

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is PiE project?

Partners in Empowerment project is an EU-funded project with an overall objective of increased public accountability and effective policymaking towards sustainable development (PiE) from 2015-2018. The specific objective of the PiE is to foster stronger, interconnected civil society organisations (CSOs) and CSO leaders in five Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine) – increase in their ability to work together, to draw on peer and international expertise to hold governments accountable, and to become effective watchdogs engaged in policymaking processes and in leveraging expertise to monitor public service delivery and government decisions.

2. Who have prepared these materials?

All the materials are prepared by partners and organisations involved in the PiE project. PiE is led by PASOS (Policy Association for an Open Society), located in Czech Republic. Partners include:

- (1) [Transparency International Anticorruption Center Armenia](#)
- (2) [Center for Economic and Social Development \(CESD\) in Azerbaijan](#)
- (3) [Office for a Democratic Belarus](#)
- (4) [Transparency International Moldova](#)
- (5) [Transparency International Ukraine](#)

Capacity support has also been provided by the [E-Governance Academy \(e-GA\)](#), [Estonian Social Enterprise Network from Estonia](#) and the students of the [Central European University Center for Policy Studies](#) to empower and support the organisations.

The organisations participating in the PiE include:

Armenia

- [NGO Regional Development and Research Center](#)
- [Ecological Safety Ensuring and Democracy Development – ECOLODEMO](#)
- [Ecological Right](#)
- ["KHAZER" Ecological and Cultural NGO](#)

Azerbaijan

- [Economics Research Center](#)
- ["Social Study" Public Association \(SSPA\)](#)
- [Uluchay - Social Economics Innovation Center](#)

Belarus

- [Republican Human Rights Association "Belarusian Helsinki Committee"](#)
- [National public association Belarusian Womens' League \(BWL\)](#)

Moldova

- [AO "Centrul Analitic Independent Expert-Grup"](#)
- [Public Association Agency for Regional Development "Habitat"](#)
- [NGO "WatchDog.MD"](#)
- [Institute for Development and Social Initiatives \(IDIS\), "Viitorul"](#)

Ukraine

- [Association for Community Self-organization Assistance](#)

- [Dnipropetrovsk Oblast NGO "Dnipropetrovsk Coordination-Expert Center for Regulatory Policy"](#)
- [Institute of Analysis and Advocacy](#)

3. What is transparency?

Transparency refers to the openness of processes, procedures and values of CSOs, the proactive public disclosure and dissemination of information that should be in the public domain.

A transparent organisation is understandable and clear to its own people, to its supporters, beneficiaries and stakeholders. Transparent organisations are much more accountable in their nature since promises that have been made, goals that are being achieved, policy statements that guide the organisation and resources that have been allocated are made public. As a result, such organisation has much less room for any secrecy and corruption.

Read more: www.transparency.org

4. Is all transparency good?

Do not overdo it and be careful of the extent of transparency: transparency might not be automatically good. Indeed, more transparency may mean less secrecy but it also means less privacy – and some things might better remain private, such as the medical histories of staff members, etc.

5. Why does successful advocacy need transparency?

In the last decade, there has been a significant change in the role and influence that civil society organisations (CSOs) have in society and politics. CSOs are major providers of essential services, influential advocates for marginalised groups and knowledgeable advisors on public policy. That also means a greater scrutiny of the activities of CSOs. Successful advocacy would CSOs to be transparent now only about their successes and failures afterwards but more about their plans and expected achievement upfront and proactively.

Read more: Link to Webinar 1 materials – [coming soon](#)

6. Why budget work and transparency?

Government budgets are at the core of development. It is the government's most powerful economic tool to meet the needs of its people, especially those who are poor and marginalized. Whether you are interested in health, education, the environment, or pensions, the most well-meaning public policy has little impact on poverty until it is matched with sufficient public resources to ensure its effective implementation.

There is a growing body of evidence showing that, when ordinary people have access to budget information, coupled with the skills and opportunities to participate in the budget process, the resulting engagement between government and citizens can lead to substantive improvements in governance and service delivery.

[Read more here.](#)

7. Why is transparency important in public procurement?

Transparency in governance in general, and in public procurement in particular, has become the focus of lawmakers and civil society in preventing corruption among other objectives.

The total annual global public procurement makes about USD 17.7 Trillion which make 27 Trillion USD if re-calculated in Purchasing Power Parity (PPP). Of them globally 3,5 Trillion USD (or 5.4 Trillion USD in PPP) is lost due to corruption. This is public money collected from taxpayers around the world.

Transparency in public procurement gives the law enforcement institutions, civil society, investigative journalists possibility to monitor how competitive was the procurement process, identify eventual conflicts of interests, cases of miss-allocation of public funds, as well as other law infringements in this process and bringing to responsibility the law breakers.

Read more here:

- 1) Webinar 4 slides (TI-Moldova) –coming soon
- 2) [“How Relevant is the Principle of Transparency in Public Procurement?”](#)

8. How does e-democracy enhance transparency?

By e-democracy we mean the smart use of digital tools to enrich and transform the existing governance models and practices. e-Democracy is an integral part of e-Governance development. Its essence lies in enhancement of democratic processes by means of technology. ICT profoundly increases the transparency, responsiveness and accountability of the government and offers citizens an additional opportunity to participate in political processes. The result is better political decisions for the whole society.

- 1) For more information about e-Democracy activities of e-Governance Academy here.
- 2) Link to webinar –coming soon

9. What is open data?

Open data is data in machine readable format that can be freely used, re-used and redistributed by anyone. Open data supports more transparent governance and provides opportunity for CSOs to advance knowledge based advocacy. Several countries have started to present their open data resources via open data portals.

- 1) For more information about e-Democracy activities of e-Governance Academy here
- 2) Link to webinar – coming soon

10. What is the situation with triggers and barriers for e-Democracy?

In 2017 e-Governance Academy conducted a Situation Review in six Eastern-EU Partnership (EaP) countries that examined two important aspects of e-Governance: the security of an information society and e-democracy. The Situation Review provides an overview of the safety and security of cyberspace and also e-democracy’s current state-of-affairs in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. The Review highlights best practices from these countries and provides concrete policy recommendations for increasing safety and security in their cyberspace and further developing e-democracy initiatives.

[Click to read the Situation Review](#)