**EP Anti-corruption, Transparency & Accountability Mapping: NFs and country programs activities and spheres of interest**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | “Transition” countries | | | | “Hybrid” states | | | | Closed states | | |
|  | Ukraine | Georgia | Moldova | Kyrgyzstan | Armenia | Kazakhstan | Russia | Tajikistan | Azerbaijan | Turkm | Uzbekistan |
| **Transparency & Accountability (Moldova; Kyrgyzstan; Armenia; Kazakhstan; Tajikistan; Azerbaijan)** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| T&A: extracting/energy industries; incl Electricity)  (KG; KZ; TJ; AZ) |  |  |  | Mining sector; assisting gvt institutions (Agency on Geological and Mineral Resources) and local initiatives & communities, | -“EcoLur” informational resource on mining industry, small HPP;  -Policy analysis of impact of small HPP | T&A Program |  | monitoring of the state-run energy sector | Oil & Gas  EITI |  |  |
| T&A: non-extractive commodity export revenues  (UZ) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Paper on cotton finances |
| T&A: National budgets  (ML; KZ; TJ; AZ; AR) |  |  | Take part in OBI, OGP;  Civil control over budgetary process |  | -Monitoring: local munici-pality bud-gets; Yerevan city education expenditures;  general edu-cation funding and expen-ditures;  -Advocacy for OGP;  - community budgets;  - public debt policy analysis;  -Budget monitoring trainings | T&A Program (National Budget Network of Kazakhstan, http:/ /nbsk.kz/ ) |  | Index of Budget Transparency | OGP |  |  |
| Open data; Infographics and data mapping as a tool  (GE; KZ; TJ; AR) |  | VV |  |  | -Monitoring : gvt websites;  -Providing public data of regional schools, hospitals and municipality budgets;  -Parliament monitoring (inc. assets disclosure);  - monitoring & analysis of the of the voting process accuracy and irregularities in national elections, incld by  crowdsourcing (iditord.am);  -SL cases on mining | VV |  | VV |  |  |  |
| T&A: Public procurement |  |  |  |  | -Monitoring of the state procurement regulations and procedures |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Institutional reforms (Ukraine; Moldova; Georgia; Kazakhstan)** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Administrative/Civil service reforms;  Decentralization  (UA; GE; ML; KZ) | SAGs:  SAG Secretariat  Decentralization SAG; Legal SAG | Local Governance Group + Ministry of Regional Development -- Action Plan on decentralization (2014-2017) (Polish-German model); rural parliament (Civitas) | Legislative amendments (on voiding administrative acts/contracts signed under an act of corruption) |  | -Decentraliza-tion of community budgets;  - Monitoring of general education funding and expenditures | Local budgets (local taxes; Selsovets) |  |  |  |  |  |
| Independence of judiciary |  |  |  |  | Monitoring: Judiciary re-form, courts monitoring;  -ENP, EaP, Roadmap country imp-lementation alternative reports |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Police reform  (GE) |  | VV |  |  | -Monitoring of: police detention places,  penitentiary institutions |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Direct/hard core anti-corruption work (Moldova; Ukraine; Azerbaijan; Uzbekistan; Turkmenistan)** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Integrity of public office holders; conflict of interest; assets disclosure  (ML; UZ) |  |  | Monitoring NCI; NACC |  | -Monitoring : abuses of administrative resources during elec-tions; Conflict of interest regulations;  on gvt fun-ding, and integrity in higher edu-cation;  -Criminaliza-tion of illicit enrichment;  - gvt interven-ntion in the university affairs |  |  |  |  |  | PEP study |
| Institutional corruption  (MD) |  |  | Monitoring implementation of the anti-corruption policies; CoA |  | - monitoring the impleme-ntation of the anti-corrup-tion strategy; -Advocacy for OGP |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Money laundering; Assets recovery  (UA; AZ; UZ; RU) | Yanukovich and Co’ assets recovery |  |  |  | -Journalistic investigations of state power abuse |  |  | Laundramat (Novaya gazeta; OCCRP) | VV (Khadicha Ismailova) |  | OCCRP working on investigation in Latvia |

