

Index of Active Transparency

2022

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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
RNM	Republic of North Macedonia

Summary

- In 2022, average active transparency of the government, line ministries and municipalities stands at **73%** (from maximum possible 100%).
- Compared to last year's score, active transparency of analysed institutions **has improved by 10 percentile points** (from 63% to 73%).
- This year, **high 81% of analysed institutions** improved their transparency.
- Active transparency among ministries and the government stands at **85%**, while municipalities' average score is **70%**. Unlike last year, ministries demonstrate an improvement by 6 percentile points, while improvement among municipalities accounts for 10 percentile points.
- Two institutions, i.e. **Ministry of Defence and the Government**, have earned a perfect score of maximum **100%**, which means they publish all information required under active transparency obligations.
- Three municipalities share the third position under the overall ranking list with high compliance rate of 97% with active transparency obligations, those being: **Bitola, Valandovo and Karposh**.
- Among **planning regions**, the **Southeast Region** climbed to the top position (with a score of 84%), while the **Skopje Region** still holds the bottom rank (with a score of 56%).
- Ministries and municipalities both publish **the least information on finances** (only 56% from maximum 100% among municipalities and 82% from maximum 100% among ministries).
- As regards **freedom of information requests** addressed to all institutions in the same day and with identical inquiries, the average response rate among **municipalities** accounts for **12 days** (last year it was 17 days), while **ministries** disclosed information requested within an average period of **16 days** (same as last year). High **93%** of analysed institutions responded within the **law-stipulated maximum deadline** of 20 days.

The term 'active transparency' means publication of information by institutions at their own initiative, without being addressed with freedom of information requests. However, active transparency is a legal obligation, primarily under 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 have committed to proactive publication of information under the Open Government Partnership's National Action Plans.

Introduction: Why active transparency?

The term 'active transparency' means publication of information by institutions at 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 disclosed particular information.

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

- » information about the 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 proactive publish information enjoy 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 easily accessible.

The legal basis for active transparency 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 at 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. Across the world, 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.

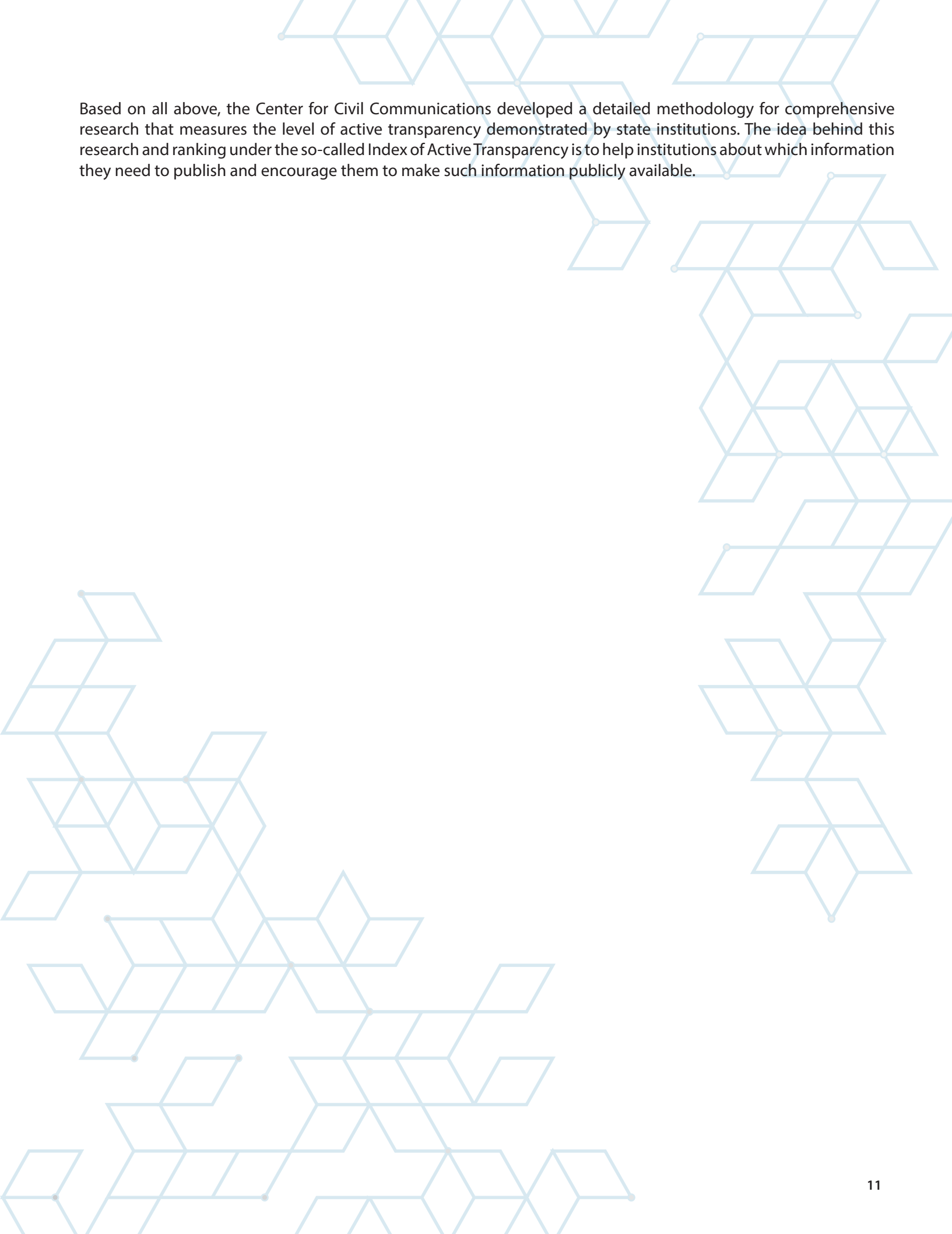
Voluntary publication of information helps civil society organizations and investigative journalists to develop and publish research studies/stories which, in turn, allow citizens to better understand performance and operation of relevant institutions, their rights and responsibilities, manner in which they can influence decisions that affect their day-to-day life and work, and facilitates citizens' access to services provided by the state.

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

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

When they engage in proactive publication of information, institutions should be guided by the principle whereby information disclosure is cost-effective and efficient, i.e. information disclosed is easily accessible to the broadest group of citizens possible. Moreover, honest exercise of 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 above, the Center for Civil Communications developed a detailed methodology for comprehensive research that measures the level of active transparency demonstrated by state institutions. The idea behind this research and ranking under the so-called Index of Active Transparency is to help institutions about which information they need to publish and encourage them to make such information publicly available.

