

OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATIONS Latin America Program

Project Funding Report Format

Please use the Foundation Connect online system (www.soros.org/grants/manage) to submit reports. Please contact granteefeedback@sorosny.org with any questions regarding setting up an account to use the system. Any email submissions should be addressed to both the appropriate Program Officer and Program Assistant. **Please do not submit any document as a PDF.**

I. Basic Information

Grant and Contact Information	
Name of project	Implementing the Right to Information in Brazil – a sectorial approach
Grant number	
Project start date	
Project end date	15/03/2014
Total approved grant amount	
Legal name of the organization submitting the report ¹	Associação Artigo 19 Brasil
Type of report: (Interim or Final)	final
Report due date	
Report submission date	
Person responsible for this grant:	Name: Paula Martins
	Title: director
	Email: paula@article19.org
	Phone: 55 11 3057-0042

¹ The name of the organization as legally registered in your country. In some cases, the organization responsible for receiving and administering the funds may be different than the organization implementing the grant. For example, if a coalition effort is not legally registered, the funds may need to be administered by a member organization with legal registration.

Narrative Report: 5-10 pages, not including any annexes.

1. Outcomes
a. Please restate the desired outcomes (or objectives) as presented in the original proposal.
b. What outcomes or results did the organization see? [i.e. What changed in the context and environment that the organization sought to influence? What evidence has the organization seen of changes in the behavior, attitude or actions of key social actors? What evidence exists of changes in policies or practices?] Please provide concrete examples. How did the work of this project contribute, directly or indirectly, to these changes?
c. How do the desired outcomes identified in the grant proposal compare with actual outcomes?

The main goal of this project was to promote the right to information as an autonomous right and as a fundamental tool to ensure the realization of other human rights and the empowerment of vulnerable communities, civil society groups and NGO partners. In this context, our desired outcomes presented in the original proposal were the follows:

1. Strengthened legal, institutional and policy frameworks for the right to information, including thought the development of dedicated legislation;
2. Civil society actors engaged in building national and regional awareness about the right to information, as well as capacity to monitor and shape information policies in their thematic areas of work;
3. Broader participation by citizens in public affairs and decision-making relating to the right to information as regards key social and economic rights, especially in relation to the rights to education, health, housing and to a sustainable environment;
4. Improved capacity of officials and public bodies to regulate and implement the right to information law.
5. Creation of a pilot platform to facilitate access to and use of information on specific areas.

We consider that these outcomes have been successfully reached.

1. Strengthened legal, institutional and policy frameworks for the right to information, including thought the development of dedicated legislation

We have advocated for the full implementation of the 2011 Law, especially within the Federal Executive. Our monitoring shows that significant progress has been reached in 2012 and 2013, although there is still room for much improvement. All bodies of the Federal Executive have established physical Citizen Information Services, and a unified electronic system was set up by the Federal Comptroller's Office. In general, such bodies have been complying with their duty to respond to information request and deadlines are observed in most cases. However, the quality of answers is still a concern. In relation to the Legislative and Justice branches, specific regulations and policies have been fairly adopted, but in weaker versions if compared to the measures taken by the Executive. We have also, through case studies, monitored the situation of some states and capitals, as well as a small number of municipalities.

In terms of pro-active transparency, we have developed a check list that, at this point, has been applied twice to evaluate if the bodies' official websites were adapted to the new Law provisions. The results are useful guidance to provide concrete recommendations to public bodies to improve the disclosure of information.

We organized several advocacy meetings and letters and our recommendations have been welcomed by different authorities, but especially by the Federal Comptroller's Office (agency in charge of the Law's implementation at the Federal executive). For example, in our 2012 report we recommended the publication of all the decisions and statistical data of the Commission for Reassessment of Information and this suggestion has been followed by relevant authorities. Recently, the Federal Comptroller's Office disclosed our project's kit tools in their official Facebook account, designating them as reference material to increase learn more about the Rtl Law (available at: <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=722633281114074&set=a.379439358766803.92592.171477772896297&type=1&theater>).

2. Civil society actors engaged in building national and regional awareness about the right to information, as well as capacity to monitor and shape information policies in their thematic areas of work

AND

3. Broader participation by citizens in public affairs and decision-making relating to the right to information as regards key social and economic rights, especially in relation to the rights to education, health, housing and to a sustainable environment

For each thematic area, we can point concrete examples related to the outcomes above-mentioned. In the environmental area, the articulation with Vitae Civilis (our focal point) was crucial to ensure that access to information would appear as a key concern in the NGO meeting organized to provide information to the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to safe drinking water and sanitation in São Paulo. In this meeting, we had the opportunity to increase our contacts with groups working on water related issues and were able to carry out advocacy for right to information with Special Rapporteur, so that improved transparency would appear as a recommendation in her country mission report. As the only organization not directly related to environmental activism in the meeting, we defended the importance to consider the impact of lack of information and freedom of expression in the exercise of the right to water and sanitation. The SR has later invited a representative of ARTIGO 19 Brasil to participate in her consultation on participation and our work should be reflected in guidelines being developed by the SR under this topic. The partnership with Vitae Civilis has grown beyond this project's activities and the organization has become a partner in the campaign for the adoption of a regional treaty on access to environmental information, assisting us in mobilizing Brazilian environmental groups around this agenda.

In the housing thematic area, the participants and the Focal Point, Centro Gaspar Garcia de Direitos Humanos, will use the learnings from the workshop concerning the Rtl Law to present information requests about FIFA 2014 World Cup, in particular the megaprojects developed in preparation to the games and the forced eviction of thousands of people.

