OpenCouncil

opencouncil.gr

Every council meeting, understood by the people it affects.

OpenCouncil turns recordings of municipal council meetings into transcripts, summaries, decisions and maps, and tells residents when their council discusses their neighbourhood. The same work produces the official minutes, checked by a person.

14
municipalities in Greece

1.2M
residents covered

630+
council sessions published

1,150+
hours of meetings processed



From Samothraki, 2,600 residents, to Athens, 643,000

How it works

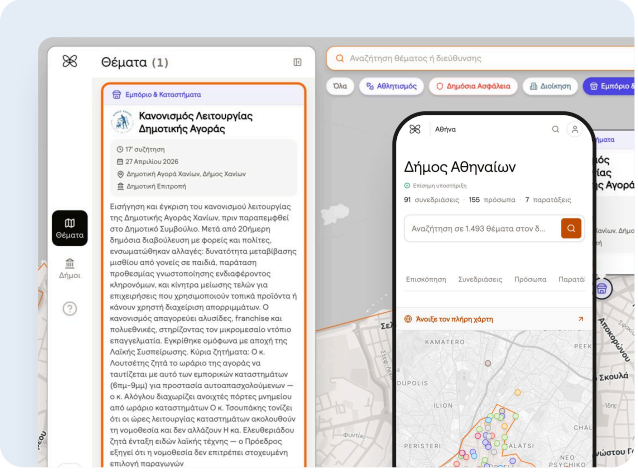
1. **A recording**
Video or audio of the meeting. A YouTube link is enough, and nothing changes in how the council meets.

2. **Transcription**
Every word, attributed to the right speaker and party, then reviewed by a person.

3. **Subjects and decisions**
Each agenda item summarised in plain language, with its decision and the place it concerns.

4. **Publication**
Searchable pages per subject, session, speaker and party, plus draft minutes for the administration.

5. **Notifications**
WhatsApp, SMS or email alerts by neighbourhood and topic. An open API and MCP server for AI assistants.



A council subject on the map of Chania, and the Athens page on a phone.

Built to be trusted

Every transcript is reviewed by a person, and every summary links to the exact moment in the video. The code is open source (GPL v3), data is hosted in the EU, and OpenCouncil is wholly owned by the non-profit Schema Labs.

The problem

Council meetings are public by law, but in practice they are hours-long videos and minutes published weeks later, if at all. Few residents know what was decided about their street, and municipal staff spend days transcribing each session by hand.

Results so far

- About 2,500 residents engage with their council each month, and 1,535 receive neighbourhood notifications
- Replaces the transcription service municipalities already pay for, at the same or lower cost
- Powers the public record of the Cyprus parliament, with Oxygen for Democracy

What we learned

- **Push beats pull.** Notifications reach residents a website never would.
- **Local relevance drives interest.** People follow the street outside their door.
- **Serve the administration too.** Producing the minutes is what pays for the mission.

European Public Sector Award 2025–26
Best-practice certificate

Innovation in Politics Awards 2026
Finalist

Greek Ministry of Digital Governance
Award for best applied idea

OECD and Bertelsmann Stiftung
Featured in *AI and the Future of Citizen Participation*

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