



ANNUAL REPORT OF TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL GEORGIA - 2021





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TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL GEORGIA'S TEAM IN 2021



MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EKA GIGAURI

Dear friends,

As we leave behind another year of unending political instability and look ahead towards the challenges that lie ahead in 2022, I feel compelled to note the motivation we received throughout the year by serving the immediate interests of the general public.

Last year alone, our lawyers safeguarded the property and labor rights of over 2000 citizens by providing them with comprehensive free legal aid. As a result of this legal assistance, 68 court decisions with over 1.2 million GEL in compensation were made in favor of citizens that had been subject to discrimination by the state. Furthermore, a total of 28,551 m² of land was placed under the ownership of our free legal aid beneficiaries.

Everyone who is treated illegally in public office, who face barriers in the process of land registration or whose rights are violated in other aspects should know that Transparency International Georgia is the place where they will always get a helping hand and where—most importantly—their cases will be followed through till the end.





The fact that we can bring our efforts to a successful conclusion is confirmed by the results of activities carried out by our Committees of Concerned Citizens (CCC) in the regions. We attracted enthusiastic people to our CCCs so that they can identify infrastructural problems in their local communities and address relevant institutions to resolve these problems. The identified issues include those related to roads, lack of water supply, transport, kindergartens, schools, libraries, playgrounds, and other infrastructural necessities.

Thanks to the efforts of our organization, **95** such issues were solved in Samegrelo, Imereti, Adjara and Samtskhe-Javakheti in 2021 – what makes me happy is that a lot of citizens are joining our initiative and are acquiring necessary skills to urge the government to do its work.



Naturally, I must note the challenges the country faced in 2021.

In this context, the facts of attacks on journalists were unprecedented and extremely alarming – 93 cases of violence against journalists were reported throughout the year, with most of them occurring during the July 5 rally, when aggressive groups hunted media representatives. Aleksandre Lashkarava, TV Pirveli cameraman, died shortly after being brutally assaulted by violent groups. Not only the state failed to protect journalists' rights, but it even encouraged violence from aggressive groups. TI Georgia prepared a class action of 24 journalists against the state to hold it accountable for the occurred events.

In total, we protected the rights of up to 200 journalists throughout the year. We also stood by those civic activists whose unjustified arrests have turned into a bad habit of the government.



Throughout the year, we informed the public about a number of corruption cases. With the help of our multimedia products and media outlets, we tried to show the true scale of high-level corruption in Georgia, as well as how the impunity syndrome contributes to the increase in such cases. **Our goal is to show the connection between empty fridges of citizens and public funds misappropriated by officials**, to tell them that at the expense of their impoverishment, people affiliated with the ruling party are getting rich. I believe that our active efforts—no matter whether corruption cases will receive relevant response or not—have an important preventive effect, and we will further strengthen our work to disclose such facts.

Local self-government elections were held in 2021. As a result of monitoring both rounds of elections and preparing comprehensive reports, we concluded that since the elections in many precincts were concluded with a rather narrow margin and the opposition managed to win only in several districts, the violations and problematic tendencies, encountered during the elections might have had a serious impact on the ability of voters to exercise their free choice, as well as on the final results of the elections. The elections made it clear that the public no longer wants to have one-party rule in the country, but rather wants changes and coalition government—a precedent is already set in some newly elected municipal councils.



I would assess 2021 as the year of disappointment for our Western partners. It was an unprecedented development, when European Council President Charles Michel acted as a mediator to help political forces resolve the political crisis in Georgia. As a result of difficult negotiations, a roadmap for Georgia's recovery and implementation of reforms on its path towards EU integration was developed, with TI Georgia making its modest contribution. Unfortunately, the agreement worked partly – the opposition stopped boycotting the newly elected Parliament, some political prisoners were released, certain electoral rules were changed for the better; however, most of its provisions related to the introduction of a low-threshold proportional electoral system, judicial and prosecution reforms, as well as power-sharing in the Parliament were actually shelved, to be more accurate, as a result of “a big dupery” – the ruling party annulled the agreement, thus reiterating its position that it was not ready for launching reforms.

Against the background of intensified anti-Western propaganda and Russia's soft power, when not only the government does not act against it, but actually promotes democratic backsliding and backtracking on its path to European integration. Public efforts are especially important to deter such actions. Therefore, our multiyear campaign #StrengthIsInEurope proved even more necessary in 2021. A cycle of TI Georgia's TV programs “Our Europe” and its host, Giorgi Ushikishvili, have visited many Georgian families with interesting stories about Europe.

The year 2021 was remarkable as our organization and its motivated team received another international recognition, when I was re-elected as a member of the Board of Directors of Transparency International, for a term of three years this time.

Special thanks to our tireless team and donors for giving us the opportunity to do many good and beneficial work for the country!

RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS



GIORGI ONIANI

Deputy Executive Director

The year 2021 proved to be pretty unusual and full of challenges. The problems arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, when TI Georgia periodically had to go remote, were further aggravated by the tense political environment between the main political forces, becoming even tenser as elections loomed. Naturally, this situation affected the civil society sector and its important players.

Although no serious open attacks took place, general situation became complicated largely due to the government's unwillingness to cooperate with us. The government actually refused to implement all long-term reforms, which would have promoted the country's

advancement in terms of good governance or corruption. It was part of the bigger picture, when the Georgian government, like the governments of some other countries with flawed democracies, used the pandemic for strengthening their grip on power.

In this situation, along with its usual activities, TI Georgia maintained active relations and expanded contacts in its main strategic directions, firstly, with the U.S. and EU institutions.

In July 2021, together with partner organizations, we paid a visit to Washington, where we held a series of meetings at the Department of State, the Security Council, the House of Representatives and the Senate. We also met with representatives of non-governmental organizations - NDI, IRI, Freedom House, Heritage Foundation, CEPA, CIPE, Hudson Institute, Atlantic Council and experts. During these meetings, we discussed the problems related to good governance and democratic development in the country, focusing on possible solutions and an important role our partners are playing in this process. Traditionally, our partners showed interest in our assessments about recent developments in Georgia, as well as the issues related to the quality of democracy, including judicial independence, media environment and state capture. Our visit coincided with the launch of the Congressional Caucus against Foreign Corruption and Kleptocracy, which aims at fighting kleptocracy and ensuring a consolidated U.S. response to political leaders routinely engaged in illicit self-enrichment globally. The visit helped us acquire new important contacts in terms of global anti-corruption activities. Moreover, we got acquainted with newly appointed officials of the Biden Administration, working on the problems persisting in our region.

We visited the United States in early July, therefore, the July 5 aggression against media representatives and the government's reaction to it was one of the key issues of our discussions. Our American partners showed special interest towards the issues of police misconduct and irresponsible statements made by some top officials, encouraging violence. Representatives of the U.S. Department of State and the Biden Administration made very strict public statements during and in the aftermath of our visit.



By the end of the year, following the elections, we, together with partner organizations, visited Brussels, where we met with representatives of the EU institutions and discussed the problems persisting in the country, as well as the government's anti-Western statements and steps that became a cause of major concern. Our partners listened with great interest to our general assessments about the quality of democracy and state institutions. We also informed them about the necessity of Georgia's implementation of reforms under the EU-Georgia Association Agreement.





The Open Government Partnership (OGP) process, or, more precisely, its absence was a clear example of the government's refusal to implement reforms. In summer, the Head of the Government Administration invited us, the non-government organizations involved in this process, to the meeting and promised to resume the process; however, the promise was not kept till the end of the year. Thus, the Open Government Partnership process was actually suspended throughout 2021.

To summarize, the year 2021 proved to be yet another difficult year in terms of Georgia's democratic development, while negative tendencies in institutional democracy and consistency of the country's foreign policy course became more evident.



MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS, PUBLIC FINANCES



LEVAN NATROSHVILI

Programs Manager

2021 was the year of municipal elections in Georgia. Transparency International Georgia monitored both rounds of elections that resulted in the election of mayors and Sakrebulo (City Assembly) members in 64 municipalities. TI Georgia deployed up to 300 short-term observers to monitor each round of the elections.

Throughout the year, our organization prepared **two comprehensive reports and released tens of statements/assessments** on the elections with our

lawyer/analysts, **Gigi Chikhladze** and **Tamta Kakhidze** making a huge contribution to it.

According to our assessments, the pre-election environment was relatively competitive with political parties campaigning freely; however, mobilization of administrative and other resources gave the ruling party an undue advantage. In addition, multiple instances of politically motivated pressure, threats, forced dismissals or coercion to resign, as well as ineffective investigation of such cases by relevant government agencies undermined the pre-election environment. The involvement of the State Security Service was often evident in the cases of alleged coercion. The line between the ruling party and the state was also blurred, a number of election-motivated social and economic programs and projects were initiated, and the employees of budgetary organizations were actively involved in the campaigns of the ruling party. A significant mismatch between the financial capabilities of the parties was evident in this election as well.

Ultimately, since the elections in many precincts were concluded with a rather narrow margin, the violations and problematic tendencies, encountered both, in the pre-election period and on Election Day, might have had a serious impact on the ability of voters to exercise their free choice, as well as on the final results of the elections. Therefore, **the public could have legitimate questions with regards to the overall fairness of the elections.**





Throughout the year, **our organization was actively involved** in the process of electoral reform. The working process lasted for several months and the final version of the document also covered the provisions of the April 19, 2021 agreement between the political parties.



In June, the Parliament of Georgia approved amendments to the Election Code, thus regulating some important issues better and with more fairness. However, the legislation did not address certain issues that needed to be changed to improve independence and impartiality of the electoral administration as well as the electoral system for local self-government elections and other regulations. Regrettably, the new regulation for electing the chairperson and members of the Central Election Commission (CEC) actually removed the need for consensus among political forces, and ultimately, only those loyal to the ruling party were elected to the CEC.



In addition, in 2021, we were regularly releasing reports on public finance. Our *Senior Analyst* **Beso Namchavadze** was the author of these reports. Public procurement is part of public finance and we were involved in its monitoring on a regular basis. Due to the pandemic, a share of simplified (direct) procurements in public procurement has increased that significantly increases the risks of corruption and malpractice. In 2021, we thoroughly analyzed two major sectors of public procurement - **construction and transport**. We again revealed many donors of the ruling party among contractors that raise doubts about political corruption.

Last year, TI Georgia released a report on **offshore companies operating in Georgia**. There are about 3,200 companies registered in the Georgian Business Registry, all or part of which are owned by an offshore company. Since high-ranking public officials are restricted from doing business, they might have used offshore-based companies to maintain their privacy. It would also allow them to covertly participate in state projects, privatization, and public procurement. The study managed to identify 11 offshore companies allegedly affiliated with Bidzina Ivanishvili. Offshore-based companies own large enterprises including Tbilisi Energy, Beeline, IDS Borjomi, Chiaturmanganum Georgia, Rustavi Steel and Silk Road Group Holding.



Traditionally, we assessed **the state budget performance report covering the first six months of 2021, as well as the 2022 draft state budget**. Especially noteworthy is the world's reputable Open Budget Survey (OBS) made by the International Budget Partnership (IBP) to assess the state budgets and rank the assessed countries. Transparency International Georgia has been cooperating with this organization for years, assessing the activities of various Georgian public institutions in the process of budgeting. The work on the survey ended in 2021 and its results will be released in April 2022.

A YEAR OF CHALLENGES AND OBSTACLES FOR MEDIA



MAMUKA ANDGULADZE
Media Program Manager

The activities of critical media representatives are becoming increasingly difficult and arguably life-threatening in Georgia. Deterioration of the media environment has become irreversible, reaching its critical level in 2021. **93 cases of violence against journalists** were reported throughout the year, an unprecedented and alarming rate in Georgian reality.



On July 5-6 alone, at least 53 journalists were injured in large-scale violence against media representatives. Lekso Lashkarava, the cameraman of TV Pirveli, was found dead in his home on July 11, six days after being assaulted and injured on July 5. Media is the target of illegal surveillance, disinformation campaigns and aggressive rhetoric. There is a lack of adequate government response to violence and threats against journalists.

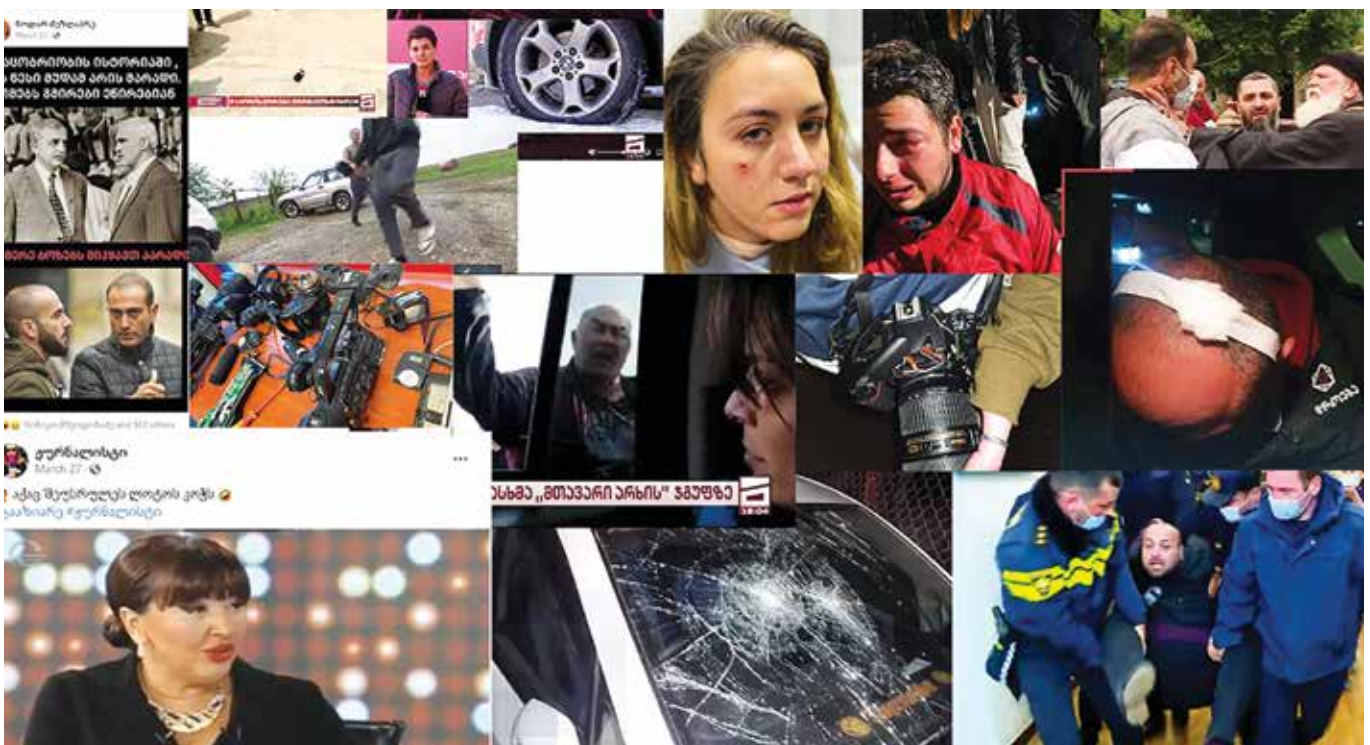
Against this background, TI Georgia is fully mobilized to protect journalists and improve their professional standards.

Transparency International Georgia was actively involved in informing local and international audiences about the July 5-6 developments. Our lawyers prepared lawsuits **to protect the rights of a total of 24 journalists** from TV channels - Mtavari Arkhi, Formula and TV Pirveli, as well as an online media outlet, on.ge, whom the state did not or could not protect against aggression and attacks of violent groups, and failed to ensure proper conditions for their professional activities. TI Georgia prepared one more lawsuit involving Mtavari Arkhi, Formula and TV Pirveli to claim for pecuniary damage in connection with the destruction of their equipment during the attack.





