

# **Access to Information Programme Foundation**

**Annual Report 2001**



**AIPF**

# **A narrative summary listing program progress, accomplishments and key issues of Access to Information Programme Foundation and Financial report For the period ended December 31, 2001**

## **1. Characteristic of the period**

The primary goal of the team of AIP during 2001 was to assist in the implementation of the Access to Public Information Act (APIA)

The team of AIP has concentrated their efforts (on several issues) in several main (important) directions

- To monitor and assist the process of adoption of modern legislation in Bulgaria, concerning the restrictions to the freedom of information.
- To monitor the practices of the implementation of APIA
- To provide legal assistance to citizens, NGOs and journalists in cases of refusals of access to information
- To clarify the norms of APIA and the international standards through civic education
- To constantly sustain a media campaign to clarify (explain) the standards in the field of access to information

## **Legislation**

Two draft acts, concerning freedom of information restrictions, were introduced for discussion in Parliament in 2001. Those were the Personal data Protection Draft Act and the draft for the Law on the Protection of Information, Classified as State or Official secret. An Amending Act to the Access to Public Information Act and a draft for an Act on the Protection of the Environment were also introduced in Parliament.

The legal team of Access to Information Programme prepared comments on the draft acts in every stage of the debate and presented these comments through the media for public discussion.

## **Monitoring and work with the public institutions**

After the parliamentary elections in June 2001 AIP has distributed its annual report "The Current Situation of the Access to Public Information in Bulgaria" among all members of Parliament and to the Information and Public relations department of the new government. In September 2001 AIP together with the Agency for Socio-Economic Analyses prepared and started a survey "Fulfillment of the Obligations under APIA of the Bodies of the Executive power". The goal of the survey was to outline the problems concerning the implementation of APIA one year after its adoption. The survey itself and the principal results were presented to the media and to state officials in the beginning of 2002.

## **Legal assistance**

In 2001 the team of AIP continued to provide written consultations in cases of information refusals, which are received in the office through our network of twenty-six coordinators from twenty-six regional towns. The number of consulted cases has increased, similarly to

the number of people, who have visited the office of AIP seeking assistance when seeking information, writing APIA requests, or when appealing refusals of information to the court.

### **Educational seminars**

The demand for the services provided by AIP in the process of education on APIA has increased. Simultaneously, our resources for the organization of such trainings have decreased. Some of the projects for education, which we prepared during the last year, were not supported by the donors. Representatives from the team of AIP have lectured in trainings and seminars, arranged by other organizations. Those lectures were in most cases not paid for. We had to choose either to participate in such discussions without payment, or not to participate at all, and thus to miss the opportunity to introduce the norms of APIA to a wider range of people. The ratio between the trainings organized by AIP to those in which AIP team members have participated as lecturers is one to five.

### **Media campaign**

The team of AIP has been in permanent contact with the media to announce events, concerning the freedom of information. The web site of AIP was reconstructed and well maintained during the last year.

### **Achievements by fields of activities**

#### Monitoring and assistance in the legislation process

During the year 2001 the team of AIP has prepared comments on draft acts, concerning the regulation of the right to information and the restrictions of this right. These comments were sent to the drafting workgroups or to the parliamentary committees, to which the draft acts were appointed. All these comments were presented on public discussions or propagated through the media. Part of our suggestions was taken into account before the introduction of the acts into Parliament.

During the last year the legal team of AIP has gathered twenty times to discuss the comments on the draft acts, the cases of information refusals received in our office, the court appeals and other problems, concerning the implementation of APIA.

Access to Information Programme has organized two public discussions by jurists on the problems with the implementation of APIA

Access to Information Programme was invited by the Parliamentary Information Center as a co-organizer of a public discussion of the draft for the Law on the Protection of Information, Classified as State or Official Secret (LPICSOS). The discussion was held on October 30, 2001. Alexander Kashumov, Gergana Jouleva and Fany Davidova presented the comments of AIP on the two draft acts for LPICSOS, introduced in Parliament.

The comments of AIP on the Amending Act to the Access to Public Information Act waer also taken into account when the act was introduced by a group of MPs.

### **Monitoring of the practices**

The monitoring of the practices of the implementation of the Access to Public Information Act has been accomplished by systematization of the monthly reports of our coordinators. These reports contained cases of information refusals from twenty six regional towns of Bulgaria. The total number of consulted cases for the previous year is 502.

From September 25, 2001 to October 30, 2001 AIP and the Agency for Socio-economic Analyses conducted the survey "Fulfillment of the Obligations under APIA of the Bodies of the Executive power". The survey covered 363 institutions. The report on the survey was published in English and in Bulgarian and presented in front of state officials and to the media.

### **Legal assistance**

The 502 cases of information refusals received by AIP have been consulted and commented. The cases and the comments have been distributed through our network of coordinators in the whole country (see Attachment 1).

1. Total number of consulted cases - 502
2. Number of written consultations – 409
3. Help provided in writing an APIA request- 46
4. Court appeals - 24
5. Number of consultations over the phone – 10
6. Number of consultations by e-mail - 7
7. Number of consultations in the office of AIP – 6<sup>1</sup>

During the year 2001 refusals of different state bodies to supply information were appealed to the court. The preparations of the court appeal and the legal actions are provided by AIP

Number of cases<sup>2</sup> – 24

1. Number of enforced decisions – 1
2. Number of appealed decisions – 2
3. Number of enforced rulings on admissibility – 2
4. Number of appealed rulings on admissibility – 2
5. Number of not appealed rulings on admissibility - 1
6. Number of cases ended with a friendly settlement– 2
7. Number of cases waiting for decision – 3
8. Number of appointed cases – 4
9. Number of terminated cases – 1
10. Number of appeals written – 3
11. Number of appeals pre – 4
12. Number of ceased preliminary investigations - 1

### **Training seminars**

The total number of seminars, conferences, and workshops in which members of AIP have taken part as lecturers is fifty-seven. Ten of them were organized by AIP. The number of the participants in the training meetings during 2001 was 1037 (see Attachment 2).

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<sup>1</sup> The help provided to citizens, NGOs and journalists in writing an APIA request often included numerous consultations in the office of AIP, by mail, and over the phone. Thus, the number of people that have come to our office, for example, is significantly larger than six.

<sup>2</sup> The number of cases is smaller than the sum of all categories, because some cases may fall into more than one category

## **Media campaign**

Publications in printed media - 67 (see Attachment 3).

Participation of AIP members in radio and TV shows - 33 (see Attachment 4).

## **2. Achievements by projects**

During the last year the team of Access to Information Programme has worked on the following projects:

**Advocacy and judicial review for the implementation of the APIA** financially supported by Open Society Foundation - Sofia

The main goal of the project was to assist the process of the implementation of APIA. This goal was achieved through:

- Discussions within a wider circle of jurists, focused on problems concerning the cases of information refusals that we have received, and problems which arose when we appealed these cases to the court;
- Monitoring and summary of the practices of implementation of APIA by the institutions;
- Building a network of lawyers in the country in order to provide assistance in specific cases of information refusals locally;
- Constant dissemination of our achievements through the media and especially on the website of AIP

### **We have achieved the following results:**

In February we organized a discussion on the problems of the implementation of APIA. Twenty-five people took part in the discussion, among them lawyers, judges and university professors of law. The materials from this discussion were published as a brochure and distributed through our network of coordinators. A permanent expert group was formed whose objective was to discuss specific cases received by AIP and problems arising in the course of the legal proceedings. This group also prepared comments on draft acts, concerning the freedom of information in Bulgaria.

The results from the discussion and the comments of the experts were presented on a meeting of the AIP team with our coordinators and lawyers from twenty six regional towns of Bulgaria in mid October 2001.

On this meeting we also discussed the possibility to form teams, which would provide legal assistance locally throughout the country.

The team of AIP was willing to participate in discussions and workshops on APIA, organized by unions of jurists in the country. We proposed to PIOR to organize trainings under APIA, but they didn't manage to organize the trainings, with the exception of the "Open door day of the Regional court in Varna". Alexander Kashumov presented the experience of AIP on that event.

During the summer of 2001 we started the preparation of the survey "Fulfillment of the Obligations under APIA of the Bodies of the Executive Power - One Year Later"

The survey was conducted in September and October 2001. The results were presented in front of the media and the institutions and were published in the beginning of 2002.