Methodology

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

The baseline for questionnaire design is identified in legal obligations for institutions to publish information in various areas of their operation which are relevant for citizens and affect their life and work. 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 research is conducted for the sixth consecutive year and targets institutions that are direct holders of executive powers at central and local level, i.e. the government and its ministries, and local authorities, i.e. municipalities and the City of Skopje.

Having in mind different obligations related to proactive publication of information by national and local authorities (municipalities have far greater obligations in this regard), the research is conducted on the basis of two questionnaires. One questionnaire targets the government and its ministries, while the other is intended for local self-government units, i.e. municipalities and the City of Skopje. In that, the questionnaire intended for the Ministry of Finance includes additional questions to reflect its multiple obligations on information dissemination compared to other line ministries.

Each question is assigned a particular number of points (weight) depending on the importance, volume and scope of information published on official websites of ranking institutions. In addition to measuring their compliance with obligations for publishing information covered by the questionnaires, the research also includes a testing probe, i.e. submission of freedom of information requests to all institutions targeted by the research in order to assess their performance in respect to 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 in the case of municipalities and the City of Skopje the maximum number of points is 74.

The initial research was conducted in the period from 28th March to 15th May 2022. The final ranking of institutions was made on the basis of their compliance rates with active transparency 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, a score of 0 signifies the lowest rank, while a score of 100 signifies the highest rank.

The scale of active transparency is divided into five categories depending on the relevant compliance rate. Hence, institutions with compliance rate of 80% to 100% are ranked as “very good”, those with compliance rate of 60% to 80% belong to the category of “good” active transparency, institutions with compliance rate of 40% to 60% are categorized as “average”, those with compliance rate of 20% to 40% are ranked as “poor” and those with compliance rate of 0% to 20% are marked by “very poor” active transparency.

Overall ranking under the 2022 Index of Active Transparency

Rank	Institution	Score
VERY GOOD		
1	Ministry of Defence	100.0%
1	Government of RNM	100.0%
3	Bitola	97.1%
3	Valandovo	97.1%
3	Karposh	97.1%
6	Veles	95.8%
6	Kochani	95.8%
8	Berovo	95.7%
8	Demir Hisar	95.7%
8	Ilinden	95.7%
11	MLSG	95.5%
12	Ministry of Finance	94.4%
13	Gevgelija	92.9%
14	Ministry of Interior	91.7%
14	MES	91.7%
14	Ministry of Health	91.7%
14	MESP	91.7%
18	MAFWE	91.3%
19	Vasilevo	91.3%
20	Kavadarci	90.0%
21	Konche	89.9%
22	MISA	89.6%
23	Bogdanci	88.6%
23	Delchevo	88.6%
23	Kriva Palanka	88.6%
23	Kumanovo	88.6%
23	Shtip	88.6%
28	Gradsko	88.4%
28	Centar Zhupa	88.4%
30	Strumica	87.1%
31	Ohrid	85.7%
32	Kisela Voda	85.5%
33	Zrnovci	84.1%
34	Ministry of Justice	83.3%
34	MLSP	83.3%
36	Prilep	82.9%
36	Sveti Nikole	82.9%
38	Brvenica	82.6%
38	Debarca	82.6%
40	Gazi Baba	81.7%
41	Debar	81.4%
41	Makedonska Kamenica	81.4%
43	Ministry of Economy	81.3%
GOOD		
44	Makedonski Brod	78.6%
45	Novo Selo	78.3%
45	Tearce	78.3%
47	Krushevo	77.1%
47	Pehchevo	77.1%
47	Ministry of Culture	77.1%
50	Mogila	76.8%

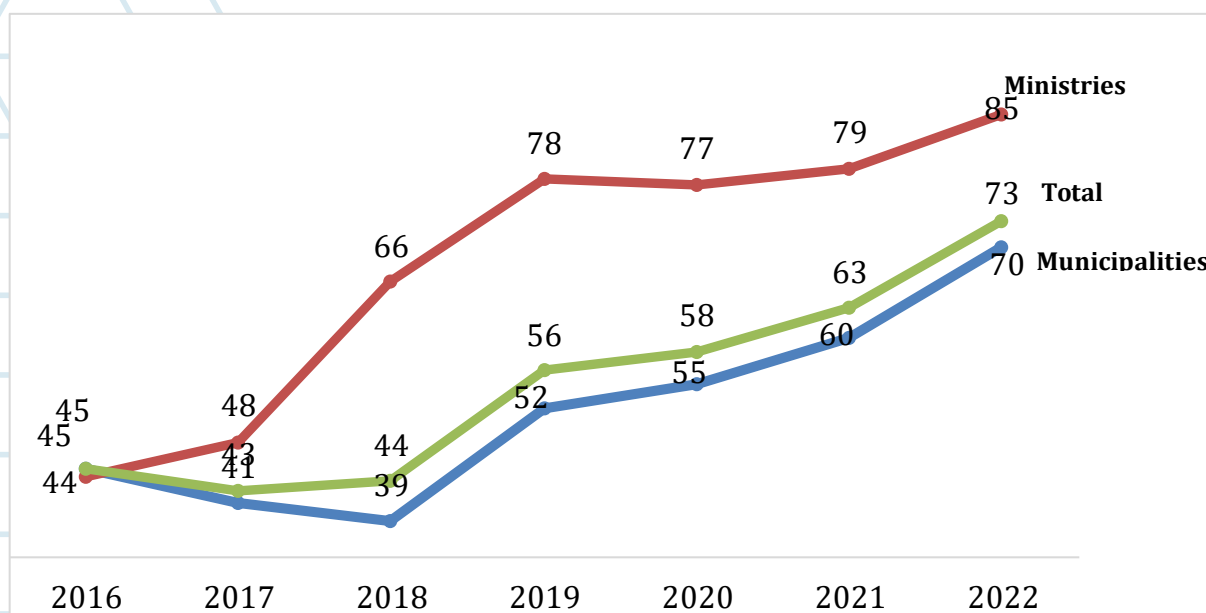
Rank	Institution	Score
51	Gjorche Petrov	76.1%
52	Probishtip	75.7%
53	Vevchani	75.4%
53	Mavrovo and Rostushe	75.4%
55	MTC	75.0%
56	Aerodrom	74.6%
57	Radovish	73.6%
58	Tetovo	72.9%
59	Bosilovo	72.5%
59	City of Skopje	72.5%
61	Chashka	71.8%
62	Vinica	71.4%
63	Kratovo	70.0%
64	Centar	69.6%
65	Gostivar	68.6%
66	Novaci	68.1%
66	Petrovec	68.1%
66	Cheshinovo-Obleshevo	68.1%
69	Lipkovo	66.7%
70	Resen	65.7%
71	Zhelino	65.2%
72	Dojran	63.8%
73	Struga	62.9%
74	MFA	60.9%
75	Kichevo	60.0%
AVERAGE		
76	Studenichani	59.4%
77	Rankovce	58.0%
78	Negotino	55.7%
79	Bogovinje	55.1%
80	MPSICR	54.3%
81	Jegunovce	53.6%
82	Staro Nagorichane	50.7%
82	Shuto Orizari	50.7%
84	Dolneni	47.8%
84	Saraj	47.8%
86	Karbinci	46.4%
86	Krivogashtani	46.4%
88	Sopishte	44.9%
99	Lozovo	43.5%
90	Rosoman	42.0%
90	Chair	42.0%
POOR		
92	Plasnica	39.1%
93	Chucher Sandevo	33.3%
94	Demir Kapija	31.9%
95	Vrapchishte	29.0%
96	Butel	27.5%
VERY POOR		
97	Zelenikovo	17.4%
98	Arachinovo	8.7%