The July 5-6 attack against journalists was the deplorable result of aggressive rhetoric or policies actively pursued by the government against critical media in recent years. Our media team has indicated on multiple occasions that the ruling party's aggressive rhetoric and allegedly government-backed disinformation campaigns on social media, politically motivated cases, inadequate reaction to the government interference with journalists' professional activities and violence would incite negative attitudes and violence against journalists. Throughout the year, TI Georgia called on Georgian Dream on several occasions to create a safe working environment for media representatives. In our [report](#) **"Deterioration of media environment has become irreversible"** published back in May, we reviewed the existing challenges and threats referring to specific examples.



Few days before the 2021 local self-government elections, documents allegedly containing covert wiretaps by the State Security Service were released to the public. Based on the public information, as well as the data provided by journalists and media companies, TI Georgia's media team managed to identify at least **55 journalists from 10 media outlets**, who confirmed that the information contained in the State Security Service files was genuine and that such communications had really taken place.

In our traditional [report](#) prepared in the run up to the elections to assess **the media environment** in the country, we paid great attention to the facts of violence against critical journalists. TI Georgia identified 93 cases of violence against representatives of 23 media outlets over the past year.



We continue to monitor the activities of Georgian Public Broadcasters. We paid special attention to the **developments around Adjara TV and Radio Company**. Our **Senior Analyst, Salome Tsetskhladze** prepared the document covering the developments around Adjara TV since 2019, involving the cases of tens of critically disposed employees of the broadcaster, who were illegally dismissed or pressured by the ruling party-affiliated management. The document clearly shows the methods used by the ruling Georgian Dream party to seize Adjara TV.

TI Georgia's media team, traditionally, **reviewed the TV [advertising market](#) in 2020**, which, despite the pandemic, grew by GEL 7.7 million. However, if not for the parliamentary elections, the advertising revenues would have decreased by GEL 6.8 million.



Political polarization in the country has an impact on the advertising market. In particular, we studied **in which Georgian political parties had placed political ads during four elections in 2016-2020**. It appeared that the largest amount of money was spent on political advertising during the 2020 parliamentary elections (GEL 14.5 million). The ruling Georgian Dream party and the opposition United National Movement party spend largest amounts of money in the elections, placing ads on their favorite TV channels – Imedi TV for the ruling party and Rustavi 2 first, and then Mtavari Arkhi, after it changed hands, for the United National Movement.

Our traditional [report](#) prepared by TI Georgia’s media team regarding **the amount of money spent on remuneration of government’s PR Service staff** has again attracted public attention. In 2013-2020, the number of PR service staff working for government agencies increased, at least, to 969 (68%). Georgian government agencies spent GEL 140.5 million on remuneration of PR service staff.





Important findings were highlighted in our **study, which reviews TV procurements of 63 municipalities**. For some broadcasters the funds received from state procurements constitute the important share in the total revenue - in most cases it is more than 20% and sometimes exceeds even 50%.

We resumed our work within the Media Advocacy Coalition, uniting local civil society organizations working on media issues. As part of the Coalition, we actively respond to the challenges facing the sector and make joint efforts to advocate the improvement of the media environment. Just as part of the Coalition, we studied the issue of imposing a record high GEL 112,000 fine on the government-critical TV channel Mtavari Arkhi by the Communications Commission for multiple violations of the rule of disseminating political advertising outside the election period. We also responded to Communications Commission Chairperson Kakhi Bekauri's [statement](#) on the introduction of additional media regulation mechanisms and clarified once again why these mechanisms could have deplorable consequences in Georgia.



Protection of journalists' rights, including their labor rights remains a priority for our organization. It is noteworthy that **TI Georgia's lawyers are currently protecting labor rights of up to 200 journalists in courts that point at the seriousness of the situation.**

Our organization deems it important to both support journalists and develop their professional skills. To this end, in 2021, we again **held four training sessions** on Open Data access, processing and usage. Along with journalists, their future colleagues from various Georgian universities also participated in the training sessions. The purpose of training sessions is to strengthen investigative journalism as well as research skills, to share knowledge with students that will help them in getting employment.

In the run up to the elections, we **met with some top journalists of media outlets** and drew their attention to anticipated election violations, clarified their rights and responsibilities and informed them about the benefits of using our election-related open databases.



ANTI-CORRUPTION STAGNATION



SANDRO KEVKHISHVILI
Anti-corruption team leader

2021 was the year of challenges for TI Georgia's anti-corruption team. Although our team composition changed almost completely throughout the year, we worked in several priority directions and ended the year productively.

In 2021, we continued to work on highlighting the problem of high-level corruption. The telephone-based public opinion survey commissioned by TI Georgia has once again confirmed that a large part of the population of Georgia (56%) believes that high-level corruption is common in the country. The list of uninvestigated cases of alleged high-level corruption was updated twice throughout the year. The list included **65 uninvestigated cases** by the end of 2021 and clearly shows the true scale of high-level corruption in the country.

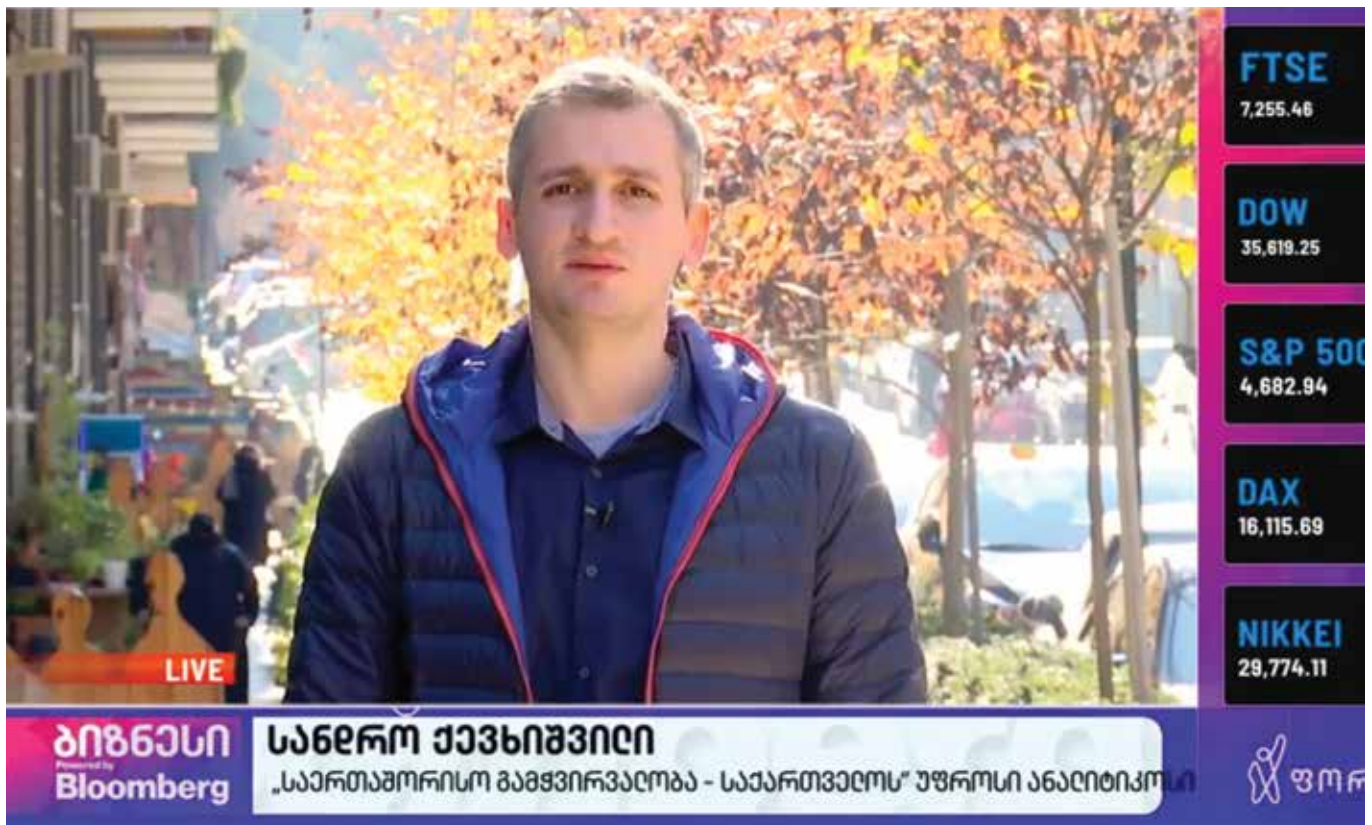
Our analysts prepared several important reports on corruption-related challenges facing Georgia:

Giorgi Loladze examined cases of **revolving door**, when public officials use their positions for the benefit of a private company and then get a job in the same company. The study has confirmed once again that this malpractice is common in Georgia and that there is no mechanism to prevent it. We offered the government specific recommendations to solve the problem and effectively regulate corruption risks.



Mariam Mamniashvili looked into **legal entities under the central and local government bodies** and identified serious corruption risks associated with them. According to the available data, more and more budget resources are being spent on these entities every year, their number, as well as number of their employees and expenditures is increasing, while transparency and monitoring mechanisms remain minimal. Our findings were later confirmed by a study conducted by the State Audit Office.

Mariam Mamniashvili also studied the **problem of anonymous ownership of companies** in Georgia and identified the need for more transparency in this area. According to the study, anonymous ownership of companies may be used, for example, for exerting secret influence by private businesses on state institutions, or for concealing the origins of money. In order to reduce the risks associated with anonymous ownership, we recommend creating a register of beneficial owners.



Lili Lezhava analyzed how **the country's key anti-corruption law is enforced in practice**. The study has revealed that the law is not actually enforced which creates a favorable environment for public sector corruption. In addition, she thoroughly studied the anti-corruption system existing in the country and highlighted the circumstances that hampered the implementation of anti-corruption policy over the past years. The study again highlighted the need for establishing an independent anti-corruption agency to undertake currently neglected functions of corruption prevention and investigation.



In early 2021, the anti-corruption team looked at the National Plan for COVID-19 Vaccine Deployment approved by the Government of Georgia. We found that the plan did not include any corruption-related risk assessment; so, we offered the government relevant recommendations to rectify this shortcoming. We also focused our attention on a mobile application created by the government with the aim of managing the coronavirus pandemic. The project with a total cost of GEL 700,000 proved unsuccessful.

TI Georgia also analyzed **the results of monitoring of public official asset declarations for 2020**. The analysis revealed yet again that the monitoring mechanism fails to perform the functions of corruption prevention and identification.

In 2021, our anti-corruption team launched a project on assisting the city halls of seven municipalities (Tbilisi, Telavi, Zugdidi, Gori, Ozurgeti, Senaki and Lagodekhi) in the corruption risk assessment process. To this end, we developed a methodology tailored specifically to local government.



TI Georgia was actively involved in all processes encouraging anti-corruption reforms, such as, for example, Open Government Partnership (OGP) and assessment of the anti-corruption environment in Georgia by the Anti-Corruption Network of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD/ACN). At the beginning of 2021, our team developed the reforms we would like to see in the revised National Anti-Corruption Strategy. However, this document has not been approved so far.

Finally, to mark the International Anti-Corruption Day on December 9 we unveiled our updated website **companyinfo.ge** as part of TI Georgia's **Anti-Corruption Week**. This online investigative tool allows users to quickly identify business connections during their corruption monitoring work.



REGIONAL FOCUS ON CORRUPTION



ZVIAD KORIDZE

Manager of Regional Offices

The key purpose of various studies and blogs prepared by TI Georgia's regional offices is to identify the problems faced by self-government bodies in Georgia. We try to draw the attention of relevant agencies to the persisting problems, to inform locals and encourage their civic activism.

Identification of **alleged corrupt deals** and informing the public about such facts is one of the key tasks of our five regional offices. The year 2021 proved extremely busy in this respect:

The study ***"Former Member of Batumi City Council Receives GEL 130 mln from State Procurements"*** conducted by Malkhaz Chkadia, head of TI Georgia's Batumi office, and the blog ***"Financial Interests of Former Georgian MP - Jumber IZORIA in Chkhorotsku"*** by Archil Todua, head of Zugdidi office, have revealed how the companies established by influential persons win public procurement contracts in local municipalities, while the owners of these companies run in local elections, trying to strengthen their positions in local authorities.

Tamuna Uchidze, head of TI Georgia's Akhaltsikhe office, studied how ***Arali, the company involved in Bidzina Ivanishvili's planned projects in Abastumani, wins tenders worth of million without competition.*** The company won tenders worth of GEL 181,923,427 in 2011-2021.

Throughout the year, the heads of all offices prepared several blogs regarding how the representatives of local self-governments tailored state procurements to their own interests, accordingly receiving huge incomes. The blogs ***"The company of Senaki City Council member wins tenders"*** by Archil Todua (Zugdidi), ***"The companies of the member of Batumi City Council and his son-in-law received profits worth a million from Batumi procurements"*** by Malkhaz Chkadia (Batumi), ***"Company that belongs to the business partner of Kutaisi Deputy Mayor wins local tenders"*** by Lela Motsonelidze (Kutaisi) and ***"The plots of land in Ninotsminda central park were registered into the ownership of the government-related persons"*** by Tamuna Uchidze (Akhaltsikhe) clearly show that the City Councils members and senior officials from the City Hall retain a dominant position in municipal procurements and create a harmful practice of corrupt deals.

“People convicted for corruption receive state procurements in Samtskhe-Javakheti” – the blog prepared by *Tamuna Uchidze*, head of TI Georgia’s Akhaltsikhe office, evaluates the practice established in state procurements in the region.

Lela Motsonelidze, head of TI Georgia’s Kutaisi office, reviewed ***“Promised and Delayed Projects in Kutaisi”***, while *Archil Todua*, head of Zugdidi office, brought an example of **fish processing facilities in Poti** to demonstrate how the non-compliance of norms by owners of these facilities largely due to their political affiliations increases ecological problems in the city.