The results indicate that there is a need for constant assistance in the process of information seeking and support for the positive practices of the implementation of APIA. One of the most important recommendations of the surveyed officials was to provide training on APIA and to exchange the experience gathered in the implementation of the act.

The cases of information refusals, which we comment and consult, helped us formulate the problems, arising when applying the Access to Public Information Act, and when applying other practices of the freedom of information. Each month all cases and the corresponding comments are distributed through our network of coordinators in the country. The number of APIA requests, registered in our office for the last year is 46. Most of them were prepared with the help of members of our team.

All comments on draft acts were published on the web site of AIP. Description of the court appeals and timely information about training seminars and presentations of AIP were also published on the web site.

The appeals of information refusals, comments of the group of experts on draft acts introduced in Parliament and the results from the survey were well presented in the media.

In 2001 the project "Public Campaign for Access to Information Legislation" was completed. The project was financially supported by the Netherlands Organization for International Development Cooperation (NOVIB). We published the first annual report "The Current Situation of Access to Information in Bulgaria". The report was published in Bulgarian (1000 copies) and in English (500 copies) and distributed among institutions, NGOs, media, and partner organizations. On a meeting with our coordinators in March 2001 we evaluated our achievements and discussed the main directions of the work of AIP.

In June 2001 we launched the project "**Monitoring and Civic Education on APIA Implementation**" financially supported by NOVIB. The main goal of this project is to continue to monitor the implementation of APIA. This will be achieved through maintaining and developing our network of coordinators and through educating NGOs representatives to actively practice their rights under APIA.

#### **Results that we have achieved so far:**

In July 2001 we organized a workshop with NGO representatives from all over the country. On this meeting we presented the norms of APIA and discussed the cases, when citizens and NGOs– with the help of AIP lawyers - have appealed refusals to grant information by the obliged institutions.

In September 2001 we organized a meeting with our coordinators. Currently, AIP has coordinators in every regional town in Bulgaria. These coordinators collect cases of information refusals and send them to our office. After the cases are commented by two of our jurists, they are distributed in the country through our network.

We are currently preparing the annual report "The Situation of the Access to Information in Bulgaria in 2001"

This project ends in November 2002

In September 2001 we started the project "**Freedom of Information Litigation**" financially supported by the Open Society Institute– Budapest. The objective of the project was to cover the costs for fifteen appeals to the court in cases of public interest when access to information has been refused. Another goal of the project is to prepare, publish and distribute a manual, which summarizes the experience of AIP gained from the lawsuits. This experience will also be shared with our partner organizations on a three-day meeting.

#### **Main activities, provided in the project**

- Ø To prepare and file fifteen appeals to the court and to provide legal actions afterwards;

- Ø To prepare, publish and distribute a manual, summarizing the experience that AIP will have gained from litigation;
- Ø To organize a three-day regional workshop with partner organizations and to share our experience with them

By December 2001 twenty appeals were discussed, written and prepared for hearing in the court. The appeals and the progress of the lawsuits are presented on the web site of AIP. The legal team of AIP discusses on their regular meeting the cases received in the office and the possibilities of submitting court appeals.

We have started to discuss the structure of the manual, which will summarize the experience of AIP.

### **Partner projects in 2001**

#### **Project: "Practical Access to Democracy in Central and Eastern Europe"**

**Financial support provided by:** European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights /European Commission/ ARTICLE 19

**Goal of the Project:** To extend the possibilities of NGOs in five Central and East-European countries to work towards increasing the popularity of freedom to information and freedom of expression issues.

Article 19 will work in cooperation with nine NGOs from Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Montenegro and Romania and will focus on two important issues, concerning the freedom of expression:

1. Litigation about offence and defamation, which continues to be one of the basic means, used by the bodies of executive power to suppress criticism against them;
2. Freedom of information legislation. Under proper circumstances, the presentation and education on the act, regulating the freedom of information can present greater possibilities to citizens to take part in the democratic processes.

The project was launched in the year 2000. During 2001 AIP actively carried out its obligations on the project. We organized:

A workshop with the project team in February 2001 in Sofia to educate the administration on APIA. Sixty-seven representatives from the bodies of both central local executive power were present.

Members of the AIP team took part in seminars in Budva (Montenegro) in May 2001 and in Bucharest (Romania) in October 2001 in the frame of the project. Draft acts for freedom of information in these countries were discussed on both meetings. AIP prepared comments on the presented in Montenegro Model Act for Freedom of Information.

Two handbooks on APIA were translated in English and distributed in order to serve the activities of our partner organizations. These were the guide for citizens "how to Get Access to Information" and "How to Apply APIA – Guide for the Local Administration".

We are currently preparing a second education on APIA for state officials.

Partner project between the Bulgarian Media Coalition (BMC) and AIP "**Public education on APIA**", financially supported by ProMedia, USAID.

During the last year Access to Information Programme, as a member of BMC, has worked in cooperation with other member organizations to increase the popularity of APIA and the awareness of the citizens of their rights. We have also prepared expert comments on The

Personal Data Protection Act (PDPA) and the Law on the Protection of Information, Classified as State or Official Secret and have presented them on discussions, seminars and training meetings. In the frame of this project we presented our comments on PDPA and LPICSOS and the court appeals in front of the media in November 2001. Members of the AIP team have lectured in all of the six training seminars of BMC in the country “Professional relationships between NGOs and the media”

Since its establishment AIP actively co-operates with NGOs working on environmental issues. AIP offers them free legal assistance in cases when access to environmental information is refused. In 2001 AIP was invited by InfoEcoClub –Vraca as a partner in a project called “**Healthy Environment - a Constitutional Right**” AIP members have made a commitment to provide legal assistance and to take legal actions in cases when environmental information has been refused. AIP experts also took part in the preparation and presentation on public discussions of comments on the draft Act on the Protection of the Environment.

### **Partnerships with other organizations**

#### **AIP works actively with the following organizations to organize education meetings with the following organizations**

Association of the Rhodope Municipalities  
Center for the Development of Buhovo Town  
Foundation for Local Government Reform  
Regional Municipality Administration “Tracia”  
National Association “Legal Initiative for Local Government”  
Transparency International - Sofia  
ABA CEELI - Sofia  
Association of the Experts on Communications in the Municipalities  
Nova Zagora Municipality  
Karnobat municipality  
Union of Journalists in Bulgaria

#### **AIP actively cooperates with other NGOs, providing them legal advice when they seek information:**

Center for Independent Living  
Institute for Market Economics  
Environmental organizations  
Civic Observer association

#### **AIP actively cooperates with other NGOs by preparing publications for their bulletins, publications and reports:**

Foundation for Local Government Reform  
Institute for Market Economics  
National Association “Legal Initiative for Local Government”  
Association of the Experts on Communications in the Municipalities  
UNDP – Annual report

### **Institutional development**

During the last year the board of AIP has conducted two regular meetings. On February 15, 2001 the statute of AIP was changed to reflect the changes in the Non-profit Organizations Act. Two new members of the board were accepted - Konstantin Palikarski and David Krush. Gergana Jouleva was elected executive director and Dimitar Totev was elected chairmen of the board.

The achievement report of AIP for 2000 was approved, so were the budget and the work plan for 2001.

On its meeting on October 31, 2001 the board approved the intermediate report and the model budget for 2002 and accepted the request of Yonko Grozev to leave the board.

In February, 2001 the AIP Foundation was audited for the year 2000. Now we are sending the auditor's report for 2000.

Currently eight people work in the office of AIP: the executive director, an accountant, three lawyers, a coordinator of our countrywide network, a coordinator of the projects, and a computer specialists, who maintains the web site and our database.

Each Monday the teams plans their activities for the coming week, based on the monthly work plan and on all projects.

AIP needs a secretary - office coordinator.

In 2001 AIP expanded the network of coordinators and currently we have a coordinator in every regional town in Bulgaria.

During the last year we organized three meetings with our coordinators on which we discussed concrete (specific) problems, connected with the work of our organization.

### **Development strategy**

The experience of AIP from last year has indicated that we have correctly identified the strategic directions for the development of the services, provided by AIP after the adoption of APIA. These services are:

Monitoring of the legislation

Monitoring of the practices

Legal assistance in cases, when the rights of access under APIA has been violated

Civic education on APIA

Permanent media campaign for freedom of information

We believe that in conjunction with these main directions of our work, which are financially supported by projects, AIP has to start offering paid services.

