

vouliwatch Annual Report 2025-2026



Democracy Is Not a Given

The following report relates to the activities of Vouliwatch
for the period of March 2025 to March 2026.
Vouliwatch is an Athens based, registered non for profit organization
with reg. no: 127494401000.

From the Director

Democracy is not in crisis. That word implies a temporary disruption before things return to normal. What we are living through is something more structural, more stubborn, and more difficult to name: a long transition away from democracy as a system of genuine collective self-governance toward something else, a model in which the institutions remain, the elections are held, and the language of democracy is preserved, while the actual space for democratic influence quietly shrinks.

This is not a Greek problem, though Greece illustrates it with particular clarity. It is the predictable outcome of decades in which the logic of the market was allowed to dominate every corner of public life, and in which citizens came to be treated not as the subjects of democracy but as its consumers. When politics becomes a service industry and citizens become clients and at times products, trust does not erode by accident, it erodes by design.

And yet the question we are asked most often at Vouliwatch is: what can we do about it? The honest answer is that we cannot reverse these structural dynamics on our own. No civil society organisation can. What we can do, and what we have spent twelve years doing, is refuse to accept that the normalisation of unaccountability is inevitable. We can make the invisible visible by publishing data on who funds political candidates, forcing reluctant governments to disclose what gifts their ministers received, documenting how core state functions are being outsourced to private consultants, measuring the gap between what the law requires and what institutions actually do.

This work matters not because it changes everything, but because it establishes that things can be changed. Citizens who engage with it are not passive recipients of someone else's conclusions. They have access to the same data, the same records, the same evidence, and they can draw their own conclusions. That is what we mean when we say our work is democratic: not that we tell people what to think, but that we give them the tools to think with.

The year documented in this report has been one of the most intensive in Vouliwatch's history. We pursued 26 distinct campaigns and advocacy interventions. We launched the Consultocracy platform, placing an entirely new category of public accountability data in the public domain. We compelled the publication of the government gift registry for the second consecutive year, and for the first time without a formal complaint. We contributed to our fourth consecutive joint civil society submission to the European Commission on the rule of law in Greece, documenting the same systemic failures that the Commission continues to undercharacterise.

None of this is sufficient. The gap between legal obligation and institutional practice in Greece remains wide, the oversight bodies meant to enforce compliance remain reluctant to do so, and the international mechanisms designed to hold member states accountable remain too easily satisfied with formal assurances.

What sustains this work is not optimism, it is the conviction that civil society organisations like Vouliwatch exist precisely to function as democratic memory, to keep the record, to hold the line, and to demonstrate by example that collective action is still possible. To equip citizens with all the necessary tools to reclaim Democracy.

Stefanos Loukopoulos Director & Co-Founder, Vouliwatch

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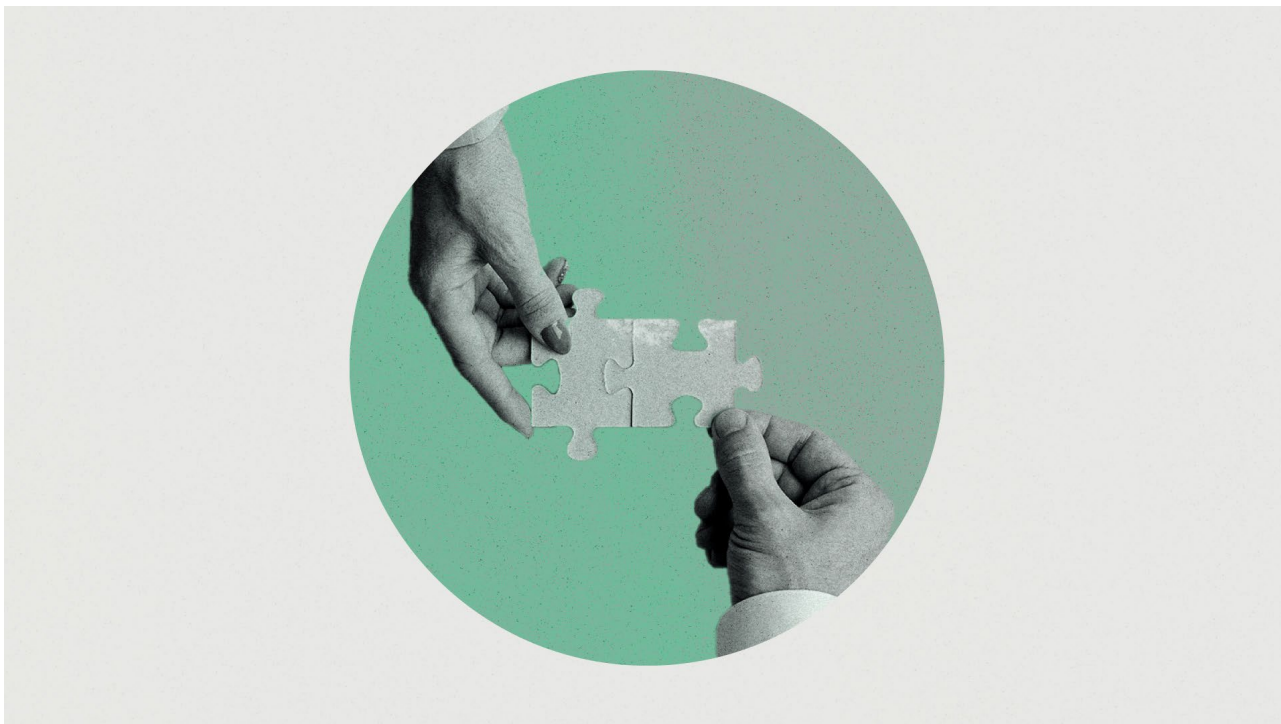
1. About Vouliwatch

Vouliwatch is a non-partisan parliamentary monitoring and democracy watchdog organisation, founded in Athens in March 2014. The organisation was established in direct response to the deepening disillusionment of Greek citizens with their political institutions in the wake of the economic crisis, and it has operated on the same founding premise ever since – that the gap between citizens and their elected representatives is not inevitable, and that transparency, accountability, and active participation are the tools to close it.

Vouliwatch's core work centres on its digital platform, the only tool in Greece that enables citizens to communicate directly and publicly with their MPs and MEPs, track parliamentary votes and activity, and access real-time information on the legislative process. That platform is complemented by a suite of civic technology projects: **Govwatch**, which monitors and reports on the state of the rule of law in Greece; **Arthro5A**, which promotes the use of freedom of information requests under Article 5A of the Greek Constitution; **Localwatch**, which extends transparency and citizen engagement tools to the municipal level; and **Consultocracy**, developed in partnership with Solomon, which maps and monitors the Greek state's growing reliance on private consultants in public decision-making, making the full dataset freely accessible to citizens, journalists, and researchers.

Beyond its digital infrastructure, Vouliwatch is Greece's leading advocacy organisation in the fields of transparency, open government, and freedom of access to information. Its campaigns, advocacy work, and strategic litigation have resulted in legislative change and the public exposure of political misconduct. The organisation is a co-founder of the ParliamentWatch Network and a member of UNCAC, ALTER-EU, the Open Spending EU Coalition, and the Right to Information Network. It engages regularly with the European Parliament's LIBE Committee, the European Commission, GRECO, the ODIHR and the Open Government Partnership.

Vouliwatch is financially independent. It does not accept funding from political parties, politicians, or corporations, and it does not carry advertising. All research, data, and information it produces are freely and publicly accessible. Access to information, after all, is a right, not a privilege.



2. The Team

At Vouliwatch, we are driven by a shared passion for good governance, transparency, and democratic accountability. Our team is a dynamic blend of professionals with diverse expertise, united by a commitment to empowering citizens and fostering a more open and inclusive political process in Greece.

Each member of our team brings unique skills and perspectives—from law and political science to civic technology and communication—that enable us to approach our mission holistically. With unwavering dedication, we work to shine a light on parliamentary procedures, promote active citizenship, and advocate for reforms that enhance transparency and participation.

Together, we are not just observers of democracy; we are active participants, using our knowledge and experience to bridge the gap between the public and their elected representatives. At Vouliwatch, we believe that transparency is the cornerstone of a thriving democracy, and we are committed to making sure that every citizen has the tools and information they need to hold those in power accountable.

More information on the team at <https://vouliwatch.gr/about/en#team>.

3. The Year in Numbers

Twelve years after its founding, Vouliwatch's operational footprint continues to grow. During the reporting period, the organisation ran 26 distinct campaigns, filed formal complaints, FOI requests, and institutional submissions across every major transparency and accountability front. It published 8 original research outputs, organised or co-organised 3 public events, and participated as an invited speaker or contributor in 7 more. Its work was covered by 50 media outlets, from Greek dailies to AFP and Mediapart. It engaged directly with GRECO, the European Commission, the OSCE, the Council of Europe, and the UNCAC process, and it collaborated with or co-signed interventions alongside dozens of civil society organisations across Greece and Europe.

26 Campaigns & Advocacy Actions	8 Research & Analysis
54 Times covered by media	10 Events
8 FOI Requests	5 International Institutions Engaged (GRECO, OSCE, European Commission, Council of Europe, UNCAC)
5 Parliamentary questions generated from Vouliwatch's work	13 Civil society organisations collaborated with
1 New civic tech platform launched	1.3 M Unique website visitors



4. Advocacy & Campaigns

4.1 Political Finance & Accountability

4.1.1 The Problem

Greece has the legal architecture for political finance transparency. What it lacks is the institutional will to make it work.

Party balance sheets, asset declarations, gift registries, candidate donation records: all are subject to legal publication obligations. In practice, deadlines are missed routinely, enforcement bodies grant extensions rather than impose sanctions, and published data, when it appears at all, is frequently incomplete, unsigned, undated, and buried where citizens are unlikely to find it.

The pattern holds across every instrument. Party balance sheets for 2024 were legally due by 31 May, yet as of 18 June 2025 they had not been published. The Parliamentary Control Committee responded to Vouliwatch's formal complaint not by penalising the offending parties, but by granting them an extension. Asset declarations for 2023 and 2024 remained unpublished as of September 2025, months beyond their legal deadline, with no explanation offered and no publication date provided. The government gift registry, legally required annually under Law 4829/2021, had to be compelled into existence for the second consecutive year through a formal complaint to the National Transparency Authority. Even then, the published list was informal, sparsely populated, unvalued, unsigned, and without any indication of authorship.

