



ANNUAL REPORT

THE INSTITUTE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (IDFI)



Informed and Empowered
Society for Democratic
Governance

2021

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INTRODUCTION

In 2021, to address the challenges to Georgia, the Institute for the Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI) carried out active work in the areas of rule of law, human rights, freedom of the media and expression, good governance, the fight against corruption, local governance, economics, and social policy.

Access to information through the development of analytical activities and the use of innovative mechanisms, improving governance, ensuring the rule of law, reducing corruption, strengthening citizen engagement, increasing accountability, and promoting innovative approaches and inclusive growth were the main directions of the activities of IDFI in 2021.

As in previous years, in 2021 IDFI sought to contribute to the strengthening of democracy in the country through evidence-based research, monitoring, and advocacy.

In 2021, the Coronavirus pandemic became one of the major challenges, putting society in front of new realities. In response to these challenges, the Institute for Development of Freedom of Information studied issues related to human rights violations and closely observed the regulations and state expenditures linked with COVID-19.

IN 2021, IDFI:



PREPARED 4 POLICY DOCUMENTS
PREPARED 54 RESEARCH DOCUMENTS
PREPARED 9 VISUALIZATIONS



HELD 2 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES
HELD 12 TRAININGS AND LECTURES
HELD 29 DISCUSSIONS/PRESENTATIONS



IN 2021, IDFI INITIATED 18 NEW PROJECTS



THE NUMBER OF IDFI TEAM MEMBERS INCREASED TO 26



SUPPORTING GOOD GOVERNMENT IN GEORGIA

In 2021, IDFI continued actively monitoring access to public information, conducting workshops, and providing recommendations to relevant agencies as well as stakeholders. To encourage the use of open data, IDFI also organized competitions and attempted to raise awareness of various target groups about the issue.

GOOD GOVERNANCE FORUM 2021 - #GGFORUM2021

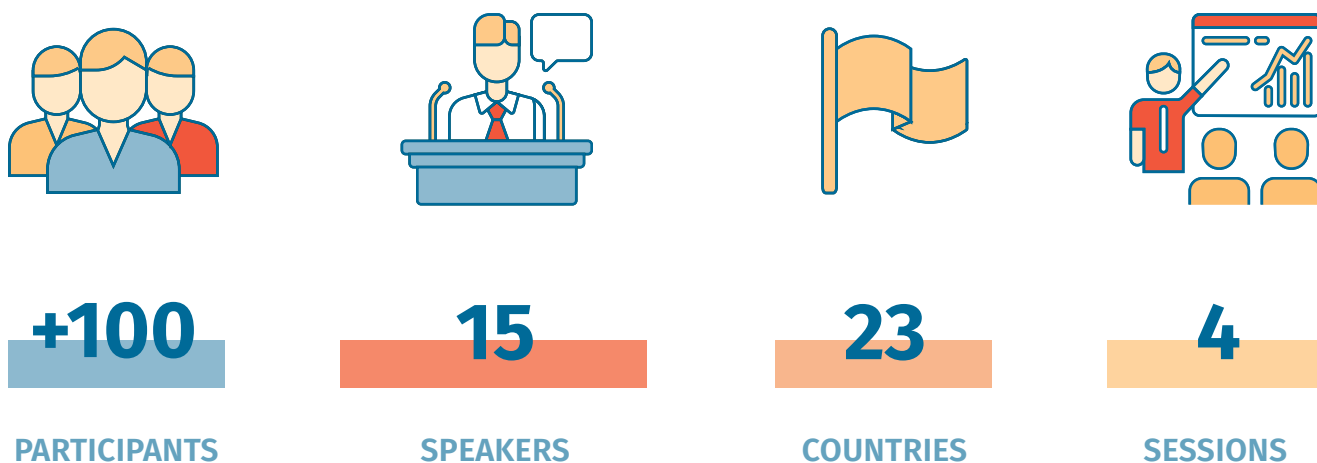


In 2021, IDFI held the third edition of an international high-level conference on Good Governance and fighting corruption, titled the “Good Governance Forum” (GGForum). The event took place on December 6, 2021, and was conducted virtually due to Covid-19-related restrictions. [The event aimed](#) to contribute to good governance reforms by exchanging best practices and fostering debate on sustainable governance of natural resources, beneficial ownership transparency, Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, and Publish What You Pay (PWYP) Network. The conference gathered local and international experts and stakeholders around several key related issues:

- Beneficial ownership transparency;
- Good governance principles in the energy sector;
- Georgia’s prospects for endorsing BO and EITI principles; and
- Strengthening women’s voices.

The representatives of prominent international organizations working on these topics, including Open Government Partnership (OGP), Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), Publish What You Pay (PWYP), Transparency International (TI), Energy Transparency Association, Natural Resource Governance Institute, etc., delivered speeches during the conference. For more information regarding the conference panels and speakers, see the [Forum Agenda](#).

GG FORUM 2021 RESULTS BY NUMBERS



The Forum was organized by IDFI, with the support of the global philanthropic organization Luminate.



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 June 1, 2021, IDFI [presented](#) the results of the 2020 monitoring on access to public information based on 6,258 freedom of information (FOI) requests sent to 285 public institutions. Compared to 2019, the public sector's compliance with FOI regulations decreased by 3% (from 83% to 80%), which can be mostly attributed to Covid-19-related restrictions and challenges. **However, the 80% baseline of responding to FOI requests set since 2014 was observed. This was mainly due to the high level of accountability demonstrated by a number of public institutions.**

- Complete responses – 58%
- Unanswered - 28%
- Incomplete – 13%
- Denied - 1%
- Compliance with the deadline within 10 days - 51%

IDFI awarded a total of 26 public institutions, including:

- State Inspector Service
- Office of the Public Defender
- National Statistics Office
- Roads Department of Georgia
- National Competition Agency

IDFI once again named the whole system of the **Ministry of Justice** as well as the **Administration of the Government of Georgia** as the least transparent public institutions.

To better communicate the key findings, challenges, and our recommendations, an [informative video](#) was prepared and widely disseminated on social media.

Based on our monitoring results, IDFI [compared](#) the official FOI compliance reports of all public institutions submitted to the Parliament for review (considered under the legislation). **Six major different**

types of mismatches were observed in the case of 60 public institutions. Our detailed observations and concerns were prepared and submitted to the Parliament of Georgia.

In 2021, IDFI also monitored the compliance of public institutions with the standards of proactive disclosure of information. IDFI [monitored](#) a total of **123 public institutions.** **The average compliance rate of proactive accessibility of public information was 56%, 1% higher than in 2020.**



ADVOCACY FOR AND SUPPORT OF ACCESS TO OPEN DATA

Georgia's Open Data Lab - DataLab.Ge



In order to encourage access to data IDFI continued to work on collecting, updating, and publishing public data in open formats. In particular, additional datasets have been released through the **open data portal** created by the Institute - **DataLab.Ge**. By the end of 2021, up to 1,400 datasets were available on the portal.

Datasets are available in open, machine-readable formats (Excel and CSV). Besides exploring data, users are able to:

- Analyze and process data of interest;
- Make simple visualizations;
- Download datasets in open formats;
- Share data through social media and websites;
- Create new apps.

COURT STATISTICS MODULE

To mark the International Day for Universal Access to Information, on September 27, 2021, with support from Sida, IDFI [presented](#) the upgraded Court Statistics Module. Apart from the public presentation (held on-site with [livestreaming on Facebook](#)), the module was widely disseminated/promoted on [social media](#). Up to 80 datasets were uploaded and updated in 2021. Interested persons are able to explore the trends of court practice during the period of 2010-2020 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 OF ANALYTICAL ARTICLES - DATA FOR CHANGE (#DATA4CHANGE)



In order to promote public oversight of government activities and the use of data in this regard, IDFI launched the third series [of its annual contest of analytical/investigative articles, titled #Data4change](#). IDFI received 31 analytical articles in total as part of the contest. Articles were prepared based on datasets published on WWW.DATALAB.GE, as well as FOI requests submitted to public institutions by contest participants. Some of the submitted articles focused on **topics such as gender equality, access to healthcare, Covid-19-related challenges and public funds, air pollution, poverty, various economic issues, etc.** Five winners were awarded during the [final presentation](#) on November 24, 2021.

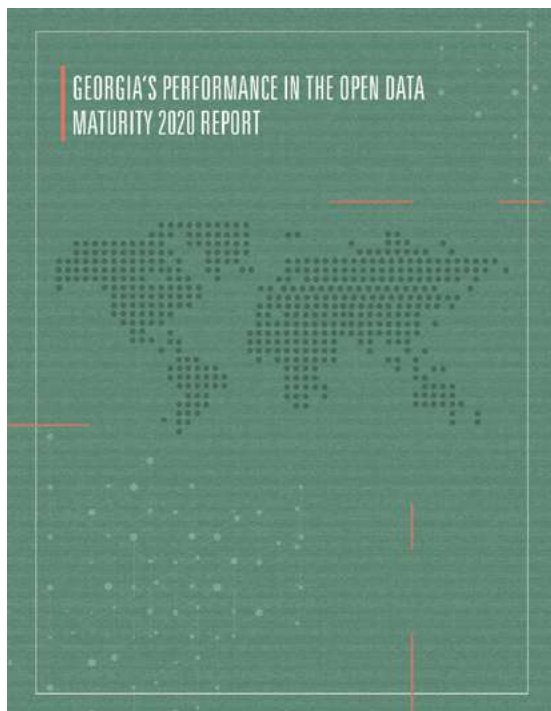
IDFI - A REGIONAL HUB FOR GLOBAL DATA BAROMETER (GDB)

IDFI has been acting as a [regional Hub](#) for Central Asia and Eastern Europe for the [Global Data Barometer](#) (GDB), which is a global index study of data for public good that builds on the foundation of the [Open Data Barometer](#). In the global initiative, IDFI has been assessing Georgia's performance and coordinating assessments in additional 11 countries - IDFI recruited 11 national researchers from Eastern Partnership and Central Asian countries. Additionally, a special [training was conducted](#) for them by IDFI and Global Data Barometer representatives on June 11, 2021. After that, national researchers started assessing their countries, which was followed by a review process by reviewers. Once the final results were approved, IDFI prepared an overview of regional results, key findings, and recommendations. The global ranking was [published in 2022](#).



Global Data Barometer

GEORGIA'S PERFORMANCE IN INTERNATIONAL RANKINGS



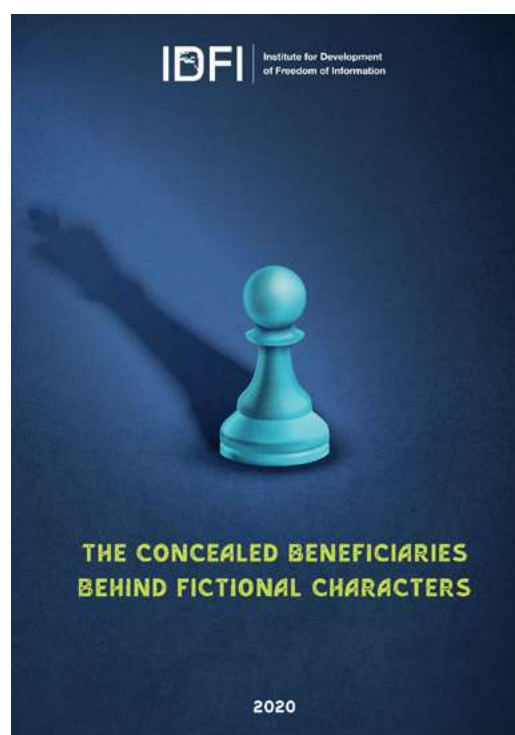
To identify Georgia's challenges and needs with consideration of global and regional tendencies in accessing open data, IDFI [analyzed](#) Georgia's results in the Open Data Maturity Report, which is an annual survey of European data portals. Out of 35 European countries assessed by the Report, Georgia ranked second to last. The study results demonstrated that Georgia is in need of an open data regulatory framework and national strategy to be elaborated and adopted.

STUDYING AND PROMOTING BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP (BO) TRANSPARENCY STANDARDS

In January 2021, IDFI published its [first study on beneficial ownership standards](#), which analyzed the definition and structure of beneficial ownership, identified problems associated with beneficial ownership and their causes, and elaborated solutions based on international best practices that meet the challenges of this complicated topic.

