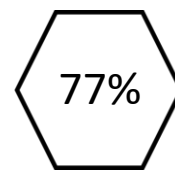


# Rousseau

<https://rousseau.movimento5stelle.it/>

Remit Score



## Who should use this?

- Political parties and movements that want more member participation and control
- Very large organisations that need a scalable tool capable of handling tens of thousands of users



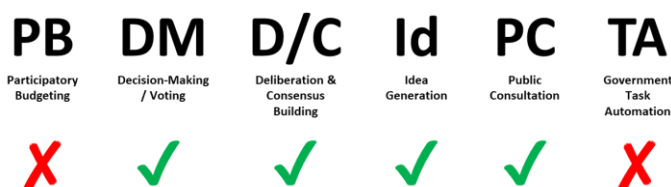
## Overview

Founded	2016
CEO	Davide Casaleggio
Clients	1

Rousseau is the brainchild of the late Gianroberto Casaleggio, a well-known visionary in Italy, who together with comedian Beppe Grillo founded the Movimento 5 Stelle (M5S or Five Star Movement), a political movement currently part of the Italian government coalition.

Now run by Gianroberto’s son Davide, Rousseau is used by members of the M5S to discuss and vote on the political policies of the movement and has had an impressive run, inter alia, setting the world record for most online votes on a single day when 80,000 members voted on the government coalition agreement. Rousseau is now looking to offer its services to movements in other countries.

## Scope of Offering



Rousseau has a number of different modules, all of which are designed to enable M5S’s members to influence the policy direction of the movement.

The module Lex Parlamento is used by M5S MPs to discuss proposed laws, while the Lex Iscritti function can be used by any member of the party to propose a new law. At pre-determined intervals, the two member proposals with the most votes on Lex Iscritti get taken to parliament. A third module facilitates the selection of candidates for political offices (thus far M5S has over 1,500 local councillors and 300 MPs). For the selection process, candidates can choose to display what M5S calls merits – badges displayed on their profile to indicate expertise in a certain area such as economics, energy, etc.

These merit badges can be obtained by verifying a relevant degree, showing evidence of work experience in a certain area, or by completing online courses on the website. These are then used to determine the order in which candidates are displayed for voting by members.

Those candidates who receive the greatest number of member votes are then selected to run for office on behalf of the movement, subject to a background check (e.g. no criminal record, etc.). Rousseau is also used by MS5 to create the party policy with members able to contribute ideas and vote on different policy proposals. Finally, Rousseau's eLearning module, with courses such as "How to be an MP", "How to read a public balance sheet", etc. seeks to make it easier for members to enter the political process.

## Mission / Vision

At the centre of Rousseau's vision is a quote from its founder, Gianroberto Casaleggio: "the web does not replace the physical place, but integrates and completes it".

Rousseau seeks to enhance this physical place with new models of citizen participation, collective intelligence and direct democracy. The platform has been particularly successful in turning online collaboration and engagement into offline engagement, with members of MS5 confirming that they also meet people they initially met on the platform in real life.

## Ability to Execute

While technically only serving one current customer (The 5-Star-Movement), Rousseau has done so on multiple governmental levels (local, regional, national, EU level) with hundreds of thousands of participants across the different areas of the platform. It has operated under great scrutiny both from the political establishment in Italy and abroad as well as its 187,000 certified platform users and millions of voters. As a consequence Rousseau is by no means a start-up, having evolved the platform in response to hundreds of real-life scenarios.

<b>Active Customers</b>	★ ★ ★
<b>Case Studies</b>	★ ★ ★
<b>Experience</b>	★ ★ ★
<b>Workforce</b>	★ ☆ ☆
<b>Sales Channels</b>	☆ ☆
<b>Social Media</b>	★ ★ ★
<b>USPs</b>	★ ★

Among Rousseau's greatest assets is its social media reach with close to 50,000 Facebook followers and 4,000 Twitter followers, as well as its highly professional marketing abilities.

## Security

Rousseau’s security setup can best be described as ‘battle-hardened’, owing to the large number of attempts which have been made to hack the platform (at some stage a weekly occurrence). Besides the usual https encryption of its website, Rousseau uses two-factor authentication (email + phone), locks all access to its databases while a vote is ongoing, and has each vote supervised and certified by a notary to ensure that the proper process was followed. Rousseau has also developed an internal algorithm that flags suspicious user activity on the platform.

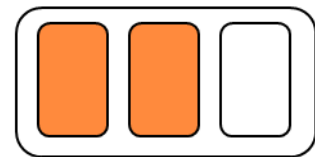
While Rousseau demonstrated a working model of porting their voting system to Blockchain at a Hackathon in 2019, it is not yet being used on their live platform.

<b>Encryption</b>	
<b>User Data</b>	
<b>Storage</b>	
<b>Blockchain</b>	n/a

## Standout Features

- One of the few solutions on the market that provides a constructive pathway for mass, digital governance and that meaningfully empowers people via traditional representative democratic structures
- Proven ability to handle tens or even hundreds of thousands of participants concurrently
- All-around functionality, including candidate selection, policy proposals, and scrutiny of laws

## Accessibility



Considered in implementation but no active certifications

## Client Feedback

As Rousseau is currently only implemented as the party-internal decision-platform for M5S, we spoke to party members who have used the platform. Overall, the feedback was extremely positive, with members commenting on how frequently Rousseau seeks feedback from members to improve the platform, the eLearning element of the site, as well as the underpinning security. Members tended to enthusiastically emphasize that Rousseau had fundamentally changed their relationship with politics and that they desired even more participation. One element members felt Rousseau could improve was to empower members generally to initiate votes on issues rather than having the initiative-power rest in a committee as is presently the case under M5S’s rules.

<b>Expectation Setting</b>	n/a
<b>Advice &amp; Guidance</b>	n/a
<b>Project Success</b>	★ ★ ★
<b>Customer Service</b>	★ ★ ★
<b>Feedback Loop</b>	★ ★ ★
<b>Recommendation</b>	★ ★ ★ ☆