



MONEY AND POLITICS – TRENDS AND THE MOST IMPORTANT CHANGES IN
THE LAST TWO DECADES RELATED TO CAMPAIGN FINANCE
LITHUANIAN CASE

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Background

The Central Electoral Commission (CEC):

- ü conducts all kinds of election and referendum
- ü controls over funding of political campaigns and political parties.

Majoritarian and proportional electoral systems

The candidates may be nominated by:

- ü political parties
- ü election committees consisted of voters
- ü themselves

The lists of candidates may be nominated by:

- ü political parties
- ü election committees.



Legal framework

Special Laws on political parties and political campaigns

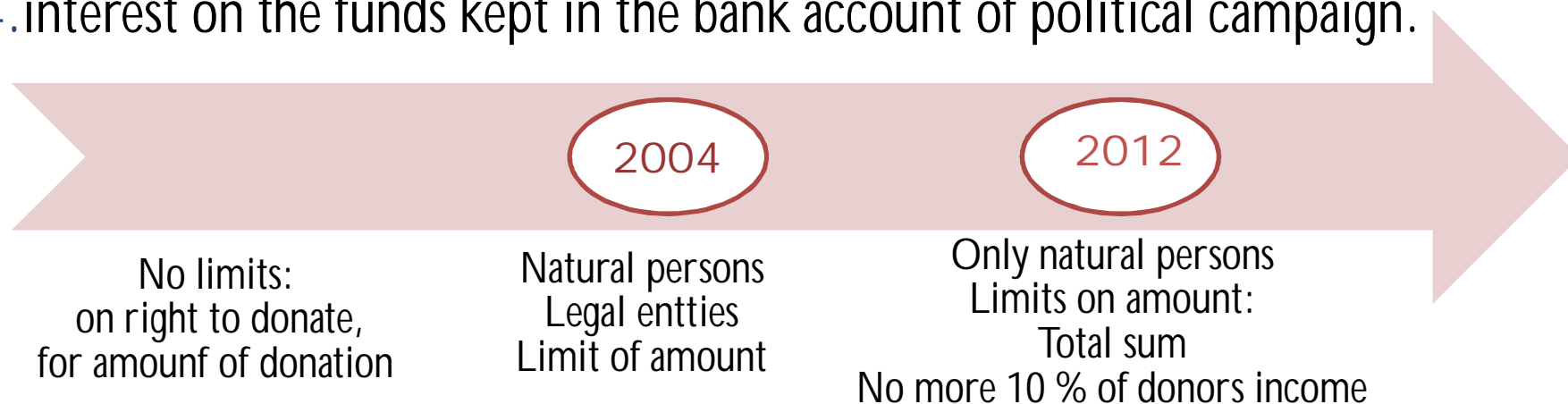
The key elements of regulation on funding of political parties and political campaigns concern:

- ü legal sources of funding and limits of donations,
- ü legal expenditure and limits of political campaign expenditure,
- ü accounting and publicity of funding of political parties and political campaigns,
- ü requirements for political advertising,
- ü control by the CEC and other institutions,
- ü use of IT in exercising control.



Sources of funding of political campaigns

1. Donations of natural persons
 - ü 10 average monthly earnings, 15 240 EUR in 2021
 - ü no more than 10% of donor's annual income
2. funds received by the political party,
3. funds of a candidate
 - ü 20 average monthly earnings, ~ 30 480 EUR,
 - ü no more than 20% of the declared income and declared funds,
4. interest on the funds kept in the bank account of political campaign.





The limits of political campaign expenditure

0,68 or 1,36 Euro per voter.

Limits in 2021:

- ü *for candidate to Parliament 43 000 -52 000 EUR,*
- ü *for list of candidates to national and European Parliament or candidate to President 1 700 000 EUR,*
- ü *for list of candidates or candidate to mayor in municipal elections from 13 590 EUR to 620 000 EUR.*

