



IFLA PRE-CONFERENCE, Warsaw 2017  
Library and Research Services for Parliaments



INFORMATION AS THE FOUNDATION  
FOR SOCIAL SOLIDARITY  
THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARIES  
AND RESEARCH SERVICES

## SESSION III

### Public reception of the information delivered by Parliament

Information on legislative process on  
the Sejm and Senate websites

NGOs opinions and expectations

- INTRODUCTION
- QUESTIONNAIRE
- RESPONDENTS
- RESULTS
- CONCLUSIONS

## NGOs in Poland

≈ 100 000 active associations and foundations

access to information  
mainly via  
chambers' websites

The image displays two screenshots of official Polish government websites. The top screenshot is the website of the **SENAT RZECZYPOSPOLITEJ POLSKIEJ** (Senate of the Republic of Poland). It features a navigation menu with links for 'SENATOROWIE', 'PRACE', 'O SENACIE', and 'ARCHIWUM'. A search bar is visible on the right. The bottom screenshot is the website of the **SEJM RZECZYPOSPOLITEJ POLSKIEJ** (Lower Chamber of Parliament). It shows the 'VIII kadencja' (8th term) and the motto '„Wszelka władza społeczności ludzkiej początek swój bierze z woli narodu”'. The navigation menu includes 'STRONA GŁÓWNA', 'PRACE SEJMU', 'POSŁOWIE', 'DLA MEDIÓW', 'O SEJMIE', and 'ARCHIWUM'. The main content area is titled 'PRACE BIEŻĄCE' (Current Work) and lists various activities such as 'posiedzenie Sejmu' (Sejm session) and 'głosowania' (votes). A calendar for July 2017 is also visible, showing the date 'Dzisiaj: 2017-07-25'. On the right side of the Sejm website, there are sections for 'WYDARZENIA' (Events) and 'ZAPOWIEDZI' (Announcements), listing upcoming sessions and committee meetings.

## QUESTIONNAIRE

- Timespan: 23 June – 19 July 2017
- 7 questions (closed and open)
  - How often do you use different sections on Sejm's website – 15 sections to rank in 5 point scale plus „other“ option?
  - How often do you use different sections on Senate's website – 12 sections to rank in 5 point scale plus „other“ option?
  - How do you use information published on Sejm's/Senate's websites (more than one answer possible plus „other“ option)?
  - Do you find documentation of legislative process on Sejm's and Senate's websites sufficient? If no, what information is missing? (request for justification)?
  - Did you make use of procedure provided for in the act on access to public information?
  - In order to provide comprehensive information on legislative process, Sejm's and Senate's websites should include (open question)?
  - Did you make use of Sejm's or Senate's archives on the spot? If yes, of which collection?

## RESPONDENTS

55 NGOs with various areas of interest



- NGOs database of Klon/Jawor Association
  - Search in mission statements
  - Search terms: law-making, legislative process, civic participation



