



ANNUAL REPORT OF TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL GEORGIA

2022

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TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL GEORGIA'S TEAM IN 2022

21 WOMEN / **19** MEN



ABOUT US

Transparency International Georgia has been working in the country for 22 years and has established itself as one of the leading civil society organizations in Georgia.

We are a member of the Transparency International (TI) global movement which unites over 100 independent national chapters. The movement is led by the International Secretariat based in Berlin, Germany.

It is a great honor that TI Georgia's Executive Director Eka Gigauri, in addition to being a board member of Transparency International global movement, has been elected as a member of the OGP Steering Committee for a three-year term in 2022, which is another international recognition of our organization's effective activities and success.

Transparency International Georgia actively cooperated with civil society organizations, including within the Coalition for an Independent and Transparent Judiciary and the Media Advocacy Coalition.

In addition to the central office in Tbilisi, our organization carried out its activities through its regional offices in Kutaisi, Batumi, Zugdidi, Akhaltsikhe and Telavi, as well as an office at the Parliament of Georgia.

Throughout the year, the number of TI Georgia's staff was 41 with the best gender balance – 21 women/20 men.

Our mission

TI Georgia's key mission is to promote anti-corruption policies, advocacy, good governance, fair electoral environment, strengthening of the judiciary, oversight of the legislative process, free and pluralistic media. Our goal is to support the sustainability of the country's European and Euro-Atlantic course.

We help citizens who are oppressed by the state to protect their rights through our selfless advocacy, and we also encourage citizen activism to hold the government accountable to them.

We offer the public a reliable, fact-based analysis in the form of in-depth research, statements and blogs. We try to convey our message to the audience through media, social networks and visual technology.

Our activities have stood the test of time and made us the organization, whose word is worth something. This is confirmed by the trust that international organizations and partners place in us.



MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EKA GIGAURI



Last year, thanks to the tireless efforts of our lawyers, TI Georgia provided free legal aid to 2,189 citizens, protected the rights of some 200 journalists and won 57 court cases. Illegally oppressed people will receive **GEL 752,225** in compensation and regain their ownership rights to a total of **9.758 square meters** of land. All those who have been illegally dismissed from public office, whose property has been confiscated, and who face other illegal actions by the government can pin their hopes on TI Georgia.

2022 was a record year for the activities of our Committees of Concerned Citizens (CCC). We collected more than **6,000 signatures** and submitted to city halls the list of the infrastructure problems identified by the enthusiastic members of our CCCs in their villages and settlements. **82 problems were solved in 80 settlements** – this scheme has been quite successful for years and civic activism brings concrete results!

Dear friends,

In 2022, our organization did not slow down even for a single day in doing the most important things related to exposing the facts of corruption, supporting the media and protecting the interests of oppressed citizens.

The year 2022 was particularly difficult not only for our country, but for the whole world. Russia's military aggression against our friendly country, Ukraine has shocked all sober-minded people and assured them that our main goal is to stand by our friends, on the right side of history and free ourselves from Russian influences once and for all.





We should spare no effort to make the most of the window of opportunity that has opened for our country to join the European Union. The 12 recommendations proposed by the European Union for us to obtain the status of a candidate country are necessary for our country, first of all, to protect the rights of each citizen, to reduce corruption, to obtain more prosperity, to get out of poverty and to obtain our place in the family of countries where our historical place is.

The Georgian people showed the whole world during the summer rallies that they will not allow the country to return to the Russian orbit and will stand on the path of European integration to the end. Almost 85% support for the country's western course is what remains firm in this country on its path to EU integration. "Take a Step Towards

Europe" - by launching this large-scale campaign, holding meetings in the regions, involving the media, we showed everyone that European integration is our choice and there is no alternative to it.

The most important thing is not to create artificial obstacles on this path on our own by unrestrained cursing of real friends, flattering policy towards Russia, persecution of critical media and many other actions of our government in 2022.

The completely unjustified arrest of Nika Gvaramia, director of the government-critical TV channel Mtavari has seriously damaged the country's image. This case has once again highlighted the problems of political justice, the punishment of critical media and the non-acceptance of dissenting opinions, which are incompatible with democracy.

In 2022, TI Georgia published a number of interesting and high-profile studies. In addition to monitoring the dynamics of Georgia's growing economic dependence on Russia, we found out that the country's informal ruler Bidzina Ivanishvili and his relatives have serious business interests in Russia. While Ivanishvili retains influence over the ruling party and state institutions despite formally leaving politics, business interests in a hostile state may pose a certain threat to the country's foreign policy course.

I would also like to refer to the scheme analyzed on the basis of the documents provided by the former top officials of the State Security Service of Georgia on what illegal methods are used during the elections to mobilize voters in favor of the ruling party, to intimidate them, to control them, to create dossiers on them, in which the involvement of public agencies was directly highlighted.

The list of uninvestigated cases of alleged high-level corruption, which we constantly

update, including suspected cases of corruption uncovered as a result of the active work of our regional offices, shows that shelved cases and impunity are among the most important problems.

It is the irritation towards critical studies that explains the black campaigns that government representatives periodically launch against us and our partner organizations on social networks and through their media outlets.

In 2022, the unfounded attacks on civil society organizations became more acute and organized, but this makes you stronger, convinces you that you are doing the right thing and gives you more motivation to continue fighting for the improvement of democracy in this country and a better future for our citizens.

Special thanks to each and every employee of our organization for their tireless work and to our donors for contributing to the democratic development of this country through us!



CORRUPTION RELATED CHALLENGES



SANDRO KEVKHISHVILI

Anti-corruption team leader

The year 2022 was a busy one for TI Georgia's anti-corruption team. Our activities throughout the year included oversight and investigative, as well as analytical and advocacy components.

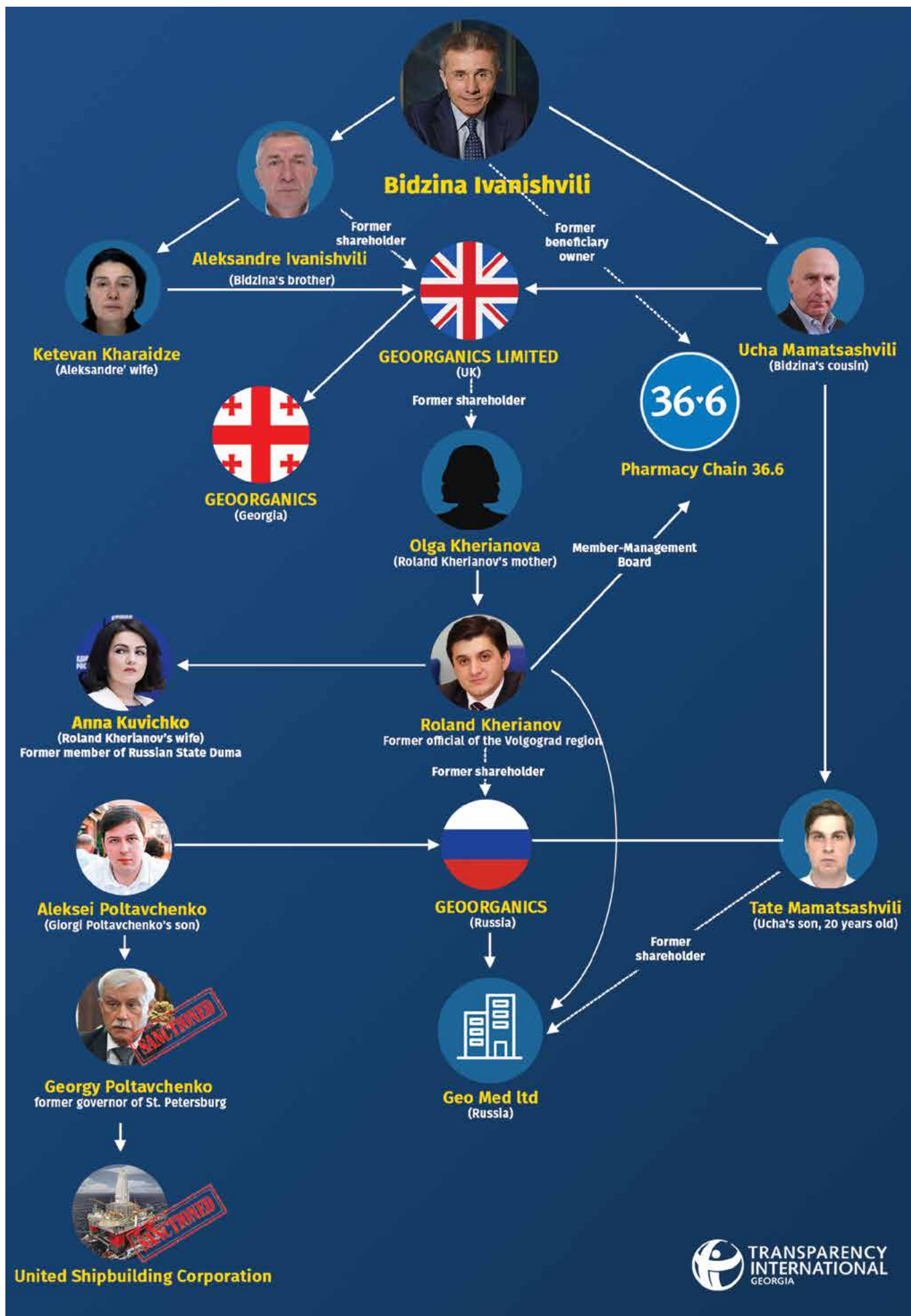
In 2022, we continued to work on highlighting the problem of high-level corruption. The list of alleged cases of high-level corruption was updated several times. By the end of 2022, the list included **94 cases** involving **113 officials**. The granting of a license for a hunting farm in the Racha forest to Davit Khidasheli, a Georgian businessman with Russian connections, was a good example

of alleged high-level corruption that cost the country GEL 2 million.

The content and scope, number and growth dynamics of alleged cases of high-level corruption provide grounds to say that **high-level corruption in Georgia takes the form of kleptocracy**, where officials systematically use political power to appropriate the country's wealth.

Following the launch of a full-scale war by the Russian Federation against Ukraine and the imposition of sanctions on Russia by the West, the Georgian ruling elite's approach to dealing with Russia has become a topic of wider discussion. The report by TI Georgia's anti-corruption team on **Russian Businesses of Bidzina Ivanishvili and His Relatives** is particularly noteworthy in this regard. Although Bidzina Ivanishvili declared upon entering politics in 2011 that he would sell all his businesses in Russia, TI Georgia found that he continued to own at least 10 Russian companies through offshore entities in 2012-2019, and still continues to own at least one company in Russia. TI Georgia also found that Ivanishvili's brother and cousin do business together with U.S.-sanctioned individuals linked to Russian President Vladimir Putin. TI Georgia believes that when the informal ruler of the country is found to have serious business interests in a hostile state, the security of the country and its foreign policy course may be threatened.

In view of the 12 recommendations put forth by the European Commission for Georgia, one of which – the fourth recommendation – concerns the implementation of reforms in anti-corruption institutions, TI Georgia's Senior Analyst Lili Lezhava prepared a policy paper arguing the need for the existence of a truly independent anti-corruption agency with investigative powers.

