



Regulating Political Finance, Including Expences Online

Online Campaign Finance: Challenges and Solutions

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Background

The Central Electoral Commission (CEC):

- ✓ conducts all kind of election and referendum
- ✓ controls over funding of political campaigns and political organisations.

Majoritarian and proportional electoral systems

The candidates may be nominated by:

- ✓ political organisations
- ✓ themselves

The lists of candidates may be nominated by:

- ✓ political parties
- ✓ political committees



Legal framework

Election Code

Law on Political organizations

The key elements of regulation on funding of political parties and political campaigns concern:

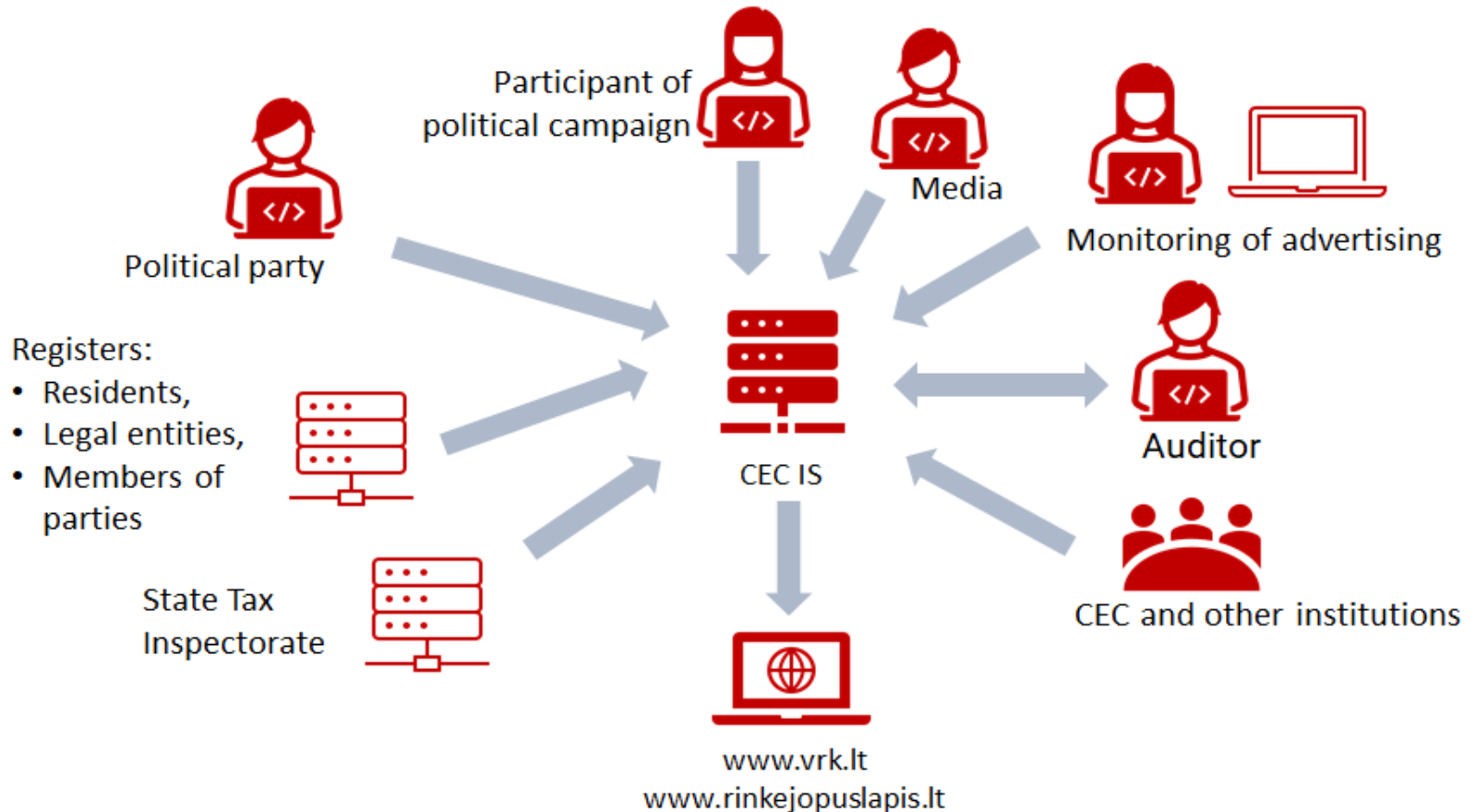
- ✓ legal sources of financing and limits of donations,
- ✓ legal expenditure and limits of political campaign expenditure,
- ✓ accounting and disclosure rules for the financing of political parties and political campaigns,
- ✓ requirements for political advertising,
- ✓ the oversight mechanisms by the CEC and other relevant institutions,
- ✓ the use of an information system to collect, verify and publish data on the financing of political parties and campaigns.



