



**Monitoring Regional Television Broadcasters
Presidential Election 2013**

Subagreement # S-13-238

Report for: September 16 - November 10, 2013

Main findings of monitoring:

- Regional TV channels tended to dedicate airtime to very few of the monitored subjects;
- Out of the monitored subjects most of the TV companies dedicated the bulk of airtime to the government, Georgian Dream Coalition and United National Movement;
- In September pre-election campaigns of presidential candidates and their election programs were provided almost no coverage. Journalists essentially reported on the openings of the presidential candidates' election headquarters.
- From October 1 on the time devoted to presidential candidates (including non-qualified candidates) sharply increased;
- Presidential candidates nominated by Georgian Dream Coalition, United National Movement and Democratic Movement – United Georgia enjoyed the bulk of reporting on most of the TV companies;
- On the Election Day (October 27) most of the TV companies were operating in an emergency mode, delivering information to the audience in a timely manner, in particular the situation at the polling stations and ongoing events were provided impartial and balanced coverage;
- During election week (October 21-27) and for 2-3 days in the wake of elections reporting on the Central Election Commission (CEC) boosted up. CEC representatives essentially reported direct;
- Most of the TV stories implied superficial information about the activities carried out by the monitored subjects and failed to offer viewers dissenting or critical opinions about the issues of concern;
- In the run up to elections most of the regional TV companies devoted a fair amount of airtime to the activities carried out by local authorities. In the course of the pre-election campaign the time dedicated to them went down and in the post-election period again started boosting up; Reporting was almost always neutral in tone;
- Superficial news reporting was the main issue of concern on most of the TV companies;

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- When reporting on monitored subjects neutral tone essentially prevailed;
- Within the reporting period no manipulation through music/sound was identified;
- On most of the TV companies the share of direct/indirect reporting was equal;
- TV companies produced interesting talk shows about election programs offered by presidential candidates;
- Hosts of the talk shows tended to refrain from expressing their stance, playing the role of a moderator;
- Political balance among the guests invited to the talk shows was essentially observed; Some exceptions though were identified, when the representatives of either political force would refuse to participate in the talk show;
- Journalists granted guests every possibility to fully express their viewpoints, at the same time posing critical questions in an unbiased manner;
- Hate speech and unethical wording was not identified on either channel;
- No signs of subliminal political advertising were identified in the social ads televised in the regional TV broadcasters evening air.

Background

The report represents the results of the survey carried out by the Internews Georgia monitoring team within the period of September 16 - November 10, 2013.

Media monitoring helps raise standard of professionalism and is conducive to the development of independent unbiased journalism.

The goal of our survey is to identify, through the monitoring of evening news outlets (19:00 - 24:00) and public-political programs aired on Georgian regional TV broadcasters, the proceeding of regional media coverage of pre-election campaign and key trends.

Analysis and Methodology

Monitored TV broadcasters include 12 regional TV companies *Channel 25 (Batumi), Rioni (Kutaisi), Kvemo Kartli TV-Radio Company (Rustavi), Odishi (Zugdidi), Tanamgzavri (Telavi), Channel 9 (Akhaltikhe), Trialeti (Gori), Guria (Ozurgeti), Imervizia (Chiatura), Gurjaani (Gurjaani), Mega TV (Khoni) and 9th Wave (Poti).*

Monitoring was conducted on the regional broadcasters' main evening news programs, public-political talk shows and PSAs during so-called prime time when the number of viewers is at its peak.

Monitoring of News Programs

The technique applied in the project is based on quantitative and qualitative research. Quantitative monitoring determines quantitative indicators that can be counted and analyzed. While qualitative monitoring is applied to evaluate the efficiency of media outlets' activities in relation to the indicators such as ethical or professional standards whose quantitative measurement is complex. In particular, the distortion of news, unbalanced coverage, bias or anything else that might affect quality news was focused on.

Quantitative data includes the running time (seconds) of the stories produced about our preselected subjects or making a mention of them. Time is counted when either a news reader or a journalist or any of the respondents of the story is speaking about the monitored subject. The time is being counted when the monitored subject is on the TV screen, either his/her photo, poster or any kind of visual material is shown on the screen (in case s/he is not spoken about).

The monitoring focuses whether the subject is speaking on his/her own or is being spoken about either by a journalist or a respondent. When a monitored subject is speaking (the voice is audible) time is being counted as direct reporting; When a monitored subject is spoken about by others, either by journalists or respondents time is being counted as indirect reporting.

Reporting tone is attributed to every monitored subject. To assess the reporting tone three categories are applied: positive, neutral and negative. Always when the time dedicated to a monitored subject is calculated the tone is evaluated as well, this is to say the running time, seconds/minutes, of the monitored subject being spoken about in a certain tone is calculated. When evaluating the tone both the content as well as context is focused on.