To communicate the study results/recommendations and raise awareness of different stakeholders on international transparency standards on beneficial ownership, on 28 January 2021, IDFI held [an online workshop](#) with the participation of CSOs, academia, businesses, public institutions, as well as international experts. Two British experts shared BO standards and best practices with the participants.

Later, a **regional study**, titled [Beneficial Ownership Transparency in Georgia and Visegrad Countries](#), was prepared in cooperation with IDFI's partner organizations from Hungary, Slovakia, Poland, and the Czech Republic. It overviewed the legal framework for and practice of accessing data on beneficial owners of companies. Policy

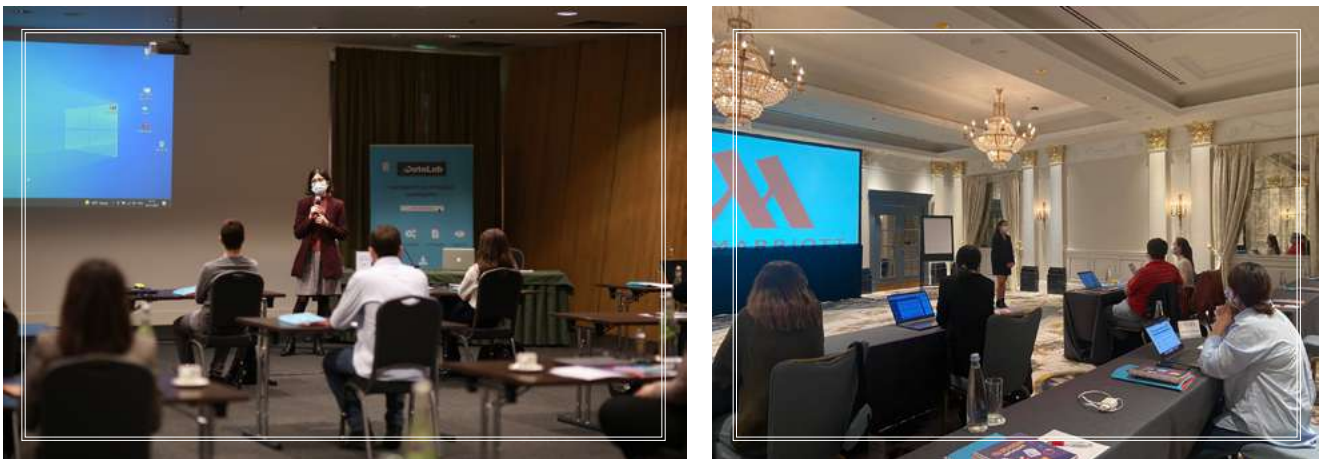


recommendations were outlined for each country, including Georgia, for which best practices of the Visegrad countries were considered. To communicate the mentioned recommendations, [a presentation](#) of the regional study on BO was held on November 24, 2021.



To increase the capacity of CSOs and journalists in the effective use of Beneficial Ownership data for government and business accountability, a **practical toolkit**, titled [Toolkit on Monitoring Beneficial Owners](#), was developed and later widely disseminated among stakeholders. The purpose of this guide was to share information regarding the concept of beneficial owners, transparency standards, and key practical advice with journalists, civic monitoring groups, researchers, and other stakeholders, which will enable them to identify beneficial owners and monitor the activities of the companies behind them.

IDFI used the elaborated toolkit during its **capacity-building trainings** and showed practical tips and mechanisms to CSOs, journalists, and activists on how to track beneficial owners and their activities. In total, two trainings were held on [October 15](#) and [November 14](#) in 2021.



To further increase awareness of the general public about the importance of BO transparency, a graphic video was prepared and disseminated on social media.

PROMOTING PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION REFORM



IDFI continues to promote Public Administration Reform (PAR) in Georgia. In order to improve the reform, IDFI continued the monitoring of 2019 – 2020 PAR action plan implementation. The organization developed, published, and presented to the public the results of the alternative monitoring reports for the [second half](#) of 2020 as well as for [2019 - 2020](#). To eliminate the gaps and challenges identified during the monitoring

process, IDFI elaborated relevant recommendations and submitted them to PAR Council Secretariat to assist in the development of new strategic documents. The shortcomings identified and recommendations provided by the PAR alternative monitoring reports prepared by IDFI were recognized by the Administration of the Government, which vowed to improve the next PAR strategy and action plan. However, by the end of 2021, new PAR strategic documents had not been developed.

To identify the most problematic issues of the public administration reform, IDFI used PAR Tracker - the electronic monitoring [platform](#) for Public Administration Reform, which ensures the involvement of external users in the monitoring process. During 2021, around 15 regional non-governmental organizations were engaged in the monitoring process through the platform. IDFI studied international standards and best European practice on the identified problematic issues and developed a [study](#) - “Best European Practice of Public Administration and Georgia”. The organization [presented](#) the findings of the study for discussion to the public and shared the study along with recommendations elaborated in response to the identified challenges with the PAR Council Secretariat for consideration when developing the new PAR strategic documents.





The organization published a [statement](#) on the implementation of OECD-SIGMA recommendations by Georgia; [statement](#) on delays in development of the PAR Strategic Documents; [findings](#) of Government and alternative monitoring of PAR; and called for the government to pay more attention to PAR and develop ambitious and effective policy documents in a timely manner.

The organization implements significant measures to raise awareness of Public Administration Reform. IDFI released information videos, held an analytical articles' [contest](#), and conducted [workshops](#) for public servants.





SUPPORTING THE OGP INITIATIVE IN GEORGIA



In 2021, IDFI was actively represented in the Open Government Partnership at local, regional, national, and international levels. At the national level, together with other non-governmental organizations and with the involvement of OGP representatives, IDFI advocated for development of the OGP National Action Plan. Furthermore, IDFI was actively supporting the Parliament of Georgia in finalizing and adopting the Open Parliament Georgia Action Plan 2021-2022, and was assisting the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Ajara in implementation of Open Governance Action Plan 2020-2021.

NATIONAL LEVEL

At the national level, the Government of Georgia continued, unfortunately, its traditionally passive policy regarding the development of the OGP National Action Plan. IDFI, jointly with the civil society sector as well as on its own, published several statements for local and international stakeholders regarding the inactivity of Georgia in OGP. In early 2020, the Secretariat of the Open Government Partnership began collecting initiatives from the civil sector for developing commitments for the new action plan, although the process did not continue after submitting initiatives and receiving feedback from government agencies on these initiatives. In 2021, the Secretariat of the Open Government Partnership launched a similar process in terms of accepting initiatives from the civil sector, although the situation has not changed thus far and no effective steps have been taken by the Secretariat and government agencies to develop the Open Government Partnership Action Plan. In December, 2021 the NGO representatives of the Open Government Inter-Agency Coordination Council [issued a statement](#) and called on the Government of Georgia to immediately restore the process of Open Government Partnership and ensure effective involvement of NGOs in this process.

On July 5-9, 2021 representatives of civil society organizations from the countries of Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan) [visited IDFI](#). The purpose of the study visit was to familiarize the interested parties with Georgia's experience in OGP, open budgeting and transparent management of public finances.

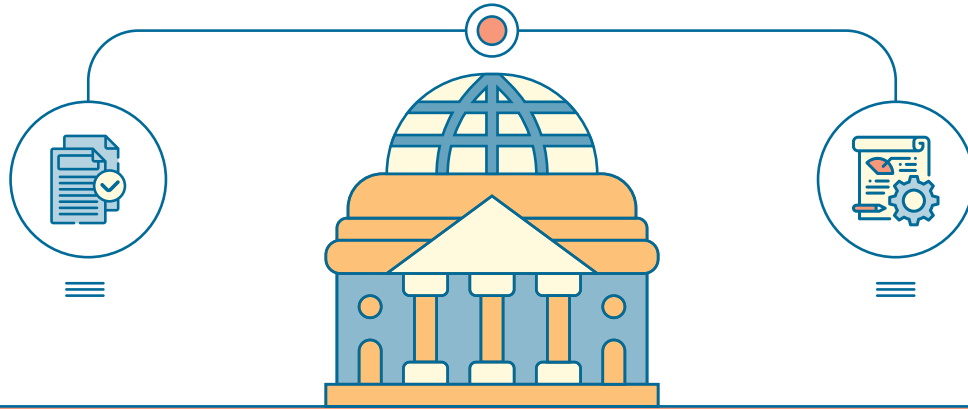


OPEN PARLIAMENT

IDFI was actively supporting the process of elaboration of the final version of commitments for the 2021-2022 Open Parliament Georgia Action Plan. The final draft of the Action Plan was prepared based on active consultations with the members of the Consultative Group of the Permanent Parliamentary Council on Open Governance.

On July 26, based on almost a year and a half of working process and several meetings and consultations, the [Open Parliament Georgia Action Plan for 2021-2022 was approved by the Bureau of the Parliament of Georgia](#). The vast majority of the commitments set out in the Action Plan were initiated by civil society organizations.





The Open Parliament Georgia Action Plan consists of 19 commitments, the implementation of which is planned in the years of 2021-2022. The action plan aims to facilitate the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals by the Parliament of Georgia, improve access to information and strengthen oversight mechanisms of the Parliament of Georgia, raise citizen involvement in the activities of the Parliament of Georgia, and promote parliamentary openness and transparency.



With the involvement of IDFI and the civil society sector, the Parliamentary Council started the implementation process of the Open Parliament Georgia Action Plan. Specifically, the Parliamentary Council implemented the first and second part of the commitment on Elaborating the 2022-2024 Parliament Action Plan for the Implementation and Monitoring of Sustainable Development Goals.

IDFI was actively supporting the awareness raising activities of the Parliament of Georgia. IDFI finalized and published the Citizen Guide on Legislative Engagement which describes mechanisms for involvement in the parliamentary activities.



**მოქალაქეთა
გზამკვლევი**
როგორ მივიღოთ მონაწილეობა
საპარლამენტო საქმიანობაში



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



Throughout 2021, IDFI actively supported the Supreme Council of Ajara (SCA) in implementation of the 2020-2021 Open Governance Action Plan. IDFI participated in the preparation of amendments to the Rules of Procedure of SCA.

On February 26, IDFI's participated in an orientation meeting organized by UNDP for the newly convened members of the Ajara Supreme Council, where members were informed about the Open Governance Principles, SDGs, and their importance in the legislative process. On March 12, the first meeting of the new composition of the Open Governance Council of Ajara Supreme Council was held. During the meeting, representatives of UNDP and IDFI briefed Council members on the commitments of the Action Plan and the activities planned for their implementation.

In 2021, IDFI hired NNLE "Mariani", which prepared the [concept of adapting the building](#) of the Supreme Council of Ajara. Based on this concept, the Supreme Council plans to procure a building adaptation project.

IDFI developed a concept for adapting the Supreme Council website as well. Based on this concept, Artmedia Ltd. has adapted the [website](#) of the Supreme Council. The adaptation of the website fulfilled the 6th commitment of the action plan.

With the coordination and involvement of IDFI, Artmedia Ltd. is developing the Citizen Engagement website chaerte.sca.ge for SCA. The main services of the Supreme Council will be posted on the mentioned website, such as submission of the petition electronically, scheduling an electronic meeting with an MP or receiving an electronic pass, obtaining a pass for attending committee meetings and plenary sessions, and commenting on draft laws.

INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

During the year 2021, representatives of IDFI participated in several international meetings. The Executive Director of IDFI, Giorgi Kldiashvili, [delivered a speech](#) on the Open Parliament Forum regarding the Role of the Parliament in Fighting Disinformation. Giorgi Kldiashvili emphasized the role of the Parliament of Georgia in fighting Russian propaganda and disinformation.



IDFI organized a panel of experts on public procurement within the framework of the Open Government Partnership (OGP) 7th Global Summit ([December 15-17, 2021](#)), and during the panel, the representative of IDFI discussed TPPR and its role in promoting better procurement systems worldwide. [The Global Summit plays an important role, particularly in the post-pandemic era, when the world has to adjust to a new reality and set new standards of transparency and accountability.](#)





SUPPORTING THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION

IDFI continues to support the fight against corruption. The organization is actively involved in the development of anti-corruption strategic documents. In the beginning of 2021, IDFI submitted its [recommendations](#) for all sixteen priority directions of the Anti-Corruption Strategy and Action Plan for 2021-2022 to the Secretariat of the Interagency Coordination Council to Combat Corruption. IDFI also actively called in different [statements](#) for the authorities to pay more attention to the fight against corruption and to develop ambitious and effective policy documents in a timely manner. At the end of 2021, however, a new national Anti-Corruption Action Plan for 2021 – 2022 was not developed and the relevant strategy was not updated.

