



Transparency International Kyrgyzstan



Access to information: who has the rights and who has the information?

As the law «On access to information of government agencies and local self-governments of the Kyrgyz Republic» was created and carrying out information - explanatory campaign on acceptance of the bill in Parliament of Kyrgyzstan.

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1. Introduction

People's government without information accessible to
people or without means to obtain such
information
is nothing but a prologue to farce
or tragedy or, possibly, to both.
Knowledge will always rule ignorance,
and people that want
to rule themselves should be armed
with force provided by knowledge.

(James Madison, letter to U.T. Barrie, August 4).

1.1 Topicality.

At the present time access to information is one of the most important resources of any society. It is not by chance that the United Nations documents state “freedom of information is one of the fundamental human rights that represents criterion of all kinds of freedom”.

In a modern society a citizen is considered not as a “controlled” one, but rather as some kind of a “client” of governmental agencies. The status of somebody “under wardship” or a “petitioner” is transformed in the status of a “consumer exercising the rights by means of services, provided to him/her by the government”. Information is one of such services.

While the rights of citizens to access certain information expand the system of governance is changing because of the following:

Strengthening of public policy:

Access to information and active participation of citizens in a life of a modern society provide the government with a stronger basis for making political decisions, and therefore, the government becomes better aware. At the same time more effective implementation of the decisions is ensured due to the fact that citizens become more and more aware of the policy issues and take direct participation in policy making.

Strengthening of trust to the government:

Raising awareness and active participation enable citizens to receive information about the steps in the field of a policy, which the government is going to undertake. Citizens receive a true opportunity to contribute to the policy development process. Such cooperation promotes more fruitful outcomes. The government demonstrates its openness, due to which, the trust among civil society is growing.

Strengthening of democracy:

Access to information and active participation of public make activity of the government more open and accountable. Strengthening of relations between the government and civil society expands a basis for more active civic stand.

In this connection, the issues related to the rights of citizens on access to information become especially topical.

The “Future Without Corruption - Transparency International – Kyrgyzstan” under support of the Open Society Institute, Soros Foundation - Kyrgyzstan and DFID has implemented the project on access of citizens to information.

The given project promotes raise of transparency of higher and regional authorities, being based on provision of a free, open and equal rights of citizens to know about performance of the authorities. The given project also serves construction of effective dialogue between a society and authorities, and these mutual relations are the basis of the agenda.

The project is aimed towards expansion and enhancement of access of citizens of Kyrgyzstan to the information of the governmental bodies. Strengthening of relations between the government and civil society is a very important aspect which facilitates more effective public policy implementation as well as greater credibility and strengthening of democracy.

Implementation of the project was carried out in several stages: research on access to information; international conference with presentation of the outcomes and outputs; creation of the working group on drafting the Bill on access to information; carrying out advocacy campaign on informing people about the given Bill; adoption of the given Bill as it was drafted.

Necessity of reforming the law on access to information is connected to the fact that:

Firstly, the citizens of the Kyrgyz Republic at the present time have no opportunity to receive any *unclassified* information about governmental bodies and LSGs.

Secondly, in our country transition to democracy is connected to development of norms and values inherent in the modern civilized state, and access to information is one of the basic norms.

1.2 Goals and objectives of advocacy campaign.

The goal of advocacy campaign is adoption of the Bill “On access to information possessed by the governmental bodies and local self-government bodies” without changes and distortions, that is in the form it was drafted by the working group.

Thus, the following **objectives** follow from the given **goal**:

1) work with population

- a) Informing people about advantages and key issues of the Bill and campaigning (distribution of information materials, carrying out of meetings, etc.)
- б) Collection of signatures in support of the Bill

2) work with MPs

- a) Presentation of the concept of the Bill
- б) Campaigning (meeting with MPs and highlighting the link between the Bill and their electoral programs, presentation of information materials, presenting of the subscription sheets signed by the voters in support of the given Bill)
- в) Presentation of the Bill

3) Lobbying the Bill

Insert 1.

Freedom of information is expressed, first of all, in the right of everyone to seek and receive the information. According to the 1946 UN General Assembly Resolution 59 (1) « Freedom of information represents the right to collect, transfer and publish information everywhere and freely».

Information rights are an integral part of fundamental human rights. They are provided in the Article 19 of the Universal Human Rights Declarations, proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly on December, 10, 1948 (« Every person has the right to freedom of belief and on free expression of them; this right includes freedom to adhere freely to his/her belief, to seek, receive and distribute information and ideas by all means and irrespectively of state borders »), and have the important place in the European Convention on Human Rights Protection adopted in Rome on November, 4, 1950 (p. 1 of the Art. 10: « Every person has the right to freedom of expression of the opinion. This right includes freedom to hold the opinion, to receive and distribute the information and ideas without obstacles on part of the governmental bodies and irrespectively of governmental borders »).

Insert 2.

CONSTITUTION OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

After disintegration of the USSR Kyrgyzstan became an independent state and on May, 5, 1993 the Republic of Kyrgyzstan adopted the new Constitution; on February, 18, 2003 after the referendum the new wording of the Constitution was adopted.

Article 12 of the Constitution says: Constitution has the supreme legal effect and direct action in the Kyrgyz Republic.

International conventions and agreements that have been entered into force in the order established by the law and participant to which the Kyrgyz Republic is, along with conventional principles and norms of international law are an integral part of the legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Article 16 of the Constitution recognizes and ensures fundamental human rights and freedoms according to the conventional principles and norms of international law and international human rights conventions and agreements that have entered into force.

Paragraph 6 of given Article says: everyone has the right to familiarize him/herself with the information about him/herself, possessed by the governmental bodies, by the institutions of local government, by the agencies and organizations, provided that such information does not represent state secret or other secrets protected by the law.

Everyone is guaranteed with judicial protection of the right to deny unreliable information about him/herself and members of the family and the right to demand withdrawal of any information, as well as the right on compensation of material and moral damage caused by gathering, keeping and distributing the unreliable information. Furthermore, the part 9 of the given article says that everyone has the right to collect, keep, and use freely the information and to distribute it orally, in writing or otherwise. Propagation or campaigning that ignites social, racial, inter-ethnic or religious hatred and enmity are not allowed. Propagation of social, racial, national, religious or language superiority is forbidden.

Par. 15 of the Art. 16 provides the following rights: all people have the right to forward personal and collective petitions to the governmental bodies, to the institutions of local government and to the officials who within the limits of their competence are obliged to consider such petitions and to give the motivated response in the order established by law.

2. Background of the Bill

2.1 Research

“*Future Without Corruption - Transparency International – Kyrgyzstan*” implements the project on access to information in *several stages*:

First stage – research aimed on revealing and evaluating of the basic opportunities people of Kyrgyzstan to access information, possessed by the governmental bodies and by the LSGs.

Within the framework of the given research **the pilot** was carried out, which has allowed to show evidently and to assess an openness and accessibility of the governmental bodies. The given experiment was carried out in the following areas:

- *accessibility of the governmental body by phone;*
- *simulated inquiry from legal and natural person to the governmental organizations.*

Questions in the letters of legal persons were related to *the budget of the governmental bodies, availability of a website, frequency of updating the given website*, etc. In the letters of natural persons there were questions *about vacancies in governmental bodies, wages, overtime, and business trips*, etc. In total such letters have been sent out to 73 governmental bodies.

Results of the experiment have shown that for a legal person it is easier to receive information than for a natural person. It is very difficult for people to receive information as the governmental bodies are not transparent and not accountable structures for people.

As a follow up the following items were developed:

- how easy it is to approach the governmental body;
- availability of a response on inquiry made by a legal person;
- availability of a response on inquiry made by a natural person;
- completeness of the response to inquiry made by a legal person;
- completeness of the response to inquiry made by a natural person;
- time frame for the response;
- availability of the website:
 - is website in Kyrgyz language available,
 - what score would you give to the website links,
 - are there any additional functions inbuilt in a website, except for the standard applications,
 - is search tool available on the website,
 - is there a feedback provided by the staff of the governmental bodies for the potential users of a website,
 - is the following information available on the website:
 1. *about the number of staff of the given body,*
 2. *about the structure of the governmental body,*

3. about the budget of the governmental body and about wages of the staff of the given body,
4. about the post address of the governmental body and about contact phones of that agency.

Each of the above mentioned items was given a score depending on a certain situation. See Table 1 below.

Table 1.



<p>Address – www ... Score for website availability Website is available in Kyrgyz language (0-1) Efficacy of the links (0, 1, 2) Functions required by the clients, except for the information about the agency (0-1) Availability of search tool Website - answer to the question about staff, number of employees, vacancies Website - answer to the question about the structure of the governmental body Website - answer to the question about the budget of the given body Website – availability of the contact information, phones numbers and post address of the agency Availability of a feedback: by e-mail, the Guest Book, "feedback"</p>												
	www address	Win for presence a website	Website is available in Kyrgyz language (0-1)	Work of references (0, 1, 2)	Functions required by the clients, except for the information about the agency	Presence of systems of search	Website - answer to a question on staff, number of employees, vacancies	Website - answer to a question on the structure of the governmental body	Website - answer to a question about the budget of the given body	Website - availability of the contact information, phones numbers and post address of the agency	Availability of a feedback: by e-mail, the Guest Book, "feedback"	Rating of the governmental bodies websites on the Internet
MAXIMUM		1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	11

Ministry of economic development, industry and trade	www.mvip.kg	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>7</i>
Ministry of Internal Affairs	www.mvd.kg	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>6</i>
Ministry of Defense	www.mil.kg	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>4</i>
Ministry of ecology and emergency situations	www.mecd.gov.kg	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>3</i>
Ministry of transport and communications	www.mtk.gov.kg	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>8</i>
Ministry of Labor and Social Protection.	www.mlsp.kg	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>5</i>
Ministry of Finance	www.minfin.kg	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0,5</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>4,5</i>
Ministry of Justice	www.minjust.gov.kg	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>7</i>

State Committee of KR on state property management	www.spf.gov.kg	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	6
State agency on science and intellectual property	www.kyrgyzpatent.kg	1	0	2	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	8
State agency on geology and mineral resources	www.kgs.bishkek.gov.kg	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	6
State Osh Oblast administration	www.osh.gov.kg	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	6
Bishkek City Administration	www.e-bishkek.kg	1	0	1	0	1	1	0,5	0	0,5	0	5

The second stage was a **sociological survey** in the following Oblasts: Chui, Issyk-Kul, Osh; and in Bishkek, capital of the Kyrgyz Republic. The sampling covered 1,128 people.

The basic definitions used in the sociological survey were: *efficiency, openness, accessibility of a governmental body.*

Efficiency of performance of a governmental body, in opinion of the majority of the interviewed respondents, is low. It is directly connected to the fact that people cannot receive this or that information.

Results of the sociological survey have shown, that:

- First, the majority of the interviewed respondents when they refer to this or that governmental body do not have confidence that their inquiry (complaint, proposal) will be considered without delays. Most often, in opinion of the citizens-applicants, they face *with bureaucratic obstacles*, as well as with absence of a tact on the part of the civil servants;
- Secondly, civil servants are not yet ready to perceive people as their basic partner; civil servants continue to be guided by interdepartmental interests or interests of the state machinery. This fact is an evidence that *many civil servants count themselves accountable not to people, but to a higher body*;
- Thirdly, citizens address the governmental bodies basically with applications (complaints, inquiries); in rare cases they have proposals or recommendations. There was no even one case when a citizen would address the governmental bodies with proposal to improve the work of the given agency, etc, in other words there was no bilateral cooperation by means of which citizens express their attitude to the policy, implemented by the government. The above mentioned means that in our republic the so-called "*feedback*" between the government and civilians is insufficiently developed. Therefore, insufficient activity of people is a consequence of mistrust in an overall performance of the governmental bodies.

The openness of governmental body is an opportunity to receive freely the relevant information on activity of agencies, information on the decisions made, on the results of the work done, on the budget, etc., which means availability of clear truthful information about agencies as well as reasonability of any decisions made. Openness and transparency are synonyms. *Open governmental bodies* are obliged to explain, for example, on what basis this or that decision was made, which had caused creation or liquidation of this or that governmental body...

Insert 3. What is accessibility of governmental body? Survey, June 2004

		%
What is accessibility of governmental body?	Opportunity to address governmental body at any time.	23.5%
	Opportunity to address governmental body at any time, and to get a response in the shortest time period.	70.5%
	No obstacles.	23.1%

The following conclusions could be made according to the survey:

- Both in cities, and in villages the basic sources of information are - TV, press, radio, and other kinds of communications.
- In villages in general there is no information about specialized information centers. People in the villages practically do not use Internet. In the cities only some people use Internet with the purpose of information access.
- The information which is accessible to the majority of people does not satisfy the needs of the given people.

That fact is interesting, that at disclosing the concept of **accessibility of governmental institutions** the opinions of the civil servants have not been disclosed in relation to the meaning of the given term. The few civil servants have specified the convenient schedule of work of governmental institutions and an opportunity to be received by the head of the given agency at any time and without superfluous red tape (i.e. absence of the system of passes).

Insert 4.

Accessibility of governmental body is an opportunity of receiving a service or information from the governmental body at the shortest period of time, with minimal efforts and money on part of the client; simplicity and clearness of procedure of service or of delivery of information. Governmental bodies can be considered accessible, if any person or organization can freely receive the unclassified information or service.

Table 2.

Rating of openness and accessibility of governmental bodies:

	OPENNESS :	ACCESSIBILITY:
Possible maximum:	100%	100%
AGENCY:		
Ministry of economic development, industry and trade	78,7	82,1
Ministry of Interior	47,9	42,9
Ministry of Health Care	0,0	0
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	0,0	0
Ministry of Defense	70,2	82,2
Ministry of Education	35,1	39,3
Ministry of Environment and Emergency Situation	90,4	75,0

Ministry of agriculture, water resources and processing industry	0,0	0,0
Ministry of transport and communications	57,4	67,9
Ministry of labor and social protection	45,7	39,3
Ministry of Finance	55,9	28,6
Ministry of Justice	35,1	60,7
State Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic on State Property Management	57,4	57,1
State Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic on Tourism, Sport and Youth Policy	0,0	0,0
State Agency of Science and Intellectual Property	29,8	67,9
State Agency on Energy	0,0	0,0
State Agency of Public Procurement and Material Reserves	0,0	0,0
State Commission on Religious Affairs	0,0	0,0
State Commission on Securities Markets	0,0	0,0
Antimonopoly Policy Department	89,4	71,4
State Commission on Architecture and Civil Works	0,0	0,0
Department of Migration Service	71,3	64,3
National Statistic Committee	0,0	10,7
State Agency on Geology and Mineral Resources	89,4	85,7
Kyrgyz National Academy of Sciences	0,0	0,0
Prosecutor General	0,0	0,0
Supreme Court	54,3	46,4
Constitutional Court	3,2	0,0
Chamber of Trade and Industry of the Kyrgyz Republic	0,0	0,0

Directorate General of the FEZ «Bishkek»	0,0	0,0
Medical Academy	0,0	0,0
Kyrgyz –Russian Slavonic University	10,6	42,9
National University Balasagyn	0,0	0,0
Kyrgyz –Turkish University	0,0	0,0
Kyrgyz Railway Department	0,0	0,0
Republican Social Welfare Fund	64,9	67,9
Chui Oblast State Administration	41,5	21,4
Osh Oblast State Administration	52,1	50,0
Issyk-Kul Oblast State Administration	45,7	39,3
Osh Oblast Social Welfare Department	53,2	39,3
Chui Oblast Social welfare Department	0,0	0,0
Issyk-Kul Oblast Social Welfare Department	0,0	0,0
Chui Oblast Administration for comprehensive, secondary, pre-school education	0,0	0,0
Osh Oblast Administration for comprehensive, secondary, pre-school and off-school education	31,9	42,9
Issyk-Kul Oblast Administration for comprehensive, secondary, pre-school and off-school education	54,3	39,3
Jalalabat Oblast State Administration	0,0	0,0
Naryn Oblast State administration	0,0	0,0
Talas Oblast State Administration	35,1	35,7
State Commission on Entrepreneurship Development in Osh Oblast	0,0	0,0
State Commission on Entrepreneurship Development in Chui	0,0	0,0

Oblast		
State Commission on Entrepreneurship Development in Issyk-Kul	0,0	0,0
Bishkek City administration	51,1	53,6
Osh City administration	0,0	0,0
Karakol City Administration	0,0	0,0
Tokmok City Administration	35,1	32,1
Bishkek City Telephone Network	0,0	0,0
Bishkek Police	0,0	0,0
City Education Authorities under the City Administration of Bishkek	89,4	75,0
City Education Authorities of Osh	0,0	0,0
Health Care Department of Bishkek City Administration	55,3	35,7
City Education Authorities of Cholpon-Ata, Issyk-Kul Rayon	0,0	0,0
Akkimiat of Sverdlovskiy Rayon of Bishkek	0,0	0,0
Akkimiat of Pervomaiskiy Rayon of Bishkek	16,0	42,9
Akimat of Leninskiy Rayon of Bishkek	0,0	0,0
Akkimiat of Oktyabrskiy Rayon of Bishkek	14,9	32,1
Akkimiat of Chui Rayon of Chui Oblast of Tokmok city	0,0	0,0
Akkimiat of Jaiyl Rayon of Chui Oblast of Karabalta city	0,0	0,0
Akkimiat of Issyk-Kul Rayon of Issyk-Kul Oblast of Cholpon-Ata city	33,0	21,4
Akkimiat of Tuyp Rayon of Issyk-Kul Oblast, village Tuyp	0,0	0,0
Akkimiat of Kara-Suu Rayon of Osh Oblast, city	43,6	39,3

Kara-Suu		
Akkimiat of Aravan Rayon of Osh Oblast, village Aravan	0,0	0,0

The majority of the interviewed respondents believe that at the present time it is difficult to obtain information on the following issues:

- How the budget is spent;
- On sources and sizes of tax revenues;
- On investments;
- On migration.

Thus, the information related to the key issues relevant to people remains closed.