Based on qualitative data the efficiency of media activities in terms of adherence to ethical or professional standards is evaluated. The qualitative part embraces components such as

balance, impartiality, accuracy (whether mistakes are in place in the titles, numbers or respondents' names), fact-based reporting, cases of ignoring news, timely coverage of events, journalist's vocabulary, subliminal political advertising and all those important aspects that are not subject to quantitative measurement. Manipulation through shots and music used in the news programs is also brought into focus.

Monitored subjects include: Parliamentary chairperson, independent MPs, President, government, Prime Minister, Central Election Commission, local authorities (without specification), Adjara government, United National Movement, Georgian Dream Coalition, Georgian Dream – Democratic Georgia, Free Democrats (coalition), National Forum (coalition), Georgian Republican Party(coalition), Georgian Conservative Party (coalition), People's Party, Georgia's Way, Free Georgia, New Rights, Democratic Movement for United Georgia, National-Democratic Party; Labor Party, Georgian Democratic Party; Georgian Troupe; Christian-Democratic Movement, European Democrats, as well each and every presidential candidate separately.

News programs monitoring results per channel:

Channel 25 (Batumi) – Within reporting period news program Matsne was on air on a daily basis. TV stories were produced about the developments in the region as well as nationwide. The October 27 news outlet thoroughly covered the events related to the development of the election process.

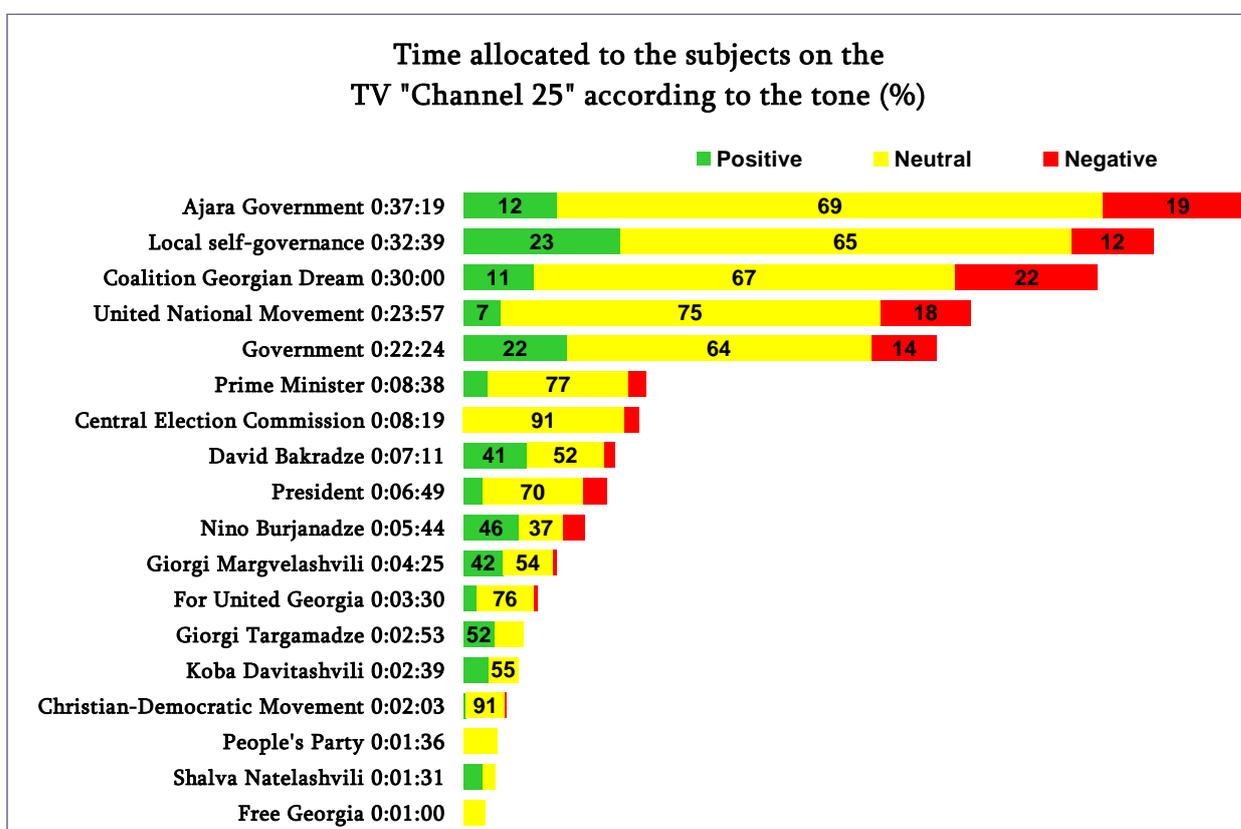
The channel dedicated the total of 3 hours and 24 minutes to the monitored subjects. 35 percent of the given time falls on the activities carried out by Adjara AR government, and recent developments at Sakrebulo. 15 percent of the total reporting was enjoyed by GD coalition, followed by UNM with 12 percent.