Political finance e-reporting

Authorisation via E-Government Gateway

e-banking, electronic identification device (celphones, ID cards, etc)





Functionality for participants of campaign

Donations:

- ☞ a donor has a right to donate (depends on type of election)
- ☞ a donation fits the limit (10 average salaries, 17 990 Eur in 2023)
- ☞ candidate's funds fit the limit (20 average salaries, 35 980 in 2020)
- ☞ a donation doesn't exceed 10% of donor's or 20 % of candidate's income

Expenditure:

- ☞ to control limits of expenditure
- ☞ to control debts

Others

- ☞ control-checks
- ☞ access to monitoring information
- ☞ to generate all reports, which should be to submitted to CEC
- ☞ to look over findings of independent auditor, to submit comments



The limits of political campaign expenditure

0,68 or 1,36 Euro per voter.

Limits in 2023:

- ✓ for candidate to Parliament 43 000 -52 000 EUR,
- ✓ for list of candidates to national and European Parliament or candidate to President 1 700 000 EUR,
- ✓ for list of candidates or candidate to mayor in municipal elections from 17 990 EUR to 820 000 EUR.

Gross violation of the Election Code:

- ✓ Exceeding the limit 10 per cent and more
- ✓ Undeclared expenditure exceeds 10 per cent of limit
- ✓ Costs of hidden advertising exceeds 10 per cent of limit



Political advertising

Requirements

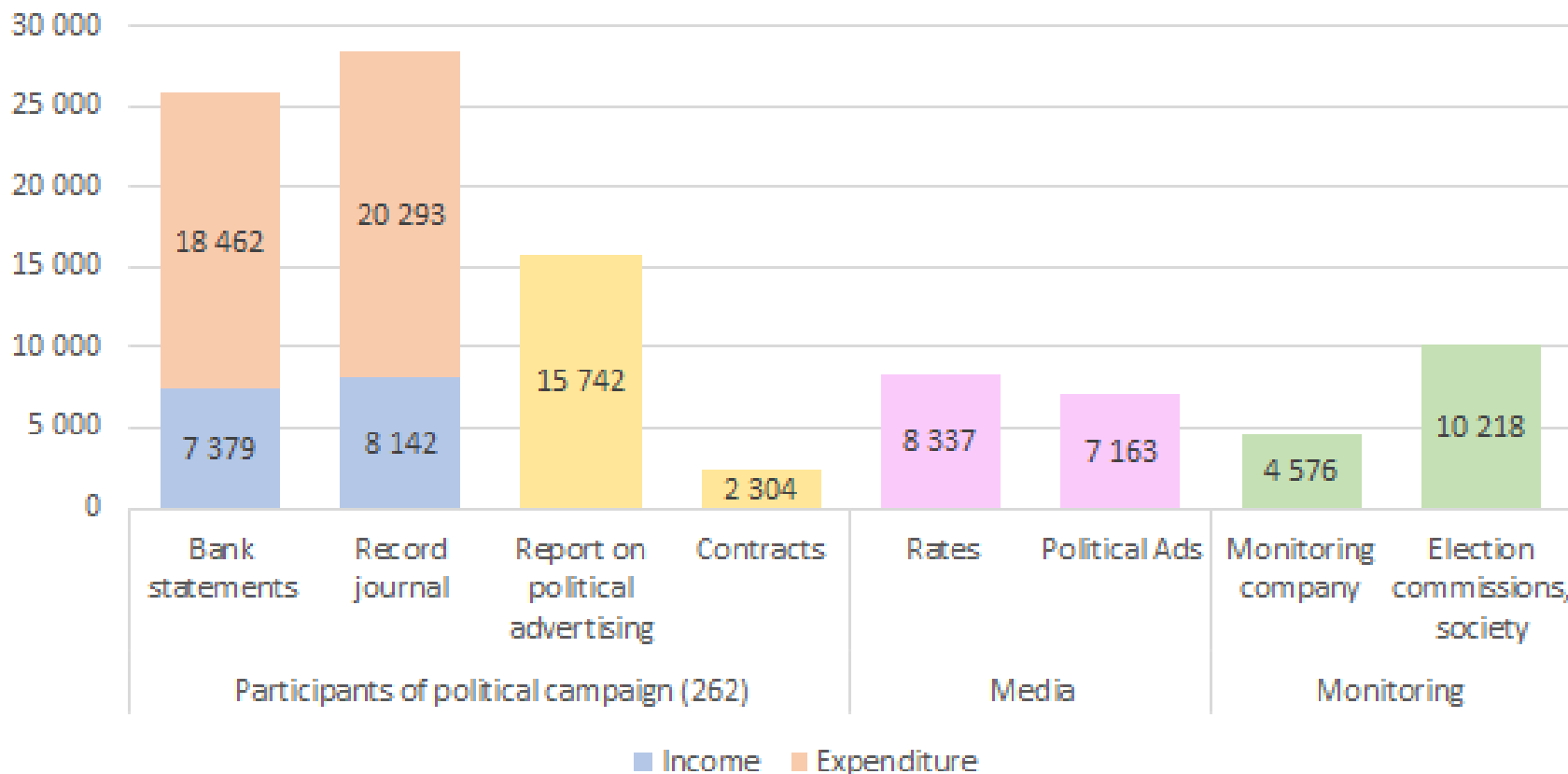
- ✓ Equal prices and conditions for all participants
- ✓ Marked political advertising
- ✓ Declaring accounts in social media
- ✓ Some restrictions (press, TV)
- ✓ Silence period
- ✓ Declared expenditures