An organization called CEDAPS, which participated in our health consultation, requested some of our Rtl materials to use in a seminar organized by them in December (13ª Edição do Seminário Fala Comunidade). According to CEDAPS, the seminar focused on health and AIDS/HIV and had approximately 250 participants from 15 different states.

Comparing the four thematic areas, the main results were in education especially due to Ação Educativa's high involvement in the project and interest. With their support, we completed all activities planned and organized extra workshops, including one during the World Forum on Human Rights in Brasilia. Besides that, Ação Educativa has improved the way to use right to information in their daily work, establishing it as basis to advocacy, research and media production. We consider education to be a success story because Acao Edcativa has introduced Rtl as a tool in their daily work and strategy and we believe they are in an optimal position to continue promoting the use of Rtl for the realization of the right to education (as a multiplier). In addition to it, we can also mention how information was used to introduce changes in the education sector as a result of the use of Rtl:

- Acao Educativa prepared a publication with information available through the Rtl Law about [Education and Inequality in the City of São Paulo](#). The publication was used as baseline info for the discussions / negotiations on the Education Plan for the City of São Paulo. So it had a direct impact in framing an important public policy.
- Much of the information collected for the above mentioned publication was also used to file a lawsuit against the Municipality of São Paulo for lack of daycare facilities for poor children/mothers. The [Court ordered](#) the municipality to create 150 thousand new spaces (vacancies) in public child education facilities till the year 2016 in deprived areas of the city. This will not only create further education opportunities for poor children, but also new jobs in poor neighborhoods.
- Acao Educativa also produced a publication on the [Schooling Profile of Detainees in the State of São Paulo](#). This publication was used as a resource for advocacy work done by Acao Educativa to see approved and implemented National Guidelines for Education of Detainees.
- Acao Educativa also used information requests to collect information about how the Quality Indicators for Education set by the government were being observed in relation to education provided to female detainees. The information was used to require improved standards.
- Information requests were also used to ask for information to monitor whether the prison authorities are complying with the rules that define that detainees who decide to study should have their prison sentences reduced proportionally.
- Acao Educativa also used information requests to public disseminate information about Education Boards, which composition, structure and budget were not made public before the Rtl Law. This publicization allowed further participation in the Board and further accountability.

We have already met to discuss next steps. This example proved that the Focal Point implication is fundamental for good practices.

All the partnerships built with this experience will persist, not only for the project's follow-up but also to empower the beneficiary NGOs and their agendas. For instance, most of Focal Points were part of the Brazilian Association of NGOs (ABONG) – specifically Ação Educativa,

Centro Gaspar Garcia de Direitos Humanos and Criola – who we expect that will play an important role to promote the debate around the post-2015 agenda in Brazil. Our aim, with the support of ABONG, is that more NGOs appropriate the debate about SDG and we can demonstrate why right to information and freedom of expression should be included as one of SDGs. Our interaction with ABONG has already started and we hope to extend the partnership with the Focal Points in this new challenge.

In addition, the baseline studies, activities and final reports provided us a map for Rtl implementation in four thematic areas and to push for enforcement of the Rtl Law. Our reports demonstrate the specific information gaps and challenges, establishing recommendations not only to the State, but as well to NGOs and for social mobilization. The project outputs allow us to give visibility to the demands of civil society and advocacy for right to information with deeper knowledge of the overall context and with more legitimacy. We will follow up on the recommendations, as well as continue to carry out advocacy for improved Rtl practices and policies.

4. Improved capacity of officials and public bodies to regulate and implement the right to information law.

We have organized meetings with civil servants to disseminate our capacity building material specifically designed for civil servants. In addition, this material was also distributed to partners working at the municipal level as part of another project and they have been using such material to improve the capacity of servants at the local level. We have carried out advocacy work based on the results of the project and most public authorities were quite open to our suggestions. We have an especially good relationship with the Comptroller's Office. They were present in our launching of the first annual report and already invited us to present the results of the second audit in an event organized by them. We have met the Comptroller's Office some times to present our recommendations concerning implementation of the law. They have always affirmed that they are open to receiving further inputs. Of course they are also being subject to criticism in our reports, but we have been trying to do it in a constructive fashion. We believe that there is willingness to do a good work, but in addition to internal challenges, they also face many challenges in the relationship with other bodies that they are supposed to monitor.

Two Reports published in 2013 (referring to 2012):

<http://artigo19.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/BALAN%C3%87O-DE-1-ANO-DA-LEI-DE-ACESSO-%C3%80-INFORMA%C3%87%C3%83O-P%C3%9ABLICA.pdf>

