

# Vouliwatch Annual Report 2015-2016







# VOULIWATCH ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016

The following report relates to the activities of Vouliwatch for the period of 16th of March 2015 to 16th of March 2016.

Vouliwatch is an Athens based, registered non for profit organization with reg. no: 997496860





# VISION AND 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 new 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 is 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.

It also gives users the chance to influence political debate and to focus the attention of both the media and the politicians on issues that citizens believe are important and are not being discussed widely.

Vouliwatch's scope expands beyond the digital realm as it is a strong campaigner and advocate for parliamentary opennes, public access to data and political transparency.





# MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

### "Citius, Altius, Fortius"

### (Faster, higher, stronger!)

When writing last year the equivalent message for our first annual report, no one suspected that 2015 would be yet another year filled with unprecedented tensions and twists for our generation.

Today we are under the strong impression that a new world is coming to life amidst distress, insecurity and abrupt changes. Like most people around us, Vouliwatch is too facing a daily battle with reality: to record, to listen, to analyse and to give a voice to those that aren't heard and are caught in the quick sand.

The consecutive electoral battles and the intense parliamentary life provided us with the opportunity to upgrade our applications, produce more news and to introduce and engage even more Members of Parliament and citizens with our platform.

We became more extrovert, we organised events, made our platform more user friendly, participated in international conferences and initiatives and gained the trust of organisations from abroad. A new Vouliwatch is a about to be launched in Cyprus, we are in close cooperation with Access Info Europe and Open Society Foundation in an effort to reinforce the right of citizens to access public information, along with EEL/ LAK we are pushing the Greek government to implement the relevant legislation as well as actions for good and open governance.

Last November we participated for the first time in the global summit of the Open Government Partnership in Mexico as our Vouliwatch is the sole organisation promoting parliamentary transparency in Greece.

2015 was a year that showed us that the potential for the further development of our endeavour is indeed great. For this reason our strategy focuses on three main axis: education – participation – accountability.





In 2016 Vouliwatch will continue to bring citizens and Members of Parliament closer by upgrading its platform and digital tools.

We will give emphasis to the familiarization of the younger generation with parliamentary democracy through educational programs and relevant actions. Through international as well as national initiatives we will assert our role in the shaping of policies for good law-making, digital and open governance whilst supporting openness at local and regional level too.

Only informed citizens can assert better policies, control and judge legislative and executive authorities and open up exclusive and corrupt systems.

There is no going back in Vouliwatch's development and growth, with your participation and support we can only become stronger, more influential and assertive.

The power of change lies in our hands.

Antonis Schwarz

Panagiotis Vlahos

**Stefanos Loukopoulos** 

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# 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 is 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 (MPs & MEPs) accountable.

Similar successful initiatives ("Parliamentwatch") in countries like Ireland, Luxemburg, Tunisia, Germany, France and Austria have been sources of inspiration for our team as well.

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 project 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 will be cooperating with politicians and civil society in order to promote a culture of dialogue and under-standing. Vouliwatch incubates and cultivates a synergistic democratic culture that inspires institutional and techno-logical innovation.

In the next pages 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 cross-checked 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 behaviour of each MP

while informing the public on the details and background information of the legislation put forward for voting.



"Crowdsourcing legislation" ("Share ideas, experiences and make proposals"): Citizens can publicize their

experiences, ideas or proposals either at the national or at the local level. The community of users can comment and rate them. A Google map application depicts all submitted data with the option of filtering based on different criteria (location, subject categories such as e.g. education, tourism, etc.). Every month all submitted data is summarized in a

report and sent to all MPs and MEPs by our team, as food for thought and action. In case relevant parliamentary action is taken by MP's/



MEP's due to a citizen request or a public claim, Vouliwatch publishes and promotes reactions.

#### "Policy Monitor" ("compare party

positions"): The Policy Monitor is a digital tool which allows our users to learn about and ENHMEPOSOY compare what the main political parties

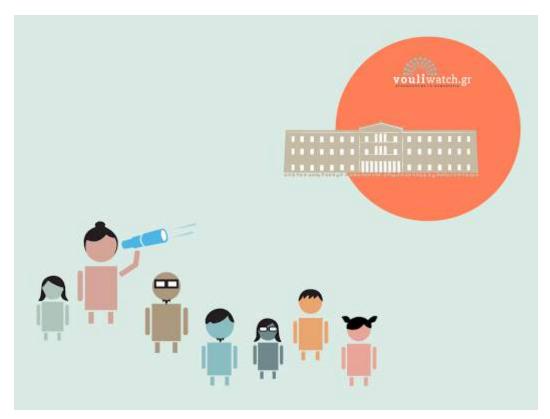


positions are on given issues. It also gives them the opportunity to comment on these positions and suggest to political parties different approaches.





"**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.







# THE VOULIWATCH TEAM

At present the Vouliwatch team is composed of three full time and three part time members as well as a volunteer.