Meanwhile, analysis of donation records for the 2023 parliamentary elections reveals a political financing ecosystem dominated by a small number of high-value donors, most contributing at the maximum permitted level of €5,000, with 91.5% of recorded donations flowing to candidates of a single party. Familial relationships between donors and candidates appear repeatedly in the data. The questions they raise about the boundary between private generosity and political dependency have not been addressed by any institution.

These are not isolated failures. They reflect a system in which transparency obligations exist on paper and nowhere else, and in which citizens have no reliable, comprehensive, machine-readable record of who funds their political representatives or what those representatives own.

4.1.2 What We Did

Vouliwatch pursued this cluster of issues through a sustained combination of freedom of information requests, formal complaints, original data analysis, public advocacy, and international co-ordination.

Government Gift Registries

Following an unanswered FOI request submitted on 11 March 2025, Vouliwatch filed a formal complaint with the National Transparency Authority on 2 April 2025 demanding publication of the 2024 gift list (Δώρα πολιτικών Vol. 2 • Προσφυγή Vouliwatch στην ΕΑΔ). The Authority upheld the complaint on 25 April 2025, ordering the General Secretariat of the Prime Minister to publish the list within seven days (Δώρα πολιτικών Vol.2 • Δικαίωση (;) Vouliwatch από την ΕΑΔ). Publication followed on 9 May 2025, under pressure and with significant shortcomings (Δώρα πολιτικών Vol.2 • Για 2η χρονιά πετύχαμε τη δημοσίευση της λίστας «ναι μεν, αλλά»). In January 2026, for the first time since the obligation was introduced three years earlier, the government published the 2025 gift list without being compelled to do so.



Vouliwatch acknowledged this as a meaningful shift while documenting the list's continued deficiencies: no official format, no valuation of gifts, no signature, no issuing authority (Δώρα πολιτικών • Για πρώτη φορά δημοσιεύονται, χωρίς να προσφύγουμε). The registry has now been published for two consecutive years as a direct result of Vouliwatch's legal pressure. That is a traceable, documented change in institutional behaviour.

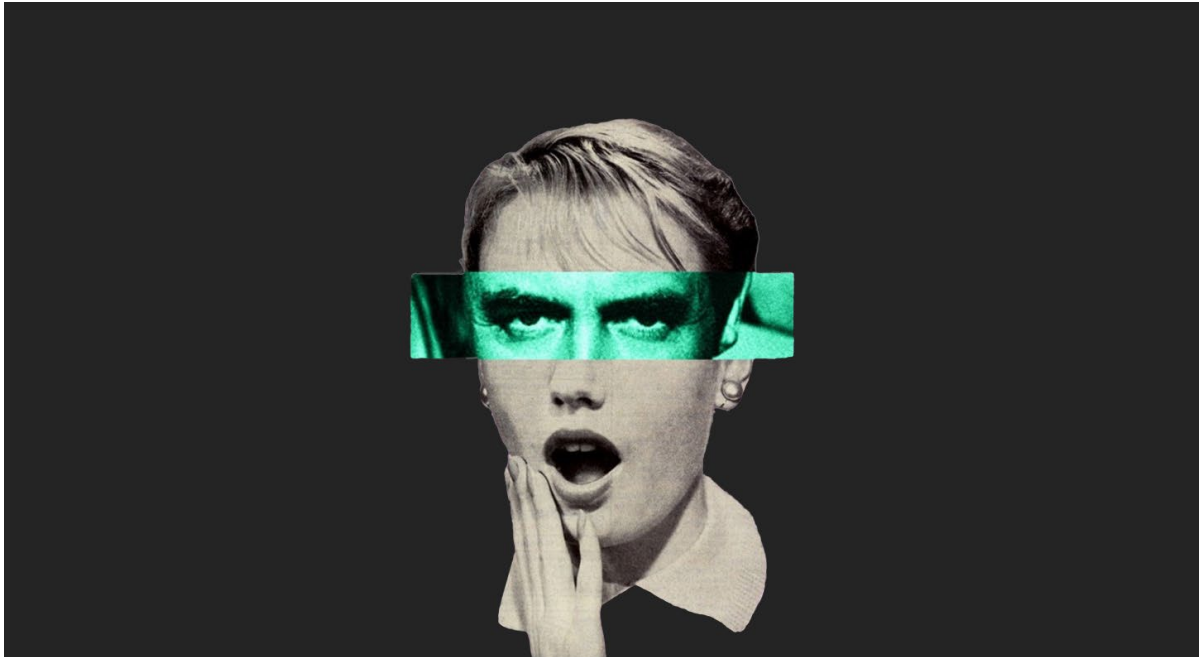
Party Balance Sheets

In June 2025, having established that parties had failed to publish their 2024 financial statements by the 31 May legal deadline, Vouliwatch submitted a formal complaint to the Parliamentary Control Committee calling for investigation and sanctions (Που είναι οι ισολογισμοί των κομμάτων; Το Vouliwatch αναφέρει). When the Committee responded in July

by granting extensions rather than imposing penalties, Vouliwatch filed a second complaint publicly characterising the Committee's conduct as institutional protection of rule-breakers rather than independent oversight.

Asset Declarations

Vouliwatch sent repeated written requests to the Parliamentary Control Committee asking why asset declarations and declarations of financial interests for 2023 and 2024 had not been published and when publication was expected (Που είναι τα πόθεν έσχες; Το Vouliwatch ρωτάει).



In parallel, Vouliwatch published a detailed analysis of the existing framework, documenting that declarations are routinely treated as a box-ticking exercise, recorded as «submitted» without meaningful scrutiny, and that declarations of financial interests are not subject to any publication obligation at all (Πόθεν Έσχες: Ένα θεσμικό εργαλείο που παραμένει χωρίς «δόντια»). Citizens are left without critical information about the economic interests of their elected representatives. That is not an oversight, it is a structural choice.

Donation Analysis

Vouliwatch gathered and analysed the Control Committee's records of private donations to parliamentary candidates in the 2023 elections, covering 180 recorded donations totalling approximately €770,000 (Οι δωρεές προς τους υποψήφιους βουλευτές το 2023 σε αριθμούς). The analysis identified the candidates with the highest fundraising totals, mapped the concentration of donations at the maximum permitted level of €5,000, documented the flow of 91.5% of all donations to New Democracy candidates, and flagged multiple instances of familial relationships between donors and candidates. These findings are facts that would not have entered public discourse without this work. Citizens, journalists, and researchers can now see who finances Greek parliamentary candidates, that visibility matters.

International Co-ordination

On 9 December 2025, in connection with the 11th Conference of States Parties to the UN Convention Against Corruption, Vouliwatch co-signed an international civil society appeal calling for online disclosure of political income and expenditure, beneficial ownership transparency, independent oversight, and a strengthened UNCAC review

mechanism (Το Vouliwatch συνυπογράφει διεθνή παρέμβαση για διαφανή πολιτική χρηματοδότηση), extending the organisation's advocacy into the international dimension of the problem and establishing that Vouliwatch's position is reform-oriented, not merely reactive.

4.1.3 Institutional Response

The National Transparency Authority performed its function. Both of Vouliwatch's complaints regarding the government gift registry were upheld, the 2025 complaint through Decision 2179/25.04.2025, which gave the General Secretariat seven days to publish. The Authority has now twice established that this obligation is legally enforceable. The subsequent voluntary publication of the 2025 list, however imperfect, suggests that sustained and documented pressure is beginning to produce results.

The Parliamentary Control Committee told a different story. Faced with widespread non-compliance on party balance sheets, it chose accommodation over enforcement, granting extensions to parties that had already missed their legal deadlines without any public explanation of why sanctions were not applied. On asset declarations, it offered nothing beyond silence. Whether the Committee regards itself as an independent oversight body or as an administrative convenor for the parties it is meant to scrutinise is a question it has so far declined to answer.

4.1.4 Looking Ahead

The government gift registry has now been published voluntarily for the first time, a meaningful shift, however imperfect. The outstanding priorities for the period ahead are narrower and more concrete: securing publication of the 2024 gift list, pressing the Parliamentary Control Committee for real sanctions on parties that missed balance sheet deadlines, and advancing the legislative reform agenda on asset declarations and donations through Vouliwatch's proposals in the National Anti-Corruption Strategy process.

4.2 Lobbying, Influence & Anti-Corruption

4.2.1 The Problem

Democratic governance functions best when decisions are made by accountable public servants, subject to public scrutiny. In Greece, a growing share of those functions is being quietly transferred to private consulting firms and influence brokers operating largely outside any meaningful transparency framework.

The numbers are stark. Between 2017 and 2025, the Greek state awarded over 3,000 consultancy contracts worth approximately €1.56 billion to private firms. More than 87% of that spending relates not to technical support but to policy design and decision-making, core functions that belong within public administration. Less than 1% of companies absorbed approximately 57% of total expenditure. The volume of contracts grew from 171 in 2018 to 613 in 2023. That is a 258% increase in five years.

Meanwhile, the legal framework intended to regulate who influences those decisions, Law 4829/2021 on lobbying, has produced a Transparency Register so sparsely populated as to be functionally meaningless. Fewer than 35 organisations

registered in its first two years of operation, recording a total of 11 meetings and two email communications across the entire reporting period.

The result is a democratic deficit operating on two tracks simultaneously. On one track, private consultants shape public policy with limited oversight and no requirement to disclose conflicts of interest. On the other, lobbyists who seek to influence that policy operate in a regulatory environment with no real enforcement, no systematic monitoring, and no sanctions for non-compliance. Citizens cannot access the information they need to understand who is making decisions, on whose behalf, and with what financial interests at stake.

4.2.2 What We Did

Vouliwatch pursued this cluster of issues through original data research, platform development, formal advocacy submissions, and direct engagement with international anti-corruption bodies.

— The Consultocracy Platform

Working with the investigative outlet Solomon, Vouliwatch compiled a comprehensive database of state consultancy contracts using official procurement data from the KIMDIS register, covering June 2017 to December 2025.



The research identified 3,079 contracts worth approximately €1.56 billion awarded to 1,266 contractors. Over 62% were awarded by direct award. Less than 1% of companies absorbed approximately 57% of total expenditure. And 87% of spending related to policy design and decision-making rather than technical support. Vouliwatch and Solomon built an interactive public platform allowing citizens, journalists, and researchers to explore the full dataset, launching it at a public event on 24 February 2026 (*Consultocracy: Υπάρχει λογοδοσία όταν αποφασίζουν οι σύμβουλοι;*). A companion piece examined the broader implications of this outsourcing trend for democratic accountability and public administration capacity (*Consultocracy: Υπάρχει λογοδοσία όταν αποφασίζουν οι σύμβουλοι;*).

