ANALYSIS OF THE TRAINING HELD FOR OFFICIAL PERSONS IN 2020

The Agency for the Protection of the Right to Free Access to Public Information, in accordance with Article 30, Paragraph 1, Paragraph 7 of the Law on Free Access to Public Information, as one of its responsibilities, also undertakes activities related to the education of the holders of public information for the right of free access to the information they have.

Fulfilling its legal responsibilities, the Agency, even in the new circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, adapted to them and continued educating officials with holders of public information at the central and local levels and other holders of information. For this purpose, the Agency has prepared and published a training program for officials to mediate public details for 2020 and published it on its website.

Through the training, the Agency aimed to focus on the action under the Law on FAPI adopted in May 2019, the implementation of which began at the beginning of 2020. For that reason, the training included officials for mediating information of information holders who appear for the first time on the List of Holders and officials who are newly appointed in the institutions of already existing information holders, as well as officials who, although they have attended training, i.e., officials from institutions that the Agency has determined were not successful enough or had difficulty handling requests for access to public information.

The Agency, in cooperation with the National Democratic Institute and VIDI VAKA and with financial support from USAID, produced an educational video intended for officials with public information holders. The educational video covers the entire legal procedure for implementing the constitutionally guaranteed right of access to general information.

The video can be viewed on the Agency's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DgRv8tYxuTo>

In 2020, in accordance with the COVID-19 pandemic, the agency held 15 training sessions for officials with holders of public information. The trainings were carried out in the period September-December 2020. They were conducted under a standard general title: "PROCEEDING UPON REQUESTS FOR FREE ACCESS TO INFORMATION, FOLLOWING THE LAW ON FREE ACCESS TO PUBLIC INFORMATION 2019". The main goal of the training was to train the officials with the holders of information on how to correctly and promptly respond to requests for free access to public information in accordance with the Law on FAPI.

The specific goals of the training were for officials to get to know each other and, through practical exercises, to train them for the enactment of administrative acts based on law, for the proactive publication of public information, familiarisation with the goals and activities of the Agency and the establishment of cooperation, preparation and acting on requests for free access to public information through experiential exercises, simulations of the implementation of the Harm Test, as part of the process of acting on requests for free access to information, getting to know and learning the procedures for handling complaints, according to LFAPI, as well as exercises with practical examples (subjects) from the experience of the Agency's employees.

Five of the 15 training sessions were held on the Agency's premises with a physical presence and in strict compliance with the Ministry of Health's recommendations, and the remaining 10 training sessions were carried out through the ZOOM platform. Officials from all holders of information were invited to the training: state institutions, judicial authorities, municipalities and centres for the development of planning regions, public enterprises and institutions, health institutions, educational institutions, legal and physical persons exercising public powers and general activity interest, as well as officials from political parties.

A total of 71 officials attended, while 56 of the officials, although adequately invited to the training, showed an ignorant attitude towards the law that protects citizens' constitutional right to be informed about the work of the institutions and is also one of the pillars for preventing corruption.

Ultimately, we want to emphasise that the training organised and shared by the Agency is free of charge. Therefore, we appeal to the officials, and above all, the responsible persons among the holders of information, in the period in which new training will follow, to register for them at the electronic address obuki@aspi.mk, which the Agency opened for officials to self-initiatively apply for participation in the training, for the reasons that through them they will become familiar with the procedure for better implementation of the Law on FAPI, and are in the interest of the citizens and their right to know how the institutions are working.

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ANNEX:

Attachmentс:

