



**AGENCY FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE RIGHT TO FREE ACCESS TO PUBLIC
INFORMATION**

**INFORMATION ACCORDING TO THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE
121ST SESSION (JANUARY 24TH, 2023) OF THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA**

Skopje, June 2024

The Agency for the Protection of the Right to Free Access to Public Information Acting upon the Excerpt from the Draft Minutes of the One Hundred and Twenty-First Session of the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia, held on January 24, 2023, prepared information that was submitted to the Cabinet of the Deputy Prime Minister, in charge of good governance policies, for the implementation of the Information on improving the transparency and accountability of institutions from the public sector through the publication of the mandatory information according to the Law on Free Access to Public Information on the websites of the institutions, as well as publication of the most frequently requested information systematized by area.

The Agency, acting upon the recommendation from the Conclusion, conducted monitoring of **4** categories of holders, i.e. of **224** institutions, in accordance with the Methodology for conducting monitoring for proactive publication of public information, submitted Questionnaires that were adapted according to the competencies of the monitored holders. The purpose of the questionnaires is, through the self-evaluation of the holders, to see to what extent the holders practice proactive transparency and legal obligations in accordance with Article 10 of the Law on FAPI, and for the purposes of the Information, whether the holders also fulfil the conclusions of the Draft-Minutes of the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia.

The categories of holders that were covered by the monitoring were: municipalities and centres for the development of planning regions, public enterprises and joint-stock companies under the jurisdiction of the municipalities, the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia, the ministries and the bodies involved, according to the Transparency Strategy (2019-2022), and the holders from the Judicial Authority.

Proactive transparency implies the timely publication of public information by institutions that do so on their initiative before they are requested orally, in writing or electronically, through clear, transparent and easily accessible web pages that contain all information of importance to citizens. Such proactive publication of information contributes to the strengthening of law and enables the public to become familiar with regulations, decisions, policy-making and other actions that are of interest and affect them on time.

The monitoring is focused on checking the categories of information that should be regularly updated and published on the websites of the holders of public information in accordance with the provisions of Article 9 and Article 10 of the Law on Free Access to Public Information (LFAPI). We should clarify that with the monitoring, the Agency does not analyze the contents, that is, the quality of the published information.

The reference framework for monitoring carried out based on the Conclusion of the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia is the questionnaire prepared specifically for this purpose and all those questions to the holders of information derived from Article 10 of the LFAPI. Through the specified questions the holders carry out a self-evaluation of their web pages and their proactivity, that is, whether and to what extent they publish the necessary information that is of interest to the citizens.

It should be emphasized that the web pages of the holders are updated according to their activities and have their function as the first informant for the citizens and the services they provide.

Concerning the Report, the Agency included in the Questionnaire the questions to which the holders had to move the link from the website on which they published the information following the obligations, indications and recommendations contained in the draft-minutes.

The report is focused on the most relevant (most important) three questions:

1. Have you published the mandatory information from Article 10 of the Law on Free Access to Public Information on the website by placing a banner in a visible place and leading to public information?

2. Have you published anonymously on the website the requests for access to public information for 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023, together with the answers that you have already submitted to the requester to be reused by other natural and legal entities without resubmitting a request with the same content?

3. Have you published public information systematized by area, in accordance with Article 10 paragraph 1 point 22 - "other information arising from the competence and work of the holder of the information" of the Law on free access to public information, such as stated in the Guidelines for improving the transparency of public sector institutions?

Deadlines were set for each of the monitored holders in which they had to submit the answers to the self-evaluation questionnaires, that is, fill them with the necessary data. They submitted completed questionnaires by the given deadlines to **124 holders** or **55,36%** of **224** the holders to whom it was delivered, and for these holders, in this information, it can be determined how much their transparency and accountability have improved.

