

INDEX

of Active
Transparency

2024



FOUNDATION ФОНДАЦИЈА
OPEN OTBOPEHO
SOCIETY OPICTECTBO
MACEDONIA MAKEDONIJA



Center for Civil Communications
Центар за граѓански комуникации



FOUNDATION ФОНДАЦИЈА
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Abbreviations

Mol	Ministry of Interior
MoE	Ministry of Economy
MESP	Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning
MoH	Ministry of Health
MAFWE	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy
MISA	Ministry of Information Society and Administration
MoC	Ministry of Culture
MLSG	Ministry of Local Self-Government
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MoD	Ministry of Defence
MES	Ministry of Education and Science
MoJ	Ministry of Justice
MPSICR	Ministry of Political System and Inter-Community Relations
MTC	Ministry of Transport and Communications
MLSP	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
MoF	Ministry of Finance
RNM	Republic of North Macedonia

Summary

- In 2024, the average **active transparency performance score** of all institutions analysed (the Government, ministries and municipalities) stands at **80%** (from maximum possible 100%) and **represents an improvement by 4 percentile points** compared to last year (from 76% to 80%).
- High **71%** of institutions demonstrated **improved** active transparency performance (last year, improvements were noted with 54% of all institutions).
- At the level of ministries and the Government, the average active transparency is calculated at **86%**, while the average active transparency score among municipalities stands at **79%**. Compared to last year's performance scores, the ministries have not demonstrated any progress, while the municipalities have improved their average performance score by 5 percentile points.
- In the case of central government institutions, a maximum score of **100%** was maintained only by the **Ministry of Defence** which, for the fourth consecutive year, publishes all information required under active transparency obligations. **The Government** dropped from its top position and 100% active transparency score last year to the **40th ranking position**, with performance score of **87%**.
- For the first time this year, as many as five municipalities (**Berovo, Bitola, Valandovo, Kavadarci and Kichevo**) achieved the maximum active transparency score of 100%.
- Among **planning regions**, the **East Region** maintained and even improved its leadership position compared to other planning regions (with active transparency score of 88%), while the **Skopje Region** barely escaped the bottom rank which it had held for many years. This year, the **Northeast Region** holds the bottom ranking position (with active transparency score of 72%).
- The ministries published the **least information on their competences** (78% from maximum possible 100%), while the municipalities published the least information in the area of **finances** (67% from maximum possible 100%).
- As regards **freedom of information (FOI) requests** addressed to all institutions on the same day and with identical inquiries, the average rate of response among municipalities accounts for **15 days** (last year it was 16 days), while the ministries responded within an average period of **14 days** (last year it was 19 days). **71%** of all institutions responded to FOI requests within the **maximum law-stipulated deadline** of 20 days (last year their share was 65%).

The term 'active transparency' means publication of information by institutions at their own initiatives, without being addressed with freedom of information requests. Proactive publication of information is a legal obligation, primarily under the Law on Free Access to Public Information, but also under other legislative acts such as the Law on Self-Government, Law on Budgets, Law on Public Debt, Law on Financing Local Self-Government Units, etc. In addition to national legislation, active transparency is a matter of good practice, whereby the institutions have committed to proactive publication of information under OGP National Action Plans.

Overall ranking under the 2024 Index of Active Transparency

Rank	Institution	Score
VERY GOOD		
1	Berovo	100.0%
1	Bitola	100.0%
1	Valandovo	100.0%
1	Kavadarci	100.0%
1	Kichevo	100.0%
1	MoD	100.0%
7	Veles	98.6%
7	Kisela Voda	98.6%
9	MLSP	97.8%
10	Karposh	97.2%
11	Kumanovo	97.1%
12	Gradsko	97.1%
13	Demir Hisar	95.7%
13	Kriva Palanka	95.7%
13	Mol	95.7%
13	MAFWE	95.7%
17	Delchevo	94.3%
17	Kochani	94.3%
19	Butel	94.2%
19	Debrca	94.2%
19	Ilinden	94.2%
19	Centar	94.2%
23	Ministry of Health	93.5%
23	MLSG	93.5%
25	Centar Zhupa	92.8%
26	Shtip	91.7%
26	MESP	91.7%
26	MISA	91.7%
29	Bogdanci	91.4%
30	Gevgelija	91.4%
31	Brvenica	91.3%
31	Gazi Baba	91.3%
33	Ministry of Finance	90.7%
34	Prilep	90.3%
35	Radovish	90.0%
36	Zrnovci	89.9%
37	Strumica	88.9%
38	Vinica	88.6%
38	Makedonska Kamenica	88.6%
40	Vasilevo	87.0%
40	Government of RNM	87.0%
42	Demir Kapija	85.7%
43	Karbinci	85.5%
43	Konche	85.5%
43	Novaci	85.5%
46	Ohrid	84.3%
47	Novo Selo	84.1%
48	Krushevo	82.9%
48	Probishtip	82.9%
49	Sveti Nikole	82.9%

Rank	Institution	Score
51	Mavrovo and Rostushe	82.6%
51	MoE	82.6%
51	Tearce	82.6%
54	Debar	81.9%
55	Negotino	87.1%
56	Bosilovo	81.2%
57	Tetovo	80.6%
GOOD		
58	Cheshinovo-Obleshevo	79.7%
59	MFA	78.3%
60	Makedonski Brod	77.1%
61	Zelenikovo	76.8%
61	Chashka	76.8%
63	MES	76.1%
64	Aerodrom	75.4%
64	Vevchani	75.4%
64	Lipkovo	75.4%
67	MTC	75.0%
68	Jegunovce	74.3%
69	Krivogashtani	73.9%
69	Ministry of Culture	73.9%
69	Ministry of Justice	73.9%
72	Plasnica	72.5%
73	Kratovo	71.4%
74	Gjorche Petrov	71.0%
74	Mogila	71.0%
76	Pehchevo	70.0%
77	Chair	69.6%
77	Gostivar	68.6%
79	Petrovec	68.1%
80	Bogovinje	65.2%
81	Zhelino	64.8%
82	Arachinovo	63.8%
82	City of Skopje	63.8%
84	Dolneni	62.3%
84	Saraj	62.3%
86	Resen	61.4%
87	MPSICR	60.9%
AVERAGE		
88	Chucher Sandevo	56.5%
89	Struga	55.7%
90	Rankovce	53.6%
90	Rosoman	53.6%
92	Dojran	51.4%
93	Shuto Orizari	50.7%
94	Studenichani	45.1%
95	Vrapchishte	43.5%
96	Staro Nagorichane	42.0%
POOR		
97	Sopishte	33.3%
98	Lozovo	29.0%

Introduction: Why active transparency?

The term 'active transparency' means publication of information by institutions at their own initiative, without being addressed with freedom of information requests. On the other hand, cases in which an institution is addressed with requests to disclose particular information is considered 'reactive transparency'.

