# SPV : Freedom of Expression, Media Pluralism and Access to Information (SPV-FREXPLUME)

**Regional event: "Euro-Mediterranean approaches on access to information" 22 April 2024**

**(. .. ) Hotel, Rabat, Morocco**

1. **Background**

As part of the joint European Union and Council of Europe program "[Protecting human](https://pjp-eu.coe.int/en/web/south-programme/about) [rights,](https://pjp-eu.coe.int/en/web/south-programme/about) [rule of law and democracy through shared standards in the Southern Mediterranean](https://pjp-eu.coe.int/en/web/south-programme/about)"(South V Programme), the project on “[Freedom of Expression, Media Pluralism and Access to](https://www.coe.int/en/web/freedom-expression/south-programme-v-freedom-of-expression-and-pluralistic-media-) [Information (SPV-FREXPLUME)](https://www.coe.int/en/web/freedom-expression/south-programme-v-freedom-of-expression-and-pluralistic-media-)” aims to promote Council of Europe norms and standards in this field.

In the digital era, the access to information has become a fundamental pillar of transparent and accountable governance. It was on this basis that the [Council of Europe Convention on](https://www.coe.int/en/web/access-to-official-documents) [Access to Official Documents (CETS No. 205)](https://www.coe.int/en/web/access-to-official-documents) was adopted over ten years ago in Tromsø. Thus far, the Convention has been ratified by 15 States Parties. In Morocco, the right of access to information is guaranteed by Article 27 of the 2011 Constitution. The [Commission](https://www.cdai.ma/fr/accueil/) [for the](https://www.cdai.ma/fr/accueil/) [Right of Access to Information / *Commission pour le Droit d’Accès à l’Information (CDAI)*](https://www.cdai.ma/fr/accueil/)was set up under the law no. 31.13 to ensure that this right is respected and properly applied.

Recognizing the importance of the access to information in the Mediterranean region, this regional event co-organised by the Council of Europe’s Division for Cooperation on Freedom of Expression and the Morocco’s Commission for the Right of Access to Information aims to bring together institutional representatives of authorities responsible for the access to information in the Mediterranean region, to exchange and share best practices, as well as tools that can contribute to a more effective exercise of the right of access to information.

1. **Objectives and expected results**

The primary objective of the Regional Forum is to foster the exchange of knowledge and experiences among Mediterranean and European countries. The event thus aims to create a platform for discussion and exchange on the effective implementation and improvement of access to information practices through the prism of the European standards.

The event will take place in Rabat and will be the opportunity for Morocco’s Commission for the Right of Access to Information to present its proposal for a benchmark on self-assessment performance indicators. Considering the Commission’s mission, the discussions will also concern other good practices of counterpart institutions in the Euro-Mediterranean region, with a view to improving the functioning of access to information.

The expected outcomes of this regional event are the following:

1. Increased awareness of the European standards and the importance of adhering to them.
2. A better understanding of how to set up effective information access mechanisms and tools.
3. Peer to peer exchange and recommendations on good practice and solutions concerning institutional architectures and tools for the practical application of rights and duties regarding the access to information.

**DRAFT AGENDA**

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| **22 April 2024** |
| **09:00-09:30** | **Opening remarks****Carmen MORTE-GOMEZ,** *Head of Council of Europe Office in Rabat***Alina TATARENKO,** *Head of the division for Cooperation on freedom of expression - Democratic Institutions and Freedoms Department***Omar SEGHROUCHNI***, President of the Commission for the Right of Access to Information (CDAI) Morocco* |
| **09:30-10:30** | **European standards and practice on access to information****Tetyana OLEKSIYUK,** *Vice-President of the Council of Europe Access to Information Group (AIG), Consultant on access to information issues*  |
| **10:30-11:00** | ***Pause café*** |
| **11:00-12:30** | **Access to information mechanisms: case studies and peer-to-peer exchange****Moderator: Patrick LEUSCH,** *Council of Europe expert***Adnene LASSOUED,** *President of the Authority on Access to information, Tunisia* **Alberto OLIVEIRA,** *President of the Commission on Access to Administrative Documents (CADA), Portugal* **Gonzalo GOMEZ DE VILLALOBOS***, Chief of Regional Administration Complaints Office, Spain* **Plamenka BOJCHEVA**, *Director of the Agency for Protection of the Right to Free Access to Public Information, North Macedonia* **Elona HOXHAJ,** *General Director of the Right to Information of the Commissioner for Information and Data Protection, Albania***Milan MARINOVIĆ,** *Commissioner for Information of Public Importance and Personal Data Protection, Serbia***Ger DEERING,** *Obudsperson and Information Commissioner, Ireland***\****Representative of Greece*  |
| **12:30-14:00** | ***Lunch*** |
| **14:00– 15:30** | **Self-assessment and performance indicators: Moroccan Benchmark****Moderator: Patrick LEUSCH,** *Council of Europe expert***Omar SEGOURCHNI***, President of the Commission on Right to Information, Morocco* |
| **15:30-15:45** | ***Coffee break*** |
| **15:45-17:00** | **Conclusions and next steps****Moderator: Patrick LEUSCH,** *Council of Europe expert***Tetyana OLEKSIYUK,** *Vice-President of the Council of Europe Access toInformation Group (AIG), Consultant on access to information issues*  |
| **17:00-17:30** | **Closing remarks****Alina TATARENKO,** *Head of the division for Cooperation on freedom of expression - Democratic Institutions and Freedoms Department***Omar SEGOURCHNI**, *President of the Commission du Droit d’Accès àl’Information,**Morocco* |