



WWW.MY.GOV.GE NEWSLETTER

Issue #41

February-March, 2015

INSIDE THIS ISSUE YOU WILL READ

1 OPEN GOVERNMENT INDEX - GEORGIA LEADS IN EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

2 THE AMOUNT OF INFORMATION PUBLISHED ON OPEN DATA PORTAL INCREASES

2 MEETING OF CYBER SECURITY FORUM

3 MALAYSIAN DELEGATION'S VISIT TO GEORGIA

3 EU TWINNING PROJECT FOR DATA EXCHANGE AGENCY

4 NEXT COMMUNITY CENTER LAUNCHED IN KORBOLI VILLAGE

AND MORE

ACCORDING TO THE OPEN GOVERNMENT INDEX, GEORGIA LEADS IN EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA



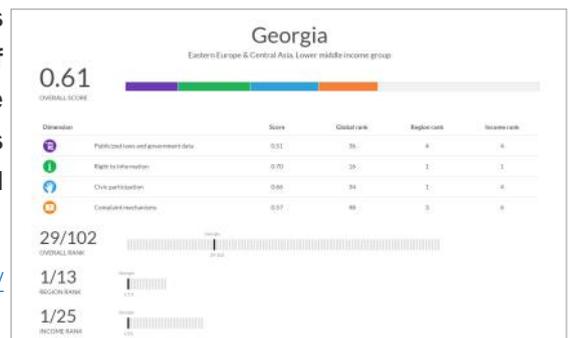
According to information published on March 26 by the World Justice Project, Georgia has the leading position among the countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia in the 2015 Open Government Index and ranks 29th among 102 countries worldwide.

In terms of open government, Georgia has surpassed such European countries as Slovenia, Macedonia, Croatia, and Greece.

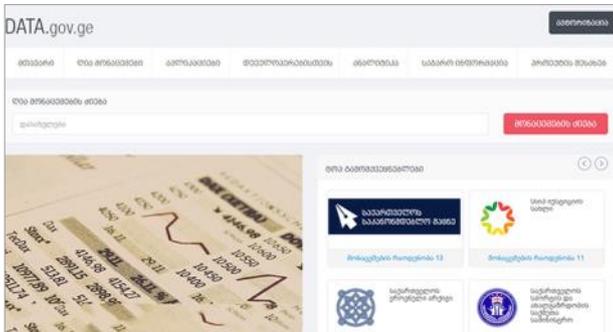
Notably, Georgia scored highest points (0.70, 16th place worldwide) in the second dimension, Right to Information, and found itself among the countries rated highest in this category.

Georgia's result was based on answers drawn from a representative sample of 1,000 respondents in the country's three largest cities, Tbilisi, Batumi and Kutaisi, as well as a set of in-country practitioners and academics.

For more information, please visit: <http://idfi.ge/en/open-government-index-2015>



THE AMOUNT OF INFORMATION PUBLISHED ON OPEN DATA PORTAL INCREASES



Open Data Portal, created by Data Exchange Agency of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia, sees a sizable increase in amount of information published by public organizations.

Open Data Portal, which was created in accordance with the obligation taken within the scope of Open Government Partnership Initiative, is an online resource aiming at increasing accessibility of open data and triggering creation of new e-services based on that data.

The conception of open data occupies special position in both open governance and e-government models.

One of the important products in the open data conception is open data portal, which ensures availability of open data published by various public institutions in easily accessible and numerable formats, thus enabling citizens, mass media representatives, governmental and non-governmental organizations to unrestrictedly use the data, as well as various applications and e-services created by utilization of that data.

“Open data provided by various public organizations is published on the portal. This data is grouped in accordance to organizational, as well as thematic order making them easier to reach. It worth nothing that easy accessibility of such data supports strengthening of e-Governance principles, as well as development of local innovative technologies.” – **Irakli Gvenetadze**, DEA Chairman.

During the project preparatory stage a large amount of data - data charts and e-services possessed by public organizations and worth to publish - was assessed. Public institution are enabled to publish their respective data in accordance to a predefined time periods.

MEETING OF CYBER SECURITY FORUM



Data Exchange Agency of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia organized a one-day off site meeting of the Cyber Security Forum in Kvareli, during which presentations were made by number of organizations.

Presentations covered a variety of topics and issues related to the cyber law of Georgia, the goals, objectives, current projects and partnership at international level of Georgia’s governmental Computer Emergency Response Team - CERT.GOV.GE, participants were also informed about the means of identification of cyber threats and cyber defense provision issues.

By taking into account the importance of cyber and information security, special attention has been paid to the prospect of turning the forum into organizational structure aiming to increase its mandate.

