



CENTAR ZA GRAĐANSKO OBRAZOVANJE
CENTRE FOR CIVIC EDUCATION

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OTHERS SHOULD FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE OF TAX REVENUE OFFICE

Within the Center for Civic Education (CCE) project “*Give an account of yourselves*”, CCE has filed to the Tax Revenue Office (TRO) a request for information on the number of Tax Revenue Office employees whose mobile phone bills are being paid from the Budget, as well as their names.

TRO has answered to the CCE within the legal deadline stating that “Tax Revenue Office has an economic and rational manner of spending funds from the Budget” specifying that “average monthly mobile phone bills in period from January to September 2007 were 1.588,12€ or 9,23€ per employee entitled on bill coverage up to the certain amount.”

In the TRO explanation it is written that limited bill coverage is provided for employees working on a position that “requires often telephone contacts with clients, taxpayers and other subjects of significance for the implementation of TRO mandate”. Furthermore, it stipulates that this “category of employees whose bills are being paid from the Budget is composed of chiefs, coordinators of units, tax inspectors, field control officers and employees executing field activities, in total 172 of them.”

TRO refused to disclose names of these employees estimating that information of this kind would be “pointless and could represent abuse of right on information which is not allowed by positive regulations and case law.” In its report TRO stipulates that all data on work and expenditures should be made public, and offers its report for period from January to September on web site: www.poreskauprava.vlada.cg.yu.

CCE deems positive this rapid and exhaustive response of TRO. This is an important step forward in introduction of principle of full transparency and accountability of public authorities, although access to information is not completely allowed. CCE encourages other institutions to follow the good practice example of TRO in this regard.

At the same time, CCE expresses regret for lack of response from Parliament related to the request for free access to the information on mobile telephone numbers of MPs whose bills up to 100€ are being paid, as well as on information on other officers whose bills are also being paid from the Budget. Today CCE sent again request to the Parliament asking for access to this information.

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