- According to the categories of holders that the Agency maintains on its website <https://aspi.mk/листа-на-иматели-на-информации/> from **224** holders who were covered by the monitoring answered questionnaires for self-evaluation **orderly and timely** submitted:

- **Municipalities and Centers for the Development of Planning Regions: out of 89 holders, 47 holders submitted a questionnaire**

- **Public enterprises and joint-stock companies under the jurisdiction of the municipalities: out of 49 holders, 25 holders submitted a questionnaire**

- **The Government of the Republic of North Macedonia, the ministries and bodies in the composition: out of 51 holders, 30 holders submitted questionnaires, and**

- **Judiciary: out of 35 holders, 22 holders submitted a questionnaire**

According to the received answers to the self-evaluation Questionnaire from the holders, we are attaching the table with the summarized data shown by the number of holders:

Information holders/questions	Have you published the mandatory information from Article 10 of the law on free access to public information on the website by placing a banner in a visible place and leading to public information?	Have you published anonymously on the website the requests for access to public information for 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023, together with the answers you have already provided to the requester so that they can be reused by other natural and legal persons without resubmitting a request with the same content?	Have you published the public information systematized by area, in accordance with Article 10 paragraph 1 point 22 - other information arising from the competence and work of the holder of the information from the law on free access to public information, as stated in the instructions for improving the transparency of public sector institutions?
Municipalities and Centers for the Development of planning regions	35	15	36
PE and JSC in jurisdiction of the municipalities	22	15	28
The government of the Republic of North Macedonia, the ministries and the constituting bodies	37	25	36
Judicial power	7	7	26
In total: 224	101	62	126

Notes:

35 municipalities or 39.3% out of 89 holders from Municipalities and Centers for the Development of

Planning Regions in this group answered the questionnaire with an attached link (banner/link Public Information)

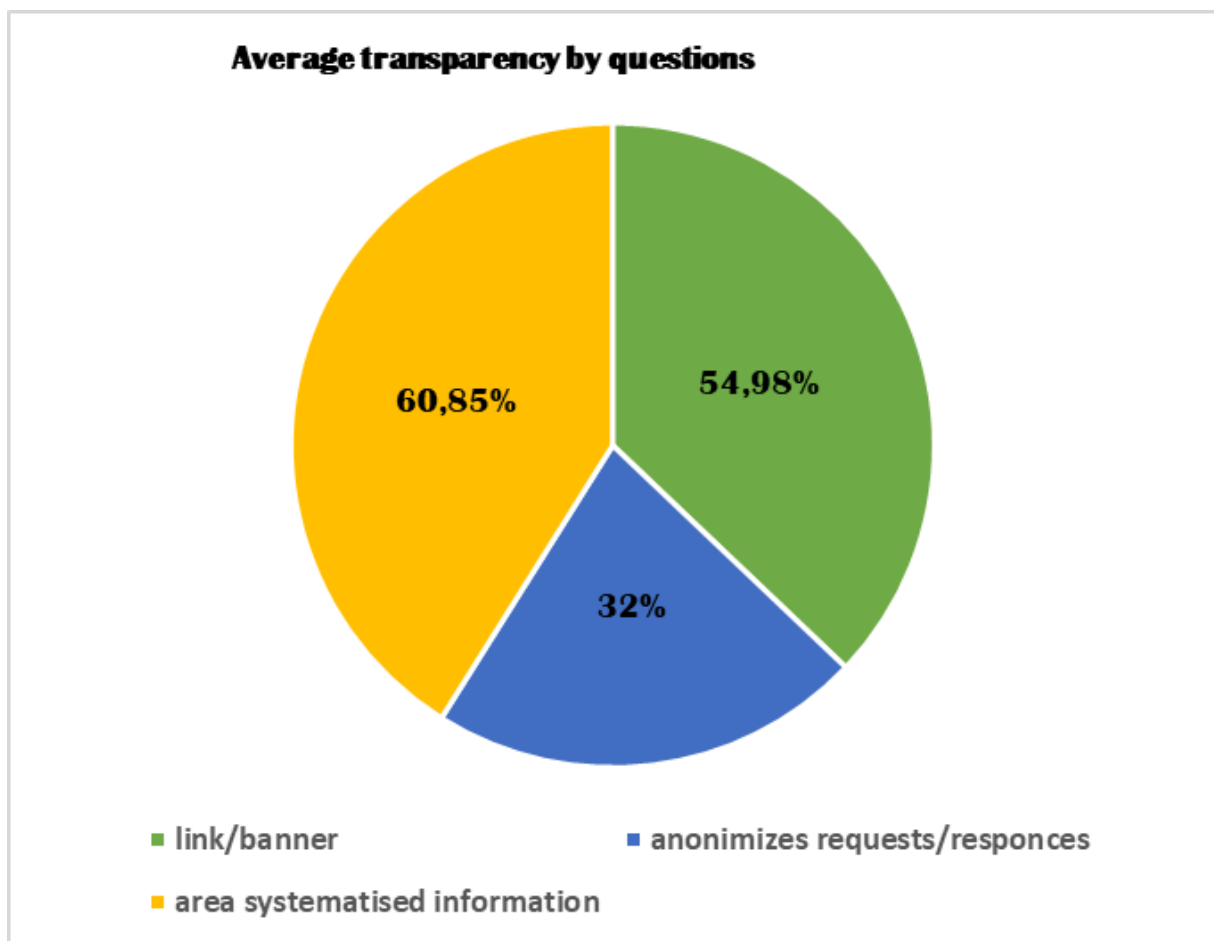
Out of 49 holders in the group of public enterprises and joint stock companies under the jurisdiction of the Municipalities, only 22 answered with an attached link or 44.9%.

