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Index of Active Transparency 2020



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Abbreviations

Mol	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
MPSICR	Ministry of Political System and Inter-Community Relations
MTC	Ministry of Transport and Communications
MLSP	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
MoF	Ministry of Finance

Summary

- In 2020, active transparency of all 98 ranked institutions (line ministries, the government and municipalities) is calculated at **58.2%** (from maximum possible 100%) and according to the categorization of compliance rates falls within the category of “average”. In 2020, active transparency **has increased by insignificant 2.2 percentile points** compared to last year when it was 56%.
- In the case of **ministries**, after three years of continuous improvement, their active transparency is marked by stagnation and even **minor decrease**. This year, the overall score is **77.1%** compared to the last year’s score of 77.6%.
- However, active transparency of ministries is still significantly better compared to **municipalities**, whose score is calculated at **54.5%** and, after several years of decrease, **is marked by increase** for a second consecutive year.
- For the first time in the last five years since this index is developed, **the top rank is held by a ministry**. This year, the first-ranked position is held by the Ministry of Defence with the highest active transparency score (97.9%), followed by eight municipalities, the highest ranked of which is Veles (94.4%).
- There are no changes in last year’s ranking of **regions**. The first rank is occupied by the East Region (68.3%), while the Skopje Region remains at the bottom (44.4%).
- As observed in previous reports, both ministries and municipalities publish the **least information on finances**, whereby ministries publish 42% and municipalities publish only 36% of information that should be made publicly available.
- **Freedom of information requests** addressed to all institutions on the same day and with the same contents were responded by **municipalities** within an average period of **24 days** (last year it was 21 days), while **ministries** responded within an average period of **26 days** (last year it was 34 days), although the maximum law-stipulated deadline is 20 days. In that, 40% of institutions complied with the law-stipulated deadline, while **60% of them acted in violation of the law**.

The term ‘active transparency’ means publication of information by institutions on their own initiative, without being addressed with freedom of information requests. However, active transparency of institutions is stipulated as legal obligation, primary in the Law on Free Access to Public Information, but also in other laws, such as 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 arises from good practices and institutions are also obliged to proactively publish information under the Open Government Partnership’s National Action Plans.

Introduction: Why active transparency?

The term 'active transparency' means publication of information by institutions on their own initiative, without being addressed with freedom of information requests. On the other hand, "reactive transparency" concerns cases in which institutions are addressed with requests to disclose particular information.

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 participate in decision-making processes; and
- » information needed by citizens to obtain access to services provided by public institutions.

Institutions that proactively publish information enjoy have multiple benefits from such practice, as follows:

- » active transparency helps institutions to 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 technology development and advancement go hand-in-hand and support active transparency of institutions because the methods for distribution of information disposed by institutions and useful for citizens are growing in number and become more easily accessible.

The legal basis for active transparency of institutions is found in the Law on Free Access to Public Information. In addition to the obligation for institutions to respond to freedom of information requests, this law also contains provisions on proactive publication of information, i.e. publication of information on their 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 submitted as freedom of information requests.

Voluntarily publication of information helps civil society organizations and investigative journalists to develop and publish research studies/stories which, in turn, allow citizens to better understand the institution's performance and operation, their rights and responsibilities, the manner in which they can influence decisions that affect their day-to-day life and work, and facilitates their 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 institutions inform citizens and interested parties about information disclosed and encourage access to and use of such information.

Proactively published information should be easily accessible and understandable, useful, 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 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 help institutions in terms of which information they need to publish and to encourage them to publish such information.

Methodology

This research is conducted on the basis of previously designed methodology and structured questionnaires that measure the compliance rate with obligations for proactive publication of information on official websites of institutions.

Legal basis for design of research questionnaires is identified in law-stipulated obligations for institutions to publish information in various areas of operation that are of importance for citizens and affect their life and work. In this 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 research is conducted for the fifth consecutive year and targets institutions that are direct holders of executive powers at central and local level, i.e. the Government, ministries and local authorities, i.e. municipalities and the City of Skopje.

Having in mind the multitude of obligations for proactive publication of information by authorities at central and local level (municipalities have far greater obligations in this regard), this research uses two questionnaires. The first questionnaire targets ministries and the Government, while the second is intended for municipalities and the City of Skopje. In that, the questionnaire addressed to the Ministry of Finance contains additional questions to reflect multiple obligations for publication of information by this ministry compared to the others.

Each question accounts for particular number of points, depending on the importance, volume and scope of information published on official websites of ranked institutions. In addition to measuring their compliance with obligations for publication of information based on the questionnaire, the research also included a test probe with information requests addressed to all institutions involved in this research for the purpose of assessing their timely and complete disclosure of information requested. The maximum number of points that can be assigned to ministries and the Government is 48, while the Ministry of Finance could be assigned maximum 54 points, and the maximum number of points for municipalities and the City of Skopje is 71.

The initial research was conducted in the period 12th March to 6th April 2020. The final ranking of institutions was made on the basis of their compliance rate with obligations (expressed as percentage), i.e. the index of active transparency, which is calculated as the ratio between the number of points awarded and the maximum number of points. In that, score of 0 signifies the lowest rank, while score of 100 signifies the highest rank.

The scale of active transparency is divided into five categories depending on compliance rates. Hence, institutions with compliance rate 80-100% are ranked as "very good", those with compliance rate 60-80% are ranked as "good", institutions with compliance rate 40-60% belong to the category of "average" active transparency, while institutions with compliance rate 20-40% are ranked as "poor" and those with compliance rate 0-20% are ranked as "very poor" in terms of active transparency.