**NFs’ local partners and priorities:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Country | Coalition/networks | NGOs; individuals | Target issues | NF contact person |
| Armenia |  | * Transparency International Anticorruption Center; Varuzhan Hoktanyan, Executive Director - <http://transparency.am/> * Journalists’ Club “Asparez”; Levon Barseghyan, Chairman – <http://www.asparez.am/> <http://publicdata.am/> * Community Finance Officers Association; Vahan Movsisyan, President - <http://cfoa.am/> * Investigative Journalists NGO (Hetq); Edik Baghdasaryan, Editor in Chief - <http://hetq.am/eng/> * Committee to Protect Freedom of Expression; Ashot Melikyan, Chairman - <http://khosq.am/> * Mandate NGO, Parliament Monitoring project; Lusine Vasilyan, Project Director - <http://parliamentmonitoring.am/> * “EcoLur” Informational NGO; Inga Zarafyan, President - <http://ecolur.org/en/> * Information Systems Development and Training Center; Grisha Khachatryan -[www.infosys.am](http://www.infosys.am) * Artak Kyurumyan, OGP monitoring independent expert - [artak.kyurumyan@yahoo.com](mailto:artak.kyurumyan@yahoo.com) * Gharib Harutyunyan, OSFA policy fellow - [h\_gharib@inbox.ru](mailto:h_gharib@inbox.ru) | * Public procurement regulations and procedures; * Developing anti-corruption strategy and its implementation; * Local municipality budgets; * General education funding and expenditures; * Funding and financial efficiency of high schools; * Journalistic investigations of the cases of the state power abuses, public procurements and tenders, financial frauds and corruption risk in mining, banking sector, urban development, environment and food security; * Advocating for OGP; * NIS assessment; * Parliament monitoring; * Monitoring official websites of state authorities; * Decentralized management of community budgets; * Budget monitoring trainings; * Public debt management, small HPP; * Accuracy of the voting process and assessing impact of irregularities and fraud on the outcome of the elections; * Electoral process violations monitoring through crowd-sourcing; * Judiciary reform monitoring; * Court monitoring; * Abuse of administrative resources during elections; * Conflict of interest regulations; * Advocacy for criminalization of illicit enrichment; * Abuses of admin resources during elections | Larisa Minasyan  [mlarisa@osi.am](mailto:mlarisa@osi.am);  David Amiryan  [adavid@osi.am](mailto:adavid@osi.am);  Maria Aghajanyan  [maria@osi.am](mailto:maria@osi.am) |
| Azerbaijan | * Citizens’ Response Network ([www.crn.az](http://www.crn.az)); a coalition of activists working to help local communities address problems of the extractives sector; * National Budget Group (www.nbg.az) | * Center for Support to Economic Initiatives ([www.sei.az](http://www.sei.az)); * Public Association for Assistance to a Free Economy * “Kür” civic association, South Azerbaijan | Oil & Gas and public finance transparency; | Galib Efendiyev; [gefendiev@resourcegovernance.org](mailto:gefendiev@resourcegovernance.org)  Gubad Ibadoghlu, [gubad.ibadoglu@gmail.com](mailto:gubad.ibadoglu@gmail.com) |
| Georgia | Local Governance Group works with Ministry of Regional Development -- Action Plan on decentralization (2014-2017) (Polish-German model);  National Platform of Civil Society Forum for the Eastern Partnership | * Institute for the Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI) [https://idfi.ge/en and opendata.ge](https://idfi.ge/en%20and%20opendata.ge)) * Civitas (rural parliament) * Georgian Young Lawyers Association (GYLA), * Transparency International – Georgia (TI – G), | * Decentralisation, local government * transparency of government by collecting and publishing public information, and monitoring the transparency of public institutions; * e-governance; * action plan on open government, * archive 20th Century documents. | Tinatin Bolkvadze, Local Democracy Development Program Manager: [tiniko@osgf.ge](mailto:tiniko@osgf.ge)  Vakhtang (Vako) Natsvlishvili, Local Democracy Development Program Coordinator: [vako@osgf.ge](mailto:vako@osgf.ge) |
| Kazakhstan |  | * National Budget Network of Kazakh-stan, http:/ /nbsk.kz * EITI/PWYP network/s | * Local budgets (local taxes; Selsovets); * National budget transparency * T&A in extracting industries | Askar Kushkunbayev, Program Coordinator ([akushkunbayev@soros.kz](mailto:akushkunbayev@soros.kz)) |
| Kyrgyzstan |  | * NGO «Гражданский институт интернет – политики», Tatuu Mambetalieva (expert organization in access to information, open data, good governance, e-governance, e-education, civic education and advocacy) * NGO “Centre for Analytical and Legal Support to Local Governance Institutions” (expert organization in local governance institutions and services, local economic development, decentralization, local budget, regional development funds. Gulnara Bekbasarova) * NGO “Our rights” | * transparency and accountability of local development funds and budgets, * inventory of resources available for development, especially in those that are not heavily affected by mining, economically depressive regions – lands, pastures, forests, etc. * Ministry of Geology (e-governance, open data, transparency) | Kumushkan Konurbaeva, [kkonurbaeva@soros.kg](mailto:kkonurbaeva@soros.kg) |
| Moldova | Civic Initiative for a Clean Parliament | * Think-tank Expert-Group * Association for Participatory Democracy; (In the gvt: Ministry of Finance and the Court of Accounts) | * Monitoring implementation of the anti-corruption policies; * Accountability of public funds management; * Transparency of budgetary process (drafting, approval, execution, reporting and auditing) – OBI, OGP; NGOs involvement * Integrity and accountability of the public office holders; Conflict of Interest – civic control; * NCI (National Commission for Integrity); National NACC (Anticorruption Center); * Council of Europe’s Civil Convention on Corruption | Olga Crivoliubic [ocrivoliubic@soros.md](mailto:ocrivoliubic@soros.md) |
| Tajikistan | coalition of NGOs that address anti-corruption and transparency issues | * Tojinisso Azizova, Director , NGO “Lawyers;” * Asomudin Atoev, Director, ISPA; * Anna Shukurova, the Executive Director, Union of Professional Consultants of Tajikistan. | * budget transparency (Index); EITI, corruption issues tied to electricity and extractive industries; PWYP * Monitoring of the state-run energy sector (Only 2.3% of state budget is reported to come from extractive industries - in more than 15%) | Dilovar Munavvarov, Program Director on Human Rights, Legal Reform, and Access to Information: [dilovar@osi.tajik.net](mailto:dilovar@osi.tajik.net)  Firuza Achilova, Program Coordinator for Transparency and Accountability: [firuza@osi.tajik.net](mailto:firuza@osi.tajik.net) |
| Ukraine |  |  | * SAG Secretariat * Decentralization SAG; LegalSAG;   “justice houses”;   * Information Bureau to Support Ukrainian Government Reforms (IBUGHR) | Oleksiy Orlovsky [orlovsky@irf.kiev.ua](mailto:orlovsky@irf.kiev.ua);  Oliana Valigura (PWYP) [ovaligura@pwypsecretariat.org](mailto:ovaligura@pwypsecretariat.org) |
| Uzbekistan & Turkmenistan |  | * Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project; * A number of individual consultants and researchers * Uzbek-German Forum for Human Rights (Germany)   Association for Human Rights in Central Asia (France) | * Grand/elite corruption * Money laundering * Ill-gotten assets confiscation and recovery |  |

