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Enacting Inclusion and Participation

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Lack of Traditions in Civic Engagement, Participation and Inclusion

- Since 90s, elections were the only mechanism requiring public participation
- Soviet legacy, corruption, and dysfunctional state institutions did not create grounds for participation
- Georgia has come a long way to build relatively effective public service and state institutions





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Successful Reforms and Achievements since 2004

- **Anti-Corruption:** 44th among the 176 countries based on its CPI (TI, 2016)
- **Business Environment:** 16th among the 190 countries in Doing Business ranking (WB, 2017)
- **Public Service Delivery:** Winner of UN Public Service Award (UN, 2012)
- **Openness:** Joined OGP in 2011 and chairing in 2017-2018



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Enacting Inclusion and Participation Three Discussion Cases

- Right to petition



- Participatory budgeting



- Gender inclusion





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Right to Petition

- The right to petition is **guaranteed by the constitution since 1995**
- Organic law on local government provided **further instruments in 2009**
- The changes since then have been focused to:
 - Simplify petition procedures
 - Broaden the scope of petition topics
 - Oblige municipal organs to discuss and respond



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Mechanisms to Petition

E-petition  tools are planned to be launched in order to further simplify petition procedures:

- i-Change: government-wide e-petition portal
<http://ichange.gov.ge/> (former OGP Commitment)
- Parliamentary e-petition instrument (OPP Commitment)
- Municipal level e-portals



Challenges to Petition

The use of the right to petition is generally low showing very gradual increase

- **49% sees no opportunity** for them to influence policy making (UNDP, 2016)
- According to the study conducted by GYLA (2015) in select municipalities:
 - **Only 4%** of respondents have requested public information;
 - **Only 8%** of respondents are aware of the right to petition.



Discussion Questions – Right to Petition

The creation of instruments and / or procedural simplifications are not enough for civic engagement

- What are effective policies or projects that stimulate the use of the right to petition?
- Is there an evidence that e-tools stimulate the use of petition?
- The discussion of petitions are legally binding. Can the implementation be also binding or subject of an expert justification?





Participatory Budgeting

Local government legislation guarantees **citizen involvement at each stage of budgeting**

- Basic principles since 1997, further improvements in 2005-2014

Stages of budgetary process	Participation
Budget Development	Communicate local needs and requirements
Discussion and Approval	Participate in budget discussions and submit recommendations
Budget Execution	Monitor effectiveness as well as legality
Reporting and Control	Monitor and comment audit documentations, which is public



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Participatory Budgeting in Practice

- Elements of participatory budgeting have been introduced in select cases
- Mostly, the process has been donor-driven and bound to concrete projects
- Therefore, sustainability is a significant challenge
- One of the success stories have been Marneuli where Warsaw city model was piloted
 - Local population participated in planning specially allocated budget





Discussion Questions – Participatory Budgeting

Legal or institutional frameworks may contribute, but can not ensure participatory budgeting

- What are some of the barriers to engage people and to participate?
- What is the ultimate goal to achieve with participatory budgeting - improve budget or G2C relationships?
- What are some of the most effective incentives to ensure participatory budgeting?





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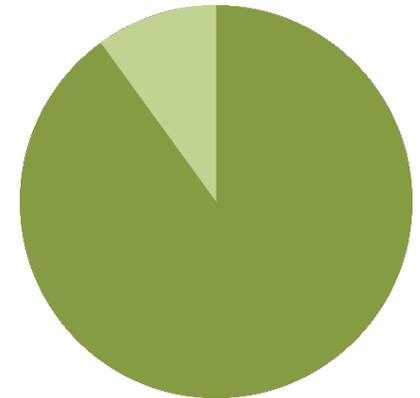
Gender Inclusion

- **Gender Equality Law** was adopted in 2010
- The rights of women have been further reassured with the **Anti-Discrimination Law** (2014)
- **Gender Equality Council (GEC)** active with the Parliament since 2004
- Establishment of **GECs are obligatory at every municipality**
- **Party financing provides motivation for the inclusion of women in the party list** (20% female in the top 10 = 10%, while 30% female = 30% more funds)



Gender Inclusion – Some Facts

- The Parliament of 2012 included 12% women, and in 2016 – 16%
- Currently, **16% women in the Parliament**
- Some of the municipal representative organs **don't have a single female representative**
- Georgia ranks **124 among 193 countries** in terms of the number of women in the Parliament (IPU, 2017)
- Georgia ranks **90 among 144 countries** in terms of women engagement in social, political and economic activities (WEF, 2016)





Gender Inclusion - Discussion Questions

Formal mechanisms and motivational schemes don't necessarily translate into intended outcomes

- Can motivational schemes be effective? If so, what kinds of incentives?
- Are blanket regulations or “hard laws” more effective in traditional societies (such as the quota regulations)?
- What are some of the good examples of incentives and regulations to increase women representation and participation in politics and / or other areas?

