



ACCESS TO INFORMATION PROGRAMME

Advocacy for Freedom of Information – Independent Monitoring

Regional Conference

MAY 14 – 15, SOFIA, BULGARIA

Venue

GRAND HOTEL SOFIA, 1 Gurko Str., Sofia, Bulgaria (tel.: +3592 / 811 08 00)

Participants

Representatives of the Council of Europe; representatives of non-governmental organizations from South-East European countries and Ukraine; representatives of international NGOs.

Thursday, May 13, 2004

Arrival of participants in Sofia and accommodation in Grand Hotel Sofia

19:00 Dinner reception at the Grand Hotel Sofia

Friday May 14, 2004

Conference Hall SOFIA of the Grand Hotel Sofia, Second floor

09:00 - 09:30 **Registration of participants**

09.30 – 10:00 **Opening remarks**

Ivan Nikoltchev, Media Division, Directorate General of Human Rights, Council of Europe

Gergana Jouleva, Executive Director of Access to Information Programme

10:00 – 13:00 **Theme: Monitoring and Advocacy for Freedom of Information on Global and Regional Level**

Chair: Alexander Kashumov

10:00 – 10:30 **Global monitoring of the Implementation of FOIAs**

Eszter Filippinyi, Open Society Justice Initiative

10:30 – 11:00 **Monitoring freedom of information at the EU level (1993-2004)**

Tony Bunyan, Statewatch

11:00 – 11:30 **Coffee Break**

11:30 – 12:00 **Article 19 Advocacy Campaign for FOI implementation**

Sara Buchanan, Article 19, The Global Campaign for Free Expression

Iryna Smolina, Article 19, The Global Campaign for Free Expression

12:00 – 12:30 **Freedom of Information Advocates Network – presentation of the website and Right to Know Day**

Nikolay Marekov, Access to Information Programme

12:30 – 13:00 **Discussion**

13:00 – 14:00 **Lunch in restaurant of Grant Hotel - Sofia**

- 14:00 – 17:30** **Theme: Monitoring As a Tool for National Freedom of Information Legislation Campaigning**
- Chair - Sara Buchanan
- 14:00 – 14:30* **On-the-ground Monitoring as basis for Implementation of FOI Legislation and Policy**
Nevena Rusic, OSCE
- 14:30 – 15:00* **Citizens Interest for Information and Implication for FOIA Campaign in Serbia**
Nemanja Nenadich, Transparency International Serbia
- 15:00-15:30* **Monitoring of FOI in F.Y.R. Macedonia: main gravitation point in adoption of FOI law**
Klime Babunsky, Pro Media,
Vesna Gogova, Pro Media
- 15:30 – 16:00** **Coffee Break**
- 16:00 – 16:30** **Free Acces to Information in Montenegro – Current Situation**
Slobodan Franovich, Montenegrin Helsinki Committee
- 16:30 – 17:00** **Advocacy for FOI legislation through specific cases**
Fany Davidova, Access To Information Programme
- 17:00 – 17:30** **Kosovo Case**
Kreshnik Berisha, Advocacy Training and resource Center
Natyra Zhjegi, Advocacy Training and resource Center
- Discussion**
- 19:30** **Dinner reception at the Grand Hotel Sofia**

Saturday, May 15, 2004

- 9:30 – 13:00** **Theme: Advocacy for freedom of Information through Monitoring FOIA Implementation**

Chair: Tony Bunyan, StateWatch
- 9:30 – 10:00** **Necessary Measures on Implementation of FOI Legislation**
Helena Jaderblom, Ministry of Justice, Sweden
- 10:00-10:30** **AIP's experience of monitoring for Implementation of FOIA,**
Gergana Jouleva, Access to Information Programme
- 10:30-11:00** **Situation of Albanian Public Administration regarding Implementation of FOIA**
Illir Aliaj, Center for Development and Democratization of Institutions
- 11:00 – 11:30** **Coffee Break**
- 11:30 –12:00** **Situation in BiH regarding Implementation of FOIA**
Amira Krehic, Centre for Free Access to Information
- 12: 00 – 12:30** **From Confrontation to Co-operation: Joining of Forms of Monitoring with those Referred to Training of Public Officials**
Vasile Spinei, Center for Promotion of Freedom of Expression and Access to Information
- 12-30- 13:00** **Presentation of the report on the Implementation of FOI Law in Romania**
Constantin Marza, Asociatia Pro Democratia
- 13:00 – 14:00** **Lunch**
- 14:00 –15:30** **Theme: Litigation on FOIA – powerful tool for implementation of FOIA**

Chair: Alexander Kashumov, Access to Information Programme
Access to Information Litigation In Ukraine
Viacheslav Yakubenko, Human Rights Problems, Research Centre of Kiev National University
Litigation on FOIA in Romania
Diana Olivia Calinescu, Romanian Helsinki Committee

15:30 – 16:00

Coffee Break

16:00 –17:30

Theme: Using FOIA in advocacy for other rights/against corruption

Chair Eszter Filippinyi

“The war against terrorism” – defending civil liberties and democratic standards

Tony Bunyan, State Watch

The Access Initiative

Nikolay Marekov, Access to Information Programme

Transparency for an Independent Media

Cristian Ghinea, Romanian Academic Society

Against corruption

Irina Fayon, Open Government Initiative Project of USAID

Ioana Avadani, Center for Independent Journalism

Closing Remarks

Regional Cooperation for Freedom of Information