



Supported by a grant from the Trust for Civil Society in Central and Eastern Europe

Advocacy for Access to Information – Achievements and Challenges Conference

June 15-16, 2012 Sofia City Hotel, Sofia

June 15, 2012

9:00 - 9:30

Registration of the participants

9:30 - 10:00

Opening – The Impact of Advocacy Work on Access to Information Practices

Ms. Gergana Jouleva – Executive Director of Access to Information Programme

Ms. Rositsa Totkova – Chief Secretary of the Ombudsman of Bulgaria – address on behalf of the National Ombudsman Mr. Konstantin Penchev

Ms. Tsveta Markova - Chairperson of the State Commission on Information Security

Ms. Ekaterina Boncheva – Member of the Committee for Disclosing the Documents and Announcing Affiliation of Bulgarian Citizens to the State Security and the Intelligence Services of the Bulgarian National Army

Ms. Rumiana Bachvarova – Coordinator for the OGP in Bulgaria, Head of the Cabinet of the Prime Minister of Bulgaria

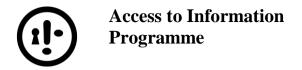
Morning Session

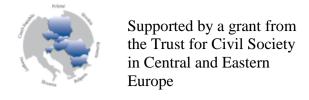
10:00 - 11:15

Access to Information Legislation – Achievements and Challenges for Advocates

Chair: Alexander Kashumov, Head of the Legal Team of Access to Information Programme

- Mr. Toby Mendel (Director of Center for Law and Democracy): Right to Information Rating
- Ms. Helen Darbishire (Director of Access Info Europe): Standard Setting on ATI: Successes and Challenges





- Mr. Tony Bunyan (Director of Statewatch): Threats to democratic accountability of the EU: Regulation (EC) 1049/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents
- Mr. Krzysztof Izdebski (SLLGO, Poland): Influence of PSI Directive Implementation on Access to Information

Discussion

11:15 - 11:45 Coffee break

11:45 - 13:00

Monitoring of Proactive Publication of Information by Government Bodies

Chair: Helen Darbishire, Access Info Europe

- Ms. Gergana Jouleva (Executive Director of Access to Information Programme, Bulgaria): Audit on the Active Transparency of Executive Bodies – A Tool for Advocacy
- Mr. Ivan Pavlov (Chair of the Board of the Freedom of Information Foundation, Russia): Web-Monitoring as a Tool to Promote Government Openness
- Mr. Gevorg Hayrapetyan (Freedom of Information Center of Armenia): Monitoring of proactive publication of information by government bodies in Armenia
- Mr. Levan Avalishvili (Institute for Development of Freedom of Information, Georgia): Results from Audits of Online Publication of Information by Public Bodies

Discussion

13:00 - 14:30 Lunch

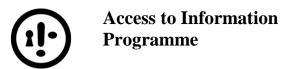
Afternoon session:

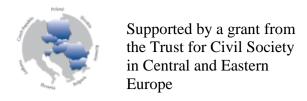
14:30 - 15:45

Access to Information for Campaigns and Public Participation

Chair: Kiril Terziiski, AIP Legal Team

• Mr. Alexander Dunchev (The Association of Parks in Bulgaria): Access to Information in the Campaign for the Conservation of Protected Areas in Bulgaria





- Mr. Petko Kovachev (Executive Director of the Green Policy Institute, Bulgaria): The Nuclear Power Plant Belene: Information Impossible
- Ms. Antoaneta Tzoneva (Institute for Public Environment Development, Bulgaria): Why Did the Minutes from the Sessions of the Bulgarian Central Election Committee Turn Into the X Files?
- Mr. Hristo Ivanov (Program Manager of the Bulgarian Institute for Legal Initiatives (BILI): Transparent Appointments for Independent Judges: Access to Information on Candidates for Judicial Appointments as a Tool for Civic Control That Furthers Judicial Independence
- Ms. Kalina Pavlova (Leader of a Grassroot group from the town of Varna): The Opportunities Which the Access to Public Information Act Opens for the Ordinary Citizens

