

**REPORT n° 1 FOR THE OPEN SOCIETY INSTITUTE.
FUNDACION CIUDADANO INTELIGENTE
JANUARY 2011**

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I Introduction

In the last year, Vota Inteligente – our organization’s main web project – has made progress in improving its platform’s development process. Putting together this website has opened doors to other related subjects, which we had not initially visualized, and in which we are working on today. In particular, during these last six months we have concentrated part of our energies on studying our congressmen’s personal economic interests when voting or sponsoring bills. We have gathered information regarding all of our parliamentarians’ assets and personal economic information, and cross-referenced it with their legislative work (voting, bill sponsorship). Additionally we have opened the door to “open data”, developing new techniques for data management, and improving our software in a way that it can be deployed to other contexts.

II Projects: State of progress.

a. *Votanteligente.cl (Smart Voting)*

In this report we will draw up an appraisal with regard to votainteligente’s first year of parliamentary monitoring: its progress, the leadership we have gained in different areas, and the project’s future challenges.

Parliamentary monitoring

Since March 11, 2010 (the date in which the new parliament officially started to run) we began monitoring all bills discussed in both houses. Since then we have informed citizens about each discussion stage on more than 160 bills: whether in committee or plenary sessions.

This has been possible thanks to groups of political science interns (from different Universities) operating on a rota system. They study each bill and extract legislative positions and voting information from both committees and plenary sessions. For citizens, accessing this information directly from parliament is not an easy task, as the data is not given in very easy-to-read or user-friendly formats. Our application has therefore served as a useful tool for different civil society organizations, who, according to their fields of interests, may closely follow the discussion of particular bills, or their representatives’ performance.

Hereby, we have been able to assist specific organizations by tracking bills whose discussion has been stalled, and advising them on how they can help speed up the process.

During this initial period, we can say we have gained in knowledge and experience. We currently count on a consolidated web-developing team, with standardized training procedures, and a content-creation system, which with product quality in mind has improved its publications’ timelines. Likewise, we have improved our storage information systems, creating common categories for all apps, in order to facilitate search mechanisms, and cross-reference the information. We have also refined our platform’s automatic information extraction system (from the Parliament web site), diminishing and mending possible errors (which happen due to the lack of codes or standardized information structures), and creating alert mechanisms for early detection.

b. Conflict of interests

With the aim of identifying potential conflicts of interests, our Congress' Constitutional Law compels all parliamentarians to carry out a personal interests and assets declarations, later published in his or her web site. Despite this obligation, declarations (assets and personal interests) are deficient, and even though law clearly demands congressmen to abstain themselves from sponsoring, discussing and voting bills related to matters in which they (or their close relatives) may have personal economic interests, there is no external procedure for controlling that the system works – only through other parliamentarians, specifically involved in Ethics and Transparency committees in either one of the houses. This committee gets to know and judge their own colleagues on any potencial transparency and interest conflict, lacking a well defined procedure for developing this task.

In this respect, the need to analyze and verify the records given by congressmen arises, along with the need to examine how those economic relations may or may not influence their legislative behavior.

In view of all that, in April 2010 an interdisciplinary team from Fundación Ciudadano Inteligente started to work on an investigation aimed to:

- 1) Evaluate Interests and Assets declarations published by all 158 Congressmen-in-Office.
- 2) Compare and contrast the information initially declared, to that gathered through other means, such as public gazettes, the Commerce Register, the Land-property register, and information from the Tax and Revenue Service, all information that was aggregated into a single “interest data base”.

3) Given that votainteligente has voting and bill sponsorship records, we aimed to develop a web application for cross-referencing the previously gathered information on parliamentarians' personal economic interests, with the information generated through our legislative monitoring applications. As a public utility tool, any citizen will be able to compare his or her congressman's personal economic interests with the bills he has sponsored or voted, and therefore detect possible conflicts of interests. The app is called *El inspector the intereses*, or the "interest tracker".