The need for proactive publication of information originated in the fact that such action results in disclosure and availability of:

- » information on the authorities' regulations and decisions, ensuring the right of citizens to be informed about their rights and responsibilities in the society;
- » information needed by citizens to hold the authorities accountable;
- » information needed by citizens to participate in decision-making processes; and
- » information needed by citizens to obtain access to services provided by public institutions.

At the same time, institutions that engage in proactive publication of information enjoy multiple benefits from such practice, as follows:

- » active transparency helps the institution be more responsible in terms of spending public funds;
- » by doing so, the institution promotes the principles of good governance and integrity; and
- » the institution is more efficient due to better management of information at its disposal.

It seems that technology development and advancement go hand-in-hand and support active transparency of institutions as it facilitates increased number and easy accessibility of methods for dissemination of information that are disposed by institutions and are useful for citizens.

The legal basis for active transparency is found in the Law on Free Access to Public Information. In addition to the institutions' obligation to respond to freedom of information requests, this law also features provisions relating to proactive publication of information, i.e. publication of information at the institution's own initiative.

Furthermore, a series of other laws stipulate obligations for institutions to publish information on proactive basis. These include the Law on Local Self-Government, Law on Budgets, Law on Public Debt, Law on Financing Local Self-Government Units, etc.

In addition to being legal obligation, active transparency is also a matter of good practice. Worldwide, it is believed a good practice for institutions to make publicly available to all citizens their responses to frequently asked questions submitted under the instrument on free access to information.

Voluntarily published information helps civil society organizations and investigative journalists to develop and publish research studies/stories which, in turn, help citizens to better understand how they can influence decisions that affect their day-to-day life and work, and facilitate the citizens' access to services provided by the state.

In principle, any institution can proactively publish all information at its disposal, except for those regulated as exemption by law.

Active transparency is a relative new notion worldwide. Hence, there are no defined standards which information, except for those regulated as exemption by law, should be published. However, analysis of relevant practices in different countries refers to a minimum set of information any institution should make publicly available as part of its active transparency effort.

When engaging in proactive publication of certain information, institutions should be guided by the principle of cost-effective and efficient publication of information, making them available to the broadest group of citizens. Also, honest practice of active transparency means that the institution should inform citizens and stakeholders about information disclosed and encourage access thereto and use thereof.

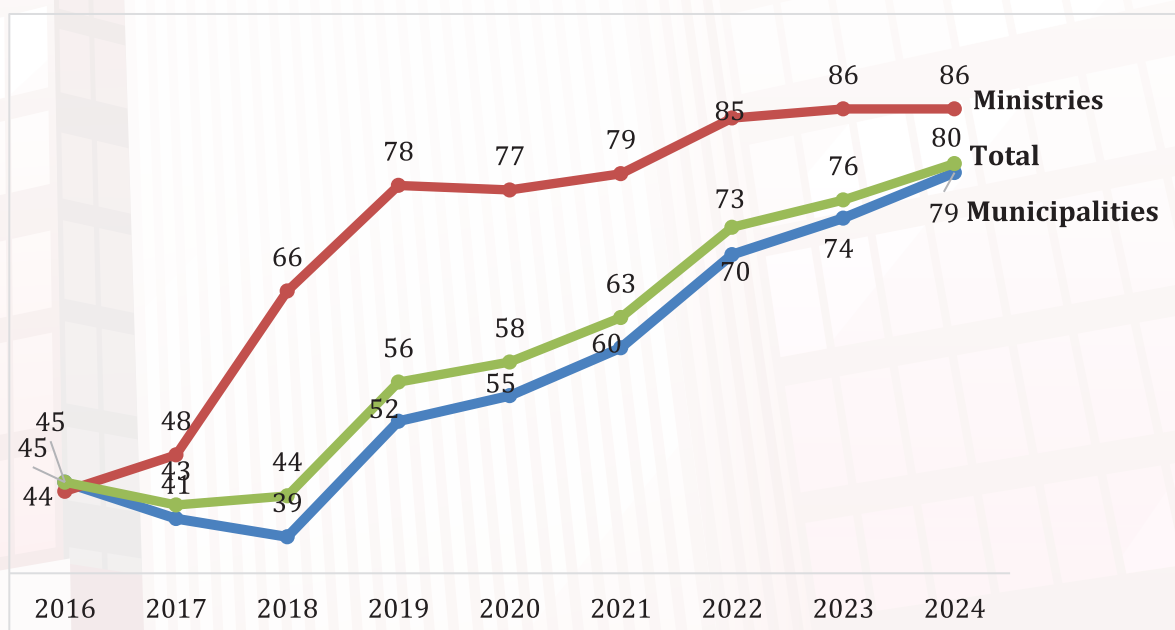
Information published on proactive basis should be easily accessible and understandable, useful, relevant (relevancy of published information can be verified in cooperation with civil society organizations and journalists) and regularly updated.

Based on all this, the Center for Civil Communications developed a detailed methodology for comprehensive research on active transparency performance of state institutions. The idea behind this research and ranking of institutions under the so-called Index of Active Transparency is to help institutions which information should be published and to encourage them to publish them proactively.

Detailed analysis of active transparency in 2024

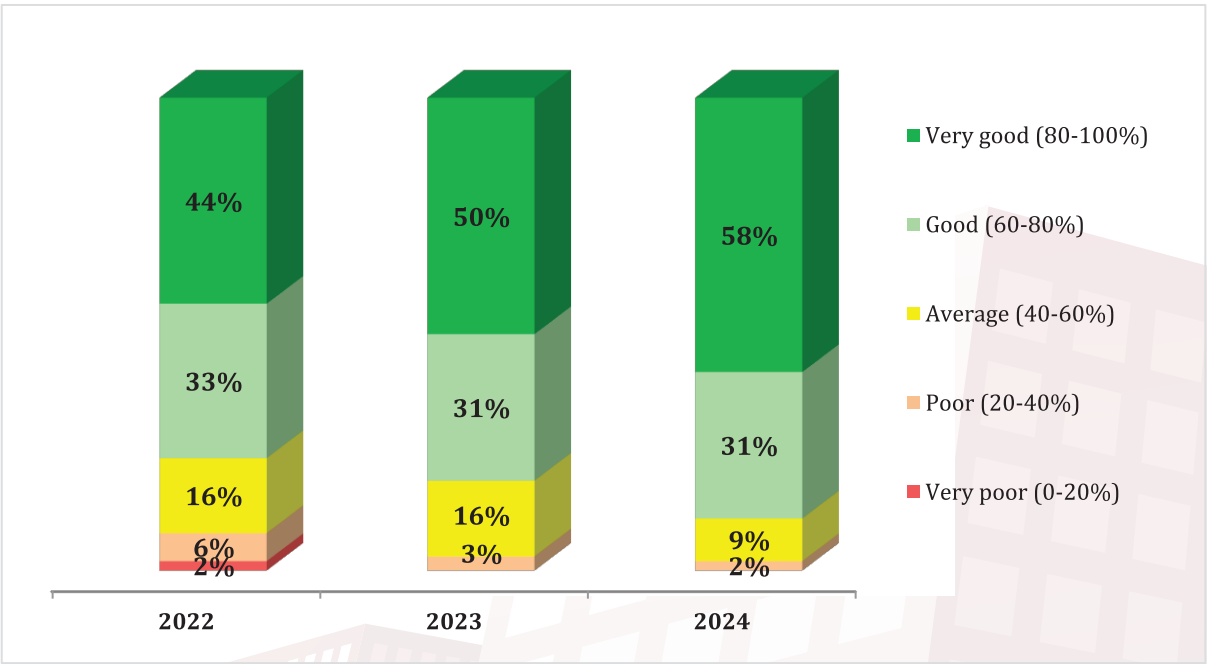
- In 2024, the average performance score of all 98 institutions stands at 80% (from maximum possible 100%) and falls under the category of **“very good”** active transparency.
- The overall active transparency score of 80% calculated for the year 2024 represents an improvement by 4 percentile points compared to last year when this score was 76%.
- The ministries continue to demonstrate better performance by publishing more information compared to the municipalities. While in 2016, when this index was first developed, both groups of institutions demonstrated same level of active transparency performance (45%), there is still a major gap between ministries and municipalities, which is getting narrower year after year. Namely, the overall active transparency score among ministries stands at 86%, while the municipalities demonstrated average active transparency of 79%.

