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Introduction

The aim of Fundación Ciudadano Inteligente is to reduce the information gap between the citizens and public activity. Its first project is Vota Inteligente, which currently monitors the National Congress in order to bring the citizen closer to parliamentary discussions.

Due to the importance that Congress has in our country's democratic life, Vota Inteligente's monitoring gives access to a collection of data that enables the Fundación Ciudadano Inteligente to develop other projects that bridge the gap between citizens and public activity.

For this reason, in this report we will not only look at Vota Inteligente's achievements, but also those projects that, thanks to the information obtained from parliament monitoring, permit the citizens and public activity to be brought closer together. We will then look over these projects; Conflicts of Interest, Promises, Smart Access, and the Fundación´s work of advocacy towards the Transparency Initiative, and also a collection of organizations for transparency that take influence from civil society and make recommendations on pending bills about the subject.

Parliament Watchdog

The Parliament monitoring through Vota Inteligente seeks to be a space of communication and transparency between the legislative work and the citizen. In order to achieve this, the project developed its work in two fields: The monitoring of bills and the monitoring of the profiles of those who are involved in the legislative process.

The monitoring of the Bills allows the citizens to get to know the progress of the bills in Congress and the detail of the actual legislative discussion of its processing. The bill is monitored from the moment that it enters the Congress until it is enacted; a collection of these discussions is approached by the Chilean legislative process which involves three constitutional processes, and then the bills are studied in the two discussion periods in order to move the bill forward: the bills research and deliberation are discussed at both plenary and committee levels of Congress.

For the benefit of both the Senate as well as the Chamber of Deputies, the Vota Inteligente work team takes the reports from both the committees' meeting and the full meeting from the websites and puts together a summary of the bill's discussion. The work team brought together for this task was made up of a sociologist, a political scientist and 6 political science and sociology students. Hence, the citizen is presented with information about the parliamentarians' main arguments on their legislative work. In the same way, the basic information of each bill and the votes per article are extracted, those that have been discussed at both plenary and committee levels of Congress,

During the second half of 2011, Vota Inteligente monitored 129 bills; this involved coverage of 80% of the pending bills in our Congress. 85 bills were monitored in the Chamber of Deputies, while 91 were monitored in the Senate. Neither the international treaties nor the draft agreements were taken into account as the discussion of these bills is of little interest to citizens.

On the other hand, the monitoring of the Congress involves the updating of the parliamentarians' basic information. This information considers the obtained votes, contact details, career, the political party that they belong to and their responsibility over the bills, according to the subject of the bill and the state of its progress. Vota inteligente also provides information about the political parties that are represented in the National Congress. This information is updated regularly by the Vota Inteligente team.

In the second half of 2011 Vota Inteligente site had on average 946 visits per week. In total, the website had 24,695 visits during the second half of the year, nearly 10,000 more than the previous year during the same period. In the second half of the year 45,750 pages were visited, with an average time of 1minute 51 seconds spent on the site. 70.17% of the total visits were new visits. The Foundation has had 10 press appearances for Vota Inteligente´s cause in the second half of

2011 in order to spread the site's work and to remark on of some of the discoveries found by the monitoring.

Between November 2011 and January 2012, 7 Civil engineering informatics students from the University of Chile, supervised by the developers of Fundacion Ciudadano Inteligente, created an API (Application Programming Interface) in order to make Congress information available to third parties, like citizens, NGOs and the press, amongst others. This work is the first step of the renewal that the site www.votainteligente.cl will carry out in the first half of 2012.

Conflict of interests

On the 22nd of October the application www.inspectordeinteres.cl was launched with the aim of creating a space for transparency and communication between the Congress and the citizens. As a result of a year's worth of investigating, this website finds the companies that parliamentarians have shares in; by cross-referencing this information with the bills that are promoted or voted for by the Senators and the Deputies in the Congress, they can detect if there are any possible conflicts of interest.

Parliamentarians are obligated to declare their personal assets and interests in a public declaration. The information in these declarations was compared with the information from the official parliamentary records and with documents from the Internal Tax Department in order to detect which members of parliament have shares that they had not declared. Each company was labelled according to the economic areas in which they developed. We were able to relate the companies with the bills, so that these were also labelled according to the economic area which they affect, and these were available thanks to the work of parliament monitoring that was done by Vota Inteligente.