**National foundations’ and country programs’ strategy narratives**

**ARMENIA:**

Improvement of good governance and decreasing corruption in Armenia has been a strategic priority for OSF-Armenia. The Foundation has supported various monitoring initiatives and mechanisms to promote anti-corruption and good governance. Since 2007, the Foundation was engaged in the civic monitoring of MCA project implementation for Armenia. One of the major identified problems was conflict of interest issues in decision making and control bodies.

Monitoring and assessment of different aspects of public resources management, in particular, public finance management, focusing mainly on public procurement is an important area for the Foundation. Starting from 2007 the Foundation supports monitoring of the public procurement system of Armenia. The objectives of the public procurement monitoring are to identify the gaps and shortcomings of the Armenian legislation on public procurement, to assess the implementation of the procurement legislation in practice, to identify the corruption risks and malpractices in procurement processes, and to promote the recommendations developed as a result of the implementation of previous monitoring projects. The following components are subjects of the public procurement monitoring – appeals system, single source procurement, and framework agreements (http://transparency.am/ ).

The integrity of processes and procedures in the area of procurement, their effective scrutiny will significantly contribute to better practices in the implementation and enforcement of procurement processes and procedures, reduce corruption risks and incidences of malpractice in this area. The objectives of the National Integrity System assessment is to improve the understanding of the performance of existing anti-corruption mechanisms in the country as a part of the essential framework for preventing corruption, and to mitigate corruption risks through evidence based advocacy, including public education, advocacy geared at triggering policy reforms, and other relevant activities.

Journalistic investigations of money laundering and corruption cases of official authorities and government are conducted; investigation of cases of the state procurements and tenders is done; investigation of financial frauds and corruption risk in mining, banking sector, urban development, environment and food security is conducted by Investigative Journalists NGO (www.hetq.am ).

Control on public funds, community, schools, universities, public areas, information access, corruption cases analysis is conducted by Journalists’’ Club “Asparez” and all data is collected in www.publicdata.am resource.

Parliament monitoring project is supported to assess efficiency of legislative activities of the parliament to promote accountability and transparency of it as a legislative, representative and political body. The project is supported to document, analyze, and publicize the main legislative activities of the parliament, its factions, committees, and MPs. http://parliamentmonitoring.am/

The Foundation supported monitoring of the official websites of the state bodies to assess their level of information transparency. The existence of information on the websites, its completeness, timeliness and accessibility were assessed. http://khosq.am/

Education program aims at promoting democratic governance and integrity of the education reforms through producing research and monitoring evidence that will demonstrate systemic absence of accountability in governance, funding of education and corruption risks at university/school levels and at the level of central and local government. The Foundation supports monitoring of the Yerevan City public general education system, namely its financing and management at the level of central government, local self-government, and public general education institutions, the strengths and weaknesses of the current system of financing educational institutions, and fiscal transparency and financial accountability (http://cfoa.am/ ). The Foundation is also engaged in promoting integrity of higher education through research and monitoring of good governance and accountability of the system. The 2013 foundation-supported evaluation study (conducted by the Higher Education Observatory of CEU) identified executive control, political corruption, including conflicts of interest, lack of academic integrity as major stagnations for the education sector reforms. The foundation presently supports research on Integrity in Education (done by OECD-driven methodology) focusing on integrity policies in quality, access and management/administration of secondary and higher education. Concurrently, monitoring of the education component at new anticorruption strategy, with policy recommendations will be conducted by OSF policy fellow. Advocacy with international donors to bring problems of integrity onto their agenda is part of the foundations strategic activities.

