

Assessment of Citizen Engagement Practices in the Municipalities of Batumi, Kutaisi and Akhaltsikhe



The aim of the document is to analyze the level and quality of public participation in the work of municipal public agencies. The underlying assessment examines existing practices of citizen engagement in the municipalities of Kutaisi, Akhaltsikhe and Batumi. The document provides an analysis on how citizens interact with the municipal government and how/if their positions are reflected in the short-term and long-term policy priorities and budget of the government.

In addition, the assessment looks at the legislative base for citizen engagement and the tools of e-democracy that create a favorable environment for public participation. The

assessment examines established principles according to several documents – 1. The OECD Handbook on Information, Consultation and Public Participation in Policy Making 2. Sherry R. Amstein Ladder of Citizen Participation and the Handbook on Public Participation in Local Self-Government.

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According to the court decision, the MIA is obliged to retract the defaming information published by it on December 17, 2014, via its official website within the period of one month.



No representative of the respondent party - MIA was present at the court hearing. Since no written motion had been presented by the

MIA explaining the reasons of its absence at the hearing, the court rendered a default judgement. After this, the MIA appealed the judgement once again. The hearing on the case is scheduled for October 10, 2017, at 12:00 am. IDFI will keep the public informed on the future development of the case.

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[Meeting of the Permanent Parliamentary Council on Open and Transparent Governance and Its Consultative Group](#)



On August 2, 2017, the Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI) organized a meeting of the Permanent Parliamentary Council on Open and Transparent Governance and its Consultative Group. The aim of the meeting was to define and approve new dates for implementation of commitments under the Open Parliament Georgia Action Plan 2017-2018.

IDFI also presented draft amendments to the Order of the Chairperson of the Parliament of Georgia on Standards for Proactive Disclosure and Electronical Request of the Public Information that was elaborated in

cooperation with the representatives of civil society and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

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[IDFI's Legislative Proposal - Regulating Inadmissible Internet Content](#)



The purpose of this study is to elaborate on the concept of “inadmissible content” and ascertain, to what extent the grounds for such principle meet the standards set forth in the Constitution and those acknowledged internationally.

The study showed, that the components of the concept of inadmissible content defined by the Regulation of the Georgian National Communications Commission do not meet the local and international standards of restricting freedom of expression. Therefore, this problem must be solved through legislative amendments, in order to prevent excessive restriction of the freedom of expression.

For this purpose, IDFI proposes a draft amendment to the GNCC Resolution aimed

at correcting the shortcomings described in this document and increasing the standard for protecting freedom of expression.

[Learn more](#)



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