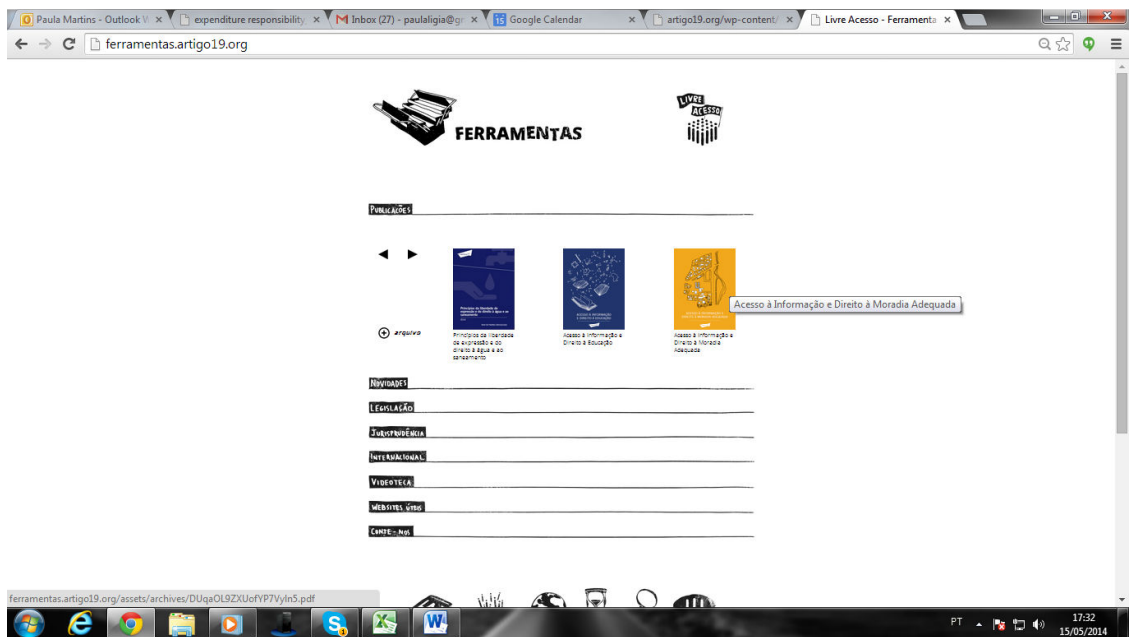
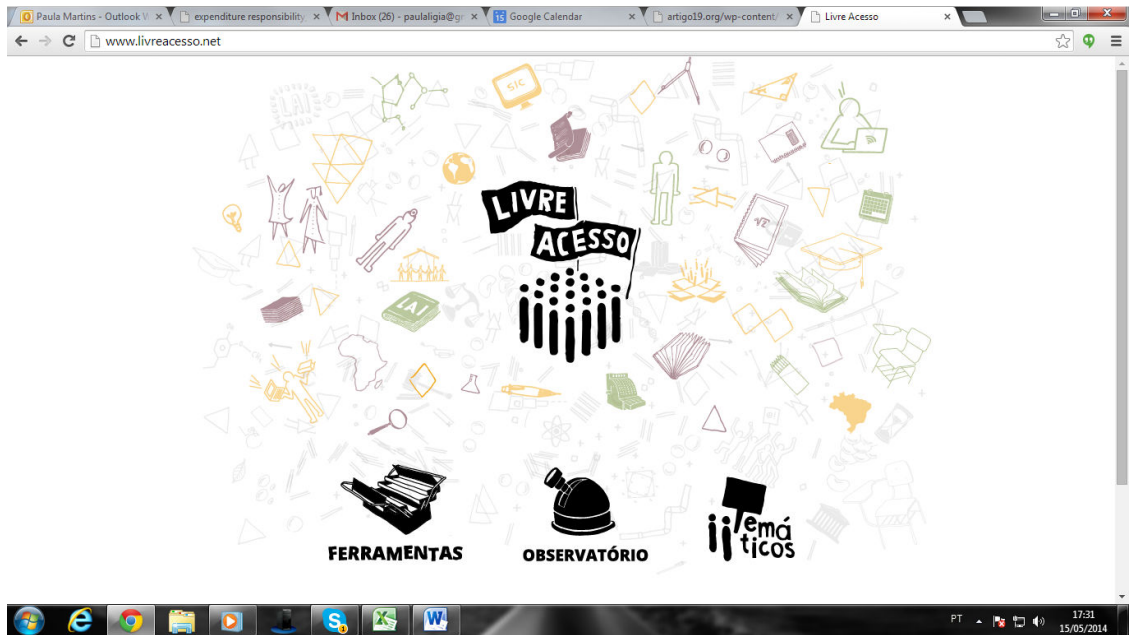
http://artigo19.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/balanco_1_ano_lei_aceso.pdf

2014 report (referring to 2013):

<http://artigo19.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/Relat%C3%B3rio-Monitoramento-LAI-2013.pdf>