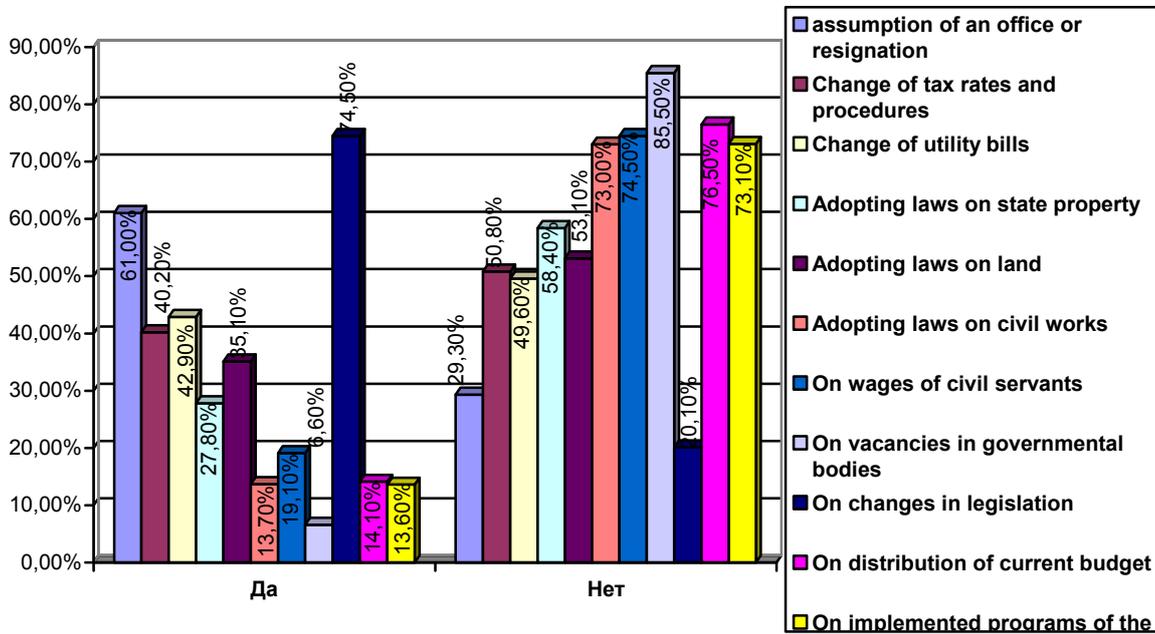
The significant part of the population (76, 5 %) has no access to the information on budget distribution.

The civilians in 80 % of cases do not know where one can obtain the information on powers of civil servants, their names, office phone numbers, addresses, schedule of work with civil sector.

Insert 5.

Have you heard / seen the following information recently?

Outcomes of mass survey, June 2004.



The fact is alarming that more than a half of civil servants have not read the Law «On guarantees and freedom of access to information». In the given situation, it can be one of the reasons of inefficient work of the governmental bodies on informing civilians, as well as the cause of artificial obstacles for obtaining certain information.

Insert 6.

Have you read the Law «On guarantees on freedom of access to information»?

Outcomes of survey of civil servants, June 2004.

	<i>Interviewed civil servants, %</i>
<i>Yes</i>	41,7
<i>No</i>	54,2
<i>No response</i>	4,2
<i>Total:</i>	100,0

Insert 7.

What requirements the Law “On guarantees and freedom of access to information” does not meet? (Survey of journalists, June 2004)

The Law is declarative
The Law needs update
Bureaucracy and formalism
Liability for the failure to provide information shall be established
The Law should be concrete, by focusing on the key issues; aimed on timeliness
The Law does not meet international standards
The Law does not provide guarantees of access to information
The Law is not observed by the heads of agencies and departments
The Law is not observed by officials

<i>Insert 8.</i> What points the Law “On guarantees and freedom of access to information” would you like to change? (Survey of journalists, June 2004)
It is necessary to achieve strict execution of that law
The law is good (as a whole)
The law demands completion
It is necessary to concretize some points concerning the essential part of that law
It is necessary to concretize the responsibility of state bodies
It is necessary to open up the meaning of <i>guarantees of access to information</i> in details
It is necessary to improve the legislation, to adjust the responsibility of Mass-Media
It is necessary to define the responsibility for infringements of that law IN DETAILS
It is necessary to define the rights of citizens concerning access to information (access to reports of elective bodies) IN DETAILS
It is necessary to strengthen the responsibility of state bodies

2.2 Results of the conference. Resolution of the conference.

The next stage of the project was International conference supported by the *Soros Foundation - Kyrgyzstan and Secretariat of the National Council on Good Governance*.

Representatives of mass-media, NGOs, Business - structures, Ministries and Departments, and the international experts from Russia and Latvia were present at the conference.

After presentation of the results of the survey and discussion, participants of the conference had produced the joint resolution, the text of which is presented below.

Resolution of the conference «Access to information. Problems and prospects».

Participants of the conference among whom there were *representatives of nongovernmental and official foreign organizations, employees of governmental bodies, scientists - lawyers, mass media people*, **came to the following conclusions:**

- *Transparency* of all structures, including international needs to be strengthened.
- The information provided as a response on inquiry should be in Kyrgyz language, but if the interests of national minorities are involved, the information should be given in their languages too.
- It is necessary to provide high-grade access to information for all citizens, irrespective of their ethnicity, gender, political party affiliation, profession.
- Participants of the conference believe that the problems concerning access to information are connected to the fact that there are no punishments for infringements of law. Therefore, it is proposed to toughen the liabilities of officials for refusal in providing access to information. After the disciplinary actions have been applied the administrative punishment should follow.
- The precise coordination of actions on improvement of mechanisms of access to information is necessary.

Observance of the given conclusions is impeded by existence of the following problems:

1) *Communication problem* (within the framework of the project «*Electronic government*» there is no uniform architecture, which means that various databases are not connected with each other):

- a) Imperfection of mechanisms on informing people in the regions of KR;
- b) Out-of-date material/technical base.

2) *Ideological block of problems:*

- a) Governmental structures do not give information, there is no internal rules for providing information;
- b) There are no criteria of *the classified information*;
- c) Lack of transparency and difficulty to obtain different sort of agreements, memorandums, etc.;
- d) Absence of topical timely information;
- e) There are no mechanisms of provision of information, concerning activity of governmental bodies and sessions of governmental structures.

3) *Control block of problems:*

- a) Censorship, selectivity is used in relation to access to information;
- b) There is no control, the level of enforcement is low at the center and the regions;
- c) Insufficient professional level of civil servants.

4) There is no information on the activities of governmental bodies.

Having exchanged opinions, the participants of the conference have developed and adopted recommendations, which subsequently can influence the legislation related to access to information:

- Within the framework of the Decree of the President « About the strategy of public administration system reform of the Kyrgyz Republic» dated June 5th, 2004 some changes to the legislation related to access to information need to be made.
 - The law should define more precisely the guarantees of access to information, the criteria of *the classified information*, according to the *Article 65 of the Constitution of the Kyrgyz Republic*.
 - To designate mechanisms of provision of information by the governmental bodies.
 - To introduce mechanisms of granting information, concerning the results of activities of governmental bodies (budget spending, etc. for the accounting period) and to provide a free access to the materials of the sessions of governmental structures.
 - Precisely define mechanisms of making officials accountable for the failure to provide information.
- 1) Civic stands should be presented by means of various NGOs and other elements of the society. Accreditation of journalists in the Parliament and in the other governmental bodies is a first step to an unimpeded access to information.
 - 2) The expanded concept on the access to information, which would reflect the objectives of enhancement of mechanisms of access to information, is to be adopted.
 - 3) Access to information is a tool of civil participation in the life of the Republic. The right of citizens on unimpeded and full access to information is the right provided by the Constitution of the Kyrgyz Republic. It is necessary to strengthen capacity of the civil

society institutions (mass media, NGOs) in observance of the standards of evaluation of the governmental bodies.

Setting up the working group.

Taking into account the results of the given conference, the decision *on setting up the initiative working group* for reforming the law on access to information comprised of *the civil society representatives, mass-media, business - sector, and governmental structures* was made.

The given *group* within one year has been actively working and has prepared the bill, which was published in the newspaper «Slovo Kyrghyzstana» on October 7, 2005.

The initial draft of the bill was very heavy, the given bill regulated access to information in all spheres; but followed by the recommendations made by the World Bank experts, *the bill has been changed*. Overall inspections of fiscal bodies can force NGOs as well as the entire commercial sector to present on a weekly basis certain reports on the activities of the organizations. Therefore, fears have been stated that such situation could become an obstacle for development of small and medium businesses. Simply, our society is not yet ready to accept the law, which would cover all fields of activity. For today, it is necessary to provide at least access to information, which is possessed by the governmental bodies and bodies of local self-government, therefore *the new version of the bill regulates only access to information of the governmental bodies and LSG*.

According to D.Banisar (Director of the project «Freedom of information», Privacy International) the opportunity of access to the data and information of the governmental bodies gives a number of advantages, both for the governmental bodies, and for ordinary citizens:

1. knowledge of the reasons of making certain decisions will lower a degree of dissatisfaction of the civil sector;
2. access to information will allow both mass-media and civil sector to reveal unknown or ignored by the authorities cases of corruption;
3. the law on freedom of access to information allows:
 - a. To improve information structure inside the governmental bodies;
 - b. To improve process of development of information strategy;
 - c. To improve quality of office-work;
 - d. To ensure reliability of information (decisions should not be based on the out-of-date information).

2.3 Results of the Round Table.

All proposals and recommendations have been carefully analyzed by the working group. «*Future Without Corruption - Transparency International - Kyrghyzstan* » jointly with *the Soros Foundation - Kyrghyzstan* has carried out the Round Table on discussion of the bill «*On access to information possessed by the governmental bodies and bodies of local self-government* ». At the given meeting the final draft of the given bill was presented.

At the Round Table there were representatives *of international organizations, Administrations of the President, of the Ministries and Departments, and representatives of mass media and civil sector*. All participants actively stated their opinions and proposed various amendments and changes to the bill.

In the course of the Round Table the valuable recommendations were received from the representatives of various structures and organizations. All recommendations and proposals have been taken into account.

Participants of the Round Table have noted the serious work that has been done. The advanced lawyers of the Republic were involved in the given work.

That public resonance which has been shown at the given meeting, specified that adoption of this bill is duly and necessary step for the further democratization of our society.

Insert 9.

The Russian Federation

THE NOVGOROD OBLAST

O B L A S T L A W

Adopted by the Oblast Duma on April 28, 2004.

On procedure of granting of information by the governmental bodies of the Novgorod Oblast.

Article 2. Publicity of activity of the governmental bodies of the Oblast.

1. Activity of the governmental bodies of the Oblast is open and public.
2. Information on activity of the governmental bodies of the Oblast is open for public. Any restriction of access to information on activity of the governmental bodies of the Oblast is forbidden, except for the cases specified in the Article 3 of the present Oblast Law.
3. The decision on refusal in access to the information should be motivated. One cannot be refused in making him/herself familiar with the decision on the basis of which the access to information is limited. Documents and materials containing data, access to which should be limited according to the legislation of the Russian Federation, shall be provided in the part, which does not contain such data.
4. According to the legislation of the Russian Federation the following cannot be considered as information of limited access:
 - 1) normative legal acts establishing a legal status of bodies of the government, institutions of local government, governmental and municipal organizations, as well as information related to the rights, freedoms and duties of citizens, and implementation procedure;
 - 2) documents containing the information on emergency situations, ecological, meteorological, demographic, sanitary-and-epidemiological and other information required for good safety of citizens and population as a whole, safe functioning of settlements and industrial sites;
 - 3) documents containing information on activity of bodies of the government, on use of budgetary funds, on a status of economy and needs of the population, except for those that represent the state secret;
 - 4) documents accrued in opened allocations of libraries, information systems of bodies of the government, of governmental organizations, representing public interest or required for implementation of the rights, freedoms and duties of citizens.

Insert 10.

LAW of the LITHUANIAN REPUBLIC «ON PUBLIC INFORMATION»

December 21, 2000 # IX-131

Article 6. Right for obtaining information from the governmental and municipal bodies and agencies.

1. Every person has the right to receive the public information from the governmental and municipal bodies and agencies, from other budgetary agencies on their activity, their official documents (copies) and information, which the mentioned agencies have about him/her.

2. The governmental and municipal bodies and agencies shall inform the public on their activities.

3. The governmental and municipal bodies and agencies shall, according to the established by the Law procedure, right to access to information of the official bodies and agencies of self-government, as well as in compliance with the other laws, provide the public with information, including the available private information, except for the cases established by laws when private information is not revealed.

4. Information, preparation of which does not require accumulation of additional data, shall be provided to the developers and/or distributors of the public information not later than within one working day, and the information, preparation of which requires accumulation of additional data, shall be provided not later than within a week.

5. When governmental and municipal bodies and agencies, other budgetary agencies refuse to provide public information to the developer of the public information they shall, not later then the next working day, inform in writing the developer on the reasons of refusal in providing with the information.

6. Public information of the governmental and municipal bodies and agencies is free-of-charge. These agencies can raise a payment only for services, connected with search of the given information, copying of the information or documents. This charge cannot exceed true expenses for granting of the information.

3. Advocacy campaign

3.1 Implementation of Advocacy campaign.

Because people of the country should be informed about this project the Advocacy campaign is required for the purpose of successful adoption of this law by the Parliament of the country. For this purpose our staff members have familiarized themselves with the experience of other successful advocacy campaigns carried out in Russia, Kazakhstan and other countries.

Therefore consultations with the NGO "Echo" (Kazakhstan), that had experience of four successful advocacy campaigns have been carried out. Jointly with them the materials for carrying out of training for the representatives of NGOs from all regions of Kyrgyzstan have been developed.

Staff of the «Future Without Corruption - Transparency International - Kyrgyzstan» has been trained by the NGO "Echo" representatives. At the workshop they learned the international experience of successful advocacy campaigns, the best world practice.

In particular, they have received knowledge in technique of lobbying, of organization and carrying out of advocacy campaigns, case studies on successful advocacy campaigns in Russia and Kazakhstan were described. Furthermore, the staff of the «Future Without Corruption - Transparency International - Kyrgyzstan» has been trained in methods of setting up and running the network of NGOs and setting up of a coalition for partnership.

At the end of the training course the staff of the «Future without corruption - Transparency International - Kyrgyzstan» highlighted the vision of successful implementation of advocacy campaign in Kyrgyzstan. Clear definition of the strategy and tactics of the given project represents an outcome of the given project.

After that, our staff visited all seven regions of the country for selecting NGO representatives for successful implementation of advocacy campaign.

Selection was carried out based on the following criteria:

- The major criteria was the interest and high desire of NGOs to participate in implementation of advocacy campaign and adoption of the bill ,
- field of activity of NGO,
- activity of NGO,
- experience of carrying out advocacy campaigns,
- capacity to cover the whole Oblast, and not just the regional center, etc.

«Future without corruption - Transparency International - Kyrgyzstan» staff developed information materials for the campaign, designed for all social and age groups. Materials included 3 types of posters, booklet, flyer (all materials were published in Russian and in Kyrgyz languages). The diversity of the materials can satisfy demands of all regions of the country. In the posters we wanted to deliver a visual goal of a need to adopt the Law on access to information describing its advantages and to make every citizen aware that he/she has right to know about important decisions made by the governmental bodies in relations to budget spending, appointments of personnel, road renovation, construction of schools, hospitals and other facilities directly related to all of us.

With the help of booklets and leaflets we wanted to the population of the Republic make active and to convince them to influence the MPs with the purpose of adoption of the law exactly in that form in which it was created, that is to show the active civic stand. In the booklet the key provision of the Bill has been stated: who can receive the information; who is obliged to give it; what information we have the right to possess; how we can get access to it and in what terms; and forms of granting of the information.

The information brochure was developed, where the background of drafting of the Bill was highlighted, its basic points were explained. One of the major parts of this brochure was presentation of recommendations and proposals of leading world experts, lawyers, politicians which, in general, have evaluated the bill very positively and have emphasized its conformity to the best world samples.

After our staff have been trained and have familiarized themselves with world practice, they started development of a training package, which includes: handouts, including the text of the Law « On guarantees and freedom of access to information» dated December, 5 1997, the new bill « On access to information possessed by the governmental bodies and LSGs », comments and proposals to it, received by the office of the «Future without corruption-Transparency International - Kyrgyzstan», and methodical materials provided by the NGO "Echo" and materials, developed by the staff of our organization.

3.2 Carrying out of a workshop

Three staff of the NGO "Echo" were invited for the training as lectures – Pavel Lobachev (director), Inna Ivanovskaya (analyst), Maria Lobacheva (trainer).



The «Transparency International - Kyrgyzstan» staff have also acted as trainers. We have summed up and analyzed the experience of the workshop carried out by the NGO "Echo" as well as the best practice, including techniques of carrying out PR-campaigns, presentation, setting up coalitions, strengthening of creative and communicative capacities. All these materials were used for the training.

The training was carried out in the regime of constructive dialogue in a view of the experience of participation of regional representatives in the other advocacy campaigns. The role team plays, discussions and presentation were implemented at the training.

Training course was carried out as follows:

Day 1

1. Presentation, introduction.
2. Definition of advocacy campaign. Geographical and political characteristics of the campaign in Kyrgyzstan. Examples: Russia, Kazakhstan and West Countries.
3. Subject of the campaign (Bill).
4. Goals of the campaign.
5. Target groups, in civic environment / in governmental environment.
5. Strategy and policy. Structure of activities, setting up the Coalition.

Home work:

- To develop the plan of the campaign identifying human resources and timeframe.
- To draft the press release.

Day 2

1. Work with volunteers. Looking for the like-minded persons. Ethic norms. Art of convincing people.
2. Methods of involving people in the campaign. Identifying methods appropriate for Kyrgyzstan.
3. Development of message and slogan of the campaign.
4. Public speech.
5. Press conference.
6. Carrying out of negotiations.
7. Lobbying the Bill.



Detailed description of the training outline.

First day of training.

1. Presentation, introduction.

At the beginning of the workshop all the participants introduced themselves, described the activity of their NGOs, the projects implemented by them, including advocacy. For

instance, Narbubu Kerimova has successfully implemented “Guidelines on civil participation” projects under the support of NDI and USAID, which used principles of advocacy campaign. Aida Nabieva has successfully conducted two advocacy campaigns at rayon level, based on the results of which environmental regulation was adopted. Trainers described their successful experience of carrying out advocacy campaigns in Kazakhstan.

2. Definition of advocacy campaign. Geographical and internal political features of the campaign in Kyrgyzstan (examples: Russia, Kazakhstan and West Countries).

At this stage of the workshop the definition of advocacy and its distinction from lobbying has been given.

Advocacy is the series of organized actions conducted by citizens who influence public policy by means of forming political, legislative, economic and social systems. That is, advocacy is broader and systematic notion compared to lobbying.

Insert 11

Definition of “advocacy”. From English "advocacy" is translated as “defense”. One of the explanations of the definition *advocacy* is strategic use of public resources with the purpose of promotion of social or political initiatives (interests). It should be noted that advocacy is a *long-term* activity.

Advocacy is:

- ◆ Involvement into the decision-making process;
- ◆ Long-term vision for political work on changing the society;
- ◆ Lobbying interests of vulnerable social groups;
- ◆ Long-term changes in the society;
- ◆ Mechanism of implementation of the rights;
- ◆ Democracy in action;
- ◆ Nonviolent resistance;
- ◆ Art to create new legislation;
- ◆ Law enforcement;
- ◆ Unity for common good.

Lobbying is influencing decision-makers or organizations to protect special interests. It may be used to influence lawmaker to pass certain law. Most often Parliaments are subjected to lobbying being representative and higher legislative bodies.

Thus, it may be stated that lobbying is a part of advocacy campaign.

