vouliwatch

NARRATIVE & FINANCIAL REPORT 2019-20

The following report relates to the activities of Vouliwatch for the period of March 2019 to March 2020. Vouliwatch is an Athens based, registered non for profit organization with reg. no: 127494401000

"Transparent Democracy" from the series Future Athens (2004) by Dimitris Tsoumplekas.

VISION & APPROACH

In the wake of the economic crisis and in a country where politics has all too often been beset by scandals and corruption, Vouliwatch aims to help develop an open and accountable political system that uses innovative digital technology to promote citizen participation in the political process and to rebuild trust in parliamentary democracy. In the heyday of Ancient Greek democracy, citizens actively participated in political dialogue, and Vouliwatch aims to revive this essential aspect of a democratic society through the use of digital technology.

Vouliwatch makes use of a digital platform that offers Greek citizens the opportunity to publicly question MPs and MEPs on the topic of their choice, and to hold their elected representatives accountable for their parliamentary activity. Moreover it acts as a parliamentary "watchdog" by providing first hand reporting on the latest legislative developments in parliament as well as by monitoring the voting behaviour of elected representatives.

Vouliwatch's scope expands beyond the digital realm as it is a strong campaigner and advocate for parliamentary openness, freedom of access to information, open government and political transparency.

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1. ABOUT VOULIWATCH

Vouliwatch was officially registered as a non for profit organisation in October of 2013. The organisation formally started its activities with the launch of its digital platform on the 16th of March 2014.

Vouliwatch makes use of a digital platform that engages Greek citizens with legislative politics and grants them with the opportunity to communicate, evaluate and hold elected representatives in the Greek and the European Parliament accountable.

Vouliwatch is an independent, non-profit initiative aiming to promote public dialogue, knowledge, open governance, political participation and accountability between citizens and politicians.

The mission of the organisation is to encourage Greek citizens to engage in politics, as well as to increase the accountability and transparency in the Greek political system. To achieve this, the Vouliwatch team cooperates with politicians and civil society in order to promote a culture of dialogue and understanding. Vouliwatch incubates and cultivates a synergistic democratic culture that inspires institutional and technological innovation. Below follows a description of the main features and democracy promoting tools that Vouliwatch offers to its users:
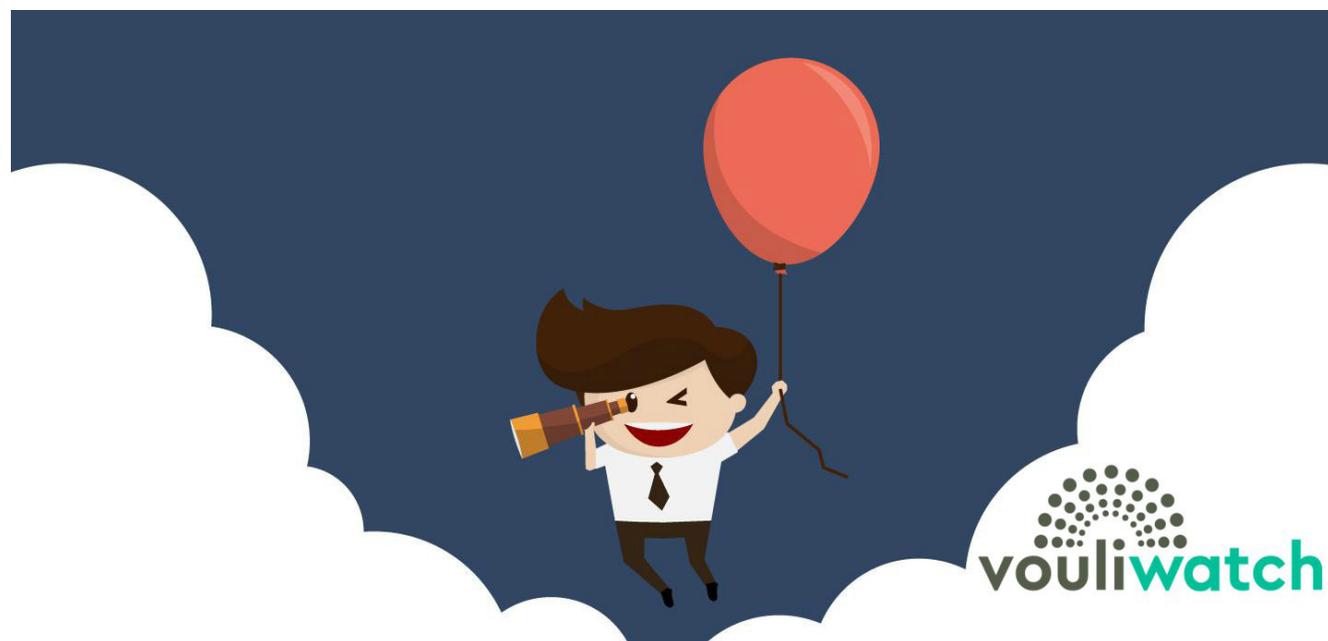
Public questioning ("Ask your MP/MEP")

In a moderated platform, citizens can publicly ask questions and receive public replies by MP's and MEP's. To prevent misuse of the platform, all citizen questions and politicians' answers are crosschecked according to a published code of conduct that is aligned with the principles of open government ethics.

Votewatch

This application allows users to keep an eye on the voting behavior of each MP while informing the public on the details and background information of the legislation put forward for voting.

Vouliwatch Parliamentary Data

The application in question allows users to actively monitor the legislative as well as the parliamentary control process of parliament via the presentation and visualisation of relevant data. Additionally users can compare their finding according to parliamentary season, month or year. The tool in question provides information with regards to the number of bills voted in parliament, all means of parliamentary control (questions, petitions etc.) as well as listing the most active MPs, political groups and the topics of the questions/petitions tabled.

"Policy Monitor" ("compare party positions")

The Policy Monitor is a digital tool which allows our users to learn about and compare what the main political parties positions are on given issues. It also gives them the opportunity to comment on these positions and suggest to political parties different approaches.

"The Observatory"

The Observatory is Vouliwatch's parliamentary news section with daily updates on the latest developments in Parliament from the organisation's own parliamentary correspondent.

Vouliwatch has managed in a very short space of time to establish itself as the leading advocacy and campaign organisation in Greece that focuses on issues relevant to transparency, open government and the freedom of access to information. In particular, Vouliwatch is a member of the Open Government Partnership, the United Nation's Coalition Against Corruption (UNCAC), ALTER-EU and of an informal network of European NGOs campaigning for the right to access to information and transparency in the decision making process.