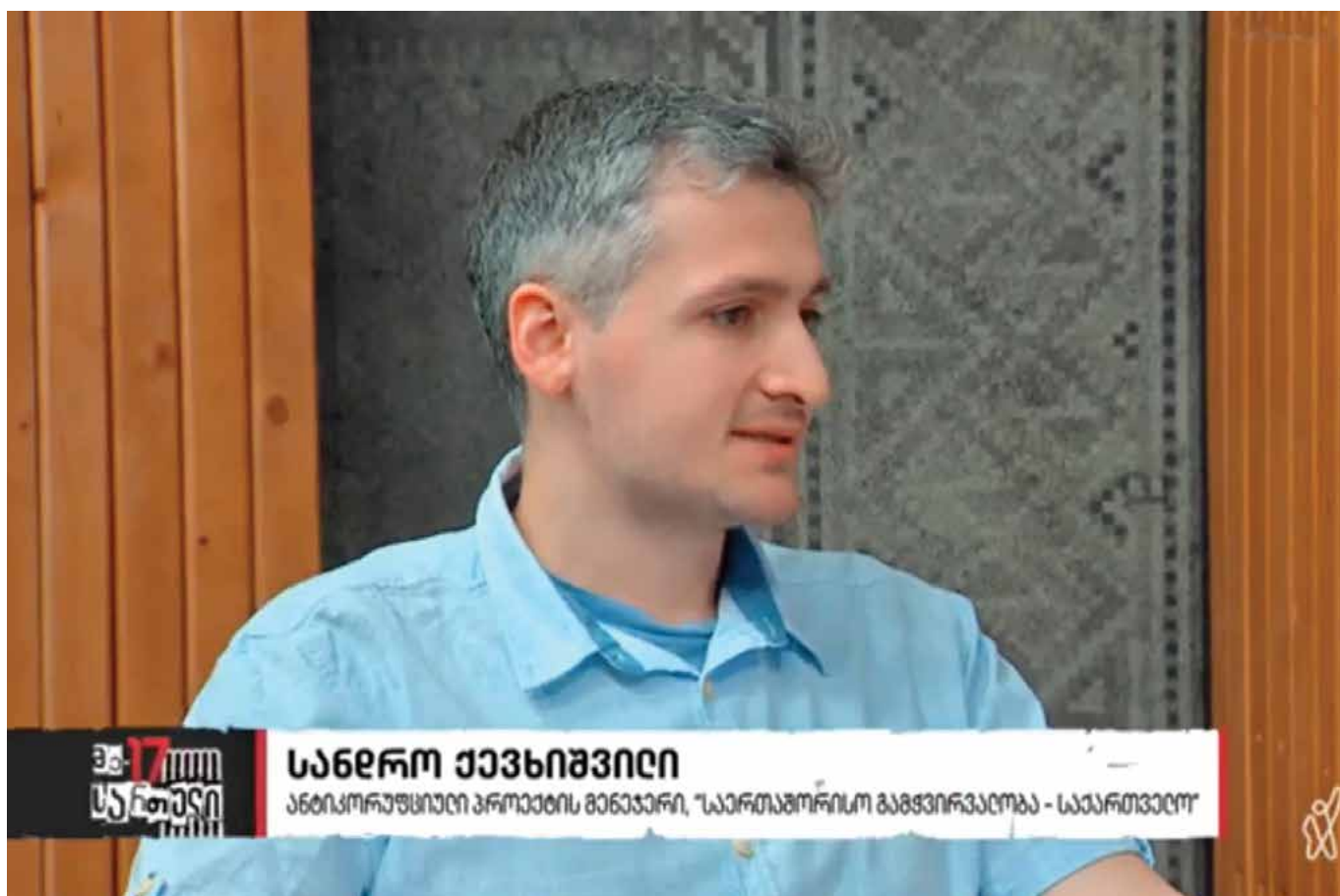




**Georgia loses GEL 2 million
as a result of a Racha hunting
farm deal with Davit Khidasheli**

The Georgian government
prioritized a proposal that is
13 times less profitable than
its alternative

We actively participated in the parliamentary discussions on the legislation establishing the Anti-Corruption Bureau as part of the fourth recommendation. We also prepared a reform analysis, in which we welcomed the unification of anti-corruption functions under the new bureau, but noted that the reform could not be successful unless the bureau had investigative powers and a strong guarantee of independence.



TI Georgia continued to monitor the asset declarations of public officials. At the beginning of the year, we **monitored the asset declarations of members of the Tbilisi City Assembly** and identified specific violations, which were sent to the Civil Service Bureau for further action. The same research revealed an alleged violation of the rules on political donations, when 16 members of the Tbilisi City Assembly from the ruling party donated the same amount on the same day to their party during the period of local elections. This raised doubts about illegal political donations from the third party.



TI Georgia's Senior Analyst *Lili Lezhava* analyzed the Asset Declaration Monitoring Report for 2021 published by the Civil Service Bureau. The report shows once again that the monitoring mechanism fails to detect and prevent corruption-related offenses.



8 council members **have incompletely declared** their business activities or that of their family members

GIVI CHKHARTISHVILI



GIORGI SHARASHIDZE



IRAKLI KHELADZE



TORNIKE BIKASHVILI



LEVAN ABASHIDZE



OTAR GRIGOLIA



SHALVA OGBAIDZE



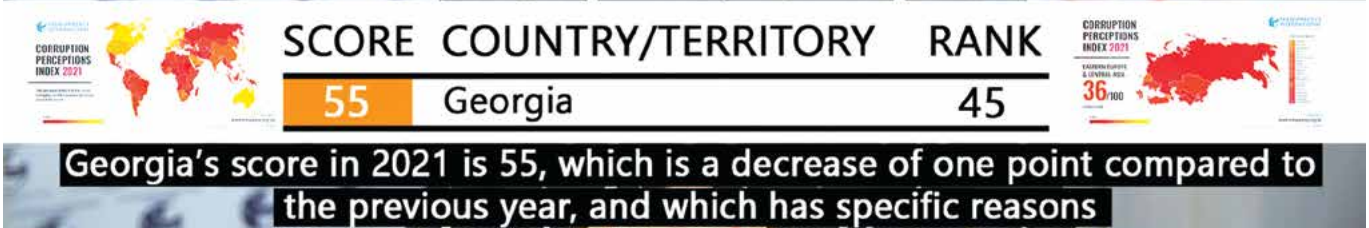
ZURAB ABASHIDZE



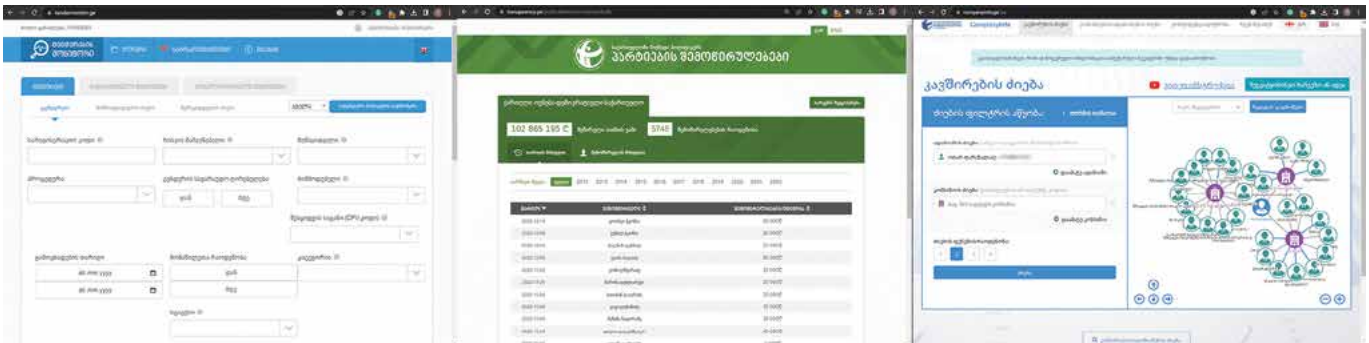
An important achievement in the monitoring of declarations was **the creation, through our efforts and coordination, of an independent commission for the selection of declarations under the Civil Service Bureau**. The Commission selected additional 300 asset declarations for review in 2023.

We periodically analyze the areas that are most vulnerable to corruption. The report on **Corruption Risks in the Process of State Property Privatization**, prepared by TI Georgia's analyst *Mariam Mamniashvili*, is particularly noteworthy in this regard. As a result of the analysis of the data for 2013-2021, more than 200 suspicious cases were revealed, confirming that the privatization process poses significant corruption risks when officials or their family members, the ruling party donors or newly established companies become the owners of the state property.





Finally, throughout the year we paid great attention to the development of our investigative websites, which can be used by any interested person. The software of **Companyinfo.ge** (search for company owners), **Tendermonitor.ge** (search for public procurement) and **Politicaldonations.ge** (search for political donors) was continuously updated and new functions were added. It is these websites that make effective corruption monitoring possible.



Expose corruption by using Transparency International Georgia's investigative websites



PoliticalDonations.ge

Officially reported donations by Georgian political parties since 2012

- 🚩 Search by donor
- 🚩 Search by political party



TenderMonitor.ge

Full information about public procurement conducted in Georgia since 2010

- 🚩 Detailed supplier and procurer profiles
- 🚩 Corruption risk analysis
- 🚩 Data visualization
- 🚩 Open data format



CompanyInfo.ge

Georgian company owners and their business interests

- 🚩 Search by company or person
- 🚩 Search connections between entities
- 🚩 Historic company ownership data
- 🚩 Links to political donations and public procurement



Please note that the information provided here should be verified on official web platforms

MEDIA LANDSCAPE



MAMUKA ANDGULADZE

Media Program Manager

Throughout 2022, we provided legal assistance to journalists and sought to contribute to the improvement of the media landscape through cooperation with local and

international organizations and advocacy, as well as research and educational activities.

In recent years, the deterioration of the media landscape in Georgia has become irreversible, especially after the 2020 parliamentary elections. Since then, **we have recorded at least 120 cases of violence against media representatives**, which makes it clear that journalistic activities have become unsafe in Georgia. The European Parliament adopted a resolution, expressing concern about the current situation in the country regarding the safety of journalists.

The resolution also addresses the case of Nika Gvaramia, director of Mtavari Arkhi TV, who was sentenced to three years and six months in prison. Both international and local organizations, including TI Georgia, **assessed the case as politically motivated and a clear example of the persecution of critical media in the country**. Throughout the year, we actively followed Gvaramia's trial, engaged in advocacy with other organizations and journalists, and participated in various campaigns in support of Nika Gvaramia.





The organizers of the large-scale attack on journalists on July 5-6, 2021, which left more than 50 journalists injured, remain unpunished. TI Georgia's lawyers **are defending in court the rights of 24 reporters** from Mtavari Arkhi TV, Formula TV and TV Pirveli, as well as the online media outlet On.ge. We filed a lawsuit against the Ministry of Interior for not protecting the health of the journalists from the aggression and attacks of violent groups on July 5, 2021, and for not providing adequate conditions for the exercise of their professional activities.



Transparency International Georgia is defending the rights of some 200 journalists, including Imeda Darsalia, Sopio Zedelashvili and Tamta Janadze, members of the editorial team of the public broadcaster's Akhali Kvira (New Week) program. All of them publicly complained that they were unable to carry out their journalistic activities in a free atmosphere, accusing the management of censorship attempts, which led to their dismissal. With the help of our lawyers, they appealed to the Public Defender, who found a substantial violation of their labor rights and recommended that the dismissal order be annulled and that the journalists be reinstated, which was not done by the public television. The dispute continues in court, where TI Georgia is defending the journalists' rights.



