



GENERAL PRESENTATION OF CENTER FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION ISSUES, INFOCIP

I. Mission & Vision of INFOCIP

The Center for Public Information Issues, INFOCIP, is leading organization in Albania in promoting Transparency, Rule of Law and Good Governance. Established in 22/09/2004, INFOCIP is a non-for-profit institute, with proven experience and capacities. INFOCIP is a credible voice in Albanian public domain due to its long standing dedication to civil society, evidence based approach to evaluate phenomena and civic courage to demanding for positive change.

INFOCIP promotes justice without delays and advocates for citizens' rights in courts as embodied in Arty. 6 of ECHR. Making use of ICT to collect and elaborate vast amounts of data from courts registers represent a significant advantage for INFOCIP to address the phenomenon of court delays. Evaluations of courts efficiency through ICT data elaborations is also one of the top monitoring tool designed and devolved by INFOCIP.

INFOCIP also promotes good local government through democracy and participation. In our work, we are guided by the CoE's 12 Principles of Good Governance. INFOCIP projects citizens at the center of public activity and all men and women can have a voice in decision-making. INFOCIP has generated broad access through ICT to central and local legislation. INFOCIP has solid records in systematic evaluations of compliance with legal requirements in central and local level.

Achievements & contributions (from the earliest)

INFOCIP has been awarded in 2007 by USAID *"For excellence and creativity in the fight against corruption"*. The executive director of INFOCIP, for distinguished merits has been awarded **"Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition"**, signed and delivered by the congressman of Cleveland, Ohio, USA, Mr. Dennis Kucinich, **Feb.2008**

INFOCIP has a substantial contribution in promoting an efficient court system that can deliver justice in due time. The organization has developed outstanding capacities to process and elaborate vast amount of court data in state-of-the-art ICT database systems called GJYKATA E HAPUR / OPEN COURT. INFOCIP's thematic evaluations are conducted on national scale since 2014 and on, covering the normal court system, the administrative courts and the High Court of Albania. Several publications with embodied courts stats and evaluations are published by INFOCIP and their findings are substantially accepted by all institutional actors. Attach to this presentation there is a full display of the publications titles along with their respective link. (*For more you can also the official webpage: www.infocip.org / all publication titles can be found in the right sidebar*).

INFOCIP is official partner organization with HCJ since 2021, in frame of busting the functions of press judges as well as enhancing the cooperation between Courts and the Media. INFOCIP has broadened its project activities in the Netherlands by closely cooperating with Dutch press judges there. INFOCIP has an active MoU with HJC to promote openness of the courts towards media and public and collection court data for efficiency evaluation purposes.

INFOCIP has been amongst the first organizations to introduce in Albania the Principals of Good Local Governance. In 2009, INFOCIP developed and implemented the first model of public consultations with Municipal Council in Albania, based on broad public participation. *A detailed presentation of achievements in this area of engagement is attached here, along with a list of publications.*

INFOCIP dedicated itself since 2012 to provide efficient access to local government decisions through ICT means. The main national database created by INFOCIP is called VENDIME.AL and it hosts today the decisions of all Albanian municipalities, starting from 2007 and on, thus preserving the institutional memory of LGU-s in Albanian and in the meantime helping the later to fully comply with legal requirements in place.

INFOCIP has advocated for access to legislation through ICT. The organization monitored (2018-2012) the consistency of Official Journal (Gazette) in the Republic of Albania. INFOCIP introduced, advocated and embodied in Albania's legislation the e-publication and e-entry into force of the laws and other normative acts. Various report publications and databases created can be visited through our main website.

INFOCIP has put in place the Electoral Crime National Monitoring Program since 2017, collecting and analyzing all referred/ denounced criminal cases that affect free and fair elections in Albania. This represents the only independent mechanism in place that is being used by the civil society sector to tackle electoral corruption. INFOCIP's assessments with regard to efficiency of investigation by the Prosecution office are adopted as of June 2020 as a firm condition, amongst 15 others, for Albania to fulfill in order to open official negotiation talks with EU. In addition, the main recommendation of INFOCIP, to have SPAK investigate electoral crimes, is now adopted officially by the Albanian Parliament.

INFOCIP has embodied its contributions in drafting some of the most important sunshine laws in Albania as well as organic laws, such as law 78/2014 "On State Publications", law 119/204 "On the Right to Information", the law 146/2014 "On the Public Notification and Consolation". In addition, INFOCIP has been one of the major contributors into drafting and consulting the new TAR and the new law 139/2015 "On Self Local Government". Recently, INFOCIP has drafted the Law "On the referenda", submitted for and awaiting approval in the Parliament of Albania in 2020.

INFOCIP is committed to its policy "zero conflict with partners". Since 2004 when the organization was created, we have had not a single litigation or judicial conflict with partners and/or clients. INFOCIP is results-oriented and has demonstrated over the years strong commitment to fully comply with its legal and contract obligations.