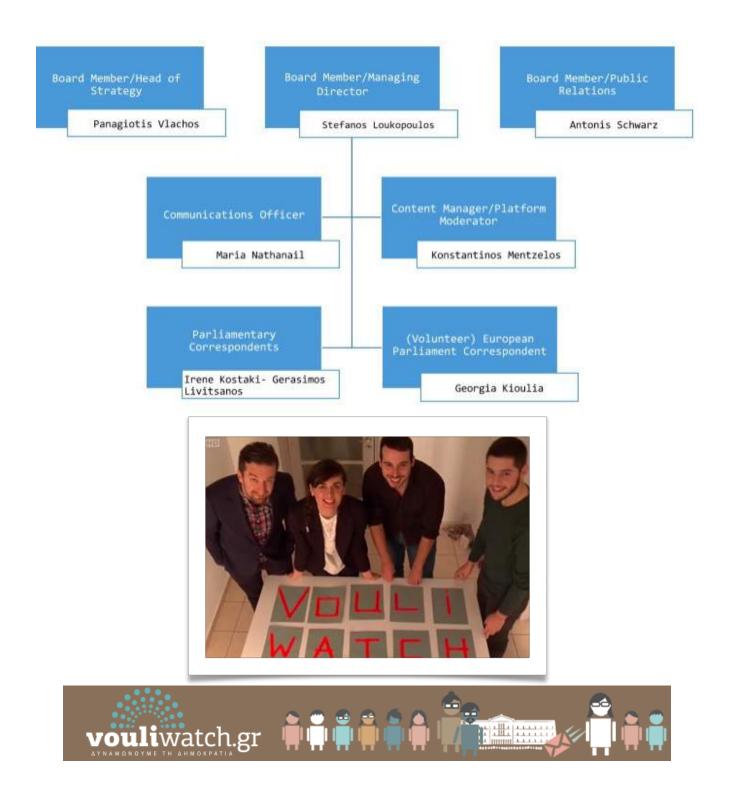


From left to right: Stefanos Loukopoulos, Panagiotis Vlachos, Maria Nathanail, Antonis Schwarz, Irene Kostaki, Konstantinos Mentzelos, Gerasimos Livitsanos and Georgia Kioulia.





The structure of the team is as follows:





# ACTIVITIES REPORT

# 1. Platform Development & Digital Tools

Despite the success of Vouliwatch during its first year in operation, our team having gained more experience and feedback from both users and MPs identified a series of elements within the platform which called for improvement.

We therefore proceeded to equip Vouliwatch with all the necessary digital tools that will allow it to provide ordinary citizens, journalists and academics with accurate and timely information as well as machine-readable data on parliamentary activity.

The main objective was for Vouliwatch to establish itself as a reliable parliamentary monitoring organisation (PMO) thus developing - for the first time in Greece - digital tools and applications which will increase the oversight of citizens over the Greek legislative process.

In doing so, Vouliwatch developed a series of innovative digital applications which were incorporated in its platform and complemented the pre-existing ones. To name a few, the current Votewatch application was revamped so as to allow for the recording of anonymous voting procedures in parliament as well as including comparative tools explaining each party's position on the legislation at hand.

Existing Member of Parliament profiles on Vouliwatch's website were updated with tools allowing MPs to upload their own content and news (press releases, interviews and articles), depict their activities throughout the country via an activity map as well as upload their financial statements in a transparent and public format.

Below follows a full presentation of the new digital tools developed over the past year:





# 1α. Updated MP profiles

The development of the new MP profiles on Vouliwatch's platform was completed in November 2015. The purpose of the action in question was dual, firstly to provide citizens with further information on parliamentarian's activities whilst at the same time promoting financial transparency and secondly to increase the motivation of MPs to interact with the platform as the new features on their profiles allow them to better promote their work to a wider audience. As this section will indicate, despite the relatively short space of time since the launch of the aforementioned features, both goals were achieved.

# **Specifications of new profiles**

Prior to the design of the new MP profiles, the main features one could find in them were: the CV of the Member of Parliament, the Committees that she/he is a member of, the political party he/she belongs to, their constituency and of course the question and answer application where users can submit their questions to them.

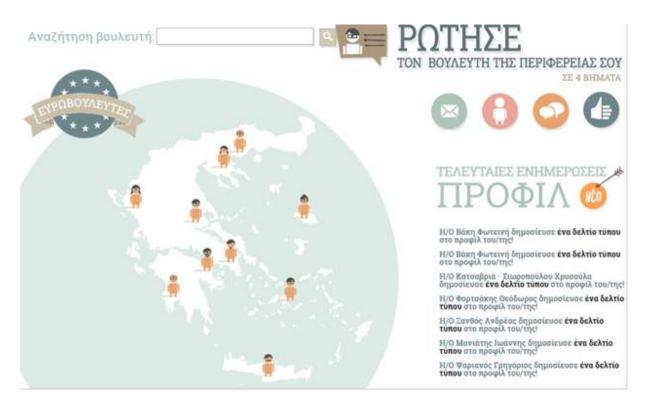
The new features developed for the MPs profiles include:

- Publication of MPs news and issues of general political interest
- Map projection of MPs activities
- Publication of press releases and videos from plenary so as to give journalists, researchers and citizens the possibility to be updated on information at a local and a national level
- publication of their personal financial reports and reviews
- Listing of the latest parliamentary votes they participated in
- Question and Answer counter





In the following pages of this report screenshots of the new profiles of MPs have been included highlighting the new features.



View of the feed with the latest uploads by MPs on the front page of the platform.













#### NEA and

Ομιλία στην Βουλή των Ελλήνων για το νομοσχέδιο: Μέτρα για την επιτάχυνση του κυβερνητικού έργου και άλλες διατάξεις





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#### F S G in S View of an uploaded video from a speech in plenary

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#### Η Φρόσω Καρασαρλίδου προωθεί τα προβλημάτα των εργαζομένων του κλάδου Διαλογή και Ψύξης Νάουσας

Η βουλευτής Φρόσω Καρασαρλίδου κατέθεσε Αναφορά στη Βουλή την επιστολή του Σωματείου Διαλογής και Ψύξης Νάουσας, με την οποία ζητά να λυθούν το προβλήματο με το Τομείο Ανεργίας των εργαζομένων του κλάδου.