Out of 51 holders from the Republic of North Macedonia Government, ministries and bodies, 37 holders or 73% responded in the form of feedback with an attached link.

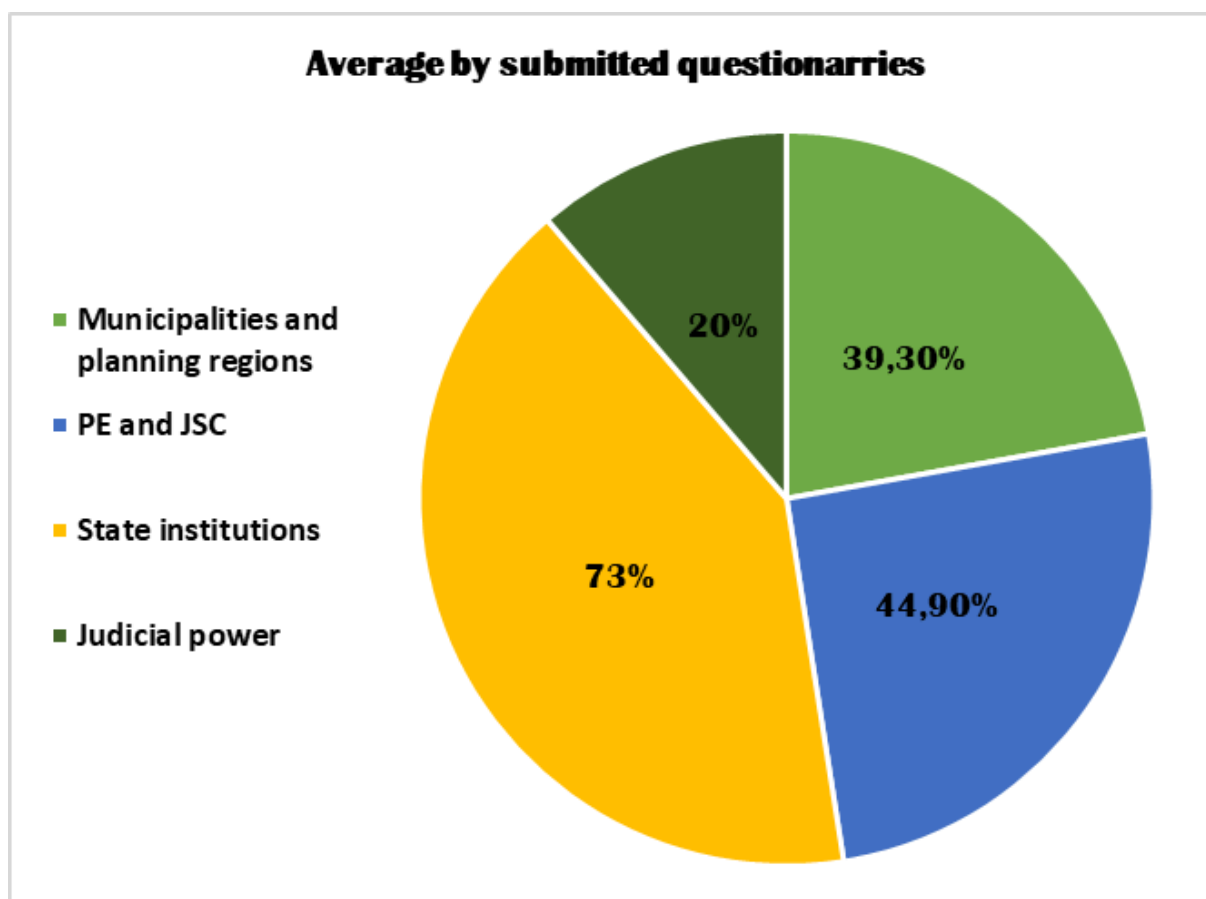
The monitored holders from the judicial authority (Appellate Courts, Basic Courts, Supreme Court of the Republic of North Macedonia, Higher Administrative Court, Administrative Court and Judicial Council of the Republic of North Macedonia) have 35 holders, but only 7 holders or 20% submitted the attached link.

