

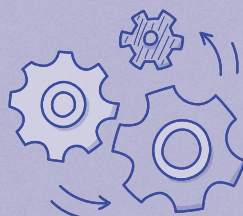
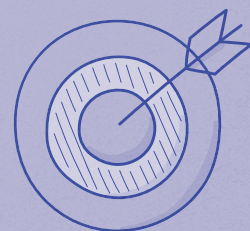


Informed and Empowered  
Society for Democratic  
Governance

# ANNUAL REPORT

THE INSTITUTE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (IDFI)

2022



TBILISI 2023

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# INTRODUCTION

As in previous years, in 2022, issues of economic inequality, political instability, high-level corruption, freedom of media and expression, and protection of human rights were of critical importance in Georgia.

In response to these challenges, the Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI) monitored government activities, published research papers and recommendations, engaged in coalition activities, and responded to various problematic issues in the country through its advocacy efforts.

In 2022, IDFI assessed the quality of access to public information by media representatives and created a legal assistance program for journalists to improve access to information.

To encourage the use of open data, IDFI announced competitions, prepared analyses and recommendations, and attempted to raise awareness among different target audiences on this issue.

In its analysis of the socio-economic challenges of the country in 2022, IDFI covered issues such as education, health, optimization of budget spending, the extent and quality of dialogue between the private sector and the government.

Throughout the year, IDFI has been monitoring the expenses of public agencies and their individual activities.

In 2022, IDFI continued to work on issues such as digital rights, cyber security, artificial intelligence, use of innovative technologies in the public sector, etc.

Against the background of Russia's aggressive military actions in Ukraine, fighting disinformation is an important challenge for Georgia. In 2022, IDFI continued its active work in disinformation and propaganda research and analysis. The organization published a number of analytical articles within the framework of these activities.

In 2022, IDFI prepared and held:



65 research documents  
22 visualizations



2 international conferences  
22 trainings and lectures  
29 discussions



In 2022, IDFI initiated  
20 new projects



In 2022, IDFI has 29 employees



**SUPPORTING GOOD GOVERNANCE  
IN GEORGIA**



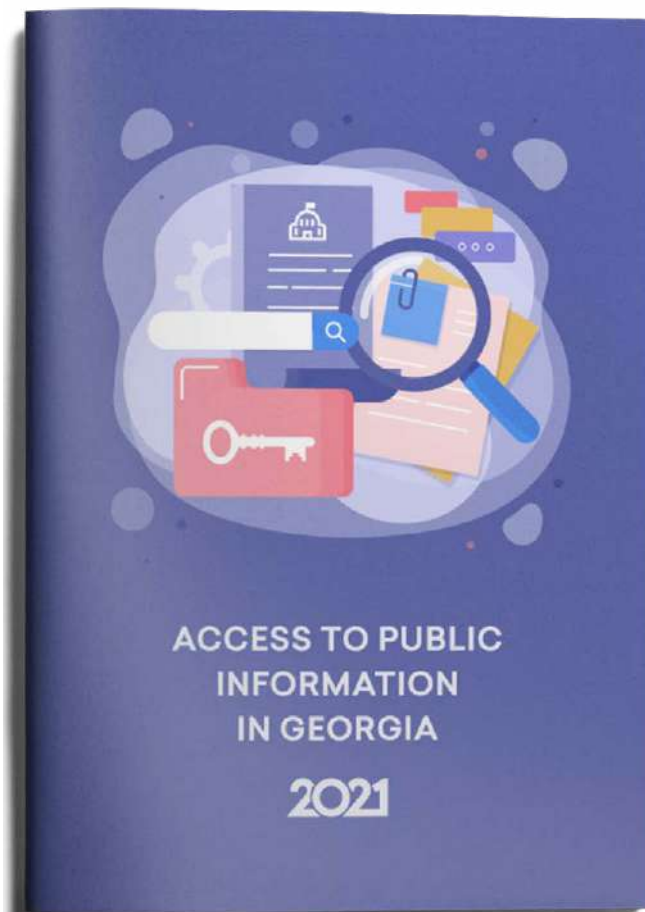
Throughout 2022, IDFI remained committed to actively monitoring access to public information, hosting workshops and events at both local and international levels, and providing recommendations to relevant agencies and stakeholders. In an effort to encourage the use of open data, IDFI also organized competitions, prepared analyses, and attempted to raise awareness of diverse target audiences on relevant topics.



## ACCESS TO PUBLIC INFORMATION IN GEORGIA

With the financial support of Sida, IDFI continued its **annual monitoring of access to public information** that began in 2010. On May 23, 2022, IDFI [presented](#) the 2021 monitoring results on access to public information based on 8,446 freedom of information (FOI) requests sent to 285 public institutions. Compared to 2020, the public sector’s compliance with FOI regulations increased by 2% (from 80% to 82%). The slightly improved rate of responses from public institutions in 2021

can, on the one hand, be attributed to the weakening impact of the extraordinary measures created in public institutions as a result of the pandemic and, on the other hand, positive changes in access to information in particular institutions improving the practice of low accountability established over the years, which has had a positive impact on access to information in the public sector in Georgia overall.



- 👍 Complete responses – 60%
- 👍 Unanswered - 24%
- 👍 Incomplete – 15%
- 👍 Denied - 1%
- 👍 Compliance with the deadline within 10 days - 54%

**IDFI awarded a total of 13 public institutions**, including:

- 👍 State Inspector Service
- 👍 Office of the Public Defender
- 👍 Information Center on NATO and EU
- 👍 The Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Ajara

IDFI named the **Ministry of Culture, Sports and Youth** of Georgia as the least transparent public institution.



In 2022, the Human Rights and Civil Integration Committee of the Parliament of Georgia published the conclusion within the thematic inquiry on “Efficiency of Parliamentary Oversight on Submission of the Reports reflecting the Accessibility to Public Information in Public Institutions”, which recognized key findings and recommendations provided by IDFI. According to the conclusion, **the thematic inquiry comprehensively studied the shortcomings identified in IDFI’s study, which laid the foundation for the establishment of the thematic inquiry itself.** The summary recommendations elaborated as part of the thematic inquiry envisage both the relevant legislative changes and the implementation of effective measures by particular public institutions. Therefore, the recommendations from IDFI are fully considered in the conclusion presented by the thematic inquiry.

Furthermore, in 2022, IDFI monitored public institutions’ compliance with the standards for proactive disclosure of public information. **The results of the monitoring of 128 public institutions show that the average compliance rate of proactive accessibility of public information is 60%, 4% higher than in 2021.**

## ADVOCACY AND SUPPORT OF OPEN DATA ACCESSIBILITY

### → IDFI - A REGIONAL HUB FOR THE GLOBAL DATA BAROMETER (GDB)

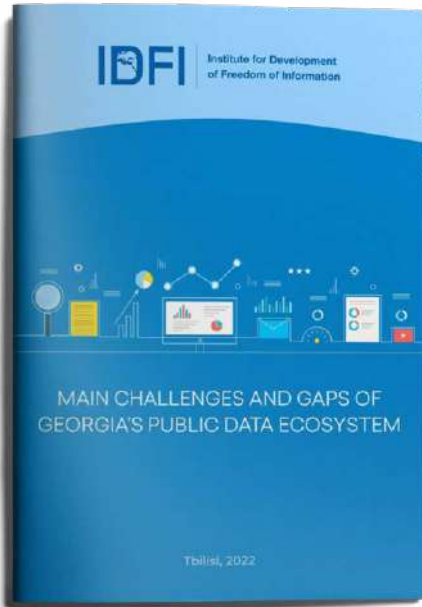
In 2022, IDFI performed notable regional and local activities as a [Regional Hub](#) for Eastern Europe and Central Asia for the [Global Data Barometer \(GDB\)](#). Based on the barometer results, the organization prepared an [overview of regional results](#), key findings, and recommendations for the [global report](#). In addition, a **detailed overview, visualization, and comparison** of the results of Georgia and other countries of the region were prepared according to specific thematic directions. Finally, specific recommendations were developed for Georgia.



On July 1, 2022, an [online presentation](#) of the **regional results** of the Global Data Barometer (GDB) was held, facilitating a discussion among representatives of GDB - researchers from Eastern Europe and Central Asia - about the regional results, including key findings, obstacles, and recommendations.



IDFI has used the barometer results in several ways to **advocate** for improved open data access legislation and practices in Georgia. A [comprehensive analysis](#) of the primary needs was prepared, incorporating the **results of Georgia** in GDB and other international surveys. An [overview of best practices](#) was also prepared within the same study.



These documents were [presented](#) to the representatives of relevant public institutions during the **workshops** organized by IDFI.



The developed recommendations were [discussed](#) by the representatives of the civil society and the public and private sectors within the framework of the discussion organized by the Institute.



Furthermore, a [panel discussion](#) was held with the participation of Georgian and international experts on the global trends in open data and the needs of Georgia.



## ➔ COURT STATISTICS MODULE

Based on the information available on the website of the Supreme Court, IDFI updated the data in the **Court Statistics Module**. Interested persons are able to explore the trends of court practice during the period of 2010-2021 through this software. Among these are: statistics on verdicts in criminal cases, applied measures of restraint, the consequences of administrative disputes, motions for covert surveillance, cases of domestic violence, etc.



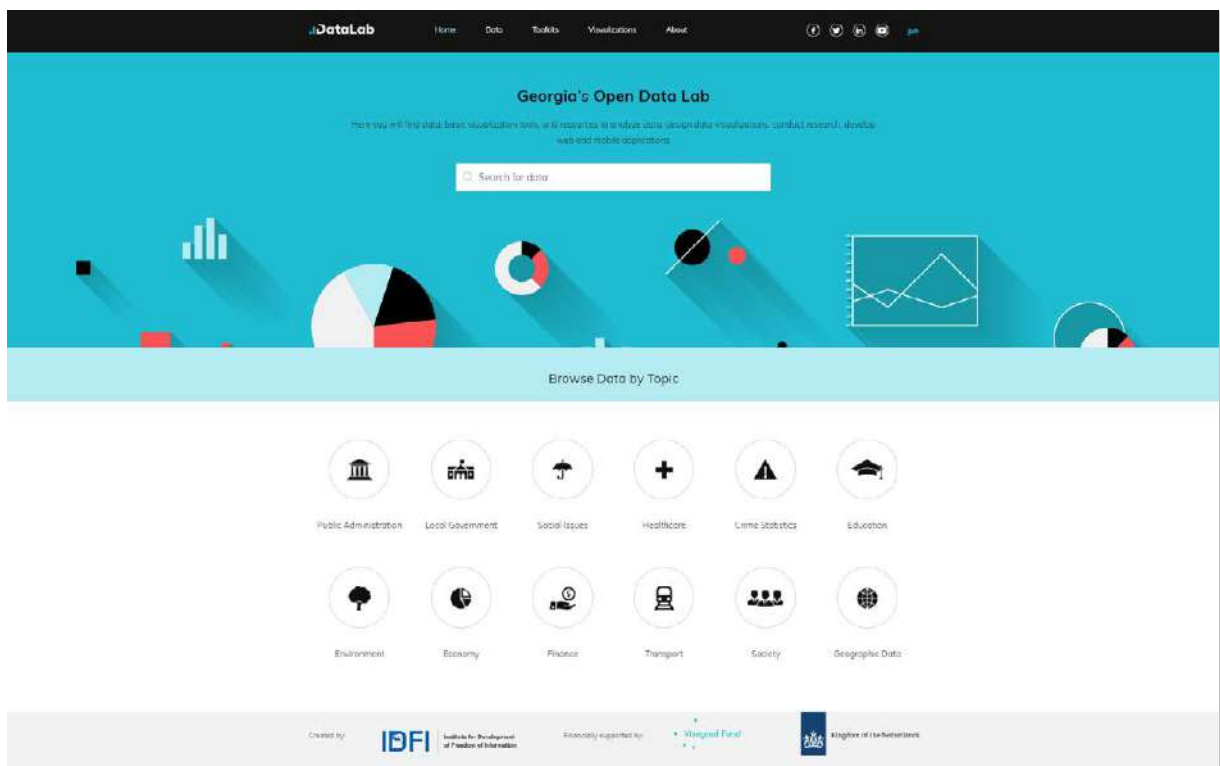
## ➔ CONTEST - DATA FOR CHANGE (#DATA4CHANGE)

To promote public oversight of government activities and the use of data in this regard, IDFI launched the fourth series of its annual contest of **analytical articles** - “**Data for Change**”. IDFI received more than 20 analytical articles in total as part of the contest. Analytical papers were prepared based on datasets published on [WWW.DATALAB.GE](http://WWW.DATALAB.GE) and FOI requests submitted to public institutions by contest participants. At the end of 2022, IDFI awarded three winners.



## ➔ GEORGIA'S OPEN DATA LAB - DATALAB.GE

To encourage access to data, IDFI continued to work on open data issues by collecting, updating, and publishing public data in open formats. As a result, additional datasets have been released through the **open data portal** created by the Institute - **DataLab.Ge**. By the end of 2022, up to 1,450 datasets were available on the portal.





## ➔ SUPPORTING PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION REFORM

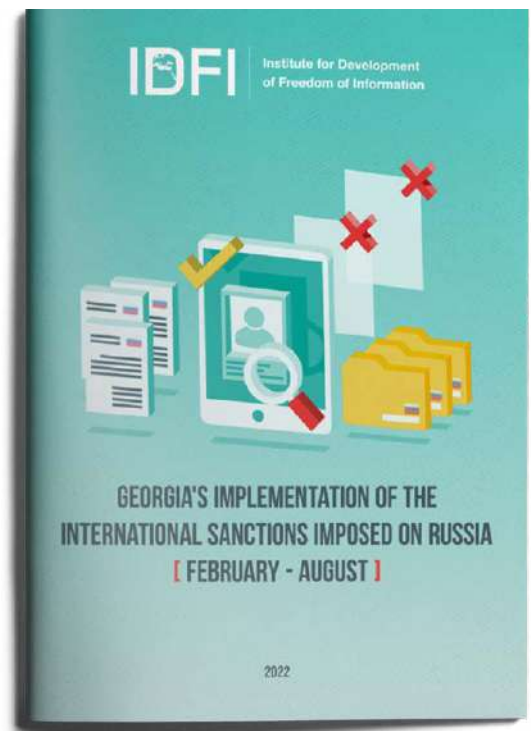
On January 10, 2022, IDFI, together with Georgian Young Lawyers' Association (GYLA), held a closing event of the project on contributing to Public Administration Reform and civic monitoring. The event overviewed the result of awareness-raising, monitoring, and advocacy activities carried out as part of the project over the past two years. International and local experts as well as the representatives of government and civil society exchanged information on best practices, existing challenges, and needs in Public Administration. The discussion also aimed to foster a debate on what needs to be changed in order to improve the quality of the reform. Based on revealed challenges and elaborated recommendations, IDFI has been advocating for several ambitious reforms from particular public institutions under the new PAR Strategy and Action Plan.