Με επιστολή του το Σωματείο Διαλογής και Ψύξης Νάουσας, προς το Υπουργείο Εργασίας Κοινωνικής Ασφάλισης& Κοινωνικής Αλληλεγγύης την Δισίκηση ΟΑΕΔ καθώς και την Περιφερειακή Δ/νση ΟΑΕΔ Κεντρικής Μακεδονίας επισημαίνει:

«Στις επιχειρήσεις διαλογής, τυποποίησης, ψύξης αγροτικών προϊόντων απασχολούνται πολλοί φτωχοί αγρότες – αγρότισσες εποχικοί με ασφάλιση ΙΚΑ για να συμπληρώσουν το πενιχρό εισόδημί συκς. Σ' αυτοίος ο ΟΑΕΣ καθυστερεί να εκδώσει αποφάσεις ένταξης στο Ταμείο Ανεργίας ενώ έχουν τις προϋποθέσεις γιατί έχουν εισόδημα από το χωράφια τους πάνω από 1.467,35ευρώ, περιμένοντας νέα απόφαση από το ΔΣ του ΟΑΕΔ. Η αποραδεκτή αυτή εξέλιξη στοτεύει στην ποραπέρα μείωση των δαπανών για τους άνεργους. Πρέπει να λυθεί ΤΟΡΑ. Σ' αυτές επίσης τις επιχειρήσεις που η εργασία είναι εποχική, οι περισσότεροι εργαζόμενοι κυρίως γυναίκες δεν μπορούν να δημιουργήσουν προϋποθέσεις ένταξης το Ταμείο Ανεργίας (125 ημερομίσθια αφαιρούμενων των 2 πελευταίων εργάσιμων μηνών). Πολλιοί δεν μπορούν να δημιουργήσουν προϋποθέσεις θεώρησης βιβλιαρίων υγείας, (τουλάχιστον 50 ημερομίσθια ενώ η

απλήρωτη – ανασφάλιστη εργασία και η εντατικοποίηση έχει ξεπεράσει κάθε προηγούμενο. Αρκετές επιχειρήσεις αξιοποιούν τον v 3518/2006 και την εγκύκλιο του ΙΚΑ 42/26-5-08 που επιτρέπει στους βιομήχανους την πιο άγρια εκμετάλλευση των εργαζομένων, προσλαμβάνουν εποχικό προσωπικό που είναι στον ΟΓΑ και όχι στο ΙΚΑ (ενώ πρόκειται για εξαρτημένη εργασία) και απαλλάσσονται από εργοδοτικές εισφορές.»

Το σωματείο διεκδικεί; Άμεσα με απόφαση ΔΣ του ΟΑΕΔ να δοθεί το Ταμείο Ανεργίας στους εργαζόμενους – φτωχούς αγρότες. Να καταργηθεί ο v 3518/05 και η εγκύκλιος 42/26-5-08. Να ενταχθούν όλοι οι εποκικοί εργαζόμενοι στον v 1836/88. Να εντάσσουται στο Ταμείο Ανεργίας με 80 ημερομίσθια χωρίς να αφαιρούνται οι δύο τελευταίου μήνες. Να θεωρηθούν τα βιβλιόριο υγείας. Να δοθεί έκτακτο επίδομα 1800 Ευρώ σ' όσους δεν έχουν προϋποθέσεις ένταξης στο Ταμείο Ανεργίας. Να παρθούν μέτρα προστασίας των ανέργων, να μην κοπεί ρεύμα – νερό – τηλέφωνο, να μην βγεί στο σφυρί οπίτι άνεργου.



View of an uploaded press release

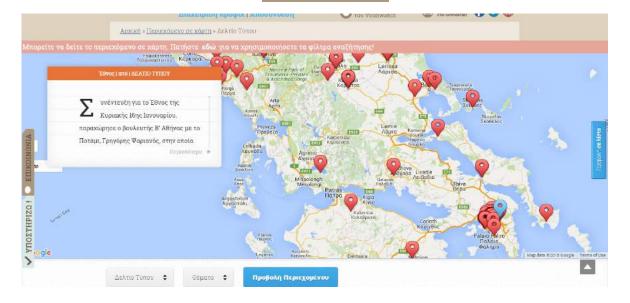


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View of interactive map showcasing the MP's activities

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View of MP's financial transparency form





### **Impact of Action**

The launch of the updated MP profiles resulted, as expected, in the overall increased interaction of MPs with the platform. This in practical terms means that a considerable number of MPs, including many that hadn't previously shown an interest in Vouliwatch, started uploading content on their profiles on a daily basis while the number of answers to question by citizens increased significantly.

Namely, since the launch of the new profiles on the 23rd of November 2015, Vouliwatch has received a total of **389 entries** by MPs which include press releases, articles, interviews and videos. Finally during this four month period a **total of 31 MPs** engaged with the platform for the first time (either by answering questions or uploading content).

This in itself is a great achievement for Vouliwatch as one of the short term goals of the organisation is for Members of Parliament to include the interaction with Vouliwatch's platform (and therefore with citizens) in their daily work routine. Moreover by browsing an MPs profile on Vouliwatch citizens can now have a complete view of their activities.

On the other hand the financial transparency tool that was developed in order to allow MPs to upload their financial details, so far hasn't been as popular in fact only one entry has been uploaded to this day.

This came to no surprise as MPs financial transparency is an issue often kept in the dark at institutional level too. Despite this Vouliwatch is confident that in time more and more MPs will gradually start uploading their financial details hence causing a domino effect.

Vouliwatch has been in touch with a number of MPs who are in favour of disclosing their financial details and is hopeful that within the coming months more of them will do so.





