



Institute for Development  
of Freedom of Information

# STRATEGIC ACHIEVEMENTS

 2009-2020



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# ABOUT IDFI

The Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI) is a Georgia-based non-governmental organization that aims to support the development of an informed and empowered society to foster democratic governance.

Since its establishment in 2009, IDFI has rapidly become a respected leader in advancing Democratic Governance in Georgia and increasingly around the globe. IDFI works to access quality information, develop rigorous analysis and use innovative tools in order to improve governance, advance the rule of law, reduce corruption, promote informed civic participation, expand accountability, spark innovation, and encourage inclusive growth.

To realize this potential, IDFI combines its think-tank capacities with watchdog activities in pursuit of its overarching strategic goals:



Encourage an Informed Public by expanding the public's access to information & quality reporting while sharpening its discernment of competing narratives, past and present.



Improve the Quality of Democratic Governance by building open, accountable and responsive national & local governments that effectively promote human and civil rights.



Invest in a More Equitable Society by promoting policies and practices demonstrated to build political, social & economic equity and improve overall well-being.



# IDFI'S VISION

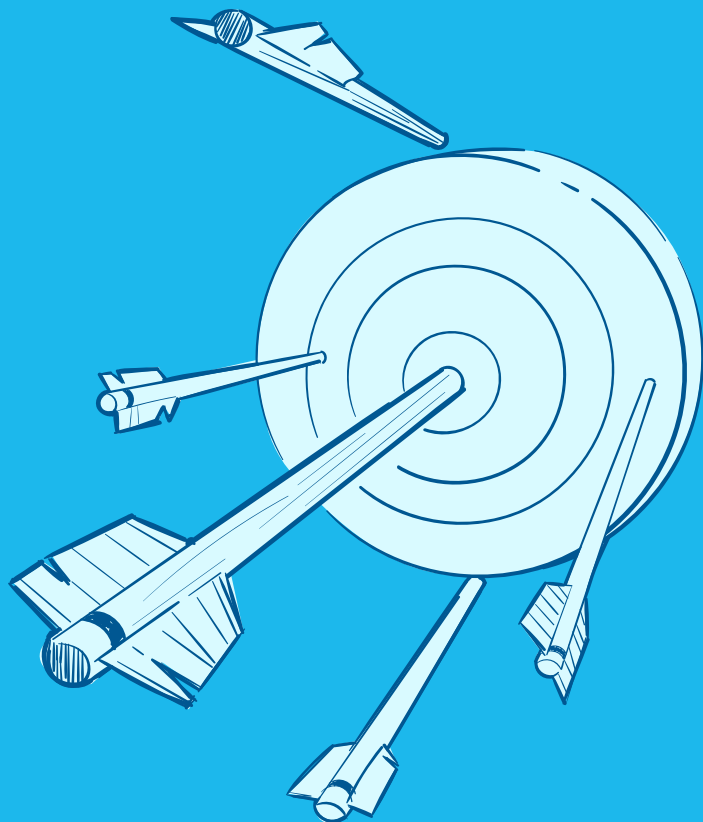
**IS AN  
INFORMED  
AND EMPOWERED  
SOCIETY FOR  
DEMOCRATIC  
GOVERNANCE!**



# OUR MISSION

We strive for an empowered and inclusive society; we promote human rights and good governance by raising civic awareness through sound informational reports, research and recommendations; we advocate for initiating & implementing reforms of policies, laws and practices to enhance democratic governance.

In 2018-2019, IDFI was certified as equivalent to a U.S. public charity by **NGOsource**. The unique NGOsource ED repository allows US-based grantmakers to access IDFI's existing legal analysis and ED certificate and issue grants to the organization through simplified procedures.



# **IDFI'S STRATEGIC ACHIEVEMENTS OF 2009-2020**

# GOOD GOVERNANCE

- IDFI was the leading CSO in Georgia to start alternative **monitoring** of the Public Administration Reform (PAR). The shortcomings identified and recommendations provided by the PAR monitoring report were recognised by the Government Administration, which vowed to improve the next PAR strategy and action plan 2021-2022 and started the preparation process with the active involvement of CSOs.
- To raise awareness and involve the public in the PAR monitoring process, with the financial support of Sida, IDFI created an interactive online platform - **PARtracker**, where information on the reform and its implementation is provided and all interested parties are able to leave feedback on the reform implementation.
- In 2019, IDFI, with the financial support of **Lumnate**, a global philanthropic organization, laid the foundation for the first international annual conference on good governance entitled Good Governance Forum (#GGForum) in Georgia. The annual Forum gathers experts and representatives of international and civil society organizations from different countries, as well as journalists and anti-corruption activists, with the aim of exchanging regional and international practices for advancing good governance principles.

