



MONEY IN POLITICS

Regional Conference 2018

Radisson Blu Iveria Hotel

Tbilisi, Georgia

26-27 June, 2018

SAOG – Council of Europe – IFES – International IDEA – TI-Georgia – OSCE/ODIHR - EECMD

Agenda

26 June, 2018

09:30-10:00 **Registrations and Welcome Coffee**

10:00-10:15 **Welcoming Remarks**

- **Irakli Kovzanadze** – Chairman of Finance and Budget Committee of the Parliament of Georgia
- **Erekle Mekvabishvili** - Auditor General, State Audit Office of Georgia

10:15-11:45 **Session I: Regulating Money and Politics, a Regional Overview**

Regulatory framework governing campaign finance varies to a great extent from one Central/Eastern European country to another, despite having shared historical experiences and similar institutional arrangements in the past. Some believe it is too early to speak of stable campaign finance regulation in the region as many countries are still in the process of refining and overhauling their political finance framework. This panel aims to provide a regional overview of the major trends in political finance, election campaign and party funding within this region. It will focus on emerging challenges, as well as recent shortcomings and successes in view of European electoral heritage, standards, and best practices.

Moderator: **Gennadiy KOSYAK** - Deputy Head of Electoral Assistance Division, Council of Europe

Speakers:

- **Yves-Marie Doublet**, Deputy Director at the National Assembly of France, Council of Europe Expert
- **Fernando Casal Bertoa**, Assistant Professor in Comparative Politics at the University of Nottingham, Council of Europe Expert
- **Nana Kalandadze**, Programme Officer, International IDEA

- **Levan Tsutskiridze**, Executive Director of Eastern European Centre of Multiparty Democracy

11:45-12:00 Coffee Break

12:00-13:30 Session II: The role of civil society observers and effective financial monitoring bodies

Electoral processes in the region take place in a context of unequal socioeconomic structures and asymmetrical power relations, which are replicated in the relationship between money and politics. The development of political-electoral financing systems capable of bringing balance to electoral races is one of the major challenges facing democracy today. The role of money in elections has become a primary concern for many, together with the challenges posed by the consolidation of democracy. Considering all complexities related to political finances it is almost impossible for any public institution to fully oversee every aspect of this issue. That is why civil society can play an important role in detecting certain irregularities in the finances of political parties. CSOs in many countries use innovative ways in order to increase transparency of money in politics and raise public awareness of this topic. Both official financial monitoring bodies and civil society representatives have their own mandates, which are unique, different and yet somewhat interrelated. Tools and resources at hand provide individual approach from these actors towards regulating the issue, with their own peculiarities, characteristics, which in the end serve for a uniform goal of maintaining transparent and accountable environment.

Moderator: **Keti Maisuradze**, Chief of Party, IFES Georgia

Speakers:

- **Ihor Freshchenko** - Analyst, CHESNO Movement, Ukraine
- **Levan Natroshvili** - Programs Manager, TI – Georgia
- **Lina Petroniene** - Head of the Division of Political Parties and Campaigns Funding Control, Central Election Commission of Lithuania
- **Tomas Gasior** - Specialist at the Department of Controlling of Political Party and Campaign Finance, Polish National Election Commission (TBC)

13:30-15:00 Lunch

15:00-16:30 Session III: Equal Access to Money for Women Candidates

Women often have less access than men to the resources needed to successfully seek a party nomination or stand in an election. and political parties tend to nominate men to winnable positions, believing that voters favour male candidates or wanting to capitalize on financial resources and networks that men often have access to. Gender targeted public funding, and political funding broadly is not explored sufficiently in both practice and in research. However, there is now a body of information available to engage politicians, experts, and assistance providers in a focused discussion on the topic. This panel aims to discuss the impact of both legal measures, including public funding, and voluntary measures within parties designed to promote women's access to political and campaign finance.

Moderator: **Yukihiko Hamada**, Senior Programme Officer, International IDEA

Speakers:

- **Karolina Leaković**, International Cooperation Secretary of the Social Democratic Party, Croatia and acting president of the Social Democratic Women's Forum
- **Edlira Çepani**, Women's Network - Equality in Decision Making, Albania
- **Helen Khoshtaria**, Movement for Liberty - European Georgia (political party), member of the Parliamentary Council for Gender Equality, Georgia
- **Nana Kalandadze**, Programme Officer, International IDEA “Gender targeted public funding for political parties” (new International IDEA study of comparative practices in the field)

16:30-16:45 Coffee Break

16:45-17:30 Presentation of International Association of Political Finance Monitoring Institutions

Speaker: **Zurab Aznaurashvili** – Head of Political Finance Monitoring Department, SAOG

27 June, 2018

10:00-11:30 Session IV: Modern developments in campaign finances and increased role of social media

In recent years there is an emerging trend of using social media in election campaigning, with posting advertisement and influencing the voters. With the fast development of Internet and easy and daily access to social media to wide audience, it became by far the most affordable and very target oriented campaign tool. At same time, it raises questions related to financial oversight of using such campaign tools, but also about data protection and disinformation. There are at least three angles to approach this developing tendency: 1) impact that this kind of campaigning has to electorate; 2) level of trust of the electorate to information available on social media; and 3) ability and mechanisms of oversight agencies to properly track these actions, identify and sanction misuse and misconduct. This panel discussion looks at the developments, challenges and actions related to use of new technologies and social media in campaigning, with the aim to protect and enhance transparency in campaign financing. It will also look how it influences voters and affect their ability to be properly informed about political platforms.

Moderator: **Radivoje Grujic**, Election Adviser, ODIHR

Speakers:

- **Nino Rizhamadze** - Research by ISFED about use of Social Media
- **Yuliya Shypilova** – Senior Electoral Advisor, IFES Ukraine
- **Ardo Ojasalu** - Head of the Surveillance Committee of Estonia
- **Amilija Jaunskunga** – the Head of Oversight Unit at KNAB, Latvia

11:30-11:45 Coffee Break

11:45-13:15 Session V: Sources of funding for political parties

To raise sufficient funds for election campaign can be crucial for winning elections. Fundraising can be done in different ways. However, for many political parties and individual candidates it is hard to find legal financial resources. Public funding can be one of the solutions, but this type of funding usually is limited. Therefore, political parties try to find some alternative sources by using traditional and innovative mechanisms. In this

reality, the role of relevant public institutions is quite important to make sure that the raised money is legal and clean.

Moderator: **Levan Natroshvili** - Programs Manager, TI Georgia

Speakers:

- **Alina Russu** - Chairperson of the CEC of Moldova
- **Yukihiko Hamada** - Senior Programme Officer, International IDEA *Cryptocurrencies in Political Finance, their Potential Benefits and Challenges*
- **Zurab Japaridze** – Chairman of Political Party “Girchi”
- **Tamara Otiashvili** - Senior Legislative Support Officer, ODIHR
- **Coline Maria Victoria Mechinaud** - Consultant - UNODC GPML

13:15-14:30 **Lunch**

14:30-15:30 **Wrap-up Discussion and Concluding Remarks**

Moderator: **Zurab Aznaurashvili** – Head of Political Finance Monitoring Department, SAOG

Speakers:

- **Gennadiy KOSYAK** - Deputy Head of Electoral Assistance Division, Council of Europe
- **Yukihiko Hamada**, Senior Programme Officer, International IDEA
- **Keti Maisuradze**, Chief of Party, IFES Georgia
- **Radivoje Grujic**, Election Adviser, ODIHR
- **Levan Natroshvili** - Programs Manager, TI Georgia