

PROACTIVE DISCLOSURE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION ON GEORGIAN PUBLIC INSTITUTION WEBSITES

2020



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Key Findings

- Since 2013, the Georgian government has not taken any significant steps to improve the standard of proactive disclosure of information;
- As of May 2020, 17 out of 121 monitored public institutions did not have websites;
- 14 public institutions did not have a public information section on their website or did not publish any information in this section;
- In 2020, the average compliance rate of proactive accessibility of public information is 55% that is 2% higher than in 2019 and it is 16% lower compared to the same indicator of 2014;
- In 2020, only the Parliament of Georgia and the Ministry of Internal Affairs had fully (100%) published information in compliance with the requirements of the relevant legal act;
- Among central public institutions the lowest compliance was demonstrated by the Ministry of Environment and Agriculture of Georgia (38%) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia (40%);
- Compared to 2019, 6 out of 13 central public institutions have worsened the rate of proactive disclosure of information;
- The average rate of proactive disclosure of public information of subordinate entities and legal entities under public law is 50%, while the average rate of their superior agencies (ministries) is 75%;
- Approximately 30% of the agencies subordinated to the Ministries had less than 30% of the required information published on their website;
- The most problematic issue remains the publication of information related to the management of finances;
- None of the evaluated public institutions had published information in open formats (CSV or XML). 30 public institutions had published specific financial information in Excel format;
- The archives of proactively published information in the past years were accessible on the websites of only 59 public institutions.

Introduction

Proactive disclosure of public information is one of the most significant commitments taken by Georgia within the framework of the Open Government Partnership (OGP). The importance of proactive disclosure of information became even more apparent this year due to the crisis created by the COVID 19 pandemic when the risks of opaque and irrational disposal of budget funds increased significantly. These risks were further increased by the restrictions imposed on the disclosure of public information during the state of emergency in the country as well as by the emergency procurement procedures (without tender), etc.

The list¹ of mandatory proactively published information specified in the Resolution of N219 of the Government of Georgia of August 26, 2013, includes a list of minimum information that should be available to any interested person and ensure proactive transparency of the activities, plans, funding and accounting, procurement and privatization of property, as well as other important information. With this resolution, a certain standard of proactive transparency was established in the country at the initial stage, which needed to be improved in the future. Since 2013, despite numerous recommendations provided by IDFI, the Georgian government has not taken significant steps for improvement. It is important to mention that IDFI's multiple research outlined that most public institutions were unable to ensure the proper fulfillment of the obligations imposed by the government decree.

The need to improve the standard set by the government of Georgia has become even more apparent in the light of current events when properly informing the public has become one of the most important mechanisms for preventing the spread of the virus. Taking into account the main challenges in the country as well as international practice, IDFI has developed a list of information that can be proactively published by public institutions during the Covid-19 crisis. It is important to mention that so far, no changes have been made to the existing standard for proactive disclosure of information. Accordingly, under the present report, no changes have been made to the methodology for the study of proactive access to public information.

The report assesses the proactive availability of public information in Georgia as of May 2020 and outlines the main trends and tendencies of proactive access to information compared to previous years. The report also includes ratings of proactive transparency of public institutions.

The Methodology of Assessment of Proactive Disclosure of Information

According to the resolution of the Government of Georgia, the information published quarterly is published within one month after the end of the quarter, and the information published annually is published within three months after the end of the year. Accordingly, during the monitoring period (May 2020), the institutions should already have published the following information on their websites:

¹ After a long period of consultations, meetings, and negotiations with the Civil Society, with the active support of the Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI) and other NGOs, the Government of Georgia adopted [Resolution 219](#) of August 26, 2013, on “**Electronic Request and Proactive Disclosure of Public Information**”. The decree came into force on September 1, 2013, and public institutions in the field of governance were assessed to create "public information" websites and publish information on the e-government appendix to their e-resources by December 31, 2013.

- *Annual Information* - Full data of 2019
- *Quarterly Information* - Full data of 2019 and the data of I quarter of 2020
- *Data that requires an update in case of certain changes* – the newest data

The methodology of assessment is fully based on the list of information that is required to be published proactively by the decree of the Government of Georgia and assesses to what extent the information is published by public institutions and to what extent it meets the obligations outlined in the resolution, both in terms of content and periodicity. The maximum score for the proactive publication of public information is 100 points (100%). According to each sub-paragraph of the decree of the Government of Georgia, the maximum ratings are the following:

Evaluation Methodology According to the Sub-clauses of the List Defined by the Government Decree														
	1		2		3		4		5		6		7	
N	Poin	N	Poin	N	Poin	N	Poin	N	Poin	N	Poin	N	Poin	
	ts		ts		ts		ts		ts		ts		ts	
1.1	3	2.1	3	3.1	3	4.1	3	5.1	3	6.1	3	7.1	2	
1.2	3	2.2	3	3.2	3	4.2	3	5.2	3	6.2	2	7.2	2	
1.3	3	2.3	3	3.3	3	4.3	3	5.3	3					
1.4	3	2.4	3			4.4	3	5.4	3					
1.5	3	2.5	3					5.5	3					
1.6	3							5.6	3					
								5.7	3					
								5.8	3					

5.9	3
5.10	3
5.11	3
5.12	
5.13	4

As it is obvious from the evaluation table, in the case of 30 out of 35 sub-paragraphs provided by the decree of the Government of Georgia, the maximum grade of each is 3 points, and 5 sub-grades are evaluated with a different maximum number of points. The following sub-items were selected based on the following circumstances:

- 1) **Subparagraphs 5.12 and 5.13 (total 4 points)** - Sub-paragraph 5.13, which includes legal acts on funds allocated to the administrative body from the funds provided by the Budget Code, fully includes the information provided in subparagraph 5.12 (sub-paragraph 5.12 provides information on general funds). Accordingly, the points mentioned by the Institute are evaluated jointly. During the evaluation, the Institute considers it a priority to publish legal acts on the allocation of these funds.
- 2) **Subparagraph 6.2 - (2 points)** - This sub-paragraph considers the publication of individual administrative-legal acts that, according to the assessment of the administrative body, are of public interest. Since the assessor cannot determine which individual legal act is considered by a particular administrative body as a concern for the public interest, the information posted under this sub-paragraph is evaluated with only a maximum of 2 points.
- 3) **Subparagraphs 7.1 and 7.2 (2 points each)** - these sub-paragraphs define the proactive publication of information on services, fees, tariffs, and charges of public institutions. Since most institutions do not offer any kind of service to customers and therefore do not set any fees, tariffs, and charges (except for fees related to the disclosure of information about which it is mandatory to place information on the public information page), the institute is assessing disclosure of this information with a maximum of 2 points.

According to the resolution of the Government of Georgia, its scope² does not apply to several other public institutions independent and accountable to the Government of Georgia. These agencies

² The Government of Georgia Resolution N219 of August 26, 2013, of the Government of Georgia, applies to the Administration of the Government of Georgia, the Ministries, the Office of the State Minister, the State Subsidiary Institution, legal entities of public law operating in the Ministry’s field of governance , and the special-purpose body of the executive branch subordinated to the Georgian government.

were assessed³ based on legal acts adopted by them, which in most cases are identical to the standard established by the Government of Georgia.

- **National Statistics Office of Georgia** - Order N199 of 9 November 2018 of the Executive Director of the National Statistics Office of Georgia;
- **Competition Agency of Georgia** - Order No. 15 of the Chairman of the Bureau of Competition of November 20, 2014;
- **Special State Protection Service** - Order N25040 of the Head of the Special State Protection Service of July 21, 2015;
- **National Intellectual Property Center of Georgia** - Order N4 of 22 April 2014 of the chairman of the National Intellectual Property Center of Georgia.

In addition to the agencies within the system of government of Georgia, the report also evaluates the Parliament of Georgia, the Administration of the President, the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara, the Office of the Government of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara and the Ministries. These agencies were evaluated by the following legal acts according to each paragraph related to the proactive disclosure of public information.

- **Parliament of Georgia** - Order N132 of the Chairman of the Parliament of Georgia of December 31, 2013;
- **Administration of the President of Georgia** - Decree of the President of Georgia N692 of September 2, 2013;
- **Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara** - Resolution N99 of the Supreme Council of Autonomous Republic of Adjara of March 20, 2014;
- **Government Office and Ministries of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara** - Resolution N23 of the Government of Autonomous Republic of Adjara of October 10, 2013.