Movement of active transparency scores throughout the years



- For a second consecutive year, no institution is ranked in the category of “very poor” active transparency performance, i.e. no institution was assigned compliance score in the range from 0% to 20%.
- Also, for a second consecutive year, more than half of institutions (57%) are ranked in the best category of “very good” active transparency performance with compliance scores in the range above 80%.

Distribution of institutions across different categories of active transparency



ACTIVE TRANSPARENCY OF MUNICIPALITIES: One third of municipalities have earned compliance scores in the range above 90%

- For the first time since the first edition of the Index of Active Transparency was developed (2016), five municipalities have earned the maximum score of 100%, which means they are publishing all information required under active transparency obligations.
- As many as 46 municipalities (last year their number was 36) fall in the category of best active transparency performance, i.e. “very good”, with compliance scores in the range from 80% to 100%.
- This year as well there are no municipalities ranked in the category of “very poor” active transparency performance.
- Improved active transparency performance was demonstrated by 52 municipalities (last year their number was 47).
- Champions in terms of active transparency performance improved by more than 30 percentile points include Zelenikovo (by 41 points) and Karbinci and Arachinovo (by 35 points), while the biggest deterioration in terms of active transparency is noted with Sopishte (by 12%).
- At the same time, the last 11 ranking positions under the overall index are held by municipalities.

ACTIVE TRANSPARENCY OF MINISTRIES AND THE GOVERNMENT: Proactive publication of information shows a stagnation for second year in a row

- For second year in a row, ministries and the Government did not demonstrate improved active transparency and maintained the same performance level of 86%.
- Among the total of 16 ministries and the Government, 9 institutions have improved their active transparency performance (last year their number was 6), 6 institutions are marked by decreased performance and 2 institutions maintained the same level of performance as last year.
- For the fourth consecutive year, the Ministry of Defence is the best ranked governmental institution, with compliance score of 100%. This ministry is also the only governmental institution that has earned the maximum number of points.
- This year, the Government’s active transparency rank dropped to the 40th position with compliance score of 87%, after having earned a maximum score of 100% last year.
- The biggest annual improvement in active transparency performance (by 11 percentile points) is noted with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, while the biggest annual decrease in active transparency performance (by 13 percentile points) is noted with the Government.
- In addition to the Ministry of Defence, nine other central government institutions attained very high scores.
- As was the case under previous editions of this index, the Ministry of Political System and Inter-Community Relations is the last-ranked central government institution in spite of its improved active transparency performance year after year. For the first time this year, MPSICR is no longer ranked in the category of “average” active transparency and moved up to the category of “good” active transparency.

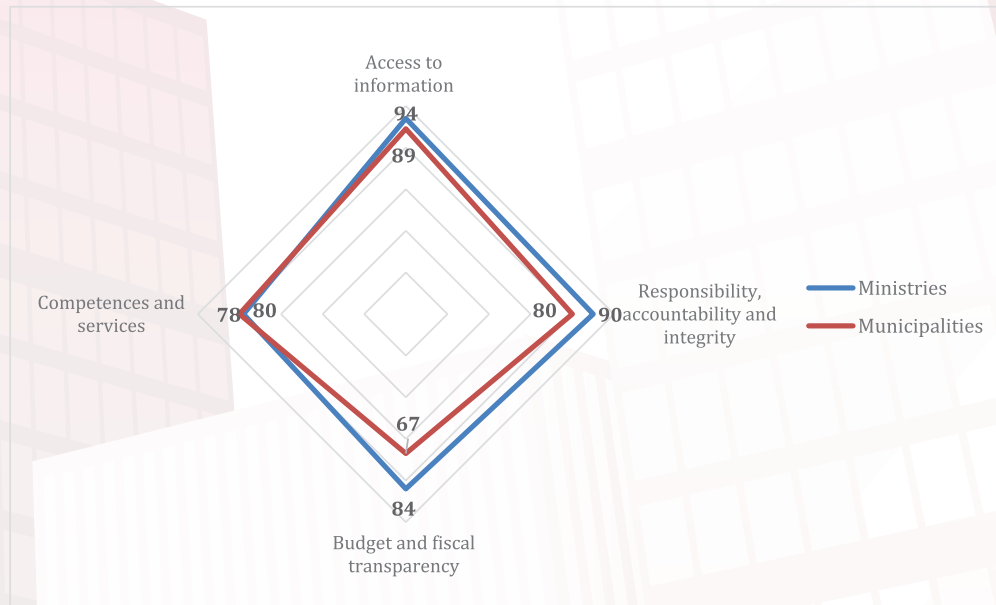
Ranking of ministries according to active transparency performance

2024 rank	2023 rank	Institution	2024 score	2023 score
1	1	Ministry of Defence	100.0%	100.0%
2	4	Ministry of Labour and Social Policy	97.8%	95.7%
3	10	Ministry of Interior	95.7%	87.5%
3	4	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy	95.7%	95.7%
5	6	Ministry of Health	93.5%	91.3%
5	7	Ministry of Local Self-Government	93.5%	90.9%
7	8	Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning	91.7%	89.1%
7	8	Ministry of Information Society and Administration	91.7%	89.1%
9	3	Ministry of Finance	90.7%	98.1%
10	1	Government of RNM	87.0%	100.0%
11	11	Ministry of Economy	82.6%	87.0%
12	16	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	78.3%	67.4%
13	12	Ministry of Education and Science	76.1%	82.6%
14	13	Ministry of Transport and Communications	75.0%	80.4%
15	15	Ministry of Culture	73.9%	71.1%
15	14	Ministry of Justice	73.9%	79.2%
17	17	Ministry of Political System and Inter-Community Relations	60.9%	52.2%