Products derived from this investigation:

1. Coherence Index

Aim: Determine the condition of any parliamentarian's declaration, not only comparing it to his equals', but to that of any member of public administration (by regulation their standards are higher than those in parliament).

Measurements:

1. Quality of personal economic declarations among congressmen.
2. Quality of personal economic declarations among senators.
3. Comparison between congressmen's personal economic declarations, and a member of public administration's optimum personal economic interests.
Comparison between senators' personal economic declarations, and a member of public administration's optimum personal economic interests.

2. Share capital links

Aim: Develop a browser specifically designed to find any parliamentarian's personal economic interests, assets and equity holdings.

3. Interests Tracker (Inspector de Intereses)

Interests Tracker is a web application built to identify potential conflicts between legislative work (voting, bill sponsorship) and personal economic interests. This application gathers two sources of public online information; first, thanks to a robot, the app aggregates and builds a data-base with all the information actively published by parliamentarians (interest and assets declarations); and second, it gathers and builds a data-set with all available public information that includes data on personal interests and assets connected to parliamentarians, mainly public Gazettes, the Commerce Register, the Land-property register, and information from the Tax and Revenue Service.

Once both data sets are built, we compare them to highlight the differences between voluntary Interests and Asset declarations published by parliamentarians, and the REAL map of interests and assets found by cross-referencing public information as described above.

The result of the apps function does not necessarily identify 100% of the conflicts of interest between how a Congressman votes as compared to his personal economic interest, but at least it simplifies the search and the amount of variables involved in a potential conflict of interest.

This application may be later replicated in different countries, through organizations seeking to monitor their parliamentarians' personal economic interests. We hope to launch this product by April 15th.

Más info de tu parlamentario
También puedes visitar su perfil de intereses y revisar sus declaraciones y el listado de sus vinculaciones societarias.

>>buscar otro parlamentario

SELECCIONAR OTRA ÁREA

Estas son otras áreas de interés de este parlamentario:

- nombre área: Subárea (nº)
- nombre área: Subárea aaaaaa (nº)
- nombre área: Subárea (nº)
- nombre área: Subárea aaaaaa (nº)
- nombre área: Subárea (nº)
- nombre área: Subárea aaaaaa (nº)
- nombre área: Subárea (nº)

nº	Nombre del proyecto	posible conflicto	sociedades
1	Nombre del proyecto de ley	P/A VS VC	2 sociedades en el área de interés
1	Nombre del proyecto de ley	VS VC	2 sociedades en el área de interés
1	Nombre del proyecto de ley	P/A VS	2 sociedades en el área de interés
1	Nombre del proyecto de ley	VS VC	2 sociedades en el área de interés
1	Nombre del proyecto de ley	P/A VS	2 sociedades en el área de interés
1	Nombre del proyecto de ley	P/A VC	2 sociedades en el área de interés

c. Acceso Inteligente

Another project we have embarked on during the last six months is Acceso Inteligente (Smart Access) which is funded by the OSI- Special initiatives program as part of a joint effort of “pro-transparency NGOs” within which we play the “techi-expert” role. Acceso Inteligente is an online platform available for citizens to request public information to the Government in a simple and “smart way”;

- Acceso Inteligente allows to submit FOI requests in a single “one stop shop”, which is easy for Citizens, as they can avoid to address individual public agencies separately.
- Acceso Inteligente “advices” the user on how to build an information request (through a wizard). Our information request online form has been designed based on previous expertise of how the system works, including which information requests are more likely to meet a response, and which not. Our online form asks questions that help the user to identify the object and time-frame of his or her request, improving the change to obtain a satisfactory response.
- The identity of the user is protected, as all Information requests are made under the name of Acceso-Inteligente (we act under mandate).
- Responses to Information requests are shared in a public data base, where every response is tagged, and searchable. This enables information requesters to track previous responses before addressing a new information request, saving time for themselves and for the Government who potentially will not need to answer the same information request more than once.

- The website allows us to keep a statistical record on how many information requests are statistically submitted to each public agency, how do these respond, in what timing, etc. This is very relevant information to keep accountability over the system as a whole.