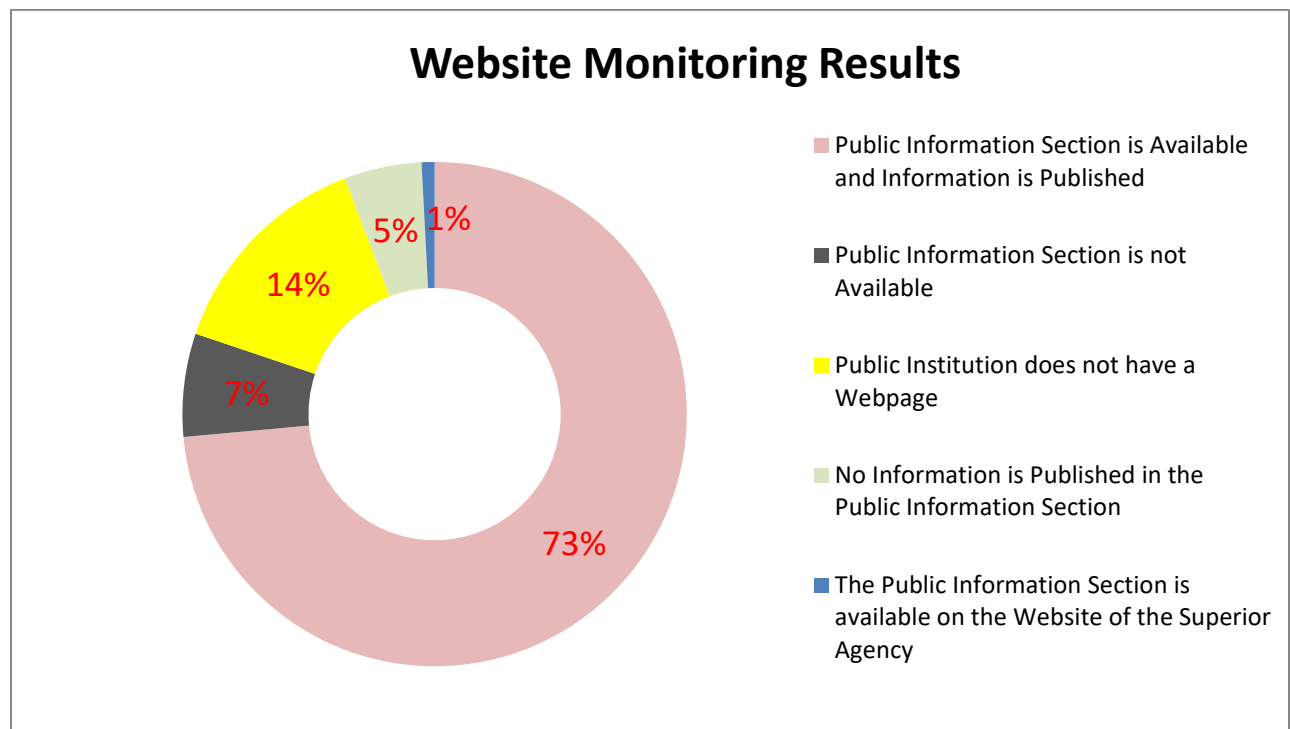
³ The agencies accountable to the Government of Georgia, for which proactive publication related legal acts were not available, were evaluated in accordance with the list defined by the Resolution of the Government of Georgia.

Statistics of Proactive Disclosure of Information

In May 2019, IDFI studied the practice of proactive publication of public information in 121 public institutions and for this purpose conducted detailed monitoring of the websites of the following agencies:

- **Parliament of Georgia**
- **The Administration of the President of Georgia**
- **Administration of the Government of Georgia**
- **11 – Ministries/Office of the State Minister**
- **86 - LEPL and subordinate institutions under the Ministry**
- **16 – Other independent agencies and agencies accountable to the Government of Georgia**
- **Supreme Council of Autonomous Republic of Adjara**
- **Office of the Government of Autonomous Republic of Adjara**
- **4 – Ministries of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara**

Out of 121 monitored public institutions, 17 agencies did not have websites at all, in 8 cases no public information section was available on the website, and in the cases of 6 agencies, there was no information published on the public information page. One agency did not have its website, but a public information section was included in the electronic resources section of its superior agency. The public information section was created and the information was proactively published on the website of the remaining 89 public institutions.



It is worth mentioning that, most of the agencies that did not have a website, did not have a public information section on the website, or did not publish information in the public information section, were among the legal entities of public law subordinated to the ministries. These agencies were mostly newly established/reorganized agencies, whose websites were not yet created or public information was not yet made available during the monitoring period. For example, in 2018, after the Ministry of Corrections and Legal Assistance was transformed into the special penitentiary service under the Ministry of Justice, their public information section was no longer available and the website indicated that it was under construction. In 2019, the Emergency Management Service was transformed into a state sub-agency within the Ministry of Internal Affairs. During the monitoring period, no information was published in the public information section of their website, and the website indicated that it was under construction.

Similar problems are also identified with other independent agencies and agencies accountable to the Government of Georgia. For example, in 2019, the Georgian government established a youth agency, however, its website could not be found. Moreover, with the support of the European Union, the Youth Platform has been set up, but this portal does not provide public information about the Agency's activities. Also, in 2019, the advisory body of the Prime Minister of Georgia, the National Security Council was established, however, they also do not have a website.

No information has been Published/Updated in the Public Information section	
1	Special Penitentiary Service
2	Emergency Coordination and Urgent Assistance Center
3	Department of Environmental Supervision
4	Agency of Wildlife
5	State Agency of Oil and Gas
6	STC Delta

Do not Have a Public Information Section on the Website	
1	Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia
2	Zurab Zhvania School of Public Administration
3	Georgian National Film Center
4	Creative Georgia
5	Service for Accounting, Reporting and Auditing Supervision
6	National Intellectual Property Center
7	State Agency of Religious Issues

8	State Language Department
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The following LEPLs do not have a website	
1	National Center for Crime Prevention and Probation
2	Vocational Training and Education Center for Convicts
3	State Employment Agency
4	IDPs, Eco-migrants, and livelihoods agency
5	Translation Bureau of International Contracts of Georgia
6	Emergency Coordination and Urgent Assistance Center
7	Akhalgori Childcare Institution
8	Levan Mikeladze Diplomatic Training and Research Institute
9	Anaklia Deepwater Port Development Agency
10	Bureau of Cyber Security
11	Military Hospital of the Ministry of Defense
12	Market Surveillance Agency
13	Public-Private Partnership Agency
14	Agency of Youth
15	Governmental Special Communications Agency
16	State Security Agency
17	Office of the National Security Council

As of May 2020, the average rate of proactive availability of information is 55%, among public institutions that have published public information on their websites (a total of 90 public institutions) according to the relevant resolution. Therefore, these agencies only fulfill half of the obligations imposed on them by law.

In order to fully study the current state of proactive accessibility of information, it is important to analyze the results of monitoring according to the types of public institutions and categories of published information.

Central Public Institutions

According to the monitoring results, the rates of proactive publication of public information by the central public institutions of Georgia (Parliamentary Office, Government Administration, Ministries) range from 38% to 100%. Among them, the highest (100%) rate was reached by the Parliament of Georgia and the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

The 100% result of the Parliament of Georgia is obtained according to the proactively published list approved for the Parliament of Georgia, where important information related to the functional activities of the Parliament is defined for mandatory publication.

In the case of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia, the information published proactively on the website fully meets the requirements established by the resolution of the Government of Georgia. However, the published financial information is mostly limited to the availability of total data in accordance with the requirements of the resolution, detailed information is not disclosed. The Ministry of Internal Affairs is one of the rare exceptions, that publishes documents on the page of public information in both, Georgian and [English languages](#).

Among the central public institutions, the Ministry of Defense of Georgia (97%) and the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture, and Sports of Georgia (93%) also hold the leading positions in terms of proactive publication of information. It is commendable, that these ministries have taken into account the recommendations developed by IDFI as early as 2014 and provided the detailed publication of certain categories of data. For example, in the case of both ministries, information on remuneration and business trip expenses are presented separately, according to the individual expenditure category for each official, instead of the total data required for publication. The information published about the car fleet contains additional details such as year of production of the car, date of purchase, balance sheet value, and residual value.

Among the central public institutions, the Ministry of Environment and Agriculture (38%) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (40%) have the lowest rates of proactive disclosure of information. The Ministry of Environment and Agriculture, after the structural changes implemented in this agency in 2018 (merge of the Ministry of Agriculture with the Ministry of Environment), has not resumed publishing most of the required financial and other information on the new website. In the case of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, most of the financial information is unavailable, with the latest data being released for the second quarter of 2019.

The figures for the rest of the central public institutions range from 53% to 86%. Considering the monitoring period, one of the reasons for the delay in the proactive publication of information might be the force majeure situations caused by the COVID 19 pandemic. Given the time of the start of

the pandemic, this would have had an impact on the publication of data for the first quarter of 2020. However, some agencies have stopped publishing a number of financial and other categories of data at various points throughout 2019, therefore in the case of these agencies, delays in publishing data are less related to crises created under pandemic conditions.

