

## **Launching of Transparency Ranking Index of Local Municipalities 2019**

1. Transparency International Israel – Shvil is honored to announce the launching of its strategic project of Transparency Ranking Index of Local Municipalities for this year 2019.
2. The main goal of this significant Index is to inspect and measure the openness of data and information within the local municipality's website and its accessibility to the public, and simultaneously creating a strategic useful tool by the local municipality, its management and employees in enhancing the transparency of their activities.
3. The Transparency Ranking Index is conducted with the assistance of the Local Municipalities Index's Advisory Committee, whose members are as follows: Dr. Itai Beeri (an expert in Local Government and Head of the Master's Program in Local Government Administration at the University of Haifa), Dr. Fany Yuval (an expert in Local Government, Senior Lecturer at The Department of Public Policy and Administration, Guilford Glazer Faculty of Business and Management, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev), Mr. Ophir Pines-Paz (former Israel's Minister of Internal Affairs), Dr. Adi Kapeliuk (a former CIO of a leading local municipality in Israel and a former Chairman of Local Municipalities' CIOs), Mr. Gil Zilberman (an expert in IT Technologies for the local municipalities), Architect Haim Izraeli (the son of TI Israel Founder and an expert in Urban Sustainability), and Dr. Galit Avidar (who is an expert in Local Government, a Faculty Member of Peres Academic Center and the Head of the Local Municipalities Index's project).

4. Since 2018 was an Election Year in the Local Municipalities in Israel, we have decided not to conduct the Index. Instead, we have decided to explore and develop an enhancement of the criteria of the 2017 Index, which will be implemented in the Index of 2019.
5. It is important to emphasize that during 2017, TI-Israel has achieved significant impact, which is expressed by the impressive outcomes that many local municipalities improved their transparency significantly. TI-Israel has witnessed this progress through their index for transparency based on local municipality websites, demonstrating increased transparency in many criteria, along with the total average that was significantly improved. That progress is thanks to a continuance of an on-going dialogue between TI-Israel and the stakeholders at these municipalities.
6. As mentioned above, the Transparency Index of Local Municipalities 2019 is an enhanced index compared to 2017.  
During 2018 and half of 2019, we have been working together with our advisory committee on identifying the most significant key issues relating to Transparency, which have not been covered so far by our last Index.  
Those new advanced criteria will be now implemented in the 2019 Index.
7. Consequently, the 2019 Index includes 90 criteria compared to the 2017 Index, which consisted of only 57 criteria.  
The main enhanced categories are in the Construction and Development, Tenders and Municipality Corporations, including an addition of new categories, such as Friendly-user Interface and Human Capital in the Local Municipality.