PARLIAMENTARY OPENNESS INDEX

SERBIA AND REGION

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1. INTRODUCTION

Openness, as a principle of good management, is an important criterion for analyzing democracy degree showed by institutions in a society. Openness of institutions enables the citizens to be informed on the work and all processes in the institution, to control their work, and provide them with a tool to be involved in decision-making processes.

Parliament, as one of the three pillars of a functional democracy, is the highest representative body. Due to its representational function, parliament should be responsive to citizens and be a leader and model to other institutions in promoting openness and institutional accountability. Parliamentary openness and data transparency is crucial for civil control of elected representatives. Parliaments must be inclusive, accountable, accessible and willing to be responsive to citizens. Parliamentary openness in that context enables citizens to be informed about the work of parliament, empowers citizens to engage in the legislative process, allows citizens to hold parliamentarians to account and ensures that citizens' interests are represented.

The "Parliamentary Openness Index in Serbia and the Region" report aims to inform us on the status of parliamentary openness in the region and is based on the study of applied criteria for parliamentary openness contained in the Declaration on Parliamentary Openness.

The parliamentary openness index indicates the effort made by the parliaments of Serbia and the region in the process of opening to the public, engaging civil sector and education of citizens. The report also shows the status in the area of publishing information on the work of parliaments, both on their roles and functions, as well as on the entire legislative process, the activities in plenary and working bodies, MPs and employees in the parliament. Furthermore, the report analyzes the accessibility of information about the work of parliaments, by enabling presence of media and monitoring of the work of parliaments, citizens' visits to parliaments and their presence in plenary and committee meetings. The study covered monitoring of information availability on the Internet and forms available to citizens for use and analysis, i.e. information formats and tools for presenting data to citizens.

Besides monitoring the situation in specific areas, the goal of the study is to make recommendations based on obtained results to parliaments in Serbia and the region on how they can improve their work and make parliament more open to the public.

2. METHODS

The study on the degree of parliamentary openness was conducted in October 2014, and it included the parliaments in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Croatia, Macedonia, Slovenia, and Serbia. The report was created based on the set of criteria divided into three categories that are in line with the principles of the Declaration on Parliamentary Openness.

The Declaration specifies the following three categories of criteria: promoting a culture of openness, ensuring transparency of information about the work of parliament, and easing access to information about the work of parliament.

The first category of criteria focuses on the field of promoting a culture of openness. Openness as a term means that information about the work of parliament belongs to the public, and that it will be available to citizens for use or further publication, with possible restrictions that are in detail defined by law. To promote a culture of openness, parliament must adopt measures that will ensure inclusive civic engagement and free civil society. This category in the study contains eight issues relating to work transparency, public relations, web site promptness, citizens' education and parliament's cooperation with the civil sector. Parliament has to improve citizens' understanding of the parliament's work and to share good practices with other parliaments to increase openness and transparency. Parliament shall work collaboratively with civil society and citizens to ensure that parliamentary information is complete, accurate, and timely.[1]

The second category of criteria relates to the issue of transparency of information on the work of parliament. Transparency as a term means proactive publication of parliamentary information. Under the study, the category includes 35 issues relating to the disclosure of information concerning the functions of parliament, MPs, procedures and regulations in parliament, plenary and committee proceedings. Parliament should adopt policies that ensure the proactive dissemination of parliamentary information. Parliamentary information includes information about parliament's roles and functions, and information generated throughout the legislative process, including the text of introduced legislation and amendments, votes, the parliamentary agenda and schedule, records of plenary and working body proceedings, historical information, and all other information such as reports created for or by parliament. Parliament shall provide information on the management and administration of parliament, parliamentary staff, and comprehensive and detailed parliamentary budget information. Parliament should provide information about the backgrounds, activities and affairs of members, including all information for citizens

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[1] http://www.otvoreniparlament.rs/deklaracija-o-otvorenosti-parlamenata/ (visited on: 19.10.2014)

necessary to make judgments regarding their competence and integrity, as well as potential conflicts of interest.[2]

The third category of criteria of parliamentary openness is access to parliamentary information and contains 15 issues relating to possible media coverage, citizens' visits and physical access to plenary sessions, access to information, updated websites, and possible monitoring via new technologies. Parliament shall ensure that information is accessible to all citizens on a non-discriminatory basis through multiple channels, including first-person observation, print media, radio, and live and on-demand broadcasts on the internet. Physical access to parliament shall be provided to all citizens, subject to movement and safety limitations, with clearly defined and publicly available policies for ensuring access by media and observers. Parliamentary information must be available free of charge, in all official and working languages, and plain language summaries, that help ensure that parliamentary information is understandable to broader population.[3]

The study is conducted by visiting the official websites of the parliaments (National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia[4], Croatian Parliament[5], the Parliament of Montenegro[6], Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina[7], the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia[8], the Assembly of the Republic of Albania[9], the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia[10]), as well as through the analysis of documents (rules of procedure, budget, etc.). Fulfillment of criteria is assessed for each category and they will be presented in the report.

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[2] http://www.otvoreniparlament.rs/deklaracija-o-otvorenosti-parlamenata/ (visited on: 19.10.2014)
[3] http://www.otvoreniparlament.rs/deklaracija-o-otvorenosti-parlamenata/ (visited on: 19.10.2014)
[4] http://www.parlament.gov.rs/narodna-skupstina-.871.html
[5] http://www.sabor.hr/Default.aspx
[6] http://www.skupstina.me/index.php/me/
[7] https://www.parlament.ba/default.aspx?langTag=bs-BA&pril=b
[8] http://www.sobranie.mk/pocetna.nspx
[9] http://www.parlament.al/web/Albanian_Parliament_1_2.php
[10] http://www.dz-rs.si/wps/portal/Home/

3. PARLIAMENTARY OPENNESS INDEX IN THE REGION

In this section, we will present summary results of parliamentary openness in the region. Based on three sets of criteria, the analysis showed that the Parliament of Montenegro meets most criteria, 44 out of 58 criteria (76% openness criteria fulfillment). This is followed by the Serbian parliament, which meets the 42 criteria (72%). Parliaments of Croatia and Albania meet 40 criteria of openness (69%). Lower result is provided by the parliaments of Macedonia and Slovenia, fulfilling 36 criteria (62%). The lowest result in terms of criteria fulfillment is achieved by the parliament of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which meets 35 criteria (60%).

Parliamentary Openness Index

Montenegro	76%
Serbia	72%
Albania	69%
Croatia	69%
Macedonia	62%
Slovenia	62%
Bosnia and Herzegovina	60%