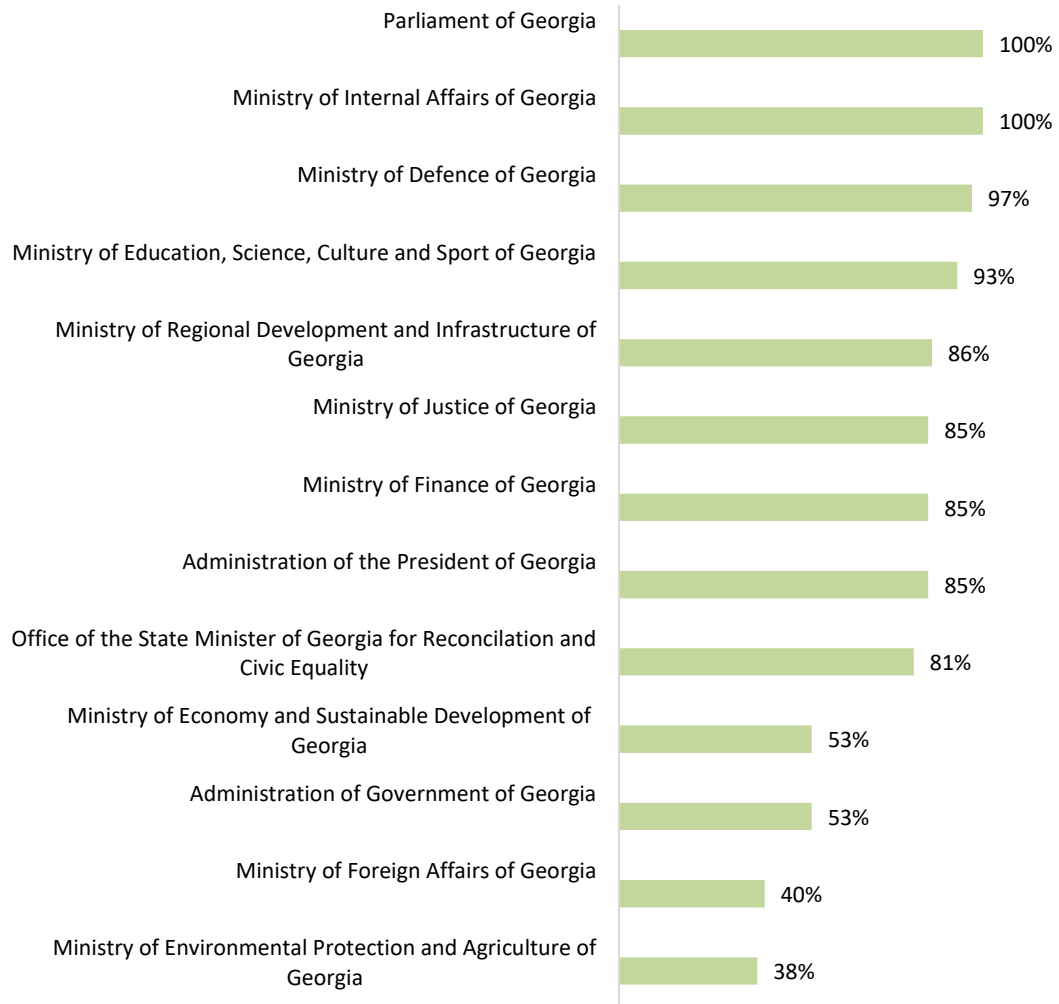
For example, most of the information related to public procurement and finance on the website of the administration of the government of Georgia has not been updated since 2014. Also, it is especially problematic to selectively publish the orders of the Government of Georgia on the website. Refusal to publish a particular legal act is likely to be related to its content. Such approaches significantly contradict the principles of proactive transparency of public institutions. It is noteworthy, that the Administration of the Georgian government renewed the practice of proactive disclosure during the monitoring period and ensured the publication of certain information on the website, which ultimately had a positive impact on their results.

Additionally, since 2016, the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development has not published information about the car fleet and real estate on their balance sheet, fuel costs, vehicle maintenance, telecommunications costs, and grants received. The Ministry of Finance has not published information on the disposal and transfer of state property since 2014. The Ministry of Health has not updated the information on the costs of advertising since 2015. Since 2016, the Ministry of Justice no longer publishes information on the number of employees.

The practice of proactive publication of public information of the Administration of the President of Georgia was also assessed within the framework of the monitoring efforts. The guidelines for proactive disclosure of public information by the Administration of the President of Georgia was established by Order No. 692 of September 2, 2013, which is a shortened and significantly modified version of the standard act by the Government of Georgia. The list of the Government of Georgia contains 35 categories of information, and in the case of the President's Administration only - 18. For example, the Administration of the President of Georgia is not obliged to publish information such as an annual report of the administration, legal acts related to disclosure of public information, vacancies, and selection process results, advertising costs, etc.

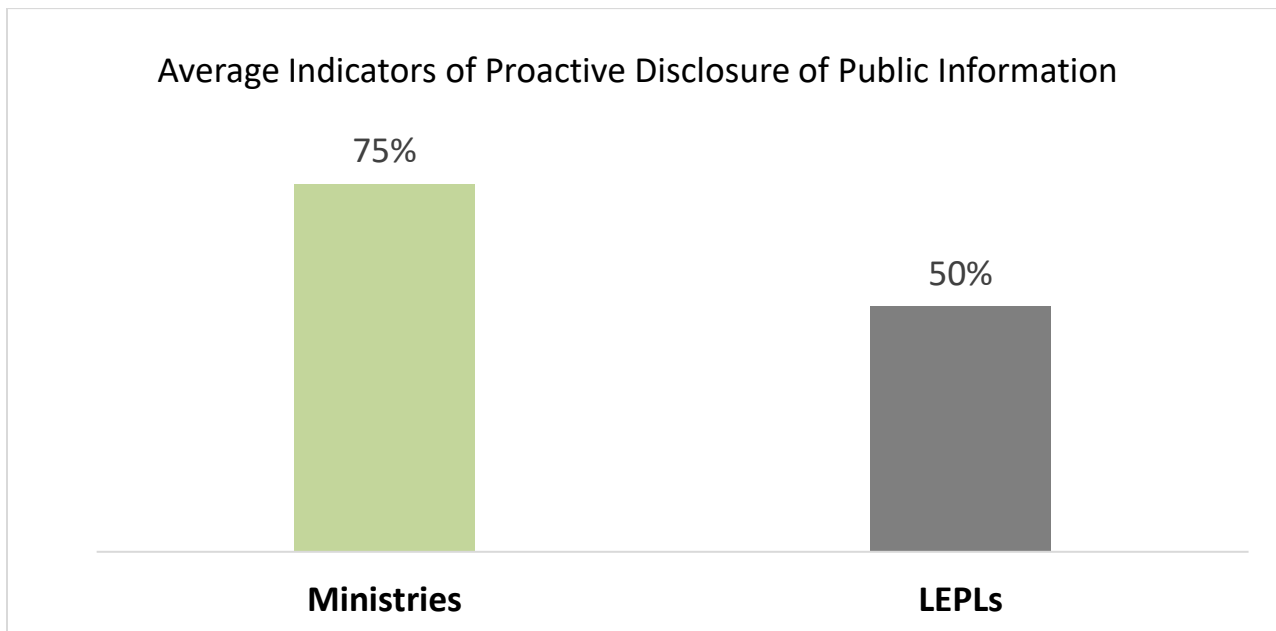
According to IDFI, 85% of the mandatory proactively published information was presented on the website of the Administration of the President of Georgia during the monitoring period. This figure was largely due to the publication of data for several items (e.g. procurement processes, property disposal, business trip expenses, labor costs) being delayed by the events of the first quarter of 2020.

Assessment of Proactive Disclosure of Public Information



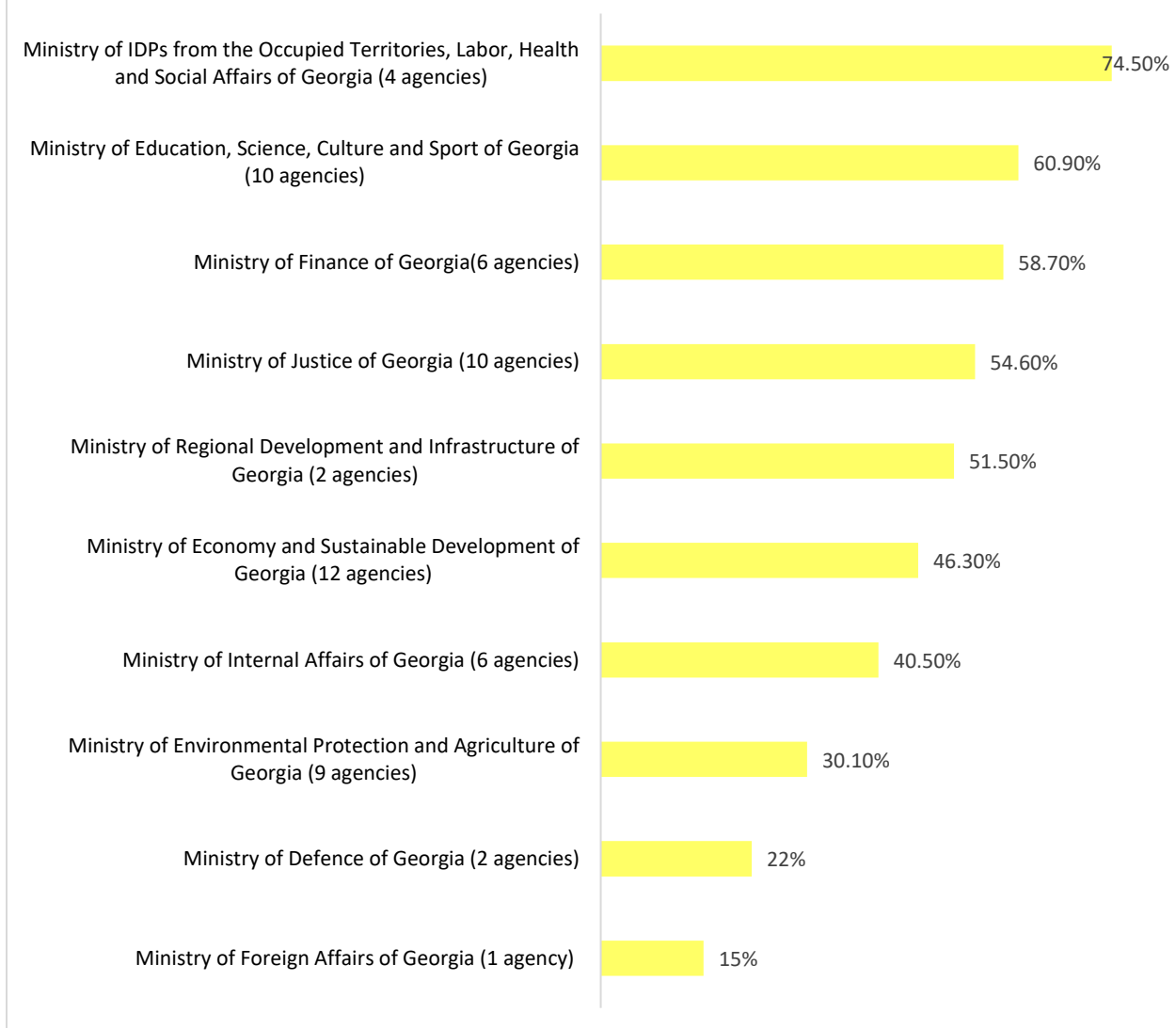
Subordinate Structures of the Ministries

The low average rate of proactive disclosure of information in public institutions (55%) is largely due to the scarce publication of information by agencies subordinated to ministries. In particular, the average rate of publication of information by legal entities of public law and sub-institutions is 50%, while the average rate of their superior bodies is 75%.



