

The right to know: Investigate public records with transparency tools

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This hands-on session introduces practical FOI and public records tools used in Italy and across Europe, including platforms such as Ask the EU. It shows how journalists and engaged citizens can use these tools to demand accountability, turn records into reporting, and avoid common mistakes that block access. The session focuses on practical workflow: filing clear requests, following up when institutions do not respond, and navigating appeals. It is designed for journalists, researchers, and other users who need concrete skills for access-to-information work.

Speakers

Alexander Fanta, Follow the Money

Gianluca Liva, Science journalist

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Public-records tools can support investigative reporting when used systematically.
- Clear requests and persistence matter as much as the legal right itself.
- Follow-up and appeals are essential when institutions delay or remain silent.
- Transparency tools are useful for both journalists and engaged citizens.
- Ask the EU is one of the practical platforms referenced in the session

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