

USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Center for Civil Communications
Центар за граѓански комуникации

Index of Active Transparency

2019

USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Center for Civil Communications
Центар за граѓански комуникации

Index of Active Transparency
2019

Skopje, May 2019

2019 Index of Active Transparency

Publisher:
Center for Civil Communications

Authors:
German Filkov, Sabina Fakikj and Marko Mitevski

Translation:
Abakus

Graphic design:
DataPons Skopje

Print:
DataPons Skopje

Circulation:
250 copies

Free/non-commercial circulation

CIP - Каталогизација во публикација
Национална и универзитетска библиотека "Св. Климент Охридски", Скопје

35.07(497.7)"2019"(047)

ФИЛКОВ, Герман
Индекс на активна транспарентност 2019 / [автори Герман Филков, Сабина Факиќ и Марко Митевски]. - Скопје : Центар за граѓански комуникации, 2019. - 27, 28 стр. : граф. прикази ; 28 см

Насл. стр. не припечатениот текст: Index of active transparency 2019 / authors German Filkov, Sabina Fakikj and Marko Mitevski. - Обата текста меѓусебно печатени во спротивни насоки. - Текст на мак. и англ. јазик. - Содржи и прилози: Прашалници за истражување

ISBN 978-608-4709-75-6
1. Факиќ, Сабина [автор] 2. Митевски, Марко [автор]
а) Јавна администрација - Транспарентност - Македонија - 2019 - Извештаи
COBISS.MK-ID 110546186

This report was prepared by the Center for Civil Communications with the support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The authors views expressed in this report do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

Table of Contents

Summary **7**

Introduction **8**

Methodology **10**

Overall Rank Under the Index of Active Transparency **11**

Detailed Analysis of Active Transparency in 2019 ..... **12**

Appendices: Research Questionnaires for Institutions **23**

Questionnaire on Active Transparency for Ministries and the Government 23

Questionnaire on Active Transparency for the Ministry of Finance 25

Questionnaire on Active Transparency for Municipalities and the City of Skopje 27

Abbreviations

MoI	Ministry of Interior
MoE	Ministry of Economy
MESP	Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning
MoH	Ministry of Health
MAFWE	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy
MISA	Ministry of Information Society and Administration
MoC	Ministry of Culture
MLSG	Ministry of Local Self-Government
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MoD	Ministry of Defence
MES	Ministry of Education and Science
MoJ	Ministry of Justice
MTC	Ministry of Transport and Communications
MLSP	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
MoF	Ministry of Finance

Summary

In 2019, active transparency of ministries and municipalities remains very low, although it is marked by an increase compared to last year. The compliance rate with obligations on proactive publication of information for all 97 institutions covered under this index accounts for **56%** (from possible 100%) and is increased by 12.5 percentile points compared to last year (when the average compliance rate stood at 43.5%).

For the third year in a row, proactive publication of information by ministries shows a trend of increase and they demonstrate a significantly better track record compared to municipalities which, after two-year trend of decline, are demonstrating improvement in terms of active transparency. Average rate of active transparency accounts for 77.6% among ministries and 51.7% among municipalities.

According to the predesigned scale of active transparency, the highest number of institutions, i.e. 42% of them are ranked in the category of "good" transparency, while the lowest number of them falls under the category of "very poor" transparency. Unlike last year, when only 2% of all institutions were categorized as having "very good" active transparency, this year as many as 13% of them are ranked in this category.

Bitola maintained its overall first rank from last year, while the best ranked among ministries this year is the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy, as the second ranked institution overall. As regards regions across the country, the East Region has taken the primacy from last year's top ranked Pelagonija Region, with the Skopje Region dropping to the bottom of this list.

Both ministries and municipalities publish the least information on their respective financial matters, whereby the compliance rate among ministries stands at 57% and among municipalities it accounts for only 26% of information they are obliged to publish.

As regards the response rate to requests submitted to all institutions under the instrument for free access to public information on the same day and with the same contents, municipalities responded thereto within an average deadline of 21 days (last year it was 20 days) and ministries responded within an average deadline of 34 days (last year it was 41 days). Unlike last year when all institutions responded to information requests, this year as many as 12% of institutions did not disclose information requested.

The term 'active transparency' implies publication of information by institutions on their own initiative, without being addressed with freedom of information requests.
Nevertheless, active transparency of institutions is stipulated as obligation in the Law on Free Access to Public Information, as well as in series of other laws, such as: Law on Local Self-Government, Law on Budgets, Law on Public Debt, Law on Financing Local Self-Government Units, etc.
In addition to legal regulations, active transparency also arises from the practice, i.e. when an institution makes publicly available to all citizens responses to frequently asked questions as part of freedom of information requests. Moreover, obligations for proactive publication of information are defined as commitments under the Open Government Partnership National Action Plans.

Introduction: Why Active Transparency?

The term 'active transparency' implies publication of information by institutions on their own initiative without being addressed with freedom of information requests. On the other hand, reactive transparency includes instances in which institutions are address with freedom of information requests.

The need for proactive publication of information arises from the fact that it implies public disclosure and availability of:

- information about authorities' regulations and decisions, thereby ensuring the right of citizens to be informed about their rights and responsibilities in the society;
- information needed by citizens to hold the authorities accountable;
- information needed by citizens to be able to participate in the decision-making process; and
- information needed by citizens to obtain access to services provided by public institutions.

Benefits for institutions publishing such information are multiple and include:

- active transparency helps institutions be more responsible in public spending;
- by engaging in active transparency institutions promote the principles of good governance and integrity; and
- institutions are more efficient because they better manage information at their disposal.

It seems that development of technology goes hand-in-hand and assists active transparency of institutions, because methods for distribution of information disposed by institutions, which are useful for citizens, are growing in number and becoming more accessible.

The legal basis for active transparency is found in the Law on Free Access to Public Information. In addition to stipulating the obligation for institutions to respond to requests submitted under the instrument for free access to public information, this law includes provisions on proactive publication of information, i.e. publication of information on institutions' own initiative.

Furthermore, a series of other laws stipulate obligations for institutions to proactively publish information. They include provisions from the Law on Local Self-Government, Law on Budgets, Law on Public Debt, Law on Financing Local Self-Government Units, etc.

In addition to legal regulations, active transparency also arises from the practice. Worldwide, it is believed a good practice when institutions make publicly available to all citizens their responses to frequently asked questions received as freedom of information requests.