In this way, the website gives the citizen the chance to detect possible conflicts of interest by the parliamentarians, when they promote and/or vote for a bill. The search can do this by area of interest or by parliamentarian, and it gives two types of information: firstly, the parliamentarian's profile of interests, where they list the companies that they participate in and if they have declared themselves or not. It also adds their areas of interest and specific information that affect the companies of the parliamentarian and specific data from each on of the companies, like the year of constitution, the initial capital and its current tax situation, amongst other information. Secondly, the Inspector of Interests provides information around the bills in which there could be conflicts of interest, which are recognised by the Vota Inteligente database.

After the publication of the study, eleven deputies declared their personal assets and interests, and from the background information that the authorities provided, we made 22 updates to our database. Amongst other general results, it is worth stressing that 25 parliamentarians had at least one company that was not declared, that is to say, it wasn't complying with the law. Inspector of Interests' cause has meant that Fundacion Ciudadano Inteligente has had 37 press appearances, where they have called upon the authorities to comply with what the law stipulates and to enforce it.

Currently in the National Congress the Probity Law is being processed; this law seeks to perfect the regulation of system for the declaration of personal assets and interests and to install a blocked custody system. Inspector of Interests contributed to this by clearly stating that the automatic regulation on these subjects is not sufficient and those freelance organizations, that can supervise

and enforce the punishments/bans when appropriate, are necessary. In order to drive this idea forward, Inspector of Interests made a petition available to the citizens that was signed by 723 people, in order to request for the fast processing of the Probity Law, the increase of bans/punishments in the case of mistakes or omissions on the personal assets and interests declarations, and the availability of the information in readable and accessible formats on the computer, in order to help the supervising role of the citizen.

Nowadays, the application is a point of reference about current pending bills in order to identify the possible conflicts of interest that parliamentarians could have in their votes. Since the launch, Inspector of Interests has had, on average, 4,561 visits per week, with 287,383 pages visited, with an average time of 4 minutes 42 seconds spent on the site.

The team is already extracting information in order to expand Inspector of Interest's investigation of executive power.

Promises

The 21st May is the date that, by constitutional obligation, the President of the Republic has to present his annual account before the National Congress. This is when the heads of state establish a plan and make announcements and promises on the measures that expect to be taken in the next term.

The fulfilment of the promises made in the President's speech on the 21st May 2010 and the legislative initiatives involved were evaluated by the Fundación Ciudadano Inteligente in the application 21demayo.ciudadanointeligente.cl. During the second semester of 2011 the speech was evaluated by a sociologist, 2 sociology students and a political science student. The application will be launched in May 2012, two weeks before the new presidential speech.

Thanks to the information shared in www.votainteligente.cl and applying the same approach that measured the fulfilment of the promises in the president´s speech on the 21st May, a team of three political scientists and a sociologist started to evaluate the performance of the Presidential government program. The current government will have been in office for two years on the 11th March, this assessment on the amount of success the government program has had on the subject of legislature will be able to be set up by the citizens.

In Chile, the presidential candidates present a government program to the citizenship, but there is no mechanism that shows the reliability and therefore the performance of this document. This is why this project is relevant as it talks about the supervision that is being done by civil society. Also, it promotes the creation of a mechanism that assures the citizens that the government program being disclosed in the presidential campaign will effectively be a plan and will not have a publicity element with a mere electoral gain.

This project will be launched on the webpage in the first week of March 2012.

Acceso Inteligente

The Law of Transparency in Chile has the aim of creating greater transparency in the exercise of public functions and to guarantee everyone's right to request and receive information on any public institution, with the result of fortifying the democratic system and encouraging citizen participation.

This Law, undoubtedly, is an important step forward, as it gives the citizen the right to ask for State information, and a mechanism is established for this purpose. However, these mechanisms are not easy to use for some of the citizens, they lack accessibility and easy identification, etc., and this is why the aim is to install a culture of Transparency that isn't a complex and tedious process and one where citizens can exercise their right to request information.

In the same way, the Law of Transparency also signifies a threat for the State, meanwhile a centralized system to make requests doesn't exist and, therefore, the relationship between each citizen and the State is independent, which increases the likelihood of requests being duplicated and so the work taken to respond increases which makes the state's work inefficient.

Seeking to solve both problems, Acceso Inteligente channels the requests and also the replies to the said request, that is to say, the State's organisation does not reply directly to the citizen, but replies to Fundación Ciudadano Inteligente which acts as a representative applicant, so keeping the identity of the government records protected.