Through its’ Policy Fellowship Initiative OSF-Armenia aims to enhance and build on the policy research and advocacy capacity of researchers to influence the public policy-making process and to encourage proactive cooperation between independent policy researchers, civil society organizations and wider public to reach higher quality of policy research and data based policy dialogue amongst wider stakeholders. Within the given context OSF-Armenia fellows have been working on issues of public debt management, local community budget management in Gyumri, assessment of state anticorruption strategy and its implementation plan 2009-12, its impact assessment, and the extent to which the new concept reflects upon the drawbacks of past strategy, corruption in education, state accountability in management policies of small hydroelectric power stations, compatibility of state policies to those of financing international organizations and state policies in subsidizing and financing schemes in agriculture. Results have served as important external sources for data based advocacy and external independent research for the Foundations and its’ partners work on the ground.

Strategic litigation program supported cases in the sphere of right to academic freedom and fundamental right to access to information to promote the integrity of the public office holders. Election cases in number of 6 promoted establishment of a case law on election related litigations and identified the gaps in the observation process.

**AZERBAIJAN:**

Anti-corruption has been a major focus of OSIAF activity, especially the Transparency of Oil Revenues and Public Finance program being implemented by Revenue Watch. Much is being done in this field as local coalitions have formed to monitor transparency in public spending and extractive revenues collection and use. Oxfam was a major donor supporting a range of budget transparency activities which risk now to be without funding after the start of a criminal investigation against Oxfam’s local office.

Four local NGOs: including the Citizens’ Response Network (www.crn.az), a coalition of activists working to help local communities address problems stemming from the extractives sector; and the Center for Support to Economic Initiatives (www.sei.az), one of Azerbaijan’s most professional centers for economic research, the National Budget Group (www.nbg.az) including the Public Association for Assistance to a Free Economy, which specializes in monitoring, investigating, and advocating for budget transparency, and the EITI and the Open Governance Partnership.

A proposal by the “Kür” civic association from southern Azerbaijan to continue investigation on local fraud and abuse is currently awaited.

**GEORGIA:**

The Local Governance Group supported by OSGF works closely with the Ministry of Regional Development (the minister and deputy are former NGO activists). While the self-governance bill was passed much work remains to be done to ensure local self-governance at the village level, territorial-administrative reform (along the Polish-German model), implementation of fiscal decentralization… The Group plans to continue to work with the government to push it to make more promised changes and complete an Action Plan on decentralization (2014-2017), with bodies of local self-government who need capacity strengthening, and local communities (CBOs) to explain their rights and responsibilities. People are interesting in getting better access to services at the local level (ex: kindergartens). Partners also seek a Law on Civil Partiticipation in local decision making processes.

One partner NGO “Civitas” has set up a rural parliament to increase community participation.

The Ministry of Education will carry out attestation of 12,000 local government officials.

After over a decade of money being spent on reform, the judiciary is still not fully independent or competent. According to David Usupashivili (Parliament Chair) “we cannot find 250 heroes.” He also complained about lack of sufficient human resources, capacity and salaries in the Parliament. Civil administration reform has not been undertaken.

OSFG has a partner the Institute for the Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI -- <https://idfi.ge/en> and opendata.ge) which works on promoting the transparency of government by collecting and publishing public information, and monitoring the transparency of public institutions. The organization appears quite professional and could perhaps train others in the region interested in working on similar issues. It has also worked with the government on e-governance promotion, creating an action plan on open government, and helped archive 20th Century documents.

Georgia seems only slightly ahead of Moldova and Ukraine on decentralization, local self-governance, territorial administrative reform and empowerment of local communities. I don’t know where the CA countries are on these issues but there could be room for exchange and common strategizing among NGOs/CSOs on local participation in decision making, budget monitoring, etc.