The definition of advocacy campaign should include four key features:

(1) *Campaign should be targeted.*

Concrete results are expected from communicative efforts of the campaign. The particular effect may vary considerably and involve changes at the level of the whole society. Results may be beneficial for both the authors and targets of the campaign messages. Eventually, campaigns strive to impact the individual, although the tasks of particular campaign may be formulated in general form.

(2) Campaign should be focused at broad Audience.

The word “broad” is used to distinguish campaign from interpersonal communication to persuade when one or several people try to influence several others although majority of campaign methods are directly supported by the theory of the interpersonal convincing. Audience of the campaign to certain extent is determined by the campaign objectives, but these objectives usually include effect to the number of people sufficient to allocate necessary recourses and means. Campaigns are usually developed and implemented by organizations that were created especially for this particular campaign, or by some already acting institutions. Expenses and efforts of the campaign are usually justified only by the target Audience of a considerable scale. Nevertheless, target Audiences vary from some hundreds small business employees to the whole population of a huge country.

(3) Campaign should have relatively limited time frames.

Duration of the campaign is determined by the period between actual beginning of the campaign and summarizing the results of this campaign impact, in other words, by all the activity in this sphere. Texts of messages may be changed periodically, but objective remains unchanged. But, it is believed that the introduction of one or two new messages opens the new campaign.

Majority of advocacy campaigns are conducted within the frame of certain period — most often during several weeks or months.

(4) Advocacy campaign should include organized set of communicative actions.

Such actions, as a rule, are established for contacting temporarily the Audience, which is hard to influence through permanently established channels and institutions to achieve the objective. Organized activity may be observed at all stages of the campaign, but it becomes most obvious when messages are compiled, issued and disseminated. This is natural consequence of primarily linear character of majority of the campaigns. This organization is also mainly responsible for selection, creation and coordination of information dissemination channels. Even those campaigns that prefer free, liberated approach, in the meaning that campaigns are aimed at enhancing of so called “ordinary people” participation, also develop and disseminate messages, but not from the top to the bottom, but from the bottom to the top. Success of the campaign largely depends on effectiveness of coordination of communicative actions.

After the study of the indicated principles the trainers and participants have jointly analyzed factors influencing the implementation of advocacy campaign.

Mentality has been indicated as one of the main factors influencing successful implementation of advocacy campaign in Kyrgyzstan, which appears as a fact that in our society there is a big role of tribal structure and elders who influence dissemination of

information, decision-making process and support to innovations.¹ This factor influences even formation of governmental structures. (For instance, the recent parliamentary election was closely linked to tribalism and clans as well as to supporting the “own” Members of Parliament).

Planning of advocacy strategy

Advocacy strategy implies assessment of internal and external circumstances, desirable objectives and ways of their achievement.

Assessment of external circumstances is *situation analysis* and analysis to *receive outside support*.

Assessment of internal circumstances implies reveal of *internal resources* of the organization and the possibility to *mobilize efforts* to achieve the established objective.



Some methods to achieve the objective:

Establishment of coalitions and unions: this will allow achieving the following advantages from the point of view of advocacy campaign:

¹ In more details they have been analyzed in the study of Transparency International - Kyrgyzstan “MONITORING OF MISUSE OF ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCE DURING ELECTIONS TO JOGORKU KENESH (Parliament) OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC, February- March 2005”

- To strengthen political influence and increase “pressure” on authorities.
- To accustom larger number of people to such ideas as human rights, civic education.
- To broaden links and contacts, as well as strengthen resources through partnership.

Public campaigns and events result in increased number of supporters.

At the current stage the staff of “Transparency International-Kyrgyzstan” together with trainers of “Echo” has trained the regional representatives on techniques used while lobbying the bills.

3. Subject of the campaign (the Bill).

At the third stage of the workshop the background of development of the Bill “On access to information possessed by the governmental bodies and local self-government bodies” was presented. The main advantages of this bill in comparison with the previous law, which had a declarative nature and didn’t provide real access to information, were revealed; the key objectives of the new bill and its importance for further democratization and reforming of our country have also been presented. In addition, the results of social survey clearly demonstrating the necessity and timeliness for this law to be adopted were presented as well.

4. Campaign objectives.

In the course of the fourth training stage the objective of the given advocacy campaign – passing the bill “On access to information possessed by the governmental bodies and local self-government bodies” without changes and distortions., i. e. in the form it has been created by the working group, has been indicated along with the main tasks that come from the given objective:

1) Work with people.

- a) informing about advantages and key points of the bill and PR (dissemination of information materials, conducting of meetings and etc.);
- b) collecting of signatures to support the bill.

2) Work with the Members of Parliament.

- a) presenting of the bill concept;
- b) PR (meetings with the Members of Parliament and revealing links between the bill and election programs, presentation of information materials, presenting of voters’ subscription sheets in support of the bill);
- b) presentation of the bill.

3) Lobbying of the bill.

5. Indication of the target groups in civil environment / ruling structures.

At the fifth training stage the key target groups that will be addressed by messages were indicated. Such groups are: decision-makers (Members of Parliament) – the main target group, and secondary groups – mass media, other organizations and NGOs, society as a whole.

6. Strategy and tactics. Structure of activity, establishment of the coalition.

At the sixth training stage the strategic plan has been developed by trainers along with the participants, tactics of NGOs activity in the regions has also been determined. It should be noted that a positive point of this training workshop was the fact that it will allow to create coalition of NGOs and widen network of civil participation. In other words, training workshop will have positive results even upon completion of the project activity in this area. Not only 7 regional NGOs, but also those NGOs that will act as their partners will benefit from the project. Thus, more participants will be involved into decision-making process, which, to our point of view, promotes strengthening of civil society activity as a whole, and strengthening democracy in the country.

7. Homework has been given to the workshop participants:

- A) To develop plan of the given campaign indicating human resources and time frames.
- B) To develop news release. (Development of the news release should be done by observing certain rules that have been spelled by the trainers).

Results of these works have been presented by the participants during the next day and have been discussed in the course of discussion.

The second training day consisted of the following stages:

1. Work with volunteers. Search of associates. Ethic norms. Art of convincing.

Trainers told about the importance to attract volunteers to advocacy campaign. Indeed, attracting of the wide circle of volunteers from various social and age groups will allow strengthening of civil self-consciousness, increasing the level of political culture, creating broad network of NGOs, and, thus, strengthening activity of the civil society in the process of decision-making.

Techniques aimed at the development of communicative and creative capacities have been given to the regional representatives, techniques allowing achieving maximum effect upon working of organization in the coalition.

2. Methods of the society involvement in information campaign. Indication of methods applicable for Kyrgyzstan.

At the second stage of the workshop methods to involve the society in the campaign that have been adapted to the situation of Kyrgyzstan were analyzed as well as the special techniques for Central Asia.

Village meetings and meetings with the Members of Parliament, as well as use of family and other connections (for instance, informing and discussion in the family circle)

were placed among the methods applicable in Kyrgyzstan. Involvement of aksakals (elders) having large authorities and influence, who will be able to influence officials and tribal structures. The rest methods have been successfully applied abroad, in Russia and in Kazakhstan.

The idea about strengthening connections with the Members of Parliament and their voters, which will be implemented in the course of this project, has been spelled out by one of the workshop participant – Joldoshev Yakub, Osh Oblast.

In addition, the workshop participants have been trained on method of creating and involving into living network, the idea of which is transferring knowledge from one person to another that allows covering as much population as possible at a shortest period of time.

3. Development of message and slogan of the campaign.

3 types of posters, booklets and leaflets in Kyrgyz and Russian were developed by us, (staff of Transparency International - Kyrgyzstan), as information material, which is intended for various social and age groups. We have offered the following slogans: “All together we will melt the ice of mistrust!”, “The new bill will help to come out of the darkness!”, “Live with dignity!” that were presented to the workshop participants and discussed in the course of constructive dialogue during training.

Training participants have developed messages for different Audiences (youth, pensioners, provincials and citizens of the capital, Members of Parliament).

Message is concentrated and has persuasive expression about the objective of the campaign, containing what you want to achieve, why, how, and what you expect from the society.

The message and slogan of the campaign draw attention, call, and express certain position, raise civil consiousness, lead. The purpose of the message is to encourage people for to actions. 5 important elements of the message need to be taken into account in order to deliver message:

- The idea. What exactly do you want to tell to the *Audience*? Why? Arguments?
- The language. Whom are you talking to? Will people understand you? Which words need to be used, and which are not acceptable for usage.
- The source. Who will deliver message? Whom will they trust?
- Format. In which form you send your message to achieve maximum result?
- Time and location. Where and when your message will take place?

In these messages we tried to deliver key points of the bill, advocacy campaign itself and importance of active civil society in social and political life of the country to the citizens.

4. Public speech.

At the forth stage the workshop participants have analyzed the role and importance of quality public speech in advocacy campaign.

Knowledge, preparation and practice underlay good public appearance. In addition, it is necessary to take into account certain features of the *Audience*.

5. Press conference.

At the fifth stage the participants have discussed the role and importance of press conference in conducting of advocacy campaign.

According to our working plan, press conferences will take place in all regions of the country at the same time strengthen their effectiveness.

6. Carrying out of negotiations.

Trainers have told about importance of the negotiations of Members of Parliament with representatives of civil society, about difficulties and “rocks” catching the participants.

They offered techniques to conduct negotiations: faxing letters in advance, group multiple approaches to the negotiations, time saving, clearness and briefness of the negotiations, methods of influence the Members of Parliament using their election programs and etc.

7. Lobbying of the bill

Effective use of lobbying methods is incredibly important, because it is expected that Members of Parliament should respond in the most effective way to the lobbied interests. The voters, in turn, should know lobbying methods and how to use these methods. The information given below about the lobbying principles may serve as a starting point in order to know more about lobbying.

“Express of protest and protection of interests should be consistent and continuous. Regardless of whether or not the main requirement is a salary raise, completion of illegal construction, promotion of the bill and etc., it is necessary to know that the protest action alone, just one letter or one meeting with the Member of Parliament won’t bring the desirable result. It is necessary to remember that authorities will not be able to ignore constant pressure that keeps growing, organization that acts all the time, people who learn from previous mistakes and improve more and more”.

Workshop participants have asked interesting questions of both technical and organizational matter that were fully answered. Questions about basic principles and key points of the bill, directly linked to the purpose of conducted advocacy campaign were the most important.

3.3 Regional activity of partner organizations.

Having successfully completed training the representatives of the regional NGOs have trained their staff on obtained knowledge regarding conducting of advocacy campaign.

NGOs – partners have created coalition networks with other NGOs in the regions. They have successfully established contacts with courts of aksakals, local activists, and journalists of regional newspapers, TV, radio, local self-government bodies and offices of the international organizations.

According to comments of the regional NGOs – project participants, people in their regions (urban and rural) expressed interest in our bill and to access to information in particular. According to them, the representatives of various public associations and journalists are especially active.

All regional participants have constantly communicated with the office of “Future without corruption - Transparency International – Kyrgyzstan”, regularly sending weekly progress reports, where there were such points as information about the course of information work, about problems, difficulties, most often asked questions and etc. they filled out subscription sheets in support of the bill namely in the form that we have developed. Representatives of the regions have conducted meetings with their Members of Parliament; they demonstrated signatures collected in support of the bill in all regions.

3.3.1 Osh city.

The bill “On access to information possessed by the governmental bodies and local self-government bodies” has been developed to implement citizens’ rights for access to information provided for by the Constitution of our country and international documents.

Key articles of the bill “On access to information possessed by the governmental bodies and local self-government bodies” are:

Article 16 Publishing of information on current decisions and official actions and **Article 17 Annual progress reports**, which oblige officials to regularly report to people on their performance, on spending of budget funds, sources and volumes of tax revenue, volume of industrial and agricultural production, fight with criminality, migration, health care issues, environmental and other important issues.

After conducting training with the participation of the NGO leaders in Bishkek, where principles of advocacy campaign to promote the bill have been studied, plan of advocacy campaign in Osh has been developed by **Public Fund “Beam of Solomon”**.

The following tasks to promote bill have been set up at the training: to conduct the round tables, meetings with the population, press conferences and signature collection on bill promotion. As well as meetings with the Members of Parliament and lobbying of bill adoption in the form it has been developed. It was decided to conduct these actions in three stages; the first stage - information campaign, the second stage – signature collection and the third stage- lobbying of the bill through Members of Parliament Jogorku Kenesh KR.

Advocacy campaign has been conducted in Osh. Osh city is second capital of the Kyrgyz Republic. It is located in the center of south of Kyrgyzstan and of the southeastern part of Ferghana valley. People living here are more gods fearing than those that live in other regions of the Republic, while legal culture is at a very low level.

Actions on the bill promotion have started from attracting supporters.

In Osh office of OSCE a meeting with the representatives of southern region NGOs has been conducted with the participation of eight NGO leaders from Osh Oblast, two – from Jalalabat and two from Batken Oblast. Participants of these meetings familiarized themselves with the bill “On access to information possessed by the governmental bodies and local self-government bodies” and expressed their wish to participate in advocacy campaign to promote this bill. Participants got interested in this project and offered their services on the bill promotion in their regions.

Osh city is divided in 10 territorial councils; each council has about 9-10 community committees. The work has been conducted in each individual territorial council where signatures in the support of the given bill were collected as well.

In addition, meetings were organized in all organizations of Osh city: schools, legal advice offices, universities, as well as in all districts of Osh city and nongovernmental organizations. In the course of these meetings all participants got familiarized with the information on the given bill, with the key points and advantages of this law.

Information materials were demonstrated to the population; answers were given to the questions interesting to the citizens about the bill.

These meetings were attended by the representatives of mass media (for instance, “AKI-press Ferghana”), so, information on these meetings can be obtained at the *website “AKI-press Ferghana” on Internet*.

After the meetings with communities the meetings with assistances of Member of Parliament Mr. Abajaliev A. and Members of Parliament themselves – *Mr. Sabirov A. A., Mr. Mamasaidov M. T.* were conducted.

PF “Beam of Solomon” organized press conference in AKI-press Fergana about the monitoring of Pretrial Detention Center of Osh and Batken Oblasts, where they described the bill “On access to information possessed by the governmental bodies and local self-government bodies of KR” and information material has been disseminated.

Materials for Osh oblast newspaper “Echo of Osh” were prepared and published in Russian and for Oblast newspaper “Osh sadosy” in Uzbek covering main principles and mechanisms of this bill. The stories described the conducted round table meeting dedicated to the discussion of the bill and those, who participated in drafting it, the regional partners to refer to for obtaining additional information.

3.3.2 Osh Oblast.

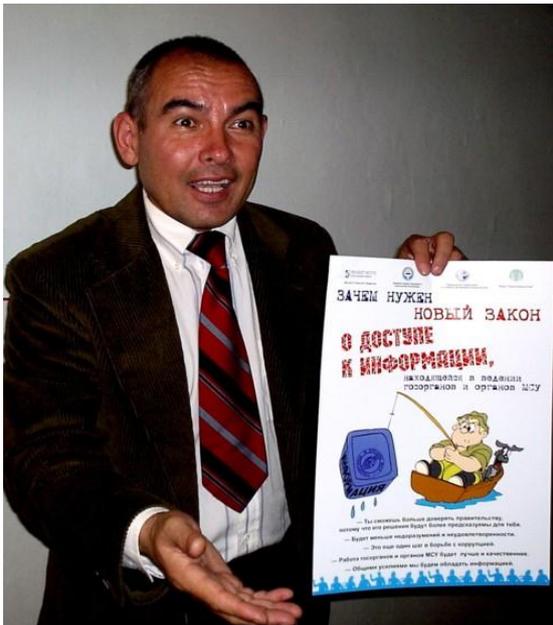
For the purpose of carrying out advocacy campaign and for informing about the bill and promoting it the NGO “Tashtar Ata” has selected key partners in the Oblast for carrying out the campaign in four Rayons:

Based on the results of telephone interview the main oblast partners were selected.

#	Rayon:	NGO:	Leader:
1	No’okat	“Ukuktuu Ayal”	Saparova Aizada
	No’okat	“Soop Kochu”	Osmonov Kurbanali
	No’okat	“Akyikat Shamy”	Abdrazakov Mukhtar
	No’okat	“Eco School”	Orunbaeva Aigul
2	Alai	Information Center	Abdullaeva Oktomkan
3	Uzgen	Information Center	Maatov Nurlan
4	Karakuldja	“Ene Jurogu”	Ismailova Toktoaiym

Access to information is one of the main principles of the development of democracy in Kyrgyzstan. At the present moment advocacy campaign has already been conducted at the national level on lobbying of the bill “On access to information possessed by the governmental bodies and local self-government bodies” to be adopted by the Parliament. One of the priority tasks of the NGOs is to contribute to the process of informing of the population and adoption of this bill.

*Leader of “Tashtar Ata” NGO,
Local project partner Yakub Joldoshov.*



Development of appeals...

In order to inform citizens and Members of Parliament 4000 copies of appeals to citizens and Members of Parliament were translated into Kyrgyz and printed, including 50 subscription sheets. In addition, handout materials were distributed (booklets, leaflets, posters, brochures).

Round tables with partners, meetings with NGOs, LSG and citizens were conducted...

Round tables with NGO leaders were conducted to make working plan and schedule of the campaigns:

There were two round tables in No'okat Rayon:

The first meeting was carried out with the participation of twelve NGOs: “Ukuktuu Ayal”, “Soop Kochu”, “Akyikat Shamy”, “Eco School”, «Aiyl Mektebi”, “Abshir Tiffani”, “Alakan Too”, “Gulmaidan”, “Chyndykgul”, “Meder+”, “Beshtal” and “Triumphator”. The NGO leaders took advocacy campaign with the inspiration, since the bill met their interests to provide transparency of LSG bodies’ activity.

Leader of “Ukuktuu Ayal” public foundation - Saparova Aizada:

“This is what NGOs and human rights organizations dream of. This law will provide transparency. Access to information for regular citizens in many neighboring countries is not possible. And we have a democracy and we support this bill with great enthusiasm and believe in its success”.

The second meeting with the representatives of LSGs. Participants – heads of six aiyl okmotu have discussed the ideas of the bill and mainly agree with it. They promised to support activity of the NGOs on bill promotion on their territories.

The head of the village Kenesh Abdykaar Ergeshov stated that: *“This bill is in line with the requirements. When people’s authorities demand and provide transparency of LSG – this is democracy. People are fed up with lies, dummy politics and double standards,*

when officials say one thing and do completely different thing. This bill contributes to the development of the rule of people and self-government”.

Meetings with the c representatives of NGOs and LSGs were conducted in Uzgen and Alay Rayons.

In addition, there was a visit to Uzgen Rayon to meet local partner – NGO “Information Center” (Maatov Nurlan), who organized round table with the representatives of six NGOs, which received information materials, subscription sheets, appeals to Member of Parliament and citizens.