## THE FIRST GG FORUM:



Date: November 29-30, 2019



Title: Exploring Innovative Approaches for Combating Corruption

## GG FORUM 2019 RESULTS BY NUMBERS:



+120 PARTICIPANTS



38 SPEAKERS



17 COUNTRIES



15 SESSIONS

## THE SECOND GG FORUM:



Date: October 2, 2020



Title: Political Integrity and Elections: Challenges and Innovative Solutions

## GG FORUM 2020 RESULTS BY NUMBERS:



+80 PARTICIPANTS



19 SPEAKERS



10 COUNTRIES



5 SESSIONS



- As a result of IDFI's advocacy activities, the principle of Good Administration was added to the new Constitution of Georgia and is enshrined in Article 18 of the Constitution.
- IDFI made significant contributions to the process the nationalization of Sustainable Development Goals' (SDGs) in Georgia by supporting the Government Administration in the institutionalization of national SDG mechanisms, strengthening data-collection and reporting capacities, development of an Electronic Monitoring System for SDGs, and integration of SDG targets into national policy framework. Since 2019, IDFI has been actively involved in monitoring the progress in regard to the SDGs nationalization in Georgia and advocates for increasing citizen awareness and public participation in the process.
- IDFI created the Transparent Public Procurement Rating – [www.tpp-rating.org](http://www.tpp-rating.org), the only global initiative devoted solely to the study of public procurement transparency across the world, publishing relevant ratings and providing open access to the data for easy processing and analysis. In 2020, the Open Government Partnership (OGP) acknowledged TPPR as one of the main sources for monitoring good governance in public procurement and added IDFI with its platform of TPPR as a [partner organization of OGP in the area of public procurement](#). TPPR is a civil society driven initiative that already covers 40+ countries around the globe, assessing the quality of public procurement legislation in various countries and regularly advocating for improvements in the law and practice.
- From 2019, IDFI, with the financial assistance of [Open Society Institute Budapest Foundation \(OSI\)](#) with co-funding from [Open Society Georgia Foundation \(OSGF\)](#) and in cooperation with the Ilia State University, created an interdisciplinary curriculum consisting of 8 professional modules designed for public servants, representatives of non-governmental and private organizations, and students. A year after the successful launch of the program, the professional modules were transformed into four Bachelor's and Master's Degree academic courses of the School of Arts and Sciences of Ilia State University.
- IDFI plays a leading role in Public Administration Reform in Georgia. IDFI supported the development and monitoring of the civil service reform, including the adoption of a new Law on Civil Service, a new Law on Remuneration in Public Institutions, as well as other supporting legislation and tools.
- IDFI successfully advocated against a legislative proposal that would exclude employees of the Administration of the President of Georgia from the new law on Civil Service, thereby removing their status as civil servants.
- In 2018, IDFI successfully advocated for the creation of an independent commission tasked with selecting public official asset declarations for further monitoring.

- IDFI developed a multi-year Strategy and Action Plan for Increasing Transparency and Integrity of the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia that is currently being implemented.
- IDFI is the only CSO in Georgia assessing the extent and quality of public-private dialogue (PPD) in the law-making process and promoting the institutionalization of stakeholders' engagement at the early stages of the policymaking process. During the period of 2014-2019, IDFI evaluated the extent and quality of PPD in the process of developing 37 draft laws, conducted over 200 interviews with relevant stakeholders, and conducted up to a dozen training and awareness-raising sessions on PPD in Tbilisi as well as in the regions of Georgia.
- IDFI has managed to raise concern over high-level corruption in Georgia and attracted public attention to the issue. Owing to these efforts, high-level corruption has been named as a challenge on a number of international platforms, including the EU Parliamentary Assembly's 2018 resolution.
- IDFI's analyses and reports shed light on dozens of prominent cases of alleged corruption, abuse of power and other official misconduct, disproportionate and unregulated use of public funds; the costs, effectiveness, and efficiency of infrastructural projects, cases of corruption, nepotism, potential wrongdoings in public procurement, lack of transparency in recruitment process and political donations, etc.





# ACCESS TO PUBLIC INFORMATION AND OPEN DATA

- As a result of IDFI's persistent practice of requesting public information from all public institutions as part of its various projects to assess and monitor their compliance with FOI legislation, as well as outreach campaigns and active communication with relevant stakeholders, the response rate to the growing volume of requests from Georgia's public institutions almost doubled (from 44% in 2010 to 83% in 2019). Over the past ten years, IDFI submitted 57,963 FOI requests, out of which 48,145 received a response from relevant public institutions. IDFI produced 10 annual reports on access to public information in the country. These reports have been referenced by dozens of local and international stakeholders, including the United States Department of State. IDFI created and regularly updates a publicly available [database](#) of FOI officers.
- In 2020, IDFI became a [Regional Hub](#) for Central Asia and Eastern Europe in the Global Data Barometer (GDB) – a global index study of data for public good that builds on the foundation of the Open Data Barometer. GDB is a multi-stakeholder initiative. Based on a common methodology, it will produce a benchmark study to support cross-country comparison and learning regarding laws and policies, data availability, data capabilities, and data use across a range of settings.
- IDFI contributed to the accessibility of public data in open formats in Georgia through the establishment of a new platform – Georgia's Open Data Lab ([www.datalab.ge/en](http://www.datalab.ge/en)) – where hundreds of datasets on various public policy issues are freely accessible. The platform enables users to: browse, analyze and download data in open formats, as well as prepare and share simple data visualizations. As of 2020, more than 1,200 datasets are available on the platform.
- To meet an OGP commitment advocated by IDFI, the Georgian government set up an open government data portal – [www.data.gov.ge](http://www.data.gov.ge), while the information platform – [www.opendata.ge](http://www.opendata.ge) – was recognized as one of the world's first and most successful public information platforms.
- IDFI successfully advocated for the adoption of the Decree on Electronic Requests and Proactive Disclosure of Public Information. The Decree established a new standard of proactive disclosure of public information in Georgia and significantly improved the access to public data in the country.
- In cooperation with IDFI, the Supreme Court of Georgia created a court statistics [module](#) that visualizes the statistical data on court decisions through software developed by IDFI.