As regards presidential candidates a bit more than 7 seven minutes was devoted to Davit Bakradze (UNM), around 6 minutes to Nino Burjanadze (Democratic Movement – United Georgia) and over 4 minutes to Giorgi Margvelashvili (GD coalition). Reporting on them was indirect, the chart looks as follows: Davit Bakradze - 74 percent, Nino Burjanadze - 72 percent, Giorgi Margvelashvili – 89 percent. In the course of the pre-election campaign they were spoken about by supporters or opponents.

As for the rest of the monitored subjects the share of direct/indirect reporting was almost equal. All three tones were attached to reporting on the monitored subjects, neutral tone was found overwhelming though.

News reporters covered events in an impartial manner. TV stories were essentially balanced. Journalists were trying to cover events in an unbiased manner, granting equal possibility to any interested party to express viewpoints.

To obtain comments for the stories produced about the issues of concern and social topics journalists often appealed to the representatives of local authorities. Even though reporters covered acute social problems bias and lack of balance was not identified in the TV stories.



Rioni (Kutaisi) – Within reporting period the 30-40-minute news program Dghis Ambebi (News of the Day) was on air from Monday to Friday. At the end of each day the TV company re-aired several TV stories televised in the daily newscast Dghis Ambebi. On Sundays Rioni TV air was devoted to the program 7 Days. The news programs produced by the channel stood out in terms of diversity of topics: ongoing developments at the Parliament, activities carried out by local authorities and parties, presidential candidates' pre-

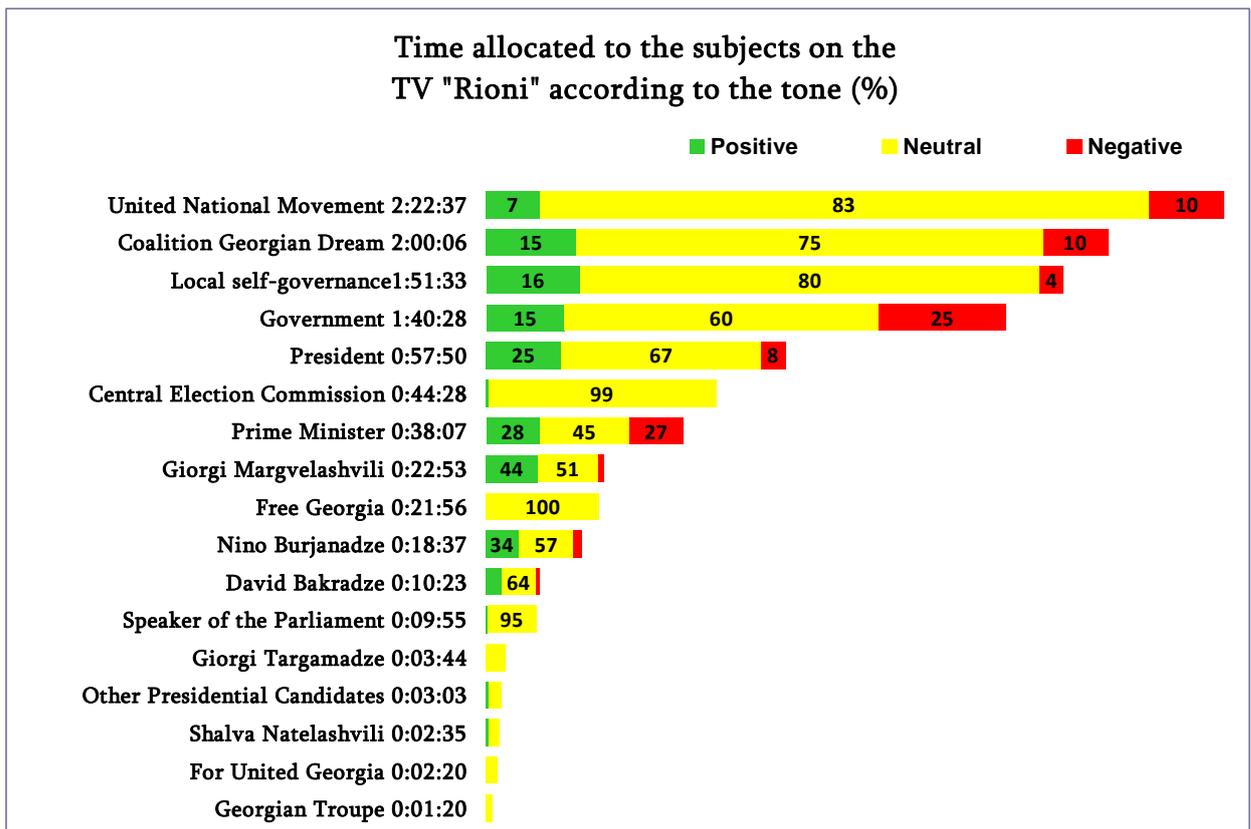
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election meetings, developments at Kutaisi City Hall, problems the population faces, protest rallies, cultural and sports events. News programs covered developments nationwide.

