

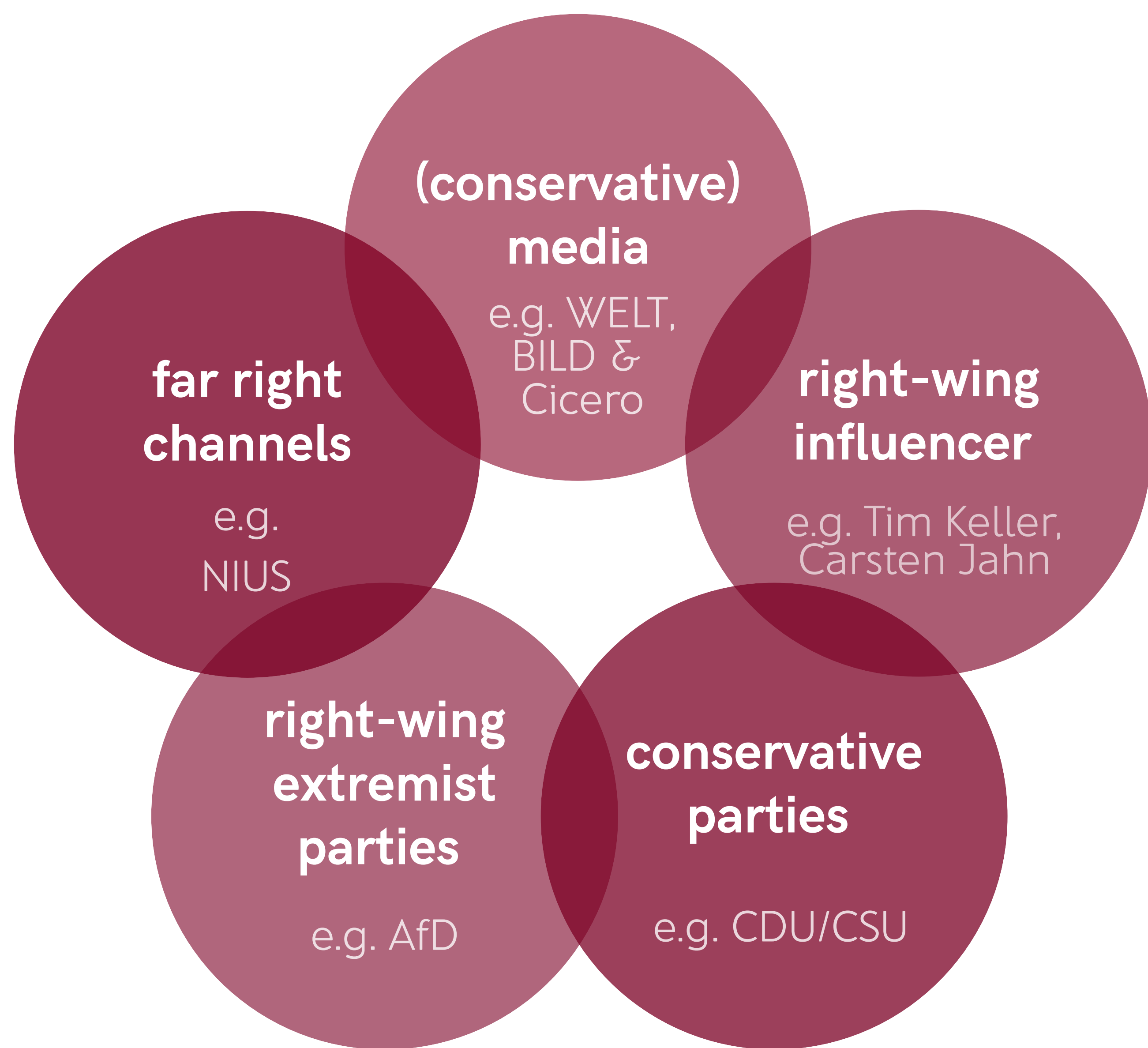
MAECENATA FOUNDATION

COUNTERING NGO-BASHING

The political role of CSOs is increasingly coming under political scrutiny. Right-wing critics in particular accuse them of exerting party political influence under the guise of charitable work – often allegedly funded through government grants.

Do CSOs have a political role? Should they receive public funding?

WHO?

