Media Coverage of the Second Round of the 2016 Parliamentary Elections in Georgia

Online Media Monitoring

10 – 25 October, 2016

The Civic Development Institute (CDI) is implementing the monitoring of online media within the framework of the project entitled "Study of the Media Coverage of the 2016 Parliamentary Elections" funded by the European Union (EU) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The monitoring is carried out from 20 May to 19 December, 2016 and covers 17 online publications: allnews.ge, ambebi.ge, droni.ge, etanews.ge, info9.ge, interpessnews.ge, marshalpress.ge, netgazeti.ge, newposts.ge, news.ge, palitratv.ge, pirveli.com.ge, presa.ge, reportiori.ge, tabula.ge, civil.ge, dfwatch.net.
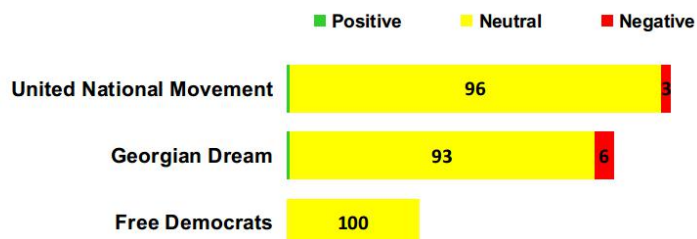
This report presents the monitoring results only for the independent candidates as well as the three political parties whose candidates participate in the second round of majoritarian elections.

The monitoring has revealed the following **key findings:**

- Online media covered the second round of majoritarian elections quite actively and objectively. Most of the media outlets did not display any particularly positive or negative attitude towards specific political groups or candidates, with two exceptions - reportiori.ge and marshallpress.ge - with overly critical coverage of "United National Movement".

- Very few cases of the violation of journalistic standards and ethical norms were observed.

- As during the previous monitoring cycle, in a number of publications it was difficult to distinguish editorial content from the one prepared under contractual agreements. For example, four websites (info9.ge, interpressnews.ge, pirveli.com.ge, and presa.ge) published an article about the meeting of Mr Valeri Gelashvili, a candidate of "Georgian Dream – Democratic Georgia" with his electorate. Only presa.ge indicated that the article was an advertisement. Another similar case was with regard to the meeting of Ms Nino Tsilosani, another candidate of "Georgian Dream – Democratic Georgia" with the representatives of civil society organisations. The article of the meeting was published by four websites (info9.ge, newsposts.ge, pirveli.com.ge, and presa.ge) and again only presa.ge indicated that the article was an advertisement.

- Online media actively covered the procedures related to the second round of elections. Civil.ge was very active in this regard providing very detailed information to its readers.
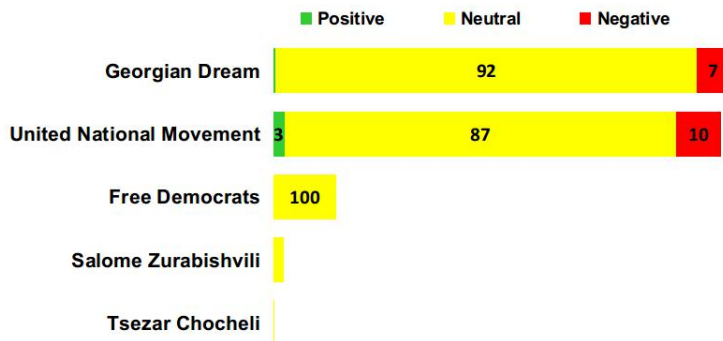
Allnews.ge

Volume of the text allocated to the subjects on allnews.ge according to the tone (%)
(10 - 25 October, 2016)

■ Positive ■ Neutral ■ Negative

United National Movement	96 / 3
Georgian Dream	93 / 6
Free Democrats	100

Ambebi.ge

Volume of the text allocated to the subjects on ambebi.ge according to the tone (%)
(10 - 25 October, 2016)

■ Positive ■ Neutral ■ Negative

Georgian Dream	92 / 7
United National Movement	3 / 87 / 10
Free Democrats	100
Salome Zurabishvili	
Tsezar Chocheli	

Civil.ge

Volume of the text allocated to the subjects on civil.ge according to the tone (%)
(10 - 25 October, 2016)