## ➔ ANALYTICAL PAPERS ON THE RUSSIA'S INVASION OF UKRAINE

Since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine on February 25, 2022, Georgia has faced significant national safety and security challenges. Since then, IDFI has been actively investigating concerns that posed potential threats to the country and were of great interest to the public, including the indicators of Russian citizens entering and staying in Georgia after the war, residence permits and citizenships granted to them, finances of Russian citizens in Georgian commercial banks, Georgia's implementation of the international sanctions imposed against Russia, etc.

Based on information received from public institutions, IDFI prepared the following analytical articles:

- ➔ [Finances of Russian Citizens in Georgian Commercial Banks](#)
- ➔ [Georgia's Implementation of the international sanctions imposed against Russia](#)
- ➔ [Residence Permits Granted to Russian Citizens \(March-July\)](#)
- ➔ [Tourism or Migration? \(Index of stay of Russian citizens in Georgia - March-June, 2022\)](#)
- ➔ [Granting Georgian Citizenship – Data Analysis 2018-2022](#)
- ➔ [Statistics on Border Crossings to Georgia made by Citizens of Ukraine, Russia and Belarus - March 2022](#)
- ➔ [Official Communication Regarding the Exports of Dairy Products to Russia](#)





## ➔ OPEN PARLIAMENT:

IDFI organized a [working meeting](#) of the Working Group on the Sustainable Development Goals of the Permanent Parliamentary Council on Open Governance of the Parliament of Georgia, the main goal of which was the development of the 2022-2024 action plan for the implementation and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals by the Parliament of Georgia.



A [training](#) was held for the representatives of the Secretariat of the Open Governance Parliamentary Council and the Parliamentary Councils of the Parliament on the preparation of the self-assessment report of the Open Parliament Action Plan.

In cooperation with IDFI, an electronic dashboard application and a video of the mobile application were created for the Parliament, which citizens will see in the reception of citizens [opened](#) in the Parliament of Georgia in 2022.



IDFI developed a document on the Basic Statistical [Review](#) of the Involvement of the Citizens of Georgia in Parliamentary Engagement Mechanisms and Implementation of the Legislative and Oversight Functions by the Parliament of Georgia. The information is given in an easily-readable format.

During 2022, IDFI was actively involved in organizing the meetings of the Open Governance Council of the Parliament, the Consultative Group, and other working groups. Among them were several informational meetings held in the Dusheti and Mtskheta regions with the local population.

IDFI developed a guide for members of parliament on citizen engagement in parliamentary activities, with the involvement of Sarmite Bulte, a former member of the Canadian Parliament and an expert, and in cooperation with the Parliament of Georgia.

## ➔ OPEN SUPREME COUNCIL OF THE AUTONOMOUS REPUBLIC OF AJARA (SCA)

During 2022, IDFI continued to support the Supreme Council of Ajara to strengthen the principles of open governance and was actively involved in the process of developing the action plan of the Supreme Council for Open Governance 2022-2024.

IDFI was involved in holding information meetings for the staff of the Supreme Council of Ajara and those interested in the “Idea for the Openness of the Supreme Council” competition, where the process of creating an open governance action

plan and presenting initiatives was discussed.

With the support of IDFI, the design of the self-assessment report of the 2020-2021 action plan of the Ajara Supreme Council Open Governance Council was prepared. In addition, five different brochures about the Supreme Council were prepared and printed.



On May 16, IDFI organized a [meeting](#) of the Open Governance Council and the Consultative Group, with the topic of discussion being the draft report on the implementation of the 2020-2021 action plan and the activities needed to start work on the 2022-2024 action plan.



On [July 14-15](#), the Supreme Council of Ajara, together with IDFI and member organizations of the Consultative Group, developed a draft version of the action plan for open governance 2022-2024, which was first approved by the Open Governance Council at the [July 30 meeting](#), and later by the Bureau of the Supreme Council. 5 initiatives were presented by IDFI for the plan, 4 of which were reflected in the commitments.

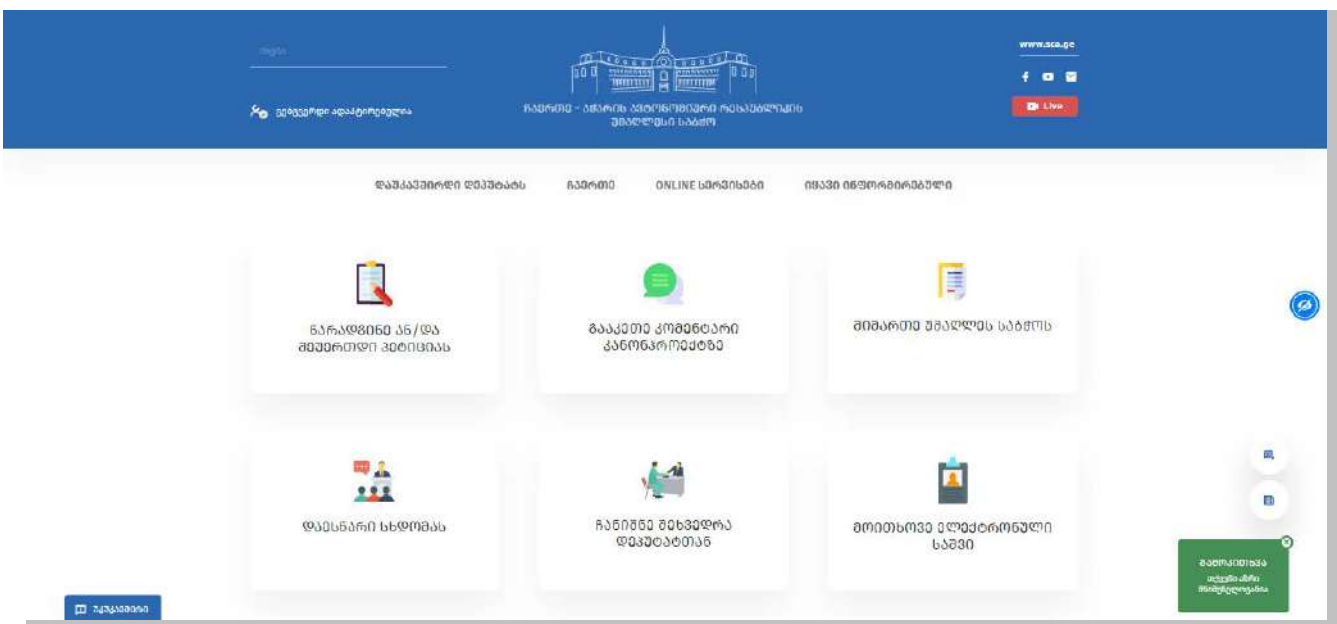




During 2022, IDFI conducted trainings for the staff of the Supreme Council of Ajara on the following topics:

- i** Preparation of annual [reports](#) on the activities of the Supreme Council, deputies, bodies of the Supreme Council
- i** [Communication](#) with people with disabilities
- i** Public Service Delivery [Standards](#)
- i** Thematic [Inquiry](#)

On April 6, the presentation of [chaerte.sca.ge](http://chaerte.sca.ge), the website platform for citizen engagement of the Supreme Council, was held. The web platform was created with the active participation of IDFI. The platform with digital services is an excellent way to increase citizen engagement and access to information in the activities of the legislative body.



IDFI actively advised the Supreme Council of Ajara in the process of developing the thematic inquiry documents, the concept of the international conference, and the guide on the oversight mechanisms.

IDFI developed [recommendations](#) for the Supreme Council of Ajara regarding proactive publication of public information, part of which the Supreme Council took into account when updating the resolution “On the approval of the rules, conditions for proactive publication of public information and the standard for requesting public information in electronic form”.



**FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION**







## ANALYSIS OF THE INITIATED DRAFT LAW ON ANTI-CORRUPTION ISSUES

IDFI was represented in four working groups involved in the implementation of priorities set by the European Commission. The organization was involved in the working group on elaborating concept/legislative amendments to consolidate anti-corruption functions and promote institutional strengthening of anti-corruption activities. IDFI studied and analyzed the draft law on anti-corruption issues initiated in order to address the 4<sup>th</sup> priority of the European Commission. At first, the Parliament of Georgia did not address IDFI's proposals, but later, 3 recommendations of the organization were taken into account: a) the protection guarantees of whistleblowers were increased; this function was given to the Anti-corruption Bureau; b) authority of monitoring of asset declarations; and c) financial activities of political parties were also given to the Anti-corruption Bureau.

## COMPREHENSIVE STUDY ON THE IMPLEMENTATION AND INTEGRITY PRINCIPLES IN THE CIVIL SERVICE OF GEORGIA

IDFI, with the assistance from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and aid from the UK Government, prepared [a comprehensive study](#) on the introduction and implementation of the principles of integrity in the public service of Georgia (both at the central and local levels). In particular, the study examined current trends and practices in the protection of integrity and whistleblowing in the public service, as well as key attitudes and perceptions of public servants about issues of integrity and ethics. To this end, data collected from 219 public institutions as well as completed survey responses by 242 public servants were analyzed. As a result of the research, challenges, needs, and recommendations were identified on the following topics:

-  Legal Framework
-  Documents Defining Ethics and Integrity
-  Enforcement and Whistleblowing Mechanisms
-  Awareness and Attitude of Public Servants.

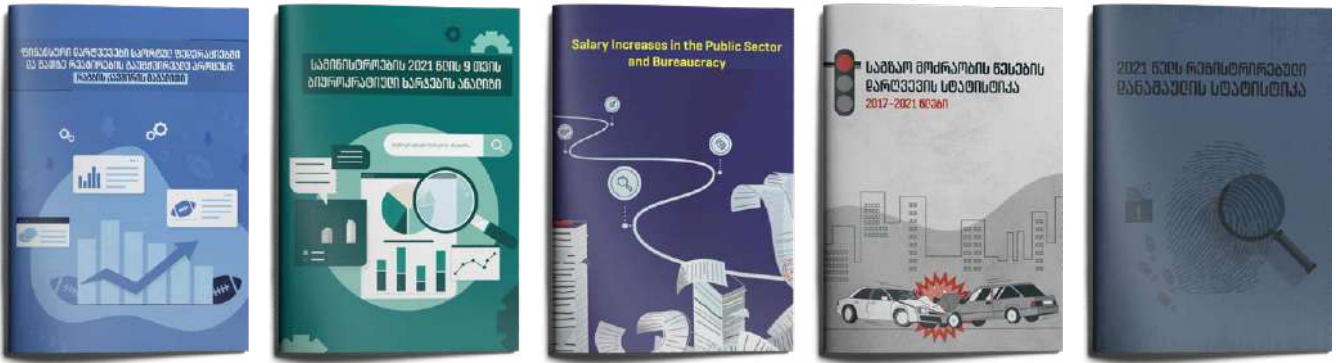
The study findings and recommendations were presented to the representatives of the Administration of the Government of Georgia, the Civil Service Bureau, as well as other relevant ministries and public institutions.

## REVIEW OF THE OECD PILOT MONITORING REPORT OF GEORGIA ON ANTI-CORRUPTION ENVIRONMENT

In 2022, IDFI prepared a review of the OECD pilot monitoring report related to the implementation of anti-corruption reforms in Georgia. The report highlights gaps in terms of anti-corruption policy-making. The report critically assesses almost all sectoral directions. The result of the monitoring indicated that it is necessary to reform the national anti-corruption system. To overcome existing challenges, it is crucial that Georgia adheres to the recommendations of both local organizations and international anti-corruption institutions.

## MONITORING PUBLIC EXPENDITURES AND ACTIVITIES OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

In 2022, IDFI was actively monitoring public spending and performance of particular public institutions. Focus was made on the core areas of financial transparency and expenditures of the sports federations, expenses for bureaucracy and compensation for labor in the civil service, expenditures of the contingency fund, etc. To better communicate particular findings, summaries and visualizations/videos were prepared. The analyses/reports included:



- [Financial Infringements in Sports Federations: the Case of Rugby Union](#)
- [Expenditures of the Contingency Fund of the Government of Georgia in 2021](#)
- [Assessment of the Bureaucratic Expenses in Ministries for Nine months of 2021](#)
- [Salary Increases in the Public Sector and Bureaucracy](#)
- [Traffic Violation Statistics: 2017-2021](#)
- [Statistics of Registered Crime 2021](#)

## ANALYSIS AND ASSESSMENT OF THE DRAFT LAW ON PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

IDFI [assessed](#) the draft law on public procurement. The draft Law initiated in the Parliament of Georgia in June 2022 envisages a drastic change that will transform the existing public procurement system. The assessment revealed that particular changes are aimed at modifying and improving the current landscape; as such, it should fulfill the obligations undertaken within the framework of the Association Agreement with the EU. Changes such as the introduction and regulation of the concept of subcontractors, introduction of new rules for the independence of the Dispute Resolution Board and creation of an apparatus for the Board and provision of financial resources, or listing in detail the cases of conflicts of interest in the context of procurement should all be positively highlighted. Nevertheless, issues requiring improvement or further specification were identified.



## TRAINING ON GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT MECHANISMS

The representatives of IDFI conducted a [training on government oversight and data extraction methods](#) for journalists, CSOs, students, and civil activists from different regions of Georgia. During the training sessions, participants were provided with information on the following topics:



- ❓ Detection of public procurement fraud;
- ❓ State budget execution and oversight;
- ❓ How to obtain open data on Government activities;
- ❓ How to request public information;
- ❓ How to get information about the beneficial owner(s) of the company.

## IMPLEMENTING ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING AND COUNTER-TERRORIST FINANCING ACTIVITIES

In 2022, IDFI significantly extended anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing activities at both the local and international levels.

**Analysis:** IDFI prepared an [overview of the implementation by Georgia of recommendations](#) on the fight against money laundering and terrorism financing. The document provides an overview of problematic issues related to money laundering and beneficial ownership in Georgia and presents examples of best practices in this area from across the world.

IDFI also [assessed](#) the amendments to the Law of Georgia on “Facilitating the Prevention of Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing” and identified the core problems that still require improvement/legislative change.

**Regional Event:** From 7th to 9th June 2022, in cooperation with IDFI, EU Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing (AML/CFT Global Facility) [organized a regional event in Tbilisi](#). The



main topic of discussion was the consequences of the invasion of Ukraine on the AML/CFT regime for NPOs in the Eastern Partnership countries. The hybrid event was attended by 60 representatives of civil society from the Eastern Partnership and EU, representatives of European Delegation, the Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism (MONEYVAL) and The Financial Action Task Force (FATF), as well as the Bank Association of Europe and other private sector representatives.