The lack of effective investigation of cases related to obstruction of journalistic activities further exacerbates and encourages attacks against them, especially as government officials continue to make aggressive and humiliating statements against critical media.

A new tendency of media restriction revealed in 2022 was **an alarming number of lawsuits filed in court against critical media for allegedly defamatory statements**. According to information collected by TI Georgia, 28 lawsuits were filed against three critical TV channels – Mtavari Arkhi, Formula and TV Pirveli. Most of the plaintiffs were representatives and associates of the ruling party. The large number of lawsuits filed in a short period of time clearly indicates a coordinated trend aimed at restricting and intimidating critical media. It is fully in line with one of the typical signs of kleptocratic rule, when defamation lawsuits are filed in an attempt to silence journalists working on corruption-related issues.

TI Georgia traditionally published **the report on the TV advertising market** with the active involvement of our *Senior Analyst, Salome Tsetskhladze*. According to the report, in 2021, compared to 2020, the TV advertising market increased by GEL 7.8 million GEL and amounted to GEL 83.1 million, which can be explained by the lifting of economic restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

TI Georgia also published a report that provides an overview **of TV procurements made by local municipalities**. It turned out that in 2020, 15 local broadcasters received more than GEL 686 thousand as a result of state procurements. The funds received from state procurements constituted an important part of the total revenues - in most cases it was more than 20% and sometimes it even exceeded 50%.



Amid the war in Ukraine in 2022, Russian disinformation continued to intensify in Georgia. To raise public awareness, TI Georgia published various infographics on social media about the threat of disinformation and international experience in combating it.



Our media team, together with TI Georgia's *Senior Analyst Beso Namchevadze*, conducted three training sessions for journalists and civil society representatives in Zugdidi, Telavi and Tbilisi. We explained to 40 participants how much Georgia is economically dependent on Russia and how this can be verified through open data.





We **have created a Media Assistance Center** to support investigative and ethical journalism. The center allows journalists, students and civil society representatives with interesting ideas to contact us for assistance in finding open data to prepare articles or stories.

TI Georgia actively participated in the work of the Media Advocacy Coalition. Together with other organizations, we made joint efforts to protect the media. As part of the Coalition, we issued statements on the government's discriminatory approach to individual journalists, called for the blocking of Russian propaganda media, and protested the facts that Russian bloggers were denied entry to Georgia. We also worked on amendments to the law on the regulation of hate speech. However, the Parliament ignored the Coalition's opinions and ultimately, the regulation of hate speech became the prerogative of the Communications Commission.



ELECTION ISSUES, PUBLIC FINANCES



LEVAN NATROSHVILI

Programs Manager

While 2022 was not an election year, a number of important developments related to election issues occurred throughout the year. During this period, TI Georgia published four major reports and carried out dozens of other activities. Project Manager *Levan*

Natroshvili and lawyer *Gigi Chikhladze* were the main actors in these processes.

After several months of extensive research, in July, together with the International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy (ISFED), we published a report entitled ***“State Resources at the Service of the Ruling Party: Proven Methods of Vote Buying and Illegal Mobilization of Voters in Georgia,”*** based on files provided to the organizations by the whistleblower. Based on the research, a large-scale scheme of mobilizing voters in favor of the ruling party by illegal means was identified, which most likely proves the use of state bodies (including law enforcement agencies) for electoral/party purposes. Personal data of employees of budgetary organizations and other citizens were probably collected through these agencies in order to exert pressure on them in the future. In addition, in exchange for electoral support, citizens were provided with prearranged and other types of benefits through various state agencies. We have submitted the material we have researched to the Prosecutor’s Office, which has opened an investigation, but no one has been held accountable.





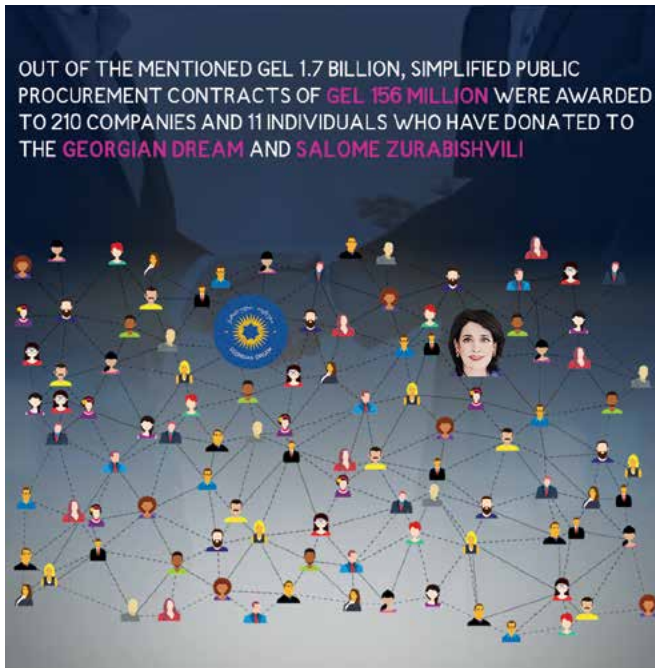
The issue of improving the electoral legislation became even more important in 2022, when the topic was reflected in the 12 priorities set by the European Commission for Georgia to obtain the EU candidate status. In November, together with ISFED, we presented our opinions on the draft amendments to the election code: we assessed some of the amendments positively, although there were fundamental problems, including the current rule on the composition of the Central Election Commission, which were ignored by the draft law and needed to be resolved.

In February, we published a final report on the **Misuse of Administrative Resources during Georgia's 2021 Municipal Elections**, the main findings of which did not differ significantly from the interim reports: the pre-election environment was more or less competitive, all parties were able to campaign, but the ruling party enjoyed a huge privilege due to the mobilization of administrative and other resources.

Throughout the year, TI Georgia devoted three publications and one discussion to the issue of party financing. The reports on **Funding of Georgia's 2021 Municipal Election Campaign and Georgia's Political Finance in 2021** once again revealed a huge financial inequality between Georgian Dream and other parties, as well as alleged corruption cases related to the ruling party's donors, which remained unaddressed.

In November, we began publishing quarterly newsletters on political donations. Every three months, we will collect and make available to the public information on party donations, big donors and their alleged links to the ruling party.

We held an interesting discussion with the participation of political parties, local and international organizations, CEC members, as well as representatives of foreign embassies to talk about the challenges facing the country in terms of transparency and oversight of political finances, fundraising for political parties, Russian influences and the presence of "black" money.



Sharing accumulated knowledge is an important aspect of our activities. More than 20 journalists, researchers and civic activists were introduced to public open data platforms, investigative websites created by our organization and the rules of their use at the training entitled **“How to Investigate Corruption?”** Of particular interest were practical examples of how to investigate corruption cases.

In addition, in 2022, we regularly published reports on public finances. Our Senior Analyst **Beso Namchavadze** was the author of these reports. Public procurement

is a part of public finance and we were regularly involved in its monitoring. Due to the pandemic, the share of simplified (direct) procurement in public procurement has increased, significantly increasing the risks of corruption and malpractice. In early 2022, we published a report **“Simplified Public Procurement during COVID-19: Analysis of Basic Data and Corruption Risks.”** Among the contractors, we again identified many donors to the ruling party, raising suspicions of political corruption. In addition, newly established companies with no business experience were awarded important contracts.



We also published two important reports on procurement. One related to “secret contracts” and the other to the large sums spent by the Georgian government on legal services for arbitration disputes.

The Government of Georgia spent **GEL 135 million on the legal services of arbitration disputes** in 2017-2021



96 large contracts worth GEL 135 million were signed through direct procurement



The Ministry of Justice spent the most money – **GEL 82.2 million**



These funds are spent on well-known cases, such as disputes with the *Anaklia Development Consortium*, *Caucasus Online*, *Inter RAO*, and others

The Russian aggression that erupted in Ukraine on February 24, 2022 made the study of Georgia’s economic dependence on Russia a priority. We published three reports on this topic, which showed that Georgia’s economic dependence on Russia increased after Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. This was mainly due to the influx of migrants from Russia to Georgia and increased remittances.



Traditionally, **we evaluated the state budget performance report for the first six months of 2022, as well as the draft state budget for 2023.**

Of particular note is the world-renowned Open Budget Survey (OBS) conducted by the International Budget Partnership (IBP), which evaluates state budgets and ranks the countries assessed. Transparency International Georgia has been cooperating

with this organization for many years, evaluating the activities of various Georgian public institutions in the process of budgeting. The survey was published in May 2022, according to which Georgia moved from the 5th to the 1st place in terms of state budget transparency. **TI Georgia's recommendations and involvement played an important role in achieving this progress.**



ACTIVITIES IN REGIONS

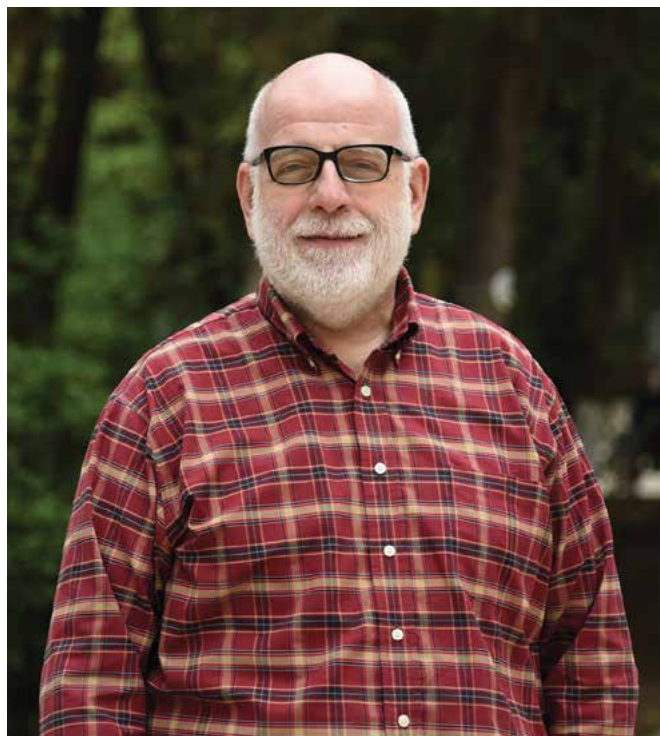
ZVIAD KORIDZE

Manager of Regional Offices

TI Georgia's regional offices focus their attention on the activities of local self-government bodies in Georgia. Through our studies and blogs, we try to identify the facts that contain signs of corruption and draw the attention of relevant public authorities to these problems, as well as empower local people and encourage their civic activism.

In 2022, our regional offices identified **105 cases of alleged corrupt deals involving 40 public officials** and informed the public of such facts.

- The study **"Corruption Risks in Abastumani"** conducted by *Tamuna Uchidze*, head of TI Georgia's **Akhaltikhe office**, showed how Bidzina Ivanishvili is using a number of public agencies to improve the environment in which he is implementing his own business projects, and how quickly and smoothly the state is allocating large budgetary resources for this purpose. The government launched major infrastructure projects in Abastumani after Bidzina Ivanishvili showed interest in the resort. *Tamuna Uchidze* also analyzed **the risks of corruption in the process of privatization of state property in Samtskhe-Javakheti**, pointing out that people with ties to Bidzina Ivanishvili and Georgian Dream, as well as its donors are purchasing state property. **"Revolving Door and Alleged Corruption in Borjomi Municipality"** confirms that loyalty to the ruling political force is essential to win public procurement contracts.



