

Activity Report 2013



Message from the Executive Director



The seventh year of Access Info Europe saw some major impacts from our work, including a significant win in a court case against the European Union after five years of legal battle, and the adoption of an, albeit weak, access to information law in Spain after seven years of campaigning.

There are many other ways in which Access Info Europe has an impact on the right of access to information. We continue to be a global reference point for standards on access to information laws, and the RTI Rating tool, created jointly with the Centre for Law and Democracy, has been referred to by civil society organisations and governments across the world. The RTI Rating has proved an impetus for campaigns to reform the access to

information laws in countries such as Austria and Italy, has been used as a resource in successful advocacy to abolish fees in Ireland, and for promoting reforms in various countries, including in the framework for the new Croatian Information Commissioner.

We are also proud that our research into the legal framework for Transparency of Media Ownership with the Open Society Foundations has resulted in a set of standards – Ten Recommendations for Transparency of Media Ownership – which have been widely endorsed by civil society and are being used as a focal point for debate by the European Commission and the Council of Europe.

Access Info Europe is now contributing to standards more broadly, in particular with its work in areas such as lobby transparency, proactive transparency, and beneficial ownership transparency. The Open Government Partnership continues to provide a useful platform for debating and promoting such standards. Access Info Europe is now working with organisations such as the Open Knowledge Foundation, the Sunlight Foundation, Transparency International, Involve, Global Integrity, and the World Resources Institute, to further develop these standards.

Access Info Europe is an activist human rights organisation, and many of our actions during 2013 have required statements, letters, and other actions in response to denials of access to information or revelations of a lack of transparency. An extreme example of this were the revelations by Edward Snowden of the mass surveillance. Access Info Europe has been campaigning for transparency around data retention since 2010 and the leaked evidence of the scale of problem demanded a reaction from civil society. We were involved in coordinating civil society action in the context of the OGP, a forum which must rise to such challenges if it is not to be undermined by allegations of hypocrisy. This was still an ongoing debate at year end.

When it comes to transparency in practice, many decisions which affect the public these days are arrived at through complex processes which take place both in national capitals and in Brussels,

and for that reason to permit participation and to ensure accountability, it is imperative to work at both levels, something which Access Info Europe has always done as part of its broader strategy. It is exciting that in recent years there has been a growth in the number of civil society organisations working to defend the right of access to information in countries of Western Europe. These groups include Diritto di Sapere in Italy and Forum Informationsfreiheit in Austria. Access Info Europe works with and supports many national organisations in their advocacy work, contributing our specialist and comparative expertise. Various examples of these activities are detailed in this report, with the particular focus on obtaining information needed to defend human rights and expose corruption, and to participate in a timely way in decision making.

Access Info is not just an organisation; it is mini-universe of networked individuals and organisations which is linked to the larger world for right to information and open government advocacy. That means that there are many people to thank and many who can take credit for our successes. These include first and foremost the incredibly dedicated core team which carried on working through thick and thin during 2013: Lydia Medland, Victoria Anderica, Pam Bartlett Quintanilla, Alvaro Rodriguez, and Andreas Pavlou.

There is an acknowledgements section at the end of the report where we endeavour to name and thank many others. If you are not there I hope you know who you are and that we are grateful for your support and contributions.

The Access Info Europe team travels a lot and that permits us to meet many of our partners and friends. For anyone who is passing through Madrid, and interested in Access Info Europe's work, we invite you to visit our offices and to meet the team in person.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Helen', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right above the name.

Helen Darbishire
Executive Director & Vice President

Project Activities 2013

Major Developments: EU & Spain

Access Info vs. Council of the EU

One of the most important developments for Access Info Europe in 2013 was to win our first court case against the European Union before the European Court of Justice.