Rioni TV-produced news programs devoted the total of 11 hours and 53 minutes to the monitored subjects. UNM activities enjoyed the lengthiest coverage (2 hrs and 22 min.), followed by GD coalition with 2 hrs and local authorities with one hour and 51 min. Monitored subjects mainly reported direct. When covering presidential candidates though indirect reporting prevailed over direct: Giorgi Margvelashvili (81 percent), Davit Bakradze (56 percent), Giorgi Targamadze (54 percent), Shalva Natelashvili (68 percent). Indirect reporting was also overwhelming in regard to Prime Minister (61 percent) and government (55 percent).

Upon the launch of the monitoring (second part of September) the extent of news reporting on presidential candidates was minor. From October along with the aggravation of pre-election campaign, the time devoted to the presidential candidates considerably increased. During election week (October 21-27) and for 2-3 days in the wake of elections reporting on the Central Election Commission (CEC) boosted up. On the E-day, October 27, TV Rioni news production team worked under emergency mode. All of the TV stories aired by the channel touched upon the elections held.

News reporters covered events in a timely and unbiased manner, without providing their personal stance. News reporting was superficial, lacking analysis. TV stories essentially observed balance, opinions of any interested party were represented. The information delivered by reporters was substantiated by respondents' comments and reference to the sources of information.



Kvemo-Kartli TV-Radio Company (Rustavi) – During reporting period a 20-35-minute news program Kronika was on air on a daily basis, from Monday to Saturday. Sunday TV air was devoted to a special weekly news outlet Kviris Kronika.

News programs actively covered the activities carried out by local authorities (Rustavi City Mayor, Sakrebulo Chairperson, their deputies), political, economic, social, cultural and sports events ongoing in Kvemo Kartli region. At the end of the newscast Kronika the newsreader delivered news about developments nationwide. The time devoted to central news though was considerably less. Reporting on political unions and presidential candidates was provided in the mid program or at the very end.

On the E-Day October 27 at 23:30 a special news outlet came out to cover preliminary results of exit polls and findings released by Central Election Commission.

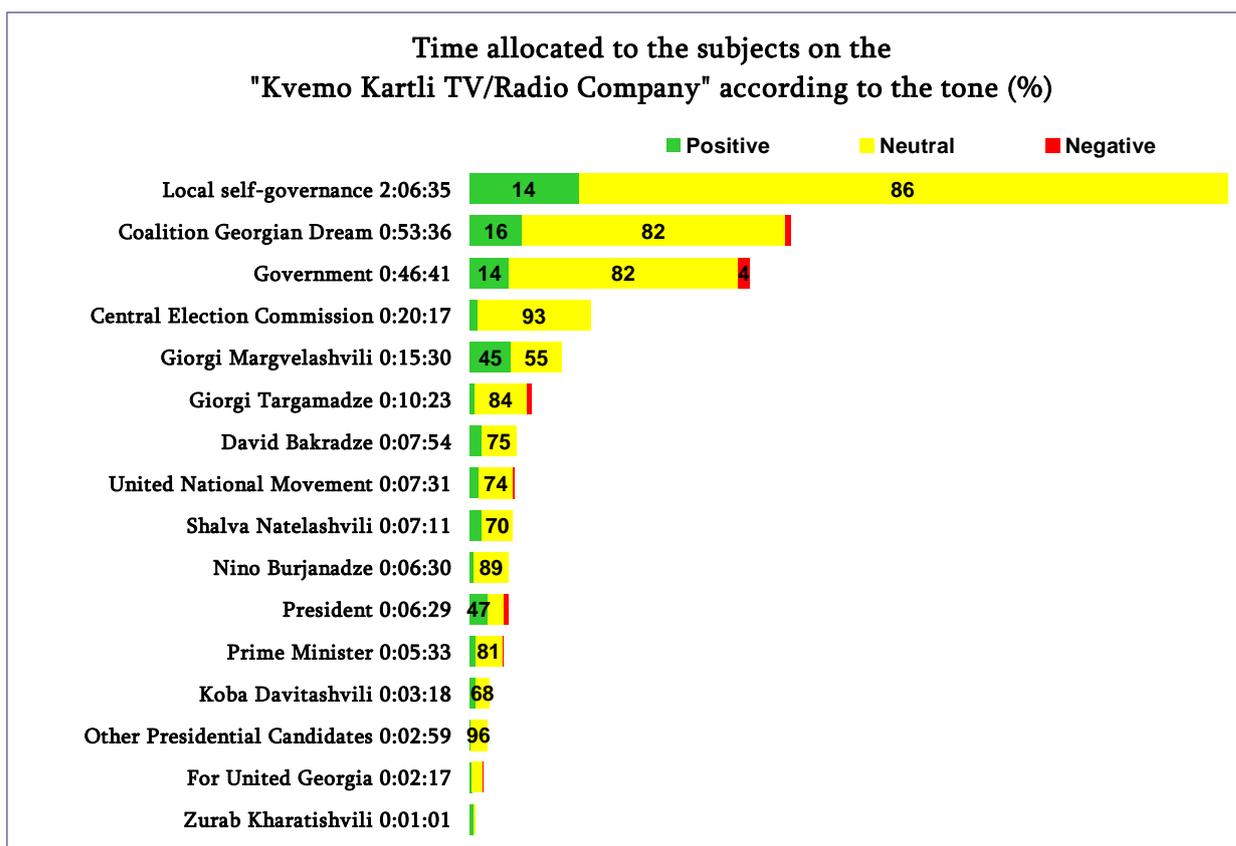
The news programs produced by the channel dedicated the total of five hours and 27 minutes to the monitored subjects, 39 of the given time falls on local authorities, followed by GD coalition and government with 16 and 14 percent respectively. Out of the presidential candidates Giorgi Margvelashvili (GD coalition) leads the chart with the bulk of time