The least information is published in the areas of finances and competences

- Both, ministries and municipalities, publish the **most** information in the area of **access to information**. However, ministries publish the **least** information on their competences, while municipalities publish the least information on their **finances**.
- In the area of **access to information**, the average compliance score in relation to proactive publication of information, which mainly arise from the Law on Free Access to Public Information, stands at 89% among municipalities and is significantly higher among the Government and its ministries - 94%.
- As regards proactive publication of information in the area of **budget and fiscal transparency**, the average compliance score among municipalities is 67%, while the ministries demonstrated an average compliance score of 84%.
- The average compliance score for publication of **information on their respective competences and services** stands at 80% among municipalities and 78% among ministries.
- As regards information related to **responsibility, accountability and integrity**, the ministries publish 90% of required information, while the municipalities publish only 80%.

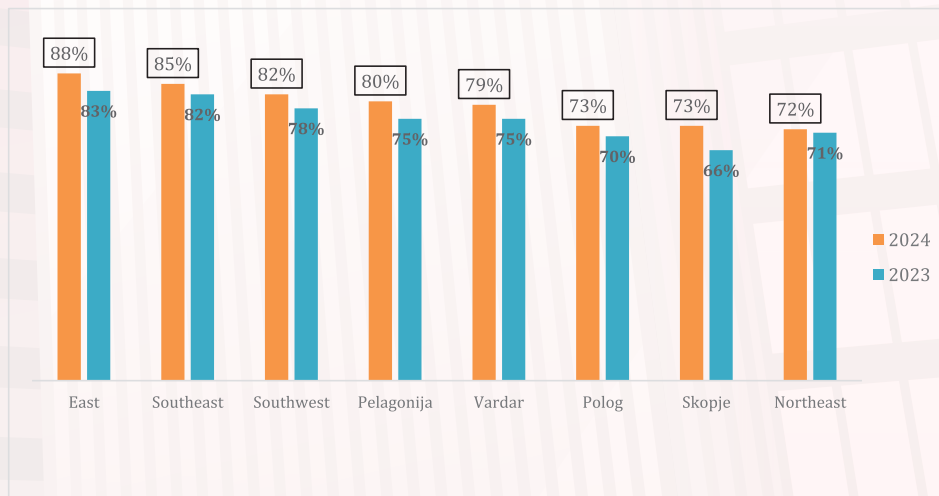
Active transparency per area of information



REGIONAL COMPARISONS: This year as well the East Region is best-ranked, while the Skopje Region, for the first time, moved up from its bottom rank

- In 2024, without any exceptions, all planning regions demonstrated improved active transparency performance.
- The East Region maintained its leadership position among all planning regions with active transparency score of 88%. Also, there are no changes on the second ranking position, held by the Southeast Region with active transparency score of 85%.
- The Southwest Region showed continuous improvement and from the second-to-last position at one point in time climbed to the third ranking position with active transparency score of 82%.
- As usual, the Skopje, Polog and Northeast Regions are ranked at the bottom of this list with the Northeast Region taking the last position with compliance score of 72% and the Skopje and Polog Regions slightly better ranked with compliance score of 73% each.

Ranking of planning regions according to active transparency performance



East Region - 88% (last year - 83%)

- The East Region maintained its top position which it had held for the previous four years, albeit with one-year interruption. Its average compliance score of 88% accounts for minor improvement by 5 percentile points compared to last year.
- Berovo is the first and only municipality in this region to have earned a maximum score of 100%, “distinguishing” itself from Kochani and Delchevo with which it shared the top position last year.
- Shtip and Zrnovci maintained their fourth and fifth rank respectively, followed by Vinica on the sixth ranking position.
- Karbinci is marked by the highest improvement from last year’s bottom rank (compliance score of 51%) to the seventh position this year (compliance score of high 85%).
- Cheshinovo-Obleshevo maintained its score of 80%. However, while last year this score was sufficient to put it on the seventh position, this year it pushed the municipality down to the second-to-last ranking position.
- With compliance score of only 70%, Pehchevo is the worst-ranked municipality in the East Region.

Active transparency of municipalities in the East Region

Rank	Municipality	Score
1	Berovo	100.0%
2	Delchevo	94.3%
2	Kochani	94.3%
4	Shtip	91.7%
5	Zrnovci	89.9%
6	Makedonska Kamenica	88.6%
6	Vinica	88.6%
8	Karbinci	85.5%
9	Probishtip	82.9%
10	Cheshinovo-Obleshevo	79.7%
11	Pehchevo	70.0%

Southeast Region - 85% (last year - 82%)

- The Southeast Region maintained its second rank with compliance score of 85%. Unlike last year, when it was the only planning region marked by decreased active transparency performance, in 2024 this region demonstrated an improvement by 3 percentile points, sufficient to maintain its second ranking position.
- Valandovo climbed back to the top position which, except for last year, it had held for long period of time. At the same time, it is the first municipality in this region to have earned a maximum score of 100%.
- While being the best-ranked municipality last year, not only in the region, but across the country, Gevgelija dropped to the second rank in the region with active transparency score of 91% (last year - 99%).
- Bogdanci is second-ranked, with active transparency score of 91%, having improved its performance of 71% last year, when it was ranked second-to-last. The third-ranked municipality, Radovich, also achieved a major jump upwards with compliance score of 90% compared to the last year’s score of 79%.
- Dojran remained on the bottom position in the region, with minimum annual improvement under its compliance score related to active transparency obligations by only 1 percentile point, which is insufficient to compensate for last year’s loss of 14 points in total.

Active transparency of municipalities in the Southeast Region

Rank	Municipality	Score
1	Valandovo	100.0%
2	Bogdanci	91.4%
2	Gevgelija	91.4%
4	Radovish	90.0%
5	Strumica	88.9%
6	Vasilevo	87.0%
7	Konche	85.5%
8	Novo Selo	84.1%
9	Bosilovo	81.2%
10	Dojran	51.4%

Southwest Region - 82% (last year - 78%)

- As regards its active transparency, the Southwest Region remained on the third position among all planning regions, having slowly climbed the list by demonstrating continuous improvement.
- Kichevo maintained the primacy earned last year and is one of the five municipalities in the country and the only municipality in this region to have earned a maximum score of 100%. Over a period of only two years, Kichevo has improved its performance by 40 percentile points.
- Debrca climbed from third to second rank, while the former leader in this region, Centar Zhupa, holds the third ranking position this year.
- Ohrid, once an unquestionable top-ranking municipality in the region in terms of active transparency, again holds the fourth rank with a slightly decreased performance score from 86% to 84%.
- Struga and Plasnica remained on the lowest ranking positions. Plasnica is no longer the bottom-ranked municipality as it demonstrated an improved compliance score by 7 percentile points, leaving Struga to the last position in the region with deteriorated active transparency performance by 10 points compared to last year.