The members of the AIP team have established themselves as experts in the field of freedom to information not only in Bulgaria, but also in the region.

We consider a great asset of our team the experience we have gained in the campaign for the adoption of APIA and while monitoring its practices. We think that sharing this experience will be an important part of the activities of the organization in the following years.

### **Attachments:**

1. Organization's Financial Statements For the period ended 31 December 2001
2. List of publications and Media Coverage of AIP work in 2001
3. List of participations in radio and TV shows of members of AIP in 2001
4. List of seminars, workshops, conferences organized by AIP or in which AIP' representatives has lectured in 2001
5. Statistics form the Database of AIP for the year 2001

**ACCESS TO INFORMATION PROGRAMME****Organization's Financial Statements For the period ended 31 December 2001****Statement of net changes in net assets for the year ended 31 December 2001**

<i>In BGN</i>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2000</b>
<b>Revenue from grants, contributions and projects</b>	<b>250232</b>	<b>141936</b>
-Novib	77389	23136
-Charles Stewart Mott Foundation	56984	61018
-Open Society Foundation-Sofia	77869	-
-Article 19 - London	11174	5628
-Open Society Institute - COLPI	2333	25230
-Promedia	17523	13516
-GMF&IME	-	5043
-Phare 98/361/001	-	3908
-Other contributions	6960	4457
<b>Expenses on grants, contributions and project:</b>	<b>(231718)</b>	<b>(259593)</b>
-Salaries and benefits	79239	35806
-Honoraria and benefits	71072	94658
-Hired services	73288	120571
-Supplies and consumable	5203	8558
- Other expenses	2916	
<b>Gross excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditure</b>	<b>18514</b>	<b>(117657)</b>
<b>Foreign exchange gains – net</b>	<b>5716</b>	<b>8257</b>
-exchange rate gains from operation	17386	24658
-exchange rate losses from operation	(11670)	(16401)
<b>Interest income</b>	<b>2064</b>	<b>4220</b>
<b>Other financial expenses</b>	<b>(844)</b>	<b>(630)</b>
<b>Net excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditure</b>	<b>25450</b>	<b>(105810)</b>
<b>Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditure for the year</b>	<b>25450</b>	<b>(105810)</b>
Accumulated excess of revenue over expenditure brought forward	<b>67158</b>	<b>172968</b>
<b>Unrestricted fund balances at 31 December 2001</b>	<b>92608</b>	<b>67158</b>

## ACCESS TO INFORMATION PROGRAMME

### Balance sheet as at 31 December 2001

<i>In BGN</i>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2000</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>	<b>155845</b>	<b>72889</b>
<b>Receivables</b>	<b>9275</b>	<b>919</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>142163</b>	<b>70451</b>
<b>-At bank</b>	<b>137664</b>	<b>68062</b>
-In local currency	11696	913
-In foreign currency	125968	67149
<b>-In hand</b>	<b>4499</b>	<b>2389</b>
-In local currency	1941	6
-In foreign currency	2558	2383
<b>Deferred expenses</b>	<b>4407</b>	<b>1519</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>	<b>55058</b>	<b>46822</b>
<b>Property, plant and equipment</b>		
-Computers, printers etc.	39031	35368
-Fixture & fittings	13199	9601
<b>Intangible fixed assets</b>	<b>2828</b>	<b>1853</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>210903</b>	<b>119711</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Payables</b>	<b>6846</b>	<b>4512</b>
Payables to the budget	999	2163
Salaries	467	-
Social security payable	-	614
Payables to suppliers	5380	1735
<b>Deferred revenue</b>	<b>111449</b>	<b>48041</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>118295</b>	<b>52553</b>
<b>Unrestricted fund balance</b>	<b>92608</b>	<b>67158</b>

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Svetlana Ganevska-Accountant

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Gergana Jouleva-Executive Director

## Publications and Media Coverage of AIP work in 2001

1. February 01, 2001 "Dnevnik" newspaper, Sofia, interview with Alexander Kashamov and Fani Davidova concerning APIA.
2. February 07, 2001 "Informational bulletin of Foundation for Local Government Reform (FLGR)", issue 2 - interview with Gergana Jouleva
3. February 27, 2001 "Dnevnik" newspaper, Sofia "The rallies before Bulgarian National Radio are going to stop. Journalist from BNR asked AIP for assistance "
4. February 8–14, 2001 "Week" newspaper, Sliven, a commentary from Veselina Sedlarska, AIP's coordinator concerning a refusal of information
5. February 2001 "Bulletin of Association of Rodopy Municipalities", issue 1, "The bodies of the local government are obligated to give access to information"
6. March 26, 2001 "Trud" newspaper, Sofia "People from the capital put on trial the state for refused information", Adelina Deliiska, AIP's coordinator.
7. March 30, 2001 "Dnevnik" newspaper, Sofia "The Ministry of Finance is the institution that refuses information most often", Galina Ganeva, Shoumen
8. IME bulletin "Economic Policy Review", issue 19, April 2001, "Orders and access to public information", Alexander Kashumov
9. "Informational bulletin FLGR", issue 4, 2001, "Information – a strategic capital of the municipality".
10. "Bulletin of the Association of PR specialists", "The Access to Public Information Law – possibilities for more transparency within the government", Gergana Jouleva.
11. "Mediapool", "Freedom of information is the only guarantee for political transparency", Marina Karakonova, 14.06.2001
12. "Spektar", Silistra, 26.06.2001 – "Access to Information Programme reached Silistra", information about AIP and its newly appointed coordinator in the region
13. "Utro", Rousse, 23-24. 06. 2001 "Access to Information Programme reached Silistra", information about AIP and its newly appointed coordinator in the region
14. "Sabesednik", Silistra, 25.06.2001 "Access to Information Programme reached Silistra", information about AIP and its newly appointed coordinator in the region, Cvetana Ignatowa
15. "Reporter dnes", Karjali, 02.07.2001 "Public information is the citizens right not the official's discretion"
16. "Yantra dnes", Veliko Tarnovo, 04.07.2001 "One year later – the public information after the adoption of APIA", Veselka Venkova
17. "Dobrudzanska tribuna", Dobrich, 04.07.2001 "Our civil society is learning to exercise its right to information", Liudmila Gospodionva
18. "Shumenska zaria", Shumen, 10.07.2001 "Access to Information – one year with the law in hand", Bojidara Dimova
19. "Sapernik", Pernik, 10.07.2001, "Citizens have the right to information", Yana Todorova

## Publications and Media Coverage of AIP work in 2001

20. "Ustrem", Glavinica municipality, Silistra region, 18.07.2001, "Resolved problems in hot weather – Access to Information Programme reached Silistra region", Tzvetana Ignatova
21. "Sabesednik", Silistra, 02-09.07.2001, "Access to Information Programme reached Silistra", Liuben Antonov
22. "Sedmica", Sliven, 12-18.07.2001, "Access to Information Programme - the Law one year later" Veselina Sedlarska
23. "Kompas", Bourgas, 26.07.2001, "Institutions are obligated to give information. The law opens the secrets of bureaucracy", Radka Baleva
24. "Trud", Sofia, 27.07.2001 г., "State officials refuse access to information", Adelina Deliiska
25. BTA, Sofia, 27.07.2001 "Our rights under APIA – How to be exercised" information in the "News" section
26. Bluelink.net, 27.07.2001 information on the site for the AIP seminar "Our rights under APIA – How to be exercised"
27. "Tundza", Jambol, 19.07.2001 – "APIA protects the public officials"
28. "Sakar", Topolovgrad, 18.07.2001 – "APIA is not only for journalists"
29. "Elhova дума", Elhovo, 25.07.2001 – "APIA is not only for journalists"
30. "Telegraf", Sliven, 16.07.2001 г. – "APIA protects the public officials. They have stopped to give information in accordance with their duties"
31. "Lovech press", Lovech 16 – 18. 07.2001 –" The authorities continue to refuse information without motives and on personal discretion. Administration treats the persons who request information as inferiors"
32. "Stremlenie", Lovech, 24 – 30. 07.2001, "Officials are obligated under law to give information to citizens"
33. "Nova Bulgaria", Kiustendil, 30.07.2001 – "The Public Right to Know"
34. "Capital" 18-24.08.2001 – "Refuses of information led to 15 court appeals"
35. "Dunav Ekspres", Vidin, 10.08.2001, "Pilot survey of Access to Information Programme"
36. "Sedmica", Sliven, 05.09. –12.09.2001, "The TEC director refuses information to "Sedmica"
37. "Pozvanete", Varna, 16.08.2001, "Access to information the right that we don't exercise much", Bistra Varneva
38. "Pozvanete", Varna, 16.08.2001, "Officials examine the practices under APIA"
39. "Mont Press", Montana, 11-12.09.2001, "The citizens right to information is a Constitutional right"
40. "National Business Post", Stara Zagora, 17.07.2001 "APIA one year later"
41. BTA, Sofia, 10.09.2001 "AIP will develop a national network of jurists", preliminary information about AIP seminar
42. BTA, Sofia, 14.09.2001, "A foundation works for the citizens right to information", an interview with the AIP Executive director Gergana Jouleva, Liubomir Jordanov
43. "Standart", 15.09.2001 г. "444 refusals of information for one year made by public officials"
44. Information in "Capital" newspaper, September 22-28, 2001 "Access to information programme issued the handbook "Problems in the Implementation of APIA"

