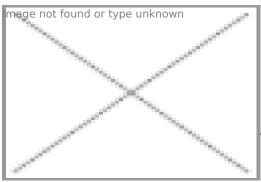


Public Discussions on Draft Joint Opinion of OSCE/ODIHR on the Draft Election Code of Georgia

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Today, Georgian Young Lawyers' Association, the

International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy (ISFED), and the Transparency International – Georgia held public discussion on Draft Joint Opinion of OSCE/ODIHR on the Draft Election Code of Georgia.

Representatives of local and international organizations, media outlets and political parties participated in the meeting. The discussion was supported by the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) in Georgia, and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

In addition to the Draft Joint Opinion of OSCE/ODIHR on the Draft Election Code of Georgia, the meeting also discussed legislative amendments to the text of the draft Election Code of Georgia prepared by the Legal Affairs Committee of the Parliament. The proposed amendments were prepared in consideration of comments of OSCE/ODIHR and local NGOs.

The organizations conclude that to a certain extent, the Draft Joint Opinion of OSCE/ODIHR addresses all problems that are improtant for improving electoral environment in Georgia. Comments put forward by the parliament of Georgia for the election law are insufficient to ensure competitive electoral environment and needs to be further revised.