Active transparency of municipalities in the Southwest Region

Rank	Municipality	Score
1	Kichevo	100.0%
2	Debrca	94.2%
3	Centar Zhupa	92.8%
4	Ohrid	84.3%
5	Debar	81.9%
6	Makedonski Brod	77.1%
7	Vevchani	75.4%
8	Plasnica	72.5%
9	Struga	55.7%

Pelagonija Region - 80% (last year - 75%)

- This year as well the Pelagonija Region holds the fourth position among planning regions with average compliance score of 80%, although it had been a champion of active transparency in the past.
- Bitola did not only manage to maintain its top position from last year, but also qualified among the handful of municipalities with maximum score of 100%.

- As was case under previous editions, the second ranking position in this region is held by Demir Hisar with high compliance score of 96%, same as last year.
- Prilep improved its last year's score by 4 percentile points and is again ranked third among municipalities in this region.
- Resen and Dolneni exchanged their positions on the last and second-to-last ranks. With an improved score by 17 percentile points, Dolneni is no longer the bottom-ranked municipality, which now belongs to Resen.

Active transparency of municipalities in the Pelagonija Region

Rank	Municipality	Score
1	Bitola	100.0%
2	Demir Hisar	95.7%
3	Prilep	90.3%
4	Novaci	85.5%
5	Krushevo	82.9%
6	Krivogashtani	73.9%
7	Mogila	71.0%
8	Dolneni	62.3%
9	Resen	61.4%

Vardar Region - 79% (last year - 75%)

- The Vardar Region also maintained its fifth ranking position from last year.
- For the first time in the last 9 years, the top position is not held by Veles, which was a leader municipality in the region and in the country. This year, Kavadarci climbed to the top with maximum score of 100%, pushing Veles to the second ranking position with compliance score of 99%, identical to the performance demonstrated last year.
- Gradsko earned the same number of points as last year and is now ranked third.
- Demir Kapija achieved the biggest leap among municipalities in this region to the fifth rank on the account of having earned additional 25 points.
- Rosoman and Lozovo remained at the bottom of the list, with Lozovo also being the worst-ranked municipalities in the country.

Active transparency of municipalities in the Vardar Region

Rank	Municipality	Score
1	Kavadarci	100.0%
2	Veles	98.6%
3	Gradsko	97.1%
4	Negotino	87.1%
5	Demir Kapija	85.7%
6	Sveti Nikole	78.6%
7	Chashka	76.8%
8	Rosoman	53.6%
9	Lozovo	29.0%

Polog Region - 73% (last year - 70%)

- Together with the Skopje and Northeast Regions, the Polog Region remained at the bottom end of this ranking list in spite of its improved score compared to last year.
- Brvenica remained the unchallenged top-ranking municipality in the region with active transparency score of 91%.
- Tearce restored its second rank from before, albeit with active transparency score of “only” 83%, while Mavrovo and Rostushe holds the second position with improved performance by 6 points.
- While it earned the same number of points as last year, Tetovo dropped by one ranking position and completes the group of municipalities with “very good” active transparency. All other municipalities ranked below Tetovo fall within lower categories of active transparency with scores below 80%.
- Gostivar lost 4 points compared to last year and dropped to the sixth ranking position.
- There are no changes to the bottom three positions held by Bogovinje, Zhelino and Vrapchishte, the last of which is perpetually the worst-ranked municipality in this region in spite of its significantly improved compliance score related to proactive publication of information.

Active transparency of municipalities in the Polog Region

Rank	Municipality	Score
1	Brvenica	91.3%
2	Mavrovo and Rostushe	82.6%
2	Tearce	82.6%
4	Tetovo	80.6%
5	Jegunovce	74.3%
6	Gostivar	68.6%
7	Bogovinje	65.2%
8	Zhelino	64.8%
9	Vrapchishte	43.5%

Skopje Region - 73% (last year - 66%)

- After spending five years on the bottom position, the Skopje Region – as the biggest planning region in the country – holds the second-to-last position in respect to active transparency performance.
- Kisela Voda took over the primacy from Karposh, which was the unchallenged best-ranked municipality for many years. While both municipalities showed improved performance compared to last year, Kisela Voda earned a score of 99% and Karposh earned a score of 97%, ranking them at the two top positions in the region according to active transparency performance.
- As usual, Ilinden is the third-ranked municipality, but this year it shares the rank with Centar and Butel, both of which are municipalities within the City of Skopje.
- Gazi Baba is the only other municipality within the City of Skopje with active transparency score above 90%. All other municipalities are assigned scores in the range below 80%.
- The City of Skopje dropped to the 12th position with performance score of 64%, which is by 6 points less compared to last year when it was ranked eight.
- Arachinovo has the same number of points as the City of Skopje and climbed up 6 ranking positions from the bottom rank it had held for many years. Within a period of only one year, this municipality improved its active transparency performance by 34 points.
- Zelenikovo also jumped up by 10 ranking positions from its perpetual second-to-last rank by improving its active transparency performance by as many as 41 points within a period of one year.

- Always near the bottom of the list, Sopishte dropped to the last-ranking position in the Skopje Region due to declined active transparency performance from 45% last year to only 33% this year. At the same time, Sopishte holds the second-to-last rank in the overall ranking list of all 98 institutions.

Active transparency of municipalities in the Skopje Region

Rank	Municipality	Score
1	Kisela Voda	98.6%
2	Karposh	97.2%
3	Butel	94.2%
3	Ilinden	94.2%
3	Centar	94.2%
6	Gazi Baba	91.3%
7	Zelenikovo	76.8%
8	Aerodrom	75.4%
9	Gjorche Petrov	71.0%
10	Chair	69.6%
11	Petrovec	68.1%
12	Arachinovo	63.8%
12	City of Skopje	63.8%
14	Saraj	62.3%
15	Chucher Sandevo	56.5%
16	Shuto Orizari	50.7%
17	Studenichani	45.1%
18	Sopishte	33.3%

Northeast Region - 72% (last year - 71%)

- After spending several years ranked near the bottom, this year the Northeast Region holds the last position among planning regions with active transparency score of 72%. This is due to the smallest improvement by only 1 percentile point compared to the last year's performance.
- There are no changes to ranking positions of individual municipalities in this region compared to last year.
- Kumanovo remained on the top position with an improved active transparency performance from last year. The former champion in the region and the country, Kriva Palanka, also maintained its second rank, with an improved performance by 15 points.
- Although marked by deteriorated performance in respect to active transparency, Lipkovo is still ranked on the third position.
- As was the case last year, the worst ranked municipalities in this region include Staro Nagorichane and Rankovce, which are also ranked amongst municipalities with poorest performance at national level.

