

FRENCH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

French expats vote online in 2012 legislative elections





- · Over 55% of expat voters chose the Internet voting channel over conventional voting channels.
- Online voting successfully used to directly elect 11 members of the national parliament.

The French Ministry of Foreign Affairs has successfully allowed the French citizens residing abroad to vote electronically during the 2012 national legislative elections by using the Internet voting solution provided by Scytl.

By offering remote Internet voting as a new voting channel in addition to postal and poll-site voting in 774 locations, France has become a leading country in allowing its expatriate voters to vote electronically during Parliamentary elections, paving the way for electoral innovation.

Marking a milestone in the History of e-Democracy

This project was implemented with the aim of securing full access to the right to vote to the French voters based abroad, who had been facing important hurdles to cast their votes such as long distances to reach the polling place, ballot papers being sent to the wrong address, hefty administrative procedures or postal delays.

During the two rounds that took place respectively from May 23 to 29 and from

June 6 to 12, over 240,000 votes were cast electronically, representing over 55% of the total votes cast to directly elect 11 members to the French national parliament. For the first time ever, the Internet represents the most important voting channel in a national election, marking a significant milestone in the History of e-Democracy.

Foolproof security

The online voting solution implemented by Scytl during the 2012 French Parliamentary elections was audited prior to the launching of the project by the French Security Agency (ANSSI) who has consistently found its security and technology to be accurate and reliable. Following the ANSSI evaluation and audit, both the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Interior announced the RGS Homologation of Scytl's Internet voting platform; being the first and only Internet voting solution to be 'RGS homologated' in France

Additionally, an independent auditing firm verified the compliance of Scytl's e-voting system with the recommendations of CNIL (French Personal Data Protection Agency).

Success Case / France 3



As requested by CNIL. Scytl used the datacenter of its partner ATOS to host the voting platform. This datacenter, located in Vendôme (France), is considered to be one of the most secured datacenters in Europe.

A progressive deployment of Internet voting

The use of Scytl's technology by the French Ministry of Foreign affairs started back in 2009 where Internet voting was implemented to allow more than 300.000 French citizens residing in Africa and America to cast elect their representatives to the Assemblée des Français de l'Etranger (AFE), an organization that directly elects 12 senators to represent the French living overseas.

In this election, where several voting channels had been provided, approximately 10% of the votes were cast over the Internet and

the overall participation increased by 2.2% in comparison with past elections. Following the success of this project, the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs decided to purchase a permanent Internet voting license to Scytl, allowing French citizens living in Mexico and Washington to vote again through the Internet during their 2010 partial elections of the AFE.

The implementation of Scytl's technology in France's 2012 legislative elections is therefore the culmination of a project started back in 2009 and which started with small scale implementation before a nationwide deployment in a political election. Scytl's technology will be implemented in future electoral processes involving the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Success Case /France

Testimonies

The availability, reactivity and professionalism demonstrated by Scytl's team has allowed us to conduct with success an election that, considering its scope and stakes, represented a leading milestone worldwide. Our experts, who audited Scytl's Internet voting system, Pnyx, before and during the election process, have all praised the quality and integrity of its cryptographic technology. On the other hand, their extensive experience as well as the continuous support we benefited from during the different phases of the project were of great value in such a sensitive election

David Perez
French Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
Director of the electronic
voting project

home and avoiding long queues at the Embassy. The voting process was smooth and kept the solemnit of traditional processes. I highly ecommend Internet voting and would be very pleased to use it in future elections.

Alain M., French voter in Colombia.

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Voting Trends by Constituencies

As mentioned previously, over 240,000 votes were cast electronically during the 2012 French legislative elections, representing over 55% of the total overseas votes. For the first time ever, the Internet represents the most important voting channel in a national election, marking a significant milestone in the History of e-Democracy.

The following charts represent the voting trends for the first and second rounds by geographical area.

First Round (Results expressed in %)