Parliamentary Openness Index

openness criteria fulfillment, total of 58

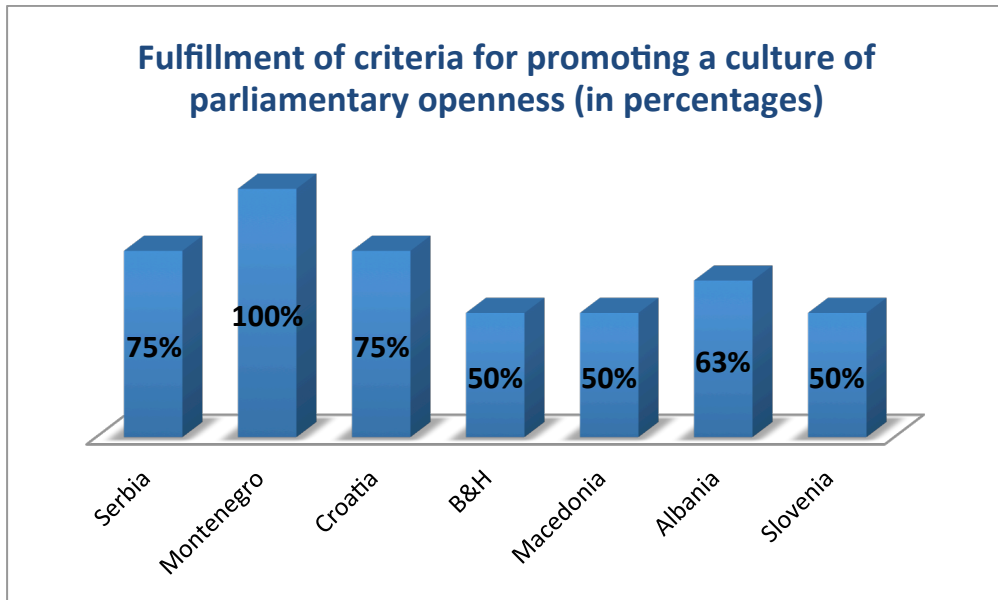|	
Montenegro	44
Serbia	42
Albania	40
Croatia	40
Macedonia	36
Slovenia	36
Bosnia and Herzegovina	35
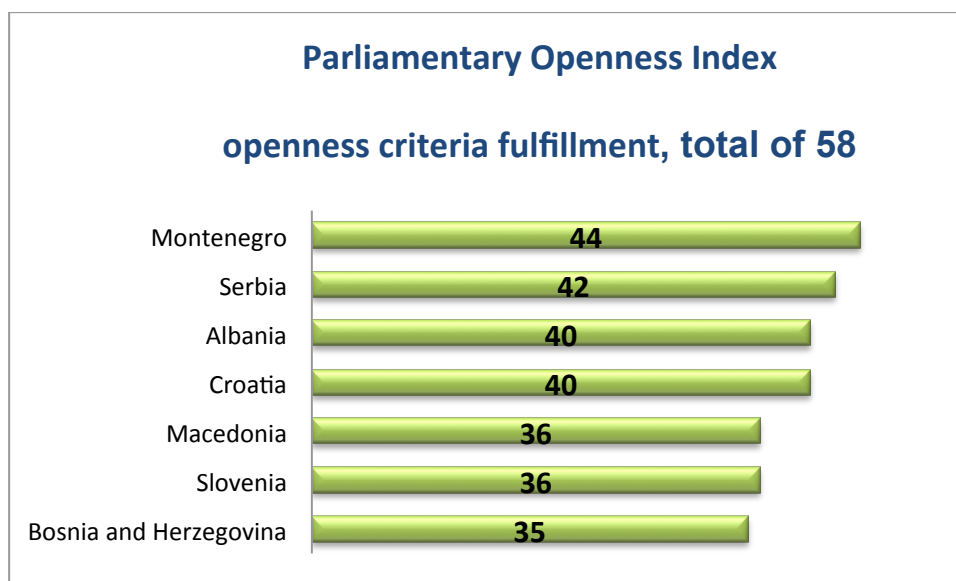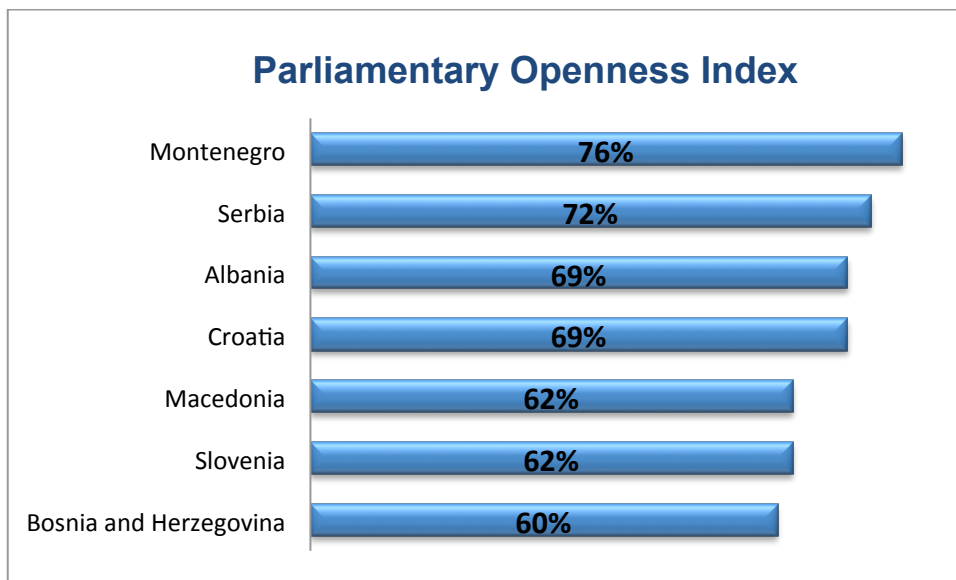
3.1. GENERAL OPENNESS INDEX ASSESSMENT

Parliaments in the region, compared to previous years, made a step forward in terms of their openness. All parliaments fulfill some criteria of general importance. Parliamentary transparency is the principle adopted by all parliaments. Basic data on the role, structure and functioning, as well as the adopted laws and bills is published. The minutes of the meetings as well as video clips are also published. All parliaments have enabled media coverage, physical access of citizens, while parliaments' web sites are designed to be easily readable and accessible by everyone. However, in terms of the openness of parliaments in the region, data should be more transparent with respect to plenary sessions, primarily committee meetings, as well as MPs. In addition, detailed information on budget, internal rules and administrative procedures in parliament are rarely published.

3.2. PROMOTING PARLIAMENTARY OPENNESS CULTURE

The fulfillment rate of the first category of issues ranges from 50% to 100%. The Parliament of Montenegro meets all the criteria, while the parliaments of Serbia and Croatia show a high rate of criteria fulfillment. Almost all parliaments have promoted the principle of transparency in their documents, where they usually have appointed a department for public relations. Parliaments often lack the department for citizen education, as well as education programs, while institutional cooperation with the civil sector is even more rarely represented.

Fulfillment of criteria for promoting a culture of parliamentary openness (in percentages)

Serbia 75% — Montenegro 100% — Croatia 75% — B&H 50% — Macedonia 50% — Albania 63% — Slovenia 50%

When it comes to individual criteria within the category of parliamentary openness culture, the summary of result for the region is as follows:
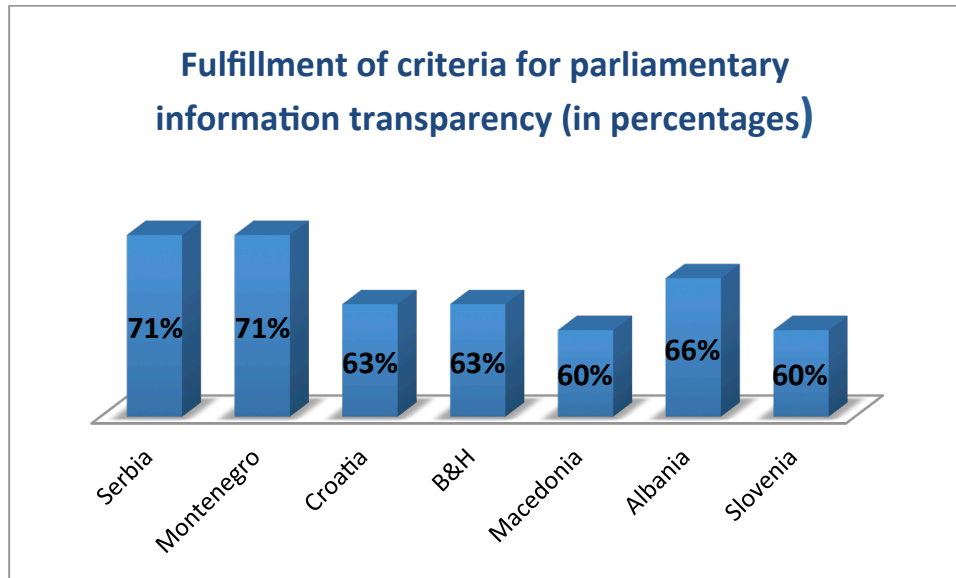
SUMMARY FULFILLMENT OF CRITERIA FOR PROMOTING A CULTURE OF OPENNESS		
Criterion	**Number of parliaments**	**Percentage**
Principe of transparency adopted	7	100%
Prescribed exemption from transparency	7	100%
Public relations department	7	100%
Website regulary updated	6	86%
Citizen education department	3	43%
Citizen education programs	3	43%
Institutional arrangements for cooperation between parliament and civil society	2	29%
Section for cooperation with civil society	2	29%

3.3. PARLIAMENTARY INFORMATION TRANSPARENCY

The second category of criteria relates to parliamentary information transparency, and contains 35 issues on the disclosure of information concerning the functions of parliaments, MPs, procedures and regulations in parliament, all activities and documents related to plenary and committee sessions, as well as publishing of reports, detailed budget and archive information.

The fulfillment rate of the criterion ranges from 60% do 73%. The highest fulfillment rate in this category is achieved by the parliaments of Serbia and Montenegro, followed by the Parliament of Albania. Most parliaments publish information on the role, structure and functions of parliament, as well as the rules of procedure, basic MPs' background information, their functions in the parliament as well as their

affiliation to political parties. The fulfillment rate is also high for criterion relating to the minutes of the plenary sessions, as well as publication of adopted laws and bills. On the other hand, internal rules of parliament and administrative procedures, detailed budgets, CVs of MPs, presence of MPs in the sessions, as well as individual voting results are not published. The study has shown that parliaments are significantly lagging behind when it comes to publishing information on the work of parliamentary committees in comparison to information on plenary sessions.

