Access to information on environment in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Đana Alibegović

Legal consultant of Eko Forum Zenica

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Prague December 10th, 2015
INTRODUCTION

• Who is Eko Forum Zenica?

• What does it promote?

• What has Eko Forum succeeded to accomplish?

• What is the scope of my work?
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STATE REGULATION

• Specific country relating to its internal regulation: Presidency of three Members, 14 governments with 170 Ministries

• Federation of BiH, Republika Srpska and Brčko District

• Responsibility for environmental issues lies on authorities at the Federal level

• **Shortcomings**
  • insufficient number of adequately equipped environmental laboratories
  • lack of trained personnel
  • low means for regular monitoring
  • publicly inaccessible PRTR
FREE ACCESS TO THE INFORMATIONS

Right to free access to information guaranteed by:

- Law on Environmental Protection (article 10)
- Law on Free Access to the Informations (article 4)
- Aarhus Convention (Pillar I)

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• Aarhus Convention - *1998* Aarhus, Denmark

• Specifies on certain civil rights in the field of environmental protection

• **Contains three crucial pillars**
  
  - right to access to information
  - public participation in decision-making
  - right to access to justice

• BiH a party to the AC since *2008*
• Eventhough free access to information is guaratneed by law, the law is often violated!

• Out of 73 request for data, we received only 30 answers!

• Process of collecting information is lengthy and often fails

• Example

> Cantonal inspection > Federal inspection > Electric power company = private company = x !
• Second pillar of Aarhus convention – Right for public participation in decision-making and example from practice

• Third pillar of Aarhus convention – Right to access the justice and example from practice
From 24th of November 2015 six facilities of ArcelorMittal Zenica are working without environmental permits.
Expired environmental permits

- Coke Plant: 24.11.2010 – 24.11.2015
- Sintering Plant: 24.11.2010 – 24.11.2015
- Power Plant: 24.11.2010 – 24.11.2015
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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

TIME FOR YOUR QUESTIONS

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