Voluntary publication of information helps civic society organizations and investigative journalists develop and publish research studies/stories which, in turn, assist citizens to better understand institutions' performance track records, their rights and obligations, manner in which they could influence decisions that affect their day-to-day lives and work, and facilitate easier access to services provided by the state.

In principle, institutions can proactively publish all information at their disposal, except for those that are regulated as exemptions by law.

Active transparency is a relatively new notion in the world. Hence, there are no predefined standards about which information should be published by institutions, except for those regulated as exemptions by law. However, analysis of practices from different countries indicates to certain minimum information which institutions should publish as part of their active transparency.

When they proactively publish certain information, institutions should be guided by the principle that disclosure of information is cost-effective and efficient, i.e. information disclosed is easily accessible to the broadest group of citizens possible. Moreover, honest active transparency means that the institution informs citizens and interested parties about information available and encourages access to and use thereof.

Proactively published information should be easily accessible and understandable, beneficial, relevant (relevancy of information could be confirmed in cooperation with civil society organizations and journalists) and regularly updated.

Based on all this, the Center for Civil Communications has developed detailed methodology for comprehensive research that measures the level of active transparency demonstrated by state institutions. The idea behind this research and ranking of institutions under the so-called Index of Active Transparency is to assist institutions in terms of which information they need to publish and to encourage publication thereof.

Methodology

This research was conducted on the basis of previously designed methodology and structured questionnaires inquiring about the compliance rate with obligations on active publication of information on institutions' official websites.

Law-stipulated obligations for institutions in terms of publication of information in various areas of operation that are of importance for citizens and that affect their lives and work provide the baseline for design of relevant questionnaires. In that regard, due consideration was made of obligations arising from the Law on Free Access to Public Information and those arising from other laws that govern public spending.

This is the fourth annual research of this type that targets institutions which are direct holders of executive powers at both central and local level, i.e. the Government, line ministries and local authorities, i.e. municipalities and the City of Skopje.

Having in mind the multitude of obligations for active publication of information held by national and local authorities (municipalities have far greater obligations in this regard), this research relied on two questionnaires. The first questionnaire concerns line ministries and the Government, while the second targets the local self-government units, i.e. municipalities and the City of Skopje. In that, the questionnaire for the Ministry of Finance contains additional questions, in order to reflect this ministry's greater scope of information governed by obligations for proactive publication.

Individual points were awarded to questions under relevant questionnaires depending on the importance, volume and scope of information published on official websites of ranked institutions. In addition to measuring institutions' compliance with obligations for publication of information, the research also included a testing element, i.e. submission of freedom of information requests to all institutions covered, aimed to assess timely and complete disclosure of information requested. Maximum points allocated in the case of line ministries and the Government is 40, while the Ministry of Finance could obtain maximum of 46 points, and maximum points allocated in the case of municipalities and the City of Skopje is 64 and 65, respectively.

The initial research was conducted in the period 6th to 20th March 2019. The final ranking of institutions was performed according to their compliance score (expressed in percentages) under the index of transparency which was calculated as the ratio between the actual number of points awarded and the maximum number of points allocated. In that, the score of 0 signifies the lowest rank, while the score of 100 signifies the highest rank.

The scale of active transparency is divided into five categories, depending on the compliance rate. Hence, institutions scoring 80-100% are ranked as "very good", those scoring 60-80% are ranked as "good", institutions scoring 40-60% are ranked as "average", score of 20-40% ranks them as "poor" and score of 0-20% ranks them as "very poor" in terms of active transparency.

Overall Ranking Under the Index of Active Transparency

Rank	Institution	Score
VERY GOOD		
1	Bitola	87.7
2	MAFWE	87.5
3	Government of RNM	85.0
3	MLSG	85.0
3	MoD	85.0
6	Gevgelija	84.6
6	Kavadarci	84.6
8	Veles	83.1
9	MoJ	82.5
10	Berovo	81.5
10	Ohrid	81.5
12	MoI	80.0
12	MES	80.0
GOOD		
14	Kumanovo	78.5
15	MoE	77.5
15	MoH	77.5
17	MoF	76.1
18	Strumica	75.4
19	MESP	75.0
19	MISA	75.0
19	MLSP	75.0
22	Gostivar	73.8
22	Demir Hisar	73.8
24	City of Skopje	73.4
25	MFA	72.5
25	MTC	72.5
27	Vasilevo	72.3
27	Prilep	72.3
29	Gazi Baba	71.9
30	Ilinden	70.8
30	Kriva Palanka	70.8
30	M. Kamenica	70.8
33	Kochani	69.2
34	Vevchani	67.7
34	Resen	67.7
36	Aerodrom	67.2
36	Kisela Voda	67.2
38	Debarca	66.2
38	Zrnovci	66.2
38	Pehchevo	66.2
38	Shtip	66.2
42	Karposh	65.6
43	M. Brod	64.6
43	Struga	64.6
43	Tetovo	64.6
46	Kichevo	63.1
46	Cheshinovo-Obleshevo	63.1
48	Gjorche Petrov	62.5
49	Bogdanci	61.5
49	Zhelino	61.5
49	Jegunovce	61.5
49	Probishtip	61.5
49	Sveti Nikole	61.5
54	Delchevo	60.0
54	Krushevo	60.0
AVERAGE		
56	Valandovo	56.9
56	Kratovo	56.9
58	MoC	55.0
59	Debar	53.8
59	Novaci	53.8
61	Radovish	52.3
61	Chaska	52.3
63	Shuto Orizari	51.6
64	Brvenica	50.8
65	Centar	50.0
66	Gradsko	49.2
66	Mavrovo and Rostushe	49.2
68	Vinica	46.2
68	Mogila	46.2
70	Negotino	44.6
71	Demir Kapija	43.1
71	Dolneni	43.1
73	Chair	40.6
POOR		
74	Bosilovo	36.9
75	Bogovinje	35.4
76	Butel	34.4
76	Saraj	34.4
78	Krivogashtani	33.8
79	Dojran	30.8
79	Karbinci	30.8
79	Konche	30.8
79	Novo Selo	30.8
83	Lozovo	29.2
83	Rankovce	29.2
85	Vrapchishte	27.7
86	Lipkovo	21.5
87	Staro Nagorichane	20.0
VERY POOR		
88	Centar Zhupa	18.5
89	Studenichani	15.4
89	Chucher Sandevo	15.4
91	Arachinovo	13.8
91	Petrovec	13.8
91	Tearce	13.8
94	Rosoman	12.3
95	Zelenikovo	10.8
95	Sopishte	10.8
97	Plasnica	9.2