## Publications and Media Coverage of AIP work in 2001

45. "Trud", "Sofianec", Sofia, 01.10.2001, "Ecologists sue the municipality for refused information" author Adelina Deliiska
46. Legal bulletin of National Association Legal Initiative for Local Government" – June 2001. "Access to Public Information Law – possibilities for more transparency in government", author Gergana Jouleva, AIP Executive Director
47. AIP publication: "Access to Information and local media – 2", Sofia 2001. The book contains an information for the project "Legal assistance for journalists and NGO and access to information", supported by Open Society Foundation – Sofia
48. AIP publication: "The current situation of the Access to Public Information in Bulgaria", Sofia 2001 – annual report prepared by AIP, in the frames of the project Promotion of Freedom of Information Legislation supported by Novib
49. AIP publication: "Problems in the Implementation of APIA", Sofia 2001 – the book is prepared by AIP team in the frames of the project Advocacy for the implementation of APIA and judicial review, supported by Open Society Foundation – Sofia
50. Civil participation in the government. From individuals toward citizens – annual report of UNDP, Sofia 2001, Gergana Jouleva, co-author of the report
51. "Trud", "Sofianec", Sofia 29.10.2001, "Municipality officers suffer from corruption", author Adelina Deliiska
52. "Dnevnik", Sofia 31.10.2001 "National Assembly, the Government and the Court without access to state secrets", author Hristo Hristov
53. "Dnevnik", Sofia 02.11.2001 "There will be a strainer for the state and NATO secrets", "The European standards for protection of classified information maybe overruled and administration work – bloked", author Hristo Hristov
54. "Mediapool", 02.11.2001, "Bulgarian economy – protected again with state secret classification", author Alexander Kashumov
55. "Economic Policy Review", copy 47, November 2001, "The state business interests protected with state secret", author Alexander Kashumov
56. "Municipality news", municipality Sitovo, October, 2001. "Institutions from Silistra participated in national survey"
57. "Utro", Rousse, 27-28.10.2001, "10 local institutions were intervied about the implementation of APIA procedures".
58. "Ustremem", Glavnica municipality, 25.10.2001, "Institutions from Silistra participated in national survey"
59. BTA, Sofia 16.11.2001 Access to Information Programme presents comments on the Personal Data Protection and Law for the protection of classified information drafts.
60. "Dnevnik", Sofia, 16.11.2001 "Foundation wants a public register of the secrets"
61. News.bg, USAID will present Access to Information Programme, 16.11.2001
62. "Capital", Sofia, 17-23.11.2001 "Amendments in the Access to Public Information Law are prepared", author Velislava Popova
63. "Trud", "Sofianec", Sofia, 19.11.2001 "Economists bring to trial the National health insurance fund", author Adelina Deliiska, Dimitrina Kirilova
64. "Republica", Sofia, 13.11.2001, "The report and the national security", Alexander Kashumov's opinion cited in editorial comment.

## Publications and Media Coverage of AIP work in 2001

65. “Duma”, Sofia, 20.11.2001 r. “20 court cases for refusal of information go into the court”, author Hristo Hristov
66. “Trud”, Sofia 18.11.2001, “Amend the Access to Public Information Act”
67. “Media world” magazine, December 2001, interview with the AIP Executive Director Gergana Jouleva
68. AIP publication: "Fulfilment of the obligations under APIA by the bodies of the Executive Power", Sofia 2001 – the book is prepared by AIP team in the frames of the project Advocacy for the implementation of APIA and judicial review, supported by Open Society Foundation – Sofia

## AIP participation in Radio and TV Programs 2001

1. January 15, 2001 – Radiocenter Gabrovo, “The PR hour” interview with Peter Simeonov AIP’s coordinator in Gabrovo.
2. January 26, 2001 Cable TV “Foton K” interview with Gergana Jouleva concerning the AIP’s participation in a seminar organized in Smolian
3. January 26, 2001 Cable TV “Rodopy SAT+” interview with Gergana Jouleva concerning the AIP’s participation in a seminar organized in Smolian
4. February 07, 2001 Bulgarian National Radio “Horizont do obed” interview with Fani Davidova concerning the newly adopted code for state servants.
5. 18.04.2001 CT “Evrokom” interview with Gergana Jouleva concerning the APIA implementation and the forthcoming elections.
6. 17.05.2001 BNT “The mission is Possible” presentation of AIP work
7. 29.05.2001 BTV “This morning” interview with Gergana Jouleva where she presented the annual report on APIA
8. 02.07.2001, 18.30-19.00 TV 2001 interview with Alexander Kashumov – presentation of AIP.
9. 10.15 – 10.30ч. BNR “Horizont” interview with Alexander Kashumov – presentation of AIP work on RIA, the public discussions and the 15 court appeals of the foundation under the APIA
10. 26.07.2001 RCT “Eurovideo”, Targovishte – A report for the AIP annual report, an interview with AIP coordinator in the town Ianeta Dimitrova 27.07.2001 Radio Express, news for the AIP seminar “Our rights under APIA – how to exercise it”
11. 27.07.2001 Darik Radio, news for the AIP seminar “Our rights under APIA – how to exercise it”
12. 27.07.2001 Nova Televizia, “News from the day” news for the AIP seminar “Our rights under APIA – how to exercise it”
13. Bluelink.net, 27.07.2001 г. – Information on the site about the AIP seminar “Our rights under APIA – how to exercise it”
14. 26.07.2001 RCTV “Eurovideo”, Targovishte – a report for the AIP annual report interview with AIP local coordinator Ianeta Dimitrova
15. 27.07.2001 CT “Globo”, Targovishte – Information for the AIP annual report
16. 11.07.2001 Radio Blagoevgrad – Information for the AIP annual report and a survey whether the citizens know APIA, Pavlina Zeliaskova
17. 19.07.2001 Municipality Radio, Straldja, – Information for the AIP annual report
18. 14.09.2001 Radio Express, news for the AIP seminar Access to public information – basic standards, Bulgarian legislation, practices
19. 14.09.2001 Daric Radio, news for the AIP seminar Access to public information – basic standards, Bulgarian legislation, practices
20. 14. 09.2001 BNR “Horizont” program, interview with Gergana Jouleva concerning the AIP seminar Access to public information – basic standards, Bulgarian legislation, practices
21. 03.10.2001 bTV, “This morning”, interview with Konstantin Palikarski for AIP activities, court cases and organization forthcoming events
22. 18.10.2001 BNR, “Hristo Botev” program – Good afternoon, participation of Alexander Kashumov in discussion “Transparency and media”

## **AIP participation in Radio and TV Programs 2001**

23. 31.10.2001 Radio Free Europe, “Studio Bulgaria” – participation of Gergana Jouleva in discussion “Law on the protection of classified information”
24. 15.11.2001 Radio Shoumen, participation of Gergana Jouleva in radio broadcasting dedicated to freedom of information issues
25. 15.11.2001 bTV, News, announcement for the participation of Gergana Jouleva in “This morning”
26. 16.11.2001 BNR, “Horizont” program - “Horizont predi vsichki” participation of Fany Davidova concerning the forthcoming AIP presentation of the drafts – Personal Data protection, Law on the protection of classified information.
27. 16.11.2001 bTV, “This morning”, г. participation of Gergana Jouleva concerning the forthcoming AIP presentation of the drafts – Personal Data protection, Law on the protection of classified information.
28. 16.11.2001 BNT, Chanel 1, “Morning block – at 7:00” Предаване “Сутрешен блок - Точно 7”, participation of Alexander Kashumov concerning the forthcoming AIP presentation of the drafts – Personal Data protection, Law on the protection of classified information.
29. 16.11.2001 Radio Express, Morning informational block, participation of Gergana Jouleva concerning the forthcoming AIP presentation of the drafts – Personal Data protection, Law on the protection of classified information.
30. 26.11.2001 BNR, “Horizont” program - “ 12+3” interview with Gergana Jouleva “Introduced amendments in APIA from Borislav Tzekov – AIP opinion for or against.
31. 27.11.2001 Darik Radio, Pleven, interview with Nikodim Danevski concerning the introduced amendments in APIA from NMSII
32. 17.12.2001 Cable Radio, Nova Zagora interview with Gergana Jouleva concerning the seminar “International standards in freedom of information area. Bulgarian Legislation. Practices.”
33. 18.12.2001TV “Karnobat”, interview with Gergana Jouleva concerning the seminar “International standards in freedom of information area. Bulgarian Legislation. Practices.”