Monitoring of political advertising

- ✓ CEC and local electoral commissions
- ✓ Monitoring company
- ✓ Society (complaints and notifications)
- ✓ Ads libraries

2023 election of municipalities and mayors (number of records)





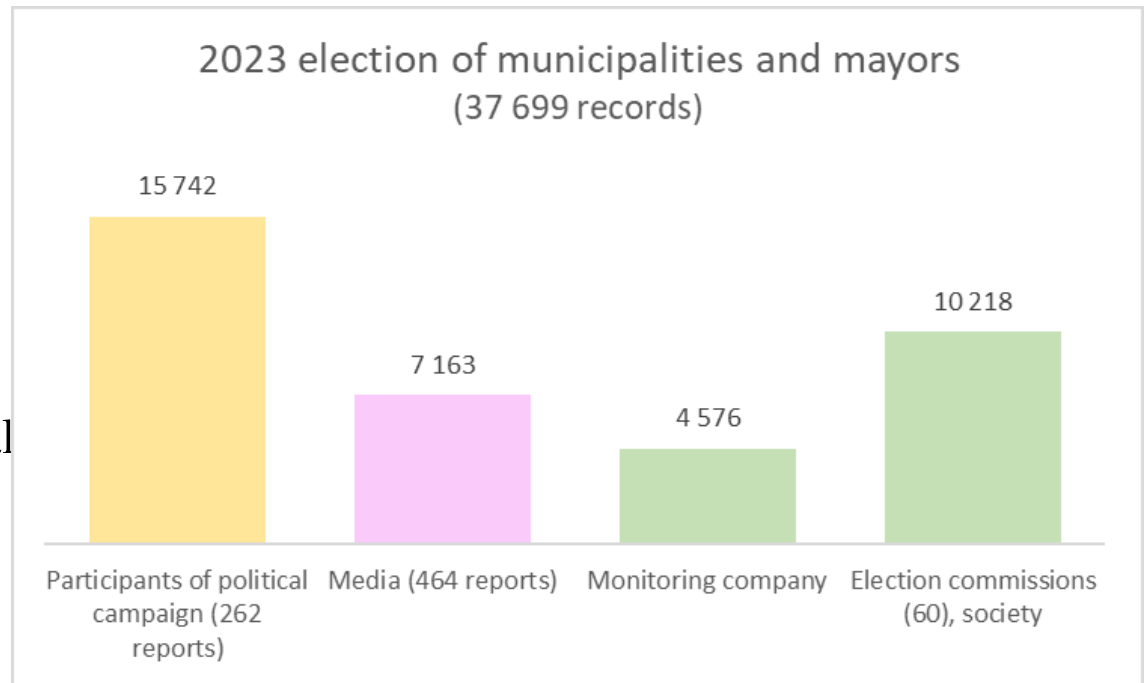
Analysis tool

The information on political advertising from three different sources:

- ✓ participants of the political campaign,
- ✓ media,
- ✓ monitoring groups.

Advantages:

- finds matches and differences.
- identifies undeclared expenditure, hidden financing.



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Participants	Media	Monitoring company	Election commissions



Thank you!



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