

## IDFI Launches a Project to Strengthen Good Governance in Georgia with Funding from Global Philanthropic Organization, Luminate

*#GoodGovernanceGeorgia*

### Press Release

Tbilisi, 9 February 2019 – **Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI)** launched a **large-scale project for strengthening good governance in Georgia, funded by Luminate**, a global philanthropic organization focused on empowering people and institutions to work together to build just and fair societies.

The three-year project aims to strengthen public oversight of state institutions, and increase transparency and accountability of the government of Georgia. IDFI plans to accomplish this objective by conducting oversight activities related to monitoring of effective, responsible, transparent, ethical and accountable governance and public procurement activities, preparing investigative analyses, and by increasing the monitoring capacity of journalists, CSOs and activists.

**Levan AVALISHVILI**, IDFI Programs Director - “Despite some progress over the past few years, the standards and quality of good governance still remain a challenge in Georgia. There is a lack of systemic public scrutiny of budgetary spending and public procurement activities. For this reason, we believe it is crucially important to launch a systematic monitoring effort of state expenditures in Georgia, particularly through the empowerment of journalists, business and civil society representatives, and activists to better be able to hold the government accountable. This approach will ensure meaningful project impact and increase public support for good governance in the country.”

**Olena BOYTSUN**, Director of Investments, Central & Eastern Europe, at Luminate - “This is our first direct engagement in Georgia, and we are glad to welcome the IDFI team to our Central and Eastern Europe portfolio. Luminate’s global work in financial transparency supports transparency, accountability, and participation in the use of public funds. We strongly believe that this project will help Georgia’s institutions and rule of law become more effective and enhance the country’s future development.”

With the budget of USD 390,000 – **Good Governance in Georgia** project commenced in January 2019 and will run until December 2021. Initially, the project will pilot in Tbilisi (capital of Georgia) and gradually move to the rest of the country during the second and third years. Over the next three years, the project will:

- ✓ Promote the anti-corruption agenda, access to public information, and government transparency and accountability in Georgia through monitoring reports and in-depth analytical papers about implementation of fiscal policy at central and local government levels.
- ✓ Develop a practical toolkit on how to use open data, existing online and offline resources, and mechanisms of government oversight.
- ✓ Hold practical trainings and workshops for journalists, local CSO representatives, activists and business sector representatives.

- ✓ Launch a monitoring process with the participation of trained journalists, CSO representatives and activists.
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#### **About IDFI:**

IDFI is a non-governmental organization that aims to facilitate democratic governance in Georgia and abroad by informing and empowering the public. IDFI strives to create an empowered and inclusive society, to promote human rights and good governance by raising civic awareness through evidence-based reports, research and recommendations. We advocate for initiating & implementing policy reforms, laws and practices to enhance democratic governance. For more information about IDFI, please visit: [www.idfi.ge](http://www.idfi.ge)

#### **About Luminate**

Luminate is a global philanthropic organisation focused on empowering people and institutions to work together to build just and fair societies. It was established in 2018 by Pierre Omidyar, the founder of eBay. Luminate works with its investees and partners to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to participate in, and shape, the issues affecting their societies, and to make government, corporations, media, and those in positions of power more responsive and more accountable. Luminate does this by funding and supporting innovative and courageous organisations and entrepreneurs around the world, and by advocating for the policies and actions that will drive change across four impact areas: Civic Empowerment, Data & Digital Rights, Financial Transparency, and Independent Media. To date it has supported 236 organisations in 18 countries with \$314 million in funding. [www.luminategroup.com](http://www.luminategroup.com).

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