1. List of holders of information whose officials attended the training:

1. State-owned joint-stock company for performing energy activities National Energy Resources-NER AD - Skopje
2. Development Bank of North Macedonia AD-Skopje
3. Joint-stock company for energy activities City Energy Systems-Skopje AD Skopje
4. Thermal energy distribution company Distribution of Heat Balkan Energy DOOEL-BEG Skopje
5. ZAN MITREV CLINIC-Legal Affairs and Human Resources Specialist
6. Institute for Authorized Auditors of the Republic of North Macedonia
7. Faculty of Islamic Sciences - Skopje
8. City Shopping Center - AD Skopje
9. Ministry of Culture
10. Institute of Accountants and Chartered Accountants
11. Office of the President of the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia
12. State Video Lottery of Macedonia – Casinos Austria LLC Skopje
13. PSI Institute for Spiritual and Cultural Heritage of Albanians-Skopje
14. Republic Council for Road Traffic Safety
15. Center Municipality
16. PE for public parking lots Parking lots of the Municipality of Centar
17. PE Communal Hygiene Skopje
18. Centre for the Development of the Skopje Planning Region Skopje
19. PTE-Skopje (JSP)
20. Basic Civil Court Skopje
21. Faculty of Business Economics FBE
22. Institute for Business Economics IBE
23. City of Skopje
24. Food and Veterinary Agency FVA (AHV)
25. Directorate for Protection and Rescue
26. Health Insurance Fund Skopje
27. Operational-technical agency Skopje
28. Joint-stock company in state ownership for performing the activity of providing services in air navigation M-NAV AD Skopje
29. City Shopping Centre AD Skopje
30. Public enterprise for managing sports facilities owned by the Republic of North Macedonia
31. Municipality of Chucher-Sandevo
32. Administration for Public Revenues
33. Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning
34. Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management
35. Municipality of Delchevo
36. Memorial House of Mother Teresa-Skopje
37. Agency for financial support in agriculture and rural development
38. Ministry of Finance
39. Zhelino Municipality
40. Probishtip Municipality
41. National Security Agency
42. General Secretariat of the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia
43. Ministry of Internal Affairs
44. Ministry of Information Society and Administration
45. State Archive of the Republic of North Macedonia
46. Gorche Petrov Municipality
47. SU Museum of the Macedonian Struggle for Independence - Skopje
48. Chamber of Commerce of the Republic of North Macedonia
49. Agency for foreign investments and export promotion of the Republic of North Macedonia
50. Agency for supporting entrepreneurship of the Republic of North Macedonia
51. Agency for promotion and support of tourism
52. Agency for the application of the language spoken by at least 20% of the citizens in the Republic of North Macedonia
53. JV for construction and management with residential space and business space of importance for the Republic-Skopje
54. JV Water Management of the Republic of North Macedonia in state ownership, Skopje
55. Municipality of Shuto Orizari
56. Administration for keeping registers
57. Political party - The Left Party
58. PE-National Forests
59. Political Party-Social Democratic Union of Macedonia
60. Insurance Supervision Agency
61. Ohrid Municipality

2. List of invited holders of information whose officials did not attend the training:

1. Ministry of Foreign Affairs

2. Directorate for Technological Industrial Development Zones

3. Ministry of Health

4. Ministry of Political System and Relations between Communities

5. Ministry of Labor and Social Policy

6. Saraj Municipality

7. Sopishte Municipality

8. Wrestling Federation of the Republic of North Macedonia

9. Zelenikovo Municipality

10. Public Institution Reception Center for Asylum Seekers - Skopje

11. Macedonian Academic Research Network MARnet

12. PHI University Institute for Positron Emission Tomography of the Republic of North Macedonia

13. PHI University Clinic State Cardiosurgery-Skopje

14. Orthodox Faculty of Theology

15. Party of United Democrats of Macedonia-PODEM

16. Kratovo Municipality

17. Skopje Sever - PE Skopje

18. Municipality of Debarca, village of Belchishta

19. Strumica Municiplaity

20. Youth and Sport Agency

21. Municipality of Mavrovo and Rostushe

22. Communal PE - Struga

23. PE ISAR-Shtip

24. PCE Tetovo-Tetovo

25. Municipal waste disposal company Drisla - Skopje

26. Private Security Chamber of the Republic of North Macedonia

27. Dental Chamber of the Republic of North Macedonia

28. Democratic Party of Albanians-DPA

29. Regulatory Commission for Energy and Water Services of the Republic of North Macedonia

30. Ministry of Transport and Communications

31. State Communal Inspectorate

32. State Inspectorate for Construction and Urbanism

33. Agency for the realisation of the rights of communities

34. Film Agency of the Republic of North Macedonia

35. Parks and greenery PE - Skopje

36. Chair Municipality

37. National Bank of the Republic of North Macedonia

38. Municipality of Karposh

39. Democratic Reconstruction of Macedonia - DOM

40. PE for protection and maintenance of main and regional roads - Skopje

41. Agency for Commodity Reserves

42. PCE Low Construction Ohrid

43. PCE Low Construction-Bitola

44. Public institution National Park Galichica - Ohrid

45. Intelligence Agency

46. ​​Forfeited Property Management Agency

47. Agency for Administration

48. VMRO-Democratic Party for Macedonian National Unity - VMRO-DPMNE

49. Democratic Union for Integration-DUI

50. Political party Alternative

51. Political party - BESA Movement

52. Democratic Union - DS

53. New Social Democratic Party - NSDP

54. Liberal-Democratic Party - LDP

55. Socialist Party of the Republic of North Macedonia

56. Civic Option for Macedonia - GROM