# **1b. Development of new Votewatch tool**

Prior to the launch of the new Votewatch application Vouliwatch was only able to record parliamentary roll call votes, thus leaving out a considerable number of legislations passed through parliament.

Since the launch of this application in early December 2015 this has changed and Vouliwatch can now present to its audience a complete picture of parliamentary legislative activity, thus enhancing even further its role as a parliamentary monitoring organisation.

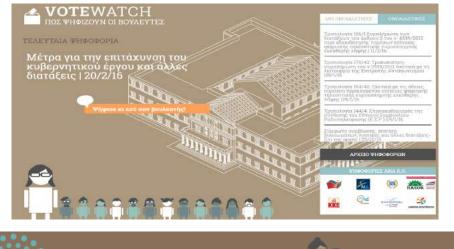
### **Specifications of Votewatch**

Vouliwatch is now able to present in a comprehensible manner the voting procedures and results for all bills passed through Parliament.

The tool in question contains **short summaries of the political parties' positions** on each piece of legislation therefore giving the opportunity to citizens to **compare their voting behaviour vis a vis their original party positions** on the given issue.

It provides all relevant details of the bill in question (i.e. type of bill, parliamentary committee involved and names of rapporteurs) as well as summarizing its contents. Moreover a **comprehensive archive** was developed which allows citizens to search and browse through different bills.

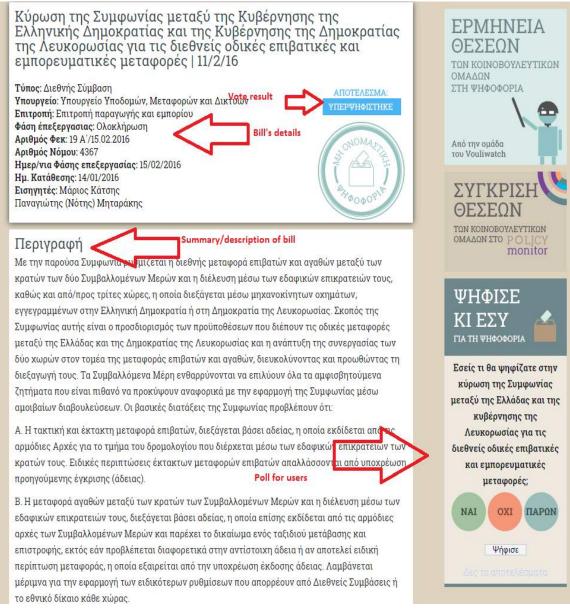
Finally, a **poll** was included in the application through which Vouliwatch's users can indicate their own voting preference.







In the next pages of this report screen shots of the new Votewatch tool will be presented.



View of a non-roll call vote as seen on Votewatch





1	ία των θέσεων Ο εισηγητής του ΣΥ.ΡΙΖ.Α., κ. Κάτσης, υπερψηφίζει την κύρωση της Συμφωνίας υποστηρίζοντας πως προωθείται η συνεργασία μεταξύ των δύο χωρών στον τομέα των μεταφορών.
NA	Ο εισηγητής της Ν.Δ., κ. Μηταράκης, υπερψηφίζει τη Συμφωνία κάνοντας λόγο για τη ρύθμιση καθεστώτος μεταφοράς επιβατών και εμπορευμάτων μεταξύ των δύο χωρών. Χαρακτηρίζει σημαντική τη Συμφωνία, διότι στηρίζεται στην αρχή της αμοιβαιότητας και των αμοιβαίων συμφερόντων για τις δύο χώρες.
	Στη συνέχεια του λόγου του, υποστηρίζει πως διευκολύνεται προς όφελος της χώρας μας η πρόσβαση για την εξαγωγή των προϊόντων μας και στη Ρωσία όταν εξομαλυνθούν οι εμπορικές μας σχέσεις.
(2)	Ο ειδικός αγορητής της Χ.Α., κ. Σαχινίδης, ψηφίζει "Παρών" στην κύρωση της Συμφωνίας. Επισημαίνει ότι αποτελεί θετική κατεύθυνση, διότι η Λευκορωσία είναι σύμμαχος-χώρα με τη Ρωσία και τελωνειακά συνδεδεμένη και μ'αυτόν τον τρόπο προωθείται η ανάπτυξη στον τομέα των εξαγωγών συμβάλλοντας στην ενδυνάμωση των εμπορικών μας σχέσεων.
	Τέλος, τονίζει την ανάγκη να υπάρξει στη χώρα μας γαιοπολιτική στροφή προς τη Ρωσία
AEOK	Ο ειδικός αγορητής της Δημοκρατικής Συμπαράταξης, κ. Αρβανιτίδης, υπερψηφίζει τη Συμφωνία τονίζοντας ότι κυρώθηκε καθυστερημένα από τη στιγμή που υπεγράφη το 2013. Υποστηρίζει ότι οι καθυστερήσεις αδυνατίζουν το περιεχόμενο τέτοιων συμφωνιών και επομένως τα οικονομικά οφέλη για τη χώρα μας.
	Επίσης, κάνει λόγο για τη μη αναφορά οικονομοτεχνικών στοιχείων από την πλευρά του γενικού λογιστηρίου του κράτους με αποτέλεσμα να μην αναφέρονται οφέλη για την ελληνική οικονομία.
	Συνοψίζοντας, χαρακτηρίζει σημαντικό οδικό άξονα τη Λευκορωσία καθώς διέρχονται -μέσω αυτής- στη Ρωσία ελληνικά προϊόντα.
KKE	Ο ειδικός αγορητής του Κ.Κ.Ε., κ. Τάσσος, υπερψηφίζει τη Συμφωνία στη ούντομη τοποθέτησή του χαρακτηρίζοντάς τη ως συμφωνία ισοτιμίας και αμοιβαίου οφέλους για τη χώρα μας.
<b>e</b>	Ο ειδικός αγορητής με το Ποτάμι, κ. Αμυράς, υπερψηφίζει τη Συμφωνία η οποία διευκολύνει τη μεταφορά αγαθών και προσώπων και αναπτύσσει τις εμπορικές και επενδυτικές σχέσεις μεταξύ των δύο χωρών.
OLLE SATUR	Ο ειδικός αγορητής των Αν Ελ., κ. Λαζαρίδης, υπερψηφίζει τη Συμφωνία αναφέροντας ότι διευκολύνει τη διακίνηση αγαθών και προσώπων μεταξύ των δύο χωρών και χαρακτηρίζει σημαντικό το ρόλο της Λευκορωσίας ως προορισμού των προϊόντων μας για τη Ρωσία.
INGEH KENTPO	Ο ειδικός αγορητής της Ε.Κ., κ. Μεγαλομύστακας, υπερψηφίζει τη Συμφωνία, καθώς επωφελούνται οι πολίτες και ενθαρρύνεται η μεταφορά πολιτών και αγαθών .