2. THE VOULIWATCH TEAM

Presently the Vouliwatch team is composed of four members of staff supported by volunteers and interns.

Stefanos Loukopoulos
DIRECTOR

Maria Nathanail
COMMUNICATION & LEGAL ADVICE

Konstantinos Mentzelos
CONTENT ADMINISTRATOR & RESEARCH

Gerasimos Livitsanos
PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT

Learn more about Vouliwatch *here*.
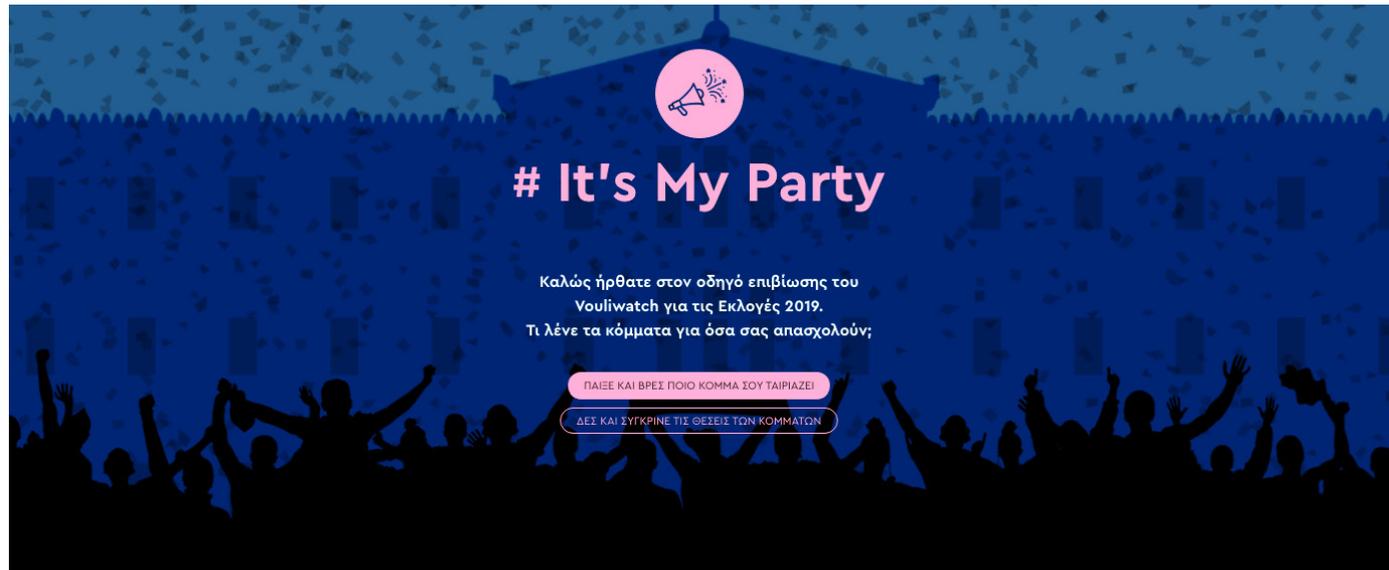
1. PLATFORM DEVELOPMENT & DIGITAL TOOLS

1.1. "It's My Party" - Elections tool.

In June 2019, in view of July's general elections Vouliwatch launched its new digital tool "*It's My Party*" aiming at facilitating voters to choose the political party that best represents their needs. The tool in question selects the policy areas which target particular groups and lets citizens build their own picture of how or whether the parties say they will help them. In particular as a first step users were called to complete a short questionnaire which helps the system filter the policies most relevant to their status (i.e. student, unemployed, geographical area, familial status etc).

Subsequently the user was presented with a series of policy proposals and commitments by political parties based on the selection he/she had made during the first step. At this stage the tool would not reveal which policy proposals and commitments belong to specific parties therefore allowing the user to make his/her choice solely on the basis and merit of the policies' content. Once the selection process was completed the tool would summarize the user's choices of policies and reveal the political party associated with them.

View of the questionnaire, the user will have to click on the pictures to select his/her status.

View of user's choices and what parties have to say about their situation.

View of graph showing which party is closer to the user's needs based on its manifesto policies

1.2. Policy Monitor.

Shortly after the July elections, Vouliwatch launched a revamped and updated version of the Policy Monitor tool. The *Policy Monitor* is a digital tool which allows our users to find out and compare what the main political parties positions are on given issues. It also acts as a comprehensive means to monitor the extent to which political parties stay true to their political manifestos and policy proposals.

2. RESEARCH AND INFOGRAPHICS

2.1. Composition of Parliament post July 2019 elections.

Shortly after the July 2019 elections Vouliwatch conducted research and published a comprehensive *infographic* introducing citizens to the composition of the new Parliament. The information presented in the infographic included: the number of seats held by each party in parliament, the changes in seats per political party compared to the previous parliamentary season, the average age of parliamentarians (including eldest and youngest MPs), the average age of parliamentarians per political party, the percentage of women in Parliament and the top 5 occupations of parliamentarians. The graphs in the infographic were designed by LiFO, the new media partner of Vouliwatch.

MéPA 25
3,44% (9 έδρες)

Ελληνική Λύση
3,7% (10 έδρες)

ΝΕΑ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ
39,85% (158 έδρες)

ΚΚΕ
5,3% (15 έδρες)

ΚΙΝΑΛ
8,10% (22έδρες)

ΣΥΡΙΖΑ
31,53% (86 έδρες)