During the 3-day regional meeting, speakers and participants discussed the challenges that emerged in the region after the Russian invasion of Ukraine, how they should be addressed by the NPOs, and how they should provide humanitarian assistance and ensure transparency in the process. Group tasks were also provided during the event, during which the participants developed recommendations on the measures to be taken in terms of anti-money laundering and terrorist financing for the NPOs, donor organizations, state institutions, financial organizations, and private sector representatives (so-called “Tbilisi Principles”).

**Activities within the coalition:** IDFI became a member of the [Global NPO Coalition](#) on the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) in [June 2022](#). The aim of the Global NPO Coalition is to mitigate the unintended consequences of countering the financing of terrorism (CFT) policies on civil society in order to ensure that legitimate charitable activity is not disrupted. The Coalition is an important venue for IDFI to advocate the implementation of FATF recommendations for Georgia and share best practices from other countries in this regard.

## **TRANSPARENT PUBLIC PROCUREMENT RATING (TPPR)**

In 2022 IDFI continued working on expanding the network of public procurement professionals, which made it possible to assist individual organizations in convincing the relevant public institutions of the importance of changes to aspects of their procurement systems through the sharing of experience and on the basis of the examples of other member countries and existing positive impact. At this time, the [Transparent Public Procurement Rating](#) (TPPR) cooperates with civil society organizations and experts in 43 countries.

The organization Al-Hayat Center - RASED joined TPPR as a new partner, signing a memorandum of cooperation as a coordinator for TPPR in the Middle East and North Africa region. At this time, the organization is assessing the public procurement system of Jordan, and in the future it and its local partners will evaluate the other countries in the region with IDFI’s support.

During 2022, various articles and analytical materials were published on the website. Among them, IDFI prepared a detailed analysis of the draft law on procurement in Georgia, which outlined the gaps found in the proposed legislation and proposed recommendations for improving the draft law.





[www.TPP-Rating.org](http://www.TPP-Rating.org)



## CERTIFICATION PROGRAM IN FIGHTING CORRUPTION

In 2022, the Institute for Development of Freedom of Information, in cooperation with Ilia State University, continued the Certification Program in Fighting Corruption. The program has become part of the academic curriculum of the Faculty of Sciences and Arts of Ilia State University. As a result of successful completion of the course, bachelor and master's students enrolled in Ilia State University will receive certificates along with credits. In particular, the study courses offered at the bachelor's level (in the field of Political Science) are: Good Governance and Corruption, and Politics and Corruption. The courses introduced at the master's level (in the field of Public Administration) are: Governance of Anti-corruption Policy in Public and Private institutions, and the Fight Against Corruption - International Actors, Anti-corruption Platforms.



**On July 22, 2022**, IDFI and Ilia State University held [the award ceremony](#) and rewarded the program graduates of the Educational Certification Program. Nino Doborjginidze, Director of Ilia State University, and Giorgi Kldiashvili, Executive Director of the Institute for Development of Freedom of Information, took part in the award ceremony.



In August 2022, the Institute for Development of Freedom of Information organized a [competition](#) to choose the fourth cohort of participants for its Certification Program in Fighting Corruption. After a thorough evaluation process, the commission chose 23 candidates from various higher educational institutions in Georgia for the bachelor's level and 26 candidates from the public, private, and non-governmental sectors for the master's level.

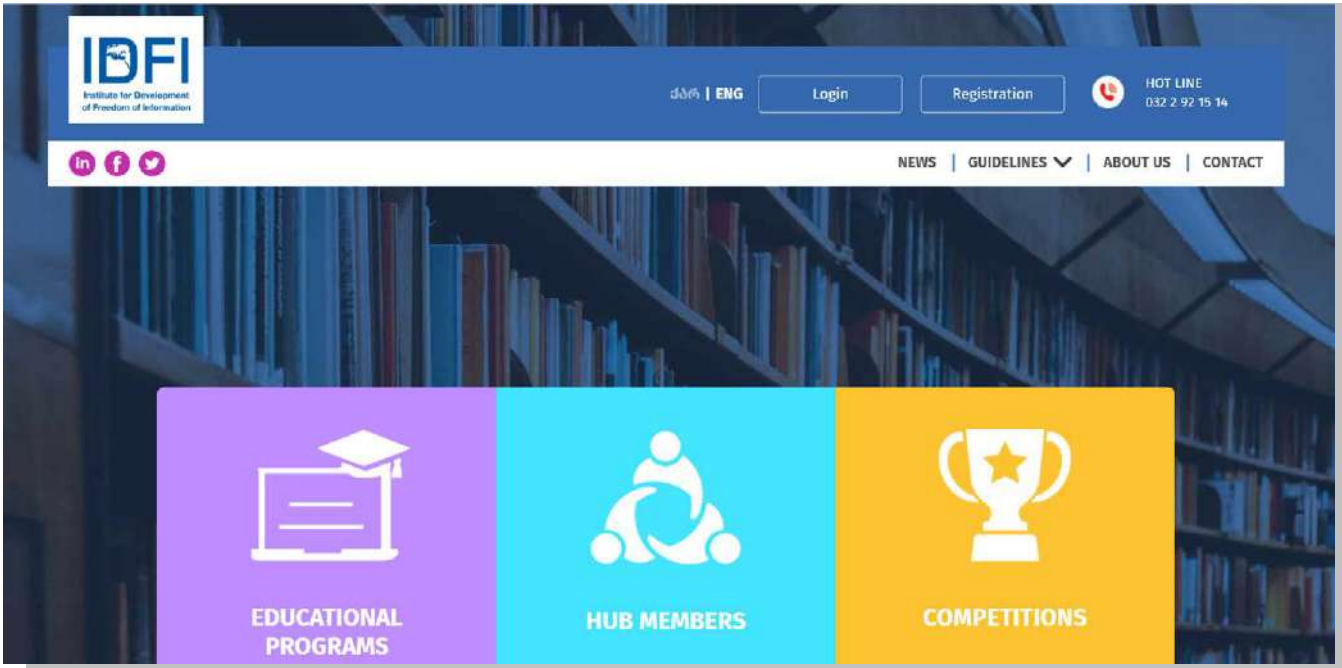


On November 22, 2022, the Programs Director of IDFI - Levan Avalishvili - conducted [an open lecture on freedom of information](#) for the participants of bachelor's level within the Certification Program in Fighting Corruption. Mr. Avalishvili spoke to the course participants about the importance of public information and the legal framework and mechanisms for requesting public information established in Georgia.



On December 12, 2022, within the framework of the Anti-corruption Week, the Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI), in cooperation with Ilia State University, held [an open lecture](#) for the participants of the Master's level of the Certification Program in Fighting Corruption. The invited lecturer - Mrs. Tina Khidasheli - held an interactive discussion on the internationally recognized Anti-corruption Commissions, which make a significant contribution to the process of fighting corruption.

IDFI has launched an anti-corruption hub website - [anticorruptionhub.net](https://anticorruptionhub.net). The website is an electronic platform that allows interested citizens to unite in the fight against corruption, share interesting information with each other, and jointly plan activities. At the same time, through the website, citizens have an opportunity to familiarize themselves with the online educational programs offered by the Hub, and if they successfully pass the test for the online training course, they will receive an electronic certificate confirming the completion of the course. The Anti-Corruption Hub website was created with the support of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).



During 2019-2021 the program was financially supported by the [Open Society Foundations](#) within the framework of the project “Building Sustainable Human Capacity in Fighting Corruption”. Currently, the program is financially supported by the [Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency \(Sida\)](#) within the framework of “Organizational Support”.



# ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL POLICY



Since 2019, expansion of IDFI's economic and social policy research helped the organization establish itself as both a reputable think tank and a watchdog organization providing credible analysis and assessments. In 2022, in analyzing the country's socio-economic challenges, we covered the education and healthcare sectors, optimization of budget spending, and the extent and quality of dialogue between the private sector and the government.

As of this period, the economic and social policy team:

- 👉 Advocated for changes based on in-depth examination of policy failures as well as bringing these to the attention of the government to ensure that they acted upon our policy recommendations;
- 👉 Highlighted the plight of those left behind, including vulnerable groups, particularly high school students, in two different studies of the education sector.

In 2022, public-private dialogue improved at the local level in the process of developing economic regulations. To raise public awareness of current economic challenges, six research reports were published and dozens of recommendations were introduced to stakeholders.

Throughout the year, IDFI's economic and social policy team's studies were at the forefront of media attention.

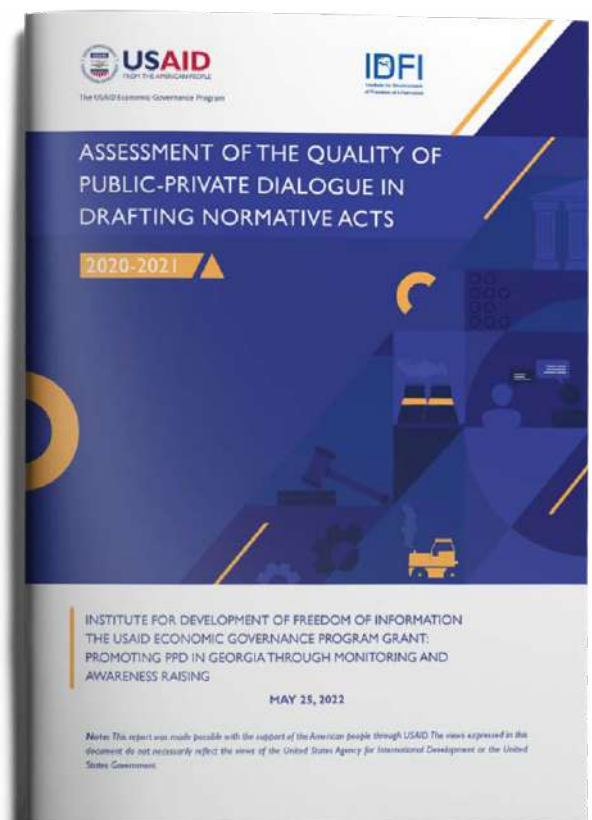
In 2022, the four most important topics for research and advocacy were:

## ➔ 1. PROMOTING PUBLIC-PRIVATE DIALOGUE IN GEORGIA THROUGH MONITORING AND AWARENESS-RAISING

To support policy development on a participatory basis, IDFI has continued to evaluate the quality of public-private dialogue (PPD) in the process of putting together normative acts.



In April 2022, IDFI published the [assessment report](#) of 18 normative acts, including those from target municipalities. On May 25, IDFI organized a presentation of the results and recommendations of the assessment for stakeholders. In order to raise public awareness regarding the importance of dialogue and the results of the evaluation, informational banners and videos were published and disseminated through the website and social media.



In the second half of 2022, 20 pieces of legislation (8 laws, 8 by-laws, and 4 municipal resolutions) were selected for evaluation. By the end of 2022, the IDFI team had organized more than 100 interviews with representatives of the public and private sectors for the evaluation. The assessment results will be published in 2023.

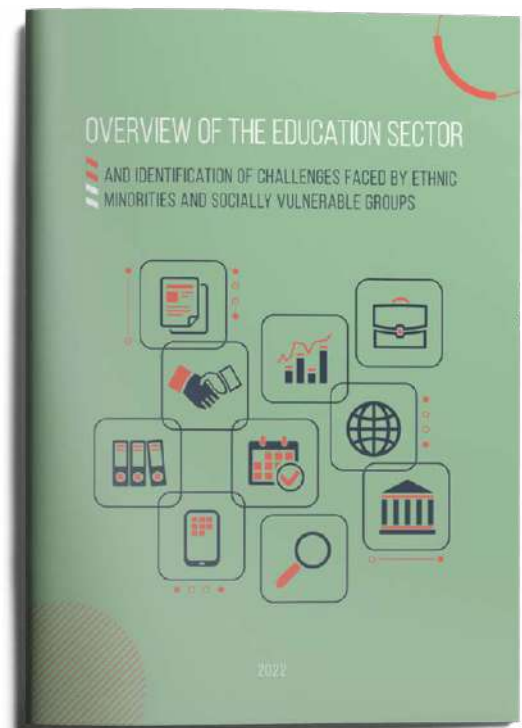
Throughout 2022, IDFI organized the informational meetings with representatives of the municipal governments and legislatures in six target municipalities (Batumi, Zugdidi, Ozurgeti, Gori, Rustavi, Kutaisi). The purpose of the meetings was to reveal the factors hindering dialogue at the local level, to advocate for dialogue, and to ensure future cooperation.

## ➔ 2. OVERVIEW OF THE EDUCATION SECTOR, IDENTIFICATION OF CHALLENGES FACED BY ETHNIC MINORITIES AND SOCIALLY VULNERABLE GROUPS

In 2021, IDFI launched a new project aiming to advocate for the needs of vulnerable groups of society and ethnic minorities. Research focuses on the challenges of ethnic minorities and students with special educational needs.

The research team analyzed public information in order to identify challenges in the education sector and improve the quality and transparency of public services. Apart from this, the research group conducted focus groups of teachers and parents representing both non-Georgian language and Georgian language schools, and according to the results, existing challenges of the target groups were analyzed in the post-pandemic period. Additionally, the project team organized an informational meeting with public school teachers from 6 municipalities and the representatives of a teachers' union.

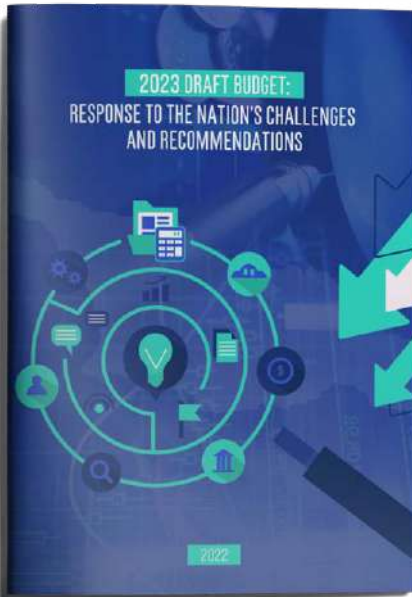
The researchers used the collected data for quantitative and qualitative analysis of the sector and developed corresponding recommendations. The [results and recommendations](#) were introduced to the general public on October 10, at Rooms Hotel and Facebook Live simultaneously. A research paper and banners prepared in order to raise public awareness were published on the social network and website of the organization.



## ➔ 3. 2023 DRAFT BUDGET: RESPONSE TO THE NATION'S CHALLENGES

The purpose of the study is to analyze the 2023 draft budget in accordance with the current challenges of the country and the world. Our research group analyzed how the mentioned draft responds to the current and expected challenges in 2023, how important sectors such as infrastructure and education are financed from the budget. Apart from this, the analysis includes planned changes in the administrative size of the government and social spending, state-owned enterprises, economic growth, and results-oriented budgeting.

In accordance with the challenges identified as a result of the analysis, [recommendations](#) were prepared and presented to stakeholders and the general public through the media.



#### ➔ 4. ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT BY OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATION (OSF).