From Georgia NF 2014+ strategy:

* Field: Engaging Regional and Global Institutions in Support of Open Society Values
  + OSGF will support its partners advancing greater government accountability as a one of key benchmarks for Georgia’s closer association with the EU.
    - Relevant grantees: Georgian Young Lawyers Association (GYLA), Transparency International – Georgia (TI – G), Academic Fellowship Program Alumni, National Platform of Civil Society Forum for the Eastern Partnership
* Concept: Decentralization and Local Democracy Development
  + OSGF, in cooperation with eight NGOs and expert groups, drafted a concept paper on Georgia’s decentralization process, which became the foundation for the government’s decentralization strategy initiated by the new prime minister and administered by the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure. The goals include: prevent risks of corruption in inherent to decentralization and ensure civil participation in the decision-making process by changing the legislation and monitoring the reform implementation; support NGOs to work on the problems identified through local residents’ participation in the reform process.

**KAZAKHSTAN:**

Local Budget Initiative Program

* The Local Budget Initiative is relatively new. Last year, the program addressed local taxes by forming working groups to address the issue, and they also built up their contacts in side state organs/departments. Unfortunately, there is still no official procedure in place when it comes to taking budget issues before the state, but the LBI works with the local ombudsman.
* LBI also holds trainings and exchanges of best practices and “lessons learned,” most recently in Poland. They are also looking to run a competition (“konkurs”) in a few months’ time, the details of which are still being worked out.
* The LBI also uses infographics and interactive media to develop “non-technical” versions of the local budgets and explain why having information about the local budget is important (“knowledge is power”).
* The LBI’s only partner is the International Budget Partnership in Washington, DC. It might make sense to connect them to the Asia Budget people in the NYC office here at OSF?

**KYRGYZSTAN:**

Excerpts from NF’s report:

Natural Resources Governance program goals and experience.

Next year we will be working pretty much within the strategy 2014-2015. The focus will be on mining industry and provision of technical support to governance institutions. Since we do not have operational component, we will be working through grant competition mechanism, by supporting initiatives of local communities and civil society.

Based on this year achievements, we will continue to work with local communities on improving transparency and accountability of funds allocated to local budgets, received from mining companies, pastures management, other sources. We also want to encourage the local communities to do inventory of resources available for development, especially in those that are not heavily affected by mining, economically depressive regions. The idea is that most municipalities are not utilizing available resources effectively – lands, pastures, forests, etc.

Transparent and accountable local/regional development fund is one of the instruments listed with the new EITI standard. Our work on promotion of EITI standard reflected in the 2013 Country report.

We will assist to the State agency on Geology with improving business processes and information management system. The web site of the agency is static, to enable the website we worked on development training modules for public servants to manage information content, improving business processes and communications within the agency. We also assist to the agency with creating interactive map of deposits (when by clicking the map the information on the site potential, deposits, and investors will be available.

We will continue developing the professional standards and national qualification framework for specialists in mining industry.

What can be expanded upon across the region:

1. Open data and good governance in mining
2. Transparency and accountability of regional/local development funds
3. Public and utilities services delivery

The potential partner organizations in Kyrgyzstan, in case to work with further:

НПО «Гражданский институт интернет – политики» - expert organization in access to information, open data, good governance, e-governance, e-education, civic education and advocacy. The leader is Tatuu Mambetalieva, very dedicated civil society activist, IT for good governance and e-governance expert. She has a background in law and public administration. She has a network of partner organizations within the country, CA and CIS region, internationally as well.

NGO “Centre for Analytical and Legal Support to Local Governance Institutions” – expert organization in local governance institutions and services, local economic development, decentralization, local budget, regional development funds. The leader is Gulnara Bekbasarova

NGO “Our rights” - expert organization on public services delivery, economic and legal rights of citizen, consumer rights of water and electricity users, rights of homeowners. The leader is a charismatic and dedicated person – Kalicha Umuralieva, she is a member of the Advisory Board of the FESTI Secretariat. She is also a recognized leader of the network of organizations advocating economic and human rights.

**MOLDOVA:**

Public funds and public budget are the main instruments of the government to reflect and implement the priorities of society. The way these funds are managed directly affects the life of each citizen. A more transparent public funds management results in higher efficiency of public spending, a more fair distribution of resources, and reduced waste. Our assumption is that the goal of reduced corruption and greater accountability of public funds management can be achieved through a two-fold intervention which targets both institutions and individual: 1.Establishing specific checks to ensure a transparent and correct budgetary process at all levels; 2. Preventing and sanctioning individual corrupt practices of high level officials, leading ultimately to the misuse of public funds. Promoting integrity and accountability in the public function, focusing on such issues as conflicts of interests at high level and gaps between official income and properties owned are goals linked to challenging the misuse and misappropriation of public funds.

*Establishing Specific Checks on the Government within the Budgetary Processes*

Our assumption is that increased accountability of authorities can be achieved by increasing transparency of the budgetary process at all levels (drafting, approval, execution, reporting and auditing) and in the management of public finances, including enforcement of the decisions of the Court of Accounts (CoA); and by securing transparency and participation of civil society in the development of public policies. SFM is uniquely placed to undertake these lines of intervention due to its prior expertise, its credibility as a professional, neutral actor, its access to expert entities and strong partnerships.

