

## Episode 13: Free Access to Information

Aired 30<sup>th</sup> November 2015

### Watch online (in Montenegrin):

<http://www.rtcg.me/tv/emisije/informativni/otvoreno/111546/otvoreno-30112015.html>

Free Access to Information was the theme of discussion in the one-hour live talk show aired on 30th November 2015 on the First Channel of Radio Television Montenegro (RTCG). This was the thirteenth in the series of twenty shows named "Reaching the Trust Together", which is supported by the OSCE Mission to Montenegro.

Moderated by Andrijana Kadija, participants in the debate included Tomo Miljić, member of the Working Group that drafted the Law on Free Access to Information; Aleksa Ivanović, member of the Council of the Agency for data Protection and Free Access to Information; Dragica Anđelić, Chief Administrative Inspector, Ministry of Interior; Ana Novakoviž, Executive Director of the Centre for Development of Non-Governmental Organizations (CRNVO) and Vuk Maraš, Director of the Monitoring Programme at the Network for the Affirmation of the NGO Sector (MANS).

Panellists discussed key issues related to free access to information; issues related to the implementation of the Law on Free Access to Information and scope of authority of the Agency for Data Protection and Free Access to Information and the Administrative Inspectorate. Participants agreed that institutions should adequately inform citizens and continue to work on raising the level of transparency. Also, panellists recognized the importance of awareness raising activities and continuous education of citizens and civil servants in order to improve the understanding of the right to access information and ensure the proper implementation of the Law.

Alexander Kashumov, Head of Legal Team of the Access to Information Programme from Bulgaria; Kristina Kotnik Shumah, Deputy Commissioner at Information Commissioner of Slovenia; Dubravka Bevandic, Head of Service for the Right to Access to Information at Information Commissioner in Croatia and Dina Bajramspahić of Institute Alternative gave their contribution to the discussion by presenting regional experience in the field of free access to information and emphasising the importance of proactive approach in this area.

The main aim of the talk shows is to serve as a platform for dialogue and to engage various segments of society in Montenegro which will serve to enhance confidence, trust, and co-operation between the public, institutions, media, and civil society.

Next episode of the series will be aired on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2015.

Learn more [www.osce/montenegro/otvoreno](http://www.osce/montenegro/otvoreno)