When it comes to individual criteria within the category of parliamentary information transparency, the summary of result for the region is as follows:

SUMMARY FULFILLMENT OF CRITERIA OF PARLIAMENTARY INFORMATION TRANSPARENCY		
Criterion	**Number of parliaments**	**Percentage**
Published Rules of Procedure	7	100%
Published data on parliamentary staff	6	86%
Published parliamentary budget	3	43%
Published information booklet	4	57%
Published MP's background	7	100%

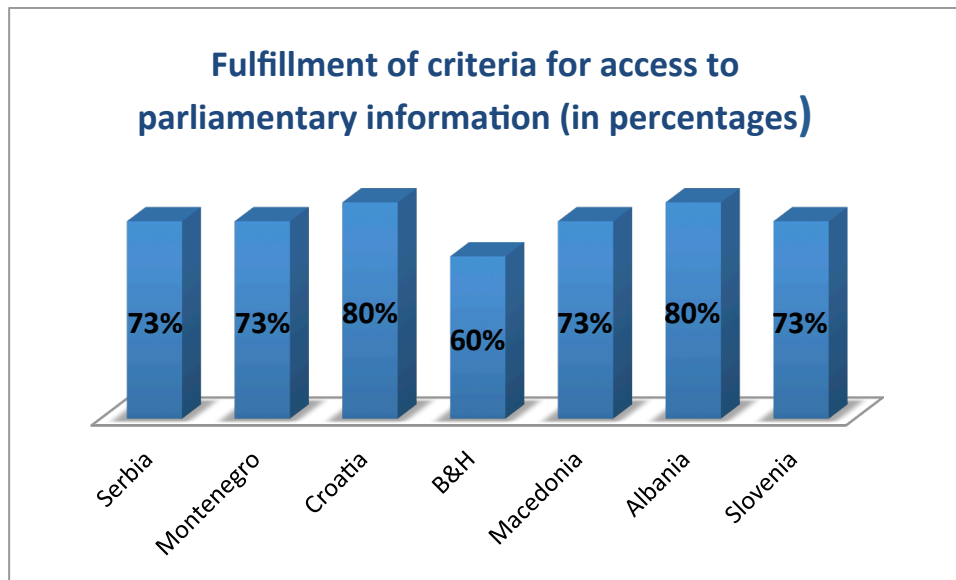|		
Published MP's CVs	4	57%
Published professional qualifications of MPs	7	100%
Published functions of MPs in parliament	7	100%
Published membership in political parties in parliament	7	100%
Published MPs' contact information	5	71%
Published MPs' financial status	1	14%
Published transcripts of plenary sessions	5	71%
Published minutes of plenary sessions	5	71%
Published video recordings of plenary sessions	6	86%
Published voting results of plenary sessions	4	57%
Published attendance of MPs at plenary sessions	3	43%
Published transcripts of committee sessions	1	14%
Published minutes of committee sessions	4	57%
Published video recordings of committee sessions	2	29%
Published voting results of committee sessions	0	0%
Published attendance of MPs at committee sessions	1	14%
Published documents being considered by committee	4	57%
Published law drafts	7	100%
Published laws	6	86%
Published amendments	1	14%
Published other documents adopted at plenary sessions	7	100%
Published documents adopted at committee sessions	3	43%

3.4. ACCESS TO PARLIAMENTARY INFORMATION

The category of criterion for access to parliamentary information contains 15 issues about possible media coverage, citizens' visits and physical access to plenary sessions, access to information, updated websites, and possible monitoring via new technologies. Parliament has to ensure that

information is accessible to all citizens on a non-discriminatory basis through multiple channels, including first-person observation, print media, radio, and live or on-demand broadcasts and streaming.

The fulfillment rate of the criterion ranges from 60 to 80%. The highest fulfillment rate in this category is indicated by parliaments in Croatia and Albania, followed with a slightly lower fulfillment rate of the parliaments of Serbia, Montenegro, Macedonia and Slovenia. Most parliaments have allowed media coverage of plenary sessions, citizens' visits to parliament and physical access to plenary sessions. Any information provided by parliament is free of charge, in open formats. On the other hand, most parliaments have no clearly defined procedures for reporting by the media, citizens' visits to plenary and committee sessions. Parliaments also do not use social networks as a form of communication with citizens.

Fulfillment of criteria for access to parliamentary information (in percentages)

Serbia	Montenegro	Croatia	B&H	Macedonia	Albania	Slovenia
73%	73%	80%	60%	73%	80%	73%

When it comes to individual criteria within the category of access to parliamentary information, the summary of result for the region is as follows:

SUMMARY FULFILLMENT OF CRITERIA OF ACCESS TO PARLIAMENTARY INFORMATION		
Criterion	Number of parliaments	Percentage
Media enabled to cover plenary sessions	7	100%
Clear procedure for obtaining accreditation for covering plenary	5	71%

session		
Citizens enabled to visit the parliament	7	100%
Clear procedure for citizens' visit to parliament	6	86%
Citizens enabled to physically access plenary sessions	6	86%
Clear procedure for citizens' physical access to plenary sessions	4	57%
Clear procedure for citizens' physical access to committee sessions	1	14%
Parliamentary information in open formats	7	100%
Search engine on parliament web page	7	100%
Use of social networks	1	14%

3.5. GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PARLIAMENTARY OPENNESS IMPROVEMENT

By adopting *Declaration on Parliamentary Openness*, which provides a framework for improving transparency and accountability, parliaments would unequivocally show their firm commitment to comply with standards and values promoted by the Declaration. In addition, to further improve the degree of openness, the parliaments in the region should:

- institutionalize cooperation with civil society;
- promote civic education and create education programs;
- publish information about employees in the parliament and administration;
- publish detailed budget;
- publish full details of MPs (background, CVs, qualifications/occupation, functions, political party affiliation, contact details);
- publish information and materials created in connection with the work of plenary sessions;
- publish information and materials created in connection with the work of committee sessions (reports on committees/commissions activities, including designed and

obtained documents, witness testimony at public meetings, transcripts and reports on the affairs of committees/commissions, parliamentary voting);

- define clear procedures for reporting by the media, citizens visit and physical access to sessions;
- allow physical access of citizens and civil sector to committee meetings;
- enable simple and robust search engines, information through open and structured formats, use of information technology by providing clear instructions for use of databases and tools; facilitate two-way communication, creation of communication strategy through the regular notification forms, as well as the use of social networks as a form of communication with citizens.

4. PARLIAMENTARY OPENNESS IN INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1. SERBIA

When it comes to the openness of the Serbian National Assembly (NARS), according to study methods and the principles of the Declaration on Parliamentary Openness, the analysis showed that the criteria fulfillment rate is quite high. The National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia meets 42 out of 58 criteria (72%).
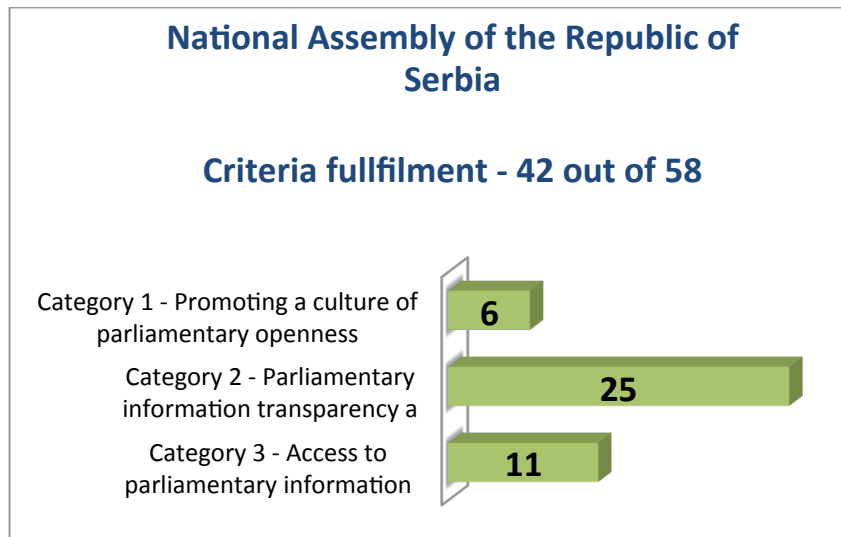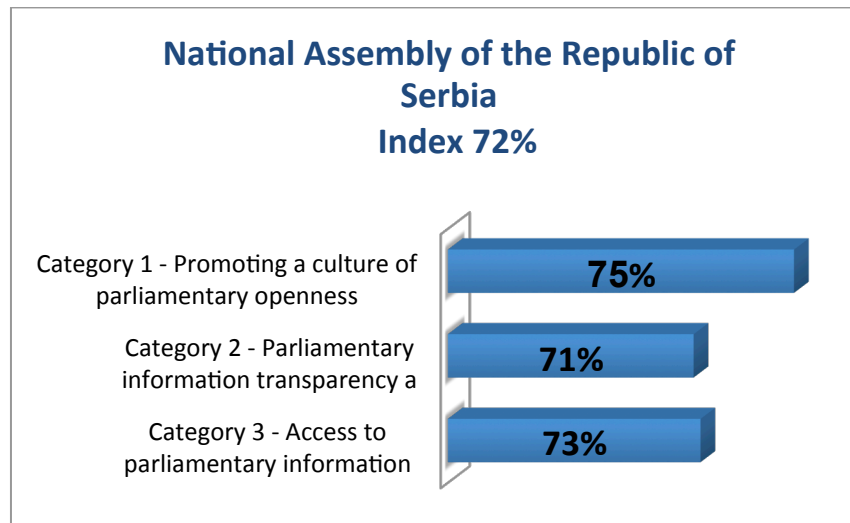
National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia
Index 72%

