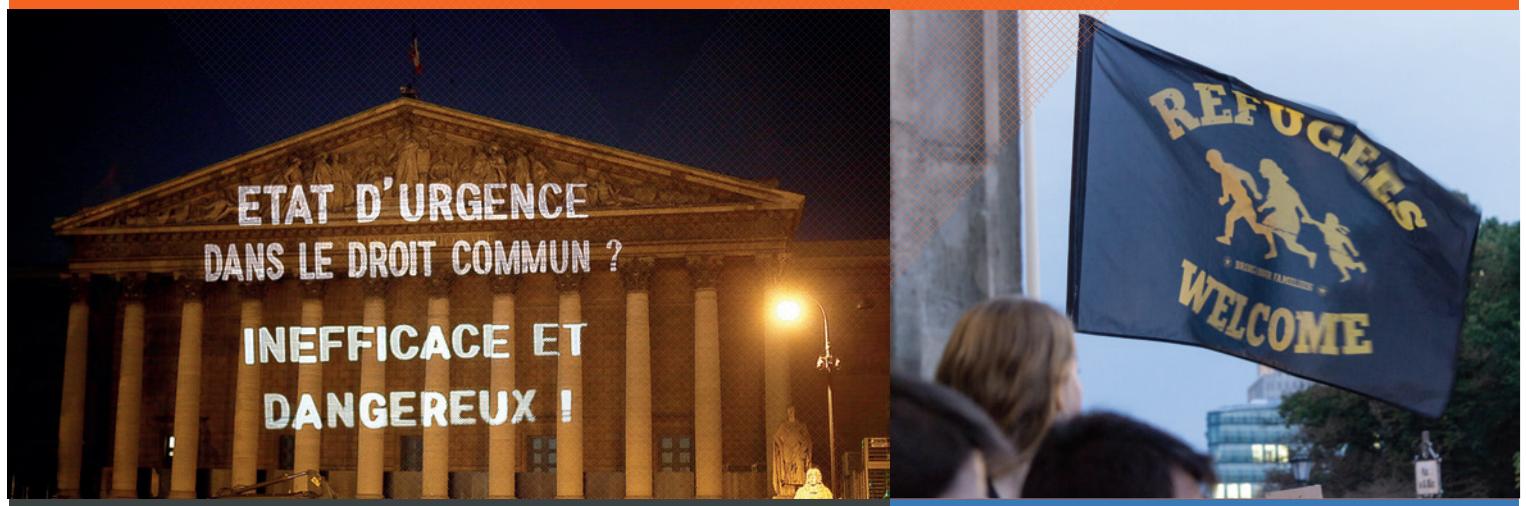


2017 Activity report



I. Editorial

VoxPublic exists and can celebrate its first year of full activity ! The fact that we exist, the fact that we were able to put theory into practice, are already wonderful achievements for those who were on the first steps of VoxPublic's adventure .

« One more association », some might say. Yes, but, when given a closer look, it appears that this association was born at a very peculiar moment of France political history, and proposes a peculiar way to take action.

Our time is affected by a worsening of social injustices and discrimination in every field. This serious threat on our democracy is escorted by a political inability to thwart those phenomena, that are weakening, a bit at a time, our institutions.

However, far from giving up, thousands of citizens are ready to fight, and to propose alternative solutions to the challenges our society meets today.

Devoting time, skills, and energy to help those daily, tangible, hopeful battles has been the cornerstone of VoxPublic's first year of activity. In a voluntary and collaborative spirit, the permanent team - supported by an Agora composed of fourty citizens engaged on multiple struggles - advises and supports a dozen civil society actors in order to strengthen their ability to act, but never does anything in their stead. Thus, VoxPublic tries to contribute to the multiplication of small and great victories.

VoxPublic first results demonstrate the relevance of this philosophy. It always starts with an application made by a potential partner, and, once agreed, this partnership can last weeks, months, or more. For instance, VoxPublic helped the association Genepi to keep their grant after they received threats by the public authorities to get their grant cut off as a consequence for their criticism towards French penitentiary policy. VoxPublic also helped a group of associations, worried about the drifts of the state of emergency, to get a meeting with French President of the Republic, Emmanuel Macron.