- In 2019, the Constitutional Court granted the appeal of IDFI and ruled that the provisions of the Law of Georgia on Personal Data Protection were unconstitutional, as they prohibited access to the full text of court decisions. The Court found that the disputed norms violated freedom of information guaranteed by the Constitution of Georgia.
- As a result of IDFI's strategic litigation, the Supreme Court of Georgia took a precedential decision and ruled that official email correspondence sent or received by an official email account of a public institution constitutes open public information.
- Another precedential decision concerns free industrial zones. The Supreme Court of Georgia ruled that information on the inspections of free industrial zones constitutes open public information and highlighted that it is illegal to declare all information held by the Revenue Service as a tax secret.
- As a result of strategic litigation cases against various Georgian public institutions (e.g. IDFI vs. the Ministry of Internal Affairs, IDFI vs. the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, IDFI vs. the Penitentiary Department, IDFI vs. the Ministry of Finance, etc) by IDFI, the fact that information on administrative expenses of public institutions constitutes open public information is no longer disputed. Thus, public institutions are obligated to disclose this information upon request.





- IDFI emerged as a leading civil society organization in OGP, championing the development of Open Government Georgia and providing recommendations for other member states of OGP.
- In August 2020, through IDFI's advocacy and with the support from UNDP the bureau of the Supreme Council of Adjara approved the first Open Governance Action Plan of the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara, 2020-2021.
- In May 2020, through IDFI's advocacy the Supreme Council of Adjara (SCA) created the Open Governance Council of SCA composed of the members of SCA. The Open Governance Council created the Consultative Group, which is composed of the representatives of various international and local non-governmental organizations. With the creation of the Open Governance Council, SCA established the institutional basis for implementing OGP principles in the region of Adjara.
- In 2020, following the active advocacy effort by IDFI and other non-governmental organizations of the Open Government Georgia Forum, the Open Governance Inter-Agency Coordination Council that covers all three branches of the government was created. Members of non-governmental organizations are represented in the council with voting rights. The decision-making process in the council is based on a cumulative majority of the representatives of the state agencies and the NGOs.
- As part of the Open Parliament Georgia Action Plan, IDFI developed the Public Information Module, where information on parliamentary activities, legislation, and administrative expenses is easily accessible to all stakeholders. In October 2019 the Parliament of Georgia developed the Electronic Platform of Citizen Participation in Legislative Work that collects supporters' electronic signatures for petitions, legislative initiatives and draft constitutional laws.
- IDFI prepared a concept for adapting the Palace of the Parliament of Georgia (in Tbilisi) to the needs of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs), which is currently being implemented. The Parliament website ([www.parliament.ge](http://www.parliament.ge)) was brought in line with A Level Guidelines (WCAG 2.0) of International W3 Accessibility Standards and is maximally customized for PwD users.
- In 2013-2018, IDFI was the Co-Chair of Open Government Georgia Forum - a national level co-creation mechanism.
- In July 2018, with the active advocacy and participation of IDFI, Georgia hosted the 5th OGP

Global Summit in Tbilisi, Georgia. More than 2,200 attendees from 115 countries attended the summit, including government officials, civil society members, and representatives of multilateral institutions, the private sector, academia, think tanks, and others.

- In 2018, IDFI used the OGP platform to reach beyond Georgia's borders and make an impact on the international level. IDFI successfully advocated for the government of Kyrgyzstan to include several important commitments related to public procurement in its National Action Plan.
- With direct advocacy and active participation of IDFI, best practice on dialogue and co-creation between the Government and Civil Society was established in Georgia. Based on successful achievements within the framework of OGP, Georgia was elected as the Chair of Open Government Partnership in 2017.
- In 2017, IDFI's Executive Director Giorgi Kldiashvili was selected as a member of the OGP Steering Committee – the executive, decision-making body that develops, promotes, and safeguards the values, principles, and interests of OGP.
- In 2016, following advocacy efforts by IDFI, the Tbilisi City Hall also joined OGP. IDFI assisted the Tbilisi City Hall in the development of the OGP Sub-National Action Plans. IDFI's recommendations were taken into account by the working group established at the City Hall and were included in the action plan.
- In 2015, based on IDFI's recommendations in the Open Parliament Georgian Action Plan, the Parliament of Georgia established a Permanent Parliamentary Council on Open Governance. The legal basis for establishing this Council is enacted in the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Georgia. With this, the Parliament of Georgia created a sustainable and institutional mechanism where members of the Parliament and representatives of non-governmental organizations can collaborate on the implementation of OGP principles in the Georgian legislative body.
- As a result of IDFI's advocacy and support, the Georgian Parliament joined OGP and, after being nominated by IDFI, was the first and only Parliament that won the CSO Prize for co-creation at the 3<sup>rd</sup> OGP Global Summit in Mexico.



