

# NEWSLETTER

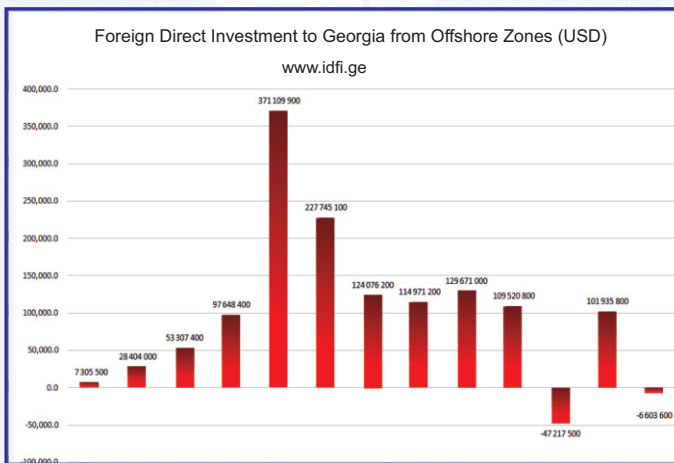


## Secret Surveillance in Georgia: 2015 - 2016

IDFI's report overviews main developments in terms of regulating secret surveillance in Georgia in the period between June 2015 and March 2016, such as recent cases of illegal surveillance and revival of the Campaign "This Affects You Too" in March 2016, first results of the "two-key" system and the role of the Personal Data Protection Inspector in the process, as well as proactive disclosure of statistical information related to secret surveillance.



## Offshore Companies in Georgia - Risks and Recommendations



IDFI published a study titled Offshore Companies in Georgia - Risks and Recommendations, which identifies the following risks offshore companies pose to Georgia: lack of accountability, Russian influence on Georgian economy, possibilities for money laundering, political pressure on business and tax evasion. The study ends with IDFI's specific recommendations to the Chief Prosecutor's Office, the Parliament and the Government.

## IDFI - Confidential Document on April 9

April 9, 2016, marks 27 years after the tragedy of 1989, when Soviet forces raided a peaceful demonstration in Georgia's capital Tbilisi. To mark this day, we decided to publish related intelligence documents recently unclassified by the United States.



These documents include analytical reports on the events of April 1989 in Georgia prepared by relevant US state agencies (**Directorate of Intelligence, State Department, US Embassy in Moscow**).

We were able to get hold of these documents with the help of our partner CSO - **the National Security Archive at George Washington University**, which was kind enough to request the documents from US state archives, where they were kept for years as **classified** information.

## Monitoring Results and Recommendations on Public Information Proactively Published by Parliament on Website

IDFI publishes the report on the results of monitoring of the Parliament website. The report assesses the Parliament's compliance with the obligations set by the Parliament Chairman's Decree on Approving the Rule of Proactive Disclosure of Public Information and Standards for Requesting Public Information.

## Open Government Partnership as Means for Implementing UN Sustainable Development Goals

On September 25, 2015, 193 UN member states adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. IDFI Director Giorgi Kldiashvili thinks that "this document is exceptionally important, as it includes goals and objectives such as poverty reduction, environmental protection, transparency in implementation of infrastructure projects, improvement of the socio-economic environment, increase of transparency and accountability of public service, and other goals that promote economic growth and social inclusion." As per Giorgi Kldiashvili, "the full implementation of the international document of this scale requires a relevant platform that will take on the challenges facing the document, and show a high level of state and civil society involvement."



## Analyzing Decision Making Process in Public Sector - Before and After Parliamentary Elections of 2012

The article was written in the framework of the project "Strategic Plan Georgia 2020 - Strengthening Public Involvement" and was published on the blog "Georgia 2020." The document aims to analyze and to identify the main tendencies of the decision-making process that describes two main periods of the Civil Service Reform. The first phase of the reform includes the period of 2004-2012, post Rose Revolution period and the process of the Civil Service Reform after October 2012 elections.

## Parliamentary Council and Consultative Group Discussed Amendments to the Parliamentary Rules of Procedure



The meeting of the Permanent Parliamentary Council on Open and Transparent Governance and the Consultative Group was held on April 20. At the meeting amendments to the Parliamentary Rules of Procedure required for implementation of the Open Parliament Georgia Action Plan commitments were discussed. Members of the Parliamentary Council and Consultative Group attended the meeting - Representatives of the Parliament of Georgia, Non-Governmental and International Organizations.

## Discussion of Commitments Under the Open Parliament Georgian Action Plan

The Consultative Group of the Permanent Parliamentary Council on Open and Transparent Governance held a workshop on April 11. The group presented and discussed the amendments to the Parliamentary Rules of Procedure required for fulfilling the commitments of the Open Parliament Georgia Action Plan.

## Public Consultations for OGP Action Plan 2016 - 2017

Public consultations were held in Ozurgeti and Batumi in order to hear the ideas and initiatives of local communities for the Open Government Partnership Action Plan 2016-2017.

Representatives of local governments, non-governmental organizations, media and students participated in the consultations. They learned the mission of the Open Government Partnership, heard the initiatives of the governmental entities that will be included in the Action Plan and presented their ideas.



## Public Consultations for OGP Action Plan 2016 - 2017 in Marneuli



Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI) participated in public consultation held in Marneuli on April 13. Representative of the Institute, Tamar Nadibaidze presented recommendations of IDFI for the OGP Action Plan 2016-2017.

## IDFI in US Department of State's Country Reports for 2015



The US Department of State published the 2015 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices. The reports are based on data provided by US embassies and international missions and review the human rights situation in 200 countries, including Georgia.

IDFI has been referred to in the Country Report on Georgia every year since 2012. The case of IDFI Director Giorgi Kldiashvili's detention has been mentioned in two latest reports as well.

# Tbilisi to Join Open Government Partnership

Open Government Partnership (OGP) has published a list of winners for Subnational Government Pilot Program. Tbilisi Municipality City Hall is among 15 winners from 45 submitted applications.

To engage in pilot program a local self-government must have had a population of at least 250 000, it must be sharing OGP principles, have open governance history, is ready to conduct necessary reforms within the OGP with the cooperation of civil society and share obtained experience with other municipalities.

Participating in Subnational Government Pilot Program means that the OGP team will support the Tbilisi City Hall to develop and implement the OGP Action Plan. The Action Plan must be co-created with the Civil Society Organizations and based on the public consultations. It is vital that the Action Plan is developed around 4 principal challenges of OGP:

1. Ensuring **openness and transparency** of governance;
2. Increasing **accountability** of public officials;
3. Encouraging **civic participation in decision-making processes**;
4. **Innovative and technology** based development of public services.



## OGP Georgia Action Plan for 2014-2015 – Completed and Unfulfilled Commitments

Open Government



Georgia has recently started working on its third Open Government Action Plan, while it has yet to complete the main commitments of the second one. The document presents the analyses of completed and unfulfilled commitments of OGP Georgia Action Plan for 2014-2015. The document reads that out of 29 total commitments only 20 have been completed by the Georgian Government.

OTHER:

INSTITUTE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

- Opinion on the Legislative Package Drafted for Reforming the Code of Administrative Violations
- This Affects You Urges the Government to Take Specific Steps
- Coalition Statement on the Selection of Judicial Candidates for the Supreme Court

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