## **List of seminars, workshops, conferences organized by AIP or in which AIP' representatives has lectured 2001**

1. January 22, 2001 Sofia, Fani Davidova participated in a meeting organized by the delegation of World Bank in Bulgaria; it was a discussion of the bank policy for disclosure of its information.
2. January 25, 2001 Sofia, Ivaylo Kolev participated in a round table "Bulgarian NGO in the beginning of the century", held by the Center for Social Practices
3. January 25-26, 2001, Smolian, Gergana Jouleva, Fany Davidova, Alexander Kashamov lectured in a seminar organized by the Association of Rodopy Municipalities with subject: Rights and obligations under APIA
4. February 14, 2001, Rouse, Fani Davidova lectured in an education for journalist on access to information according to the Bulgaria Media Coalition project Improving the relations NGO – media
5. February 22-23, 2001 Sofia, hotel Rila, AIP organized a training workshop for public officials "How to implement the Access to Public Information Law". Planned workshop in the framework of project supported by EC "Practical Access to democracy"
6. March, 01, 2001, Sofia, Anton Andonov participated in seminar "Journalist ethic, regulation and self-regulation. Freedom of expression in Bulgaria", organized by Association of Journalist in Bulgaria
7. March 02, 2001 Buhovo Gergana Jouleva, Fani Davidova and Alexander Kashamov lectured in a training seminar on APIA, organized by Center for Local Development - Buhovo.
8. March 20, 2001 Sofia Alexander Kashamov lectured in a seminar "Informational and communicational technologies and public services, organized within the frames of the project "Informational network of local authorities: LOGIN", FLGR
9. March 22, 2001 Sofia Fani Davidova lectured in a meeting according to the project of BMC "Improving the relations NGO – media"
10. March 23–24, 2001 Bankia, Organized workshop with the AIP's coordinators in the country. Planned workshop in the framework of project supported by Novib – "Promotion of Freedom of Information Legislation – third year"
11. March 28–29, 2001 Sredec municipality, Alexander Kashamov lectured in training for mayors from municipalities from Tundja and Boliarovo, organized by RAO Trakia. His lecture was entitled "The new obligations for the local administrations under the APIA
12. March 29, 2001 Sofia Gergana Jouleva participated in a discussion "Management of municipalities property. Problems and challenges", organized by the National Association Legal Initiative for Local Government
13. March 30, 2001 Sofia Gergana Jouleva participated in a workshop discussing the five years strategy of Open Society Foundation, Sofia
14. April 06, 2001 Sofia, Gergana Jouleva, Fani Davidova, Marina Stefanova, Alexander Kashumov and Konstantin Palikarski participated in workshop – discussion on the draft Protecting the classified information. The experts from NSS the authors of the draft organized the meeting.
15. April 10, 2001, Sofia, Fani Davidova, Marina Stefanova and Alexander Kashumov participated in workshop – discussion on the law creating a public register for the property of important public officials. The meeting was

## **List of seminars, workshops, conferences organized by AIP or in which AIP' representatives has lectured 2001**

organized by ABA CEELI with the participation of Georgi Nikolov the chairperson of National Accounts Office.

16. April 11, 2001 Sofia, participated as lecturers in training for representatives from Albanian Courts and journalists. The lecture was named "Access to information in Bulgaria and possibilities for monitoring the process by local NGOTs. Judicial registers. The training was organized by Transparency International.
17. April 17, 2001, Bankia, Marina Stefanova participated in conference "Discrimination practices and perspectives for their overcoming", organized by Romani Bah Foundation
18. April 24, 2001, Sofia, Alexander Kashumov participated as lecturer on APIA in a training seminar "Local administration and governance"
19. April 26, 2001, Sofia, Gergana Jouleva presented the report "APIA implementation" to the participants in the seminar organized by Association of communication specialists in municipalities.
20. April 26, 200, Sofia, Alexander Kashumov participated in workshop in MSI office concerning the civil participation in the process of creating regulations: planning the future steps on MSI project
21. May 25, 2001, Budva, Montenegro, Gergana Jouleva, Alexander Kashumov and Ivaylo Kolev participated in planning meeting on the project "Practical access to Democracy in Central and Eastern Europe"
22. May 26 – 27, 2001 Budva, Montenegro, Gergana Jouleva and Alexander Kashumov lectured to the International seminar "Freedom of Information. Reforms and Implementation of International standards.
23. June 12, 200, Silistra, Anton Andonov participated in seminar "Anti-corruption practices" organized by Association of Bulgarian Journalists
24. July 04, 2001, Sofia, Workshop with jurists on the project "Advocacy for the implementation of APIA and judicial review"
25. July 05-06, 2001, Sliven, Alexander Kashumov lectured "Obligations under APIA for the municipality centers for information and services", on a seminar organized by FLGR
26. July 13, 2001, Sofia, Fani Davidova and Alexander Kashumov participated in round table "Possibilities for widening the civil participation in the legislative process", organized by ABA CEELI
27. July 12-13, 2001, Troian, Anton Andonov participated in seminar "The public, journalism and public relations", organized by Association of Bulgarian Journalists
28. July 18, 2001, Stara Zagora, Fani Davidova lectured "The civil rights under APIA" on a seminar organized by BMC
29. July 20, 2001, Burgas, Fani Davidova delivered two lectures "The civil rights under APIA" and "Defending the journalists from defamation" on a seminar organized by BMC
30. July 20, 2001, Varna, Alexander Kashumov presented the AIP work on workshop "Open gates – day", organized from Regional Court – Varna.
31. July 27, 2001, Sofia, AIP organized seminar "Our rights under APIA – how to be exercised" where participated ecological NGOs from the country

## **List of seminars, workshops, conferences organized by AIP or in which AIP' representatives has lectured 2001**

32. July 28-29, 2001, Borovetz, Gergana Jouleva participated in seminar organized by BMC for discussing the annual report of the coalition and planning the future work
33. September 06, 2001, Varna, Anton Andonov participated in seminar organized by Association of Bulgarian Journalists
34. September 12, 2001, Sofia, AIP participated in the organization of national workshop for preparing a comment of NGOs on the draft for environmental protection as partner of InfoEkoClub – Vratza. AIP team was presented by Gergana Jouleva, Katina Kliavkova, Alexander Kashumov and Konstantin Palikarski
35. September 14, 2001, Sofia, AIP organized workshop “Access to public information – international standards, Bulgarian legislation and practices. In the workshop participated the AIP coordinators and jurist from the country.
36. September 21, 2001, Sofia, Alexander Kashumov and Konstantin Palikarski participated in workshop in the Ministry of Environment and Waters. The NGOs met Minister Arsenieva and listened a report “Discussion of the suggestions for improving the communication between Ministry and NGOs due to the preparation of proposals for changing the environmental legislation” delivered by the chief negotiator with European Union from Bulgaria Meglena Kuneva.
37. September 27-28, 2001 Shoumen, Fani Davidova lectured in workshop organized by Bulgaria Media Coalition “Access to Information – norms and practices.”
38. October 02 – 05, Bucharest, Roamnia, Gergana Jouleva, Fany Davidova, Alexander Kashumov and Ivaylo Kolev participated in international seminar in the frame of the project “Practical access to Democracy in Central and Eastern Europe” – Freedom of information in Central and Eastern Europe.
39. October 08-10, 2001 Prague, Czech Alexander Kashumov participated in international conference “Anticorruption”, organized by Transparency International. Alexander Kashumov present report “Public interest court cases”
40. October 19, 2001, Sofia Gergana Jouleva participated in workshop-discussion “General principles concerning the application of one stop shop”
41. October 23, 2001, Sofia Gergana Jouleva participated in the general assembly of Bulgarian Media Coalition.
42. 24.10.2001 Sofia, Gergana Jouleva participated in the presentation of UNDP annual report.
43. October 24, 2001 Sofia, Konstantin Palikarski, a member of AIP Board, participated in discussion-forum “Effective management in public procurement”, organized by NALILG with report “The public procurement Act”
44. October 25, 2001 Sofia, Gergana Jouleva participated in discussion of the draft Law on the protection of classified information organized in the National Assembly
45. 30.10.2001, Sofia Gergana Jouleva, Fani Davidova, Alexander Kashumov, participated in discussion of the draft Law on the protection of classified information organized by the Standing Commission in the National Assembly