Detailed Analysis

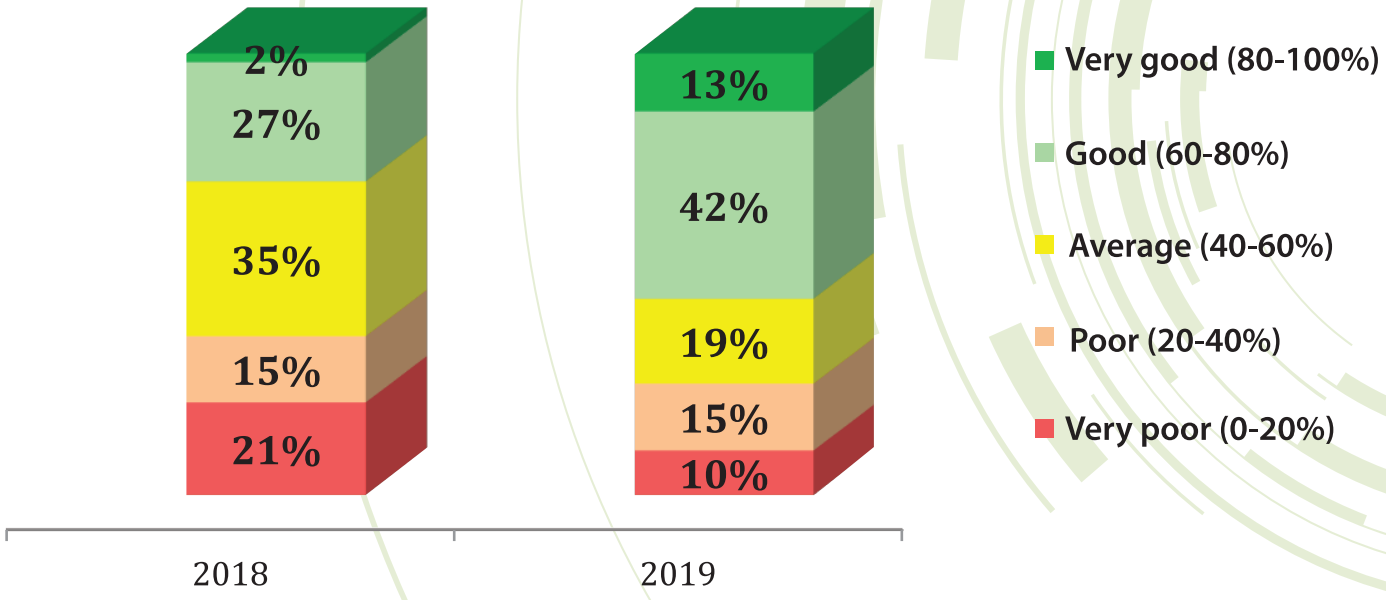
Active transparency is improved, but the overall level remains low

In 2019, the average level of active transparency for all 97 institutions accounts for 56% (from possible 100%) and falls within the category of "average" active transparency according to the predesigned scale.

However, in 2019 active transparency is marked by significant increase of 12.5 percentile points compared to 2018 figures, when the average level stood at 43.5%.

Unlike last year, this year the highest number of institutions (42%) are categorized as having "good" active transparency, while the number of institutions ranked in the worst category (i.e. "very poor" active transparency) is decreased and the number of institutions ranked in the best category (i.e. "very good" active transparency) is increased.

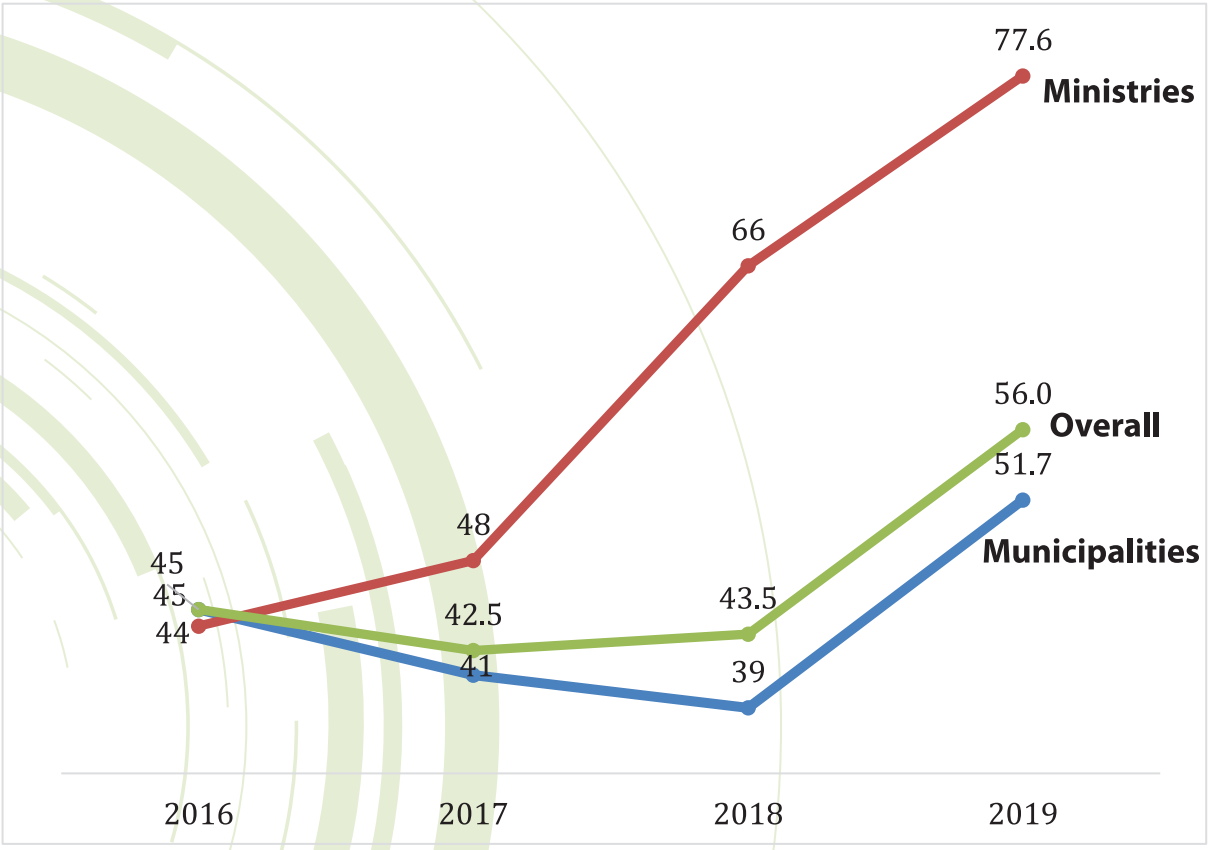
Distribution of institutions per different categories of active transparency



Ministries continue to demonstrate significantly better track records than municipalities

For the third year in a row, active transparency among ministries shows a trend of increase, while after two-year decline, active transparency of municipalities finally shows certain improvement. This contributed to increase in terms of overall active transparency for all 97 institutions covered. However, the major gap in terms of active transparency demonstrated by ministries and by municipalities is still in place.