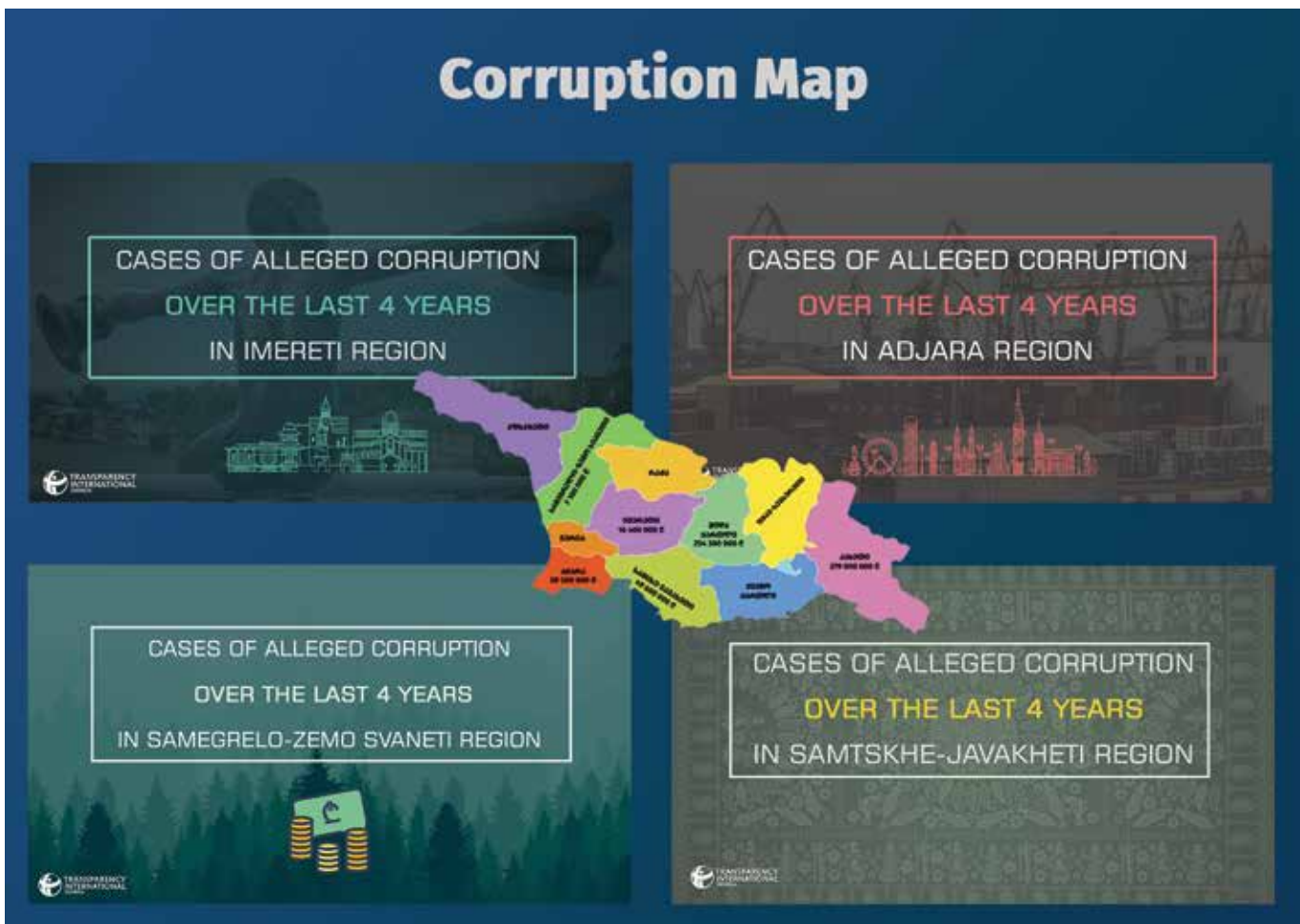
Malkhaz Chkadua, head of TI Georgia’s Batumi office, studied ***“Suspicious tenders of Kobuleti, Poti, and Terjola municipalities with Georgian Stone LLC.”*** Our organization began to analyze the activities of this company in 2020, when a classical example of the so called “revolving

door” was revealed: the head of Architecture Service of Kobuleti municipality resigned and became the owner of the construction company, which started to participate in state procurements and win tenders and simplified procurements. Later, the State Audit Service released a conclusion, which echoed the findings and recommendations of our study. Another blog ***“13 years of being a majoritarian MP and more than GEL 13 million from state procurements to Anzor Bolkvadze’s family and relatives”*** prepared by *Malkhaz Chkadua* describes how the important infrastructure and tourist projects in highland Adjara are associated with majoritarian MP Anzor Bolkvadze.

Naturally, these and other stories containing the signs of corruption attracted a lot of media attention that is quite enough for relevant agencies to react to them. However, we pursue an approach to inform government agencies about each problematic story in written.



We highlighted an increased number of alleged corrupt deals in the video titled “Corruption Map.” In addition, before local elections, we gathered tens of doubtful corruption cases in special videos on which our researchers had worked actively during four years.



In 2021, TI Georgia’s regional offices studied **the performance of local municipal councils of five cities - Batumi, Kutaisi, Zugdidi, Poti and Akhaltsikhe**. Transparency International Georgia prepares reports on the performance of city councils for several years. Just based on our observations and studies, we prepared a final review “**How a City Council works: Problems and Recommendations**.” The review has made it clear that the City Councils are weak oversight bodies. Our goal was to draw the City Councils’ attention to the ineffective tendencies persisting during the performance of their predecessors as well as to offer them specific ways to improve their work.

Our offices periodically carry out monitoring of municipal expenses to observe the dynamics of disposing taxpayers’ budgetary transfers. In 2021, number and remuneration of public officials of local city halls and city councils as well as employees of legal entities established by the municipalities increased unreasonably. *Malkhaz Chkadua*, head of TI Georgia’s Batumi office, prepared a report “**Operation costs of N(N)LEs of Adjara municipalities exceed GEL 41 million per year,**” while *Lela Motsonelidze*, head of Kutaisi office, again turned to the issue of LLC “Parkingservice”, operating under Kutaisi City Municipality, which, instead of becoming a profitable enterprise, requires more and more financial resources. In our opinion, **Kutaisi Municipality must abolish LLC “Parkingservice.”** Lela Motsonelidze also

analyzed “**Administrative expenditures of Kutaisi City Hall and City Council in 2017-2020**,” while Archil Todua, head of Zugdidi office, studied **administrative expenses of State Representatives** and revealed that total expenses of nine administrations amounted to GEL 5,182,978 in 2020.



Monitoring of public officials' asset declarations is an effective tool for observing the activities of local officials as well as legal aspects of their income and asset growth. Throughout 2021, we published reports on asset declarations of top officials from Samtskhe-Javakheti and Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti municipalities, as well as Tsageri and Lentekhi municipalities. We **presented all violations revealed through the monitoring to the Civil Service Bureau and called for further reaction.**

Along with identification of shortcomings, we are sparing no efforts to assist local self-government bodies. Due to the pandemic, we held **two training sessions** in 2021 for the employees of city halls and municipal councils of six municipalities of Imereti region, as well as for the employees of city halls and municipal councils of four municipalities of Samtskhe-Javakheti region on the issues related to the competences of local self-governments. The **third training session** on the issues of separation and management of state and municipal property was held in Zugdidi.



In addition, we held **three training sessions** for local non-governmental organizations and civil society groups. Two of them focused on the issues of involving local self-governments in the process of budgeting in Telavi and Batumi, while the third training was held in Tslenjikha on the issues of civic involvement and municipal property disposal. Our goal is to ensure that this process becomes more transparent and more citizens are involved in the process of budget planning.



In 2021, we successfully continued our radio projects – Archil Todua’s program **“Our Self-Government” on Radio Station Atinati in Zugdidi**, as well as Lela Motsonelidze’s program **“Transparent Policy” broadcast on Radio Station Dzveli Kalaki in Kutaisi** - which help us communicate local problems to the audience and actively discuss the ways of their solution.



COMMITTEES OF CONCERNED CITIZENS - VOICE OF OVER 3,000 CITIZENS IN LOCAL LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES



MALKHAZ CHKADUA

Coordinator of Committees of Concerned Citizens

Despite the pandemic and other difficulties, TI Georgia's Committees of Concerned Citizens (CCC), the unions of enthusiastic individuals, who, with our active support, address various problems persisting in their communities, managed and expanded their activities to new administrative units throughout 2021. **Over 20 new members agreed to join our CCCs; more than 200 problems were identified with 95 of them being solved or almost solved.**

It is especially noteworthy that a record number of citizens joined our appeals and petitions – **4 petitions and 15 appeals sent to 10 municipalities were signed by 3,060 citizens.** Moreover, the executive branches of municipalities have already started working on these appeals to meet the identified needs.



The advocacy efforts by Transparency International Georgia's Committees of Concerned Citizens in 2021 resulted in resolving the total of **95** infrastructure problems in Samegrelo, Imereti, Samtskhe-Javakheti and Adjara regions

Including:

-  Roads were paved in **19** settlements
-  Drinking water and irrigation systems were fixed in **10** settlements
-  Road traffic signs were installed in **10** communities
-  Playgrounds/sports grounds were set up in **6** settlements
-  Channel drainage was installed in **5** villages
-  Garbage containers were added in **5** settlements
-  Garbage dumps were eliminated at **4** locations
-  Outdoor lighting was installed in **3** settlements
-  Rehabilitation of **2** schools and **1** kindergarten has commence

We call on enthusiast citizens to join Transparency International Georgia's **Committees of Concerned Citizens**

Just this circumstance gives us hope that 2022 will be the year of preparing more petitions and other appeals, especially as, **along with the regional offices of Samegrelo, Imereti, Samtskhe-Javakheti and Adjara, our organization also started to work actively in the Kakheti region** – considering the problems persisting in Kakheti and the challenges facing local civil society, the work will be voluminous and result-oriented.

The pandemic was not accidentally mentioned at the very beginning – to observe social distancing and generally, to avoid further aggravation of the epidemiological situation, we refused to hold indoor meetings in 2021. We were holding outdoor meetings with locals

in the centers of a villages, near schools or administrative buildings – ultimately, **we met with the population of up to 30 villages and settlements of various municipalities.**

We identified the issues covered by our petitions through active communication with the population – residents of four villages of **Tkibuli Municipality** – Mandikori, Boboti, Tsikhia and Nadzva (250 citizens) – petitioned for rehabilitation of water supply system – the Municipality has already started to work on resource mobilization. Besides the above-mentioned settlements, the planned activities will ultimately solve water supply problems in 20 villages of the Tkibuli Municipality.



Locals in **Akhaltshikhe** petitioned for the establishment of public transportation system – regrettably, there has been no public transportation available in the main administrative city of the region so far. The city council has discussed the appeal prepared by our CCCs and signed by 500 citizens and now we expect the city hall to follow suit – besides informal consent, the executive branch of the Municipality confirmed its readiness for problem solving in writing as well.



In Adjara, we focused our attention on **Kobuleti** – we petitioned for rehabilitation and equipment of an obsolete and outdated public library with modern technologies. The city council approved the petition signed by up to 700 citizens, while the city hall promised to start problem solving in 2022.



In **Zugdidi**, residents of Baratashvili and adjacent streets in the village of Ingiri, as well as residents of Etseri settlement in the village of Kakhari (623 citizens) petitioned for the construction of water supply system – through our advocacy efforts, the works have already started in Ingiri, while the requirements of Kakhari residents will be met this year, as soon as the necessary resources are mobilized.



Due to the efforts of our CCCs, the Akhaltsikhe City Council adopted a decree on the rule of registration and discussion of a petition – the document not available in the representative body before.

Along with problem identification and advocacy, **in 2021, we actively worked with local civic activists in various regions – this is a relatively new direction for our CCCs.** We spoke with civic activists and students from Jvari, Tslenjikha, Marneuli, Telavi, Kobuleti, Keda and Batumi about the necessity and mechanisms of citizen involvement in local self-governance. With the support of the organization's Public Relations Department, we were periodically providing information to the public during these meetings and other activities carried out by CCCs. In total, **up to 20 posts** covering daily activities of CCCs were published on TI Georgia's social media platforms in 2021.





On the initiative of Committees of Concerned Citizens – associations of enthusiast citizens, set up with the support of Transparency International Georgia, in 2021:

- ✓ **95** out of over **200** identified infrastructural problems were resolved
- 👥 Meetings were held in **20** villages of **10** municipalities
- 📝 **3060** citizens signed **15** applications and **4** petitions
- 🗳️ All **4** petitions were endorsed by local authorities; works have begun to implement them



Transparency International Georgia's Committees of Concerned Citizens
For the People and With the People!

In addition, it became a tradition to create and release short videos covering our activities – the move aims at presenting the results of our CCCs and distinguished members to the audience as well as encouraging those citizens who, like our CCC members, are doing their utmost to change the situation in their settlement for the better. **The door of our CCCs is open to everyone** – to whom the principle “For the people with the people” is part of everyday life, regardless of their profession, age, location or other circumstances – so, you are welcome to TI Georgia's committees of concerned citizens.



JUSTICE SYSTEM IN ANTICIPATION OF SYSTEMIC CHANGES



GIA GVILAVA
Program Manager

We have continued to work throughout the year to identify gaps in the justice system and advocate for appropriate systemic changes. Unfortunately, in 2021 many new problems were also revealed. Of particular concern is the trend towards the concentration of power in the judiciary. The high rate of administrative detention of activists is also noteworthy, and the events of July 5 were especially alarming for us. Our organization was actively involved in defending the rights of activists and journalists.

In 2021, together with partner civil society organizations, we coordinated and developed **a concept on complex and comprehensive reform in the justice system**. The need for developing the new document was largely driven by a severe crisis in the justice

system caused by years of fragmented and inconsistent reforms. Over time, it became apparent that the authorities failed to show the political will to bring about tangible and consistent changes. The government's policies have strengthened the influential group of judges, often referred to as the "clan." Currently, the judicial system serves the interests of the clan, which eventually led to a sharp decline in the independence and public confidence of the judiciary, and subsequently turned the court into a tool of political retaliation. We understand well that currently, there is no political will for tangible changes. Accordingly, provided there is a political will, the concept should become an advocacy guideline document for civil society organizations and all changes or recommendations should be based on it. This concept aims to facilitate the institutionalization of the justice system, its liberation from informal influence, facilitation for internal democratic processes, and establishment of the highest standards. The concept-based reform will ultimately eradicate institutional and functional problems which obstruct judicial independence and the ability of judges to exercise their professional authority competently and with integrity.



To analyze and identify the challenges facing the judiciary throughout 2021, we conducted two important studies and published relevant reports:

The first study determined the **standard of freedom of expression of judges**, which, in the conditions of complete control by an influential group of judges, identified dangerous tendencies and new challenges. We found out that some influential judges were violating the standard of freedom of expression, using derogatory epithets to refer to individuals or groups critical of the judiciary. Noteworthy that the High Council of Justice (HCoJ) left such cases without proper assessment.



In the second study, TI Georgia evaluated **the existing legal regulations and established practices for judicial promotions**. The information gathered during the study revealed that the promotion system is used by a group of influential judges as one of the important levers of power retention. Among our recommendations was the need to make decisions on the promotion of judges by open voting.





Last year was full of unexpected and unforeseen changes that further aggravated the quality of independence of the justice system. In May, the Conference of Judges, on the initiative of the influential group of judges and through neglecting the EU-brokered April 19 deal, elected new judge-members of the HCoJ. **Together with partners, we held a rally to express our critical position.** In addition, despite calls from international partners, the HCoJ presented nine Supreme Court judicial nominees to the Georgian Parliament with the latter picking six new members in July 2021.



Independence of the justice system remains one of our key tasks. TI Georgia is closely watching the developments in the justice system. In December, the Parliament of Georgia endorsed amendments to the Law on Common Courts that worsened some positive regulations of the law and ultimately promoted further strengthening of the influential group of judges. Despite time shortage, our organization actively joined the committee hearings. Regrettably, the entire process mostly had a formal character. As a result, not a single recommendation of either international partners, or civil society organizations was taken into consideration.

Last year, we **participated in the documentaries made by civic activists on the judicial clan**, which simply and comprehensively show the unbalanced concentration of power in the hands of the dominant group of judges and the problems caused by it.



Our lawyers, **Tamta Kakhidze**, **Magda Jimsheleishvili**, and **Vano Chitashvili** made an important contribution to TI Georgia's activities in the sphere of justice. They are authors of our reports and were directly involved in all other activities carried out by our organization in this sphere.



SUCCESS STORIES - 2021



TEONA ZAKARASHVILI

Senior Lawyer, Coordinator of the Legal Aid Center

A very motivated team of TI Georgia's lawyers continued its active efforts to provide free legal aid to citizens having disputes with the state. Despite the difficulties caused by the pandemic, we provided free online legal consultations to **2018 citizens** using various technical means, won **68 court cases**, and proceeded with court disputes.

TI Georgia is defending the rights of **up to 200 journalists** in the courts of various instances. Throughout the year, we were involved in **11 cases** concerning the detention of civic activists.

Especially noteworthy is the case of illegal surveillance with our organization featuring along with the heads of two partner organizations. Although based on our appeal, the Prosecutor's Office launched an investigation into the illegal surveillance of their business communication, no results have been yielded so far.

Illegally dismissed citizens who lost the sources of income, farmers who have been unsuccessfully trying for years to regain their property rights to land, oppressed journalists, or illegally detained activists should know that TI Georgia will take their cases to court and use all legal means to defend their rights free of charge.

CASES WON BY TI GEORGIA SUCCESS STORIES 2021



OUR LAWYERS SUCCESSFULLY FINALIZED 68 CASES IN COURTS

OUR BENEFICIARIES WILL RECEIVE OVERALL

GEL 1 244 117

FROM THE STATE BUDGET AS COMPENSATION

GEL 982 304

FOR UNLAWFUL DISMISSAL FROM JOB

GEL 261 813

FROM LAND OWNERSHIP DISPUTES

28 551 SQ. M.

