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

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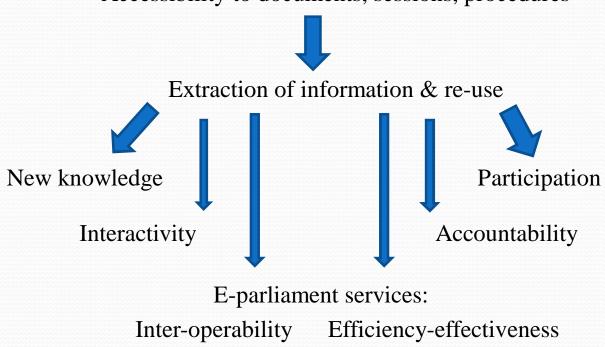
Legislative transparency: The Prerequisite

**Open data: The Means** 

**Democracy: The Goal** 

### Legislative transparency & Open Data

Accessibility to documents, sessions, procedures



(G2P, P2G, P2P)

### How are parliaments operating with Open Data?

Indexing from õParliaments on the Net X Conference Mobility, Transparency and Open Parliament: Best Practices in Parliamentary Web sitesö

### **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 butí 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

### References and further readings

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