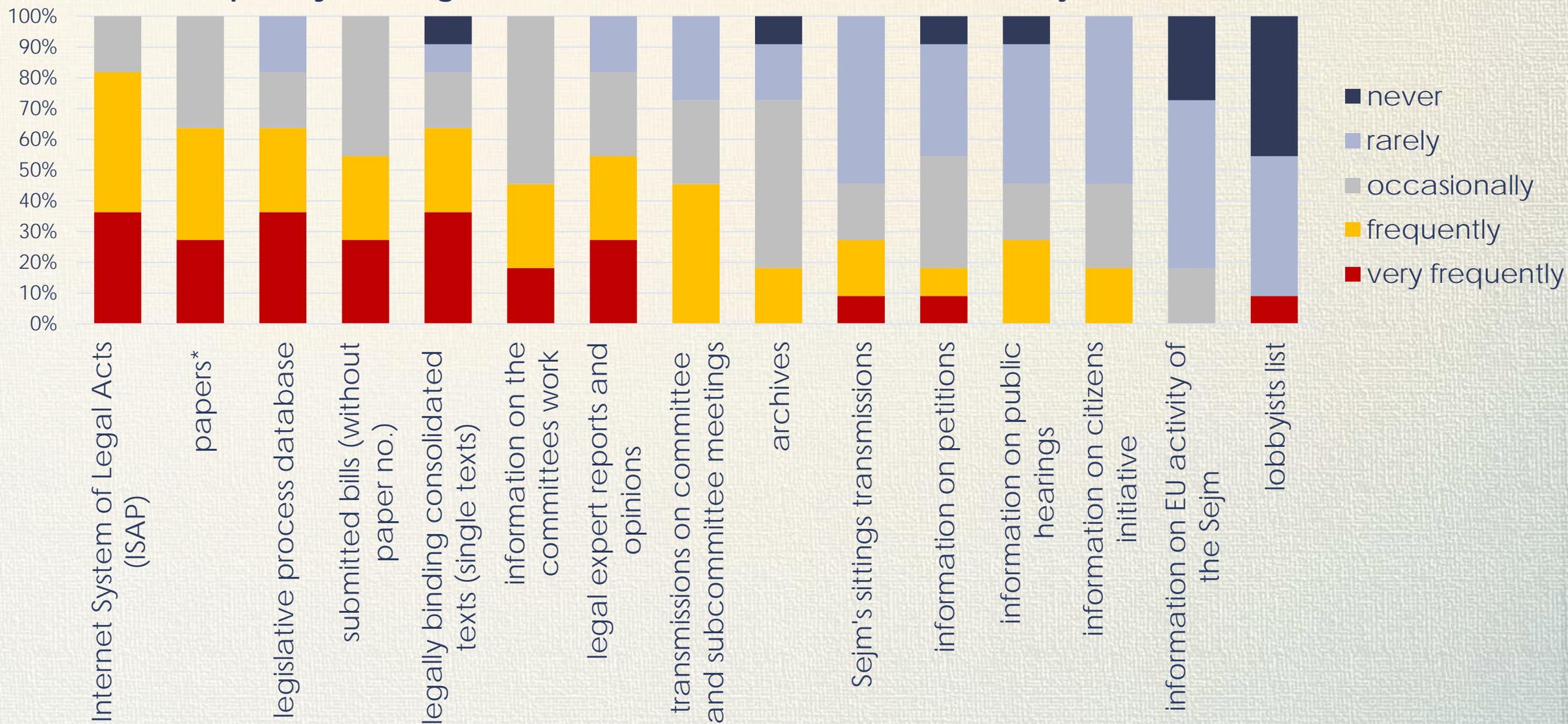
- 15 NGOs not included in the search results but active in the area of civic society and quality of law promotion

## RESPONDENTS

- 11 replies
  - Allerhand Institute
  - Association 61
  - Citizens Network Watchdog Poland
  - Civil Development Forum – FOR
  - Foundation Media 3.0
  - Foundation Mondo Cane
  - Foundation Pro Bono Futuro
  - Foundation Ubi Societas, Ibi Ius
  - Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights
  - Panoptikon Foundation
  - The Stefan Batory Foundation