■ Positive ■ Neutral ■ Negative

United National Movement	9 / 89 / 2
Georgian Dream	11 / 84 / 5
Free Democrats	6 / 94
Salome Zurabishvili	
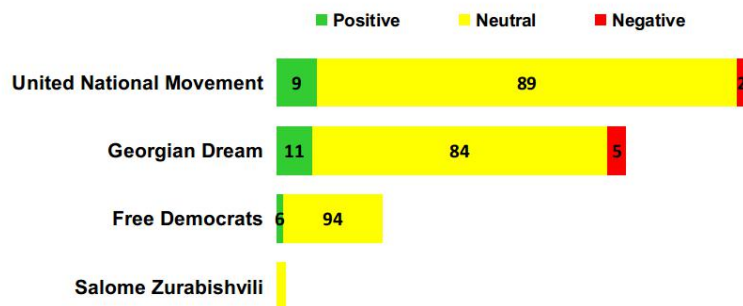
Dfwatch.net

Volume of the text allocated to the subjects on dfwatch.net according to the tone (%)
(10 - 25 October, 2016)

■ Positive   ■ Neutral   ■ Negative

Subject	Positive	Neutral	Negative
Georgian Dream	2	97	1
United National Movement	5	92	3
Free Democrats		100	
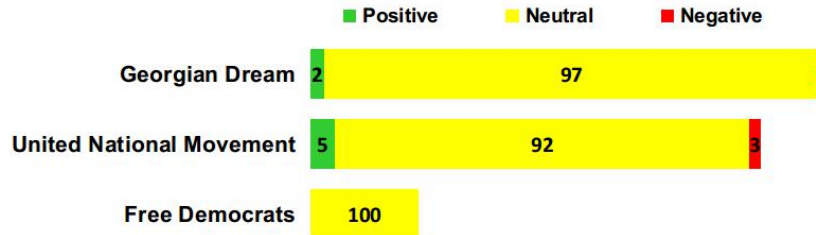
Droni.ge

Volume of the text allocated to the subjects on droni.ge according to the tone (%)
(10 - 25 October, 2016)

■ Positive   ■ Neutral   ■ Negative

Subject	Positive	Neutral	Negative
Georgian Dream	67	33	
Free Democrats		100	
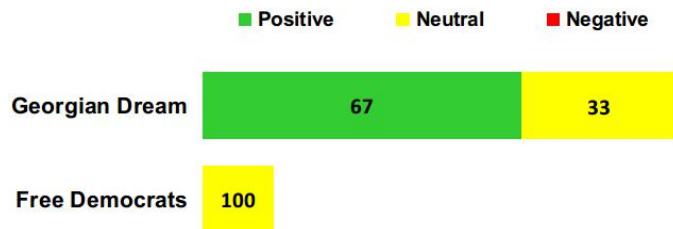
Etanews.ge

Volume of the text allocated to the subjects on etanews.ge according to the tone (%)
(10 - 25 October, 2016)

■ Positive   ■ Neutral   ■ Negative

Subject	Positive	Neutral	Negative
United National Movement	8	73	19
Georgian Dream	17	70	13
Free Democrats		79	21
Salome Zurabishvili			
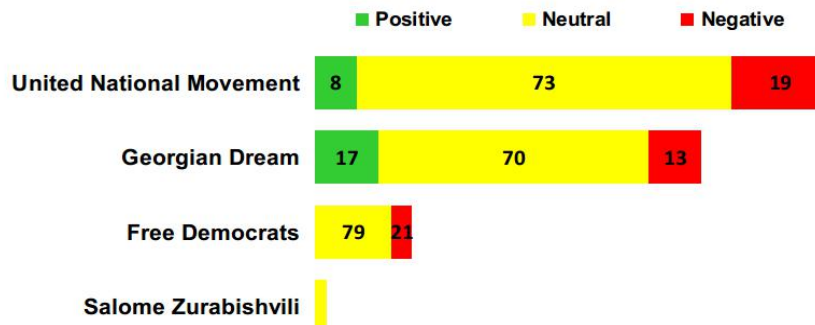
info9.ge

Volume of the text allocated to the subjects on info9.ge according to the tone (%)
(10 - 25 October, 2016)

