JULY, 2015 NEWSLETTE

INSTITUTE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

STUDIES

PROBLEMS OF THE CANCELLED GOVERNMENTAL CONTEST BROADBAND INTERNET TO EVERY CITIZEN AND **RECOMMENDATIONS OF IDFI**

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The contest planned within the framework of governmental project "Broadband Internet to Every Citizen" was canceled. Total budget of the project is about 100 MLN GEL.

After implementation the project whole country should be covered with high-speed broadband internet network by 2020 year.

The Study overviews the reasons of cancelation the contest, the flaws of the process and presents organization's recommendations.

ACTIVITIES

PUBLIC INFORMATION DATABASE WWW.OPENDATA.GE

The goal of the project is to support the development of freedom of information by increasing level of accountability of state authorities and civic engagement in decision-making processes.

During last month IDFI requested, analyzed and published public information about:

- Correspondence between the Administrations of President and Government regarding the residence of the President on Atoneli Street
- Statistical Information on the cases of illegal logging hunting and fishing in Georgia
- Outcome on the Applications Received by the Office of the Prosecutor after 2012
- Funding Priorities of Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia

In July 2014 IDFI published database of FOI officers in charge of ensuring access to public information and proactive disclosure of information in various public institutions.

The database is updated on a regular basis.

Currently IDFI implements three projects:

- Public Information Database www.opendata.ge 2013-2015
- Supporting Parliament of Georgia Involvement in Open Government Partnership Initiative

• Supporting and Monitoring of the Transition to Digital Terrestrial Broadcasting in Georgia (2015)



SUPPORTING PARLIAMENT OF GEORGIA INVOLVEMENT IN **OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE**

The goal of the project Supporting Parliament of Georgia Involvement in Open Government Partnership Initiative is to increase openness and transparency of the Parliament of Georgia and ensure effective citizen participation in legislative processes through active engagement of the Parliament in OGP.

The final version of the Open Parliament Georgia Action Plan was agreed on the Meeting of the Inter-Factional Group and the Open Parliament Georgia Working Group. On the 5th meeting the inter-factional group approved the Open Parliament Georgia action plan and Parliament of Georgia has finalized working on the document.

Later, the Action Plan was <u>adopted</u> by the Bureau of the Parliament of Georgia.

Action Plan consists of 18 commitments that are in accordance to the OGP principles of Public Involvement, Access to Information, Technologies and Innovation and Accountability

It should be noted that IDFI was recognized as a supporting organization for the Declaration on Parliamentary Openness by the OpeningParliament.org - forum intended to connect world's civic organizations engaged in monitoring, supporting and opening up their countries' parliaments and legislative institutions



SUPPORTING AND MONITORING OF THE TRANSITION TO DIGITAL TERRESTRIAL BROADCASTING IN GEORGIA

The goal of the project "Supporting and Monitoring of the Transition to Digital Terrestrial Broadcasting in Georgia (2015)" is to monitor the activities, outline the problematic aspects, make recommendations and advocate the switchover process.

Within the scopes of the project IDFI organized a Press Conference. The expert of IDFI, Ucha Seturi, Digital Broadcasting Agency and Georgian National Communications Commission advised society to install home antennas on their house-tops to receive Digital Signal perfectly.

Before turning off the analog signal in Shida Kartli IDFI published list of shops, where locals could buy Set-Top-Boxes. IDFI held a <u>press conference</u> about canceled governmental contest and spoke about the problematic issues regarding the implementation of the project Broadband Internet to Every Citizen". These issues are discussed in a new study prepared by the organization.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- 1. A trial version of a new web-page of Tbilisi municipality www.tbilisi.gov.ge was launched. The concept of a web-page was <u>developed</u> by IDFI
- 2. Charity Event to Help Skra IDP Settlement was held by IDFI
- 3. IDFI joined statements of civil society organizations on
- Mistreatment cases
- Russian advances in Georgia
- · Citizens' participation in implementation of local self-governance
- Panorama Tbilisi project
- 4. IDFI is a member of Coalition for an Independent and Transparent Judiciary, which made statements on:
- Prosecutor's office reform
- Revised Version of the Draft Law on the Prosecutor's Office

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