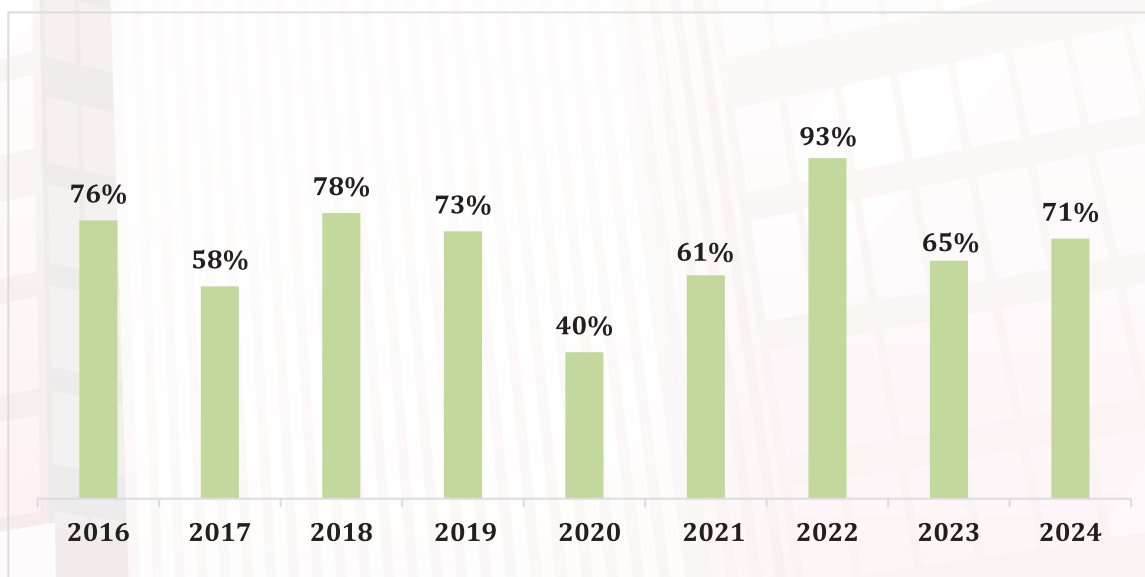
Active transparency of municipalities in the Northeast Region

Rank	Municipality	Score
1	Kumanovo	97.1%
2	Kriva Palanka	95.7%
3	Lipkovo	75.4%
4	Kratovo	71.4%
5	Rankovce	53.6%
6	Staro Nagorichane	42.0%

RESPONSE TO FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUESTS: On average, the institutions disclosed the information requested within a period of 15 days (last year this period was 17 days), with 71% of them submitting their FOI responses within the law-stipulated deadline (last year their share was 65%)

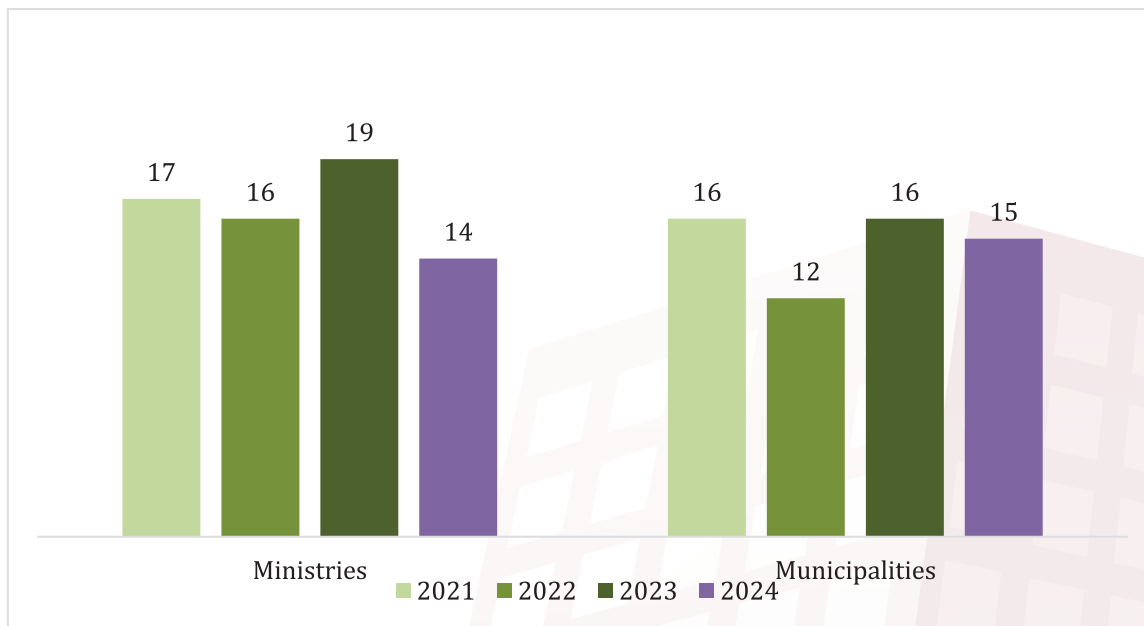
- On average, the institutions responded to FOI requests they were addressed with on the same day and with identical inquiries within a period of 15 days, i.e. 5 days before expiration of the law-stipulated maximum deadline. Last year, the average period for FOI responses accounted for 17 days, which implies a certain improvement in respect to the rate of response.
- 71% of institutions responded to FOI requests within the law-stipulated maximum deadline of 20 days, while the remaining 29% responded after expiration of this deadline or not at all (3 institutions). Last year, 65% of institutions responded to FOI requests within the law-stipulated deadline, which implies a certain improvement.

FOI responses within the law-stipulated deadline (all institutions)



- Under the research for designing the annual index of active transparency, municipalities traditionally demonstrate better performance both in terms of the average number of days to disclose information requested and in terms of the share of FOI responses within the law-stipulated maximum deadline. This year, for the first time, the average rate of response accounts for 15 days among municipalities and 14 days among ministries. However, as regards the share of FOI responses within the law-stipulated deadline stands at 75% among municipalities (last year it was 64%) and 59% among ministries (last year it was 71%).
- The fastest rate of response, accounting for only 1 day, is noted with 14 institutions, all of which are municipalities. Three institutions, all of which are ministries, did not respond at all, those being: Ministry of Information Society and Administration, Ministry of Political System and Inter-Community Relations and Ministry of Finance.