The platform is the first comprehensive, publicly accessible dataset on state consultancy contracts in Greece. The concentration of contracts among a tiny number of firms, the prevalence of direct awards, and the 258% growth in contract volume since 2018 are now documented facts in the public domain rather than impressions or allegations.

When the government spokesperson publicly questioned the research's credibility, Vouliwatch responded directly:

the study aggregates official KIMDIS data, covers eight years spanning multiple governments, and does not estimate profits (*Consultocracy: Τα επίσημα δεδομένα δεν είναι «εντυώσεις»*). The invitation to the government to publish its own figures has not been taken up. Opposition parties used the research as the basis for parliamentary questions, demonstrating its practical utility beyond civil society circles.

Analysis of the Lobbying Transparency Register

Vouliwatch published a detailed evaluation of the implementation of Law 4829/2021 and the Transparency Register it created (*Μητρώο Lobbying • Ετήσια Αναφορά Vouliwatch 2024*).



Despite the law entering into force in September 2021 and the register launching in December 2022, the data remained minimal by October 2024: 34 registered organisations, 11 recorded meetings, and two recorded email communications. Registered lobbyists had not submitted the annual declarations the law requires. Declarations that had been submitted were frequently vague, incomplete, or inconsistent with the records of the public bodies the lobbyists claimed to have met. The register's sections on statistical data and awareness-raising were entirely empty.

Vouliwatch formally questioned whether any declarations had been checked and whether any sanctions had ever been applied. This analysis provided the first systematic evaluation of the law's implementation, establishing a factual baseline against which future progress or continued failure can be measured.

Engagement with GRECO

On 5 June 2025, Vouliwatch Director Stefanos Loukopoulos spoke at a side event during GRECO's 100th session (*Το Vouliwatch στην 100ή Σύνοδο της GRECO στο Στρασβούργο*), arguing for civil society involvement in evaluation processes, effective oversight of parliamentary members' financial interests, and monitoring mechanisms that move beyond paper commitments. Vouliwatch pressed GRECO to ensure its recommendations are implemented rather than merely acknowledged, and to establish formal channels for civil society participation in follow-up processes. Civil society concerns about lobbying enforcement and parliamentary conflicts of interest are now formally on the record before the international body responsible for evaluating Greece's anti-corruption framework.

Proposals for the National Anti-Corruption Plan

Vouliwatch submitted detailed proposals for Greece's National Strategic Plan to Combat Corruption covering 2026 to 2030 (Το Vouliwatch στο Εθνικό Στρατηγικό Σχέδιο Καταπολέμησης Διαφθοράς). On lobbying, the proposals call for revision of Law 4829/2021 to cover all interest representatives including in-house and unpaid lobbyists, mandatory real-time recording of every lobbying meeting with at least monthly publication of data, and systematic audits with timely sanctions for violations. On asset declarations, Vouliwatch calls for extending obligations to political advisers for three years after leaving office, reinstating mandatory lifting of confidentiality, and publishing declarations of financial interests which have existed in law since 2014 but have never been applied. On access to information, the proposals call for a unified legal framework aligned with the Tromsø Convention, a strong independent oversight authority, and guarantees that mandatory publications are actually made. These constitute a concrete, reform-oriented roadmap now formally part of the consultation record.

4.2.3 Institutional Response

The Consultocracy research drew considerable media attention and generated immediate public debate. The government spokesperson characterised the findings as «creating impressions» rather than engaging with the underlying data. Vouliwatch responded publicly, reaffirming that every figure in the research derives from official state procurement records. Despite numerous parliamentary questions and a considerable amount of media attention sparking public debate, no official steps have been taken to address the concentration of outsourcing, the prevalence of direct awards, or the transfer of policy-making capacity to external firms that the data exposes.

On lobbying, the government has not responded to Vouliwatch's documented findings about missing declarations, empty register sections, or the absence of enforcement. The Transparency Register remains as sparse as it was when Vouliwatch first analysed it. GRECO has noted Vouliwatch's interventions at its 100th session. The National Transparency Authority received Vouliwatch's proposals for the anti-corruption plan and is expected to publish the final strategy, though no timeline has been confirmed.

4.2.4 Looking Ahead

The Consultocracy platform has opened a new front in Vouliwatch's oversight work, shifting the focus from process failures to the structural transfer of public decision-making to private hands. The immediate priorities are keeping that research current with 2026 procurement data, pressing for revision of Law 4829/2021 to cover all categories of interest representative, and monitoring whether Vouliwatch's proposals find their way into the final National Anti-Corruption Strategy. The quality of that document will be a meaningful test of the government's actual commitment to reform.

4.3 Quality of Legislation & Parliamentary Oversight

4.3.1 The Problem

Parliament's capacity to act as a genuine check on executive power depends on two things working together: robust oversight mechanisms and high-quality legislation. In Greece, both remain structurally compromised.

The oversight deficit is visible in how parties account for themselves financially. Balance sheets are published late or

not at all. Asset declarations are filed as a formality rather than subjected to meaningful scrutiny. The Parliamentary Control Committee, which oversees these obligations, has demonstrated a consistent preference for accommodation over enforcement.

The lobbying register, which should provide a window into who is influencing legislation and how, recorded fewer than 35 registered organisations and just 11 meetings in its first two years of operation none of which with an MP. Those figures bear no relationship to the actual scale of lobbying activity in the country. The legislative quality deficit is equally persistent. Vouliwatch's annual monitoring has documented the same patterns year after year: amendments introduced without adequate consultation, omnibus bills used to push through unrelated provisions, and a legislative process that prioritises speed over scrutiny. Parliament, which should function as the institutional counterweight to executive power, too often functions as its instrument.

These are not technical problems. They are symptoms of a deeper democratic deficit: a parliament that is insufficiently independent, insufficiently transparent, and insufficiently accountable to the citizens it represents.

4.3.2 What We Did

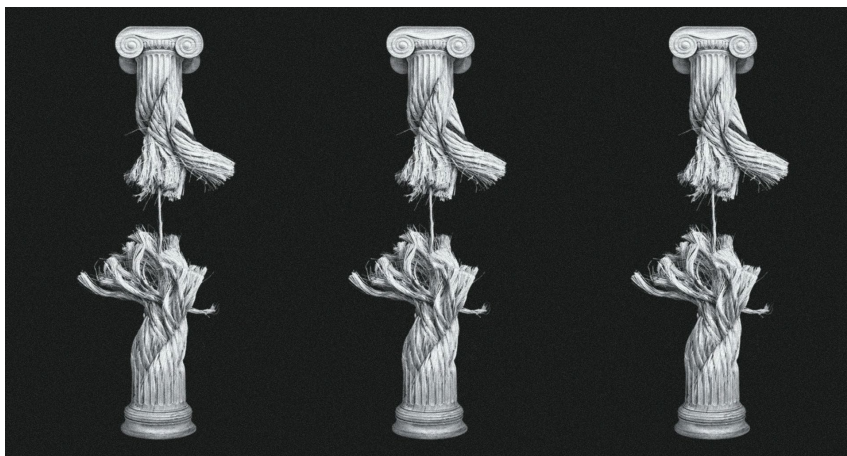
Vouliwatch pursued this cluster of issues through international engagement, formal advocacy submissions, original monitoring and analysis, and the launch of a new funded reform project.

■ Participation in the OSCE Regional Conference on Parliamentary Oversight

Vouliwatch participated in the OSCE's South-East Europe Regional Conference on Parliamentary Oversight in Warsaw (Το Vouliwatch στη Βαρσοβία στο Περιφερειακό Συνέδριο για την Κοινοβουλευτική Εποπτεία του ΟΑΣΕ), contributing the Greek perspective on parliamentary monitoring and situating Greece's structural weaknesses within a comparative regional framework. The substance of Vouliwatch's intervention, including its arguments for formal civil society channels in parliamentary accountability, is detailed in section 4.6.

■ Proposals for the National Anti-Corruption Strategy 2026–2030.

As part of its submission to Greece's National Strategic Plan to Combat Corruption (detailed in section 4.2) Vouliwatch included a dedicated set of proposals on parliamentary oversight: stronger conflict of interest rules, modernisation of the asset declaration system, and the codification of access to information rights within a consolidated legal framework (Το Vouliwatch στο Εθνικό Στρατηγικό Σχέδιο Καταπολέμησης Διαφθοράς).



Annual Analysis of the Lobbying Transparency Register

Vouliwatch published its annual evaluation of Greece's lobbying register ([Μητρώο Lobbying • Ετήσια Αναφορά Vouliwatch 2024](#)), identifying serious and persistent compliance failures: only 34 registered entities, 11 recorded meetings (none of which with an MP), two email communications, incomplete declarations, and entirely empty statistical and awareness-raising sections. Vouliwatch formally questioned whether any declarations had been verified and whether any sanctions had ever been applied. The analysis established a factual baseline against which future progress or continued failure can be assessed.

Monitoring Party Financial Statements

Vouliwatch documented that political parties had failed to publish their 2024 annual balance sheets by the legal deadline of 31 May and submitted a formal complaint to Parliament's oversight committee calling for investigation and sanctions ([Που είναι οι ισολογισμοί των κομμάτων; Το Vouliwatch αναφέρει](#)). When the Committee responded by granting extensions rather than imposing penalties, Vouliwatch publicly characterised this as institutional protection of rule-breakers. The complaints created a documented record of non-compliance that serves as a baseline for future accountability claims.

Scrutiny of the Asset Declaration System

Vouliwatch formally questioned why asset declarations for public officials for 2023 and 2024 had not been published by their legal deadlines ([Που είναι τα πόθεν έσχες; Το Vouliwatch ρωτάει](#)) and published a detailed analysis documenting how the system functions as a formality rather than a genuine accountability tool ([Πόθεν Έσχες: Ένα θεσμικό εργαλείο που παραμένει χωρίς «δόντια»](#)). Declarations are recorded as submitted without meaningful verification. Declarations of financial interests have never been published despite existing as a legal obligation since 2014. The oversight body responsible for checking them lacks both the resources and the mandate to do the job effectively.