Detailed analysis of active transparency in 2022

High 81% of analysed ministries and municipalities have improved their active transparency scores compared to last year.

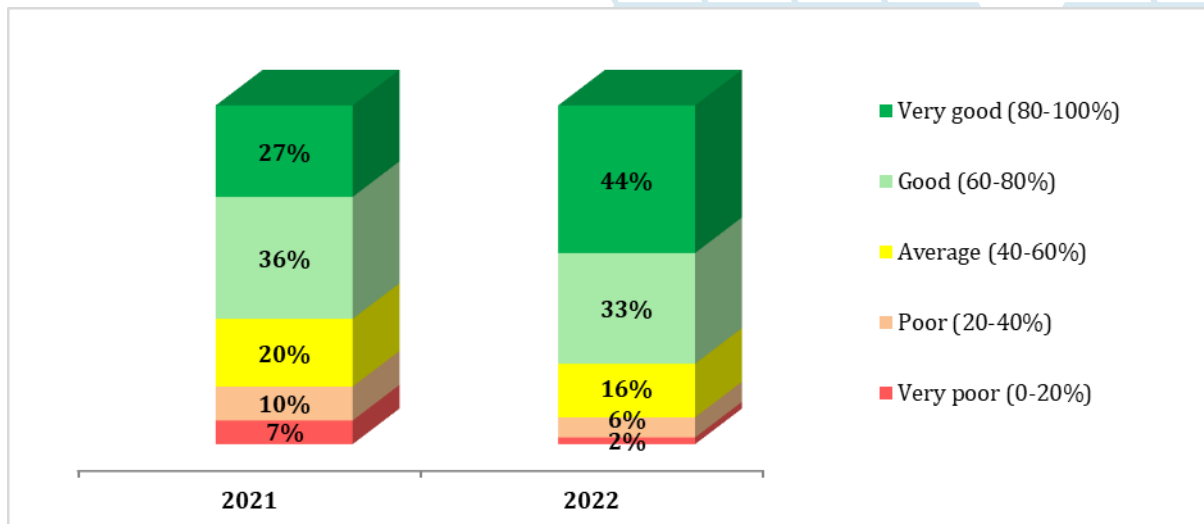
- In 2022, average active transparency of all 98 analysed institutions stands at 73% (from maximum possible 100%) and, based on defined groups of compliance rates, falls under the category of “good” active transparency.
- The average active transparency score of 73% in 2022 represents an improvement by 10 percentile points compared to last year, when it stood at 63%.
- Again, ministries publish much more information compared to municipalities. While in 2016, when this ranking effort began, both groups of institutions had the same starting point, i.e. compliance rate of 45%, the gap between ministries and municipalities in terms of active transparency remains high. In particular, active transparency among ministries stands at 85%, while municipalities have active transparency score of 70%.

Movement of active transparency scores throughout the years



- For the first time this year, dominant share of institutions (44%) falls under the best category of “very good” active transparency, with compliance rate with obligations for proactive publication of information in the range above 80%. On that account, the number of institutions categorized under other four groups is reduced.

Distribution of institutions per different category of active transparency



ACTIVE TRANSPARENCY OF MUNICIPALITIES: As many as 8 municipalities are ranked among the top ten institutions according to their active transparency

- Three municipalities share the third position in the overall ranking list on active transparency, those being: Bitola, Valandovo and Karposh.
- The best category of institutions marked by “very good” active transparency, i.e. compliance rate with obligations for publication of information in the range from 80% to 100%, includes as many as 30 municipalities, which is double their number compared to last year’s ranking.
- Nevertheless, two municipalities (Arachinovo and Zelenikovo) occupy the two bottom positions on the overall ranking list and fall in the category of “very poor” active transparency (compliance rate of 0% to 20%).
- 68 municipalities have improved their active transparency unlike last year when improvement was noted with only 51 municipalities.
- With improved transparency scores by more than 50 percentile points, leaders among municipalities are Lipkovo (by 55.1%) and Tearce (by 52.2%), while the biggest decline in terms of active transparency is noted with Dolneni (by 8.7%).

ACTIVE TRANSPARENCY OF MINISTRIES AND THE GOVERNMENT:

- For the first time this year, average active transparency of ministries and the government qualifies them under the highest category (“very good”), with compliance rate in the range from 80% to 100%.
- The general level of active transparency among ministries and the government has increased by 6 percentile points, from 79% last year to 85% this year.
- As many as 11 from total of 16 ministries and the government have increased their compliance rate with active transparency obligations, 3 of them are marked by decreased scores, and 3 ministries have the same score as last year.
- Best-ranked and marked by 100% compliance rate with active transparency obligations are the Ministry of Defence and the Government. Ministry of Defence was the best-ranked institution last year and together with Karposh accounts for the first two institutions to have earned a perfect score of 100% since the start of this ranking in 2016.

- The highest improvement in active transparency by 20 percentile points is observed with the Ministry of Political System and Inter-Community Relations and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy.
- In addition to the Ministry of Defence, two other ministries hold high positions on the ranking list on active transparency, those being: Ministry of Local Self-Government and Ministry of Finance. In spite of its major improvement compared to last year, the lowest-ranked in this group of institutions is the Ministry of Political System and Inter-Community Relations.
- As many as 13 ministries fall under the best category of “very good” active transparency (compliance rate in the range of 80% to 100%), while 3 ministries are categorized as having “good” active transparency (compliance rate in the range of 60% to 80%) and only one ministry belongs to the category of “average” active transparency (compliance rate in the range of 40% to 60%).