Overall ranking under the 2020 Index of Active Transparency

Rank	Institution	Score
VERY GOOD		
1	Ministry of Defence	97.9%
2	Veles	94.4%
3	Karposh	91.4%
4	Kriva Palanka	89.9%
5	Bitola	88.4%
5	Demir Hisar	88.4%
7	Makedonska Kamenica	85.9%
8	Valandovo	85.5%
9	Ministry of Interior	85.4%
10	Ministry of Finance	85.2%
11	Zrnovci	84.5%
12	Gazi Baba	84.1%
12	Strumica	84.1%
14	MISA	83.3%
14	Government of RNM	83.3%
16	Delchevo	82.6%
16	Kumanovo	82.6%
18	MAFWE	81.3%
18	Ministry of Health	81.3%
20	Kavadarci	80.3%
20	Ohrid	80.3%
GOOD		
22	MLSP	79.2%
23	Berovo	78.3%
23	Vasilevo	78.3%
23	Kochani	78.3%
26	Gevgelija	76.8%
27	MFA	75.0%
28	Makedonski Brod	74.6%
29	Ministry of Justice	72.9%
29	Ministry of Economy	72.9%
29	MLSG	72.9%
29	MESP	72.9%
33	Centar	71.8%
34	City of Skopje	71.0%
34	Krushevo	71.0%
36	MES	70.8%
37	Vevchani	68.1%
38	Pehchevo	66.7%
38	Prilep	66.7%
40	Bogdanci	66.2%
40	Shtip	66.2%
42	Gostivar	64.8%
43	Kisela Voda	64.3%
44	Debarca	63.8%
44	Kratovo	63.8%
46	MTC	62.5%
47	Dolneni	60.9%
47	Probishtip	60.9%
47	Resen	60.9%
50	Cheshinovo-Obleshevo	60.6%

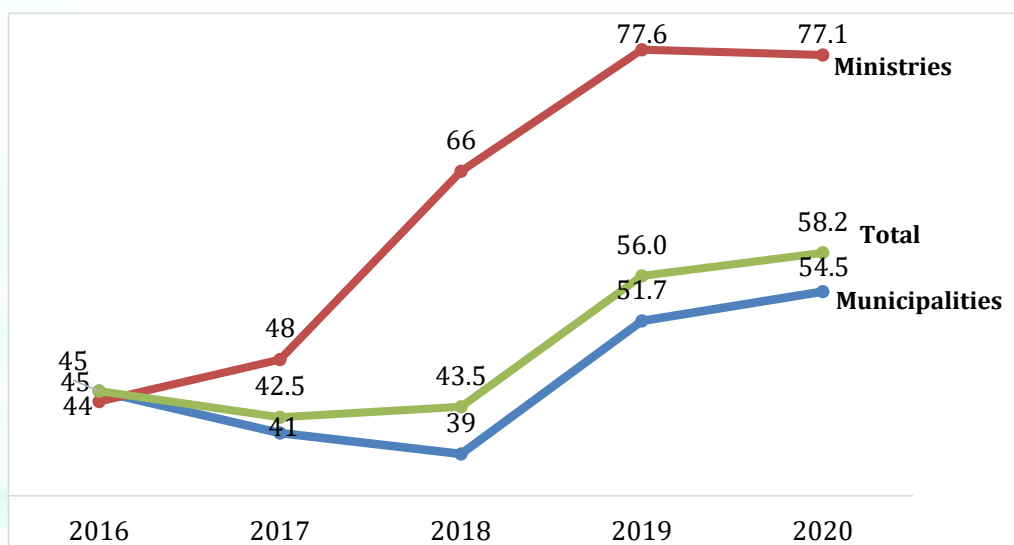
Rank	Institution	Score
51	Aerodrom	60.3%
52	Gjorche Petrov	60.0%
AVERAGE		
53	Debar	58.1%
54	Vinica	58.0%
54	Ilinden	58.0%
54	Tetovo	58.0%
57	Mavrovo and Rostushe	57.7%
57	Sveti Nikole	57.7%
59	Radovish	56.5%
60	Ministry of Culture	56.3%
61	Brvenica	55.1%
62	Bogovinje	53.6%
62	Mogila	53.6%
64	Jegunovce	52.9%
65	Negotino	52.1%
66	Bosilovo	50.7%
66	Krivogashtani	50.7%
66	Lozovo	50.7%
69	Chashka	47.9%
70	Novaci	47.8%
71	Kichevo	46.4%
71	Novo Selo	46.4%
73	Demir Kapija	43.5%
73	Zhelino	43.5%
75	Rankovce	42.0%
76	Shuto Orizari	41.4%
POOR		
77	Struga	39.4%
78	Gradsko	33.3%
78	Rosoman	33.3%
80	Studenichani	29.6%
81	Butel	29.4%
81	Chair	29.4%
83	Karbinci	29.0%
84	Dojran	26.1%
84	Sopishte	26.1%
86	Saraj	25.4%
87	Konche	23.2%
87	Tearce	23.2%
89	Arachinovo	22.9%
90	Vrapchishte	20.3%
VERY POOR		
91	Chucher Sandevo	17.4%
92	Plasnica	15.9%
93	Lipkovo	14.5%
93	Centar Zhupa	12.7%
95	Petrovec	11.6%
96	Staro Nagorichane	10.1%
97	Zelenikovo	4.3%
98	MPSICR	0.0%

Detailed analysis of active transparency in 2020

Proactive publication of public information by institutions is slightly improved, although the overall active transparency is still low.