LiFO + vouliwatch

ΠΟΣΟΣΤΑ ΚΟΜΜΑΤΩΝ / ΕΔΡΕΣ
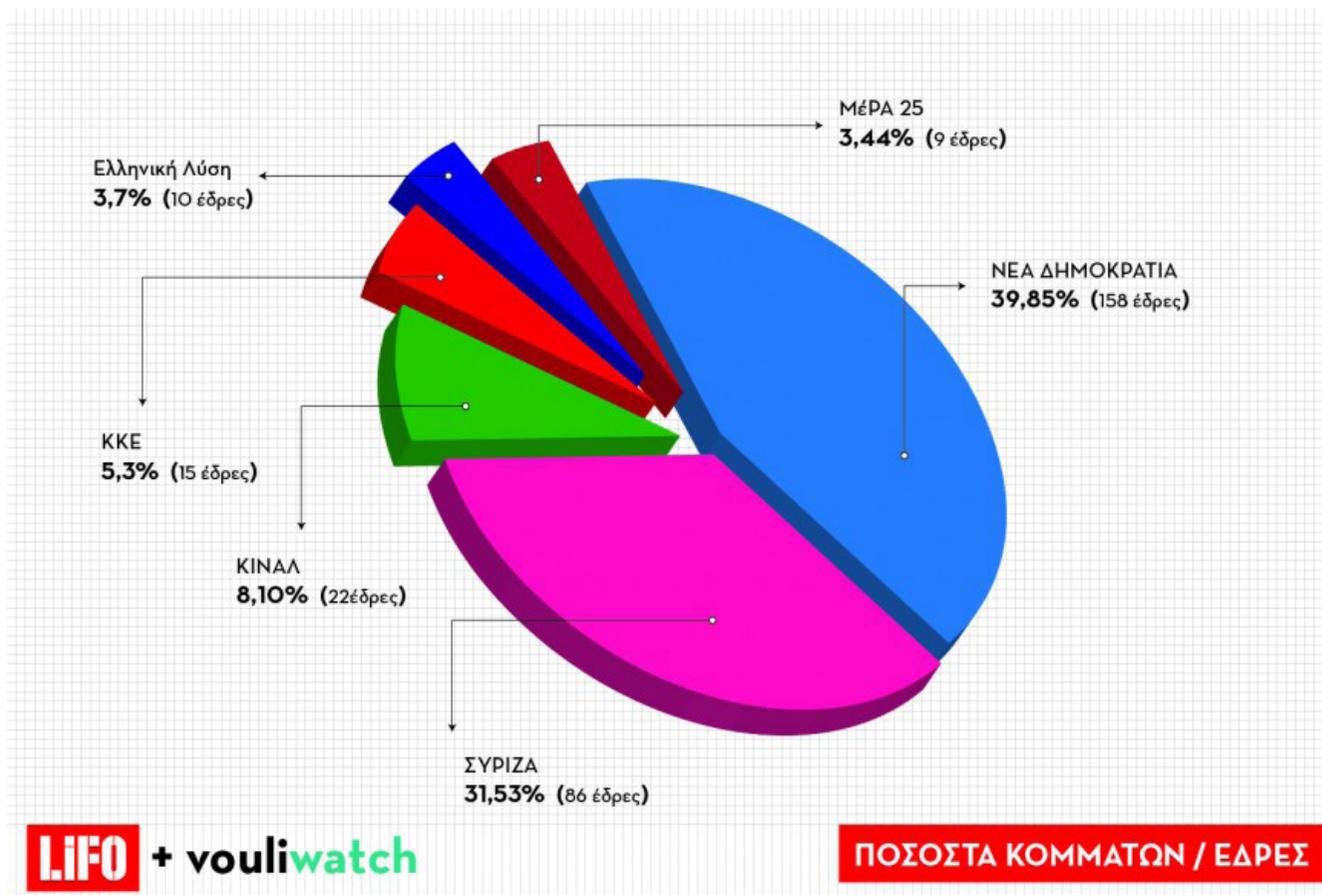
2.2. How MPs use social media.

Vouliwatch published an *infographic* showcasing how members of parliament and political parties use social media to communicate their work. In particular Vouliwatch presented the percentage of MPs making use of social media platforms, the most popular social media platforms used both at MP but also at party level as well as a top 5 of the most active and influential MPs in the realm of social media.
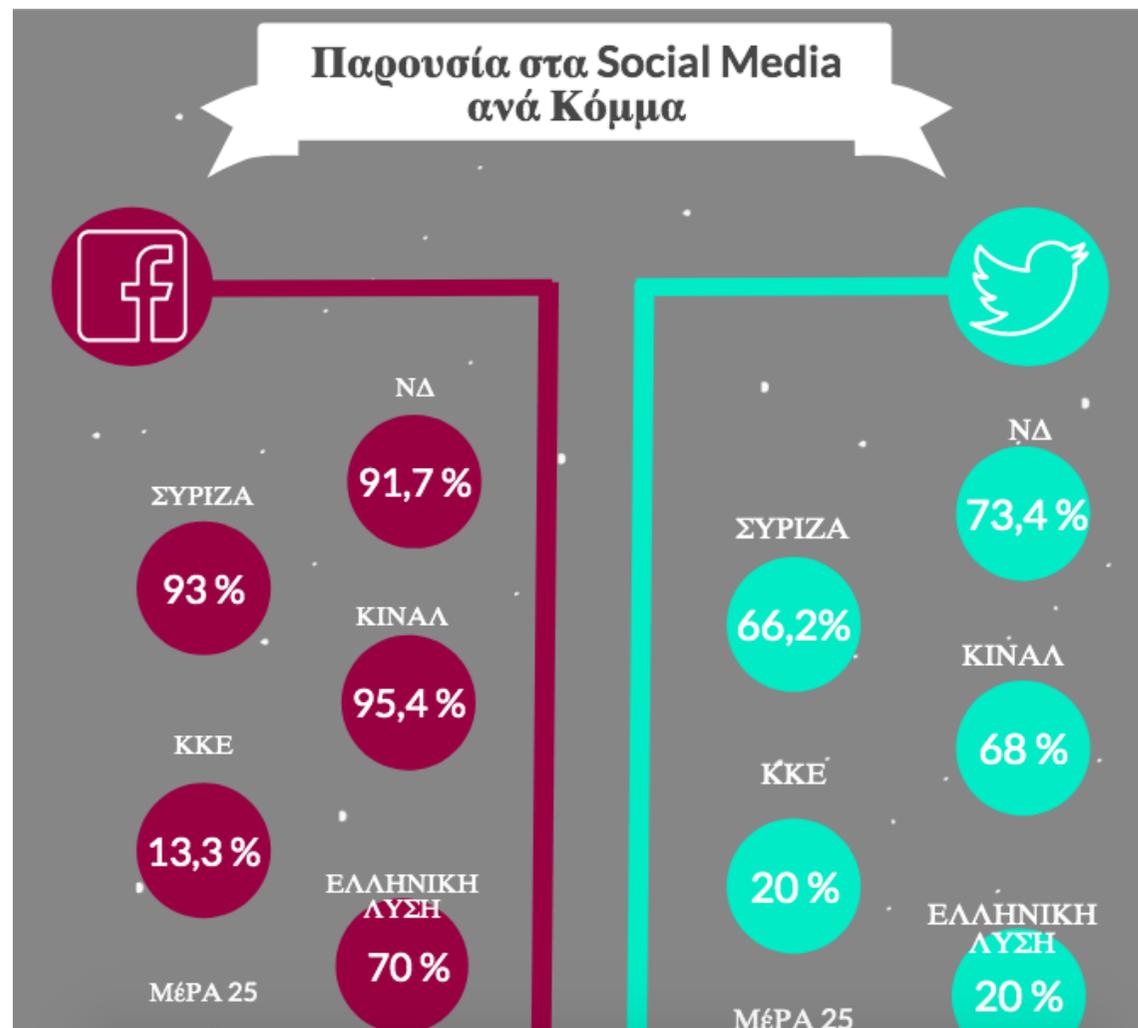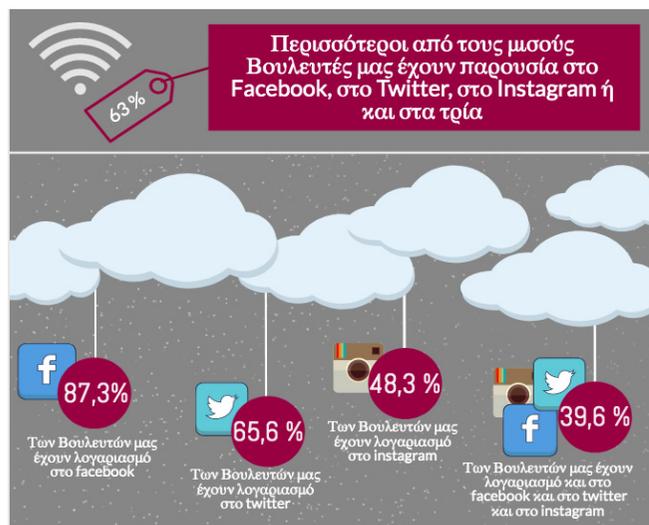
2.3. Women in Greek politics.

