

PRESS RELEASE

New Study Finds Highly Transparent Think Tanks in 23 countries worldwide

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www.transparify.org

According to a new study released today, nearly half of all think tanks worldwide are now financially transparent. Transparify, a non-profit initiative based in Georgia (Caucasus), rated 200 think tanks in 47 countries based on their levels of online disclosure and discovered that an unprecedented number of policy research and advocacy organizations are now broadly or highly transparent, publishing the names of their donors and information on the amounts given by each donor on their websites.

“Our researchers have documented highly transparent think tanks in 23 countries across Africa, the Americas, Asia, and Europe,” said Dr Hans Gutbrod, the Executive Director of Transparify. “Top transparency performers can be found in places as far apart as Canada, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Pakistan, and the Ukraine. Clearly, transparency is a feasible option in a huge variety of political, economic and social contexts. Excellence knows no borders, and that includes excellence in financial disclosure.”

The list of think tanks that have become highly transparent over the past year includes institutions with global name recognition like the Brussels-based International Crisis Group as well as national centres of excellence like Ghana’s Institute of Statistical, Social & Economic Research (ISSER) and Georgia’s Caucasus Institute for Peace, Democracy & Development (CIPDD).

“These highly transparent institutions set a positive example for the sector as a whole, both nationally and internationally,” commented Dr Gutbrod. “Once one think tank discloses exactly how much money it receives from each donor, and for what purposes, it raises the bar for all other players in the country. If one institution can do it, all institutions can do it.”

Transparify’s researchers found that only 102 of the think tanks assessed remain opaque, down from 144 four years ago. “The number of organizations who still consider it acceptable to take money from hidden hands behind closed doors is rapidly dwindling. They are running out of excuses,” said Dr Gutbrod. “More and more think tanks are discovering that transparency can bring huge benefits in terms of signalling commitment to intellectual independence, integrity, excellence in research, and the credibility that comes from adhering to democratic norms while participating in democratic debates.”

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Note to editors: The full report is posted on www.transparify.org. Background information on debates and concerns related to think tank transparency can be found on our blog, and in our bibliographies accessible at <http://www.transparify.org/publications-main/>. Transparify’s previous reports have been covered by the [New York Times](#), [Washington Post](#) and [Financial Times](#), among others.