Ranking of ministries according to their active transparency scores

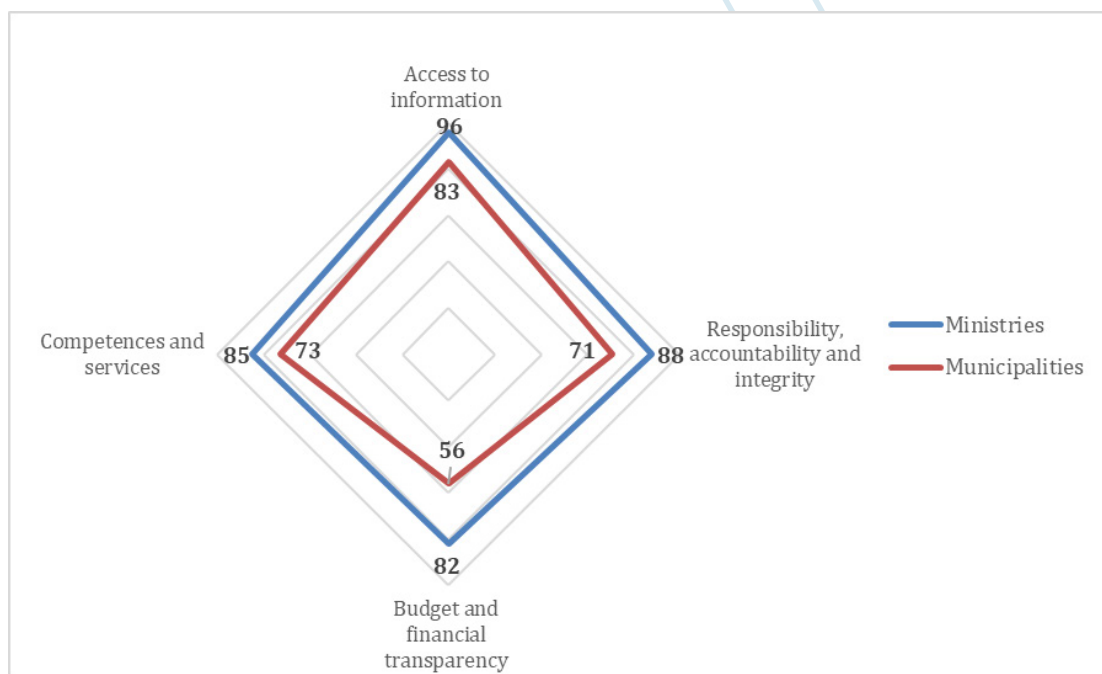
Rank	Overall rank	Institution	2022 score	2021 score	Change (%)
1	1	Ministry of Defence	100.0%	100.0%	0
1	1	Government of RNM	100.0%	93.5%	6.5
3	11	Ministry of Local Self-Government	95.5%	77.1%	18.4
4	12	Ministry of Finance	94.4%	94.4%	0
5	14	Ministry of Interior	91.7%	87.0 %	4.7
5	14	Ministry of Education and Science	91.7%	91.7%	0
5	14	Ministry of Health	91.7%	87.5%	4.2
5	14	Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning	91.7%	83.3%	8.3
9	18	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy	91.3%	69.6%	21.7
10	22	Ministry of Information Society and Administration	89.6%	83.3%	6.3
11	34	Ministry of Justice	83.3%	89.1%	-5.8
11	34	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy	83.3%	79.2%	4.2
13	43	Ministry of Economy	81.3%	70.8%	10.4
14	47	Ministry of Culture	77.1%	72.9%	4.2
15	55	Ministry of Transport and Communications	75.0%	77.1%	-2.1
16	74	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	60.9%	64.6%	-3.7
17	80	Ministry of Political System and Inter-Community Relations	54.3%	28.3%	26.1
		AVERAGE	85.3%	79.4%	

The least information is published in the area of finances

- Ministries and municipalities both publish the most information in the area of access to information and **the least information in the area of finances.**
- As regards **access to information**, the compliance rate with obligations for active publication of this type of information, which mainly arise from the Law on Free Access to Public Information, stands at 83% among municipalities and is significantly higher, i.e. 96%, among ministries and the government.
- In respect to publication of information in the area of **budget and fiscal transparency**, municipalities have an average compliance rate of 56%, while the compliance rate of ministries stands at 82%.

- As regards **information related to competences and services**, municipalities have an average compliance rate of 73% and ministries have a compliance rate of 85%.

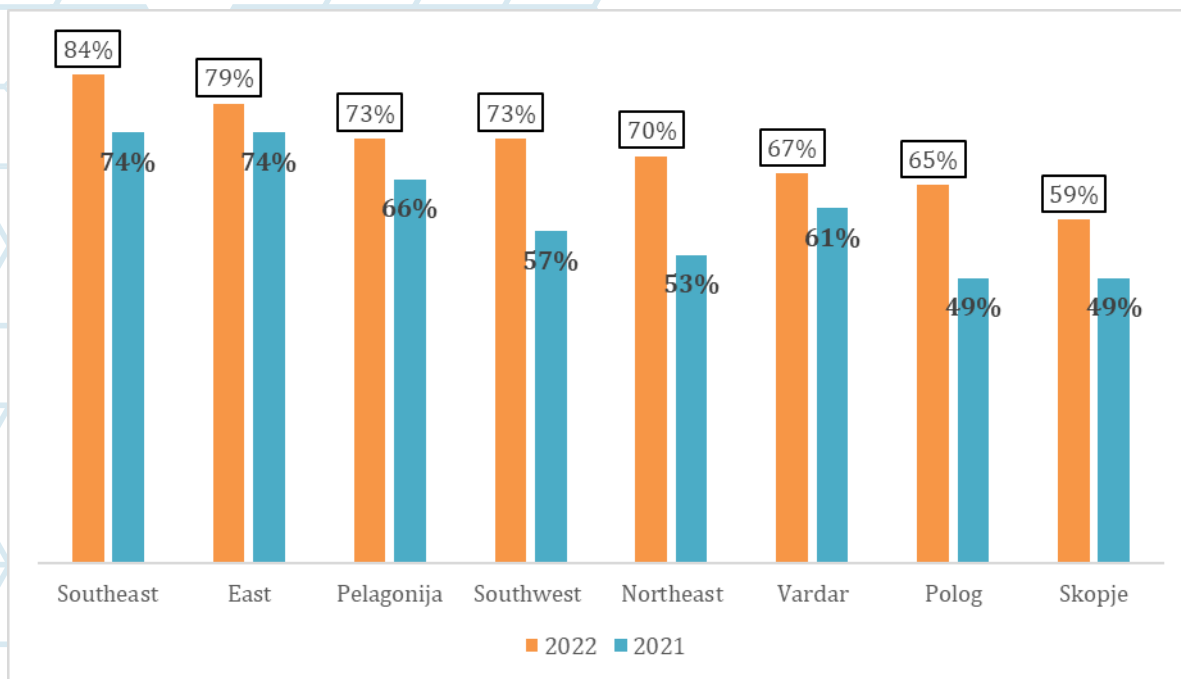
Active transparency per area of information