IDFI monitors the assessments of the corruption situation in Georgia conducted by international organizations, analyzes and periodically publishes assessment results. In 2021 Georgia was mentioned in the [rankings](#) of several international organizations, most of which indicated stagnation in terms of anti-corruption activities in the country.

Taking into consideration the shortcomings of the existing anti-corruption system and recognizing the challenges of high-level corruption, during 2021 IDFI continued to advocate for the importance of creating an Independent Anti-Corruption Agency equipped with a high degree of independence, relevant authority, and public trust to investigate high-profile corruption cases and answer all the lingering questions.

During 2021 IDFI developed and published a number of analyses, such as: Georgia's Anti-Corruption [Indexes](#) in 2021; Progress of Implementing GRECO Recommendations on Prevention of Corruption Remains [Low](#) in Georgia; Political party financing issues still [remain](#) problematic before the elections; etc.

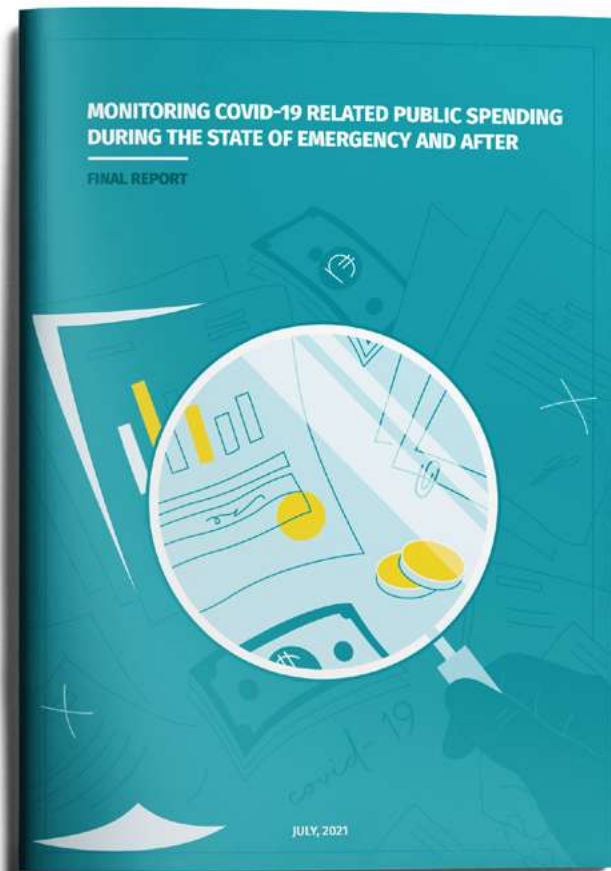
IDFI conducted an in-depth [analysis](#) of legislation and practice on the whistleblowing mechanism in Georgia. The analysis of international standards, legislation, and statistical information, as well as a quantitative and qualitative survey of civil servants, were carried out in order to identify existing problems. In response to identified challenges, IDFI prepared relevant recommendations.

The organization implements significant measures to promote awareness-raising in the Anti-Corruption direction, which, among other activities, is reflected in the implementation of the educational certification program. In 2021 IDFI also [held](#) an Anti-Corruption film screening & discussion for students. The head of Anti-Corruption Direction of IDFI provided a public [lecture](#) on the whistleblowing mechanism and participated in a public [discussion](#) titled “Local Governments: Frontlines of Fighting Against Corruption in Georgia” hosted by USAID GGI.



IDFI submitted a report to the OECD/ACN on the corruption situation in Georgia and met with the OECD/ACN mission to provide additional information per their questions. The organization participated in the 21st plenary session of OECD/ACN on October 26, 2021 and discussed several relevant issues including regarding high-level corruption.

MONITORING COVID-19-RELATED GOVERNMENT SPENDING AND PUBLIC PROCUREMENTS



With the financial support of the European Union and Luminare, IDFI continued monitoring of Covid-19 related public procurement and public spending in 2021. Five reports were prepared, based on which around 47 cases of potential wrongdoings/corruption risks were identified (including at least 12 on municipalities) and 6 recommendations were elaborated. The reports included:

- I. [Simplified procurement related to coronavirus;](#)
- II. [Monitoring Covid-19 Related Public Spending During the State of Emergency and After - Final Report;](#)
- III. [Monitoring Covid-19 Related Public Spending During the State of Emergency and After - Interim Report;](#)
- IV. [Suspicious Procurements of the Covid-19 Period;](#)
- V. [Simplified procurement related to Covid-19 2021](#)

To communicate policy recommendations, workshops, public discussions, and a presentation were held. On June 18, 2021, [an online public discussion](#) to share the experiences of media representatives, NGOs, and other actors of the civil society on the problems and challenges of access to public information during the Covid-19 pandemic was organized. On July 6, 2021, an [online workshop](#) with the participation of all relevant stakeholders - representatives of public institutions, media, and civil society - was organized. On July 16, 2021, IDFI held [a presentation](#) of the final results of monitoring Covid-19-related public spendings, including public procurements, and relevant recommendations were voiced once again.



MONITORING PUBLIC EXPENDITURES OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES



In 2021, IDFI was actively monitoring public spending of public institutions in the framework of different projects supported by the International Visegrad Fund, the European Union, and Luminate. Focus was made on the most crucial areas - Covid-19-related public spending, the performance of public institutions amid the pandemic, public spending during elections; expenses of state enterprises, legal entities, and sports federations, etc. In total, 14 analyses and reports were prepared and disseminated. To better communicate particular findings, one-pagers, visualizations, and videos were prepared and widely disseminated. The analyses/reports included:

1. [The Limited and Contradictory Statistics of COVID-19 Deaths](#)
2. [Political Donations - 2021](#)
3. [Bonuses and salary supplements issued in 2020 in LEPLs and independent agencies](#)
4. [Challenges of Personnel and Remuneration Policy of State Enterprises](#)
5. [Why are there no electric cars in the state vehicle system?](#)
6. [Monitoring Covid-19 Related Public Spending During the State of Emergency and After - Final Report](#)
7. [Monitoring Covid-19 Related Public Spending During the State of Emergency and After - Interim Report](#)
8. [Analysis of bureaucratic costs of the 2022 draft budget](#)
9. [Statistics of Socially Vulnerable Population and Elections 2019-2021](#)
10. [Expenditures of the Contingency Fund of the Government of Georgia during the Pandemic](#)
11. [Overview of the Vaccination Process in Georgia](#)
12. [Representation and Business Trip Expenses in Legal Entities Under Public Law: 2019-2020](#)
13. [Review of MP questions sent regarding the coronavirus pandemic](#)
14. [The Influence of the Pandemic on Crime Statistics](#)
15. [Analysis of expenses of sports federations 2019-2020](#)

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM IN FIGHTING CORRUPTION

In 2021, to increase the sustainability of educational courses in fighting corruption, IDFI worked actively to develop and offer Ilia State University two courses for the Bachelor's degree and two courses for the Master's Degree levels. Anti-corruption courses are part of the academic curriculum of the School of Arts and Sciences of the Ilia State University and, together with certificates, participants are receiving credits (ECTS) as well. In particular, the Bachelor's degree (in the direction of Political Science) courses are: Good Governance and Corruption, and Politics and Corruption, while the Master's degree courses (in the direction of Public Administration) are: Anti-Corruption Policy Management in Public and Private Institutions, and Fight Against Corruption - International Actors, Anti-corruption Platforms.

On September 30, 2021, [Ilia State University and IDFI renewed the Memorandum on Cooperation](#). The new Memorandum prolongs the relationship of the parties for two years, establishes the upper number of participants for the Bachelor's and Master's degree programs, states the rights and obligations of the parties and places educational courses as part of the Ilia State University curricula.

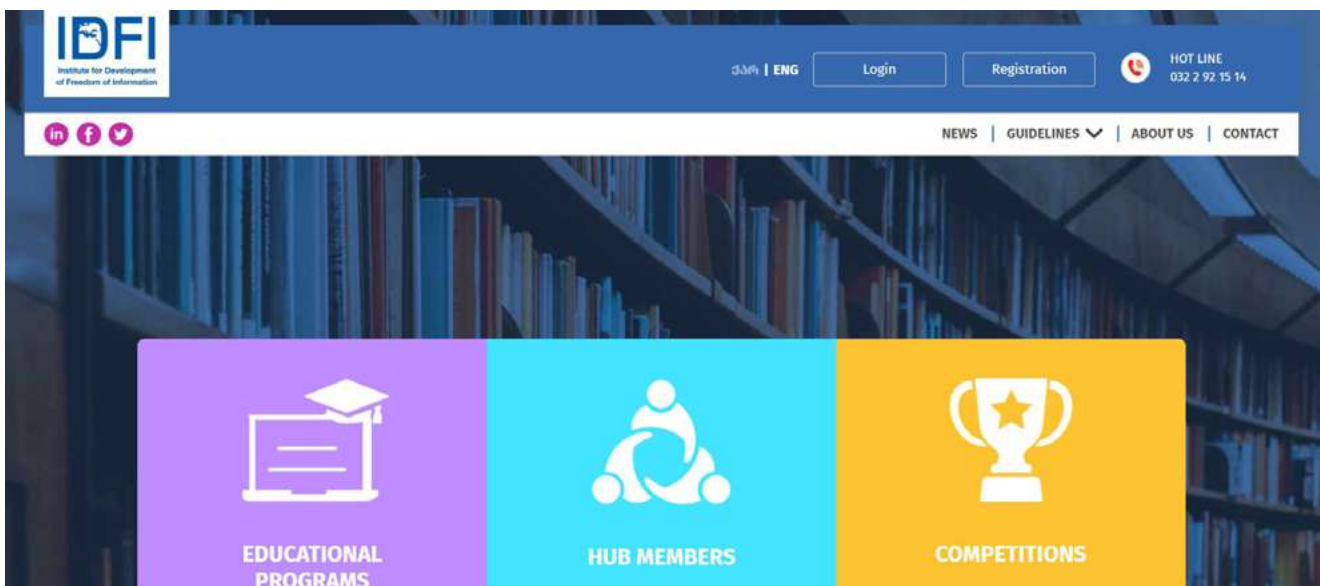




On September 30, 2021, IDFI, together with the Ilia State University, organized [the award ceremony](#) of the participants of the Educational Certification Program in Fighting Corruption for the years of 2019-2020 and 2020-2021.

IDFI held a strict competitive process for selecting the candidates for the third cohort of the educational certification program. Nearly 300 applications were submitted. Finally, the competition commission selected 22 students from various higher education institutions of Georgia for the Bachelor's degree program, and 24 students from the public, private, and non-governmental sectors for the Master's degree program.

IDFI developed the web-page anticorruptionhub.net. The Anti-Corruption Hub website is an electronic platform that will enable people interested in fighting corruption to unite, share information with each other, and jointly organize activities. At the same time, through the webpage, those interested will be able to get acquainted with the online educational programs offered by the Hub and, if they successfully pass the testing for each online course, will receive an electronic certificate confirming the completion of the course. **The Anti-Corruption Hub webpage was created under the Core Support grant from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).**



TRANSPARENT PUBLIC PROCUREMENT RATING (TPPR)

In 2021, IDFI actively worked in the direction of extending the network of public procurement professionals (CSOs and individuals), enabling experience-sharing to assist individual organizations in convincing relevant authorities as to why changes are necessary, by citing examples and positive effects seen by other member countries. As of this date, the Transparent Public Procurement Rating (TPPR) has partnered with CSOs in 42 countries across the globe.

Colombia and [Kosovo](#) joined the initiative, growing the number of participants to 42, and several more partners were identified, with each in various stages of the assessment process.

In December 2021, IDFI organized a [panel of experts on public procurement within the framework of the Open Government Partnership \(OGP\) 7th Global Summit](#), and during the panel, the representative of IDFI discussed TPPR and its role in promoting better procurement systems worldwide.

Various articles, analyzes, and the [2020 TPPR report](#) were published on the website throughout 2021.