■ Positive ■ Neutral ■ Negative

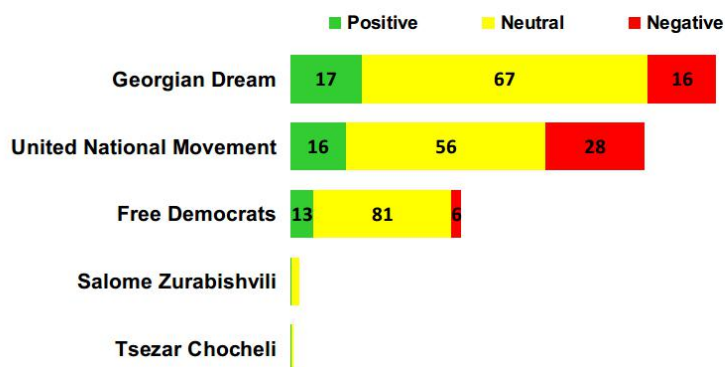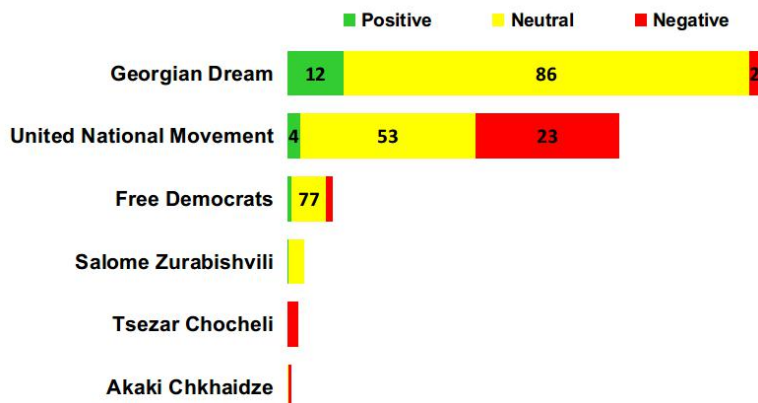| Subject	Positive	Neutral	Negative
Georgian Dream	26	65	9
United National Movement	11	58	31
Free Democrats	8	92	
Salome Zurabishvili			
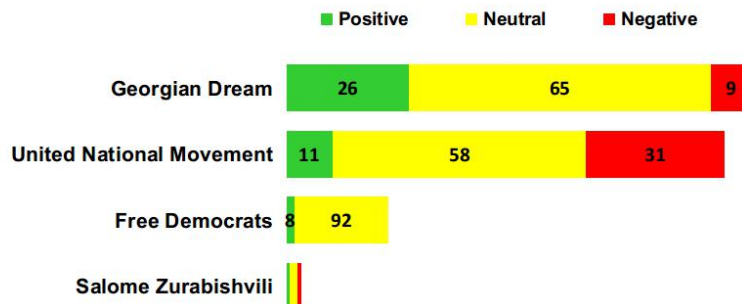
Interpressnews.ge

Volume of the text allocated to the subjects on interpressnews.ge according to the tone (%)
(10 - 25 October, 2016)

■ Positive ■ Neutral ■ Negative

Subject	Positive	Neutral	Negative
Georgian Dream	17	67	16
United National Movement	16	56	28
Free Democrats	13	81	6
Salome Zurabishvili			
Tsezar Chocheli			

Marshalpress.ge

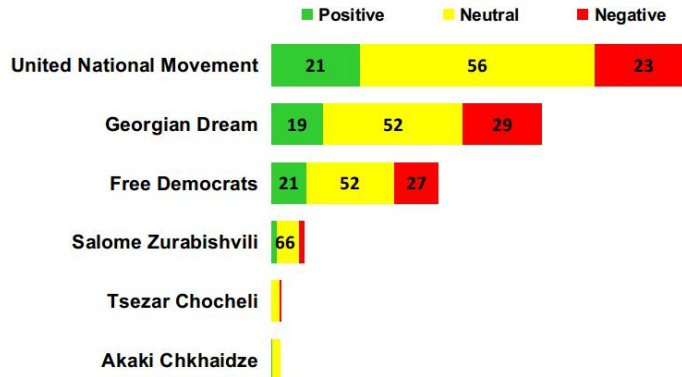### Volume of the text allocated to the subjects on marshalpress.ge according to the tone (%)
(10 - 25 October, 2016)

■ Positive ■ Neutral ■ Negative

Subject	Positive	Neutral	Negative
Georgian Dream	12	86	2
United National Movement	4	53	23
Free Democrats		77	
Salome Zurabishvili			
Tsezar Chocheli			
Akaki Chkhaidze			