II. INFOCIP's objectives (as stated in its legal acts)

1. To promote the freedom of information, access to legislation
2. To enhance transparency in governmental decision making
3. To provide legal expertise and support to the interested citizens, in cases of arbitrary denial of the constitutional rights by central and/or local administration.
4. To induce and to collaborate in drafting policies (governmental and non-governmental ones) to better support the right of information.
5. To organize national and international activities, studies and research with regard to public access on information, drafting and implementing policies, conducting and implementing national campaigns, market research, prognosis and analysis.
6. To publish studies, books, newspapers, which can contribute in the realization of its objectives

The organizational structure of the INFOCIP consists on: Board of directors, Executive director, Body of Experts (ad-hoc). The Center for Public Information Issues is an organization not based on membership, non-governmental, non-political, non-for-profit. INFOCIP is located in Tirana.

Field of expertise

- Promoting Right to information and Consultation
- Courts and Prosecution thematic evaluations
- Labor rights in Public Administration and Courts of Law
- Access to Legislation and State Publications
- Decision making in Local Government
- Media & Communication
- Electoral process/Electoral crime monitoring
- Software and online systems development

III. **Track Record and Experiences** (please find here the contact details for the 3 most recent client/partners)

Name of project:	Client / Donor	Contract Value	Period of activity	Types of activities undertaken	References Contact Details
Promoting public consultation and participation	UNDP/ STRAR3	13500000 ALL	Dec2021-March 2023	Public consultation in 7 pilot municipality.	Silvana Malaj silvana.malaj@undp.org
Open Courts through Press Judges	Embassy of Netherlands	108000 Euro	August 1 st 2021, August 31 st 2023	Capacity building for Courts and Journalists	Hemion Braho hemion.braho@minbuza.nl
Promoting Election Integrity in Albania	NDI	60000USD	April 1 st , 2021- Sept. 30 th 2021	Monitoring electoral crimes during elections 2021	Ana Kovacevic akovacevic@ndi.org ,
Open Courts 2020	OSFA	21360 USD	Oct. 2020-June 2021	Appeal Court monitoring	Ersida Sefa Ersida.Sefa@osfa.al
Open Court 5	Embassy of Netherlands	29000 Euro	July 1 st 2019- July 1 st 2020	Court Monitoring	Hemion Braho hemion.braho@minbuza.nl
Open Court Albania (3 courts)	US Embassy,	16000 USD	Oct. 1, 2018 – Sept. 30, 2019	Court Monitoring	Angelina Pistoli Pistolia@state.gov
Development of unified standard user-friendly websites for Alb. Municipalities.	UNDP	2900000AL L	July 6, 2018-July 5 2019	Advanced online systems for municipalities, ICT and high tech engineering	Silvana Malaj silvana.malaj@undp.org +
Promoting judicial Transparency and Accountability	NED	30000 USD	July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019	Court Monitoring through ICT	Kaltrina Selimi KaltrinaS@ned.org
RTI MONITORING and Summer OPC School	SIDA/OPC	320000 SEC	Jan 1, 2018 – Dec 31, 2018	RTI Thematic Monitoring and Advocacy	Plejada Gugashi, plejada.gugashi@palmecenter.se
Publication of Municipal Council Decisions at Albanian LGUs - STAR 2 –	UNDP	16000000 ALL	Dec, 18, 2017- March 18, 2019	ICT and online databases / Publication of Municipal Council Decisions at Albanian LGUs -	Silvana Malaj silvana.malaj@undp.org +355694010088
Open Courts- National Database of Albanian Courts Data (pilot phase I)	OSFA, NED	20730 USD	Sept 2017-August 2018	Data collection, digitalization, data entry and elaboration + monitoring	Andi Dobrushki ADobrushki@osfa.soros.al +355696064440
Permanent access to local government decisions	IDM, European Union	IDM Share: 16540 EURO	May 1 st 2017 – march 31 st 2018	Publication for municipal council decisions in VENDIME.AL (7 small municipalities)	Dalina Jashari djashari@idmalbania.org
Monitoring the propagandistic campaign of the political parties	Council of Europe	4000 EURO	May 2017– August 2017	Monitoring enforcement of CEC in regard to electoral campaign offices deployment and legal requirements + creation of geo-location database	Liljana Kaci Liljana.KACI@coe.int +355699742836
Monitoring electoral crime in parliamentary elections 2017,	OSFA	19000 USD	May 2017-March 2018	Data collection and legal analyses, recommendations to the Election Parliamentary ad-hoc Commission	Andi Dobrushki ADobrushki@osfa.soros.al
Promoting Transparency and Accountability of the Judiciary	National Endowment for Democracy	29600 USD	Feb 1 st 2017-Feb 1 st 2018	Monitoring of the National Administrative Court system of RoA (thematic evaluation)	Bridget Millman, BridgetM@ned.org
Sun-shine laws in local government-measuring level of compliance through quantitative data.	LA, Swiss Embassy	26600 CHF	October 20 th 2016- Nov 20 th 2017	Monitoring the compliance of three pilot municipalities with the law 139/2015 “On self Local Government”	Elda Kalaja ekalaja@levizalbania.al
Promoting lawfulness and participation to decision-making	SIDA, Olof Palme Center	65000 EURO	January 2016- December 2018	Monitoring RTI law in 61 municipalities, drafting the new referenda law	Plejada Gugashi, plejada.gugashi@palmecenter.se
National Thematic Evaluation of Administrative	OSFA	23800 USD	Sept. 2015 – May 2016	Data collection, digitalization, data entry, elaboration, comparative analyses +	Andi Dobrushki ADobrushki@osfa.soros.al

