INSTITUTE FOR DEVELOPMENT
OF FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

IDFI

ინფორმაციის თავისუფლების
განვითარების ინსტიტუტი

Actvities and
Achievements
2009 - 2015

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INSTITUTE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (IDFI)

Actvities and Achievements
2009 - 2015

Tbilisi, Georgia
2015

Content:

Mission and Goals

The Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI) is a Georgian non-governmental organization committed to enhancing government openness and promoting an informed civil society through ensuring access to public information.

IDFI was founded in 2009 by two Georgian researchers, Levan Avalishvili and Giorgi Kldiashvili.

Main Activities

- Watchdog activities
- Think Tank activities
- Advocacy
- Awareness raising
- Transparent archives

Watchdog Activities

As part of its watchdog activities, IDFI monitors access to public information in Georgia. IDFI submits thousands of Freedom of Information (FOI) requests to all public institutions. The received information is analyzed both statistically and qualitatively, and published on the webpage www.opendata.ge. Our main project in this area is Opendata.ge that was launched in 2010. In 2014, databases of three other NGOs (Transparency International Georgia, Georgian Young Lawyers' Association and Green Alternative) were added to opendata.ge.

Think Tank Activities

IDFI conducts research in the following areas: access to information, good governance (civil service reform, whistleblower protection, anti-corruption reform), judiciary reform, freedom of the media, e-governance and e-democracy, internet freedom, public policy analysis, labor rights, civic engagement, transparent archives, legal reform, economy and social policy etc.

Advocacy

IDFI has been successfully advocating positive policy changes for years. Some of our success stories include the introduction of the obligation of proactive disclosure and electronic requests of public information, expansion of the list of officials obliged to submit asset declarations, implementation of the civil service reform, strategy of digital switchover, electronic communication between the government and citizens, media pluralism, transparency, etc.

Awareness Raising

IDFI also engages in awareness raising activities. For this purpose, we often organize public discussions, presentations, conferences, seminars, workshops, trainings and information campaigns (producing and spreading the videos and flyers) on topics of freedom of information, Open Government Partnership (OGP), internet freedom, e-governance, etc.

For example, our project Public Information Database (www.opendata.ge) aims to reveal, rate and give certificates to the most transparent and closed public entities in Georgia each year based on FOI replies.

Transparent Archives

Ensuring the openness of state archives and access to archival materials were the activities IDFI started off with. More specifically, we use various sources to analyze the Soviet totalitarian regime. One of the most interesting projects in this area was the Stalin Lists on Georgia, which involved the collection and analysis of information about victims of the 1937-1938 Great Terror.

Significant Achievements

IDFI was elected as the Co-Chair of Open Government Georgia Forum.

IDFI was elected as the Co-Chair of the Working Group at the Inter-Governmental Anti-Corruption Council.

Open Government Georgia Action Plans were developed with the direct participation of IDFI.

The list of public information to be disclosed proactively was created with participation of IDFI.

IDFI was actively involved in drafting of a new law on Freedom of Information.

The Government of Georgia adopted the Decree on Electronic Requests and Proactive Disclosure of Public Information.

As a result of advocacy and support from IDFI, the Georgian Parliament has joined the Open Government Partnership (OGP).

IDFI was granted the highest score in transparency by Transparify, a project managed by CRRC and funded by the Think Tank Fund of the Open Society Foundation.

Statistics on secret surveillance is being disclosed proactively as a result of advocacy by IDFI.

The amount of proactively disclosed public information has increased.

Access to public information has improved as a result of monitoring and advocacy by IDFI since 2010.

Information about management of public funds has become more open as a result of court processes.

Strategies developed by IDFI have promoted the development of freedom of information in Georgia.

IDFI's studies have revealed corruption deals, cases of nepotism, abuse of authority, unreasonable spending of budget funds and other cases of violation of the law.

The government portal for open data – www.data.gov.ge was created with direct recommendations of IDFI.

IDFI has created the concept of e-petitions – www.ichange.ge, which the government committed to implement within the framework of OGP.