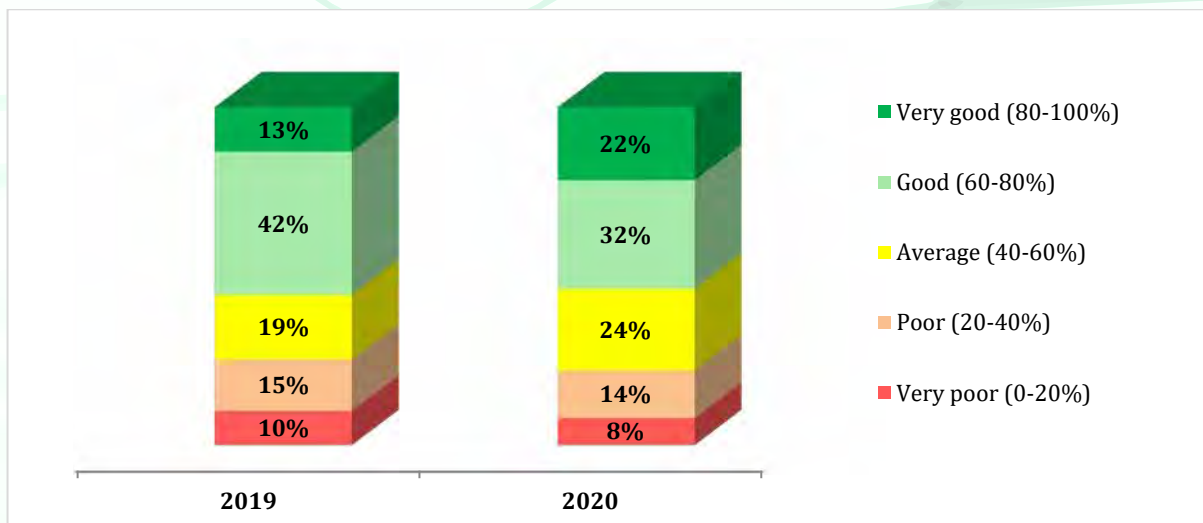
- In 2020, average active transparency of all 98 ranked institutions is calculated at **58.2%** (from maximum possible 100%) and according to the categorization of compliance rates falls within the category of “average”. In 2020, active transparency has increased by insignificant 2.2 percentile points compared to last year when it was 56%.
- In the case of ministries, after three years of continuous improvement, their active transparency in 2020 is marked by stagnation and even minor decrease. Their average transparency is calculated at **77.1%** compared to the last year’s score of 77.6%. However, active transparency of ministries is still significantly better compared to municipalities, whose score is calculated at **54.5%** and, after several years of decrease, is marked by increase for a second consecutive year.
- Even under this situation, there is still a major gap in active transparency demonstrated by ministries and the Government and that demonstrated by municipalities. Although in 2016, both ministries and municipalities had an equal starting point, in the period that followed all ministries continuously improved their practices for proactive publication of public information, unlike municipalities which published less information and finally started to improve their track-record two years ago. Hence, after four years, active transparency of ministries is by more than 22 percentile points better than active transparency of municipalities.

Movement of active transparency throughout the years



- This year as well, the highest share of institutions (32%) fall within the category of “good” active transparency, and the share of institutions in the best group marked by “very good” active transparency has also increased (from 13% last year to 22% this year). In contrast, the share of institutions in the worst category of active transparency labelled as “very low” is slightly decreased (from 10% last year to 8% this year).

Distribution of institutions per different categories of active transparency



Active transparency of municipalities: the top rank is lost, but municipalities still hold second to eight rank position

- This year, municipalities reclaimed high ranks at the top of the list which are reserved for institutions marked by “very good” active transparency, i.e. marked by compliance rate of 80% to 100% with obligations for publication of public information. Namely, 14 from the total of 21 institutions at the top of this list are municipalities, contrary to the situation last year when this group included eight municipalities.
- For the first time in the last five years, the top rank is not held by municipality, but a ministry. Still, several municipalities are featured on the second to eight rank position. In contrast, except for one ministry, the bottom 37 positions on the ranking list are exclusively occupied by municipalities.
- Only 43 from total of 81 municipalities have improved their active transparency. Last year, improved active transparency was noted with 70 municipalities. Six municipalities emerge as leaders in improvement as their compliance rates with obligations have increased by more than 20 percentile points over the period of only one year: Valandovo, Karposh, Delchevo, Centar, Lozovo and Rosoman.

Active transparency of ministries and the Government: stagnation after three years of continuous increase

- The overall level of active transparency among ministries is decreased by half percentile point from 77.6% last year to 77.1% this year. This is the first stagnation in terms of active transparency demonstrated by ministries after three years of continuous increase.
- Among 16 line ministries and the Government, half of them are marked by increase, while the others demonstrated lower compliance rate with obligations on active transparency. The highest increase is observed with the Ministry of Defence, which is also the best-ranked ministry with compliance rate of 97.9%, but also the best-ranked among all 98 institutions. The highest drop in ranks is noted with the Ministry of Local Self-Government, which fell from third to tenth rank position.

- The Ministry of Interior took over the second position from the Government, which this year is ranked fourth and shares this position with MISA that leaped from the eleventh rank last year. The Ministry of Finance emerged on the third position, while the Ministry of Agriculture dropped from the first rank last year to sixth this year. Another major drop from sixth to fourteenth position is observed with the Ministry of Education and Science.
- As was the case last year, the Ministry of Transport and Communications and the Ministry of Culture are ranked at the bottom, while the newly formed Ministry of Political System and Inter-Community Relations holds the last rank both among ministries and among all 98 institutions. An entire year from its formation which, by the way, is not an official start but rather continuation of the Secretariat for Implementation of the Framework Agreement, this ministry still does not have functional website.
- Seven ministries fall within the best category of “very good” active transparency (compliance rate from 80% to 100%), and eight of them are classified in the category of “good” active transparency (compliance rate from 60% to 80%). One ministry each is featured in the category of “average” (compliance rate from 40% to 60%) and the lowest category of “very poor” active transparency (compliance rate from 0% to 20%).