## **List of seminars, workshops, conferences organized by AIP or in which AIP' representatives has lectured 2001**

46. November 1-2, Rousse, Fany Davidova lectured in workshop organized by Bulgaria Media Coalition
47. November 9, 2001, Bucharest Romania, Gergana Jouleva participated in regional conference "PSINet regional workshops evaluating improvements into access, dissemination and exploitation of public sector information". The workshop was organized by the Ministry of Public Information, Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Bucharest Municipality and Club Europe – Romania
48. November 16, 2001 h-l Rila, Sofia, AIP press-conference presenting "Presentation of AIP comments on drafts Personal Data Protection and Law on the protection of classified information and court cases conducted by AIP"
49. November 21-25, 2001 Lubliana, Slovenia, Alexander Kashumov participated in international Media policy perspective in South-East Europe
50. November 22, 2001 Jambol, Fany Davidova lectured in workshop organized by Bulgaria Media Coalition
51. November 27, 2001 NDK, Sofia, AIP presentation "Freedom of information. Freedom of business." during the commercial exhibition "Made in Bulgaria"
52. November 30, 2001 Alexander Kashumov and Fany Davidova participated in focus-group discussion "Transparency and the observation of the law in the interaction between citizens and court administration officers"
53. 30.11. – 02.12.2001 November 30-December Gergana Jouleva participated in the workshop organized by the Bulgarian Media Coalition
54. December 01, 2001 Borovetz, Alexander Kashumov participated in national seminar of ecological NGOs
55. December 12, 2001 Sofia, Gergana Jouleva and Alexander Kashumov participated in focus-group discussion "Advocacy campaigns – Bulgarian experience" organized by DemNet
56. December 17, 2001 Nova Zagora, Gergana Jouleva, Fany Davidova and Alexander Kashumov participated in a seminar "International standards in freedom of information area. Bulgarian legislation. Practices."
57. December 18, 2001 Karnobat, Gergana Jouleva, Fany Davidova and Alexander Kashumov participated in a seminar "International standards in freedom of information area. Bulgarian legislation. Practices."

ACCESS TO INFORMATION PROGRAMME  
CASES OF INFORMATION REFUSALS FOR 01.01.2001 - 31.12.2001 - Statistics

TARGET GROUPS WHICH AIP HAS SERVED	NUMBER
JOURNALISTS	405
BULGARIAN CITIZENS	56
NGOs	38
BUSINESS	2
SCIENTISTS	1
TOTAL	502

LEGAL SERVICES	NUMBER
WRITTEN CONSULTATION	410
HELP IN WRITING APIA REQUESTS	46
COURT APPEAL	24
CONSULTATION OVER THE PHONE	10
PERSONAL CONSULTATION	6
E-MAIL CONSULTATION	6
TOTAL	502

GROUND FOR REFUSALS	NUMBER
NO-REASON-REFUSALS	108
NOT A REFUSAL UNDER APIA	106
INSTRUCTION FROM SUPERIOR	86
OFFICER'S DISCRETION	51
OFFICIAL SECRET	34
SILENT REFUSALS	15
INVESTIGATORS SECRET	13
OTHERS	13
INFORMATION IS NOT AVAILABLE	12
FORWARDING TO PRESSCENTER	11
FORWARDING TO THE CENTRAL OFFICE IN SOFIA	11
WE ARE NOT OBLIGED TO GIVE INFORMATION	11
LACK OF TIME	9
PERSONAL DATA	8
LACK OF A PROCEDURE	3
LACK OF LEGITIMATE INTEREST	3
NOT TO INTRUDE UPON DECISION TAKING	3
TRADE SECRET	2
WE DON'T HAVE POWERS	2
INFORMATION ALREADY PRESENTED	1
TOTAL	502

LEGAL QUALIFICATION	NUMBER
RIGHT TO ACCESS	370
RIGHT TO INFORMATION	124
FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION	8
TOTAL	502

TIME SPENT (IN HOURS)	258
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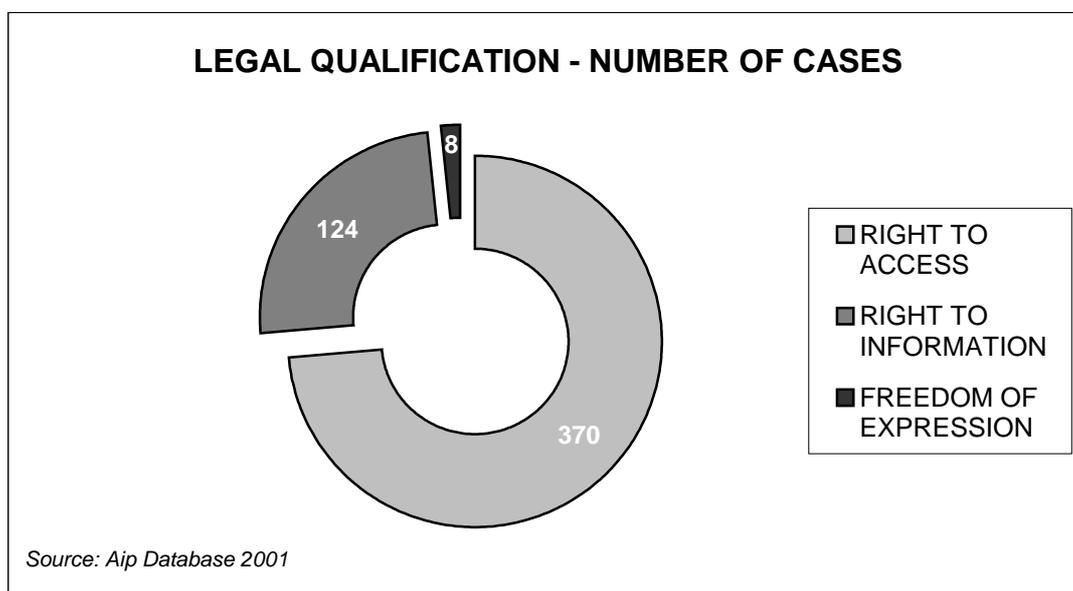
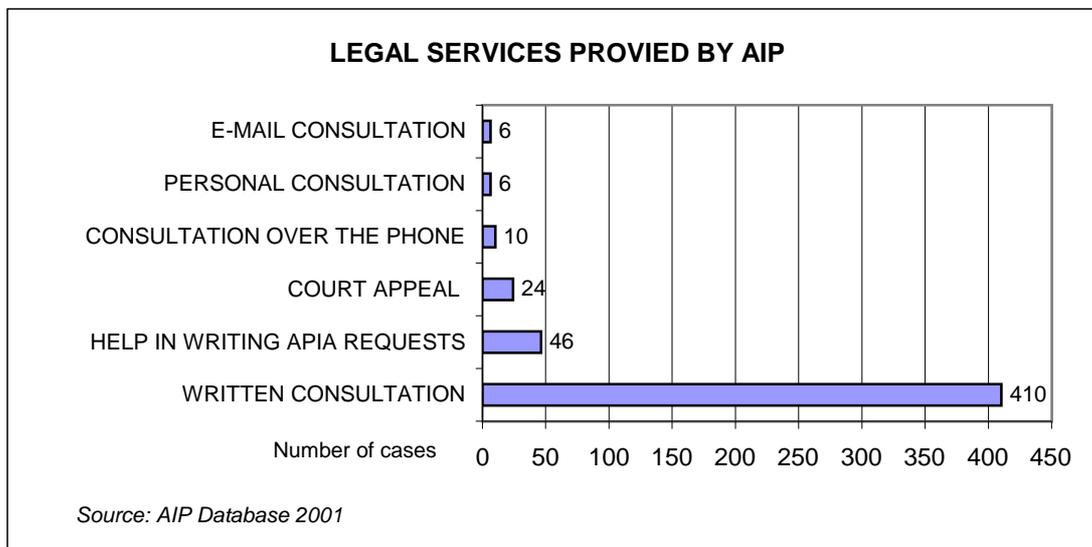
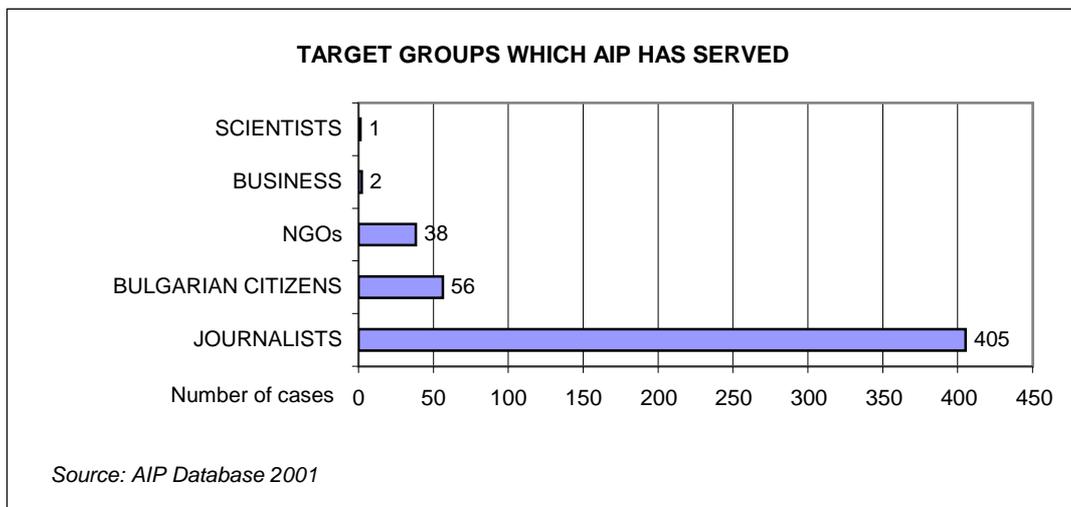
ACCESS TO INFORMATION PROGRAMME  
CASES OF INFORMATION REFUSALS FOR 01.01.2001 - 31.12.2001 - Statistics

