

PRIZE

**OF FOUNDATION FOR TRANSPARENT REGULATIONS
FOR TRANSPARENCY AND PARTNERSHIP IN THE
ACTIONS OF THE REGIONAL AND MUNICIPAL
ADMINISTRATIONS OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA**



COMPETITION 2013

SOFIA, 2014

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SHORT PRESENTATION AND HISTORY OF THE AWARDS

The **Foundation for Transparent Regulations** is a non-profit legal entity established in 2008 in Sofia, Bulgaria. It works for public benefit and has no political or religious nature. The Foundation supports the formation of mechanisms and structures within Bulgarian civil society, the social integration of individuals into society and the overall process of democratization of the country's public and political life.

Establishment

In 2008 the Foundation for Transparent Regulations (FTR) established annual awards recognizing transparency in the work of Bulgarian regional and municipal authorities. Openness and transparency is the 4th principle of the Strategy for Innovation and Good Governance at the Local Level (adopted on October 15-16, 2007 in Valencia).

The prize is a transitory bronze statuette crafted by the Bulgarian sculptor Raynis Gelov, which symbolizes the willingness of local authorities to open themselves towards citizens and businesses. The awards are presented in four categories:

- Most transparent regional administration;
- Most transparent municipal administration;
- Best partnership practice between a regional administration and civil society structures for achieving transparency in the administration's actions;
- Best partnership practice between a municipal administration and civil society structures for achieving transparency in the administration's actions.

The awards aim to improve transparency in the services that regional and municipal administrations provide to citizens and businesses as well as to stimulate partnerships between local authorities and civil society structures.

ANNUAL AWARDS 2008

The award-winning administrations for 2008 were selected by a panel of experts chaired by Mr. Belin Mollov. The nominations for the awards were based on the results of a nationwide sociological survey among local authorities and citizens which was performed within the framework of the project “Transparency and publicity in the actions of regional and municipal administrations – a guarantee for honest and worthy local governance” under the Operational Program “Administrative Capacity”.

The 1st Award Ceremony took place on July 14, 2009 in Sofia and was attended by more than 500 representatives of regional and municipal administrations as well as of civil society structures.

The Winners in the first edition of the competition for 2008 were:

- District administration of Sliven - in the category “Most transparent district administration”;
- Municipal Administration of Kubrat - in the category “Most transparent municipal administration”;
- District administration of Blagoevgrad with the practice of “E field” - in the category “Best partnership practices between the district administration and civil society structures in view of transparency achievements in the actions of the administration”;
- Municipal Administration of Mezdra with the practice of LAGI /Local Action Group on the Integrity/ under the project “Good governance and organizational culture of the local authority in Bulgaria” - in the category “Best partnership practice between the local authorities and civil society structures in view of transparency achievements in the actions of the administration”.



ANNUAL AWARDS 2009

The 2nd Annual Awards relied on a different methodology. In order to apply for the awards, all interested regional and municipal authorities filled out application forms and sent them to the Foundation for Transparent Regulations. The winners in the categories of Most Transparent Regional/Municipal Administration were selected by a panel of experts chaired by Angel Ivanov who evaluated the results of the application forms. The entries in the categories of Best Partnership Practice are published on FTR's website. The winners were determined by the general public through voting online for the best practices.

The official 2009 Annual Awards ceremony took place on February 18, 2010 in the International Congress Center in Plovdiv. It was the closing session of the General Assembly of the National Association of Municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria and occurred under the patronage of Bulgarian President Georgi Parvanov. The event was attended by more than 350 mayors, municipal council chairmen, regional governors and other guests.

