From the Executive Director

Three years into the grand experiment of OPEN, the network has grown and delivered on its early promise. Our vision of what is possible has grown along with it. With more than 100 staff exchanges, six summits, and thousands of virtual conversations, threads, and posts behind us, we're confident in the relationships that we can catalyze. And we're confident in our members' ability to turn those relationships into hard-hitting campaigns that deliver meaningful and transformative change.

In 2013, OPEN began with five sister organizations. We end 2015 with sixteen active organizations, stretching from Australia to Israel, Romania to South Africa. The youngest members of the OPEN network are launching with strong, successful campaigns, a testament to OPEN's support and the network's contributions.

Member organizations tackled major transnational issues with mutual support and collaboration around issues like trade, environmental justice, and human rights. Working together began to be second nature, and the results were stronger, more responsive campaigns coming to fruition with less up-front cost to each group. Graphics designed in New Zealand appeared on Facebook feeds in Germany. German door-hangers ended up on doorknobs in Sweden. When the refugee crisis became breaking news, OPEN hosted a rapid-response strategy session that allowed groups across the globe to replicate German candle-light vigils, and listservs lit up with discussion on issue analysis, strategy, and tactical decisions.

At Summits in London and Berlin, and through more than 50 staff exchanges, leaders, campaigners, and tech directors got to know each other in person. The energy was electric, the honesty and vulnerability were inspiring, and the results were long-lasting and transformative.

In-person conversations resulted in concrete advancements as the year went on. We began the year with discussions in London about the rise of right wing populism and xenophobia and the challenge of political organising. We ended the year with campaigns that elicited heartfelt outpourings of welcoming solidarity with refugees and a Canadian campaign that moved the needle during the national election, contributing greatly to the ousting of the conservative Harper government. We marked the centerpoint of the year with a startup Summit in Berlin. Three new organizations launched after that Summit, and three more organizations passed the threshold for full membership in OPEN—100,000 members or 2% voters in the last national election, and one year of fiscal solvency.

OPEN ends our third full year of operations with proven programs that deliver a high return on investment for our members. We move forward into 2016 with a new focus on innovation and deepening engagement, and with a truly extraordinary family of changemakers as members and friends.

Ben

Connect

OPEN connected each member organization to its sisters through a web of personal relationships and shared learning. This family of peers enables every group to get better at every aspect of what they do. Through summits, staff exchanges, and online engagement, 2015 saw the network grow stronger, connected in more ways, more often, more closely than ever before. Members helped members get better at every aspect of their work and kept each other focused and encouraged.

OPEN connected members to each other, fostering learning and support. Through summits, staff exchanges, and online engagement, 2015 saw the network grow stronger, connected in more ways, more often, more closely than ever before.

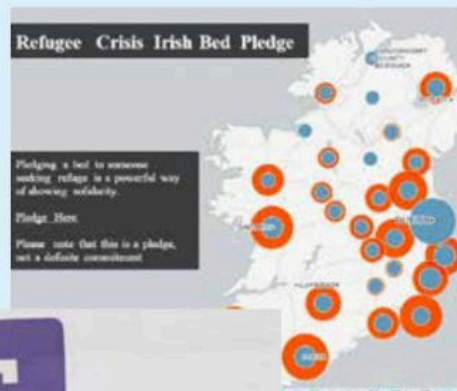
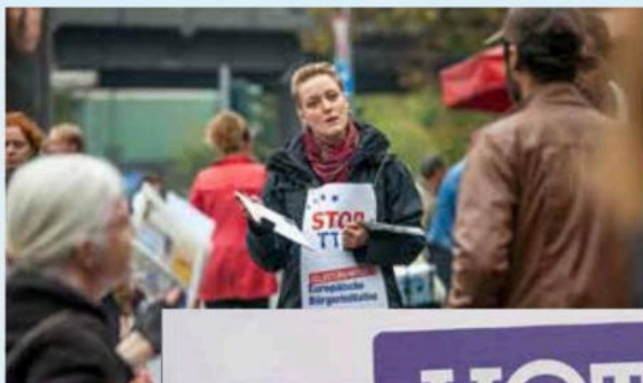
2015 OPEN Summit

Campaigners from 11 countries left Cambridge, UK, with a clarified and refreshed mandate to continue learning, sharing and collaborating after the 2015 OPEN Summit. OPEN's third Summit included case studies, discussions on leading-edge questions, collaborative planning, and sharing of challenges and solutions. Sessions addressed such diverse topics as trade campaigns, how to rock social media, running long-term campaigns in reactive environments, and election tactics. Naomi Klein spoke about working through shock moments to push through transformational shifts. A no-talent show and a competitive round of bowling built camaraderie. The most common overall participant rating for the Summit was nine on a scale of one to 10, with 10 being "among the most valuable experiences of my career."





Campaign Highlights



OPEN's resources help member organizations deliver powerful progressive campaigns around the world. Each year, the network recognizes a small set of campaigns with awards for extraordinary achievement, responsiveness, innovation, and generosity. This year's winners illustrate the breadth and impact of the OPEN family's work.

Leadnow's groundbreaking VoteTogether campaign over-performed on its promise to contribute significantly to voting out one of the worst governments in Canadian history. The campaign mobilized more than 90 thousand participants and more than five thousand volunteers.

As part of Uplift's pledge-a-bed campaign, more than 14,000 people pledged to welcome a refugee into their home, transforming the national narrative and forcing the government to more than quintuple their original quota.

Amandla.mobi's mobile-friendly decentralised events tool allowed them to organize events in areas too remote for postal service or internet access.

Campact collaborated on massive campaigns addressing trade and refugees, turning out more than 250,000 people to the streets of Berlin and sharing materials, strategy, and money to throughout the network.

Finances

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	CEL-EF (C3)	CEL (C4)	Direct Payments
INCOME			
Foundations	\$131,822	\$33,600	\$0
Member Contributions	\$33,554	\$0	\$85,941
Member Dues	\$899	\$63,654	\$112,946
Individuals	\$0	\$5,795	\$25,000
Partners & Allies	\$12,500	\$0	\$0
Total Income	\$178,775	\$103,049	\$223,887
EXPENSES			
Total Personnel	\$300,384	\$11,538	\$104,320
Campaigns & Programs	\$88,056	\$16,147	\$71,426
Travel & Meetings	\$18,451	\$0	\$0
Office & Operations	\$33,437	\$14,765	\$0
Total Expenses	\$440,328	\$42,450	\$175,746
Change in Assets	-\$261,553	\$60,599	\$48,141
Opening Assets	\$275,944	\$98,143	\$0
Net Assets	\$14,391	\$158,742	\$48,141

OPEN 2015 Staff

Ben Brandzel, Executive Director

Phil Ireland, Managing Director

Michael Snook, Director of Technology

Becky Jarvis, Network Architect and Europe
Director

Shilpa Mudiganti, Operations Director

Libby Lenkinski, Startup Fundraising Advisor

Ranjani Rahashekar, Finance
Director

Prameeta Pankaj Bajaj, Executive
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