Movement of active transparency throughout the years



In spite of the fact that back in 2016 both municipalities and ministries started with almost the same level of active transparency (municipalities at 45%, and ministries at 44%), over the three-year period, average active transparency of line ministries and the Government sharply rose to 77.6%, while average active transparency of municipalities reached only 51.7%.

After two years of decline, active transparency of municipalities shows a trend of increase

In spite of the trend of increase observed in 2019, municipalities' active transparency is still ranked as "average". In 2019, the average level of active transparency among municipalities stands at 51.7% and has increased by only 12.7 percentile points compared to last year.

As was the case last year, this year as well the top 20 ranked institutions include only 8 municipalities, unlike the situation observed in 2017, when as many as 16 municipalities were featured in the top 20 ranked institutions. Nevertheless, as noted in all previous years, the overall first rank among all 97 institutions is held by municipality. On the other hand, municipalities occupy all 39 places at the bottom of the ranking list.

As many as 70 municipalities improved their active transparency, while 11 of them showed deterioration.

Four municipalities emerge as leaders in improved active transparency, those being Brvenica, Shuto Orizari, Zhelino and Valandovo. All of them improved their compliance rate with obligations by more than 40 percentile points over a period of one year.

Ministries continue to improve their track record, but not under same dynamic as last year

The overall level of active transparency among ministries is increased by 11.6 percentile points, from 66% last year to 77.6% this year. Nevertheless, this improvement is smaller compared to the improvement observed last year when the average active transparency among ministries showcased an increased by 18 percentile points.

All ministries are marked by increase in terms of their active transparency. Most successful among them, i.e. ministries with biggest improvements in active transparency include the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy, with an increase of 23.2 percentile points, the Ministry of Transport and Communications and the Government, with an increase of 22.5 percentile points each, and the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, with an increase of 20.2 percentile points.

Ranking of ministries according to active transparency

Rank	Overall rank	Institution	Score 2019	Score 2018	Change (in percentile points)
1	2	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy	87.5	64.3	23.2
2	3	Government of RNM	85.0	62.5	22.5
2	3	Ministry of local self-government	85.0	69.0	16.0
2	3	Ministry of Defence	85.0	78.6	6.4
5	9	Ministry of Justice	82.5	69.0	13.5
6	12	Ministry of Interior	80.0	71.4	8.6
6	12	Ministry of Education and Science	80.0	78.6	1.4
8	15	Ministry of Economy	77.5	71.4	6.1
8	15	Ministry of Health	77.5	66.7	10.8
10	17	Ministry of Finance	76.1	64.6	11.5
11	19	Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning	75.0	54.8	20.2
11	19	Ministry of Information Society and Administration	75.0	64.3	10.7
11	19	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy	75.0	69.0	6.0
14	25	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	72.5	69.0	3.5
14	25	Ministry of Transport and Communications	72.5	50.0	22.5
16	58	Ministry of Culture	55.0	52.4	2.6
		AVERAGE	**77.6**	**66.0**	**11.6**

Only one ministry, i.e. the Ministry of Culture, is ranked in the category of "average" active transparency (compliance rate of 40% to 60%), while all other line ministers are ranked in the two best categories, as follows: eight ministries are ranked as having demonstrated "good" active transparency (compliance rate of 60% to 80%), and remaining seven are ranked in the highest category of "very good" active transparency (compliance rate of 80% to 100%).

In continuity, the least information is published about budget and finances

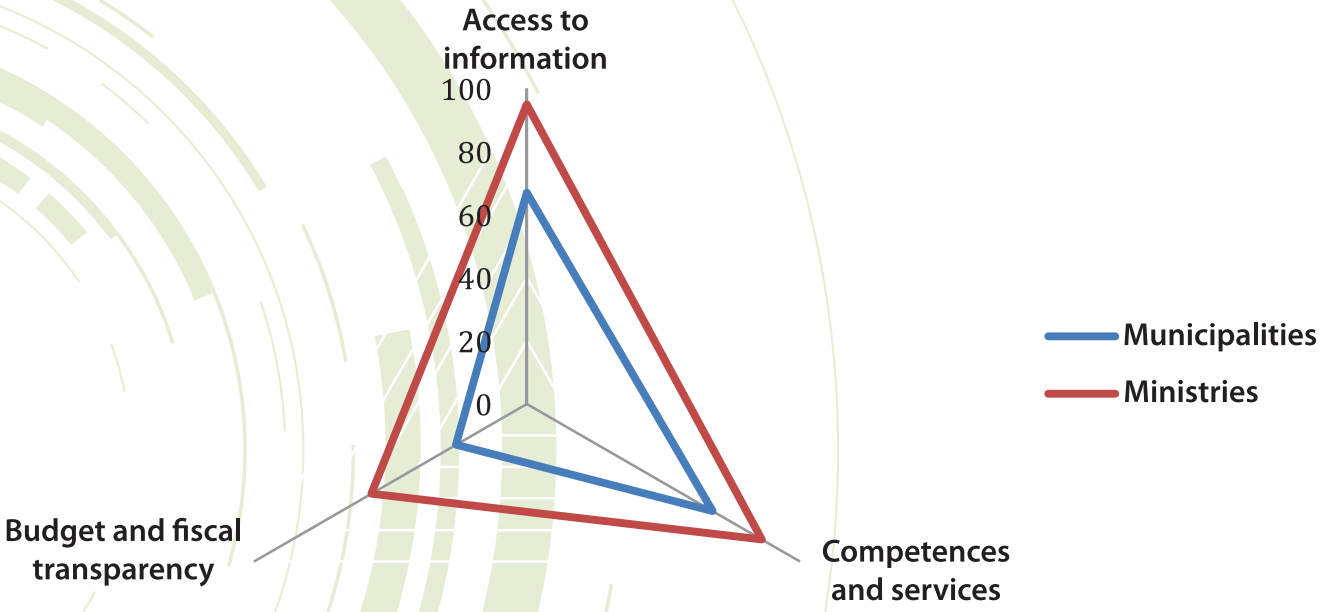
As regards separate areas within active transparency, institutions disclose the most information in the area of access to information, and the least information in the area of budget and financial transparency.

