



International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy - ISFED

2010-2012

Content

- 1. Mission Statement**
- 2. About ISFED**
- 3. Problem Statement**
- 4. Strategic Goals, Objectives and Activities**
- 5. Annex**
 - Risk analysis for 2010**

Mission Statement

ISFED is an independent, impartial, objective, nonpolitical and non-governmental organization, supporting democratic processes and establishment of justice in the Georgia.

ISFED supports the development of democratic institutions in Georgia through promoting active citizenship and involving citizens in decision and policy making processes. The organization conducts civic education campaigns to increase transparency of the government's activities and promote accountability. The organization enhances the accountability of government bodies not just through oversight and monitoring, but also by assisting them in finding better ways of incorporating citizen participation. ISFED facilitates the process of providing platform for constructive discussions and establishing real cooperation between public institutions and citizens. ISFED strives for protection of citizens' political rights. ISFED aims to support fairness of electoral procedures through qualitative election monitoring effort and protecting voters' electoral rights. Additionally, ISFED promotes integration into international democratic institutions and supports establishment of democratic principles recognized by those institutions.

About ISFED

“International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy” (ISFED) is one of the most famous, experienced and successful Nongovernmental Organization having a widest network in Georgia. Since establishment (1995) up to date ISFED is well-known as an expert organization exercising the election monitoring. Because of organizations’ distinguished activities throughout the years, ISFED had gained an image of professional, non-partisan highly reputable organization that bases its activities on principles of democracy.

ISFED is a membership based organization which means that every member of the Organization is participating in organization’s management and decision making respectively. The highest management body of ISFED is a General Assembly (GA) of Members. The GA is held every year, on the first Saturday of March. The GA elects 9 members of the Management Board which oversees the Organization during the period between the General Assemblies. The Management Board elects an Executive Director (ED) for the term of one year. The Executive Director may be reappointed for no more than 4 terms. The Executive Director manages the day-to-day activity of the Organization and represents the Organization in relation with the third party.

The ISFED territorial division is based on the Electoral Administration division of the country. ISFED operates through Central Office (CO) based in Tbilisi, five Regional Offices (RO) situated in Tbilisi I and II, Guarani, Batumi, Kutaisi. Each RO is overseeing the activities of respective district coordinators. In total ISFED operates through its 75 District Coordinators (DC).

Problem Statement

Based on the analysis of current political and social situations in Georgia carried out by the International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy several problems were revealed preventing democratic development processes in the country. During the Strategic planning the Organization discussed each identified problem in detail and underlined the issues, where civil society (in this case ISFED) could play an important role. Among the various problems, the issues that ISFED will focus on are the following:

- Incompatibility of electoral processes to democratic standards;
- Non-transparency of public and civil institutions in the country and lack of trust towards them;
- Low level of civil society's development;
- Improper legislation and lack of rule of law.

Strategic goals, objectives and activities

In July 2009, ISFED redefined its mission and determined its strategic goals for 2010-2012. ISFED planned each of strategic direction by considering the problems, existing in the country. New strategy is directed to overcome challenges, that may take place during Georgia's democratic development process. ISFED, as one of the active member of the civil society, has an important role in this process.

Organization's strategic directions are general concepts. However, ISFED believes that during the 2010-2012 the new strategic directions will play valuable role in forming/structuring Organization's areas of intervention and thus facilitating the democratic development of the country in general.

In order to comply the organization's activities with ISFED's strategic directions, ISFED will maintain independency and protect organization's principles; will demonstrate free decision-making effort, will further work on internal organizational development and will increase its professionalism.

ISFED outlined four main priority areas of its intervention for 2010-2012. In order to achieve the goals set for the strategic plan Organization planned concrete objectives for each of the goal respectively and finally drew out list of activities for each objective respectively.

A. Promoting electoral processes, to be compatible to the democratic standards

One of the main challenges that Georgia faces today is incompatibility of electoral processes to the democratic standards. ISFED as one of its priority goal set to - promote electoral processes to be compatible to the democratic standards. Consequently to achieve this goal organization projected four objectives:

1. Voter education/information;
2. Increased confidence level towards electoral processes, by supporting professionalism, transparency, impartiality and objectiveness of Election Administration, Mass Media and Court;
3. Establishing dialogue between the electoral stakeholders; and
4. Monitoring election processes, gathering and disseminating exhaustive information on elections.

Each objective has its respective set of activities that are, given below.

1. Voter education/information - within the frames of this objective ISFED intends to: Conduct large scale Media campaign; Organize radio/TV talk shows; Organize public stands and/or bus tours; Establish resource centers (priority will be given to the regions with ethnic minorities) Conduct trainings in educational institutions, organize debates (mock elections); Organize actions together with cultural events, discuss electoral issues; Conduct trainings for Mass Media representatives on electoral issues, in order to inform the society about election processes in a professional manner; Create volunteers' database (including volunteers from the regions) and involve volunteers in information-educational campaigns.

2. Increased confidence level towards electoral processes, by supporting professionalism, transparency, impartiality and objectiveness of Election Administration, Mass Media and Court – in order to achieve the objective ISFED will: Monitor trainings of election administration at all levels; Discuss regularly ISFED monitoring results together with the election administration's members and political parties' representatives; Promote constant information of the society, by disseminating objective information; Organize meetings with citizens after the elections; inform citizens on election results; make analysis together with citizens; fill out evaluation form.

3. Establishing dialogue between the electoral stakeholders - ISFED will carry out specific activities to attain this objective. These activities are: to organize round table discussions, seminars on election related issues; to sign collaboration memorandum with election administration (at all level) and political parties; to organize meeting with NGO sector, election administration and political subject, during the election period.

