Access to information on environment in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Đana Alibegović *Legal consultant of Eko Forum Zenica*Bosnia and Herzegovina

INTRODUCTION

Who is Eko Forum Zenica?

What does it promote?

What has Eko Forum succeeded to acomplish?

What is the scope of my work?







STATE REGULATION

 Specific country relating to it's 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

State of the environment Report of Bosnia and Herzegovina 2012 published by Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations

- Shortcomings
- insufficient number of adequately equipped environmental labaratories
- 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)

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 juctice

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

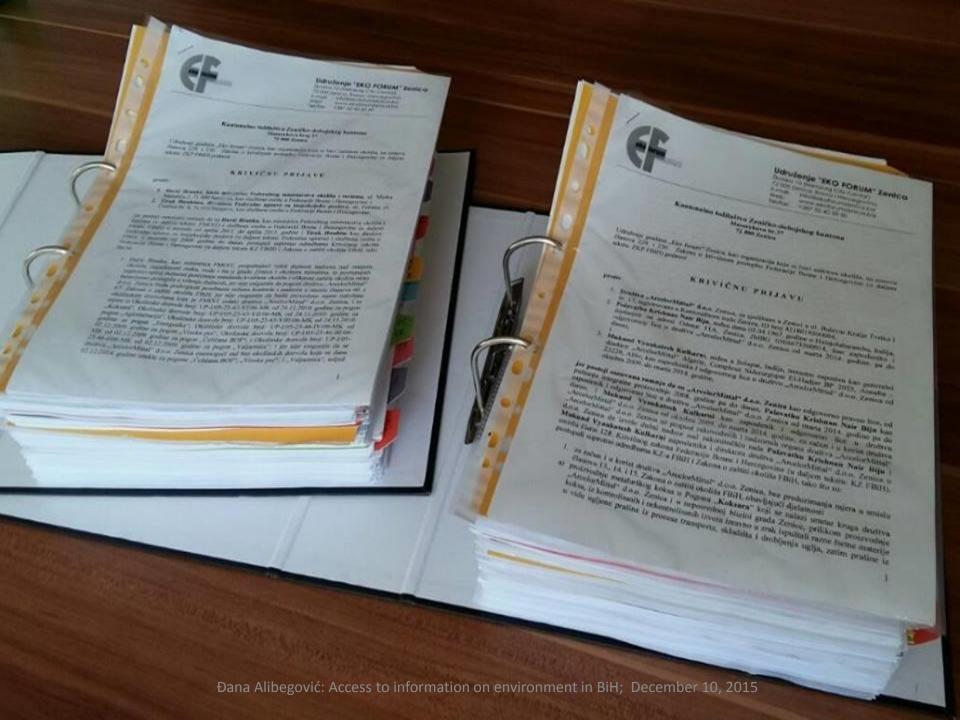
 Third pillar of Aarhus convention – Right to access the juctice and example from practice





Expired environmental permits







THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!



TIME FOR YOUR QUESTIONS