



ევროკავშირი
საქართველოსთვის
The European Union for Georgia



Transparency and Public Participation in Lawmaking

Second thematic workshop
in follow-up to the OSCE/ODIHR comprehensive assessment of the legislative process in Georgia

Held in cooperation with the Working Group on Public Consultations
of the Permanent Council on Open and Transparent Governance of the Parliament of Georgia

Tbilisi, 18-19 December 2017
Courtyard Marriott Hotel

AGENDA

MONDAY, 18 DECEMBER

09:30-10:00 **Registration/ Welcome coffee**

10:00-10:20 **Introductory Remarks:**

- **Eka BESELIA**, Chair of the Legal Issues Committee, Chair of the Working Group on Public Consultations, Permanent Parliamentary Council on Open and Transparent Governance, Parliament of Georgia
- **Yuri MARCHENKO**, Associate Legal Officer, ODIHR
- **Sophie HUET-GUERRICHE**, Programme Manager, Public Administration Reforms, EU Delegation to Georgia
- **Gigi BREGADZE**, Democratic Governance Team Leader, UNDP in Georgia

10:20-10:30 **Brief introduction of the participants**

10:30-12:00 **Public participation in lawmaking**

Importance and main forms of public participation in policymaking and lawmaking, **Melanie SULLY**, *Go-Governance Institute, Austria (25 min.)*

Discussion moderated by Eka BESELIA, Chair of the Legal Issues Committee

- *What are the main ways in which citizens can be involved in lawmaking in Georgia?*
- *When does this involvement typically start in the process of developing new legislation? Does it happen at the earliest stages when general policies are still being formulated?*
- *What are the current trends in public participation, such as recently introduced mechanisms or formats? What forms of public participation have been working well? What forms/formats have been less successful, and why?*

12:00-12:15 **Coffee break**

12:15-14:00 **Transparency and public participation in the legislative work of parliament**

Role of parliament and its committees in the legislative process and transparency and openness in the legislative work of parliament, **Melanie SULLY**, *Go-Governance Institute (25 min.)*

Discussion moderated by Irina PRUIDZE, Chair of the Permanent Council on Open and Transparent Governance, Parliament of Georgia

- What are the existing avenues for the public to get involved in the work of Parliament? Specifically, how do the public/external experts get involved in Parliament's scrutiny of draft legislation?
- How transparent is the legislative work of the Parliament of Georgia?

14:00-15:00 **Lunch**

15:00-16:45 **Consulting interested parties, including civil society organizations and external experts, on draft laws and policies: current practices, challenges and opportunities**

Importance of public consultations for improving the quality of laws and policies; methods of public consultation; ingredients of a successful and effective consultation process, **Sandra PERNAR**, *Croatian Government Office for Co-operation with NGOs (25 min.)*

Discussion moderated by Elene SICHINAVA, Invited Specialist of the Legal Issues Committee, Parliament of Georgia

- What mechanisms for public consultation are available in Georgia (eg online consultation, hearings, roundtables, etc.)? What mechanisms

work the best? Which ones are less successful? Which ones are underused? How is the format for a specific consultation selected?

- What is the existing regulatory framework for public consultation (eg, legislation, guidelines, policies)? When are public consultations required by law? Are standards on public consultations clear and detailed enough?
- At what stages of the lawmaking process are consultations typically conducted?
- What are the barriers to effective public consultations in practice?
- How to ensure that consultations are inclusive and, ultimately, meaningful (not just a box-ticking exercise)?

16:45-17:00 **Day One wrap-up**

TUESDAY, 19 DECEMBER

10:00-10:15 **Day Second opening remarks**

Eka BESELIA, Chair of the Legal Issues Committee, Chair of the Working Group on Public Consultations of the Permanent Council on Open and Transparent Governance, Parliament of Georgia

10:15-11:30 **Use of digital technologies in enabling and enhancing public participation in lawmaking**

E-democracy tools and their role in making lawmaking more transparent and open; practical digital solutions for improving the quality of the legislative process, **Liia HÄNNI**, *e-Governance Academy, Estonia (25 min.)*

*Discussion moderated by **Yuri MARCHENKO**, Associate Legal Officer, ODIHR*

- What digital tools are currently available/being developed in Georgia to make the legislative process more transparent and to enable public participation in lawmaking and policy making?
- Are these tools sufficiently user friendly? Are they actively used?
- What aspects of the lawmaking process in Georgia would particularly benefit from online technology?

11:30-11:45 *Coffee Break*

11:45-12:00 **Overview of donor activities implemented to foster increased openness and citizen engagement in legislative process, including in the frames of the Open Government Partnership (OGP) initiative**

- **Sophie GURULI**, EU-UNDP Parliament Project Manager
- **Tamara SARTANIA**, Parliamentary and Elections Programs Manager, NDI
- **Levan SAMADASHVILI**, Deputy Chief of Party, Good Governance Initiative (GGI), USAID

12:00-13:45 **Submitting e-petitions and collecting e-signatures for legislative initiatives and providing feedback to citizen comments on draft legislation in Georgia**

Draft amendments to the Parliament's Rules of Procedure prepared by the Working Group on Public Consultations of the Permanent Council on Open and Transparent Governance of the Parliament of Georgia, **Levan MTCHEDLADZE**, *Legal Issues Committee, Parliament of Georgia (15 min)*

- *Article-by-article discussion of the draft amendments moderated by **Levan AVALISHVILI**, Deputy Executive Director of Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI)*

13:45-14:45 *Lunch*

14:45-16:45 **Ensuring a participatory and consultative lawmaking process: Use of consultative councils in the work of parliamentary committees**

Draft amendments to the Parliament's Rules of Procedure on the status, composition and operation of consultative councils

- *Article-by-article discussion of the draft amendments moderated by **Levan AVALISHVILI**, Deputy Executive Director of Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI)*

16:45-17:15 **Workshop wrap-up/Closing remarks**

Eka BESELIA, Chair of the Legal Issues Committee, Chair of the Working Group on Public Consultations of the Permanent Council on Open and Transparent Governance, Parliament of Georgia