Courts System regarding procedural time limits				monitoring (thematic evaluation) + advocacy + media campaign	
Generating effective access through ICT to local decisions, in the frame of TAR (Skrapar, Gramsh, Permet, Divjake)	USA DEM COMM	21000 USD	Jan 9th, 2015 – May 31st, 2016	Data collection, digitalization, data entry and publication of municipal decisions in VENDIME.AL for Skrapar, Gramsh, Permet, Divjake, Kucove	Angelina Pistoli Pistolia@state.gov
Rapid inventory of human resources dealing with social protection	UNICEF	3,101,250.00 LEK	August 2015- December 2015	National HR Due Diligence of social services and CPUs in 375 LGUS and then into only 61 new municipalities after amalgamation process.	Alketa Zazo alketazazo@gmail.com
Promoting democracy and lawfulness in Local Government through identifying relevant legislation in frame of TAR	OSFA	11020 USD	Aug. - Nov 2015	Legal consolidation and database-creation (online compendium of Local Government sectorial legislation as amended and/or newly adopted)	Andi Dobrushki ADobrushki@osfa.soros.al
Delays in court decisions' reasoning and delivery	Soros Foundation	18000 USD	Sept 1 st , 2014 – May 31 st 2015	Court Data Collection, digitalization, data entry, elaboration, comparative analyses + monitoring & evaluation	Andi Dobrushki ADobrushki@osfa.soros.al
Providing Albanian Citizens with full access to decisions of municipal councils (Berat, Vlore, Lushnje, Fier)	US Embassy Tirana	32500 USD	Sept 20 th , 2012, July 20 th , 2013	Data collection, digitalization, data entry and standardization of publication for municipal council decisions in VENDIME.AL (Berat, Vlore, Lushnje, Fier)	Angelina Pistoli Pistolia@state.gov
Strengthening governmental transparency and the Rule of Law through monitoring state publications in RoA	Partnership for Transparency Fund,	35000 USD	June 19, 2011- Oct 19, 2012	Data collection, monitoring of laws, DCMs, international agreements publication + digitalization of Official Journal - creation of database, advocacy, media campaign.	Eleanor Schreiber eleanor.schreiber@gmail.com
Transparency in municipal councils decision making process through ICT and monitoring. <i>Location: Durres</i>	National Endowment for Democracy, NED	32000 USD	July 1 st 2012 – June 30 th , 2013	Monitoring, digitalization, data entry and standardization of publication for municipal council decisions in VENDIME.AL	Janet Rabin Satter JanetR@ned.org
“Integral publication of child-related legislation in Rep. of Albania”	UNICEF	4,265,640.00 LEK / ALL	July 2011-March 2012	Identification, Collection, digitalization, publication both on paper and online of the child related legislation in Albania ‘92-2012	Leon Shestani lshestani@unicef.org
Fostering transparency in decision making through ICT. <i>Location: Durres</i>	National Endowment for Democracy, NED	30000 USD	April 1st, 2011 – May 31 st , 2012	Civic Engagement + Monitoring +digitalization/ publication of council decisions in VENDIME.AL	Janet Rabin Satter JanetR@ned.org
Active citizens' participation and through continuous civic monitoring. <i>Location: Korca</i>	OSFA (Soros)	41,403.00 USD	Nov 21st, 2010- Dec 21st 2011	Civic Engagement + Monitoring +digitalization, data entry and standardization of publication for municipal council decisions	Andi Dobrushki ADobrushki@osfa.soros.al
“State publications transparency, in the Rep. of Albania, 2010 – indicating level of law implementation from 2006-2010	Soros Foundation Albania.	25000 USD	July 1 st 2010-July 31 st 2011	Data collection and monitoring of laws, DCMs, ministerial instructions in the Official Journal + creation of database of missing acts, comparative analyses of consistency of state publication 2016-2010	Andi Dobrushki ADobrushki@osfa.soros.al