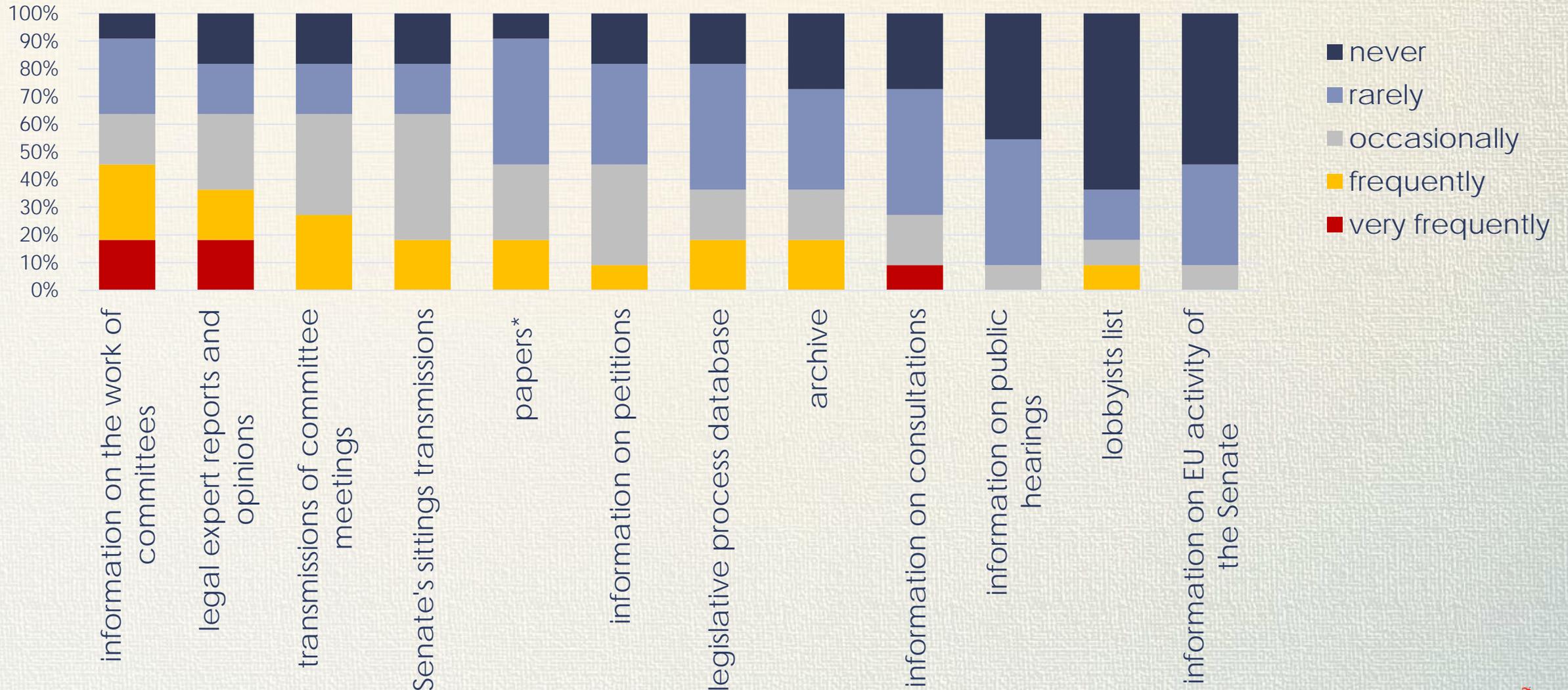
# RESULTS

### Frequency of using information from different sections on Sejm