View of summarised party stance on given bill





### **1c. Vouliwatch Data**

A new 3 part section was developed on the website which gathers and presents all the data produced by the platform through the interaction of both MPs and users. The purpose of this is to present trends in terms of questions being asked as well as to monitor the engagement of MPs and parties.

In particular as the screenshots below demonstrate **Vouliwatch Data** records the questions asked by citizens as well as their crowdsourced ideas by clustering them into specific thematic categories.

Moreover by clicking on the relevant thematic category one can have access to all the questions that have been asked on the given issue (same principle applies for the crowdsourced ideas and proposals).







#### Αποτελέσματα για σχόλια με την θεματική : Κράτος & πολιτικό σύστημα

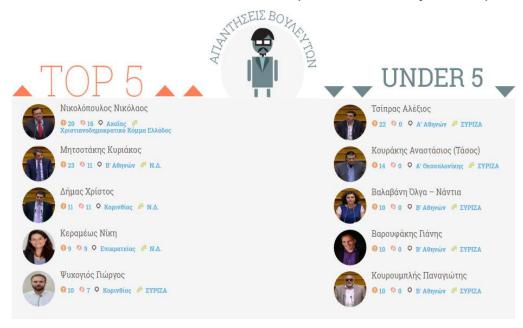
Η ερώτηση έγινε στο βουλευτή Γεωργιάδης Μάριος από τον χρήστη UnitedWeAsk-OpenGovTeam στις 15-3-2016

Με δεδομένο ότι εδώ και ένα χρόνο έχει θεσμοθετηθεί η εξ ορισμού ανοιχτή διάθεση των δημόσιων δεδομένων θα θέλαμε μία τοποθέτηση σχετικά με το ότι αυτό δεν έχει γίνει ακόμα πράξη. Μετά τιμής, ΕΕΛ/ΛΑΚ – Δέσποινα Μητροπούλου Politeia 2.0 – Εβίκα Καραμαγγιώλη Scify – Δέσποινα Χαλβατζή Ε.Π.Κ.Π. – Σοφία Αρσενικού

Η ερώτηση έγινε στο βουλευτή **Κατσιαντώνης Γεώργιος** από τον χρήστη **UnitedWeAsk-OpenGovTeam** στις 15-3-2016

Με δεδομένη την καθυστέρηση που παρατηρείται στην υλοποίηση των επιμέρους δεσμεύσεων που έχει αναλάβει η Ελλάδα στο πλαίσιο της πρωτοβουλίας για την Ανοιχτή Διακυβέρνηση (OGP, http://www.opengovpartnership.org), τί προκρίνετε ως προτεραιότητα σε θέματα δημόσιας διαφάνειας, λογοδοσίας και ανάδειξης τρόπων ενίσχυσης της συμμετοχής των πολιτών στο σχεδιασμό και υλοποίηση δημόσιων πολιτικών. Μετά τιμής, ΕΕΛ/ΛΑΚ – Δέσποινα Μητροπούλου Politeia 2.0 – Εβίκα Καραμαγγιώλη Scify – Δέσποινα Χαλβατζή Ε.Π.Κ.Π. – Σοφία Αρσενικού

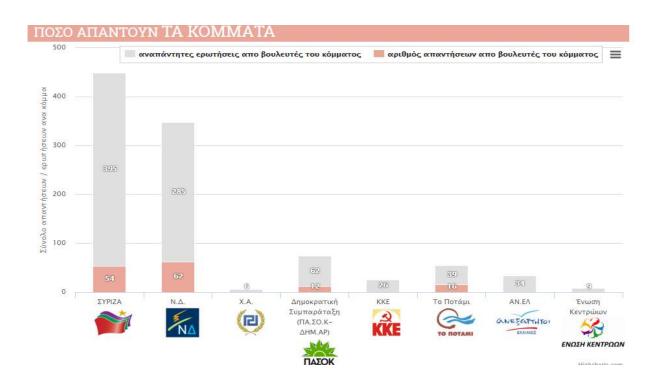
Another feature of Vouliwatch Data is the top and under five table which lists the most and least active MPs in terms of the number of questions that they have replied to.







Finally, Vouliwatch Data features a table measuring the response rate of parties.