As regards **access to information,** the compliance rate with obligations on active publication of such information, which mainly arise from the Law on Free Access to Public Information, accounts for 67% among municipalities (last year it was 48%) and is significantly higher among line ministries and the Government, standing at 95% (last year it was 94%).

In the area of **information on competences and services,** the average compliance with obligations on active transparency is 68% among municipalities (last year it was 37%) and 86% among line ministries (last year it was 72%).

Both municipalities and ministries have the lowest scores in terms of active publication of information in the area of **budget and fiscal transparency**, whereby municipalities have average compliance rate of 26% (last year it was 25%) from the possible 100% and ministries have average compliance rate of 57% (last year it was 26%) with obligations on active publication of information.

Overview of active transparency per area of operation



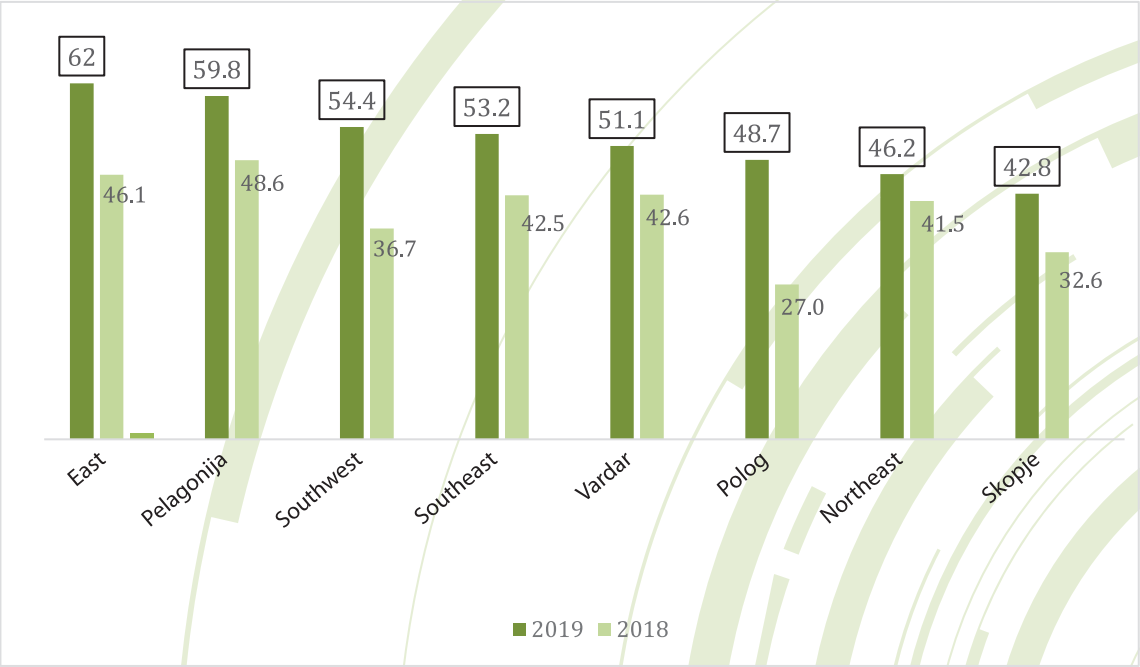
In the case of municipalities, the questionnaire includes an additional, fourth area of active transparency that concerns **information on their specific competences** and their compliance rate with obligations for active publication of information accounts for 47% (last year it was 36%).

Regional comparison: the East Region assumes the first rank, while the Skopje Region drops to the bottom position

All regions are marked by improved active transparency. After having spent two years at the top of this ranking list, the Pelagonija Region lost its primacy among regions in terms of compliance with obligations on proactive publication of information. This year, the first rank is occupied by the East Region, with average compliance rate of 62%, making it the only region ranked in the category of "good" active transparency. All other regions are ranked as having demonstrated "average" active transparency, with compliance rate of 40% to 60%. Last year, as many as three regions achieved compliance rates of 20% to 40%, i.e. they were ranked in the category of "poor" active transparency.

In 2019, the biggest leap in terms of active transparency is observed with the Polog Region, which climbed to the sixth position from last year's bottom rank. The bottom rank is held by the Skopje Region which, in spite of having improved its score compared to last year, dropped one position on the list, from second last to bottom rank.

Ranking of regions according to active transparency



East Region – 62% (last year 46.1%)

In 2019, the East Region assumes the leading position in terms of active transparency, with average compliance rate of 62% compared to last year, when its compliance score was 46.1%. Among municipalities in the region, Shtip lost the top rank to Berovo, which climbed from seventh to first rank this year. Other municipalities with significantly improved track record in active transparency include Makedonska Kamenica and Zrnovci. On the other hand, Vinica dropped from fifth ranked municipality last year to the tenth position this year. As was the case last year, this year as well Karbinci holds the bottom rank within the region.

Rank	Overall rank	Municipality	Score
1	10	Berovo	81.5
2	30	M. Kamenica	70.8
3	33	Kochani	69.2
4	38	Zrnovci	66.2
4	38	Pehchevo	66.2
4	38	Shtip	66.2
7	46	Cheshinovo – Obleshevo	63.1
8	49	Probishtip	61.5
9	54	Delchevo	60.0
10	68	Vinica	46.2
11	79	Karbinci	30.8

Pelagonija Region – 59.8% (last year 48.6%)

The Pelagonija Region lost last year's leading position among regions in terms of active transparency. Marked by compliance rate of 59.8% it ranks second in the overall list of regions. Bitola, as the leader in this region, maintained its top rank. Demir Hisar climbed from fifth to second ranked municipality, while Prilep maintained its third rank. No changes are observed in the second half of this ranking list. Same as last year, the bottom position is occupied by Krivogashtani, as the single municipality ranked in the category of "poor" active transparency.

Rank	Overall rank	Municipality	Score
1	1	Bitola	87.7
2	22	Demir Hisar	73.8
3	27	Prilep	72.3
4	34	Resen	67.7
5	54	Krushevo	60.0
6	59	Novaci	53.8
7	68	Mogila	46.2
8	71	Dolneni	43.1
9	78	Krivogashtani	33.8

Southwest Region – 54.4% (last year 36.7%)

Having climbed three ranks, i.e. from sixth to third position this year, the Southwest Region represents a true champion in active transparency for the year 2019. Ohrid remains the leader in transparency among municipalities in this region, while Plasnica holds the bottom rank. All other municipalities also changed their respective rank positions. Two municipalities, i.e. Plasnica and Centar Zhupa, are ranked in the category of "very poor" active transparency, while other municipalities are categorized as having "average" active transparency, with Ohrid being the single municipality ranked in the category of "very good" active transparency. Significant improvements are noted in compliance scores of Vevchani and Debarca, while Debar deteriorated its rank position.