LAND WAS RETURNED TO CITIZENS OWNERSHIP



STANDING UP FOR CITIZENS' RIGHTS!



ANA BERDZENISHVILI

lawyer

The case of Vazha Ananidze

The administration of the Batumi State Maritime Academy [dismissed](#) Vazha Ananidze on July 17, 2020, citing the decision made by the Ethics Commission. But, in fact, Vazha Ananidze was punished for accusing the Rector and several professors of the Maritime Academy of [plagiarism](#), as well as speaking out against corruption and nepotism at the Academy.

Throughout the year, Vazha Ananidze had been protesting against his illegal dismissal through permanent rallies, calling on relevant agencies to react to the alleged facts of corruption at the Academy.

Simultaneously, we pursued long and difficult legal proceedings to defend Ananidze's rights. On October 7, 2021, the Batumi City Court partially upheld our lawsuit - he was reinstated to an equivalent position, while the Academy was ordered to pay GEL 25,000 as compensation and more than GEL 11,900 - as back pay.



MARIAM SHAINIDZE

lawyer

The case of Nodar Abashidze

Nodar Abashidze's case is yet another confirmation of the truth that struggle always makes sense. Ultimately, we successfully ended 13-year-long litigation on land registration in the two instance courts.

Since 1993, Nodar Abashidze has owned and used 5,215 m² of land and a 65.87 m² building located on it in Goderdzi resort of Khulo district and since 2009, he has been fighting for his rights over this property.

He twice got an absolutely unreasonable refusal from the Property Rights Commission to recognize his property rights. In the first case, largely due to our efforts, the court annulled the Commission's decision and ordered it to adopt a new one; however, the Commission again refused unreasonably to solve the issue positively, including on the grounds that the land parcel was owned not by the state, but by Adjara Autonomous Republic.

Nodar Abashidze, in turn, did not agree to take pecuniary compensation offered by the Ministry of Finance and Economy of Adjara in exchange for ceding the land - so, we pursued the legal fight to the end.

The Khelvachauri District Court and the Kutaisi Court of Appeals fully upheld our lawsuit and ruled that the grounds for refusal were illegal. The Court of Appeals clarified that a land parcel owned by the Adjara Autonomous Republic also represents the state property.

Legal substantiation made by the court regarding this dispute set a precedent and is important in terms of the solution of a number of other disputes related to the recognition of property rights to the land parcels owned by the Adjara Autonomous Republic.



ZVIAD TSIREKIDZE
lawyer

The case of Leila Karosanidze

Successfully completing the dispute over the case of Leila Karosanidze was of particular interest to me.

Leila's family owned the land purchased by her ancestors in 1925; however, she failed to officially register it. Leila applied to the Property Rights Commission of the Khoni Municipality with a request for recognition of her property rights to the land, but the Commission rejected her request unreasonably. With our assistance, the Samtredia District Court ordered the Commission to adopt a new decision, but the latter again refused to recognize her property rights.

Eventually, the Kutaisi Court of Appeals upheld our lawsuit, annulled the Commission's decision, and ordered it to recognize Leila Karosanidze's property right to 2,800 m² of land parcel in the village of Gordi of Khoni district.



VICTOR KVITIANI
lawyer

The case of Tamila Beraia

Among the successfully closed legal disputes of 2021, I would like to point out Tamila Beraia's case.

Tamila Beraia had worked at the Public Service Development Agency as a chief specialist for 15 years. She raises three children with one being a toddler and another having special needs. Tamila had been the only family provider.

Despite high scores received in testing, she was illegally dismissed on the grounds of reorganization. Her family came across the gravest financial problems that prompted Tamila to apply to us for assistance.

The Zugdidi District Court and later the Kutaisi Court of Appeals fully upheld our lawsuit, annulled the order regarding Tamila Beraia's dismissal and ordered the Agency to ensure reinstatement and back pay for her amounting to GEL 22,000.



NATALI GOGIASHVILI
lawyer

The case of Marine Zhvania

Among my cases of 2021, I would like to point out Marine Zhvania's case, which ended successfully in the courts of the first and second instances.

Marine Zhvania held various managerial positions at the National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement since 2009. In 2015, she was appointed as the Head of the Center's Strategic Development and International Relations Service. Four years later, the new administration of the Center illegally dismissed her citing reorganization and abolition of her position.

In 2019, the Tbilisi City Court met our requirements, annulled the order on dismissing Marine Zhvania and ordered the Center to pay GEL 28,000 in compensation for her dismissal.

Meanwhile, the Court of Appeals upheld our lawsuit and increased the amount of compensation to GEL 50,400.

IN 2021 LAWYERS OF TI GEORGIA HAVE:

**PROVIDED FREE LEGAL CONSULTATION TO
2018 CITIZENS**

**DEFENDED THE INTERESTS OF UP TO
200 JOURNALISTS AND LITIGATED
11 CASES RELATED TO THE ARREST OF
CIVIL ACTIVISTS IN VARIOUS COURTS**



OUR BENEFICIARIES

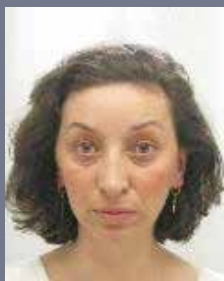


*Maia
Kakhniashvili*

The moment has come, when I appeared absolutely alone in front of the system, the moment when I was illegally and unfairly dismissed. So, I needed a professional who would stand with me and provide legal assistance – Zviad Tsirekidze, TI Georgia's lawyer, appeared to be such a person.

Struggle always makes sense – we struggled and achieved success!

A dignified country is built by professionals where every citizen feels protected. I want to live in such a country.



Tamila Beraia

I would like to express my gratitude to Transparency International Georgia and its lawyer from Zugdidi regional office, Victor Kvitatiani for the legal assistance provided to me.

Due to your professionalism, the courts of two instances ordered to reinstate me. Reading these rulings makes me so proud.

I would like to wish you lots of success!



Guli Abashidze

My name is Guli Abashidze. I have filed a lawsuit against the Prosecutor's Office, seeking compensation for material damages incurred by me due to the criminal proceedings.

Mariam Shainidze, the lawyer of TI Georgia's Batumi office, is defending my rights in court. I trust her so much larger due to her attentiveness and determination. She provides free legal aid. I am fully satisfied with this cooperation. With their assistance, I won the dispute in both the Batumi City Court and the Kutaisi Court of Appeals.

I would like to thank TI Georgia's staff for standing with citizens in these difficult times.



*Zviad
Zurabishvili*

After I was illegally dismissed as the Head of the Military Registration Department of the Vake District Administration of Tbilisi, I applied to Transparency International Georgia for assistance. Its qualified lawyers have been defending my interests for years. With their assistance, I managed to achieve a victory in the courts of first and second instances and now, the dispute continues in the Supreme Court. I would like to express my gratitude and special respects to TI Georgia and its lawyers.

PARLIAMENT - IN THE SPOTLIGHT OF OUR ATTENTION



LIKA SAJAIA

Parliamentary team leader

The first year of the Parliament of the 10th Convocation proved extremely difficult and extraordinary amid tense political developments in the country. The opposition was not comprehensively involved in the legislative process, mostly boycotting plenary sessions. Along with the tense political situation and rallies, it became a challenge for the Georgian Parliament to exercise effective parliamentary control during the COVID-19

pandemic. Even after the second year of the pandemic, the Parliament failed to perform its oversight functions and shifted the entire responsibility to the government.

Our organization constantly takes care of the Parliament's institutional development. It was especially important to share our knowledge and experience with the Parliament of new convocation.

In 2021, **we held a record number of training sessions (14)** for Georgian MPs, the Parliament's staff and the employees of majoritarian MP bureaus on the following topics: corruption studies and prevention; Parliament's mechanisms for combating corruption; anti-corruption environment and challenges in Georgia; functions and duties of central and local governments; Parliament's openness and transparency standard; draft law substantiation standard (explanatory note and regulatory impact analysis (RIA) report); power-sharing in the Parliament and its effects on the parliamentary oversight; parliamentary control of the security sphere; parliamentary oversight in the emergencies; new mechanisms of parliamentary control and their implementation in practice; the role of the Parliament's Budget Office in the process of parliamentary control.

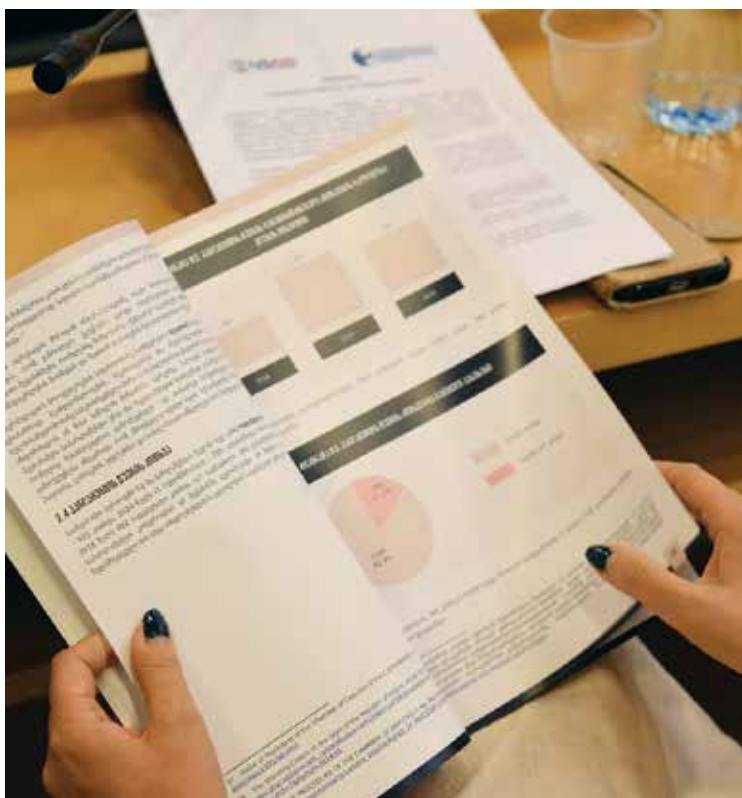
The topics for the training were selected through consultations with the MPs and the Parliament's staff and taking their needs into consideration.



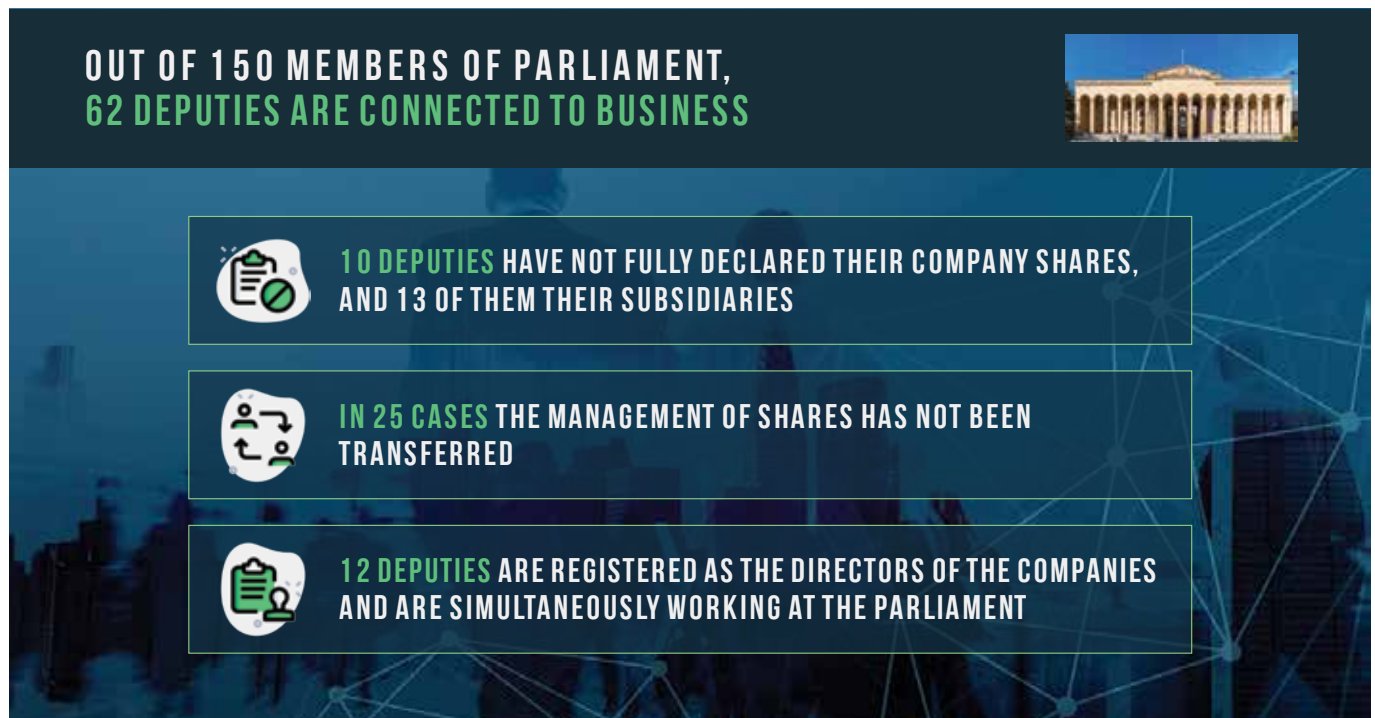


In 2021, we published the report on the **Assessment of the Performance of the Parliament of the 9th Convocation**. TI Georgia's **senior lawyers, Tamar Tatanashvili and Gigi Chikhladze** analyzed voluminous information about the performance of each member of the Parliament, the activities of committees, factions, councils, the efficiency of adopted laws and the exercise of parliamentary control. After analyzing the Parliament's performance, we developed the recommendations that will also help the Parliament of the 10th Convocation improve its performance.

TI Georgia also published a **special report on the implementation of parliamentary control in 2019-2020**. The report focuses on the implementation of parliamentary control during the COVID-19 pandemic and the opposition's involvement in the process of parliamentary oversight. Recommendations developed as a result of the study are designed to improve legislation and enhance parliamentary control in practice. We also **published a booklet about parliamentary control**, explaining parliamentary control procedures in a simple language. We distributed booklets among the new members of the Parliament.



In 2021, TI Georgia released a special **report on Business Connections, Incompatible Activities and Undeclared Companies of Members of the Parliament of the 10th Convocation**. We identified a number of violations within the framework of the study. For example, 10 MPs incompletely indicated their share ownership in the asset declarations; 13 MPs incompletely declared their indirect entrepreneurial activities (related/subsidiary); in 12 cases, the MPs carried on exercising representative authority of entrepreneurial entities simultaneously with their parliamentary activities. We sent the information about violations to the Civil Service Bureau and the Parliamentary Committee of Procedural Issues and Rules for further reaction.



In 2021, **we published the analysis of six important draft laws**, among others Amendments to the Election Code, Legislative Package Related to the State Inspector's Service and Draft Law on Amnesty.



We held **three roundtable discussions** on the ongoing developments and the initiatives submitted to the Parliament. Experts, citizens, NGOs and representatives of state agencies participated in the discussions.

Along with analyzing the legislative process, TI Georgia's parliamentary monitoring team responded to the processes developed in the Parliament with a number of statements.

Elite corruption and anti-corruption policy remain one of the key challenges for our country. Transparency International Georgia prepared the draft law on the creation of an independent anti-corruption agency. The draft law was first submitted to the Parliament of the 9th Convocation, but it was left unaddressed. The opposition lawmakers of the Parliament of the 10th Convocation reinitiated the legislative package developed by TI Georgia.

Our organization is actively involved in the improvement of the Parliament's openness and transparency. Transparency International Georgia is a member of the consultative group of Open Governance Permanent Parliamentary Council. In 2021, like in previous years, **we offered a number of recommendations to the Parliament to be reflected in the Action Plan of the Open Parliament**. We also took an active part in creating a tutorial for elaborating explanatory notes, which will be released in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) this year.