Launch of the PLATO Project

In January 2026, Vouliwatch launched a new 13-month project titled «Strengthening Parliament's Resilience and Trust for the Protection of the Rule of Law» (PRT-RoL) ([PLATO • Ενίσχυση της Ανθεκτικότητας και της Εμπιστοσύνης στο Κοινοβούλιο](#)), funded under the PLATO Programme with a budget of €59,974. The project directly addresses the structural weaknesses in parliamentary function that Vouliwatch has documented over the past decade. Its core activities include an institutional assessment of Parliament using internationally recognised indicators across five thematic axes: transparency and accessibility, independence from the executive, compliance with constitutional obligations, participation and accountability, and ethics and conduct. A participatory workshop will bring together

citizens and civil society organisations to feed directly into a Policy Paper with concrete reform recommendations. An advocacy campaign targeting the President of Parliament, the Secretary General, and parliamentary group leaders will follow, accompanied by a public awareness campaign under the hashtag #MyParliamentGR. The project runs to January 2027 and marks a qualitative step forward: from documenting parliamentary failures to developing the evidence base, the reform proposals, and the advocacy strategy required to address them structurally.

4.3.3 Institutional Response

Institutional responses remained limited throughout the reporting period. The Parliamentary Control Committee did not impose sanctions on parties that missed balance sheet publication deadlines, choosing instead to grant extensions. It provided no response to Vouliwatch's written requests about unpublished asset declarations. The National Anti-Corruption Strategy had not been finalised at the close of the reporting period. Authorities responsible for the lobbying register did not address the compliance failures Vouliwatch documented, and no evidence of sanctions or enforcement action emerged.

The OSCE conference provided a valuable platform for regional exchange, but commitments made there have not yet translated into changes in domestic parliamentary practice.

4.3.4 Looking Ahead

The launch of the PLATO project in January 2026 marks the beginning of Vouliwatch's most structured intervention yet on parliamentary reform. The institutional assessment, comparative research, Policy Paper, and advocacy campaign it will produce through to January 2027 are designed not merely to document Parliament's accountability failures but to place a credible, evidence-based reform agenda directly in front of the people with the institutional power to act on it. Whether they do will say a great deal about where Greek democracy stands.

4.4 Rule of Law & Fundamental Rights

4.4.1 The Problem

Greece's rule of law environment remains fragile, and the gap between formal commitments and lived reality continues to widen. Independent organisations document, year after year, the same interconnected pathologies: a justice system that moves slowly and selectively, legislative reforms that are superficial or cosmetic, transparency obligations that go unenforced, a press under pressure from concentrated ownership and legal intimidation, and fundamental rights eroded by executive action that outpaces judicial scrutiny.

What makes this particularly difficult to address is that the international bodies tasked with assessment have repeatedly failed to reflect it accurately. The European Commission's annual Rule of Law report, which should be the primary accountability mechanism, has consistently presented an unrealistically positive picture of Greece, characterising institutions as effective and reforms as meaningful in ways that bear little relationship to the evidence that civil society organisations place before it. When oversight bodies draw false reassurance from selective data, they do not merely fail to help. They actively make accountability harder, providing cover for governments unwilling to reform.

The period under review added two serious new concerns to this already troubling landscape. A law suspending asylum applications for arrivals from North Africa, passed in July 2025, ordered immediate expulsions without registration in direct violation of international and EU law. The National Technical University of Athens installed surveillance cameras across its campuses without informing students or staff, without a transparent data processing policy, and without responding to subsequent requests for information. Neither development occurred in a vacuum. Both reflect a broader pattern in which state institutions act first and account for themselves later, if at all.

4.4.2 What We Did

Vouliwatch pursued this cluster of issues through coalition advocacy, formal critique of institutional assessments, legal intervention, and freedom of information requests.

Joint Report and Press Conference on the Rule of Law

On 11 February 2026, Vouliwatch and seven partner organisations, HIAS Greece, Refugee Support Aegean, Greek Council for Refugees, Greek Union for Human Rights, Homo Digitalis, Reporters United, and Solomon, held a press conference titled «Now is not the time to talk about legality» (Τώρα δεν είναι η ώρα να μιλήσουμε για τη νομιμότητα) and published the accompanying press release (Τώρα (δεν) είναι η ώρα να μιλήσουμε για τη νομιμότητα). The event presented the main findings of the coalition's fourth consecutive joint submission to the European Commission for its 2025 Rule of Law report, documenting interconnected failures across the justice system, legislative quality, transparency, press freedom, civil society space, and personal data protection. The breadth of the coalition, eight organisations spanning migration, human rights, data protection, investigative journalism, transparency, and parliamentary monitoring, gave the intervention a weight and credibility that no single organisation could achieve alone.

Critique of the European Commission's Rule of Law Report

On 11 July 2025, following the Commission's publication of its annual assessment, Vouliwatch and its partners released a detailed response documenting what the report had omitted or mischaracterised (Νέα Έκθεση της Κομισιόν για το Κράτος Δικαίου). The Commission had again characterised Greek institutions in unreservedly positive terms, failing to address the archiving of the Predator spyware case, the delays in the Tempi investigation, the systemic deficiencies flagged by the European Court of Human Rights and UN bodies, the limited use of the lobbying transparency register, the persistent gaps in asset declarations and party finances, and the curtailment of civil society space. The critique placed the Commission's methodological shortcomings on record and created a referenceable baseline for assessing whether future reports improve.



Annual Govwatch Rule of Law Report

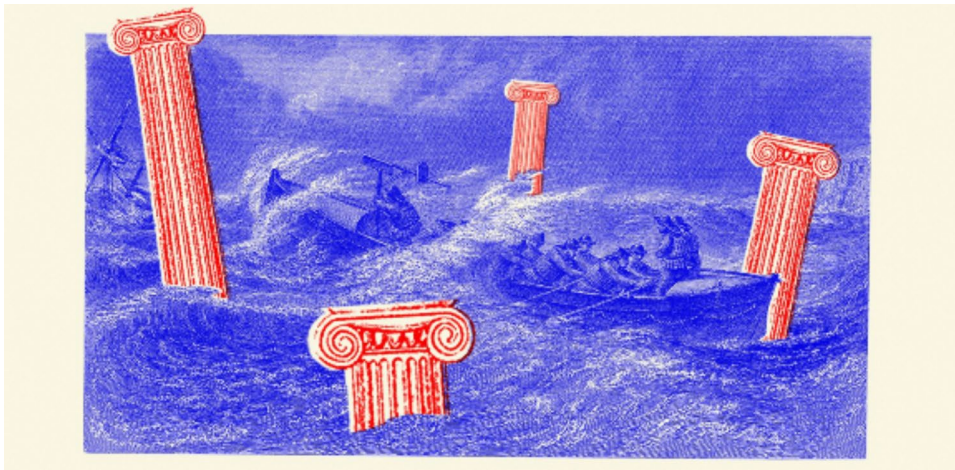
In September 2025, Vouliwatch published the fourth consecutive annual Govwatch report on the state of the rule of law in Greece (4η Ετήσια Έκθεση για το Κράτος Δικαίου στην Ελλάδα-2024). The report documented systemic failures across a wide range of institutional and rights-related areas: personal data protection, press freedom, refugee and migrant rights, surveillance and the Predator spyware scandal, police brutality, legislative quality, and Greece's compliance with EU and international obligations. Four years of continuous monitoring now allow a clear and evidence-based conclusion: in specific and recurring domains, Greek institutions systematically fail to uphold the principles of legality, equality, and transparency, and accountability for those failures is consistently absent. The Govwatch platform continued to record individual incidents and update its findings on a rolling basis throughout the year.

Contribution to the World Justice Project Rule of Law Index 2025

Vouliwatch contributed as an expert to the World Justice Project's Rule of Law Index 2025 (World Justice Project: Δείκτης του Κράτους Δικαίου 2025). The index ranked Greece 48th globally out of 143 countries, a drop of one position from the previous year, and 29th out of 31 countries in the EU, EFTA, and North America region. The findings are consistent with Vouliwatch's own monitoring: Greece ranks last in the region on public order and security, reflecting persistent problems with police brutality and enforcement ineffectiveness, and records significant declines in civil and criminal justice. On open governance, Greece ranked 29th out of 31 regional peers. On corruption, 27th. These are not marginal rankings. They reflect structural conditions that Vouliwatch, through its Govwatch initiative, has documented in detail across every reporting cycle.

Condemnation of the suspension of asylum rights.

On 16 July 2025, Vouliwatch joined 71 civil society organisations in publicly condemning article 79 of Law 5218/2025, passed by Parliament on 11 July 2025, which suspended asylum applications for three months for people arriving from North Africa and provided for their immediate expulsion without registration (Να αποσυρθεί άμεσα η παράνομη αναστολή της πρόσβασης στο άσυλο στην Ελλάδα).



The coalition stressed that the right of access to asylum and the prohibition of refoulement are absolute obligations under international and EU law and cannot be suspended by national legislation. The Greek Ombudsman, the National Commission for Human Rights, the Union of Administrative Judges, the Greek Bar Association, the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees had all affirmed this position. The statement united 72 organisations behind a clear legal position, amplified pressure on both the Greek government and EU institutions, and kept a legally contested measure in public view.

FOI on Surveillance Cameras at the National Technical University

On 19 December 2025, Vouliwatch, Homo Digitalis, and Reporters United submitted a Freedom of Information request to the National Technical University of Athens seeking full documentation on the installation and operation of security cameras at its Zografou and Patision campuses (Οι κάμερες στο ΕΜΠ απειλούν τα προσωπικά δεδομένα;). The university had installed the cameras in March 2025 without informing students or staff about its data processing policy. The FOI request sought all documents relating to the cameras' installation and operation, a list of recorded persons, the destination of collected data, and whether it is shared with the police. The request asserted citizens' right to information about state surveillance on university campuses. The implications extend well beyond a single institution.

4.4.3 Institutional Response

The European Commission's response to civil society input remains the most consequential failure in this cluster. Despite four consecutive years of detailed, evidence-based joint submissions from independent Greek organisations, the Commission's 2025 report again omitted major structural problems and drew positive conclusions unsupported by the available evidence. No substantive engagement with the coalition's specific documented findings was offered.

The Greek government has not responded to civil society criticism of the rule of law report, has not moved to repeal article 79 of Law 5218/2025 following widespread condemnation from domestic and international bodies, and has offered no public justification for the surveillance camera installation at NTUA. The university itself has not responded to the FOI request submitted in December 2025.

4.4.4 Looking Ahead

For the fifth consecutive year, Vouliwatch and its partners will submit evidence to the European Commission's Rule of Law cycle, and for the fifth consecutive year, the central question will be whether the Commission is willing to engage with documented reality rather than stated governmental intentions. At the same time, Vouliwatch will continue to monitor and report on the state of the rule of law in Greece through its [Govwatch initiative](#).