5. Creation of a pilot platform to facilitate access to and use of information on specific areas.

FINAL REPORT



FINAL REPORT

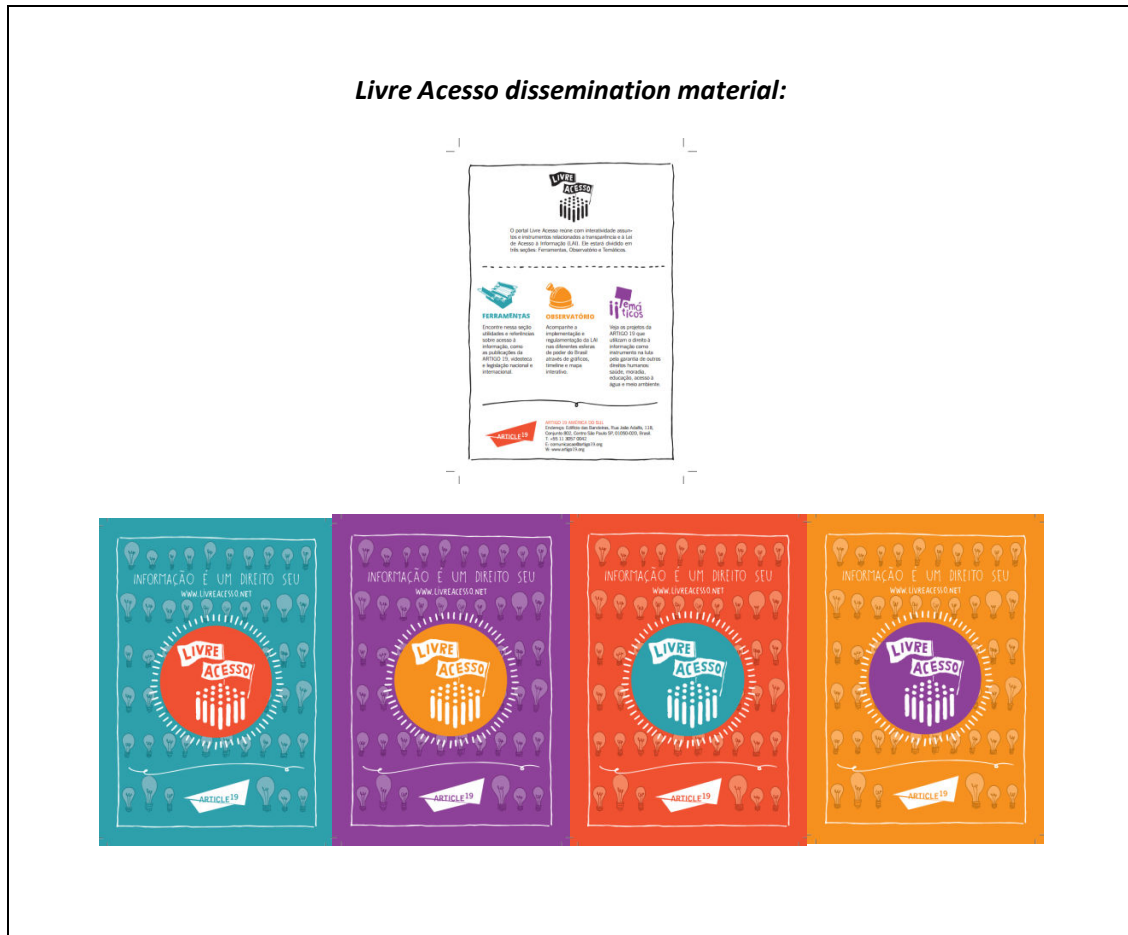


The LivreAcesso portal is a creative new way to publicize content and reference material on the right to information in Brazil. It is divided into 3 main sections: *Ferramentas* (Tools), *Observatório* (Observatory) and *Temáticos* (Thematics).

Ferramentas covers news, national and international legislation about the theme of Freedom of Information, a video library, and links to other websites and publications produced by ARTICLE 19. In *Observatório* users are able to follow the implementation of the Access to Information law in Brazil. In this section it is possible to monitor instances of how the State are responding to requests for information and which information has been publicized proactively. There will also be a map to show which Brazilian states have already implemented

the Access to Information Law. *Temáticos* explores the links between the right to information and other human rights, demonstrating how the right to information can be used as a tool for their realization.

The website can be accessed at: <http://livreacesso.net>



2. Activities and Strategy

Please describe the activities and strategy the organization used in implementing this grant. Note any significant differences between the original project plan and its implementation, and explain why decisions were made to modify the original plans.

As the original proposal demonstrates, the project strategy was based in 4 pillars: legal framework, information requests, pro-active disclosure and promotional measures. This strategy was taken for four thematic areas: health, education, housing and Environment. Besides the thematic areas, we also monitored the implementation of Rtl Law at federal level and carried out advocacy activities with public bodies.

ARTIGO 19 Brasil has accomplished all planned activities and had the opportunity to produce additional reports, thematic workshops and advocacy actions. There were no significant modifications to the original plans. Below we present the main activities divided by areas.

Pictures of some workshops and consultations:



Education

Our focal point in this area was Ação Educativa, a leading organization working on the right to education in the country. Established in 1994, Ação Educativa aims at promoting social justice, participative democracy and sustainable development in Brazil and for reach it, combines training and support to groups and communities, networking, knowledge production and research and advocacy to influence progressive public policies on educational matters. The

thematic consultation in this area took place in October 2013, when 10 organizations debated the baseline study presented by consultant Fernanda Campagnucci. The main issues raised during the meeting were the need to improve provision of open data and the lack of standards in setting education indicators. The education workshop was held in December with 20 participants. During the workshop, we used the education kit tool, available at: <http://ferramentas.artigo19.org/assets/archives/BMpPNzdT3TMXWGwDbRgZ.pdf>. Another workshop on education was organized in Brasilia during the World Forum on Human Rights.

The strategic information requests prepared by the consultant had three different approaches, separated by the degree of sensibility of the information requested. The main subjects were public contracts, education financing programs and the Federal government's PROUNI program, created to improve access to graduate studies to low income students. The final report was finished in December, concluding that the lack of information is greater / more critical as regards to education in the prison system and quilombola education.

Among the recommendations produced for our advocacy work in the area of education, we included: stronger commitment with open data, production of catalogues of public databases and more transparency in the disclosure of information requests already filed in area. All the information about this area is summarized in the thematic education website at <http://artigo19.org/educacao/>.

