

## [IDFI's Workshop on Dialogue between the Public and Private Sectors](#)



IDFI and USAID program Governing for Growth in Georgia (G4G) held a workshop titled Dialogue Between the Public and Private Sectors. Attendees included employees of the Georgian Parliament, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Economy that are responsible for drafting legislative proposals.

The workshop was held in Hotel Betsy. Participants included individuals working on drafting legal amendments and in the Parliament of Georgia and Ministries of Finance, Justice, Environment Protection and Economy.

## [Terms of the Public Service Law are Being Violated](#)



The Government of Georgia has yet to adopt and submit to the Parliament legal acts prescribed by Article 126 of the new Public Service Law. While for most legal acts the government has time until December 31, the deadline has already passed for 4 of them, including 2 draft laws.

IDFI calls on the Government of Georgia to hold public hearings on draft laws included in the public service reform and to approve and submit the resulting documents to the Parliament in due time.

## [IDFI Hosted a Public Procurement Workshop with Eastern Partnership Countries](#)



The Institute for Development of Freedom of Information hosted a two-day workshop with the involvement of Eastern Partnership member countries (Azerbaijan, Armenia, Ukraine, Moldova, Belarus and Georgia).

25 public procurement experts attended the meeting (governmental structures and non-governmental organizations) and discussed public procurement systems in target countries, their similarities and differences, international standards, and methodologies of evaluation of public procurement systems.

## [Negotiations between Georgia and Russian Federation about the World Trade Organization \(WTO\): 5 Years After](#)



The World Trade Organization (WTO) consists of 164 member states and was established to harmonize and facilitate trade relations, and act as a dispute settlement body. Georgia has been a member of the WTO since July 14, 2000. It took 18 years for the Russia Federation to become a member.

According to the WTO rules, accession of a new country requires the approval of all member states. Georgia was one of the final obstacles for Russia to join the WTO. Georgia and Russian Federation had a disagreement about border checkpoints of Roki and Gantiadi on the Occupied Territories. Georgia demanded clarification of their legal status and right of monitoring. In November 2011, in Geneva, with participation of Switzerland, Georgia and the Russian Federation agreed on having a neutral company monitor the movement of goods. The Swiss Confederation was tasked with selecting a neutral private company in consultation with Georgia and the Russian Federation.

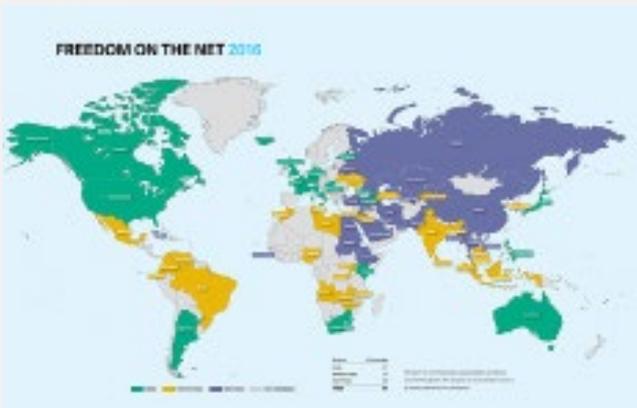
## [Personal Data Protection as a Tool for Classifying Court Activities](#)

In general, personal data protection is an important component of the right to privacy. However, no right is absolute. According to Georgian law, protection of personal data is given unconditional priority over access to court decisions, regardless of who is the subject of the data, the extent of public interest in the court's decision, and whether the data subject has a reasonable expectation of personal data protection. Therefore,



the existing rules of access to court decisions in Georgia threaten the transparency and credibility of the judiciary and violate freedom of expression and the right to have access to public information.

### **Freedom House: Georgia's Score in Internet Freedom Ranking has Decreased**

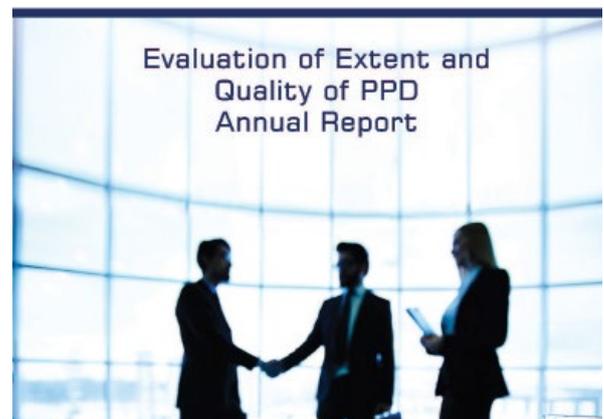


On November 14, 2016 Freedom House published an annual report on Internet freedom around the world. Georgia obtained a score of 25 out of 100 and was assessed as “Free” in terms of Internet freedom. Nevertheless, the country's score decreased by 1 point compared to 2015.

### **European Parliament Resolution Against Russian Propaganda**

On November 23, the European Parliament adopted a resolution that extensively discusses propaganda directed against the European Union and calls on EU institutions to take counter measures. The resolution identifies the Russian Federation and terrorist groups as the main sources of propaganda.

### **First Evaluation Report on the Assessment of Extent and Quality of Public Private Dialogue**



The results of the first annual study show that, as expected, effective PPDs are more of an exception, than a rule in Georgia. By revealing the most successful cases of quality PPD in Georgia, our project team hopes to emphasize the positive impact of effective consultation during early stages of the policy-making process, and thus promote more inclusive decision-making at all stages of governance.

**Coalition for a Euro-Atlantic Georgia on Selecting Trust Group Members of the Parliamentary Committee on Defense and Security**



The Coalition of a Euro-Atlantic Georgia calls on the Georgian Parliament to: *to pay special attention to the composition of the Trust Group, in order to avoid any damage to the country's national security; to restore the voting requirement for the selection of Trust Group members; and to promote the civic oversight of the security sector based on the 2013 Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Defense and Security Committee and non-governmental organizations, and to give civil society a real opportunity to, on the one hand, monitor ongoing processes and, on the other hand, contribute to further reforms in the security sector.*

**IDFI and GYLA Appealed to the Chief Prosecutor's Office to Launch an Investigation against the Ministry of Internal Affairs**



The Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI) and Georgian Young Lawyers' Association (GYLA, representing newspaper Batumelebi) addressed the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia to launch an investigation against the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA).

The request is based on the fact that the MIA has not executed court decisions regarding freedom of information letters sent by IDFI and GYLA to the MIA requesting public information on bonuses and salary supplements received by Ministry officials in 2013.