Average number of days for submission of FOI responses



Winners and losers

- More than two thirds (71%) of all 98 institutions covered by this analysis have improved their active transparency performance in 2024 compared to 2023.
- On the other hand, 19% of institutions published less information compared to last year, while 10% of them have not demonstrated improvement nor deterioration of their active transparency performance.
- The biggest individual improvement by 41 percentile points is noted with Zelenikovo, as well as with Karbinci and Arachinovo (by 35 percentile points each). The biggest individual deterioration in respect to active transparency performance is noted with Sopsishte (by 12 percentile points), Studenichani (by 11 percentile points) and Struga (by 10 percentile points).
- The biggest improvement among central government institutions is observed with the Ministry of Interior (by 11 percentile points), while the biggest deterioration is observed with the Government (by 13 percentile points)

Annual change under active transparency performance (2024/2023)

Institution	Change in percentile points
Zelenikovo	40.6
Arachinovo	34.8
Karbinci	34.8
Plasnica	26.1
Demir Kapija	24.3
Bogdanci	20.0
Saraj	18.8
Dolneni	17.4
Novaci	17.4
Kriva Palanka	14.3
Vinica	14.3
Butel	13.0
Makedonska Kamenica	12.9
Radovish	11.4
MFA	10.9
Kisela Voda	10.2
Makedonski Brod	10.0
Bosilovo	8.7
Krivogashtani	8.7
MPSICR	8.7
Ministry of Interior	8.2
Jegunovce	7.6
Chucher Sandevo	7.2
Kratovo	7.1
Zhelino	6.8
Aerodrom	6.3
Bogovinje	5.8
Mavrovo and Rostushe	5.8
Chashka	5.8
Prilep	4.6
Bitola	4.3
Valandovo	4.3
Gazi Baba	4.3
Debrca	4.3
Kavadarci	4.3
Sveti Nikole	4.3
Berovo	2.9
Vrapchishte	2.9
Demir Hisar	2.9
Kichevo	2.9
Tearce	2.9
Shuto Orizari	2.9
MLSG	2.6
MESP	2.5
MISA	2.5
Ministry of Health	2.2
Ministry of Culture	2.2
MLSP	2.2
Debar	1.9

Institution	Change in percentile points
Shtip	1.7
Karposh	1.5
Dojran	1.4
Ilinden	1.4
Krushevo	1.4
Novo Selo	1.4
Petrovec	1.4
Rankovce	1.4
Rosoman	1.4
Kumanovo	1.3
Probishtip	0.9
Tetovo	0.6
Vasilevo	0.0
Veles	0.0
Gradsko	0.0
Gjorche Petrov	0.0
Zrnovci	0.0
MAFWE	0.0
Ministry of Defence	0.0
Negotino	0.0
Centar	0.0
Centar Zhupa	0.0
Chair	0.0
Cheshinovo-Obleshevo	0.0
Brvenica	-1.4
Lozovo	-1.4
Ohrid	-1.4
Strumica	-2.5
Vevchani	-2.9
Gostivar	-2.9
Delchevo	-2.9
Konche	-2.9
Kochani	-2.9
Ministry of Economy	-4.3
Pehchevo	-4.3
Resen	-4.3
Ministry of Justice	-5.3
MTC	-5.4
City of Skopje	-5.8
Lipkovo	-5.8
MES	-6.5
Gevgelija	-7.1
Mogila	-7.2
Ministry of Finance	-7.3
Staro Nagorichane	-8.7
Struga	-10.0
Studenichani	-11.3
Sopishte	-11.6
Government of RNM	-13.0

Methodology

The research is conducted on the basis of previously designed methodology and relies on structured questionnaires that measure the institutions' compliance with obligations for proactive publication of information on their official websites.

The questionnaires' design was based on legal obligations of institutions to publish information in different areas that are of importance for citizens and affect their daily life and work. In that regard, due consideration was primarily made of active transparency obligations stipulated under the Law on Free Access to Public Information and those stipulated in other laws that govern spending of public funds.

This is the eighth annual edition of the research targeting institutions that are direct holders of executive powers at central and local level, i.e. the Government and its ministries, and local authorities, i.e. municipalities and the City of Skopje.

Given the difference in respect to obligations for proactive publication of information held by authorities at national and local level (municipalities have far greater obligations), the research used two questionnaires for each group of authorities. One questionnaire was designed for the Government and its ministries, while the other addressed active transparency of municipalities and the City of Skopje. In that, the questionnaire addressed to the Ministry of Finance contains additional inquiries to reflect the increased number of obligations of this institution for publication of information assigned to this line ministry compared to others.

Depending on importance, volume and scope of information published on official websites of analysed institutions, each question is assigned a particular number of points (weight). In addition to assessing the institution's compliance with obligations for publication of information covered by the questionnaire, the research also includes a probe conducted by submission of FOI requests to all institutions aimed at assessing their performance in respect to timely and complete disclosure of information requested. The maximum number of points that could be assigned to the Government and line ministries is 48, with the exception of the Ministry of Finance, which could be assigned maximum of 54 points, while the maximum number of points among municipalities and the City of Skopje is 74.

The initial research was conducted in the period from 1st June to 15th July 2024. The final ranking of institutions is made on the basis of their active transparency performance score in respect to compliance with their obligations, expressed as percentage, which is calculated as the ratio between the number of points awarded and the maximum number of points. In that, a score of 0 accounts for the lowest rank, while a score of 100 signifies the highest rank.

The scale of active transparency is comprised of five categories according to the level of compliance demonstrated by institutions. More specifically, compliance score in the range of 80% to 100% ranks the institution in the category of "very good" active transparency, those with compliance score in the range from 60% to 80% are ranked as having demonstrated "good" active transparency, "average" performance is defined as compliance scores in the range from 40% to 60%, "poor" performance accounts for compliance scores in the range from 20% to 40 %, and "very poor" performance accounts for compliance scores in the range from 0% to 20%.

Appendices: Research Questionnaires

1. Questionnaire used to assess active transparency of ministries and the Government

First group of questions: access to information

1. Does the institution's website have separate section on access to information?
2. Has the institution published contact information of the officers responsible to mediate access to information (name and surname, telephone number and e-mail)?
3. Has the institution published the method for submission of FOI requests?
4. Has the institution published the list of information it disposes with?
5. Has the institution published general contact data about the information holder (address, telephone number and e-mail)?

Second group of questions: responsibility, accountability and integrity

6. Has the institution published data about the minister (biography, contact info and the like)?
7. Has the institution published the list of employees/heads of departments and sectors with relevant contact info?
8. Has the institution published its organizational structure (scheme, organogram)?
9. Has the institution published contract information of the officer responsible for protected internal reporting/whistleblowing (name and surname, telephone number and e-mail)?
10. Does the institution publish press releases and/or newsletters or other formats for information dissemination?

Third group of questions: information on competences and services

11. Has the institution published information on its competences?
12. Has the institution published the laws that regulate its competences?
13. Has the institution published regulations it has adopted in the form of secondary legislation?
14. Has the institution published its strategy plan and/or work strategy?
15. Has the institution published its annual work plan/program for the current year?

Fourth group of questions: budget and fiscal transparency

16. Has the institution published its budget for the current year?
17. Has the institution published its final budget account for the previous year?
18. Does the institution publish its audit reports?
19. Has the institution published its annual plan of public procurements for the current year?
20. Does the institution publish procurement notices for the current year?
21. Does the institution publish notifications on public procurement contracts awarded?