Mr. Veneliz Uzunov, secretary of the President, presented the statuettes to the winners in the four categories for 2009:

- Regional administration of Varna – winner in category “Most transparent regional administration”
- Municipality of Dobrich – winner in category “Most transparent municipal administration”
- Regional administration of Smolyan – winner in category “Best partnership practice between a regional administration and civil society structures for achieving transparency in the administration's actions” for the practice “Interaction and cooperation for better implementation of health care policy directed at children in the region of Smolyan”
- Municipality of Kozloduy – winner in category “Best partnership practice between a municipal administration and civil society structures for achieving transparency in the administration's actions” for the practice of issuing the publication “From and For the Municipality”

Prize of Foundation for transparent regulations for transparency and partnership in the actions of the regional and municipal administrations of the Republic of Bulgaria



ANNUAL AWARDS 2010

On March 29, 2011 at the Metropolitan Hotel Sofia the Foundation for transparent regulations gave for the third time its annual award for transparency and partnership in the activities of regional and municipal administrations.

The ceremony was held under the motto “Transparent and accessible administration in Europe 2020”. Special guest speaker was architect Belin Mollov, the first Chairman of the Evaluation Committee in the contest. In his speech he put focus on the development of the competition in the context of the current challenges that Bulgarian regional and local authorities are facing.

Awards were handed out to this year’s winners by the last year's winners:

- Varna District Administration – winner in the category „Most transparent regional administration”;
- Municipal Administration Burgas – winner in the category „Most transparent municipal administration”;
- Targovishte District Administration – winner in the category „Best practice for partnership between regional administration and the structures of civil society”;
- Stara Zagora Municipal Administration - winner in the category „Best practice for partnership between municipal administration and the structures of civil society”.

The ranking in the categories ‘Most transparent Regional administration’ was completed by a commission with Chair Vasko Raychev (Chairman of Deloitte Bulgaria) and members Blagoy Stanchev (parliamentary secretary of NAMRB), Mariya Igova (manager of Evrika Agency), Peter Stoyanov (Chairman of the board of managers of BAM), Slaveya Hristova (deputy Chairwoman of the board of managers of Balkan Assist Association), Iliyana Denkova (KNSB), Daniela Kisyova (reporter at BNR) The civil society decided which administrations should take the award in the categories for best practice for partnership with the civil society.

The entries in the categories of Best Partnership Practice are published on FTR’s website (www.ftr-bg.org). The winners were determined by the general public through voting online for the best practices.

Prize of Foundation for transparent regulations for transparency and partnership in the actions of the regional and municipal administrations of the Republic of Bulgaria



ANNUAL AWARDS 2011

On 06/26/2012, at a ceremony at the Metropolitan Hotel Sofia for the fourth consecutive year were awarded the Annual Prize statuettes for transparency and partnership in the activities of regional and local administrations in Bulgaria.

Under applause of the present regional governors, mayors and many guests this years' winners received the Prize statuettes. In order to ensure the continuity and sportsmanship of the competition the new winners of the magnificent statuettes, made by the sculptor Raynis Gelov, received them by the hands of the last year's winners and other official guests of the ceremony.

- Regional Administration Targovishte - winner of the Prize in the category "Most Transparent regional administration" received the statue from Varna Regional Administration, which have won the prize before.
- Municipal Administration of Dobrich - winner of the prize in the category "Most transparent municipal administration" received the award for second consecutive year by Regional administration Burgas.
- Regional Administration Burgas - winner of the prize in the category "Best practice for partnership between the regional administrations and the civil society for implementation of transparency in the actions of administration" received the Prize from Regional Administration Targovishte.
- Municipal Administration Kozloduy - winner of the prize in the category "Best practice for partnership between the municipal administration and civil society for implementation of transparency in the actions of administration" received their Prize statuette from Municipal Administration Stara Zagora, which also proved one more time to be the municipality with the greatest number of good partnership practices with the NGOs.