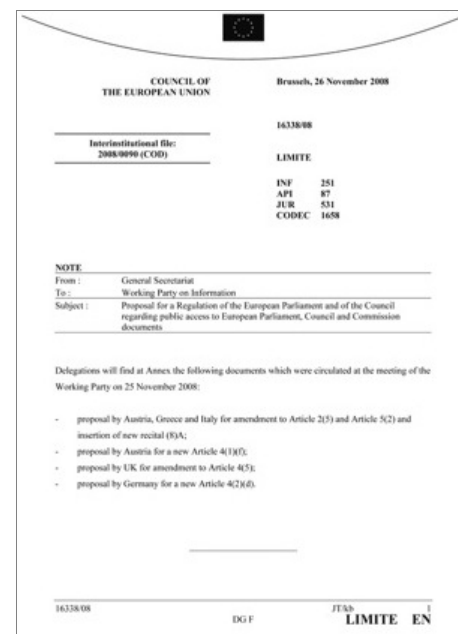
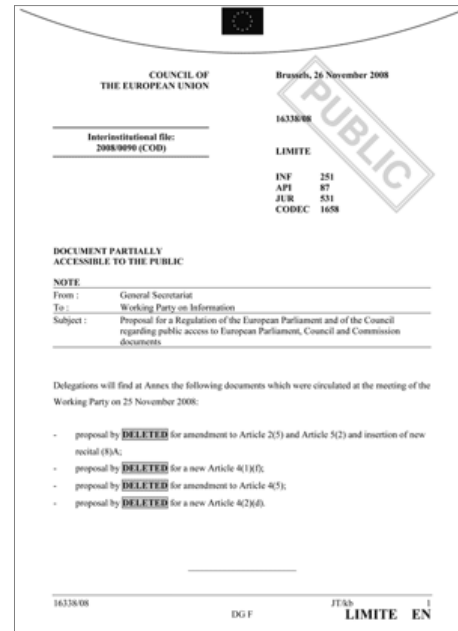
In winning this case on 17 October 2013, Access Info Europe contributed to opening up the EU decision making process and has established that the Council of the EU, where the 28 Member States meet to discuss future legislation, may not act as a secretive diplomatic club but must be an accountable part of the decision-making process.

In the judgements of the first and second instance courts, as well as in the opinion of the Advocate General, the case secured important interpretations of the link between transparency, participation and accountability.

Like much litigation to higher courts, this case had taken time: based on a request made in December 2008, it took almost 5 years before the October 2013 ruling granted access to the document at issue. The document related to the positions of different Member States in negotiations inside the Council of the EU over the future of the EU's transparency rules.

The document to which we won access was eventually released to Access Info Europe on 2 December 2013, following a further request to which, rather remarkably, the EU applied an extension before taking the decision to grant access. [See here](#). There was widespread and positive reaction to the case, including statements welcoming it from the European Parliament which, in an historic move, had joined Access Info Europe as a party in defending against the Council's appeal to the European Court of Justice.

This case sets a new standard for the public to know what is happening inside the Council of the EU. The full implications of how much more information will be available as a result will be seen during 2014. Initial reactions explaining the importance of the win come from Access Info Europe's international advisory board members.





Access Info Europe will continue to make considered and strategic use of litigation to advance our goals, always as part of a broader advocacy strategy. We will also continue to provide advice and support to other potential litigants, something we are increasingly called upon to do. Considerations for launching legal appeals include the importance of the information for the wider goal of advancing transparency and challenging

excessive use of exceptions, and the value of the information at issue for the partner organisation or journalist with whom we are working.

"A normative choice has been made in the EU Treaty for more transparency and legitimacy of the EU decision making. Making the EU legislative process more transparent is crucial to enhance the acceptance by the EU citizens of EU legislation that binds them, and to allow for accountability of Member State positions taken in that context. One often forgets that Member States are key actors in the EU legislative process".

Onno Brouwer,

Lawyer representing Access Info Europe.

Spain Adopts Transparency Law

The promulgation by the Spanish government of a transparency law in the official gazette on 9 December 2013 should have been something for Access Info Europe and the 65 members of the Coalición Pro Acceso to celebrate after seven years of campaigning for the last remaining large democracy in the Europe to bring its legal framework into line with 21st Century democratic standards.

It was, however, rather a pyrrhic victory, not delivering the hoped-for result, as the law adopted falls well short of international standards. Scoring only 70 out of 150 points on the RTI Rating, and entering at position 74 globally (towards the bottom of the ranking), the law has a series of shortcomings.

In a country with a Government plagued by corruption charges, besieged by the challenges of

dealing with the financial crisis, and with administrative silence currently over 50%, this law is simply not strong enough to change Spain's pervasive culture of secrecy. An historic opportunity was missed to do something about this.