Category 1 - Promoting a culture of parliamentary openness — **75%**

Category 2 - Parliamentary information transparency a — **71%**

Category 3 - Access to parliamentary information — **73%**

National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia

Criteria fullfilment - 42 out of 58

Category 1 - Promoting a culture of parliamentary openness — **6**

Category 2 - Parliamentary information transparency a — **25**

Category 3 - Access to parliamentary information — **11**

14

According to the first category of criteria, **promoting parliamentary openness culture**, the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia meets 6 out of 8 criteria (75% of criteria fulfillment). The National Assembly adopted under its rules of procedure the principle of transparency and it precisely defined when it is possible to exclude the public. The National Assembly has public relations department, timely updates parliament web page and has programs for citizens education. The criteria not met by the National Assembly relate to the institutionalized model of cooperation with the civil sector.

As for the second category of criteria, **parliamentary information transparency**, the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia meets 25 out of 35 criteria (71% of criteria fulfillment). The National Assembly publishes information regarding its position and roles, functions and internal procedures, as well as its Rules of Procedure, Information Booklet, a detailed budget of parliament and information on its staff. When it comes to information about MPs, the National Assembly publishes data such as their basic information, occupation, membership in political parties and functions in the National Assembly, but fails to publish their CVs, contacts, and data on their financial standing. Transparency of information on the plenary and committee sessions is enabled but not fully. Minutes, video records, transcripts, voting results of plenary sessions, and the minutes and video records of committee sessions are available. What is missing is greater transparency in terms of information on the work of committee.

With respect to the third category of criteria, **access to parliamentary information**, the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia meets 11 out of 15 criteria (73% of criteria fulfillment). The National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia enables media coverage of plenary sessions, visits of citizens to the National Assembly, as well as their physical access to plenary sessions. Unfulfilled criteria relate to formal rules and procedures for providing both citizens and civil society organizations with physical access to plenary sessions, as well as committee meetings. The National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia provides any information free of charge and does not require any form of registration, while all data on the web site are in open formats. The National Assembly has created its profiles on social networks, but they are not updated.
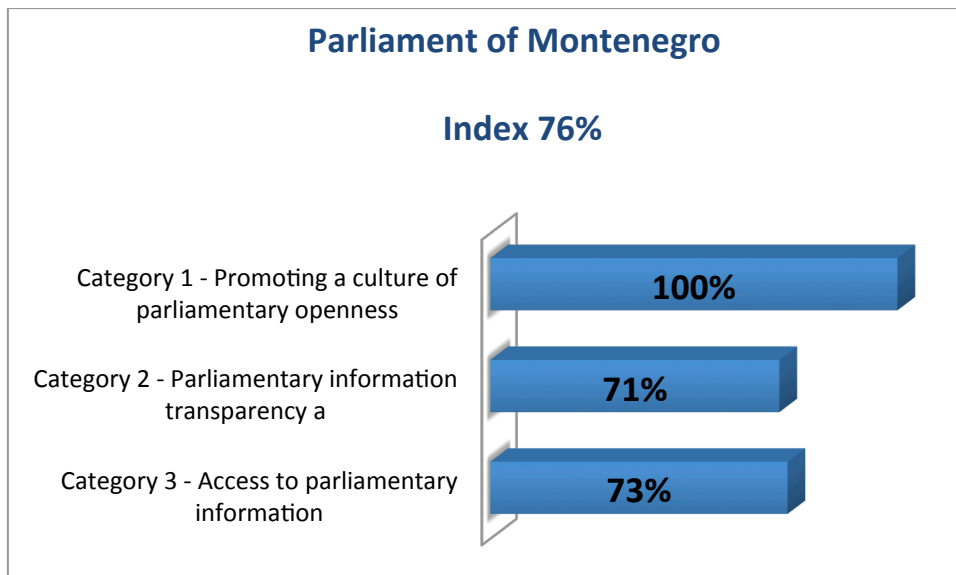
<4.1.1. RECOMMENDATIONS

Although the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia significantly improved its transparency in the previous period, there is still room for further improvements. Besides adopting *Declaration on Parliamentary Openness* in the following period, the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia should:
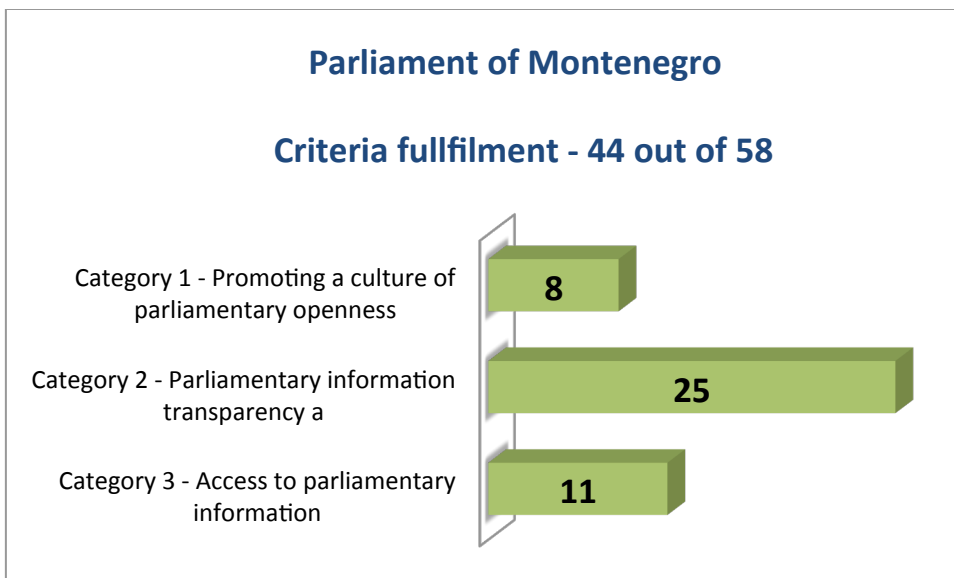
- enable engagement of civil sector through cooperation section as well as engagement of civil sector in the work of committee. Cooperation institutionalization between the National Assembly and civil sector would be a missing link in promoting culture of openness;

- publish all data regarding MPs, such as CVs, their official and directs contact details and financial standing;

- make already published data on its web page mechanically readable;

- publish amendments and documents adopted on committee sessions;

- publish documents being considered and adopted by committees, and information on attendance and voting of MPs;

- create strategy of communication with citizens by enabling two-way communication via new technologies and tools (social networks, etc.)

- create strategy and improve the existing programs of citizen education;

4.2. MONTENEGRO

When it comes to the openness of the Parliament of Montenegro, according to study methods and the principles of the Declaration on Parliamentary Openness, the analysis showed that the criteria fulfillment rate is quite high. The Parliament of Montenegro meets 44 out of 58 criteria (76%).

Parliament of Montenegro

Index 76%

Category 1 - Promoting a culture of parliamentary openness	100%
Category 2 - Parliamentary information transparency a	71%
Category 3 - Access to parliamentary information	73%

Parliament of Montenegro

Criteria fullfilment - 44 out of 58

Category	Value
Category 1 - Promoting a culture of parliamentary openness	8
Category 2 - Parliamentary information transparency a	25
Category 3 - Access to parliamentary information	11

According to the first category of criteria, **promoting parliamentary openness culture**, the Parliament of Montenegro meets all 8 criteria (100% of criteria fulfillment). The Parliament adopted under its Rules of procedure the principle of transparency and it precisely defined when it is possible to exclude the public. The Parliament has public relations department, timely updates the Parliament web page and has programs for citizen education. The Parliament of Montenegro institutionalized its cooperation with civil sector.