STRONGER ALLIANCES AGAINST CORRUPTION IN PROCUREMENT THROUGH THE LENS OF OGP

Online Panel Discussion | Tuesday, December 14 | 11:00 AM UTC

OGP GLOBAL SUMMIT PARTNER SESSION

IDFI
Institute for Development
of Freedom of Information

OGP GLOBAL SUMMIT
KOREA 2021

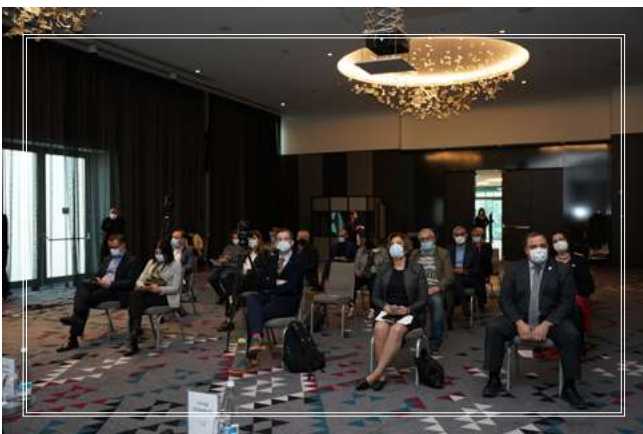
Open
Government
Partnership



ECONOMICS AND SOCIAL POLICY

In 2021, IDFI continued its activities aimed at analyzing the socio-economic challenges facing the country. The main goal of IDFI in this direction is to periodically review and prepare reports on the economic situation in the country, to raise financial and economic literacy, to promote the development of important sectors of the economy and increase the extent and quantity of dialogue and partnership between private sector and government.

PROMOTING PPD IN GEORGIA THROUGH MONITORING AND AWARENESS-RAISING



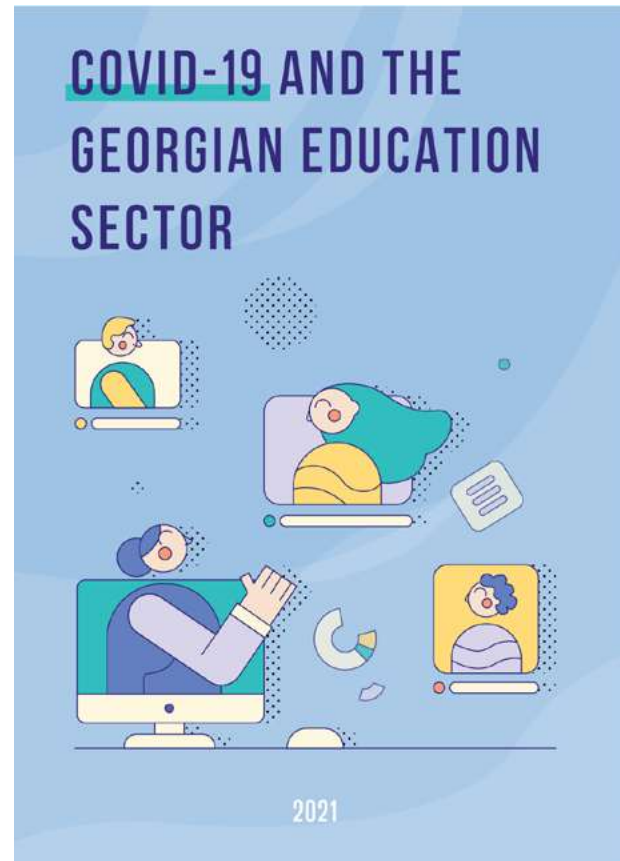
To promote the extent and quality of dialogue between private sector and government, a project titled “[Promoting PPD in Georgia through Monitoring and Awareness-Raising](#)” was launched in 2021. In the framework of the project, IDFI developed a promotional video and held an awareness-raising event. IDFI held a project launch event to present the PPD quality tracking mechanism and discuss the challenges of engaging the private sector in the dialogue. The meeting took place on November 18 and was held in Sheraton Grand Tbilisi Metechi Palace and on Zoom simultaneously.

PPD promotional video was published on social media, aimed at increasing public awareness about the dialogue. In addition, IDFI started the first phase of the PPD quality assessment and conducted interviews with representatives of the central and local governments and the private sector.

INCREASE THE COVERAGE AND QUALITY OF PUBLIC SERVICES IN THE GEORGIAN EDUCATION SYSTEM

The scope of the project “Increase Efficiency of Public Services in the Georgian Education System” was to prepare an overview of current developments and challenges in the education sector of Georgia up to and including June 2021. During the research process, the analytic team conducted sector preliminary analyses and developed a research structure. Collected data was used for quantitative and qualitative analysis of the sector. Moreover, researchers evaluated government actions in response to the Covid-19 pandemic and analyzed financial costs before and during the pandemic period. In addition, the research team created focus groups of teachers, parents, and school administration. The problems brought by Covid-19 were analyzed based on the feedback from focus group participants. During the research, analysts evaluated the [value of learning losses for the Georgian economy](#) at approximately GEL 55 bln, and recom-

mendations were issued to mitigate these losses. The research findings and recommendations were presented to the broader audience.



SUPPORT RESEARCH AND PUBLIC CAMPAIGN AIMED TO ACCOUNT FOR NEEDS OF VULNERABLE GROUPS IN GEORGIAN EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The project aims to advocate for the needs of vulnerable groups of society and ethnic minorities. The project team started identifying existing challenges facing vulnerable groups and ethnic minorities in terms of the learning process within the scope of the pandemic and the post-pandemic period. The research team prepared FOI requests and sent them to public institutions. The collected data will be analyzed and presented in 2022.

ONLINE DISCUSSION SESSIONS “ECONOMIC CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES DURING THE COVID-19”

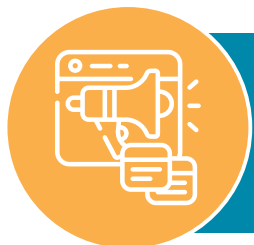
In 2021, IDFI launched an online discussion series aimed at increasing public awareness about on-going economic challenges and possible solutions. “Monetary policy and Macroeconomic forecasts” was the topic of the first session, where the key speaker was Koba Gvenetadze, President of the National Bank of Georgia. The topic of the second discussion was “Restart in action only partially led by the tourism recovery” presented by Otar Nadaria, the chief economist at TBC Group. Both events had high participation.

DEVELOPED AND PUBLISHED RESEARCH REPORTS

As of 2021, IDFI developed and published five research reports about Georgia’s economic indicators ([Economic Growth Overview](#) and [Georgian Economic Overview](#)), energy sector ([Energy Sector Overview](#)), investments, education, and healthcare (Georgian Healthcare Sector, published in 2022). Policy recommendations were developed and discussed publicly.



In 2021, IDFI continued monitoring and evaluating the government’s social and economic policy actions in response to the pandemic supporting socially vulnerable population and increasing the efficiency of their financing. Additionally, IDFI started to analyze gender inequality issues and plans to evaluate economic loss caused by the gender gap in the business sector in 2022.



MEDIA AND FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

During 2021 IDFI witnessed major challenges, including unexpected changes in press freedom in Georgia. Degree of media polarization, as well as the rate of physical and verbal violence against journalists, expensive civil lawsuits (so called “SLAPP” cases), and legislative initiatives aiming to suppress the media increased.

To protect the freedom of media, IDFI has increased cooperation with the Media Advocacy Coalition in addition to its own individual efforts. As a result, the level of public awareness about the difficulties faced by journalists has increased and the negative impact of the changes on the media has decreased.

PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF THE JOURNALISTS

In 2021 multiple cases of violence against media were identified. On 5 July alone, while covering Tbilisi Pride and attacks on the offices of CSOs, more than 50 journalists were assaulted and one severely beaten operator died several days later. The Media Advocacy Coalition has issued multiple joint statements and spread publicly available evidence. As a result, the executive prosecuted violent individuals. Unfortunately, despite our full efforts, major organizers of the violence are still unpunished. In September 2021, approximately 14 GB of documents allegedly processed by the State Security Service of Georgia were leaked via the internet. Materials, *inter alia*, contained information on the private communications amongst journalists and their respondents.

To respond to the situation, IDFI has strengthened engagement and cooperation with the Media Advocacy Coalition. During 2021, IDFI successfully documented systemic physical and verbal violence against media. In addition, IDFI published at least 25 mutual statements regarding the challenges facing the media and possible discrimination amongst media and journalists. IDFI also conducted a general study of the leaked materials and concluded that the likelihood of these materials to have been processed by the State Security Service based on systemic unlawful surveillance was high. The materials indicated that, *inter alia*, the government was spying on journalists working on religious issues. Based on the analysis with Media Advocacy Coalition, we issued a statement and held a working meeting with the representatives of the State Inspector Service. Due to strong public opinion, the “Prosecutor’s Office of Georgia” started investigating the activities of the State Security Service.

ANALYZING AND MONITORING RELEVANT LEGISLATION AND LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

In 2021 IDFI has [analyzed the legal](#) framework and joint opinion of the Venice Commission and the Directorate General Human Rights and Rule of Law of the Council of Europe regarding special governor in electronic communications company. IDFI stressed that the Communication Commission of Georgia is able to affect media freedom by appointing a temporary manager in a company that holds a broadcasting license. Such measures have the capacity to indirectly affect editorial independence of the respective broadcasting license holders and cause a chilling effect on the freedom of expression in the country. IDFI recommended the Parliament of Georgia to amend the law in a manner that restricts the Communications Commissions. It is notable that Georgian authorities recognized the importance of the criticisms, but despite this, they have not taken respective legislative steps to overcome the challenge yet.

IDFI monitored legislative initiatives that may have impacted media organizations. Every legislative initiative and legislative proposals to the predefined categories of the legislation, regardless of the authors, were studied. IDFI detected 5 problematic legislative initiatives/proposals. One of them was adopted. The other 4 are temporarily suppressed but still under consideration. IDFI works with the Media Advocacy Coalition to form a joint approach if the Georgian government decides to awaken the problematic initiatives/proposals. The one initiative that was adopted has a major impact on the financial states of media organizations and especially regional media, as banning gambling commercials reduced their income by 15-20%. The Parliament of Georgia partially considered IDFI's recommendation and, as a result, the negative impact on the stability of the media organizations was mitigated.

MEDIA OWNERSHIP AND POLARIZATION



IDFI [analyzed](#) the current model for internet content blocking and filtering in Georgia. IDFI found that the current model is not transparent and mostly relies on the good faith of Internet Services Providers (ISP). In addition, we found that most of the normative restrictions on content was deemed to be unconstitutional, as their adoption did not meet formal constitutional requirements. In addition, IDFI identified multiple gaps in the current legislation and practice that can be used for suppressing digital freedoms.

Notably, the Communications Commission of Georgia, as well as ISPs, fully or partially shared identified concerns. IDFI plans to continue work with the Parliament and relevant authorities on a draft law regarding audio visual content regulation in Georgia. We prepared separate

analysis on [content blocking and filtering](#). Moreover, the issue was one of the central parts of our report covering challenges of digital rights in Georgia.

IDFI closely monitored legislative initiatives and case law of the Supreme Court and the Constitutional Court of Georgia to identify non-legislative threats to the freedom of expression. IDFI identified 2 legislative proposals that had direct impact on freedom of expression. In addition, IDFI identified three politically motivated, costly civil lawsuits. At least one of them is under consideration. Currently, IDFI is working with the Media Advocacy Coalition to form a strategic approach, as such practice from political parties did not exist before.

IMPROVING ACCESS OF MEDIA TO THE PUBLIC INFORMATION

At the end of 2021, the organization started implementing a new [project](#). IDFI initiated full legal assistance for journalists and media organizations regarding the freedom of information. The legal assistance is complete (includes consultation, statements and complaints, legal representation before administrative bodies and the judiciary) and fully free. The legal assistance program was tested in beta stage to measure its impact on IDFI's current workload and, from February 2022, has started operating with the full load. During the beta stage, 10 legal consultations and 7 FOI requests were prepared. In February 2022 IDFI's legal assistance program was launched. Journalists, especially regional media representatives, will be the main beneficiaries of the program.

- IDFI delivered professional consultations to the investigative journalists regarding the issues under IDFI's competence. Consultations helped the journalists to understand complex legal issues, ask the correct questions, and draw relevant conclusions. 10 professional consultations were given on various matters.
- Up to 20 journalists and activists, as well as 30 civil servants, were provided with consultations on access to public information and freedom of information legislation.

Legal Aid (Consultations and Drafting Legal Documents) for the Individuals were Provided on Human Rights during Covid-19.

At least 15 consultations were given, 3 legal documents prepared, and 3 cases were successfully finalized as the relevant individuals were freed from the fines.