dedicated. 78 percent of 15-minute reporting was indirect. 10-minute reporting (61 percent direct) was enjoyed by Giorgi Targamadze (Christian-Democratic Movement), Davit Bakradze (UNM) was devoted 8 minutes. In regard to the latter the share of direct/indirect reporting was almost equal. For direct reporting GD coalition was devoted the bulk of airtime (65 percent). The index stood high in regard to UNM (64 percent) and President (76 percent). The time dedicated to them though was much less than the time dedicated to GD coalition.

Reporting on the monitored subjects was essentially neutral in tone, only in regard to seven monitored subjects minor amount of negative tone was identified.

Along with political topics the news programs devoted a fair amount of airtime to social issues as well as TV stories about infrastructural projects implemented in the region. Reporting on the activities carried out by local authorities was either positive or neutral in tone, with no criticism attached.

Journalists reported in a timely manner, without subjective evaluations implied. TV stories always presented shots and comments to support the facts covered. Accordingly TV stories were found balanced. In the October 24 news outlet the statement containing hate speech was identified. The TV story about President's meeting with the Bolnisi and Dmanisi population touched upon President Saakashvili's statement: "No one should ever get bandits back to the streets, no one should ever seize our property, no one should ever call you **Tatars**, the way it used to be! Since we have created a new Georgia." Reading the statement the newsreader said: "The leader of the country met with the Bolnisi and Dmanisi population. No one should ever call you **Tatars** – said the President addressing the Azerbaijani-dwellers residing in the villages in Bolnisi and Dmanisi." Even though the President's statement was aimed at the elimination of hate speech the channel should not have aired the journalist rephrasing President.



Odishi (Zugdidi) – Within reporting week TV company aired 10-15-minute newscast Dro (Time) at 22:00. News programs mostly covered local events: political developments, social issues, cultural events.