As for the second category of criteria, **parliamentary information transparency**, the Parliament of Montenegro meets 25 out of 35 criteria (71% of criteria fulfillment). The Parliament publishes information regarding its position and roles, functions and internal procedures, as well as its Rules of Procedure, Information Booklet, a detailed budget of parliament. The Parliament also publishes detail information about its MPs, ranging from their basic information such as occupation, membership in political parties and functions in the Parliament, to CVs, contacts, and data on their financial standing. Transparency of information on the plenary and committee sessions is enabled, with only information on MPs attendance and voting missing. Transparency regarding information on committee sessions could be improved, as only agenda and reports in the form of news are published. On the other hand, there is full transparency in publication of laws, bills, amendments, and other documents relating to plenary sessions.

With respect to the third category of criteria, **access to parliamentary information,** the Parliament of Montenegro meets 11 out of 15 criteria (73% of criteria fulfillment). The Parliament of Montenegro enables media coverage of plenary sessions, visits of citizens to the Parliament, as well as their physical

access to plenary sessions. Unfulfilled criteria relate to formal rules and procedures for providing both citizens and civil society organizations with physical access to plenary sessions, as well as committee meetings. The Parliament of Montenegro provides any information free of charge and does not require any form of registration, while all data on the web site are in open formats. The Parliament of Montenegro does not have a profile on social networks.
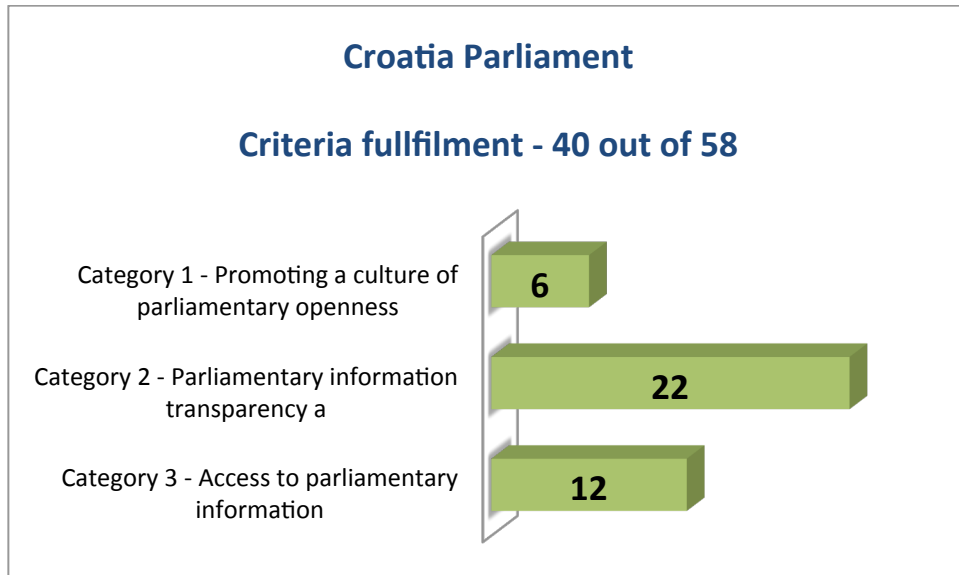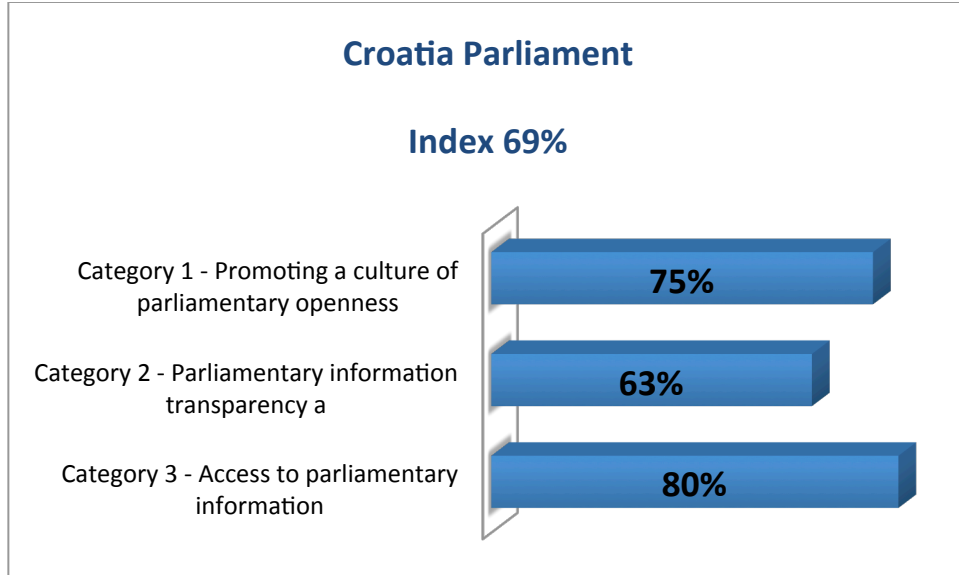
4.2.1. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Parliament of Montenegro shows good results in terms of openness, but they could be further improved. Besides adopting the Declaration on Parliamentary Openness as a framework for its operation and firm commitment to respect the standards promoted by the Declaration, the Parliament of Montenegro should:

- ensure greater transparency of information on the committee;
- publish contact information of its staff;
- allow physical access to committee meetings and precisely establish the procedures for physical access to plenary sessions;
- create a strategy of communication with citizens by enabling two-way communication through new technologies and tools (social networks, etc.)

4.3. CROATIA

When it comes to the openness of the Croatian Parliament, according to study methods and the principles of the Declaration on Parliamentary Openness, the analysis showed that the criteria fulfillment rate is quite high. The Croatian Parliament meets 40 out of 58 criteria (69%). However, there are serious shortcomings in the category of Parliament's work transparency.

Croatia Parliament

Index 69%

Category 1 - Promoting a culture of parliamentary openness **75%**

Category 2 - Parliamentary information transparency a **63%**

Category 3 - Access to parliamentary information **80%**

Croatia Parliament

Criteria fullfilment - 40 out of 58

Category 1 - Promoting a culture of parliamentary openness **6**

Category 2 - Parliamentary information transparency a **22**

Category 3 - Access to parliamentary information **12**

According to the first category of criteria, **promoting parliamentary openness culture**, the Croatian Parliament meets 6 out of 8 criteria (75% of criteria fulfillment). The Parliament adopted under its Rules of procedure the principle of transparency and precisely defined when it is possible to exclude the public. The Parliament has public relations department, timely updates the Parliament web page and has programs for citizen education. The criteria not met by the Croatian Parliament relate to its cooperation with civil sector.

As for the second category of criteria, **parliamentary information transparency**, the Croatian Parliament meets 22 out of 35 criteria (63% of criteria fulfillment). The Parliament publishes information regarding its position and roles, functions and internal procedures, as well as its Rules of Procedure. The Croatian Parliament also publishes information about its MPs, from their basic information such as occupation, membership in political parties, contacts and functions in the Parliament, but fails to publish their CVs and data on their financial standing. Transparency of information on the plenary sessions is enabled, with only transcripts and voting results missing. The same applies to transparency regarding information on committee sessions, where video records, minutes and documents being considered by the committees are available, but transcripts, attendance and voting of MPs are missing. On the other hand, there is full transparency in publication of laws, bills, amendments, and other documents relating to plenary and committee sessions. The Croatian Parliament has a special web page dedicated to acts created under the work of the Croatian Parliament.