After Bidzina Ivanishvili showed interest in Abastumani, the persons connected to Georgian Dream started buying lands **(91.7%)** in the resort and receiving money through public procurement **(83.1%)**



In **2018-2022** in Abastumani



Six public agencies signed procurement contracts worth **GEL 249,920,551**. The Georgian Dream donors received **GEL 207,720,451**. They donated **GEL 1,276,000** to the ruling party.

In the years 2013-2021, **507,998 sq. meters of land** was sold in Samtskhe-Javakheti to persons with links to the Georgian Dream and serving in public office through auctions and the direct sale method for **GEL 9,184,072**

Public officials,
their family members
24 individuals

90,140 sq. meters

Persons with links to the
Georgian Dream
13 natural/legal persons

348,570 sq. meters

Companies with links to
Bidzina Ivanishvili
10 companies

70,433 sq. meters

72.7% of the land plots put on auction were sold without competition.

- Archil Todua, head of TI Georgia's **Zugdidi office**, scrutinized **"Economic Interests of Georgian MP Viktor Japaridze."** He has been analyzing the business interests of one of the most influential people in Svaneti region and his family members for several years. The companies related to Viktor Japaridze received GEL 7,775,565 from public procurement. The study also provides information on political donations and alleged cases of nepotism by the Japaridze family and their business partners. Especially noteworthy was **the case of Senaki**, where three months after the election, companies owned by the uncle and cousins of the new mayor, Vakhtang Gadelia, won local tenders worth GEL 2.6 million without competition.

MP Victor Japaridze and his family members are
shareholders in **11** different companies

They received **7 775 565 GEL**
from Public Procurements

533 000 GEL was donated to the
Georgian Dream party



- *Malkhaz Chkadua*, head of TI Georgia's **Batumi office**, continued to monitor business interests related to MP Anzor Bolkvadze. All major infrastructure and tourist projects in high-mountain municipalities of Adjara are related to Anzor Bolkvadze and his relatives. The latest study identified one more company related to him, which **received GEL 5 million from public procurements in Adjara**. TI Georgia's Batumi office also analyzed **the monopolistic position of Adjarganateba and Ganateba - companies with links to the ruling party - in the public procurements of the municipalities of Adjara** and revealed **disparate and flawed practices in dealing with subcontractors**.



- *Lela Motsonelidze*, head of TI Georgia's **Kutaisi office**, analyzed an alleged corruption scheme in the Tskaltubo Municipality, describing in a blog **“Companies of a member of the Tskaltubo City Council obtain public procurement contracts worth GEL 63 million”** how a member of the Tskaltubo City Council does not give up his shares and holds the position of director in the company that wins public procurement tenders. TI Georgia also identified the company with links to the ruling party, which received public procurement contracts worth almost GEL 35 million in three municipalities of Imereti.





In 2021, the government gave a subsidy of **GEL 138 million** for the grape harvest. Out of this, **GEL 30,343,512** went to those **31 companies** that have donated **GEL 3,626,420** to the Georgian Dream in recent years

The donors do not include wine companies linked with the Prime Minister Garibashvili, which have received a subsidy of more than **GEL 1,700,000**



- The study “**Grape Harvest and Elections — Overview of the State Subsidy Program for Grape Harvest**” prepared by Ana Pachikashvili, head of TI Georgia’s **Telavi office** makes it clear that the process of subsidizing the grape harvest reveals a number of corruption-related problems, including giving a preference to companies that have donated to the ruling party and those with links to high-ranking officials.



Naturally, the stories with signs of corruption have attracted a lot of media attention, which should be enough to prompt a response from the relevant authorities. However, since investigative agencies typically do not act this way, we report each problematic case in writing to government agencies.

2022 was the first working year of newly elected mayors and city councils, which began with special problems in those municipalities where the ruling party did not have a solid majority. In the publication “**Problems with local democracy after elections**” we analyzed, based on concrete examples, the negative impact on local democracy of disagreements between political parties, lack of transparency in personnel changes, intimidation, bribery, and the use of other forms of violence, which, first of all, damage the vital interests of the local population. We also focused our attention on **legislative amendments**. With one of the amendments, the ruling party tailored the procedure of recognizing the powers of majoritarian members of city councils to its own interests, and with the second initiative, it put the mayor in an advantageous position in relation to the city council, in particular, in case of disagreement on the budget, the city council ceased to function, while the mayor kept his/her post.

The vast majority of municipalities have unreasonably high levels of local bureaucracy and administrative expenses, which is confirmed by **the monitoring of municipal expenses** carried out by our offices. The total amount of the salaries of civil servants of local city halls and municipal councils, as well as of the employees of legal entities established by a municipality equals almost one half of the budget expenditures. In this regard, especially noteworthy is the research conducted by Archil Todua, head of TI Georgia's **Zugdidi office**, which analyzed **the increase in salaries of employees of legal entities of municipalities in Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti**. TI Georgia also analyzed the administrative expenses of state representatives and found that the total expenses of nine administrations amounted to more than GEL 5,5 million in 2021, exceeding the expenses of the previous year.





Monitoring the asset declarations of public officials is an effective tool for observing the activities of local officials as well as the dynamics of their income and asset growth. According to the study published in 2022, **one fifth of the asset declarations filed by Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti municipal officials turned out to be inaccurate.** We also analyzed the **asset declarations of state representatives and their deputies, officials of the Supreme Council and the Government of Adjara,** and submitted the violations revealed as a result of the monitoring to the Civil Service Bureau for further action. Through detailed analysis of asset declarations, we found that **the Mayor of Khelvachauri was building a house without permission.**





Throughout the year, we held **four training** sessions for local self-government bodies and local non-governmental organizations/civil society groups on the issues of program budgeting and budget implementation monitoring. Our goal is to ensure that this process becomes more transparent and that more citizens are involved in the budget planning process.

In 2022, we successfully continued our radio projects – *Archil Todua's* program “Our Self Government” on Radio Station Atinati in Zugdidi (20 programs), as well as *Lela Motsonelidze's* program “Transparent Policy” broadcast on Radio Station Dzveli Kalaki in Kutaisi (11 programs) – which help us communicate local problems to the audience and actively discuss the ways of their solution.



COMMITTEES OF CONCERNED CITIZENS – THE YEAR OF RECORD INVOLVEMENT



MALKHAZ CHKADUA

Coordinator of the Committees of Concerned Citizens

The year 2022 will go down in the history of Transparency International Georgia with a record number of citizens involved – the work of the Committees of Concerned Citizens (CCCs) was characterized by a significant number of both prepared petitions and statements and citizens who signed them: **in total, more than 6,000 citizens signed 7 petitions and about 30 statements, which is twice more than in 2021.**

This is mainly due to the enthusiastic citizens who are united in our CCCs, who always know best what local communities and settlements need for development. **Transparency International Georgia helps these people to bring their problems to the attention of the authorities and to solve them.**

We welcome the fact that along with the quantitative growth, the range of issues and problems addressed by our petitions and statements has also expanded: we have traditionally **focused on advocating for solutions to local infrastructure problems, while the youth engagement component has also been strengthened.**

On the initiative of young people, we started **collecting signatures to change the name of Beria Street in Zugdidi.** Organized by the youth groups working in Kobuleti and with our support, we registered a petition with the Supreme Council of Adjara **for the construction of non-formal education centers** in the municipalities of the region. In addition, young people were the initiators of another petition to the Supreme Council for the addition of emergency medical aid brigades and mobile clinics for the seasonal pastoral settlements of the high mountain municipalities of Adjara. The high mountain municipalities of Adjara fell within the scope of another petition - young activists from the Solidarity Community, with the support of our CCCs, demanded the registration and passportization of wooden mosques, a unique Islamic cultural heritage in the region.

We touched upon the issues of municipal and regional importance in Samtskhe-Javakheti and Samegrelo: the population of the village of Sameba in Ninotsminda lives under constant danger - houses are cracked in one of the most seismically active settlements in the country, and the educational process at school is practically suspended – unfortunately, even after preparing the petition, we could not get a proper answer from the municipality on how they will help the local population and provide them with

a safe living environment – we are fully aware that the low-income municipality is unable to provide alternative housing for dozens of families, but these problems can be solved through close communication with the central government. Of course, in 2023 we will continue to advocate the problems of these citizens.

With the advocacy of Transparency International Georgia's Committees of Concerned Citizens, **80 infrastructural problems were solved in 82 settlements** in Samtskhe-Javakheti, Imereti, Samegrelo, and Adjara regions:

-  In 32 settlements, the **motor roads** were rehabilitated
-  In 10 settlements, the **channel drainage** systems were fixed
-  In 7 villages, **streetlights** have been installed
-  In 4 settlements, schools buildings have been renovated/started renovation
-  In 4 settlements, **water supply** systems have been provided
-  In 3 settlements, **sport playgrounds** have been made, 2 playgrounds have been renovated
-  In 3 villages, **garbage containers** have been located/added
-  2 settlements will have new **kinder gardens**
-  In 2 settlements, 2 kinder garden buildings have been rehabilitated



For People with the People!



In Samegrelo, we traditionally focused on infrastructure issues - Zugdidi, Khobi, Chkhorotsku, Poti - this is an incomplete list of municipalities where, on the initiative of members of our CCCs, we **urged the municipalities to renew road surfaces, install outdoor lighting, rehabilitate drainage channels, and build playgrounds, attractions and parks.** Unfortunately, it is noteworthy that we have to submit petitions to our municipalities not for the implementation of innovative, outstanding projects, but for the implementation of routine, vital and, let's say, primary use projects, such as the construction of roads or the creation of recreational spaces – the same happened in the case of Zugdidi and Khobi; in one

place, the residents of several streets asked for the laying of asphalt, and in the other - the creation of children's playgrounds in several settlements.



Advocacy for the improvement of pre-school institutions and school infrastructure has always been a prominent part of CCCs' activities, and 2022 was no exception: We have already received an official confirmation from the Ministry of Education of Adjara that **as a result of our advocacy, the public school in the village of Bodzauri in Khulo, which has a successful wrestling class, will have an updated sports infrastructure, and the school in the village of Kokotauri in the Keda Municipality will have a new sports field.** We would like to remind the supporters of our organization that this is the very school where in 2020, with the help of our CCCs, the modern equipment for the computer class was purchased within the framework of the EU project.





We believe that through proper communication and problem-solving work, there will always be opportunities for our CCC members and TI Georgia’s representatives to implement new initiatives, despite the fact that sometimes all doors in local governments close at once. Constant sharing of our activities on our organization’s social media networks helps us establish consistent, correct communication - in this way **we shared more than 25 stories with the audience, which encourages other citizens to contact us and ask us for help in solving the problems of their settlements.**

Our door is open to all citizens, for whom a better everyday life in their street, district, community, village, settlement is important - **“For the people with the people” remains the main slogan of our CCCs!**





GIA GVILAVA

Program Manager

Problems related to the judiciary did not diminish during the year, and the main challenges still concerned the independence of a judge.