PR ACTIVITIES - 2021

“OUR EUROPE”

Like in 2020, this year the pandemic again forced us to carry out most of our PR activities remotely through less contact with citizens. This time, we coped with the challenges of digital life and managed to deliver our messages to the broad public in this way.

In 2021, TI Georgia continued active implementation of the “Our Europe” program. Launched in cooperation with the Mtavari Arkhi TV channel – A total of 20 programs were prepared. The purpose of this successful project is to raise public awareness about European integration issues, discuss the importance of European values and Georgia’s European aspirations with the population and most importantly, to demonstrate that we are Europe.

Despite the pandemic, we managed to tour several regions together with the program team. At the initiative of the TV program authors, this time we highlighted traditional field meetings with regional population under our “Strength is in Europe” campaign.

In the 2021 programs, along with many distinguished guests, we invited the EU, U.S. and Lithuanian Ambassadors to the regions.



“STRENGTH IS IN EUROPE” - REGIONAL TOURS

As part of our campaign, we visited Batumi, Gonio, Vaio and Merisi villages of Keda district, as well as Zugdidi and Kutaisi. We held meetings in various formats, involving specific target groups – in the villages, we met with local population, got acquainted with local

entrepreneurs who told us about those small business activities that were mainly launched through their involvement in the EU projects and that helped them host a lot of tourists. We listened to their problems and our lawyers provided legal consultations on site.



Supporters of our campaign, our friendly actors, singers and writers, who again joined our initiative this year, were warmly met by locals in Adjara.

We talked about the EU integration issues with young people who gathered at American Corner Batumi (ACB), an American-style

cultural center, where we also displayed the photos taken by German photographer, linguist and ethnologist, Adolf Dirr in Georgia and the Caucasus 100 years ago. We selected the exhibits in partnership with the Museum of Literature. The Batumi event ended with an open-air concert by Georgian band ASEA SOOL attended by many locals and tourists.



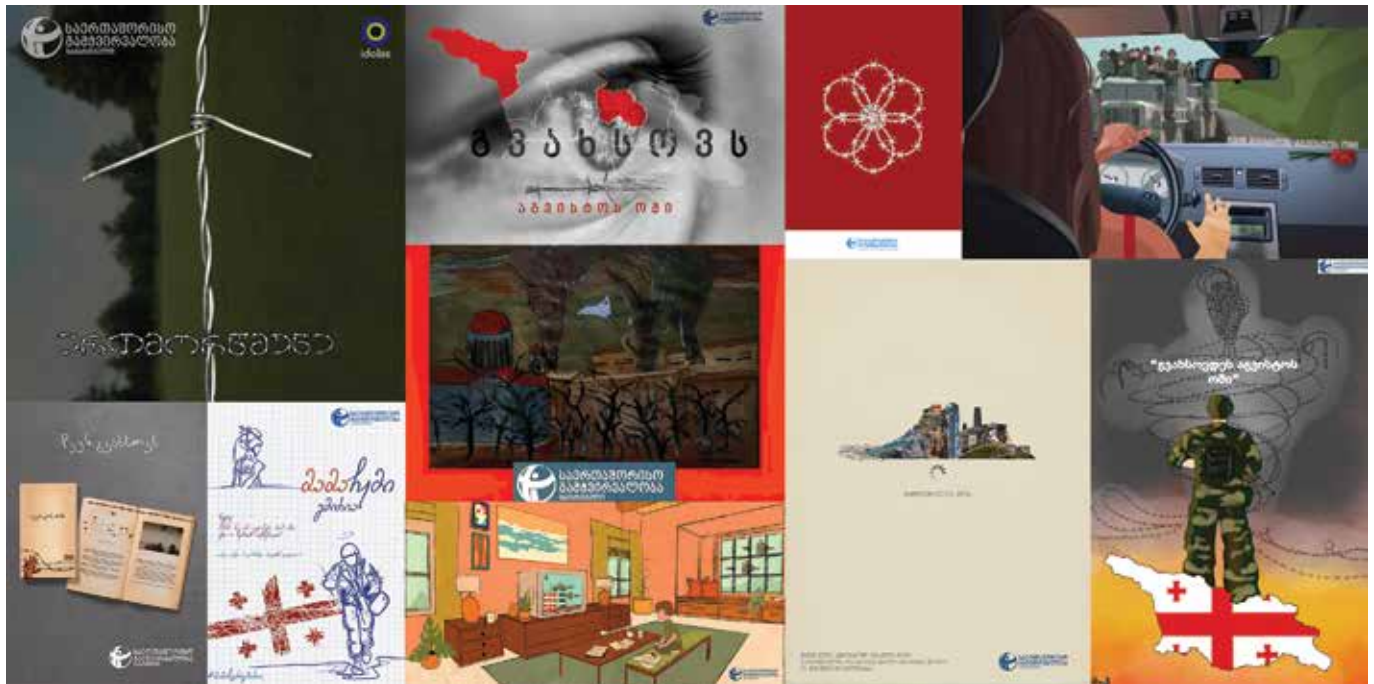
“VILIKLIKOT EVROPAZE”

For the fifth consecutive year, our organization continues friendship with the Kutaisi regional radio Dzveli Kalaki on the EU integration issues. Kutaisi-based journalist Dato Liklikadze, the host of a cycle of programs entitled “Viliklikot Evropaze” (Let’s Talk about Europe), successfully continues to popularize the issue together with various invited guests. The purpose of the program is to continue discussions on very important issues with active members of society: why we chose the Western path and what particular threats are coming from Russia.



AUGUST WAR COMPETITION

Traditionally, we again marked the anniversary of the 2008 Russian-Georgian war. This time, we announced a poster competition – all interested persons were able to recollect Russia’s aggression with their own works and pay tribute to the memory of fallen heroes. Together with Georgia-based artist, Gagosh, we selected 10 out of 50 works and posted them on our social media platforms, while a cash prize was awarded to the author of the winning poster.



COOPERATION WITH SABA LITERARY CONTEST

The purpose of TI Georgia's involvement in this highly reputable contest was to recollect the impact of Russia's aggressive policy on the history of our country. "Reflection of Soviet and post-Soviet History in Georgian Literature" – the name of this new nomination introduced by TI Georgia is the result of a long deliberation, consideration and work between the founders of the Saba Literary Prize and our organization.

The jury revealed two literary works, which highlighted Soviet influences best of all: "Blues on the Mtkvari River Bank" by Bidzina Makashvili and "A Bunker" by Iva Pazuashvili. TI Georgia's special prize was handed over to the winners by our Executive Director Eka Gigauri and EU Ambassador Carl Hartzell.



INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM COMPETITION

We again deemed it important to draw young people's attention towards competitions, especially covering the issue of investigative journalism. This form of journalism is becoming of particular importance. We deemed it necessary to share the resources available at TI Georgia and the experience of our experts with beginner journalists.

We announced a competition for journalism students of all Georgian universities and received more than 150 applications. Ultimately, up to 100 students got the opportunity to undergo preliminary preparations. During lecture courses, TI Georgia's program managers and analysts provided future journalists with comprehensive information about a number of topics, such as party financing, procurements, open data usage and writing investigative reports.

After receiving this knowledge, the participants provided their investigative reports. The jury selected three winners. Along with cash prizes, they also received incentives and new knowledge from us to do their jobs professionally in the future.



FOR THE PEOPLE WITH THE PEOPLE

Committees of Concerned Citizens (CCC) are one of the clear examples of our successful activities that is further confirmed by the enthusiasm of engaged citizens. The idea of CCCs slogan: "Settlement of persisting problems with the help of citizens," accurately reflects the real-time activities of the councils.

To promote civic activism and attract as many citizens to our CCCs as possible, we created videos covering separate success stories from different regions, trying to show that problem solving is not utopian if you continue necessary efforts, while the struggle and active engagement always yield tangible results.

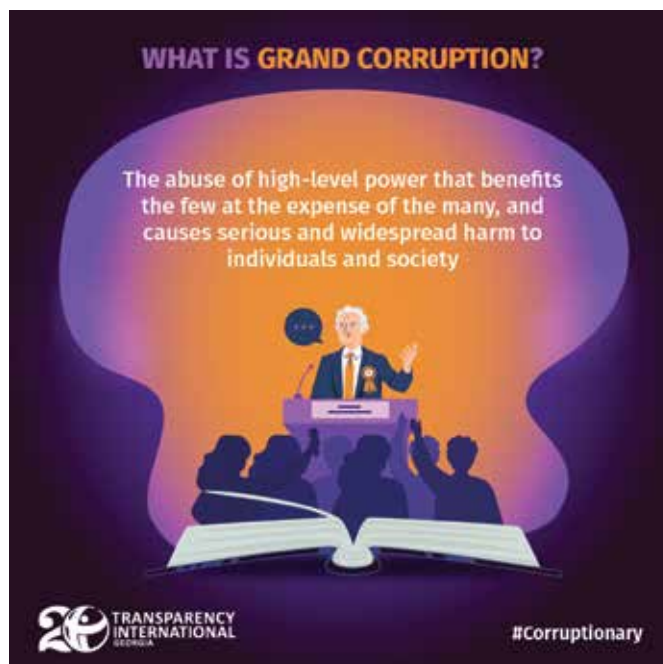
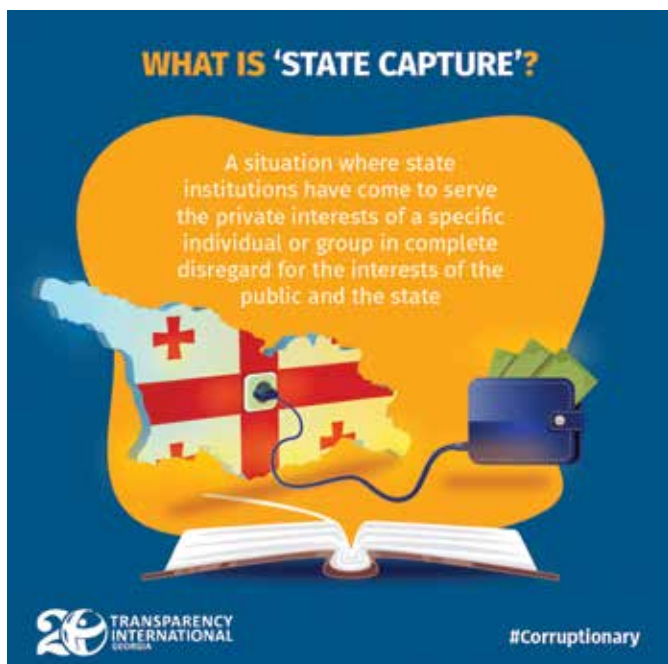
The government is obliged and should be demanded to address those infrastructure problems, which it either fails to see or tries to neglect. In our videos, members of our CCCs tell you how they revealed those kinds of infrastructure problems, collected signatures demanding solution, applied to the government with our assistance and ultimately, together we achieved the solution of those problems – rehabilitation of water supply systems, roads and sidewalks, renovation and equipment of kindergartens, schools and libraries, etc.



To keep the issue of corruption high on our agenda, we developed a new form in partnership with Formula TV's creative team and decided to tell the public about the facts of corruption identified by TI Georgia through a cycle of videos.

DICTIONARY ON CORRUPTION

To raise awareness about the issue of corruption, we launched an educational section “Dictionary on Corruption” two years ago, which explains those specific words and phrases frequently used in this field, many of which may be unknown to the public. We think that getting useful information in this way is easy to understand and contributes to increased awareness about corruption. For example, many people might have learned for the first time that nepotism is one of the forms of corruption.



#STRENGTH IS IN EUROPE

In 2021, we continued to shoot videos as a part of our ‘Strength is in Europe’ campaign. We again chose those celebrities whose opinions really matter. We try to send a key message to the public through these one-minute videos that #Strength is in Europe.

10 video clips were created for social media, which again triggered a great interest. We tried to involve people of different occupations and generations: writers, students, actors and musicians. We created 18 posters covering the major issues of European integration. We introduced two more students to our subscribers who shared their own experience of studying in Europe through their blogs and video blogs.



ANTI-CORRUPTION WEEK 2021

It can be said that the Anti-Corruption Week is one of the main developments for our organization. Just during this week, the International Anti-Corruption Day is marked on December 9. We again organized a lot of different events: we released reports on corruption and held online presentations; we posted a quiz “What do you know about corruption” on social media, also explained to the public through releasing relevant video instructions and visiting popular TV programs how to use our updated website companyinfo.ge, which makes it easier for users to identify corruption ties. As a final event of the Anti-Corruption Week, we awarded the winners of the investigative journalism competition.

QUIZZES

Quizzes represent yet another new direction actively followed by TI Georgia throughout the year. We created a number of entertaining and educational quizzes to attract the public and draw their attention to the TI Georgia relevant topics. In cooperation with online media outlets, on.ge and Netgazeti, we published five quizzes covering the issues of corruption and EU integration that prompted active public involvement.

28 დეკემბერი, 11:00 პოლიტიკა სამოგადროება

★ პარტნიორი კონტენტი

ტესტი: როგორ ქვეყანაში უნდა ცხოვრობდე?



ფოტო: howstuffworks

20,736
ნაკითხვა

266
გამიარება



<https://go.on.ge/2r>



საბიუროს წარმომადგენელი



OUR FILM AT UN SHORT FILM CONTEST

The film “Skyscraper” – the winner of the last year contest held in partnership with Radio Liberty – was submitted to the UN Short Film Contest and listed among the three winners.

The international contest was organized by UNCAC Coalition – Association for the Implementation of the UN Convention against Corruption. More than 20 films were submitted from various countries and only three of them won the contest. This was yet another confirmation for us of how right decision it is to organize such contests in order to achieve public involvement in inciting anti-corruption sentiments through diverse methods and forms.



TI GEORGIA IN THE MEDIA

DURING 2021 TI GEORGIA PUBLISHED



157 STATEMENTS AND POLICY BRIEFS

24 REPORTS

Media interest towards Transparency International Georgia traditionally remained high throughout 2021 that, along with intensive coverage of our studies and statements, was driven by a continuing political crisis and journalists' huge interest towards our active positioning on various topical issues.

Our relations with journalists are not limited to how often we are seen in news programs or various talk shows – consulting journalists is a separate direction of this cooperation. Journalists frequently apply to us for advice and consultations and our researchers do their utmost to respond quickly and provide relevant recommendations.

Our strength is in the diversity of our respondents. All members of our team are actively seen in the media so that we can bring our messages to the public comprehensively and clearly. We frequently provide media outlets with our multimedia products, which are effectively used in their stories.

In 2021, TI Georgia was impressively represented on TV, Internet, radio and in the press with the media activity indicator reaching 3,388.

According to IPM, a company which has been conducting media monitoring for our organization for years, the tone of coverage was mostly neutral in 2021, while critical remarks were quite rare.

In 2021 Transparency International Georgia's
MEDIA ACTIVITY IS

3 388

INTERNET
1820



TV
1285



RADIO
195



PRESS
88



**THE TONE OF THE COVERAGE
WAS MOSTLY NEUTRAL**

SOCIAL MEDIA

We closed another pandemic year by using Facebook actively. This platform remains one of the main sources of spreading information for our organization. TI Georgia runs two official Facebook pages - in Georgian and English.

Facebook enables us to actively spread our statements, reports, short video clips and all other products created by us on a daily basis. Facebook is the platform where we respond to ongoing developments most rapidly. We also post here the interviews or comments made by our teammates in the media. In 2021, we again actively used Facebook for live streaming online presentations.

Along with spreading information, Facebook provides a good opportunity for interacting with citizens - we respond to the questions interesting to them, provide arguments to their critical opinions and even receive compliments.

TI Georgia runs a separate Facebook page for a campaign “The Strength is in Europe” aimed to tackle Russian propaganda and popularize the Euro-Atlantic course.