Indeed, the law is even worse than the low RTI Rating score indicates: an exceptional restriction on the information which can be requested has plucked the heart out of the law. Specifically, requests will be rejected if they are for access to "opinions, summaries, and communications and reports internal to or between administrative organs or bodies."



This is perhaps the worst of a series of problems with the law because it so radically reduces its scope, undermining the potential of the law to provide citizens with an effective tool to find out what goes on in government day-by-day and how and why decisions are taken.

This provision is also a clear and deliberate rejection of the standards in the Council of Europe Convention on Access to Official Documents and means that Spain would not be able to ratify this Convention.

The transparency law is further limited by not applying to most of the information held by the legislative and judicial branches. These shortcomings are compounded by the possibility of administrative silence, an excessively broad exception protecting decision making, and an unequal balance with the fundamental right to privacy.

How valuable the law will be in securing information will not be known for at least a year, as it does not come into force until the end of 2014 and for the regional level (Autonomous Communities) not until late 2015.



Access Info Europe will continue to work to secure greater transparency before that, including by pressing for the full proactive publication of all information to be placed on the Government's new Transparency Portal and monitoring compliance with the proactive provisions in the law. We will also continue to encourage the public to demand information, making use of the web platform Tuderechoasaber.es (Your Right to Know) based on mySociety's Alaveteli software and run with Fundación Ciudadana Civio.

Open Government Partnership & Transparency Challenges

Access Info Europe continues to be actively engaged in the Open Government Partnership, promoting the Open Government Standards and engaging with national level debates including in particular monitoring the Spanish government action plan and its implementation. A focus for activity in 2013 was the Open Government Partnership (OGP) annual summit which took place in London on the 30 October to the 1 November 2013.

On Civil Society Day, Access Info Europe co-organised the well-attended “Don’t Complain, Campaign” discussion panel, to mobilise civil society to provide constructive input into national OGP processes and to give a structure using the Open Government Standards model. Access Info gave the example of how the RTI Rating has been used by national CSOs as a very precise tool for identifying where national RTI laws can be improved. Access Info also organised and participated in a panel entitled “Proactive Transparency”, with World Resources Institute and the Transparency and Accountability Initiative. The event has been followed by creating a strategic partnership to further define and advance proactive transparency standards.

The Snowden mass surveillance revelations in mid-2013 exposed how many governments, including leading members of the Open Government Partnership, have been less than transparent with the public about their activities. This is something which civil society cannot ignore – Access Info Europe has been calling for transparency around data retention since 2010 – and so, during the OGP summit, leading civil society organisations called for government transparency on mass surveillance: Access Info Europe and over 110 civil society organisations across the world, together with individual leaders and thinkers including Aruna Roy and Sir Tim Berners-Lee, expressed concern that secret mass surveillance and the persecution of whistleblowers contradict the ideals of “open government”. This statement has since been sent to the OGP Civil Society Steering Committee and government contact points for OGP Participation Countries and is a matter which must be pursued in 2014.



Measuring the Demand for Open Government

Opinion Poll on EU Transparency

Human rights advocacy is bolstered by research into public demand for the claims being made by activist organisations. To this end, Access Info Europe and the other NGOs involved in the Europe for Citizens project, undertook in early 2013 the most extensive ever opinion poll on issues related to EU transparency and accountability.

Access to EU documents



of citizens believe...

Full information about Member State's negotiations should be open to the public.



of citizens believe

It is important that full documentation from the European Central Bank about what it is doing in response to the financial crisis is publicly available.



of citizens believe...

It is important that detailed financial reports and evaluations about how EU money is spent by Member States is made publicly available.



of citizens believe...

It is important to make publicly available the legal advice given by EU lawyers to EU officials and policy makers.

A total of 6,222 people representing a broad spread of gender, country regions, social categories, and education levels across six European Union countries (Austria, Czech Republic, France, Netherlands, Spain, UK) were surveyed.

The main finding was a strikingly high level of concern among the European public about the need for greater transparency of EU institutions and for stronger control of lobbying and the influence of business in decision-making in Brussels.

The particular finding that a full 85% of the public thinks that full information about member States' negotiations should be open to the public, demonstrating to Access Info Europe that our litigation against the Council for such information had been well selected. It is positive to see at the end of the year the concurrence of the judges with what members of the public believe is a reasonable level of transparency in a modern democracy.