Ever since we started to put this idea to practice we've had to face multiple problems (both human and technological). Our government has been very resistant to the idea of a unique site for requesting public information, as it may encourage citizens to request more information than they usually do, and therefore produce operation problems in responding to these requests.

Due to our government's lack of cooperation in integrating their system with ours (we just needed an API), we've had to program a much more complex software in order to bring all the information into a single website.

Our deadline to finish Acceso Inteligente is January 30th 2011. During February the site will go through a trial period for tests and final arrangements, in order to officially launch it in March.

Acceso Inteligente

The screenshot shows the header of the 'Acceso Inteligente' website. On the left, there is a logo with the text 'ACCESO INTELIGENTE' and an icon of a hand pointing to a document. To the right of the logo is a navigation menu with the following items: 'INGRESAR', 'ESTADÍSTICAS', 'ACERCA DEL PROYECTO', and an email icon. Below the header, there are three main content blocks. The first block is titled '¡Bienvenido!' and contains a paragraph about the platform's purpose. The second block is titled 'Haz tu solicitud AQUÍ' and features a large hand icon pointing upwards. The third block is titled 'Revisa otras solicitudes AQUÍ' and features five smaller hand icons pointing upwards.

III Leading the discussion on Congress transparency and accountability.

In July 3rd, 2010 Chile's 20447 law came into force, specifying in our Congress' Organic Constitutional Law (COCL) that general public does not have access to Parliament Committees, or to publicity materials such as recordings, minutes, or notes (to name a few).

Given that this reform to Chile's COCL conflicts with our Politic Constitution, and with all the different measures taken toward transparency and access to public information, Vota Inteligente took a leading role in the discourse on the subject, openly opposing it, promoting the repeal of its regulations, and suggesting alternative ways to move forward with this issue and raise consciousness about the importance of opening committee debates, as they constitute probably the most relevant aspect of our legislative process.

We, therefore, defined a work strategy, which so far has meant positive results.

First and foremost, Vota inteligente has thoroughly monitored and followed up on everything concerning this reform, both inside and outside of Congress. Through media and social networks, we

placed the issue for public debate (clippings are attached) – ANEX 1). Then we partnered with other transparency, citizenship, and access to information advocates (Fundación Pro Acceso, Corporación Participa, Chile Transparente and Pro Bono), to strengthen our campaign. We combined our capacities with the aim of changing this reform. In several occasions we went to Congress, and twice we were invited to state our proposals to the “Constitution, Legislation and Justice Committee of the Deputies Chamber” (the committee in charge of Constitutional reform and Congress operation), where the debate was quite encouraging. We had good feedback, and were able to suggest a path for reforming our COCL in a more open and transparent direction.

We have also incorporated other organizations interested in the subject, and are currently developing a permanent association for legislative transparency, which will work for improvements on other issues, such as prevailing freedom of information constitutional rights in Parliament, and the role and attributions of the Ethics and Probity Committee.

IV Moving towards a sustainable organizational model

During the last six months we have thoroughly discussed and planned the way in which our organization can generate income and diversify its sources of funding. Our team and board of directors have decided to advance in two directions:

1. Create technological products, which may be later reproduced in other countries. We therefore need to focus our immediate efforts in developing products useful for other transparency advocates in the world (WEB DEPLOYABLE). We aim Chile to be a country where tech-transparency products may be first tested, in order to later be deployed to other Latam countries with high levels of information asymmetries.

The aim behind this initiative is to support other organizations aiming to improve transparency in their countries, and increase the impact of our technological products.

2. Act as consultant to companies, international organizations or governments in subjects regarding technology, transparency, and accountability. We are currently exploring the implementation of a *Social Business* strategy, where we aim to create a tech-related business (apps, data management) using our own expertise to sell products which revenue should be able to fund our organization in the longer term.

A detailed Social Business strategy will be available during this first semester of 2011.