- With the financial support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) “Good Governance Initiative in Georgia” (USAID GGI) and due to IDFI's efforts, the mayors of five municipalities (Lagodekhi, Telavi, Zugdidi, Senaki and Akhaltsikhe) have approved evidence-based Transparency and Integrity Strategies and Action Plans, the successful implementation of which will enable municipalities to improve governance processes, effectively implement mechanisms for openness, transparency, and citizen participation at the local level, and raise standards of public ethics and integrity.
- IDFI also supported eight municipalities in improving open data practices by participating in the elaboration of evidence-based Open Data Strategies and Action Plan (Akhaltsikhe and Kutaisi City Halls), elaborating a comprehensive Open Data Guidebook for civil servants, and increasing the qualifications of local public officials in open data management and publication (Akhaltsikhe, Gori, Kutaisi, Lagodekhi, Ozurgeti, Senaki, Telavi and Zugdidi City Halls).
- IDFI and its partner organizations [Centre for Training and Consultancy – CTC and Management Systems Development Center – MSDC], with the financial support of Open Society Georgia Foundation (OSGF), created a national mechanism for assessing transparency and accountability of Georgia's municipalities – [www.lsgindex.org](http://www.lsgindex.org) (Local Self-Government Index). As the 2019 results demonstrated, the average result of the municipalities improved by seven percent (from 21% in 2017 to 28% on a 100 percent scale). The Index played a significant role in this progress, as both municipalities and central governmental institutions take into account the standards and criteria established by the index methodology.
- In its efforts to support the development of transparency and accountability principles at the local level, IDFI created websites for over **20 municipalities** throughout the country equipped with various tools for communication with and engagement of citizens.



- In 2020, with the financial assistance of EWMI/PROLoG, IDFI produced the first comprehensive study on the institutional and legal framework of the Supreme Court of Georgia and carried out advocacy activities. The acting Chief Justice agreed to the majority of the recommendations offered by IDFI. The recommendation concerning the selection of Supreme Court judges was taken into account by the Parliament in 2020 (related to reasoned decisions and the possibility of judicial appeal).
- In 2020, IDFI submitted an individual report for Universal Periodic Review that dealt with the following issues: Administration of justice and fair trial; Freedom of expression/ Access to information; Right to privacy. IDFI's Head of Rule of Law and Human Rights Direction was given the opportunity to brief permanent missions on the human rights situation in Georgia.
- Based on IDFI's administrative complaint, in 2020 the Independent Inspector partially disclosed substantiated conclusions delivered as a result of the preliminary examination of disciplinary cases against judges, which was an important precedent in terms of increasing transparency of the work of the Independent Inspector's Office.
- In 2020, IDFI successfully engaged with the Government in the process of developing a new Strategy for the Protection of Human Rights. Many issues raised in IDFI's written opinion were reflected as objectives in the new draft Strategy that will be adopted in the near future.
- In 2018-2020, within the scope of the EU-funded project, IDFI and its partner organization EMC were the only NGOs that monitored and evaluated the implementation of the Judicial Strategy and Action Plan (developed based on the requirements of the EU-Georgia association agenda). IDFI publishes an annual report on legal regulation and practice of secret surveillance in Georgia. As a result of monitoring, two shadow reports were prepared, which qualitatively assessed the implementation of the activities envisaged by the action plan and offered recommendations for further reforms.
- IDFI publishes an annual report on legal regulation and practice of secret surveillance in Georgia. The report of 2020 thoroughly analyzed the legal framework of covert investigative and intelligence activities, discussed existing gaps, international standards and assessments, and presented the trends identified based on the statistical analysis.
- As a result of IDFI's activities, the Prosecutor General's Office (POG) recognized the need





to improve its Strategy and Action Plan and **started** working to update the documents.

- The monitoring **report** 2017-2018 of the implementation of its Strategy and Action Plan by the Prosecution Service of Georgia was the first report to be published on the issue and to be publicly discussed with the involvement of the PSG representatives - neither governmental nor non-governmental organisations had monitored the implementation of the policy documents by the PSG before that and, therefore, no monitoring results had been presented for public discussions.
- Due to IDFI's capacity building measures, carried out with the financial support of EU and OSGF, about 80 prosecutors and investigators from the Prosecution Service of Georgia have improved their understanding of hate crime and VAW and are able to incorporate the acquired knowledge into their daily activities.
- In 2019-2020, IDFI conducted comprehensive **research** on the plea-bargain mechanism of Georgia, which revealed the shortcomings existing in legislation and in practice. At the public discussions held on 14 May, 2020, the POG representatives accepted the existence of the challenges identified by the research.
- In May 2020, IDFI published a **survey** of the knowledge and attitudes of the population of Georgia towards the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia, which had never been done before. The results were presented to the public and broadcasted by the TV and media.
- In 2019, within the scope of the EU-funded **project**, IDFI and its partner organization

EMC produced high-quality monitoring reports to improve the system of disciplinary liability of judges. Many recommendations presented in the reports were taken into account by the Parliament within the scope of the “fourth wave” of judicial reform: The specific list of types of disciplinary misconduct was determined; The rule for dismissal of an independent inspector was changed and the possibility of appealing the decision on dismissal was ensured; Official salary of an independent inspector was determined at the legislative level; The standard of proof at the initial stages of disciplinary proceedings was determined.

- In 2019, with the financial assistance of EWMI/PROLoG, IDFI and its partner organization ISFED produced the first comprehensive study on the High School of Justice (HSOJ). Many recommendations presented in the study were taken into account by the Parliament within the scope of the “fourth wave” of Judicial reform: The HSOJ was granted the power to conduct a competition for admission of judicial trainees; Authority to elect judge members of the Independent Board of the HSOJ was granted to the Conference of Judges; The duration of the training at the HSOJ was increased; The amount of stipend for judicial trainees was increased.
- In 2019, IDFI successfully advocated against the narrowing of the grounds for data processing in the new draft law on Personal Data Protection, which would have had a negative impact on freedom of expression and access to information.
- In 2019, IDFI and the Coalition for an Independent and Transparent Judiciary successfully advocated against introducing judicial qualification examination for candidates for the Supreme Court. Besides, they successfully advocated the exclusion of the member of the High Council of Justice, who is a candidate for the Supreme Court judge, from all procedures pertaining to the selection and nomination of the candidates.
- In 2018, through advocacy activities of IDFI and the Coalition for an Independent and Transparent Judiciary, the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament envisaged the creation of a working group by the Legal Issues Committee to determine whether a candidate for the Supreme Court judge was compliant with legislative requirements.
- In 2018, IDFI presented the first monitoring report of the Constitutional Court of Georgia and the draft law that envisaged recommendations aimed at improving the work of the Constitutional Court.
- In 2014, the legislation regulating the protection of whistleblowers was enhanced by the Ministry of Justice with IDFI's support.



# STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND STUDY OF THE PAST

- During the COVID-19 pandemic, IDFI evaluated the openness and accessibility of state archives during the lockdown and revealed best and worst international practices.
- In collaboration with its partners in Georgia (Georgian Memorial, Archive of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia, National Archives) and abroad (International Society Memorial, National Security Archives at George Washington University, Institute of National Remembrance of Poland), IDFI has lead campaigns for raising public awareness about the crimes of totalitarian regimes.
- In 2020, IDFI expanded its activities to disinformation studies. In this direction, IDFI published numerous research articles and launched an advocacy campaign for increasing the living subsidy for the victims of Soviet repressions.
- IDFI became a member of the international platform - The International Coalition of Sites of Conscience.
- IDFI, in collaboration with the National Library of Georgia and the financial support of the Open Society Institute Budapest Foundation (OSI), published a memorial album about prominent public figures of the First Republic of Georgia, Nikoloz (Karlo) Chkheidze and Benjamin (Benia) Chkhikvishvili.
- In the decision of April 4, 2019, the Tbilisi City Court fully granted the appeal of IDFI against the National Archives of Georgia – LEPL of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia. The court ordered the respondent party to disclose information on the number of applications received with the request of accessing archival documents and all relevant decisions.
- In 2017, with the financial support of the Open Society Institute Budapest Foundation (OSI), IDFI launched the Open Archives project - <http://open-archives.org/> - international ranking of the openness of state archives. In 2017, the methodology was used to evaluate the archival legislation and practice of 20 archives in 10 former Soviet countries. In 2019, the project was expanded and covered 8 additional post-Soviet and former Eastern Bloc countries. As a result, 36 archives were evaluated in total.
- IDFI became a partner of FET Time Machine Flagship and started collaboration with EURBICA, an international platform for archival research and the European archival area.

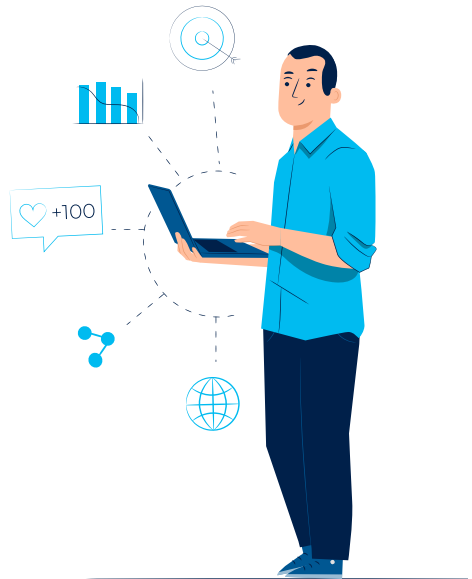


- With the financial support of the Heinrich Böll Foundation South Caucasus Regional Office and the Embassy of Switzerland in Georgia and in collaboration with the Archive of the Ministry of Interior of Georgia, IDFI collected information and archival materials and created a bilingual (Georgian and Russian) database of the victims of Stalin's Repressions in Georgia. Information on 3,616 persons is available on the [website](#) of the National Parliamentary Library of Georgia.
- Following IDFI's advocacy campaign, the unique archive kept in the former N<sup>o</sup>1 Penitentiary Facility was [restored and rehabilitated](#) by the Ministry of Corrections of Georgia. The archive contained documents about prisoners and those who worked in the prison system, as well as important records on the XX century history of Georgia.
- With direct involvement of IDFI, the Archive of the former Communist Party of Georgia was rescued from being destroyed and was modernized/digitized.
- As a result of IDFI's activities, the Archive of the former Committee of State Security (KGB) of Georgia was declassified and digitized.



# MEDIA, INTERNET AND INNOVATIONS

- Following IDFI's advocacy activities against the controversial proposed amendments to the Law on Information Security that would grant the Security Services the power to coordinate, supervise, and regulate the realm of cybersecurity, its adoption was halted.
- Through IDFI's advocacy and recommendations, access to and unrestricted use of the Internet was recognized as a fundamental right of the citizens of Georgia. The new version of the Constitution came into force in December 2018.
- IDFI has developed various informational materials and conducted awareness raising activities in order to raise digital literacy in Georgia. For instance, IDFI prepared interactive **guidebooks** and **visualizations** that contain practical and useful information on how Internet users can protect their privacy online, contemporary programs and applications to prevent state surveillance, major digital security and cybersecurity tips, major tools for parents to protect children online, and other related topics.
- As part of its strategic effort to promote e-governance in Georgia, IDFI participated in elaborating the E-Governance Strategy of Georgia and successfully advocated for the establishment of a citizen e-petition platform (<https://ichange.gov.ge>) in the framework of the Open Government Partnership (OGP).
- The media-oriented state policy and strategy on digital switchover were adopted with the consideration of IDFI's recommendations. The Digital Broadcasting Agency awarded IDFI a certificate of appreciation for its support in this process.





# ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL POLICY

IDFI produced multiple analytical works on socio-economic issues of high interest to both the public and the government. Based on these works, IDFI developed recommendations aimed at improving the existing political situation in the country. IDFI's recommendations influenced the formation of socio-economic programs in a number of cases. For example:

- ▶ The Universal Healthcare Program was reworked into a targeted program with differentiated packages. Various vulnerable groups became prioritized as a result.
- ▶ The status of multi-children families was clearly established in the legislation, and the parents of such subsequently began receiving certain social benefits.



- In February 2016, IDFI organized the International Forum on “Prospects of Georgia’s Democratic and Economic Development”. The Forum was meant to bring together and create a platform for dialogue for politicians, diplomats, academics, experts and representatives of civil society. The main goal of the Forum was to assess the process of democratic and economic development of Georgia and to analyze the accompanying challenge. The Forum was opened by the Prime Minister of Georgia, and was attended by state officials, representatives from international and non-governmental organizations. i The Forum was organized in cooperation with the University of Bremen and with the financial support of the Federal Foreign Office of Germany, within the framework of the “Strategic Plan Georgia 2020 – Strengthening Public Involvement”.
- In 2015-2016, IDFI held a series of lectures in various universities across Georgia (Batumi, Kutaisi, Telavi, Akhaltsikhe, Tbilisi); organized five discussions about the topics mentioned in the strategic plan Georgia 2020; organized competition for analysts who wrote articles on socio-economic development of Georgia; and created the bilingual blogpost “Georgia 2020”.
- In 2015-2016, IDFI, in cooperation with the University of Bremen and with the financial support of Federal Foreign Office of Germany, implemented the project “Strategic Plan Georgia 2020 – Strengthening Public Involvement”. The goals of the project were to raise awareness among civil society groups and to strengthen the understanding of Georgia’s socio-economic development strategy “Georgia 2020”, to identify problems and to formulate relevant recommendations, to reveal existing challenges and elaborate the implementation process of the strategy.



# IDFI'S PUBLICATIONS



The IDFI team has worked hard to create high-quality research documents and elaborate practical recommendations that served to increase the quality of democracy in Georgia and beyond and to promote economic development and social welfare.

Throughout the years, following its strategic thematic directions, IDFI has created 2 115 publications, including policy and research documents, analysis, visualizations, blog posts, reports, and news articles.







# CONTRIBUTION TO INTERNATIONAL PUBLICATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS

- IDFI has been contributing information to the US Department of State's Country Report on Georgia since 2012.
- IDFI has been a contributing author to the Freedom on the Net Report of the Freedom House since 2013.
- IDFI provided information on Georgia to the [Open Data Barometer](#) of the World Wide Web Foundation.
- IDFI contributed to the OECD-ACN 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> round of monitoring report, which incorporates assessments and recommendations provided by IDFI.
- IDFI was involved in the third and fourth round of monitoring conducted by the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO).
- Three of IDFI's experts have contributed to the World Justice Project Rule of Law Index (2017, 2020).
- IDFI also contributed to the Quality of Governance Expert Survey of the Quality of Government Institute (University of Gothenburg).
- IDFI's expert contributed to the Pilot Initiative on National-Level Monitoring of Sustainable Development Goal 16.
- IDFI's expert contributed to the Bertelsmann Stiftung's Transformation Index (BTI) 2018 Report that assesses the transformation toward democracy and a market economy as well as the quality of political management in 129 countries, including Georgia.
- IDFI's expert was a Country Expert for Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) Project of the University of Gothenburg (Department of Political Science).



## NETWORK MEMBERSHIP



IDFI is actively involved in advocacy work via coalitions and network membership. IDFI network membership includes the following organizations:

**GEORGIAN CIVIL SOCIETY NATIONAL PLATFORM FOR THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP** – promoting the development of CSOs, cooperation among them, their dialogue with public authorities and the achievement of Eastern Partnership goals in the six partner countries.

**THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ADVOCATES NETWORK (FOIANET)** – international information-sharing network of organizations and individuals working to promote the right of access to information.

**UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COMPACT** – a voluntary international initiative based on the commitments of private companies/organizations to implement universal sustainability principles and take steps to support UN goals.

**TRANSPARENCEE NETWORK** – is a community of NGO, IT, and media organizations that use technology for better transparency, accountability, and governance in Central and Eastern Europe. The network consists of up to 100 civil society organizations.

**UN CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION COALITION** – a global network of over 350 civil society organizations (CSOs) in over 100 countries, committed to promoting the ratification, implementation and monitoring of the UN Convention against Corruption.

**PUBLISH WHAT YOU PAY (PWYP)** - Publish What You Pay (PWYP) is the only global movement working to ensure that revenues from oil, gas and mining help improve people's lives. With more than 1000 member organisations and 51 national coalitions, we campaign for an open and accountable extractive sector. Our shared vision is a world where everyone benefits from their natural resources – today and tomorrow.

**COALITION FOR EURO-ATLANTIC GEORGIA** – a coalition of 20 member organizations contributing to the building of a free and independent state where human rights are duly protected and institutions function efficiently.