"Cyber Security Forum, which brings together the public and private sector representatives is a good example of cooperation based on a public incipient, which strives to ensure country’s cyber and information security. During today’s off site meeting we did provide our partners and colleagues – members of the forum with the information about DEA’s current activities in terms of information security. We have also provided a detailed summary of the cyber security policy and a variety of projects currently undergoing at our agency. These meetings, which we decided to call on a regular base, will help to further increase the quality of Cyber Security Forum’s productivity."- **Irakli Gvenetadze**, DEA Chairman.

MALAYSIAN DELEGATION'S VISIT TO GEORGIA



A high level delegation from Malaysia led by the Mayor of Kuala Lumpur **Ahmad Phesal Talib** held a working official visit to Georgia on March 16-20. The first day of the agenda opened by the visit to Data Exchange Agency of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia, during which representatives of the agency made presentations and shared information about ongoing projects in e-Governance development, data exchange infrastructure formation, e-services and open government, as well as experience, which the agency accumulated over the past few years.

Members of the Malaysian delegation were also met by the Minister of Justice of Georgia **Tea Tsulukiani** and Mayor of Tbilisi, **David Narmania**.

Other activities held within the scope of the visit were meetings at National Agency of Public Registry, State Service Development Agency, Public Service Hall, Sartichala Community Center, Economic Zone of Clearance and others.

"We are happy that representatives of different countries are becoming interested in sharing our Agency's experience. Today our guests from Malaysia took a close look at our Agency's responsibilities and field of operation, which is tied with e-Governance and e-services development." – **Irakli Gvenetadze**, DEA Chairman.

Colleagues from the Kyrgyz Republic also received the first-hand information about the tendencies of cyber and information security development in Georgia and specifics of delivering e-services through the one-stop-shopping platform – Citizen's Portal MY.GOV.GE.

EU TWINNING PROJECT FOR DATA EXCHANGE AGENCY



This is to notify that EU Delegation to Georgia approved TWINNING PROJECT FICHE "SUPPORT TO STRENGTHENING OF E-GOVERNANCE IN GEORGIA II". The Call for Proposal has already been launched and EU MSs are welcomed to submit their proposals by 6th of April. The Twinning project will tentatively start in September of this year and will be implemented during 18 months with Data Exchange Agency acting as beneficiary agency. The aim of the project is to strengthen the institutional and human resource capacities of Georgian public institution with necessary skills and knowledge in e-government and information security training, consultancy, benchmarking and promotion in line with the European Union standards.

For more information, please visit:

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?do=publi.detPUB&userlanguage=en&aoref=136726>

Twinning is an instrument for the cooperation between Public Administrations of EU Member States (MS) and of beneficiary countries. Beneficiaries include candidate countries and potential candidates to EU membership, as well as countries covered by the European Neighborhood Policy.

NEXT COMMUNITY CENTER LAUNCHED IN VILLAGE KORBOULI

The 20th community center has opened in village Korbouli of the Sachkhere Municipality. The goal of the Community Centers Development Project initiated by the Public Service Development Agency of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia and funded by the European Union is to provide services of central government and local government to the local population through Community Centers.

Community Centers serve as multipurpose organizations, well-equipped with a wide range of facilities including computers, video conferencing equipment, free internet access, spaces for meetings and social events available for public use. They are used as a platform for introducing e-Governance at the local level by means of offering key central government, municipal and private sector services to the local population through e-Governance tools.



Through the Centers the local population is granted an access to the nearly 200 services provided by various public and private organizations.

Community centers assume a role of a new intermediary between the population and the Government, by offering a space to both central and local authorities and non-governmental sector for engaging in dialogue with local population, disseminating information about new services, legislative amendments, and organization of trainings and other relevant events. This in turn is likely lead to better informed citizens at the local level, coupled with increased transparency and accountability of local Government.

At this stage there are 20 operational Community Centers throughout Georgia and a number of new locations are scheduled to open in the coming months.

CERT OF AZERBAIJAN HAS ACQUIRED FIRST MEMBERSHIP AFTER RECEIVING CONSULTATIONS FROM DEA



After consultations and audit conducted by the representatives of Data Exchange Agency of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia, CERT of Azerbaijan has Acquired FIRST Membership. CERT.GOV.GE – a subsidiary unite of DEA has held several visits to the neighboring country, during which the experience accumulated by CERT.GOV.GE over the past few years was shared with Azeri colleagues.