In addition to the regular challenges, in 2022 new tendencies were also revealed. Namely, some influential judges in the judiciary openly confronted Georgia's Western partners. Along with local organizations, verbal attacks on ambassadors and representatives of international organizations became more frequent. The comments of influential judges mostly echoed the statements made by the ruling political team. Contrary to the recommendations of Western partners, influential judges and their associates were appointed to some key positions in the judiciary. Transparency International Georgia closely monitored the process.





Of particular note in 2022 were developments related to granting EU candidate status. The European Commission adopted an Opinion, recommending the European Council that Georgia be granted candidate status once a number of priorities are addressed. In June 2022, the European Council endorsed this recommendation. It recognized the European perspective of Georgia and expressed readiness to grant candidate status once the outstanding priorities are addressed. The recommendation includes 12 priority reform areas, one specifically concerning judicial reform issues and consists of several essential parts. Together with its partner organizations, TI Georgia developed an action plan to address the priorities and defined the necessary steps to obtain the status. In addition, we closely followed the work in the Parliament, participated in committee hearings and periodically disseminated our opinions.

In 2022, we launched a court monitoring project to **monitor high-profile commercial disputes**. We have selected six monitors for the project to observe hearings at the Tbilisi City Court, the Tbilisi Court of Appeals, and the Batumi City Court. The goal of the project is to identify, assess and find solutions to shortcomings in the judiciary.

At the same time, we launched the Property Rights Promotion Project, which involves regional visits and assistance to local people in registering their property rights. **Our lawyers held meetings in four regions to explain the rules of land registration.** Our goal is to raise awareness of property rights in the regions as much as possible and to assist local people in registering their lands.

Violations of the rights of civic activists, as well as cases of their disproportionate and unjustified detention, remained topical last year. To protect the rights of activists, we lodged cases at the European Court of Human Rights in 2022. In total, **we referred four cases involving civic activists to the Strasbourg-based court.**

Our lawyers, *Tamta Kakhidze, Magda Jimsheleishvili, and Vano Chitashvili* made a significant contribution to TI Georgia's activities. They actively participated in all the activities carried out by our organization in the field of justice.



SUCCESS STORIES – 2022



**TEONA
ZAKARASHVILI**

*Senior Lawyer,
Coordinator of the
Legal Aid Center*

2020 was one of the most difficult and challenging years for TI Georgia's free Legal Aid Center. The lawyers of our organization took part in hundreds of court hearings and proceedings, supplemented by a significant number of appeals from citizens - during the year, we provided free legal consultations to **2,189** citizens, advising them on the best solution for them in a specific situation. We won **57 cases** in the courts of various instances and continued to litigate approximately **500 cases**.

Especially noteworthy are the court cases defending the rights of journalists, in which we demanded both compensation for their salaries and, in some cases, the invalidation of their illegal dismissal, reinstatement or back pay. In 2022, we successfully concluded the cases of **11 journalists** - they will receive compensation of up to **GEL 115,000**.

Over the years, we have litigated many cases to protect the rights of journalists. Just by summarizing the statistics of this category of disputes, we can say that since 2010 we have provided legal aid to **more than 400 journalists**.

All those citizens who are oppressed by the state, illegally dismissed from public service or face problems with their property, should count on our support and assistance!

IN 2022 LAWYERS OF TI GEORGIA HAVE:



PROVIDED FREE LEGAL CONSULTATION TO **2 189 CITIZENS**



DEFENDED THE INTERESTS OF UP TO **200 JOURNALISTS** AND
LITIGATED **2 CASES** RELATED TO THE ARREST OF CIVIL ACTIVISTS
IN VARIOUS COURTS



VICTOR KVITATIANI

Lawyer

The case of Bekar Sichinava

Among the legal victories of 2022, I would like to point out the case of the illegal dismissal of Bekar Sichinava.

Bekar Sichinava worked as the chief specialist of the monitoring department of the NNLE Public Service Center of Senaki Municipality, and he was dismissed under the pretext of reorganization. However, it is noteworthy that only Bekar was the target of the staff reduction. This indicated that the only aim of the reorganization was to dismiss him.

We disputed this very fact and proved our truth in the court of two instances - the illegal dismissal order was cancelled and Bekar's former management was ordered to pay him GEL 4,192.



MARIAM SHAINIDZE

Lawyer

The case of Gela Malakmadze

Among the cases won in 2022, the case of Gela Malakmadze is particularly noteworthy to me.

The criminal case against Gela started in 2014. As a result, at the request of the Prosecutor's Office, his official duties were suspended for 3 years and 11 months.

Since then, Gela has been found innocent and acquitted by the courts of all three instances. Nevertheless, he was denied compensation for the material damage caused by the interruption of his service until he contacted us for assistance.

The courts of all three instances fully agreed with our position and ordered the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia to compensate Gela Malakmadze for the material damage. Gela's unpaid salary of GEL 30,542 was fully compensated.



**ANA
BERDZENISHVILI**
Lawyer

The case of Nino Basiladze

The case of Nino Basiladze proved to be the most interesting for me in terms of judicial practice.

From 2011 to 2019, Nino worked as a witness and victim coordinator at the Prosecutor's Office of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara. The violation of her labor rights began in September 2017, when Nino was on maternity leave.

In 2018, the Prosecutor's Office evaluated Nino Basiladze in gross violation of the law and in a biased manner. We took her case to court for violating the rules and procedures of evaluating civil servants.

The courts of all three instances agreed with our arguments, overturned the prosecutor's decision, and ordered a reevaluation.

This case is important in terms of legal practice because it limits the ability of a manager to dismiss an employee arbitrarily and by abusing the lever of evaluation. The annual evaluation of a professional civil servant was a new rule defined by the law, which had not been explained by the court before.



**LELA
MOTSONELIDZE**
Lawyer

The case of Teona Geradze

The case of Teona Geradze was important to me. Teona was illegally dismissed by the Public Service Development Agency under the pretext of reorganization in February 2020. We proved the fact of violation of her rights in court.

The courts granted our request, annulled the dismissal order, and ordered the Public Service Development Agency to pay Teona GEL 17,100 as compensation.

CASES WON BY TI GEORGIA SUCCESS STORIES 2022



OUR LAWYERS SUCCESSFULLY FINALIZED
57 CASES IN COURTS

OUR BENEFICIARIES
WILL RECEIVE OVERALL



GEL 752 225 AS COMPENSATION

GEL 724 225
FOR UNLAWFUL DISMISSAL FROM JOB

GEL 28 000
FROM LAND OWNERSHIP DISPUTES

9 758 SQ. M. LAND
WAS RETURNED TO CITIZENS OWNERSHIP

PARLIAMENTARY MONITORING



LIQA SAJAIA

Parliamentary team leader

In 2022, the Parliament continued its work amid political polarization. This issue became particularly important after Georgia submitted

its application to join the European Union on March 3, 2022. The European Commission presented its opinion on Georgia's application on June 17, 2022, listing 12 priorities for the country to be granted candidate status. A large part of the recommendations envisages legislative changes, while the first point is to address the issue of political polarization. Despite the above, political parties again failed to establish constructive and fruitful cooperation in 2022.

In 2022, Transparency International Georgia actively cooperated with the Parliament of Georgia, submitting recommendations and proposals to the legislature on the issues identified in the 12 priorities.

To strengthen parliamentary oversight and the role of the opposition in the Parliament, we have **developed a legislative proposal** that shares the spirit of the European Commission's 12 priorities – **election of opposition MPs as chairpersons of five parliamentary committees**.

In 2022, we published **six reports on the performance of the Parliament**.



We focused on strengthening parliamentary control and took a number of actions in this regard. Especially noteworthy is the work of TI Georgia's *Project Coordinator, Gigi Chikhladze* in preparing reports on parliamentary control and developing recommendations. In 2022, we published **two special reports on the exercise of parliamentary control**. We evaluated the practice of parliamentary control in the Parliament of the 10th Convocation and developed recommendations to improve the practice and legislation. We also dedicated a special report to **parliamentary control related to the management of the pandemic** and identified a number of shortcomings that point to the ineffectiveness of the Parliament in crisis situations.



We submitted a long list of recommendations to the Committee on Procedural Issues and Rules to strengthen parliamentary oversight through amendments to the Rules of Procedure. The recommendations are fully consistent with the European Commission's 12 priorities, particularly that of strengthening democratic oversight functions.

In addition to parliamentary control, we focused our attention on legislative activities and the effectiveness of the performance of the structural units of the Parliament.



In 2022, we published **the Report on the Assessment of the Performance of the Parliament of the 10th Convocation**. TI Georgia's *senior lawyer, Tamar Tatanashvili* analyzed extensive 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 to help the Parliament improve its performance.



Last year, we also published special reports on the **performance of the Permanent Parliamentary Council for Open Governance, the Gender Equality Council, and the Ethics Council**. It is noteworthy that the Ethics Council is still not functioning in the Parliament, which our organization has been criticizing for years. In addition, the performance of the Permanent Parliamentary Council for Open Governance has deteriorated, the members of the Council are not actively involved in the Council's activities and the obligations envisaged in the Action Plan are either not fulfilled or are fulfilled with a delay.



Despite these difficulties, our organization is actively working with parliamentary staff to improve Parliament's transparency. In 2022, together with the Parliamentary Budget Office, we worked to improve the financial justification part of an explanatory note of a bill. We **prepared a video clip, which was posted on the website of the Budget Office**, explaining in plain language to all interested parties how to fill out the financial justification part of an explanatory note. In 2022, as in previous years, we made a number of **recommendations to the Parliament for consideration in the development of the Open Parliament Action Plan**.

In 2022, TI Georgia published the **analysis of seven important draft laws**, among others Evaluation of the Law on the Anti-Corruption Bureau, Amendments to the Law on Broadcasting, Regulations on Secret Surveillance, Broadening the Possibilities of Access to Confidential Financial Information, and New Rules on the Use of Shelters by Victims of Domestic Violence.

It was particularly important to share our knowledge and experience with the Parliament of new convocation.

The right to speech was not exercised by 21 members of the Parliament, 10 of which are representatives of the majority

Irakli Khakhubia



Sumbat Kureghiani



Samvel Manukian



Zaal Mikeladze



Viktor Jafaridze



Dimitri Samkharadze



Edisher Toloraia



Goderdzi Chakseliani



Elguja Goviridze



Vasil Chigogidze





TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL- GEORGIA CONDUCTED **46 TRAININGS** FOR MPS AND PARLIAMENTARY STAFF IN 2014-2022

Throughout the year, we held **12 training sessions** for the MPs, parliamentary staff and employees of majoritarian MP bureaus on the following topics: cyber hygiene, modern trends in personal data protection, freedom of information in the public sector, guidelines and methodological instructions for preparing the assessment of financial influence. Some of the training sessions were held at the request of the Parliament's staff, while some of the training topics were selected in consultation with the MPs and the Parliament's staff, taking into account their needs.

Our organization constantly takes care of the Parliament's institutional development.



PR ACTIVITIES 2022

“Take a Step Towards Europe”

“Take a Step Towards Europe” was the slogan of a new campaign we launched with broad public participation. After Georgia officially applied for EU membership in March, the issue of obtaining EU candidate status for Georgia was put on the agenda. The purpose of this campaign was to intensify our efforts to obtain candidate status and to call for concrete steps to achieve this goal.

