

[Georgia's Chairmanship of OGP: Advancing the Global, Regional and National Open Government Agenda](#)



In May 2016, Georgia was elected as a co-chair of the Open Government Partnership (OGP) Steering Committee before taking over as a Lead Chair in 2017. The fact that 18 of the Steering Committee member countries supported Georgia was a clear expression of appreciation of Georgia's achievements and reforms initiated and implemented as an OGP member as well as its future plans.

Georgia has adopted its third OGP Action Plan. One of the main factors that determined the successful involvement of Georgia in the Open Government Partnership was collaboration between the government and civil society. To be more precise, a permanent dialogue mechanism was created, where both public institutions and

civil society organizations have equal opportunity to address the issues facing OGP. Today, the Open Government Georgia Forum is a mechanism of co-creation and oversight that enables all stakeholders to share the responsibility of fulfilling the OGP agenda. Georgia has been successfully developing legislative openness in the framework of OGP since 2015. As a result of active and fruitful cooperation of the Parliament and civil society in co-creating the Legislative Openness Georgia was awarded with the OGP Government Champions Award at the OGP Global Summit in Mexico in 2015.

[Supreme Court Rules in Favor of IDFI in a Case against the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development](#)



The Supreme Court of Georgia declared the appeal of the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development (MOESD) against the Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI) inadmissible. The Ministry argued that the decision of Tbilisi City Court, according to which the appeal of IDFI was fully granted and the entity was directed to disclose information on different administrative expenses of 2014, such as bonuses and salary supplements, business trip and roaming expenses, simplified procurements and etc. was in conflict with existing legislation. IDFI referred to MOESD with a freedom of information (FOI) request on March 3, 2015, however, even after two years the Ministry has still not provided us with the information.

[Institute for Development of Freedom of Information Opinions on Constitutional Amendments](#)



IDFI thinks that while working on the Constitutional changes the Constitutional Commission should take into consideration the issue like Good Governance, freedom of internet and 'good administration'. In this regards, IDFI prepared the following recommendations

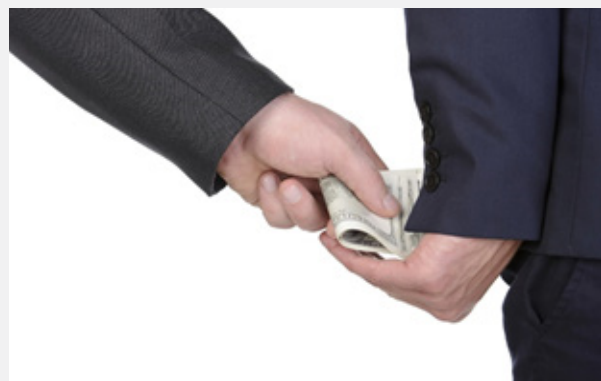
[2016 Statistics on Telephone Surveillance and Secret Investigation in Georgia](#)

Motions on Telephone Surveillance Received by Tbilisi City Court from the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia (Information received by IDFI from the High Council of Justice of Georgia in 2013)				
Year	Received	Granted	Partially Granted	Granted %
2011	7,195	7,187		99.86%
2012	5,951	5,939		99.80%
2013 (January - May)	1,400	1,259		89.93%
Motions on Telephone Surveillance Received by Courts of First Instance (Data proactively disclosed by the Supreme Court of Georgia)				
2014	1,074	894		83.24%
2015	373	261	45	82%
2016	401	315	30	86%

On January 25, 2017 the Supreme Court of Georgia published complete information about motions on telephone surveillance in 2016. Prior to this, available statistics covered the period up to October 2016.

According to the published information, in 2016 there was a total of 401 motions on telephone

[Group of States Against Corruption \(GRECO\) – Fourth Evaluation Round](#)



The IDFI considers that the report has to be given high important and sufficient steps should be taken for smooth and timely implementation of the given recommendations. The IDFI hence addresses the Government of Georgia:

- The IDFI recommends the Anti-Corruption Council (ACC) of Georgia and its members to call for the

extended ACC session for reviewing and discussing major issues of the GRECO report;

- The IDFI recommends the institutions under review of GRECO report and the ACC to elaborate GRECO recommendations in the Anti-Corruption Action Plan for 2017-2018 with a maximum extent possible.

Public Defender Recommends Ministry of Justice to Cease Violating IDFI's Rights



On January 31st, 2017, the Public Defender of Georgia held that the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) and 11 legal entities of public law (LEPL) operating within its system violated the right of N(N)LE Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI). According to the Public Defender, the state entities failed to fulfil their legal obligation to disclose public information.

In March 2016, IDFI addressed MOJ and its sub-entities with freedom of information (FOI) letters. IDFI requested disclosure of public information such as salary bonuses and supplements of high ranking public officials and employees, number of civil servants, expenses of business

trips, procurement expenditures and etc. Unfortunately, all of the state entities failed to fulfil their obligation and ignored the FOI requests. On October 6th, 2016, IDFI appealed to the Public Defender.

Comments of the Institute for Development of Freedom of Information on the 2014-2015 National Action Plan Final Self-Assessment Report of the Open Government Partnership Georgia

The Open Government Partnership (OGP) Georgia's National Action Plan (NAP) 2014-2015 was created through intense cooperation between the government of Georgia and the civil society. The NAP included 27 Commitments (29 actions) that were distributed among 16 responsible institutions. IDFI was actively involved in monitoring of the action plan commitments and provided the OGP Forum Secretariat with regular assessments about the progress of activities.

In 2016, IDFI has published its [Assessment of the Completed and Unfulfilled Commitments of the OGP 2014-2015 National Action Plan](#). According to the Assessment, out of 29 action, IDFI evaluated 20 as completed and 9 actions as unfulfilled. Developing and launching of the E-Petitions Portal (I-CHANGE.GE), drafting and adoption of a new Law on Freedom of Information and developing an Interactive Criminal Statistics map were some of the most important commitments that were not fulfilled in the 2014-2015 NAP.