"ARCHIVE" by CDR

What's our starting point?

As the **CENTER FOR DEMOCRACY RESEARCH** (**CDR**) team, we have been following the GNAT (the Grand National Assembly of Turkey) and Istanbul, Izmir, and Ankara Metropolitan Municipal Councils in detail for more than two years. We watch all the sessions of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey and read the minutes of the plenary sessions. We read the texts of the legislative proposals, research and inquiry proposals, written and oral parliamentary questions presented to both the commissions and the General Assembly. After summarizing and simplifying these texts, we publish them in our digital application called "**REFERANDOM**" and present them to the voting of the users.

In this way, we aim to make a contribution to the democratic participation of people who do not have time and energy to follow the assemblies due to the intensity of daily life, and who cannot find a platform to get an idea and speak about the agenda of the assemblies.

After our two years of experience, we decided to start monitoring the Parliament in the years before 2019, which is the year we started this project. Our team will prepare an archive that is categorized in detail and powered by technological tools. As a result, not only an archive will be prepared but also a technological opportunity will be created where a wide variety of searches can be done quickly by means of detailed cataloging, and graphics can be created with data (we will explain the details below).

What are we planning to do?

The entire team of the **CDR** will regularly read the minutes and commission reports, all legislative proposals, research and inquiry proposals, and written parliamentary questions of the past years. The proposal text will be made into one or a few sentences, the parts that will be difficult to understand will be explained and simplified. This study will become a detailed archive from November 14, 2002 to the present, covering the entire 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, and 27th Legislative Periods of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey.

For this archive, which will cover a period of about twenty years; approximately 20.000 legislative proposals, 150.000 parliamentary questions, tens of thousands of research and inquiry proposals, 1200 commission reports, 2400 minutes of the

General Assembly will be read. A commission report is, on average, 100 pages, and a General Assembly report is 150 pages long.

These texts will be transferred to the relevant categories and titles, in simplified and summarized form. The section prepared by each person in the team will be read and checked by another team member.

How will the archive be?

About 20 years of the GNAT data will be archived. It will be a simplified archive, where the searched data can be easily accessed, and where it is catalogued and labeled in detail to allow it to be used in different subjects and purposes.

We think it would be useful to give more detailed information about these catalogs:

Each proposal will be catalogued separately for its; legislative period (e.g. 27), legislative year (e.g. 2), session number discussed (e.g. 8), session link, final status (e.g. refused to be put on the agenda), type (e.g. research proposal), text (simplified and briefly summarized text prepared by the team), English translation of the text, proposal link, proposer deputy, political party of the proposer deputy, proposal date, degree of importance (e.g. less important/important), general category (50 categories numbered, e.g. 1-economy, 36-freedom of expression), subcategories (e.g. Çorlu train accident).

In this way, it will be very easy to carry out a detailed and varied search in the archive and work for customized purposes.

What are the technological possibilities the archive will offer?

With this project, we do not just aim for an archive, but we also strive to build a technology.

On the platform where the archive will be presented, there will be a search system that allows research to be carried out for different purposes or in specialized areas, by means of detailed cataloguing and labeling. In this search system, preferences will be specified for each category (for more than one, or all at the same time, if desired), and researchers will be saved from wasting time. Besides, in the archive; opportunities such as making comparisons of different cases and creating graphics will be provided. These may refer to specific proposals selected, as well as all proposals in a selected catalog(s) or proposals that are the intersection of more than one catalog.

Who will benefit from the archive?

We think that this archive will be an important source of data for various groups such as academics, policymakers, journalists, and researchers.

This archive will be beneficial for the persons who will research the subject, type, or any specialized field of the proposals submitted to the Grand National Assembly of Turkey (GNAT) in the last twenty years. We aim to be a reference source especially for people belonging to the aforementioned groups, as it will enable them to easily and quickly access the information they are looking for. Due to the easy availability of data on the desired study from this data pool, it will be possible to carry out the studies that were time-consuming or unfeasible before.

Another important aspect of this archive is that it can be used not only by those who have a command of Turkish but also by anyone who can understand English, due to the fact that the data is kept in English. Researchers who are working on Turkey but don't understand Turkish can't reach the data of the GNAT on its website because of the lack of English translation. With this archive, the language barrier will be overcome. For these people, it will save time and energy. Also, our archive will lead people from various parts of the world, who want to work in this field, as it ensures that data that were previously unavailable are now accessible. We believe that this archive will also encourage new researches and studies focusing on these areas, thanks to all the features listed above.