RULE OF LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS

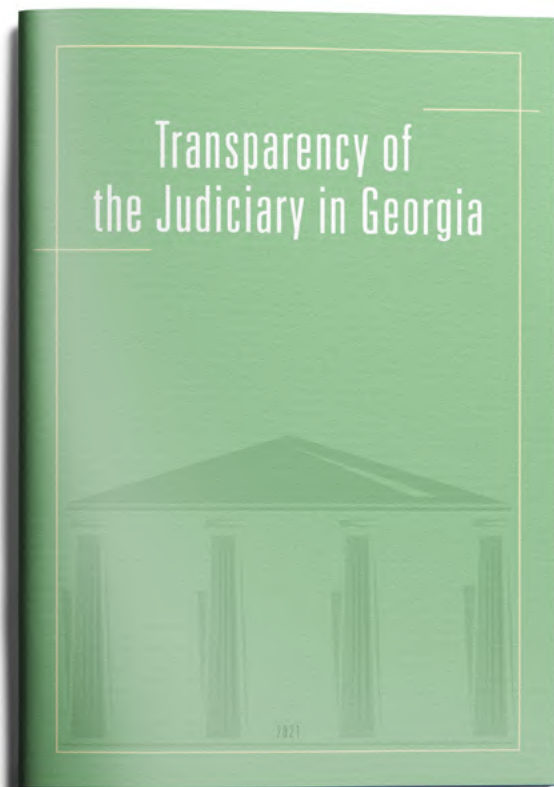
As in previous years, in 2021 IDFI actively planned and implemented various activities in order to promote the rule of law and the protection of human rights.

In this regard, IDFI prepared studies, reports, reviews, articles, and blog posts on a variety of key pressing issues. During this period, much of IDFI's work was related to supporting the effective functioning of the State Inspector's Service and promoting personal data protection in Georgia.

IDFI has successfully conducted strategic litigation processes, advocated relevant recommendations on the basis of prepared analytical documents, and actively participated in various discussions and workshops. IDFI's awareness-raising activities became even more diverse last year, part of which was aimed at law students – a student conference, an essay competition, and a summer school on personal data protection was held, as well as a winter school on rule of law and human rights.

The organization has made significant efforts to strengthen the rule of law and the human rights regime in the country.

PRESENTATION OF THE STUDY ON TRANSPARENCY OF THE JUDICIARY IN GEORGIA



On March 15, 2021, the Institute for Development of Freedom of Information presented the study - "[Transparency of the Judiciary in Georgia](#)."

The study focuses on the main gaps in the proactive transparency of the judiciary. Non-compliance with the Constitutional Court's decision on access to judicial acts and disregarding constitutional standards remain serious challenges. Non-fulfillment of the requirements established by the decision of the High Council of Georgia and incomplete publication of public information by the courts is additionally problematic. Existing gaps in terms of the processing and publishing statistics are also noteworthy.

IDFI made 26 key findings on challenges and gaps regarding transparency of the judiciary and suggested

25 recommendations, consideration of which is essential for improving the transparency and openness of the Judiciary.

The Head of the Statistics Sector of the Supreme Court expressed willingness to implement some of the presented recommendations in the near future. In particular, the Statistics Sector of the Supreme Court plans to produce statistical data on the average length of court proceedings. Statistical data on domestic violence will be published on the webpage of the Supreme Court of Georgia following the presented recommendations as well. Most importantly, the Statistics Sector of the Supreme Court, with the help of international experts, aims to adopt a legal act that defines a common standard and methodology for processing statistical information in the common courts' system.

IDFI'S PUBLICATIONS FOR RAISING AWARENESS OF FIELD PROFESSIONALS AND PUBLIC MEMBERS ON INTERNATIONAL CASE LAW, PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION AND CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

On February 10, 2021, IDFI published an [analysis](#) on international case law “Guðmundur Andri Ástráðsson v. Iceland: Breach of Domestic Law on Judicial Appointments Violated the Right to a Fair Trial”.

On February 8, 2021, IDFI published a review of the judgment of the European Court of Human Rights on the [case](#) of Leshchenko v. Ukraine related to access to information.

IDFI published 3 articles regarding personal data protection issues: [The Importance of Personal Data Protection in the E-Governance Process](#); [The Significance of the Modernized Convention 108 for Georgia](#); [Violation of the Right to Privacy - a Systemic Challenge for Georgia](#).

IDFI translated into Georgian the [article](#) ‘Overview of Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement in the United State’ authored by Barbara Attard and Kathryn Olson that increased public awareness of this issue.



PUBLISHING A REPORT ON PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION AND ORGANIZING AN ONLINE DISCUSSION



On May 27, 2021, IDFI held an online [discussion](#) on the Challenges of Personal Data Protection in Georgia and a presentation of the [report](#) - "Brief Overview of Recent Developments in the Field of Personal Data Protection." This report evaluates the state and progress in implementing the main priorities of the Association Agenda and HR Action Plan related to personal data protection. It also summarizes significant developments and challenges, identifies possible drives for change, and provides recommendations on the most pressing issues related to data protection.

REPORT ON COVID-19 AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN GEORGIA

IDFI's activities during active human rights restrictions caused by Covid-19 led to significant improvements in the protection of constitutional rights. During 2021, IDFI prepared 3 statements, 2 reports ([report 1](#), [report 2](#)), and held 2 public discussions regarding excessive human rights restrictions during Covid-19. IDFI identified thousands of unconstitutional fines and pointed out that the judicial, parliamentary, and civil oversight over executive was extremely weak. 3 of our recommendations and identified legal challenges had significant impact on public discussion, as respective activities were widely covered by the media (at least 10 TV and multiple online media reports).



STRATEGIC LITIGATION

In February 2021, the Tbilisi City Court fully [granted](#) the appeal of IDFI against Media Academy and ordered the respondent to provide public information. In October 2021, the Tbilisi Court of Appeals [rejected the appeal of „Media Academy“](#) and upheld the decision of the Tbilisi City Court, according to which a legal entity of private law („Media Academy“) established by the National Communications Commission was recognized as an administrative body and was obligated to provide public information. The judgment of the Court of Appeals has been appealed by the opposing party to the Supreme Court.

IDFI filed a lawsuit against the Administration of the Government of Georgia regarding the accessibility of the government's legal acts in December 2020. At the hearing in November 2021, the representative of the Administration of the Government declared that they would provide requested public information. Nevertheless, as of today, they have not yet provided it. The main hearing of the case has not been scheduled so far.

On February 11, 2021, based on IDFI's application, the Public Defender of Georgia addressed the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development with a recommendation to release public information. The Public Defender also established a violation of the constitutional right - access to public information of IDFI by the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia.

PARTICIPATING IN THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COALITION FOR AN INDEPENDENT AND TRANSPARENT JUDICIARY AND PUBLISHING STATEMENTS

IDFI – as an active member of the Coalition for an Independent and Transparent Judiciary – participates in its activities and contributes to preparing public statements related to the judiciary. In 2021, 14 statements were published.

ORGANIZING HIGH LEVEL WORKING MEETING TO ENFORCE DECISION OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT OF GEORGIA REGARDING THE ACCESSIBILITY OF THE JUDICIAL ACTS



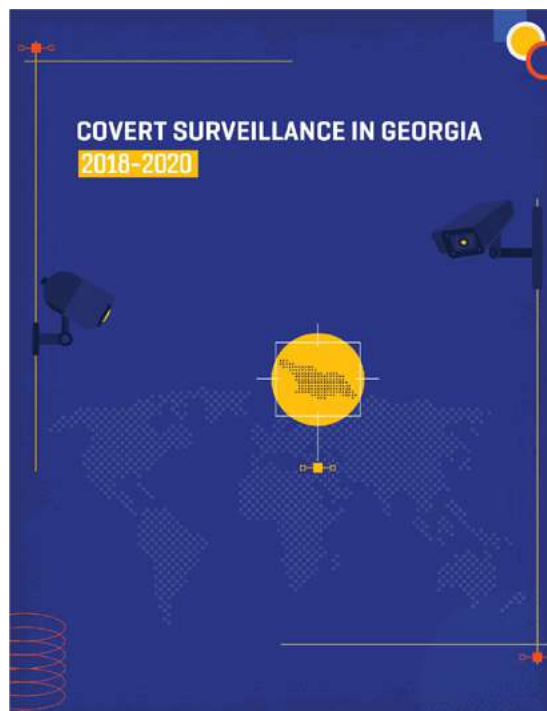
On 16 June 2021, IDFI held a one-day [workshop](#) with members of the Legal Committee of the Parliament of Georgia, President and the Head of the Legal Department of the Constitutional Court of Georgia, Chairperson of the Coalition for Independent and Transparent Judiciary and number of local and international experts.

The participants of the working meeting discussed the legislative measures to be taken to enforce the decision of the Constitutional Court of Georgia of June 7, 2019. This decision concerns the publicity of the acts of the common court and its proper implementation is part of the 'Charles Michel Agreement'. The balance established by the Constitutional Court between access to common court acts, and the right to protection of personal data was the subject of controversy.

Within the framework of the working meeting, the basic model for the implementation of the Constitutional Court decision was developed, according to which the Parliament should develop a package of relevant legislative amendments. As a result, On July 1, 2021, the bill initiated by the Members of the Parliament of Georgia was registered. The bill aims to enforce the Judgement of the Constitutional Court of Georgia. Notably, IDFI has [prepared a comprehensive analysis of the draft law and additionally prepared an alternative bill.](#)

PUBLISHING A STUDY ON COVERT SURVEILLANCE IN GEORGIA

On 7 July 2021, IDFI published a [study](#) “Covert Surveillance in Georgia 2018-2020.” The study reviews the statistics on the motions for carrying out covert investigative activities, as well as for approval of covert investigative activities carried out under circumstances of urgency, submitted to, heard, and granted by the first instance courts in 2018-2020.



PRESENTATION OF A STUDY RELATED TO THE FUNCTIONING OF THE STATE INSPECTOR'S SERVICE



On 12 July 2021, IDFI and Social Justice Center [presented](#) the first [study](#) that comprehensively and thoroughly assessed the independent investigative mechanism functioning at that time in Georgia. The authors identified 48 key findings and suggested 41 recommendations to improve the functioning of the State Inspector's Service. State Inspector's Service agreed to the majority of recommendations and reflected them in the legislative proposal that was submitted to the Parliament in December 2021.

SUMMER SCHOOL ON PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION

IDFI and the State Inspectors Service [organized](#) a summer school for students in August 2021. 188 candidates participated in the competition. IDFI and the Inspector's Service selected 20 students based on pre-defined evaluation criteria and individual interviews. The program of the summer school covered important issues related to personal data protection and included balanced theoretical and practical components. Additionally, to increase the awareness of the importance of personal data protection and attract students for future activities, IDFI shared a short [video](#) related to the summer school.



Feedback received from the students showed that the summer school was highly productive, interactive, and included activities that were student-centered. The school enabled participants to gain theoretical and practical knowledge from leading specialists in the field and gave them an in-depth understanding of important issues related to personal data protection.

PUBLISHING COLLECTION OF STUDENT'S ESSAYS ON PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION AND AN ONLINE CONFERENCE

The essay competition on personal data protection was announced in May 2021, in which 60 students from various higher education institutions participated. IDFI and the State Inspector's Service revealed the authors of 15 winning essays. On August 9, an online conference was held where students presented their essays. On August 19, IDFI and the Inspector Service held an award [ceremony](#) for the participants. In September, an online journal was [published](#) that includes essays written by students. This activities fostered discussions on this topic.



PUBLISHING AN ANALYSIS REGARDING GEORGIA'S RANKING IN THE RULE OF LAW INDEX 2021

In October 2021, IDFI published an [analysis](#) about Georgia's ranking in the Rule of Law index 2021. The purpose of this publication was to review the indicators of the Rule of Law Index in Georgia as of 2021, to compare it to previous years, to identify problematic directions, and to show tendencies revealed as a result of the evaluation by the Rule of Law Index.

WINTER SCHOOL ON RULE OF LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS



On December 9-14, 2021 IDFI's Winter School "Rule of Law and Human Rights" was [held](#). The school aimed to enhance students' knowledge of the rule of law and human rights, to encourage discussions on problematic issues, to exchange views, and to strengthen democratic values. 233 students participated in the competition and 24 students of different universities were selected.