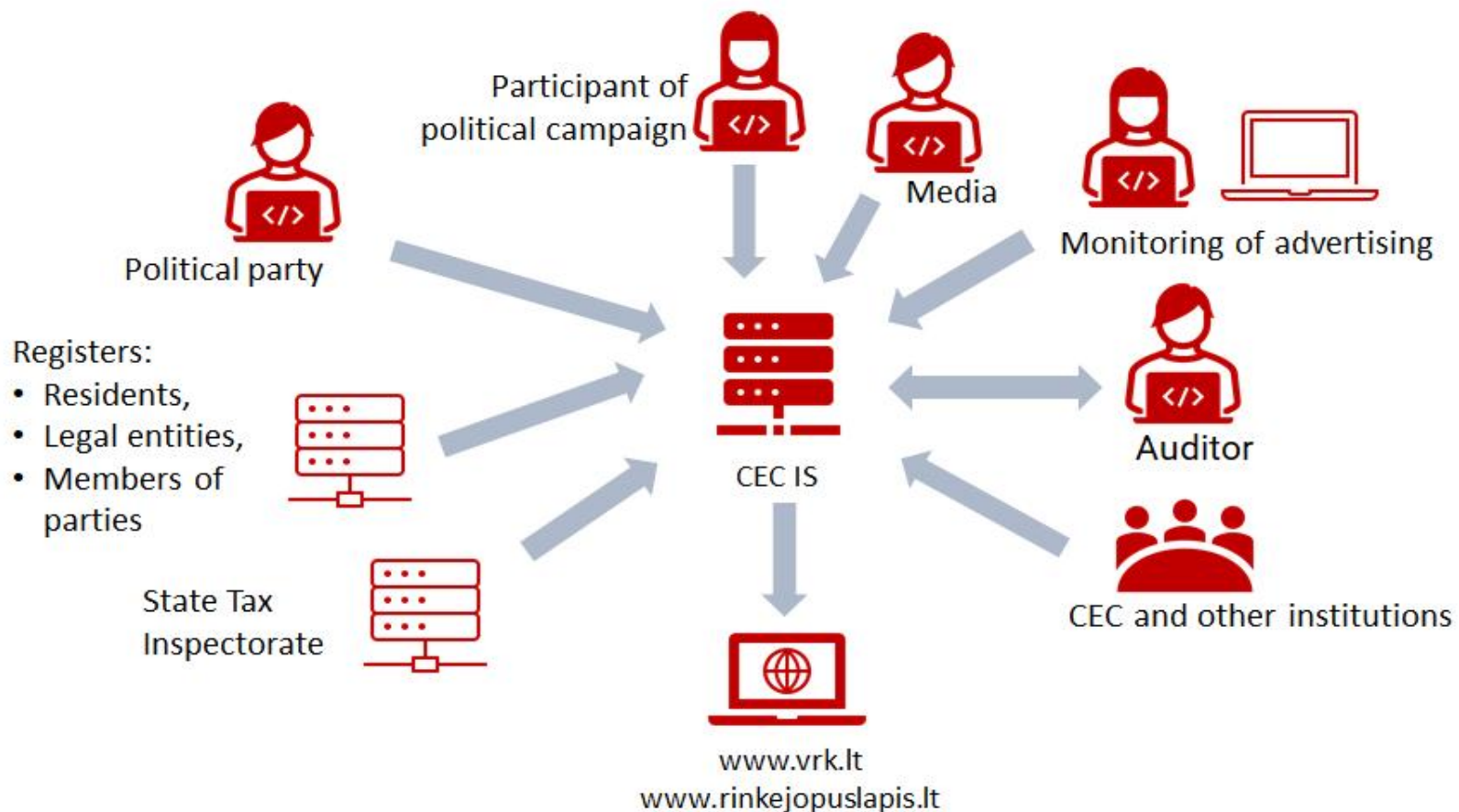
Gross violation of the law:

- ü Exceeding the limit 10 per cent and more
- ü Undeclared expenditure exceeds 10 per cent of limit
- ü Costs of hidden advertising exceeds 10 per cent of limit
- ü Expenditure on TV ads exceeds 50 per cent of limit



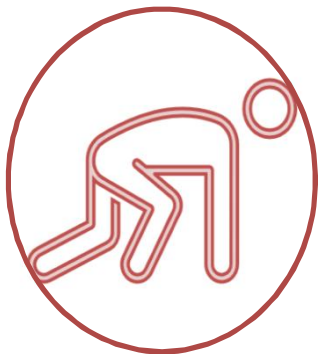
Political finance e-reporting

- ü Web-based technology
- ü Authorisation via E-Government Gateway
e-banking, electronic identification device (celphones, ID cards, etc)





Reports and documents of political campaign



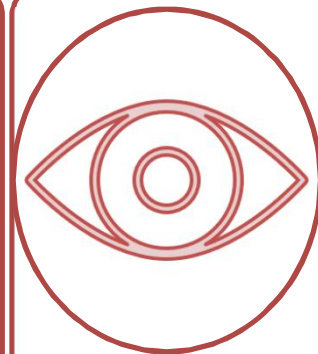
Participant of political campaign

- ü Record journal
- ü Funding report
- ü List of donors
- ü Journal of contracts
- ü Report on political advertising



