

Conclusion



While not a panacea for the reporting and disclosure of political finance data and the myriad challenges associated with it, an online system can help significantly improve the quality and integrity of reporting and disclosure. When designed and implemented well, and in a way that is sensitive to the context and users' needs, an online system can make life easier for all concerned and strengthen the integrity of and trust in political parties, candidates and oversight agencies. The degree and quality of transparency that online disclosure systems provide make an invaluable contribution to the broader fight against corruption in politics. An appreciation of these benefits is reflected in the increasing number of oversight agencies that have recently built reporting and disclosure systems, and in the numerous civil society organizations around the world that have developed their own political finance disclosure databases.

While each context is unique and should inform the specifics of a system, good practices and lessons from the development process can often be applied across the board. The countries that have built systems of this kind have largely done so in isolation, and acknowledge that they would have benefited from having this comparative knowledge available. The hope is that others can learn from the lessons and experiences found in this Guide.

As part of its longstanding work on money in politics, International IDEA will continue to work with political finance oversight agencies and other actors that are interested in finding digital solutions for political finance reporting and disclosure. In addition to this Guide, this work consists of more tailored in-country assistance and support to the process of building an online system. Oversight agencies and other interested stakeholders are encouraged to reach out to International IDEA if they would like to explore the possibility of receiving support on this topic.