Health

In Brazil, the same Constitution that defines the right to information as a fundamental right, sets up that the State has the duty to guarantee the right of health. For this reason, Brazil developed an "universal" health system (SUS, according to the official acronym in Portuguese), supposed to provide medical care, free of charge, to anyone who needs it. In practice, however, services are inadequate, both in terms of quantity and quality. Despite of the recent expansion of SUS, access to health is still one of biggest problems in Brazil. In order to assist us in understanding the complexities of this thematic area, we counted with the partnership with CRIOLA and the assistance of consultant Maria Aparecida Protocolo.

CRIOLA has its headquarters in Rio de Janeiro and works on racial and gender health issues; it is led by black women since its foundation in 1992. We had three strategic meetings with CRIOLA and the consultant to discuss the workshop methodology and initial results of the baseline. The health consultation happened in November, in Rio de Janeiro, with 10 organizations. Most of participants affirmed they had difficulties to make use of the information disclosed by the Ministry of Health, mainly due to the technical language used and the disconnected databases implemented. Participants also complained that about the lack of information segregated by gender and race, making it difficult to evaluate, for example, if there is discrimination in the provision of services for black women, as suspected by CRIOLA and partners. In December, organization CEDAPS, which had attended our health consultation, requested some of our Rtl materials to use in a seminar to be organized that same month (13ª Edição do Seminário Fala Comunidade). According to CEDAPS, the seminar focused on Health and AIDS/HIV and had approximately 250 participants from 15 different states. This is a good example of how our project had great potential for replication and multiplication of expected results / impact.

The health workshop was organized after the consultation and was attended by 16 people, most of them women community leaders. Due the profile of registered participants, we developed a specific material to support the workshop, in addition to the health kit tool (available at: <http://ferramentas.artigo19.org/assets/archives/ABxaahW1iVQAdBsJTRka.pdf>). During the workshop, in addition to discussing how to present information requests, we reviewed the website of the Ministry for Health and checked all concerns pointed out by participants, trying to address their daily difficulties in accessing public information in the area.

The health baseline study focused its analysis on the assessment of proactive and passive transparency in the Ministry of Health. As regards the analysis of proactive transparency, the study highlights that even with the creation of a SIC (Citizen Information Service) by telephone and in person, these two forms do not count with sufficient infra-structure to provide adequate services to the population. Regarding to the Electronic SIC (e-sic), general and unintelligible data are provided without being translated into real information (accessible language, compiled and organized / systematized data) that can truly help individuals to understand the data provided.

Regarding reactive transparency, requests for information were made based on three themes: tuberculosis, mortality in women and violence against women. The evaluation of the consultant is that there is not much communication between the agencies responsible for specific issues within the Ministry, which made it difficult to respond to information requests in a satisfactory way. In the final report, the consultant highlighted that most of participants of the workshop had no prior knowledge of the Rtl Law, what suggests a need for increased investment on promotional measures, mainly at municipal and state level. All the information about this thematic area is available at: <http://artigo19.org/saude/>

Housing

Housing is one of the main social problems in the country: social inequality, unequal land distribution and economic interests prevailing over the social rights of individuals. The housing deficit in the country's major cities is huge and projects of housing solutions implemented by the government in general do not meet the real needs of families and leave out those with very low income. Organizations in the field have difficulties to access information to elaborate on their demands. Corruption is also strong in this area – large corporations involved in construction projects have strong political power, financing political campaigns of most elected authorities.

In face of such situation, we also had difficulties to establish our Focal Point and the consultant in this area. We had contacts with many organizations, some of them had also agreed participate in the project and then decided to quit, causing delays in activities and planning. In June, we hired Patrícia Rodrigues as project consultant and she agreed to help in the Focal Point articulations. In September, Centro Gaspar Garcia de Direitos Humanos (CGGDH) accepted to be part of the project as our housing Focal Point.

Centro Gaspar Garcia de Direitos Humanos was founded in 1988 and since then, worked with low-income people in the mission to fight for their rights and assure their social protagonism. With an interdisciplinary perspective, their housing projects have focused on indigenous

peoples, homeless individuals and informal workers. With Centro Gaspar Garcia and Patricia Rodrigues support, the housing consultation took place in October 29, in which 29 people from different organizations and social movements. After the presentation of the baseline study, participants asserted the lack of information for vulnerable groups and about forced removals due to megaprojects, such as FIFA World Cup, as key concerns. The housing workshop had approximately 20 participants and occurred in December 5. During the information request exercise, the main topics raised by participants regarded to the amount destined to popular housing projects by the Sao Paulo city hall and how much of it was executed. The tool kit elaborated for the workshop is available at: <http://ferramentas.artigo19.org/assets/archives/DUqaOL9ZXUofYP7Vvln5.pdf>.

The final housing report focused in the most important housing program at federal level - Minha Casa, Minha Vida. The information requests asked for information about beneficiaries, to verify if the vulnerable groups were really the ones serviced by the program. The report also shows the lack of data disaggregated by region and difficulties that CSOs and social movements have to understand complex and technical information on housing budget. The link for the thematic housing website is: <http://artigo19.org/moradia/>.

