



CIN

Centar za
istraživačko novinarstvo

The Potential of Open Data in
Enhancing Transparency and
Accountability

Experience of CIN

WHO WE ARE?

Independent NGO/media organizationn
established **15 years** ago

Started under the **USAID grant**, with technical assistance from the **New York University School of Journalism** and the **Journalism Development Group**.

Professional, responsible, **well organized** group, with **respective track record** of corrective actions following our stories

TOPICS OF INTEREST

Corruption and organized crime are remaining the main focus of our work in selecting topics for investigation, particularly in areas listed below:

- **Public Employment**
- **Public Administration**
- **Judiciary**
- **Public Procurement**
- **Database on politicians' assets, Accountability and Transparency of Political leaders**

Along with investigative stories, as main product work, **databases** are one of additional products of potential use for other interested parties, such as civil society organizations and fellow journalists, and other interested stakeholders.

Database of Judges and Prosecutors' Property Holdings

29 judges and prosecutors

94 properties
330,000 square meters of land
730,000 KM in savings accounts
More than 120 primary source documents

Database about budget reserve spending

184 million KM

were spent by the state, entity, cantonal and Brčko District government, including individuals

6,8 million KM

Discretionary spending of the BiH Presidency members; prime ministers, their deputies and finance ministers

CIN's databases – source of information

Every year CIN publishes databases which contain thousands of pieces of fact-checked information and primary source documents hitherto hidden from the public by government bureaucrats. The databases enable citizens to inform themselves quickly on a variety of topics, and to easily find information they rarely have access to.

In 2019, CIN published three new databases: about asset declarations of judges and prosecutors; disciplinary proceedings against judges and prosecutors and about budget reserve spending.

On CIN's web page you may find databases about financing of veterans' associations; subsidies; public procurement; office holders severance packages, court-appointed attorneys' earnings, energy prospects in BiH etc.

Cooperation with Anti-Corruption Office in Sarajevo

Based on our methodology used in **collecting and verifying information assets of politicians**, CIN looked at the assets of Sarajevo based majors.

Every year, Cantonal office holders are **obliged to declare** to the Bureau properties, gifts and revenue that they and their spouses, children and parents acquired before those can be verified by the watchdog's officials.

5 heads of municipalities and the city major were not transparent about their properties that they and their family members acquired in 2019. CIN reporters tracked down a total of 13 such properties.

After information was revealed, the Bureau for Fight Against Corruption and Quality Management of Sarajevo Canton started verifying their asset declarations.

“Based on allegations published in a CIN investigation, the Bureau initiated procedures to verify asset declarations and the sources and types of income spent on buying property,” said the Bureau's Head Erduan Kafedžić.

In the wake of CIN's story about undeclared assets of Sarajevo leaders and their families, the Sarajevo Mayor and 2 heads of municipalities have **revealed those properties in their 2020 declarations.**

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