REGIONAL COMPARISON: After three years on the top position, the East Region lost its primacy to the Southeast Region, and the Skopje Region remains at the bottom of this ranking list for several years

- In 2022, all eight planning regions in the country have improved their active transparency scores.
- After three years on the top position, the East Region (compliance rate of 84%) lost its primacy to the Southeast Region, which improved its active transparency score by 25 percentile points for two consecutive years.
- As was the case last year, the Pelagonija Region holds the third rank, followed by the Southwest Region that climbed to the fourth position. Next is the Northeast Region, while the Vardar Region dropped two positions and is ranked sixth on this list.
- As usual, the bottom ranks are held by the Polog and Skopje Region, although the former made a significant leap by 16 percentile points in terms of active transparency. Skopje Region is not only the last-ranked, but also accounts for the smallest improvement by 7 percentile points compared to last year.

Ranking of planning regions according to their active transparency scores



Southeast Region - 84% (last year - 74%)

- By the effect of continuous improvement from one to another year, the Southeast Region now occupies the top rank with a high score of 84%, which represents an improvement by 10 percentile points over a period of one year.
- For the third consecutive year, the leader position in this planning region is held by Valandovo, which was ranked at the bottom in 2018, but is continuously improving its active transparency in the last four years. In that period, this municipality's compliance rate with active transparency obligations has increased from 59% to 97%. Now, it is among the three municipalities with the highest active transparency scores in the country.
- Gevgelija maintained its second position in the planning region this year as well. Same is the situation with Vasilevo and Konche, which hold third and fourth position, respectively.
- In spite of continuously improved transparency, Dojran remains at the bottom of this list, together with Bosilovo and Radovish.

Active transparency of municipalities in the Southeast Region

Rank	Municipality	Score
1	Valandovo	97.1%
2	Gevgelija	92.9%
3	Vasilevo	91.3%
4	Konche	89.9%
5	Bogdanci	88.6%
6	Strumica	87.1%
7	Novo Selo	78.3%
8	Radovish	73.6%
9	Bosilovo	72.5%
10	Dojran	63.8%

East Region - 79% (last year - 74%)

- After three years of being the leader in active transparency, the East Region dropped to the second rank among planning regions, with compliance rate of 79%, accounting for an improvement by only 5 percentile points from last year's score.
- For the second consecutive year, Kochani is the leader municipality in this planning region, having increased its last year's score of 93% to 96%. Next are Berovo and Delchevo, which have exchanged ranks under this year's ranking list. Berovo is now second-ranked, with almost identical active transparency score to the leader municipality, i.e. Kochani. The third position is shared with another municipality, i.e. Shtip, which has climbed one ranking position from last year.
- Among municipalities in this planning region, only Vinica has a lower active transparency score compared to last year. Namely, this municipality had a compliance rate of 74% last year, which dropped to 71% this year.
- As was the case last year, the bottom rank is held by Karbinici, which demonstrates an improvement by only 2 percentile points compared to last year.

Active transparency of municipalities in the East Region

Rank	Municipality	Score
1	Kochani	95.8%
2	Berovo	95.7%
3	Delchevo	88.6%
4	Shtip	88.6%
5	Zrnovci	84.1%
6	Makedonska Kamenica	81.4%
7	Pehchevo	77.1%
8	Probishtip	75.7%
9	Vinica	71.4%
10	Cheshinovo-Obleshevo	68.1%
11	Karbinici	46.4%

Pelagonija Region - 73% (last year - 66%)

- For the second consecutive year, the Pelagonija Region holds the third position on the ranking list of planning regions according to their active transparency, but was second-ranked for a period of two years and was considered a leader at one point in time. Compared to last year, this planning region improved its active transparency score by 7 percentile points. Nevertheless, the region as a whole still qualifies under the category of "good" active transparency with average compliance rate in the range above 60%.
- The former leader Bitola restored its top rank in this planning region, which it had lost to Demir Hisar last year. This year, Bitola is among the three top-ranked municipalities in the country with active transparency score of 97%.
- Last year's leader in the region, i.e. Demir Hisar, holds the second position in this planning region, with high active transparency score of 96%, and is ranked on the eighth position in the overall ranking list for all institutions.
- Prilep climbed to the third position, which was held by Krushevo for two consecutive years, which is now ranked on the fourth position in this region.

- Novaci climbed five positions from the last year's bottom rank, which is now held by Krivogashtani with active transparency score of only 46%.
- Dolneni is the only municipality in this planning region with decreased active transparency score compared to last year (57% last year to 48% this year).

Active transparency of municipalities in the Pelagonija Region

Rank	Municipality	Score
1	Bitola	97.1%
2	Demir Hisar	95.7%
3	Prilep	82.9%
4	Krushevo	77.1%
5	Mogila	76.8%
6	Novaci	68.1%
7	Resen	65.7%
8	Dolneni	47.8%
9	Krivogashtani	46.4%

Southwest Region - 73% (last year - 57%)

- With an improvement by 16 percentile points, the Southeast Region climbed from fifth to fourth position on the list of planning regions according to their active transparency.
- With a score of 88%, Centar Zhupa took over the primacy from Ohrid, which has been an undeniable leader in active transparency. Over a period of one year, Centar Zhupa improved its active transparency by 33 percentile points. Ohrid now holds the second rank with a score of 86%, which represents an increase by 4 percentile points compared to last year.
- Same as last year, Debarca holds the third position in this planning region, with an improvement by almost 11 percentile points.
- Debar is next, on the fourth rank, followed by Makedonski Brod that has dropped from second to fifth position in this planning region.
- This year as well, Struga, Kichevo and Plasnica again hold the bottom three positions, although all three municipalities have improved their active transparency scores from last year.

Active transparency of municipalities in the Southwest Region

Rank	Municipality	Score
1	Centar Zhupa	88.4%
2	Ohrid	85.7%
3	Debrca	82.6%
4	Debar	81.4%
5	Makedonski Brod	78.6%
6	Vevchani	75.4%
7	Struga	62.9%
8	Kichevo	60.0%
9	Plasnica	39.1%

Northeast Region - 70% (last year - 53%)

- Marked by highest percentile improvement among all planning regions, the Northeast Region improved its ranking from sixth to fifth position.