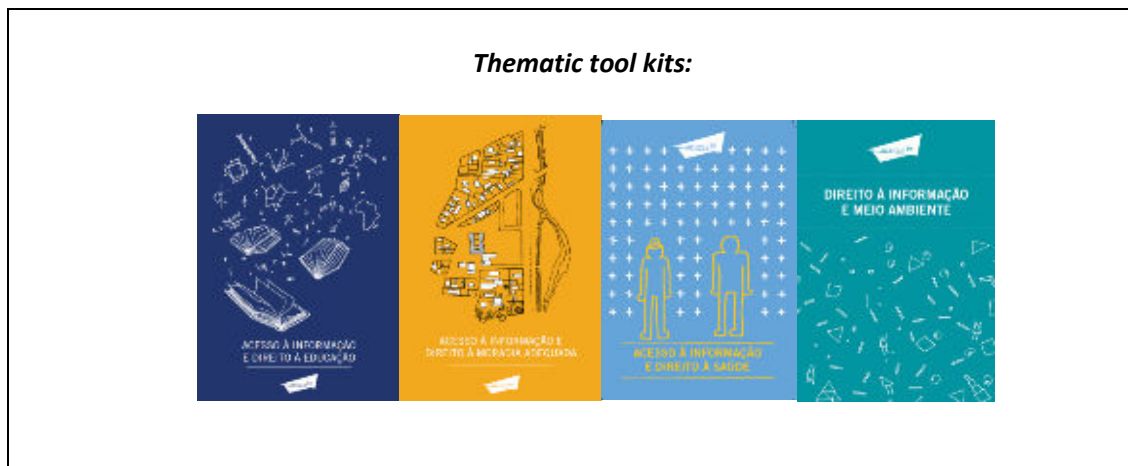
Environment

Our focal point in the environment area was Vitae Civilis, an important national group in the social and environmental field in Brazil. Vitae Civilis - Institute for Development, Environment and Peace, is a civil non-profit organization which goal is to contribute to building sustainable societies by supporting participatory implementation of integrated public policies. The partnership with Vitae Civilis was fundamental not only for this experience, but also for other projects, such as our actions promoting Rio92's Principle 10 and our work on right of water and access to information, currently carried out in the Semi-Arid and in the Amazon, both funded by other donors. The project consultant for this area was Carina Costa de Oliveira, law professor with the Brasilia University.

For planning activities and to discuss the project development, we have organized two in-person strategic meetings with the Focal Point and the consultant, in addition to many other virtual meetings. The environment consultation happened on October 15, with members of Vitae Civilis, Fundação Esquel, WWF Brasil, Associação Alternativa Terrazul and SOS Mata Atlântica, in Brasilia. The main conclusion was that environmental information is in general available, but the manner in which it is disclosed is not useful, considering the specific language and technical skills needed to understand it. The extensive and technical reports about environment impact and budget information were pointed as common problems. The concrete impact of projects is not clearly communicated to affected communities. The environment workshop took place on November 9; the main focus of the discussion was the construction of the Sao Paulo airport in an environmentally protected area and how to deal with this urgent case. Participants discussed how to use access to information in a strategic way to get the environment impact report. The kit tool used in the workshop is available at: <http://ferramentas.artigo19.org/assets/archives/0INtBRIE0w769rtLXugf.pdf>

In relation to the baseline study in this thematic area, the consultant focused her study on assessment of the following: the concept of access to environmental information, the right to obtain environmental information, the duty of federal agencies to provide environmental

information requested and the impact of the lack of information on the right to participation, among other issues. In the analysis of the legislation, the report focuses on the changes and advances in access to environmental information since the publication of the new Rtl law. Regarding legislation prior to the Rtl law in the environmental area, it emphasizes that the lack of objectivity and accuracy hindered the effectiveness of access through clear procedures. The final environmental report recommends that each public body should elaborate rules for disclosing information about projects and plans, to guarantee timely information for social participation. In view of that, the documents should be revised in their language and form, to be more easily understandable by the general public. All the information about environment area is summarized at: <http://artigo19.org/meioambiente/>



Rtl Law Monitoring

In May 2013, ARTICLE 19 published a report on its monitoring activities of the implementation of Rtl Law during its first year. After the entry into force of the Rtl law (Law 12.527/2011) ARTICLE 19 has registered more than 140 requests for information to various agencies of the Federal Government, state and municipal governments regarding the following areas: environment, education, housing, health, women's rights, access to water, radio broadcasting, pluralism and diversity, implementation of the law on access to information (up to May 2013). The results of this effort indicate that less than half of the responses received fully answered what was requested. Another worrying result is that the number of requests not answered is extremely high: 32% of the required bodies did not respond even after 20 days have elapsed from the deadline established by the Rtl law. Considering proactive transparency, the State does not publish the answers to the most frequent requests, which is an obligation established by the RTI law.

In addition, ARTICLE 19 invited leading civil society organizations to discuss and exchange experiences on the progress and challenges of one year of the Rtl Law. The meeting happened on April 30. The presence of 15 organizations from different fields of human rights has provided a rich panorama of the reality of law's enforcement in concrete terms. The methodology established for the meeting allowed everyone to contribute with their experiences both with respect to proactive transparency as compared to reactive transparency (information requests) at the federal, state and municipal levels. We had also

analyzed the appeal structure of the main Judiciary bodies and the decisions from the CMRI (Commission for Reassessment of Information).

To celebrate one year of the Access to Information Law in Brazil, ARTICLE 19, together with Abraji (Brazilian Association of Investigative Journalism), Conectas Direitos Humanos, and Transparencia Brasil, held on May 22 the seminar "One year of transparency : experiences on the Access to Information Law". About 275 people were registered and it is estimated that at least 150 people were present.