In the campaign manifesto presented on May 27, we, the representatives of civil society organizations, media, art and academia, declared to the whole country and the world that **“our choice is firm and clear, we choose the European path,”** which should make us a part of the free world and ensure a safe, peaceful and dignified life for our citizens.



We unfolded the campaign throughout the country, explaining to the regional population the importance of obtaining the status. We called on the government to start reforms immediately and on the European structures to grant the status to Georgia.



On behalf of the campaign, we handed over an open letter to the EU Ambassador addressed to the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, in which we noted that granting Georgia the EU candidate status would be tantamount to recognizing the European aspirations of the Georgian people and would accelerate the country's progress in all spheres.

In July, tens of thousands of people gathered in Tbilisi to demonstrate the firmness of our European choice.



EU Ambassador meeting with public representatives

Prior to the launch of the campaign, we organized a very interesting and informative meeting between EU Ambassador Carl Hartzell and representatives of the Georgian cultural, scientific, media and educational communities. The Ambassador clearly explained the path Georgia has to follow after applying for EU membership and the importance of positive public participation in this process. All participants of the meeting expressed their readiness to do so. It was emphasized that our country should not miss the unique opportunity to join the European family.



A cycle of videos “Why Europe”

In 2022, we recorded four videos of our friends and supporters of the idea of Georgia joining the European family. Film director Lana Gogoberidze, musician Nika Machaidze and artist Rusudan Petviashvili talked about why Europe is the only alternative and good choice for our people. We also recorded street interviews with residents of the capital, the overwhelming majority of whom, to our delight, turned out to be supporters of the European course.



Regional meetings with population

After the European Union set the conditions for our country to fulfill the 12-point plan to obtain the status of a candidate country, we began to meet with citizens to inform them and neutralize the flow of disinformation directed against this process. We held a total of 48 meetings in regions with up to 1,900 citizens.

We explained to the population, in simple language, the essence of the 12 points, the fulfillment of which would be beneficial, first of all, for the progress of democracy in our country and for each of its citizens.

With the financial support of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, we held 12 meetings in Kakheti, Samegrelo, Imereti, Adjara and Tbilisi. Along with our Executive Director Eka Gigauri, active members of society and representatives of artistic circles took part in the meetings as speakers.

To raise public awareness, we prepared 12 videos for social networks explaining the essence and importance of implementing each of the European Union's recommendations.



“Viliklikot Evropaze”

For the sixth consecutive year, our organization continues its friendship with the Kutaisi regional radio Dzveli Kalaki on the issues of EU integration. Kutaisi-based journalist Dato Liklikadze, the host of the program cycle “Viliklikot Evropaze” (Let’s Talk about Europe), together with various invited guests, successfully continues to talk about how our country will benefit from joining the European family and how it will improve the condition of each and every citizen.



Saba Literary Contest

Our friendship with the Saba Literary Contest has become a tradition. TI Georgia, in cooperation with the organizers, has introduced a special nomination in this prestigious competition called “Reflection of Soviet and Post-Soviet History in Georgian Literature.” Within the framework of this nomination, the winning literary works are those that best highlight Soviet influences - it is important to understand the past well in order not to make the same mistakes and become a part of Western civilization.



The jury announced two winners in 2022: “Taste of Dictatorship” by Rusudan Gorgiladze and “Cleats and Leather Boots” by Davit Jishkariani. A special award was presented to them at the award ceremony by our Executive Director Eka Gigauri and Lithuanian Ambassador to Georgia Andrius Kalindra.



“Veggie Garden in the Conflict Zone”

“Veggie Garden in the Conflict Zone” is a film directed by Beso Solomanashvili that deals with the 2008 Russian-Georgian war and shows the brutality of Russian aggression through the story of one man. As part of our “Strength is in Europe” campaign, we screened the film in four cities: Telavi, Batumi, Keda and Kobuleti, as well as the village of Kvemo Gomi in the Caspi Municipality, where the film was shot.

The main role in the film is played by Duta Skhirtladze, whose hero, Robinson, is forced by the occupation to become a warrior. “No matter how much you let them oppress you, they will oppress you, don’t be afraid, don’t lie in front of them like beaten dogs,” Robinson says about the enemy in the finale of the movie based on Tamri Pkhakadze’s story. The screenings ended with the audience expressing their sincere emotions and with interesting discussions about the spirit of the film.



TI GEORGIA IN THE MEDIA

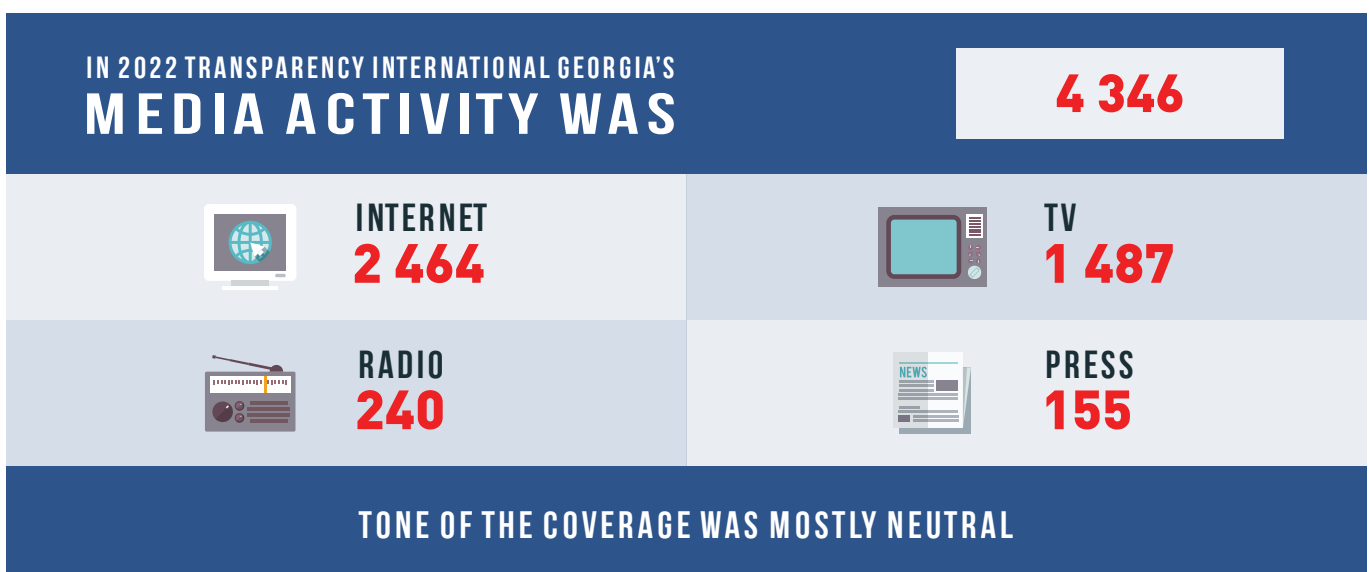
Media interest in TI Georgia remained traditionally high throughout the year. In addition to intensive coverage of our reports and statements, the media contacted us to comment on current issues and to participate in various talk shows.



Consulting journalists is a separate direction of our cooperation with the media - journalists often ask us for advice on various issues and receive relevant recommendations from our researchers.

Almost all members of our team are sought-after respondents for the media. We try to communicate our messages to the public in a comprehensive and clear manner. We frequently provide the media outlets with our multimedia products.

In 2022, TI Georgia's media activity indicator reached 4,346, exceeding the previous year's indicator by almost 1,000. According to IPM, a company that has been conducting media monitoring for our organization for years, the tone of the coverage was mostly neutral.



SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media continues to be one of the most important information dissemination platforms for our organization. All our products – reports, statements, video clips and information cards about our activities – attract great interest on relevant platforms.

Facebook remains the main platform for establishing quick communication with citizens, answering their questions and reacting to current developments in the country.

TI Georgia runs two Facebook pages – one in Georgian and the other in English. In 2022, the total number of users of the Georgian and English Facebook pages increased by 2,195 and 349, respectively.

TI Georgia runs a separate Facebook page for the campaign “Strength is in Europe” aimed at countering Russian propaganda and popularizing the Euro-Atlantic course. The page “Take a Step Towards Europe” created as part of a joint civil society campaign serves the same purpose.

We continue to actively use Twitter to inform the international community about TI Georgia’s work. In 2022, the total number of followers on TI Georgia’s Twitter page increased by about 1,000.

We use our Instagram page to post the images that illustrate our organization’s performance and report visualizations. We also use LinkedIn to post announcements about job openings in our organization.

TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL GEORGIA IN SOCIAL NETWORK

GEORGIAN-LANGUAGE FACEBOOK PAGE



ENGLISH-LANGUAGE FACEBOOK PAGE



INTERNSHIPS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE – STARTING POINT FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The internship program is one of the traditional components of TI Georgia's activities that we have been proud of for years. The program helps students adjust to the work environment, gain practical experience, identify new areas of interest, and plan their future careers.

This educational approach is mutually beneficial, as working with young people is often a source of new ideas and innovative approaches for the organization.

The internship program is a kind of talent pool for our employees – a number of employees have joined our team after a successful internship.

As a result of the competition, which was announced three times in 2022, a total of **44 young people** had the opportunity to work with us for three months at the organization's head office in Tbilisi, as well as its regional and parliamentary offices.



Young people will tell us better about the program benefits and the useful experience they have gained at TI Georgia:



**NINO
MAKHARASHVILI**

I can confidently say that **this internship program, which helped me gain tremendous knowledge, was one of the best experiences I could have had in the early stages of my career development.**

For me, as a future lawyer, the process of investigating the corruption-related issues, searching and processing data was very interesting. Being a member of the team helped me gain a broader understanding of the problems and difficulties facing the country, as well as the risks of corruption in general.

I would like to note that Transparency International Georgia, with its excellent work environment and professional team, has made a great contribution to my professional development. It is appreciated that **the organization gives us, the students, the opportunity to become more active citizens** and contribute to the democratic development of our country in the future.



TATIA MARKELIA

I joined TI Georgia's internship program in April 2022. Despite strong competition, I managed to work with the most competent and reputable team in Georgia.

It was my first real job experience. I had the opportunity to participate in the research on nepotism and corruption, which made me realize my responsibility and the importance of my work. **The experience gained at TI Georgia became an additional motivation for my future career development.**



NUTSA DZANDZAVA

After three months of working in the organization since May 2022, I can confidently say that **my hopes were truly justified.**

It was a great experience for a third-year international relations student – I was involved in the process of organizing important events, and I personally participated in searching and sorting data for an anti-corruption investigation website.

The time I spent at Transparency International Georgia showed me how much effort and knowledge is needed to do the work that this organization has been doing for so many years. I am especially glad to have the opportunity to work with the team of professionals – it is a special experience for a student.



**ANASTASIA
TSALUGELASHVILI**

This organization helped me gain an extraordinary and multifaceted work experience, as well as an opportunity for professional and personal development. For three months, I was involved in a series of research and projects with one of the best teams.

I followed the organization's activities before joining the internship program. I have always been interested in anti-corruption issues and taking part in research activities in this field turned out to be one of the positive sides – **I learned how to obtain and process information and how to work with various databases. All this helped me improve my analytical skills significantly.**



NINO KHARABADZE

The internship at TI Georgia helped me gain many important skills and practical knowledge that are not taught in schools and universities.

I had to work on a lot of projects, but the most interesting was researching methods to combat disinformation according to the best practices of different countries.