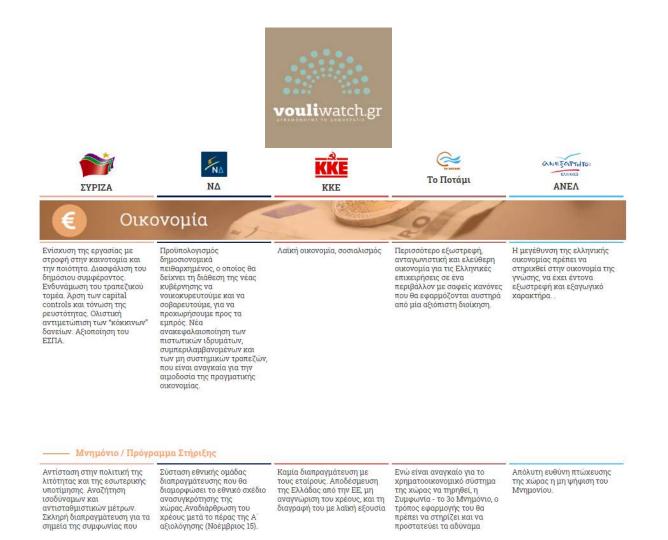
### 1d. Revamped Policy Monitor

The Policy Monitor - which with minor alterations is now a permanent feature of the platform – is a digital tool that allows users to inform themselves, compare and contrast political party positions on a series of topical issues (i.e. education, unemployment).

In preparation for the national elections of September 2015 the Vouliwatch team reworked and updated the content of the tool in question by recording, summarising and introducing the updated positions of the political parties. In addition to this, the outlook of the tool in question was considerably improved.







#### 1e. Extra features

In addition to the above mentioned digital tools, over the past year Vouliwatch introduced a series of new features. Namely, every weekend Vouliwatch compiles in a **comprehensive report the most important parliamentary news** and activities of the past week covering both the Greek Parliament as well as the European one (with a special focus on the activities of Greek MEPs). Both reports are then widely and freely disseminated to the platform's users as well as to media partners such as **Huffington Post Greece**.

Additionally, Vouliwatch recently launched a series of **interviews with Greek MEPs** in an effort to familiarise its users with the work and activities of their elected representatives in Brussels.





Finally, a **new section** was developed on the website where users can navigate through all citizen's questions, MP's answers, crowdsourced ideas as well as the content uploaded by MPs.

Ερωτήσεις	Απαντήσεις	Σχόλια	Προτάσεις	Νέα βουλευτών	Παρατηρητήριο
	εφαλίδου Χαρά <mark>απάντη</mark> ο Ευχαριστώ για την ερ			κορυφής-ανάμεσα στη Δημ	ιοκρατική Συμπαράταξη,
	εφαλίδου Χαρά <mark>απάντη</mark> ο Ευχαριστώ για την ερ			κορυφής-ανάμεσα στη Δημ	ιοκρατική Συμπαράταξη,
	όγιακας Βασίλης <mark>απάντ</mark> 1 την ερώτηση που κατ			eAsk-OpenGovTeam ημερωθώ για τις ελληνικές	δεσμεύσεις στο πλαίσιο
	ιρασαρλίδου Ευφροσύν σέβιε, Καταρχήν σας ει			χρήστη efsevios ω ότι το ζήτημα που θίγετε	είναι
	αννάκης Στέργιος <mark>απάν</mark> ατά την άποψή μου γιατ				ις ηγετικές προσωπικότητες που ανέδειξε
	οιστοφιλοπούλου Παρα ο, Η κεντροαριστερά, μ			υ χρήστη f.drougos ιΣΟΚ, κυβέρνησε για μεγάλι	α χρονικά διαστήματα





# 2. Advocacy Work – Open Government & Freedom of Information

Access to information, open data and good governance constitute undoubtedly essential elements for a transparent and inclusive democracy. Over the course of Vouliwatch's second year, the organisation has worked intensively towards gaining the required expertise and knowledge so as to effectively spear head the campaign for more openness and transparency in Greece.

To this end, the Vouliwatch team has worked towards expanding its national and international network of partners active in the field in question, participated in important international meetings and forums and embarked in relevant transnational projects.

In particular, Vouliwatch has been active in promoting the **Open Government Partnership (OGP) agenda in Greece** focusing especially on the implementation of the country's **2014-2016 Action Plan** and parliamentary openness. Over the past year the organisation's team has carried forward a series of advocacy actions so as to push this agenda further. Representatives of Vouliwatch met with the Minister of Interior who in turn committed himself to advancing the OGP Action Plan commitments, while a series of letters were sent to all political parties and MPs outlining the importance of establishing a culture of openness and good governance in Greece.

In addition as a member of the Open Government Partnership, Vouliwatch attended in October 2015 the **OGP's Global Summit in Mexico City** which provided an excellent opportunity to exchange ideas, best practices and establish partnerships with NGOs from around the world.

Moreover, in the next couple of months, following the organisation's proved commitment to openness and good governance, Vouliwatch will take an active role in the consultation process for the drafting of the new **OGP Action Plan for Greece 2016-2018**.





Finally, Vouliwatch provided its endorsement to the **Periphery of Central Greece** in its bid to participate in the OGP Subnational Unit Pilot Progrm designed to advance open government reform at regional level.

The **right to access to information** in Greece is yet another cause that Vouliwatch has been advocating for over the past year. Following the establishment of partnerships with leading European NGOs such as **Access Info Europe**, Vouliwatch has embarked in a project whose long term objective is to contribute to improvements in government transparency and accountability in accordance to international standards, as well as build capacity and skills for civil society organisations to exercise the right of access to information.

In practice Vouliwatch has updated the **<u>Right to Information Rating for Greece</u>** while also carrying forward a <u>legal analysis of transparency of decision making</u> in Greece.

