

Proactive transparency means publishing information before the public asks for it. This, by definition, corresponds to the concept of good governance, which in both theory and research, would be a better, more efficient and transparent administration that is open to the participation of the opposition.

The Open Government Partnership initiative also proclaims proactive transparency as a global initiative for the openness of government bodies and their great accessibility to the public.

WHY PROACTIVE TRANSPARENCY IS IMPORTANT TO THE CITIZENS?

Proactive transparency enables public participation in the public life of the community. The concept of proactive transparency direct democracy program, specifically the quality of direct democracy, is achieved worldwide through direct participation in elections. Consistent application of proactive transparency can significantly improve citizen participation in decision-making at all levels. If citizens are required to make additional efforts to be informed, for example, by submitting a request for access to public information, this reduces their willingness to participate in the decision-making process, as well as the amount of information that citizens have at their disposal. Citizen participation is a human right and, as such, is regulated by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted in 1948.

The Universal Declaration stipulates that:

1. Everyone has the right to participate in the public affairs of his country, directly or through freely elected representatives,
2. Everyone has the right to equal access to public services in their country.

WHY PROACTIVE TRANSPARENCY IS IMPORTANT TO THE HOLDERS OF THE INFORMATION?

Proactive transparency satisfies the principle of good governance. The principle of proactive transparency is fully in line with the principles of open administration. Proactive transparency reduces the number of requests for free access to public information submitted to the holders of information, thereby reducing the workload for the person in charge of mediating public information.

Proactive information disclosure exposes:

- Information about the regulation and the decisions of the authorities, which fulfils the right of citizens to be informed about their rights and obligations in society;
- Information that citizens need to demand responsibility from the authorities;
- Information that citizens need so they can access the services offered by public institutions, and
- Information that citizens need to be able to participate in the decision-making process.

Holders of public information who publish information on a proactive basis also benefit on several grounds:

- Proactive transparency helps information holders to be more responsible in spending public funds;
- Thus, the holders of information promote the principles of good governance and integrity;
- Holders of information save time and effort by making better use of the information at their disposal.

The Law on Free Access to Public Information provides the legal basis for reactive transparency of information holders.

It is considered a good practice when the holders of information, by publishing their websites, make available to all citizens the information requested from them, in accordance with the Law on Free Access to Public Information.

Holders of information are obliged to proactively publish all their information, except for those that, according to the Law, are exceptions to free access.

Proactively published information should be easily accessible and understandable, usable, relevant and regularly updated.