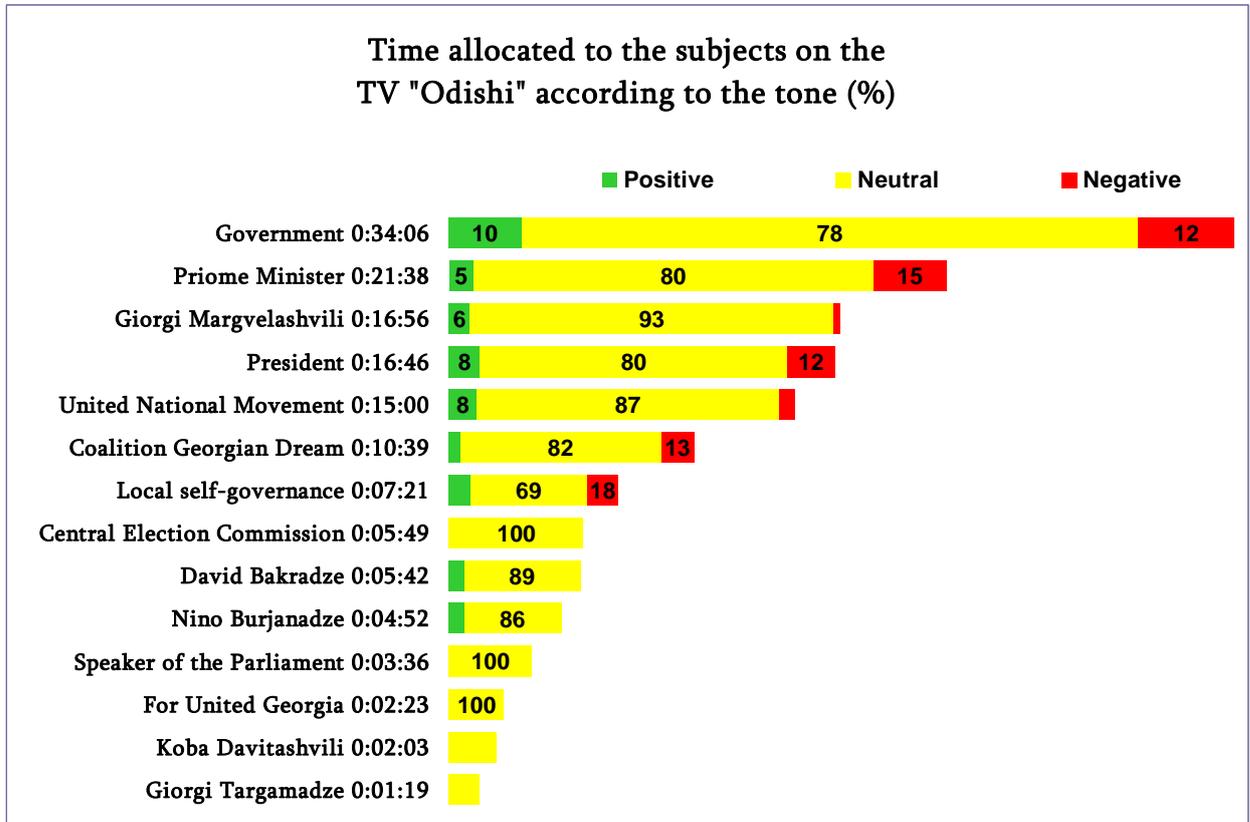
News programs devoted approximately two minutes to Infolent featuring, for about 15 seconds, the opinions expressed by policy makers and public figures. Mostly, together with the texted citation, the author's photo was shown. Mismatch between text and photo, or manipulation through photo or sound was not identified.

News programs dedicated the total of 2 hours and 32 minutes to the monitored subjects. 37 percent of the given time falls on the activities carried out by government and Prime Minister. President and GD's presidential nominee Giorgi Margvelashvili was each dedicated 17 minutes. The channel also covered the proceeding of pre-election campaigns run by presidential candidates of UNM and Democratic Movement – United Georgia in Samegrelo region.

TV stories produced by the channel were limited to brief coverage of events. Journalists tended to report in a shallow manner, covering events in an impartial manner. Monitored

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subjects were devoted almost no time for direct reporting. 80-90 percent of time was mostly made up of indirect reporting. According to the findings of the monitoring TV reporting was mainly neutral in tone.



Channel 9 (Akhaltzikhe) – Within reporting period TV company aired news program Echo on a daily basis. Newscasts focused less on the general developments in the country, essentially orienting on the developments in the region.

During election week (October 21-27) the TV company actively covered political developments. The company televised TV stories about presidential candidates, 5 or 6 in row. On the E-Day October 27 a special news outlet was offered to viewers.