With respect to the third category of criteria, **access to parliamentary information,** the Croatian Parliament meets 12 out of 15 criteria (80% of criteria fulfillment). The Croatian Parliament enables media coverage of plenary sessions, visits of citizens to the Parliament, as well as their physical access to plenary sessions. Unfulfilled criteria relate to physical access to committee sessions of both citizens and civil society organizations. The Croatian Parliament provides any information free of charge and does not require any form of registration, while all data on the web site are in open formats. The Croatian Parliament has a profile on social networks but it is not updated.
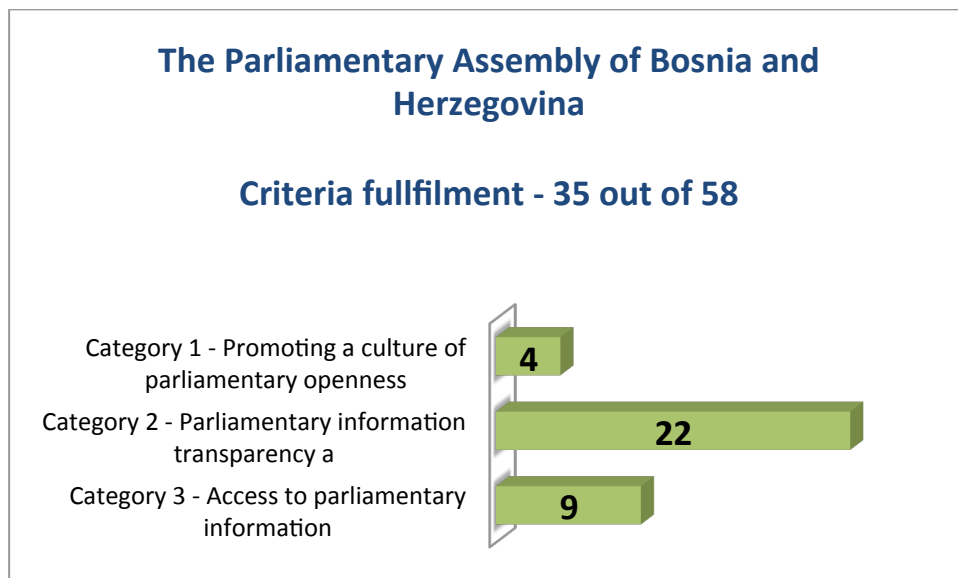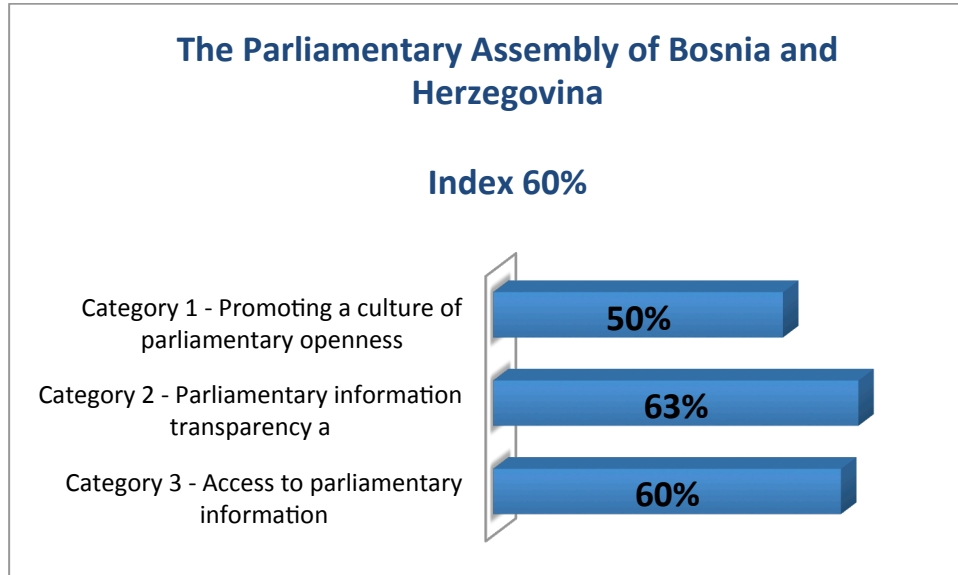
4.3.1. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Croatian Parliament, besides adopting the Declaration on Parliamentary Openness as a framework for its operation and firm commitment to respect the standards promoted by the Declaration, should:

- institutionalize cooperation with civil society;
- make documents, such as the budget and Information Booklet, available;
- increase transparency in the work of committee, as well as in terms of data on the MPs attendance and their voting in plenary and committee sessions;
- provide citizens and civil sector with physical access to committee sessions;
- create strategy of communication with citizens by enabling two-way communication via new technologies and tools (social networks, etc.)

4.4. BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

When it comes to the openness of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina, according to study methods and the principles of the Declaration on Parliamentary Openness, the analysis showed that the Parliamentary Assembly lags behind the countries in the region and that criteria fulfillment rate is not high. The Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina meets 35 out of 58 criteria (60%).

The Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Index 60%

Category	Percentage
Category 1 - Promoting a culture of parliamentary openness	50%
Category 2 - Parliamentary information transparency a	63%
Category 3 - Access to parliamentary information	60%

The Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Criteria fullfilment - 35 out of 58

Category	Value
Category 1 - Promoting a culture of parliamentary openness	4
Category 2 - Parliamentary information transparency a	22
Category 3 - Access to parliamentary information	9

According to the first category of criteria, **promoting parliamentary openness culture**, the Parliamentary Assembly meets 4 out of 8 criteria (50% of criteria fulfillment). The Parliamentary Assembly adopted under its Rules of procedure the principle of transparency and it precisely defined when it is possible to exclude the public. The Parliamentary Assembly has public relations department and timely updates the Parliament web page. On the other hand, there are no programs of citizen education or department for civil sector cooperation.

As for the second category of criteria, **parliamentary information transparency**, the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina meets 22 out of 35 criteria (63% of criteria fulfillment). The Parliamentary Assembly publishes information regarding its position and roles, functions and internal procedures, Rules of Procedure, and data on employees. Regarding the information on MPs, the Parliamentary Assembly publishes basic information on MPs, such as occupation, membership in political parties, functions in the Parliament, CVs and contacts, but fails to publish data on their financial standing. Transparency of information on the plenary and committee sessions is enabled but not to the full extent. With regard to the plenary sessions transcripts, video records, individual voting results are available, as well as minutes and documents considered by the committee. Data on bills, laws and other documents adopted at plenary and committee sessions are also available.

With respect to the third category of criteria, **access to parliamentary information,** the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina meets 9 out of 15 criteria (60% of criteria fulfillment). The Parliamentary Assembly enables media coverage of plenary sessions, but without clearly established procedure of obtaining accreditation for reporting. The Parliamentary Assembly enables visits of citizens to the Parliament, but without clearly defined rules for their physical access to plenary sessions. There are no established arrangements for physical access to committee sessions of both citizens and civil society organizations. The Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina provides any information free of charge and does not require any form of registration, while all data on the web site are in open formats. The Parliamentary Assembly does not have a profile on social networks.

4.4.1. RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to increase transparency, the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina, besides adopting the Declaration on Parliamentary Openness as a framework for its operation and firm commitment to respect the standards promoted by the Declaration, should:

- introduce programs for the education of citizens;
- develop cooperation with civil society;
- ensure that information relating to the budget, Information Booklet and the committee's work are more transparent or accessible via web page;

- precisely define procedures for reporting and visits of the Parliamentary Assembly and enable physical access to the plenary and committee sessions;
- create strategy of communication with citizens by enabling two-way communication via new technologies and tools (social networks, etc.)