V Communications

During these last few months, most of our efforts has been addressed to develop our new web-products. Although thanks to our legislative monitoring and our transparency advocacy in regard to committed secrecy, we have had some media coverage (clippings are at <http://www.ciudadanointeligente.cl/mediareport/mediareport.html>). As soon as our new apps are ready we will be able to communicate our work in a more massive-media manner.

We aim to define ourselves as a valuable resource for the media, establishing permanent collaboration agreements with online blogs and newsrooms, but also by obtaining “offline” presence in traditional newspapers and magazines, in order to transmit our work to different audiences.

VI Conclusions

Fundación Ciudadano Inteligente has shown a solid and consistent growth during the last few months, with important impact in certain areas of public discussion. We have been at the top of parliament transparency issues, leading the discussion on committee secrecy at the Deputies’ Chamber. We have agreed to accept a leading position in the discussion on public sector

transparency, and technological modernization, and to embrace and promote our citizens' involvement in their government.

Our organization's growth has also delivered information to different social organizations and citizens (who use our platform for professional or academic reasons).

Our development has not been trouble-free. Putting together our current team of designers and web developers required time and a couple of unfortunate experiences in our project development processes, which fortunately resulted in knowledge and improvement in those areas. We had some trouble with the following issues, and realized they are part of a permanent learning process:

- The way in which to present citizens our data.
- The way to develop our apps in a more efficient way without losing time over easily preventable faults.
- How to get other organizations to use our data.

After all this time, we can now consider ourselves more qualified than six months ago to face new challenges in the field. Nevertheless, there still are many aspects to improve, especially in the way through which we deliver our developments to society.

In the near future we'd like to study in depth the need for governments to open information and databases, for citizens to re-use, recycle, quote, and create new public utility apps for helping particular citizens with particular needs. In Chile we are leading the discussion on the need for more openness in government information, hoping to move forward in the subject, not only from an academic point of view, but also by producing technological tools for delivering data and highlighting state transparency. Also copyright issues need to be addressed.

But Chile isn't our only goal. We want our technological developments and web platforms to be used by multiple organizations in South America looking to move forward on the issue of government and parliament transparency. To facilitate this we have redesigned our process of developing technologies, focusing on creating small easy-to-use applications with specific utilities. We'd like to first test our apps in Chile, so they can be later implemented in the rest of Latin America, as Internet tools for countries with high transparency and corruption rates.

That's why we'd like to tap into Linked-Data technologies, by using formats currently being developed for connecting different databases around the world. We'd also like to expedite the different processes leading to governments opening their data, so we can later offer citizens the information through our apps. In that sense we have put together a web platform (Criik.com) which will administrate data, offering it to web developers. Also, we have converted all of our www.votainteligente.com information into RDF format, going in the same direction of Link Datta.

For 2011 we have multiple challenges. First, we need to reach our goal of accomplishing our current information-technology developments. By April 15 we'll have our "Interests Tracker" app ready, and we'll be reorganizing our Vota Inteligente platform, for presenting it to other Latin American organizations, who might want to use it in their own countries for parliamentary monitoring. (new deployable format)

This year we also plan to forge ahead in the development of a platform that will offer citizens databases, together with delivering data for building useful apps. This platform is already part of our plans, and very soon we'll be able to deliver some good news about it.

VII Financial Report

Financial Report for OSI
September-January

E/R (CH\$/USD)

