

# Right to Information

## FOR CIVIL SOCIETY AND JOURNALISTS

This RTI online course is designed to empower members of civil society and journalists to determine the applicable laws in their countries and be able to make successful requests for information from government and other public bodies.



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The course provides useful and comprehensive comparative resources that can be adapted to the different national contexts. It is an introduction to the right of individuals to access information held by public authorities (the government) or the right to information. It is aimed at African civil society and journalists, or “demand side” actors, meaning those who are seeking information from the government.

In addition, the course provides opportunities for collaboration and complementarity as different stakeholders have different capacities and opportunities, which together can be used to ensure the free flow of information.

The course consists of five modules together with the possibility of online webinars with various experts. Modules can be done at the participant's own pace over a two week period. The cost of the course will be covered by *fesmedia* Africa and participants will receive a certificate upon successful completion.

## **COURSE MODULES:**

**Introduction:** Pre-course element to prepare participants

### **Module 1: Introduction to the Right to Information**

What is the right to information, why is it important, trends globally and in Africa

### **Module 2: The Legal Framework for the Right to Information**

The principles behind a strong right to information regime, introduction to the RTI Rating and an assessment of their own laws

### **Module 3: Making and Processing Requests**

How to make a request for information, what to expect in terms of the processing of the request and how to follow-up in case of problems

### **Module 4: Interpreting Exceptions**

An overview of international standards regarding exceptions, how these standards should be applied in practice and the challenges to assessing whether information is exempt

### **Module 5: Appeals and Promotional Roles**

A review of the different sorts of appeals that are normally open to requesters, along with some ideas for the roles that demand-side actors can play in ensuring stronger implementation of these laws

For more detail and to be informed about the next course starting date, please send an email to [lis@fesmedia.org](mailto:lis@fesmedia.org)