Furthermore Vouliwatch **sent its first freedom of information request** to the Greek Parliament asking for the release of minutes of meetings of specific parliamentary committees as well as data pertaining to the parliamentary activity of MPs.







# 3. Disseminating the Parliamentwatch model

Part of Vouliwatch's mission is the dissemination of the Parliament Watch model in countries where parliamentary monitoring organisations or civic engagement initiatives are not present.

Having this in mind, Vouliwatch embarked on an EU funded project (Erasmus+) along with partners from Cyprus (MakeWaves), Greece (Crowd Policy) and France (Café Babel) in order to set up a parliament watch organisation in Cyprus. The scope of this project is to empower young people in Cyprus by creating more opportunities for their participation and greater transparency and accountability in politics. The project which officially started in November 2015 is expected to be concluded with the launch of the **Parliament Watch Cyprus platform** in November 2017.



The Parliament Watch Cyprus project consortium (kick off meeting in Cyprus)





# 4. Events & Workshops

During this second year Vouliwatch organised a series of events including promotional presentations, political labs, open discussions and workshops.

### 4.1 Vouliwatch Presentation to Members of Parliament

On the **25th of June 2015**, our team hosted an exclusive presentation of Vouliwatch to the recently elected Members of Parliament and their assistants in an effort to acquaint them with the platform and its functions as well as with the overall goals and aspirations of the organisation. The event presented an excellent opportunity for both parties to establish a first contact, exchange ideas on how to improve the platform as well as build trust.







# 4.2 Vouliwatch's 3rd open political discussion

Having in mind that Vouliwatch needs both a strong online as well as an offline presence, our team introduced in the organisation's broader set of activities the hosting of live participatory discussions and debates between citizens, experts and politicians.

On the **13th of January 2016** Vouliwatch, in partnership with the media outlet ThePressproject, hosted its **third political debate which focused on the TTIP (Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership)**. The event was a great success as it attracted more than 180 participants, while the speakers panel featured the Minister of Economy, MPs from SYRIZA, New Democracy and Potami, stakeholders from the business world as well as activists and academics.



View of the TTIP event





It is worth mentioning that this was the **first public discussion in Greece on the TTIP** where both sides of the argument were presented by politicians and experts from different fields of expertise. Moreover the event received wide press coverage both by local and international media.



View of the panel of speakers





# 4.3 Conference "Tools for Democracy"

On the 15th of January 2016, Vouliwatch along with the Laboratory of Education Policy, Research, Development and Interuniversity Cooperation of the University of Piraeus and the Ministry's of Education Department of Educational Radio-Televsion organised a conference at the University of Piraeus titled "Tools for Democracy". The conference was designed to present teachers, academics and post graduate students innovative tools and methods for citizen engagement in the democratic process as well as to encourage teachers to include such tools in their teaching programs. The conference provided an excellent opportunity to introduce Vouliwatch to the academic community and underline its potential as a learning tool for students.







# 4.4 Vouliwatch NGO Workshop "United We Ask 2.0"

On the **15th of March 2016**, Vouliwatch implemented for the second consecutive year an ambitious yet innovative concept which aimed both at fostering a culture of cooperation between Greek civil society organisations as well as introducing Vouliwatch as a reliable ally in their efforts to advance their agendas in Parliament.







A workshop titled **"United We Ask 2.0"** was organised where representatives **from 25 NGOs** were divided into working groups according to their field of action.

They were then asked to discuss and jointly agree on specific common issues that they wished to bring to the attention of Members of Parliament.

Once these were determined each group would collectively send their proposals/ questions to Members of Parliament through Vouliwatch's platform. The working groups in question were the following:Open and Good Governance, Equality & Social Exclusion, LGBTQ Rights, Refugee Crisis, Solidarity, Environment.







## 5. Media outreach

The public's **heightened interest in politics** combined with the innovative character of Vouliwatch resulted in our project enjoying a considerable degree of media attention for a second consecutive year.

Over the last year our team has given interviews on local and international media, printed and digital press as well as TV and radio. Namely Vouliwatch was featured 5 times on TV, 4 times on radio and 8 times in the press. Below follows a complete list of all media appearances including the relevant links.



Screen shot from the feature of ARTE TV on Vouliwatch





Media outlet-link	Туре	National/Local/International
ATHENS OF	Digital Media	National
news 247	Digital Media	National
CCC3	Digital Media	National
Link	Digital Media	International
theguardian <u>Link</u>	Digital Media	International
HUFF POST deutschland Link	Digital Media	International





TO BHMA Link	Digital Media & Print	National
TO BHMA Link	Digital Media	National
<u>Link</u>	TV	International
<b>EPT</b> Link	TV	National
ΣΚΑΊ Link	τv	National
enformation that moves_ Δείτε εδώ	Digital TV	International
STIFFE KENTPIKHE ENDALAE Link	TV	Local





ATHENS NEWS AGENCY MACEDONIAN PRESS AGENCY Link	Radio Station	National
TO PARAGONIO TOCLARCOCO	Radio Station	National
FILASH	Radio Station	National
BULGARIAN NATIONAL RADIO*	Radio Station	International



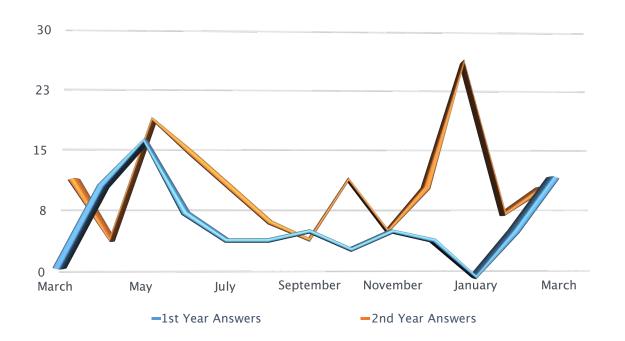


# OUR IMPACT IN NUMBERS

This part of the report attempts to quantify and measure the impact of Vouliwatch's activities during the second year of its operation. All metrics and analytics presented here refer to a twelve month period (16/03/2015 - 16/03/2016).