In 2022, in order to develop people-centered economies, improve public services, identify regional challenges, and develop regional smart solutions, we created a regional network of Central Asian and Eastern European countries with the participation of Georgia, Ukraine, Moldova, and Kazakhstan. Kyrgyzstan and Armenia will be added to the network later. The member countries attended an international conference on the Improvement of Public Services in Santiago from November 29 to December 2. Throughout 2023, member countries of the network will work to raise public awareness of regional challenges and develop recommendations for governments and other stakeholders.



## RESEARCH REPORTS

In 2022, IDFI published 5 research reports in this direction:



- Overview of the education sector and identification of challenges faced by ethnic minorities and socially vulnerable groups
- 2023 Draft Budget: Response to the Nation's Challenges & Recommendations
- Economic Growth Overview** - The macroeconomic indicators of the country were evaluated in comparison with the region and neighboring countries.
- Challenges of Georgia's economy against the background of international sanctions against Russia** - The dependence of the Georgian economy on the economies of Ukraine and Russia was evaluated. The study reflects on the current state and expected dynamics of trade, remittances, foreign direct investment (FDI), and the energy market. Banners prepared in order to raise public awareness were published on social networks.
- Healthcare Sector Overview** - The challenges in the sector, the major indicators of the sector, the financial indicators of the retail pharmaceutical sector, hospitals and clinics, government spending on health services were evaluated.

As part of the research, recommendations were prepared and discussed publicly. Key findings and recommendations were published and disseminated in the public.



At the same time, the IDFI team started analyzing the pension reform. IDFI has also started analyzing gender inequality issues. In 2023, the IDFI team plans to develop a Gender Budget Index.





# MEDIA AND FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

In 2022, IDFI witnessed a persistently challenging situation with regard to freedom of media, marked by polarization of the media landscape, aggression (both verbal and physical) against journalists, discriminatory practices, as well as administrative obstacles.

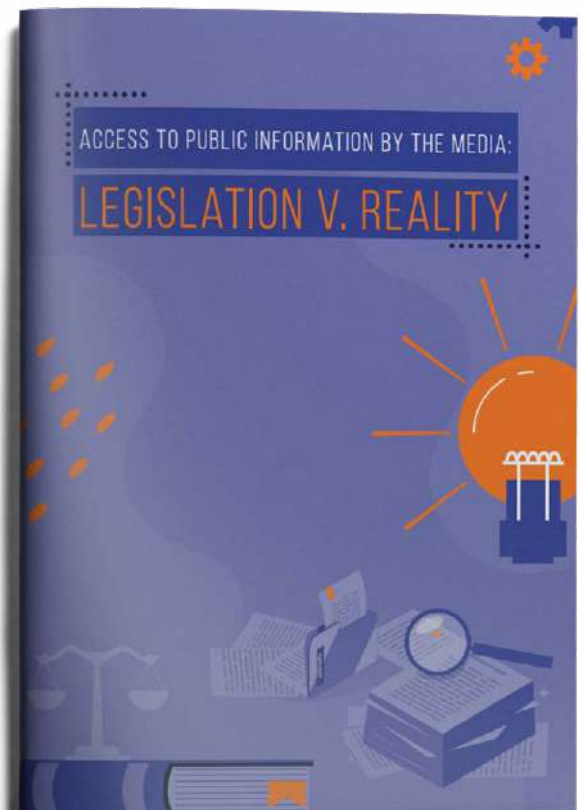
In 2022, one of the main directions for IDFI was evaluating the quality of media's access to public information and providing legal assistance for journalists.

Alongside its individual activities, IDFI also actively participated in the "Media Advocacy Coalition" activities and proactively responded to the challenges faced by media representatives. A number of mutual statements were published on electronic resources.

## PROMOTION OF EVIDENCE BASED JOURNALISM

Starting from January 2022, IDFI started to actively implement the project: "Improving Access of Media to Public Information" supported by Open Society Georgia Foundation (OSGF). The legal aid program for media representatives was launched at full capacity and included legal consultation regarding freedom of information, drafting public information applications, drafting administrative complaints and administrative claims, preparing appeal petitions and cassation appeals, as well as providing legal representation in relevant proceedings.

As a result, approximately 255 legal documents were prepared: 172 applications, 37 administrative complaints, 18 administrative lawsuits. In addition, within the framework of the project, about 45 oral legal consultations were given, which were related to the interpretation of received public information and/or assistance to the journalist in the formulation of public information requests. Over 40 journalists/media representatives benefited from the project.



At the end of the project, a complex [report](#) was prepared and published. The report included quantitative and qualitative statistics of legal assistance, as well as both practical and normative problems hindering the access of journalists to

public information. The report also reviews the effectiveness of mechanisms aimed at protecting the right of access to public information.

## LEGAL AID TO JOURNALISTS AND MEDIA ORGANIZATIONS

In October 2022, after the completion of the project, IDFI continued its litigations in common courts launched during the project. Despite the completion of the project, IDFI continues to provide legal assistance to journalists on issues related to freedom of information.

During 2022, in the framework of legal aid to the media, IDFI initiated 198 legal proceedings, prepared 59 administrative complaints and 24 administrative lawsuits. In approximately 60% of the cases journalists were able to obtain relevant public information of interest to them.

## PARTICIPATION IN THE PROCESS OF SELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE PUBLIC BROADCASTER

In 2022, IDFI closely monitored the activities of the competition commission on the selection of candidates for members of the Board of Trustees of the Public Broadcaster. The IDFI's Rule of Law and Media Direction Head was a member of the commission, which made it possible to assess the commission's activities more thoroughly. During the process, several items of concern were identified that need to be resolved in order to properly conduct future competitions and provide fair and equal assessment of candidates.



# RULE OF LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS



In the course of the year 2022, IDFI's team worked intensively on issues related to the rule of law and human rights. A number of studies, reports, articles, and analyzes were prepared and published, and furthermore, a large-scale winter school, workshops, trainings, and panel discussions were held.

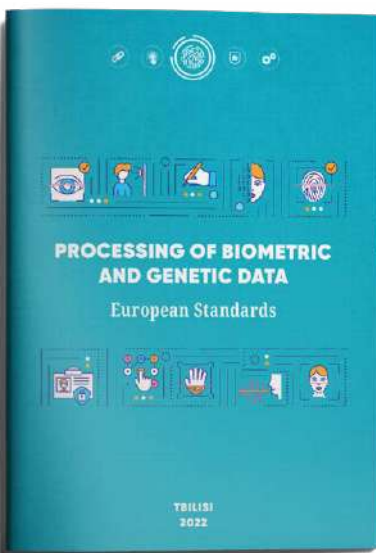
Similar to previous years, in 2022, IDFI was engaged in the activities of the “Coalition for an Independent and Transparent Judiciary” and addressed crucial issues related to the rule of law and human rights both individually and in collaboration with other members of civil society.

The main priority in 2022 for IDFI was to contribute to the implementation of the 12 priorities set by the European Commission. In order to achieve this, IDFI monitored draft bills initiated in the legislative body and was involved in working groups aimed at elaborating legislative recommendations.

The organizations' efforts are aimed at strengthening rule of law and improving human rights protection, as well as promoting democratic governance in the country.

## THE COLLECTION OF JUDGMENTS OF THE EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND EUROPEAN COURT OF JUSTICE

The [collection](#), published in January 2022, brings together 10 important decisions of the European Court of Human Rights and European Court of Justice. The purpose of the collection is to acquaint readers with case law, new approaches developed in accordance with the current reality, and associated challenges.



## PROCESSING OF BIOMETRIC AND GENETIC DATA – EUROPEAN STANDARDS

The comprehensive [study](#) on “The Processing of Biometric and Genetic Data - European Standards” was published in February 2022 and reviews the concept and area of application of biometric and genetic data and the threats and risks associated with their processing, in addition to analyzing the principles and grounds for processing such data. The study also discusses recent judgments delivered by the European Court of Human Rights and the European Court of Justice regarding the processing of biometric and genetic data.

## PROMOTING PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION IN GEORGIA

On February 24, 2022, IDFI and the State Inspector's Service, with the support of the Embassy of the Netherlands in Georgia, held a closing event of the project "[Promoting Personal Data Protection in Georgia](#)". During the event, the project activities and achievements were summarized, and the publications prepared within the framework of the project were presented.



The project started on December 1, 2020, and a number of activities aimed at promoting personal data protection were carried out within its framework:

- ➔ The first [Summer School](#) on personal data protection was held;



- ➔ An essay competition for students was announced and a [Collection of Essays](#) was published



→ Trainings were conducted for the personnel of the State Inspector's Service;



→ The collection of European Court decisions, as well as the study “Processing of Biometric and Genetic Data - European Standards” were published;



→ Thematic handbooks on data processing issues in separate sectors were prepared by an expert.

## IDFI SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED LITIGATION IN SUPREME COURT OF GEORGIA

In 2022, IDFI has successfully completed another strategic litigation case. As a result of the litigation, the National Archives of Georgia was obligated to provide the public information that the organization has been requesting since June 29, 2018.

After reviewing the case materials and examining the admissibility of the cassation appeal, the Chamber of Administrative Cases of the Supreme Court of Georgia declared the appeal **inadmissible**. The Chamber pointed out that it agreed with the legal assessments made by the Court of Appeals and also considered that a substantively correct decision had been made in the case.

## FACILITATING THE PROCESS OF RECEIVING THE CANDIDATE STATUS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Since the European Commission defined 12 priorities, IDFI has been actively working to contribute to the fulfillment of these tasks. The organization was represented in four working groups established in the Parliament of Georgia aimed at the implementation of these priorities. IDFI's recommendations and initiatives related to the implementation of the priorities are not limited only to the thematic issues of the four working groups - the organization is actively advocating for all necessary changes, which according to the [opinion of the European Commission of June 17, 2022](#), is crucial for receiving the candidate status.

In particular, IDFI published its [proposals](#) regarding the implementation of EU priorities. Furthermore, the [analysis](#) of the draft law on anti-corruption (IV priority) issues was prepared. IDFI monitored the professional evaluation and selection process of Public Defender candidates. Within the monitoring, two publications were published: [Results of the competition for selection of public defender candidates: actual ranking of the candidates](#); [The Election of the Public Defender 2022: Interim Review](#).

The organization continues to monitor the activities that take place in the legislative body in order to implement EU recommendations and both individually and in collaboration with other members of civil society addresses all important issues.

## DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT AGAINST TELARA GELANTIA




IDFI provides legal assistance to the Editor-in-Chief of "Business Media Georgia" (BMG), Telara Gelantia, in the case of establishing a discriminatory action of the Government of Georgia against her.

On September 9, 2022, BMG aired Telara Gelantia's report regarding the restriction of access to government's decrees, which, among other things, reviews IDFI's ongoing litigation against the Administration of the Government of Georgia. The journalist considers that she was not admitted to the government meetings three times in September 2022 because of this report.

Telara Gelantia, supported by IDFI, [applied to the Public Defender of Georgia](#) in order to establish a discriminatory action by the government against her. The Public Defender indicated that the discriminatory treatment by the Government of Georgia actually took place, but as this treatment was voluntarily eliminated, the Public Defender [concluded](#) the review of the case.

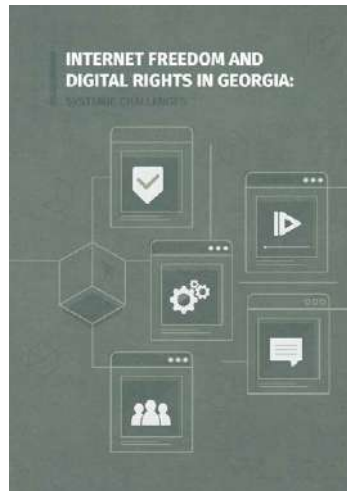
## ANALYTICAL DOCUMENTS PUBLISHED IN 2022

During 2022, the IDFI's team worked on many important issues and prepared a number of analytical documents (report, research, article, analysis, review) on the following highly relevant topics:

-  [Regarding the violation of ex-president's rights](#)
-  [Regarding the Constitutional Prerequisites for Pardoning Nika Gvaramia](#)
-  [On rule of law index 2022](#)

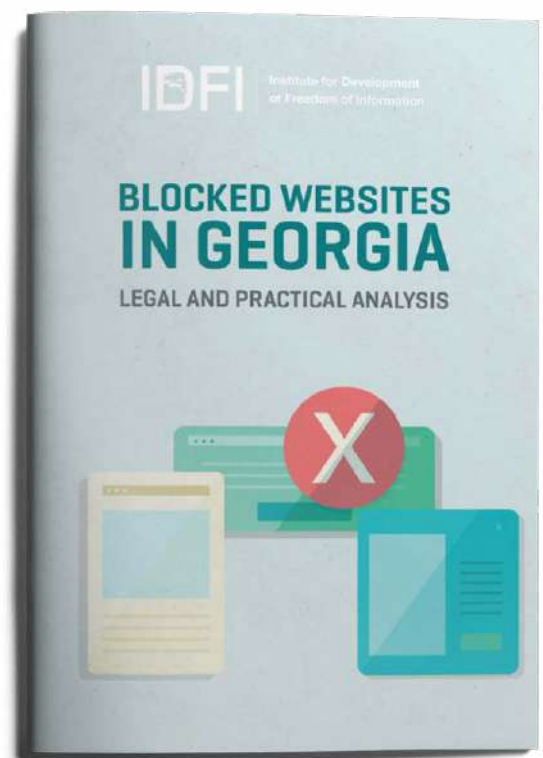


- Regarding the European Commission's Association Implementation Report
- On accessibility of public information and the right to a fair trial
- On World Press Freedom Index
- On ECHR's standards regarding covert surveillance and electronic communication data retention
- On Internet Freedom and Digital Rights



## BLOCKED WEBSITES IN GEORGIA: LEGAL AND PRACTICAL ANALYSIS

In November 2022, IDFI prepared a comprehensive [study](#) on blocked websites in Georgia, which reviews the legal framework of website blocking in Georgia and normative grounds and features of its implementation in practice. The study covers the period from 2017 to September 26, 2022. The analysis showed that the normative regulation of website blocking contains several flaws that have significant potential for abusive use against human rights, including freedom of expression.





## THE WINTER SCHOOL

During the period of December 10-15, 2022, with the support of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), IDFI held the second Winter School - “Rule of Law and Human Rights”.



The winter school had 25 participants selected on the basis of a two-stage competition. The participants were students of the Faculty of Law and beginner practitioners, as well as civil servants of the 3rd and 4th rank. They had the opportunity to participate in trainings regarding pressing legal issues, planned by specialists in the relevant field.

The program of the winter school was developed and corresponding topics were selected with the consideration of existing realities of Georgia as a democratic and legal state, as well as the 12 priorities set by the European Commission.