- Kriva Palanka still holds the leader position, but this year it shares the top rank with Kumanovo on the account of identical compliance rate with active transparency obligations. It should be noted that Kumanovo maintained the same score from last year (89%), but Kriva Palanka dropped from 96% last year to 89% this year, whereby it fell from second-best to 23rd position in the overall ranking of all institutions.
- It seems that the biggest winner this year is Lipkovo, which held the bottom rank in the region and in the overall ranking list and has made the biggest jump in terms of active transparency. In particular, this municipality improved its last year's score of 12% to 64% and climbed a total of 25 positions in the overall ranking.
- The bottom rank in this planning region is now held by Staro Nagorichane, although this municipality is also marked by major improvement in terms of active transparency.

Active transparency of municipalities in the Northeast Region

Rank	Municipality	Score
1	Kriva Palanka	88.6%
1	Kumanovo	88.6%
3	Kratovo	70.0%
4	Lipkovo	66.7%
5	Rankovce	58.0%
6	Staro Nagorichane	50.7%

Vardar Region - 67% (last year - 61%)

- The Vardar Region dropped two positions, from fourth to sixth rank among planning regions, with an improvement by only 6 percentile points compared to last year.
- There is no change to the leading position in this region, which is always held by Veles. Also, no changes are noted in respect to municipalities holding second to sixth ranks.
- However, the bottom three municipalities exchanged ranks, with Demir Kapija holding the bottom rank and Rosoman, which was last-ranked last year, climbing one position to the second to last position.

Active transparency of municipalities in the Vardar Region

Rank	Municipality	Score
1	Veles	95.8%
2	Kavadarci	90.0%
3	Gradsko	88.4%
4	Sveti Nikole	82.9%
5	Chashka	71.8%
6	Negotino	55.7%
7	Lozovo	43.5%
8	Rosoman	42.0%
8	Demir Kapija	31.9%

Polog Region - 65% (last year - 49%)

- In spite of the significant improvement by 16 percentile points compared to last year, the Polog Region remains on the second to last position on the ranking list of planning regions. Nevertheless, this region has a significantly better score compared to the last-ranked planning region and is closer to regions marked by higher ranks.

- Tetovo lost its leader position and dropped to the fourth rank in spite of having improved its active transparency. This year, the top rank is held by Brvenica, which improved its active transparency score by 24 percentile points compared to last year.
- Tearce, on the second rank, and Mavrovo and Rostushe, on the third rank, have climbed up from low positions they held for many years in a row. In that, Tearce improved its active transparency by 52 percentile points, making it the second-best institution with the biggest leap in terms of active transparency.
- Vrapchishte remains the bottom-ranked municipality in this planning region, in spite of its somewhat improved score compared to last year.

Active transparency of municipalities in the Polog Region

Rank	Municipality	Score
1	Brvenica	82.6%
2	Tearce	78.3%
3	Mavrovo and Rostushe	75.4%
4	Tetovo	72.9%
5	Gostivar	68.6%
6	Zhelino	65.2%
7	Bogovinje	55.1%
8	Jegunovce	53.6%
9	Vrapchishte	29.0%

Skopje Region - 59% (last year - 49%)

- For the fourth consecutive year, the biggest planning region in the country, i.e. Skopje Region, is last-ranked according to active transparency demonstrated by municipalities located therein. Karposh maintained its top rank in the region and in the overall ranking list of all 98 analysed institutions.
- Ilinden took over the second rank from Gazi Baba, which dropped to the fourth position. Over a period of one year, Ilinden improved its active transparency by almost 50 percentile points and now holds the third position in the overall ranking of all institutions due to its significantly improved score.
- The City of Skopje dropped from third to seventh rank, while Centar dropped from fourth to eighth rank.
- This year, Arachinovo dropped to the bottom position that was held by Chucher Sandevo last year, which improved its active transparency by 20 percentile points and now holds the 15th rank in this region.

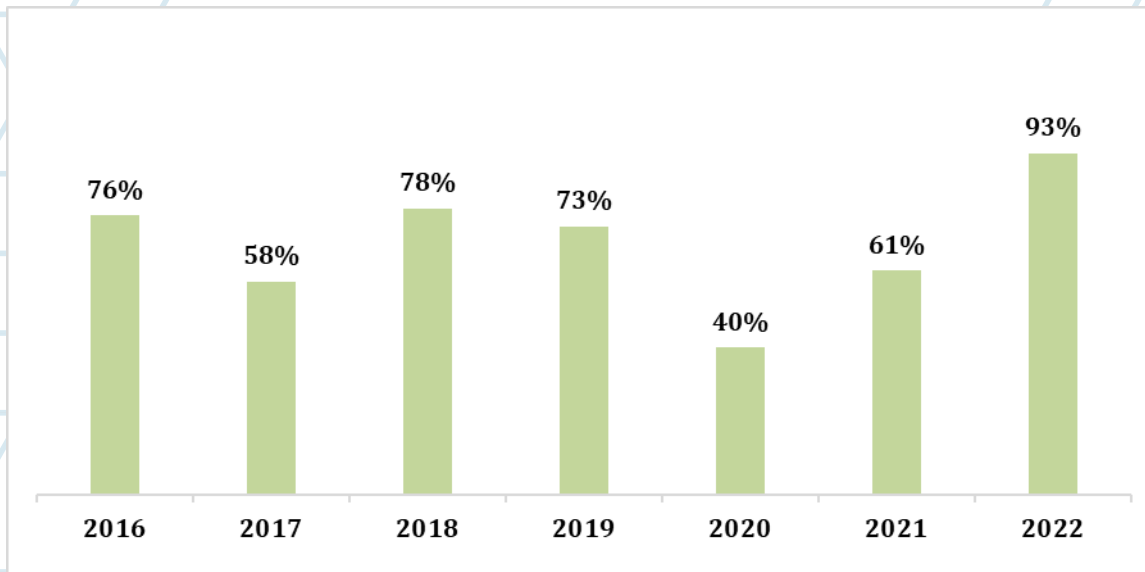
Active transparency of municipalities in the Skopje Region

Rank	Municipality	Score
1	Karposh	97.1%
2	Ilinden	95.7%
3	Kisela Voda	85.5%
4	Gazi Baba	81.7%
5	Gjorche Petrov	76.1%
6	Aerodrom	74.6%
7	City of Skopje	72.5%
8	Centar	69.6%
9	Petrovec	68.1%
10	Studenichani	59.4%
11	Shuto Orizari	50.7%
12	Saraj	47.8%
13	Sopishte	44.9%
14	Chair	42.0%
15	Chucher Sandevo	33.3%
16	Butel	27.5%
17	Zelenikovo	17.4%
18	Arachinovo	8.7%