REGIONS	NUMBER
SOFIA	72
PERNIK	40
RAZGRAD	38
BLAGOEVGRAD	29
KYUSTENDIL	29
BOURGAS	27
VELIKO TURNOVO	25
SLIVEN	22
VIDIN	22
MONTANA	20
SMOLYAN	19
HASKOVO	16
YAMBOL	16
PLOVDIV	14
VARNA	14
DOBRICH	13
STARA ZAGORA	12
VRACA	12
SHOUMEN	11
PLEVEN	10
LOVETCH	9
GABROVO	6
KARJALI	6
PAZARJIK	6
TARGOVISHTA	6
ROUSSE	5
SILISTRA	3
TOTAL	502

AGENCIES AND INSTITUTIONS WHICH HOLD INFORMATION	NUMBER
TERRITORIAL BRANCHES OF EXECUTIVE POWER	127
LOCAL ADMINISTRATION	70
OTHERS (NOT OBLIGATED UNDER APIA)	47
COURT	45
CENTRAL BRANCHES OF EXECUTIVE POWER	44
LEGAL ENTITIES	34
NATURAL PERSONS AND LEGAL ENTITIES, FINANCED BY THE BUDGET	33
STATE COMMISSIONS	32
SPECIALIZED AGENCIES	27
REGIONAL GOVERNOR	23
STATE AGENCIES	16
EXECUTIVE AGENCIES	4
TOTAL	502

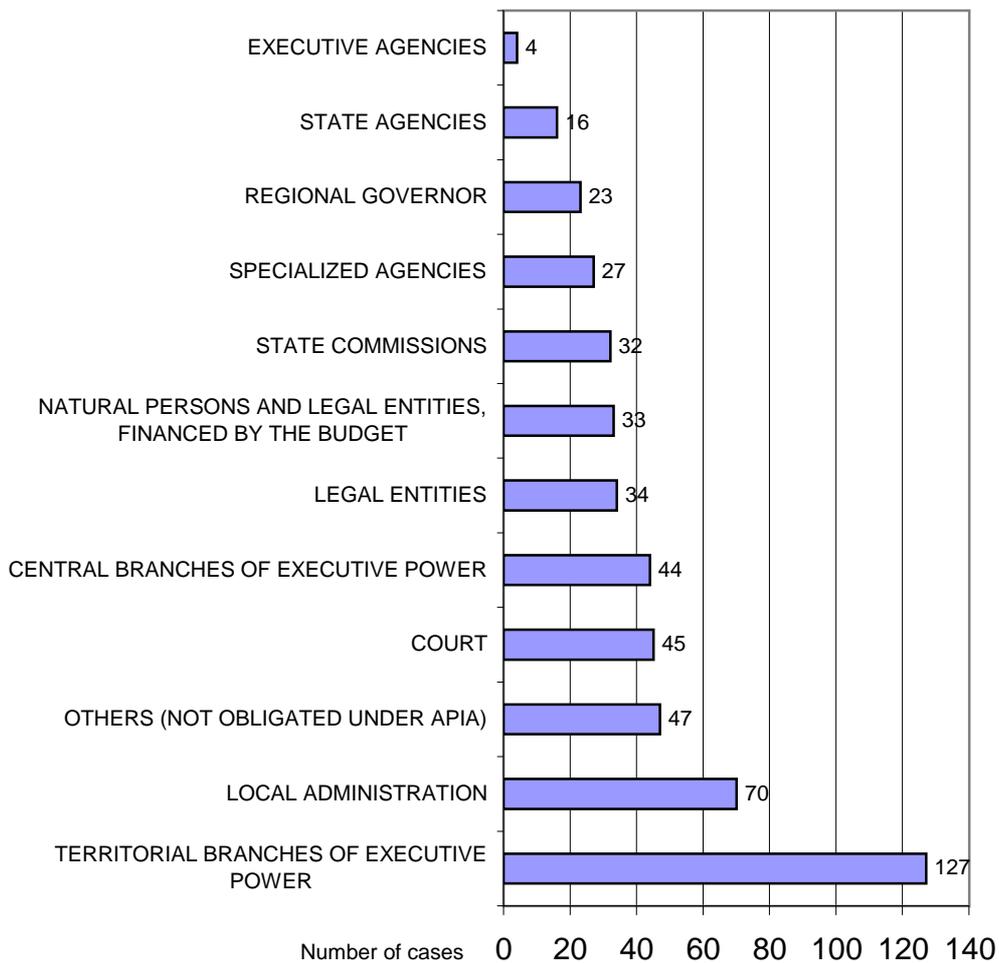
SEEKERS by GENDER	NUMBER
FEMALE	371
MALE	131
TOTAL	502

ACCESS TO INFORMATION PROGRAMME  
 CASES OF INFORMATION REFUSALS FOR 01.01.2001 - 31.12.2001 - Statistics



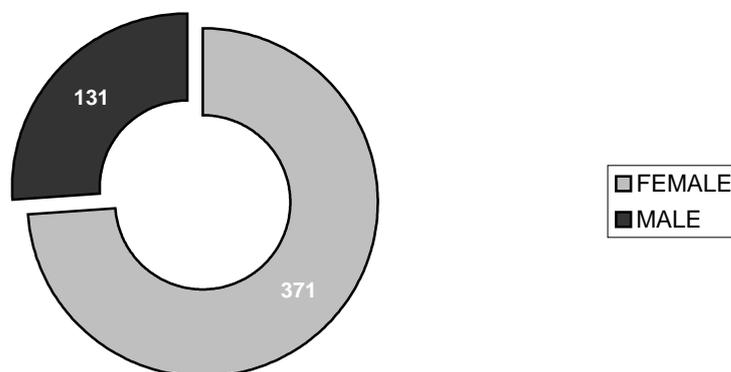
ACCESS TO INFORMATION PROGRAMME  
CASES OF INFORMATION REFUSALS FOR 01.01.2001 - 31.12.2001 - Statistics