# SUPPORTING LOCAL GOVERNANCE



As in previous years, in 2022, IDFI further expanded the scope of its activities related to local self-governments. The Institute has been actively engaged in several municipalities to promote good governance principles at the local level and support the localization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Furthermore, IDFI organized an international forum aimed at supporting decentralization reform.

## GOOD GOVERNANCE FORUM 2022 - #GGFORUM2022

In December 2022, IDFI held an international conference (“**Good Governance Forum**” (GGForum)) on good governance for the fourth year in a row, titled **Accelerating Decentralization: Best Practices and Innovative Solutions**. The event was conducted on December 13, 2022, in a hybrid format. The GG Forum aimed to discuss the global trends of decentralization reform, good practices and needs for Eastern European countries, as well as the innovative methods in the implementation of good governance principles and decentralization reforms at the local level with the participation of international and local experts.

The representatives and experts of prominent international and local organizations working on these topics, as well as public institutions of different countries, including: Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development of Georgia, Public Service Development Agency (PSDA), Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments (LALRG), OECD-SIGMA, OGP Local, e-Governance Academy of Estonia, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Access Info, Innovations & Reforms Center (IRC), Local Democracy Network, Civil Society Institute (CSI), The Institute for Change and Innovation, and USAID Georgia Local Governance Program, [delivered speeches](#) during the conference. For more details, find the [Forum Agenda](#).





## ➔ GOOD GOVERNANCE FORUM 2022 RESULTS BY NUMBERS



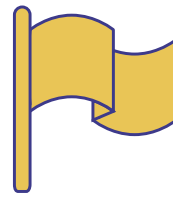
**+100**

**PARTICIPANTS**



**22**

**SPEAKERS**



**12**

**COUNTRIES**



**4**

**SESSIONS**

The Forum was organized by IDFI in cooperation with the Open Government Partnership (OGP) and supported by a grant from Luminate and the USAID Local Governance Program.

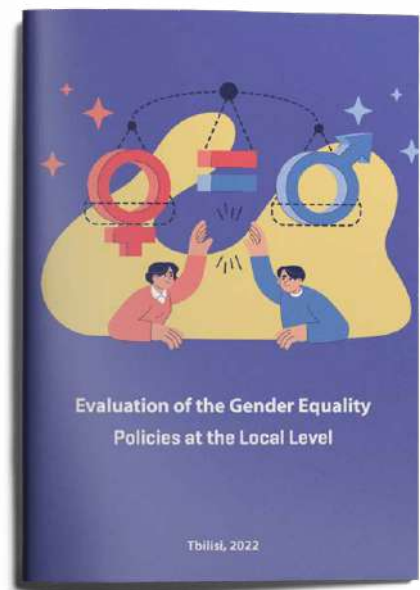
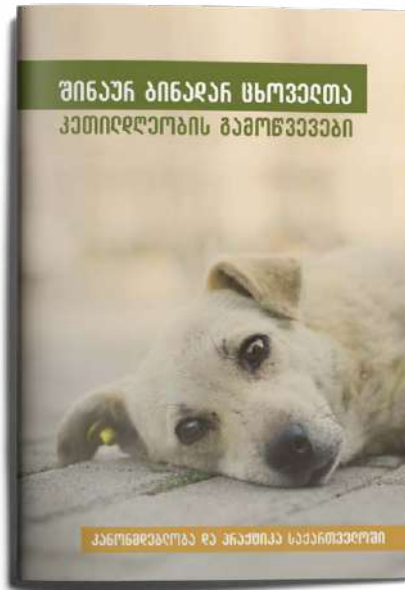
## 📖 SUPPORTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY PRINCIPLES IN GEORGIAN MUNICIPALITIES

At the beginning of 2022, the City Halls of four municipalities (Akhmeta, Ambrolauri, Lanchkhuti, and Tsageri) adopted **strategies and action plans for Building Transparency and Integrity**. The documents were elaborated with the involvement of IDFI, within the framework of the USAID/GGI funded project. By adopting strategic documents, the municipalities fulfilled their commitments under the 2019-2020 National Anti-Corruption Strategy and Action Plan. For more details: I. <https://bit.ly/3YRkU6d> II. <https://bit.ly/3YIJhmG>.

IDFI conducted [online trainings](#) on Transparency, Accountability, and Integrity issues for the employees of all four City Halls and legal entities subordinated to the City Halls, with the aim of familiarizing them with and effectively implementing adopted strategic documents and planned measures. Another purpose of the training was to raise awareness, as well as to build the capacity of employees regarding anti-corruption mechanisms.

## MONITORING LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES AND PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT PRACTICE

IDFI prepared analyses of **public expenditures** of municipalities as part of its monitoring activities, with a particular focus on the methods used for **providing social assistance and disposing of municipal property**. In addition, IDFI studied the public procurement practices of particular municipalities and their approaches in **procuring supervisory services**. Based on the analyses, several key institutional and practical obstacles were identified, and relevant recommendations were elaborated to enhance the management of local budgets. Another analysis focused on examining the role of the **Open Government Partnership (OGP)** in enhancing citizen participation at the local level, as well as the **evaluation of the gender equality policies** at the local level. Additionally, a comprehensive review of the legislation and practice was conducted regarding **animal welfare in Georgia**, which is one of the responsibilities of municipalities.

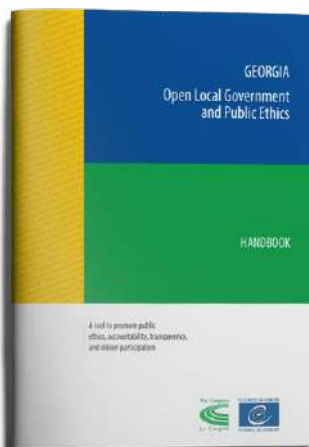
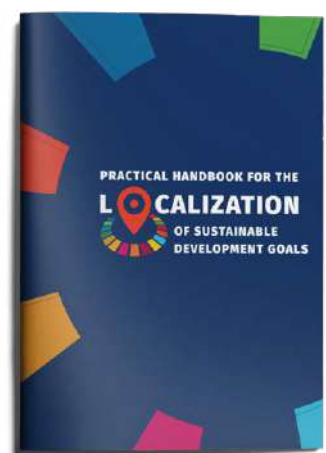


## TOOLKITS FOR LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENTS

New guidebooks/toolkits for local stakeholders were published and extensively distributed by IDFI in 2022.

### ➔ **Practical Handbook for the Localization of Sustainable Development Goals**

- The handbook provides information on Sustainable Development Goals, the importance of the engagement of local governments in the achievement of said Goals, measures to be taken to localize the SDGs, key milestones, and circumstances to be considered to ensure the engagement of all stakeholders.



➔ **Handbook on Open Local Government and Public Ethics** - The IDFI team participated in the development of the Council of Europe Guide, which addresses 24 public policy concerns grouped into four comprehensive categories: public accountability and ethics, transparency, citizen participation, and risks of corruption.

## THE LOCALIZATION OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS)

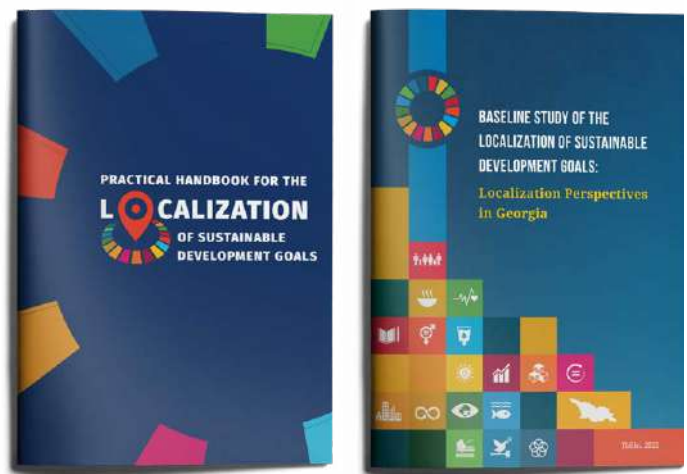
### CAPACITY BUILDING OF LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS

In May 2022, IDFI conducted [online trainings](#) on **Localizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** for the representatives of Keda, Senaki, Oni, and Sagarejo Municipalities and other stakeholders. The training was attended by 40 participants, including civil servants of the municipality, representatives of non-governmental organizations, school teachers, and the Youth Advisory Council members.

Through the training, attendees were able to identify the municipal plans for localizing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the involvement of local stakeholders in this process, and the advantages for municipalities in participating in the SDG agenda. Furthermore, the training provided insight into the stages that municipalities must navigate during the SDG localization process, how global and nationalized SDG goals and indicators will influence the development of local policies and program budgets, as well as the mechanisms for engaging local communities in these processes.

The training sessions were conducted using the [Practical Handbook](#) for Localizing the Sustainable Development Goals. Additionally, the key findings and recommendations from the IDFI-prepared baseline study on [SDG localization in Georgia](#), named “[Localization Perspectives in Georgia](#),” were also shared with the participants.

As part of the Global Goals Week, in September 2022, the representatives of IDFI conducted [trainings](#) for members of the Gender Equality Councils in three self-governing units of the Guria region, specifically the Chokhatauri, Lanchkhuti, and Ozurgeti municipalities. The training topics included the localization of SDGs and specifying the tasks of the fifth of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls) in the Gender Equality Council Action Plan. A total of 70 people, including the chairman of the Municipal Assembly, Chief of Staff, and members of the Municipal Assembly attended the events.

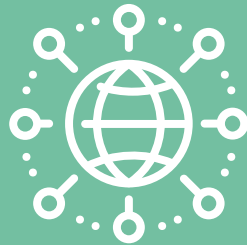


### STUDY TRIP ON THE LOCALIZATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS)

With the financial support of the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), IDFI arranged a [study trip](#) for Belarusian and German experts in Georgia on **the Localization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. During the visit, local initiatives on SDGs were shared, and opportunities for future cooperation were planned by Georgian, German, and Belarusian experts and civil society representatives. Furthermore, the foreign experts had the chance to visit the Vashlovani Strict Nature Reserve and observe the environmental programs executed there.

In September 2022, a representative of IDFI joined a GIZ-organized study trip to North Macedonia to address issues related to the Sustainable Development Goals 2030 Agenda. The event brought together **civil society, as well as local and central public institution representatives from Eastern Partnership, Western Balkans, and Central Asia**.

In November 2022, an IDFI representative participated in a GIZ-organized study trip to Dortmund, Germany, aimed at sharing **best practices from Germany** in SDG localization with Georgian and Belarusian experts, civil society, local and central government representatives.



# INTERNET AND INNOVATIONS



In 2022, IDFI further expanded its research, advocacy, and capacity building activities regarding digital rights, cyber security, artificial Intelligence, the use of new technologies in the public sector, etc.



## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

On April 28, 2022, IDFI held an international hybrid conference – **Digital Transformation of Georgia: Steps Towards European Integration**. The aim of the conference was to exchange best practices (especially from Western, Central, and Southern European countries) and to foster debate on the digital transformation of public services, EU standardization, and key enablers and challenges of the digital ecosystem needed for effective digital transformation. To this end, the event brought together local and international experts and all relevant stakeholders from various sectors around several related key issues: digitalization of public services, public sector modernization, effective digital transformation, digital ecosystem, EU standardization, and ambitious reforms in these directions.

IDFI held the event in cooperation with the Open Government Partnership (OGP), and with the support of the global philanthropic organization, [Luminare](#).



## ACTIVITIES TO ADDRESS DIGITAL GAPS AND THE NEEDS OF DIGITALLY VULNERABLE CITIZENS

In 2022, IDFI actively collaborated with an Estonian partner, eGovernance Academy (eGA), to identify digital gaps and needs of digitally vulnerable groups in Georgia with the aim of communicating the developed recommendations with different stakeholders. An analysis on digital vulnerability, titled “[Research and recommendations of digitally vulnerable groups in Georgia](#)”, was prepared. Research results and recommendations were [introduced](#) to civil society organizations, public institutions, and donor communities.



Later on, [workshops](#) and a [training](#) were held for civil society organizations and public institutions, based on which 14 teams of CSOs elaborated action proposals to empower various digitally vulnerable groups in the country. The purpose of the [action proposals](#) was to address digital vulnerabilities and the recommendations elaborated in the abovementioned study. At the end of the year, the proposal of the winning team was selected, which will be implemented in 2023 with the aim of increasing digital literacy skills among parents and teachers.



## ADVOCACY FOR SAFEGUARDING DATA PRIVACY MECHANISMS IN CYBERSPACE

IDFI [updated its analysis](#) on legal safeguards and mechanisms for protecting personal data and digital rights in cyberspace as part of its advocacy campaigns in 2022, in order to address controversial amendments made to the Law on Information Security.

On October 13, 2022, key findings and recommendations were presented during the workshop to the personal data and cyber security experts, lawyers, and the public, private, and civil sector representatives. It is noteworthy that IDFI's recommendations and suggestions were welcomed by the audience.

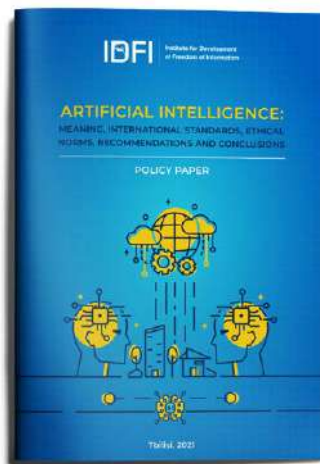




## AWARENESS-RAISING ACTIVITIES ON DIGITAL LITERACY AND INNOVATIONS

IDFI shared a range of guidebooks and visual materials on digital safety and hygiene via social media on February 9, 2022, to mark Safer Internet Day. Additionally, an IDFI representative took part in an online conference organized by Internet Society (ISOC Georgia) [aimed](#) at promoting a secure online environment for children and young people.

On April 7, 2022, in collaboration with the University of Business and Technology (BTU), IDFI conducted an [online training](#) - *Artificial Intelligence: Capabilities and Standards*. The main focus of the meeting was the international standards in the technological and legal field of artificial intelligence and the possibilities of its application. The representatives from IDFI presented to the students topics concerning the implementation and advancement of transparency and ethical [standards](#) in the utilization of artificial intelligence (AI). Furthermore, trainers introduced a [study](#) conducted by the Institute in 2021 with regard to the use of AI systems in the public sector of Georgia and assessment of the legislative framework.



On November 16, 2022, IDFI and the research institute Gnomon Wise [held a training](#) for the students on digital rights and digital literacy at the University of Georgia. The training attendees were provided with both theoretical (the fundamentals of digital rights, the unique aspects of Georgian legislation pertaining to this field, and the main digital challenges in Georgia, as identified by international and local studies) and practical (essential tips for safe use of digital platforms, social media, and electronic devices) knowledge during the [event](#).



