

Georgian experience of open government: achievements and dilemmas

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Abstract

Since 2011, the Georgian government has launched an open government initiative, for which it has developed and implemented four government strategies. Accordingly, the purpose of this paper is to review the open governance strategies implemented by the Georgian government, which, based on the principles of open governance, contributed to the improvement of the quality of ensuring the transparency, accountability and involvement of citizens in the decision-making process by using new technologies and innovative methods.

Design/Methodology/Approach – The research questions are as follows:

1. What concrete actions did the Georgian government take to promote the introduction of open governance?
2. What systems or mechanisms did the Georgian government use to promote open governance?
3. What kind of limitations did the government face in the process of implementing open government strategies and how did they solve them?
4. What was the initial reaction or assessment of such reforms in the public administration sector?

Conclusions - although it is still too early to evaluate the example of Georgia as a new model of open government, which is committed to promoting the transparency of government activities, accountability and the involvement of citizens in the decision-making process using new technologies, it has contributed greatly to the essential change of the view that the state and community governance and partnerships are vital to deepening democratic processes and building trust between state and community representatives.

Originality/value - This study is important because many countries, especially transition democracies, are involved in the implementation of open government initiatives, and therefore the analysis of Georgia's experience will be useful for transition democracies as well.

Keywords: Georgia, Open Government, Public Administration, Governance, State