4.5 Civic Space & Citizen Participation

4.5.1 The Problem

Greek democracy is not merely underperforming. It is perceived by its own citizens as having fundamentally broken down. In a nationwide survey conducted by Vouliwatch and Eteron, citizens rated the quality of democracy at just 3.85 out of 10, with younger respondents lower still at 3.23. Corruption in the political system and the absence of meritocracy were identified as the leading threats, cited by 59.4% and 57.6% of respondents respectively. Eight in ten citizens said politicians do not care about their views. Nine in ten believed democracy would improve if they did.

These are not merely polling figures. They reflect a crisis of representation that independent research commissioned by Vouliwatch and Eteron traces to the hollowing out of democratic institutions through economic crisis and the

concentration of power, the shrinking of civil society space, and the absence of meaningful participation mechanisms beyond the ballot box. Citizens do not believe political parties have capable or honest officials. They see politicians as driven by personal or party interests. And yet the same research records strong majorities in favour of referendums, participatory budgeting, digital participation tools, and electronic voting. Not apathy. Frustrated democratic appetite with nowhere to go.

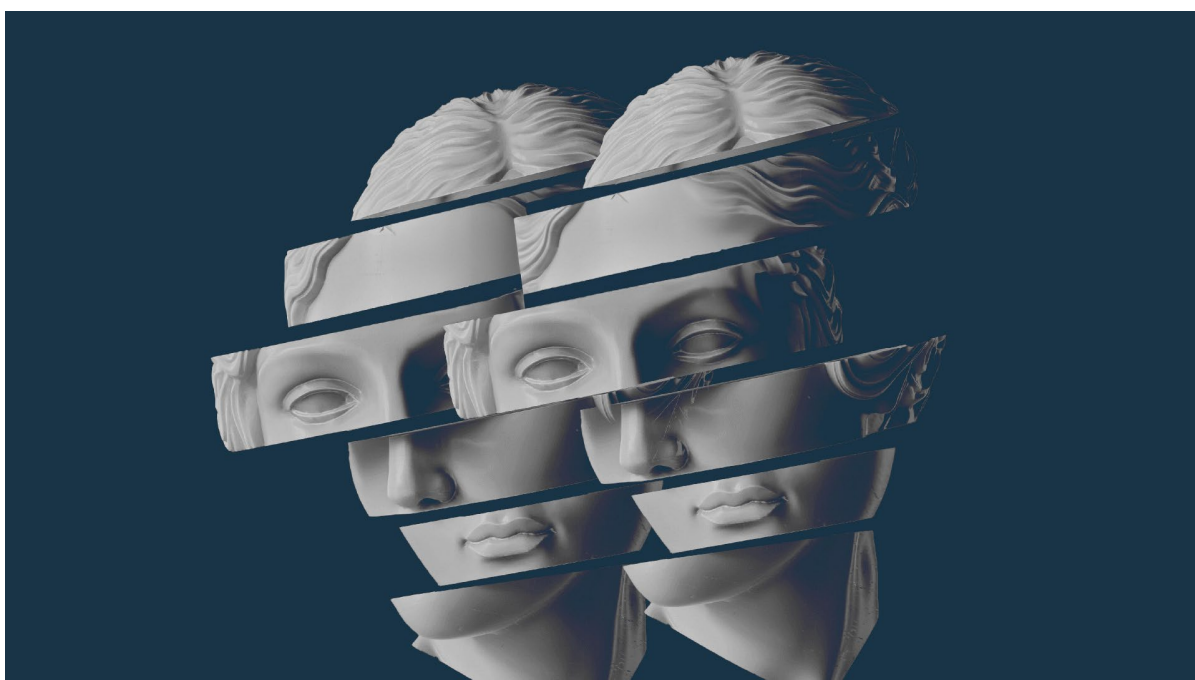
The institutional response to this appetite has been to ignore it, and in some cases to actively undermine the civil society organisations that seek to channel it.

4.5.2 What We Did

Vouliwatch pursued this cluster of issues through original research, coalition advocacy, environmental monitoring, and public engagement across multiple platforms and events.

Unmute Democracy Research

Vouliwatch partnered with Eteron to carry out the nationwide research project «Unmute Democracy,» capturing citizens' perceptions of the democratic system in structured, quantitative form (*Unmute Democracy: Η φωνή των πολιτών για τη Δημοκρατία στην Ελλάδα σήμερα*). The research documented the depth of the representation crisis, mapped the specific reforms citizens most strongly support, and identified cross-generational convergence on the core demands: more transparency, more accountability, and more meaningful participation. The finding that 80.6% of citizens support referendums, 70.8% support participatory budgeting, and 73.8% support digital participation tools provides an evidence base for democratic reform advocacy that goes well beyond anecdote.



Vouliwatch's director published a companion analysis contextualising the findings within Greece's broader democratic trajectory (*Η κρίση εμπιστοσύνης και το επείγον αίτημα για αληθινή Δημοκρατία*), and a further piece examined the structural forces driving democratic invisibility and the forms of resistance available to citizens and civil society (*Η αντίσταση στην αορατοποίηση της Δημοκρατίας*). The research has been widely cited and has reframed the conversation about democratic quality from a matter of partisan opinion to a documented social reality.

Open Letter to the Prime Minister Defending Civil Society

In August 2025, Vouliwatch joined 74 civil society organisations in sending an open letter to Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis condemning public statements and practices that belittle civil society organisations (To Vouliwatch [συνυπογράφει επιστολή στον Πρωθυπουργό για την αντιμετώπιση της Κοινωνίας των Πολιτών](#)). The letter stressed that undermining civil society is inseparable from undermining democracy, and called on the government to recognise NGOs as partners in strengthening democratic institutions rather than targets of political attack. The coalition mobilised 74 organisations behind a shared position at a moment when civil society was under active political pressure, demonstrating collective resilience and the capacity to respond publicly and rapidly.



Petition for a Municipal Referendum in Thessaloniki

Together with the Hellenic League for Human Rights and environmental organisations, Vouliwatch supported a petition for a municipal referendum to establish a metropolitan park on the site of the Thessaloniki International Fair (To Vouliwatch [συνυπογράφει αίτημα για δημοτικό Δημοψήφισμα στη Θεσσαλονίκη](#)). The initiative highlighted that Thessaloniki has only 2.8 square metres of green space per capita against the World Health Organisation's recommended 8 to 10, and asserted that citizens must have a direct say in major urban development decisions that shape the quality of their daily lives.

The WeSeaYou Observatory

WWF Greece, Greenpeace Greece and Vouliwatch created Weseayou, the first open digital platform to monitor Greece's implementation of its national obligations for Marine Protected Areas ([Παρατηρητήριο Weseayou](#)). The platform makes institutional commitments visible and trackable by citizens, researchers, and journalists. Initial assessments found most commitments at an early stage and some not yet initiated, while Greece remains non-compliant with the EU directive on marine spatial planning and faces proceedings before the Court of Justice of the European Union. Weseayou adds a new instrument to Vouliwatch's civic technology portfolio, one focused on environmental accountability, signalling the organisation's expanding conception of what democratic oversight means in practice.



■ Civic Engagement Beyond Voting Event

In April 2025, Vouliwatch Director Stefanos Loukopoulos spoke at the Civic Engagement Beyond Voting event organised by Libra Philanthropies ([To Vouliwatch στην εκδήλωση Civic Engagement Beyond Voting](#)), participating in a panel on how individuals and communities can drive change through community organising, advocacy, and volunteering. The event opened a broader public dialogue on the forms of participation available to citizens between elections, and on how small but consistent civic actions can collectively produce systemic change.

■ Participatory Democracy at the Development Forum in Patra

At the 28th Development Forum in Patra in November 2025, Vouliwatch's director spoke on participatory democracy and the role of citizens in local governance ([To Vouliwatch στο 28ο Forum Ανάπτυξης στην Πάτρα](#)). The session explored how national transparency and accountability initiatives can be translated to the municipal level, and how digital tools like the Localwatch platform can transform citizens from passive recipients of decisions into active overseers of the institutions that make them. The forum also highlighted that Patra's own failure to apply digital transparency rules constitutes a concrete and ongoing denial of participatory democracy.

4.5.3 Institutional Response

Institutional reactions were limited across the board. The government did not respond publicly to the joint letter from 74 civil society organisations and took no concrete steps to strengthen the legal framework for protecting or collaborating with civil society. The petition for a municipal referendum in Thessaloniki remains unresolved. The Weseayou observatory's assessments confirm that Greece continues to lag in implementing its marine protection commitments, with EU infringement proceedings ongoing.

4.5.4 Looking Ahead

The Unmute Democracy research has established something valuable: a rigorous, publicly available picture of how Greek citizens assess their own democracy right now. The priority is making sure that picture reaches the audiences with the power to act on it, from policymakers and party leaders to European institutions that too often rely on official government accounts rather than citizen testimony. The Weseayou observatory will be updated as Greece's marine protection commitments come due, maintaining pressure on an area where EU enforcement proceedings are already active. On civic space, the immediate priority is sustained pressure on the government to respond substantively to the coalition letter and to move toward a legal framework that recognises civil society as a partner rather than a problem.

■ 4.6 Open Governance & Institutional Transparency

4.6.1 The Problem

Open governance in Greece remains more aspiration than practice. Public trust in institutions is low and, by most measures, still falling. Globally, the picture is not encouraging either: civic space is shrinking, media freedom is under

pressure, access to information is increasingly restricted, and civil society organisations face diminishing financial support at precisely the moment when independent oversight is most needed.

Greece sits uncomfortably within this global trend. There is no comprehensive national legal framework embedding transparency, accountability, and citizen participation across all levels of government. What exists is a patchwork of obligations, unevenly applied, with no single institution responsible for driving implementation or measuring progress. The rapid expansion of artificial intelligence in public administration adds a further layer of urgency: decisions affecting citizens are increasingly made by or with algorithmic tools, yet the legal frameworks governing transparency, accountability, and data protection in this domain have not kept pace.

4.6.2 What We Did

Vouliwatch pursued this cluster of issues through direct institutional engagement, international coalition building, and participation in conferences at the intersection of technology, transparency, and democratic oversight.

Supporting Athens' Entry into OGP Local

The City of Athens became the first and only municipality in Greece to join the Open Government Partnership Local programme. On 30 July 2025, its City Council approved the first Action Plan and Strategic Vision for OGP Local participation, committing the municipality to open government principles at local level (Ο Δήμος Αθηναίων για τη φορά στο OGP Local με τη συμβολή του Vouliwatch).