Rank	Overall rank	Municipality	Score
1	10	Ohrid	81.5
2	34	Vevchani	67.7
3	38	Debarca	66.2
4	43	Makedonski Brod	64.6
4	43	Struga	64.6
6	46	Kichevo	63.1
7	59	Debar	53.8
8	88	Centar Zhupa	18.5
9	97	Plasnica	9.2

Southeast Region – 53.2% (last year 42.5%)

The Southeast is the only region that maintained its last year's rank, i.e. it still holds the fourth position. Small changes are observed in individual ranks of municipalities in this region. This year Gevgelija assumed the top rank before Strumica, which is now second ranked. Single notable change is observed with Valandovo which from last year's tenth position is now ranked fifth in the region. Moreover, Gevgelija is the second best ranked municipality in the overall rank of institutions, being categorized in the group of "very good" active transparency. As many as four municipalities from this region are categorized as having "poor" active transparency, with compliance rate of 20% to 40%.

Rank	Overall rank	Municipality	Score
1	6	Gevgelija	84.6
2	18	Strumica	75.4
3	27	Vasilevo	72.3
4	49	Bogdanci	61.5
5	56	Valandovo	56.9
6	61	Radovish	52.3

7	74	Bosilovo	36.9
8	79	Dojran	30.8
8	79	Konche	30.8
8	79	Novo Selo	30.8

Vardar Region – 51.1% (last year 42.6%)

The Vardar Region dropped from third to fifth rank in terms of active transparency. Among individual municipalities from this region, Veles lost its leading position to last year's second ranked Kavadarci. Sveti Nikole climbed from fifth to third ranked municipality in the region, Gradsko climbed from eight to fifth rank, while Lozovo dropped from fourth to eighth position. Categorized in the group of municipalities with "very poor" active transparency, Rosoman retained its bottom rank in this region.

Rank	Overall rank	Municipality	Score
1	6	Kavadarci	84.6
2	8	Veles	83.1
3	49	Sveti Nikole	61.5
4	61	Chashka	52.3
5	66	Gradsko	49.2
6	70	Negotino	44.6
7	71	Demir Kapija	43.1
8	83	Lozovo	29.2
9	94	Rosoman	12.3

Polog Region – 48.7% (last year 27.0%)

Last year's bottom ranked region, the Polog Region, now holds the fifth rank in terms of active transparency. As regards individual municipalities from this region, Gostivar made a break through to the first position, thus overtaking Tetovo. Zhelino climbed from fifth to third rank, while Mavrovo and Rostushe dropped from third to sixth position. Last year's bottom ranked Brvenica now holds the fifth position, while Tearce dropped to the bottom of this list as the single municipality from this region ranked in the category of "very poor" active transparency.

Rank	Overall rank	Municipality	Score
1	22	Gostivar	73.8
2	43	Tetovo	64.6
3	49	Zhelino	61.5
4	49	Jegunovce	61.5
5	64	Brvenica	50.8
6	66	Mavrovo and Rostushe	49.2
7	75	Bogovinje	35.4
8	85	Vrapchishte	27.7
9	91	Tearce	13.8

Northeast Region – 46.2% (last year 41.5%)

Having demonstrated the least improvement in terms of active transparency compared to last year, the Northeast Region dropped from fifth to seventh position on the ranking list of regions. Kumanovo took the primacy from Kriva Palanka and there are no other ranking changes observed among municipalities in this region. All three municipalities at the bottom, i.e. Staro Nagorichane, Lipkovo and Rankovce, are ranked in the category of "poor" active transparency, while Kratovo is categorized as having "average" active transparency and is ranked in the middle of this list.

Rank	Overall rank	Municipality	Score
1	14	Kumanovo	78.5
2	30	Kriva Palanka	70.8
3	56	Kratovo	56.9
4	83	Rankovce	29.2
5	86	Lipkovo	21.5
6	87	Staro Nagorichane	20.0

Skopje Region – 42.8% (last year 32.6%)

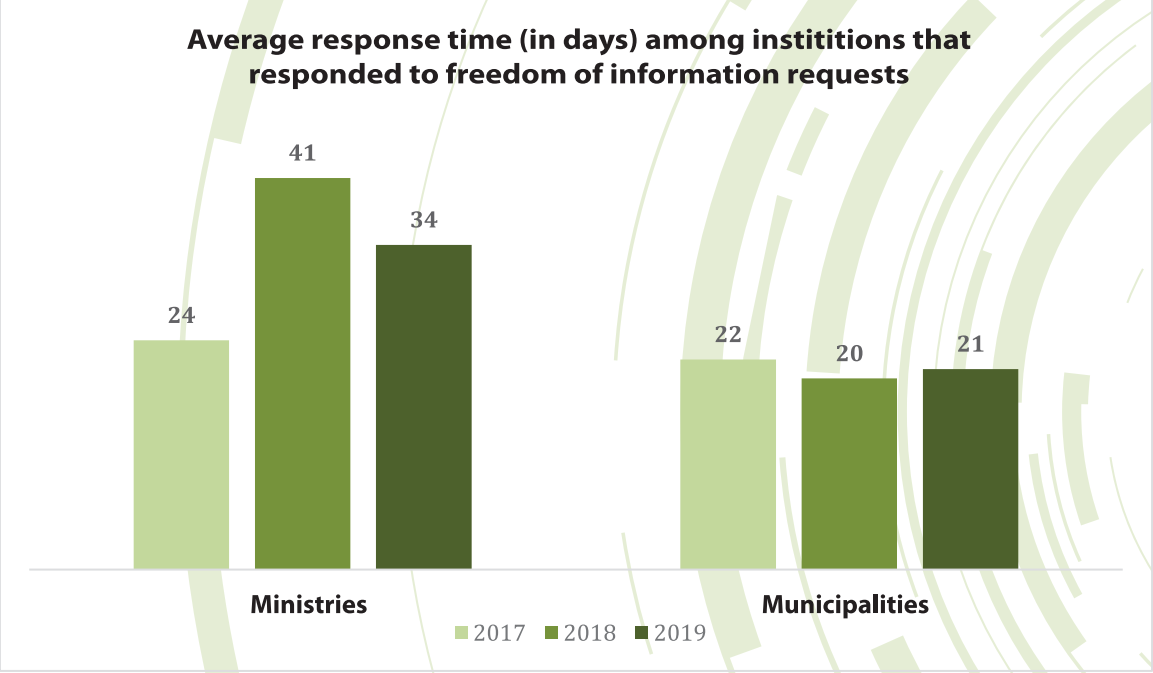
Last year's second to last ranked region, the Skopje Region, dropped to the bottom of the ranking list according to active transparency demonstrated by municipalities within its territory. The City of Skopje climbed from eight to fist rank, but the greatest improvement is observed with Shuto Orizari which, from last year's second to last rank, now holds the eighth position in this region. On the other hand, Sopishte dropped to the bottom rank, although last year it held the eleventh position. Gjorche Petrov dropped from second to seventh rank, while Centar dropped from third to ninth rank.