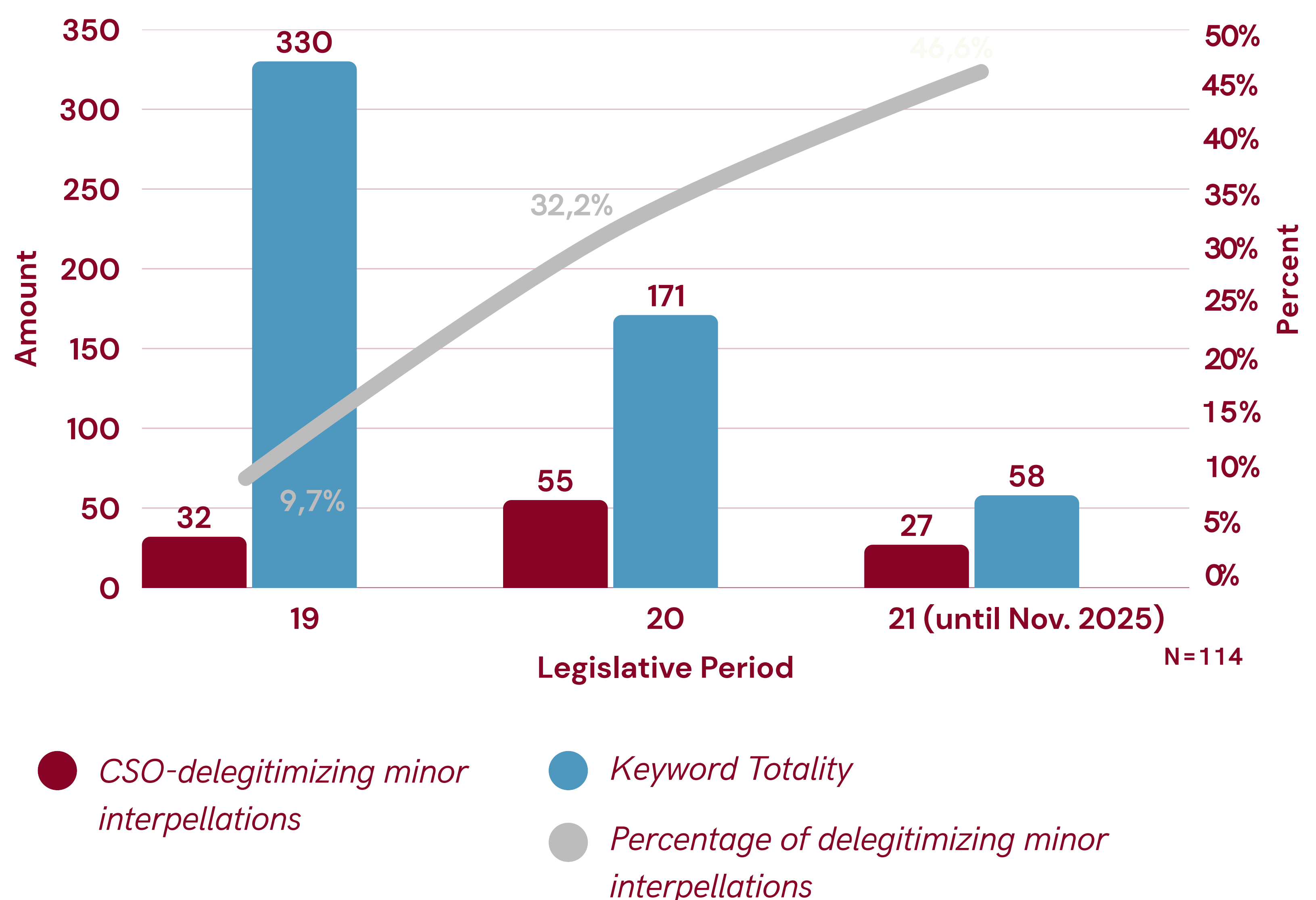


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PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRIES

Proportion of enquiries aimed at delegitimizing CSOs compared to the total number



Büttner, F., Hummel, S., & Nicke, S. (2026). Der Anti-NGO-Diskurs: Kleine Anfragen - große Wirkung? (Opuscula, 205).

ALLEGATIONS & FACTS

CSOs pursue left-wing politics.

Civil society is diverse.

CSOs have too much influence even though they are not elected.

CSOs have a watchdog-role.

CSOs are not transparent.

Many transparency and control mechanisms exist.

CSOs pursue their own interests and self-enrichment.

CSOs enjoy charitable status because they pursue public interest.

CSOs are funded by the tax payer.

CSOs have a broad mix of funding.

CSOs restrict freedom of expression.

There is no freedom of expression without CSOs.

WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT IT?

We assemble research based facts, raise awareness, spread information, engage in public discourse, provide arguments, participate in foundation solidarity:

- 20x publications in German
- 5x publications in English
- 11x podcast episodes
- 1x parliamentary hearing
- 1x open foundation letter
- >100 social media posts (LinkedIn)
- presentations, keynotes, panel discussions
- interviews with professional journalists