How to study lobbying with crowdsourced OpenData?



Benjamin Ooghe-Tabanou – Open Knowledge Conference Berlin – July 1st 2011





Working together with TI France

Regards Citoyens:
 MPs monitoring & OpenData

 TI France: Corruption & Lobbying





→ Study lobbying transparency within the French Parliament

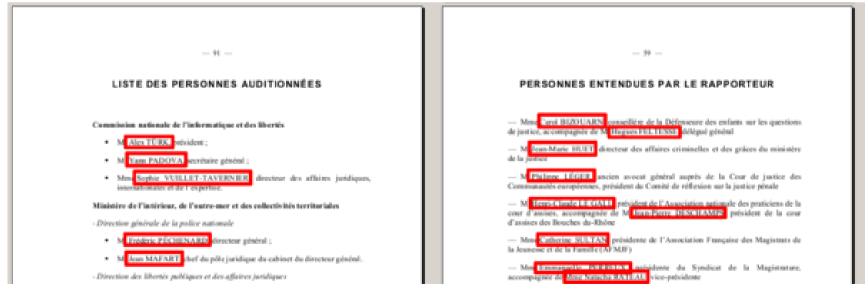


What data and how to exploit it

MPs reports may have list of hearings:

- 1) Find the lists within 1174 reports
 - → Only 38% have such lists...
- 2) Identify and collect lines by names







Generating data: crowdsourcing

- 15000 audition lines
- We need information such as :
 - Sex
 - Full name
 - Function
 - Organisation

Too much work for our organisations

→ Crowdsourcing

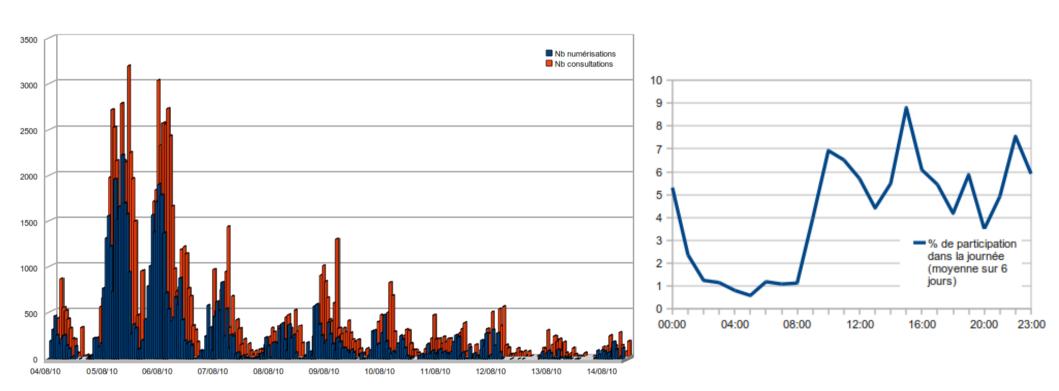


http://regardscitoyens.org/lobbyistes/



Great participation

Each line treated at least by 3 different people → 45000 actions



3214 people in only 10 days when expecting 2 months



Resulting data consolidation

The work was not over, need to:

- Assemble common auditions and regroup
- Group same organisations with different names
- Categorise organisations along new typology inspired by EU's Parliament lobbyists registry:
 - Public sector
 - Unions
 - Private companies
 - Civil Society

- Individuals
- Lobbyists & councils
- Think-tanks
- Religious organisations

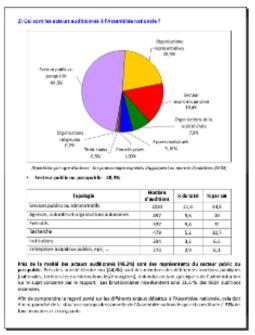
→ Freebase Gridworks + homemade app used



First results: lack in transparency

- Official Parliament's register: only 124 organisations
- Our study:
 - 15451 people heared
 - 9304 grouped hearings
 - 4635 heared organisations
- Only 24% women







Browsing the results by themes

Globally:

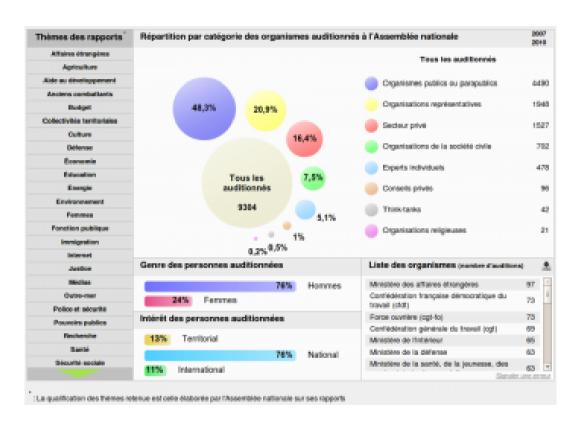
1) Public sector: 48%

2) Unions: 21%

3) Private sector: 16%

4) Civil society: 7%

- Thematic specificities:
 - economy, energy culture, internet, ...
 - women, society, development help, ...



http://regardscitoyens.org/etude-lobbying/







Conclusions

- Serious lack in transparency
 - Missing list in reports (62% don't list the hearings)
 - Misrepresentation of the official registry
 4635 organisations found vs. 120 officially published
- The emerged part of the iceberg
 Hearing is one of the 5 tools used by lobbyists
- Need for better registry and rules
 → Alter-EU.org initiative