Rank	Overall rank	Municipality	Score
1	24	City of Skopje	73.4
2	29	Gazi Baba	71.9
3	30	Ilinden	70.8
4	36	Aerodrom	67.2
4	36	Kisela Voda	67.2
6	42	Karposh	65.6
7	48	Gjorche Petrov	62.5
8	63	Shuto Orizari	51.6
9	65	Centar	50.0
10	73	Chair	40.6
11	76	Butel	34.4
11	76	Saraj	34.4
13	89	Studenichani	15.4
13	89	Chucher Sandevo	15.4
15	91	Arachinovo	13.8
15	91	Petrovec	13.8
17	95	Zelenikovo	12.3
18	95	Sopishte	10.8

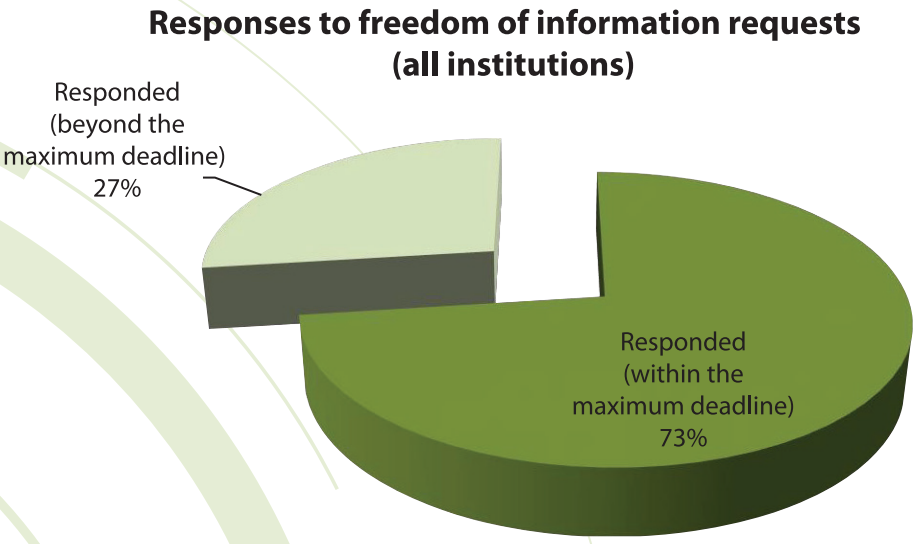
Average response time among institutions that responded to freedom of information requests is 22 days

Although the average response time among monitored institutions that responded to freedom of information requests is improved by one day, unlike last year when all institutions responded to requests for free access to information, this year as many as 12% of institutions did not respond to information requests and did not disclose information requested.

In average, institutions responded to information requests within a period of 22 days (last year it was 23 days), whereby the average deadline is 21 days among municipalities (last year it was 20 days) and 34 days among ministries (last year it was 41 days).



Among institutions that did respond to requests submitted to all of them under the instrument for free access to public information on the same day and with the same contents, 73% disclosed the requested information within the maximum law-stipulated deadline of 30 days, while 27% disclosed the requested information beyond this deadline.



77% of municipalities responded within the law-stipulated maximum deadline of 30 days (last year their share was 78%), while only 45% of line ministries complied with this deadline (last year their share was 31%).

Winners and losers

As many as 86 from the total of 97 ranked institutions have improved their active transparency in 2019 compared to last year's ranking, while deteriorated track records are observed with only 11 institutions. The biggest individual improvement is noted with Brvenica (by 47.8 percentile points), Shuto Orizari (by 47.1 percentile points), Zhelino (by 46.6 percentile points) and Valandovo (by 45 percentile points). Among line ministries, the biggest improvement is noted with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy (by 23.2 percentile points) and the Government (by 22.5 percentile points).

On the other hand, institutions with most notable negative changes include two municipalities, i.e. Lozovo (by 18.6 percentile points) and Centar (by 12.1 percentile points).

Annual change in active transparency (2019/2018)

Institutions	Change (in percentile points)	Institutions	Change (in percentile points)
Brvenica	47.8	Centar Zhupa	11.0
Shuto Orizari	47.1	Chucher Sandevo	10.9
Zhelino	46.6	MoH	10.8
Valandovo	45.0	MISA	10.7
Kichevo	37.7	Gazi Baba	9.8
Berovo	33.7	Kumanovo	9.8
Cheshinovo-Obleshevo	28.8	Pehchevo	9.5
Chair	28.5	Tetovo	9.4
Vevchani	27.4	Debar	9.0

Debarca	25.9	MoI	8.6
Gradsko	25.3	Ohrid	8.4
Bogovinje	25.0	Novo Selo	8.4
MAFWE	23.2	Petrovec	7.8
Probishtip	22.7	Bosilovo	7.0
Government of RNM	22.5	Rankovce	6.8
MTC	22.5	Ilinden	6.6
Butel	22.3	MoD	6.4
Kavadarci	21.9	Bogdanci	6.3
M. Kamenica	21.5	MoE	6.1
Jegunovce	21.2	MLSP	6.0
Sveti Nikole	21.2	Shtip	5.0
City of Skopje	20.4	Tearce	4.8
MESP	20.2	Rosoman	4.8
Gostivar	20.1	Delchevo	4.8
Demir Hisar	20.1	Negotino	4.3
Struga	19.8	Bitola	4.1
Zrnovci	18.4	Dojran	3.9
Demir Kapija	17.7	MFA	3.5
Dolneni	17.7	Plasnica	3.2
Vrapchishte	17.3	Mavrovo and Rostushe	2.9
Staro Nagorichane	17.0	MoC	2.6
M. Brod	16.8	Saraj	2.6
MLSG	16.0	Veles	2.5
Studenichani	15,4	Strumica	2.3
Prilep	14.1	Zelenikovo	1.8
Karbinci	14.0	MES	1.4
MoJ	13.5	Lipkovo	0.6
Gevgelija	13.0	Gjorche Petrov	-1.1
Krivogashtani	12.9	Kriva Palanka	-2.3
Aerodrom	12.7	Krushevo	-2.7
Kisela Voda	12.7	Radovish	-2.9
Vasilevo	12.6	Chashka	-2.9
Novaci	12.0	Kratovo	-4.3
Mogila	11.9	Vinica	-4.5
MoF	11.5	Arachinovo	-7.1
Konche	11.4	Sopishte	-7.1
Karposh	11.1	Centar	-12.1
Kochani	11.0	Lozovo	-18.6
Resen	11.0		