The following important issues were discussed within the scope of the school by field experts: the principle of separation of powers, constitutional control and litigation, the independence of the judiciary, open governance and accountability of the government, freedom of information, the right to private and family life, the role of the Public Defender and the State Inspector's service, freedom of expression.

IDFI made a short video related to the winter school that was shared on [Facebook](#) and [Youtube](#).

TRAINING FOR THE STAFF OF THE STATE INSPECTOR'S SERVICE

On October 7-8, 2021 IDFI [organized](#) a two-day training for the staff of the State Inspector's Service. The training agenda was developed based on the needs of the staff of the State Inspector's Service and included practical and theoretical issues relevant to the activities of the agency. The Professor of the Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University and former Constitutional Court Judge Maia Kopalishvili and Court of Appeals Judge Shota Getsadze were invited as trainers.



ORGANIZING A WORKING MEETING WITH MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES

On June 24-25, 2021, in cooperation with the State Inspector's Service, IDFI and the Social Justice Center [held](#) a working meeting with media representatives.

Media representatives positively assessed this event in evaluation forms and highlighted that the meeting significantly increased their awareness about the work of the State Inspector's Service.





SUPPORTING LOCAL SELF-GOVERNANCE

In 2021, IDFI further expanded the scope of its activities related to local government. 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). In addition, IDFI has been monitoring the performance of municipalities in terms of transparency, accountability, and public spending throughout the country.

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT INDEX 2021

On December 15, 2021, IDFI, together with the Centre for Training and Consultancy (**CTC**) and Management Systems Development Center (**MSDC**), [presented the results](#) of the **2021 Local Self-Government Index**. The initiative is financially supported by the Open Society Georgia Foundations (OSGF). Due to Covid-19-related challenges, the overall performance of municipalities has remained practically unchanged compared to the 2019 results (+1% of improvement was observed in the case of City Halls). Proactive disclosure of public information by municipalities improved by 2% (from 25% to 27%), although a decrease was observed in Citizen Participation and Accountability (by 6%). Compared to previous results for 2019, 24 municipalities improved their performance.





About the Local Self-Government Index: The index assesses the transparency and accountability of Georgian Municipalities, as well as the quality of citizens' participation in the decision-making process. The results of 2017, 2019, and 2021 National Evaluation, along with the municipalities' ratings, are available on the following website: www.LSGIndex.org

Based on best practices and methodology of the Local Self-Government Index, IDFI and its partner organizations - CTC and MSDC, developed an **online course for local stakeholders on transparency and accountability mechanisms of local municipalities**. Up to 140 users registered and got familiar with the [course materials](#).

SUPPORTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY PRINCIPLES IN GEORGIA'S MUNICIPALITIES

In 2021, within the scope of USAID/GGI funded project, IDFI supported 4 additional municipalities ([Akhmeta](#), [Ambrolauri](#), [Lanchkhuti](#) and [Tsageri City](#) Halls) to prepare and adopt Building Integrity and Transparency Strategies and Action Plans. To this end, corruption risk assessment reports were prepared for all municipalities. To ensure public participation, the draft strategic documents were discussed during the online public discussion, through which feedback from local stakeholders was collected and later considered in the final documents. The final documents were adopted by municipalities during January-February 2022. By adopting these strategic documents, these municipalities completed their commitments considered under the National Anti-Corruption Strategy and Action Plan for 2019-2020. The full implementation of the adopted strategic documents **will enable the municipalities to better respond to local challenges and the needs of citizens, improve the governance system, increase public trust, reduce corruption risks, and increase the quality of municipal services**. More details: I. <https://bit.ly/3itR84B> II. <https://bit.ly/37tHhJv>

SUPPORTING TBILISI CITY HALL TO ADVANCE OPEN DATA MANAGEMENT AND PRACTICE

With the support of USAID/GGI, IDFI supported Tbilisi City Hall in elaborating a concept and detailed technical terms of reference for the open data portal of the City Hall. By developing the portal, the City Hall will be able to advance the open data ecosystem in the municipality and make more open data available for the public good.

Beforehand, a comprehensive analysis of the open data management system of the whole municipality (including its legal entities) was conducted and a detailed report was prepared. Based on the findings and international best practices, recommendations were elaborated.

The developed Open Data Portal concept [was also communicated with](#) CSOs, business representatives, journalists, and data specialists. Their concerns and suggestions (especially from financial institutions) were included in the developed documents.

MONITORING AND ANALYZING LOCAL GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE IN MANAGING PUBLIC FUNDS AND ENCOURAGING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION



In an attempt to oversee the performance of local municipalities in various areas, IDFI analyzed different types of public expenses of municipalities, especially municipal services and their respective expenses during the local election period, as well as staffing and remuneration policies of municipal legal entities. Based on the analyses, major institutional and practical challenges/gaps were identified and relevant recommendations to improve the management of local budget/funds were elaborated. The following studies can be highlighted:

- I. [Analysis of local self-government budgets](#)
- II. [Assessment of the legality of approving the 2022 budget of Zugdidi and Batumi municipalities](#)
- III. [Remuneration Policy in Local Self-Governments and the Promise of the Prime Minister](#)
- IV. [Spending of Reserve Funds of Local-Self Governments in 2020](#)
- V. [Employees and Remuneration Expenses of Municipal N\(N\)LEs and LLCs](#)
- VI. [The Importance of Petition Systems for Citizen Participation: International Examples and Georgian Practice](#)

SUPPORTING MUNICIPALITIES' ENGAGEMENT IN OGP

To advocate more engagement of municipalities in Open Government Partnership (OGP) and better reforms committed from their side, IDFI [overviewed](#) major achievements and challenges of Georgian municipalities that are members of OGP Local. The analysis covered 4 municipalities, their performance and committed activities, based on which practical recommendations were elaborated. IDFI plans to continue supporting other municipalities in getting engaged in OGP Local and implementing ambitious reforms in the future.

In addition, IDFI was actively engaged in the OGP Working group meetings established by the Tbilisi City Hall and has been sharing its opinions and recommendations regarding Tbilisi's OGP Action Plan.

CAPACITY BUILDING ON GOOD GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

In partnership with the Council of Europe, the IDFI team prepared the [Handbook on Open Local Government and Public Ethics](#), which covers 24 individual public policy issues under the broader topics of: Public Ethics and Accountability; Transparency; Citizen Participation, and Corruption Risks. Under each direction, the handbook provides international standards, local legislation, practice, and best practices for Georgian local civil servants and public officials. The Handbook will be used by the Council of Europe and potentially IDFI during their capacity-building activities for municipality representatives in the future.



SUPPORTING LOCALIZATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS)

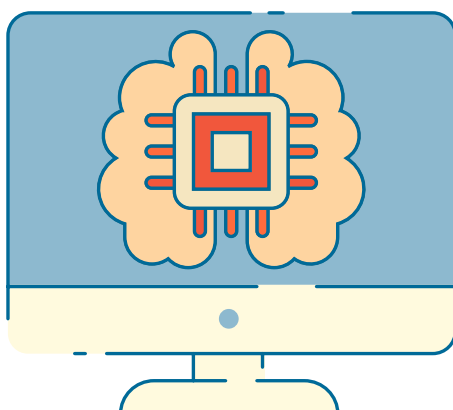
To start the SDGs localization process in Georgia, with the financial support of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and in partnership with the Government Administration of Georgia, IDFI prepared **a comprehensive analysis of the local SDG architecture and localization perspectives in Georgia**. The analyses covered 19 municipalities to generalize the results. It revealed major challenges and needs, as well as elaborated particular policy recommendations for several central and local authorities to effectively design and implement SDGs localization process in Georgia.

Additionally, a practical and informative handbook for SDGs localization was prepared for municipalities based on international and local considerations/context/practice. In addition, a video and a brochure were prepared for capacity-building activities planned for municipalities. Trainings for representatives of four municipalities are planned for 2022.



INTERNET AND INNOVATIONS

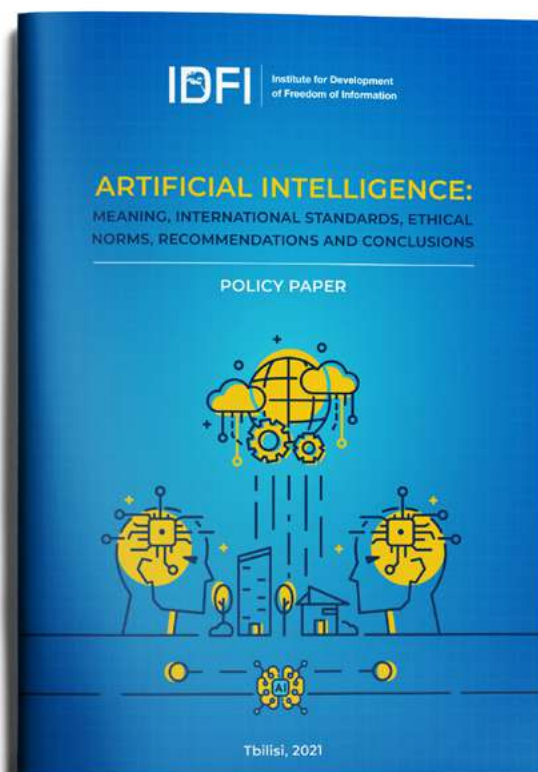
In 2021, IDFI further expanded its research, advocacy, and capacity building activities regarding Artificial Intelligence. Additionally, the Institute continued its monitoring and advocacy activities to ensure relevant legal safeguards for privacy in cyberspace. IDFI continued its traditional monitoring of the state of digital freedoms, Internet access, and the use of new technologies in the public sector.

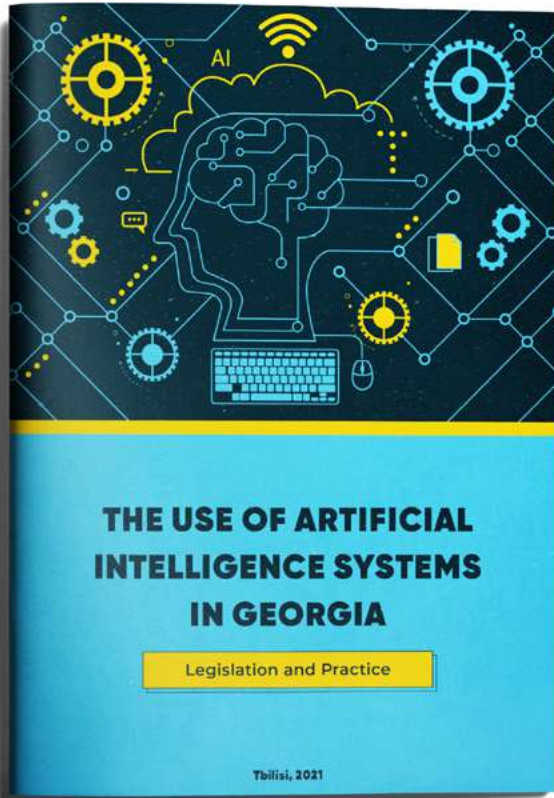


RESEARCH, ADVOCACY, AND CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

In 2021, IDFI continued its research, advocacy, and capacity-building activities designed and planned in 2020 with the financial support of the International Center for Nonprofit Law (ICNL). Specifically, IDFI prepared two studies:

The policy paper, titled [Artificial Intelligence: Meaning, International Standards, Ethical Norms, Recommendations and Conclusions](#), provided readers with information about the main aspects of artificial intelligence, not only in its capacity as a technological solution to various problems, but also as a completely new methodology for the development of business and public administration processes, and a modern instrument of decision-making, governance, and supervision.





The second study, prepared by IDFI ([The Use of Artificial Intelligence Systems in Georgia - Legislation and Practice](#)), overviewed legislation and practice of the use of artificial intelligence in the Georgian public sector. The study revealed that the introduction of artificial intelligence systems in the Georgian public sector is at an early stage of development. It also highlighted the lack of normative acts regulating artificial intelligence systems and documents defining ethical norms in the target public institutions. With consideration of the revealed circumstances, IDFI elaborated several recommendations.

To better advocate the elaborated policy recommendations and ensure larger outreach, on February 18, 2021, IDFI [held an online international conference](#) titled **Artificial Intelligence: International Trends and Georgia**. The conference explored international tendencies, standards, transparency, and ethical principles of using artificial intelligence, as well as particular cases of using artificial intelligence in Georgia’s public sector and their implications for the right to privacy in the country. Speakers included Georgian representatives of public institutions, CSOs, and academia, as well as international experts and CSOs from the following institutions: European Center for Not-For-Profit Law (ECNL), ePanstwo Foundation, National Bank of Georgia, State Inspector’s Service, and the University of Business and Technology (BTU).