Ranking of ministries according to active transparency

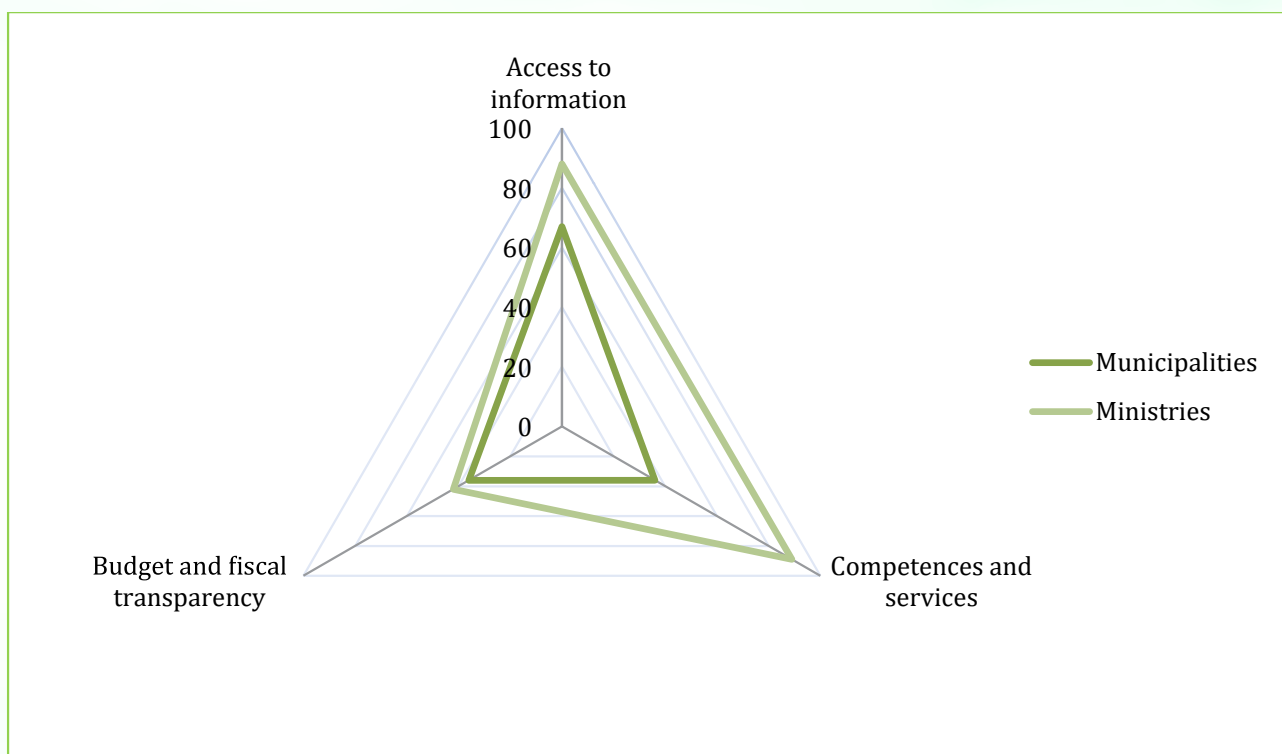
Rank	Overall rank	Institution	2020 score	2019 score	Change (in percentile points)
1	1	Ministry of Defence	97.9 %	85.0 %	12.9
2	9	Ministry of Interior	85.4 %	80.0 %	5.4
3	10	Ministry of Finance	85.2 %	76.1 %	9.1
4	14	Ministry of Information Society and Administration	83.3 %	75.0 %	8.3
4	14	Government of RNM	83.3 %	85.0 %	-1.7
6	18	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy	81.3 %	87.5 %	-6.2
6	18	Ministry of Health	81.3 %	77.5 %	3.8
8	22	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy	79.2 %	75.0 %	4.2
9	27	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	75.0 %	72.5 %	2.5
10	29	Ministry of Justice	72.9 %	82.5 %	-9.6
10	29	Ministry of Economy	72.9 %	77.5 %	-4.6
10	29	Ministry of Local Self-Government	72.9 %	85.0 %	-12.1
10	29	Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning	72.9 %	75.0 %	-2.1
14	36	Ministry of Education and Science	70.8 %	80.0 %	-9.2
15	46	Ministry of Transport and Communications	62.5 %	72.5 %	-10.0
16	60	Ministry of Culture	56.3 %	55.0 %	1.3
17	98	Ministry of Political System and Inter-Community Relations	0.0 %	n/a	n/a
AVERAGE			77.1%	77.6%	-0.5

The least information is published on financial transparency

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

- In the area of **access to information**, the compliance rate of municipalities with obligations for active publication of this type of information, which mainly originate from the Law on Free Access to Public Information, is the same as last year, i.e. 67%, while the compliance rate among ministries and the Government is significantly higher and stands at 88% (last year it was 95%).
- In the area of **information on competences and services**, municipalities demonstrated average compliance rate of 36% with obligations for publication of information (last year it was 47%), and the compliance rate among ministries is calculated at 89% (last year it was 86%).
- Both municipalities and ministries have low scores in terms of active publication of information in the area of **budget and fiscal transparency**, where from possible 100% municipalities have compliance rate of only 36% (last year it was 26%), and ministries have compliance rate of 42% (last year it was 57%) with obligations for active publication of information.

Active transparency per area of information



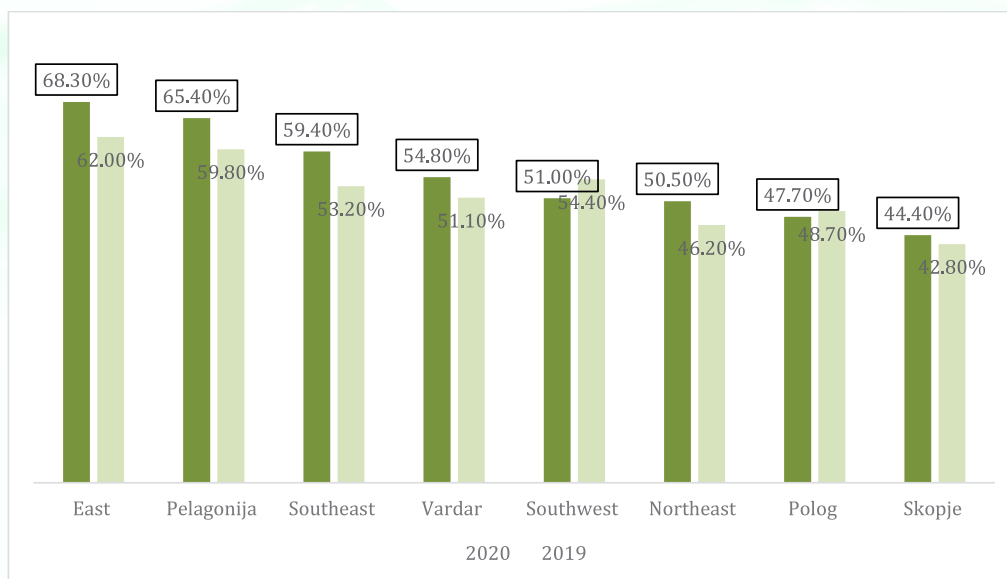
Regional comparison: the East Region maintained its top ranking position, while the Skopje Region remains at the bottom

