

NEWSLETTER

INSTITUTE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF FREEDOM OF INFORMATION



Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative as a Basis for Openness and Social Dialogue

The [research](#) studies the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), its mission, scope of activities and benefits of implementing the initiative for governments, international, non-governmental organizations and civil society based on the official web resources of the EITI and its partner organizations.

It is demonstrated in the research that since the natural resources are a huge wealth of a country, a prudent use of the resources can be an important engine for sustainable economic growth and social development. However, if the resources are managed poorly, it can create negative economic and social impacts in the country, such as raise of corruption, eruption of a conflict.

Family Support Policy – EU Member States and Georgia

[Study](#) overviews Family Support Policy in Georgia and EU member countries. It revealed that local self-governments of various regions of Georgia have different policy and different amount of money allocated from budget for families with three or more child.

IDFI aimed to study EU practice and prepared recommendations to improve demographic situation in Georgia.



Research and Recommendations of IDFI on Engagement of the Local Governments in the OGP

6th and 7th commitments of the Open Government Partnership (OGP) Action Plan 2014-2015 [outlined](#) implementation of e-governance in the territorial entities, creation of public centers and development of the regions by transformation of their libraries.

Commitments about improvement of public service and implementation of e-governance are laid out in both OGP Georgia Action Plans. However, conducted research showcases that the OGP member states' commitments rather focus on citizen engagement, creation of e-platforms, and engagement of youth, senior citizens and persons with disabilities in the activities of the local governments.

Local Government's Involvement in Elaboration of Anti-Corruption Strategies

IDFI researched the local government's involvement in anti-corruption activities. The [research](#) overviews an international practice, analyzes what political documents are elaborated in order to prevent corruption in local governments. IDFI believes it is important to implement principles of openness, transparency, accountability, integrity in local governments and boost citizen engagement - all of which requires a robust anti-corruption policy and effective preventive mechanisms.

The Prospects of Georgia's Democratic and Economic Development

International Forum, January 1–2, 2016

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Event of the Month:

On February 1 and 2, the Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI) organized an international Forum “[The Prospects of Georgia's Democratic and Economic Development](#)”.

Prime Minister of Georgia – Giorgi Kvirikashvili and Director of IDFI – Giorgi Kldiashvili opened the Forum. In his speech Giorgi Kldiashvili pointed out the goals of the forum and stressed the importance of similar meetings, where members of the government, diplomatic corps and representatives of the civil society can discuss challenges and perspectives for Georgia's development.

Along with the representatives of the government and diplomatic corps, foreign experts participated in the Forum as speakers. Ambassador of the European Union to Georgia – Janos Herman and German Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Georgia – Bettina Cadenbach also participated in the opening ceremony of the Forum.

Participants of the forum discussed:

- Georgia's European and Euro-Atlantic Aspirations
- Main areas of EU-Georgia Partnership
- Georgia's Economic Development
- Georgia's Democratic Development



Within the frames of the project IDFI held [Discussion - Universal Healthcare Program](#). In terms of existing problems in the system, the panelists pointed out the increase in prices on drugs and medical services, lack of finances for drug acquisition, insufficient development of primary healthcare, lack of involvement of private insurance companies, lack of use of cost-effectiveness analysis when choosing medical services to be included in the program, lack of quality and inexistence of cost-containment mechanisms.

IDFI organized the concluding event of the project “Strategic Plan Georgia 2020 - Strengthening Public Involvement” on February 9, 2016 and [awarded](#) the winner of analyst contest. Analysts have prepared articles about various topics, considered in plan:

- [Analysis of the Pension System Reform](#)
- [Regulatory Bodies in Railway Sector](#)
- [Small Farmers Development Program: Little Results of Vast Expenses](#)
- [State Employment Portal Worknet vs. Problem of Unemployment](#)
- [Is Medical Market a Regular Market?](#)

Public-Private Dialogue on Regulation of Water Supply Sector

On February 18th, 2016 the Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI) organized a [Public-Private Dialogue](#) (PPD) on Regulation of Water Supply Sector.

The dialogue was composed of three thematic panels: Perspectives of Water Supply Sector Development, Tariff Regulations and Legislative Regulations in Water Supply Sector.

Supporting the Parliament of Georgia in Implementation of the Open Parliament Georgia Action Plan

On February 12th, 2016, first meeting of the Permanent Parliamentary Council on Open and Transparent Governance took place at the Palace of Parliament of Georgia. The Chairperson of the Parliament David Usupashvili lead the meeting attended by the MPs, representatives of the non-governmental and international organizations.

David Usupashvili claimed that working on legislative openness has intensified in past 2 years, the Parliament of Georgia has achieved a significant progress in this direction and gained a worldwide acknowledgment.

The first work meeting of the Consultative Group was held at the UN House on 23rd of February. Representatives of non-governmental and international organizations determined the staff of the Consultative Group and selected the Chair organization - Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI) - to represent the Group at the parliament, as well as in the events held within Georgia and abroad.

Chairperson of the Parliament of Georgia held a meeting with the accredited journalists and reviewed the activities necessary to be carried out for increasing openness of the legislative activities.

Open Government Partnership (OGP) Initiative, which focuses on increasing government transparency, accountability and unites 69 member countries, is selecting CSO representative organizations for the Steering Committee membership. Director of IDFI - Giorgi Kldiashvili is participating in the competition. Since the very first days Georgia became OGP member Giorgi has been actively involved in the process. Through these years, Giorgi has been involved in various international, regional and local conferences and workshops. He is the co-Chair of the Open Government Georgia Forum and Chairperson of the Consultative Group at the Permanent Parliamentary Council on Open and Transparent Governance. Also, IDFI is declared as a supporting organization of the Declaration on Parliamentary Openness.

Other Activities:

[Results of the Lack of Transparency in State Owned LTDs](#)

[Tbilisi Court of Appeals Decision on Reimbursing Damages to Giorgi Kldiashvili](#)

[NGOs Request to Launch Investigation on the Case of Probable Disclosure of the Results of Judge Qualification Exams](#)

[Director of IDFI Participated in Regional Conference - Open Parliaments, Engaged Citizens](#)

[Coalition calls for Suspension of the ongoing Judicial Selection](#)

[Coalition Applied to High Council of Justice With Disciplinary Appeal](#)

[The High Council of Justice Dismissed Mamuka Akhvlediani in Violation of the Law](#)

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