

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

Monitoring of Print Media

10 – 25 October, 2016

The Civic Development Institute (CDI) is implementing the monitoring of print media within the framework of the project entitled “Research of Media Coverage of 2016 Parliamentary Elections” funded by the European Union (EU) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The monitoring is carried out from May 20, 2016 through December 19, 2016, and looks at the election performance of 7 print media outlets: “Rezonansi”, “Akhali Taoba”, “Asaval-Dasavali”, “Alia”, “Guria News”, “Qronika +”, and “Kviris Palitra”.

This report presents the monitoring results only for 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**:

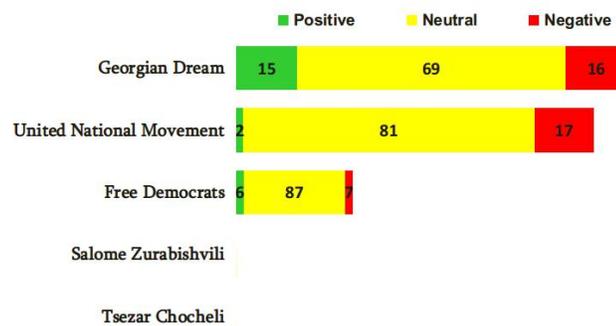
- “United National Movement” and “Georgian Dream – Democratic Georgia” again attracted the highest media attention;
- The majority of print media outlets again displayed their largely critical attitude towards the “United National Movement”;
- None of the independent majoritarian candidates got substantial coverage in the print media;
- Journalistic standards and ethical norms were frequently violated;
- In a number of cases “Rezonansi” and “Qronika +” newspapers published information based on unclear sources;
- “Alia” and “Asaval-Dasavali” newspapers continue to stand out with their use of abusive terminology when covering activities of politicians (for example, “Let’s say farewell to the Republican Khlists” (Khlist - derogatory name of an underground religious sect in Russia) - “Asaval-Dasavali”, 10-17 October 2016,

or “do not vote for 5, they are NatsBolsheviks” - “Asaval-Dasavali”, 17-24 October 2016);

- Newspapers paid little attention to individual candidates and mainly covered activities of the political parties. The only exception was the publication in “Alia” newspaper, where the candidate of the “Georgian Dream – Democratic Georgia” was portrayed in excessively positive light (“... Valeri Gelashvili is a person of principles, robust, laborious, courageous, and purposeful. He has proved it in his life! He loves order, is resolute, cautious, and attentive. The barriers in his life can only make him stronger” - “Alia”, 24 October);
- Coverage of the procedures related to the second round of elections was virtually non-existent.

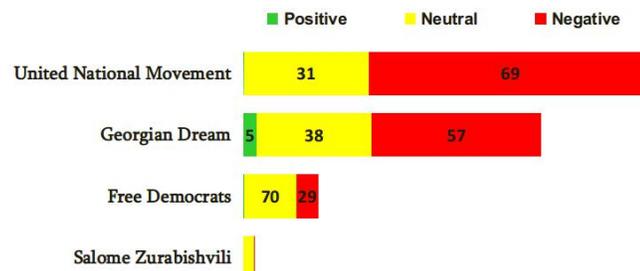
“Rezonansi”

Space allocated to the subjects in "Rezonansi" according to the tone (%) (10 - 25 October, 2016)



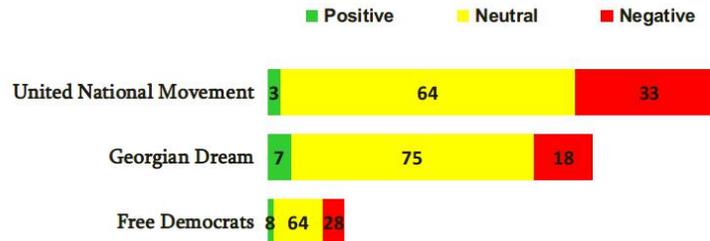
“Alia”

Space allocated to the subjects in "Alia" according to the tone (%) (10 - 25 October, 2016)



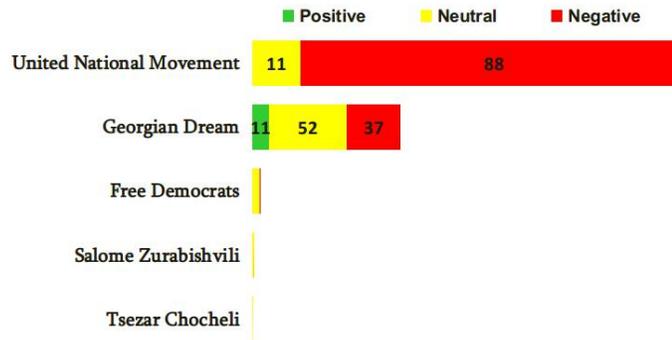
"Kviris Palitra"

Space allocated to the subjects in "Kviris Palitra"
according to the tone (%)
(10 - 25 October, 2016)



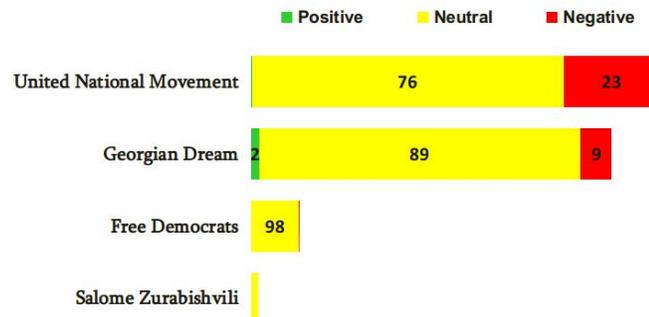
"Asaval-Dasavali"

Space allocated to the subjects in "Asaval-Dasavali"
according to the tone (%)
(10 - 25 October, 2016)



"Akhali Taoba"

Space allocated to the subjects in "Akhali Taoba"
according to the tone (%)
(10 - 25 October, 2016)



“Guria news”

Space allocated to the subjects in "Guria news" according to the tone (%) (10 - 25 October, 2016)



„Qronika +“

Space allocated to the subjects in "Qronika +" according to the tone (%) (10 - 25 October, 2016)