Significant internal opportunities around these priorities include: the positive prior experience with the Open Budget Index (OBI) methodology; commitments made under the Open Government Partnership (OGP) and specific requests by the Ministry of Finance in February 2013 for assistance in developing a citizens’ budget based on the SFM-developed OBI report. External opportunities include the recently approved approach of the European Commission on Budget Support to Third Countries, which includes transparency and budget oversight as mandatory criteria, and thus provides scope for effective advocacy based on alternative reporting. Key strategic partners will be the Expert-Grup think-tank, the Ministry of Finance and the CoA. We aim to use advocacy to encourage the authorities to develop effective mechanisms for citizens’ engagement in the budgetary process and in the public control, including by supporting the enforcement of CoA decisions.

Having as the overarching objective a more transparent budgetary process in which the voice of civil society is consistently taken into account by authorities while taking decisions, we aim that media, NGOs and broader audiences have new tools to better understand and participate in decision-making regarding the budgetary process, meaning:

1) an organized and sustained process of discussing main budgetary documents by NGOs is functional;

2) journalists and broader audiences are educated and enabled to ask for more accountability regarding public money, based on clear data and the increase in media coverage of issues related to the public budget;

3) the Ministry of Finance makes budgetary documents easily accessible to broad audiences by publishing a “citizens’ budget” by the end of 2014 and annually thereafter;

4) a higher level of control over public funds expenditure and increased level of implementation of the CoA’s decisions by public authorities. Success will be achieved if the CoA uses alternative monitoring reports supported by SFM as an additional tool to pressure public agencies and to secure implementation of its decisions, including through an effective parliamentary control over the implementation of the CoA’s audit results.

Lack of political will to open sensitive information and discuss it in public, change of leadership at the Ministry of Finance, currently very cooperative with the project team, and superficial treating of NGOs’ recommendations and requests are risks to be considered in further defining our interventions. These risks will be mitigated by using legal provisions and promoting awareness in media on access to information and transparency in the decision-making process.

*Promoting Integrity in the Public Function through Increased Civic Control*

Instead of a general approach towards integrity and anti-corruption, we aim at specific interventions which would lead to combating impunity through advocacy, advice to NCI and NACC, grants for monitoring and investigations, and for professional development of journalists active in this field. Our overall objective is to dispel the perception that high level officials and magistrates are untouchable and can never be sanctioned or removed for corruption related offences. To achieve this objective we intend to foster the following changes:

1) the NCI is functional and objective in its decisions. This will be achieved through: a. a civic monitoring the NCI’s activity and putting pressure when it tries to cover up conflicts of interest or integrity related cases of high level officials; b. by building and supporting cases meant to test the NCI; c. capacitating journalists and interest groups to use new technologies to effectively document, report and advocate;

2) legislative amendments on voiding administrative acts/contracts signed under an act of corruption drafted and submitted to the government and Parliament to effectively implement the Council of Europe’s Civil Convention on Corruption. Progress will be assessed based on the quality and quantity of decisions of NCI and follow up measures taken by the authorities; concrete cases of high level officials dismissed or administrative acts or contracts voided as a result of NCI decisions; improvement of the legal framework; and the number of relevant journalistic investigations.

The opportunities are provided by clear requirements to combat corruption coming from the EU and other donors, as well as the recent establishment of a National Commission for Integrity (NCI), and governmental commitments under OGP. Media interest in corruption scandals and reliable partners - members of *the Civic Initiative for a Clean Parliament* with solid experience in public interest litigation, provide an additional foundation for serious accountability work.

The risks to be envisaged and mitigated are the weak capacity of the NCI to adopt decisions in sensitive cases, the danger of law suits against partner organizations/journalists, lack of political will to actually enforce integrity mechanisms, the danger of a non-responsive media or general public. These risks will be addressed by using existent legal provisions regarding NCI, access to information and freedom of speech, as well as the precedents created within the “Meet Your Candidate Campaign!” The danger of media non-responsiveness will be addressed by building cases supported by journalistic investigations which are always followed by media, and the use of new technologies to mobilize constituencies (for example through interactive maps and interactive assessment tools for different institutions)

**TAJIKISTAN:**

Access to information and accountability program: the media program carries out projects relating to transparency and accountability efforts in Tajikistan. They work in partnership with a coalition of NGOs. Some of the activities mentioned included an “Index on Budget Transparency,” and conducting monitoring of the state-run energy sector (www.bcquest.tj). OSF is one of the only organizations addressing this sort of work (again, the Anti-Corruption Working Group might take an interest in this).

A coalition of NGOs that address anti-corruption and transparency issues. The members of the coalition included Tojinisso Azizova, Director of the NGO “Lawyers;” Asomudin Atoev, Director of the ISPA; and Anna Shukurova, the Executive Director of the Union of Professional Consultants of Tajikistan.