I would like to make a special mention of the team that creates the best work environment. I believe that the experience I have gained will help me assess the situation in the country and the ways to improve it more realistically.



MARI BREGVADZE

I decided to do an internship at TI Georgia because of two important factors: the organization's positive impact on democratic processes in Georgia and its role in fighting corruption in the country.

Amid the war in Ukraine, it was very interesting to investigate alleged links between sanctioned Russian individuals and Georgia. I believe that the skills I developed during this work will play an important role at any stage of my career and will help me achieve success. I am currently continuing my internship at PMCG, a consulting company, where I am actively using the experience, I gained at TI Georgia.

I would like to make a special mention of the team of Transparency International Georgia who accepted me as one of them and were ready to share their knowledge and experience. **This internship program really exceeded my expectations.**



MARIAM MIKIANI

TI Georgia's office internship program helped me gain important experience both in terms of participating in administrative activities and in research.

I would like to emphasize the comfortable, friendly and at the same time professional environment in the organization. **This period was undoubtedly an invaluable stage in my personal and professional development.**



ANI SEBISKVERADZE

For me, the internship at TI Georgia turned out to be an extraordinary experience and one of the first steps on the path of professional development. The professionalism, high organizational culture, and willingness of each team member to promote the involvement of young people in the process of fighting corruption are particularly noteworthy.

I would like to focus on the opportunity to work on the experience of European countries in the fight against corruption, which clearly showed me our country's perspective in this direction.

Gaining experience at TI Georgia is truly a solid starting point for personal development, as the organization's values of fairness, objectivity and impartiality are the foundation for proper development.



NATALI MURVANIDZE

I joined a professional and very friendly team of Transparency International Georgia in October 2022 as part of the parliamentary internship program. For me, as an international law student, **it proved to be crucial to get a comprehensive and practical insight into the country's current issues.**

I was familiar with the organization's activities, including its reports or statements, before joining the internship program. It was both responsible and pleasant when I got the opportunity to personally contribute to these works – I would distinguish the process of preparing the report on parliamentary control in practice.

I can confidently say that TI Georgia provides an excellent opportunity for students, who are willing to develop themselves, to take career steps and to participate in the further democratic development of the country.



CORRUPTION PERCEPTION INDEX 2022

According to Transparency International's 2022 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI), Georgia has a score of **56 points**, which is a one-point increase compared to the previous year and a repeat of the country's scores in 2017, 2019 and 2020.

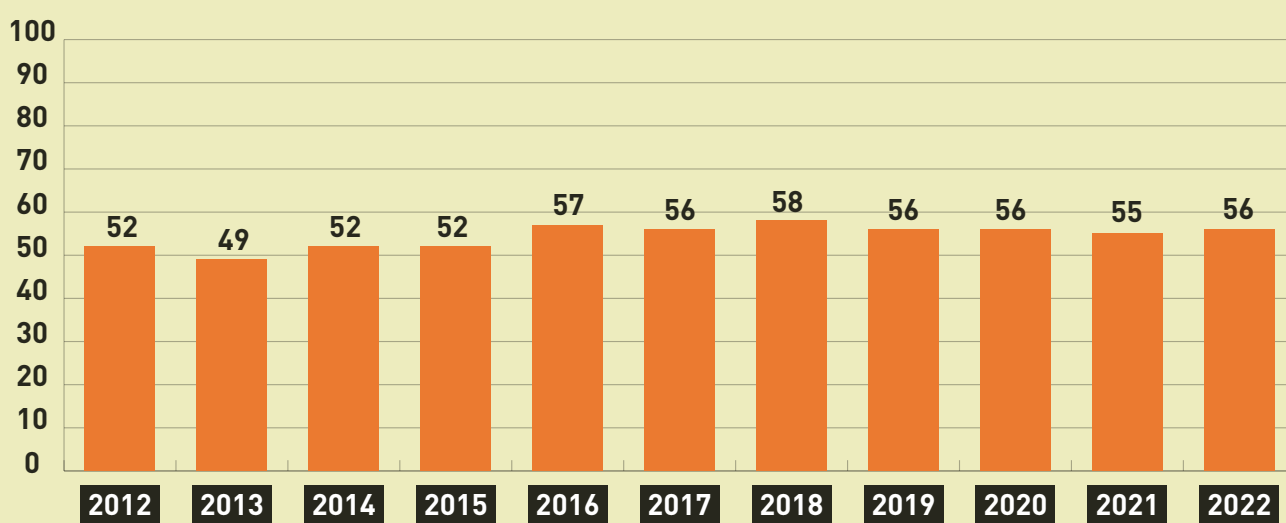
In the 2022 CPI, Georgia was ranked **41st** among **180 countries** (on a scale where 0 is the worst and 100 is the best result).

The authors of the CPI described the context of corruption in Georgia as follows:

"Although Georgia leads the region with 56 points, this is due to previous gains in eliminating low-level bribery; the country has stagnated on the CPI since 2012. Disappointingly, in a country once held up as an anti-corruption champion in the region, the current government is effectively killing any momentum to fight this problem. The governing Georgian Dream party – which is widely believed to be controlled by Georgia's richest man and former prime minister, Bidzina Ivanishvili – has captured key state institutions, the judiciary and law enforcement, meaning abuses of power at the highest levels go largely unpunished.

As an example, in recent years, Transparency International Georgia's monitoring identified dozens of cases of alleged high-level corruption that have not been investigated; the nature, scope and increasing number of these cases point to an alarming conclusion that high-level corruption in Georgia is taking the form of kleptocracy, where officials systematically use political power to appropriate the country's wealth and undermine all critical voices, including political opposition, media and civil society. Government representatives have even resorted to aggressive rhetoric against civil society that exposes corruption."

CORRUPTION PERCEPTIONS INDEX (CPI) RESULTS FOR GEORGIA 2012-2022

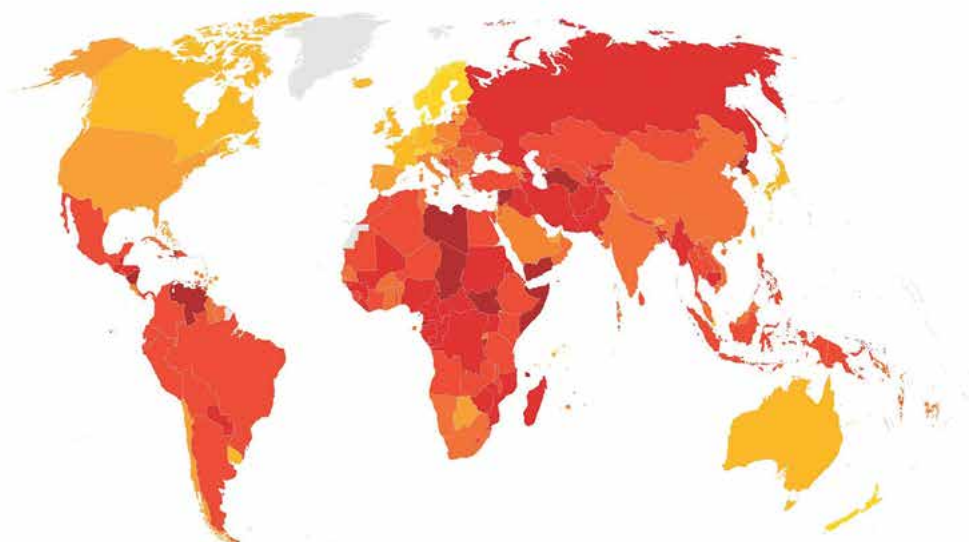


Georgia's score has not improved significantly since 2012, meaning that the country has not taken effective steps against corruption over the past 10 years. In its June 2022 decision not to grant Georgia candidate status, the EU cited inaction against high-level corruption as a key concern and urged the country to strengthen the anti-corruption agency and tackle high-level corruption as one of the preconditions for obtaining candidate status. **Transparency International Georgia believes that fulfilling the 12 priorities set by the European Commission for Georgia is the best way and opportunity to improve the situation and take real steps against corruption in the country.**



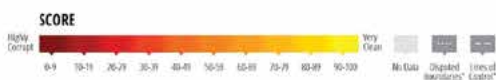
CORRUPTION PERCEPTIONS INDEX 2022

The perceived levels of public sector corruption in 180 countries/territories around the world.



SCORE COUNTRY/TERRITORY

90	Denmark	67	Chile	52	Grenada	42	Solomon Islands	36	Sri Lanka	30	Mauritania	23	Iraq
87	Finland	67	United Arab Emirates	51	Malta	42	Timor-Leste	36	Thailand	30	Papua New Guinea	23	Myanmar
87	New Zealand	65	Barbados	51	Rwanda	42	Trinidad and Tobago	36	Turkey	30	Gabon	23	Zimbabwe
84	Norway	64	Bahamas	50	Croatia	42	Vietnam	34	Bosnia and Herzegovina	29	Mali	22	Eritrea
83	Singapore	63	Israel	50	Mauritius	41	Kosovo	34	Gambia	28	Paraguay	21	Sudan
83	Sweden	63	Korea, South	49	Namibia	40	Guyana	34	Indonesia	28	Russia	21	Congo
82	Switzerland	62	Lithuania	48	Vanuatu	40	India	34	Malawi	28	Kyrgyzstan	21	Guinea-Bissau
80	Netherlands	62	Portugal	47	Jordan	40	Maldives	34	Nepal	27	Pakistan	20	Democratic Republic of the Congo
79	Germany	60	Botswana	47	Malaysia	40	North Macedonia	34	Sierra Leone	27	Cameroon	19	Chad
77	Ireland	60	Cabo Verde	46	Armenia	40	Suriname	33	Algeria	26	Liberia	19	Comoros
77	Luxembourg	60	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	46	Romania	40	Tunisia	33	Angola	26	Madagascar	19	Nicaragua
76	Hong Kong	60	Spain	45	China	39	Belarus	33	El Salvador	26	Mozambique	19	Turkmenistan
75	Australia	59	Latvia	45	Cuba	39	Colombia	33	Mongolia	26	Uganda	17	Burundi
74	Canada	59	Qatar	45	Montenegro	39	Moldova	33	Philippines	26	Bangladesh	17	Equatorial Guinea
74	Estonia	58	Czechia	45	Sao Tome and Principe	38	Argentina	33	Ukraine	25	Guinea	17	Haiti
74	Iceland	56	Georgia	44	Bahrain	38	Ethiopia	33	Zambia	25	Iran	17	Korea, North
74	Uruguay	56	Italy	44	Jamaica	38	Morocco	32	Dominican Republic	25	Alghanistan	17	Libya
73	Belgium	56	Slovenia	44	Oman	38	Tanzania	32	Kenya	24	Cambodia	16	Yemen
73	Japan	56	Dominica	43	Benin	37	Cote d'Ivoire	32	Niger	24	Central African Republic	14	Venezuela
73	United Kingdom	55	Poland	43	Bulgaria	37	Lesotho	31	Bolivia	24	Guatemala	13	South Sudan
72	France	55	Saint Lucia	43	Ghana	36	Albania	31	Laos	24	Lebanon	13	Syria
71	Austria	54	Costa Rica	43	Senegal	36	Ecuador	31	Mexico	24	Nigeria	12	Somalia
70	Seychelles	53	Fiji	42	South Africa	36	Kazakhstan	30	Uzbekistan	24	Tajikistan		
69	United States of America	53	Slovakia	42	Burkina Faso	36	Panama	30	Djibouti	23	Azerbaijan		
68	Bhutan	52	Cyprus	42	Hungary	36	Peru	30	Egypt	23	Honduras		
68	Taiwan	52	Greece	42	Kuwait	36	Serbia	30	Eswatini	23			



*The designation 'very corrupt' and the presentation of material in this map follow the criteria for the level of corruption and as of January 2022. They do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of Transparency International concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its borders or boundaries.