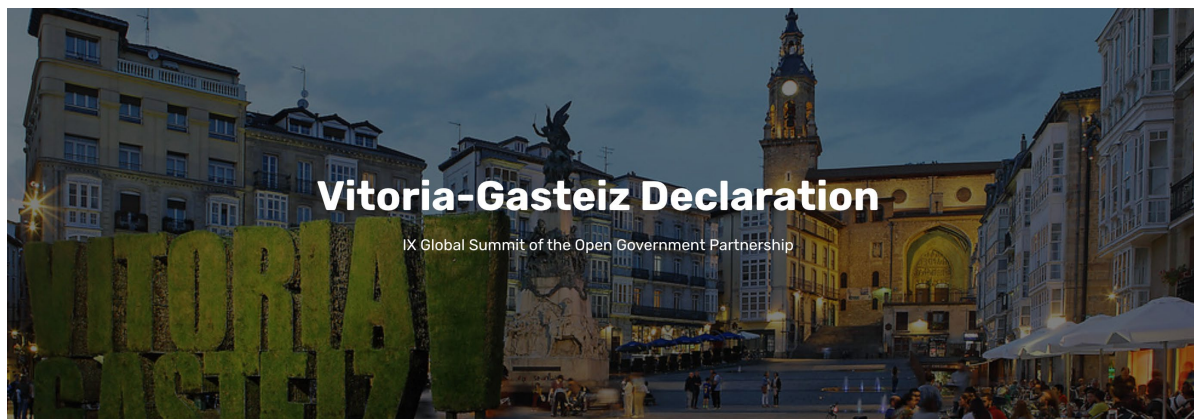


Vouliwatch contributed to the municipal working group from the outset, submitting proposals that were integrated into the final action plan. The plan includes concrete commitments on universal accessibility and digital inclusion, energy democracy and vulnerability, an open participatory housing platform, and the strengthening of transparency and public accountability. Athens is now part of a global network of subnational governments committed to open governance.

Signing the Vitoria-Gasteiz Declaration

Ahead of the ninth Global Summit of the Open Government Partnership, Vouliwatch signed the Vitoria-Gasteiz Declaration (Το Vouliwatch υπογράφει τη Διακήρυξη Vitoria-Gasteiz), uniting governments, civil society organisations, and other actors behind a shared vision for strengthening democracy and open government. The declaration acknowledges the global erosion of public trust, the shrinking of civic space, and growing socio-economic inequalities, and commits signatories to reducing legal, financial, and digital barriers that constrain civil society participation. It calls for

transparency, accountability, and participation across all branches and levels of government, for advancing financial integrity through openness in public finances and beneficial ownership, and for aligning open government efforts with broader global agendas including climate action, sustainable development, and the responsible governance of artificial intelligence. Vouliwatch's signature places the organisation within a global coalition making these commitments publicly and collectively.



Open Data and AI for Transparency

In January 2026, Vouliwatch participated in the annual conference co-organised by Transparency International Greece and the Greek Free and Open Source Software Society, titled «Open Data and Artificial Intelligence: New Opportunities and Challenges for Transparency, Public Procurement and Budgets» (Το Vouliwatch στο Ετήσιο Συνέδριο της ΔΔΕ «Ανοιχτά Δεδομένα και Τεχνητή Νοημοσύνη»). The conference examined how open data and artificial intelligence can create new tools for transparency and improve public accountability, while also identifying the risks these technologies pose when deployed without adequate oversight. Vouliwatch's participation contributed to a growing domestic conversation about the conditions under which technological innovation strengthens rather than undermines democratic accountability.

Advocating for Civil Society in Parliamentary Oversight

At the OSCE regional conference on parliamentary oversight in Warsaw on 3–4 November 2025, Vouliwatch Director Stefanos Loukopoulos spoke in the session «Who checks the checker? Parliamentary oversight by civil society organisations» (Το Vouliwatch στη Βαρσοβία στο Περιφερειακό Συνέδριο για την Κοινοβουλευτική Εποπτεία του ΟΑΣΕ). The conference brought together members of parliaments and experts from South-East Europe to exchange experiences and discuss reforms aimed at strengthening oversight mechanisms, with a particular focus on increasing transparency and integrity in legislative work. Vouliwatch emphasised the essential role of civil society in monitoring legislatures, the importance of access to information as the foundation of independent oversight, and the need for formal channels through which civil society organisations can contribute to parliamentary accountability on a systematic rather than ad hoc basis.

4.6.3 Institutional Response

The City of Athens' adoption of the OGP Local action plan is a genuine institutional milestone and represents the most concrete step toward locally embedded open governance that any Greek municipality has taken. The municipality has publicly committed to implementing its commitments and is now accountable to the global OGP network for doing so.

At the national level, progress remains uneven. No comprehensive open government legislation has been enacted. The principles affirmed in the Vitoria-Gasteiz Declaration have not been translated into domestic legal or policy frameworks. The protection of civic space and media freedom, which the declaration explicitly addresses, remains fragile. And the governance of artificial intelligence in public administration, a challenge the open data conference made visible, has not been addressed by any regulatory initiative currently underway.

4.6.4 Looking Ahead

Athens has demonstrated that a Greek municipality can commit to open governance in a structured, internationally accountable way. The immediate priority is ensuring those commitments are implemented rather than left as aspirations, and pressing other municipalities to follow the same path. At the national level, Vouliwatch will continue to advocate for legislation that embeds transparency, accountability, and participation across all levels of government, covering public finances, open contracting, beneficial ownership registers, and participatory budgeting. On artificial intelligence and open data, the organisation will remain engaged in the domestic policy conversation, pushing for frameworks that treat algorithmic transparency and data protection as democratic obligations rather than technical afterthoughts.



5. Events & Public Engagements

Vouliwatch's public engagement across the reporting period fell into two distinct categories: events to which the organisation was invited as a speaker or participant, and events that Vouliwatch itself organised or co-organised. Both served the same purpose – placing the organisation's work in direct conversation with the audiences, institutions, and debates where it matters most.

5.1 Events We Were Invited to Participate In

International Law in Crisis: Accountability in Times of Impunity Amnesty International Greece, Athens, 10 April 2025



Vouliwatch took part in a panel examining the erosion of international law and the conditions under which accountability remains possible (*Το Vouliwatch στην εκδήλωση της Διεθνούς Αμνηστίας*). The panel featured Linos-Alexandre Sicilianos, former President of the European Court of Human Rights, alongside Daniela Marouda and Stefanos Stavros. The discussion pressed on whether the International Criminal Court can deliver justice under current political conditions, what sanctions can realistically achieve, and what civil society's role is when formal accountability mechanisms stall.

Civic Engagement Beyond Voting

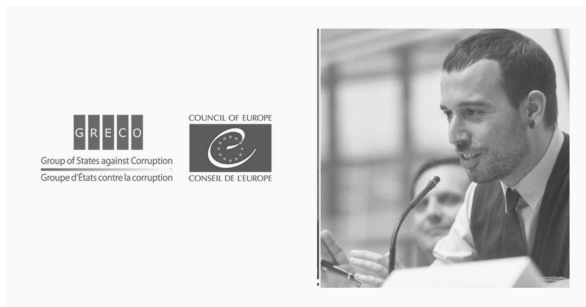
Libra Philanthropies, Athens, 30 May 2025



Vouliwatch Director Stefanos Loukopoulos was invited to speak at Libra Philanthropies' inaugural forum on everyday civic participation ([To Vouliwatch στην εκδήλωση Civic Engagement Beyond Voting](#)). The session, titled «Everyday Civic Engagement: How Individuals and Communities Can Drive Change,» explored community organising, advocacy, and volunteering as practical tools for shaping public life. Loukopoulos joined Marnie McGregor of Ecogenia and Anatoli Markoulaki of the Athens Democracy Forum, with Petros Apostolakis moderating. The discussion made the case that voting is the floor of democratic participation, not the ceiling, and that consistent, small-scale civic action is what actually sustains democratic culture between elections.

100th GRECO Plenary

Council of Europe, Strasbourg, 5 June 2025



Loukopoulos spoke at a side event marking the 100th plenary session of the Council of Europe's anti-corruption body ([To Vouliwatch στην 100ή Σύνοδο της GRECO στο Στρασβούργο](#)). He drew on Vouliwatch's decade of experience advocating for access to public information and documented Greece's persistent failure to implement GRECO recommendations on party funding, asset declarations, and parliamentary independence. Vouliwatch called on GRECO to integrate civil society voices into its evaluation processes, move beyond acknowledging implementation failures, and establish monitoring mechanisms that include citizen participation.

South-East Europe Parliamentary Oversight Conference

OSCE ODIHR, Warsaw, 3–4 November 2025

Vouliwatch joined members of parliament, parliamentary officials, and civil society organisations from across the region to discuss parliamentary oversight as a functional requirement of democracy ([To Vouliwatch στη Βαρσοβία στο Περιφερειακό Συνέδριο για την Κοινοβουλευτική Εποπτεία του ΟΑΣΕ](#)). Loukopoulos spoke in the session «Who watches the watcher? Oversight of Parliament by civil society organisations,» presenting Vouliwatch's model of monitoring parliamentary activity, publishing MPs' voting records, and advocating for institutional reform. The conference facilitated regional exchange on practical oversight tools, gender audits, and the role of investigative committees.

Journals and Spirits Festival omniaTV, Athens, 13–14 November 2025



Vouliwatch participated in a two-day gathering of independent media and investigative journalism practitioners (*Journals & Spirits 2025*). The programme covered fact-checking, digital payment models for independent journalism, AI-powered disinformation detection, and data-driven transparency work. Loukopoulos contributed a talk on political finance and joined an open discussion on navigating information overload and the relationship between civic technology and investigative journalism.

28th Development Forum Spiral Patra, Patras, 22–23 November 2025



The forum addressed «The Future of Development: Society, Democracy, Human Capital and Resilience,» examining who shapes Greece's development trajectory and how democratic participation fits into that process (*To Vouliwatch στο 28ο Forum Ανάπτυξης στην Πάτρα*). Loukopoulos spoke on participatory democracy, drawing on Vouliwatch's and Localwatch's direct experience. The session also highlighted Patra's own failure to apply digital transparency rules as a case study in how the gap between legal obligation and institutional practice plays out at the local level.

Open Data and Artificial Intelligence Conference Transparency International Greece and GFOSS/ELLAAG Athens, 21 January 2026

Vouliwatch spoke at the annual conference examining the intersection of open data and AI in public administration (*To Vouliwatch στο Ετήσιο Συνέδριο της ΔΔΕ «Ανοιχτά Δεδομένα και Τεχνητή Νοημοσύνη»*). The panel «Public Contracts and AI: Algorithmic Transparency and Accountability,» which featured Vouliwatch alongside researchers and municipal officials, examined how AI is being integrated into public procurement and budgeting decisions, and what oversight mechanisms are needed. The conference made clear that transparency in the age of algorithmic governance means more than publishing datasets. It means auditing the systems that make decisions on citizens' behalf.

