



Access Info Europe

1. About Access Info Europe

Access Info Europe is a human rights organization dedicated to promoting the right of access to information in Europe and contributing to the development of this right globally.

Formed by European and international experts in access to information, Access Info works to advance the highest standards of government transparency.

Access Info Europe is a not-for-profit, non-governmental association registered under Spanish Law (Spain's Law on the Right of Association: *Ley Orgánica 1/2002, de 22 de marzo, reguladora del Derecho de Asociación*). Access Info's registration was confirmed by decision of Spain's Ministry of Interior on 2 October 2006 (registration number 587828).

Access Info's statutory **mandate** includes promotion and protection of the human right of access to information, promotion of public participation in decision-making. The mandate includes use of the tool of access to information to promote government integrity and to engage in the fight against corruption. The mandate also includes using the tools of access to information and public participation in projects to promote democracy and human rights, with a particular emphasis on defence of the rights of minorities and all marginalized groups and prevention of all forms of discrimination.

The **activities** by which these goals are to be achieved are defined in the statutes, and include research, monitoring, policy development, standard-setting, advocacy, education, civil society capacity-building, technical assistance for CSOs and governments, litigation, exchange of knowhow, and international cooperation. In our work we aim to make full use of modern information and communication technologies to advance our advocacy goals – or example by running websites and blogs for our projects and campaigns, and by engaging in video and documentary work to promote the right of access to information to a wider audience.

2. Extract from Statutes

Access Info Europe's statutes, adopted on 26 June 2006 and modified on 8 February 2008 contain the following description of our Goals and Activities (*NB: this text is a translation from the original Spanish*).

Article 3 - Goals

The association will conduct activity in Europe and the rest of the world with the general goals of:

- Promotion and protection of the human right of access to information.

The right of access to information is understood as the right of all persons to request and receive information from public bodies, and to request and receive information from private bodies to the extent that they perform public functions and/or where the

information is necessary to protect other rights. This right is also known as the “right to know” or “freedom of information”.

- Promotion and protection of the right of all persons to participate in public affairs and capacity building of civil society in order to promote democratic participation in public decision-making; this goal will be achieved by deepening awareness of the principles, structures and social and political mechanisms for genuine public participation.
- Promotion of the transparency and integrity of government as well as engagement in the fight against corruption.
- Promotion of democracy, human rights, and fundamental freedoms by means that include promoting transparency, and promotion of the internationally-recognised instruments of access to information and public participation.
- Promotion and defence of the rights of minorities and all marginalized groups, as well as prevention of all forms of discrimination, with the goal of ensuring that all groups of society can enjoy a true right of access to information and are able to participate actively in society, enjoying the full complement of citizens’ rights.
- Promotion of international cooperation policies in the areas of social, economic, political and cultural development which are transparent and ensure respect for human rights in general, and the rights of access to information and public participation in addition to all the rights referred to in the previous paragraphs.

Article 4 - Activities

In order to achieve each of these objectives, the following activities are proposed:

- **Promotion of the right to know and the right of public participation** through development of campaigns to promote the adoption, reform and implementation of binding international norms (conventions) and national laws on access to information and public participation in public affairs; cooperation to promote standard setting with respect to these rights;
- **Promotion of human rights**, fundamental freedoms, and integrity of all public powers, by means of projects that promote transparency, access to information, public participation, and the fight against corruption; development of campaigns to promote awareness of standards with respect to these rights;
- **Support for Civil Society**: cooperation with and training of civil society organizations to promote the use, implementation and monitoring of access to information laws; capacity building of CSOs in the areas of access to information as part of projects to promote public participation, defence and protection of human rights, and the fight against corruption;
- **Development of Best Practices**: provision of advice and technical assistance to public authorities to improve the implementation and protection of these rights;
- **Campaigns and litigation** to combat lack of transparency and secrecy, and to reform laws that favour secrecy or impede the exercise of access to information and public participation;
- **Exchange of Knowhow**: sharing of information, skills and experiences about the rights set out in Article 3, with national and international non-governmental organizations, information commissions and similar bodies, public administrations, multilateral organizations and the public;
- **Cooperation in international projects** of a social, economic, political and cultural nature that promote respect for human rights, the right of access to information and all the rights specifically referred to in Article 3.