We continue to actively use Twitter, which helps us inform the international community about TI Georgia’s performance. In 2021, a total number of followers on Twitter’s English-language page increased significantly to 7,306, while number of followers on Twitter’s Georgian-language page constituted 4, 096.

We actively use our Instagram page to post the images depicting our organization’s performance and report visualization, trying to better present our activities.

In addition, we use LinkedIn to publish announcements about vacancies in our organization.

TRANSPRENCY INTERNATIONAL GEORGIA IN SOCIAL NETWORK



GEORGIAN-LANGUAGE FACEBOOK PAGE

IN 2020

28 807 LIKES

IN 2021

32 223 LIKES



3 416



ENGLISH-LANGUAGE FACEBOOK PAGE

IN 2020

8 997 LIKES

IN 2021

9 673 LIKES

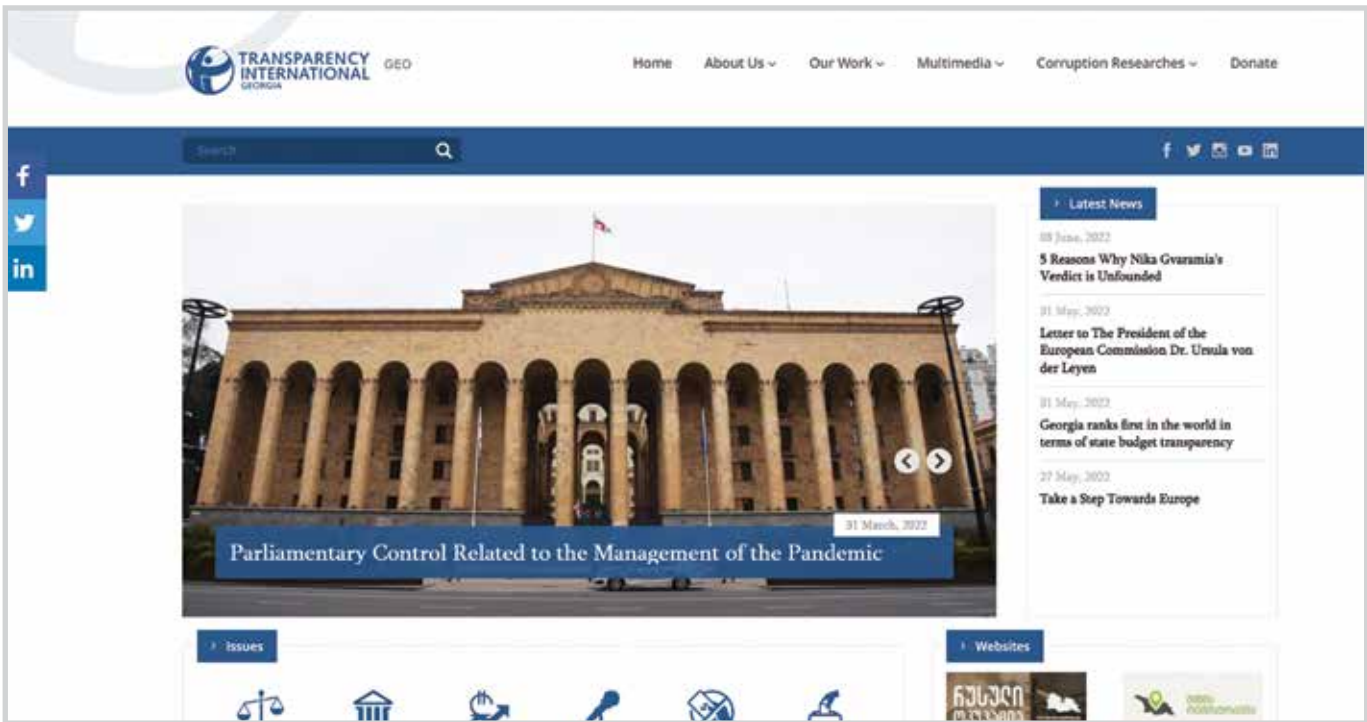


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WEBSITES – OUR PRAISEWORTHY PRODUCT

Transparency.ge

The official website of Transparency International Georgia is bilingual – Georgian and English and it contains all basic information about our team, the organization’s performance, its sources of funding and daily routines. One of the most valuable products of our website is its rich archive, where you can find a lot of interesting studies and information through its search function. Users can also subscribe to our newsletters to stay updated.



SUBSIDIARY WEBSITES

Companyinfo.ge

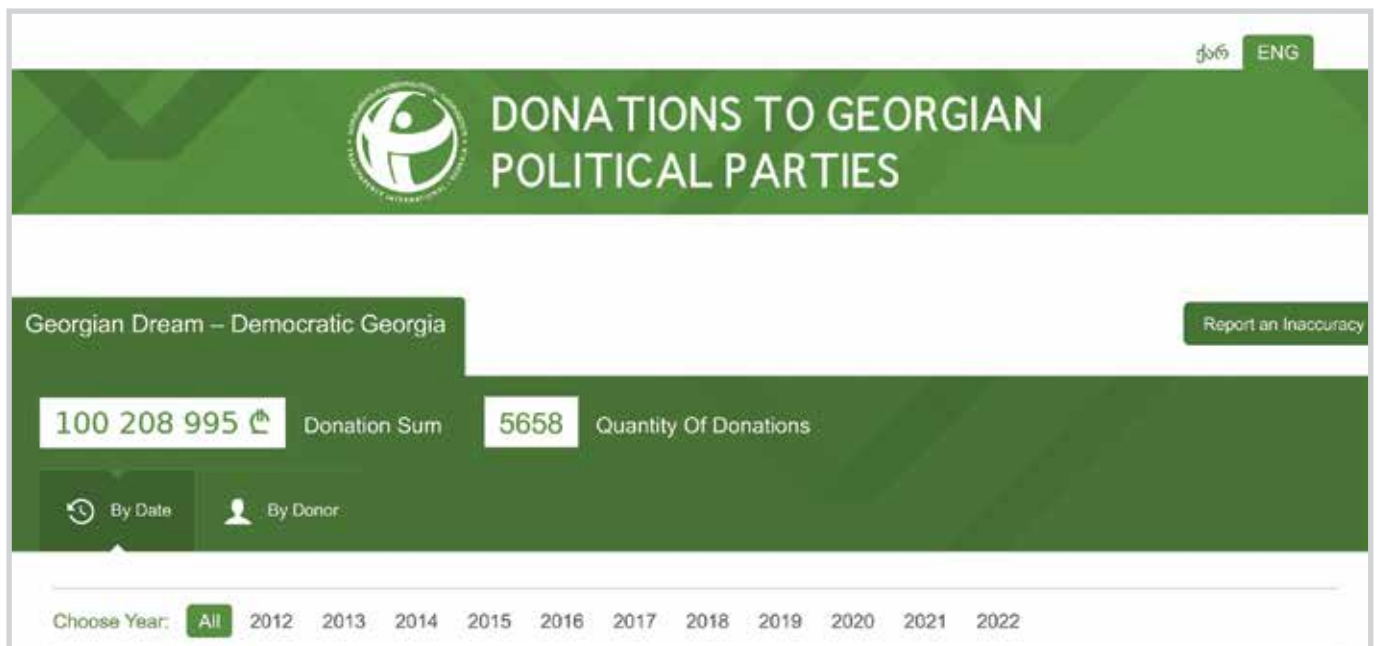
We updated our corruption investigation website in 2021, adding new important functions to it. This online tool simplifies access to information about business interests, company managers and owners, as well as connections between them. The website also reflects political donations of individuals and companies and their participation in public procurement. By combining this information, investigative journalists, civic activists, and citizens affected by corruption can really identify alleged cases of corruption.



Politicaldonations.ge

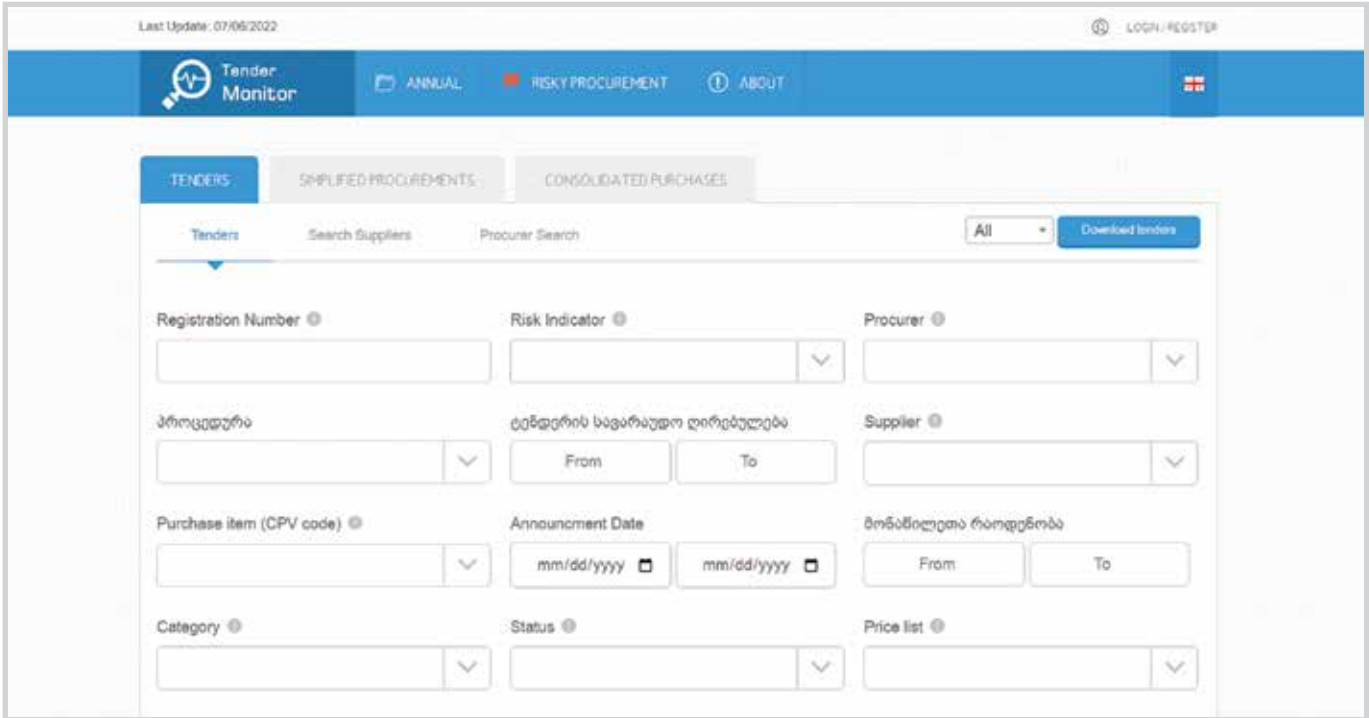
This web portal is especially popular among media representatives and other persons interested in political finances. It will help you find detailed information about the names of donors, amount of donations and dates of money transfers.

In addition, further information can be found here about business interests of political parties' donors, as well as about their participation in public procurement that helps users get comprehensive information about this or that donor.



This platform represents a unique opportunity for monitoring public procurement. It enables users to view detailed information about tenders, each registered supplier and buyer.

Tenders with corruption risks are categorized separately on the website. Our website enables users to receive messages via email – for example, an interested company can undergo registration on the website and receive a message once a new tender on services rendered by it/produced goods is announced.

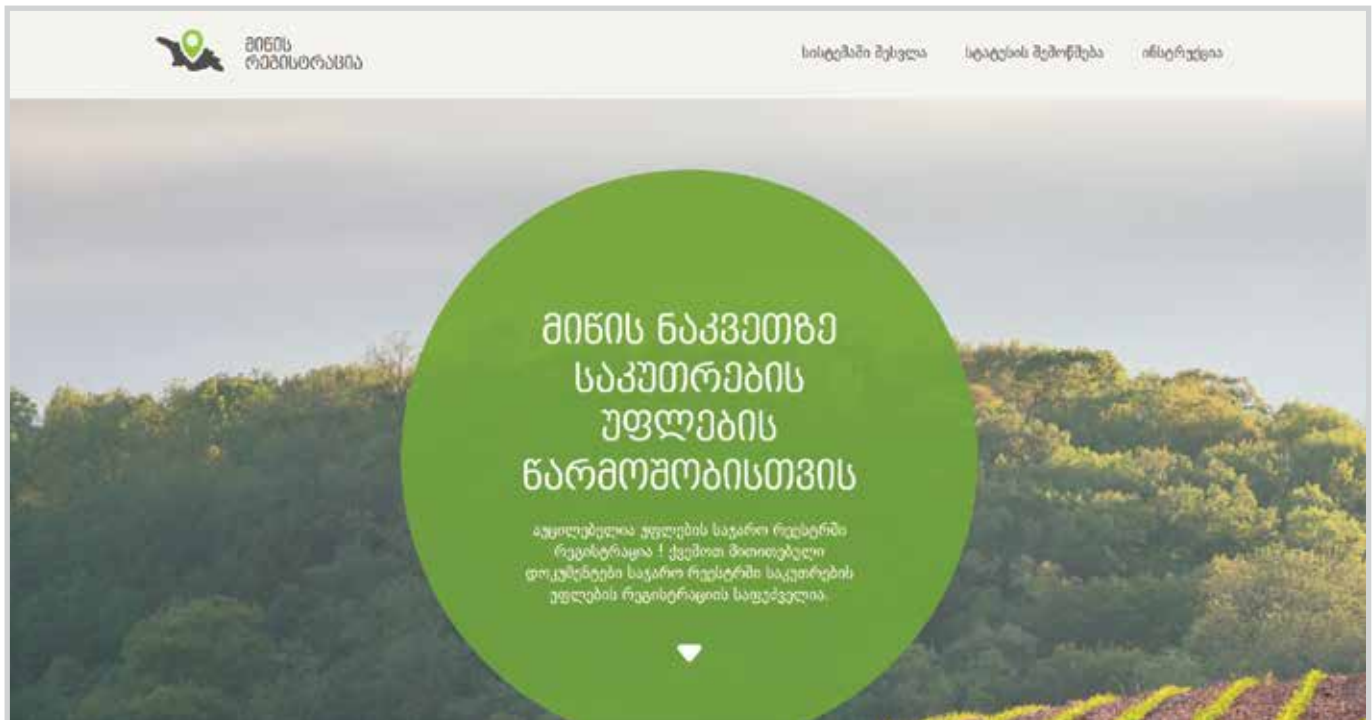


The screenshot displays the Tendermonitor.ge website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'ANNUAL', 'RISKY PROCUREMENT', and 'ABOUT'. Below this, a search bar is visible with tabs for 'TENDERS', 'SIMPLIFIED PROCUREMENTS', and 'CONSOLIDATED PURCHASES'. The 'TENDERS' tab is selected. The search filters include:

- Registration Number (text input)
- Risk Indicator (dropdown menu)
- Procurer (dropdown menu)
- პროცედურა (Procurement procedure) (dropdown menu)
- ცენტრის საგარეო ღირებულება (Center's external value) (From/To date range)
- Supplier (dropdown menu)
- Purchase item (CPV code) (dropdown menu)
- Announcement Date (mm/dd/yyyy) (From/To date range)
- მონაწილეობა რაოდენობა (Number of participants) (From/To date range)
- Category (dropdown menu)
- Status (dropdown menu)
- Price list (dropdown menu)

 A 'Download tenders' button is located on the right side of the search filters.

This web portal represents a guidebook for citizens in the process of land registration as it enables them to get accurate information about what documents they have to submit to the public registry as well as to track all phases of property registration. TI Georgia assists through the web portal all those citizens, who have not yet registered their lands due to lack of information.