Maatov Nurlan - *“We support the initiative on provision of the information, in this bill the roles and responsibilities of the process participants are described more accurately. No doubts, the bill will promote the democratic reforms”.*

Apart from NGOs, meeting with the representatives of village council Myrzake of Uzgen Rayon was conducted. The head of “Myrzake” aiyl okmotu – **Nurmamat Sulaimanov** took the new bill positively, although he didn’t like the provision where the information is not supposed to be given– *“We are obliged to provide information anyway, since it is our duty”.*

Opinion of some citizens about the new bill is given below.

Ergeshov Kanat – farmer from Uzgen town. *“At last a good law will start working that provides for enhancing the responsibility of officials who create difficulties for ordinary people who need various references.*

Dilbara Kaiypova – entrepreneur – *“There is nothing wrong, on the contrary, this is a good law, we need to support it”.*

Gulaiym Samatova – teacher – *“We don’t know anything about our budget, about trade union money, about many other documents concerning our work and life...That is why we need this law”.*

At Uzgen open market there was a spontaneous meeting with local people who received information materials. During the conversation with more than thirty citizens the idea of the new bill was explained to them.

Meeting with people from Salamalik, Dubitel, Kyzyl-Charba and Erkin-Too villages were conducted.



Meeting with people of Salamalik village:



A visit to Karakuldja Raion took place to meet local partner – NGO “Ene Jurogu” (Ismailova Toktaim), who organized meetings with the representatives of NGOs – members of their association. Participants received explanations with regard to the bill and campaign, information materials, subscription sheets, appeals to Member of Parliament and citizens. The opinion of local people has also been studied concerning the new bill.

Batyrov Kanybek – the head of Ylai Taala aiyl okmotu:

“The bill reflects a spirit of democracy; it will strengthen the citizens’ rights, increase our responsibility, and improve life of rural population”.

Mendibaeva Samara – social worker: *“The bill increases transparency regarding performance of LSG. That is why corruption decreases”.*

Karabaev Mamyt – taxi driver: *“I don’t know, I do not believe very much that something will be changed after passing of this law. Although the idea is good. I support it”.*

In No’okat Rayon at civil Forum on discussing of the form of administration information materials on the project were disseminated and the bill was described, its distinctions from the 1997law “On guarantees and freedom of access to information” .

In Alai rayon meeting with the local partner took place – NGO Information Center (Abdullaeva Oktomkan), which organized a round table with activists of civil society. After the conversation about campaign, about the bill, its main provisions and distinctions from the 1997law “On guarantees and freedom of access to information” they were given information materials, subscription sheets, appeal to Members of Parliament and citizens. Representatives of local NGOs have also supported the campaign. Below there are their comments:

Dodoev Shmyrza - leader of NGO “Uchdobo”:

“Rural citizens waste very much time to obtain the required information from local authorities. We never even dreamt that we would sit as observers at the meetings of the local authorities. Now we will. So, we need to support this bill!”

Abdyldaeva Doolotkan – leader of NGO “Saltanat”:

- *“This is very relevant problem. As NGO, we will train citizens to apply this law”.*

Participants of the meetings in village Kenesh (council) of No’okat Rayon:



In No’okat Rayon local NGOs conducted round tables with local people to discuss the new bill and collect signatures in No’okat town, Naiman, Ak-Bulak, Kuu-Maidan, Alashan, Kerege-Tash, Ak-Terek, Kurak Tektir, Shan-Kol, Kashkaldak, On eki moinok, Narai, On eki bel, and Shoron villages.

At these round tables people were informed about our bill, its key articles were read out; advantages of this bill were covered. All the round table participants were interested in the bill and expressed approval to its developers. They agreed to put their signatures in the subscription sheet to appeal to their Member of Parliament.

Meetings with the Members of Parliament JK KR:

In No’okat rayon meeting with the Member of Parliament JK KP from **51 electoral districts** Mr. Asamidin Maripov was carried out. Member of Parliament received detailed information on the project, handout materials within the presence of more than ten representatives of NGOs, activists and governmental structures representatives. Member of Parliament A. Maripov familiarized himself with the bill, with the information about the project and promised to support it. He received the letter of appeal from voters and copies of 1,020 signatures. His assistant Mr. Aidarov Zurdin as well as Akim of the Rayon Mr. Aliev Abdygany Tutdymamatovich, who also supported the bill, attended the meeting.

Meeting with the Member of Parliament JK KP from 51 electoral district of No’okat Rayon Mr. Asamidin Maripov and the leader of NGO “Tashtar Ata” – Yakub Joldoshev on discussing the bill and passing voters’ appeal with 1,020 signatures.



Several telephone conversations with the Member of Parliament from **53 electoral districts** - Mr. Ziyadin Jamaldinov were conducted: upon his request the letter of appeal and copies of 600 signatures were given to the Member of Parliament assistant Mr. Burkan Nyshanov.

Because of absence of the Member of Parliament in the district the letter of appeal and copies of 120 voters' signatures were passed to Member of Parliament Mr. Abdrakhman Abdullaev's assistant from **52 electoral district** Mr. Teshebaev Zakhidzhan, who promised to pass it to the Member of Parliament.

In Uzgen rayon - more than 100 signatures were collected for the Member of Parliament JK KR from **electoral district 37** Mr. Satybaldiev Jantoro and Mr. Ormonov Ulukbek from the electoral district 39. Appeals and signatures were passed through assistants Mr. Shaibekov Ismail and Mrs. Ormonova Kyzdarkan to the Members of Parliament.

In Alay Rayon - 1050 signatures were collected. Because of absence of the Member of Parliament in **44 electoral districts** Mr. Marat Sultanov – Speaker of Parliament, copies of collected signatures were transferred to Member of Parliament assistant Mr. Nuraliev Bekten, who promised to pass collected signatures and appeals to the Member of Parliament.

In Karakuldja rayon – 1050 voters' signatures were collected in **36 electoral districts** for the Member of Parliament JK KR Mr. Jeenbekov Sooronbai, which were passed to him personally by the leader of NGO “Ene Jurogu” - Mrs. Ismailova Toktoiym.

Problems during the information campaign:

Two aiyl okmotu in Uzgen Rayon opposed the campaign and didn't provide the opportunity to collect signatures on the territory of this LSG. Apparently, they had a problem with Members of Parliament from the given electoral district.

Although all of these problems were solvable and have not created serious obstacles to conduct information actions.

3.3.3 Batken Oblast

In the process of conducting information advocacy campaign to promote the bill “On access to information possessed by the governmental bodies and local self-government bodies” the following actions were conducted:

- The round table has been organized for the NGOs of **Leilek rayon** with the purpose to disseminate information about the bill and obtain support from their part, in order to involve them into volunteer activity on conducting advocacy campaign and collecting signatures in support of the bill. Sector of NGOs actively supported advocacy campaign; positive opinions regarding the bill were spelled out. According to them, adoption of this bill will serve a guarantee for further democratization of Kyrgyzstan.
- Meetings with the population of **Leilek Rayon**, including 10 aiyl okmotu and 47 villages were conducted. Out of them in 18 villages activists of UNDP/European Commission “Mitigation of transition period consequences in Ferghana valley” project are working, which were attracted as volunteers into conducting of advocacy campaign and signature collection. Volunteers of this project being more prepared to actions of this kind conducted a broad explanation work and signature collection for the benefit of this bill.
- Meetings with the population of **Batken Rayon** were conducted, including 10 aiyl okmotu and 45 villages, Out of them in 12 villages activists of UNDP/European Commission “Mitigation of transition period consequences in Ferghana valley” project are working, which were attracted as volunteers into conducting of advocacy campaign and signature collection. Meetings in 10 central villages of each aiyl okmotu: Bulak-bashy, Kara-Tokoi, Samarkandek, Aktatyr, Kyshtut, Buzhum, Kara- Bulak, Kan, Kyzyl-Bel, Chon-Talaa were conducted, majority of local rural citizens have negatively evaluated existing possibilities to access the information, and noted that the law is needed on condition that it works. But there are some representatives of local community who state that any law may be evaded regardless of any amendments, that it is possible for officials to find a loophole to justify their actions, but this is minority opinion.
- In addition, meetings with local people of Leilek Rayon in 5 central villages of each aiyl okmotu were conducted: Margun, Beshkent, Minjygach, Korgon, and Isfana. Majority of local people negatively assessed existing possibilities to obtain information, and noted that the law is required if it works.
- In the towns **Isfana and Sulyukta** the information and explanation work on the bill has been conducted by student-volunteers from local educational institutions on dissemination of posters, brochures at the most densely populated locations.
- The link with NGOs of Sulyukta town has been established, and in particular with the organization on protection of legal rights “Ubada”, which has been attracted as a volunteer to conduct explanation work and collect signatures in Sulyukta town, population of which amounts to some 25000 people. Citizens of the town told about available forms of access to information: these are mainly personal inquiries and telephone calls. But they think that it is necessary to widen forms of access to

information, meaning that it would be good to receive information bulletins about the performance of the governmental bodies.

Summing up the above, the activity and initiative of majority of the town citizens on improvement of the information provision and access to information about the activity of the governmental structures may be noted.

- Meetings with the population of **Jany-Jer village council of Leilek Rayon** were conducted, including 4 villages: Jashtyk, Dostyk, Central, Arka; local people took the new bill with interest, the views were expressed that if everything provided for in this law is exercised then they **support** passing of this law; in Jany-Jer aiyl okmotu actions took place on collection of signatures by attracting community leaders.
- Information and explanation works on the bill were undertaken with all visitors of the Information Center, working at the base of PF “Bilek”; visitors of this center are entrepreneurs, representatives of ethnic minorities, leaders of community-based organizations, students, which is evidence of diversity of the contingent visiting the given Center. Talking about their reaction, it should be noted that approach to this bill is similar, everybody support passing of this law, since all of them in this way, or another face the imperfection of existing law. Population believes that if the bill comes into force, it will be much simpler to obtain the required information saving time and energy being supported by clear procedures of provision of information.
- The link has been established with the information center of democracy (ICD) of **Kadamjai**, staff (volunteers) of which conducts explanation work in the villages of Kadamjai Rayon and collects signatures. They have noted that majority of the population took the information about the bill positively, although some part took this information with mistrust and refused to put their signatures in the lists.
- In **Batken, Kyzylkiya, Kadamjai** towns and in the villages of Batken, Kadamjai Rayons, a considerable work to disseminate brochures, posters at the most densely populated locations has been conducted by volunteers - students of local educational institutions; it should be noted that the volunteers played the biggest role in conducting of advocacy campaign.
- Meeting with the editor of local newspaper of Leilek Rayon “Ata-Jurt” took place; he noted that the information on key current decisions, official events is mainly provided by inquiries. In addition, information on assignments or resignation of the heads of administrative bodies as well as about changing of taxation rates is always provided. Which means this is the information and that the population will accept it as the accomplished fact, while the information concerning finance, such as: sources and volumes of investments, tax revenues, budget expenses as well as information linked to combating corruption and criminality may be obtained with great difficulties. This means that financial side of governmental bodies performance is the most non-transparent for the population, this violates the right of taxpayers to know where taxes are being spent, as well the right of the citizens to know how authorities form revenue and expenses parts of the country budget. The newspaper editor received brief information on the bill and regarding the beginning of advocacy campaign. The editor has noted that there is a private censorship in the rayon, which does not allow mass media publish materials on revenue and expenses of the governmental bodies, this leads to limitations on access to information for the citizens.

The article has been published in the local newspaper “Ata-Jurt” In Kyrgyz on the materials of the bill indicating key provisions obliging officials to annually submit reports. In the article it is stated that PA “Future without corruption-Transparency International –

Kyrgyzstan” under the support of Soros Foundation - Kyrgyzstan is the organizer of establishment of the working group consisting of civil society representatives, business sector, and governmental structures. Number of readers is about 12000 people; this is the only print in Leilek rayon. Staff of mass media, being people disseminating information and having great experience of working with it, are also agree with the opinion of majority that adoption of this law in unchanged and uncut form will provide a hope to extirpate corruption.

Information material has been published (prepared by the staff of PA “Future without corruption-Transparency International – Kyrgyzstan”) in city newspaper “Put Shakhtera” in Sulyukta town. The newspaper editor was informed on the material concerning the bill and agreed to publish them in the newspaper, which has the number of readers of about 12000 people. In addition, there is no other print in the town, citizens take all fresh news and discuss it, that means that this article will serve a great support in the dissemination an explanation of this bill.

The importance of access to information as a mean to reduce scale of corruption, environment protection and human rights, as well improvement of administration and democracy plays a big role for our society.

Meetings with the Members of Parliament of JK KR:

Negotiations were held with the representatives of the Members of Parliament: Mr. Shabdiev Askarbek – **electoral district #12**, Mr. Pazylov Ysak Pazylovich, who is Director General of organization for agrarian development of Leilek Rayon.

- **electoral district #13**, Mr. Juraev M., - Mr. Amiraev M., Chair of sports committee of Leilek Rayon;

- **electoral district #14**, Mr. Burkhanov Arzybek, - Mr. Isaev Makhmat - reviewer, Mr. Shukurov Kalbai – public assistant, they were presented detailed information on advocacy campaign on promotion of the bill, on the number of signatures collected in each electoral district;

Negotiations were held with the representatives of the Members of Parliament: - **electoral district #15**, Mr. Masakhaliyev Iskhak representatives – Mrs. Tashtanbekova Gulzara, Kadamjai rayon state administration.

- **electoral district #16**, Mr. Tagaev Aitbai – representatives Mr. Topchubaev Medet, they were presented detailed information on advocacy campaign on promotion of the bill, on the number of signatures collected in each electoral district;

- **in electoral district #17**, Member of Parliament Mr. Arkabaev Nooman, who received mandate of the Member of Parliament recently and any negotiations with him have not been conducted, but the explanation action were conducted, along with the collection of signatures. 807 signatures were collected in Kadamjai town.

More than 2800 signatures were collected in Batken Oblast, which makes up about 8% of the population and even more.

It also should be noted that citizens of the cities and villages are different in terms of their requirements and attitude to authorities, i.e. to local self-government and governmental bodies. Thus, urban citizens are interested in obtaining the information and getting answer to the needed question in various governmental institutions. Urban citizens have noted that, as a rule, such institutions as health care facilities provide the required information at good level, while such agencies as tax inspectorate and police practically do not provide the

information. Majority of the rural citizens communicate at the level of local self-government and receive answers on their questions though not always the full ones. Most often, according to citizens applying for information obtaining of the information is linked with official circumlocution as well as the lack of tact on the part of public servants.

Explanation and information actions were conducted successfully; there were no extraordinary cases. Population takes this advocacy campaign as one of the positive steps towards strengthening of rights and freedoms of citizens. At the moment nobody will put his/her signature on paper just for nothing, explanation work was mandatory with regard to the fact that volunteer signature of every individual who wants to support the bill is important.

According to rural and urban citizens it is necessary to pass the bill. Then it will be fewer obstacles and misunderstandings while obtaining of the required information, since all the procedures, responsibilities and time frames of the information provision are stipulated in this bill very well, which, of course, will allow people to feel their importance. The representatives of governmental bodies and LSG bodies should be maximum open before their countrymen. Efficiency, openness, accuracy in performing the law on the part of the governmental bodies and LSG bodies will give the population hope for better future. When the governmental bodies and the people stay on one side, not like now on different sides of barricade, when people want to obtain reliable and accurate information on revenue, on how taxpayers' funds are spent. While governmental bodies try not to reveal financial indicators, and as a result the negative attitude of the population towards governmental bodies and LSG organs is formed. Adoption of this law will serve as one more stage to promote democracy in Kyrgyzstan, which means openness, accessibility, and vote of each citizen.

3.3.4 Issyk-Kul Oblast

Plan of the information campaign has been prepared to conduct advocacy campaign for project implementation “Mechanism of citizens’ rights implementation for access to information”:

- At initial stage the list of volunteers has been determined from the number of members of PF “DANKO” and students of Balykchy social – economic institute, with which the explanation workshop has been conducted on advocacy campaign. As a result, a team of 10 members has been formed; they became staunch supporters as single mobile and competent in advocacy campaign group, together with whom the entire Issyk-Kul region has been covered.
- Working meetings with Oblast partners in the person of nongovernmental organization of the region that supported the work on information campaign were conducted. The list of NGOs partners as well as influential persons of the local community has been compiled, (aksakals, religious figures, veterans), who didn't collect signatures, but had positive influence on the people in promoting the information campaign.
- Negotiations with the information Centers on support of democracy in **Balykchy, Karakol, and Tyup** were conducted. NGOs, PA “ACCENT-Tyup”, **Teacher’s union – Bokonbaevo, Balykchy office of the Red Cross, PA “Ventus” - Karakol**, which worked with the counterpart that was against our bill, - in this region it has been PA “Shoola Kol”- Bokonbaevo – had to conduct personal meetings to explain tasks and

objectives of this advocacy campaign, and, as a result, several of such NGOs helped us to collect signatures and assisted our volunteers in conducting advocacy campaign.

- In the course of the information campaign the City Kenesh Chair Mrs. Sharipova, vice-mayor Mrs. Mederkulova T. J., Mr. Algojoev B. K. were familiarized with the purpose of work. Meetings were conducted in Orto-Tokoi aiyl okmotu, Kok – Moinok aiyl okmotu, where the heads of aiyl okmotu Mr. Kutmanov B. and Mr. Abdykadyrov K. were one of the first to support the bill and called to do so local population, as well as wrote letters appeals to the Member of Parliament from the given electoral districts; these letters were later presented to the people and aiyl okmotu and this was one of the arguments to search our supporters.

Meetings with the Members of Parliament Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic:

The list of Members of Parliament of the region indicating numbers of electoral districts has been prepared with the help of district election committees. After the preparation of this list of contacts started to be established with close circle of Members of Parliament, as a result, contacts were established with assistants of Member of Parliament Mr. Urmanaev S. I., Ak-Suu Rayon and the secretary of the Member of Parliament Mr. Isabekov K. S. Jety-Oguz Rayon.

Contacts were established with assistant of the Member of Parliament on Karakol Mr. Alymbekov E. J., who is at the same time vice speaker of JK, Mr. Duulatov E. I. Negotiations were conducted on Ton district with the leader of PA “Kelechek Dooru” Mrs. Jailobaeva A. and the deputy of Ton a/okmotu, religious figure (moldo) Mr. Akhmatkerimov T. A.

Contacts were established with the Members of Parliament on Tyup district Mr. Japarov S. N. and Issyk-Kul district Mr. Kereksizov T. K. in order to pass letters appeals and subscription sheets with appeals to support the bill.

The form of subscription sheets with appeal has been prepared in Kyrgyz and Russian languages; signatures began to be collected in Balykchy, nearby villages and in Tyup Rayon. Collection of signatures has been conducted strictly in accordance with the electoral districts to make it convenient to pass them to the Member of Parliament; more than 3197 signatures in support of the bill were collected in Oblast.