Netgazeti.ge

Volume of the text allocated to the subjects on netgazeti.ge according to the tone (%)
(10 - 25 October, 2016)

■ Positive   ■ Neutral   ■ Negative

Subject	Positive	Neutral	Negative
United National Movement	21	56	23
Georgian Dream	19	52	29
Free Democrats	21	52	27
Salome Zurabishvili	66		
Tsezar Chocheli			
Akaki Chkhaidze			

Newposts.ge

Volume of the text allocated to the subjects on newposts.ge according to the tone (%)
(10 - 25 October, 2016)

■ Positive   ■ Neutral   ■ Negative

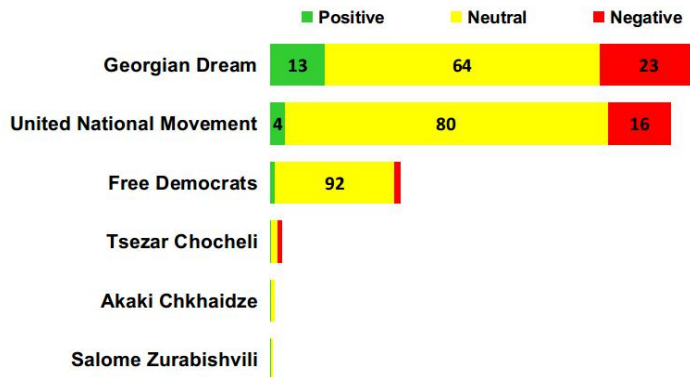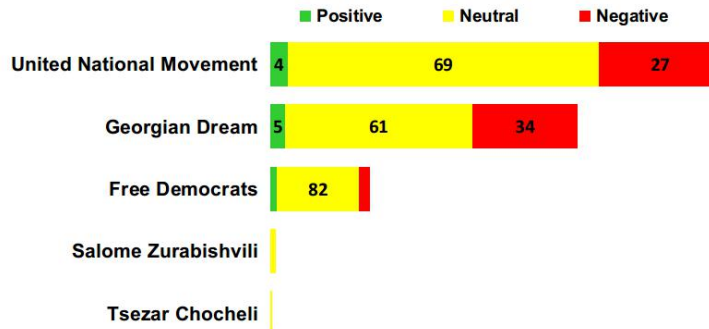| Subject	Positive	Neutral	Negative
Georgian Dream	13	64	23
United National Movement	4	80	16
Free Democrats		92	
Tsezar Chocheli			
Akaki Chkhaidze			
Salome Zurabishvili			

News.ge

Volume of the text allocated to the subjects on news.ge according to the tone (%)
(10 - 25 October, 2016)

■ Positive   ■ Neutral   ■ Negative

Subject	Positive	Neutral	Negative
United National Movement	4	69	27
Georgian Dream	5	61	34
Free Democrats		82	
Salome Zurabishvili			
Tsezar Chocheli			

Palitratv.ge

Time Allocated to the Subjects on palitratv.ge according to the tone (%)
(10 - 25 October, 2016)

■ Positive   ■ Neutral   ■ Negative

Subject	Positive	Neutral	Negative
United National Movement (38min)	10	75	15
Georgian Dream (20min)	6	74	20
Free democrats (8min)	7	93	
Salome Zurabishvili (2min)			
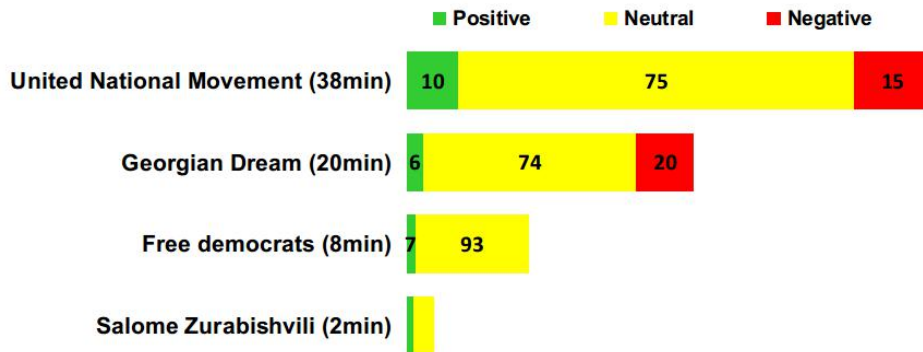
Pirveli.com.ge