On November 19-21, the representatives of IDFI participated in panel discussions on e-governance and artificial intelligence at the [8<sup>th</sup> Series of the Internet Governance Forum of Georgia](#), discussing the organization's views on the measures needed to accelerate e-governance reforms, as well as the ethical standards the organizations should follow when utilizing artificial intelligence (AI) systems.

## GEORGIA'S PERFORMANCE IN INTERNATIONAL RANKINGS

IDFI [assessed](#) Georgia's performance in the **GovTech Maturity Index**, which is used by the **World Bank** to evaluate the degree to which digital transformation is being implemented in four focus areas—supporting core government systems, enhancing service delivery, mainstreaming citizen engagement, and fostering GovTech enablers. In light of global trends and the specific situation in Georgia, IDFI has put forth a number of recommendations to enhance the country's results, such as revising and adopting an updated e-government strategy, accelerating the implementation of e-government systems in various regions of Georgia, and introducing common standards for open data.

IDFI also [assessed](#) Georgia's results in the 2022 **Global Innovation Index**, which ranks the innovative capabilities of 130 countries. In comparison to the previous year, the country's ranking on the index deteriorated by 11 positions, and it achieved the lowest score compared to past years. Specifically, Georgia's performance weakened in the areas of market sophistication, human capital, business sophistication, and creative outputs.

## COLLABORATION WITH NEW PARTNERS

Under the Innovations Direction, IDFI established two Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) in 2022, with the [National Cyber Security Association](#) and the [Business and Technology University](#). The organization intends to work more closely with these parties to engage in joint research, projects, events, and awareness-raising campaigns on various topics, such as artificial intelligence (AI) system development and promotion, digital transformation, digital governance, reliable and qualified services, and personal data protection.

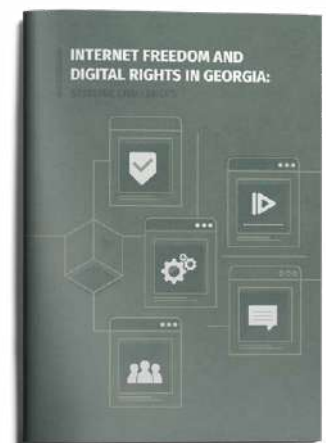
## INTERNET FREEDOM IN GEORGIA

For the ninth year in a row, IDFI's Internet and Innovations Direction Head is a contributor to Freedom House and participates in the preparation of the Annual Report on Internet Freedom in Georgia.

According to the [2022 report](#), Georgia obtained a score of 78 out of 100, making it a “free” nation with regard to internet freedom. The country's overall score improved by 1 point compared to 2021. The major reason for score improvement is attributed to a decrease in large-scale cyber attacks compared to previous years. However, the report noted that leaked files depicting civil society representatives, journalists, clergy, and opposition leaders demonstrated the scope of state surveillance practices. Negative trends mentioned in the report included physical attacks on journalists during the October 2021 local elections and on Tbilisi Pride activists in June 2021.

## CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING DIGITAL FREEDOMS

With support from the Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation (BST), IDFI published a report early in 2022 titled “[Internet Freedom and Digital Rights in Georgia: Systemic Challenges.](#)”







The report was [presented](#) on February 1, 2022, followed by a panel discussion with the participation of stakeholders and civil society representatives. The recommendations outlined in the report received a positive response from both the public and civil sectors, and the organization continues to advocate for their implementation.

The representatives of IDFI also participated in the European Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ECNL) regional initiative, “A Compass to Conducive Environment and CSO Empowerment (CSO Meter),” specifically, IDFI prepared [a chapter about Georgia](#) on digital freedoms, where the country’s main achievements, challenges, and specific recommendations were elaborated.



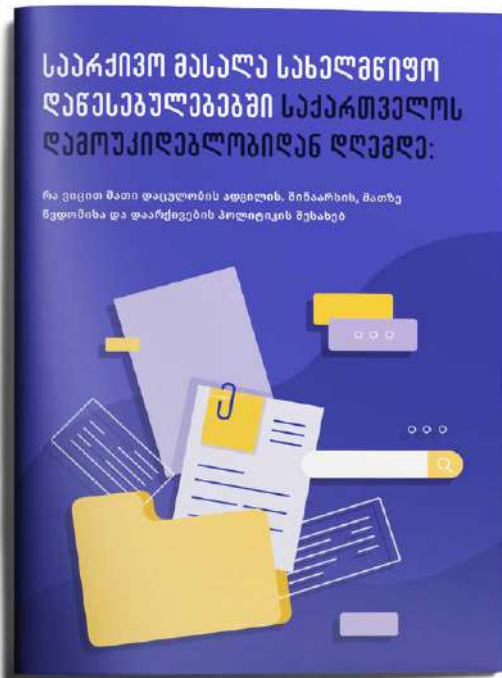


# MEMORY AND DISINFORMATION STUDIES DIRECTION

The Memory and Disinformation Studies Direction is actively working on basic research of the Soviet past and its legacy, improving archival openness, and analyzing contemporary disinformation campaigns. The Direction studies and disseminates the stories of the victims of the totalitarian regime, implements campaigns for the immortalization of memory, and advocates effective memory policies. The organization regularly publishes research articles on the Soviet past, its collective memory, and Russian disinformation. At the beginning of 2022, IDFI, together with international partners, carried out a thorough study of the mass grave of victims of Soviet terror discovered in Batumi, the process of exhuming the remains, and an anthropological study.

## OPENNESS OF STATE ARCHIVES

On April 14, 2022, the Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI) submitted to the Parliament of Georgia a [legislative proposal](#) for the law - On the National Archival Fund and the National Archives - regarding amendments and additions to the law of Georgia.



IDFI successfully [concluded](#) the court case against the National Archives of Georgia. The court ordered the National Archives of Georgia to provide public information that the organization had been requesting since June 29, 2018.

IDFI published a study in 2022: Archival materials kept in state institutions of Georgia. Within the framework of the mentioned research, IDFI studied the work of departmental archives of state institutions of Georgia and developed relevant recommendations based on international practice.

In 2022, within the framework of the project “Openness of State Archives in the Former Soviet Republics”, members of the platform of [open-archives.org](#) and other organizations [signed](#) a call to ensure the openness of state archives. Within the framework of the same project, the openness of state archives of 3 countries - Estonia, North Macedonia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina - was evaluated.

igj/eu/ating

- OPEN - ARCHIVES						
RATING						
2022						
COUNTRY	Total Score	Archival Laws	Other Laws	ARCHIVE		
				Archival Service	Website	Reading Room
Armenia	86.81 %	80.00 %	80.00 %	79.76 %	95.71 %	82.76 %
Estonia	85 %	81.67 %	82.5 %	71 %	100 %	83.01 %
Latvia	83.23 %	87.22 %	85.75 %	83.53 %	72.86 %	76.43 %
Bulgaria	81.24 %	80.87 %	78.66 %	74.38 %	81.71 %	73.44 %
Ukraine	80.8 %	71.66 %	70.83 %	70.68 %	65.29 %	78.62 %
North Macedonia	78.42 %	80.83 %	87.41 %	81.87 %	64.93 %	81.66 %
Czech Republic	79.29 %	88.25 %	82.8 %	77.86 %	88.21 %	73.28 %
Poland	78.63 %	82.17 %	82.75 %	83.51 %	81.78 %	73.8 %
Hungary	78.64 %	88.48 %	85.84 %	88.82 %	67 %	68 %
Georgia	70.89 %	78.23 %	83.21 %	77.83 %	78.87 %	44.28 %
Romania	70.81 %	88.65 %	86.22 %	81.11 %	74.68 %	53.28 %
Bosnia and Herzegovina	70.1 %	88.23 %	78.48 %	78.67 %	68.99 %	66.83 %
Moldova	69.9 %	83.24 %	82.82 %	83.86 %	0	67.69 %
Kazakhstan	68.84 %	78.47 %	80.81 %	81.81 %	74.65 %	53.75 %
Russia	57.66 %	78.86 %	88.87 %	68.71 %	33.88 %	43.39 %
Azerbaijan	56.91 %	87.68 %	85.84 %	87.84 %	72.84 %	58.65 %
Armenia	51.89 %	87.68 %	86.72 %	81.65 %	88.8 %	73.5 %
Tajikistan	51.15 %	78.48 %	86.1 %	83.1 %	0	68.58 %
Belarus	42.17 %	71.68 %	87.1 %	86.81 %	81.8 %	73.4 %
Kyrgyzstan	41.21 %	86.84 %	87.8 %	88.87 %	82.1 %	68.1 %
Uzbekistan	31.87 %	83.1 %	87.1 %	86.1 %	81.1 %	68.1 %





In December 2022, IDFI held the [4<sup>th</sup> International Conference](#): The Importance of Openness of State Archives in Reevaluating the Soviet Past and Standing against Propaganda. On the second day of the conference, in the museum of the occupation of Kaspi, the chairman of the 2022 Nobel Peace Prize laureate historical, educational, and human rights society - International Memorial, Ian Rachinskii, [held](#) a public lecture.

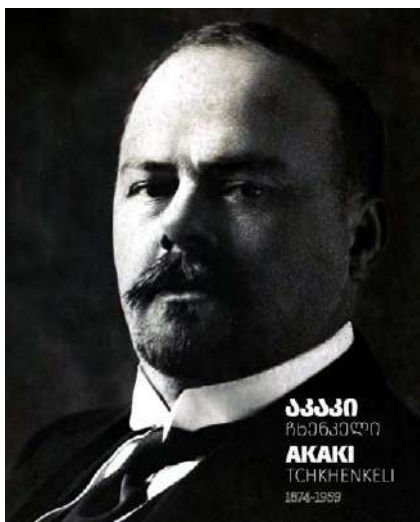


## MEMORY STUDIES

At the beginning of 2022, within the framework of the project Inter-Religious Understanding Through Graphic Arts the brochure - My Graphic History: Soviet Repressions in Adjara through Comic Books - [was published](#). The comic book was created by the beneficiaries of the local boarding school.







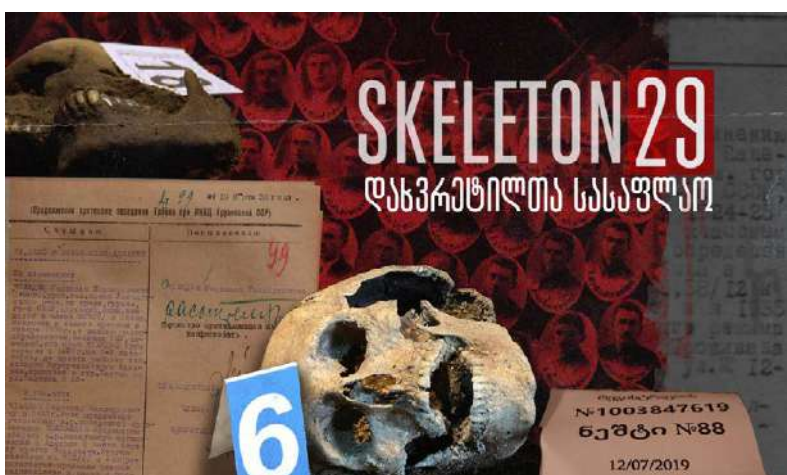
IDFI, in cooperation with the National Library of the Parliament of Georgia and Tbilisi State University, [published](#) a memorial album dedicated to the outstanding political figure of the First Democratic Republic of Georgia, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to France - Akaki Tchkhenteli (1874-1959).



At the beginning of 2022, at the invitation of IDFI, specialists from the Institute of National Remembrance of Poland (IPN) and Wrocław Medical University fully explored the mass grave No. 6 of the victims of the Great Terror of 1937-1938 discovered in Khelvachauri, near Batumi, and [completed](#) the exhumation process. A complete anthropological study [was conducted](#) on the remains.



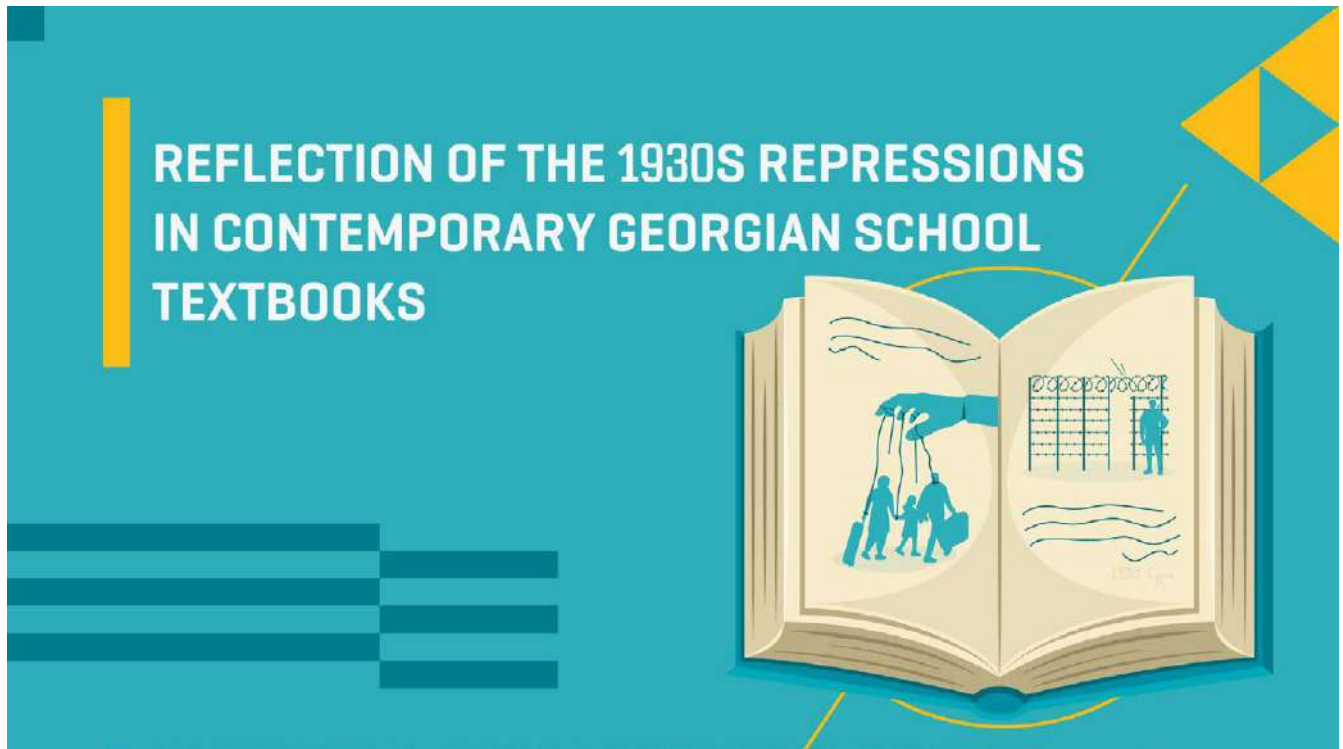
In 2022, IDFI, in cooperation with the National Parliament Library of Georgia and the Center for Regional Initiatives - Bright Future, carried out a regional tour in 9 municipalities of Georgia, within the framework of which it held a presentation on the issue of the repressed and a [screening](#) of the Radio Free/ Radio Liberty film The Cemetery of Those Shot Dead in Batumi.



