

ACCESS TO PUBLIC INFORMATION IN GEORGIA - PRESENTATION OF THE 2016 REPORT



On September 28, the Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI) held its 7th annual announcement ceremony of Georgia's most and least open public institutions. At the event monitoring results of access to public information in Georgia in 2016, its main tendencies and court practice were also presented.



IDFI PRESENTED THE ANNUAL ASSESSMENT REPORT OF THE QUALITY OF DIALOGUE BETWEEN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS IN GEORGIA



The Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI) held a presentation of the annual assessment report of the quality of dialogue between public and private sectors in Georgia and awarded 3 state agencies with the highest degree of private sector involvement in their draft laws: Ministry of Finance of Georgia; Innovations and Technology Agency of Georgia; and Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Georgia.

IDFI AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE - CELEBRATING THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RIGHT TO INFORMATION



On September 21-22, IDFI Director Giorgi Kldiashvili and IDFI Programs' Director Levan Avalishvili participated in the International Conference titled Celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the Right to Information and Further Strengthening of National Systems of the Eastern Partnership held in Kiev, Ukraine.

GIORGI KLDIASHVILI - ON THE FRONTLINE: HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN THE EAP COUNTRIES



IDFI Director Giorgi Kldiashvili took part in a human rights conference titled On the Frontline: Human Rights Situation in the EaP

Countries. The topics discussed include: human rights challenges in the EaP countries and international mechanisms; human rights defenders: best practices in campaigning, networking and fundraising; and human rights monitoring and protection in conflict zones.

ACCESS TO PUBLIC INFORMATION IN GEORGIA - 2016

IDFI issued a visualization titled "Access to Public Information in Georgia - 2016." The visualization clearly demonstrates the tendencies of the public institutions on providing applicants with the requested public information.

HOW TO MAINTAIN BALANCE BETWEEN STATE SECURITY AND THE FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION?



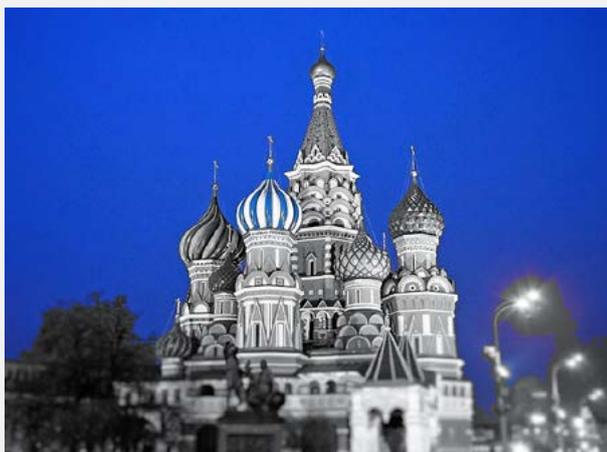
Is it possible for the state to limit the activities of a political party without undue interference with its freedom of speech and expression? To answer this question, we discuss two precedent cases of the European Court of Human Rights.

ACCESS TO PUBLIC INFORMATION IN GEORGIA - 2010-2016



IDFI issued a visualization titled “Access to Public Information in Georgia - 2010-2016.” The visualization clearly demonstrates the tendencies of the public institutions on providing applicants with the requested public information.

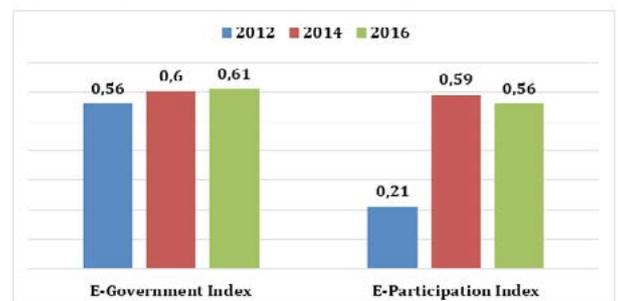
KREMLIN’S INFORMATION WAR: WHY GEORGIA SHOULD DEVELOP STATE POLICY ON COUNTERING PROPAGANDA



IDFI’s policy paper reviews the characteristics of Kremlin propaganda in Georgia, its results, main messages and their impact on Georgian society, distributors of Kremlin propaganda, and the Georgian government’s current approach to this problem. The document aims to highlight the risks and challenges that accompany Kremlin information war and the necessity to develop and implement a state policy to counter it. It contains recommendations on specific measures the Georgian government can take to counter the Kremlin’s information war.

GEORGIA IN THE UN E-GOVERNMENT SURVEY - RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Figure #1: Georgia's Results in E-Government and E-Participation Indices



2016 UN report on e-Governance shows that the situation on e-Participation has worsened and on e-Governance has insignificantly improved in Georgia. Therefore, Georgia dropped of 5 places in the world’s ranking.