**INTERNET FREEDOM PLATFORM** – consist of 9 civil society organizations from Eastern and Central European and Eurasian countries. The network was established with the aim of working on fostering freedom of expression, association and flow of information on the Internet across the region.

**ECONOMIC POLICY ADVOCACY COALITION** – brings together 58 organizations to support the creation of a business-enabling environment through the joint effort of its member organizations and a constructive dialogue between the public and private sectors.

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL ANTI-CORRUPTION COUNCIL OF GEORGIA** – is an institution created according to Georgian Law on Conflict of Interests and Corruption in Civil Service. Its functions are coordinating anti-corruption activities in the country, updating and controlling implementation of anti-corruption strategy and action plan, controlling reporting to international organizations, initiating corresponding legislative actions, and preparing recommendations.

**COALITION FOR AN INDEPENDENT AND TRANSPARENT JUDICIARY** – aims to strengthen the capacity of legal professional associations, legal rights NGOs, business associations, and the media in monitoring relevant judicial practices and advocating for an independent judiciary.

**MEDIA ADVOCACY COALITION** – aims to improve the media environment as well as to safeguard the interests of media owners and journalists.

**#KEEPITON** – campaign on internet freedom and shutdowns, which unites dozens of civil society organizations from around the world working on issues related to internet freedom and online expression.

**TIME MACHINE FET FLAGSHIP CONSORTIUM** – aims to build a Large Scale Simulator mapping 2000 years of European History, transforming kilometers of archives and large collections from museums into a digital information system.





International Coalition of Sites of Conscience - the only worldwide network of Sites of Conscience with over 275 members in 65 countries. The coalition builds the capacity of these vital institutions through grants, networking, training, transitional justice mechanisms, and advocacy.

IDFI has signed a memorandum of partnership with over 20 higher educational institutions, state institutions, and local and international CSOs, including:

- ◆ Ilia State University
- ◆ University of Georgia
- ◆ International Black Sea University
- ◆ Georgian National University
- ◆ International Society - Memorial
- ◆ Georgian Society - Memorial
- ◆ Estonian e-Governance Academy
- ◆ Institute of National Remembrance in Warszawa
- ◆ European Law Students Association Georgia
- ◆ National Security Council of Georgia
- ◆ Special State Protection Service of Georgia
- ◆ State Procurement Agency
- ◆ Digital Broadcasting Agency
- ◆ Network of 18 CSOs, including IDFI that signed a Declaration of Transparency
- ◆ Joint memorandum with International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX), Public Service Development Agency (PSDA) and Georgian Libraries Association (GLA)
- ◆ Institute for Non-violent Communication
- ◆ Center for Post-Soviet Studies.
- ◆ Tax Payers Union
- ◆ Joint memorandum with LEPL Archive of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia, the Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies (University of Virginia, USA) the History Department of University of Toronto (Canada) and the Department of Eastern European Studies at Ruhr University of Bochum (Germany)
- ◆ CEVRO Institute

Since 2009, IDFI trained over 4,750 civil servants and up to 2,50 journalists, CSO representatives, students and pupils on access to public data, use of open data, e-governance, public procurement, e-participation, municipal website content management, public private dialogue, discrimination on the grounds of gender and sex, hate crimes and hate speech, local governance, and proactive disclosure of public information.





It is IDFI's mission to promote democratic governance in Georgia, which is first and foremost reliant on the media. In fact, building partnerships with journalists is one of our main objectives. As in previous years, one of IDFI's main goals in 2020 was to reach the public with its messages on Georgia's current political, economic, and social developments.

## STATISTICS OF IDFI COVERAGE IN MEDIA



### ONLINE AND PRINTED MEDIA

13 300 – News and Analytical Articles



### TELEVISION AND RADIO

11 080 – Reportages and Live Show Presence



## CIVIC AUDIT HOTLINE



In order to engage people in IDFI's government oversight activities, a civic audit hotline was created in 2019. Any citizen (including activists, journalists, business representatives, etc.) can notify the IDFI (including anonymously) team about possible wrongdoings in the public sector, incorrect and illegal disposal of public finances, cases of possible

corruption, abuse of power by public officials, restriction of access to public information, nepotism, conflicts of interest in the public sector, etc. Based on received notifications, IDFI checks and examines the case and, if necessary, requests public information from the relevant public institution, then analyzes public information received in accordance with the request. If the violations are confirmed, IDFI disseminates information or calls on particular public institutions to react to the allegations. Since 2019, IDFI has received and analyzed about 70 notifications submitted via the hotline.