On average, the institutions responded to freedom of information requests within a period of 13 days (last year – 16 days) and high 93% of them submitted their responses within the law-stipulated deadline

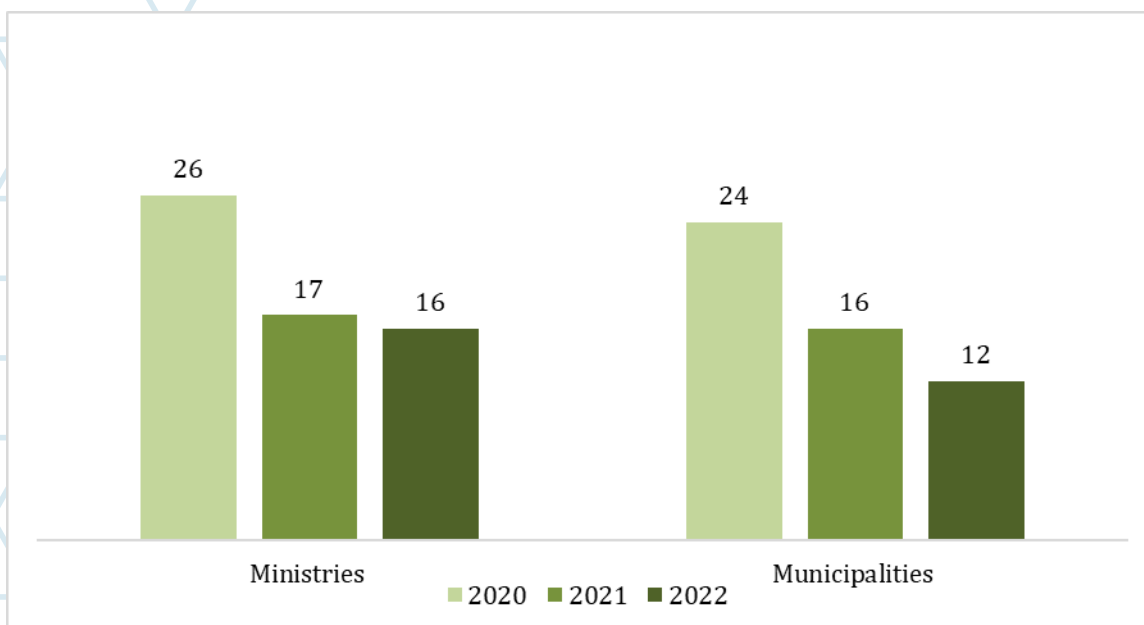
- ▶ On average, institutions responded to freedom of information requests they were addressed with on the same day and with identical inquiries within a period of 13 days, i.e. 7 days before expiration of the law-stipulated maximum deadline. Last year, the average response rate accounted for 16 days.
- ▶ High 93% of them responded to freedom of information requests within the law-stipulated maximum deadline of 20 days, and only 7% disclosed their responses after expiration of this deadline. Last year, 61% of analysed institutions responded within the law-stipulated deadline.

Responses to freedom of information requests within the law-stipulated deadline (all institutions)



- As noted in previous active transparency indices, municipalities have a much better track record in respect to average number of days for disclosure of information requested and in respect to the share of FOI requests responded within the law-stipulated maximum deadline. On average, municipalities responded to FOI requests within a deadline of 12 days, while the relevant period calculated for ministries stands at 16 days. In the case of FOI requests responded, the share calculated for municipalities is 94%, while the relevant response share among ministries is 89%.
- The fastest response rate is observed with one municipality (one day), and the longest response rate of 59 days is observed with one ministry.

Average number of days for disclosure of requested information



Winner and losers

- As many as 79 from the total of 98 institutions covered in this research (81%) have improved their active transparency in 2022 compared to 2021.
- The biggest individual improvement is noted with Lipkovo (by 55 percentile points), Tearce (by 52 percentile points) and Ilinden (by 49 percentile points).
- On other hand, only 14 institutions have published less information compared to last year, and 5 institutions do not show improvement or deterioration in terms of to their active transparency scores.
- Among line ministries, the biggest improvement is observed with the Ministry of Political System and Inter-Community Relations and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy.

Annual change in active transparency scores (2022/2021)

Institution	Change (in percentage points)	Institution	Change (in percentage points)
Lipkovo	55.1%	Government of RNM	6.5%
Tearce	52.2%	MISA	6.3%
Ilinden	49.3%	Bitola	5.7%
Studenichani	38.3%	Pehchevo	5.7%
Staro Nagorichane	36.2%	Tetovo	5.7%
Centar Zhupa	33.3%	Gjorche Petrov	5.6%
Plasnica	29.0%	Makedonski Brod	5.3%
Debar	27.1%	Aerodrom	5.1%
Kisela Voda	26.4%	Ministry of Interior	4.7%
MPSICR	26.1%	Gostivar	4.7%
Mavrovo and Rostushe	26.1%	Cheshinovo-Obleshevo	4.3%
Novaci	24.6%	Karbinci	4.3%
Brvenica	24.0%	Shuto Orizari	4.3%
MAFWE	21.7%	Resen	4.3%
Chucher Sandevo	20.3%	MLSP	4.2%
Saraj	19.7%	Ministry of Culture	4.2%
Vrapchishte	18.8%	Ministry of Health	4.2%
Dojran	18.8%	Ohrid	3.8%
Prilep	18.6%	Negotino	2.9%
Probishtip	18.6%	Zelenikovo	2.9%
MLSG	18.4%	Valandovo	2.9%
Radovish	16.5%	Chaska	2.8%
Struga	15.6%	Veles	2.8%
Kichevo	14.3%	Kochani	2.8%
Zrnovci	13.0%	Demir Hisar	2.7%
Rankovce	11.6%	Shtip	2.5%
Novo Selo	11.1%	Gazi Baba	2.0%
Sveti Nikole	10.6%	Makedonska Kamenica	1.7%
Ministry of Economy	10.4%	Jegunovce	1.4%
Bosilovo	10.1%	Krivogashtani	1.4%
Gradsko	10.1%	Ministry of Defence	0.0%
Debarca	10.1%	Ministry of Finance	0.0%
Mogila	10.1%	MES	0.0%
Rosoman	10.1%	Zhelino	0.0%
Chair	10.1%	Kumanovo	0.0%
Bogdanci	10.0%	Petrovec	-0.9%
Kavadarci	9.4%	Delchevo	-1.4%
Sopishte	8.7%	City of Skopje	-1.4%
MESP	8.3%	MTC	-2.1%
Bogovinje	7.9%	Centar	-2.3%
Vasilevo	7.2%	Vinica	-2.9%

Konche	7.2%	Karposh	-2.9%
Lozovo	7.2%	MFA	-3.7%
Berovo	7.1%	Butel	-4.3%
Gevgelija	7.1%	Arachinovo	-4.3%
Krushevo	7.1%	Ministry of Justice	-5.8%
Kratovo	7.1%	Demir Kapija	-5.8%
Strumica	7.1%	Kriva Palanka	-7.1%
Vevchani	6.8%	Dolneni	-8.7%

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 website have separate section on access to information?
2. Has the institution published general contact information for the officer responsible for mediating 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 it disposes with?
5. Has the institution published general 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 info, 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 format 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 regulations it adopts as secondary legislation?
14. Has the institution published its strategy plans 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 fiscal 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 procurement notices in the current year?
21. Does the institution publish notifications on contracts signed for public procurements?