Signatures with appeal with previous explanation of the bill's idea were collected at the locations with many people (markets, route taxi, health care facilities, village FAPs, shops, hospitals, educational institutions, parking lots, labor exchange...).



Personal meetings with local people were one of the most effective methods of advocacy campaign; they gave the opportunity to clearly explain the idea of the information campaign and to know citizens' opinion on this matter – trips over the entire Issyk-Kul region were undertaken with this purpose.

Meetings with the heads of village boards **Kok – Moinok, Ak-Olen** were conducted attended by more than 120 people. Explanation work on the bill has been conducted; regular rural citizens took it positively; we had to argue with the heads, since, according to them,

why we should inform everybody on governance of the village. They were also skeptical about the statement that if they are transparent in their actions being the heads of the village boards, citizens will trust them and elect them for the next terms for the same position.

Civil forum has been conducted dedicated to the topic: “In which administrative system Kyrgyzstan citizens want to live” with the participation of Balykchy, Karakol, and nearby villages Sary-Kamysh, Toru-Aigyr, Kok – Moinok, Ak-Olen, Orto-Tokoi, Kara-Shaar, Kara-Talaa, Kara-Koo, Bar-Bulak, Bokonbaevo citizens, total 214 people, where along with the other matters the matter of the bill has been discussed. According to majority of forum participants, this bill is needed, the only concern is – whether or not it will work for the benefit of regular people, or it will stay on paper. Assistance has been offered on the part of some citizens on establishing of contacts with the Members of Parliament on our region, and in particular:

- Mrs. Asanalieva Rimma; Mr. Akmatkerimov Tilemish (as the deputy of Ton aiyl okmotu, on Mr. A. Maliev’s district); Mrs. Jailobaeva Atyr (NGO leader from Kara-Koo village).

The representatives of mass media “ISSYK-Kol kabarlary”; Oblast TV attended the event.

Personal meetings with the leaders of public associations as well as religious organizations, with large number of regular citizens were held; the objective of this advocacy campaign has been explained. As a result the head of Ton village mosque Mr. Akmatkerimov T. A., who at the same time is a deputy of aiyl okmotu, supported the bill and wrote the letter of appeal to the Member of Parliament Mr. Maliev A.; NGOs of Ton Rayon provided assistance in collection of signatures, there were **PA “Kut Bilim”, PA “Kelechek Dooru”, PA “Mol Bulak Suu”, PA “El Too”** and signed appeal to their Member of Parliament requesting to support the bill upon its consideration in the parliament with its key principles different from the previous bill.

Regional newspaper “Time” published articles in Kyrgyz and in Russian. Some articles stated that according to the developed bill the rights of citizens to obtain the information were broadened. The interview has been conducted with the Issyk-Kul TV. This bill has also been emphasized at the forum dedicated to the topic “What system of administration Kyrgyzstan citizens would like to live with”. In the course of the information campaign personal inquiry and obstacles that are being faced upon obtaining the information from the governmental bodies were given as an example. ***Namely: How much money is collected at the ecological post at the entrance to Balykchy? Where these funds are spent and how much money stays in the city?***



Application and dissemination of the information material - colorful booklets, bright posters with brief description of the main idea of the campaign with accessible and brief appeal to citizens in two languages – Kyrgyz and Russian was one of effective working methods in the region. This support of the information campaign allowed citizens to know history, objectives of this advocacy campaign and allowed the opportunity to confidently and visually explain to the citizens how the situation will be changed after adoption of this bill.

Meeting in JK with assistant of the Member of Parliament on Issyk-Kul electoral district Mr. Kereksizov T. K. Mr. Sanjirov Nurlan Ishmbekovich has been conducted, who received subscription sheets of their voters, as well as explanations on the bill.



Meeting with the consultant of the Member of Parliament on Jety-Oguz electoral district Mr. Isabekov K. S. *Mrs. Elnura Sulaimanova* has been held; she has also been supplied with all the materials on bill: copies of subscription sheets and letters appeals from district voters.

Meeting with the secretary Ms. Jyldyuz of the Member of Parliament on Tyup electoral district *Mr. Japarov S. N.* has been conducted; because assistant Mr. Erkin Bayamanov was absent, the meeting took place neither with the Member of Parliament, nor with his assistant. All documents on the information campaign were passed to the secretary.

Meeting with the Member of Parliament Mr. Maliev A. K. on Ton electoral district has been held; he familiarized himself with the text of the bill and supported it in general.



Meeting has also been held with the Member of Parliament on Karakol electoral district *Mr. Alymbekov E. J.* and his assistant *Mr. Duulatov E. I.*; copies of voters' subscription sheets as well as letters-appeals were submitted.

Meeting with assistant of the Member of Parliament Mr. Urmanaev S. I. *Mrs. Madanbekova Lira Orunkekovna* has also been held; copies of subscription sheets and letters-appeals were submitted.

The most often asked questions during the information campaign for the entire period:

- What is this action conducted for?
- Will this bill be working in the case of its adoption?
- Will the situation with provision of the information be changed on condition of adoption of the bill, or as always the laws will be working for the benefit of the mighty of this world?
- Stay on paper as previous laws?
- Who needs adoption of this law – poor or rich?

Problems during the information campaign:

- In Ak-Suu and Issyk-Kul, Tyup electoral districts many citizens, who the explanation work has been conducted with, refused to indicate concrete addresses motivating that they do not want to be disturbed, meaning there were concerns and uncertainty in their security.
- Skeptical attitude of governmental officials and their fear to submit letters-appeals in support of the bill, despite of the arguments that transparency of their activity will enhance trust of regular citizens to them.

3.3.5 Naryn Oblast

“Future without corruption – Transparency International – Kyrgyzstan” together with PA “Naryn agency of educational projects” have conducted a series of actions within the frame of “Mechanism of citizens’ rights implementation for access to information” project:

- Information materials were prepared together with partners of Public Association.
- The working group has been created.
- Information materials were introduced.
- Action plan has been developed.
- Local mass media were referred: newspaper “Tenir – Too”, TV studio “Shankai”, radio “Almaz”.
- Volunteers were attracted to the campaign.
- The meeting of the Members of Parliament with the representative of advocacy campaign Munira Kalieva has been organized.

During the meetings with local population the information about this bill has been given. In this view information meeting has been held in Naryn. Participants of these meetings familiarized with the information materials developed by the organization “*Future without corruption - Transparency International – Kyrgyzstan*”. Such organizations as: **PAO “Naryn agency of educational projects”, “New Name”, PA “Kyz-Aiym”, PA “JAKO”, “AZZAM”** attended the meeting as well as many others.

In addition, meeting with the youth of Naryn has also been conducted. Students of Naryn State University, along with the students of Naryn Pedagogical College participated in the meeting. Participants of this meeting were interested in such matters as:

- Whether or not older generation is interested in this bill?
- What is the reaction of the Members of Parliament for this initiative?
- Would it be possible with the help of this bill to participate at the meetings of local Kehesh?

As a result, participants of these meetings have come up to a conclusion that youth is the most vulnerable, but at the same time the most progressive part of the population. Namely youth should refer to this bill addressing their problems. Dissatisfaction of youth is often based on the obsolete mentality that requires non-interference of the young generation into the affairs of *older ones* and obligation to obey the *decisions of Aksakals*. The consequence of such approach is a discord between older generation and youth.

According to our observations, the reaction of rural population on this bill is much more positive than the one of rayon centers citizens. Remoteness from rayon centers and information vacuum, forming in the remote areas, lead to lack of information space in the rural area. Thus, it may be noted that *rural citizens, and in particular citizens of Baetovo, Ak-Kara, Byurgon villages of Ak-Taala Rayon* gave positive evaluation to the bill.

Information meetings have also been held in the villages Dobolyu, At-Bashi.

One of the priorities to select these villages was small number of population, in comparison with the population of rayon centers. The priority side of these meetings was: interactive communication and an opportunity to obtain additional information. These meetings promoted informing of the population about this bill. Three main questions were asked:

- What are obstacles in the procedures to obtain information of governmental bodies and LSG bodies?
- Is there a requirement to obtain the information?
- What is the advantage and what are benefits in the process of obtaining the information?

Various answers were given to these questions in the course of the meetings. For comparison, if rural citizens, for instance from the *village Dobilyu*, have unanimously stated that the Law is required and demanded, as well as promotes transparency of LSG bodies and governmental bodies, then in Naryn some participants expressed opinions *that this Law may stay on paper. Since legal culture of citizen is still very low*. During the meetings with the deputies of city and rayon Kenesh in Naryn the opinion has been spelled out that *this Law in the case of its adoption will be usual sinecure for the "Wreckers", who will every now and then burst into the offices of public servants and require needles, but free information*.

Among obstacles to obtain the information participants of these meetings listed the following:

- *untimely obtaining of the information due to remoteness of the regions (participants of these meetings considered any information, including regular news);*
- *interest of LSG bodies and governmental bodies to hide certain information;*

- *corruption,*
- *abuse of power;*
- *inability of people to protect their interests.*

In the course of information meetings the audience has been asked the following question: *What is the advantage of obtaining the information?*

The following answers were given to this question:

- *saving resources and funds of the state, as well as its rational use by the citizens;*
- *possibility to provide openness and transparency in the society;*
- *obtaining of reliable and accurate information;*
- *citizens' participation in the decision-making;*
- *increase of competence and awareness of civil servants and employees of LSG bodies;*
- *enhancing of ethics level with civil servants.*

In addition, opinions were expressed that the criterion of remoteness of authorities from people were elections to JK, conducted in 2005. *“If the given bill had come into force at that time, the authorities would have conducted its activity together with the people and for the people. Because when officials do not go out of their offices they can not understand what kind of problems people have”.*

Meeting with community committees and deputies of city Kenesh has been organized. Participants of the meetings actively reacted at the information presented to them. Almost all the representatives of community committees supported the proposal to facilitate the process of informing the population about this bill. In the course of these meetings *problems* were indicated that could have been solved within the frame of this project: *non-transparency of budget, lack of feedback with the deputies of local Kenesh, lack of civil activity in addressing corruption issues and so on.* It is necessary to involve the population in solving issues on budget distribution in Kyrgyzstan; such changes will play an important role in the near future.

In addition, information meeting has been held with the citizens of *Kochkor village.* Representatives of ARIS program, bank employees, and entrepreneurs attended the meeting.

Such issues as the ones given below were discussed:

- Transparency in the activity of governmental bodies,
- Procedures of the information dissemination,
- Levels of *non-official information* dissemination.

The issue concerning influence of *non-official information* on civil population was of particular interest. Distorted information obtained from non-official sources, according to the participants of this meeting, is the reason for destabilization and mistrust to any form of relations between the society and authorities. We tried to define the boundary between the

information obtained from *first primary sources* and the information obtained from *non-official sources*.

Thus, we have come up to a conclusion that *it is necessary for civil population to actively participate in the process of state development, carry on propaganda for the adoption of this law, which in future would enable openness and transparency of the governmental bodies, as well as would set up bilateral relations between the society and authorities.*

Meetings with the Members of Parliament JK KR:

- Assistant of Member of Parliament *Mr. Samakov Karganbek* – Mr. Sariev Alikbai took the information positively and proposed cooperation in the process of lobbying. He expressed assurance that *Mr. Samakov Karganbek* will be able to lobby passing of this bill among his colleagues, and this is at least 35 Members of Parliament.
- Member of Parliament *Mr. Salymbekov Askar* took the given bill positively and answered all needed questions.

A selection criterion for these particular Members of Parliament was their influence in the Parliament. In addition, *“Future without corruption – Transparency International – Kyrgyzstan”* has implemented signature collection in support of the bill in electoral districts of these particular Members of Parliament.

It has been collected:

- 1210 signatures in the district # 33 Member of Parliament *Mr. Samakov Karganbek Sydykovich*;
- 396 signatures in the district # 32 Member of Parliament *Mr. Salymbekov Askar Maatkabylovich*.

Total: 1606 signatures in support of this bill.

3.3.6 Talas Oblast

Within the frame of advocacy campaign working meetings were held with NGOs “Lady-Shirin” (Shabdanbekova K.), “Ayan” (Jumabekova T.), “Ak-Zyinat” (Usenova A.), “Umut” (Omurbekova A.), “Sezim tolkundary” (Sulaimanova A.), Coalition of NGOs “For the democracy and civil society” (Momuntaeva A.).

All NGOs were informed on tasks and objectives of the project. All the NGO representatives took the project with understanding and offered their assistance and cooperation. Partner relations were established with these NGOs.

Meeting with editor of oblast newspaper “Talas Turmushu” Mr. Imankulov K. has been conducted. “Talas Turmushu” newspaper has published information on the bill; material has been taken from leaflets developed by PA *“Future without corruption - Transparency International – Kyrgyzstan”*.

Meetings with the students of Talas state university, medical college, agricultural college were conducted.

The main purpose of these meetings was to inform students about the bill, about its tasks and objectives. This age category doesn't experience acute need for the information of the governmental bodies.

Meeting with the Chair of Talas oblast election committee Mr. J. Jusupbekov has been held to obtain data on the number of voters in Talas Oblast, and clarify numbers of electoral districts.

Visits were made to the villages of **Bakai-Ata Rayon**, Bakai-Ata and Ak-Dobo villages. Meetings with the local community leaders and village activists, teachers and doctors were conducted. Task and objective of the project were explained, leaflets and booklets were disseminated, signatures collected.

Population has especially been interested in the matter of *which particular information they will be able to obtain from LSG bodies? Will they have access to the information on land distribution for agricultural use? On taxes? On benefits and allowances?*

Meeting with mayor of Talas Mr. Tursunkulov E. has been conducted. Posters and leaflets were distributed at the weekly meeting with the participation of heads of organizations and institutions of Talas city requesting to support the bill. Mayor of Talas Mr. Tursunkulov E. thinks that the law is relevant for our country and that the citizens have a right for access to information about governmental bodies, but up to reasonable extent. For the question: *"What are the limits?"* he has answered: *"For instance, citizens cannot interfere into the work of mayor's office, I won't let anyone"*. Then mayor Tursunkulov said that he needed to more detailed familiarize with the bill, and he was given one copy of the draft.

Meeting with akim of Bakai-Ata Rayon Mr. Satymkulov K. has been organized. At this meeting akim got acquainted with the new bill, its main objective and tasks. During the conversation akim has expressed an opinion that the population won't be able to correctly use the law on access to information from the governmental bodies, because not all types of the information may be accessible. Even after the adoption of the new law "On access to information possessed by the governmental bodies", a citizen supported by the Law will not always be able to obtain the required information. On the question: *"Do you support the new bill?"* akim answered: *"I need to thoroughly familiarize myself with the draft and think"*.

Collection of signatures has been conducted in **Manas Rayon** in Pokrovka village, Balasaruu village. In **Karabuura Rayon**, Kyzyl-Adyr, Suulu-Maimak villages. Rural citizens mainly were interested in what kind of benefit they will be able to receive from this law.

The working group has participated in public hearings on the development of Jerui and Andash deposits in Talas Oblast with the trips to villages of Talas Rayon - Kopro-Bazar, Karaoi villages. Information meeting on bill for access to information of governmental bodies and LSG bodies has been conducted together with NDI (Izbasarova G.) and Coalition of NGOs "For the democracy and civil society" (Momuntaeva A.). Citizens of Kopro-Bazar village experience acute need in the information from the governmental bodies, since they were out on meetings against the development of gold deposits Andash, and didn't have full information on how to compile official inquiries.

We managed to meet the head of ayyl okmotu "Besh-Tash" Mr. Baitikov K. He thinks that the law "On access to information possessed by the governmental bodies" is needed not only by the citizens, but also by LSG bodies. The head of ayyl-okmotu has said: *"We are not always able to obtain the information from the governmental bodies. We should*

send official inquires in governmental bodies, but not always receive the answers. It means that citizens are also not able to obtain full information”.

Trip to the villages of Talas Rayon: Kum-Aryk, Kyrk-Kazyk, Tash-Aryk, Jon-Aryk, Kok-Tokoi, Kozuchak, Arashan, Kok-Oi and villages of Bakai-Ata Rayon (Ken-Aral, Tyito) has been undertaken to inform population about the new bill and to collect signatures. We couldn't meet heads of LSG; many of them were not present at their offices being busy with supplying combustive and lubricating materials for sowing campaign.

Population mainly approves the bill, thinking that it is necessary at the moment that the population had access to information.

In Talas regional peaceful meeting “For law and order” took place. Major part of the meeting participants were workers of Andash and Djerui deposits. The meeting has been organized by Members of Parliament Mr. Tekebaev O., Mr. Sherniyazov B.

Major part of Talas city citizens showed up at the meeting; they supported speakers. It has been told at the meeting that the population doesn't have the information about governmental bodies, cannot control activity of the government and governmental bodies.

Participants of the meeting have received booklets and information bulletins about the new bill “On access to information possessed by the governmental bodies and LSG bodies”.

Meetings with the teachers and doctors of Talas were conducted; collection of signatures in support of the bill continued.

Civil servants had special attitude to the bill. Leaders of organizations and institutions using various excuses refused to support the bill. But, at the same time, they didn't thrust their opinions on subordinates.

We had the opportunity to present the new bill at the workshop on combating corruption situation analysis, conducted by CSSC “Aikol” together with the regional representative of OSCE and tell about its topicality and timeliness. All the participants of the workshop received booklets on the bill “On access to information possessed by governmental bodies and LSG bodies”.

Meetings with the Members of Parliament JK KR:

Meeting with the representatives of the Member of Parliament JK Mr. Sherniyazov B., Mr. Dooronbekov A. took place. At the same day meeting with the Member of Parliamentom JK Mr. Imanaliev J. has been held.

During advocacy campaign the opinion was developed that taking into account lack of transparency in the activity of the governmental bodies and established practice to introduce new and new bans to issue certain information, (which is set up by correspondent departmental normative acts), it would be reasonable to initiate passing of the bill at the initial stage through Jogorku Kenesh that would oblige governmental bodies (excepting national security) to employ extra staff to arrange work with people on their inquiries for the information.

Some expressions and wishes regarding the bill on access to information are given below:

- Citizens of the town very often asked the question: “Which particular governmental bodies may and should provide the information”. There were proposals to more accurately indicate it in the law: which particular governmental bodies are obliged to provide information, since rural citizens often have to ask information from LSG bodies, and urban citizens do not know in which governmental bodies they have a right to obtain the information.

- Proposed in article 2 of the law to give the definition of the term “governmental bodies”, in the meaning to particularly name organizations that are obliged to provide information.

- In Pokrovka village of Manas Rayon aksakal has told that Kyrgyz have a saying: “The one who possesses information is rich, the one who doesn’t is poor”.

- Local community approves the article “on the information about the meetings of LSG”, as well as the fact that the information is provided for free.

- Why do we need one more law that won’t be working?

- It is not known whether or not Members of Parliament adopt this law.

But, it has been explained to the citizens that passing of this law will depend on their activity, on each vote, while collected signatures will be the mean to influence Members of Parliament in order to adopt this law.