These findings helped inform Access Info Europe's advocacy priorities during 2013 and the development of our advocacy strategy for 2014-2016.

Mapping Transparency in Practice

Measuring levels of access to information in practice is an essential part of Access Info Europe's work. The data permits us to identify campaign priorities and gives us a base-line from which to measure the impact of our work. In 2013 we had multiple evaluation and monitoring projects underway, at the EU and national levels as well as in specific areas, including related to various aspects of human rights protection. Here we give highlights of our research project and findings.

European Central Bank below transparency average

Monitoring via AsktheEU.org has revealed a relatively low level of transparency of the European Central Bank (ECB), which just 32% of requests receiving some or all information sought (well below the EU average) and over one third (36%) of requests resulting in full or partial refusals (above the EU average).



These findings, launched by Access Info Europe at an event in Brussels in September 2013, are of particular concern given the increasing level of demand for ECB information in the wake of the financial crisis, with requesters often seeking information about exchanges with Member States and the ECB.

Access Info Europe found a trend of the ECB regularly invokes the need to protect monetary policy and the financial stability of the Union and its Member States when refusing access to information. Access Info also found that some of the exceptions being relied upon are not in line with those permitted by the EU's Access to Documents Regulation 1049/2001 and called on the ECB to review the legitimacy of these exceptions. The report is available here: [report](#).

Italy: The Silent State



Unsatisfactory (73%) versus satisfactory (27%) responses to requests

The first large-scale monitoring of access to information in Italy, carried out by Access Info Europe with partners Diritto di Sapere, revealed worrying levels of lack of transparency with Italian public institutions not answering, refusing to answer or giving inadequate answers to a full 73% of requests from citizens and the media.

The over 300 requests in the survey were for basic information in areas such as public expenditure, health, environment and the justice system. The lack of transparency is of particular concern in a country where corruption is estimated to be costing taxpayers as much as €60 billion per year.

Essentially the current weak and complex legal framework for the right of access to information in Italy is failing. Only 27% of 300 requests resulted in release of information, of which just 13% received full information. This is the lowest level of any monitoring Access Info Europe has ever carried out in any European country, making campaigning for reform in Italy a top priority.

Access for Rights Research

Two important human rights issues which are of increasing concern in the current political, economic and democratic context in Europe are respect for the right to protest and the way in which migrants are treated.



In the first quarter 2013, Access Info Europe launched two major research projects under our Access for Rights activity line to map out how much information civil society can obtain from public bodies about the measures they are taking to respect the rights of protesters and of immigrants. The requests are focused on obtaining data from relevant public bodies.

In the context of the economic crisis, Europe is seeing a rising number of street protests, some of which have been accompanied by violence and allegations of violations of the rights to freedom of expression and freedom of assembly. The concern at the lack of transparency around the growing use of force by police in protest situations, resulted in us submitting access to information requests in 41 countries, asking for details ranging from the use of equipment such as rubber bullets, batons and water cannons, to training of police officers and evaluation reports on the policing of protests.

The investigation into immigration focused on the detention of migrants, and was carried out in conjunction with the Global Detention Project. Immigration detention is the deprivation of liberty of non-citizens for reason related to their residency status. It typically involves locking up asylum seekers and irregular immigrants until they can be deported or have their claims adjudicated. Migrants are frequently held on administrative – as opposed to criminal – grounds. Many national legal systems do not have clear rules for administrative detention and, as a result, detainees often face legal uncertainties, including lack of access to the outside world, limited possibilities of challenging detention through the courts, and absence of limitations on the duration of detention.

The two organisations submitted requests to 33 countries, seeking statistics regarding the numbers and types of detainees, as well as details about where people are detained for immigration-related reasons. The 33 countries in the information-gathering initiative included 27 European Union states as well as Canada, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Switzerland, and the United States. All of these countries detain migrants as part of their immigration policies. At the close of the year, Access Info Europe was analysing the data received from the Access for Rights request projects.

Evaluating Laws & Setting Standards

Right to Information Rating:

Maintaining and updating the Global RTI Rating is an important core project for Access Info Europe, conducted in partnership with the Centre for Law and Democracy.

