

FINCA Bank Georgia delivers compliant API Platform using Open Bank Project



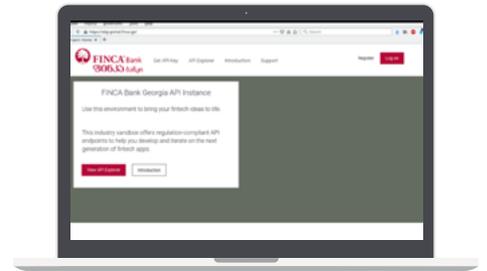
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Background

At the end of 2020, the National Bank and the Banking Association of Georgia published the Georgian open banking standard, modelled on Berlin Group specifications and requiring financial institutions to quickly comply with the first phase by March 31 2021.

FINCA Bank Georgia has been a leader in promoting financial inclusion through innovative and sustainable solutions. It's for this reason that FINCA Bank saw the arrival of Open Banking in Georgia as not only an obligation, but an opportunity to advance and start offering the next generation of FinTech solutions to their customers in order to improve their standard of living.



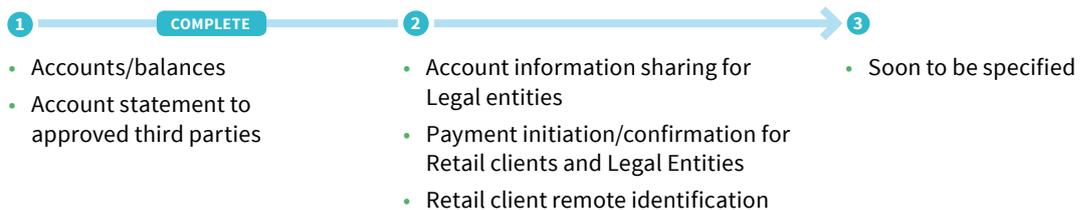
After determining the requirements and potential challenges of the project, FINCA Bank Georgia realised the need to partner with a qualified Open Banking vendor and adopt battle-tested solutions. The bank chose TESOBЕ to both comply with the Georgian Open Banking Standard and set the groundwork for sustainable growth beyond compliance.

How TESOBЕ Helped

FINCA Bank Georgia's main objective, in addition to complying with regulation, was to launch an API platform with a suite of tools that FinTech developers can use to build innovative applications for their customers.

But first, FINCA Bank would have to ensure compliance with the information security recommendations of the Georgian Open Banking standard, which is modelled on the European Berlin Group standard. TESOBЕ proceeded to develop APIs in compliance with the Georgian standard, which presents additional restrictions compared to European NextGenPSD2.

Georgian Open Banking Implementation Timeline



The most tangible challenge was implementing an emerging open banking standard, which presents many deviations from the original Berlin Group specification, within a significantly tight deadline. Nonetheless, FINCA Bank Georgia was flexible and adaptable throughout the implementation, which was performed with no major surprises or difficulties.

Georgian NextGenPSD2 APIs Phase 1

- Consent status request
- Create consent
- Delete Consent
- Get Consent Authorisation Sub-Resources Request
- Get Consent Request
- Read Account Details
- Read Account List
- Read Balance
- Read the SCA status of the consent authorisation
- Read transaction list of an account
- Start the authorisation process for a consent
- Update PSU Data for consents
- Confirmation of Funds Request

About Open Bank Project

TESOBE is the Berlin-based software company behind the Open Bank Project, the leading open source API solution for banks. TESOBE assists banks in executing effective API strategies by providing a proven API-platform supported by an active community of developers and partners.

About FINCA Bank

Founded in 1998, FINCA Bank Georgia is part of the FINCA Impact Finance Network, a group of 20 microfinance and financial institutions that provides socially responsible financial services and enables low-income entrepreneurs and small business owners to invest in the future.

National Bank of Georgia

The National Bank of Georgia (NBG) is the central bank of Georgia and exercises supervision over the financial sector for the purposes of facilitating financial stability and transparency of the financial system, as well as for protecting the rights of the sector's consumers and investors.

Banking Association of Georgia

The Banking Association of Georgia is a non-commercial legal entity which combines all banks and financial-crediting organizations acting in Georgia. It aims to make dialogue in the banking sector more dynamic and to protect the interests of commercial banks acting in Georgia.

Conclusion

Despite the time constraints, FINCA Bank and TESOBE managed to adhere to an ambitious timeline and deliver a compliant API platform with a suite of tools for third party developers to create innovative and customer-centric financial applications.

“We are not intending to just comply with the regulation, we want to go beyond, improve our competitive position and further speed digitization in the competitive market versus the larger financial services players. That’s one of the reasons why we chose TESOBE’s Open Bank Project - the platform’s features extend well beyond the local regulatory requirements and it provides valuable capabilities and broad APIs that we can use to reach our ambitious business goals. We feel very confident about our Open Banking programme and partnership with a leading European open banking player, so we are looking forward to continuing the fruitful collaboration with TESOBE.”

IRAKLI ELASHVILI, Chief Executive Officer at FINCA Bank Georgia.

FINCA Bank Georgia’s API Platform is live for third parties to start building and testing FinTech applications and services that will benefit FINCA Bank’s customers in Georgia. TESOBE will continue being FINCA Bank’s partner in order to satisfy the upcoming regulatory requirements and support them in complying and unlocking future Open Banking opportunities.

Contact

For more information on Open Bank Project or if you would like us to help you assess your API initiative or accelerate your compliance project, please contact us at:

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