website



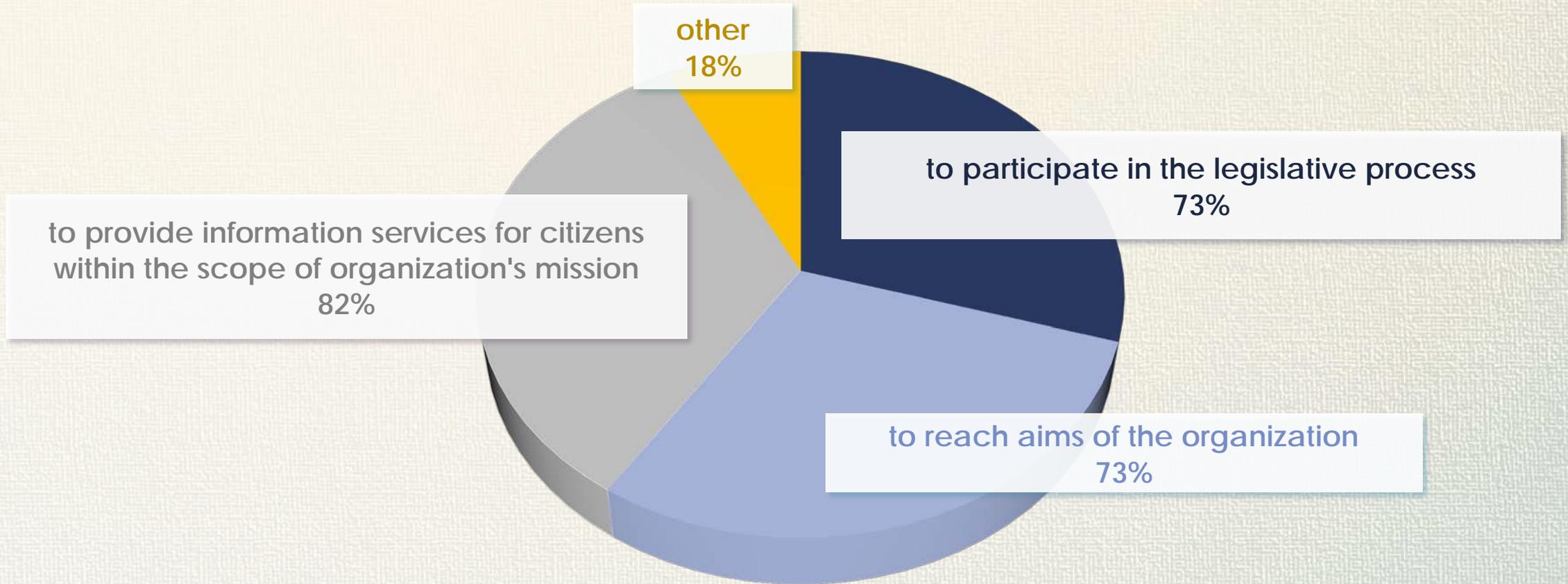
\* All documents with assigned paper number proceeded in the Sejm