After the first year report, ARTICLE 19 Brazil promoted a new methodology to audit the implementation of the Rtl Law. Requests were sent to 51 public institutions from three different governmental levels - Federal Legislative; Federal Executive; and Federal Justice. Altogether, 474 requests were made to the institutions - 38 Executive bodies; 11 Justice bodies; and two Legislative bodies. The idea was to make five requests about the implementation of the Rtl Law, to measure how the mechanisms were incorporated by the different bodies; and four "sensitivity requests", about themes in relation to which the government usually doesn't provide information easily. In the total, 9 requests were made to every institution. Some of them received one or two more requests because they had more than one president, director or minister in 2012 (reference year). All the data - the requests, analysis, conclusions and recommendations is published in Livre Acesso Observatory (<http://observatorio.artigo19.org/>).

One preliminary result of the research is that the Federal Executive institutions already are advanced in the implementation of Rtl Law, in comparison with the other sectors; the Federal Justice had the more worrisome results, with many of the requests unanswered or answered out of the deadline (weeks and even months after the first request was done). One recommendation by ARTICLE 19, concluded after the research, is that the government needs to promote internal workshops to raise the quality of the answers to the requests in Rtl. The Federal Executive bodies (ministries, secretaries etc) in average did not delayed the answers, but rather provided incomplete or confuse information. That was also felt by civil society organizations, who complained in workshops about bureaucratic answers that do not give the right information and are full of technical and juridical terms. One of the demands presented was for more direct and didactic answers. The federal government said they're remodeling the Transparency Portal for Public Resources, one of the sources for data that is predicted to be published by the Rtl Law. The idea is to make the site more intuitive and easy to access. The final report, containing detailed and concrete recommendations is available at <http://artigo19.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/Relat%C3%B3rio-Monitoramento-LAI-2013.pdf>.

After the launching of the report, two federal courts contacted us asking for more information that would allow them to correct some problems indicated in our audit. The Federal Comptroller's Office invited us to present the monitoring results during the first meeting of the civil servants in charge of the e-SICs at the Federal Executive.

Monitoring reports:



Advocacy

Meetings were carried out with the Rtl Ombudsman and with the Director for the Prevention of Corruption with the Federal Comptroller’s Office, where we advocated for the need of improved promotional measures, especially regarding the dissemination of the RTI law with civil society and the general public. We also recommended the involvement of the Federal Comptroller’s Office in a campaign to promote the adoption of specific Rtl laws by the States and Municipalities.

In December 2012, we have sent letters to the authorities from the Legislative, Judiciary and Public Prosecutor’s Office, at the Federal level, but only three of them responded to the letters. They informed that their bodies are still working to regulate the right to information according to the new law, but they did not provide a deadline for completion of this process. In their replies, the authorities affirmed that no specific funds were necessary to implement the Rtl Law in their offices/bodies, because they were already prepared to answer information requests satisfactorily. Another important information provided was that the relevant bodies had not carried out any capacity building or other activities aimed at internally promoting the new RTI Law. The advocacy letters and their recommendations were based on the main results of the monitoring.

In second semester of 2013, advocacy meetings were held with the Federal Comptroller’s Office (called CGU) and with ministries in sensitive areas that were also thematic areas for the workshops, such as Ministry of Education. The idea was to advocate for good practices in the implementation of the Rtl by the government and its organizations, and to share the demands presented by civil society active in those areas. Altogether, there were four meetings - two with the Federal Comptroller's Office and two with ministries (Ministry of Education and Ministry of Environment).

Also, five letters were made with recommendations to the ministries (Ministry of Education, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Cities and Housing) and to the Federal Comptroller’s Office. Example of recommendation done by ARTICLE 19 Brazil: that the Ministry of Health should publish a section of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) in its website. The FAQ should be done based in the requests made by the public to the ministry - it's established in the Rtl Law that every public institution has to create such section in its site.

This demand is observed by some ministries and institutions, but not by the Ministry of Health in Brazil.

ARTICLE 19 Brazil suggested that the federal government could promote a national campaign to clarify and disseminate knowledge about the Brazilian Rtl Law. Most of the public does not know how to make use of the mechanisms of the law, the deadlines to receive an answer from a public institution, to appeal from a partial or incomplete answer and so on. The suggestion includes the production of material that could be simple, direct, didactic and illustrated - in text, audio and video. ARTICLE 19 also suggested that these materials could be disseminated through the mass media and the internet. The government seemed sympathetic to the idea.

One problem identified in our monitoring was the quality of the answers to information requests. The implementation of Rtl Law is considerable within the Ministry of Education, but civil society groups have complained about evasive answers to requests made about budget allocation for some programs.

3. Evaluation and monitoring

How did the organization track or evaluate its progress related to this project?
--

For each thematic area, we have organized strategic meetings with Focal Points and we established together benchmarks that served as guides for monitoring the project progress. The benchmarks consist in a document containing Focal Points responsibilities and ARTIGO 19 Brasil obligations, as well as a specific budget for thematic consultations and workshops, project objectives and desired outcomes, signed by both Focal Points and ARTIGO.

Once we had the planning and the benchmarks, we used both of them for monitoring processed, keeping in touch with the organization to follow the consultations and mobilization for the workshops, preparation of events schedule, production of materials and methodology. The monitoring was fundamental to change the events dates in a few cases, based on decisions made with Focal Points, mainly due to difficulties to articulate with participants and partners and/or the setting of thematic events in the same dates.

The Focal Points also provided a final project evaluation letter. In the letter, the Focal Points highlight the importance to promote Rtl Law in their thematic areas and its potential to strengthen NGO's political strategies.