Discussion

15:45 - 16:15 Coffee break

16:15 - 17:30

Access to Information and Journalistic Investigations

Chair: Nikolay Ninov, Coordinator of AIP network of journalists in the country

- Mr. Ivan Mihalev (Editor in Capital weekly): The Use of Public Registers in Journalistic Investigations
- Mr. Hristo Hristov (Founder of the web site <u>desebg.com</u> Former State Security Services): Advantages and Benefits of the Access to Public Information Act in Journalistic Investigations
- Ms. Lora Fileva (Journalist in Dnevnik daily): On the Road of (with) the Public Information
- Mr. Rossen Bossev (Journalist in Capital weekly): Tactics in Using the Access to Public Information Act as an Alternative to Litigation
- Mr. Zarko Marinov (Chief Editor of Otzvuk newspaper, town of Smolyan): Access to Information for Journalistic Investigations and the Challenges Before the Regional Media
- Mr. Tzvetan Todorov (Chief Editor of Naroden Glas newspaper, town of Lovech): The Visible and The Invisible in the APIA Search for Information in the Country or The Veiled Comedy of Government Refusing Transparency



Supported by a grant from the Trust for Civil Society in Central and Eastern Europe

Discussion

17:30 Closing

18:30 Cocktail Reception at the Restaurant of the Sofia City Hotel

June 16, 2012

Morning Session

10:00 - 11:00

Problems Arising from the Legal Help and Access to Information Litigation

Chair: Toby Mendel, Director of Center for Law and Democracy

- Mr. Alexander Kashumov (Head of AIP Legal Team, Bulgaria): Access to Information Litigation in Bulgaria Achievements and Tendencies
- Ms. Marija Petrovska (Foundation Open Society Macedonia): The Legal Help and Access to Information Litigation The Case of Macedonia
- Mr. Krzysztof Izdebski (SLLGO, Poland): Access to Public Information Created During Legislative Process
- Mr. Kiril Terziiski (AIP Legal Team, Bulgaria): AIP Cases Data Base

Discussion

11:00 - 11:30 Coffee break

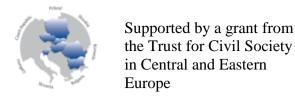
11:30 - 12:30

Public Awareness Campaigns

Chair: Fany Davidova, AIP

- Ms. ilke Dagli (Open Cyprus Project): The case of Cyprus: A bi-communal project
- Ms. Katarzyna Batko-Toluć (SLLGO, Poland): Fun for Freedom Getting People Involved





- Ms. Marija Petrovska (Foundation Open Society Macedonia): FOI Public Awareness Campaigns in Macedonia
- Mr. Nikolay Ninov, (AIP): AIP Coordinators' Network in the Country

Discussion

12:30 - 14:30 Lunch

Afternoon Session

14:30 - 15:30

Public Awareness Campaigns - The Right to Know Day

Chair: Alexander Kashumov, AIP

- Ms. Diana Bancheva (AIP): The Right to Know Day in Bulgaria
- Mr. Oldřich Kužílek (Open society p.b.a., the Czeck Republic): Open x Close Award
- Ms. Liana Doydoyan (FOICA, Armenia): FOI Public Awareness Campaign in Armenia

Discussion

15:30 - 16:00 Coffee break

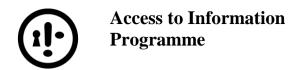
16:00-17:00

FOI Advocates and the Open Government Partnership

Chair: Gergana Jouleva, AIP, Bulgaria

- Ms. Helen Darbishire (Director of Access Info Europe): The Open Government Manifesto
- Mr. Giorgi Kldiashvili (Director of the Institute for Development of Freedom of Information, Georgia): Open Government Partnership and Georgia's Commitments
- Mr. Codru Vrabie (Romania): Romania's Road to OGP Accession
- Mr. Oldřich Kužílek (Open society p.b.a., the Czeck Republic): Open Data in the OGP Program

Discussion





Supported by a grant from the Trust for Civil Society in Central and Eastern Europe

17:00 – 17:30 Challenges before the FOI Advocates

Discussion

17:30 Closing