Additional questions for the Ministry of Finance

(pertaining to the fourth group of questions: budget and fiscal 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 for the previous or the current year?
- Period in which the institution responded to FOI requests

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

First group of questions: access to information

1. Does the municipality's website have separate section on access to information?
2. Has the municipality published general contact information for the officer responsible for mediating access to information (name and surname, telephone and e-mail)?
3. Has the municipality published the method for submission of freedom of information requests?
4. Has the municipality published the list of information it disposes with?
5. Has the municipality published general contact information for the information holder (address, telephone and e-mail)?

Second group of questions: responsibility, accountability and integrity

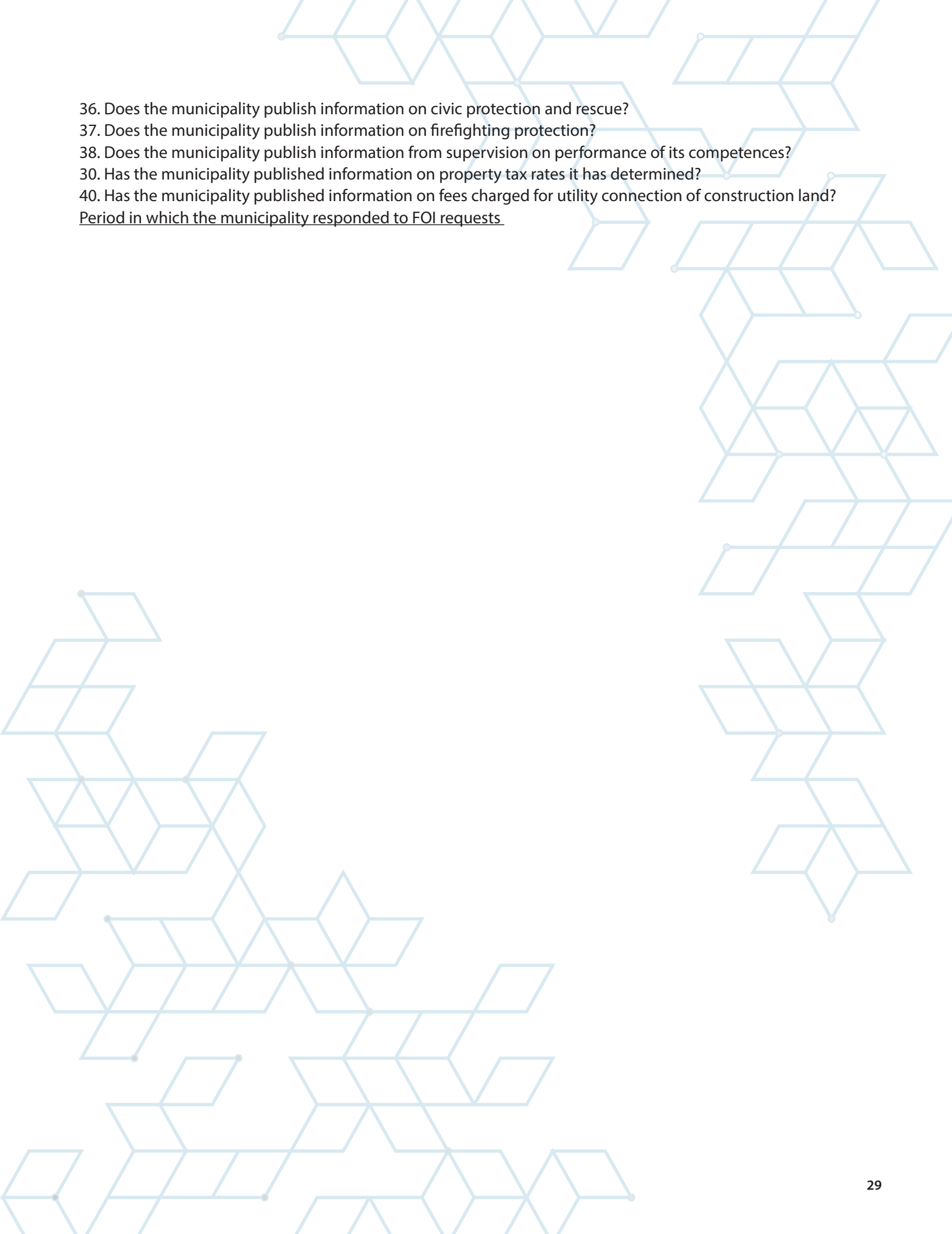
6. Has the municipality published data about the mayor (biography, contact info, etc.)?
7. Has the municipality published the list of employees/heads of departments and sectors with contact information?
8. Has the municipality published its organizational structure (scheme, organogram)?
9. Has the municipality published contact information for the officer responsible for protected internal reporting (name and surname, telephone and e-mail)?
10. Does the municipality publish press releases and/or newsletters or other format for information dissemination?
11. Has the municipality published its statute?
12. Does the municipality publish its bulletins?
13. Does the municipality publish meeting agendas of its municipal council?

Third group of questions: budget and fiscal transparency

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

Fourth group of questions: information on competences and services

22. Has the municipality published information on its competences?
23. Has the municipality published the laws that govern its competences?
24. Has the municipality published regulations it adopts as secondary legislation?
25. Has the municipality published the services it provides?
26. Does the municipality publish DUP/GUP (information on urban planning)?
27. Does the municipality publish information on urban planning (construction permits)?
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 utilities?
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 healthcare?

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36. Does the municipality publish information on civic protection and rescue?
37. Does the municipality publish information on firefighting protection?
38. Does the municipality publish information from supervision on performance of its competences?
30. Has the municipality published information on property tax rates it has determined?
40. Has the municipality published information on fees charged for utility connection of construction land?
Period in which the municipality responded to FOI requests