4.5. MACEDONIA

When it comes to the openness of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, according to study methods and the principles of the Declaration on Parliamentary Openness, the analysis showed that criteria fulfillment rate is low. The Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia meets 36 out of 58 criteria (62%).
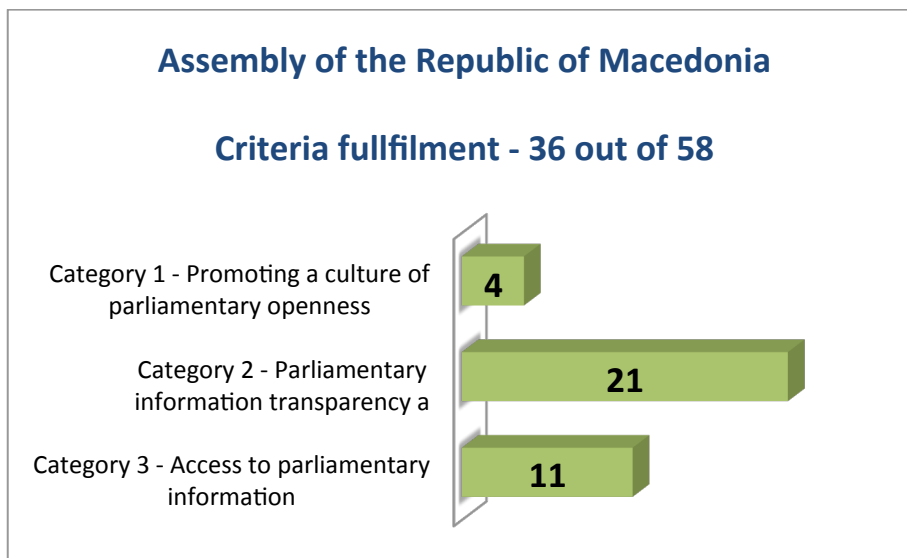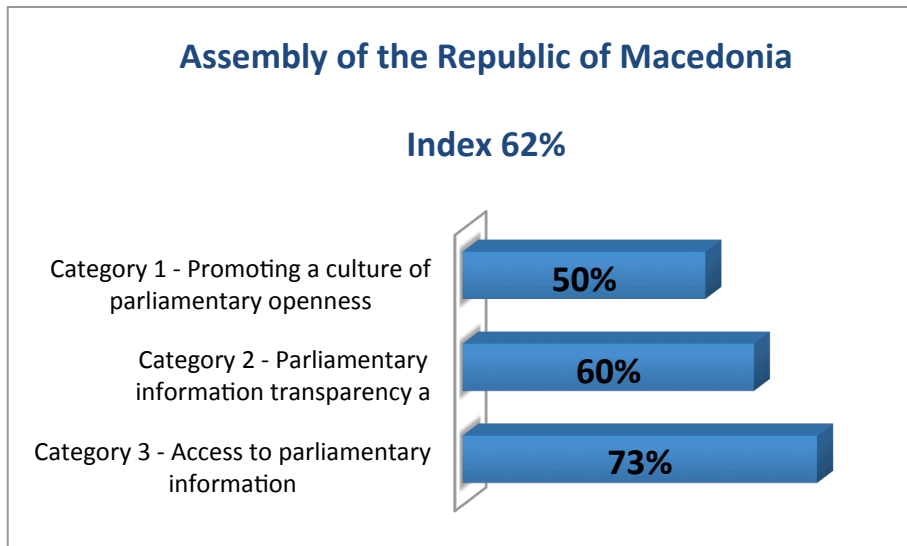
Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia

Index 62%

Category 1 - Promoting a culture of parliamentary openness — 50%

Category 2 - Parliamentary information transparency a — 60%

Category 3 - Access to parliamentary information — 73%

Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia

Criteria fullfilment - 36 out of 58

Category 1 - Promoting a culture of parliamentary openness — 4

Category 2 - Parliamentary information transparency a — 21

Category 3 - Access to parliamentary information — 11

According to the first category of criteria, **promoting parliamentary openness culture**, the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia meets 4 out of 8 criteria (50% of criteria fulfillment). The Assembly adopted under its Rules of procedure the principle of transparency and precisely defined when it is possible to exclude the public. The Assembly has public relations department and timely updates its web page. On the other hand, there are no programs of citizen education or department for civil sector cooperation.

As for the second category of criteria, **parliamentary information transparency**, the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia meets 21 out of 35 criteria (60% of criteria fulfillment). The Assembly publishes information regarding its position and roles, functions, excluding its internal procedures and administrative rules. The Assembly publishes Rules of Procedure, Information booklet and data on MPs, but fails to publish the budget. The Assembly publishes basic information on MPs, such as occupation, membership in political parties, functions in the Parliament, but without their CVs, contacts, and data on their financial standing. Transparency of information on the plenary and committee sessions is very high. Transcripts, video records, individual voting results and MPs attendance are available, while only minutes are missing. As for committee sessions, only documents that are being considered by the committee are available. Data on bills, laws and other documents adopted at plenary and committee sessions are also available.

With respect to the third category of criteria, **access to parliamentary information,** the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia meets 11 out of 15 criteria (73% of criteria fulfillment). The Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia enables media coverage of plenary sessions, visits of citizens to the Assembly, as well as physical access of citizens and civil sector to plenary sessions, but without clearly established procedures. The Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia provides any information free of charge and does not require any form of registration, while all data on the web site are in open formats. The Assembly has profiles on social networks that are regularly updated.
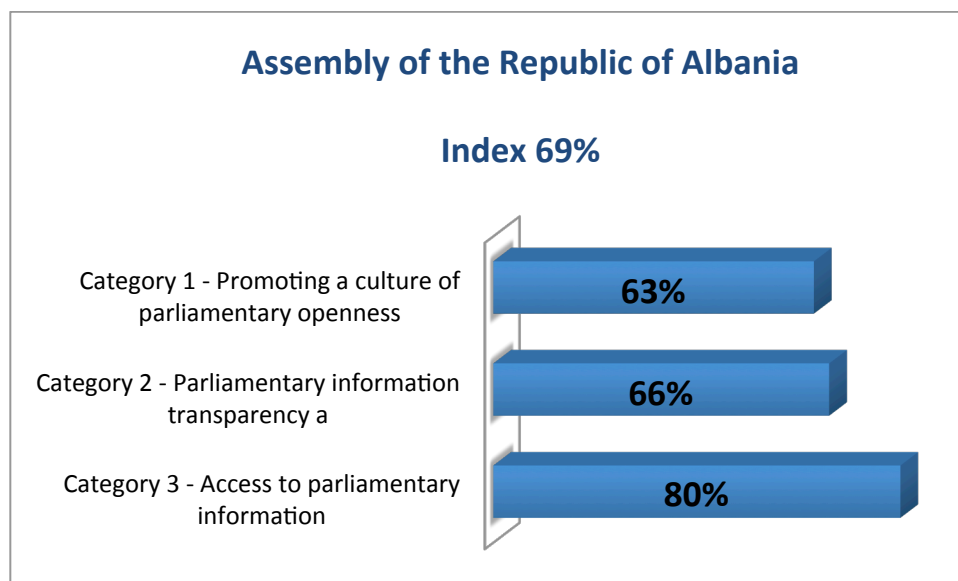
4.5.1. RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to achieve better results regarding transparency, the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, besides adopting the Declaration on Parliamentary Openness as a framework for its operation and firm commitment to respect the standards promoted by the Declaration, should:
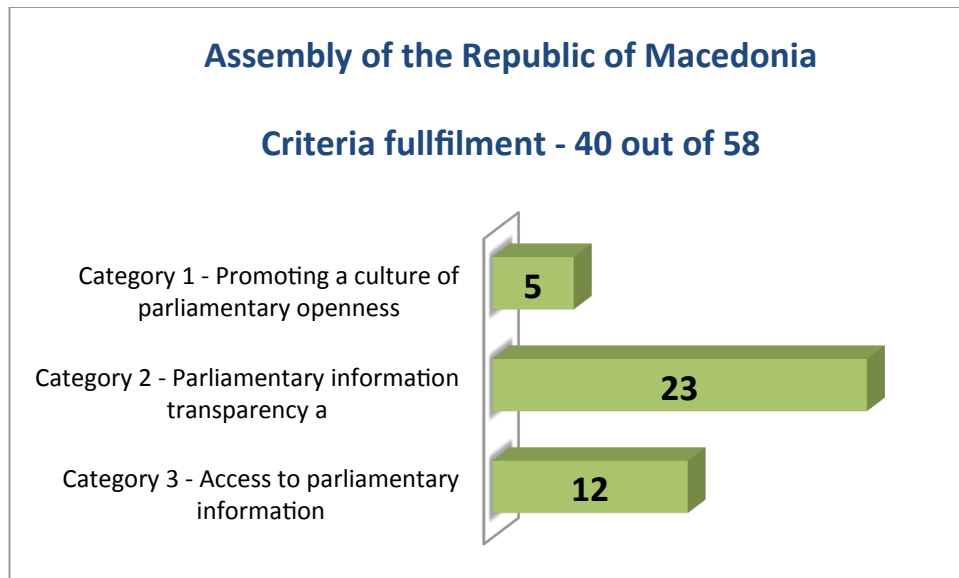
- introduce programs for the education of citizens;
- develop cooperation with civil society;
- ensure that internal rules and procedures, budget, and the committee's work are more transparent or accessible via web page;

- precisely define procedures for reporting and visits of the Assembly and enable physical access to the plenary and committee sessions.
- create strategy of communication with citizens by enabling two-way communication via new technologies and tools (social networks, etc.)

4.6. ALBANIA

When it comes to the openness of the Assembly of the Republic of Albania, according to study methods and the principles of the Declaration on Parliamentary Openness, the analysis showed that criteria fulfillment rate is high. The Assembly of the Republic of Albania meets 40 out of 69 criteria (69%).