- Unlike the situation last year when all regions were marked by improved active transparency, this year two regions have lower scores: Southwest and Polog. There are no changes in terms of top and bottom ranks. The East Region still holds the first rank and has even improved its active transparency score from 62% to 68.3%. The Skopje Region is still at the bottom, marked by insignificant improvement from 42.8% last year to 44.4% this year, but that was sufficient only for the last position.
- The Pelagonija Region maintained its second rank, while the Southwest Region dropped from third to fifth position, notably by having its last year score of 54.4% decreased to 52% this year, which

resulted in drop on the table by two positions. The Polog Region dropped to the second from last position, with 47.7% that represents minor decrease from the last year's score of 48.7%.

- The first two regions, i.e. East and Pelagonija, have average compliance rates with obligations above 60%, which place them in the category of "good" active transparency. All other regions belong to the category of "average" active transparency, with compliance rate from 40% to 60%.

Ranking of regions according to active transparency



East Region – 68.3% (last year – 62.0%)

- The East Region maintained its top rank, which it occupied last year and became a leader among regions in terms of active transparency with average compliance rate of 68.3%, representing further improvement by 6.3 percentile points compared to last year. By significantly improving its active transparency for two consecutive years, Makedonska Kamenica emerged on the top rank with high compliance rate of 85.9% with obligations on active transparency.
- Last year's leaders Berovo and Shtip did not only lose their high ranks, but significantly dropped on the ranking list. A major leap this year is noted with Zrnovci, which occupies the second position with solid compliance rate of 84.5%. Karbinci remained at the bottom with compliance rate of only 29%.

Rank	Overall rank	Municipality	Score
1	7	Makedonska Kamenica	85.9 %
2	11	Zrnovci	84.5 %
3	16	Delchevo	82.6 %
4	23	Berovo	78.3 %
5	23	Kochani	78.3 %
6	38	Pehchevo	66.7 %
7	40	Shtip	66.2 %
8	47	Probishtip	60.9 %
9	50	Cheshinovo-Obleshevo	60.6 %
10	54	Vinica	58.0 %
11	83	Karbinci	29.0 %

Pelagonija Region – 65.4% (last year – 59.8%)

- As was the case last year, the former leader among regions kept its second position on the list of active transparency. By improving the last year's score of 59.8% to 65.4%, this region entered the category of "good" active transparency, with compliance rate above 60%.
- Bitola remained on the leader position with high score of 88.4%, but shares this position with the last year's second-ranked Demir Hisar, which demonstrated same compliance rate and improves its active transparency year after year.
- Among other municipalities, Krushevo overtook Prilep and now occupies the third rank, while Krivogashtani moved up from the last to second-to-last position, leaving Novaci at the bottom.

Rank	Overall rank	Municipality	Score
1	5	Bitola	88.4 %
1	5	Demir Hisar	88.4 %
3	34	Krushevo	71.0 %
4	38	Prilep	66.7 %
5	47	Dolneni	60.9 %
5	47	Resen	60.9 %
7	62	Mogila	53.6 %
8	66	Krivogashtani	50.7 %
9	70	Novaci	47.8 %

Southeast Region – 59.4% (last year – 53.2%)

- The Southeast Region, with improvement by more than 6 percentile points, managed to improve its rank by one position and after two years broke from fourth to third-ranked region. However, significant changes are noted among municipalities within this region.
- From bottom-ranked municipality in 2018, through fifth-ranked last year, this year Valandovo emerged on the top with solid score of 85.5%. Within a period of one year this municipality has improved its active transparency score by 28.6 percentile points. Gevgelija dropped from first to fourth position, while Strumica maintained its second rank.
- The two bottom-ranked municipalities, Dojran and Konche, fall within the category of "poor" active transparency, with compliance rate from 20% to 40%.

Rank	Overall rank	Municipality	Score
1	8	Valandovo	85.5 %
2	12	Strumica	84.1 %
3	23	Vasilevo	78.3 %
4	26	Gevgelija	76.8 %
5	40	Bogdanci	66.2 %
6	59	Radovish	56.5 %
7	66	Bosilovo	50.7 %
8	71	Novo Selo	46.4 %
9	84	Dojran	26.1 %
10	87	Konche	23.2 %

Vardar Region – 54.8% (last year – 51.1%)

- After last year's fall on the fifth position, the Vardar Region improved its active transparency and this year holds the fourth rank among regions. This region includes the best-ranking municipality at the level of the country - Veles, which restored the lead position after having lost the primacy last year.
- Last year's leader in the region, Kavadarci, again dropped to the second position. Sveti Nikole remained on the third position, while Gradsko - after having a major leap upward last year - again dropped to the second-to-last rank together with Rosoman. This year Negotino improved its active transparency and leaped to the fourth position, unlike Chaska which dropped to the sixth position.