As a result of advocacy from IDFI, the National Security Council has joined the provisions of proactive disclosure of public information.

The list of senior officials who declare their assets has been expanded.

As a result of recommendations from IDFI, the Law on the Protection of Whistleblowers has been enhanced.

IDFI's recommendations were taken into account in the new Labor Code.

IDFI's recommendations were taken into account in the new Law on Civil Service.

The Georgian Government took into account IDFI's recommendations concerning the strategy of digital broadcasting switchover.

The data and studies prepared by IDFI were included in the Country Reports on Human Rights Practices by U.S Department of State, the reports of Freedom House and other international reports and ratings.

IDFI's monitoring and advocacy work has resulted in Georgia's improved ranking in the E-Government Development Index (UN).

The Archive of the former Committee of State Security (KGB) of Georgia was declassified, modernized and digitized.

With IDFI's participation the Archive of the former Central Committee of the Communist Party of Georgia was saved from destruction.

The Ministry of Agriculture has agreed to privatize some state-owned enterprises after IDFI's research showed that most state-owned agricultural enterprises had incurred losses.

IDFI trained 4,000 civil servants and up to 2,000 journalists, CSO representatives, students and pupils.

Coalitions

IDFI is a member of the following coalitions:

Media Advocacy Coalition

Open Government Georgia Forum

Intergovernmental Anti-Corruption Council

Coalition for an Independent and Transparent Judiciary

Georgian Civil Society National Platform for the Eastern Partnership

Open Parliament Georgia Working Group

Financial Support

IDFI has implemented dozens of projects. Full information about completed and on-going projects can be found on our web-page – www.idfi.ge.

The financial support of IDFI is fully transparent and all details can be found on our webpage. In August 2015, IDFI received the highest score in transparency by Transparify.

IDFI is funded by various international donors such as the EU, USAID, OSF, OSGF, UNDP, also Embassies of Germany, the Kingdom of Netherlands, Switzerland, and various private and international foundations. IDFI has never received funding from the Government of Georgia.

ANNUAL BUDGET:
2011 - USD 150,000
2012 - USD 374,000
2013 - USD 270,700
2014 - USD 485,132
2015 - USD 399,984

We have also created an overview document with funding information on all our projects. The document is updated on a regular basis and is available on our webpage (www.idfi.ge) under "mission and goals".

E-resources

IDFI has created the following e-resources:

Public Information Database

http://www.opendata.ge
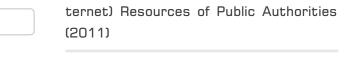
Database of FOI officers

Transparent Archives

Visualization of the declared wage incomes of the State Officials (2011-2012)

Webpage for internet freedom

http://www.freedomtointernet.com

Rating of Monitoring of Information (Internet) Resources of Public Authorities (2011)

Statistics of FOI requests (2011)

Module of the Court Statistics

Project about independence of Georgia

http://www.damoukidebloba.com

We also run the following blogs:

Analytical Blog of Public Information

Open Government Partnership Georgia

Development of e-Participation in Georgia

Georgia 2020

Multimedia

IDFI has created a number of videos, including:

"
Your Activeness for Change

Open Government Partnership (Georgia)

What is E-Participation

Petitions for Tbilisi City Hall

Change the Law "

Data Visualizations

IDFI has created various data visualizations
topics such as:

"
2008 Russian-Georgian War

Wounded and Killed Georgian Soldiers
in Afghanistan During 2013-2015

Where To Buy Set-Top-Boxes? "

Monthly Newsletter

Since August 2014, IDFI prepares monthly newsletters,
summarizing main activities of the month.

Legal Database

IDFI has the following legal databases available on its website:

National Legal Acts	IDFI Case Law
National Case Law	International Case Law

Social Networks

IDFI can be reached via the following social networks:

Facebook   IDFI.official

Twitter   IDFIGeorgia

Youtube   IDFIGeorgia

LinkedIn   Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI)

Somondo   Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI)

Wikipedia   Institute for Development of Freedom of Information

Our Donors:

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