At the end of 2013, we had full evaluations of 96 access to information laws against 61 indicators. The legal provisions and the laws are available on line providing easy access for advocates, researchers, and others.



The RTI Rating has proved its worth in many situations, and is constantly referred to in national campaigns and by inter-governmental organisations and governments. Use in 2013, by Access Info Europe and its partners included in advocacy for law reform in Austria and in Italy, as well as in campaigns for access to information commitments in OGP action plans. The RTI Rating was also extremely useful in the campaign in Ireland for fees to be abolished, permitting advocates to rapidly demonstrate that such fees are very rare globally and that none are as prohibitive as in Ireland.

Transparency of Media Ownership

The first global standards on Transparency of Media Ownership were launched in November 2013 by Access Info Europe and the Open Society Media Program in a presentation to the 47 governments of the Council of Europe meeting in Belgrade, Serbia.

The Ten Recommendations for Transparency of Media Ownership set out the regulatory framework needed to ensure that citizens can know who really owns the media. This is essential so that abuses of media power can be assessed, publicised, openly debated and even prevented.



The recommendations were developed after in-depth research into the legal framework in 20 countries by Access Info Europe and the Open Society Foundations which demonstrated that in most countries it is impossible to know who is really behind and who funds the media. The recommendations, which were developed following broad consultation among experts from civil society, academics, international organisations, governments, and parliamentarians, include details on the exact information which media owners should make available, including data on beneficial owners and on sources of revenue.

The activities to promote transparency of media ownership are related to wider company ownership transparency campaigns, although they go further because of the special importance of knowing who the owners of media are in order to be able to ensure that there is plurality in the media environment.

Hence transparency of media ownership is essential for protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression. It is for that reason that it is being given attention by the European Commission and the Council of Europe. At the same time, the campaign for transparency of media ownership illustrates the failings of current company registers and the high importance of wide-ranging reforms to ensure that sufficient information about who really owns companies is both recorded and made public.

Special Focus: Business and Lobby Transparency

An increasing focus for Access Info Europe during 2013 has been transparency around the activities of businesses, in particular lobbying and the influence of businesses on decision making but also wider transparency which permits members of the public to hold businesses accountable for their activities, with a focus on areas such as human rights protection, environmental impact, and tax justice.

Access Info Europe's strategy is to bring our particular transparency and right to information expertise to debates around business transparency. The full consequences of the recognition of the right of access to information as a human right for private companies have not yet really been explored, but it is clear that more information should be available, at the very least where there is a clear public interest in knowing the information from an open society and democratic perspective.

Lobby Transparency Standards

In December 2013, Access Info Europe published a set of recommendations on the information which governments should make available to ensure that there is full transparency around lobbying.

The document on *Lobby Transparency via the Right to Information* <http://www.access-info.org/en/lobbying-transparency/526-lobbying-report> contains a series of recommendations on the types of information which public bodies should make available, in most cases proactively. These include details of meetings the lobbyists, copies of information submitted by interest groups, and a clear indication of which information has been taken into consideration when making a decision.

These standards were developed out of a concern that it is not sufficient to place the burden on lobbyists to publish information: public bodies have an obligation to be transparent about their relations with interest groups.



Access Info Europe is in discussions with other leading lobby transparency organisations, including the ALTER EU Coalition (of which we are a Steering Committee member), the Sunlight Foundation, and Transparency International, to produce an agreed set of civil society standards on lobbying regulation.

Campaigning has already started, with ongoing activities at the EU level for a mandatory register of lobbyists and with advocacy in the UK in favour of a lobby register. Access Info Europe led debate in Spain on lobby regulation under the EU Citizens Campaign and the advocacy for a lobby law continues.

Company register transparency

In 2013, Access Info Europe commenced work with the Organised Crime and Corruption Reporting Project to request access to European national company registers for free and in a reusable format. This project aims to secure access to Company Registers across Europe using the right of access to information.

Company Registers are not public in most European countries and, in many cases, the information they hold can only be obtained after paying a fee for it. The project not only aims to secure access to company registers in the few countries where it is available, it also aims to fight for company register information in countries where they are not open to the public.



The premise of this project is that company registers are collected as part of a government function to regulate and oversee the activities of private bodies.

This is done by bodies created by law in the public interest to ensure that private bodies comply with legal regulations, such as respecting the labour right of employees, complying with environmental laws, and paying taxes and social security.