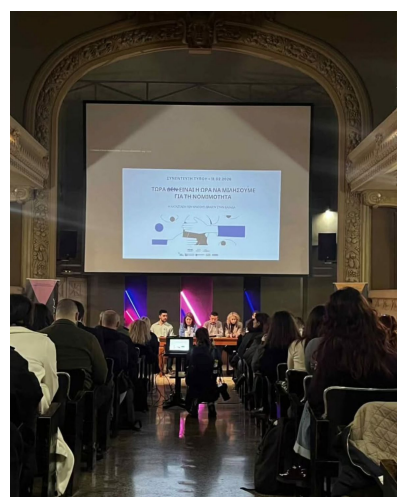
5.2 Events We Organised

Citizen Lobbying and Democracy in Europe Impact Hub Athens, 19 December 2025



Co-organised with the Jean Monnet module «Citizen Lobbying and Policy Change in Europe 2023–2025,» this open seminar brought together academics, legal experts, journalists, and civil society practitioners to examine lobbying practices in Greece and the EU (Εκδήλωση: Το Lobbying των Πολιτών). Loukopoulos opened with an overview of Greece's regulatory framework and Vouliwatch's advocacy on lobbying transparency. Panel discussions examined corporate lobbying in the EU and Greece, featuring Filippa Chatzistavrou, Nikos Kyriakidis, and Alexandros Melidis, followed by a contribution from Olivier Hoedeman of the Corporate Europe Observatory. The evening closed with a debate on controlling the public agenda and the conditions under which lobbying regulation becomes meaningful rather than cosmetic.

Press Conference: «Now is not the Time to Talk about Legality» Irida Athens, 3 February 2026



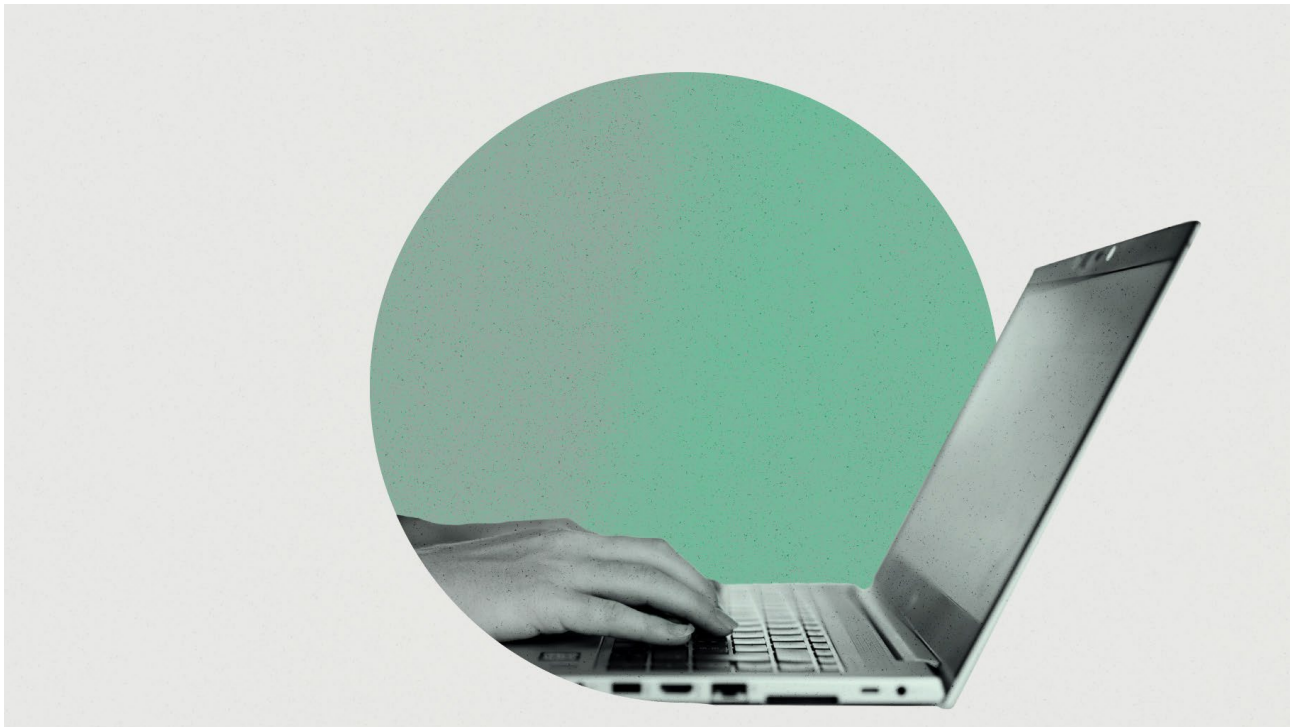
Together with eight partner organisations, HIAS Greece, Refugee Support Aegean, Greek Council for Refugees, Hellenic League for Human Rights, Homo Digitalis, Reporters United, Solomon, and others, Vouliwatch released its joint Rule of

Law report to the European Commission (Εκδήλωση: Τώρα δεν είναι η ώρα να μιλήσουμε για τη νομιμότητα). The press conference documented systemic failures across multiple fronts: the surveillance scandal, the Tempio train disaster and its handling, pushbacks and enforced disappearances at the border, police brutality, poor legislative practices, media concentration, opaque political finances, and the criminalisation of civil society. The coalition of eight organisations gave the intervention a breadth and credibility that no single organisation could have achieved independently. The report was submitted formally to the European Commission as part of the annual Rule of Law assessment cycle.

Consultocracy Launch Romantso Athens, 24 February 2026



In partnership with Solomon and with the support of the Heinrich Böll Foundation, Vouliwatch presented the first systematic mapping of Greece's growing dependence on private consultants in public decision-making (Εκδήλωση: Παρουσίαση Consultocracy). The research analysed thousands of public contract awards from 2017 to 2025, documenting how core policy design and decision-making functions have been progressively outsourced to private firms. Loukopoulos and journalist Danai Maragkou introduced the interactive digital platform. Public administration expert Efi Stefopoulou and constitutional scholar Xenophon Kontiadis offered their analysis, and moderator Eliza Triantafyllou of Inside Story led an open discussion on transparency, oversight, and the democratic costs of outsourcing governmental functions.



6. Media Presence

During the reporting period, Vouliwatch's work was covered by 50 national and international outlets across print, digital, and broadcast media. Coverage spanned every major area of the organisation's activity: the political gift registry campaign generated wide pickup across mainstream outlets including Kathimerini, Ta Nea, EFSYN, and News24/7, with several focusing specifically on the anomalies Vouliwatch had identified in the published lists. The Consultocracy research drew the most concentrated media response of the year, with original reporting and commentary appearing in Kathimerini, In.gr, EFSYN, To Vima, and multiple digital outlets, as well as prompting a public response from the government spokesperson that itself became a news story. The joint Rule of Law report generated coverage across TVXS, Dnews, Rosa, I Avgi, and the Independent Balkan News Agency, among others. International outlets including AFP, Balkan Insight, Mediapart, and the European Centre for Press and Media Freedom covered Vouliwatch's work on lobbying transparency, civil society space, and democratic accountability in Greece.

Name	Type	Title
Kathimerini	print/web	Διαφάνεια Ποτέμκιν...
ERT News	web	WeSeaYou: Νέα ψηφιακή πλατφόρμα για τις θαλάσσιες προστατευόμενες περιοχές
To Pontiki	print/web	Λίστα δώρων στην κυβέρνηση: Τα «Ασημένια Τσαρούχια» στον Γεραπετρίτη και το σπαθί ενός μέτρου στον Μητσοτάκη
Parallaxi	web	Η λίστα των δώρων που έλαβαν τα μέλη της κυβέρνησης το 2024.
Politic.gr	web	Δώρα υπουργών: Τι έλαβε ο Κυριάκος Μητσοτάκης και η κυβέρνηση