Rank	Overall rank	Municipality	Score
1	2	Veles	94.4 %
2	20	Kavadarci	80.3 %
3	57	Sveti Nikole	57.7 %
4	65	Negotino	52.1 %
5	66	Lozovo	50.7 %
6	69	Chashka	47.9 %
7	73	Demir Kapija	43.5 %
8	78	Gradsko	33.3 %
8	78	Rosoman	33.3 %

Southwest Region – 51.0% (last year – 54.4%)

- After last year's major leap and emergence on the third rank, the Southwest Region again dropped to the fifth position. Ohrid remained on the top position, while Centar Zhupa dropped from the penultimate to the bottom position. This municipality and Plasnica, as the occupant of the second-to-last position, remain in the worst category of "very poor" active transparency.
- Makedonski Brod continued to improve its score and now occupies the second position, previously held by Vevchani which dropped to the third position. Debarca remained fourth-ranked municipality in the region, but a major drop in ranking is noted with Struga which decreased its score from 64.4% last year to only 39.4% this year in terms of compliance with obligations on active transparency.

Rank	Overall rank	Municipality	Score
1	20	Ohrid	80.3%
2	28	Makedonski Brod	74.6%
3	37	Vevchani	68.1%
4	44	Debarca	63.8%
5	53	Debar	58.1%
6	71	Kichevo	46.4%
7	77	Struga	39.4%
8	92	Plasnica	15.9%
9	93	Centar Zhupa	12.7%

Northeast Region – 50.5% (last year – 46.2%)

- With minor improvement in terms of its last year's score on active transparency, the Northeast Region jumped one position from seventh to sixth rank among regions.
- Kriva Palanka restored its top position, which last year was occupied by Kumanovo, and became the third best-ranked municipalities among all 81 local self-government units in the country, with high

compliance rate of 89.9% with obligations on active transparency.

- There are no changes in terms of ranks among other municipalities in this region, except for Lipkovo and Staro Nagorichane which further dropped on the scale from municipalities marked by “poor” active transparency to the category of “very poor” active transparency.

Rank	Overall rank	Municipality	Score
1	4	Kriva Palanka	89.9 %
2	16	Kumanovo	82.6 %
3	44	Kratovo	63.8 %
4	75	Rankovce	42.0 %
5	93	Lipkovo	14.5 %
6	96	Staro Nagorichane	10.1 %

Polog Region – 47.7% (last year – 48.7%)

- After last year’s improvement by more than 20 percentile points and jump from penultimate to fifth position, this year the Polog Region again dropped on the second-to-last rank due to its decreased score for active transparency by one percentile point.
- Gostivar kept its leader position, while Tetovo remains the second-ranked municipality in this region. Both municipalities demonstrated better active transparency this year compared to their ranks last year. Mavrovo and Rostushe restored their formerly held third position, which Zhelino lost by dropping down three ranks.
- Tearce and Vrapchishte exchanged their penultimate and ultimate ranks and both municipalities continue to demonstrate “poor” active transparency.

Rank	Overall rank	Municipality	Score
1	42	Gostivar	64.8 %
2	54	Tetovo	58.0 %
3	57	Mavrovo and Rostushe	57.7 %
4	61	Brvenica	55.1 %
5	62	Bogovinje	53.6 %
6	64	Jegunovce	52.9 %
7	73	Zhelino	43.5 %
8	87	Tearce	23.2 %
9	90	Vrapchishte	20.3 %

Skopje Region – 44.4% (last year – 42.8%)

- The biggest region in the country, i.e. Skopje Region, remained on the last-ranked position among regions according to active transparency of municipalities that belong to this region.
- Karposh took over primacy from the City of Skopje and broke at the top rank with a high score of 91.4%. At the same time, Karposh is the second best-ranked municipality in the country according to active transparency.
- Gazi Baba maintained its second position within the Skopje Region. Centar emerged at the third position, which was lost by Ilinden, dropping to the eighth rank. The City of Skopje dropped from first to fourth position. Kisela Voda and Aerodrom exchanged their last year’s positions, while

Gjorche Petrov remained on the seventh position from last year.

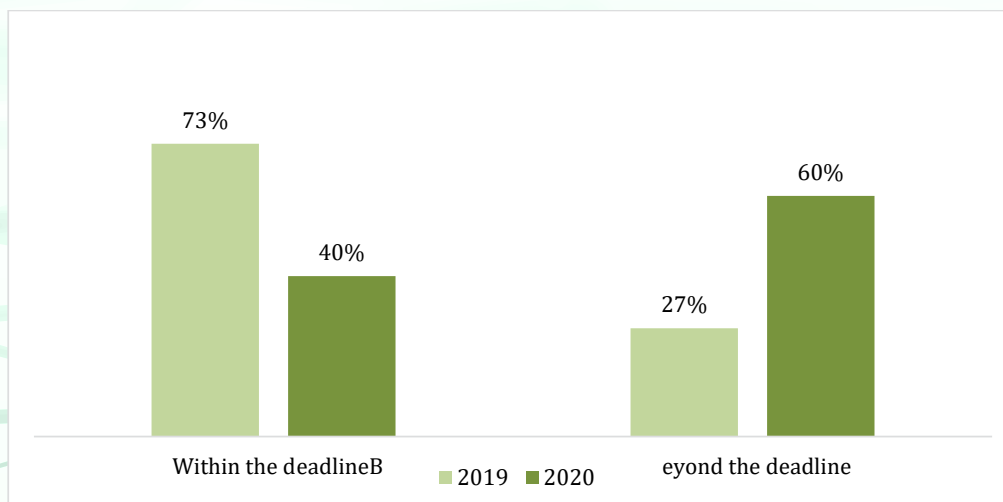
- There are no major changes in the bottom half of the ranking list, except for the fact that Sopishte is no longer the worst-ranked municipality. The bottom position is now occupied by Zelenikovo, which demonstrated compliance rate of only 4.3% with obligations on active transparency (from possible 100%) and is the bottom-ranked municipality in the Skopje Region, but also in the country..