There is a public interest in knowing both financial information about the operation of private companies and in knowing who are the owners of those companies, particularly in cases where those companies are acting in areas which are of significant public importance (media, health, environment, etc.) and/or are doing business with the government (such as through receiving public procurement contracts), and/or are receiving public subsidies or tax breaks. There are compelling arguments for ensuring that the public has full access to company ownership information, including wherever possible access to details on the beneficial owners of the companies, including those owners in other jurisdictions. It is only possible to map out the complex chain of company ownership nationally and globally, if full ownership data is made public.

Access Info Europe and the network of investigative journalists with which it is working, has to date, filed requests in a total of 27 countries and we have administrative and ombudsman/information commissioner appeals ongoing in a number of these countries. At the close of the year, no country had provided the full register in the requested format, with the most have achieved being access to limited online searches. Some registers have offered us the data set against a fee ranging from €10,000 in Macedonia, to €75,000 in the Netherlands, to €286,000 in Estonia. Advocacy will continue in 2014.

Beneficial Ownership transparency

One of the demands of global civil society during 2013 has been for access to company registers and in particular to beneficial ownership information. This demand comes from anti-corruption groups, investigative journalists, human rights groups and tax justice activists.

Progress has been made in terms of commitments, with one of the conclusions of the June 2013 G8 summit, held in the UK, being to promote the transparency of the true ownership of companies and land, and also about where money flows to and from as this is critical for the successful development of countries. In addition, during the OGP London Summit David Cameron committed in his opening speech to create an open beneficial ownership register.

Access Info Europe has joined with other civil society organisations in campaigning for the collection and transparency of beneficial ownership information. In addition to the company register work with OCCRP presented above, Access Info Europe has been involved in coordinated advocacy actions, for example by a letter sent with other Spanish civil society organisations to all Spanish MEPS as part of a pan-European campaign.



Another advocacy forum for the issue is the UN Convention against Corruption, and Access Info Europe has been working with the UNCAC Civil Society Coalition, to promote the transparency of beneficial ownership and the right to information urging priority action in these areas as essential in the fight against corruption.

In preparation for the UNCAC Conference in Panama, Access Info with other civil society organisations sent a letter to members of the UNCAC Working Group on Prevention calling upon them to increase the availability of information on beneficial ownership of private companies and to take action to promote adoption of access to information laws.

National Campaigns

Access Info Europe's goal is to raise standards for the right of access to information in law and in practice across Europe. In addition to our work in Spain, Access Info Europe continues to engage with partners in a number of countries and to support their advocacy campaigns, with a particular focus on Western Europe where many of the civil society groups working in this area are very new. Here we give a flavour of some of the activities carried out in 2013.

- » **Italy:** Since helping establish Diritto di Sapere in 2012, Access Info Europe continues to work closely to advance a strategy for reform of the Italian legal framework and to improve transparency in practice. Activities have included training journalists, conducting monitoring, issuing reports and statements, legal analysis and meetings with government officials. The first impacts of this work are a measurable increase in public debate about the lack of transparency and dialogue with political parties and with public officials working on Italy's Open Government Partnership membership on how to address the current transparency deficit.
- » **Ireland:** Access Info Europe was an active participant in the campaign to abolish fees for FOI requests. Rather remarkably, the Irish government in late 2013 proposed increasing the €15 request fee so that it would apply to each question within a request, to prevent requesters avoiding fees by asking multiple questions in the same request. A storm of protest from national and international organisations resulted in a delay in implementing the policy by the end of 2013.
- » **Croatia:** Access Info Europe provided support to Croatian civil society calling for the appointment of an independent Information Commissioner and participated in activities in the Croatian Parliament to argue the advantages of allocated financial and human resources to promoting an effective transparency regime in Croatia.
- » **France:** Access Info Europe has taken up a number of issues in France, in particular with respect to transparency of lobbying and supporting calls for France's participation in the Open Government Partnership.
- » **Austria:** Access Info Europe has been collaborating closely with the newly formed organisation "Forum Informationsfreiheit Austria" (*FOI Austria* in English) which is active in promoting a full access to information law in Austria. On International Right to Know Day, Access Info Europe participated in an event in Vienna to launch the campaign. In a special Viennese touch, a special Right to Know Day Cake was also baked for the event.
- » **Bosnia and Herzegovina:** Helen Darbshire worked with Bosnian civil society and the OSCE to analyse proposed amendments which would have limited the right of access to information. Access Info Europe participated actively in the campaign which was successful in defeating the problematic amendments.
- » **Ukraine:** *In May 2013* Access Info Europe called on the Ukrainian Parliament to align Ukrainian legislation with the new information laws that Ukraine passed in 2011 by adopting a pending decree.