Other victories will be achievable by the civil society if we make advocacy strategies more effective, and if we learn to work together. The network « Anti-terrorism, rights and freedoms » as well as the success of the first AssoTech meeting, gathering *civic thec* actors and social activists, are proving us right.

Those are the first steps of a long path ; a path that will eventually lead us to bend policy decision-making, and empower those who will never give up on the idea to build a world in which social justice, along with unity, would be the cornerstone.

Nathalie Grimoud and Patrick Lamour,
co-chairpersons

II. Abstract

VoxPublic's reason to exist.

For a few years already, social injustices and discriminations are on the rise in France. French public authorities are failing to answer those issues with concrete and constructive measures. Instead, French institutions tend towards making those social injustices and discriminations even worse.

Fortunately, there are, in France, thousands of associations working towards social justice and minority inclusion. However, those associations, frequently experience difficulties when they want their truth to be heard by public authority. And this is where VoxPublic steps in.

VoxPublic's philosophy.

All along the year 2017, VoxPublic helped French associations to make their voices heard, to count in the public debate, by providing advices and supporting their campaigns through many ways, but with only one philosophy. Indeed, at VoxPublic, we have our heart set on working **with** the associations requiring our help, and not **in their stead**. Doing things this way is the cornerstone of VoxPublic's action. Yes, we want a society that would be more fair, more just ; but above all, we want each and every civil society organisation we meet to empower, to be able to claim and create this new society they want. It is with this mindset that we drove our 2017 actions.

To do things the way we wanted to, we first launched our website. Owing to our philosophy, this website could not just be a showcase for our actions. We wanted it to be a useful digital tool for everyone. Consequently, we created an online resource center in which we published directories containing means to contact congressmen, ministerial cabinets, journalists, and civil society organisations. Those directories are constantly updated, and allow citizens or civil society organisations to contact the people who matter on the topics they work on. Through those tools and its advices, VoxPublic allowed citizens and civil society organisations to contact policy makers more than 2000 times.

What were VoxPublic concrete actions in 2017 ?

2017 was a great year for us. It was our first year of existence, and yet, we managed to get some important achievements. For instance, in April 2017, the association « Genepi » was threatened to see its grant from the government cut off after a campaign condemning the situation in French prisons. The Genepi contacted VoxPublic to get help and advices in order to keep its grant. VoxPublic helped Genepi to build an advocacy strategy and a media campaign, to put the policy makers under pressure. A few weeks later, after the newspaper *Le Monde* published an article about the Genepi's situation, thanks to VoxPublic's help, the association managed to keep its grant.

Along advocacy advices and the resource center, VoxPublic also provides guidance regarding media strategy. In 2017, VoxPublic, in addition to the journalists directories (indexed by themes, such as justice, immigration, public health, etc.) helped associations reaching the media. To do so, we helped our partners writing their press releases, their notes to editorial boards, and their press kits. In total, VoxPublic participated to the development and broadcast of more than 20 files sent to the French or the international press. With VoxPublic's help, an association struggling for the rights of people with Asperger's syndrome managed to get a whole page in one of the most read French newspaper.

VoxPublic also helped civil society organisations to plan press conferences, which often are a decisive step in a media strategy. For example, VoxPublic helped organizing the press conference announcing the creation of the General Estates of Migrations. More than 20 journalists gathered, and the news of the creation of this movement was all around the press. As such, in 2017, VoxPublic helped organizing 4 press conferences, leading to 69 news articles published in the media. >>>

Bringing people together, so they can get stronger...

But we did not stop there. Following its will to empower citizens and civil society organisations, VoxPublic also wanted those organizations to work together, to combine forces, so they can get a more significant impact on policies. Furthermore, gathering together also increases the attention given by policy makers. As such, VoxPublic helped creating and animating 4 coalitions. The topics of those alliances are all linked to discriminations or social injustices. They were about anti-terrorism, ethnic profiling by police from, migrants rights, and access to law.

... and learn from each other.