#cpi2022

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PLANNING 2023



**TRANSPARENCY
INTERNATIONAL**
GEORGIA

OUR DONORS

SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AGENCY (SIDA)

**UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (USAID),
THE EAST-WEST MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE (EWMI)**

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR DEMOCRACY

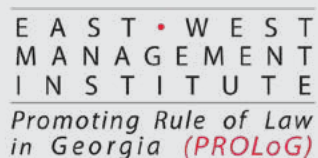
INTERNATIONAL MEDIA SUPPORT (IMS)

TI SECRETARIAT

KONRAD ADENAUER STIFTUNG

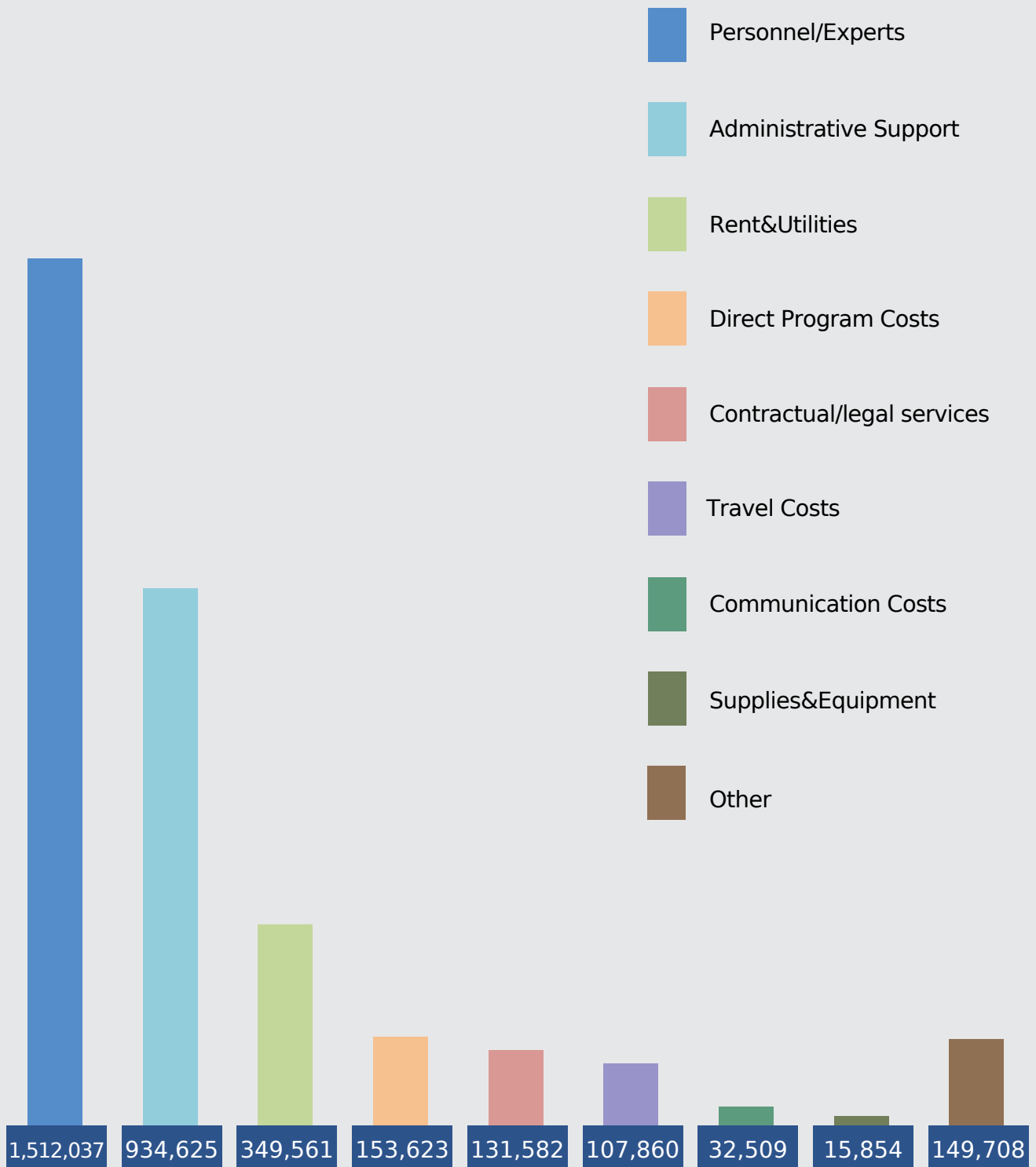
EUROPE FOUNDATION

OPEN SOCIETY GEORGIA FOUNDATION

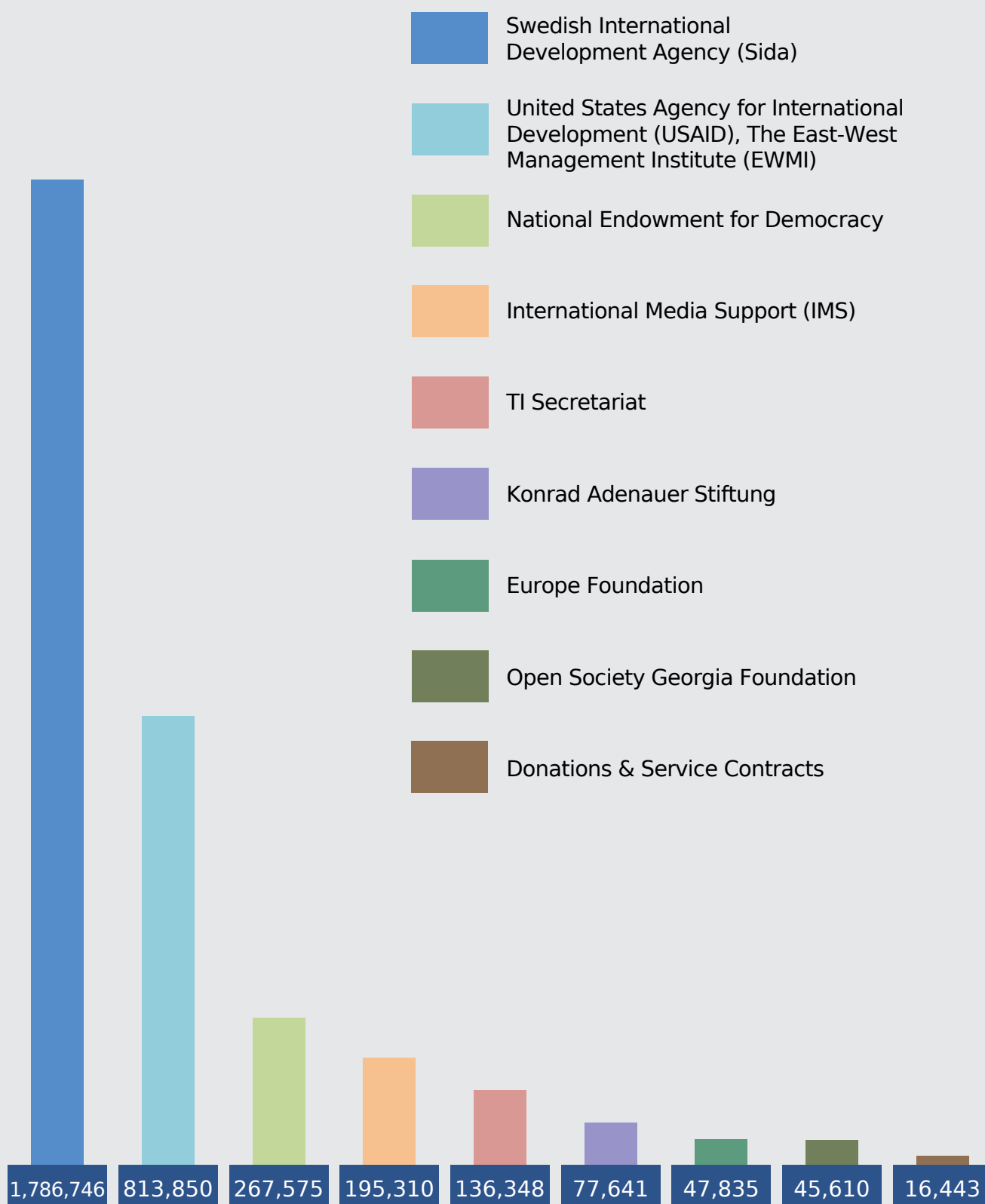


FINANCIAL INFORMATION

EXPENSES IN GEL

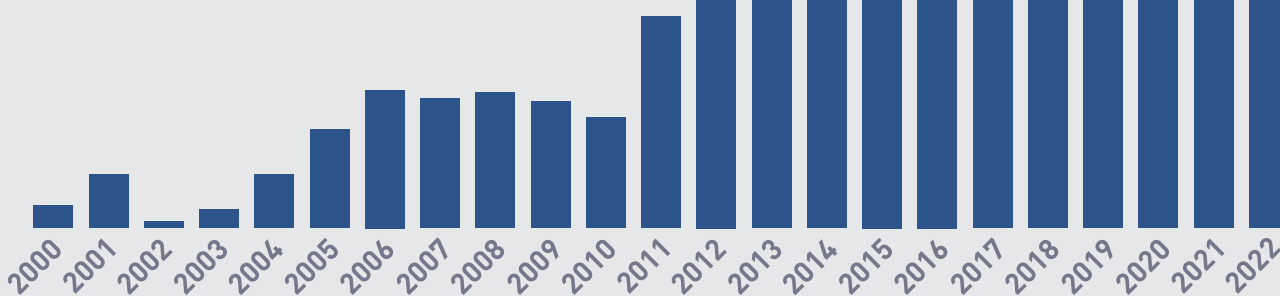


INCOME BY DONORS IN GEL



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	2,878,145
2022	3,387,358
TOTAL	40,334,000



INDEPENDENT AUDITORS REPORT

To: the Members of Board of Transparency International Georgia (TIG)

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Transparency International Georgia (the Organization), which comprises the Statement of Financial Position as at December 31, 2022, and the Statement of Comprehensive Income, Statement of Changes in Funds and Statement of Cash Flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Organization as at December 31, 2022, and its activities and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standard for Small and Medium-sized Entities (IFRS for SMEs).

Basis of Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs).

Our Responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Organization in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Georgia, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Other Matter

Financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2021 were audited under ISA 800/805. Audit opinion was not modified, dated March 29, 2022.

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

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standard for Small and Medium-sized Entities (IFRS for SMEs), and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, 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 charged 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 misstatements, 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.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matter, 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.

The Engagement Partner on the audit resulting in this independent auditor's report is:

Alexander Skhiladze
Partner
Crowe GE LLC
Member Crowe Global

Tbilisi, Georgia
Axis Business Center
2, D. Gamrekeli Str.,
0160 Tbilisi, Georgia
Direct: +995 32 290 45 22



Date: April 11, 2023