\$521,46

Category	FUND	September	October	November	December	January	Aggregated budget	Real spending	Deviation	
IT										
Web Hosting	FCI	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$479	\$0	\$479
Server space	FCI	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1.438	\$0	\$1.438
Computers	FCI	\$407	\$0	\$382	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$788	\$ -788
U. de Chile	FCI	\$0	\$0	\$1.438	\$0	\$0	\$93	\$0	\$1.531	\$ -1.531
Subtotal							\$0	\$1.917	\$2.319	\$ -402
OFFICE										
Office rent	OSI	\$959	\$959	\$959	\$959	\$959	\$959	\$4.795	\$4.794	\$1
Office Phone	FCI	\$58	\$58	\$58	\$58	\$58	\$58	\$288	\$288	\$0
Mobile phone	FCI	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$288	\$0	\$288
Internet	FCI	\$96	\$96	\$96	\$96	\$96	\$96	\$479	\$479	\$ -0
Bills	FCI	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$432	\$0	\$432
Alarm	FCI	\$54	\$54	\$54	\$54	\$54	\$54	\$240	\$268	\$ -28
Petty cash	FCI	\$0	\$0	\$239	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$959	\$239	\$720
Office equipment	OSI	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$148	\$0	\$0	\$3.836	\$148	\$3.688
Office cleaning	FCI	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subtotal							\$0	\$11.317	\$6.217	\$5.100
DIFFUSION / MEDIA										
Advertising	FCI	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2.877	\$0	\$2.877
Publishings	FCI	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$575	\$0	\$575
Marketing	OSI	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$6.712	\$0	\$6.712
Re-Launching	FCI	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3.836	\$0	\$3.836
International Seminar & Workshops	OSI	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subtotal							\$0	\$14.000	\$0	\$14.000
OTHER ADM COST										
Accountant	OSI	\$326	\$326	\$326	\$309	\$309	\$368	\$1.438	\$1.655	\$ -217
International & Sustainability Plan (NESsT)	OSI	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$20.400	\$0	\$20.400
External Audit fee	OSI	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Legal fees	FCI	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$48	\$48	\$0	\$479	\$48	\$431
Subtotal							\$0	\$22.317	\$1.703	\$20.614
TRAVEL										
Tickets + expenses	OSI	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1.918	\$0	\$1.918
Subtotal							\$0	\$1.918	\$0	\$1.918
SALARY										
Executive Presiden	OSI	\$1.918	\$1.918	\$1.918	\$1.918	\$1.918	\$1.893	\$8.524	\$9.564	\$ -1.040
Foundation Manager (FT)	OSI	\$2.493	\$2.493	\$2.493	\$2.493	\$2.493	\$2.589	\$12.353	\$12.561	\$ -208
WEB Programmer (FT)	OSI	\$1.968	\$1.968	\$1.172	\$1.172	\$1.172	\$0	\$9.823	\$6.279	\$3.544
Researcher (FT)	OSI	\$1.918	\$1.918	\$1.918	\$1.918	\$1.918	\$1.918	\$9.823	\$9.588	\$235
Editor (FT)	OSI	\$1.459	\$1.461	\$1.373	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$7.307	\$4.294	\$3.013
Journalist (FT)	OSI	\$2.109	\$2.109	\$2.109	\$2.109	\$2.109	\$2.109	\$10.548	\$10.547	\$1
Web Designer (FT)	OSI	\$1.532	\$1.532	\$1.533	\$1.533	\$1.533	\$1.638	\$7.307	\$7.767	\$ -460
Administrator (NO)	OSI	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Assistant Web Programmer 1 (FT)	OSI	\$0	\$2.109	\$2.109	\$2.109	\$2.109	\$2.116	\$0	\$8.444	\$ -8.444
Assistant Web Programmer 2 (PT)	OSI	\$0	\$516	\$259	\$198	\$198	\$249	\$0	\$1.222	\$ -1.222
Volunteers (15)	OSI	\$0	\$516	\$259	\$198	\$198	\$249	\$2.877	\$1.222	\$1.655
Assistant Researcher (NO)	OSI	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Assistant Designer (PT)	OSI	\$0	\$1.151	\$1.151	\$1.151	\$1.151	\$1.151	\$1.266	\$4.602	\$ -3.336
Subtotal								\$69.828	\$76.092	\$ -6.264
Others 7,5%	FCI						0	\$9.097	\$0	\$9.097
TOTALS		\$15.296	\$19.183	\$19.844	\$16.470	\$16.470	\$15.538	\$130.394	\$86.331	\$44.063
OSI Funding		\$14.682	\$18.976	\$17.578	\$16.215	\$16.215	\$15.239	\$108.927	\$82.690	\$26.237
FCI Funding		\$614	\$207	\$2.266	\$255	\$255	\$300	\$12.370	\$3.642	\$8.728