Along those coalitions gathering experts and militants, VoxPublic also wanted to allow anti-discrimination activists and civic tech experts to meet, to share their knowledge, their expertise and their good practices, in order for them to benefit from each other capacities. 2017 has been a great year regarding this objective too. VoxPublic, with the help from Citizens for Europe, organized the first #Assotech meeting, whose theme was « Discriminations and social injustices : what numeric tools can we use to mobilize people concerned by those phenomena, defend their rights, and efficiently call out to policy makers about them ? ». To VoxPublic, there was an urge to make both those worlds meet, as they have so much to share. And this first #Assotech meeting was a success. All day long, activists and civic tech experts talked about their activities, and learnt from each other. « #Assotech : numeric good practices in volunteer work » the report has been downloaded more than a thousand times.

About what's next.

In the light of all those actions, 2017 has been a full and very good year for VoxPublic.

How about 2018 ? VoxPublic will keep on standing next to its partners, helping them struggling against discriminations and social injustices. 2018 started off strongly. We already helped our partner « Chantiers-Passerelles » promoting alternative sentences

to jail imprisonment, such as community service. VoxPublic are still strongly engaged with the General Estates of Migrations, helping associations promoting an alternative migration policy. We are also working on a second #Assotech meeting, that will take place in the Seine-Saint-Denis department, with the same spirit and objectives as the previous one.

How do we keep the lights on ?

If VoxPublic can thrive, it is thanks to private funds from foundations and individual donors. Among them, there are French foundations, such as « Un monde pour tous », as well as international foundations like Open Society Initiative for Europe, Zennström or Lush Foundation. Support from those foundations represented 78% of our resources. As for individual donations it represented 6% of it. VoxPublic also adds, in its summary of accounts, value to the work time of its board, and its agora. Most of our expenses are related to the support we provide to our partners and for the resource center on our website.

How does VoxPublic work ?

All of those actions VoxPublic lead would not be possible without its permanent team, as well as its board members, its Agora, or its community.

If the permanent team is the group that works daily to implement VoxPublic strategies, it feeds on the recommendations of its 7 board members. The Agora, composed of people working in multiple fields linked to VoxPublic's actions, acts as an internal think tank on which VoxPublic intends to lean in order to develop new reflexions or partnerships. As for the community, it is composed of people who wanted to join VoxPublic and support its actions everywhere in France. ■

III. Key numbers

In the year 2017,

14 PROJECTS HAVE BEEN SUPPORTED BY VOXPUBLIC.

Call on policy makers

2 000

MORE THAN 2,000 CONTACTS HAVE BEEN MADE BY OUR PARTNERS TO TARGETED POLICY-MAKERS (PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC, MINISTERS, CONGRESSMEN)

VoxPublic helped its partners get

- 1 MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC.
- 1 MINISTERIAL DECISION FAVOURABLE TOWARDS A PARTNER.
- 2 MEETINGS WITH CONGRESSMEN FOR EACH ACTION TARGETTING THE CONGRESS.
- INVOLVEMENT OF PARTNERS IN SEVERAL PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS.

Impact medias

22 PRESS RELEASES, PRESS NOTES, AND PRESS KITS SENT BY VOXPUBLIC.

4 PRESS CONFERENCES THAT GATHERED MORE THAN 50 MEDIA

69 ARTICLES PUBLISHED AFTER THOSE PRESS CONFERENCES

Shared
directories



577
deputies

348
senators



137
minister's private office
members



502
specialised journalists'
contacts



147
media contacts (news agency,
written press, radio, web, tv)



281
civil society
organisations

Réseaux sociaux et internet

3 PRESENT ON 3 SOCIAL NETWORKS,
VOXPUBLIC PLAYS DIFFERENT ROLES. WE
CAN HAVE A LOUDSPEAKER POSITION,
WE CAN SERVE AS AN ALERT-TOOL, OR
AS A TOOL TO CALL ON POLICY-MAKERS.

63 221

THIS WAS THE NUMBER OF SINGLE VISITS
ON OUR WEBSITE FROM ITS LAUNCH TO
DECEMBER 31ST 2017.



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