The average rate of proactive publication of public information by the agencies subordinated to the ministries varies from 15% to 75%. The highest average rate is found within the system of the Ministry of Health (4 agencies in total) - 74.5%, and the lowest in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (1 agency) - 15%. The average rate of proactive disclosure of public information by LEPLs under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is calculated only based on one LEPL, Information Center on NATO and the European Union, since other agencies did not have a website during the monitoring period.

Average Indicators of Proactive Publication of Public Information of Agencies Subordinated to Ministries



Approximately 30% of the agencies subordinated to ministries had published less than 30% of the required data. For the most part, legal entities of public law only published general information about the agency, on their website, which is not in conformity with the principles of proactive transparency. Among the legal entities, that have less than 30% of public information published are agencies of high public importance and revenue, such as the Agency for Protected Areas - 30%, National Food Agency - 29%, National Center for Teachers' Professional Development - 28%, LEPL Enterprise Georgia - 25%, Municipal Development Fund of Georgia - 23%, Border Police of Georgia - 18%, National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation – 12%, etc.

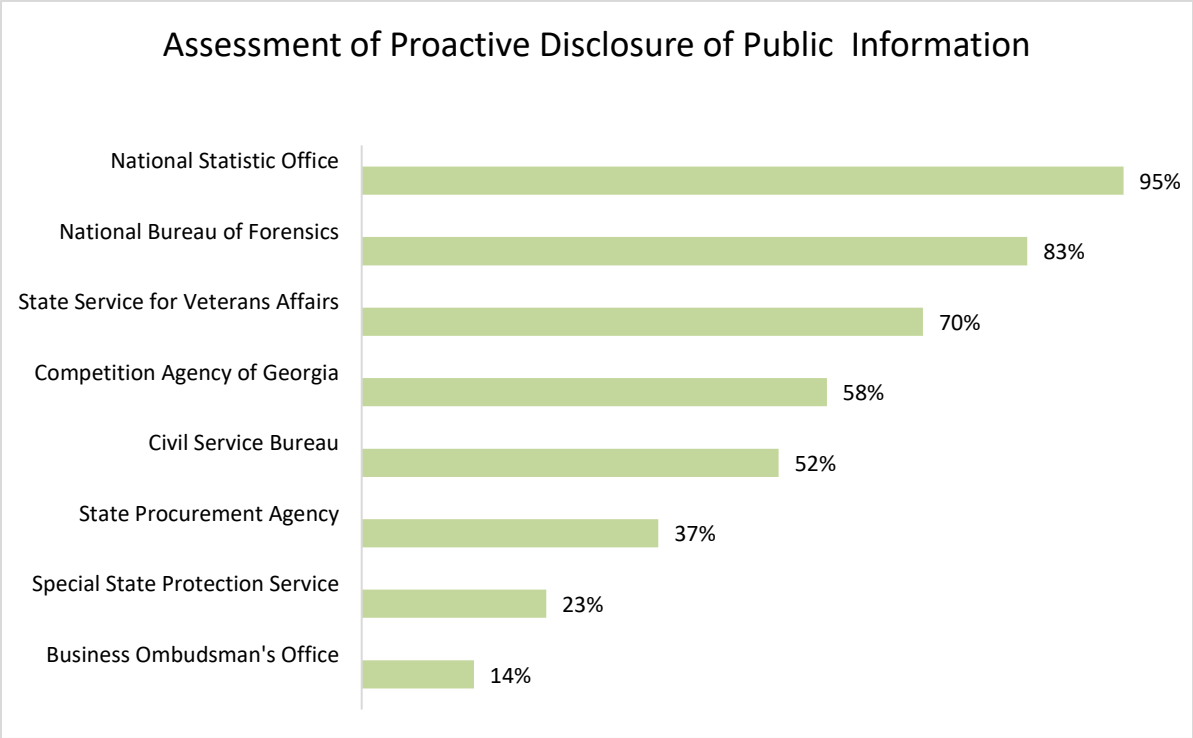
Agencies Accountable to the Government of Georgia and Other Independent Agencies

In the framework of the monitoring that was conducted in May 2020, IDFI additionally observed the websites of 16 other agencies accountable to the Government of Georgia and only 8 had some information published in their public information sections. These agencies have largely identical to the resolution of the government of Georgia in terms of proactive disclosure of information, therefore no significant methodological changes have been made to the assessment.

According to the monitoring results, the highest rates among these agencies were found in the National Statistics Office (95%) and the Bureau of Forensics (83%). It is noteworthy that these agencies have additionally provided detailed publications of some categories of data. For example, for the real estate listed on their balance sheets, both agencies published the real estate name, area, initial value, and current value. Also, in the case of received grants, a register of grant agreements is published, which reflects the grant, purpose, term of the agreement, the value of the agreement, and detailed information about the amount of the grant utilized throughout the reporting year.

The figures for the rest of the agencies range from 14% to 70%. Among the lowest ratings is the Office of the Business Ombudsman (14%). This agency has published only the general information related to the activities of the Office and the availability of public information. For example, the so-called “December 10th report” on public information is only published for the year 2017. No financial information is provided on the website of the Office. This could be due to the fact that the administration of the Government of Georgia administered the funds required for the operation of the Business Ombudsman until 2019.

In the case of other agencies, access to financial information is significantly limited. For example, the Special State Protection Service has not published any financial information. Additionally, the State Procurement Agency has not published similar financial information since 2013.



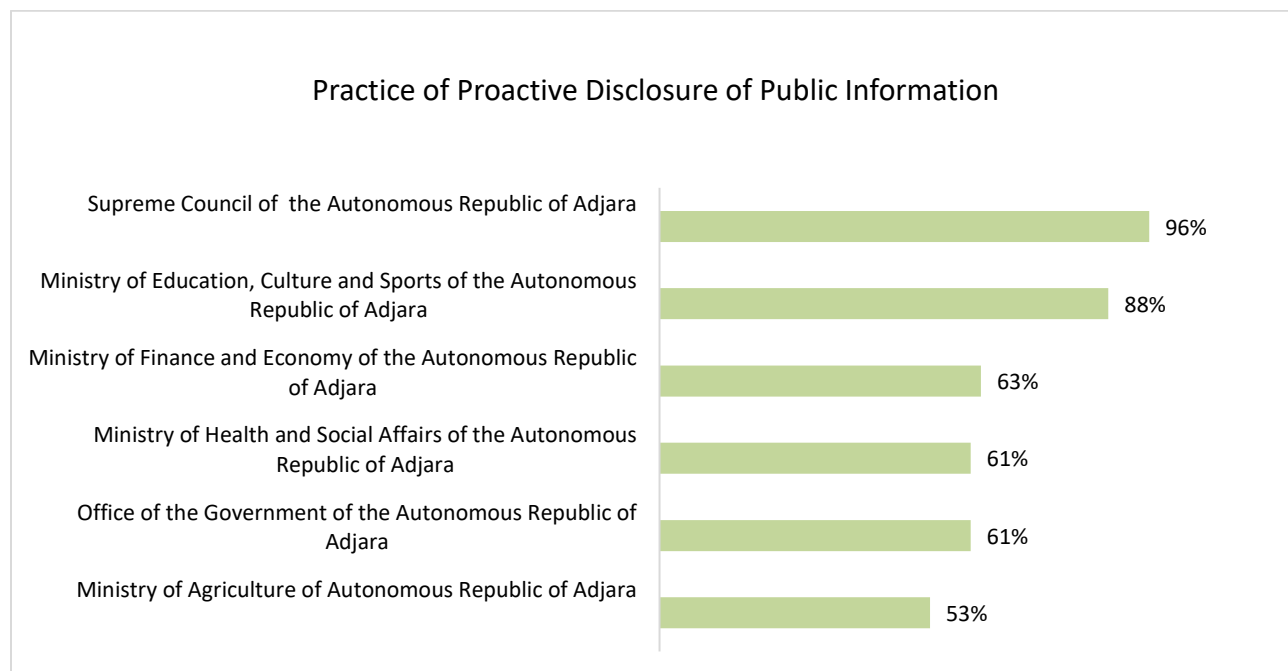
Public Institutions of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara

As part of the monitoring conducted in May 2020, IDFI additionally monitored the website of 6 public institutions of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara (Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara, Government Office, and 4 Ministries).

According to the results of the monitoring, among the 6 assessed agencies, the highest rate of proactive disclosure of information was found in the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara - 96%. The Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara was evaluated according to the proactively published list approved by them on March 20, 2014, which requires the publication of 28 different categories of information. The mentioned list is a modified version of the resolution of the Government of Georgia due to the specifics of the activities of the Supreme Council. However, in most cases, the standard set by the Georgian government is maintained.

The information provided by the Office of the Government of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara and the Ministries is proactively published on the Unified Portal of the Government of Autonomous

Republic of Adjara, where a separate public information section has been established for each agency. For these agencies, the list of proactively published information is defined by the Resolution N23 of the Government of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara of October 10, 2013, that is identical to the list defined by the Government of Georgia. According to the results of the research, the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara had the highest rate among them – 88%.



