

The role of transparency and the (trans)formation of democracy through an open legislative process

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Legislative transparency: The Prerequisite

Open data: The Means

Democracy: The Goal

Legislative transparency & Open Data

Accessibility to documents, sessions, procedures



Extraction of information & re-use



New knowledge



Interactivity



Participation

Accountability

E-parliament services:

Inter-operability
(G2P, P2G, P2P)

Efficiency-effectiveness

How are parliaments operating with Open Data?

Indexing from Parliaments on the Net X Conference

Mobility, Transparency and Open Parliament: Best Practices in Parliamentary Web sites

Characteristics

- Change of documental system (*collaborative environments*)
- Print on demand (*cost reduction*)
- Mobility via tablets and other electronic devices

- Usability and accessibility of parliamentary websites and search engines
- Improvement of WebTV: Sharing and editing
- Digitization of parliamentary documents
- Full and detailed legislation process (*completeness, relevance*)

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ICT tools

- Digital signatures (*document verification*)
- Visualizations (*simplification*)
- VPN, VLAN, cloud computing, virtualizations
- Interactive animation, use of avatars (*interactivity*)
- Open Data in XML for sessions, MPs, questions, voting results

Indicators for a transparent and open legislative process

also based on research work of Cuccinielo & Nasi (2011), Michener & Bersch (2011) and Miller (1996)

- Usability and accessibility-Ease at information location
- Degree of interactivity
- Presentation of information format
(compatible, simplified)
- Presentation of information content
(raw or processed, complete, accurate, relevant, coherent)
- Security and validity of information
(audit, verification, encryption, passwords)
- Timeliness
(timely publication of information and in chronological order)

Opportunities for open legislative process are obvious but what about the risks?

- Unlimited transparency: desired outcomes or democratic frustration?
- Open legislative process: solely a technological issue or an issue involving constitutional, legal, ethical and social aspects?
- Disclosure of certain information (e.g. voting results): A way to elect better representatives or a stressful accountability?
- Last but not least: Empowered representative democracy or empowered participatory democracy? Or a place for hacktivism?



Further research workí

- Levels of interactivity and indicators for transparent and open legislative process for monitoring of the legislative process, parliamentary control and budget voting in the Hellenic Parliament
- Expected results in combination with the Standing Orders: Indicate gaps in information presentation and highlight opportunities in information publication that can enhance transparency, many-to-many interactivity and inter-operability.

Thank you!

For further information regarding our activities you are invited to visit:

Laboratory of New Technologies in Communication, Education and
the Mass Media, University of Athens

<http://www.media.uoa.gr/ntlab>

Digital Media for Participation Research Group, UoA NTLab

<http://www.media.uoa.gr/~gouscos/digitalmedia4participation>

References and further readings

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Webography

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