Rank	Overall rank	Municipality	Score
1	3	Karposh	91.4 %
2	12	Gazi Baba	84.1 %
3	33	Centar	71.8 %
4	34	City of Skopje	71.0 %
5	43	Kisela Voda	64.3 %
6	51	Aerodrom	60.3 %
7	52	Gjorche Petrov	60.0 %
8	54	Ilinden	58.0 %
9	76	Shuto Orizari	41.4 %
10	80	Studenichani	29.6 %
11	81	Chair	29.4 %
11	81	Butel	29.4 %
13	84	Sopishte	26.1 %
14	86	Saraj	25.4 %
15	89	Arachinovo	22.9 %
16	91	Chucher Sandevo	17.4 %
17	95	Petrovec	11.6 %
18	97	Zelenikovo	4.3 %

On average, institutions responded to freedom of information requests within a period of 25 days, although the maximum law-stipulated deadline is 20 days

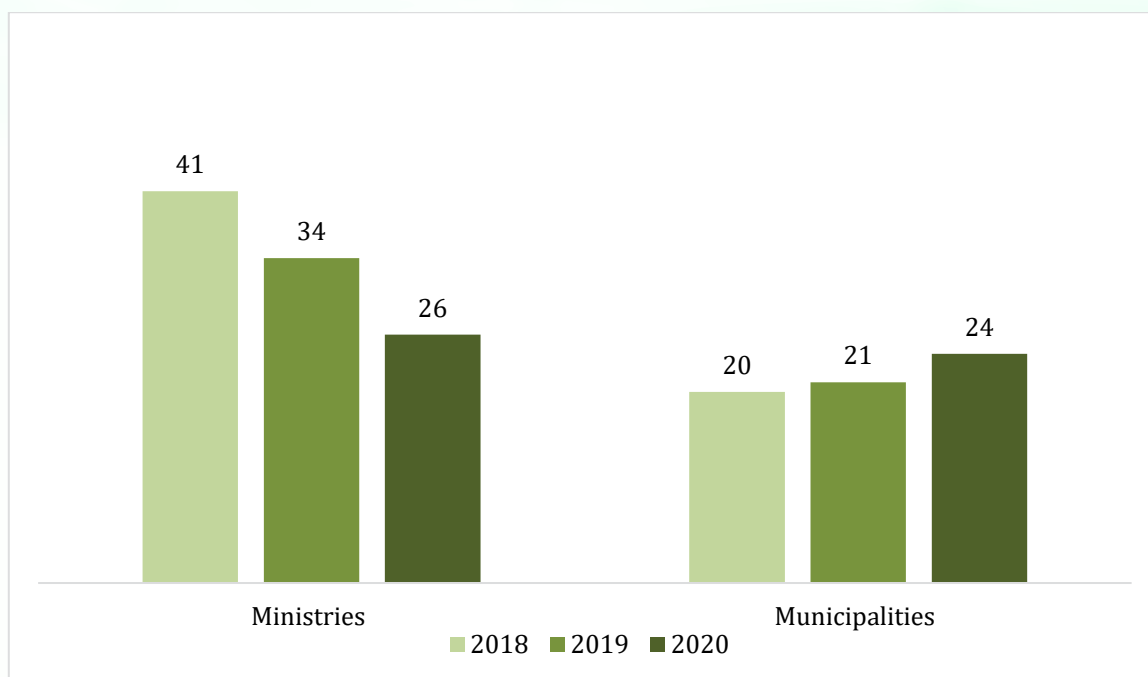
- Unlike the situation in previous years when institutions, on average, responded within the maximum law-stipulated deadline of 30 days valid at the time, this year only 40% of institutions complied with the new law-stipulated deadline and responded within the maximum period of 20 days. This year, 4% of institutions did not respond to information requests compared to last year when their share accounted for 12%.

Responses to freedom of information requests (all institutions)



- 39% of municipalities responded within the maximum law-stipulated deadline of 20 days (last year their share was 77%), while only 35% of ministries complied with this deadline (last year their share was 45%).
- On average, institutions responded to information requests within a deadline of **25 days** (last year it was 22 days a), whereby the average period calculated among municipalities is 24 days (last year it was 21 days) and the average period calculated among ministries is 26 days (last year it was 34 days).
- The fastest response is noted with one municipality, within a period of only 3 days, while the slowest response was demonstrated by another municipality, within a period of 64 days.

Average number of days for disclosure of information requested



Winners and losers

- The stagnation under active transparency of institutions is evidenced by the fact that only 52 of all 98 ranked institutions have improved their active transparency in 2020 compared to last year. In that, last year's research noted improvements with as many as 86 institutions.
- The biggest individual improvement is observed with Valandovo (28.6%) and Karposh (25.8%). On the contrary, the biggest negative change is noted with Struga (-25.2%).

Annual change in active transparency (2020/2019)

Institution	Change (in percentile points)	Institution	Change (in percentile points)
Valandovo	28.6	Demir Kapija	0.4
Karposh	25.8	Vevchani	0.4
Delchevo	22.6	Shtip	0.0
Centar	21.8	Probishtip	-0.6
Lozovo	21.5	Ohrid	-1.2
Rosoman	21.0	Government of RNM	-1.7
Kriva Palanka	19.1	Karbinci	-1.8
Zrnovci	18.3	MESP	-2.1
Bogovinje	18.2	Petrovec	-2.2
Dolneni	17.8	Debarca	-2.4
Krivogashtani	16.9	City of Skopje	-2.4
Novo Selo	15.6	Cheshinovo-Obleshevo	-2.5
Sopishte	15.3	Gjorche Petrov	-2.5
Makedonska Kamenica	15.1	Kisela Voda	-2.9
Demir Hisar	14.6	Berovo	-3.2
Studenichani	14.2	Sveti Nikole	-3.8
Bosilovo	13.8	Kavadarci	-4.3
Ministry of Defence	12.9	Chaska	-4.4
Rankovce	12.8	Ministry of Economy	-4.6
Gazi Baba	12.2	Dojran	-4.7
Vinica	11.8	Butel	-5.0
Veles	11.3	Prilep	-5.6
Krushevo	11.0	Centar Zhupa	-5.8
Makedonski Brod	10.0	Novaci	-6.0
Tearce	9.4	MAFWE	-6.2
Ministry of Finance	9.1	Zelenikovo	-6.5
Kochani	9.1	Tetovo	-6.6
Arachinovo	9.1	Resen	-6.8
Strumica	8.7	Aerodrom	-6.9
Mavrovo and Rostushe	8.5	Lipkovo	-7.0
MISA	8.3	Vrapchishte	-7.4
Negotino	7.5	Konche	-7.6