The Practice of Proactive Disclosure of Public Information

According to the resolution of the Government of Georgia, the public information listed in 35 sub-paragraphs is divided into 7 groups according to their topics:

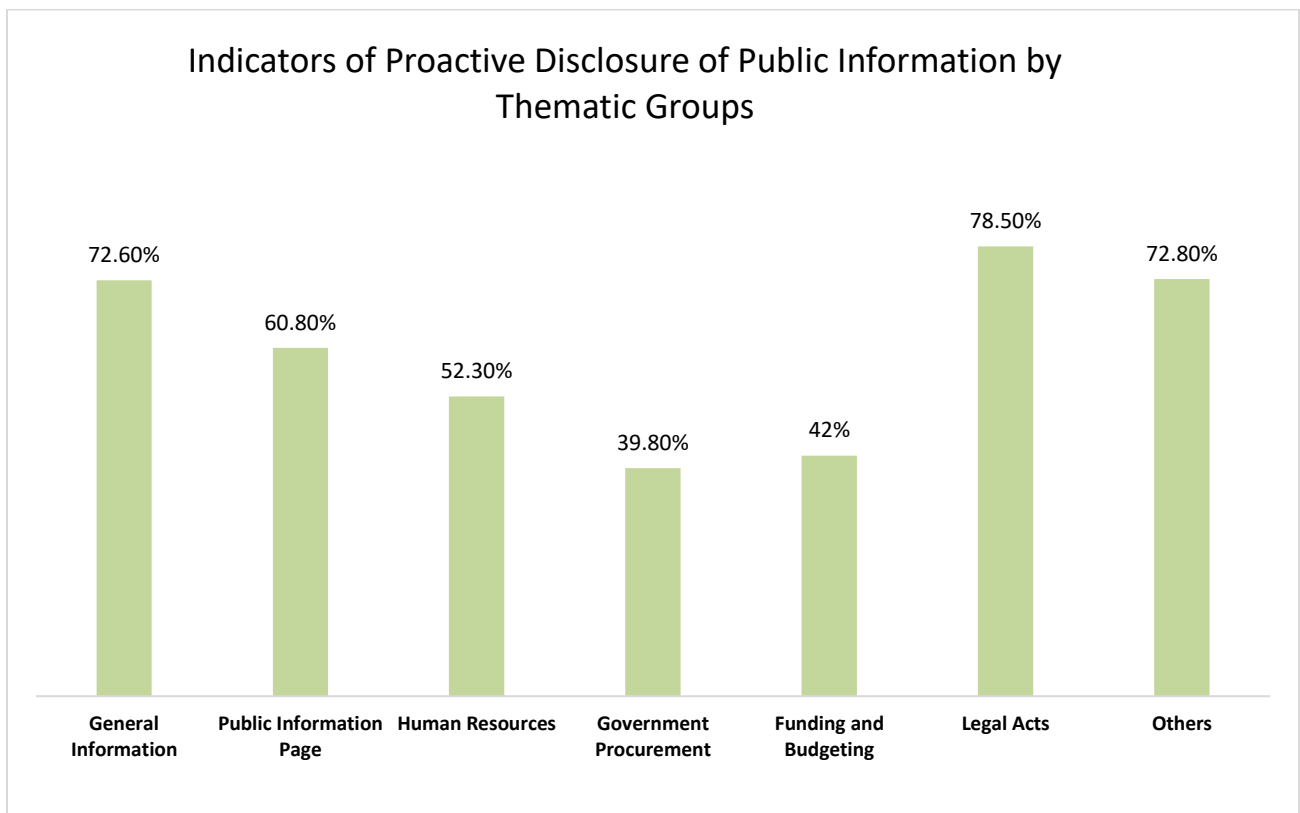
- 1) General information about the administrative body (6 sub-paragraphs);
- 2) Public Information page (5 sub-paragraphs);
- 3) Information on the staffing of the administrative body (3 sub-paragraphs);
- 4) Information on public procurement and privatization of state property carried out by the administrative body (4 sub-paragraphs);
- 5) Information on the financing and budgeting of the administrative body (13 sub-paragraphs)
- 6) Legal acts (2 sub-paragraphs);
- 7) Other public information (2 sub-paragraphs).

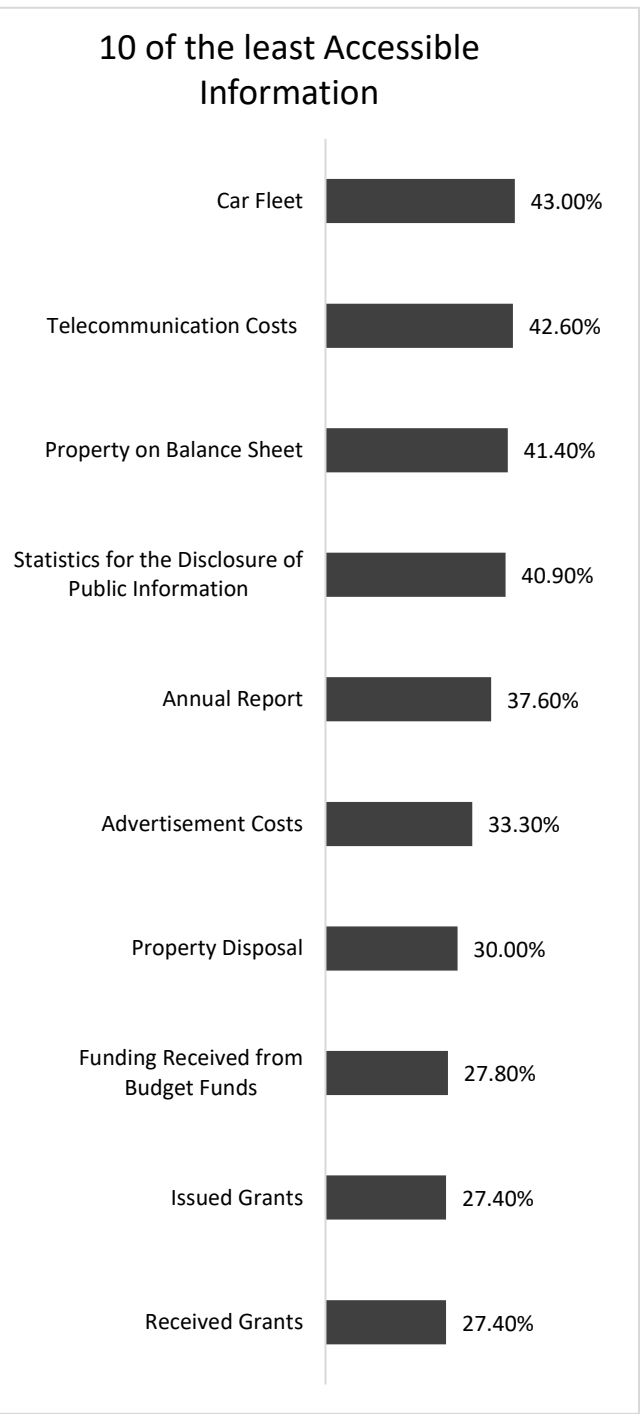
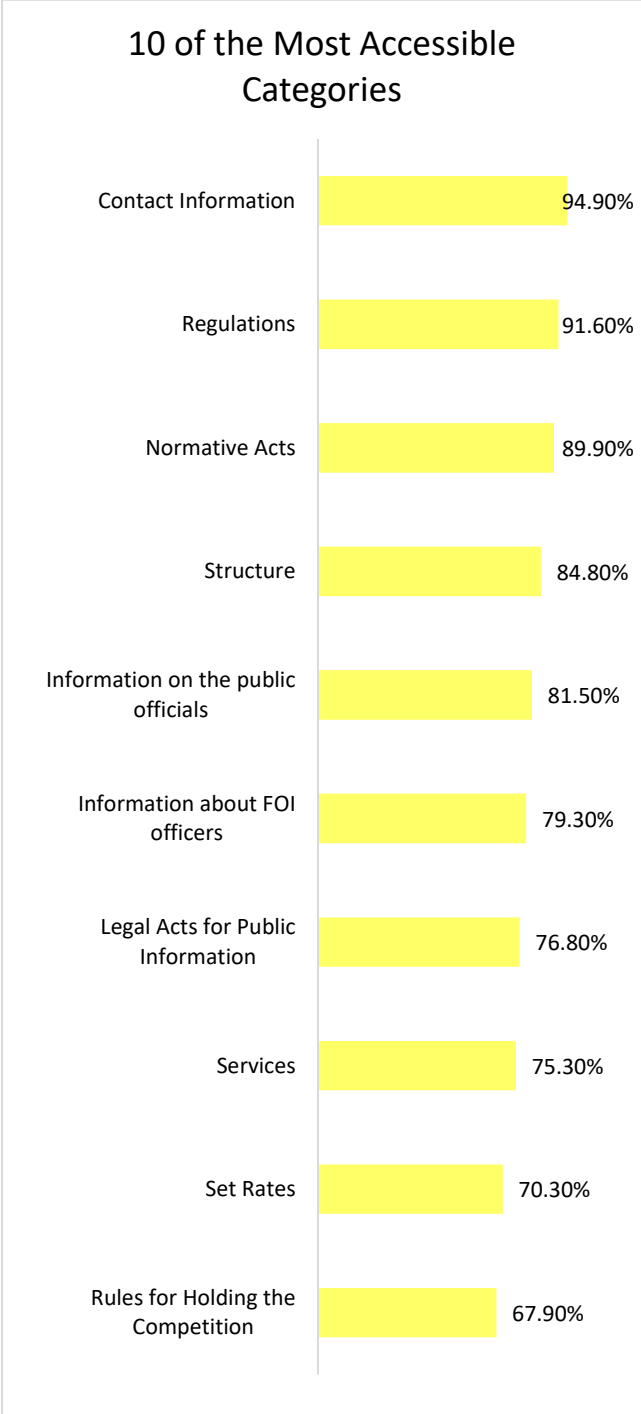
According to the monitoring results, public institutions find it difficult to publish information related to the disposal of administrative funds. For instance, the overall rate of proactive accessibility of procurements and privatization of property is 39,8% and funding and costs – 42%. In these groups, according to separate points, the most problematic was publishing information regarding the grants received and issued by the public institutions (27.4%). A low rate of proactive disclosure of information was also observed in case of the funding received from budget funds - 27.8%, property disposal- 30%, advertising costs - 33.3%, real estate on the balance sheet- 41.4%, telecommunication costs - 42.6% and information about the car fleet - 43%.