Training Materials & Training

Helping members of the public exercise the right of access to information is a priority for Access Info Europe. In 2013 we produced a new Guide on how to access EU documents. During the year the Access Info Europe team participated in multiple trainings for civil society, journalists, and public officials; full details can be found on the website.

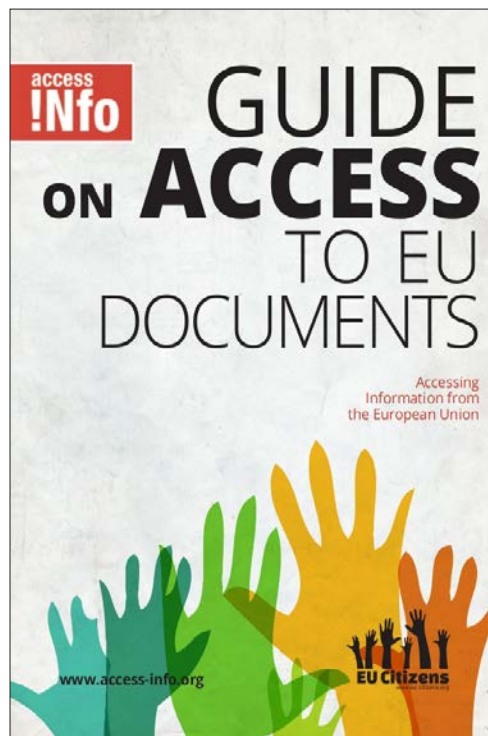
[AsktheEU.org: Guide on Access to EU Documents](#)

On 9 May 2013, Europe Day, Access Info launched a citizen-friendly Guide on Access to EU Documents and called on members of the public and civil society organisations to exercise their rights and file access to documents requests. The guide also actively encourages use of the online request platform AsktheEU.org.

The guide aims to demystify the process of asking for EU documents explaining step by step how to make a request. Access Info Europe makes regular use of it in training workshops and seminars, and printed copies have been widely disseminated.

Access Info hopes the guide will encourage citizens to exercise their right to ask, and also to defend that right before the [European Ombudsman](#) in cases where full information is not provided.

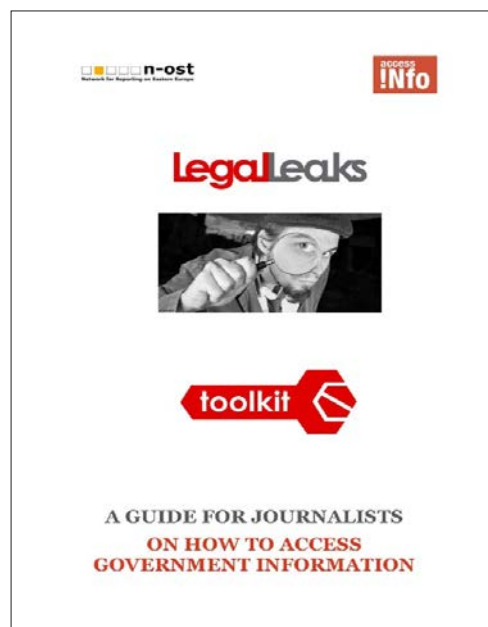
Download a copy of the [Guide on access to EU Documents](#)



[Legal Leaks Toolkit](#)

Access Info Europe continues to support the use of access to information laws by journalists. We participated in various trainings, including in two Guardian Masterclasses and in the Summer School run by the Balkan Investigative Journalism Network. We ran the first trainings for journalists in Italy, in Rome and Milan, and at the Perugia International Journalism Festival.

The [Legal Leaks Toolkit](#), developed in collaboration with our partner organisation N-OST, is now available in multiple languages, including the original English as well as Bosnia, Croatian, Hungarian, Italian, Macedonian and Serbian.