Regarding the baseline studies and the final thematic reports, the monitoring process was almost the same. First of all, we met with consultants and discussed the benchmarks, considering the dates for workshops and consultations established with Focal Points. Then, we used the benchmarks and the preliminary versions of the studies to monitor its development and deadlines. We kept very close contact with the consultants, holding online and in person strategic meetings to discuss the research's developments, most of times including also Focal Points in the discussion. We believe that this close relationship with consultants assured useful reports and its application in the project's materials and activities.

Feedback to activities and beneficiary's comments were overall very positive. For example, at the end of the access to information and education workshop, in which participated 13 men

and 7 women, we distributed an evaluation questionnaire to know the beneficiaries profile (like gender, age, education level and profession) and their impressions about the methodology used, the content exposed and future perspectives for Rtl use. In total, we collected 14 evaluation questionnaires, which highlighted that the content of the workshop – relating Rtl with the realization of other human rights - was considered very relevant or relevant by all participants. When they analyzed the possibility to use Rtl and the knowledge acquired during the workshop for their political actions or daily activities, 9 of them expressed the high possibility of using it and 4 of them medium possibility.

A similar questionnaire was applied after the access to information and health workshop, in which participated 17 persons (15 women and 2 men). All participants filled out the evaluation questionnaire, and for 13 of them the workshop was very helpful to improve their use of information produced by the Ministry of Health. At the same time, 13 persons expressed high motivation to learn more about right to information and 12 of them pointed out the high possibility to use Rtl and knowledge acquired during the workshop for their political actions or daily activities, while other 2 manifested medium possibility.

The overall impact of the baseline studies and final thematic reports depend on future activities, but so far we notice that they were fundamental for our advocacy letters and for thematic consultations. The documents were also very useful for the Focal Points, to better understand the role of access to information to advance their agenda.

4. Challenges
Describe any challenges or unanticipated developments the organization encountered during this period. How did these affect the project? How did the organization respond?

We had some complications to overcome, such as the low involvement of some focal points in a couple of activities, overbroad thematic areas that needed prioritization of subthemes, overlapping of workshops and meetings, difficulties to mobilize organizations during vacations, which somehow had implications for the project. However, they did not represent significant changes in the planning and did not affect the overall results of the project.

The only more substantial challenge faced was the selection of the Housing Focal Point. This process took longer than expected and resulted in delays. However, once the Focal Point Centro Gapar Garcia was selected, as well as the consultant, things moved on quickly and with good results. Strategic meetings and planning were held quite late, but this did not reflect negatively on the quality and impact of the baseline study, workshops or consultations. To respond this challenge, we continued non-stop to reach out for new potential housing partners, holding meetings to explain the project and its objectives, with the help of the housing consultant. We believe that the initial difficulty was due to common characteristics of housing groups in Brazil – they are very closed and suspicious and not open to dedicate time to new agendas; they are used to work within their own networks - and the impression that the project required too much extra work.

Involvement of many Focal Points and Consultants also required a lot of coordination from ARTIGO 19, and the diversity of individuals and organizations involved proved difficult to conciliate. Our project coordinator had to be very open-minded, patient and flexible. Not only

that, but the project required dedication to learn the basics about each thematic area, in addition to expertise in Rtl.

The diversity of audiences present in the different consultations and workshops also required a lot of flexibility. All content needed to be presented without any type of prejudice or misconception and staff had to worry about the language and examples used and potential sensitiveness. Workshop exercises had to be adapted in order to ensure they would demonstrate how Rtl could be useful in the daily work of quite different NGOs and individuals. Some of the participants were interested in discussing the government's transparency obligations in public-private partnerships, meanwhile others were community leaders that simply wanted to fight for a hospital in their neighborhood. This required a lot of preparation and of elasticity.

5. Learning
<p>What did the organization learn from the experience of this grant? Did developments during the course of this work change the organization's understanding of the issues this project seeks to address, or inform its view of how change comes about? If so, please describe. Does the organization have any intentions to modify its strategies in the future in response to what it learned during this period?</p>

This project strengthened ARTIGO 19's role as a reference group on Rtl in Brazil and allowed us to collect and produce new materials, cases and articulations to establish ourselves as a bridge between the Brazilian public bodies and other CSOs involvement in the implementation of the Rtl law.

However, we have noticed that the articulation of NGOs is not always that simple. One of lessons learned was the difficulty to include right to information in the focal points' agenda when they have already established their own priorities. This does not refer only to the Focal Points' interest in Rtl, but their capacity to include yet another concern in an already busy agenda, with limited human and financial resources. Most of the work has to be done internally and we need to captivate the Focal Points' interest month after month, activity after activity.

We have now also developed a bit further our methodology to explore the links between Rtl and other human rights. The sectorial approach is something new and demanding for ARTIGO 19, but we are better placed now to replicate our experience in other thematic areas and to expand our work in relation to some of our current ones.

6. Organization
<p>Did the organization undergo any significant changes during the grant period? If so, please describe.</p>

At the project beginning, Alexandre Sampaio and Karina Quintanilha were the access to information team. In July, Alexandre Sampaio left Article 19 Brazil and Karina Quintanilha transferred to another area, dealing with litigation since then. One month before those changes, Joara Marchezini and Thiago Firdida joined ARTIGO 19 and were appointed to

conduct the project, with the help of Karina Quintanilha in the transition. In September, Rafael Sampaio and Luiza Krutzler joined the team and were responsible for the development the second Rtl Law audit.

Financial Report

Please use both sheets (for budget execution summary and detail) of the Excel format provided.