

NEWSLETTER (February, 2015)

PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT “ACCESS TO PUBLIC INFORMATION IN GEORGIA



Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI) delivered presentation of the report “Access to Public Information in Georgia 2014” and named the most transparent and closed public institutions revealed within the framework of the project (see the [rating](#)). Representatives of Public Institutions, Media and Civil Society attended the event. Within the framework of the project a total of 5 4 66 FOI requests were sent to 308 public institutions.

During the presentation Director of IDFI-Giorgi Kldiashvili stated that after 2012 Parliamentary Elections the rate of complete responses has decreased from 81% to 66%. Moreover the number of unanswered requests has increased from 11% to 26%. The existing rate equals the results observed before 2012 Parliamentary Elections.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia was granted a certificate of the Most Closed Public Institution. The ministry has the lowest rate of access to public information among the other central state institutions. The Department of Corrections was named as the most closed public institution during the year of 2014

The following public institutions were granted special awards (certificates) for “Ensuring Access to Public Information”:

- Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Accommodation and Refugees of Georgia
- Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia
- Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs
- Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport of Adjara A/R



Project on “Strategic Plan Georgia 2020 – Strengthening Public Involvement (ZigB)” has completed successfully

14 prominent foreign scholars, who are researching the affairs of Georgia and the region of Eastern Europe, arrived in Georgia specially to take part in the Scientific [Forum](#) “New Social and Economic Development Strategy - Georgia 2020” (the First Scientific Forum on Socio-Economic Development Strategy of Georgia “Georgia 2020”)

The main themes for the Forum was Implementation of the Strategic Development Documents as a way of sustainable socio-economic development for post-soviet countries, regional security and energy challenges of Georgia for the year of 2020 and the state of the state-building process in Georgia and its impact on the attainment of the Georgia 2020 goals.



IDFI held a public lecture at the Akaki Tsereteli Kutaisi State University and Telavi State Teaching University. Lecture was conducted - within the scopes of the Project Strategic Plan Georgia 2020 – Strengthening Public Involvement (ZigB) – by project coordinator Davit Maisuradze, PHD student at Bremen University and expert on Foreign Direct Investments - Sebastian Tideman, , the lecturers Sopio Sachaleli, Konstantine Natsvlishvili and Tea Gergedava.

On 10th February, at Movement theater was held the final event of blogger competition within the project Georgian 2020. Base on the decision the winner of the project became [Ketevan Krialashvili](#). Additionally two participants were awarded - [David Chikhladze](#) and [Manon Bokuchava](#).

Giorgi Kldiashvili Referred to Prosecutor's Office and MIA



Giorgi Kldiashvili [called](#) Ministry of Internal Affairs to retract defaming information and ensure that news on the termination of criminal prosecution and his exculpation is published on the official web-page of the Ministry. He also [referred](#) to the Chief Prosecutor of Georgia with the request to launch investigation on the facts of falsification of evidence against him.

Director of IDFI states, that he has well founded fear that illegal wire-tapping and eavesdropping was conducted on his conversations, and that based on the evidence obtained in violation of Georgian legislation, he was illegally arrested and detained.

Giorgi Kldiashvili [appealed](#) for damages on the facts of his illegal treatment by law enforcement authorities. On 10th of February he has filed an appeal in Tbilisi City Court. Respondents in the case are Ministry of

Internal Affairs, the Office of the Prosecutor and the Ministry of Finance.

Estimation and recommendations of the information campaign of Digital Switchover process in Georgia

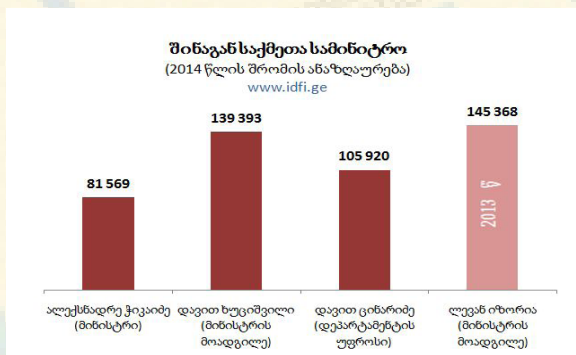
Within the framework of the project [Supporting and monitoring of the transition to digital terrestrial broadcasting in Georgia](#) IDFI has conducted the research and presented the evaluation of information campaign and suggested recommendations regarding rising awareness about DSO process. On February 5, IDFI organized round table, discussing relevant issues regarding digital switchover. Representatives of NGOs, Georgian National Communication Commission (GNCC), Digital Broadcasting Agency, media and companies who supposed to build network for DSO attended the meeting.



Statement of Civil Society Organizations about Oppression from Government

IDFI joined civil society's call on the members of government and other politicians to stop oppressions of CSOs and refrain from campaigns against them. On May 1, 2014 Prime-Minister Irakli Garibashvili accused CSOs participating in the campaign This Affects You in the "damage of the international reputation of the country" and assessed their activities to be undermining for the country; this statement encouraged other politicians to make critical statements on CSOs and start certain activities against them.

Declared Incomes of Ministers and Deputy Ministers for the Year of 2014



IDFI published declared incomes of Ministries and Deputy Ministers for 2014. The practice of Deputy Ministers receiving higher income than the Ministers themselves, once more highlights the existing problems in the system of remuneration in public institutions.

IDFI calls that along with bonuses it is important to amend the practice of awarding public officials with salary supplements. In order to regulate remuneration in public sector systematic, conceptual steps should be taken within the auspices of the ongoing reform of civil service.

Non-governmental organizations address the Parliament of Georgia on the draft law on State Secrets

IDFI together with the undersigned organizations calls on the Parliament of Georgia to reject the bill on state secrets in its current form; and to start consideration only in the frame of, and in parallel to, the new draft law on Freedom of Information.

Three day Exhibition - Forgetting is Guarantee of Recurrence

Society Memorial and IDFI organized three day event named Forgetting is Guarantee of Recurrence, regarding the day of Soviet Russian Occupation of independent, democratic Georgia on 25th February, 1921.

Exhibition named Results of Georgia's Sovietization in Photos and Lists of victims of Repression was opened on Rustaveli Ave, in front of the former building of the Parliament of Georgia and then at Literature Museum.

Similar event, dedicated to political prisoner women of Soviet Period was held by Society Memorial and IDFI on 25th February, 2014 too, where lists of repressed people, their photos, handicrafts, letters and other material was exhibited.



IDFI's Suggestion to Government about the Initiative of Decreasing Administrative Expenses

IDFI based on its experience express its full readiness for adopting recommendation document in which the views regarding the reduction of the administrative expenses will be presented



Final Presentation of the Project "Enhancing E-skills for Controlling Government Among Young People"

On 27th of February 2015, Multimedia Education Center hosted final presentation of the IDFI project Enhancing E-skills for Controlling Government Among Young People. At the end of the presentation, the participants were awarded with special gifts and certificates. Three winners of essay competition were gifted with Kindle Paperwhite.

CSOs Address the Parliament of Georgia

IDFI joined an initiative of CSOs and called all parliamentary factions to name the members of temporary investigation commission on Sakdrisi-Kachagiani issue.

Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI)
ინფორმაციის თავისუფლების განვითარების ინსტიტუტი (IDFI)

INSTITUTE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION



Address: 3, Griboedov Street, Tbilisi, 0108, Georgia.
Contact: info@idfi.ge | 00 995 322 921514
Web: www.idfi.ge | www.opendata.ge | [Research](#)