APPENDIX:

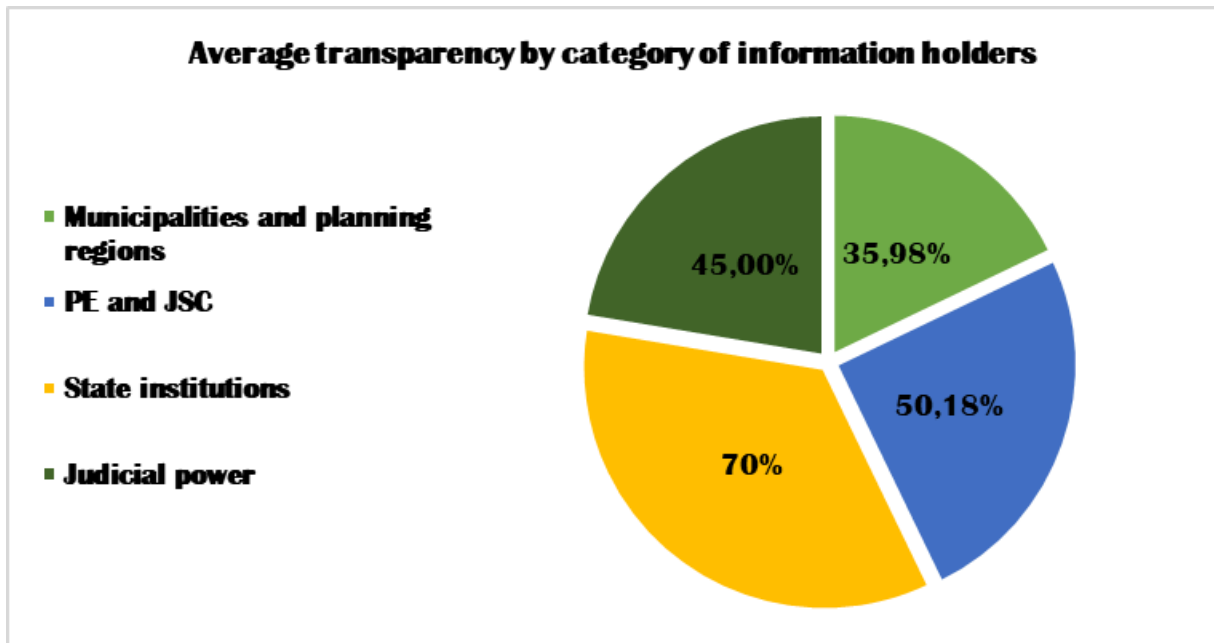
In addition to the information, we provide a graphic representation of the percentage average by categories of holders.



The highest transparent self-evaluation by the institutions is with the Republic of North Macedonia Government, the ministries and the bodies in composition with 73%, while the lowest self-evaluation is with the judiciary with only 20%. The average self-evaluation of all categories of holders is 44.3% and is within medium transparency.



