

THE UNECE CONVENTION ON ACCESS TO INFORMATION, PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS (AARHUS CONVENTION)

TASK FORCE ON ACCESS TO INFORMATION

ELECTRONIC INFORMATION TOOLS: CASE STUDY BY BULGARIA

OPEN DATA PORTAL

<https://data.egov.bg/>

I. Description

▪ 1. Brief description:

According to the national legislation, every public authority in Bulgaria shall plan, on an annual basis, publication in open machine-readable format of the free access information resources maintained by itself. Public authorities shall publish this information in the Open Data Portal of the Council of Ministers, with free access.

In the Open Data Portal the Ministry of Environment and Water and its regional bodies has already published 335 data sets in open, machine-readable format, appropriate for re-use (.csv format, mainly):

- Air emissions;
- Daily bulletin for air quality;
- Data from the Information System for Water Monitoring;
- Water bodies and water use;
- Soil monitoring;
- Noise levels of industrial sources;
- Forest ecosystems;
- Waste management and waste fees;
- Permits/licenses;
- Inspections;
- Signals;
- Access to information requests.

▪ 2. Type: [governmental, non-governmental, municipal, other]

Governmental

▪ 3. Scope: [international, sub-regional, national, local]

National/Local

▪ 4. Working language(s):

Bulgarian/English

▪ 5. Target users:

General public/NGOs/Academia/Business

▪ 6. Starting year:

2016 (the first version of the Portal – now it is upgraded)

▪ 7. Budget and funding source:]

EU funds - the Open Data Portal is developed under Project: BG05SFOP001-2.001-0001 „Improving the processes related to the provision, access and reuse of public sector information“ financed by the „Good governance“ Operational Programme 2014-2020

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II. Implementation

- **9. Policy, legal and institutional context:**

Access to Public Information Act;

Ordinance on standard conditions for the re-use of public sector information and for its publication in an open format;

The Council of Ministers adopts decisions for the lists of priority data sets which shall be published in open format – annually;

Public Sector Information Directive, also known as the ‘PSI Directive’ (Directive 2003/98/EC) which dated from 2003 and was subsequently amended by the Directive 2013/37/EU. Recently was adopted Directive on open data and the re-use of public sector information, also known as the ‘Open Data Directive’ (Directive (EU) 2019/1024). It replaces the PSI Directive. Member States have to transpose Directive (EU) 2019/1024 by 16 July 2021.

The Open Data Portal is maintained by the Administration of the Council of Ministers.

- **10. Partner organizations involved:**
- **11. Stakeholders involved, their expected benefits:**
- **12. User needs and methods of their assessment:**
- **13. Technology choice:**

III. Evaluation

- **14. Results:**
- **15. Efficiency gains:**
- **16. Risks:**
- **17. Challenges encountered (please indicate resolved or not):**
- **18. Lessons learned:**
- **19. Conditions for successful replication:**
- **20. Overall assessment of the tool:**