Russianoccupation.ge

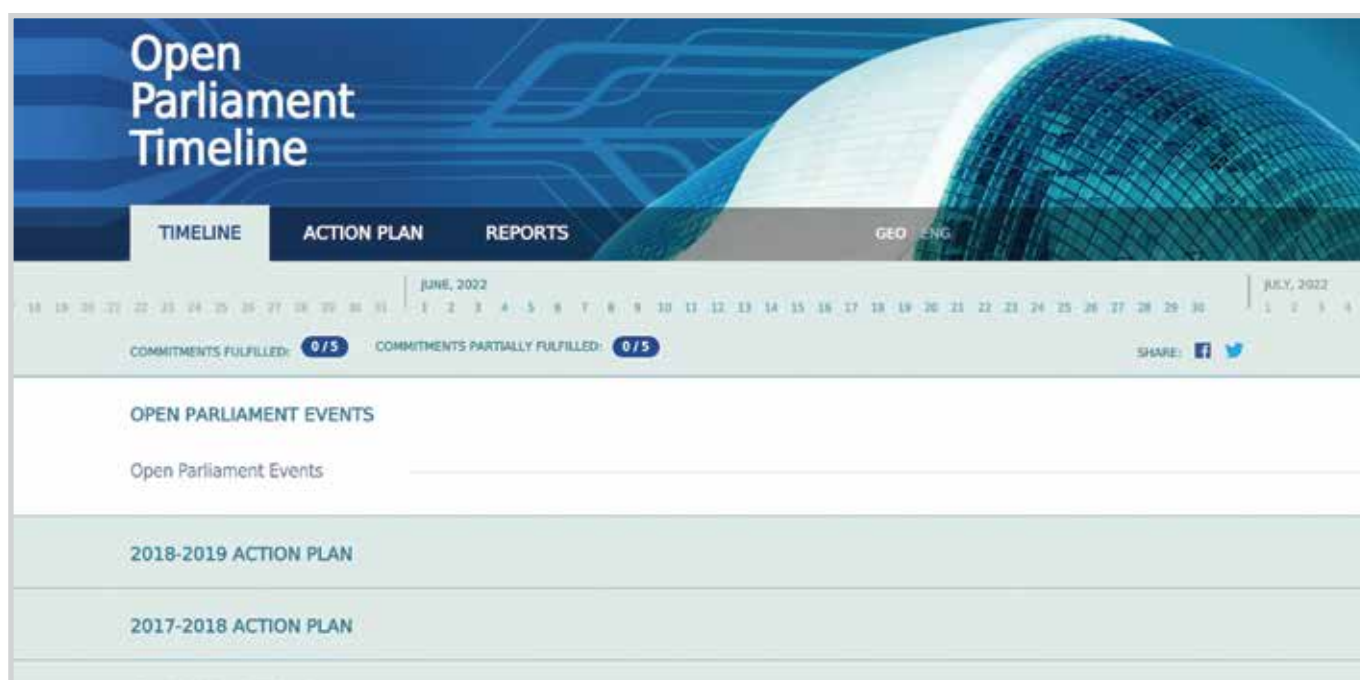
This website accumulates the materials, which were gathered by researchers during 11 years and which describe the consequences of Russian aggression against Georgia in 2008. The photos clearly show the difference between the pre-war and post-war situation in occupied Georgian villages. After bringing a cursor to the burned and destroyed houses, you will read the names of those residents who were expelled from the war-affected areas. The website also provides photos depicting Russia's military buildup in the occupied regions. NASA's official website is the main source of images.



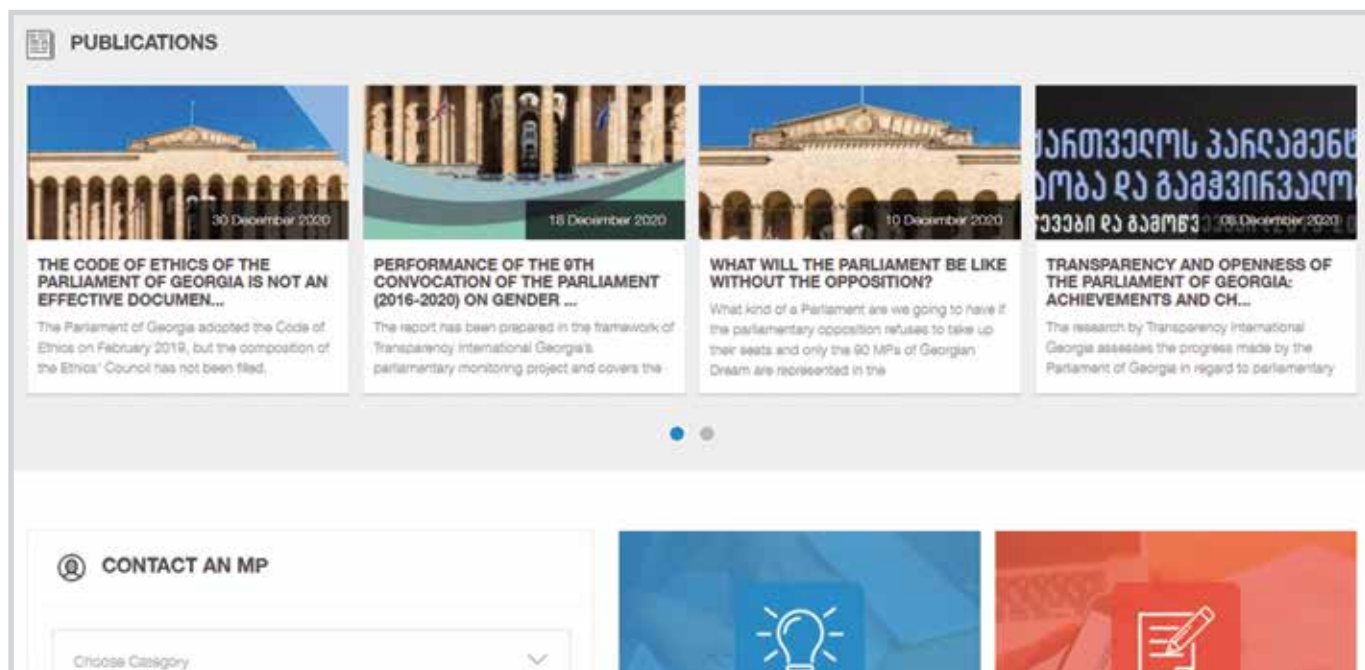
This web portal enables citizens to closely follow the activities and campaigns planned by the Coalition for Euro-Atlantic Georgia. The website provides the Coalition's statements and detailed information about the activities of the "Strength is in Europe" campaign. The purpose of the website is to promote raising public awareness about the advantages of Georgia's EU and NATO aspirations.



Georgia joined the Open Government Partnership (OGP) in 2011. The online platform created by us enables interested persons to track the progress of the Parliament of Georgia in its fulfillment of the commitments under OGP. Moreover, the website provides all key documents related to Open Parliament.



This web portal was created to raise awareness about the Parliament's legislative activities and encourage citizen engagement. It allows any interested person to gain access to information related to the work of individual MPs. Through the website, users are also able to send their questions to any MP and inquire about an issue related to public policy. Moreover, an SMS subscription system is offered to anyone who wants to receive updates on parliamentary proceedings, as well as to send an idea to the Parliament.



SUCCESSFUL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM - GOOD IMPETUS FOR BUILDING CAREER

Two years on, the pandemic could not affect one of the most valuable and praiseworthy components of TI Georgia's activities – Student Internship Program. It again proved successful in 2021 and we had the honor to cooperate with four cohorts of the most motivated young people.

A total of 62 young people had an opportunity to participate in heated and active processes at the organization's head office in Tbilisi (18), as well as its regional (29) and parliamentary (15) offices.

One more former intern, Ani Meskhi joined our team in 2021, replacing another former intern, Mariam Mamniashvili. The latter, in turn, was promoted to the membership of the anti-corruption team.

We have to reiterate every year that the internship opportunities provided by our organization amount to visa-free travel towards building a successful career. These are not empty words, but rather are underpinned by concrete examples. Besides the fact that a number of our interns got an opportunity to join Transparency International Georgia, other organizations also opened their doors to them.

Here are the testimonials of our interns about the program benefits and useful experience gained at TI Georgia:



TAMTA KAPANADZE

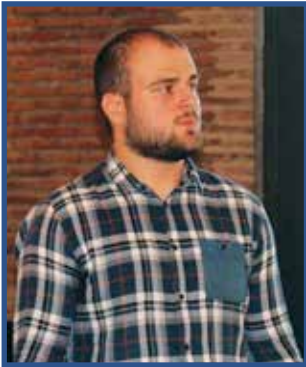
I got involved in TI Georgia's internship program in June 2021. High competition did not discourage me, a second-year student of international relations, to send an application and ultimately, become a member of the most reliable and trustworthy organization in Georgia.

Internship was my first job experience. I was involved in analyzing the information requested from city assemblies and LEPLs/ N(N)LEs.

Working with documents helped me realize my responsibilities and understand the significance of the work. The work done by me became part of an extensive study and annual report that ultimately became an additional motivation for me.

The work with TI Georgia's team proved especially comfortable and promising. **Along with acquiring practical and professional skills, the cooperation with Transparency International Georgia helped me become more self-confident and disciplined.**

The experience gained at the organization opened my path towards new challenges and opportunities. Presently, I study at Østfold University College in Norway and simultaneously, in cooperation with the Rondeli Foundation, I am involved in reviewing Kremlin's policy in Georgia's occupied regions.



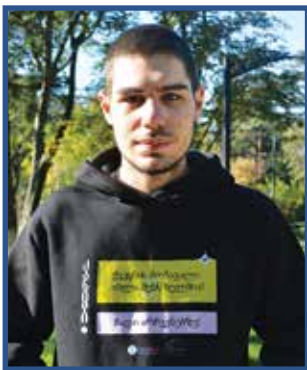
TEMURI TEKTUMANIDZE

The internship program offered by Transparency International Georgia helped me make a modest contribution to the important work done by the organization.

The problem of government accountability to the public is one of the spheres of my interest. During the internship, I familiarized myself with the key problems and challenges facing the relations between different branches of government and their accountability. I had an opportunity to get involved in researching and analyzing those problematic issues, which hamper Georgia's democratic development and are intensively covered by TI Georgia in its reports.

I am glad to have an opportunity of making a small contribution to preparation of the report on the Performance of the Parliament of Georgia.

In addition, I gained important experience through working with a professional and friendly team that helped me acquire professional knowledge and develop my skills.



GIORGI EKALADZE

I joined Transparency International Georgia in November 2021 as an intern in its parliamentary office. It is noteworthy that this is my first work experience. I am a third-year student of the Faculty of Law and, from professional point of view, it proved especially interesting to work here.

It came as no surprise to me that corruption is a huge challenge facing Georgia. However, since I was frequently tasked to process information on this issue, I became familiar with specific problems in practice that significantly enhanced my knowledge. Simultaneously, I further developed my computer skills, because I had to use various computer programs quite frequently.

And what is most important to me, despite working remotely, I felt extremely friendly and frank attitude that helped me cope with new challenges.



MARIAM LASHKHIA

I underwent internship at Transparency International Georgia's Zugdidi office in June-October 2021. Although I was mostly engaged remotely due to the pandemic, I gained huge experience.

Participation in the corruption-related studies was extremely interesting. I familiarized myself with the details of activities in municipalities. I also participated in the activities of TI Georgia's Committees of Concerned Citizens, whose purpose is to identify and advocate urban or rural infrastructure problems.

The process of election observation proved very interesting - I became a static observer during the October 2021 local self-government elections, and then led a mobile group during the second round of the same elections.

I think that the experience gained at TI Georgia will significantly promote my future professional or career development.



EDGAR BRUTYAN

My internship at Transparency International Georgia started in February 2021. **I would like to single out three key traits that I liked most at this organization and that, I think, any organization should possess:**

Openness – You will be met by TI Georgia’s team, which is open to your ideas and ready to support you. In my case, it was the idea of creating online quizzes in order to spread knowledge about European values more widely and in a rather entertaining manner.

Opportunities for cooperation with people of different occupations that not only increases the scale of your knowledge and experience, but also makes the work more interesting and substantial.

Follow-up – TI Georgia continued cooperation with me after my internship ended. During the 2021 local self-government elections, I assisted a new cohort of interns with information processing and sorting.

Besides TI Georgia’s friendly and professional team, I was also met by talented interns with whom I had very pleasant and fruitful cooperation.



MEGI IAKOBADZE

The 2021 local self-government elections proved to be crucial for my decision to join TI Georgia’s internship program. During my observation over this seemingly normal process, I found out that in my district, Akhaltsikhe, corruption is a huge problem, which is often promoted by government institutions. Right after observing the local elections, I firmly decided to become an intern at TI Georgia that enabled me to make a small contribution to combating corruption.

The internship helped me develop the skills that all active citizens should have for both professional and personal development in order to control and “make responsive” all state

institutions and officials who are involved in anti-state activities. During this period, I realized that corruption creates huge problems. In addition, I acquired digital skills that will help me identify corruption-related cases.

Overall, I acquired huge practical knowledge and my vision about the work of state institutions changed drastically. Most importantly, I found out that – **if we want to build a modern state, citizen participation in this process and their “control” over the state are extremely important.**



NINO CHOKHELI

My internship at Transparency International Georgia started in October 2021. Although I had been closely following the organization’s activities for years and had even participated in the election observation mission, direct cooperation with TI Georgia’s team and familiarization with the organization’s internal environment was a very important and interesting professional experience.

During my internship, I was actively involved in various activities. Among others, I was assisting PR and anti-corruption teams in organizing the competition on investigative journalism and working on privatization issues. It is noteworthy that working on various tasks helped me learn new methods of working with public databases, as well as data collection and processing. Despite diverse experience, the period of the 2021 local self-government elections and work on final vote tallies proved to be most interesting and busy.

The organization’s professionalism as well as the entire team’s positive and friendly attitude towards the staff and interns are also worth noting, because it further increases our motivation to perform our duties professionally and effectively. **Thus, I would evaluate my internship as one of the best, fruitful and busy periods in terms of both professional and personal development.**



GULIKO BEKURISHVILI

I joined Transparency International Georgia's team in February 2021 and underwent a six-month internship program. Simultaneously, I was a fourth-year student of international relations at Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University.

The internship program offered flexible engagement and it was completely tailored to a student's schedule. A broad spectrum of possibilities enabled me to work on the issues of my interest, primary sources and research documents, to get involved in the work of TI Georgia's teams, including media and anti-corruption teams, and to help analyze the information about topical issues in the country.

Especially noteworthy **is a friendly environment in the office and professionalism of its team, which despite the pandemic, continued its usual activities.**

I had participated in a number of student programs or internships before. However, **the experience gained at Transparency International Georgia was special due its specific nature. Interested young people should definitely enjoy this opportunity.**



NINO KALADZE

I learned about TI Georgia's internship program while pursuing a bachelor's degree and I was eager to experience new challenges and novelties. I am very glad that I had an opportunity to join this program for three months from January 2021.

During my internship, I familiarized myself with the important issues and challenges, which are part of our everyday life. Especially noteworthy is the work on updating the databases necessary for the anti-corruption team that helped me acquire thorough knowledge about all technical details that are essential for combating corruption. In addition, I worked on elaborating questionnaires and informing the public about the European Union and Soviet occupation.

The internship program was important not only for practicing and deepening knowledge, but also for the development of my personal skills. Although the internship was conducted remotely, I got acquainted with TI Georgia's professional teams and their friendly attitude was an important positive factor during the entire period of internship.

Overall, the knowledge and practice acquired at Transparency International Georgia has much contributed to my professional and personal development. Presently, I serve as a project coordinator at Georgian Center for Strategy and Development and the experience gained at TI Georgia helps me much in my everyday activities.



ANA GOBEJISHVILI

Undergoing an internship at the organization, which plays a huge role in combating corruption, proved to be a very important and responsible challenge for me. I joined TI Georgia's team in February 2021 and underwent a six-month internship program, which helped me gain huge experience and knowledge.