Problems during the information campaign:

The only difficulty of the information campaign was spring field works that have started. Due to this it was difficult to catch some heads of aiyl okmotu at their working place, not all rural citizens could participate in the meetings. In this view we asked listeners to deliver the information about the new law to their neighbors, relatives and acquaintances.

3.3.7 Jalalabad Oblast

Within the frame of project implementation “Mechanisms of citizens’ rights implementation on access to information” some organization work has been conducted in Jalalabat Oblast.

Meeting with volunteers and leaders of NDI “National democratic institute on development of democracy”, “Coalition for the democracy and civil society”, PF “Development of the young citizens” and Public human rights foundation “Abad” has been conducted, where issues on conducting of advocacy campaign and effective organization of signature collection were discussed.

Meetings with the NGO and mass media representatives took place according to the action plan. The representatives of “Radio azattyk”, newspaper “Akyikat” and Jalalabat representative of “Aki-press” have expressed readiness to cover the course of this activity on the project. In addition, the representatives of NDI “National democratic institute on the development of democracy”, “Coalition for the democracy and civil society”, PF “Development of the young citizens” and Public human rights foundation “Abad” have expressed readiness to cooperate with us in lobbying of this bill.

Training and briefing of volunteers, who implemented signature collection campaign in close to Jalalabat electoral district #30; #29; #31; partially # 27, were conducted.



Meetings with the representatives of press were conducted, booklets were distributed and it has been briefly told about the campaign objective. Proposals about conducting of press conference were made.

Having organized signature collection in all districts we have started monitoring of the process and quality of signature collection. We faced another problem in the course of monitoring and meetings with voters – namely mistrust of voters to their Members of Parliament. In this view, they refused to put their signatures in the lists. In addition, there were those, who not only refused to participate in lobbying of the bill based on religious beliefs, but also who called others to neutral position, i.e. to refuse to support the bill.

Monitoring of signature collection quality has been conducted in Jalalabat electoral district # 30, Member of Parliament Mr. K. Batyrov.



Topicality of this campaign for budget transparency has been explained and grounded for making all further decisions, which as a consequence, will enhance trust of people to the authorities and reduce tension in the society linked to current mistrust to the authorities. As a result, people were persuaded that this bill in future may serve effective instrument of direct participation of people in the life of each public administration body and in the life of the entire country. Many participants of the meetings expressed their opinion for the necessity to support this bill and conduct this campaign.



Meeting with activists and the representatives of Jalalabat NGOs has been conducted. Issues concerning quality of the campaign to lobby the bill were discussed; where all 12 participants took the responsibility to conduct local discussions in order to explain objectives of advocacy campaign.



Meeting with activists and the representatives of Jalalabat NGOs has been conducted, where along with other issues; the matter of lobbying of this bill has been discussed. Such methods of lobbying were proposed as fax messages, telephone calls to Members of Parliament, telegrams, and of course, active involvement of mass media, which will obtain promises to support this bill from the Members of Parliament during the interview. Here, as participants have noted, voters' signatures that were collected will play their role.

We also managed to meet executive secretary of Suzak rayon state administration. He, as former active oppositionist, has supported the given initiative right away and initiated the work on informing the leadership of all aiyl okmotu, to make them, in turn, facilitates effective conducting of the campaign.

Meeting with the representatives of mass media has been held, where information about the project has been provided, leaflets developed by PA "Future without corruption - Transparency International – Kyrgyzstan" were disseminated to be published in print.

Meetings with Members of Parliament JK KR

We managed to meet assistant of the Member of Parliament on **electoral district # 30** Mr. Batyrov K. Meeting with proxy and with the member of Parliament himself on Jalalabat **electoral district #30** with regard to lobbying the bill has shown the following: since the Member of Parliament has been informed about the advocacy campaign, he, first of all, has been interested in the bill. In addition, he has informed that the idea is not bad, however, without getting familiarized with the bill and without consulting with the experts

he cannot answer this question. But in general he has confirmed his participation in lobbying of this bill.

The same day we have managed to meet assistant of the Member of Parliament *Mr. A. Khakimov*, who had to inform the Member of Parliament about that. Meeting with some activists of the Member of Parliament A. Khakimov's district has shown that people are interested in passing of this bill in Jogorku Kenesh.

A visit to Bazarkurgan Rayon took place in order to monitor signature collection. These were Suzak, Bazarkurgan **electoral district # 27**, Member of Parliament Mr. J. K. Khakimov and Bazarkurgan, Akman **electoral district # 26**, Member of Parliament Mr. Tekebaev O. C.

Meeting with press secretary of Bazarkurgan Rayon state administration has been conducted. After the presentation and discussion of the campaign objective, although he already knew about this campaign, press secretary, in turn, took the responsibility to inform the leadership of the rayon and the leaders of ail kenesh (councils) of Bazarkurgan Rayon, to make them, in turn, facilitate local discussions and lobbying of this bill.

Unfortunately, we didn't have a chance to meet proxy of the Member of Parliament Mr. Tekebaev O. Nevertheless, a partner on Bazarkorgon Rayon, the leader of human rights organization "Air" took the responsibility to meet the Member of Parliament representative and, if possible, Mr. Tekebaev himself.

Bazarkurgan electoral **district # 25**, Member of Parliament JK KR Mr. Nyshanov F. While collecting signatures, despite of the fact that three districts are crossed in this rayon, volunteers clearly knew boundaries of their districts.

Nookan electoral **district # 24**, Member of Parliament JK KR Mr. Sadyrbaev, has been visited to monitor signature collection.

Meeting with activists of Kochkorata town. Nookan rayon has shown that they are sure that this bill is relevant, and that they will lobby it when Mr. S. Sadyrbaev comes. The most important thing is that they have expressed assurance that their Member of Parliament will make great efforts to provide passing of this law in Jogorku Kenesh.

Upon previous agreement the meeting with the Member of Parliament Batyrov K. took place. During the conversation with him we had to refer to his election program that included combating corruption and tell that the bill was aimed at reduction of this problem that became TRADITION in Kyrgyzstan. After the presentation and answers to his questions he agreed to participate in lobbying of this bill. In addition, the Member of Parliament has assured us that upon receiving of the bill he will direct it to correspondent committee of JK KR and make all the required efforts to consider and adopt this bill by the parliament.

According to the plan of actions we visited Suzak – Kugart electoral **district # 31**, member of Parliament Tagaev R.

Meeting with activists has shown their interest in adoption of this bill. At that, the proposals were made to initiate the bill allowing controlling activity of militia by the public. As it turned out, there are too many people unsatisfied with the work of internal affairs departments.

Meeting in Suzak - Kyzyltuu electoral **district # 28** of the Member of Parliament JK KR Mr. Torobaev E. has been conducted. There were nobody in the staff of the Member of Parliament, but there appeared competent persons, who took the responsibility to transfer our contacts to the assistance of the Member of Parliament.

3.3.8 Chui Oblast and Bishkek

“Future without corruption - Transparency International - Kyrgyzstan” staff has made the following work:

- Information materials were disseminated in all oblasts of the country. Such documents as brochure on the background of the bill, subscription sheets, appeal to the population, appeal to the Members of Parliament, articles to be published in the regional mass media, as well as booklets, leaflets, posters in two languages were included in these materials.

The total number of collected signatures in the support of this bill has been determined for all oblasts. Number of signatures has been calculated coming from the number of the population that has a right to vote in each Oblast of the country.

*Total number of signatures collected in the course of advocacy campaign on the promotion of the bill “On access to information possessed by the governmental bodies and bodies of local self-government of the Kyrgyz Republic” **made up more than thirty thousand all over the country.***

In addition, meetings with the leading higher educational institutions of our country were conducted. At these meetings students have known about the background of the bill, as well as about the purpose and importance of this bill for our country. Information materials were disseminated among students.

It is worth noting that the leadership of such higher education institutions as KNU — Kyrgyz National University named by J. Balasagyn, KRSU — Kyrgyz-Russian Slavic University named by B. Eltsin and many others in the person of deans and heads of departments were pretty much interested about this bill, noting its importance and timeliness for further democratization of the society. It has also been noted that this bill would play an important role in professional formation of students.

Students have prepared and published the article “*Students in the law*” in the newspaper “*Moscow komsomolets*” about the course of this bill implementation.

“*Future without corruption - Transparency International - Kyrgyzstan*” staff actively cooperated with nongovernmental organizations working in Chui Oblast and in Bishkek.

Considerable support has been provided by such NGOs as: “**Women Can Do Everything!**” (Chui office) and **resource center NDI** (Kara-Balta).

“*Future without corruption - Transparency International - Kyrgyzstan*” staff visited cities of Chui Oblast, such as: Tokmak, Kara-Balta, Sokuluk in order to conduct information campaign within the frame of this project.

Regional reports sent by coordinators were analyzed by the staff of “*Future without corruption - Transparency International – Kyrgyzstan*”. Based on these reports further work in the regions has been coordinated.

Detailed information on this bill has been published at the website www.transparency.kg:

- results of social survey;
- texts of this bill;
- background of the bill;
- recommendations and proposals for the bill;
- samples of information materials (booklets, leaflets, posters).

Comments and proposals of the population concerning this bill were received at this website.

4. Conclusion

At the moment *access to information* is one of the most important resources of any society.

In modern society *a citizen* should be considered not as a “controlled” one, but rather as some kind of a “*partner*” for governmental establishments. The status of somebody “under wardship” or a “petitioner” should be transformed into the status of a “*consumer exercising the rights by means of services, provided to him/her by the government*”. *Information* is one of such services.

In terms of widening of the citizens’ rights for access to information the administrative system itself is being changed, since strengthening of the given public system is taking place. Citizens will be more informed on political issues and will be able to directly participate in it. Citizens will obtain the real possibility to contribute to the process of political course development. Such cooperation leads to more fruitful results. Government will become more open; there will be more trust to these structures among civil population. Strengthening of the relations between the *government* and *civil population* broadens the basis for more active *civil position*.

The law “*On guarantees and freedom of access to information*” was passed on December 5, 1997. However, only general points were indicated in this law. It should be noted that the law has a declarative nature; total volume of this law is 1.5 pages. The necessity to reform the law “*On guarantees and freedom of access to information*” is connected to the fact that:

- Citizens of the Kyrgyz Republic did not have the possibility to obtain certain information about governmental bodies and LSG bodies;
- Transfer to democracy is linked to forming norms and values, inherent to modern civilized state, while access to information is one of the basic norms.

The new bill “On access to information possessed by the governmental bodies and local self-government bodies” promotes increasing of transparency of higher and regional administration bodies based on provision of free, open and equal rights of citizens to know about the performance of authorities. This bill is aimed at broadening and improvement of Kyrgyzstan citizens’ access to the information about governmental bodies.

Current legislation is a result of successful advocacy campaign conducted all over the republic in several stages, which once again has demonstrated growing activity of civil society. Information campaign covered 7 regions of Kyrgyzstan; the new bill has been taken by the major part of public as effective anti-corruption measure and the way to provide openness of governmental bodies and local self-government.

REGULATION OF JOGORKU KENESH OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC as of November 14, 2006, # 1349-III

On adoption of the Kyrgyz Republic Law “On access to information possessed by the governmental bodies and local self-government bodies of the Kyrgyz Republic”

REGULATION OF JOGORKU KENESH OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC as of November 14, 2006, # 1350-III

On adoption of the Kyrgyz Republic Law “On amendments to the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic “On guarantees and freedom of access to information”

On December 28, 2006 the President of the Kyrgyz Republic Bakiev K. S. signed the regulation of JK KR #1349-III on adoption of the Kyrgyz Republic Law “On access to information possessed by the governmental bodies and local self-government bodies of KR” as well as the regulation of JK KR # 1350-III. This law comes into legal force since the moment of its publication in the governmental newspaper “Erkin – Too”. The Bill has been developed by the initiative working group “Future without corruption - Transparency International Kyrgyzstan” under the support of *Open Society Institute*, Soros Foundation – Kyrgyzstan, consisting of the representatives of the civil society, business community and governmental structures.

The initiative group was lead by the purpose to improve available law on access to information, but the developed bill taking into account best world practices, as well as existing topicality of the problem of establishment the feedback with the population made it possible to pass the separate law providing for the new quality of the information provision.

The main principles of this bill are:

- Maximum openness of the information for the citizens;
- Mandatory list of materials for publishing, which will allow controlling performance of the governmental bodies;
- Mechanisms of the information provision: written form, verbal form; as well as by means of telephone and via electronic communication;
- Provision of access to meetings of governmental bodies, which will allow citizens to directly participate in the activity of the governmental bodies and in the process of making various decisions;
- Imposing of sanctions for non-observing provisions of *the law on access to information*...

Talking about global scale, starting from 1990, more than 50 different laws on access to information passed worldwide, of course, with time, this number increased considerably. These laws are instruments that are intended to obtain the required information.

Kyrgyzstan became one of the countries as well, where the laws were adopted allowing maximum openness and accessibility of the information. As of today in many countries, *the law on free access to information* is applied in practice. We hope that this *bill* at least will reduce the range of violations that unskilled leaders of some agencies and institutions allow, as well as give the possibility for the population to participate in public life of the state in the Kyrgyz Republic.

Regional activity of partner organizations

Osh city

In Osh city the *Public Fund "Beam of Solomon"* represented by *Mr. Joldoshev Ya.* was the partner of the advocacy campaign.

Attracting the supporters of the given project promoted the bill. In Osh office of OSCE meetings with the representatives of southern region NGOs were conducted (meetings with the leaders of eight NGOs of Osh Oblast).

Conclusions on the work conducted in Osh city:

Osh city is divided in 10 territorial councils; each council has about 9-10 community committees. The work has been conducted in each individual territorial council (signatures in the support of the given bill were collected).

- Meetings were organized in all organizations, institutions and so on of Osh city: schools, legal advise offices, universities;
- In addition, meetings were conducted in all districts of Osh city.

In the course of these meetings all participants got familiarized with the information on the given bill, with the key points and advantages of this law. Information materials were given to the population.

These meetings attended the representatives of mass media (for instance, "AKI-press Ferghana"), so, information on these meetings can be obtained at the *website "AKI-press Ferghana" in the Internet.*

In addition, meetings with assistances of Members of Parliament and Members of Parliament themselves – *Mr. Sabirov A. A., Mr. Mamasaidov M. T.* were conducted.

Osh oblast

"*Tashtar Ata*" NGO represented by *Mr. Machmudov S.* was a partner of advocacy campaign in Osh Oblast.

A number of NGOs: "Ukuktuu Ayal", "Soop Kochu", "Akyikat Shamy", "Eco School", "Ene jurogu", as well as Alay and Uzgen Information Centers assisted in covering of the whole Osh Oblast.

The following work has been conducted in this Oblast:

To inform the population 4000 letters - appeals to citizens, 50 letters - appeals to Members of Parliament and about 50 subscription sheets were translated into Kyrgyz.

Round tables with various NGOs, LSG bodies, citizens were arranged. At one of the meetings the representatives of twelve NGOs were present: “Ukuktuu Ayal”, “Soop Kochu”, “Akyikat Shamy”, “Eco School”, “Aiyl Mekhtebi”, “Abshir Tiffani”, “Alakan Too”, “Gulmaidan”, “Chyndykgul”, “Meder+”, “Beshtal” and “Triumphator”. The representatives of these NGOs were enthusiastic about the bill, since passing of this law would provide transparency and accessibility of LSG bodies’ activity.

In addition, meetings with *Members of Parliament JK KP* were conducted. They were given detailed information about the bill. Letters - appeals as well as copies of voters’ signatures in the support of this bill were given to either assistances or to the Members from the given Oblast themselves. More than *100 signatures were collected in Uzgen Rayon*; about *1050 signatures were collected in Alay rayon*; about *1050 signatures were collected in Karakuldja rayon* in the support of this bill.

Batken oblast

NGO “*Bilek*” leaded by Mrs. Nabieva Aida was the partner of advocacy campaign in Batken Oblast.

Summary conclusions:

- - In the course of the information campaign the round table for the NGOs of Leilek Rayon has been arranged in order to disseminate the information on the bill, as well as to involve people to volunteer activity and conduct advocacy campaign and collect signatures for the support of the bill.
- - Meetings with the people of Leilek Rayon, including 10 aiyl okmotu and 47 villages were organized. Meetings with the population of Batken Rayon, including 10 aiyl okmotu and 45 villages have also been organized, meetings with local population of Leilek Rayon in 5 central villages of each aiyl okmotu were conducted: Margun, Beshkent, Minjyach, Korgon, Isfana.
- - In the cities Isfana and Sulukta the information and awareness work has been carried out by the local student-volunteers on dissemination of brochures and posters related to the Bill in the most populated areas.
- - Meetings with the population of Jany-Jer village board of Leilek Rayon, including four villages: Jashtyk, Dostuk, Cental, Arka were conducted. Link with the information center of democracy (ICD of Kadamjay town has been established.
- - Negotiations were conducted with the representatives of the Members of Parliament: Mr. Shadiev Askarbek – electoral district #12, Mr. Pazylov Ysak Pazylovich.
- - Electoral district #13, Mr. Juraev M., Mr. Amiraev M., Chair of sport committee of Leilek Rayon,
- - Electoral district #14, Mr. Burkhanov Arzybek, Mr. Issaev Makhamat - reviewer, Mr. Shukurov Kalbvay – public assistant, he presented detailed

information on the implementation of advocacy campaign to promote the bill, on the number of signatures collected on each electoral district;

- - Negotiations were conducted with the representatives of Members of Parliament: - electoral district #15, Mr. Masaliev Iskhak, the Representative – Mrs. Tashtanbekova G., Kadamjay rayon state administration.
- - Electoral district #16 Mr. Tagaev Aitbay, – the representative Mr. Topchubaev Medet, he has presented detailed information on bill promotion advocacy campaign, number of signatures collected on each electoral district;

Oblast population accepted advocacy campaign as one of the positive steps to strengthen rights and freedoms of the citizens.

Issyk-Kul oblast

Partner on advocacy campaign in Issyk-kul Oblast was *PF “Danko”* leaded by *Mrs. Kerimova Nurbubu*.

