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**prof. dr Stevan Lilić
mr Dejan Milenković
(priredili)**

slobodan pristup informacijama

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**Lawyers Committee for
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**Prof. dr Stevan Lilić
Dejan Milenković, M. A.
Biljana Kovačević-Vučo**

**FREE ACCES TO
INFORMATION**

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Biljana Kovačević-Vučo
Dejan Milenković, M. A.
(secretary)

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Izdavač

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Biljana Kovačević-Vučo

Uređivački odbor

Biljana Kovačević-Vučo
Mr Dejan Milenković
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Prof. dr Stevan Lilić (urednik)

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NOTA BENE

Afirmacijom prava na slobodan pristup informacija-ma značajno jača uloga građana kao „kontrolora“ vlasti.

Građani i javnost danas predstavljaju značajan faktor kontrole državnih organa i drugih javnih institucija i aktivne učesnike u realizaciji složenih javnih poslova neophodnih za razvoj i napredak društva.

Poverenje građana dobijeno na opštim, slobodnim, jednakim, tajnim i neposrednim izborima, predstavlja nužan, ali ne i dovoljan, uslov za legitimnost vlasti koja u toku svog mandatnog perioda mora uvek iznova da se potvrđuje u svakodnevnom delovanju. Stoga je u političkoj i pravnoj teoriji gotovo jedinstveno prihvaćeno načelno stanovište da je „narodno poverenje dobro, ali da je kontrola nužna“. Vekovno iskustvo nedvosmisleno pokazuje i dokazuje da svaka vlast „kvari“ svoje nosioce, pogotovu ako odgovarajućim pravnim instrumentima nije ograničena.

Ustavom je utvrđeno da suverenost pripada građanima. Građani vrše vlast bilo neposredno (referendumom, narodnom inicijativom), bilo preko izabralih predstavnika (poslanika i odbornika). Shodno tome, svi državni organi i nosioci javnih ovlašćenja, a pre svega izvršni organi i organi uprave, dužni su da svoju ukupnu aktivnost stave u službu javnog interesa i građana.

Javnost rada državnih organa i drugih nosilaca vlasti i sloboda pristupa informacijama, čine suštinska obeležja savremene pravne države. Bez neposrednog uvida u rad i postupanje subjekata koji vrše vlast i upravljaju javnim poslovima, posebno bez blagovremenih, istinitih, i potpu-

nih informacija o obavljanju tih poslova nije moguće na efikasan način ostvarivati neophodnu javnu kontrolu u odgovarajućim oblastima društvenog života.

Sloboda pristupa informacijama danas je i značajno sredstvo u opštoj borbi protiv korupcije – posebno u javnoj upravi. Sama činjenica da se rad uprave može učiniti transparentnim, odnosno da se mogu tražiti informacije u posedu državnih organa i javnih institucija (npr. koliki su troškovi putovanja neke državne delegacije; kako je došlo do neke izdavanja građevinske dozvole; kako su trošena sredstva samodoprinosa za izgradnju mernog vodovoda i sl), bitno doprinose povećanju motivacije građana da ima i svrhe i smisla ulagati pojedinačne napore radi iskorenjivanja korupcije i nezakonitog ponašanja.

Bez slobodnog pristupa „javnim“ i drugim relevantnim informacijama kojima raspolažu nadležni državni organi i javne službe, građani su lišeni direktnе kontrole nad radom i ponašanjem onih kojima su na demokratskim izborima poklonili poverenje, kao i mogućnost pokretanja delotvornih inicijativa i davanja nosiocima vlasti konstruktivnih i kvalitetnih predloga za rešavanje pitanja od opšteg interesa za izgradnju institucija otvorenog civilnog društva

Pravo na sloboden pristup informacijama danas je efikasno sredstvo koje stoji na raspolaganju javnosti i građanima ne samo u borbi za slobodu i demokratiju, već i u stalnoj borbi protiv usurpacije vlasti i korupcije.

Beograd, avgust 2003.

Priredivači

NOTA BENE

The affirmation of the right of citizens to free access to information significantly reinforces the role of citizens as „controllers“ of the government.

The citizens and the public represent an important factor of control of state bodies and other public institutions and active participants in the realization of complex public affairs, necessary for the development and advancement of a democratic society.

The confidence of citizens, won in general, free, equal, secret and direct elections, represent a necessary, although not a sufficient prerequisite for the legitimacy of the government, which, during its term of office, has to, over and over, reaffirm itself in the everyday course of action. Political and legal theory almost unanimously accepts the principle that the „trust of the people is good, but that control is necessary“. Centuries of experience undoubtedly show and prove that every power „corrupts“ its bearers, especially if it is not checked with appropriate legal instruments.

The Constitution determines that the sovereignty belongs to citizens. Citizens exercise power directly (referendum, peoples' initiative, etc.), or through elected representatives (parliamentary deputies, local council members, etc.). According to this, all state bodies and bearers of public authority, especially executive bodies and administrative agencies have a duty to perform their activity in the service of public interest and citizens.

The public effort of government bodies and other bearers of power and free access to information are the

essence of modern rule of law. Without direct insight into the work and activity of the officials who manage public affairs, especially without up-to-date, correct and complete information, it is not possible to efficiently achieve necessary public control of government bodies, agencies and institutions.

Free access to information today is a significant means in the general struggle against corruption, particularly in public services. The mere fact that the work of the administration can be made transparent, i.e. that one can ask for information a government body or a public institution possesses (e.g. what are the travel expenses of a government delegation; how was a construction license issued; how were local funds for municipal sewage spent, etc.), significantly contribute to the increase of motivation of citizens that there is purpose and reason in investing individual efforts for the general good and elimination of corruption.

Without free access to „public“ and other relevant information of government bodies, administrative agencies and other public institutions, citizens are deprived of direct control of the activity and behavior of those who received their trust through democratic elections, as well as the possibility of initiating effective initiatives for resolving issues of general interest to society.

The right to free access to information today is an efficient means, which stands at the disposal of the public and citizens, not only in the struggle for freedom and democracy, but in the permanent struggle against the abuse of power and corruption.

Belgrade, August 2003.

The Editors

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