**AGENCIES AND INSTITUTIONS WHICH REFUSE INFORMATION**



Source: AIP database 2001

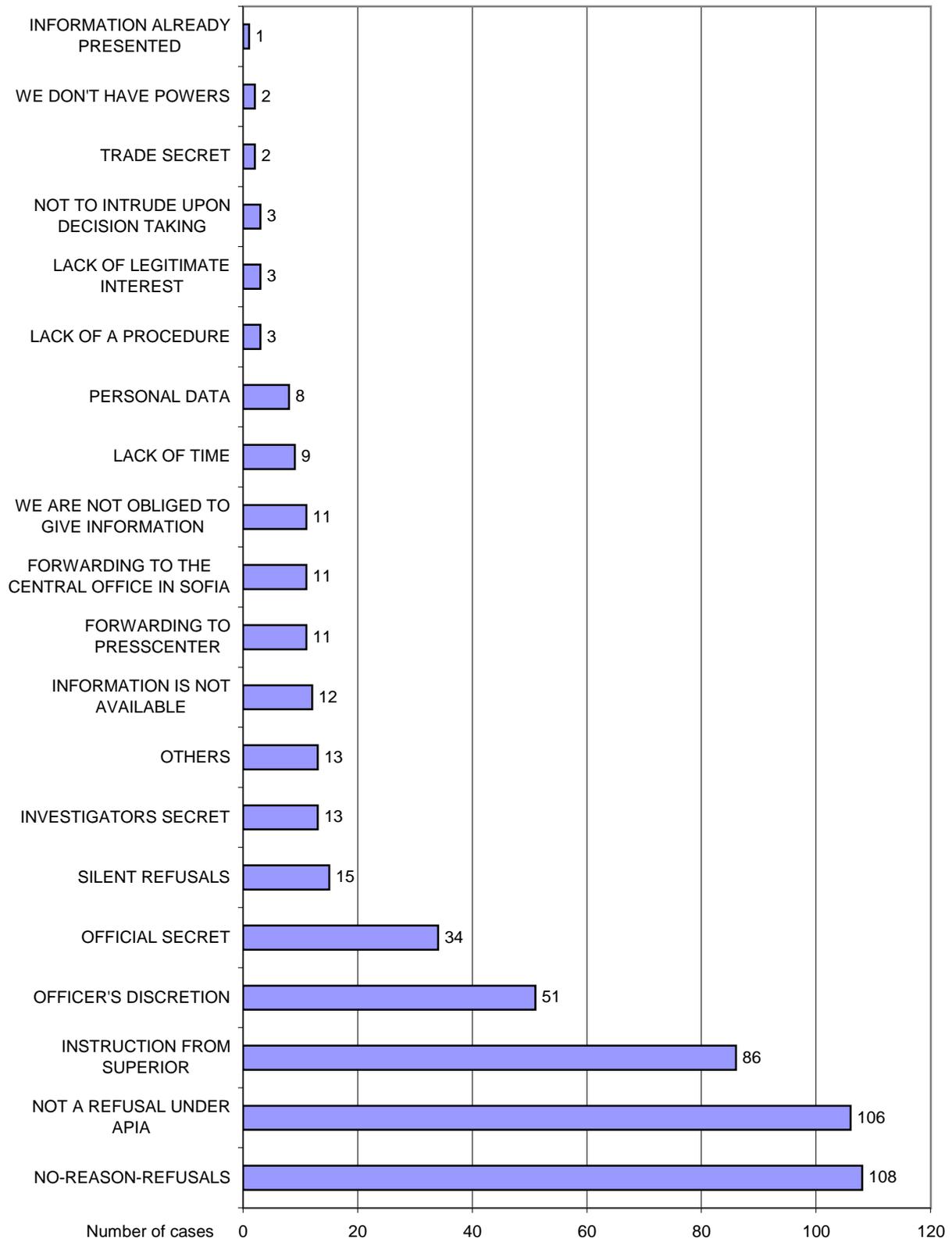
**DISTRIBUTION OF CASES BY GENDER**



Source: Aip Database 2001

ACCESS TO INFORMATION PROGRAMME  
CASES OF INFORMATION REFUSALS FOR 01.01.2001 - 31.12.2001 - Statistics

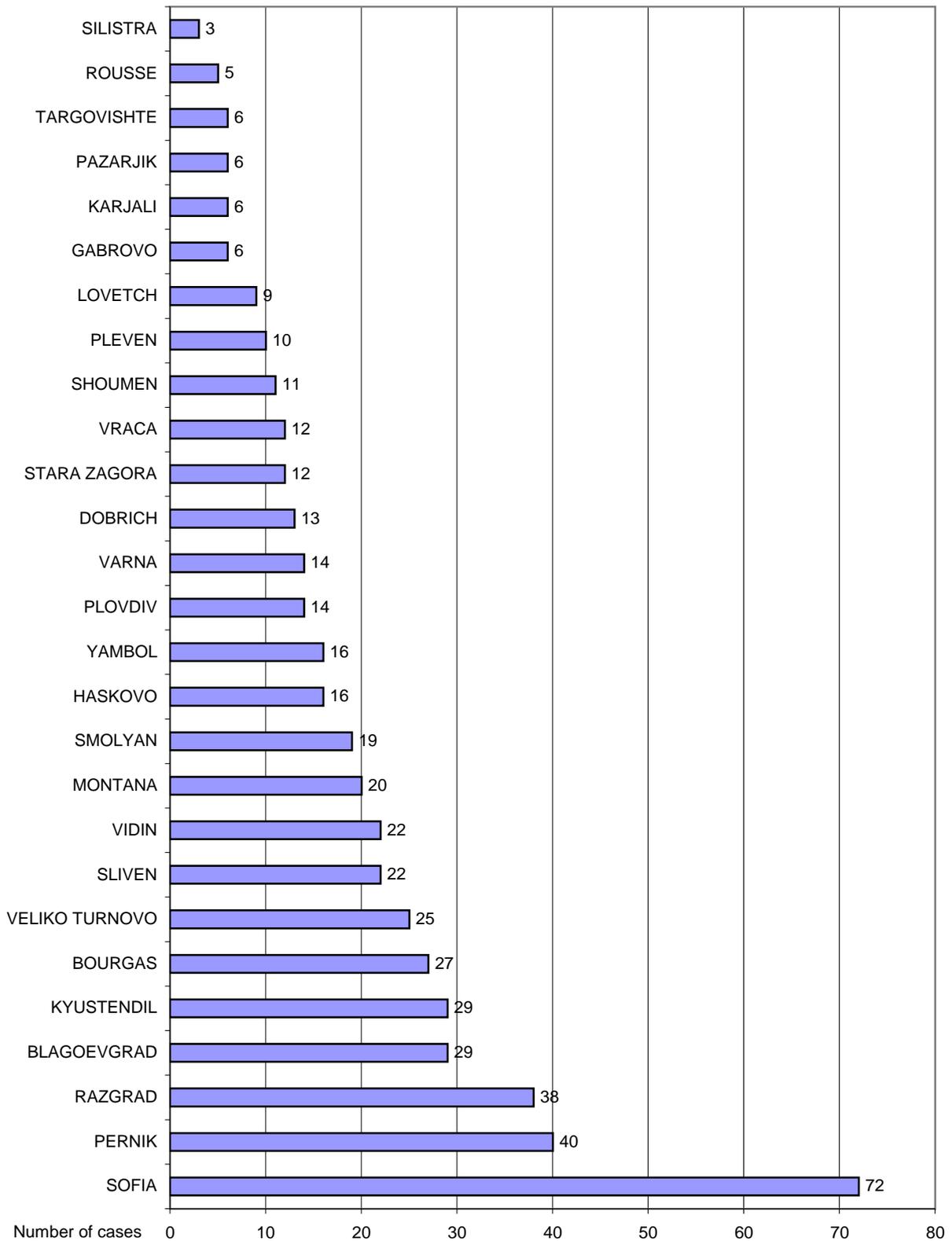
**GROUNDS FOR REFUSALS**



Source: AIP database 2001

ACCESS TO INFORMATION PROGRAMME  
CASES OF INFORMATION REFUSALS FOR 01.01.2001 - 31.12.2001 - Statistics

**DISTRIBUTION OF CASES BY REGION**



Source: AIP Database 2001