Furthermore, to centralize the replies one can generate a catalogue of replies to the requests making up a bank of public information available to the visitors of the website. To have access to all the replies to the requests of public information the citizens can look for previous replies so it avoids the process of another request. With this, the government saves time on the work spent responding to the requests that have already got replies and the citizen saves time as they don't need to wait for a response.

The second half of 2011, 422 requests to access public information were made through the application www.accesointeligente.org, this represents 2.05% of the total requests of information that were made to the state in the same time period.

With the hope of providing a better service to the users of Acceso Inteligente, and improving the processes in which the Freedom of Information Act operates, Fundación Ciudadano Inteligente signed a collaboration agreement with the Pro Bono and Pro Access Foundations. The agreement's aim is for the three institutions to work in a collaborative way in the presentation of cases to the Congress for Transparency, in the event that there are replies from the public organisations that are unsatisfactory or that have not been answered in the period that the Law states. The Congress for transparency is the organisation that resolves the conflicts between the citizens and the public organisations, watching over the performance of the Freedom of Information Act.

In order to make this agreement operative, the Fundación Ciudadano Inteligente monitors the replies that have been received through Acceso Inteligente every week, identifying those requests of information that have not been replied to adequately by the public organisations. In the same way, it identifies those requests that have not received a reply within the period stated by law. These cases are sent to the Pro Access and Pro Bono Foundations, who select those suitable to present these complaints to the Congress for Transparency.

At the same time, the development team at Fundación Ciudadano Inteligent have made various improvements to the website, taking into account the users' experience and the reported mistakes. The improvements made to the website consist of:

a. Making it possible for the user to mark their satisfaction of the reply given by the public organisation. This allows the interaction with the user to increase and to detect cases to present to the Congress for Transparency.

b. Improving the process of sending out e-mails to public organisations, so improving the management of data and the record of information.

c. Improving the stability of the processor that posts requests to public organisations, making some of them into new formats for the organisations' online forms.

d. Updating of the terms of the website. The relationship between the Fundacion and the user is clearly stated with respect to the management of the requests and the conditions in order to make a complaint before the Congress for Transparency.

e. Improving the sign-in for the users, enabling access to the account.

f. Updating of the institutions supported by the website.

During the second half of 2011, Acceso Inteligente had 660 new users and 24,999 visits, obtaining an average of 962 visits per week. The average time spent on the site during the second half of 2011 was 4 minutes 27 seconds; Fundacion Ciudadano Inteligente had 21 press appearances because of all the information obtained across their site.

Initiative for a transparent parliamentarian

The work of Proyecto Vota Inteligente is not only concentrated on the development of applications that make public information available to the citizens but it also has a line of work underway in the parliament in order to contribute to the legislative process of bills that secure greater transparency.

The `Initiative for a Transparent Parliament´, lead by the Fundacion Ciudadano Inteligente, is made up of other civil society organisations: Fundación Pro Bono, Fundación Pro Acceso and Corporación Participa. The second half of the year had different challenges for this group of organisations of civil society.

First of all, the organisations tried to consolidate a network for a Transparency association, with a webpage as a communication channel (http://ww.consorcioporlatransparencia.cl/) and with a natural development that was capable of making this a sustainable association.

Second of all, the Transparency association had an active role issuing statements through the mechanism, in order to appoint the new advisors for the Council for Transparency. Two advisors (from a total of four), did not renew their posts, therefore assigning two candidates to the Government that had to be confirmed by Congress. The Transparency association then alerted the citizens and the authorities about the lack of transparency in this process; this was evidently influenced by the eagerness of political equality and not by the genuine search for the ideal person to be named as an advisor to the Council for Transparency.

This offer was then done publically to reveal this nomination, which generated an impact amongst the authorities and also amongst the same candidates of Council, whom finally, claiming personal reasons, renounced their nominations. The Government appointed two new candidates and the Transparency association monitored the process to fully guarantee the transparency. Finally the new candidates were confirmed by the Senate and today there is a pending bill to perfect this mechanism.

Lastly, the Commission of Ethics and Transparency of the Senate organised an International Seminar for Probity and Transparency, in which the Director of Project Vota Inteligente uncovered the challenges faced by Congress with regards to access of public information. During the second half of 2011, three thematic workshops were developed on the funding of the political parties, the access to public information in the Congress and the regulation of the lobby. In these three workshops Fundación Ciudadano Inteligente had an active participation on behalf of the Transparency association.

During the second half of 2011, Fundacion Ciudadano Inteligente has made 13 press appearances because of the measures taken for the Transparency Initiative.