

Abstract

It's a matter of the common knowledge that usage of information and communication technology (ICT) is the key to a profound modernization of economics and society. Digital tools and channels are able to offer some type of effective means to states. It's a new way to involve citizens in decision-making processes, to gain their trust, and to make state structures more accountable, transparent, and innovative and open for citizen's participation. Nowadays Georgia is in a good starting position as many promising projects of e-democracy are in action. Also there is a high political commitment made on ICT by the country. The main goal of this study is to identify the need of e-democracy in the field of e-participation in Georgia, based on comparing of early first steps in e-democracy in the field of e-participation made by two post-soviet countries, such as Georgia and Estonia and to analyze potential benefits and major impeding factors for implementation of such services in Georgia. Author's motivation to write the thesis is to identify the value of e-democracy in Georgia for the purpose of increasing citizens' awareness on e-participation and their involvement in decision-making processes.

The objective of this work is to find the answers related to e-participation development and implementation in Georgia. Define how open government partnership (OGP) assists the development of e-governance in the field of e-democracy in Georgia and what is the value and need of the OGP activity. The work also answers the question how the first steps in this direction were made in the two post-Soviet countries such as Georgia and Estonia and how the sector currently works in Georgia.

In the study, the systematic literature review was done to find out all information published on the given topic. Furthermore, comparative analysis was done in order to compare Georgia with

Estonia with its country's major impeding factors for e-participation implementation in Georgia.

Beside the main problem, such as awareness, several major barriers for implementation of e-participation in Georgia was revealed during the research, such as: technical problems, financial problems, educational problems, and last but not list legal problems.

The results received throughout the research might be helpful and valuable for developing and implementation of e-participation in Georgia. If all the assessments and given recommendations will be analyzed and taken into consideration, the Georgian e-democracy system can move forward.

Despite of the current drawbacks Georgia has huge potential to succeed. Hopefully, soon it will be possible to effectively implement and develop e-participation tools in Georgia.

The thesis is written in English language and contains 81 pages of text, 6 chapters, 3 figures, and 3 tables