* These NGOs are strong partners of the Foundation’s transparency and accountability program, particularly the EITI, which addresses corruption issues tied to electricity and extractive industries in Tajikistan.
* The coalition has tried to shift its focus more onto budget transparency, as well as challenges of extractive industries and geological issues rather than focusing solely on electricity. They are running an info campaign in the regions to share information on local political decisions, budgets, and even more basic matters such as when the electricity is going to be turned off.
* Only 2.3% of state budget is reported to come from extractive industries – they think in reality it is a lot more (but they think no more than 15%)
* 16 companies do extraction, 76 do research to investigate whether they want to do extraction – lots of $$$ here. Whenever they have tried to get any info, they have faced obstacles in the form of state secret laws – to change these laws would involve a costly effort, so a bit of catch-22
* They’ve done several seminars in the regions to inform local residents about potential that this $ can generate for the region as people are totally unaware that this extraction is even going on in their areas. At the same time, there are some regions that are fully controlled/supported by big companies
* They joined “Public What You Pay” – don’t have many good notes on this, do you? If not, let’s follow up with Dilovar as this is really important b/c this coalition is really looking to cooperate regionally

**UKRAINE:**

Setting up of a high level Strategic Advisory Group (SAG).

The Center for Reform supported by IRF and the coalition behind the Reanimation Package for Reforms has moved into an office in the Cabinet of Ministers with three full time staff. It is building close cooperation with Ministries and Parliament.

Thanks to the allocations of the Emergency Fund, IRF continues to play an important role within the overall international donor community. Many other donors are still assessing how to respond and unable to begin new activities until the end of 2014. Donor coordination is still not done effectively (by the government or UN/World Bank)

Reform of the state administration and/or civil service is urgent as ministries remain bloated with in-efficient staff, there is no way to incentive highly qualified professionals to join government, services are non-transparent and citizens’ do not feel that officials are in any way accountable to them.

IRF has largely implemented the first $450k tranche of the emergency fund and prepared a list of projects for another half million USD in funding. These are still to be sent to NY for review.

IRF continues to implement its previous strategy in addition to the emergency projects. It will be making revisions to its workplan/budget as request by NY to reflect the new realities and ability of the IRF to respond to them.

The SAGs are gradually being set up. CVs of experts to populate the SAGs are still being reviewed and considered. Budgets are being finalized. Planning has begun for a large scale SAG retreat mid July.

The SAG Secretariat will work under the leadership of Oleksandr Sushko (IRF Board chair) with one political economy specialist and one communications/manager specialist. Discussions have begun to hire one hire level international economist/transition specialist Stefka Slavova (former EBRD Director for Bulgaria, Poland and Albania) to assist with overall conceptualization, strategizing, contacts with high level officials and international donors.

The e-SAG has begun working. Oleh Levchenko leader of this SAG has presented his first monthly report. Activities carried out include submission to the government of a Draft Decree on a National Agency on e-Governance, Project on Regulations for a National Agency on e-Governance and inclusion in the Cabinet of Ministers’ “Open Government” initiative. Work began on preparation of a Working Plan for the State Agency on e-governance and other authorities and experience exchange trips with Polish and Estonian experts. Switzerland and Sweden are two other countries that are interested in supporting e-governance projects.

The DecentralizationSAG will operate under the chairmanship of Anatoliy Tkachuk. IRF’s Governance Manager Oleksiy Orlovsky is working closely with the SAG to help set it up. This SAG will focus on territorial-administrative reform and general local self-government reform. Cooperation is already ongoing with the Poles and the adviser they have seconded to the Ministry of Regional Development Marek Zelak.

A LegalSAG was offered to Ministry of Justice Deputy Minister Ruslan Ryaboshapka who underlined that there is a crucial need to now provide financial support to those NGOs and experts that have been working pro-bono with the ministry for several months. The Ministry of Justice should recommend a person that they would like to cooperate with as a key advisor. Issues that are likely to be addressed by this SAG include anti-corruption, registries, and possibly financial issues.

Ukraine likes the model of “justice houses” developed in Georgia and begun already under President Yanukovytch to develop them (some 200 centers exist). However the system does not work efficiently. Currently the Ministry of Regional Development, Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Interior are all working on this issue – sometimes at odds with each other. Eventu

Work continues on designing an Information Bureau to Support Ukrainian Government Reforms (IBUGHR) to help the government promote specific reforms in Ukraine and abroad. This could be set up on the basis of the UkrForum a state agency in desperate need of reform or the IRF supported Media Crisis Center.

IRF has been successful in cooperating with NGOs, experts and civic activists who were first on the Maidan, set up the Reanimation Package of Reforms group (a coalition of some 200 experts) and now the Center for Reforms inside the Cabinet of Ministers. The Center will consider citizens’ initiatives and advocate for them. They plan to facilitate e-democracy by establishing a portal to channel citizens’ ideas by regions and create an interactive map for citizens’ participation. They will also map out all the international assistance going to Ministries and work closely on the Reform 2020 program under Minister of Economy Sheremeta.