Media

- ü Prices and conditions
- ü Report on political advertising



Monitoring group

- ü Report on political advertising



Independent auditor

- ü Report on auditor findings

Published of website of CEC

Statement of bank account
Contracts and invoices (hard copies)



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, 15 240 Eur in 2021)
- ☞ candidate's funds fit the limit (20 average salaries, 30 480 in 2021)
- ☞ a donation doesn't exceed 10% of donor's or 20 % of candidate's income and declared funds

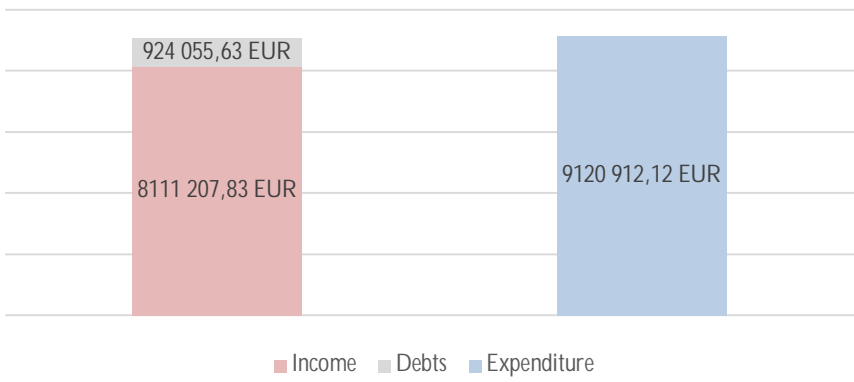
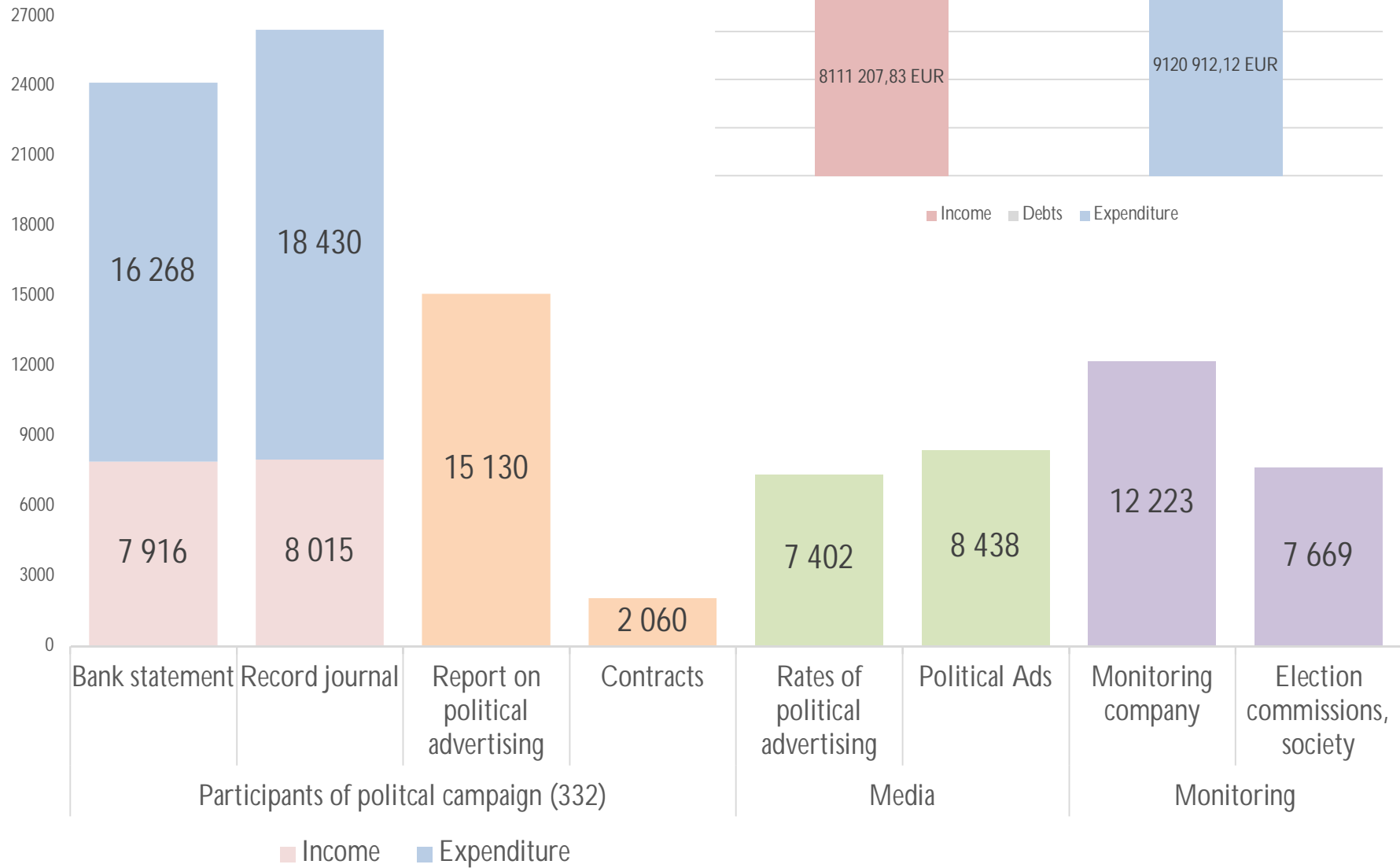
Expenditure:

- ☞ 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

2020 Parliament election (number of records)





Analysis tool

The information on political advertising from three different sources:

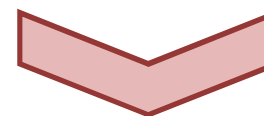
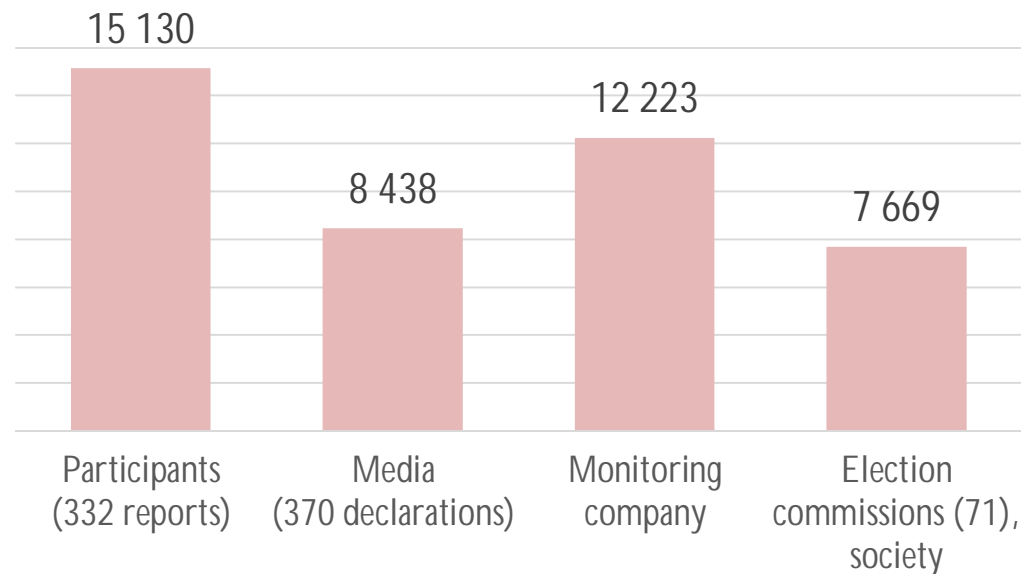
- ü participants of the political campaign,
- ü media,
- ü monitoring groups.

The system has a tool, which allows to find matches and differences.

It helps to identify undeclared expenditure or hidden advertising.

2020 Parliament election

43 460 records



	Participants	Media	Monitoring company	Election commissions
4 849 rows {				



2020 pandemic year

Office work	01/01/2020	Amendments of Law comes into force	Modernization of IS
Quarantine and remote work	16/03/2020		
	10/04/2020	Start of political campaign	Registration of participants of political campaign
	16/06/2020		
Mixed work	17/07/2020		
	11(25)/10/2020	Election days	
	31/10/2020	Results of election	
Quarantine and remote work	11/11/2020		
	10(25)/11/2020	Submitting reports and documents to CEC (income less than 95 130 Eur)	Auditing and checking reports, analysing finding of auditors
	24/01/2021	Submitting reports and documents to CEC, all audit reports	
	08/02/2021	End of political campaign	
	20/03/2021	Paying back election deposits	



Thank you!



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