Previously, I was closely following the organization's activities. I was familiar with its mission and aspirations, but membership in TI Georgia helped me understand what a huge role the organization plays in developing the country in the right direction.

For me, as a law student, the internship program was the beginning of my career advancement, the first step in the struggle for ensuring stable democracy and establishing civil society.

CORRUPTION PERCEPTION INDEX 2021

According to Transparency International's 2021 Corruption Perception Index (CPI), Georgia has a score of **55 points**, which is **a one-point decrease** compared to the previous year.

In the 2021 CPI, Georgia was **ranked 45th** among **180 countries** (on a scale where 0 is the worst and 100 is the best result). Georgia **maintained a leading position** in the Eastern Europe and Central Asia region.

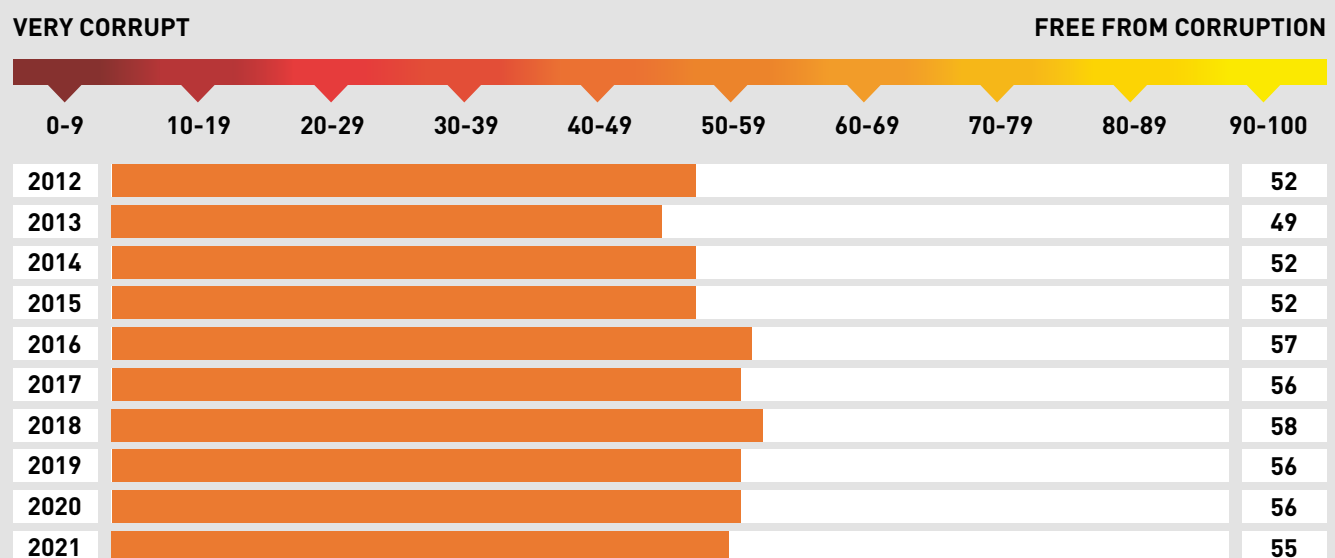
The authors of the CPI described the context of corruption in Georgia as follows: *"State capture and concentration of power is also a substantial concern in Georgia, which leads the region with a score of 55. The influence of the ruling party's founder, Bidzina Ivanishvili, over key institutions meets the definition of state capture, even though Ivanishvili has formally retired from politics. His party, Georgian Dream, has in recent years solidified its grasp on the judiciary and law enforcement bodies, effectively killing the political momentum needed to fight corruption."*

Georgia's score is largely due to the fact that petty bribery is low in the country. At the same time, the problems and challenges that exist create an ideal environment for corruption to deepen.

Georgia's score has not improved significantly since 2012, which indicates the stagnation of anti-corruption reforms in the country. Parallel to the tendency of capturing state institutions, the fight against corruption is not a priority for the Georgian government, and in recent years there has been no reform of enough scale or ambition that would improve the anti-corruption environment.

In parallel with the identification of problems and challenges, Transparency International Georgia, through its policy documents or public statements, offers the government specific ways to help the country overcome stagnation and prevent high-level corruption, as well as to promote its advancement in the most widely used global ranking on corruption, which is annually published by the Transparency International Secretariat based in Berlin.

CORRUPTION PERCEPTIONS INDEX (CPI) RESULTS FOR GEORGIA 2012-2021



SUMMARIZING 2021-PLANNING 2022





OUR DONORS

SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AGENCY
(SIDA)

ROYAL NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (USAID)

OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATION

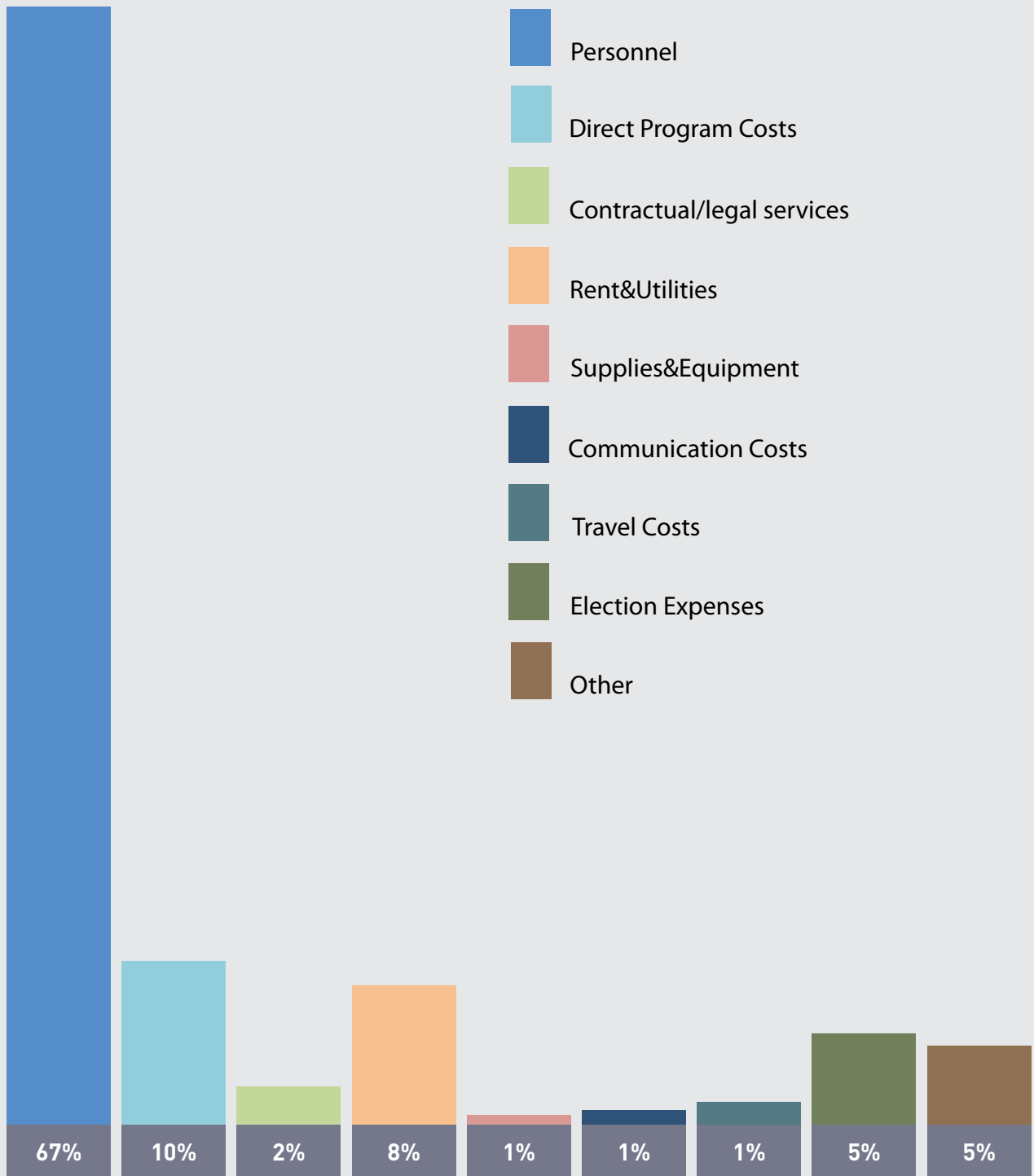


Norwegian Ministry
of Foreign Affairs

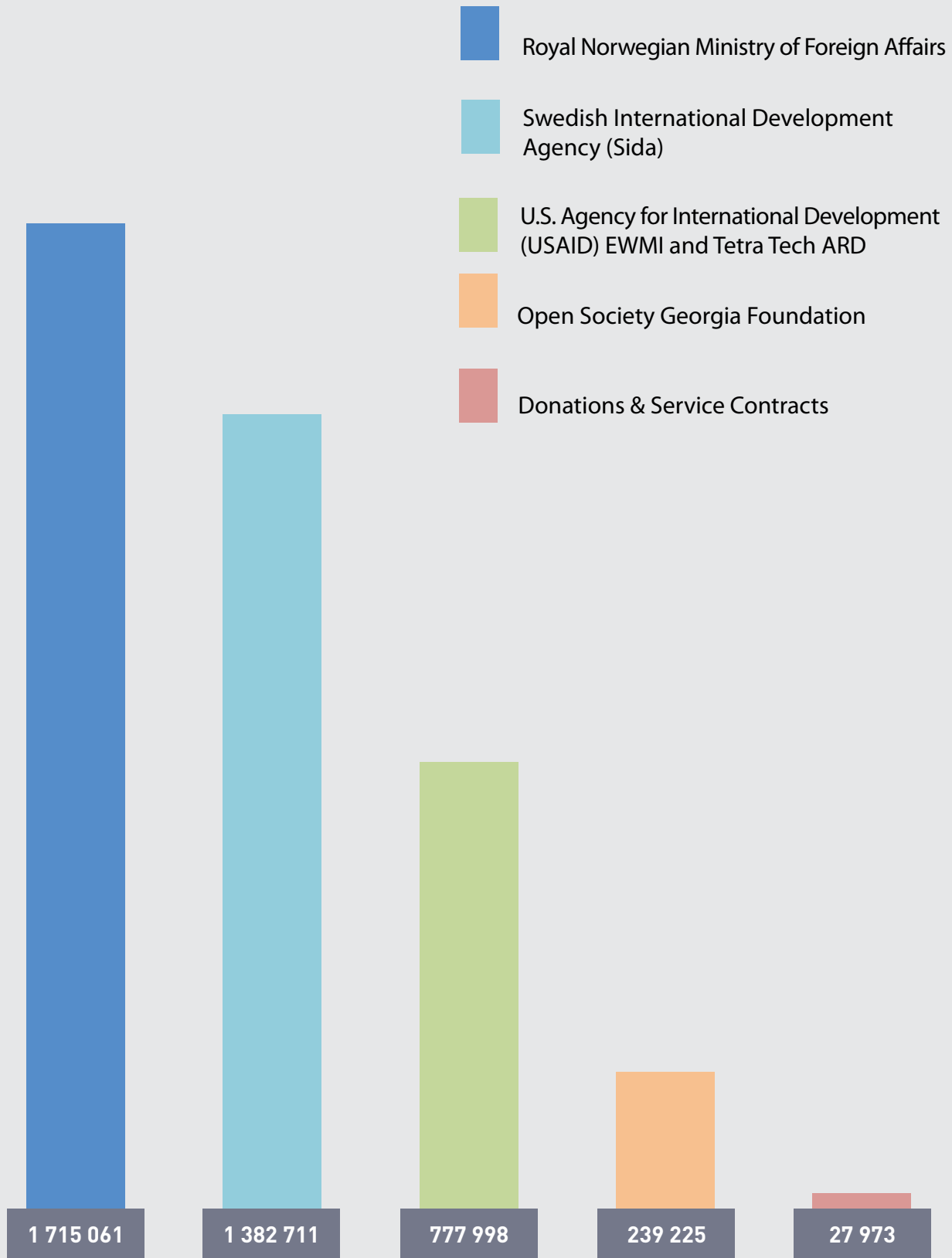


FINANCIAL INFORMATION

EXPENSES IN GEL

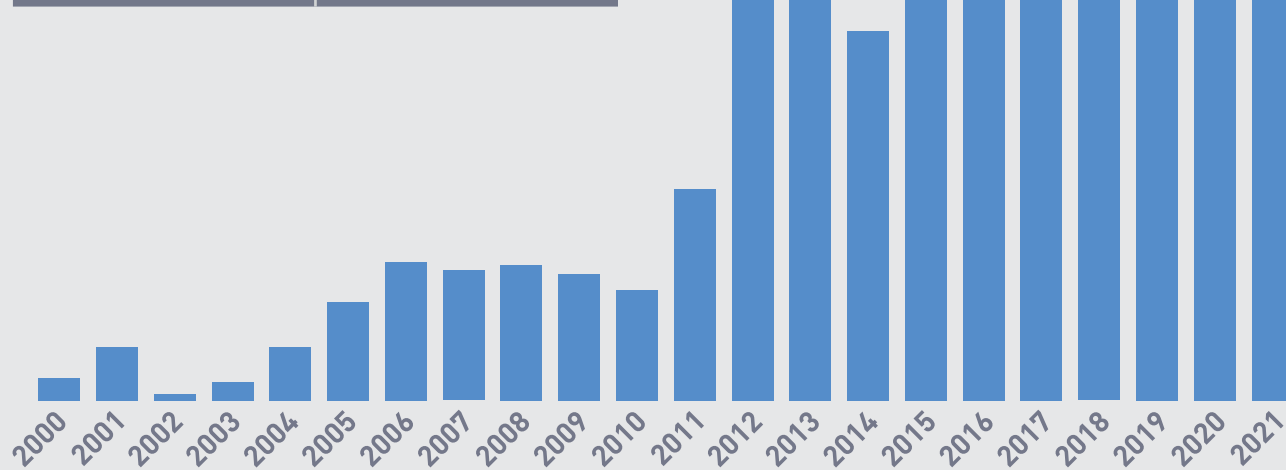


INCOME BY DONORS IN GEL



INCOME BY YEARS IN GEL

Year	GEL
2000	115,248
2001	268,912
2002	34,745
2003	94,754
2004	269,708
2005	496,986
2006	696,646
2007	655,022
2008	683,793
2009	638,291
2010	557,973
2011	1,067,881
2012	2,088,474
2013	2,847,099
2014	1,862,643
2015	2,254,047
2016	2,476,755
2017	4,053,619
2018	3,775,214
2019	4,126,265
2020	5,004,421
2021	4,142,968
Total	38,211,465



Independent Auditors' Report

To the Executive Director of Transparency International Georgia

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying special-purpose financial statements of Transparency International Georgia (the "Organization"), which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2021 and the statement of activity and changes of net assets, statement of grant activities and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

In our opinion, the special-purpose financial statements of the Organization as at and for the year ended 31 December 2021 are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the accounting policies disclosed in Note 2 to the special-purpose financial statements.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Organization in accordance with the ethical requirements of the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (IESBA Code) and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the IESBA Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Emphasis of Matter – Basis of accounting and limitation of use

We draw attention to Note 2 of the special-purpose financial statements „significant accounting policy“, which describe the basis of accounting. The Organization established specific accounting policy for preparation of organization wide financial statement for reporting to its main stakeholders: donors and member of governing body. These accounting policy is used for preparation of this special-purpose financial statement. As a result, the special-purpose financial statements may not be suitable for another purpose and for other parties. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statement

Management is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the accounting policies disclosed in Note 2 to the special-purpose financial statements, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements the management is responsible for assessing the Organization's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Organization or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charge with governance are responsible for overseeing the Organization's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our Objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Organization's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Organization's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Organization to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business activities within the Organization to express an opinion on the financial statements. We are responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the Organization audit. We remain solely responsible for our audit opinion.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Alexander Skhiladze**Partner**
Crowe GE LLC
March 29, 2022