Discussions began on how best distinguish the Center’s work from that of the SAG. It was agreed that the Center would maintain closer links to Ukrainian civil society and NGOs, serve as a “civic” check on SAG work/advice, and carry out lobbying activities, especially with parliament.

**UZBEKISTAN & TURKMENISTAN:**

From the 2014+ strategy:

New global norms of corporate accountability and clean governance are emerging, with rigorous (if so far mostly theoretical) standards that seek to combat money laundering and tax evasion. Given a series of high-level corruption scandals that have implicated ruling elites and foreign investors in the region, EP sees closed societies as a prime locale to build on several recent experiments at bringing corrupt leaders to account. By joining this new area of activity we aim to cause reputational damage to the corrupt regimes in Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan and, thereby, restrain them from using international financial mechanisms to plunder resources from their citizens. Beyond naming and shaming, CEP will also explore possible remedies and new institutions through which funds accumulated by kleptocrats can be repatriated and used for productive public purposes.

We propose sponsoring a series of efforts dedicated to fighting high-level corruption, starting with Uzbekistan and perhaps Turkmenistan. EP’s added value is its ability to quietly coordinate and align the efforts of otherwise-dispersed journalists, lawyers, and activists. We will learn from and, hopefully, advance efforts led by OSF’s Fiscal Accountability program and the Justice Initiative to promote stricter regulation of beneficial ownership, increase transparency of shell companies and offshore banks, and fight money laundering.

Three parallel strategies will be pursued:

1)     *Investigation and Information:* Although a number of high-level corruption scandals have been reported and well publicized, there are surely more to be found. The difficulty is that the proverbial smoking guns emerge unpredictably and rarely. To increase our chances, we will support investigative journalism awards, training, and occasional commissioned research. If our high budget is approved we will also launch a website targeting the other side of shady deals: foreign investors. This component is important for securing the campaign’s credibility, so that we are not seen as pursuing a vendetta against local leaders alone.  Key partner: OCCRP.

2)*Legal Action or BMA (“biens mal acquis”):* Inspired in part by successes in France to target the ill-gotten gains of African dictators, we will sponsor legal action to target the foreign possessions of Central Asia’s elites. We believe that the ostentatious consumption patterns of the ruling Karimovs in Uzbekistan respectively offer an excellent test case for the application of BMA to our region. The main NGO involved in the African suits has expressed interest in getting involved as a way to widen its geographic scope.

3)    *Asset recovery/repatriation*: As part of a larger transitional justice agenda, CEP will pursue the return of seized illicit assets, promoting the idea of a charitable fund or trust to dispense frozen funds for local citizens’ welfare. A useful precedent is the Bota Foundation, a fund set up by Swiss authorities after a Kazakh corruption scandal. For the moment, we see opportunities mainly in regards to illicit assets of the Karimov family, frozen in Switzerland and Sweden in the amount of USD 910 million. Switzerland has legislation on the books that allows for frozen assets to be used for the good of the local population, and a handful of NGOs and individuals who were involved with the Kazakh case.

EP’s experience in assembling a multi-stakeholder campaign around cotton positions it well to lead in this sphere with a mix of grants, convening, consultancies and advocacy. In comparison to the cotton campaign we will likely take a lower-profile role, however, since the topic is even more sensitive. There is a risk that any of the main targets may refuse to cooperate for various reasons. Yet there is always the option of appealing to public opinion and thereby exerting pressure upon the recalcitrant. Another concern is that this initiative is reliant upon the continued exposure of corrupt deals, a factor outside our immediate control. But there is work we can do based on the current revelations, and we can sponsor some efforts to increase the likelihood that new material will come to light. In general this is CEP’s highest-risk proposal. But it comes with a potential impact that is also quite significant, and allows us to begin addressing one of the region’s most odious and (so far) mostly unassailable trends.

Outcomes and Assessment:

* By 2016, a group of international and regional NGOs and experts is operating and focused on exposing elite assets abroad and regimes' corrupt deals with foreign investors. EP is providing coordination and assistance from the background. The loose coalition will have made sure new well-documented cases that shame individual actors and call attention to corrupt practices are published and available to public, and in some cases followed by legal action seeking confiscation and recovery of assets.
* By 2015 the coalition or members of it will have started promoting the idea of a charitable fund to spend frozen assets for the benefit of Uzbekistan’s populace. By 2017, some or all of the bank assets currently frozen in at least one of Switzerland or Sweden will have been allocated to this fund and an international board of trustees created to govern it.

By 2016 officials from major Western countries (US and EU) and International Financial Institutions (IFIs) publicly mention the importance of combating money laundering as a part of their regional development strategies and objectives.