On the occasion of the International Women's Day Vouliwatch conducted research and published an *infographic* focusing on the role of women in Greek politics. The information published included among other the most important bills passed in Parliament relevant to women's rights, a chart showcasing the number of women in parliament from 1947 to 2015 and the political parties with the largest percentage of women MPs.

TOP 5
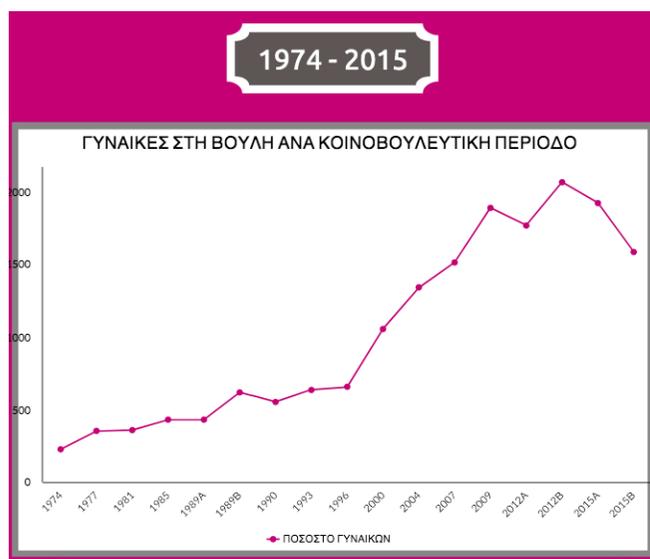
ΚΟΜΜΑΤΑ ΜΕ ΤΑ ΥΨΗΛΟΤΕΡΑ ΠΟΣΟΣΤΑ ΒΟΥΛΕΥΤΡΙΩΝ • 1974-2015

TOP 5 ΑΝΑ ΠΟΣΟΣΤΟ και ΕΚΛΟΓΙΚΗ ΧΡΟΝΙΑ

ΠΟΣΟΣΤΟ ΓΥΝΑΙΚΩΝ

■ ΟΙΚΟΛΟΓΟΙ ΕΝΑΛΛΑΚΤΙΚΟΙ ■ ΣΥΡΙΖΑ (2012 Β') ■ ΑΝΕΛ & ΚΚΕ ■ ΣΥΡΙΖΑ (2012 Α')
■ ΔΗΜΑΡ

1974 - 2015

ΓΥΝΑΙΚΕΣ ΣΤΗ ΒΟΥΛΗ ΑΝΑ ΚΟΙΝΟΒΟΥΛΕΥΤΙΚΗ ΠΕΡΙΟΔΟ

◆ ΠΟΣΟΣΤΟ ΓΥΝΑΙΚΩΝ
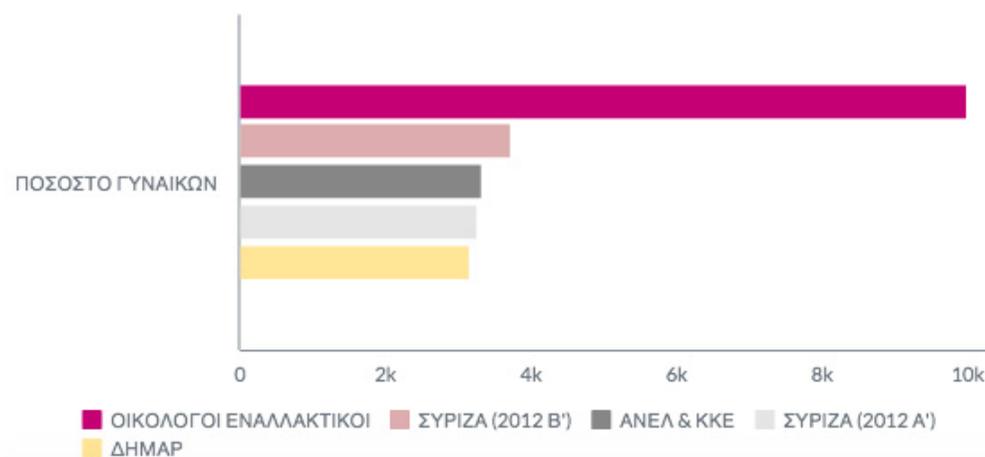
2.4. Political parties & parliamentary consensus 2015–2020.

Vouliwatch conducted a *study* examining the political consensus trends in Greece and the extent to which political parties agree with each other in terms of bills passed through Parliament. In particular Vouliwatch analyzed the voting records from 2015 to 2020 and presented among other the agreement percentage between each political party.