### Frequency of using information from different sections on Senate's website

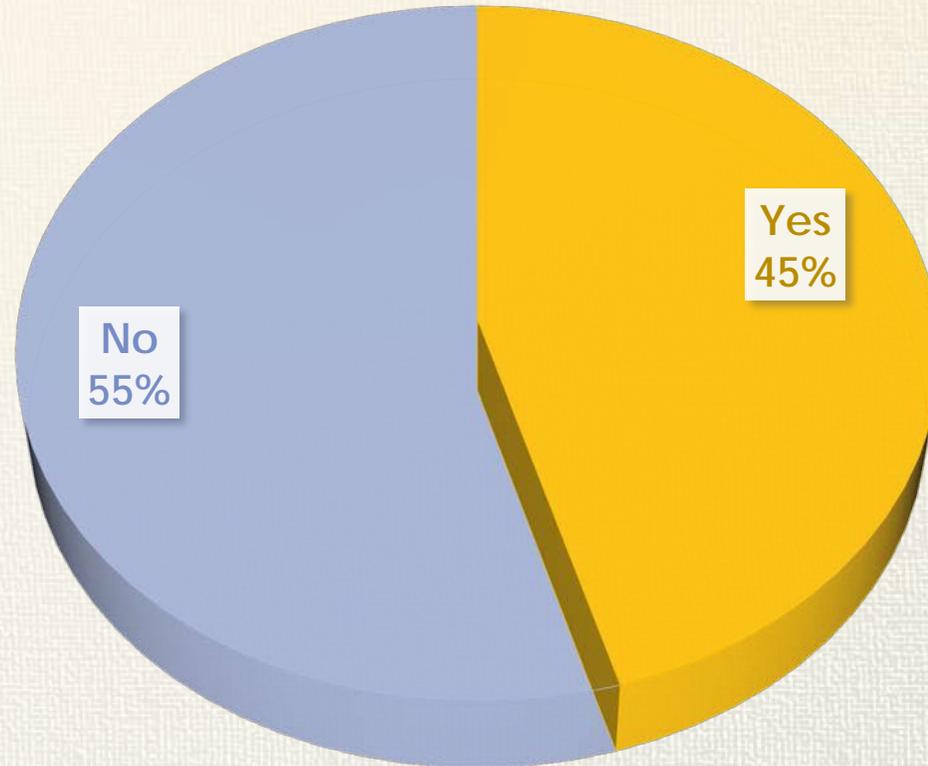


\* All documents with assigned paper number proceeded in the Senate

## How information from Sejm's and Senate's websites is used



## Is information on Sejm and Senate websites on legislative process sufficient?



## What can be improved?

## Suggestions concerning legislative process presentation

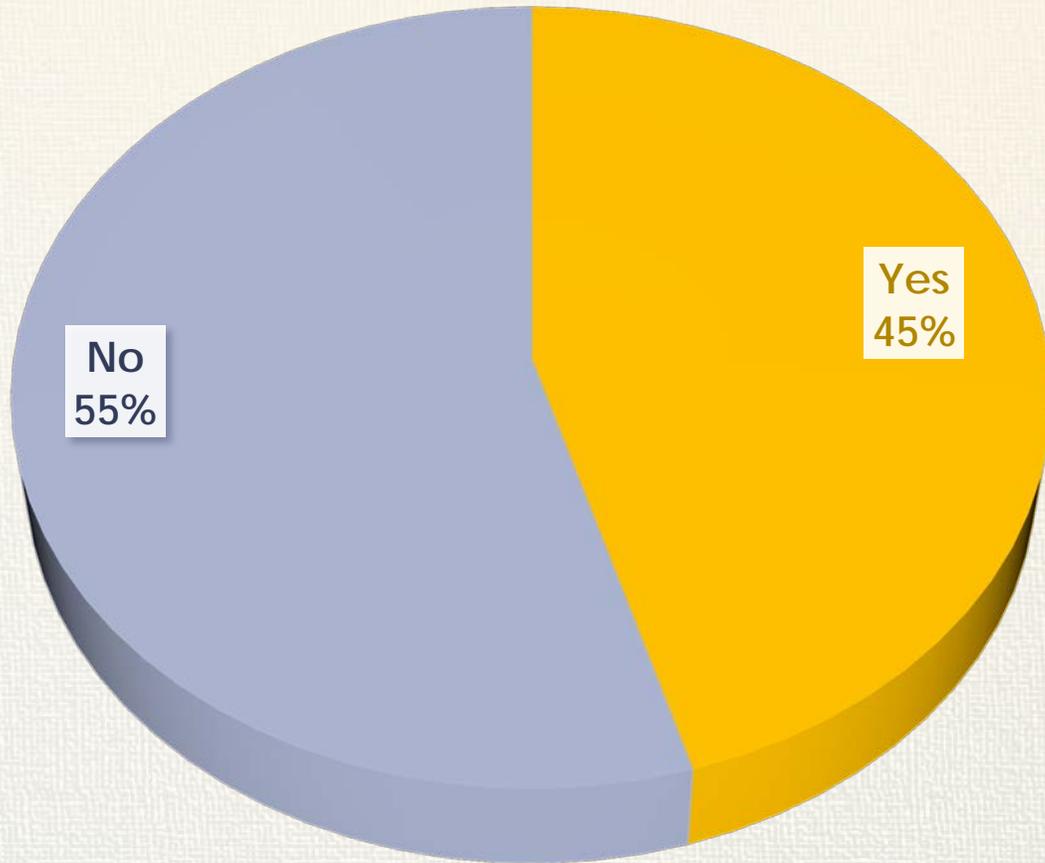
- Introducing IT tools facilitating access to information on both websites
  - API interface
  - alerting/subscription tools for individual bills
  - structured text (XML)
- Increasing user-friendliness – transparency and crosslinking
- Introducing exhaustive presentation of legislative process including: all amendments, legal expert reports, opinions from public consultation
- More archival documents