Among the 10 most problematic categories of information for a public institution, in addition to financial data, were also annual reports on the activities of the administrative body (37.6%) and statistical data regarding public information requests. (40.9%).

Public institutions publish information within the groups of legal acts and general information most of the time, which, instead of a quarterly update, is subject to publication only if changes are made in it.

For example, the highest rates can be found in the categories of contact information (94.9%), regulations (91.6%), normative acts (89.9%), and agency structure (84.8%).





Format and Archive of Proactively Published Information

As part of the monitoring, IDFI also examined issues of the proactive disclosure of information related to the thematic placement of information, the date of placement, the format of the published documentation, and the archive.

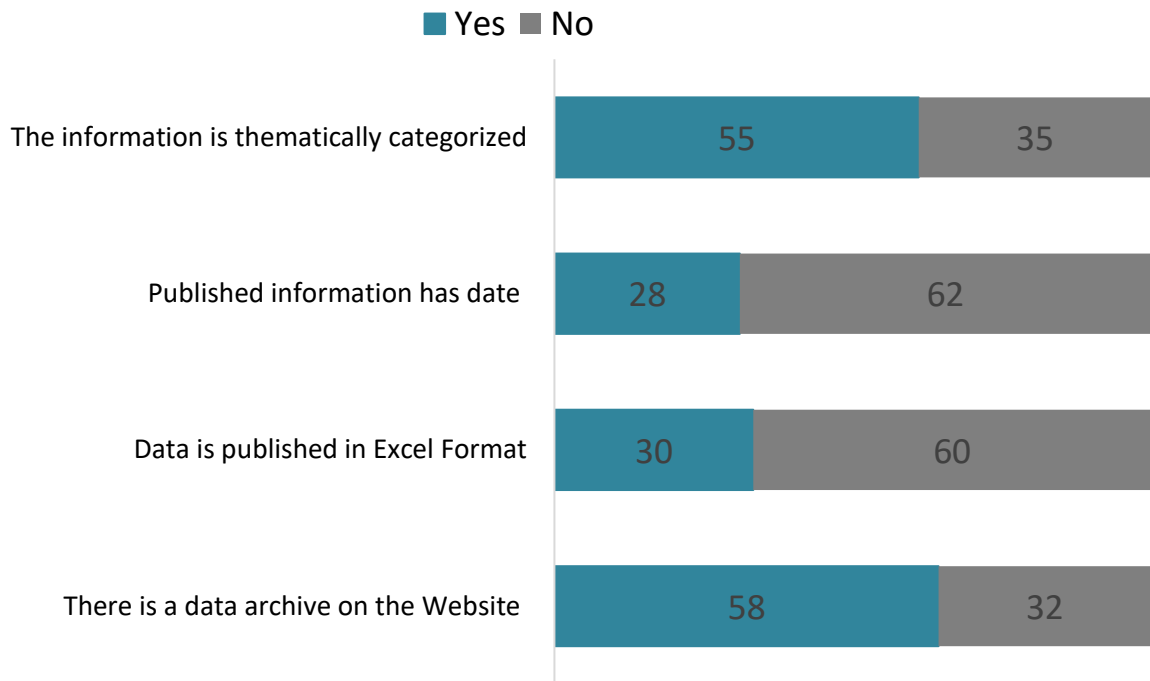
According to the resolution of the Government of Georgia, institutions are obliged to publish on the page of public information only the points enumerated in Part 2 of the list of proactively published information, which is directly related to the availability of public information. As for other types of information, the resolution allows the institution to distribute data on the website at its discretion, which makes it difficult for an interested party to find information on a particular issue. According to the monitoring results, 55 out of 90 public institutions had fully published data in the public information page thematically.

Public institutions are obliged to indicate the date of publication of information published on the website. Only 28 of the studied institutions had fulfilled this obligation.

The guidelines of proactive publication of public information does not limit public institutions in terms of the format of published data. Given the international good practice, it is especially important to publish information in an open format. During the monitoring period of Georgian public institutions, the practice of publishing open data in CSV or XML format was not observed, which would have contributed to the further development of DATA.GOV.GE, the open data portal of Georgia. PDF files are mainly used to publish both financial and other information from the studied institutions. However, only 30 public institutions had published some financial information in Excel format.

The rules of storing/archiving data on the data websites are not regulated by the legal acts regulating the proactive publication of information. Consequently, after the publication of the 2019 data by the public institution, it is not restricted to take down the information published proactively on the website in 2018 or any previous year. Data from previous years were preserved on the websites of 58 of the public institutions monitored. In other cases, only the updated data for a specific period was kept online.

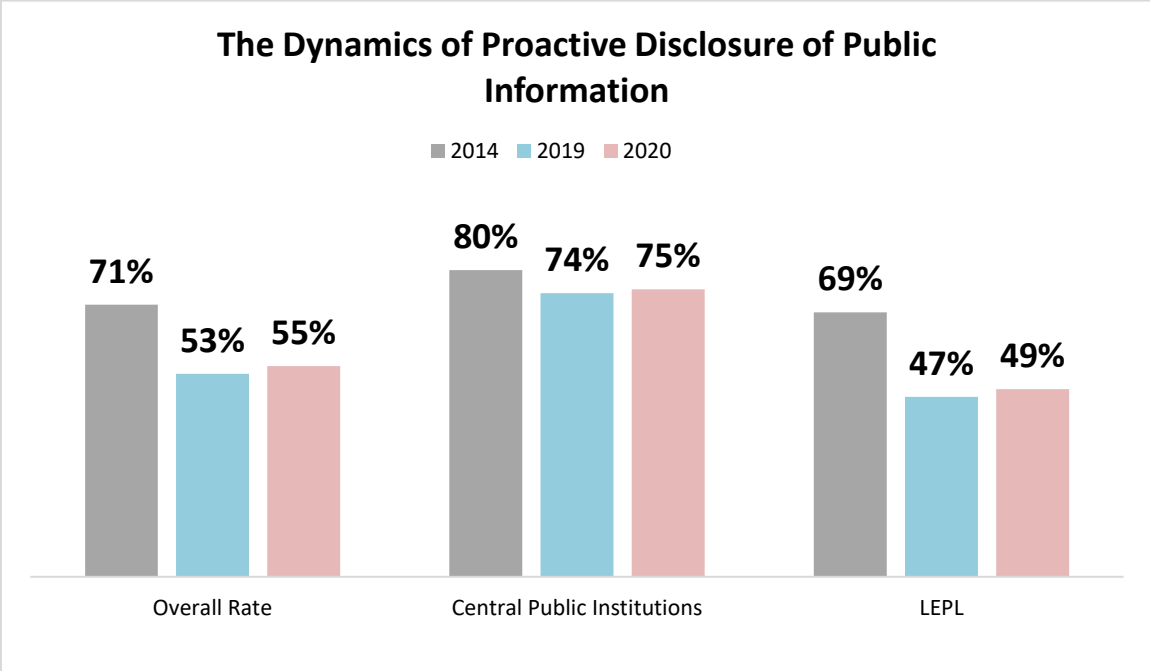
Other Issues related to Proactive Disclosure of Information



Dynamics of Proactive Disclosure of Information

IDFI also conducted the monitoring of the proactive disclosure of public information in 2014 and 2019. This year, monitoring was conducted using a similar methodology. This gives us the possibility for comparative analysis. According to the results of the study, in 2020, the proactive availability of public information in public institutions was improved by 2% compared to the previous year. The increase in the total rate of access to information in public institutions was produced by the addition of 6 public institutions of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara, the average rate of which is 70%.

In 2020, the overall figure of central public institutions has improved by only 1%, while the figure for public entities subordinated to ministries has improved by 2%. This tendency illustrates that the proactive availability of information in public institutions in 2020 is about the same level as in the previous year. It should be mentioned that at the initial stage of establishing the standard of proactive disclosure of information, public institutions were more responsible in fulfilling their obligations. For example, according to the 2014 monitoring results, about 1 year after the government's decision came into force, the overall figure for public institutions was 71%, which is 16% higher compared to 2020.