Additional questions for the Ministry of Finance (pertaining to budget and fiscal transparency)

22. Does the institution publish monthly reports on budget execution for the current year?
 23. Does the institution publish semi-annual reports on budget execution for the previous year in the current year?
 24. Does the institution publish data on the public debt of RNM for the previous year or for the current year?
- Period in which the institution responded to the FOI request.

2. Questionnaire used to assess active transparency of municipalities and the City of Skopje

First group of questions: access to information

1. Does the municipality's website have separate section on access to information?
2. Has the municipality published contact information of the officer responsible for mediation access to information (name and surname, telephone number and e-mail)?
3. Has the municipality published the method for submission of FOI requests?
4. Has the municipality published the list of information it disposes with?
5. Has the municipality published general contact data about the information holder (address, telephone number and e-mail)?

Second group of questions: responsibility, accountability and integrity

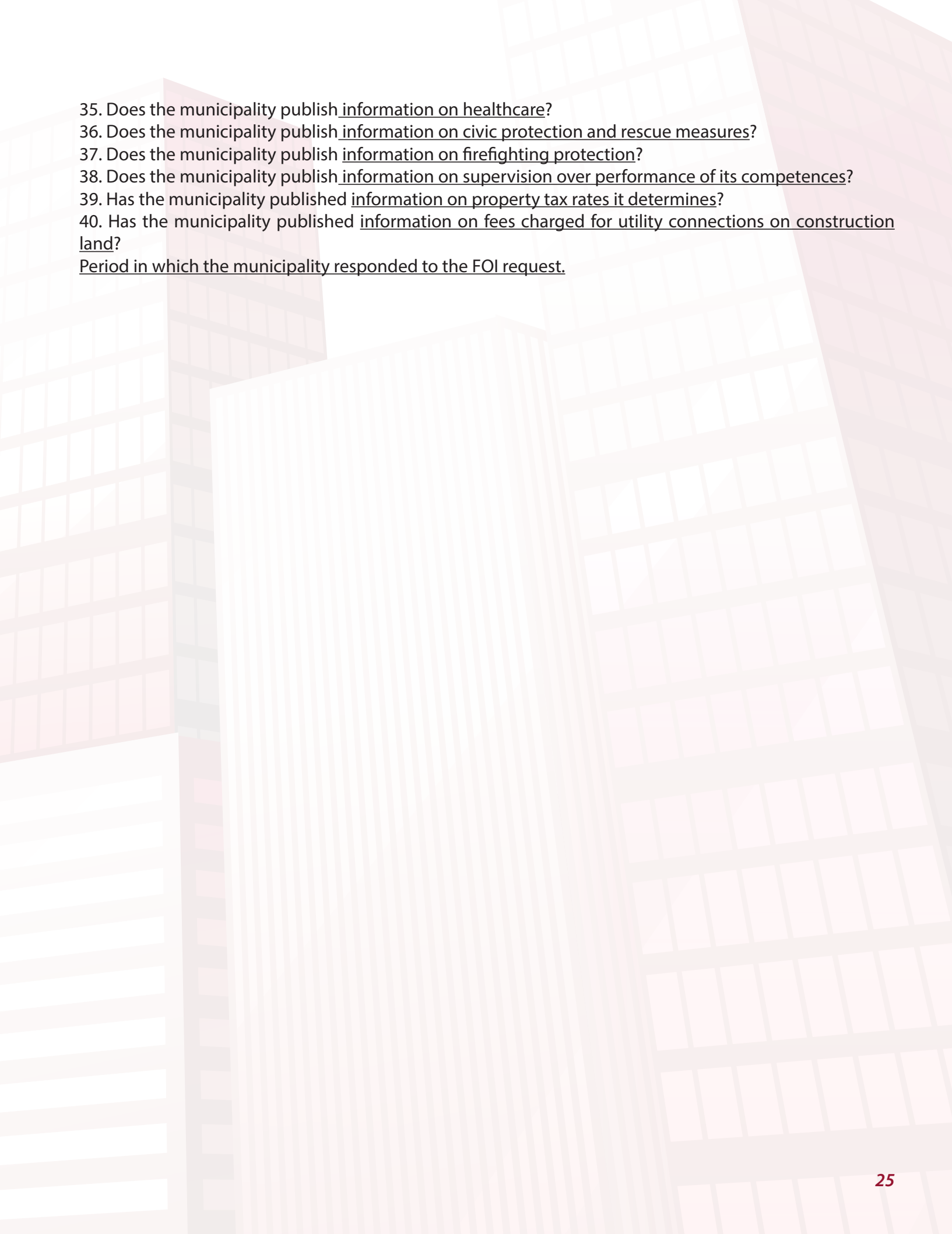
6. Has the municipality published data about the mayor (biography, contact info and the like)?
7. Has the municipality published the list of employees/heads of departments and sectors with relevant contact info?
8. Has the municipality published its organizational structure (scheme, organogram)?
9. Has the municipality published contact information of the officer responsible for protected internal reporting/whistleblowing (name and surname, telephone number and e-mail)?
10. Does the municipality publish press releases and/or newsletters or other formats for information dissemination?
11. Has the municipality published its statute?
12. Does the municipality publish bulletins?
13. Does the municipality publish the council's meeting agendas?

Third group of questions: budget and fiscal transparency

14. Has the municipality published its budget for the current year?
15. Has the municipality published its final budget account for the previous year?
16. Does the municipality publish the so-called civil budget?
17. Does the municipality publish quarterly reports on budget execution for the previous year?
18. Does the municipality publish its audit reports?
19. Has the municipality published its annul plan of public procurements for the current year?
20. Does the municipality publish procurement notices for the current year?
21. Does the municipality publish notifications on public procurement contracts awarded?

Fourth group of questions: information on competences and services

22. Has the municipality published information on its competences?
23. Has the municipality published the laws that govern their competences?
24. Has the municipality published regulations it adopted in the form of secondary legislation?
25. Has the municipality published information on services it provides?
26. Has the municipality published DUP/GUP (information on urban planning)?
27. Does the municipality publish information on urban planning (construction permits)?
28. Does the municipality publish information on environmental protection?
29. Does the municipality publish information on local economic development?
30. Does the municipality publish information on public utilities?
31. Does the municipality publish information on culture?
32. Does the municipality publish information on sports and recreation?
33. Does the municipality publish information on social protection and child protection?
34. Does the municipality publish information on education?

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35. Does the municipality publish information on healthcare?
36. Does the municipality publish information on civic protection and rescue measures?
37. Does the municipality publish information on firefighting protection?
38. Does the municipality publish information on supervision over performance of its competences?
39. Has the municipality published information on property tax rates it determines?
40. Has the municipality published information on fees charged for utility connections on construction land?
- Period in which the municipality responded to the FOI request.

