



Protecting Democratic Politics from Dirty Money: Using online technologies to promote transparency in political finance

Wednesday, 16 December 2020 13:00-14:30 (CET/Brussels)

Speakers:



Vita Dumanska, CEO, CHESNO

Vita Dumanska is the CEO of the CHESNO movement which is the leading political watchdog organization in Ukraine. Vita has 14 years of progressive professional experience in public campaign management, advocacy, program development at non-governmental and international organizations. She joined CHESNO in 2015 as a leader of a nationwide campaign on strengthening transparency and accountability of local authorities and political parties. Previously, Vita worked at Kyiv School of Economics as a project manager. In 2019 Vita, as a consultant of the World Bank, worked on a project aimed at embedding principles of citizens' engagement in health care practices. Vita gained an MA in Management and holds a Ph.D. in Economics. Currently, she receives an Executive MBA degree. <https://www.facebook.com/vita.dumanska/>



Oriana Ivković Novokmet, Executive Director, Gong

Oriana Ivković Novokmet is the Executive Director of Gong, a galvanizer for democracy: disrupting corruption, alerting on political threats and building active citizenship. She has a degree in journalism at the Faculty of Political Science of Zagreb University and has worked as editor and journalist in several traditional and online news media. In 2019 Oriana received two awards from the Croatian Journalists' Association for investigative (Jasna Babic Award) and online journalism (Marija Juric Zagorka Award). Gong started out in 1997 focussing on election observation. Currently the organization is leading monitoring and advocacy initiatives on anti-corruption, freedom of information and open data focussing on transparency, accountability, citizen engagement, open data and media literacy.

Gong is experienced in innovating digital projects related to [election finances searchable databases](#) and relevant public policies, sharing knowledge and building tools such as the [Mosaic of Connections](#) - the database on politically exposed persons and their relationships, based on data from public registries. In partnership with civic hackers from the Code for Croatia group, Gong enables the [citizens to easily access public information](#) and organises annual [Open Data Weekends](#).

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<https://www.gong.hr/en/good-governance/access-to-information/search-gong-databases/>



Nana Kalandadze, Programme Manager, Regional Europe Programme, International IDEA

Nana Kalandadze works as a Programme Manager for Europe at [International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance based in Stockholm, Sweden](https://www.idea.int/). Her primary areas of expertise are support to reforms in electoral integrity and political finance systems, democratic representation and participation, and quality of democracy assessments in central and eastern European countries. She has previously worked on these issues with the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and various other organizations in the region and in her native Georgia. N.kalandadze@idea.int



Paul Maassen, Chief, Country Support, Open Government Partnership (OGP)

Paul Maassen started working with the Open Government Partnership in June 2012. He is currently the Chief, Country Support (CCS). The CCS leads on the implementation of the strategy for OGP's engagement with and strategic support of all OGP stakeholders at the national and local level. His team with staff in over 10 locations supports global efforts of open government champions, primarily of government and civil society, in using OGP to further their objectives on transparency, accountability and participation. Before assuming this role, Paul was responsible for overseeing the OGP support to civil society across the globe. Paul has a long track record in the role technology and media can play in changing people's lives and the societies they live in. Prior to joining OGP Paul worked as Head of Finance and Partnerships for WWF International's Global Climate & Energy Initiative, working primarily with WWF offices in emerging economies to strengthen the design and sustainability of their programs. He was also involved in the establishment of the East African citizen agency initiative Twaweza. Paul attained private sector experience with Dutch telecom company KPN. He holds an MSC in industrial engineering and management. Paul is based in Brussels paul.maassen@opengovpartnership.org



Marina Mkhitarian, Program Manager for Eastern Partnership, Open Government Partnership (OGP)

Marina Mkhitarian has joined the OGP team as Program Manager for the Eastern Partnership. Marina joins OGP from UNDP Armenia where she has been a major champion for OGP, directly supporting the national process there. Marina led the first social venture incubator at UNDP Armenia - Kolba Social Innovation Lab, managing cutting-edge governance innovations and helping to incubate "acupuncture" solutions through tech start-ups in human rights, environment, urban development and healthcare. Prior to this, she was at Eurasia Partnership Foundation where she led programs on good governance, alternative media, social innovation, social entrepreneurship and CSR.

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Levan Natroshvili, Programme Manager, Transparency International

Levan Natroshvili joined Transparency International Georgia in 2012. He leads the election monitoring program. He, with his team, observed six general elections held in Georgia mainly focusing on the monitoring of abuse of state resources and political finances. He is a co-author and editor of dozens of election monitoring reports of Transparency International Georgia. Levan has conducted numerous pieces of training

for CSOs and journalists in Georgia and abroad on how to monitor misuse of state resources and political finances during elections.

Levan also is a visiting professor at two universities in Georgia. He holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in international relations from Georgian and US universities. At present, he is a Ph.D. candidate in international relations. He has worked at the parliament of Georgia, National Democratic Institute (NDI), and has been writing analytical essays for different magazines.



Sandra Pernar, Senior Regional Coordinator, Europe, Open Government Partnership (OGP)

Sandra Pernar joined the Open Government Partnership in April 2018. She provides guidance and assistance to governments in Europe, primarily in Southern and Eastern Europe, facilitates exchange and learning between governments, as well as support to civil society organizations in these countries to push for open government reforms.

Prior to joining OGP, Sandra has worked as Senior Advisor in the Croatian Government Office for Cooperation with NGOs. She is a long-standing champion of open government and a stalwart supporter of OGP both within her native Croatia and beyond – she has served as OGP Point of Contact for Croatia, on OGP Steering Committee and was a member of inaugural Board of Directors of the OGP Secretariat. She was also the President of the Academy for Political Development, Croatian organization which primarily provides political education and networking for young leaders in politics, business, public administration, civil society and media. Before all of that, she was the Executive Director of GONG, a leading Croatian anti-corruption, FOI and good governance NGO. Sandra also regularly provides expert support across European and Asian countries, directly or through OSCE, on various issues related to open government. She holds a BA in political science from University of Zagreb, Faculty of Political Science. sandra.pernar@opengovpartnership.org



Sam van der Staak, Head of Europe Programme, International IDEA

Sam van der Staak is the Head of International IDEA's Europe Programme. His work focuses on responding to democratic developments in Europe, with a special emphasis on the topics of political parties, money in politics, and ICT in democracy. Sam manages International IDEA's Regional Europe Programme, in which capacity he leads International IDEA's representation to the European Union in Brussels. Sam has been involved in International IDEA publications on Cybersecurity in elections, Citizen movements, Money in politics, and Political party dialogue. He makes regular media contributions for national and international media. Sam holds MA in International Relations (University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa), and MA in Dutch Language and Literature (Utrecht University, The Netherlands). Twitter [@samvanderstaak](https://twitter.com/samvanderstaak)