Assembly of the Republic of Albania

Index 69%

Category	%
Category 1 - Promoting a culture of parliamentary openness	63%
Category 2 - Parliamentary information transparency a	66%
Category 3 - Access to parliamentary information	80%

Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia

Criteria fullfilment - 40 out of 58

Category 1 - Promoting a culture of parliamentary openness: 5

Category 2 - Parliamentary information transparency a: 23

Category 3 - Access to parliamentary information: 12

According to the first category of criteria, **promoting parliamentary openness culture**, the Assembly of the Republic of Albania meets 5 out of 8 criteria (63% of criteria fulfillment). The Assembly adopted under its Rules of procedure the principle of transparency and it precisely defined when it is possible to exclude the public. The Assembly has public relations department. On the other hand, there is no section that deals with programs of citizen education, but there is institutionalized arrangement for cooperation with civil sector.

As for the second category of criteria, **parliamentary information transparency**, the Assembly of the Republic of Albania meets 23 out of 35 criteria (66% of criteria fulfillment). The Assembly publishes information regarding its position and roles, functions, as well as its internal procedures and administrative rules. The Assembly publishes Rules of Procedure, Information booklet, data on MPs, and the budget. The Assembly publishes basic information on MPs, such as occupation, membership in political parties, functions in the Parliament, CVs, contacts, but fails to publish data on their financial standing. Transparency of information on the plenary and committee sessions is low. Transcripts and video records are only available. As for committee sessions, only transcripts and data on MPs attendance at committee sessions are available. The Assembly of the Republic of Albania publishes data on laws and other documents adopted at plenary sessions.

With respect to the third category of criteria, **access to parliamentary information,** the Assembly of the Republic of Albania meets 12 out of 15 criteria (80% of criteria fulfillment). The Assembly of the Republic of Albania enables media coverage of plenary sessions, visits of citizens to the Assembly, as well as physical access of citizens to plenary sessions, and physical access of citizens and civil sector to

committee sessions, with clearly established procedures. The Assembly of the Republic of Albania provides any information free of charge, while all data on the web site are in open formats. The Assembly does not have profiles on social networks that are regularly updated, or web page that could regularly inform on the Assembly's work at citizens' request.
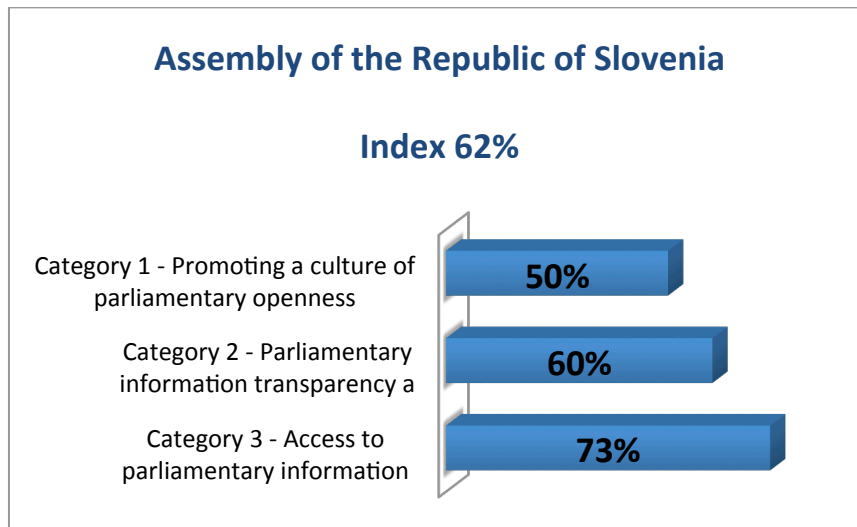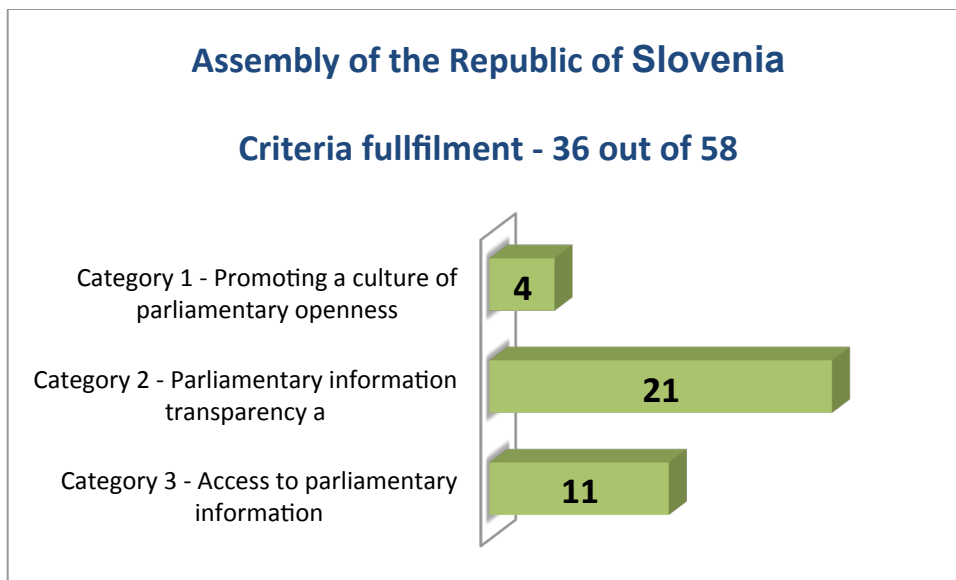
4.6.1. RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to increase its transparency, the Assembly of the Republic of Albania, besides adopting the Declaration on Parliamentary Openness as a framework for its operation and firm commitment to respect the standards promoted by the Declaration, should:

- form a section for education of citizens, as well as education programs;
- increase transparency of information regarding the work of plenary session, especially the work of committee;
- create profiles on social networks;
- provide regular information to citizens via publishing news on the Assembly's web page.

4.7. SLOVENIA

When it comes to the openness of the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia, according to study methods and the principles of the Declaration on Parliamentary Openness, the analysis showed that criteria fulfillment rate is low. The National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia meets 36 out of 62 criteria (62%).

Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia

Index 62%

Category 1 - Promoting a culture of parliamentary openness	50%
Category 2 - Parliamentary information transparency a	60%
Category 3 - Access to parliamentary information	73%

Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia

Criteria fullfilment - 36 out of 58

Category 1 - Promoting a culture of parliamentary openness: 4

Category 2 - Parliamentary information transparency a: 21

Category 3 - Access to parliamentary information: 11

According to the first category of criteria, **promoting parliamentary openness culture**, the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia meets 4 criteria (50% of criteria fulfillment). The National Assembly adopted under its Rules of procedure the principle of transparency and it precisely defined when it is possible to exclude the public. The National Assembly has public relations department and timely updates its web page. The National Assembly does not have a section for education, programs for citizen education, or section for cooperation with civil sector.

As for the second category of criteria, **parliamentary information transparency**, the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia meets 21 out of 35 criteria (60% of criteria fulfillment). The National Assembly publishes information regarding its position and roles, functions, but fails to publish its internal procedures and rules. The National Assembly publishes Rules of Procedure and data on MPs, which cannot be said for Information booklet and its detailed budget. The Assembly publishes basic information on MPs, such as occupation, membership in political parties, functions in the Parliament, CVs, and contacts, but fails to publish data on their financial standing. Information on the plenary sessions is transparent, with only transcripts and video records missing. Transparency could be improved in terms of information on committee's work, since only minutes and materials being considered by committee are published. On the other hand, information about laws, bills and other documents relating to plenary and committee sessions is quite transparent.

With respect to the third category of criteria, **access to parliamentary information,** the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia meets 11 out of 15 criteria (73% of criteria fulfillment). The National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia enables media coverage of plenary sessions, visits of citizens to the Assembly, as well as physical access of citizens to plenary sessions, with clearly established procedures for application of reporting, visits and physical access. Unfulfilled criteria relate to physical access of citizens and civil sector to committee sessions. The National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia provides any information free of charge and does not require any form of registration, while all data on the web site are in open formats. The National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia does not have profiles on social networks and it does not to inform citizens at their request on its web page.

4.7.1. RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to increase its transparency, the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia, besides adopting the Declaration on Parliamentary Openness as a framework for its operation and firm commitment to respect the standards promoted by the Declaration, should:

- introduce a section for citizen education programs;
- develop cooperation with civil society;
- make information relating to the internal rules and procedures, budgets and Information Booklet, as well as the committee's work more transparent or accessible via web page.
- enable physical access of citizens and civil society in the committee meetings and accurately determine the procedure for physical access.
- ensure that web site promotes informing of citizens about the activities at their request, create a strategy for communication with citizens by enabling two-way communication through new technologies and tools (social networks, etc.)