Η ΕΙΚΟΝΑ ΤΗΣ ΠΟΛΙΤΙΚΗΣ ΣΥΝΑΙΝΕΣΗΣ ΣΤΗΝ ΕΛΛΑΔΑ

ΨΗΦΟΦΟΡΙΕΣ 2015-2019
ΣΥΡΙΖΑ ΠΟΣΟΣΤΟ ΤΑΥΤΙΣΗΣ ΜΕ ΤΑ ΑΛΛΑ ΚΟΜΜΑΤΑ

ΑΝ.ΕΛ 98.70%
Ν.Δ. 58.82%
ΠΟΤΑΜΙ 72.25%
ΠΑ.ΣΟ.Κ ΔΗ.ΣΥ ΚΙΝ.ΑΛ 66.17%
Κ.Κ.Ε. 8.23%
ΕΝΩΣΗ ΚΕΝΤΡΩΩΝ 58.52%
ΧΡΥΣΗ ΑΥΓΗ 4.20%

Η ΕΙΚΟΝΑ ΤΗΣ ΠΟΛΙΤΙΚΗΣ ΣΥΝΑΙΝΕΣΗΣ ΣΤΗΝ ΕΛΛΑΔΑ

ΨΗΦΟΦΟΡΙΕΣ 2015-2019
ΝΕΑ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ ΠΟΣΟΣΤΟ ΤΑΥΤΙΣΗΣ ΜΕ ΤΑ ΑΛΛΑ ΚΟΜΜΑΤΑ

ΑΝ.ΕΛ 64.51%
ΠΟΤΑΜΙ 79.35%
ΕΝΩΣΗ ΚΕΝΤΡΩΩΝ 67.00%
ΠΑ.ΣΟ.Κ ΔΗ.ΣΥ ΚΙΝ.ΑΛ 80.00%
Κ.Κ.Ε. 30.29%
ΣΥΡΙΖΑ 58.82%
ΧΡΥΣΗ ΑΥΓΗ 35.80%

2.5. Greek Parliament and family tradition.

Family tradition in Greek politics is a recurring theme that arguably defines the political landscape of the country. With this in mind Vouliwatch proceeded to conduct a study and publish an *infographic* showcasing the family ties of current Greek MPs with politicians and ministers from past years. The period analyzed was from 1974 to 2020. The infographic includes among other information with regards to the most recurrent degree of relation, the percentage of current MPs with political family ties as well as the political parties with most family ties.
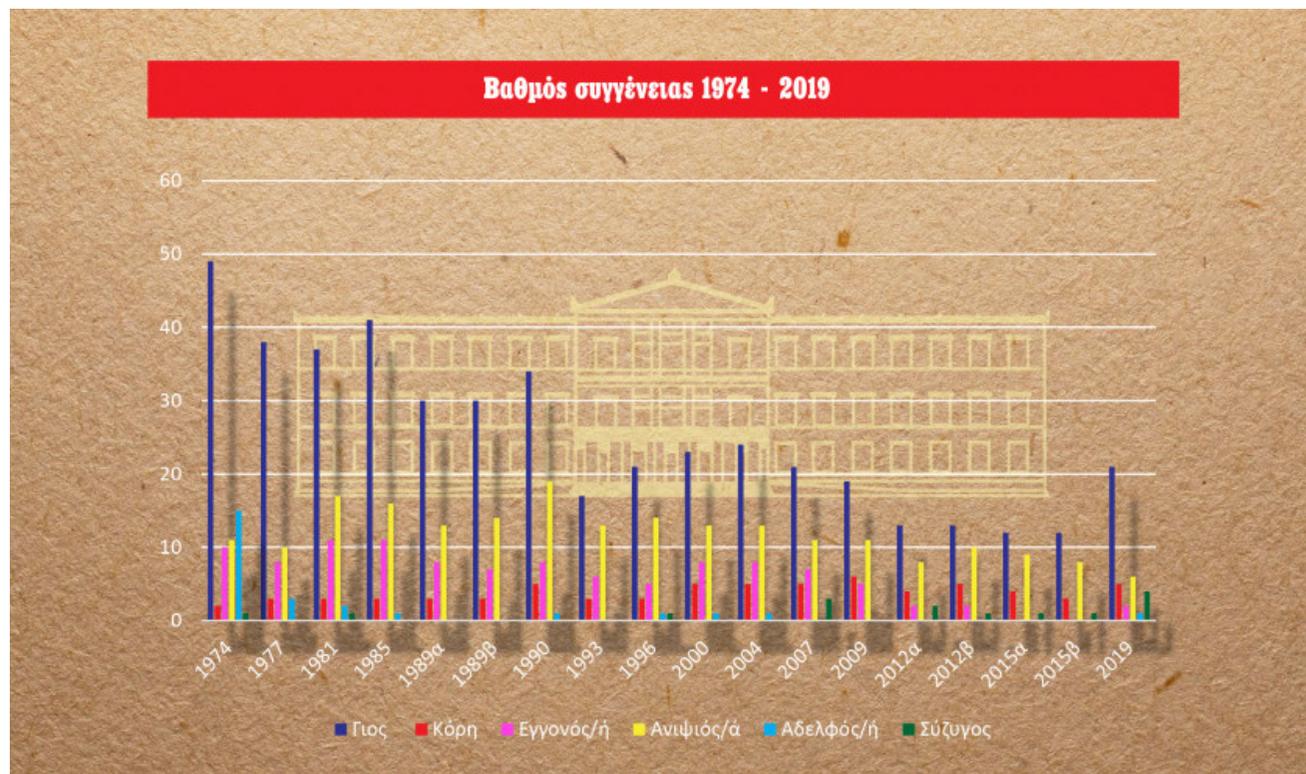
3. ACTIONS & ADVOCACY WORK

3.1. Monitoring MPs assets declarations.

In early October 2019 the Greek Parliament disclosed the assets declarations of Members of Parliament for the fiscal years of 2016 and 2017. Moreover following Vouliwatch's findings and *public intervention* it re-issued the assets declarations of 2015 (originally released in January 2018) as the latter had been published without having been adequately audited. When originally confronted by Vouliwatch with the fact that the 2015 declarations were filled with inconsistencies and mistakes Parliament issued a *press release* in response stating that this was indeed the case due to the fact that the audits hadn't been completed. This in itself constitutes a breach of the regulatory framework behind assets declarations as the latter clearly foresees that their publication can take place only after the completion of the audit controls. For this reason, following Vouliwatch's *public response* highlighting the irregularity of the publication process Parliament decided to re-issue the 2015 assets declarations.

Vouliwatch following up from its earlier actions and in the spirit of transparency and openness proceeded to transcribe and upload in electronic format, on the profiles of each MP on the Vouliwatch platform, the assets declarations for the aforementioned years (including the audited ones for 2015). The total number of assets declarations manually processed by the Vouliwatch team amounted to 916! It is worth noting at this point that Vouliwatch's platform is currently the **only** archive/website in Greece where citizens can **view and compare** the assets declarations of MPs from **six consecutive years.**

Additionally Vouliwatch recorded and categorized all omissions detected during the processing and digitalization of the assets declarations. The aim of this activity was to communicate both to the relevant institutions as well as the broader public the magnitude of the problem (lack of transparency and inadequate checks from the relevant authority) around the assets declarations of MPs.