“We are happy that representatives of different countries are becoming interested in sharing our Agency’s experience. The fact that we have made some contribution to our Azeri colleagues’ success bears great importance for us. During the working process we have introduced to our Azerbaijani colleagues the methods and means we use for handling various cyber incidents. We also gave detailed description of our approaches on how to register, analyze and prevent possible cyber threats and how we create and implement information security policy standards.”- said **Irakli Lomidze**, Head of DEA’s Information Security and Policy Division.

This is not the first time CERT.GOV.GE is asked to conduct trainings for the representatives of various countries. This confirms the group’s high professionalism and effective work ability.

FIRST, founded in 1989, brings together a wide variety of security and incident response teams including especially product security teams from the government, commercial, and academic sectors. CERT.GOV.GE is a full member of FIRST.

ESTONIA'S EXPERIENCE: E-VOTING



Chairman of Data Exchange Agency of the Ministry of Justice of Georgia, **Irakli Gvenetadze**, and Deputy Chairman of State Services Development Agency of the same ministry, **Zurab Magradze** were on a business trip in Tallinn, Estonia on February 12-14. The visit was intended to observe the process of e-Voting, which is currently being tested in the country.

Visiting side also held various meetings on the issues of preparation and launch of e-Voting system. In case of e-Voting, citizens are able to participate in elections through

the usage of either electronic identification card or mobile ID and a personal computer.

The process of e-Voting starts 10 days prior to the initial election date and lasts for a week. During the week, citizens can cast their votes as many times as they may want, but the legal power is only assigned to the last made ballot. Meanwhile, citizens are not restricted from taking part in ordinary elections in accordance with their place of registration, but in this case, selection made by e-Voting loses its power.

“Special legislative package is drawn up, in which program code, as well as system preparation procedures and the election regulations are depicted in a very detailed form. We have also had discussions on the possibility of arranging e-Voting in Georgia and what premises should be satisfied for that purpose. It was clearly noted that the principal means of e-Voting are electronic identification card and/or mobile ID.” – **Irakli Gvenetadze**, DEA Chairman.

Electronic identification cards and Mobile IDs are widely used in many aspects of daily life in Estonia. These means can be used in banking, public health care, tax, social benefits and many other departments important for citizens.

CERT.GOV.GE'S WARNING ON THE FRAUD CIRCULATED VIA FACEBOOK



It is well known, that Facebook is the most popular social network in Georgia. According to various statistics, nearly 900000 users have their accounts registered on Facebook in Georgia.

This particular social network is also widely used by governmental and business entities, since it represents a unique platform for disseminating advertisement materials and information of various nature.

Unfortunately, these powerful opportunities offered by Facebook are successfully utilized by internet swindlers as well. In recent times, users are continuously seeing dozens of fake news websites showing up on their Facebook walls. These websites require users to share or view ad materials embedded in them prior to redirecting to the actual news.

Similar websites are easy to recognize by their provocative and intriguing headlines, the majority of which are fake. Along with misinformation, such websites distribute graphic and 18+ content.

Upon visiting these pages, users are automatically redirected to the webpage identical of Facebook, which requests their user names and passwords. Right after entering this data, the information comes into the hands of internet swindler, who obtains access to your account.

Similar webpages are mostly disseminated via groups created within the Facebook platform by internet swindlers, who do their best to climb the number of members as high as possible. The number of such groups already nears 300 with member quantity ranging from several thousand to 500000 (Continued on P.6).

(Continued from P. 5)

Unfortunately, dozens of underage users have access to such groups, potentially causing unrecoverable damage to their psychics because of the violent content freely available there.

CERT.GOV.GE recommends not to open the websites with intriguing headlines and unclear domain names. It is also advisable to re-check the groups you might be a member of. To do so, please visit:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/?category=membership>

To leave the group, please click "Leave Group".

It's already been several months, since CERT.GOV.GE has started action against such websites. Several groups are being closed by our team on a weekly bases. We are also in the process of close cooperation with the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia to dispel those, who are in charge of spreading the fraud via social networks.

VISIT OUR WEB SITES
www.dea.gov.ge; www.my.gov.ge

**DATA EXCHANGE
AGENCY**

2 St. Nicholas/N. Chkheidze Str.,
Tbilisi, 0102 Georgia
Phone: (+ 995 32) 291 51 40
Email: info@dea.gov.ge

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE OF GEORGIA

**DATA EXCHANGE
AGENCY**



If you are a new or returning customer and wish to receive DEA's newsletter, please reply to the following address: info@dea.gov.ge. Please indicate "Subscribe" in the subject line or register your email at: www.e-government.ge

If you wish not to receive DEA's newsletter, please reply to the following address: info@dea.gov.ge. Please indicate "Unsubscribe" in the subject line.