#### **Users & MP Engagement**

In the second year of Vouliwatch's operation a signifcant rise in the answer rate as well as the overall engagement of MPs was recorded. In particular, compared to the first year of the platform's operation where a total of **74 answers** were received, during the second year **129 answers** were provided by MPs.



MPs answers: 1st Vs 2nd year





Moreover since the launch of the new profiles on the 23rd of November 2015, Vouliwatch has received a total of **385 entries by MPs** which include press releases, videos of their speeches in parliament as well as interviews and articles in the press. Overall in the course of this second year a total of **49 new MPs engaged** with the platform for the first time. The above numbers suggest that for a considerable number of MPs the interaction and engagement with Vouliwatch has become part of their daily work.

#### **Users Engagement**

As for the engagement of users with the platform, in the course of the 2<sup>nd</sup> year a total of **404 questions** were posted on MP's profiles while Vouliwatch hosted **55 crowdsourced ideas and proposals**. Additionally **533 users registered** on the platform bringing the total number to **1615.** Finally, in terms of Vouliwatch's social media impact, its **Facebook** page received **2,357 new likes** while its **Twitter** account attracted **1,909 new followers**. Currently the Facebook page numbers **10,667 likes** while the Twitter account has **4,416 followers**.

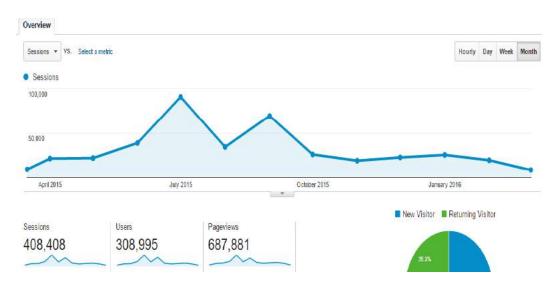






## **Platform's Analytics**

The popularity of Vouliwatch over the course of its second year of operation increased significantly, it received in fact a total of **308,995 unique visitors**, **408,408 sessions and 687,881 page views**.



Compared to the first year, as the table below suggests, the number of unique visitors rouse by **208,621** while the page views and sessions increased by **130,13%** and **200.02%** respectively.





# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Vouliwatch is a non for profit organization and as such its main sources of funding derive from private donations, participation in projects and grants. Since the start of our endeavor Vouliwatch's team has put in a great deal of pro-bono work and with the invaluable help and support of our network of volunteers managed to keep the organization running.

As with most non for profits funding is and will be a challenge, however with its continuous rise in popularity, its professionalism and proved track record of efficiency we are confident that more donors, foundations and funded projects will provide enough resources for the project to grow even further.

It is important to note at this point that it is crucial for our organization to maintain its non-partisan character, therefore our team is committed to not receiving donations and grants from political parties, government agencies and organizations /foundations directly linked to political parties both within and outside Greece.

This section of the report will provide a financial overview of Vouliwatch over the past twelve months, specifically it will present our revenue, sources of funding and expenses by category.

### a. Sources of funding / Revenue

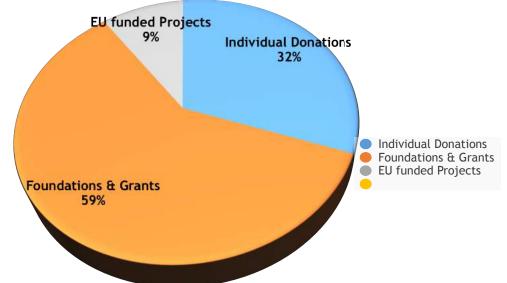
Individual donations as well as the participation of Vouliwatch in funded projects were for yet another year the main sources of revenue for the organisation.

Source	Ammount
Individual donations	26,637€
Foundations & Grants	46,950€
EU funded projects	7,723€
TOTAL	81,310€





# Vouliwatch Sources of funding

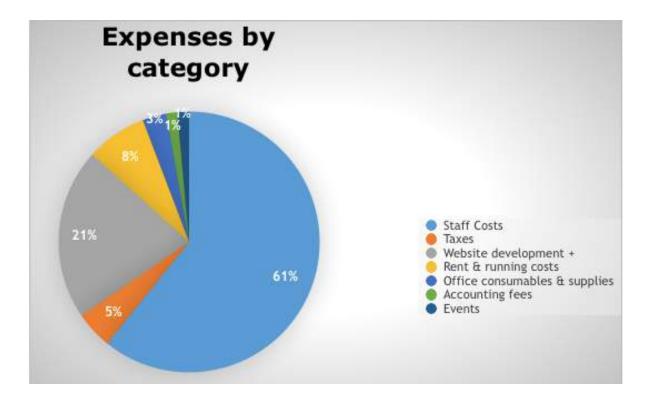


### **b.Expenses by category**

Category/Type	Ammount
Staff Costs (incl.benefits)	49,156.81€
Taxes	3,745€
Website design-development- maintenance & hosting	17,203.45€
Office rent & running costs	6,082.18€
Office consumables & supplies	2,388.93€
Accounting fees	1,110€
Events	1,180.2€
TOTAL	80,866.39€











# **Contact Information**



NGO's Registry

VOULIWATCH

Non Governmental Organisation

Registry Number: 997496860