COALITION FOR EURO-ATLANTIC GEORGIA



20 non-governmental organizations have announced the launch of the Coalition for a Euro-Atlantic Georgia. The Coalition’s mission is to contribute to the building of a free and independent state, where human rights are duly protected and institutions function efficiently. To achieve this, civil society organizations said they will concert their best efforts and closely cooperate with each other to expedite Georgia’s full integration into Euro-Atlantic institutions.

18 NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS SINGED A DECLARATION OF TRANSPARENCY

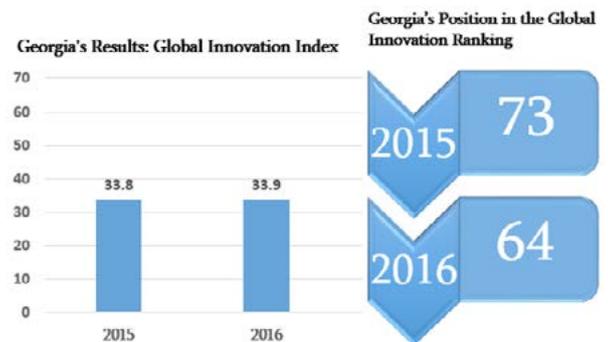


18 Non-Governmental Organizations signed a Declaration of Transparency, through which each organization commits to periodically

publish information about their planned and completed activities, timeframes, donor organizations and amounts of funding on their individual websites as well as on a common online platform.

GEORGIA IN THE 2016 GLOBAL INNOVATION INDEX

Figure #1: Global Innovation Index – Georgia’s Results (2015-2016)



According to the 2016 Global Innovation Index, Georgia has received a score of 33.9 (out of a 100), increasing its result insignificantly compared to the previous year (33.8). In terms of ranking, Georgia gained 9 positions compared to 2015 and currently holds the 64th place among 128 countries. The country scored high in institutional structure and regulatory policies but low on government and private sector support of education and research, and limited use of innovations by business.

POLITICIZATION OF CONSTITUTIONAL JUSTICE: ALTERED CONSTITUTIONAL CLAIMS AND MOTIONS TO RECUSE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT JUDGES

Lately, a number of high-ranking political officials have made statements about constitutional claims having been altered, with some demanding a launch of investigation. The Georgian Parliament has requested the Constitutional Court to recuse several judges from two constitutional cases (so-called Cables-Ugulava and the Rustavi 2 cases), also citing possibly altered claims. In addition, lawyers of the Rustavi 2 case have appealed to the Constitutional Court to also recuse judges from their case because of their public statements. Considering the importance of the issue, IDFI decided to prepare a legal analysis of the situation based on information requested from the Constitutional Court.

THE COALITION URGES THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT TO CARRY OUT CONSTITUTIONAL JUSTICE

The Coalition for Independent and Transparent Judiciary responds to recent developments at the Constitutional Court of Georgia. According to the Coalition, the current situation creates an impression of a deliberate attempt to delay court proceedings on the so-called 'high-profile cases', which negatively affects stakeholders and public trust towards the Constitutional Court.

THE COALITION FOR EURO- ATLANTIC GEORGIA CALLS UPON THE GOVERNMENT OF GEORGIA TO PUBLISH THE DRAFT OF 2017- 2019 ASSOCIATION AGENDA OF THE ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN GEORGIA AND THE EUROPEAN

The Coalition call upon the Government to publish the Draft 2017 - 2019 Association Agenda, on order for the interested representatives of the civil society to be able to study it and present their views and recommendations for possible improvement.

Our Projects

In the months of August and September 2016, IDFI started to implement the following new projects:

[For Open and Accountable Local Government - National Assessment of Transparency and Public Participation of Georgian Municipalities](#). The ultimate goal of the project is to enhance public participation and ease risks of corruption in municipalities by improving practices of transparency and accountability in local government bodies. To this end, the project aims to consolidate the standards for evaluating the transparency, and mechanisms and practice of public participation in municipalities, based on which a national evaluation platform will be established.

[Increasing Access to Judicial Decisions in Georgia](#). The core purpose of the project is to improve the legal framework and practice of access to court decisions in Georgia, bearing in mind the balance between access to judicial information and protection of personal data.

[Transparent Public Procurement Rating](#) - Assessing Public Procurement Legislation and the Enforcement Process in the Eurasian Region. The project aims to elaborate a common standard for assessing the legislative framework of public procurement in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, which will later be used to evaluate the PPL enforcement process in the pilot states.