## Suggestions concerning other issues

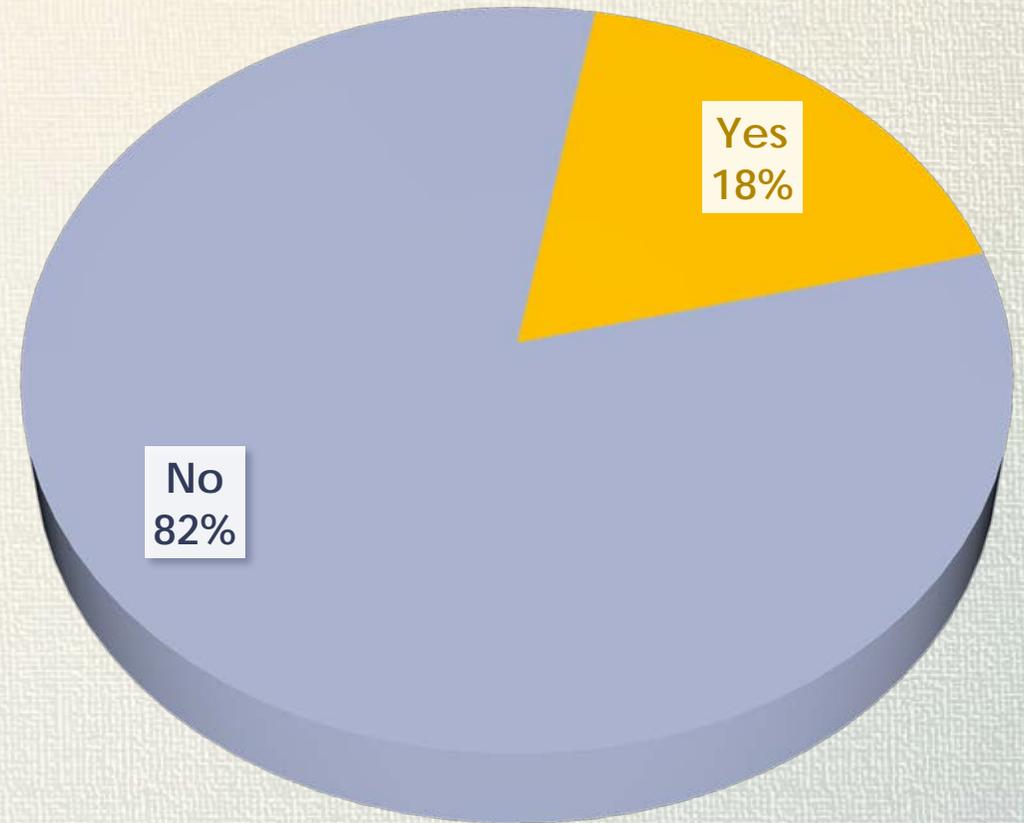
- Publication on the website of comprehensive and clear information on :
  - financial statements of Deputies, travels, reports from activities of Deputies' offices
  - rules concerning entering Sejm and Senate

## Other ways of obtaining information

**Procedure provided for in the Act on access to public information**



**Sejm or Senate archives on the spot**



## CONCLUSIONS

- NGOs **consult** Sejm website mainly:
  - legal acts in force: ISAP and single texts
  - legislative process: database, papers, submitted bills
  - legal expert reports and opinions
- NGOs **consult** on Senate website mainly :
  - information on committees work
  - transmissions of the Senate sittings and committee meetings
  - legal expert reports and opinions
- NGOs **expect**:
  - introducing IT tools facilitating access to information
  - increasing user-friendliness of current websites
  - comprehensive presentation of legislative process (amendments, legal expert reports, opinions from public consultation)
  - more archival documents