

# TRANSPARENCY AND THE RIGHT TO INFORMATION IN ALBANIA

Leticja NENSHATI (LEKAJ)

Law Faculty, "Gjon Buzuku" University, I "Vasil Shanto", rr. "Qemal Dracini", kati III Shkodër,  
E-mail:leticjalekaj@yahoo.it

## Abstract

A professional, transparent and impartial public administration is the central and the most important part of democratic governance. Transparency in public administration has become an essential issue on the political agenda of every democratic country. As a basic principle, it is part of an open civil service where there can be just a few secrets. Transparency helps to inform the public about everything that happens in the government agenda, (except the documents which are secret), proposals, and also the logics and the facts of a decision taken by the administration. This serves to increase the quality and to make civil servants and executives more responsible and friendly. Albania has made some progress in this aspect, and important steps are taken, because we have laws which encourage transparency as one of their main principles, and also we have "The Right to Information Act" which means that information is freely available and directly accessible to those who will be affected by such decisions and their enforcement. In this paper, first of all, we are going to analyse the importance of this principle, and how it effects directly the performance of civil servants. Also we will discuss the need for promoting transparency in decision making; how transparency brings benefits to the government themselves, directly or indirectly, because it is considered to be a key component of public policy and efficiency; how does transparency fight again corruption and also the collaboration between government, local government and public participation.

**Key words:** *transparency, the right to information, civil service, government*