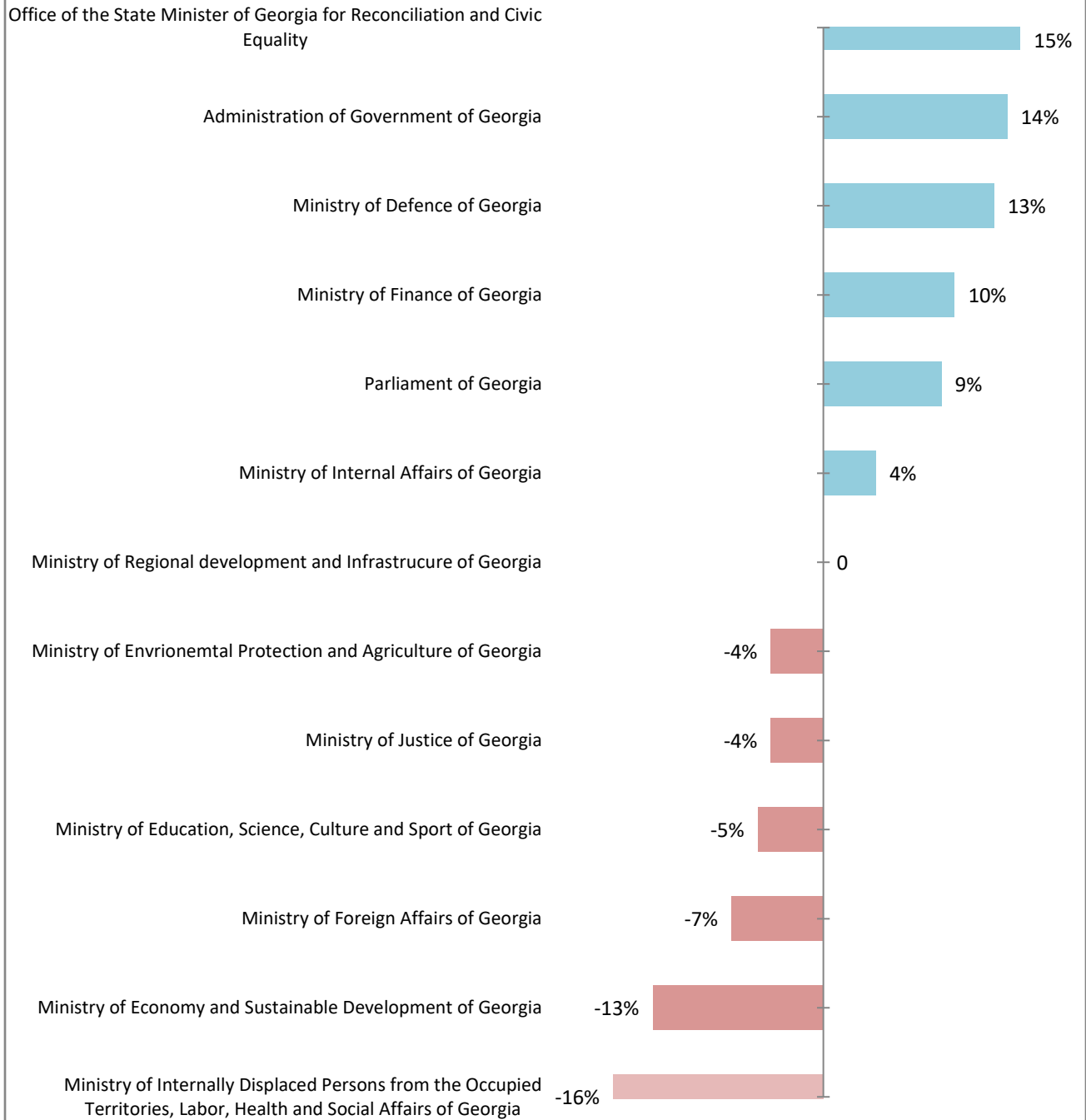


Among the central public institutions of Georgia, the Office of the Minister of State for Reconciliation and Civic Equality (+15%), the Administration of the Government of Georgia (+14%), the Ministry of Defense (+13%) and the Ministry of Finance (+10%) have improved the proactive availability of information compared to 2019.

In the case of the Administration of the Government of Georgia, as mentioned above, the improvement is due to the renewal of the practice of publishing information during the monitoring period, which was discontinued in 2014. In 2020, In particular, the government administration has provided information on their activities and staffing, as well as some financial information (grants received and issued, funding from budget funds) on the website. However, much of the information that is required to be published proactively is still inaccessible, and the high rate of improvement is largely due to the mediocre results shown in the previous year.

Among the central public institutions, the 2019 figure deteriorated for The Ministry of IDPs from the Occupied Territories, Labor, Health and Social Affairs (-13%), the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development (-13%), and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (-7%).

Percentage Change in the rate of Proactive Accessibility of Central Public Institutions Compared to Previous Year



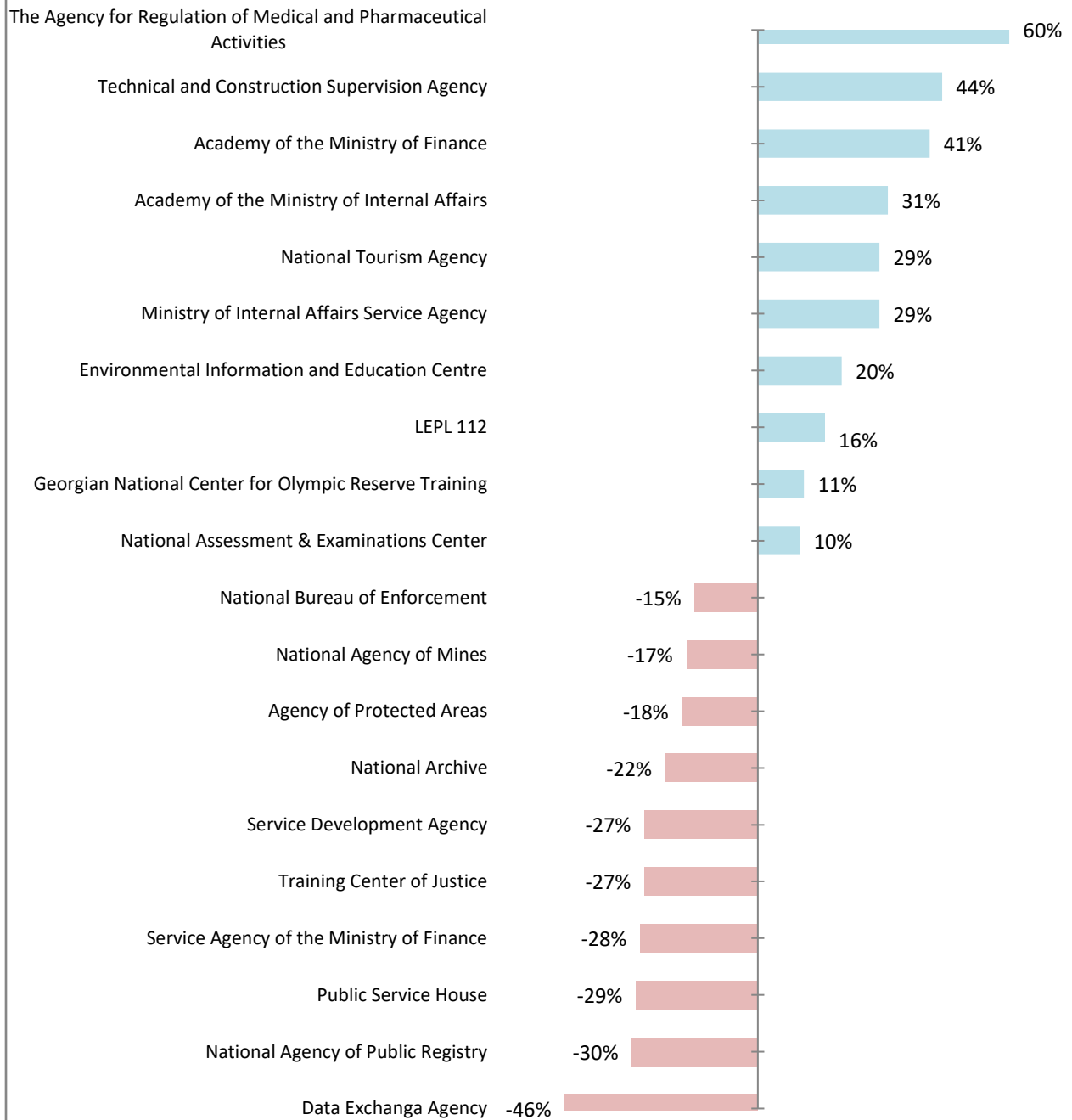
In 2020, 61 of the monitored agencies subordinated to the ministries were also part of the monitoring in 2019. Out of 61 agencies, 27 improved the indicator in 2020 compared to the previous year, 9 agencies received the same rating, and 25 worsened.

The Agency for Regulation of Medical and Pharmaceutical Activities improved the rate of proactive access to information by 60%, this is the biggest improvement among the agencies subordinated to ministries. The indicators were also significantly improved by the Technical and Construction Supervision Agency (+ 44%), the Academy of the Ministry of Finance (+ 41%), and the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (+ 31%). Among the 10 agencies subordinated to the ministries that improved their proactive disclosure rate in 2020, 3 are subordinated to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, 2 to the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, and 2 to the Ministry of Education, Culture, and Sports.

The Data Exchange Agency (-46%), the National Agency of Public Registry (-30%), and the House of Justice (-29%) stand out in terms of worsening the proactive disclosure figures. Among the 10 agencies subordinated to the ministries, which have deteriorated the rate of proactive disclosure of the information the most in 2020, 7 is subordinate to the Ministry of Justice. It is worth mentioning that the agencies within the system of the Ministry of Justice have been scoring particularly low in terms of disclosing public information in recent years.

As a result, the Ministry of Justice has twice been named the most closed system in Georgia by IDFI in recent years. Accordingly, the deterioration of the quality of proactive disclosure of information by the agencies within the system of the Ministry of Justice also significantly reduces the degree of transparency.