Collaborators and Supporters

Access Info Europe takes this opportunity to thank all of our team and our supporters.

In 2013, a very special thank you goes to the many members of the Spanish public who contributed the funds not only to pay the costs incurred in the court case by which we attempted to obtain information from the government about anti-corruption measures, but also gave so generously that we had additional funds available for our Spanish campaign work, a total of € 12,243.46 which is important for a small organisation such as Access Info Europe.

We are grateful to all our donors: the Open Society Foundations, the European Commission, the Journalism Development Fund, the Robert Bosch Stiftung, Hivos International, National Endowment for Democracy, Citizens for Europe, and Transparency International. Funding for work to promote and defend the right of access to information in Europe is limited, and Access Info Europe would not be able to achieve all that we do, nor have the impact which we have, without the invaluable support of these donors.



OPEN SOCIETY
FOUNDATIONS



JOURNALISM DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

Robert Bosch **Stiftung**



**National Endowment
for Democracy**
Supporting freedom around the world

Essential to our work and successes are the contributions of our dedicated team, board members, consultants and collaborators, volunteers and interns. Special thanks in 2013 go to: Daniel Bezares Susín, Juanjo Cordero, Carlos Cordero Sanz, David Goldberg, Gergana Jouleva, Maeve McDonagh, Ivan Szekely, Lydia Medland, Fiona Harrison, Elena Arrontes, Jose Pedro Fernandez, Tanya Almanzar, Deborah San Nicolás Del Almo, Charline Dufornet, Hannah Nicholson, Lisa Georgiou, Jerred McKee, Javier Torres del Olmo, Emilie Engelhardt, Kim Netzell, Geraldine Nethercott, Aiste Vagonyte, Agnieszka Kubiak, and Joe Balson.



This is a summary presentation in English of the original accounts prepared under Spanish law by:

Numéritas, SL

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B83593764

Income

Grants and Project funds 319,695.13

These funds comprise:

» Open Society Rights Initiative	101,347.13
» Open Society Media Program	59,848.07
» European Commission	52,045.09
» Open Society Information Program	29,331.61
» Journalism Development Fund	27,250.00
» Kibris Cyprus EU Association – EU Funds	10,569.48
» Robert Bosch Stiftung	10,400.00
» Open Society Rights Initiative - Foianet	8,450.12
» Hivos	7,011.59
» National Endowment For Democracy	6,742.04
» Citizens For Europe	4,700.00
» Transparency International	2,000.00

▪

Honoraria Conferences & Consultancies 11,284.57

Reimbursement travel / Per diems 1,825.12

Donations private individuals 12,243.46

Interest on Tax Reimbursement 79.70

Total Income €345,127.98

Expenditure

Personnel & Management Costs

Executive Director (with tax, social security and health insurance)	61,715.50
Staff and professional collaborators (inc. tax and social security)	103,894.48
Consultants & Researchers	48,075.6
Internship Allowances	3,630.00
Accountant, Payroll	4274.12
Legal services	1089.00
Courses and training	600.00

Sub-total **€223,278.70**

Operating and Project costs

Accommodation	5,705.31
Bank charges (includes transfer fees)	1,452.46
Conference Registration	98.00
Conference Room Hire + Event Refreshments	10,281.93
Contests & Prizes	0.00
Court Costs	3,050.00
Depreciation Office Equipment & Furniture	1,098.99
Design - Graphic & Web	2077.4
Gifts (in lieu of accommodation) and presents	171.47
Insurance – Office, Travel	1,330.15
Membership Associations	0.00
Office & IT Equipment	954.32
Office cleaning	2,493.32
Office rental	26,136
Office supplies, consumables, newspapers, books	2,830.41
Postage and couriers	113.09
Printing	2,847.1
Refreshments and business meals	1,610.48
Re-Grants to Partners	39,889.76
Request fees	15.00
Software	36.48
Tax interest payments	424.93
Telephone/internet/mobile/Skype	2,356.85
Travel (includes long distance and local ground transport)	9,780.23
Utilities – Electricity, Gas & Water	1,314.41
Visas	11.30
Web domains	222.99
Web hosting	1,664.66

Sub-total €117,967.04

Total Expenditure €341,246.27

BALANCE

€3,881.71