The results of Vouliwatch's findings were communicated to the relevant Parliamentary Committee (and all MPs) in the form of a detailed report which was accompanied by a letter naming the MPs that submitted problematic assets declarations and asking that Parliament abides to the legal framework in place and takes all necessary actions.

3.2. Vouliwatch uncovers mishandling of public funds by political parties.

In November 2018 the independent parliamentary committee in charge of carrying out audits on the financials of political parties (balances, sources of income, spending of public funds etc.) published its annual reports with the main findings of the audits it carried forward for the 2016 and 2017 fiscal years. In these reports it is stated, just as in the previous year's report, that the vast majority of the political parties investigated failed to comply with relevant regulations and set standards moreover it noted that some have misused public funding to finance non eligible activities.

In particular the report stated that:

• Some parties received state funding allocated for research projects and used these to fund other activities.

• Some parties failed to comply with a law dating back to 2002 which states that all political parties are obliged to use a special bank account for their transactions involving money they received from the state.

• Some parties failed to comply with the book keeping practices and standards as described in a 2014 law.

At this point it is important to mention that the committee in question was set up to promote transparency and accountability and that it is obliged by law to publish its findings. In addition the committee in question – which has the power to impose sanctions to political parties or politicians that fail to comply with relevant regulations – decided once more not to issue any sanctions as it deemed that political parties did not have enough time to comply with the aforementioned laws.

Vouliwatch considers the aforementioned reports scandalously vague as once more they do not specify which parties failed to comply with the law or how much public money was

ΤΑ ΟΙΚΟΝΟΜΙΚΑ ΤΩΝ ΚΟΜΜΑΤΩΝ
ΜΕΡΟΣ Δ'
ΠΡΟΣΦΥΓΗ ΣΤΗ ΔΙΚΑΙΟΣΥΝΗ

actually misused – information that should have been made available to the public. To this end, Vouliwatch proceeded to publicize the issue once more and drafted a formal letter addressed to the committee in question demanding clarifications with respect to its decision not to impose sanctions and asking it via an access to information request to release its findings in detail.

Despite numerous follow ups the committee refused to provide an answer which gave Vouliwatch no other option but to seek legal action. In April of 2019 Vouliwatch lodged an *application of annulment* to the Greek Council of State against Parliament for its failure to respond to the access to information requests submitted by the organization.

The first hearing was set to take place on the 8th of October, but just a few days prior to this, the legal department of Parliament in an attempt to avoid litigation notified Vouliwatch that it would finally release the information.

The *answer of the committee* received on the 23rd of September contained the information Vouliwatch requested for 2016 and 2017. Name-ly the names of the parties that breached the law and the sums of public money that was misspent. In particular:

• Nearly all parties didn't make use of the special bank account for their transactions (which makes it harder for the relevant authorities to monitor/audit). The law foresees that the committee in question can impose financial sanctions up to 50% of the last financial support received by the state.

• Nearly all parties instead of returning (as they should have) the unspent amounts received from public funding for research/educational purposes, decided to keep it for future use.

• New Democracy (the ruling party) received nearly 1 million Euros for research/educational purposes and it used this sum to repay its debts towards banks and the state. This practically means that New Democracy has been using public funds/ tax payers' money to repay its private loans to banks.

In sum the committee in question:

• Refused to release the above mentioned information thus covering up for political parties breaching the law and only after the threat of the court decided to finally do so.

• The committee not only covered up for them but also repeatedly refused to impose any sanctions (repeatedly in the sense that it has been identifying these issues for the past 2 years at least). and

• The ruling party (New Democracy) has been making use of public funds to repay its bank loans and other debts to the state!

Following Vouliwatch's action the relevant Minister committed to taking all necessary measures to ensure that the committee in question will perform its duties more diligently.

The Vouliwatch team posing with the much awaited Parliament report.

3.3. Vouliwatch uncovers mishandling of public funds by political parties (Vol2).

Following the success of Vouliwatch's actions to shed light in the financials of political parties the organization decided to investigate further. In early November 2019 Vouliwatch submitted a new access to information request to Parliament asking for the detailed findings of the audit controls of political parties for 2015. On this occasion, Parliament decided to react swiftly to Vouliwatch's request and provided the information within a space of a week.

The information in the report provided to Vouliwatch suggested that the committee had once again failed to sanction political parties for mishandling public funds while similar breaches of the law were identified.

In particular once again the vast majority of political parties had failed to make use of the dedicated bank accounts for their transactions while New Democracy was using public funding for research and educational pur-poses to repay its bank loans. In addition the report indicated that PASOK and DRASI were unlawfully using the aforementioned public funding to cover the salaries of their staff. Vouliwatch proceeded to *publicize* its findings in an attempt to raise awareness and exert more pressure to Parliament in the hope that the committee charged with performing the audits will in the future carry forward its duties more diligently.
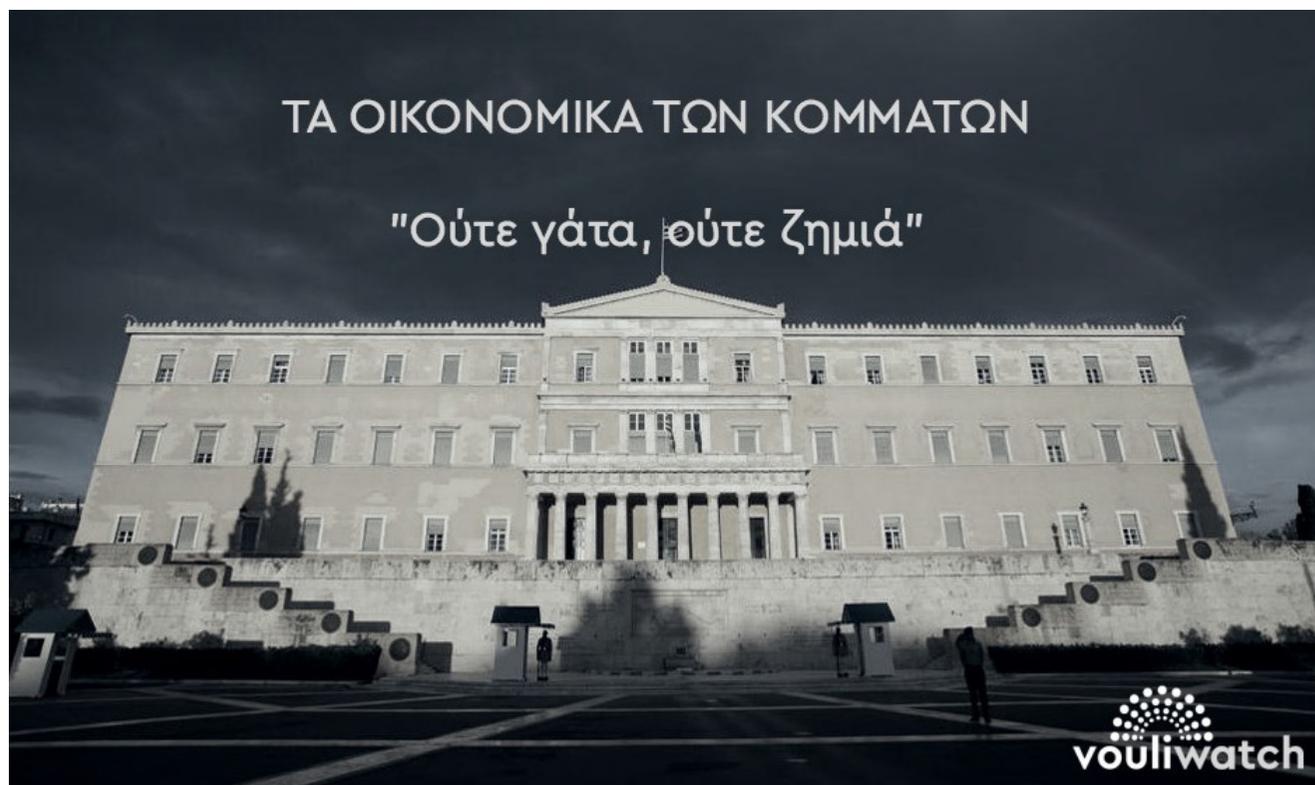
3.4. Vouliwatch submits report to prosecutor against corruption & Supreme Court.