4. Monitoring election processes, gathering and disseminating exhaustive information on elections - for this objective, ISFED intends to elaborate new methodology of election observation; Conduct the survey on public expectation, including civil society, international community and public in general; Monitor the entire election process (pre-election, election day and post-election period); Promote improvement of the voters' list; Disseminate

objective information based on monitoring results, both on central and regional level; Present the outcomes of an implemented project, both on central and regional level.

B. Ensuring transparency of public and civil institutions and promoting the increase of trust towards them

Non-transparency of public and civil institutions in the country and lack of trust of citizens towards them is another biggest problem that Georgia faces. To overcome the problem ISFED identified to work on - Ensuring transparency of public and civil institutions and promoting the increase of trust towards them. Organization outlined four main objectives:

1. Ensuring establishment of impartial and professional Mass Media;
2. Establishing/deepening regular, transparent relations between the government, civil society and citizens;
3. Increasing citizens' public awareness and involving them in decision-making process;
4. Promoting increase of government's accountability and professionalism.

1. Ensuring establishment of impartial and professional Mass Media - an objective considers several activities to be implemented, such as: Media monitoring; organizing trainings for Media representatives on electoral issues; elaborating publications, organizing round table discussions, holding conferences, involving groups of experts/specialists in decision making process on the local level.

2. Establishing/deepening regular, transparent relations between the government, civil society and citizens - specific activities to be implemented within this objective are as follows: organizing town hall meetings and round table discussion; Monitoring the budget-making and budget-expenses process, involve citizens in these processes; organizing different kinds of informational events, disseminating publications.

3. Increasing citizens' public awareness and involving them in decision-making process - ISFED outlined the following activities for implementing this objective: organizing advocacy activities (trainings, workshops and exchange programs), town hall meetings and round table discussions; organizing different kinds of informational events, disseminating publications.

4. Promoting increase of government's accountability and professionalism - in this regard, ISFED intends: to conduct trainings for governmental representatives (three branches) by organizational and invited experts; to conduct surveys, analyze the results and prepare reports; to enlarge internship programs, involve interns in various activities; to organize different kinds of informational events, disseminate publications; to analyze appeals, related to the electoral issues; to administer monitoring of courts/ election administration.

C. Promoting civil society's development process

Civil society is an important player in functioning democracies, ISFED believes that needs to continue its efforts in order to further develop this sector, increase its capacity, professionalism, participation, engagement etc. Consequently ISFED outlined two main objectives:

1. Constant institutional development of ISFED itself, as a leading NGO in Georgia;
2. Strengthening civil sector and establishing collaborative relationship.

For each objective, organization planned several activities, which are as follows:

1. Constant institutional development of ISFED itself, as a leading NGO in Georgia - in order to develop organization institutionally, ISFED will: conduct trainings for the representatives of organization's 4 branch – district coordinators, regional coordinators, central office staff and board members; improve internal organizational communication; conduct regular workshops on different issues; based on conducted workshops, find out new directions in order to achieve financial sustainability; conduct trainings in order to improve project cycle; joint elaboration of methodology, before starting every new project; conduct evaluation seminar, after implementation of every project; deepen contacts with local Mass Media representatives, on a regional level; organize workshop in order to elaborate organization's PR strategy; conduct organization's external evaluation regularly, including use of different kinds of surveys and evaluation questionnaires.

2. Strengthening civil sector and establishing collaborative relationship – ISFED will carry out the following activities: maintain constant contacts with non-governmental organizations, exchange information, participate on other NGOs' events, ensure their representatives' attendance on ISFED events, disseminate/ exchange publications; establish partnership relations with international organizations, share experience; assist civil sector's operation in regions (in case of their will), in order to strengthen their professional skills; promote civil society's involvement and their exhaustive informative ness .

D. Improvement of Legislation and protecting the Rule of Law

As a standard the legislation in developed countries should provide proper regulations and rights that cannot be interpreted in different ways, the rule of law should guarantee the proper implementation of established laws and procedures so that all basic principles are protected and guaranteed. ISFED identifies three objectives that could improve the legislation and promote rule of law in the country. These objectives are:

1. Active participation in law-making process;
2. Citizens' information and their participation in legislation processes;
3. Public information about the rule of law.

1. Active participation in law-making process - for this objective ISFED manages to create separated groups (internal and external resources), working on legislation; active involvement of ISFED lawyers' team in law-making process; correspondingly, elaborate ISFED recommendations and present them to the all stakeholders involved in law-making process.

2. Citizens' information and their participation in legislation processes - ISFED will conduct a survey, in order to reveal public awareness towards legislation; will inform citizens on the legislative changes by conducting advocacy workshops; will organize town hall meeting and round table discussions for target groups and competent persons; and will inform citizens by different means about the achieved results.

3. Public information about the rule of law - for this objective organization intends: to conduct advocacy campaign about the legislation and rule of law; monitor the execution of law; inform citizens about existing legislative violations by using TV/radio spaces, disseminating publications; and organizing round table discussion, workshops.

Risk Analysis for 2010

Risks	Probability High/low	Influence High/low	Management
Extraordinary Parliamentary/ Presidential Elections	Low	High	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ISFED will look through its priorities; 2. ISFED together with donors will look through planned/ongoing activities; 3. ISFED will elaborate election observation plan (considering new methodology); 4. Fundraising/negotiations with donors.
New aggression from Russian Federation	Middle	High	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ISFED will analyze the situation and distribute the work according to the needs; 2. ISFED will participate in humanitarian aid (in the frames of its possibility) ; 3. ISFED will involve (in case of possibility) in conflict and post-conflict management; 4. Establish communications.
Renewed protest demonstrations	High	Middle	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ISFED will create monitoring teams; 2. ISFED will gather information, analyze it and disseminate the report; 3. ISFED will promote the dialogue.