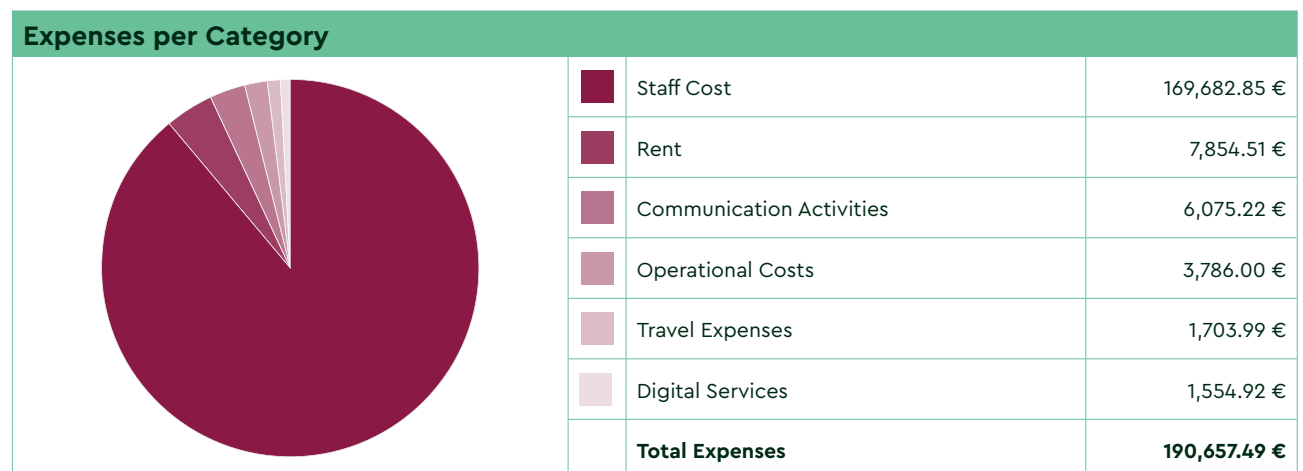
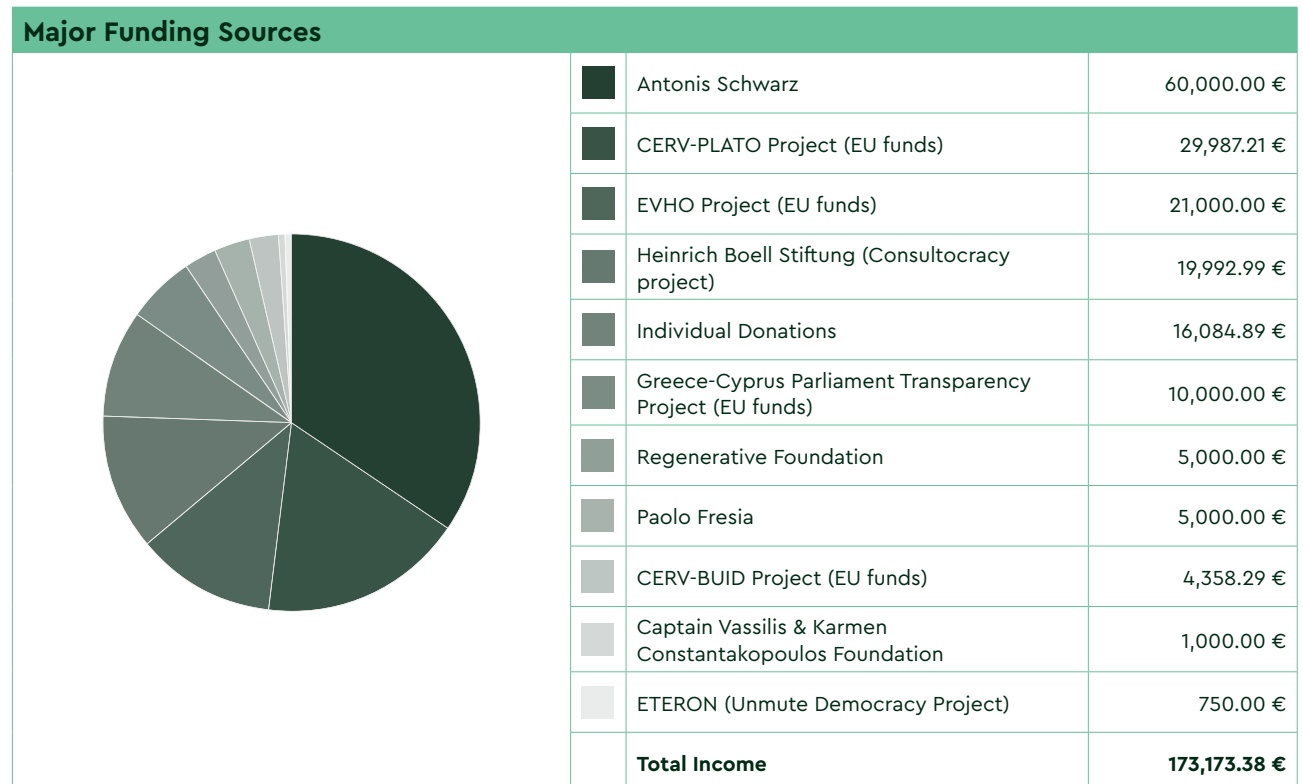
Name	Type	Title
iEidisis	web	Η λίστα των δώρων στον Πρωθυπουργό και υπουργούς: Από μανικετόκουμπα μέχρι... σπαθιά
I Avgi	print/web	Μαξίμου / Τα δώρα που έλαβαν ο Μητσοτάκης και υπουργοί – Γιατί είναι προβληματική η λίστα
Dnews	web	Ρολόγια, βάζα, χρυσές πένες: Τα δώρα που έλαβαν Μητσοτάκης και υπουργοί – Η επίσημη λίστα
Ta Nea	print/web	Δώρα που έλαβε ο Μητσοτάκης και υπουργοί της κυβέρνησης – Ρολόγια, βάζα, μανικετόκουμπα, χρυσές πένες
News24/7	web	Η (λειψή) λίστα με τα δώρα που έλαβαν τα μέλη της κυβέρνησης το 2024
EFSYN	print/web	«Πρόχειρη και λειψή» η λίστα με τα δώρα σε πολιτικούς
Dimokratia	print/web	Λάμβαναν δώρα, αλλά «ξέχασαν» να τα πουν!
ELLE	web	WeSeaYou: Η νέα πλατφόρμα ψηφιακής αφύπνισης και ελέγχου, αφιερωμένη στο περιβάλλον
AlterThess	web	Νέα Έκθεση της Κομισιόν για το Κράτος Δικαίου: Πλημμελής και επιλεκτική αξιολόγηση της κατάστασης στην Ελλάδα
I Avgi	print/web	Οι οργανώσεις καλούν την Κομισιόν να λάβει επιτακτικά μέτρα για την επιβολή του ενωσιακού δικαίου και την άμεση άρση της παραβίασής του
Balkan Insight	web	Fake Farmers: Greek EU Aid Scam Highlights Scourge of 'Clientelism'
European Centre for Press and Media Freedom	web	Open letter to the Prime Minister of Greece
EFSYN	print/web	Αόρατοι λομπήστες στην Ελλάδα
Mediapart	web	En Grèce, les partis doivent un milliard d'euros aux banques : « C'est de la corruption »
News24/7	web	Τι είναι ο στόχος 30×30 και πώς προστατεύει τις θάλασσές μας;
News24/7	web	Κοινή Επιστολή 75 Οργανώσεων και Δικτύων της Κοινωνίας των Πολιτών στον Πρωθυπουργό
Independent Balkan News Agency	web	Gonwatch: Fourth Annual Report on the Rule of Law in Greece – Ongoing Institutional Weaknesses and Urgent Need for Reforms
in.gr	web	Κάτι σάπιο υπάρχει στο Κράτος Δικαίου στην Ελλάδα – Έρευνα χαστούκι στην κυβέρνηση
EFSYN	print/web	Διολισθαίνει το Κράτος Δικαίου στην Ελλάδα – Τι καταγράφει η έκθεση του Gonwatch
TVXS	web	Κράτος δικαίου στην Ελλάδα / Παραβιάσεις, σκάνδαλα και συστημικές αδυναμίες – Η έκθεση του Gonwatch
Eleftheria	print/web	Νοσεί το Κράτος Δικαίου στην Ελλάδα
ThePressProject	web	Έκθεση Gonwatch για το Κράτος Δικαίου: Οι ελληνικοί θεσμοί αποτυγχάνουν συστηματικά να τηρήσουν τις αρχές της νομιμότητας, της ισότητας και της διαφάνειας
Aftodiikisi	web	Πόθεν έσχες: Τριπλασίασαν την περιουσία τους οι βουλευτές της ΝΔ
in.gr	web	Η πολιτική ως μπιζνα – Εκτοξεύτηκε ο πλούτος υπουργών και βουλευτών της ΝΔ το διάστημα 2019–2023
Euro2day	web	ΝΔ: Το μικρότερο γήπεδο και η Μαρία των Τεμπών-Κάτω από τη βάση η... Δημοκρατία-Tips για ETE, Quest, Coca Cola

Name	Type	Title
News24/7	web	Unmute Democracy: Η φωνή των πολιτών για τη Δημοκρατία στην Ελλάδα
Naftemporiki	web/video	Vouliwatch: Προσοδοφόρο... επάγγελμα η πολιτική
AFP	web	Vouliwatch: the watchdog battling to demystify Greek democracy
News24/7	web	Πόσο προστατευμένοι είμαστε από αθέμιτες πρακτικές λόμπινγκ;
Dnews	web	«Τώρα είναι η ώρα να μιλήσουμε για νομιμότητα»: Τι συμβαίνει με το Κράτος Δικαίου στην Ελλάδα
EFSYN	print/web	Η κανονικοποίηση της μη νομιμότητας
TVXS	web	Έκθεση για το Κράτος Δικαίου 2025 / Υπερτροφικά κυβερνητικά μορφώματα, ελεγχόμενη δικαιοσύνη, στοχοποιήσεις – Κάθε χρόνο και χειρότερα
Rosa	web	Έρευνα: Κάθε πέρσι και καλύτερα το Κράτους Δικαίου στην Ελλάδα
I Avgi	web/print	Κράτος Δικαίου / «Τώρα είναι η ώρα να μιλήσουμε για τη νομιμότητα»
Kathimerini	web/print	Συμβάσεις 1,5 δισ. μεταξύ Δημοσίου – συμβουλευτικών
in.gr	web	Συμβουλευτοκρατία: Το 1% των αναδόχων απορροφά το 57% των δημόσιων δαπανών για συμβουλευτικές υπηρεσίες
Amna.gr	web	ΣΥΡΙΖΑ-ΠΣ: Συμβουλές εκατοντάδων εκατομμυρίων με δημόσιο χρήμα
News Break	web	Δημόσιο χρήμα σε συμβουλάτορες: Το μεγάλο φαγοπότη
Dnews	web	Consultocracy: Υπάρχει λογοδοσία όταν αποφασίζουν οι σύμβουλοι;
Kosmodromio	web	Consultocracy: Οι σύμβουλοι που δαγκώνουν πάνω από μισό δισ. δημόσιου χρήματος τον χρόνο (Χαρτογράφηση)
EFSYN	print/web	Ποιος... νομοθετεί τελικά σε αυτόν τον τόπο;
IMEdD	web	«Consultocracy»: Ένα εργαλείο για την έρευνα των συμβουλευτικών υπηρεσιών προς το ελληνικό Δημόσιο
Politica.gr	radio/web	Σ.Λουκόπουλος-Vouliwatch: «10 εταιρίες συμβούλων γράφουν τους νόμους που ψηφίζονται στη Βουλή»
Dimokratia	print/web	Το μεγάλο φαγοπότη: Έκθεση-βόμβα για τις ιδιωτικές εταιρίες που θησαυρίζουν από τα δημόσια ταμεία
I Avgi	print/web	Ιδιώτες παντού / Outsourcing διακυβέρνηση
Kathimerini	print/web	Ακριβές Συμβουλές...
To BHMA	print/web	APPYΘMIEΣ
in.gr	web	Επίθεση του κυβερνητικού εκπροσώπου στο Vouliwatch για τη «συμβουλευτοκρατία» – Τι απαντάνε οι ερευνητές
in.gr	web	Κυβέρνηση ιδιωτικών συμβούλων

7. Financial Overview

The financial data provided here refer to the period from the 14th of March 2025 to the 14th of March 2026.

Total income for the period is lower than total expenditure (€190,657). The resulting deficit was covered by a carry-forward from the previous period. Vouliwatch does not accept funding from political parties, politicians, or commercial advertisers. All funding sources are disclosed in full below.





Democracy Is Not a Given



16 Voulis, Athens – 10563, Greece



Vouliwatch.bsky.social



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[instagram.com/vouliwatch](https://www.instagram.com/vouliwatch)



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