The evaluation in the categories "The Most Transparent Regional Administration" and "The Most Transparent Municipal Administration" was made by a committee chaired by Maria Slavova (Ass. PhD in Law from the Law Faculty of Sofia University "Sv. Kliment Ohridski") and members Zlatina Mihailova-Karova (Head of Unit "Design and activity center for technology transfer" in Sofia University "Sv. Kliment Ohridski"), Veselka Ivanova (expert "European projects" NAMB), Maria Igova (manager of "Agency Eureka" Ltd., specialized in social psychological research), Petar Stoyanov (director of "Institute of Management programs and projects," Manager of foundation "Professor John Atanasov", Chairman of the Board of Directors of "Bulgarian Association of Micro enterprises) Margarita Doichinova (senior reporter in " Horizont Programme" of Bulgarian National Radio).

The Vote of the citizens on the website of "Foundation for transparent regulations" (www.ftr-bg.org) determined the winners of the Prize in the categories for best practice in partnership with civil society structures.

Prize of Foundation for transparent regulations for transparency and partnership in the actions of the regional and municipal administrations of the Republic of Bulgaria



ANNUAL AWARDS 2012

On 05/16/2013, at a ceremony at the Metropolitan Hotel Sofia for the fifth consecutive year were awarded the Annual Prize statuettes for transparency and partnership in the activities of regional and local administrations in Bulgaria.

Under applause of the present regional governors, mayors and many guests this years' winners received the Prize statuettes. In order the continuity and sportsmanship of the competition to be ensured the new winners of the magnificent statuettes, made by the sculptor Raynis Gelov, received them by the hands of the last year's winners and other official guests of the ceremony.

- Regional Administration Ruse - winner of the Prize in the category "Most Transparent regional administration" received the statue from Targovishte Regional Administration, last year's winner of the Prize. The award was received by the deputy regional governor Mr. Vesko Marinov.
- Municipal Administration of Dobrich - winner of the prize in the category "Most transparent municipal administration" received the award for second consecutive year by Mrs. Petya Donova, manager of the "Foundation for transparent regulations." The award was received by the deputy – mayor Mrs Mariya Koycheva.
- Regional Administration Burgas - winner of the prize in the category "Best practice for partnership between the regional administrations and the civil society for implementation of transparency in the actions of administration" also received the Prize for the second consecutive year and it was given by Mrs. Petya Donova, manager of the "Foundation for transparent regulations." The award was received by the regional governor - Mr. Konstantin Grebenarov.
- Municipal Administration Troyan - winner of the prize in the category "Best practice for partnership between the municipal administration and civil society for implementation of transparency in the actions of administration" received their Prize statuette from Mr. Pencho Houbchev, representative of Friedrich Ebert Fondation – office Bulgaria. The award was received by the mayor – Mrs. Donka Mihaylova.

Because 2013 is a jubilee of the Annual Prize of the "Foundation for transparent regulations" for Transparency and Partnership in the activities of regional and local administrations, from the position of the 5 years' experience and observations that have been accumulated over the years, the Board of Trustees gave 2 Special Awards for:

- **The most prosperous administration**
- **Sustainable transparent government.**

The award for the most prosperous regional administration was won by **Regional Administration Lovech**, which has participated in all editions of the competition and each year improves its performance. The award was received personally by the governor Mrs. Vanya Sabcheva.

The award for the most prosperous municipal administration was won by **Municipality of Vulchidol**, which is also a permanent participant and each year improves its performance. The award was received by the mayor of the municipality - Mrs. Penka Yordanova.

The second special award – “Sustainable transparent governance” in the period 2008 - 2013 was won by: **Regional Administration Varna** for perseverance in good and transparent governance. The award was received by Mrs. Vanya Boneva expert in Regional Administration Varna.

Municipalities who have demonstrated sustainable transparent governance in the years 2008 - 2013 are several: **Municipality of Burgas**, **Municipality of Dobrich**, the award was received by Mariya Koycheva deputy - mayor, **Municipality of Kazanlak** - the award was received by Ivanka Ivanova, secretary of the municipality, **Municipality of Targovishte** and **Municipality of Shumen**.