## CONSULTATIONS AND FREE LEGAL AID

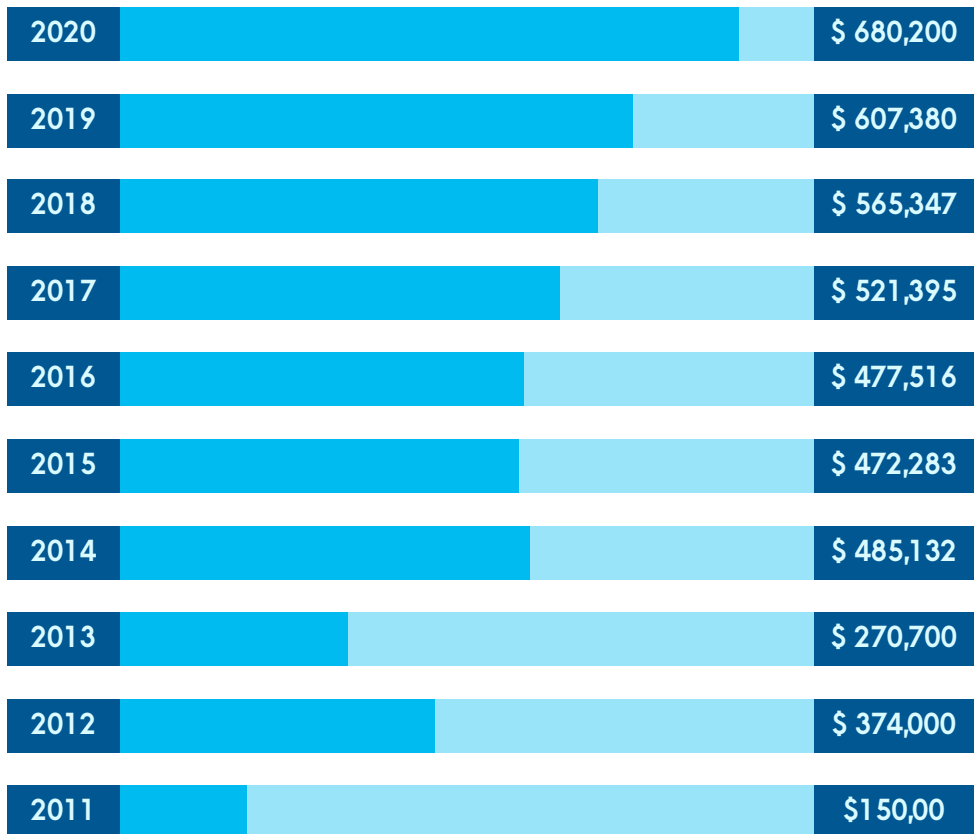
IDFI provides consultations and free legal aid to various stakeholders (especially representatives of the media, academia, the private sector, students, as well as the general public) on the issues of its expertise, i.e. access to public data, public procurement, good governance, rule of law, access to archival documents, etc. On average, IDFI provides around 300 such consultations and free legal aid annually.





IDFI receives funding from various sources, such as international funds, governments of foreign countries, international and/or local organizations and institutions, private companies and individuals. Information about the sources of our funding is public. For transparency purposes, we proactively publish information about [our projects](#) and their funding on our as well as any other relevant websites. IDFI is consistently [named](#) one of the most financially transparent organizations (among 200+ think-tanks worldwide) by [Transparify](#).

## IDFI'S BUDGET BY FISCAL YEAR:







## OUR DONORS

- ◆ U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)
- ◆ European Union (EU)
- ◆ United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- ◆ Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA)
- ◆ U.S. State Department Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor
- ◆ UK Aid
- ◆ Federal Foreign Office of Germany
- ◆ US Embassy in Georgia
- ◆ Embassy of Switzerland in Georgia
- ◆ Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Netherlands
- ◆ Embassy of Kingdom of Netherlands in Georgia and Armenia
- ◆ Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Estonia
- ◆ International Visegrad Fund
- ◆ Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- ◆ Hivos
- ◆ Luminate
- ◆ Open Society Institute Budapest Foundation
- ◆ Open Society Georgia Foundation
- ◆ Eurasia Partnership Foundation (EPF)
- ◆ Heinrich Böll Foundation South Caucasus Regional Office
- ◆ DVV International
- ◆ Academy of Finland through University of Eastern Finland
- ◆ National Security Archive/George Washington University
- ◆ Magticom
- ◆ Counterpart International
- ◆ International Center for Non-for-profit Law (ICNL)












# ELECTRONIC RESOURCES CREATED BY IDFI

Available at [www.IDFI.ge](http://www.IDFI.ge) 

-  SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND GEORGIA
-  PARLIAMENTARY GUIDEBOOK
-  OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP
-  INCOME DECLARED BY PUBLIC OFFICIALS
-  DATABASE OF FOI OFFICERS
-  CYBERSECURITY
-  MONITORING OF CONSTITUTIONAL COURT OF GEORGIA
-  FOI STATISTICS IN GEORGIA

## WEBSITES

also Available at [www.IDFI.ge](http://www.IDFI.ge) 

-  GEORGIA'S OPEN DATA LAB – [www.datalab.ge](http://www.datalab.ge)
-  TRANSPARENT PUBLIC PROCUREMENT RATING – [www.tpp-rating.org](http://www.tpp-rating.org)
-  OPEN ARCHIVES – [www.Open-Archives.org](http://www.Open-Archives.org)
-  LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT INDEX – [www.lsgindex.org](http://www.lsgindex.org)
-  PUBLIC INFORMATION DATABASE – [www.OpenData.ge](http://www.OpenData.ge)
-  DAMOUKIDEBLOBA.COM – [www.damoukidebloba.ge/](http://www.damoukidebloba.ge/)
-  ARCHIVAL DOCUMENTS DATABASE – [www.idfi.ge/archive](http://www.idfi.ge/archive)
-  INTERNET FREEDOM PLATFORM – [www.freedomtointernet.com](http://www.freedomtointernet.com)
-  COURT STATISTICS - [www.idfi.ge/en/court\\_statistics](http://www.idfi.ge/en/court_statistics)
-  [www.partracker.ge](http://www.partracker.ge)
-  [www.anticorruptionhub.net](http://www.anticorruptionhub.net)



## SOCIAL NETWORKS



@IDFI.official – 29, 976 Likes



@IDFIGeorgia – 1, 356 Followers



IDFIGeorgia – 54 Subscriptions

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