Conclusions on this oblast are the following:

- - Working meetings were conducted in the region with the partners on oblast in the person of nongovernmental organizations, which supported the work on information campaign.
- - Negotiations were conducted with the information centers on support of democracy in Balykchy, Karakol, Tyup, NGOs, PA “ACCENT-Tyup”, Teachers union – Bokonbaevo, Red Cross office in Balykchy, PA “Ventus” – Karakol.
- - Contacts were established with the Member of Parliament assistants of Mr. Urmanaev S. I. from Ak-Suu Rayon and with the secretary of Member of Parliament Isabekov K. S. from Jety-Oguz Rayon.
- - Contacts were established with the Member of Parliament assistant of Mr. Alymbekov E. J. from Karakol who is also vice-speaker of JK *Duulatov E. I.*
- - Negotiations were conducted with the leader of PA “Kelechek Dooru” Mrs. Jailobaeva A. and the deputy of Ton aiyl okmotu Mr. Akmatkerimov T. A. on Ton electoral district.
- - Meeting with the Member of Parliament on Ton electoral district Mr. Maliev A. K. has been conducted, he personally familiarized with the text of the bill and generally supported it.
- - Contacts were set up with the **members** of Parliament JK on Tyup district Mr. Japarov S. N. and Issyk-Kul district Kereksizov T. K.
- - Signature collection has been conducted strictly on electoral districts to make it convenient to present it to the Members of Parliament, more than 3197 signatures were collected in the support of the bill in the oblast.
- - In the course of the information campaign personal inquiry and obstacles that are being faced upon obtaining the information from the governmental bodies were given as an example. Namely: **How mach money is collected at the ecological post at the entrance to Balykchy? Where these funds are spent and how much money stays in the city?**

In addition, it should be noted that the population has shown interest in obtaining the information concerning the development of resort region.

Naryn oblast:

“*Future without corruption – Transparency International – Kyrgyzstan*” has conducted series of actions in Naryn oblast, within the frame of “*On access to information possessed by the governmental bodies and local self-government bodies of KR*” bill. Assistance during advocacy campaign has been provided by the NGO “*Naryn agency of the educational projects*”, representative of which was *Mrs. Nyrmanbetova G.*

Thus, it may be stated that:

- The given Law is required and is demanded, since it provides accessibility and transparency of the governmental bodies and LSG;
- Youth is the most vulnerable, but at the same time the most progressive part of the population. Dissatisfaction of youth is often based on the obsolete mentality that requires non-interference of the young generation into the affairs of *older ones* and obligation to obey the *decisions of Aksakals*. So, broadened opportunities to access the information may solve many problems of *young generation*;
- Remoteness of many villages from rayon centers and information vacuum created in these regions lead to lack of the information space in rural areas. That is why rural citizens were inspired by the adoption of the given bill;
- Inaccurate information, which is presented by different official institutions is the reason for destabilization and mistrust to any relations between the society and authorities;
- It is necessary for the population to directly participate in the development of the society (bilateral relations would provide openness and transparency of the governmental bodies and LSG, and would establish so called *feedback* between the society and authorities).

Signature collection to support the bill has been conducted in the *electoral districts # 33, # 32* of such members of Parliament as *Mr. Samakov K. and Mr. Salymbekov A. M.*

Total, about *1606 signatures* were collected in two electoral districts to support the bill.

Talas oblast:

A series of actions has been conducted in Talas oblast within the frame of “*On access to information possessed by the governmental bodies and local self-government bodies of KR*” bill. Assistance during advocacy campaign has been provided by the NGO “*Asyl 9*”, representative of which was *Mrs. Bekmurzaeva A.*

The following work has been conducted in this oblast:

- Meetings with the students of Talas State University, Medical college, Agricultural college were arranged;
- Meeting with Talas oblast election committee Chair Mr. Jusupbekov J. has been conducted;
- Meetings with local communities leaders, village activists, teachers and doctors took place;
- Meeting with *Talas mayor* – Mr. Tursunkulov E. has been arranged;
- Meeting with akim of *Bakai-Ata Rayon* – Mr. Satumkulov K has been conducted;
- Signatures to support the given bill were collected in *Manas and Karabuura Rayons*;
- In *Talas* peaceful meeting “For law and order” took place. The meeting was dedicated to the problems of the population. Civil sector not always has the opportunity to obtain the information of the governmental bodies and LSG, so citizens of KR just do not have right “*to pry into the big politics*”;
- Participants of “Analysis of combating corruption situation” workshop, organized by CSSC “*Aikol*» together with the regional representative of OSCE have presented the given bill;
- Meetings with *members of Parliament JK KR* were arranged.

During the advocacy campaign opinions were expressed that because of lack of transparency in the governmental bodies’ activity and established practice to introduce new and new bans to issue certain information, it would be reasonable to initiate adoption of the given bill through Jogorku Kenesh, which would oblige public administration bodies and LSG to introduce *additional staff unit* with the purpose to arrange work with the population.

Jalalabad oblast

In Jalalabat oblast NGO “*Legal education and upbringing of youth groups*” leading by *Mr. Mamatislamov Abdunazar* was the partner in advocacy campaign.

Results on this oblast:

- Meeting with volunteers and leaders of *NDI “National democratic institute on the development of democracy”, “Coalition for the democracy and civil society”, PF “Development of the young citizens” and Public human rights foundation “Abad”* has been conducted, where issues on conducting of advocacy campaign and effective organization of signature collection were discussed.
- Meetings with the NGO and mass media representatives took place. The representatives of “*Radio azattyk*”, newspaper “*Akyikat*” and Jalalabat representative of “*Aki-press*” have expressed readiness to cover the course of this activity on the project.
- Training and briefing of volunteers, who implemented signature collection campaign in close to Jalalabat electoral district #30; #29; #31; and partially #27 were conducted.

- Meeting with the proxy of the MP of Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic A. Khakimov on Suzak-Bazarkurgan electoral district #27 took place. Meeting with the PM Batyrov K. has been conducted.
- Meeting with the representatives of four LSG from four territory boards were conducted.
- Topicality of this campaign for budget transparency, reduction of corruption has been explained in order to enhance trust of the people to authorities and reduce tension linked to current mistrust to the authorities. People were persuaded that it is necessary to support this bill and have expressed their readiness to provide assistance.

Chui oblast and Bishkek city:

“Future without corruption - Transparency International – Kyrgyzstan” has conducted a series of actions in Chui Oblast and in Bishkek, within the frame of the bill *“On access to information possessed by the governmental bodies and local self-government bodies of KR”*. Such NGOs as *“Women can do all!” (Chui branch)* and *recourse center NDI (Kara-Balta)* provided considerable support while conducting advocacy campaign.

The following work in Chui oblast and Bishkek city has been conducted by the staff of the international organization *“Future without corruption - Transparency International – Kyrgyzstan”*:

- Information materials were disseminated;
- All signatures collected for the support of this bill were counted;
- Meetings with the leading higher educational institutions of Bishkek were conducted. Information materials were disseminated among students as well. It has been noted that the given bill would play an important role for professional formation of students;
- Employees of the *“TI – Kyrgyzstan”* have visited some cities of Chui Oblast: Tokmak, Kara-Balta, Sokuluk with the purpose to conduct information campaign within the frame of the given bill;
- Analysis of the regional reports has been conducted;
- In the course of advocacy campaign regional representatives’ work has been coordinated.

Information on the course of work on the given bill has been constantly updated on the website - www.transparency.kg. Staff of the international organization *“Future without corruption - Transparency International – Kyrgyzstan”* took into account all proposals and recommendations regarding the bill *“On access to information possessed by the governmental bodies and local self-government bodies of KR”* obtained from the population.

5. Appendix

Law of the Kyrgyz Republic

“On access to information of government agencies and local self-governments of the Kyrgyz Republic” (developed by Transparency International- Kyrgyzstan)

SECTION I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1. Objectives of the Law

Objective of this Law shall include efforts to ensure the exercising and protection of the right to access information available at government agencies and local self-governments, and promote maximum information openness, publicity and transparency of activities of government agencies and local self-governments.

Article 2. Purview of this Law

1. This Law shall regulate relationships associated with access of individuals and legal entities to information of government agencies and local self-governments.

2. All of the government agencies and local self-governments shall be in charge of provision of information in accordance with provisions of this Law.

Government agencies are organizations established on a permanent basis in accordance with the Constitution of the Kyrgyz Republic, constitutional and other laws of the Kyrgyz Republic, decrees of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic, and authorized to perform functions of the legislative, executive or judicial branches of the government, as well as make binding decisions and ensure implementation thereof; these are organizations financed completely from the state budget; government agencies also include any territorial or structural unit performing functions or part of functions of the central government agency.

Self-governments are representative, executive, regulatory and other bodies established by local communities for the purpose of addressing local issues on their own responsibility; these are also any other territorial or structural units in charge of the function or part of the functions of a local self-government.

The terms of a “government agency” and a “local self-government” shall also cover any institution including its territorial or structural units financed completely or partially from the republican or a local budget, and responsible for performance of functions that are not associated with implementation of public authority or local self-governance, including the bodies of health, education, information, statistics, consulting, lending agencies etc.

3. This Law shall not apply to:

- relationships arising in case of applying of citizens with their proposals, declarations and appeals to government agencies or local self-governments;

- relationships associated with the access of government agencies or local self-governments to information of other government agencies or local self-governments;
- relationships associated with provision of information that is classified in accordance with the legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Article 3. Guarantees and principles of access freedom to information.

1. Everybody has a guarantee of right to access to information of government agencies and local self-governments.
2. Accessibility, objectiveness, openness, promptitude and reliability are the main principals of access freedom to information.
3. State protects rights of everybody on searching, getting, researching, production, transferring and dissemination of information.
4. Limitation to access and dissemination to information are determined only by law.

Article 4. Openness, transparency and publicity of activities of government agencies and local self-governments

1. Activities of government agencies and local self-governments shall be open, transparent and public.
2. Information about activities of government agencies and local self-governments shall be accessible to public. Any restriction of access to information available to government agencies and local self-governments shall be prohibited, except for the cases specified in Article 4 of this Law.
3. Decision of refusal to provide access to information must be reasoned and justified, only according to the justification specified in the Article 15 of this Law.
4. It shall not be allowed to refuse examination of a decision based on which access to information has been restricted. Documents and materials containing information that must be classified in accordance with the Law shall be provided a form that does not contain such classified information.

Article 5. Restriction of access to information

1. Classified information means confidential information and data classified as the state secret.

Information shall be classified as state secret in accordance with the legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic on state secrets.

Confidential information means the data containing official secrets of government agencies and local self-governments, as well as materials available at government agencies and local self-governments containing third-party secrets protected by the law.

2. Confidential information containing official secrets of government agencies and local self-governments shall include:

- 1) information restricted exclusively to organization and technical regulations on operational safety of a government agency and local self-government;
- 2) information reflecting specific contents of private sessions and meetings, as well as the personal position of an official in the course of such private session or secret vote.

3. Confidential information containing third-party secrets protected by the law shall include information that is classified by the legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic as private, commercial, professional and other secrets. Officials of government agencies and local self-governments shall bear responsibility established by the legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic for disclosure of confidential information that contains third-party secrets protected by the law, if they have learnt such information as a result of implementation of their legal authorities.

Article 6. Ways of provision of information

1. Major means of provision of access to information by government agencies or local self-governments shall include:

- 1) publication and dissemination of the appropriate materials
- 2) provision of information upon requests of individuals and legal entities;
- 3) publication of information about activities of government agencies and local self-governments;
- 4) provision of direct access to documents and materials of government agencies and local self-governments;
- 5) provision of access to meetings of government agencies and local self-governments.

2. Government authorities and local self-governments shall have the right to use any other legitimate (not prohibited by the legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic) methods of keeping the population informed of their activities.

3. Provision by government agencies and local self-governments of one of the ways of accessing information about their activities may not be the ground for refuse to provide information by any other legal way.

SECTION II. PROVISION OF INFORMATION BY REQUEST...

Article 7. Forms of submitting requests for provision of information

1. Request for provision of information may be submitted to government agencies and local self-governments in form of:

- personal verbal inquiry or request over phone;
- written inquiry delivered by mail or personally, with courier service or via electronic communication channels.

2. Inquiries shall be answered in a format they are made.

3. In case there are more than one language versions of a document that is prepared in official language by a government agency or local self-government, it shall be provided in a language of reasonable preference duly expressed by a party concerned.

Article 8. Personal verbal request for provision of information

1. In case of a verbal request for information or request over phone, such information shall be provided verbally.

2. Verbal format shall be used to provide brief references obviating the need for written inquiries for provision of information. Persons in charge of provision of information shall not be required to provide verbal advice to requesters on the matters of inquiries.

3. If a verbal answer is not comprehensive enough for a requester, he/she will be provided with explanation of the written request submission procedure, as well as the other ways of obtaining information in accordance with provisions of this Law.

4. Every verbal request shall be registered in a log with specification of the author of request, his/her phone number, home address, date and time of request, as well as the data about civil or municipal servant replying to such request.

The form and log keeping procedure shall be determined by the government of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Article 9. Format and contents of written request

Request shall necessarily include:

a) title of a body and (or) last name of an official of a government agency and local self-government, which is a recipient of request;

b) for individuals: full (first, patronymic and last) name, year of birth, place of residence (postal address); for legal entities (branches or representative offices thereof): full title of a legal entity (or of its branch or representative office), location of the headquarters (postal address), information about registration of a legal entity, last name and position of a signer of such written request;

c) subject matter of a request that is formulated so that to let unambiguously know what kind of information must be provided.

Requesters shall not have to give reasons for their requests. A person requesting information shall have the right to specify in request his/her contact phone number, as well as any other information that may be in his/her opinion be useful for processing request.

Government agency and local self-government shall design standard blank forms of requests for information and make them available at locations of government agencies and local self-governments and in post offices. The reverse side of a blank of request for information may include explanation of the form completing procedure, as well as the terms, procedure of receipt and the charge for information to be provided.

Formulation of the subject of request shall not require precise specification of all the requisites of necessary documents or materials. If the subject of request need specification, a person in charge of the preparation of reply to such request shall have the right to unsolicited specification of the subject of request by calling the contact phone number provided by requester. If no contact phone number is provided, a person in charge of the preparation of reply shall specify the subject of request on his own.

A person may have a request for information delivered by mail, with a courier, via electronic communication channels or in person to the corresponding government agency and local self-government.

Article 10. Terms of replying to written requests

Replies to written requests shall be prepared within two weeks.

The term of replying to request shall count from the date of receipt of such request by a corresponding government agency and local self-government, and shall terminate upon submission of reply to such request to post office, direct delivery by hand either to the author, or to courier or representative of the author, or registration of dispatch via electronic communication channels.

If this Law requires forwarding a request to another government agency and local self-government, the term of replying to such request shall count from the date of receipt of such request by another government agency and local self-government that is ultimately in charge of providing information thus requested in accordance with this Law.

If a reply to request may not be prepared within two weeks, this shall be brought to the notice of the requester with specification of the reason for delay. Delay may not last more than two weeks.

Failure to reply to request within the terms established by this Article, or absence of notification of extending the terms of reply shall be considered as the refusal to reply.

Article 11. Written request consideration and compliance procedure

1. Any written request for provision of information shall be registered by a government agency or local self-government with specification of the following information:

- date of receipt of such request;
- personal information about the requester;
- brief summary of the request;
- last name and position of a person in charge of the preparation of a reply;
- the reason for denial of provision of information, if any;
- the amount of payment for the preparation of reply, if necessary;
- data on forwarding such request to another government agency or local self-government;
- date of actual submission of reply to the requester;
- other information reflecting major stages of preparing a reply to such request.

2. Upon registration of a written request, it shall pass to the person in charge of the preparation of reply. The person in charge shall search for and make copies of the required documents and materials, and make a package of documents for reply.

3. Reply to a written request for provision of information shall be exhaustive so that to preclude the need for repeated request for information on the same subject from the same person. The person in charge of replying to the request shall not be required to advise the requester on procedure of using the documents and materials required.

4. The reply to request shall include:

1) notice of the person in charge of executing the request including brief summary of request, list of documents being provided, last name and position of the person in charge of executing the request, date of signing the letter of reply;

2) texts of the documents being thereby provided or reference to such documents or extracts from the text of such documents provided that such references or extracts contain comprehensive information for exhaustive reply to request, and if provision of such references or extracts is unambiguously acceptable according to nature of request;

3) the pricelist with specification of the costs of supplies and information services, as well as the list of titles and contact data of the key government agencies and local self-governments located in the area of the settlement of residence of the requester, responsible for protecting the rights of citizens, delivery of information, referral and library services, and provision of information based on this Law.

Article 12. Additional information provision guarantees

1. In case if a government agency and local self-government neither have, nor are required by this Law to have reasonably requested documents and materials, this shall be brought to the notice of the requester.

2. If requested documents must be in another government agency or local self-government, then the request shall be forwarded to the relevant body that is required to reply to such request. If the request contains phone number or requisites of other communication methods, the person immediately in charge of executing the request shall inform the person concerned of his/her request being forwarded, and writes corresponding note into the written request.

3. If the requested documents have been published, the person immediately in charge of executing the request shall have the right to give reference to the relevant public source. If that is the case, the reply to request shall necessarily include requisites of a corresponding public source.

Article 13. Costs of provision of information

1. Government agencies and local self-governments shall prepare replies to requests of citizens and organizations free of charge except for the cases established by paragraph 3 of this Article.

2. A person making a written request for provision of information shall pay the cost of postal services on delivery of the reply to his/her request.

3. The cost of copying services shall be charged from the persons requesting information and materials that requires making copies of more than 5 pages of such documents or materials, or extracts of such documents or materials. The Government of the Kyrgyz Republic shall approve the pricelist of the costs of copying services and terms of payment.

Government agencies and local self-governments shall have the right to exempt persons falling into protected categories of the population from payment of the costs of providing information.

Article 14. Requests for provision of information in form of text messages submitted via communication channels

1. Requests received in form of text messages submitted via communication channels shall be executed in form of replying required document in a corresponding format if the government agency or local self-government has corresponding technical capacity to do so.

2. Replies to requests submitted by email shall be sent at the sender's email address. In the absence of electronic copies of the documents being requested, such information is provided in other formats and by other means envisaged by this Law. A reply to request may have attached files with the documents being requested, or provide direct reference to electronic versions of such documents and materials available on the global network.

3. Replies to requests submitted by fax may also be sent by fax if the volume of the documents necessary to meet the request permits to do so. Otherwise, the reply shall specify the procedure of receiving necessary information in other formats and by other means as provided for by this Law.

4. Replies to requests received by email or fax shall be registered and prepared in accordance with the procedure established for written requests.

Article 15. Grounds for denial of provision of information by request

1. Provision of information by request may be denied on the grounds as follow:

1) requested information is contained in parts of the documents falling into the category of classified documents under existing legal and regulatory acts of the Kyrgyz Republic and provisions of this Law;

2) the request is unduly prepared and fails to meet the requirements established under Article 8 of this Law;

3) the request for information on the same subject from the same person is already processed by this central body or its subordinate unit, as well as in cases when government agency and local self-government, or subordinate units thereof, neither have, nor are required by this Law to have corresponding documents.

2. A government agency and local self-government shall reserve the right refuse to provide information upon request that is substantially the same as information provided in reply to request from the same person within the period equal to 3 months prior to receipt of the repeated request.

3. The letter of denial of provision of information shall include:

1) the reasons for denial with specification of direct reference to legislative regulations of the Kyrgyz Republic on the ground of which provision of information is denied;

2) description of the legal ways and procedures of appealing a denial of provision of information.