Percentage Change in the rate of Proactive Accessibility of Central Public Institutions Compared to Previous Year



Good Practices and Recommendations for the Proactive Disclosure of Public Information

Monitoring results of May 2020 strongly outline, that most agencies still fail to provide high standards of public information and consistent publication.

The attitude of public institutions towards the completely new, proactive standard of transparency of state agencies introduced in Georgia in 2013 significantly affects the prospects for the further development of the reform.

As a result, IDFI's initiatives such as improving the current standard of proactive disclosure of information and implementing the second wave of the reform; posting information in the open data format and committing to posting data on the open data portal - data.gov.ge; Bringing the list of information proactively published by public institutions during the Covid-19 crisis in compliance with the challenges of the pandemic and more; remain without a proper response from the Georgian authorities.

However, in the light of the challenges posed by the proactive disclosure of public information, in the case of individual agencies, we find that some categories of information are being published comprehensively and in detail. For example, information on the remuneration and business trip expenses on the websites of the Ministry of Defense of Georgia and the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture, and Sports of Georgia are published separately based on names and surnames of officials, and in bulk for other employees. Also, information on the vehicles on the balance sheet is provided with an indication of the vehicle model, year of manufacture, date of purchase, price, and residual value.

In particular, good practice includes publishing as much detailed information as possible on the following items:

Information to be published in accordance with the governmental decree	Recommendation
General statistics on statements in accordance with Articles 37 and 40 of the General Administrative Code	A register of letters requesting public information, indicating the date of the request, the sender, the addressee, the content, and the outcome of the discussion.
Information on the disposal of state property and transfer of use	With reference to the recipient of the property, the list of the transferred property and its balance value.

Advertising costs	Indicating the location, type, and fee of advertisement.
Information on salaries, allowances, and bonuses	Indicating information on salaries, allowances, and bonuses of officials separately, and of other employees in total.
Information on business trip expenses for official and working visits	Indicating the name and surname, date of a business trip, purpose, country, and relevant expenses (hotel, travel, daily, etc.) separately for officials. On other employees only in total form.
List of cars on the balance sheet with reference to the model	Indicating the vehicle model, year of manufacture, date of purchase, price, and residual value.
Fuel consumption costs	Separately for the cars of officials and in bulk for other employees.
Expenses for maintenance of vehicles	Separately for the cars of officials and in bulk for other employees.
Expenses for telephone conversations	Expenditures of public figures (in bulk) and expenditures of other employees (in bulk)
Received and issued grants	Indicating the recipient /issuer of each grant, its amount, and purpose

In addition to the proactive disclosure of public information, it is significant that administrative authorities provide access to other types of information that are important to the public. For instance, in the case of a COVID 19 pandemic, it is crucial to ensure the maximum transparency of information related to the public expenditures during the crisis.

For instance, some agencies have published important information about the progress of the pandemic on the website. However, the form and content of its publication often do not meet the requirements of a high standard of transparency. For example, the Georgian government has created a special website StopCov.ge, which provides the public with interactive information on the progress of the pandemic, general statistics, action plans developed within the pandemic, instructions for receiving social assistance, and more. Relatively detailed statistics on the course of the pandemic are available on the website of the National Center for Disease Control and Public Health. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia has created a separate section on their website- COVID-19 issues that present general statistics on assistance to Georgian citizens abroad and their return to the country, video conferences on issues related to COVID-19 Pandemic and others. The Revenue Service website also has a separate section for COVID-19, which contains important information for businesses.

In order to improve the quality of proactive disclosure of information, public institutions should take into account IDFI's core recommendations for improving the list of mandatory proactively published information, including defining flexible commitments in crises. Additionally:

- Public institutions should provide access to any public information of public interest based on the specifics of their activities. Moreover, it should be required to publish any information that was requested by at least 3 or more individuals within a year;
- Public institutions should not be limited to the minimum standard set by the government decree and should publish the information in detail (for example: indicating the names and surnames of officials);
- The practice of publishing public information in an open data format and placing it on the data portal on data.gov.ge should be introduced.

Rankings of Proactive Disclosure of Public Information (Monitoring Results of 2020)		
N	Public Institution	Result
1	Parliament of Georgia	100%
2	Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia	100%
3	Financial Analytical Service	98%
4	Ministry of Defense of Georgia	97%
5	The Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara	96%
6	National Statistics Office of Georgia	95%
7	National Center for Disease Control and Public Health	95%
8	Treasury Service	95%
9	National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement	94%
10	Ministry of Education, Science, Culture, and Sport of Georgia	93%
11	Agency for Regulation of Medical and Pharmaceutical Activities	93%
12	The Academy of the Ministry of Finance	92%
13	Notary Chamber of Georgia	88%
14	Ministry of Education, Culture, and Sports of Adjara Autonomous Republic	88%
15	Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia	86%
16	Ministry of Justice of Georgia	85%
17	Ministry of Finance of Georgia	85%
18	Presidential Administration of Georgia	85%
19	National Bureau of Forensics	83%
20	MIA Academy	82%
21	The State Ministry for Reconciliation and Civic Equality	81%

22	Roads Department of Georgia	80%
23	Georgian National Center for Olympic Reserve Training	80%
24	National Assessment & Examinations Center	77%
25	Legislative Herald of Georgia	77%
26	Educational and Scientific Infrastructure Development Agency	76%
27	LEPL Technical and Construction Supervision Agency	75%
28	Georgian National Tourism Administration	73%
29	Social Service Agency	72%
30	The Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia	71%
31	Veterans' Cases State Department	70%
32	National Bureau of Enforcement	68%
33	Shota Rustaveli National Scientific Foundation of Georgia	68%
34	Education Management Information System	67%
35	International Education Center	63%
36	Environmental Information and Education Centre	63%
37	Land Transport Agency	63%
38	State Hydrographic Service of Georgia	63%
39	National Agency of Public Registry of Ministry of Justice of Georgia	63%
40	Ministry of Finance and Economy of Adjara Autonomous Republic	63%
41	Office of the Government of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara	61%
42	Ministry of Health and Social Affairs of Adjara Autonomous Republic	61%
43	National Archives of Georgia	59%
44	Competition Agency of Georgia	58%
45	Georgian Civil Aviation Agency (GCAA)	55%
46	Chancellery of the Government of Georgia	53%
47	Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia	53%
48	Ministry of Agriculture of Adjara Autonomous Republic	53%
49	Civil Service Bureau	52%
50	National Wine Agency of Georgia	50%
51	Ministry of Internal Affairs Service Agency	50%
52	National Agency of State Property	49%
53	State Fund for Protection and Assistance to Victims of Human Trafficking	44%
54	Office of Resource Officers of Educational Institutions	44%
55	Public Service Development Agency	44%
56	Data Exchange Agency	44%
57	Training Center of Justice of Georgia	43%
58	Security Police Department	43%
59	LEPL 112	43%
60	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia	40%
61	Revenue Service of Georgia	39%
62	Service Agency of Ministry of Finance	39%

63	Innovation and Technology Bureau of Georgia	39%
64	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia	38%
65	Maritime Transport Agency of Georgia	37%
66	State Procurement Agency	37%
67	Public Service Hall	36%
68	National Agency for Minerals	34%
69	Investigation Service of Ministry of Finance of Georgia	33%
70	Agency of Protected Areas	30%
71	LEPL National Food Agency	29%
72	National Center for Teacher’s Professional Development	28%
73	Enterprise Georgia	25%
74	National Forestry Agency	24%
75	Smart Logic	24%
76	National Defense Academy (NDA)	24%
77	Municipal Development Fund of Georgia	23%
78	The Unified National Body of Accreditation – Accreditation Center	23%
79	Special State Protection Service	23%
80	National Environment Agency	20%
81	LEPL Agency Of Nuclear and Radiation Safety	20%
82	Georgian National Agency for Standards and Metrology	20%
83	LEPL General Giorgi Kvinitadze Cadets Military Lyceum	20%
84	Scientific-Research Center on Agriculture	19%
85	MIA Border Police of Georgia	18%
86	State Agricultural Laboratory	16%
87	Information Center on NATO and EU	15%
88	Office of the Business Ombudsman of Georgia	14%
89	National Agency for Cultural Heritage Preservation Georgia	12%
90	Healthcare Service of the MIA	7%

No Information has been Published/Updated on the Public Information Page		
1	Special Penitentiary Service	
2	Emergency Management Service	
3	The State Sub-Agency Department of Environmental Supervision	
4	Agency of Wildlife	
5	State Agency of Oil and Gas	
6	STC Delta	

Do not Have a Public Information Section on the Website	
1	Eurasian Transport Corridor Investment Center
2	LEPL - Zurab Zhvania School of Public Administration
3	Georgian National Film Center
4	Creative Georgia
5	Service for Accounting, Reporting and Auditing Supervision
6	National Center for Intellectual Property
7	State Agency for Religious Issues
8	State Language Department

Do not Have their Website	
1	National Agency for Crime Prevention, Execution of Non-custodial Sentences and Probation
2	Vocational Training and Training Center for Convicts
3	State Employment Promotion Agency
4	Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia
5	Bureau for Translation of International Agreements of Georgia
6	Emergency Coordination and Emergency Assistance Center
7	Akhalgori Children's Educational Institution
8	Levan Mikeladze Diplomatic Training and Research Institute
9	Anaklia Deepwater Port Development Agency
10	Bureau of Cyber Security
11	Military Hospital of the Ministry of Defense
12	Market Surveillance Agency
13	Public-Private Partnership Agency
14	Youth Agency
15	Government Special Liaison Agency
16	State Security Agency
17	Office of the National Security Council