
Press release

Access to information and the Romanian Ombudsman

The access to information is a right that the citizen must exert free of any constraints.

When this right is trespassed, the institution of the Romanian Ombudsman is mandated by the Constitution to intervene in order to offer protection.

However, this is not the way things go in Romania. The current practice invalidates the above mentioned premises.

Asociatia Romana pentru Transparenta (Transparency International – Romania) analyzed the Romanian Ombudsman’s role in defending the free access to the public information.

In the same time, ART comparatively studied the manner in which the equivalent institution from the European Union, called the European Ombudsman, involves in defending this right.

ART a published a report of this comparative study, to which it added a set of suggestion for the Romanian Ombudsman.

In essence, ART proposes to the Romanian Ombudsman to make recommendations to the public institutions, constituting them into a good practice inspired by the European experience.

Friday, 15 November, ART organized a roundtable, to which participated a representative of the Swedish Ombudsman, representatives of the Romanian Ombudsman, of the ministries with attributions in the field, NGOs, and journalists.

Besides them was also Dan Jurcan, Secretary of state in the Ministry for the Public Information, and the deputy Mona Musca – both involved in promoting the law of the free access to the information of public interest, from its draft phase until the actual phase, of campaign for promoting it in the public’s attention.

The conclusion of the meeting was that the difficulties in the application of the law of the free access to information of public interest (no. 544) require the Romanian Ombudsman's intervention.

The Romanian Ombudsman has to its disposal the necessary instruments to action, if it chooses to intervene by defending the free access to information.

Transparency International - Romania