SDG Indicator 16.10.2. Number of countries that adopt and implement constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information. The focus of this indicator is thus on the status of adoption and implementation of constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information. The definition relates directly to “public access to information”, which is wider than, but is also very much based upon, the established fundamental freedoms of expression and association. Conversely, these freedoms also both impact on the environment for public access to information.

Precaution / Notes:
This indicator does not assess the totality of “public access to information” component of the full SDG Target 16.10. Nevertheless, it focusses on a key determinant of the wider information environment.
This indicator is still classified as Tier II Indicators: conceptually clear, has an internationally established methodology and standards are available, but data are not regularly produced by countries.


The Access to the Information, a Stake in the Mediterranean Region?

- SDG Target 16.10: Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements.
- UNESCO’s reports to the UN on global monitoring of 16.10.2 have accordingly been compiled and submitted by the IPDC secretariat.
- According to UNESCO’s preliminary assessment, Indicator 16.10.2 seeks to establish the state of public access to information in terms of three key variables:
  1. Whether a country (or at the global level, the number of countries) has constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information.
  2. The extent to which such national guarantees reflect ‘international agreements’ (such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights).
  3. The implementation mechanisms in place for such guarantees, including the following variables:
     - Government efforts to publicly promote the right to information.
     - The capacity of public bodies to provide information upon request by the public.