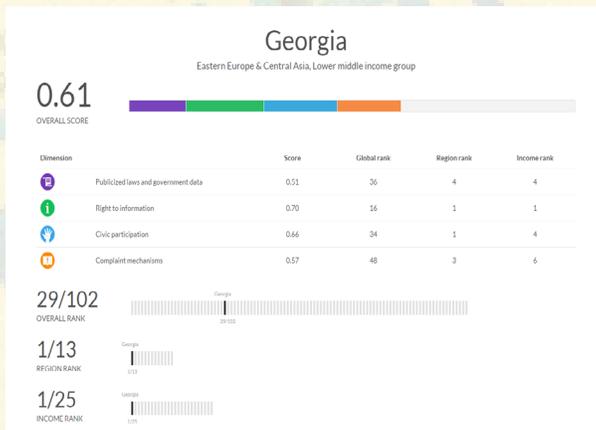


NEWSLETTER (March, 2015)

OPEN GOVERNMENT INDEX 2015 – CHALLENGES AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF GEORGIA



On 26th of March, the World Justice Project (WJP) has launched Open Government Index 2015 involving a lot of famous researchers, experts and organizations. According to the Open Government Index, Georgia has scored 0.61 out of 1 and therefore, has been ranked 1st out of 13 countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia region and 29th out of 102 countries in the world in terms of open government.

Georgia gained its highest score (0.70) in the second dimension - right to information and ranked 16th place in the world. IDFI is working on enhancement of right to information and transparency of Public institutions in Georgia.

Signs of Nepotism in GNCC

IDFI has prepared the study based on the requested documents from GNCC. Research revealed the gaps existed in staff employment at GNCC. Since 2012, 51 new staff members have been employed, some of them are relatives of Parliament members. IDFI prepared further recommendations to GNCC, which have made a statement, underlining that organization's notes are fair.

Petition about Anti-western Statements of Majority Fraction Leaders

IDFI was one of the first signatories of the petition that was signed by more than 40 organizations and more than 300 individuals. Signatories called political party Georgian Dream and its member fractions to publicly highlight their opinion on the anti-western statements made by their colleagues; to review and take proper measures on the statements made by the members of the Steering Committee of Georgian Dream, taking into consideration that European and Euro-Atlantic policies of the state is the choice of the Georgian people clearly reflected in the results of the relevant referendum.

How acute is the Need of Addressing Miscarriages of Justice in Georgia

IDFI has prepared an analytical study based on the provided documents by the Prosecutor's office of Georgia that shows the gaps existing in Prosecutor's office.

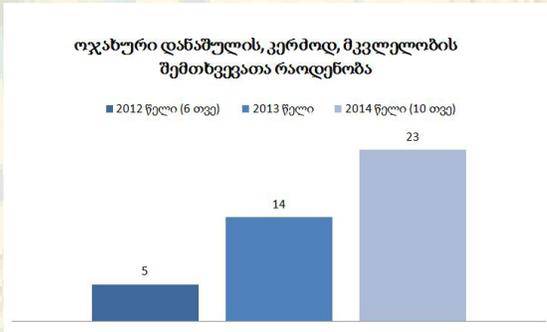
The information received from the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia highlights that during the period of October 2012 to January 2015, 52 530 appeals/notices linked with the misconducts of public officials have been received by the Prosecutor's Office. 10 379 of these applicants requested a launch of investigation on the facts of the case provided.



Supporting and Monitoring of the Transition to Digital Terrestrial Broadcasting in Georgia - Project Implementation Report

IDFI has been implementing the project "Supporting and Monitoring of the Transition to Digital Terrestrial Broadcasting in Georgia" since April, 2014. Huge numbers of positive changes have been made as a result of IDFI's support. With the significant input of IDFI primary strategy of Digital Switchover was replaced with new improved one. All activities of IDFI is concluded in the final report of the project.

Official Statistical Information on the Number of Murders Committed as a Result of Domestic Violence



In December 2014 IDFI referred to the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Prosecutor's Office, requesting to provide statistical information on the number of registered and investigated cases of domestic violence. Provision of the information indicating the gender of aggressor and victim was requested.

Based on the information disclosed by the Prosecutors Office at the end of December 2014 it was ascertained that during the first 11 months of 2014 number of homicide committed based on domestic violence, was considerably increased as compared to previous years

Director of a Partner Organization of IDFI from Azerbaijan is hiding at the Embassy of Switzerland

IDFI joined international and civil society calls to stop the criminal prosecution against the director of IRFS Emil Huseynov and hopes that Azerbaijani authorities will close the case against human rights defender and he will be able to continue his activities.



Activities of the Coalition for an Independent and Transparent Judiciary

The Coalition for an Independent and Transparent Judiciary (IDFI is one of the members) made a [statement](#) on the suspension of judicial appointments by the High Council of Judges. It is important to proceed with the appointment process in such a way that will not raise questions regarding independence of High Council of Justice Members.

Coalition also made a [statement](#) on the Initiative to Investigate Crimes Committed in the Process of Administration of Justice. The coalition for an Independent and Transparent Judiciary welcomes the Georgian Government's statement, which concerns thousands of complaints submitted to the General Prosecutor's Office since October 1, 2012 and declare the initiation of effective legal actions to address them.

Additionally, the Coalition [welcomes](#) timely completion of the process of appointment of a new Chief Justice and hopes that the judiciary will continue cooperating with the Coalition as well as other professional groups which work in the justice system.

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