As a follow up to the campaign and actions for more transparency and accurate audits by the Parliament's Committee of Control, in mid-March Vouliwatch *submitted a report* to the public prosecutor against corruption as well as the Supreme Court. The report highlights a series of breaches of duty by the Committee of Control such as its failure to adequately audit and publicize the assets declarations of members of parliament, the debacle involving the mishandling of public funds by political parties and its failure to produce and publicize detailed reports of its findings.

3.5. Vouliwatch highlights problematic amendment in assets declarations regulatory framework.

While monitoring a bill discussed in Parliament Vouliwatch detected a rather problematic and sneaky amendment which went unnoticed by the media as well as MPs. The bill was tabled by the Ministry of Development and Investments, while the amendment in question was completely irrelevant to the rest of the content of the bill. In particular the amendment altered a clause in the assets declarations legislation rendering the suspension of banking confidentiality no longer a prerequisite for the completion of the audit controls of assets declarations.

Vouliwatch proceeded to *publicize* the story and informed accordingly all political parties in an effort to block the amendment prior to its vote in Parliament. Unfortunately other than MeRA25 (DiEM25), whose leader denounced the amendment in question in plenary, no other political party or major media outlet took any action resulting in its ratification by the majority in Parliament. This in practice means that despite Vouliwatch's efforts, the audit system of MPs assets declarations was severely weakened at the expense of transparency and accountability.

3.6. Training Workshops on the Freedom of Access to Information.

On the 15th of January and the 24th of February, Vouliwatch along with partner organisations Reporters United and Open Technologies Alliance hosted the first ever workshops in Greece dedicated to training journalists and civil society activists in the right to access to information. The first workshop directed at journalists included a session with experienced activist and Director of Access Info Europe Ms. Helen Darbishire and a series of presentations and practical guidelines on access to information in Greece by the Vouliwatch team. The second workshop was open to the wider public including NGOs, researchers and journalists and its guest speaker was Ms. Stéphane Horel, author and award winning investigative journalist of Le Mond. More than 100 activists and journalists participated in the training workshops which were also broadcasted live via Facebook.

These were the first two out of a series of planned workshops dedicated to promoting the right to access to information in Greece, at least one more is planned to take place prior to the end of the year.

4. PROJECTS

4.1. Anti-Corruption City Toolkit.

Vouliwatch along with partner NGOs from Italy (Transparency International Italy, OpenPolis, Avviso Pubblic and Ondata) and Spain (Access Info Europe) has been working on an EU funded project aiming at promoting transparency at local government level. The project aims at preventing corruption by providing the municipalities of Athens, Madrid and Milan with digital tools and guidelines for improving detection and reporting of corruption, as well as enhancing civil society oversight on vulnerable sectors (legislative process, budgeting and public procurement).

In the course of the period covered by this report Vouliwatch and its partners have taken a series of steps in an effort to put together an anti-corruption toolkit composed of digital tools and guidelines which will then be adopted by the aforementioned municipalities.
In particular Vouliwatch conducted desk research to determine the strengths and weaknesses of the Municipality of Athens in terms of fighting corruption and promoting

transparency. Subsequently a relevant survey was put together along with the project's consortium which was then disseminated to the officers of the Municipalities. Once the results of the above actions were collected a fact sheet was drafted for each Municipality which will work as the main guide for the development of the toolkit in question.
Following a project meeting hosted by Vouliwatch in Athens on the 13th and 14th of January the consortium outlined the main aspects of the toolkit which will be comprised of:

1) a whistleblowing tool for simplifying the submission and management of corruption

reports and increasing the safeguarding of whistleblowers;
2) an access to information tool, that can support and encourage citizens' requests of information;
3) an open government portal for increasing transparency of the legislative process and budgeting, where citizens can oversight how decisions are made and how public money is spent;
4) an open data portal on public procurement where taxpayers can monitor the tender phase and the execution of works and services
5) an internal risk assessment tool for supporting the municipality in the analysis and prevention of corruption risks.

4.2. Launch of YouVoteEU platform.

Vouliwatch along with NGOs from Belgium, Italy and Poland in preparation for the European Parliament elections had been running a project co-funded by the EU which aimed at encouraging citizen participation.

In particular the purpose of the project was to stimulate and increase the participation of EU citizens in the 2019 European Parliament elections and promote knowledge and understanding of current and future EU policies. In doing so an *innovative web platform* was created that informed voters on and connected voters with their current representatives or new candidates, EU policies and other voters. The objectives and outputs of the platform included:

Connect: allow EU citizens and organisations to create a public profile where they can include their opinions on the EP political and legislative process. The platform also included profiles of MEP (current or running as candidates) created by collecting information on their latest available positions.

Share: promote debates and discussions on the EP political and legislative process, by giving the opportunity to policymakers to post their initiatives and to EU citizens/organisations to propose changes.