Volume of the text allocated to the subjects on pirveli.com.ge according to the tone (%)
(10 - 25 October, 2016)

■ Positive   ■ Neutral   ■ Negative

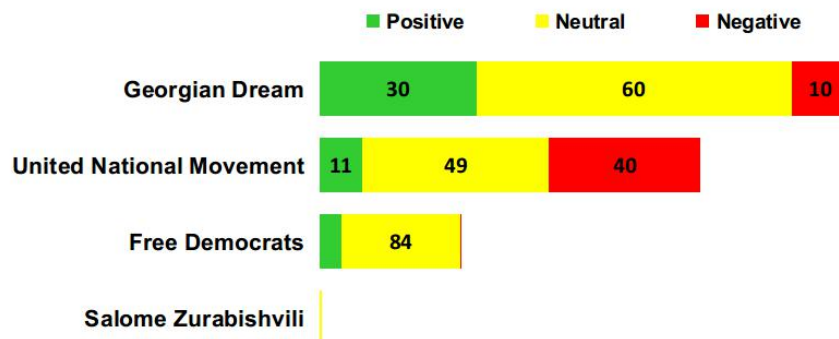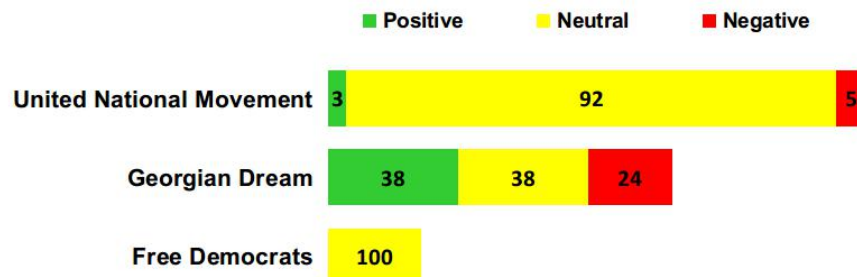| Subject	Positive	Neutral	Negative
Georgian Dream	30	60	10
United National Movement	11	49	40
Free Democrats		84	
Salome Zurabishvili			

Presa.ge

Volume of the text allocated to the subjects on presa.ge according to the tone (%)
(10 - 25 October, 2016)

■ Positive   ■ Neutral   ■ Negative

Subject	Positive	Neutral	Negative
United National Movement	3	92	5
Georgian Dream	38	38	24
Free Democrats		100	

Reportiori.ge

Volume of the text allocated to the subjects on reportiori.ge according to the tone (%)

(10 - 25 October, 2016)

■ Positive ■ Neutral ■ Negative

Subject	Positive	Neutral	Negative
Georgian Dream	18	81	1
United National Movement		22	77
Free Democrats		80	
Salome Zurabishvili			
Akaki Chkhaidze			
Tsezar Chocheli			
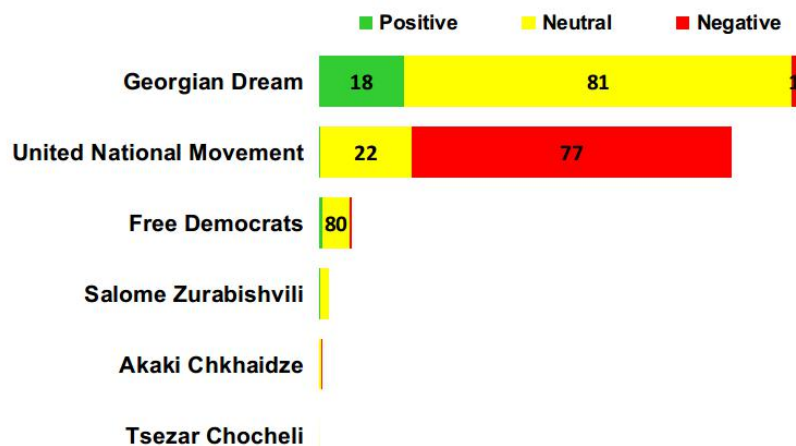
Tabula.ge

Volume of the text allocated to the subjects on tabula.ge according to the tone (%)

(10 - 25 October, 2016)

■ Positive ■ Neutral ■ Negative

Subject	Positive	Neutral	Negative
United National Movement	3	84	13
Georgian Dream	2	70	28
Free Democrats	9	91	
Salome Zurabishvili			
Tsezar Chocheli			