TRAINING FOR PUBLIC SERVANTS ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

To raise awareness of public sector representatives on AI, on February 15, [2021, IDFI conducted an online training for civil servants on the use of artificial intelligence systems](#) in the public sector, international standards, and ethical norms.

The training provided theoretical and practical information to civil servants about international standards of the use of artificial intelligence systems, presented the results, and revealed challenges of the analysis on the practice of using such systems in Georgia. The training also included a discussion on artificial intelligence transparency standards, usage, and challenges related to their implementation.

ADVOCATING FOR ENSURING LEGISLATIVE SAFEGUARDS FOR DATA PROTECTION IN CYBERSPACE

As a continuation of IDFI's previous advocacy efforts against the controversial amendments to the Law on Information Security, in 2021, IDFI prepared a new study that focused on another aspect of the legislation - challenges regarding the lack of mechanisms for data and privacy protection. The report, titled "[Ensuring Personal Data Protection in Cyberspace: Challenges and Needs of Georgia](#)", examined the legal environment governing personal data protection and cybersecurity in cyberspace, identified existing challenges and shortcomings, and developed evidence-based recommendations based on the best European legal frameworks. The report was presented to decision-makers and other stakeholders on November 25, 2021, through an [online roundtable discussion](#) attended by 29 participants. The State Inspector's Office representatives responsible for data protection in the country expressed positive feedback to our recommendations.

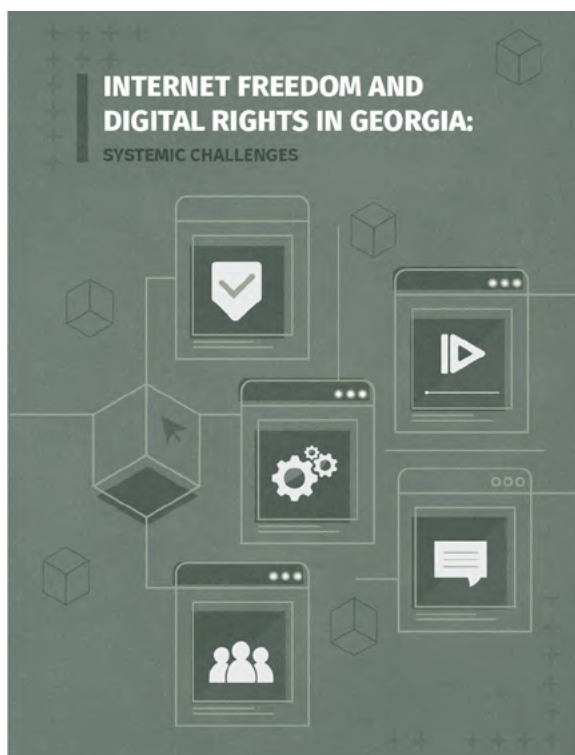
To better communicate our recommendations regarding cybersecurity and digital freedoms, IDFI participated in the organization of the [local Internet Governance Forum \(IGF\)](#) and coordinated the organization of the panel on cybersecurity (panel title: "National Cybersecurity Strategy and Key Challenges in its Implementation"). IDFI experts presented our major recommendations during the panel discussion. The panel was held on November 30, 2021. Representatives of public institutions, media, CSOs, tech community, business, and international organizations attended the Forum.

FREEDOM OF INTERNET IN GEORGIA

For the eighth 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 [report published](#) in 2021, Georgia obtained a score of 77 out of 100 and was assessed as "Free" in terms of Internet freedom. The country's score improved by 1 point compared to 2020. The improvement was observed due to no reported arrests linked to people's online activity. However, several challenges related to the number of cyberattacks and domestic content manipulation were observed during the coverage period.

MONITORING AND REPORTING SYSTEMIC CHALLENGES REGARDING DIGITAL FREEDOMS



With the financial support of the Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation (BST), IDFI has been monitoring the activities and performance of the Internet/communications sector state regulator in terms of accountability and proportionality of its decisions with regard to digital freedoms, as well as systemic problems of legislation regarding digital freedoms. Within the framework of the monitoring, 3 blog-posts and a final report were prepared and disseminated.

- I. [Internet Freedom and Digital Rights in Georgia: Systemic Challenges](#)
- II. [Georgian model of internet traffic collection](#)
- III. [Formal requirements of the Constitution regarding the regulation of "Internet Content"](#)

To foster multi-stakeholder dialogue and collect major concerns of different stakeholders regarding needs for better protection mechanisms for digital freedoms, three workshops were held with the participation of CSOs, the private sector, media, academia, civic activists, and other relevant stakeholders. The final report on systemic challenges in terms of digital freedoms was presented and a panel discussion with the participation of other stakeholders/CSOs was organized later on [February 1, 2022](#). IDFI received positive feedback regarding its elaborated recommendations both from the public and civil society sectors and plans to continue its advocacy in this direction.

MONITORING THE PERFORMANCE AND ACTIVITIES OF COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION IN RELATION WITH INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS (ISPS)

Following the controversial decision of the Communications Commission (COMCOM) to appoint a special manager at the Caucasus Online as a response to its previous legislative amendments to the Law on Electronic Communications, IDFI has been monitoring and reporting developments in this direction. IDFI prepared three analyses on the matter:

- I. [The Court of Appeals Temporarily Suspended the Decision of the Communications Commission on the Appointment of a Special Manager at Caucasus Online Ltd](#)
- II. [Analysis of the Opinion Published by the Venice Commission: Legal Instrument of the Special Manager Violates the Requirements of the Convention](#)
- III. [Recommendations of the Venice Commission on amendments to the Law on Electronic Communications have not yet been implemented](#)

GEORGIA IN INTERNATIONAL RANKINGS

IDFI prepared an [analysis](#) of Georgia's performance in the **World Bank's GovTech Maturity Index** and overviewed the country's performance in the four focus areas of digital transformation in the public sector: core government systems, public service delivery, citizen engagement, and GovTech enablers. Based on global tendencies and Georgia's local context, IDFI elaborated 10 policy recommendations/needs, among them being the renewal and adoption of the e-Georgia Strategy, acceleration of e-government systems in the regions of Georgia, and introduction of common standards on open data.

CAPACITY BUILDING ON MEDIA AND DIGITAL LITERACY FOR CSOS, JOURNALISTS, AND ACTIVISTS

On [October 15](#) and [November 14](#), 2021, with the financial support of the International Visegrad Fund, IDFI conducted two 1-day informative, dynamic, and practical trainings, during which students, activists, journalists, and CSO representatives were provided with practical experience, information, and skills about tracking public money, using online platforms for holding government accountable, and perform watchdog functions.

To mark international day - Safer Internet Day, on February 9, 2021, IDFI shared and widely disseminated its guidebooks and visualizations on digital security and digital hygiene on social media.

In addition, on November 22, 2021, IDFI held an [online discussion/lecture](#) with students. The participants were introduced to the main challenges in Georgia in terms of digital and cybersecurity.



MEMORY AND DISINFORMATION STUDIES

The Direction of Memory and Disinformation Studies focuses on in-depth research into the Soviet past and legacy, support of archival openness, and analysis of modern disinformation campaigns. The direction studies histories of victims of the totalitarian regime, actively works on immortalizing memory and advocating for effective memory policy in this regard. By the end of 2021, the thorough study of the mass grave of the victims of the Soviet terror discovered in Batumi was held together with IDFI's international Partners. The organization regularly publishes research articles on the Soviet past, its collective memory, and Russian disinformation.

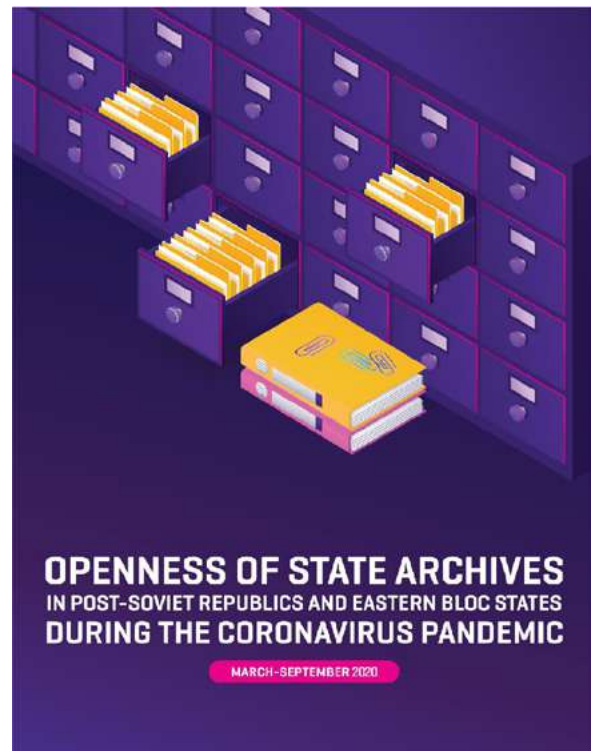
OPENNESS OF ARCHIVES

Since the beginning of 2021, IDFI has been promoting a report published at the end of 2020 - "[Openness of State Archives in the Coronavirus Pandemic](#)", which summarized the approaches of archives in 10 countries throughout the pandemic.

IDFI studied the issue of archival openness of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara of Georgia and published an article - "Problems of access to the Adjara Archive", which is based on fieldwork and official information requested from the agency. IDFI has developed recommendations to improve the work of the Adjara Archive.

IDFI has prepared a package of changes for archival legislation, which will be submitted to the Parliament of Georgia in the first months of 2022.

IDFI studied the dynamics of implementation of normative acts used in the work of departmental archives of state institutions of Georgia, format of their storage, and history of transfer to the National Archives during the period of Georgia's independence. Extensive research also analyzed **the policies and practices of archival data created by institutions electronically and published through their websites or social media platforms. In these areas, IDFI has developed relevant recommendations based on international practice.**



MEMORY STUDIES

IDFI, in cooperation with National Parliamentary Library of Georgia, published the [third Memorial Album](#) dedicated to the distinguished political figure of the First Democratic Republic of Georgia, Minister of Military and Education, Deputy Chairman of the Government - Grigol Lortkiphanidze (1881-1937).



IDFI created and presented the website - www.historyproject.ge at the National Parliamentary Library of Georgia. The website features articles, archival and memory research, news, historical facts, quizzes, books, a photo-video gallery, and a database of archival documents that include documents related to specific events. It aims to make the public more informed about the Soviet past and recent history.



In 2021, IDFI, with the financial support of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Sida, conducted large-scale research, within the framework of which the organization studied the living areas, streets, squares, and other toponyms with the Communist, totalitarian names on the territory controlled by Georgia. The research was aimed at enhancing the discussion about eradicating Soviet totalitarian symbols and names, as foreseen by the Georgian legislature, which is one of the essential steps for the ongoing de-communicization.



In October 2021, IDFI carried out major activities at the St. Mathias Apostle Gymnasium-Boarding School in Batumi as part of a project funded by the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience. The aim of the project, "[Inter-religious dialogue through graphic art](#)", was to create and disseminate new knowledge about the past totalitarian regime and the repressed people via creating comics about the stories of victims of repression, which would further increase empathy towards and among the victims. As a result, the children of the gymnasium-boarding school created 5 original comics about the repressed people during the Soviet regime, which became a basis for the comic book to be published in 2022.



During 2021, a number of events were held, including exhibitions ([“Repressed Women in the Soviet Union”](#); [Voice of Georgian Women: 100th Anniversary of the Soviet Occupation](#)), discussions ([“Georgians and the Second World War: the National Tragedy and the Soviet Triumph”](#)) and competitions ([“Soviet Occupation in Georgian Memory”](#)). On 26 February, with IDFI’s organization and Sida’s financial support, the graffiti by the famous female artist, Lia Ukleba related to the Soviet occupation on the facade of the National Library building on Nikea street in Kutaisi was completed and opened.

In October 2021, the scientists of the Polish Institute of National Remembrance (IPN), Deputy Head of the Department of Archeology Tomasz Borkowski, and archaeologist Krzysztof Mikolajczyk visited Batumi at the invitation of the Bishop of the Diocese of Batumi and Lazeti. While there, they inspected the graves of the repressed people from the years 1937-1938. The visit of Polish specialists was organized by IDFI.