Mogila	7.4	Gevgelija	-7.8
Kratovo	6.9	Jegunovce	-8.6
Plasnica	6.7	Saraj	-9.0
Vasilevo	6.0	Gostivar	-9.0
Ministry of Interior	5.4	MES	-9.2
Bogdanci	4.7	Ministry of Justice	-9.6
Brvenica	4.3	Staro Nagorichane	-9.9
Debar	4.3	MTC	-10.0
MLSP	4.2	Shuto Orizari	-10.2
Radovish	4.2	Chair	-11.2
Kumanovo	4.1	MLSG	-12.1
Ministry of Health	3.8	Ilinden	-12.8
MFA	2.5	Gradsko	-15.9
Chucher Sandevo	2.0	Kichevo	-16.7
Ministry of Culture	1.3	Zhelino	-18.0
Bitola	0.7	Struga	-25.2
Pehchevo	0.5	MPSICR	n/a

Appendices: Research questionnaires for institutions

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 on free access to information?
2. Has the institution published basic contact information for the officer responsible for access to information (name and surname, telephone and e-mail)?
3. Has the institution published the method for submission of freedom of information requests?
4. Has the institution published the list of information at its disposal?
5. Has the institution published basic contact information for the information holder (address, telephone and e-mail)?

Second group of questions: responsibility, accountability and integrity

6. Has the institution published data about the minister (biography, contact information, etc.)?
7. Has the institution published the list of employees/heads of departments and sectors with contact information?
8. Has the institution published its organizational structure (scheme, organogram)?
9. Has the institution published contact information for the officer responsible for protected internal reporting (name and surname, telephone and e-mail)?
10. Does the institution publish press-releases and/or newsletters or any other formats for information dissemination?

Third group of questions: information on competences and services

11. Has the institution published information on its competences?
12. Has the institution published the laws that regulate its competences?
13. Has the institution published the regulations it adopts as secondary legislation?
14. Has the institution published its strategy plan and/or work strategy?
15. Has the institution published its annual plan and/or work program for the current year?

Fourth group of questions: budget and financial transparency

16. Has the institution published its budget for the current year?
17. Has the institution published its final budget account for the previous year?
18. Does the institution publish its audit reports?
19. Has the institution published its annual plan for public procurements in the current year?
20. Does the institution publish notices for public procurements in the current year?
21. Does the institution publish notifications on signed contracts for public procurements?

Additional questions for the Ministry of Finance

(pertaining to the fourth group of questions: budget and financial transparency)

22. Does the institution publish monthly reports on budget execution in the current year?
23. Does the institution publish semi-annual report on budget execution for the first six months of the previous year?
24. Does the institution publish data on public debt of RNM in the previous or the current year?

Deadline in which the institution responded to the freedom of information request

2. Questionnaire on active transparency for municipalities and the City of Skopje

First group of questions: access to information

1. Does the institution's official website have separate section on access to information?
2. Has the institution published basic contact information for the officer responsible for access to information (name and surname, telephone and e-mail)?
3. Has the institution published the method for submission of freedom of information requests?
4. Has the institution published the list of information at its disposal?
5. Has the institution published basic contact information for the information holder (address, telephone and e-mail)?

Second group of questions: responsibility, accountability and integrity

6. Has the institution published data about the mayor (biography, contact information, etc.)?
7. Has the institution published the list of employees/heads of departments and sectors with contact information?
8. Has the institution published its organizational structure (scheme, organogram)?

9. Has the institution published contact information for the officer responsible for protected internal reporting (name and surname, telephone and e-mail)?
10. Does the institution publish press releases and/or newsletters or other formats for information dissemination?
11. Has the institution published the municipal statute?
12. Does the institution publish the municipal bulletins?
13. Does the institution publish meeting agendas for the municipal council?

Third group of questions: budget and financial transparency

14. Has the institution published its budget for the current year?
15. Has the institution published the final budget account for the previous year?
16. Does the institution publish the so-called civil budget?
17. Does the institution publish quarterly reports on budget execution for the previous year?
18. Does the institution publish its audit reports?
19. Has the institution published its annual plan for public procurements in the current year?
20. Does the institution publish notices for public procurements in the current year?
21. Does the institution publish notifications on contracts signed for public procurements?

Fourth group of questions: information on competences and services

22. Has the institution published information on its competences?
23. Has the institution published the laws that regulate its competences?
24. Has the institution published the regulations it adopts as secondary legislation?
25. Has the institution published the services it provides?
26. Does the institution publish DUP/GUP (information on urban planning)?
27. Does the institution publish information on urban planning (construction permits)?
28. Does the institution publish information on environmental protection?
29. Does the institution publish information on local economic development?
30. Does the institution publish information on public utilities?
31. Does the institution publish information on culture?
32. Does the institution publish information on sports and recreation?
33. Does the institution publish information on social protection and child protection?

- 34. Does the institution publish information on education?
- 35. Does the institution publish information on healthcare?
- 36. Does the institution publish information on civic protection and rescue measures?
- 37. Does the institution publish information on firefighting protection?
- 38. Does the institution publish information from supervision on performance of its competences?
- 39. Has the institution published information on the property tax rates stipulated by the municipality?
- 40. Has the institution published information on fees charged for utility connection of construction land?

Deadline in which the institution responded to the freedom of information request