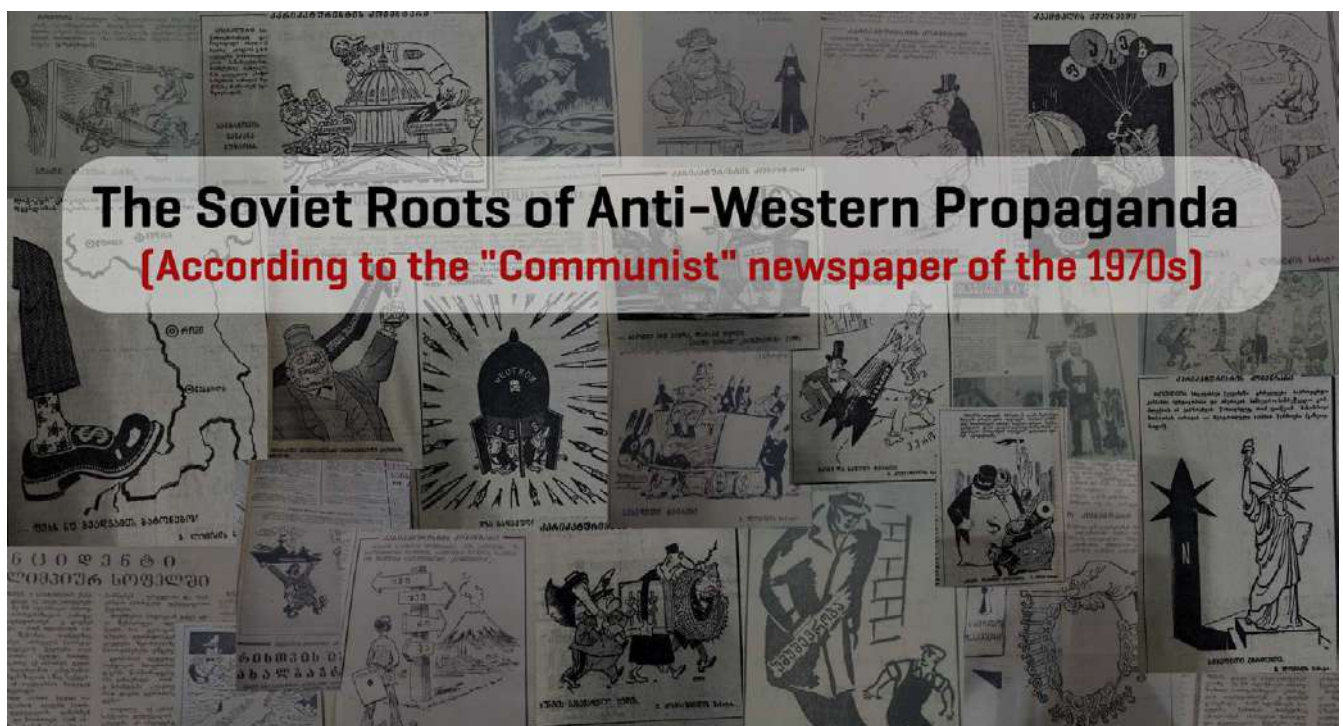
In 2022, IDFI implemented a number of activities, including an essay contest for students (Soviet Union in the memory of modern Georgia); Discussions ([Falsified History and Triumphant May 9: History and Modernity](#)), (Webinar - Victory as a Tool: May 9, Heroism and Modern Russian Propaganda), ([Soviet Propaganda and Information War as Its Legacy](#)), as well as IDFI's blog [Celebration of May 9 in Russia](#), which was published on IDFI's website.

In 2022, IDFI [became](#) a local partner of the Slovak independent consulting company and think-tank - Strategic Analysis. Within the framework of the partnership, IDFI [was involved](#) in the international conference: Administrative Boundary (ABL) issues and their challenges: what is the solution?

In 2022, IDFI [evaluated](#) school history textbooks. The study examines the dynamics of teaching about the Great Terror of the 1930s, through the textbooks published and intended for schools from the period of Georgian independence.



As part of IDFI's Institute for War and Peace Reporting (IWPR) - funded "Roots of Anti-Western Propaganda" project, in partnership with the Investigative Media Lab at the University of Georgia, [a blog](#) was created, and [research](#) of the narrative and discourse analysis was conducted, covering a ten-year period (from 1970 to the mid-1980s) of the Communist newspaper.





has increased. [Stalinist lists](#) related to Georgia have been uploaded to the website. Also based on archival materials, a number of studies and articles were published on the mentioned website: May 26 as a documentary - what the archives tell us about Georgia's Independence Day; Abkhaz Muhajirs; June 24 - talks about Georgia in Europe; Revolt of 1924 - Some Reflections; The high-profile case of the Great Terror of 1937 and the reaction of the Georgian intelligentsia.



1937 წლის 31 მაისი, "სტალინური" სია - საქართველოს სსრ. პირველი კატეგორია - 139, მეორე კატეგორია - 35, სულ - 174. [РГАСПИ, ф.17, оп.171, дело 409, лист 148-157]



1937 წლის 22 ნოემბერი, "სტალინური" სია - საქართველოს სსრ. პირველი კატეგორია - 439, სულ - 439. [РГАСПИ, ф.17, оп.171, дело 413, лист 12-29]



1937 წლის 26 ივნისი, "სტალინური" სია - საქართველოს სსრ. პირველი კატეგორია - 73, სულ - 73. [РГАСПИ, ф.17, оп.171, дело 409, лист 22-26]



1938 წლის 3 იანვარი, "სტალინური" სია - საქართველოს სსრ. პირველი კატეგორია - 316, სულ - 316. [РГАСПИ, ф.17, оп.171, дело 414, лист 155-166]



1937 წლის 10 ივლისი, "სტალინური" სია - საქართველოს სსრ. პირველი კატეგორია - 1, მეორე კატეგორია - 1, სულ - 2. [РГАСПИ, ф.17, оп.171, дело 410, лист 21-26]



1938 წლის 3 იანვარი, "სტალინური" სია - საქართველოს სსრ. პირველი კატეგორია - 300, სულ - 300. [РГАСПИ, ф.17, оп.171, дело 414, лист 167-180]



1937 წლის 10 აგვისტო, "სტალინური" სია - საქართველოს სსრ. პირველი კატეგორია - 425, მეორე კატეგორია - 130, სულ - 555. [РГАСПИ, ф.17, оп.171, дело 410, лист 201-221]



1938 წლის 14 თებერვალი, "სტალინური" სია - საქართველოს სსრ. პირველი კატეგორია - 408, სულ - 408. [РГАСПИ, ф.17, оп.171, дело 414, лист 439-455]

## DISINFORMATION STUDIES

In March 2022, the executive director of IDFI, Giorgi Kldiashvili, [participated](#) in the third public practice discussion session organized by the National Democratic Institute (NDI) and the Open Government Partnership (OGP) - Leveraging Transparency to Counter Foreign Illiberal Influences: The Role of Legislatures.

In 2022, IDFI continued its active work in disinformation and propaganda research and analysis. Within the framework of the aforementioned, a number of analytical articles were published, including: [“Tendencies of Russian disinformation in Georgia along with the war in Ukraine”](#); [“Annexation of history - Russian hybrid war and Ukraine”](#); [“How Russian disinformation tactics were utilized in the context of the 2008 five-day war”](#) Articles, blogs and videos about disinformation were also published on the website [www.damoukidebloba.ge](http://www.damoukidebloba.ge) created by IDFI.

# ACADEMIC AND CERTIFICATE PROGRAM - DISINFORMATION AND PROPAGANDA STUDIES: HISTORY, THEORIES AND MEANS OF DEBUNKING WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA (UG)

**დისინფორმაციისა და პროპაგანდის კვლევა**  
 ისტორია, თეორიები და გაბათილების საშუალებები  
 გაზაფხულის სემესტრი, 2022 წელი

<p><b>დისინფორმაცია და საზოგადოება</b></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div> <p><b>ნინო გოგალაშვილი</b> IDFI-ს მკვლევარი, PhD კანდიდატი, ცენტრალური ევროპის უნივერსიტეტი</p> <p><b>რავან თოფანარუ</b> UG მონწიველი ლექტორი, ფრაგულინის აკადემიის ხელმძღვანელი</p>	<p><b>კოლევტიური მენეჯერება და მისი როლი ვართულ კოლიტიკაში და საერთაშორისო ურთიერთობებში</b></p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p><b>ლადისლავ ზვარა</b> UG მონწიველი ლექტორი, „თავისუფლების ინსტიტუტი“ დამფუძნებელი</p>	<p><b>არქივები, მართვა და უაქტუაობი</b></p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p><b>ანდრეა ვარგა</b> ჰუმანიტარული მეცნიერებათა მაგისტრი, IDFI-ს საარქივო მენეჯერის კვლევისა და დისინფორმაციის მმართველობის ხელმძღვანელი</p> <p>მონწიველი ლექტორი: <b>ანა ოლინიკი</b></p>	<p><b>კიბერუსაფრთხოების სტრატეგიის საფუძვლები</b></p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p><b>ანდრეო მირონიჩი</b> კიბერუსაფრთხოების სადამსწავლელი კვლევითი ცენტრის CYSEC დამფუძნებელი</p>
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In 2022, IDFI and the University of Georgia (UG), as well as the University’s Investigative Media Lab, [held a conference](#) “The World Finally Sees It: Hybrid Warfare, Disinformation and History in CEE”.

As part of the joint program of IDFI and the University of Georgia (UG) - Disinformation and Propaganda Studies: History, Theories and Means of Debunking, 18 selected participants [continued to participate](#) in the academic courses and workshops offered to them in the spring 2022 semester.

## ჰიბრიდული ომი და ჟურნალისტიკა







**ალექსანდი ბობროვნიკოვი**

**ONLINE**





In 2022, the seminar “[Hybrid Warfare and Journalism](#)” was held as part of the collaboration between IDFI and the University of Georgia (UG), as well as [the Boot Camp: Polarized Society Facing Hybrid Challenges](#). In September 2022, the introductory meeting and the first lecture of the joint training program - Disinformation and Propaganda Studies: History, Theories and Means of Debunking - [were held](#).







## INFORMATION INTEGRITY COALITION

Since 2022, IDFI has worked closely with the Georgia Information Integrity Program (GIIP) / USAID. As a co-founding member of the Information Integrity Coalition, IDFI managed to secure grants for three separate projects.

eine Frage, die entscheidende, die er so stellt, als erhoffte er sich eine verlässliche Antwort: „Sagt mir, wann endet endlich dieser Krieg?“

**O**BERE ALLIANZEN, traditionelle Produkte oder eingefahrene Verkehrsverbindungen: Georgien erlebt einen Umbruch, tradierte Gewissheiten verlassen. Manchmal scheint es, als wolle sich das Land in seiner Vergangenheit wiederfinden, dann wieder lieber viel weiter im Westen. Gleichzeitig existieren Gebiete wie Swanetien im bergigen Norden des Landes. Als wahre Identitätsmaschine steht die schroffe, unzugängliche Region mit ihren Dorfgärten und mittelalterlichen Wehrtürmen für ein widerspenstiges, urtümliches, sich selbst genügendes Land. Hier entspringt auch der Enguri, ein Fluss, der eine sehr georgische Geschichte erzählt. Aus Swanetien fließt der Enguri hinab zum Schwarzen Meer und wird auf halbem Wege von einer Talaperre gestaut, die zu den größten der Erde zählt. Das dortige Wasserkraftwerk erzeugt rund 40 Prozent der georgischen Stromproduktion. In dieses Kraftwerk selbst in Abchasien liegt, stellt es zu-

gleich die einzige nennenswerte Kooperation zwischen dem Mutterland und der abtrünnigen Region dar. Ironie der Geschichte: Ausgerechnet ein sowjetischer Monumentalbau ermöglicht diese Ausnahme.

Weiter südlich wird der Enguri zum Grenzfluss zwischen Georgien und Abchasien. Über ihn führt nur eine einzige Brücke, die für motorisierten Verkehr gesperrt ist und mit ihren Panzersperren aus Beton eher an Krieg als an Kooperation denken lässt. Nach mehr als 200 Kilometern mündet der Enguri bei Anaklia im Schwarzen Meer – der Ort ist Synonym für verlassene Träume. Eine Metropole sollte hier entstehen, mit Hotelburgen und dem ersten Tiefseehafen des Landes, doch der andauernde Kampf verschiedener Investoren führte zum Niedergang. Heute ist Anaklia eine Gestorbenstadt, mit Hotels, die neu schon wie Ruinen wirken, abends ziehen wilde Hunde über palmengesäumte, verwaiste Alleen.

**F**ÜNF AUTOSTUNDEN von Anaklia und der abchasischen Grenze entfernt, in Georgiens Hauptstadt Tiflis, fußt Giorgi Arsanis in weißen Turteln über sorgeliches Fischgrätenparkett. Ar-

sanis schaut auf seine Uhr und sagt: „Er kommt zu spät.“ In der Ecke seines Büros steht ein Skateboard. Giorgi Arsanis trägt Jeansjacke über dem Polohemd, sein Gesicht verrät mürrische Ungeduld. „Ich weiß nicht, ob er überhaupt noch kommt.“

Arsanis, 28 Jahre alt, sagt über seine Herkunft: „Ich stamme aus Sochumi“ – dabei hat der studierte Jurist die Stadt nie betreten. Seine georgische Familie wurde nach dem abchasischen Sezessionskrieg von dort vertrieben. Von seinem Büro in einem alten Gewerkschaftshaus aus betreibt Arsanis seine „Library about Georgia“, eine Nichtregierungsorganisation, die Sachbücher über Georgien sammelt und Ideen für die Wiedereingliederung von Abchasien und Südossetien entwickelt.

Für Abchasiens Hauptstadt Sochumi hat er ein Modell für das wuchtige Regierungsgelände bauen lassen, das dort seit fast 30 Jahren als ausgebranntes Fossil das Zentrum dominiert: Er zeigt ein Foto des Luftschlosses, weiße Fassade, Zinnen, bogenförmige Zugänge. Zu gern würde er das Modell selbst präsentieren. Nur lässt sein Mitstreiter, der es herbringen sollte, auf sich warten.