For the beginning of the year 2022, a thorough study of the already discovered tomb №6 was planned. The plans also include arranging the swift burial of remains before the upcoming winter, fully processing the site, and discovering the remaining mass graves in order to further plan the large-scale commemorative events on-site. Anthropological research of the remains is also planned to be carried out in 2022.

DISINFORMATION STUDIES

In 2020, IDFI continued its active work in regard to the research and analysis of disinformation and propaganda. The articles, blogs, infographics, and videos about disinformation were published on IDFI's website as well as the website created by the organization specifically for this purpose – www.damoukidebloba.ge.



In the milieu of analyzing the connection between collective memory and disinformation, analytical posts were published on [Russian disinformation](#) and [modern-day repressions](#).

A number of [discussions](#) and [international conferences](#) have been held to raise public awareness about disinformation and hybrid warfare.

A report on information manipulation titled “[Online Information Manipulation: Experiences, Challenges, and International Practice](#)” and an analytical blog - “[Effects of Manipulation of Information Online: Who Should Develop and Implement the Necessary Mechanisms](#)” were published.

INFORMATION INTEGRITY COALITION

In September 2021, civil society and media organizations formed the Information Integrity Coalition, of which IDFI became one of the founding members.

The main activities of the coalition are:

- Regular monitoring, research, and response to disinformation sources, actors, and messages;
- Improving state policy and legislation through research and advocacy work;
- Promoting the growth of media literacy in the society and cooperating with the media to ensure accurate, credible, and inclusive coverage of disinformation and related issues;
- Active cooperation with the international community, educational and research institutes for promoting in-depth academic research on disinformation.



Within the coalition, IDFI participated in a number of collaborative events and projects.

Within the framework of the coalition membership, the implementation of a new project, [Russian Capital in Georgian Business](#), has started. The project aims to expose Russian informational influence by investigating Russian capital in Georgian business and analyzing its impact on the political, media, and civil sectors.

ACADEMIC AND CERTIFICATE PROGRAM: DISINFORMATION AND PROPAGANDA STUDIES TOGETHER WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA (UG)



On June 10, 2021, a [Memorandum of Cooperation](#) was signed between the Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI) and the University of Georgia.

The memorandum aims to establish a partnership between the parties, to jointly develop academic courses on studying and combating disinformation and propaganda, and to offer them to the students of the University of Georgia, School of Social Sciences as well as to civil society representatives.

DISINFORMATION AND PROPAGANDA STUDIES
History, Theories and Means of Debunking
FALL SEMESTER, 2021

STRATEGIC THINKING
MONDAY, 19:00

DAVID NARDAIA
Georgia's Deputy Representative in NATO

ARCHIVES OF RECENT HISTORY FOR MEDIA
WEDNESDAY, 19:00

ANTON VACHARADZE
Head of IDFI Archive, Memory Research, and Disinformation studies direction

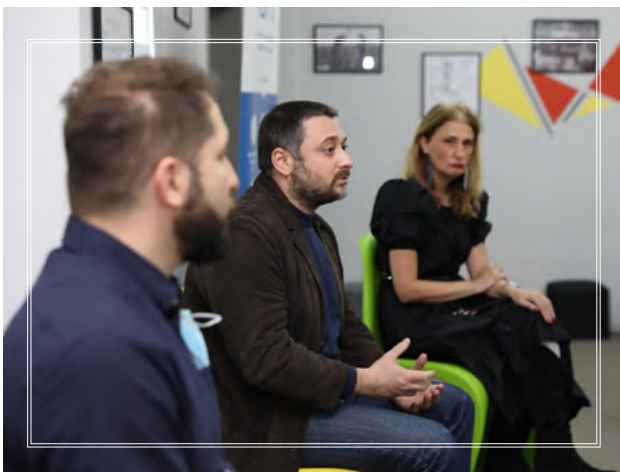
IDENTIFYING AND RESEARCHING DISINFORMATION
THURSDAY, 19:00

SOPHO GELAVA
Researcher at the Atlantic Council Digital Investigation Research Laboratory, Technical Information and Data Specialist at Zinc Network Georgia Information Credibility Program

Sverige IDFI

A total of 78 applicants expressed their desire to participate in the program: [Disinformation and Propaganda Studies: History, Theories and Ways of Debunking](#). Finally, 17 participants were selected to participate in the program together with the students of the School of Social Sciences and Media of the University of Georgia. The participants represent various Georgian universities, regional media outlets, civil society organizations, and public institutions.

During the semester, a workshop will also be offered involving the trainers from IDFI's partner organization [Transitions Online \(TOL\)](#): ["What is disinformation and how can I deal with it?"](#) Lecturers: Nino Gozalishvili; Revaz Topuria; Sopho Gelava; Yaroslav Valuh.





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

DRIVE: DIGITAL RESEARCH AND IMPACT FOR VULNERABLE E-CITIZENS IN UKRAINE AND GEORGIA

DONOR ORGANIZATION: *LUMINATE - E-GOVERNANCE ACADEMY*

This project, DRIVE, wishes to address this – its ultimate vision is that the vulnerable citizen groups in Ukraine and Georgia have a changed quality of life (better) by being digitally engaged in political decision-making (advanced policy development) and services, and having necessary conditions, awareness, and skills for that.

SUPPORT RESEARCH AND PUBLIC CAMPAIGN AIMED TO ACCOUNT NEEDS OF VULNERABLE GROUPS IN GEORGIAN EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

DONOR ORGANIZATION: *OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATION (OSF)*

The aim of the project is to Advocate for the needs of vulnerable groups of society and ethnic minorities to increase the accessibility and efficiency of public services in the Georgian Education System.

STUDY ON INTEGRITY IN CIVIL SERVICE – GEORGIA’S CHALLENGES AND THE BEST PRACTICE

DONOR ORGANIZATION: *UNDP*

The project aims to identify key challenges of Georgia in terms of civil service integrity and protection of whistleblowers.

LOCALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA IN GEORGIA

DONOR ORGANIZATION: *THE DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR INTERNATIONALE ZUSAMMENARBEIT (GIZ) GMBH*

The project goal is the comprehensive analysis of local context, gaps, and recommendations on SDG localization in Georgian municipalities.

GLOBAL DATA BAROMETER

DONOR ORGANIZATION: *LATIN AMERICAN OPEN DATA INITIATIVE (ILDA)*

The purpose of this project is to deepen and strengthen the strategic partnership between the Parties for the purpose of providing effective support and contribution to the first edition of the GDB study design, implementation, and more specifically, around Data Collection Phase across countries in Eastern Partnership and Central Asia.

PROMOTING PPD IN GEORGIA THROUGH MONITORING AND AWARENESS RAISING

DONOR ORGANIZATION: *DELOITTE CONSULTING LLC, THROUGH THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (USAID), WITHIN THE AUSPICES OF THE ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE PROGRAM*

The project aims to continue the operation of the PPD Quality Tracking Mechanism, expand its use in regions outside the capital, and raise awareness on PPD among state and non-state actors as well as the wider society.

BUILDING SUSTAINABLE HUMAN CAPACITY IN FIGHTING CORRUPTION

DONOR ORGANIZATION: *FOUNDATION TO PROMOTE OPEN SOCIETY*

The goal of the project will be to build a community of corruption hunters who will be leaders in the prevention of corruption.

ANALYSIS OF RUSSIAN CAPITAL IN GEORGIAN BUSINESS - STAGE 1

DONOR ORGANIZATION: *GEORGIAN INFORMATION INTEGRITY PROGRAM(GIIP) / USAID*

The project aims to investigate and map Russian capital in Georgian business and its impact on Georgian political, media, and civil actors.

INTER-RELIGIOUS UNDERSTANDING THROUGH GRAPHIC ARTS

DONOR ORGANIZATION: *INTERNATIONAL COALITION OF SITES OF CONSCIENCE*

The project goal is to raise public awareness about the discovered mass graves in Adjara.

DIGITAL PRIVACY IN GEORGIA

DONOR ORGANIZATION: *INTERNEWS AND UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (USAID)*

The project aims to raise public awareness about digital freedoms and privacy in Georgia.

STUDY VISIT TO TBILISI

DONOR ORGANIZATION: *EURASIA FOUNDATION REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE*

The main goal of the project is to organize a study visit, during which stakeholders will have the opportunity to explore the in-depth experience of Georgia, in particular, in the area of openness and transparency, especially in terms of open budgeting and transparent management of public finances.

PROVISION OF CONSULTANCY SERVICE ON UPDATING HANDBOOK ON TRANSPARENCY AND CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN GEORGIA

DONOR ORGANIZATION: *COUNCIL OF EUROPE*

Within the framework of the project, update the handbook on transparency and citizen participation in Georgia.

DEVELOP INTEGRITY AND TRANSPARENCY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN FOR THE CITY-HALLS OF AKHMETA AND TSAGERI MUNICIPALITIES

DONOR ORGANIZATION: *USAID GOOD GOVERNANCE INITIATIVE IN GEORGIA, TETRA TECH*

The aim of the project is to strengthen the resilience of Akhmeta and Tsageri City-Halls against the threat of corruption.

DEVELOP INTEGRITY AND TRANSPARENCY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN FOR THE CITY HALLS OF AMBROLAURI AND LANCHKHUTI MUNICIPALITIES

DONOR ORGANIZATION: *USAID GOOD GOVERNANCE INITIATIVE IN GEORGIA, TETRA TECH*

The project aims to strengthen the resilience of Ambrolauri and Lanchkhuti City Halls against the threat of corruption.

ENHANCING DIGITAL FREEDOMS THROUGH MONITORING, REPORTING AND ADVOCACY

DONOR ORGANIZATION: *BLACK SEA TRUST FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION (BST)*

The goal of the project is to ensure and strengthen safeguards and Internet freedoms in Georgia through monitoring, reporting and advocacy.

HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL – PHASE II

DONOR ORGANIZATION: *UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP)*

The purpose of this project is to contribute to personal data protection in Georgia through documenting personal data protection challenges and gaps in light of the priorities envisaged by the Strategy and Action Plan for the Protection of Human Rights.

SUPPORTING CSOS IN DIGITAL ARCHIVING

DONOR ORGANIZATION: *INTERNATIONAL COALITION OF SITES OF CONSCIENCE*

The project aims to develop a manual that will support civil society organizations (CSOs) in digital archiving to advance the transitional justice processes.

CSO METER: A COMPASS TO CONDUCIVE ENVIRONMENT AND CSO EMPOWERMENT “(ENI/2021 /423-451)

DONOR ORGANIZATION: *EUROPEAN UNION (EU); CIVIL SOCIETY INSTITUTE*

The aim of the project is to become a member of the project-based regional hub and to upgrade the CSO Meter report.



2021 FINANCIAL REPORT

IDFI REVENUES AND EXPENSES



1,242,651 \$

INCOME FROM
GRANTS



49,064 \$

OTHER OPERATING
INCOME



2,583 \$

DONATION

1,294,298 \$

TOTAL INCOME

Salaries excluding Personal Income Tax and Pension Contributions	360,115 \$
Personal Income Tax paid on Salaries	90,029 \$
Pension Contribution (2%) paid on Salaries	9,186 \$
Service Fee	164,690 \$
Sub grants, Grants and Mutual Partnership Projects	158,877 \$
Consultancy and Other Professional Services (Translation, Consultancy, etc.)	148,667 \$
Events (Conferences, Presentations, Workshops, Trainings)	119,547 \$
Outreach and PR Activities (Design, Audio-Video Visualization, Publishing, etc.)	88,957 \$
Depreciation and Amortization	26,207 \$

Pension Contribution	15,417 \$
Web-Page Development	14,414 \$
Fringe Benefits and Health Insurance	13,952 \$
Financial, Accounting and Audit Services	8,663 \$
Other Office Costs and Inventory	5,590 \$
Other Costs	4,690 \$
Utilities	3,543 \$
Communication Expenses	3,459 \$
Interest Expenses	2,795 \$
Transportation (Local Trips, Fuel Costs, Accommodation)	2,020 \$
Bank Fees	1,725 \$
Postage	1,387 \$
Office Vehicle Maintenance and Insurance Costs	969 \$
Travel (International Trips, Per Diems, Accommodation)	725 \$
Office Stationary	666 \$
Total Operating Expenses	1,246,290 \$

The Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI)



20, T. Shevchenko Street, 0108, Tbilisi, Georgia



+995 32 2 92 15 14



Info@idfi.ge



www.idfi.ge