

[Assessing Public Procurement Legislation and Practice in Eastern Partnership Countries - International Conference](#)



IDFI with the support from OSI-Budapest hosted an international conference: Assessing Public Procurement Legislation and Practice in Eastern Partnership Countries.

International experts working on public procurement, representatives of government institutions and NGOs from 6 Eastern Partnership Countries presented the results of evaluation of each country's legislation and practice on public procurement, and discussed existing problems and solutions. [Learn more](#)

[Coalition Statement on Disappearance of Azerbaijani Journalist](#)



The Media Advocacy Coalition calls on the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia to respond to questions regarding this case as soon as possible, including the question of how it was possible for a journalist to disappear from the Tbilisi center and cross the Georgian border without a passport. [Learn more](#)

[Implementation Assessment of the Georgian Public Procurement Legislation](#)



What are the problems related to the public procurement system in Georgia and what changes are needed to ensure that the principles of transparency, efficiency, impartiality and competition are enhanced in the Georgian public procurement legislation as well as practice. [Learn more](#)

[Coalition Calls on High Council of Justice Not to Appoint Court Chairs Using Opaque Processes](#)



Coalition
for an Independent and
Transparent Judiciary

The Coalition considers that in this situation if the HCOJ fills the chair vacancies using the opaque process and ignoring merit, this will further significantly undermine public trust in the judiciary, boost the informal influences within the judicial system, and the independence of individual judges will come under significant doubt.

[Learn more](#)

[Congressional Delegation in Georgia: Meeting with President Gamsakhurdia's Opposition](#)



IDFI publishes declassified secret document sent from U.S. Embassy in Moscow to the State Department in September 1991. The document describes meeting of the congressional delegation with the representatives of the opposition. [Learn more](#)

[Working Meeting on UN Sustainable Development Goals](#)



On May 20, 2017, the first working meeting on the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was held between representatives of Georgian Ministries and Government Administration. The aim of the meeting was to discuss national targets, indicators and evaluation mechanisms suggested by experts on Goal 16.

The meeting was organized by IDFI, in cooperation with the Administration of the Government of Georgia and UNDP Georgia, and with the financial assistance of the Swedish Government and United States Agency for International Development (USAID). [Learn more](#)

[Georgia to Launch an Electronic Petition](#)

[Platform – ICHANGE.GOV.GE](#)



Soon the Government of Georgia plans to introduce electronic portal for petitions [ichange.gov.ge](#)

As early in 2012, IDFI recommended to create portal for public engagement. The government took this recommendation into account and included the obligation into the Open Government Partnership (OGP) first Action Plan.

[ichange.gov.ge](#) allows the public:

- To present electronic petition and collect signatures;
- If petition gathers at least 10,000 signatures in 30 days, the special commission under the Administration of the Government should discuss it;
- The electronic petition might be discussed at the government meeting;
- The Government of Georgia must respond to the author of the petition within 3 months period;
- The answer should also be published on electronic portal. [Learn more](#)

[Survival of the Prison Archive](#)

With IDFI's help, the archive of the former Ortaçhala prison has been restored. The Ministry of Corrections transferred the archive to an up-to-date storage facility, where documents are being catalogued and studied. There are also plans to digitalize the archive.

IDFI would like to thank the Ministry for its efforts in finding the resources for restoring the archive.

[Learn more](#)

[Parliament Approves Georgia's Second Open Parliament Action Plan](#)



Parliament of Georgia approved the Open Parliament Georgia's second Action Plan for 2017-2018. The Plan is to increase accountability and transparency of parliamentary activities and ensure citizen participation in lawmaking processes. It consists of 25 Commitments that Georgian Parliament must fulfill until the end of 2018.

The Action Plan was prepared within the scope of the Strengthening the System of Parliamentary Democracy in Georgia project, which is funded by the European Union and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in cooperation with the Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI).

[Learn more](#)

Information Session: Sustainable Development Goals and Georgia



‘Sustainable Development Agenda is an international joint endeavor to solve the common problems...This is an accountability mechanism undertaken by 193 states and the active participation of the society, most importantly the young generation is vitally important for the success of the set goals.’ – said Acting Head of UNDP in Georgia Shombi Sharp at the information session ‘Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Georgia.’

The event was organized by IDFI, in cooperation with the Administration of the Government of Georgia and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and with the support from the Government of Sweden and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). [Learn more](#)

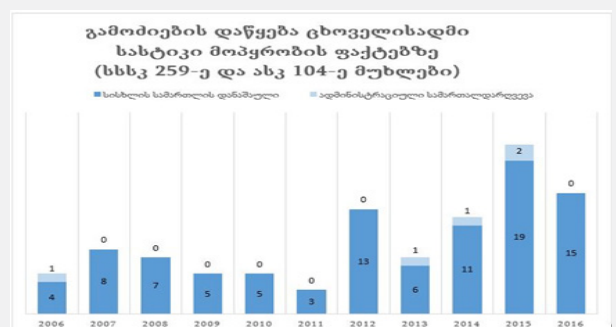
The Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure Adopted the Transparency and Integrity Strategy and Action Plan



The Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure adopted the Transparency and Integrity Strategy and Action Plan for 2017-2020. The documents were created by IDFI in partnership with the Ministry, and the support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) project Democratic Governance Initiative (GGI) in Georgia.

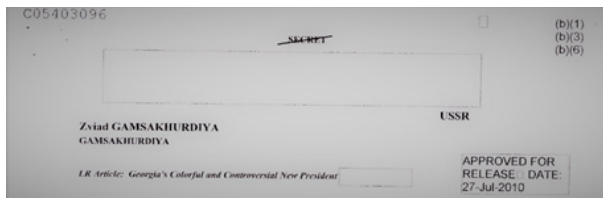
The strategy includes 4 priority areas: 1. improving existing mechanisms of ethics and integrity, 2. increasing transparency and public participation, 3. improving the human resources management system, and 4. improving the system of planning, monitoring and internal financial control. [Learn more](#)

Statistics on Animal Cruelty in Georgia



Unfortunately, Georgia is not being evaluated by any of the global indices on animal protection. Even though information disclosed by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Supreme Court seems to suggest low prevalence of animal cruelty in Georgia, we believe that this data fails to reflect reality of animal protection in the country. [Learn more](#)

[CIA Documents](#)



IDFI publishes CIA's analytical materials that discuss the first President of Georgia Zviad Gamsakhurdia. The documents prepared from June-September 1991, contain biographical information, as well as description of political situation in Georgia. [Learn more](#)

[Joint Statement of NGOs regarding Assault of Lasha Tordia, Auditor General of Georgia](#)

We call on:

- *The investigative agencies to timely disclose information on the investigations held so far;*
- *The Parliament of Georgia to create an interim investigative commission for timely and impartial investigation of the case;*
- *The Government of Georgia and the Parliament of Georgia to take timely steps to address the problem of impunity and to create an effective independent investigative mechanism. [Learn more](#)*