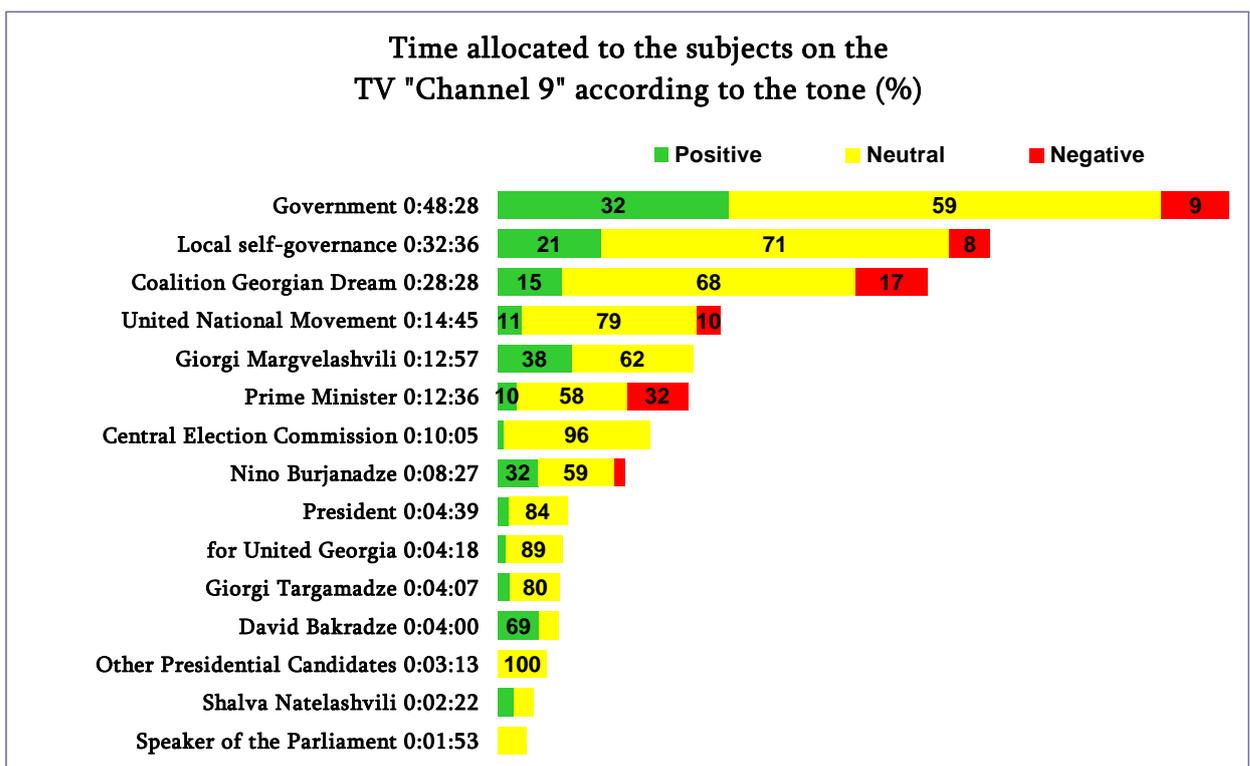
During monitoring period the news programs dedicated the total of 3 hours and 15 minutes to the monitored subjects. 25 percent of the total time falls on government, followed by local authorities and GD coalition with 17 and 14 percent respectively. Out of the presidential candidates GD's nominee Giorgi Margvelashvili leads the chart with 13 minutes. Nino Burjanadze (Democratic Movement – Democratic Georgia) comes next with 8 minutes. UNM's and CDM's presidential candidates follow with 4 minutes each. According to

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journalists the low index of reporting on presidential candidates was due to the lack of presidential candidates' pre-election activities in the region. To the aforementioned issue the September 22 weekly news outlet produced a social TV story (re-aired in the September 29 newscast). Accordingly reporting on presidential candidates was mostly indirect. Only in regard to Davit Bakradze reporting was 61 percent direct.

The rest of the monitored subjects were covered through indirect reporting, for comments though equal airtime was apportioned.

TV stories in the newscasts were balanced; events were provided timely and fact-based reporting. Journalists reported in an impartial manner, with no personal stance demonstrated. Reporters were also trying to identify possible violations within pre-election campaigns. For instance the TV story in the October 15 news program covering the GD coalition's nominee Giorgi Margvelashvili's meeting with the population touched upon the schoolchildren's involvement in the election campaign in the course of studies. The journalist said that in relation to the aforesaid issue he posed a question to Giorgi Margvelashvili's press service. In response Giorgi Margvelashvili's spokesperson said nothing of a kind was in place during the meeting. The journalists were trying to equally demonstrate opinions of each and every party.



Tanamgzavri (Telavi) – News programs on TV company Tanamgzavri were aired twice in the evening air from Monday to Friday. The 20-30-minute news program Akhali Ambebi (News) dedicated almost equal time to reporting on regional and national news.