Vote: allow EU citizens to compare their views with those of individual EU Parliamentarians that they have elected and find which MEP best represents their views.

The platform in question officially launched a month prior to the EU elections and received more than a million unique visitors from across the EU.

Ταιριάξτε την ψήφο σας

Παίξτε και δείτε ποιοι πολιτικοί, ποια εθνικά κόμματα και ποιες Ευρωομάδες σας ταιριάζουν περισσότερο.

Πώς αποφάσισαν οι πολιτικοί για λογαριασμό μας

This MEP runs for a new mandate in 2019 EU elections.

Nikos ANDROULAKIS

Panhellenic Socialist Movement – Olive Tree

Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament

Ημερομηνία Γέννησης 07 Feb 1979

nikos.androulakis@europarl.europa.eu
http://www.votewatch.eu/en/
https://www.facebook.com/androulakisnikosgr/

Ψήφοι (του/της Ευρωβουλευτή/ριας κατά την τελευταία θητεία του/της)

1 Θα έπρεπε να φορολογούνται οι εταιρίες που χρησιμοποιούν ρομπότ, ώστε να ενισχύεται το ασφαλιστικό σύστημα;

2 Θα έπρεπε η Ε.Ε. να ρυθμίσει με αυστηρότερο τρόπο τη διαδικτυακή επικοινωνία (με πιθανές επιπτώσεις στην ανάπτυξη των ψηφιακών επιχειρήσεων);

3 Θα έπρεπε η Ε.Ε. να υποστηρίζει οικονομικά τους μάρτυρες δημοσίου συμφέροντος (whistleblowers), οι οποίοι/ες αποκαλύπτουν εμπιστευτικές πληροφορίες σχετικά με αξιόποινες πράξεις εταιριών και δημοσίων φορέων?

4 Θα έπρεπε η λεκτική βία σχετικά με την ταυτότητα φύλου και τον σεξουαλικό προσανατολισμό να τιμωρείται ποινικά (με πιθανές επιπτώσεις στην ελευθερία του λόγου)?

5. EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

Over the past year Vouliwatch organized one main event while its team members were invited as speakers in major conferences throughout Europe.

5.1. EU Elections 2019 "The Future Ahead: Utopia or Dystopia?"

On the 3rd of Mary 2019, just a few days prior to the EU elections Vouliwatch hosted an open discussion where MEP candidates were invited to discuss key EU related issues such as the rise of Euroscepticism, the economy, the lack of transparency and accountability at EU level and climate change. The panel consisted of candidates from New Democracy, SYRIZA and Potami while the discussion was moderated by a seasoned journalist specializing in EU affairs. In addition to the discussion Vouliwatch took the opportunity to present the organizations' EU elections digital platform YouVoteEU.

5.2. Gatekeepers of Democracy: From Thought to Action.

On Monday the 13th of May Vouliwatch's Director, Stefanos Loukopoulos, participated in a panel discussion hosted by the Dukakis Center for Public and Humanitarian Service and Transparency International Greece. The topics discussed among other included the role of civil society in safeguarding democracy, the rise of populist authoritarianism and the trust crisis in democratic institutions.

5.3. Inter Pares Launch Conference.

On the 11th of July, Vouliwatch's Director participated as a speaker at the launch conference of the Inter Pares Parliaments Programme project held at the European Parliament in Brussels. The representative of Vouliwatch presented the work of the organization while discussing the relationship and the potential for cooperation between Parliaments and independent parliamentary monitoring organisations.

5.4. Participation in the Thessaloniki International Fair.

Vouliwatch was invited by the Ministry of Digital Policy to participate for the second consecutive year in the Thessaloniki International Fair which attracts every year more than 200.000 visitors. For the entire duration of the fair Vouliwatch had been allocated a stand and presented its work in front of a large audience. The Thessaloniki fair is considered to be the most important international fair in the broader Balkan region and is of significant political importance as political party leaders use it as an opportunity to present their new manifestos.

5.5. "Enhancing Parliamentary Oversight" – Conference in Kyrgyzstan.

On the 27th and 28th of November, the Director of Vouliwatch participated as a speaker in the "Strengthening Parliamentary Oversight in the Kyrgyz Republic" conference which was held in Bishkek. The conference was co-hosted by the United Nations Development Program, the ODIHR and the Kyrgyz Parliament. The Director of Vouliwatch discussed the role of civil society organisations in enhancing parliamentary transparency and building trust in democratic institutions.

5.6. Participation in the 3rd AlaveteliCon in Oslo.

On the 23rd and 24th of September the Director of Vouliwatch spoke at the annual Alaveteli Conference which was hosted in Oslo by mySociety. The main topic of the conference was the promotion of the right to access to information and Vouliwatch presented its successful campaign for access to information regarding political parties financing.

6. VOULIWATCH IN THE MEDIA

Vouliwatch was either mentioned in the press or appeared on national TV and radio a total of **20 times** during the past year.

NAME OF MEDIA OUTLET	TYPE	NATIONAL/LOCAL/INTERNATIONAL
EFSYN	Online/Printed Press	National
EFSYN	Online/Printed Press	National
AthensVoice	Online Press	National
ERT	TV	National
Parliament TV	TV	National
SolomonMag	Online Press	National
LiFO	Online Press	National
Kontra Channel	TV	Local
Tvxs	Online Press	National
EFSYN	Online/Printed Press	National
LiFO	Online	National
RiseTV	WebTV	National
ThePressProject	Online Press/WebRadio	National
EFSYN	Online/Printed Press	National
ThePressProject	Online Press	National
Tvxs	Online Press	National
EFSYN	Online/Printed Press	National
Kontra Channel	TV	National
Parliament TV	TV	Local
PappasPost	Online Press	International

7. IMPACT IN NUMBERS

7.1. Citizen & MP engagement (March 2019 – March 2020)

1283
Questions to MPs

561
Answers by MPs

1726
New Likes on FB

1117
New followers on Twitter

31
New MPs engaged for 1st time

3248
New users registered in platform

7.2. Platform's Analytics

491.829
Unique Visitors

537.846
Page views

437.846
Sessions

8. FINANCIAL REPORT 2019 – 2020

Sources of funding / revenue

EU grant (YouVoteEU project): €16.840
Latsis Foundation: €15.000
Guerrilla Foundation: €12.000
Reserve funds: €29.850
Individual donations: €8.545

Total: €82.235

Expenses by category

Staff costs: €67.123
Operational Expenses & Consumables: €6.740
Website maintenance: €700
Development of "It's My Party" platform: €6.570

Total: €81.133

vouliwatch

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