



Increasing Access to Judicial Decisions in Georgia

Presentation of Project Results

Press-Release

On January 24, 2016, at 11:00 am, at Holiday Inn Tbilisi Hotel - Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI) will hold a summary presentation of the "Increasing Access to Judicial Decisions in Georgia" project. IDFI has been implementing the project with support of East-West Management Institute's Promoting Rule of Law in Georgia (PROLoG) Program since July, 2016. The program is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

During the event IDFI will present the results of a research conducted within the framework of the project and get the audience acquainted with amendments to the legislation regulating access to court decisions. International Expert and Executive Director of the Centre for Law and Democracy (Canada) Toby Mendel will present recommendations for increasing access to court decisions in Georgia.

For the purposes of identifying problems linked with existing practice and legislation, IDFI conducted detailed assessment of public access to decisions within the system of General Courts. Results show that access to court decisions in Georgia is characterized by the following problems of systemic nature:

- *Legislation gives significant priority to personal data protection over disclosure of public information.*
- *Legislation does not take into account any possible public interest in relation to specific court cases;*
- *Decisions made during open court hearings are not being disclosed, even though any interested person may attend court proceedings (except special cases);*
- *Courts do not disclose decisions made on cases of former high-ranking officials;*
- *Courts employ a broad interpretation of the depersonalization obligation, which makes disclosure of court decisions virtually impossible;*





- *Courts extend the right to personal data protection to legal entities;*
- *Common Courts, most likely, have pre-agreed refusal templates that they use when receiving requests to disclose court decisions.*

The presentation will be followed by a discussion, during which attendees will have the opportunity to voice their views and recommendations on IDFI's findings, proposed legislative amendments and in general on improving the existing practice of access to court decisions in the country.

For more information please contact:

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