



*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 desebg.com – 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 Otzyuk newspaper, town of Smolyan): Access to Information for Journalistic Investigations and the Challenges Before the Regional Media***
- ***Mr. Tzvetan Todorov (Chief Editor of Narodn 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***



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-Tołuć (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 Kužilek (Open society p.b.a., the Czech 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 Kužilek (Open society p.b.a., the Czech Republic): Open Data in the OGP Program**

Discussion



**Access to Information
Programme**



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