The evaluation in the categories "The Most Transparent Regional Administration" and "The Most Transparent Municipal Administration" was made by a committee chaired by Petar Stoyanov (director of "Institute of Management programs and projects," Manager of foundation "Professor John Atanasov", Chairman of the Board of Directors of "Bulgarian Association of Micro enterprises) and members Lilia Zamfirova (expert programs and projects with extensive experience in regional administration), Maria Igova (director of "Eureka Agency" Ltd., specialized in social psychological research), Galina Ivanova (expert programs and projects with extensive experience in municipal administration), Dontcho Kovachev (economist, financier with experience in the development and management of EU projects, teaching training course "Finance and Investment Analysis" at the National Training Center / College of Management "Adam Smith "), Julia Pashkina (sociologist, manager of association "Equal Opportunities") and Margarita Doichinova (senior reporter in " Horizont Programme” of Bulgarian National Radio.

The Vote of the citizens on the website of "Foundation for transparent regulations" (www.ftr-bg.org) determined the winners of the Prize in the categories for best practice in partnership with civil society structures.



ANNUAL AWARDS 2013

On 06/24/2014, at a ceremony at the Ramada Sofia for the sixth consecutive year were awarded the Annual Prizes of **Foundation for Transparent Regulations** for transparency and partnership in the activities of regional and local administrations in Bulgaria.

This year two administrations – one regional and one municipal – have won the first place for a third consecutive year. According to the Regulations of the competition, the statuettes (made by the Bulgarian sculptor Raynis Gelov), which are the prize in each category – will now become their possession forever. These accomplishments have even greater value because they are achieved - 1 / under different Regulations of application and evaluation each year; 2 / under the evaluation of different committees and 3 / under different management of the administration (for the regional administration). This means that there is continuity and sustainability in the implementation of good governance.

- Regional Administration Burgas - has won forever the award in the category "Best practice for partnership between the regional administrations and the civil society for implementation of transparency in the actions of administration" with the practice Camp with a smile, which received 17 votes out of the 28 votes of the regional administrations.
- Municipal Administration of Dobrich - has won forever the award in the category "Most transparent municipal administration" was welcomed personally by the doyen of local government in Bulgaria Venelin Uzunov - 4 term mayor of Razgrad, Honorary Chairman of the Management Board of NAMB, chairman of the Committee of disaster management in the 40th National Assembly, advisor to the President of the Republic of Bulgaria on local government.

In the remaining two (of overall four) categories of the contest the statuettes were awarded to:

- Regional Administration Montana - winner of the Prize in the category "Most Transparent regional administration" and
- Municipal Administration Stara Zagora- winner of the prize in the category "Best practice for partnership between the municipal administration and civil society for implementation of transparency in the actions of administration".

The evaluation in the categories "The Most Transparent Regional Administration" and "The Most Transparent Municipal Administration" was made by a committee chaired by **Yasho Minkov** (prominent Bulgarian lawyer) and members **Margarita Doichinova** (Editor of program Horizon, Bulgarian National Radio), **Maria Igova** (manager of "Agency Eureka" Ltd., specialized in social psychological research), **Petar Stoyanov** (director of "Institute of Management programs and projects"), **Filiz Juseinova** (expert Deloitte Public Sector Audit), Zlatina Karova (Head of Unit "Design and activity center for technology transfer" in Sofia University "Sv. Kliment Ohridski"), **Dimitrina Todorova** (an expert in the field of regional and strategic planning and programming), **Snezhana Marinova** (lawyer with extensive experience in municipal administration).

The results in the categories:

- Best practice for partnership between the district administration and the civil society for the implementation of transparency in the administration and

- Best practice for partnership between the municipal administration and civil society for the implementation of transparency in the administration

were based on the votes of the municipal and regional administration themselves. Each administration was allowed to nominate only one practice of colleagues from other authorities (not own) in the period 1 May to 31 May 2014. The results obtained by the vote are verified and validated by the Commission.