Giorgi Arsanis rullt Karten ganzer Quartiere auf einem Res-politisch aus, sie zeigen seine ihm unbekannte Heimatstadt, die er so gern umgestalten würde. „Niemand profitiert dort doch von leeren Cafés oder nicht geliebten Investitionen!“

**O**BERE GEORGIEN fehlen im Umgang mit den Abchasen gemacht habe, die seit Jahrhunderten unter wechselnden Herrschern um mehr Eigenständigkeit kämpfen, ist für Arsanis keine diskutable Frage. „In allen politischen Gremien waren die Abchasen vertreten, sogar überrepräsentiert!“ Ihre Unabhängigkeit sei ohne russische Einmischung nie möglich oder auch nur gewollt gewesen. „Russland hat viel in den abchasischen Separatismus investiert.“ So setzte Moskau die aus Sowjetzeiten bekannte Politik der Kontrolle seiner Peripherie „durch gezieltes Management von Nationalitätsfragen“



Nino Gosalischwili forscht zur georgischen Geschichte. Sei Russlands Despot Wladimir Putin die Historie berrührt, um einstige Sowjetrepubliken anzuzweifeln, wird die korrekte Ausdeutung der Vergangenheit für die Nachbarn überlebenswichtig

Within the framework of the project “Overcoming Disinformation and Nostalgia Surrounding Stalin: A New Identity for the City of Gori”, IDFI studied more than 1,000 archival documents, created 13 original stories on various aspects of the city’s history and more than 30 stories on outstanding people, which were placed in the project’s website [www.gorimaps.ge](http://www.gorimaps.ge). An article about the mentioned project was published in the German-language magazine GEO. In July 2022, IDFI and ZINC Network announced the competition “Memory of the War in the City” in Shida Kartli in order to raise general awareness about the 2008 war. The graffiti created by the winner of the competition was placed in the city of Gori.





In 2022, IDFI implemented a project - Solidarity Branding: promoting entrepreneurs living near the occupied territories in Shida Kartli region. With the joint efforts of IDFI, USAID, and Zinc Network, farmers living near the occupation line in Shida

Kartli placed their agricultural products under the “Fruits of Heroism” brand in the “Carrefour”, “Smart”, and “Zgapari” store chains.



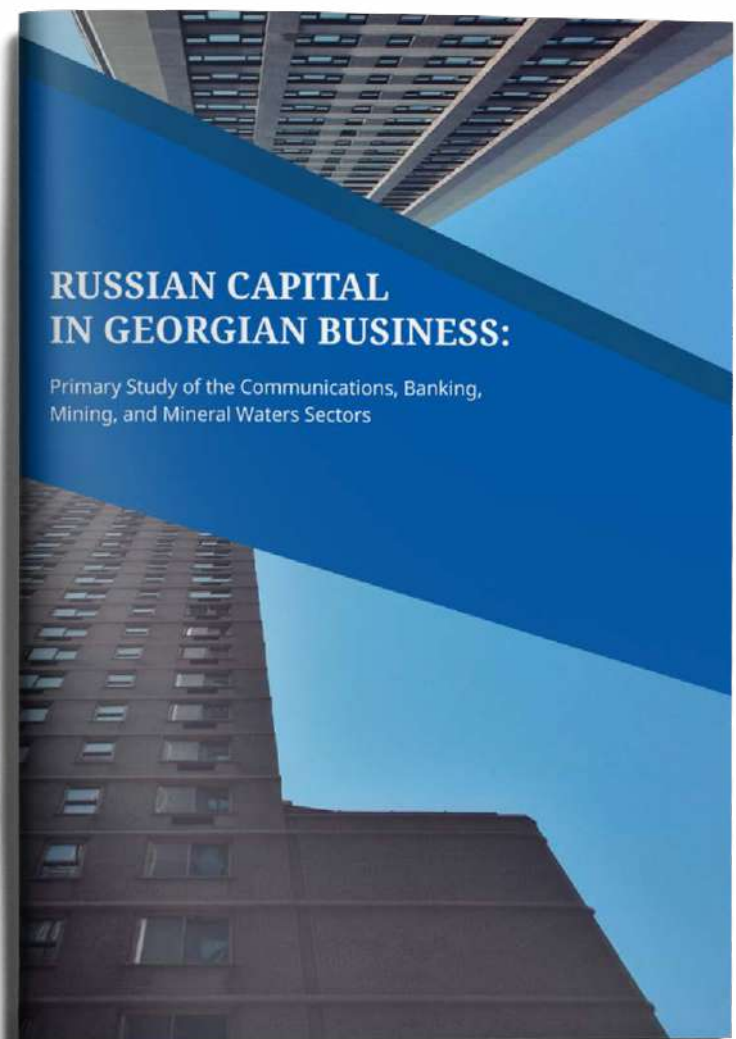


# RUSSIAN CAPITAL AND RUSSIAN CONNECTIONS IN GEORGIAN BUSINESS

2022

**IDFI** | Institute for Development  
of Freedom of Information

In 2022, the [first](#) and [second](#) stages of the project - Russian Capital in Georgian Business - were completed. The main goal of the project was to study the work, resources and connections of companies operating in Georgia owned by Russian citizens in various sectors.

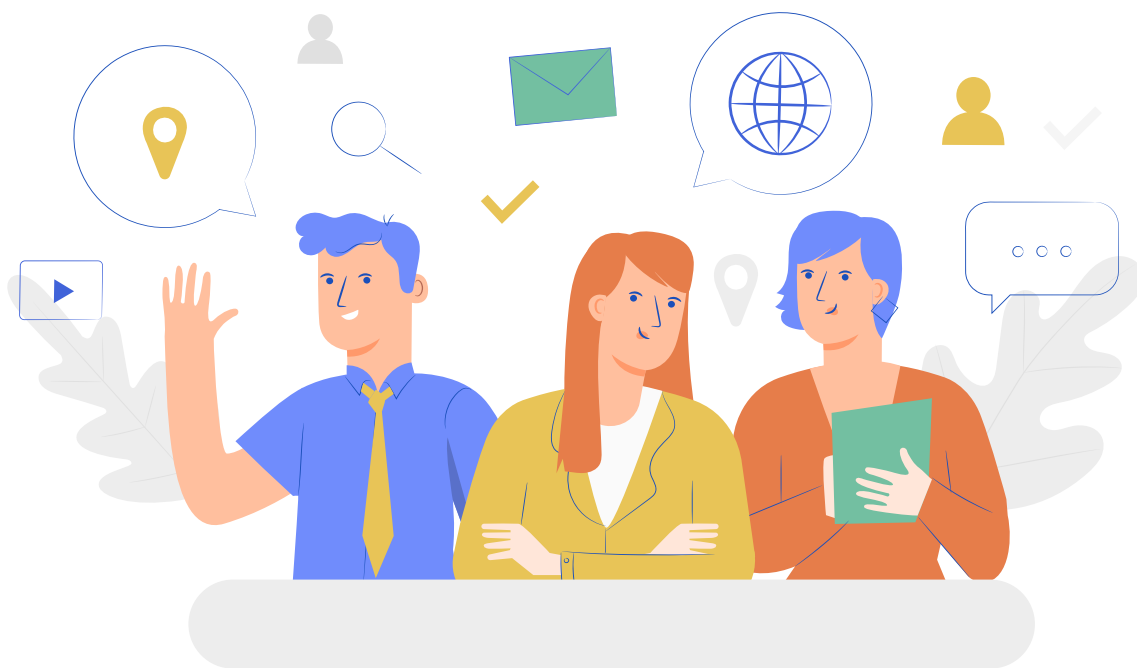






# CONSULTATIONS

- Approximately 95 legal consultations were provided on matters related to freedom of information, rule of law and independence of state institutions. In addition, 25 public servants were consulted regarding the legislation regulating access to public information.



- IDFI provided a total of 307 consultations regarding Memory, disinformation, and Soviet Studies. The consultations were provided in person (51 consultations), through online (Facebook Messenger, e-mail, Zoom, etc. – a total of 138), and via phone call (118 consultations).





## **IDFI'S DONOR ORGANIZATIONS**

- EUROPEAN UNION (EU)
- THE SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AGENCY (SIDA)
- OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATION (OSF)
- UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (UNDP)
- THE DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR INTERNATIONALE ZUSAMMENARBEIT (GIZ) GMBH
- INTERNEWS AND UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (USAID)
- INTERNATIONAL COALITION OF SITES OF CONSCIENCE
- ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (ADB)
- BLACK SEA TRUST FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION (BST)
- COUNTERPART INTERNATIONAL
- LUMINATE
- INTERNEWS
- INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR NON-FOR-PROFIT LAW (ICNL)
- INTERNATIONAL VISEGRAD FUND
- KINGDOM OF NETHERLANDS
- LATIN AMERICAN OPEN DATA INITIATIVE (ILDA)
- UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND (UNFPA)
- OPEN SOCIETY GEORGIA FOUNDATION (OSGF)
- COUNCIL OF EUROPE
- EAST WEST MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE (EWMI)/PROMOTING RULE OF LAW IN GEORGIA (PROLOG)
- DELOITTE CONSULTING





# PROJECTS INITIATED IN 2021

### ➤ ANALYSIS OF RUSSIAN CAPITAL IN GEORGIAN BUSINESS - STAGE 3

**Donor Organization:** Georgian Information Integrity Program(GIIP) / USAID

Project objectives are to investigate Russian capital in the mentioned sectors of Georgian business and its impact on the political, media, and civil sectors. Another objective is to reveal connections between the companies owned by the citizens of Russia and political, civil, and media actors affiliated with the government of the Russian Federation

### ➤ OVERCOMING DISINFORMATION AND NOSTALGIA SURROUNDING STALIN: A NEW IDENTITY FOR THE CITY OF GORI - STAGE 3

**Donor Organization:** Georgian Information Integrity Program(GIIP) / USAID

The project is aimed at creating an alternative visual platform. Hence, the project will highlight hitherto unknown people, locations, places of memory of trauma and triumph, and important moments in the (pre-Soviet or independent to Soviet regime) history of the city.

### ➤ CORE GRANT

**Donor Organization:** Luminare

IDFI will ensure systematic monitoring of public procurement, public spending, and government programs in Georgia.

### ➤ GENDER EQUALITY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN GURIA REGION

**Donor Organization:** Dekabristen e.V.

The primary objective of the project is to build capacity of the Municipal Gender Equality Council (established at the level of municipalities in Georgia for the purpose of ensuring regular and coordinated work on gender issues) members and initiate close coordination with reference to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

### ➤ CONSOLIDATING PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY IN GEORGIA

**Donor Organization:** The European Union (EU), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

The project goal is to support the Supreme Council of Ajara in the implementation commitments of the Open Governance Action plan for 2022-2024.

### ➤ ROOTS OF ANTI-WESTERN PROPAGANDA

**Donor Organization:** Institute for war and peace reporting (IWPR)

The project aims to increase understanding of the historical development of the anti-Western propaganda fueled by a regime headquartered in Russia.

## ➤ SOLIDARITY BRANDING - PROMOTING ENTREPRENEURS LIVING IN THE SHIDA KARTLI REGION, NEXT TO THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES – STAGE 2

**Donor Organization:** Georgian Information Integrity Program (GIIP) / USAID

The project aims to make residents living near the ABL more resilient to Russian hostile influence as a result of increasing perceptions of recognition and support from the rest of Georgian society.

## ➤ RELOCATION/INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT GRANT

**Donor Organization:** Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen (ifa)

IDFI will provide individual and institutional support to human rights defender(s) to build operational structure in Georgia and integrate into the local community.

## ➤ ORGANIZATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORKSHOP ON LOCALISATION WITH GEORGIAN AND BELARUSIAN PARTNERS

**Donor Organization:** The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

The service contract considered the organization of a study trip for Belorussian and German experts to Georgia on the Localization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

## ➤ ADVANCING OPEN DATA STANDARDS AND PROMOTING OPEN DATA USE IN GEORGIA

**Donor Organization:** International Media Support (IMS)

The project aims to advocate for the improvement of FOI regulation in the country through multi-stakeholder dialogue and sharing best practices with Georgian public servants.

## ➤ GLOBAL AI ADVOCACY IN GEORGIA

**Donor Organization:** Global Partners Digital

The project aims to promote a human rights approach to artificial intelligence by shaping the outcomes of relevant national and international debates.

## ➤ DIGITAL FREEDOMS IN GEORGIA

**Donor Organization:** Internews and United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

The project aims to strengthen Internet freedom in Georgia.

## ➤ GLOBAL DATA BAROMETER – DISSEMINATION

**Donor Organization:** Latin American Open Data Initiative (ILDA)

The project aims to actively promote and disseminate the results of the Global Data Barometer (GDB) first edition.

## ➤ IMPROVING ACCESS OF MEDIA TO THE PUBLIC INFORMATION

**Donor Organization:** Open Society Georgia Foundation (OSGF)

The aim of the project is to improve the media's access to public information and to promote evidence-based journalism.

## ➤ DIGITAL FREEDOMS IN GEORGIA - 2023

**Donor Organization:** Internews and United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

The project aims to strengthen Internet freedom in Georgia.

## ➤ RESEARCH ON POPULATION DATA ANALYSIS IN GLOBAL DATA BAROMETER ABOUT THE EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA REGION

**Donor Organization:** United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia

In the framework of the project, IDFI will analyze GDB results of the countries from Central Asia and Eastern Europe region in the Health and Covid-19 module, which includes country assessments in terms of accessibility of important population/demographic data.





# 2022 FINANCIAL REPORT

## OPERATING INCOMES AND EXPENSES



**1,094,549 \$**

INCOME FROM GRANTS



**208,113 \$**

OTHER OPERATING INCOME



**1,302,662 \$**

TOTAL INCOME

Salaries excluding Personal Income Tax and Pension Contributions	187,756 \$
Personal Income Tax paid on Salaries	46,939 \$
Pension Contribution (2%) paid on Salaries	4,790 \$
Service Fee	370,241 \$
Consultancy and Other Professional Services (Translation, Consultancy, etc.)	130,425 \$
Outreach and PR Activities (Design, Audio-Video Visualization, Publishing, etc.)	110,244 \$
Events (Conferences, Presentations, Workshops, Trainings)	108,289 \$
Depreciation and Amortization	40,672 \$
Travel (International Trips, Per Diems, Accommodation)	20,483 \$
Fringe Benefits and Health Insurance	18,419 \$
Pension Contribution	14,820 \$
Financial, Accounting and Audit Services	13,770 \$

Web-Page Development	12,272 \$
Stipends	9,496 \$
Other Office Costs and Inventory	6,423 \$
Communication Expenses	6,179 \$
Utilities	5,362 \$
Transportation (Local Trips, Fuel Costs, Accommodation)	3,942 \$
Bank Fees	1,658 \$
Interest Expenses	1,495 \$
Postage	1,338 \$
Office Stationary	1,239 \$
Office Vehicle Maintenance and Insurance Costs	1,185 \$
Other Costs	5,357 \$
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>1,122,794 \$</b>

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