The holders paid the most attention to systematizing public information by area, that is, 60.85% of them did so, then the availability of the Public Information link/banner is represented by 54.98% on their web pages, while anonymized requests/answers are the least represented with 32% bearing in mind that requests for public information are not equally represented by all institutions. The total, i.e. the average transparency concerning the issues is at a medium level with 50%.



Summarizing the results obtained from these holders, we get a picture of the transparency of the institutions in the Republic of North Macedonia, which is 50.2%, and it can be concluded that it is at a medium level, i.e. average, and that the holders should be more focused on improving their transparency. In this way, citizens are promptly and clearly informed about all information of importance to the public.

The level of transparency and accountability in the work of the Republic of North Macedonia Government, the ministries and the bodies within it have an increasing trend of proactive publication of public information, and their transparency is assessed as very good. Most of the monitored institutions have very good transparency and the Agency recommends to the holders to consistently respect the transparency and accountability standards in the future because only in this way the institutions and their work will be more accessible to the end users, the requesters of public information, i.e. the citizens.

In the following, we provide you with the table with the holders monitored according to the Strategy for Transparency 2019-2022), that is, the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia, the ministries and bodies within it and their transparency.

	INSTITUTIONS	%	LEVEL OF PROACTIVE TRANSPARENCY

1	Ministry of agriculture, forestry and water management	100%	VERY GOOD TRANSPARENCY
1	Ministry of Defense	100%	
2	Ministry of Finance	95,92%	
2	Customs Administration of the Republic of North Macedonia	95,92%	
3	Office of the President of Government of the Republic of North Macedonia	93,88%	
3	MISA	93,88%	
4	State Educational Inspectorate	92,86%	
5	Ministry of Economy	91,84%	
5	Ministry of environment and spatial planning	91,84%	
5	State Administrative Inspectorate	91,84%	
6	PRA	90,82%	
7	Government of the Republic of North Macedonia	89,80%	
7	MIA	89,80%	
7	Ministry of Justice	89,80%	
7	MON	89,80%	
8	Administration for the Protection of Cultural Heritage Inheritance	87,76%	
9	Food and Veterinary Agency of the Republic of North Macedonia	86,73%	
10	Commission on Religious Relations communities and religious groups	84,69%	
10	State Inspectorate for construction and urban planning	84,69%	
11	Bureau of Public Procurement	83,67%	
11	Bureau of Regional Development	83,67%	
11	State Market Inspectorate	83,67%	
12	Administration for Public Revenues	77,55%	
12	State Animal Inspectorate	77,55%	

	environment		
13	Ministry of Health	76,53%	
14	State Statistical Office	75,51%	
14	State Inspectorate for agriculture	75,51%	
15	Ministry of Culture	74,49%	
16	Ministry of Local self-government	73,47%	
17	Office for Representation of the Republic of North Macedonia before The European Court of Human Rights	72,45%	GOOD TRANSPARENCY
18	The Republic of North Macedonia State Archive	71,43%	
18	Bureau of Educational Development	71,43%	
18	Financial Administration intelligence	71,43%	
18	State Technical Inspectorate inspection	71,43%	
19	Ministry of Transport and Communications	70,41%	

20	Assessment Bureau	69,39%	
21	MFA	67,35%	
21	Administration for keeping the registry books	67,35%	
21	State Labor Inspectorate	67,35%	
22	State Communal Inspectorate	65,31%	
23	Agency for youth and sports	63,27%	
23	Financial Police Authority	63,27%	
24	Agency for National safety	61,22%	
25	The Republic of North Macedonia Emigration Agency	59,18%	
26	State sanitary and health inspectorate	55,10%	

27	Administration for enforcement of sanctions	50%	AVERAGE TRANSPARENCY
28	State Inspectorate for Local Self-Government	40,82%	
29	State Inspectorate for transport	27,55%	
30	Ministry of Political system and relations between communities	26,53%	
31	Bureau of Metrology	24,49%	
32	The Republic of North Macedonia Geological Institute	22,45%	WEAK TRANSPARENCY

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