



ESVEI tackles structural issues that in recent years are increasing the vulnerability to external interference of democratic processes, taking Italy as a case study.

It aims at increasing awareness, initiating policy debates, and providing sensible, forward-looking policy recommendations in three domains that are central to democratic processes in modern societies, but that, due to inadequate regulations and poor practices, needlessly expose such processes to meddling:

- social media and disinformation;
- transparency of funding and lobbying;
- cybersecurity

- [What is ESVEI?](#)
- [Why OBCT?](#)
- [What is our approach?](#)
- [Is it about Russian interference?](#)
- [Is it about Italy only?](#)
- [Who's working on this project?](#)
- ESVEI deals with "external interference", yet it is financed by an external donor. Isn't this a contradiction?
- [A non-partisan initiative](#)

Go to:

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## Transparency of funding and lobbying

### In depth



**ESVEI Italy: doing politics with politicians' money**  
Gianluca De Feo, Orinaldo Gjergji | 19/12/2019  
After the abolition of direct public funding of politics in 2013, Italy intended to increase private donations. However, the numbers tell a different story: little funding comes from "big donors", while a lot comes from elected representatives. Meanwhile, the absence of direct public funding in Italy remains a European anomaly.



**Doing politics without public funds, the speakers' interventions**  
Niccolò Caranti | 28/11/2019  
We publish the detailed report of the speakers' interventions at the policy workshop "Doing politics without public funds. New vulnerabilities and transparency challenges", which took place on November 20th, 2019 in Rome, as part of the ESVEI project promoted by OBCT/ CCI



**Political parties, think tanks, and other animals**  
Niccolò Caranti | 15/11/2019  
Politics is not only made in parties, but also in think tanks: research centres, places of relationships and safes. In Italy the transparency law has equated them with parties, but the issue is complex



**Italian parties: from funding without rules to rules without funding**  
Daniela R. Piccio\* | 13/11/2019  
A picture of the transformations of funding to Italian politics, from the introduction of direct public funding to political parties in 1974 to its abolition and the regulation of transparency in recent years



**Dossier The funding of politics in Italy**  
Fazila Mat, Niccolò Caranti | 18/11/2019  
In Italy the abolition of direct public funding to parties gave a greater role to private financing, increasing the risk of undue influence on the democratic process. A dossier as a part of the ESVEI project



**Political funding and external interference: limits on donations, transparency, and controls**  
Giorgio Comai | 23/10/2019  
In Italy, the abolition of public funding for politics has made political actors more dependent on private subjects and potentially more vulnerable to interference. It is therefore urgent to adjust the legislative framework and introduce measures that reduce these vulnerabilities and ensure actual transparency. Some reflections and concrete proposals



**Budgets and donations, the great transparency bluff**  
OpenPolis | 21/10/2019  
The current rules to make political funding more transparent do not work. Unusable data and inaccessible information make transparency a bluff. From OpenPolis, a proposal on how to solve the problem



**Party financing: to fight corruption transparency is needed**  
Niccolò Caranti | 17/9/2019  
Interview with Gianluca Eposito, executive secretary of GRECO, the Council of Europe's anti-corruption body



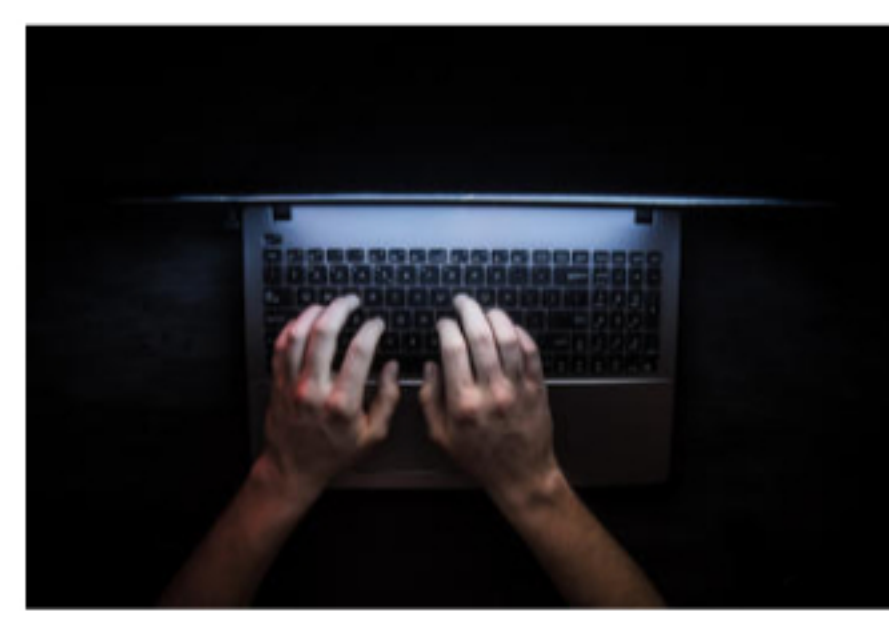
**Political funding: years of scandals**  
Niccolò Caranti | 27/8/2019  
An interactive map of some of the main cases of scandals related to political parties and campaign funding in Europe. In some cases the (alleged) financing is illegal in itself, in some others the scandal derives from the lack of transparency



**INTERVIEW Lobbying in Italy and legislator schizophrenia**  
Niccolò Caranti | 29/7/2019  
In Italy today lobbying is regulated in an inconsistent manner and rules are not applied. Greater transparency is necessary for investors too, but this situation is convenient for politics. Interview with Pier Luigi Petrillo

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### Read our editorial



**Russians or not, the vulnerabilities are there: let's fix them**

Disinformation campaigns, dubious practices on social media, murky financing of political campaigns and lobby groups, timed hacked and leaks: new structural vulnerabilities to our democracies are there for anyone to exploit. It's time to focus our public conversation on new policies and practices that can mitigate these risks

### Reference list:

- International**
- International IDEA has published a [Political Finance Database](#) and a [Political Finance Design Tool](#).
  - OECD has published [Financing Democracy](#), a report on political finance regulations.
  - GRECO publishes its evaluations, including those about the transparency of party funding, on [its websites](#). The reports on Italy are also available on the [website of the Ministry of Justice](#).

### Italy

- The [Commission to guarantee statutes and for the transparency and control of the statements of the political parties](#) hosts the legislation and several documents.
- Transparency International Italia has created [Soldi e Politica](#) (Money and Politics), an interactive tool giving information on money received by Italian political parties and movements, and cabinet and parliament members.
- In October 2019 Università Cattolica organised a debate on "Reinforcing democracy and watching party financing. The Italian case". Radio Radicale has published [the full video](#) of the conference.
- [OpenPolis](#) publishes lots of updates on transparency and political power.

**Post di Trasparenza**  
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Non c'è niente da vedere qui (per ora)

I post pubblicati da utenti in questa lista compariranno qui.

Visualizza tutti

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