Appendices: Research Questionnaires

1. Questionnaire on Active Transparency for Ministries and the Government

First group of questions: access to information

1. Does the institution's official website have separate section/page on access to information?

2. Is this separate section/page on access to information featured in the website menu, homepage and is it hyperlinked?

3. Has the institution published the name of the officer responsible for access to information?

4. Has the institution published basic contact data about the information holder (address, telephone number, e-mail)?

5. Has the institution published the list of information it disposes with?

Second group of questions: information on competences and services

6. Has the institution published regulations that govern competences of the information holder?

7. Has the institution published draft programs, strategies, positions, opinions, studies, and similar documents falling within competences of the information holder?

8. Has the institution published information about its competences?

9. Has the institution published the list of services it provides?

10. Has the institution published its organizational structure (scheme, organogram)?

11. Has the institution published the names of staff members/manages with their contact information?

12. Does the institution publish a newsletter or other information dissemination format?

Third group of questions: budget and financial transparency

13. Has the institution published its budget for the current year?

14. Has the institution published the final budget account for the previous year?

15. Has the institution published an abbreviated version of its strategic plan for the current year?

16. Does the institution publish ongoing procurement notices?

17. Does the institution publish tender documents for ongoing procurement notices?

18. Has the institution published its annual plan on public procurements for the current year?

19. Does the institution publish notifications on signed public procurement contracts?

20. Deadline in which the institution responded to the request submitted under the instrument for free access to information.

2. Questionnaire on Active Transparency for the Ministry of Finance

First group of questions: access to information

1. Does the institution's website have separate section/page on access to information?

2. Is this separate section/page on access to information featured on the website menu, homepage and is it hyperlinked?

3. Has the institution published the name of the officer responsible for access to information?

4. Has the institution published basic contact information about the information holder (address, telephone number, e-mail)?

5. Has the institution published the list of information it disposes with?

Second group of questions: information on competences and services

6. Has the institution published regulations that govern competences of the information holder?

7. Has the institution published draft programs, strategies, positions, opinions, studies and similar documents falling within competences of the information holder?

8. Has the institution published information about its competences?

9. Has the institution published information the list of services it provides?

10. Has the institution published its organizational structure (scheme, organogram)?

11. Has the institution published the names of staff members/managers with their contract information?

12. Does the institution publish a newsletter or another information dissemination format?

Third group of questions: budget and financial transparency

13. Has the institution published its budget for the current year?

14. Has the institution published the final budget account for the previous year?

15. Has the institution published an abbreviated version of its strategic plan for the current year?

16. Does the institution publish ongoing procurement notices?

17. Does the institution publish tender documents for ongoing procurement notices?

18. Has the institution published its annual plan on public procurements for the current year?

19. Does the institution publish notifications on signed public procurement contracts?

20. Deadline within which the institution responded to requests submitted under the instrument for free access to public information.

21. Does the institution publish monthly reports on budget execution for the period 2018/19?

22. Has the institution published the report on budget execution for the first six months of 2018?

23. Does the institution publish data on the public debt in 2018/19?

3. Questionnaire on Active Transparency for Municipalities and the City of Skopje

First group of questions: access to information

1. Does the institution's website have separate section/page on access to information?

2. Is the separate section/page on access to information featured in the website menu, homepage and is it hyperlinked?

3. Has the institution published the name of the officer responsible for access to information?

4. Has the institution published basic contact data about the information holder (address, telephone number, e-mail)?

5. Has the institution published the list of information it disposes with?

6. Has the institution published regulations that govern competences of the information holder?

7. Has the institution published draft programs, strategies, positions, opinions, studies and other similar documents falling within competences of the information holder?

8. Has the institution published information about its competences?

9. Has the institution published its municipal statute?

Second group of questions: information on competences and services

10. Does the municipality publish an official newsletter?

11. Does the municipality publish meeting agendas for the Municipal Council?

12. Does the municipality publish decisions taken by the Municipal Council?

13. Has the municipality published information about services it provides?

14. Has the municipality published its organizational structure (scheme, organogram)?

15. Has the municipality published the names of staff members/managers with contact information?

16. Does the municipality publish a newsletter or other information dissemination format?

Third group of questions: budget and financial transparency

17. Has the municipality published its budget for the current year?

18. Has the municipality published the final budget account for the previous year?

19. Does the municipality publish quarterly reports on budget execution in 2018/19?

20. Does the municipality publish its civic budget for the current year?

21. Does the municipality publish ongoing procurement notices?

22. Does the municipality publish tender documents for ongoing procurement notices?

23. Has the municipality published its annual plan on public procurements for the current year?

24. Does the municipality publish notifications on signed public procurement contracts?

Fourth group of questions: information on specific competences of municipalities

25. Has the municipality published its General Urban Plan (information on urban planning)?

26. Does the municipality publish its Detailed Urban Plans (information on urban planning)?

27. Does the municipality publish construction permits issued (information on urban planning)?

28. Does the municipality publish information on environmental protection?

29. Does the municipality publish information on local economic development?

30. Does the municipality publish information on public utility services?

31. Does the municipality publish information on culture?

32. Does the municipality publish information on sports and recreation?

33. Does the municipality publish information on social protection and child protection?

34. Does the municipality publish information on education?

35. Does the municipality publish information on health care?

36. Does the municipality publish information on civic protection and rescue measures?

37. Does the municipality publish information on fire-fighting protection?

38. Does the municipality publish information on supervision performed on matters falling within its competences?

39. Does the municipality publish information on property tax rates stipulated by the municipality?

40. Does the municipality publish information on fees charged for utility connection of construction land?

41. Deadline within which the institution responded to the request submitted under the instrument for free access to public information.