SECTION III. PUBLICATION OF INFORMATION ABOUT PERFORMANCE OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENTS

Article 16. Provision of official information

1. Official information shall be provided by publication. Other ways of access to official information may also be additionally envisaged.

2. Official information shall be provided by publication of:

1) legal and regulatory acts in compliance with the procedure and terms of publication;

2) information about current executive decisions and formal occasions of government agencies and local self-governments;

3) annual reports of performance of government agencies and local self-governments;

4) other information materials.

Article 17. Publication of information on current decisions and formal occasions

1. Government agencies and local self-governments provide for the publication of official information regarding:

1) assumption or resignation of office by heads of government agencies and local self-governments;

2) approval of the republican and local budgets of the Kyrgyz Republic and budgets of government agencies and local self-governments, changes in the rates and procedures of payment of the republican and local taxes and duties, including utility and other payments;

3) approval of legal acts on administration of items of state or municipal property;

4) approval of legal acts regarding allocation of land resources;

5) approval of legal acts regarding construction of projects completely or partially owned by foreign legal entities;

6) conclusion and implementation of international agreements;

7) emergency actions to eliminate threat to human life and health.

2. Government agencies and local self-governments shall have the right to go public with other information about current executive decisions and formal occasions using resources of print or audiovisual mass media, as well as other ways and means of providing information to the public.

Article 18. Annual performance reports

1. The Government of the Kyrgyz Republic shall provide for publication of annual address of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic to the people of the Kyrgyz Republic regarding situation in the country, reports of the Constitutional Court of the Kyrgyz Republic on the state of the constitutional law, and reports of the Ombudsman (Akiykatchy) of the Kyrgyz Republic on the situation in the area of observing and protecting the human and civil rights and liberties.

2. Government agencies and local self-governments shall publish performance reports to reflect the trends of developments in the social, policy, economic and cultural area over the period under report, particularly including basic statistical indicators for such areas as the budget expenditures, sources and amounts of tax revenue proceeds to the republican and local budgets, output and consumption in the market sectors, amounts of foreign and domestic investments, crime reduction activities, public health, migration, environment and other essential areas of their activities.

Article 19. Publication of information materials

1. The Government of the Kyrgyz Republic shall publish consolidated information materials on structure and operational procedures of executive authorities. Consolidated information materials shall include description of structure of executive bodies, including basic scope and the areas of their authority, as well as the last names of persons in executive positions, their office phone numbers, office addresses and reception hours.

2. The Government of the Kyrgyz Republic or another executive body on behalf of the Government shall finance publication of official information materials in form of books of reference (digests). In addition to information specified in paragraph 1 of this Article, official books of reference shall also provide information about the areas of activity, titles and addresses of other government agencies, non-governmental organizations, mass media, legal advice offices, notaries' offices, libraries, educational institutions, utility services and other organizations pursuing the objective of protecting the rights and legal interests of, and delivering services to the citizens. The periods at the expiration of which such official books of reference must be republished shall be determined depending on the need to support actuality of their contents. The number of copies of such books of reference shall be determined depending on the number of copies actually distributed over the past period. Books of reference shall be available for purchase at retail outlets of the print mass media.

Article 20. Responsibilities of government agencies and local self-governments for measures to distribute information

1. Government agency and local self-government shall annually and popularly publish information, including:

1) its functions and tasks, authorities, obligations and annual budget;

2) list and description of services delivered by the government agency and local self-government;

3) procedure processing and responding to requests or remedying grievances to be used by citizens and organizations in respect of actions of this government agency and local self-government, along with the suggested sample of executing applications with requests, complaints or other actions of applicants;

4) information about the documenting materials, types and forms of information disposed of by the government agency and local self-government, categories of information and description of the procedure of executing requests for provision of information;

5) terms of reference and duties of the senior officials, as well as their decision-making procedures;

6) a guide, rules, digests and manuals containing information on implementation of the functions of the state agency or local self-government;

7) any mechanisms or procedures for citizens and organizations to present their opinions or influence policy formulation or performance of duties of the government agency and local self-government;

8) summaries of applications of citizens and organizations submitted to the government agency and local self-government, and results of consideration of such applications and undertaken actions;

9) lists of information systems of general use, databanks, registers, log-books in charge of a government agency and local self-government, as well as the lists of information resources and services delivered to citizens and organizations;

10) data on formal visits and business trips of officials and official delegations of the government agency or local self-government;

11) data on official actions, arranged by the government agency and local self-government, including sessions, meetings, briefings and collegiums;

12) data on decisions made at the official actions organized by the government agency and local self-government;

13) data on action plans of the government agency and local self-government;

14) texts of official statements and addresses of heads and authorized officials of the government agency and local self-government;

15) data on draft target and other programs, concepts being under preparation by government agency and local self-government;

16) data on target and other programs, where the government agency and local self-government come out as customers or executors: name, goals and objectives, the program customers and chief executors, implementation terms and expected results, amount of financing, course of their implementation;

17) data on budget performance by the government agency and local self-government;

18) data on funds spending provided by technical aid (assistance) regarding the projects and actions implemented with participation of the government agency and local self-government;

19) analytical reports, performance reports, reviews of informative nature of activities of the government agencies and local self-governments;

20) data on basic indicators characterizing the development condition status and dynamics of areas falling under competence of the government agency and local self-government;

21) projections prepared by the government agency and local self-government;

22) official statistical information collected and processed by the government agency and local self-government;

23) information on advertised competitions, auctions, tenders, examinations and other actions undertaken by the government agency and local self-government including:

- terms and conditions of their holding;
- order of participation of physical and legal entities;
- membership of tender commissions for holding tenders for procurement of goods (works and services) for the state or municipal purposes;
- minutes of sessions of tender commissions;
- appeal procedure concerning decisions taken by the government agency and local self-government;

24) formats of applications established by legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic and accepted for consideration by the government agency and local self-government;

25) data on inspection findings conducted by the government agency and local self-government within the scope of their competence, and inspections carried out in the government agency and local self-government;

26) data on condition status concerning the population and territory protection from emergencies and undertaken actions on their safety, on forecast and occurred emergencies, ways and methods of population protection from them, and also other data subject to notification by the government agency and local self-government of citizens and organizations in conformity with laws;

27) list of agreements of civil and commercial nature concluded by the government agency and local self-government with individuals and legal entities;

28) data on entering of citizens the civil or municipal service in the given the government agency and local self-government:

- order of entering of citizens the civil or municipal service;
- list of available vacancies for public positions in the public service system, municipal positions in the municipal service system;
- qualification requirements to candidates for filling vacant public positions in the public service system, municipal positions in the municipal service system;
- terms and results of announced vacancies for filling vacant public positions in the public service system, municipal positions in the municipal service system;

29) data on interaction between the government agency and local self-government with other government agencies and local self-governments, public associations, political parties, trade unions and other organizations including foreign organizations;

30) data on heads of the government agency and local self-government, representative offices abroad, territorial bodies, their subordinate organizations (full names, biographic data – as agreed with specified persons);

31) organizational chart of the government agency and local self-government, telephone numbers of referral services and address properties, including postal address, e-mail address, number of employees and the pay-roll fund;

32) data on organizations, subordinate to the government agency and local self-government: list of organizations, their postal and legal addresses, telephone numbers; description of objectives and duties, data on their foundation, reorganization and liquidation, number of staff employees, basic operational indicators and volume of pay-roll fund;

33) telephone numbers and address properties, including postal address, e-mail address of departments in charge of dealing with appeals of citizens and organizations of the government agency and local self-government, and data on operational procedures of these agencies;

34) list of foreign representative offices of the government agency and local self-government, their telephone numbers and address data, including postal and email addresses;

35) list of international organizations in activity of which the government agency and local self-government take part;

36) data on participation of the government agency and local self-government in implementation of international treaties of the Kyrgyz Republic and programs on international cooperation

Article 21. Dissemination of official information through mass media

1. Press services of government agencies and local self-governments, as well as the public liaison staff shall provide editors of mass media with information and materials on performance and decisions of government agencies and local self-governments.

2. Government agencies and local self-governments shall provide incentives for their staff for active collaboration with mass media to deliver addresses, speeches, official interpretations of views of public authorities on urgent questions regarding their activities.

SECTION IV. PROVISION OF DIRECT ACCESS TO DOCUMENTS AND MATERIALS OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENTS

Article 22. Forms of securing direct access

Government agencies and local self-governments shall secure direct access to their documents and materials through:

- 1) official information funds of the public authorities and local self-governments;
- 2) library stocks of official information;
- 3) databases.

Article 23. Provision of public access to official information funds of government agencies and local self-governments

1. Government agencies and local self-governments shall establish official information funds accessible to public.

2. Access to official information funds of government agencies and local self-governments shall be provided by making such official information funds available for personal examination by the citizens at the location of a corresponding body.

3. Legal acts, other documents and materials shall be included into official information funds and made available for the public within one week upon signature thereof, or signature of the acts in connection with which such documents and materials are considered.

4. Expert examination shall be held with a view to secure confidential data by determining sections of documents and materials that require restricted access. Sections of documents and materials that contain no confidential data shall be prepared for public inspection and made available to public within one week upon signature of the corresponding document. A document or material prepared for public inspection shall include last name and position of an expert.

5. Government agencies and local self-governments shall file their documents and materials to be open to public, as well as make files of backup copies of such documents and materials. Documents and materials shall be filed in a chronological order. Inventory of the documents and materials in public files shall be taken no less than once in a month. List of inventory shall be attached to the files for the convenience of search for necessary documents. Lists of inventory of the documents and materials may be consolidated in form of catalogues.

6. Government agencies and local self-governments shall take measures to ensure safety of the documents and materials in the files, and establish corresponding requirements of access to such materials.

7. Special space shall be reserved for examination of files for the convenience of taking notes of abstracts from, or making copies of, the documents and materials by individuals. The terms and procedures of providing such documents and materials for the purposes of making copies shall be established by corresponding government agencies and local self-governments.

Article 24. Access to library stocks of official information

1. Government agencies and local self-governments shall submit to libraries official reports, information materials, official books of reference and other available documents and materials.

3. Public funds of official information shall be established by libraries of the Kyrgyz Republic from the documents and materials collected by them.

Article 25. Access to databases

1. Government agencies and local self-governments shall implement activities aimed to development and maintenance of the centralized automated system of official information that combines databases of official information of government agencies and local self-governments.

2. The system of official information shall include databases with complete list and exact terms of regulatory acts existing in the territory of the Kyrgyz Republic. Government agencies and local self-governments shall arrange for granting access to electronic versions of documents and materials.

3. The system of official information shall be available to the global digital network users. The system shall provide an opportunity of free examining and making free electronic copies of the documents and materials stored in the centralized automated system of official information. Corresponding government agencies and local self-governments shall be responsible for accuracy of electronic versions of their documents and other official information stored in the centralized automated system of official information.

4. Government agencies and local self-governments shall have the right to contract specialized organizations for the execution of requests for provision of information based on the use of databases. Corresponding government agency and local self-government shall be responsible for accuracy and comprehensiveness of information provided by a specialized organization, as well as for implementation of other requirements of this Law. If a specialized organization does not have the requested documents or materials to be provided in accordance with this Law, corresponding responsible official of the government agency and local self-government shall arrange for provision of such requested information.

SECTION V. PROVISION OF ACCESS TO MEETINGS OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENTS

Article 26. Openness of meetings

1. Meetings of government agencies and local self-governments shall be open to public, except for private sessions.

2. Openness of meetings shall be guaranteed with provision of an opportunity of attending such meetings to persons applying for participation in such meetings.

3. Closed sessions of government agencies and local self-governments shall be in case of discussion of questions, information of which are limited access information in accordance with the Article 15 of this Law.

Article 27. Public notice of a meeting

1. Government agencies and local self-governments shall publish monthly schedules of their meetings with specification of agendum for each meeting, as well as the date, time and place of each meeting.

2. Government agencies and local self-governments shall install information boards at their location. Information about agendum, time and public/private (open/closed session) status of a meeting shall be posted on the information board no later than a week prior to the date of each meeting. If a meeting is private (closed session), resolution on restricted public access to the meeting shall be posted on the information board.

Article 28. Arrangements for attendance at meeting

1. A citizen or the Kyrgyz Republic or representative of a legal entity of the Kyrgyz Republic shall have the right to attend meetings of government agencies and local self-governments. Any government agency or local self-government bound to provide information shall keep records of individuals and/or legal entities interested in attending

their meetings. Records of a visitor's personal data and availability of a certificate of his/her identity shall be the ground for provision of access to the meeting. The records shall include the full (first, patronymic and last) name, or full name, title of a legal entity and position of a representative of a legal entity. Provision of other information or document shall not be mandatory.

2. Places for visitors shall be reserved in boardrooms. The number of seats for visitors shall be calculated on the basis of the number of those registered for attendance at a meeting, yet the total number of visitor seats at the meetings of executive bodies of public authorities and local self-governments shall not be less than five, while at the meetings of the Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic and representative bodies of local self-governments the total number of visitor seats shall not be less than ten. If there are no more free seats and some of the visitors fail to attend, the priority of attendance shall be given to, first of all, the persons whose rights and liberties may be directly affected by resolution of the meeting and, secondly, those who have not previously attended meetings of this body or have attended meetings of this body less often than the rest of those registered for attendance and, thirdly, those who have signed up for a meeting earlier than the others.

3. Government agency and local self-governments shall have the right to arrange for provision of additional access to their meetings by means of live broadcasting of the meeting to television sets installed in the other rooms at the location of a corresponding body.

Article 29. Procedure of attendance at meetings

1. The rules of conduct for visitors at their meetings shall be determined by the regulations of the corresponding government agency or a local self-government. In case of violation of these rules of conduct, the chairman at the meeting shall administer a rebuke to the disturber; in case of repeated violation of the rules, the chairman shall turn the disturber out of the boardroom.

2. Attendants at the meeting shall have the right to take notes and photographs, make audio records or shoot video, on condition that this does not interfere with the course of the meeting.

SECTION VI. ACCESSING INFORMATION OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES OR LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENTS

Article 30. Organizational arrangements for promotion of access to information

1. Special services shall be established to arrange for access to information in the structure of the government agency and local self-government and vested with the corresponding functions and authority in accordance with the established procedure; otherwise, implementation of these functions shall be vested with the other services and units in the structure of such government agency and local self-government, or with a particular official.

2. The function of providing information to persons requesting it shall be determined in provisions on the corresponding body and local self-government.

3. Rights, obligations and responsibility of special services, units and officials implementing the function of providing information to requesters shall be established by provisions on such services and units, as well as in job descriptions (duty regulations) approved in accordance with the established procedure.

4. Organizations legitimately involved in the area of provision of information services may be contracted for implementation of the above function of providing access to information at discretion of the government agency or local self-government. Requisites of these organizations (title, postal address, phone and fax numbers, email address, network address) shall be brought to the general public notice.

5. Application procedures for obtaining the information shall be established by the government agency and local self-government in accordance with this Law.

6. Regulations specified in paragraph 5 of this Article shall include titles and the patterns of operation of the corresponding organizations, services, units or officials in charge of provision of access to information; categories of information provided, types of services associated with provision of such information (including the automated information system access procedure), service payment procedure and other terms of access.

Article 31. Accessing information within automated information systems

1. To secure the right to access information in the automated information systems of government agencies or local self-governments shall:

- connect the above said systems to the public communication network and post information on official server (site, portal) of a government agency and local self-government for unlimited access of citizens and organizations connected to this network;

- establish user terminals connected to public networks in locations that are easily accessible for citizens and organizations: in buildings of government agencies and local self-governments, state and municipal libraries, post offices, and other locations determined by legislation;

- assign electronic mail address for collection of requests and communication of information thereby requested;

- bear responsibility for the contents, reliability and comprehensiveness of information posted on official server (site, portal).

2. Documents created with computers and transferred via telecommunication channels shall necessarily include all of the requisites established for such documents. In case of providing information in electronic format, its reliability shall be authenticated with electronic digital signatures or other electronic method in accordance with the legally established procedure.

Article 32. Responsibilities of government agencies and local self-governments officials for provision of access to information

1. Government agencies and local self-governments thereof shall be required to:

- create organizational, technical and other conditions as may be necessary for exercising the right to access information;

- store official documents containing information that is subject to provision in accordance with this Law within the established terms, acts enacted by them, as well as acts of government agencies and organizations in the title of which they act as legal successors;

- secure reliability and comprehensiveness of information thereby provided, and comply with the established terms and conditions of provision of such information;

- comply with the legally established procedure of publishing official documents.

2. In case information thereby provided contains inaccurate or incomplete data, government agencies and local self-governments shall be required to refine or supplement this information as per reasonable written request of a person having applied for such information as soon as possible yet no later than seven business days upon receipt of application.

3. Government agencies or local self-governments shall keep registers of official documents they are required to bring to the public notice and provide on demand. A register shall include the title, date of approval, identification number of each of the issued acts, as well as the data about publication thereof. Agencies in charge of register keeping shall have the right to establish other mandatory requirements in respect of registers.

SECTION VII. IMPLEMENTATION GUARANTEES

Article 33. Organizational guarantees

Government agencies and local self-governments shall:

- establish units within their structures and/or designate persons immediately in charge of actual provision of information to the population;
- arrange for an opportunity for citizens to receive free brief information regarding procedure of implementing provisions of this Law, including information regarding clarification of the subject of requests for provision of information, office hours of government agencies and local self-governments, and the procedure of inspection of the official information funds.

Article 34. Public awareness of implementation of this Law

1. Government agencies and local self-governments shall use mass media to raise public awareness of the procedure of using the ways of acquiring information as established by this Law.

2. Corresponding bodies and local self-governments prepare and publish in mass media their annual progress reports of compliance with the requirements of this Law.

Article 35. Appealing information provision denials

An appeal from denial of a person in charge to provide information, or other actions and decisions of such a person that are in violation with this Law may, at the option of a person requesting information, be taken to a superior officer, the Ombudsman (Akiykatchy) of the Kyrgyz Republic, or judicially in accordance with the legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Article 36. Liability for violation of the duty to provide information

Persons accused of the violation or inappropriate performance of the duty to provide information shall bear criminal, administrative, civil, disciplinary or material liability in accordance with the legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic.

SECTION VIII. FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 37. Effectiveness of the Law

1. This Law shall become effective upon official publication thereof.

2. The Government of the Kyrgyz Republic shall within three months:

submit proposals for adjustment of legal acts in accordance with this Law to the Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic for consideration;

submit decision making proposals related to implementation of this Law to the President of the Kyrgyz Republic;

adjust its legal and regulatory acts in accordance with this Law;

make provisions for adjustment of legal and regulatory acts of the ministries, state committees and administrative agencies and local state administrations in accordance with this Law.

3. Local self-governments shall take necessary measures arising from this Law, and adjust their legal and regulatory acts in accordance with this Law.

President of the Kyrgyz Republic

K. Bakiev

Accepted by Parliament of Kyrgyz Republic

14 November 2006