



10

Municipalities

200+

Meetings Processed

300+

Hours of Proceedings

THE PROBLEM

Municipal council meetings are legally public but practically inaccessible. Citizens face hours of unstructured video with no way to search for topics, speakers, or their neighborhood. Only 21% of Greeks believe the political system lets them have a say in what government does — 9 points below the OECD average (OECD Survey on Drivers of Trust in Public Institutions, 2024).

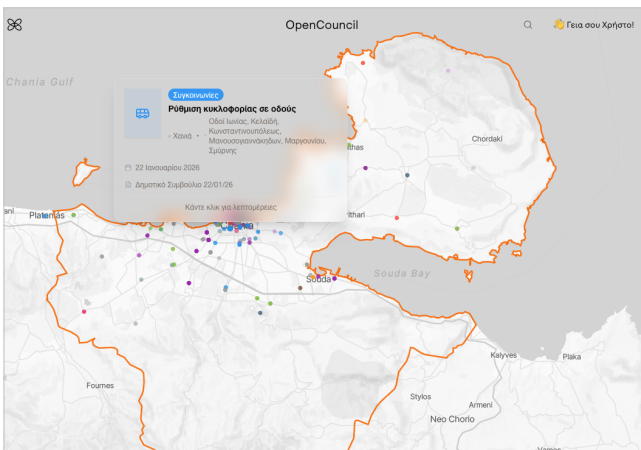
WHAT OPENCOUNCIL DOES

- Transcribes council meetings automatically using AI
- Identifies speakers and extracts discussion topics
- Maps discussions to specific streets and neighborhoods
- Sends notifications via WhatsApp/email based on citizen preferences
- Generates plain-language summaries of proceedings
- Produces official minutes automatically for municipal use
- AI chatbot answers natural-language questions about meetings

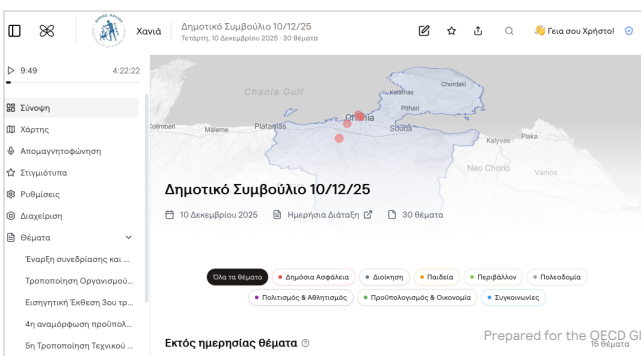
OPEN SOURCE & REPLICABLE

All code is published on GitHub under the GPL license. Public APIs enable developers and researchers to build on the data. Built as a replicable product (not a bespoke service), enabling rapid scaling. Architecture is infrastructure-agnostic — any municipality can deploy independently.

PLATFORM



Geographic mapping of council discussions



IMPACT & RESULTS

- 200+ meetings processed across all deployments (300+ hours)
- 70+ meetings in Chania alone in the first year
- Publication time reduced from weeks to hours
- Hundreds of citizens receiving neighborhood notifications
- 9 additional municipalities adopted within one year
- Used by elected officials, journalists, and civic organizations

MUNICIPALITIES

First deployed in Chania (Jan 2025), now serving: Athens, Chalandri, Zografou, Argos-Mycenae, Xylokaastro-Evrostini, Sparti, Orestiada, Samothrace, and Vrilissia. From 2,000 residents (Samothrace) to 665,000+ (Athens).

KEY LESSONS

- Push beats pull — proactive notifications solved low initial engagement
- Geographic relevance drives citizen interest
- Dual-use design (citizens + admin efficiency) ensures sustainability
- Product, not service — standardized onboarding enables scaling

ABOUT SCHEMA LABS

Schema Labs (schemalabs.gr) is a registered non-profit in Greece building technology to strengthen democracy and public sector innovation. Supported by the Helidoni Foundation and aligned with UN SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions).

OpenCouncil is Schema Labs' flagship project. To sustain development, Schema Labs sells the open-source platform as a managed service to municipalities through annual support contracts — covering hosting, processing, maintenance, and feature development. This model keeps the code open while funding continued improvement for all deployments.

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