

osce



The Representative
on Freedom of the Media

Project on Access to Information

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Focus of Project

- Ability of media to obtain and use information
- Subject areas
 - National law and regulations on access to information
 - Regulatory and criminal laws on official or state secrets
 - Protection of publication in the public interest
 - Laws or rules on confidentiality of journalists sources
- Questionnaire to national delegations
 - Due 1 October 2006
- Final Report, Matrix and Recommendations
 - December 2006

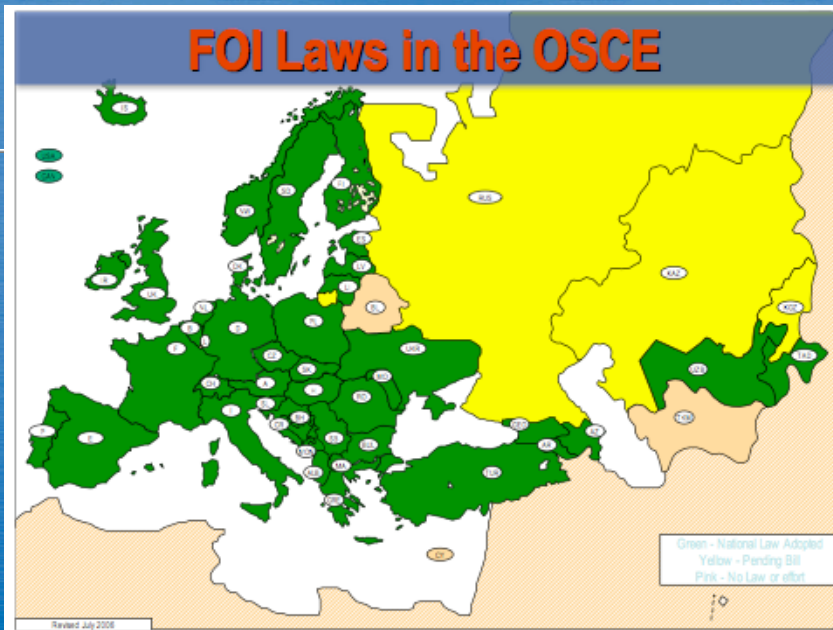


Access to Information

- Constitutional Rights
- Access to Information Laws
- Media Laws



FOI Laws in the OSCE





Access to Information Issues

- Adequacy of laws
- Adequacy of implementation
- Response times
- Exemptions and Public interest tests
- Relationships with secrets and other laws



Official Secrets

- Types of laws
 - Protection of Classified Information Acts
 - Official Secrets Act/Criminal Codes
 - Special acts on intelligence archives



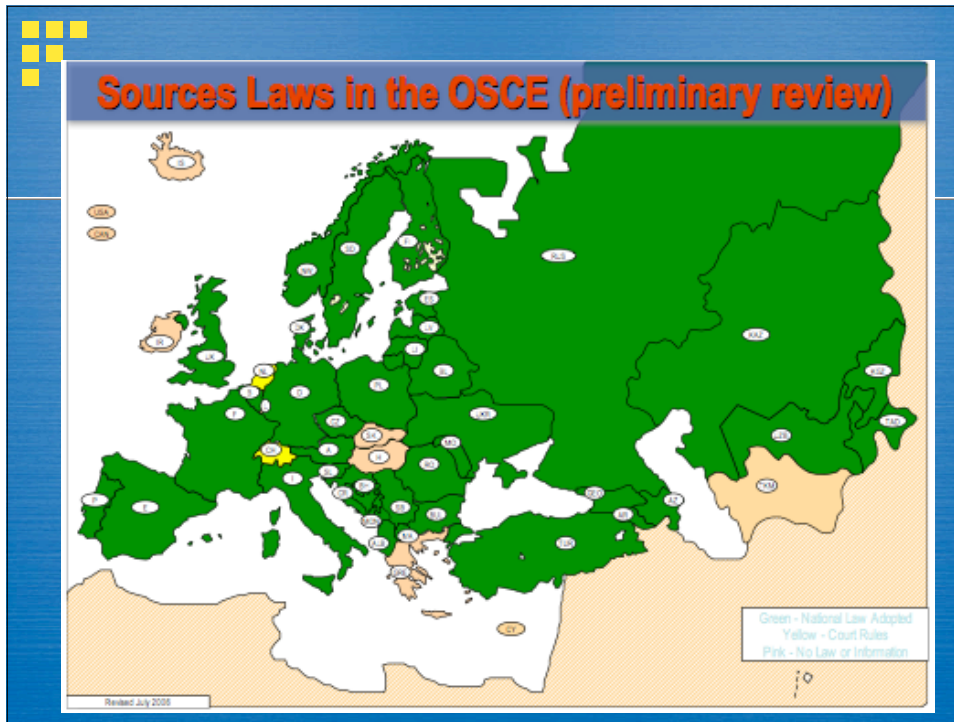
Secrets Issues

- Scope of laws
- Applicability to media
- Public interest in publication
- Recent cases
 - DK, UK, CA, CH, RO, HU



Journalists Sources

- Right of journalists to not disclose sources of information
- Limits on surveillance of journalists to discover sources
- Limits on journalists to testify in trials



Journalists Sources Issues

- Cases in US, CA, FR
- New Law in BE
- ECHR/COE Standards



More information

- Questionnaire available at RFOM website
 - <http://www.osce.org/item/19279.html?html=1> (eng)
 - http://www.osce.org/documents/rfm/2006/05/19279_ru.pdf (rus)