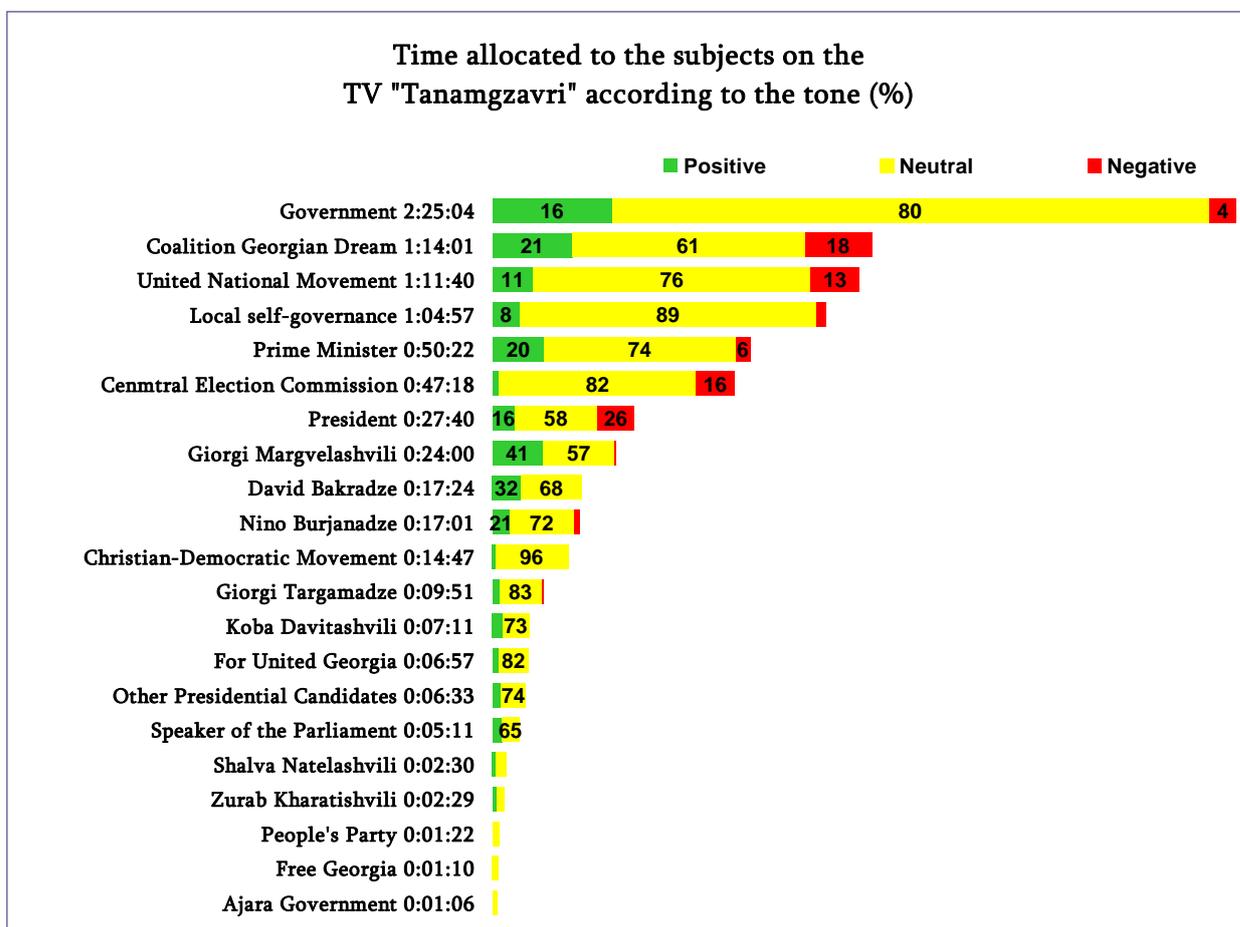
The first section of the news program was filled up with the TV stories about developments in Kakheti region: presidential candidates' election campaigns in Kakheti region, social issues, infrastructural projects, problems the locals face, cultural and other events. The second part of the news outlet provided a lengthy coverage of the events ongoing nationwide: developments at polling stations, comments granted by election commission members were covered. Reporting on political subjects decreased in the news programs produced in the wake of election. Developments in the region and local issues of concern were more centered on.

News programs dedicated the total of 10 hours to the monitored subjects. 24 percent of the given time falls on government, followed by GD coalition and UNM with 13 and 12 percent respectively. As for the presidential candidates GD's nominee Giorgi Margvelashvili ranks high with 24 minutes. Davit Bakradze (UNM) and Nino Burjanadze (Democratic Movement – United Georgia) come next with 17 minutes each. The highest index of positive reporting (42 percent) was enjoyed by Giorgi Margvelashvili, while Davit Bakradze leads the chart in terms of direct reporting (59 percent). High index of positive reporting in regard to GD's presidential nominee was mostly due to positive comments made by respondents about the election outcome.

Reporting on the monitored subjects was essentially neutral in tone. 30-50 percent of reporting on them was direct.

Journalists' reporting did not include subjective evaluations, the October 2 TV story though captured our attention. The TV story “one year passed since the death of 10-month-old baby Barbare Rapaliantsi killed a day ahead of the parliamentary elections 2012” provided equal coverage of any party and balance was more or less maintained but some depressing shots featuring the removal of the dead body out of the pitcher were openly shown as well as the mourning family members and relatives. Transmission of this kind of shots breaches the

Code of Conduct for Broadcasters.¹ News reporters covered pre-election campaigns run by political unions and their presidential candidates in an unbiased and neutral manner. They though limited themselves to brief and accurate reporting, failed to produce analytical stories.



Trialeti (Gori) – Trialeti TV-produced news programs essentially covered the developments ongoing in the region. A fair amount of time was dedicated to the TV stories about the issues of concern for locals. 12-15-minute newscasts were offered to viewers on daily basis from Monday to Friday. The first part of the Saturday news re-aired TV stories about most important events of the week. The second block of the program was at times devoted to selected guests to the studio. At the very launch of the monitoring only Saturday newscast

¹ Article 35. **Requirements to ensuring privacy (rules).** “Broadcasters shall not take or broadcast material featuring victims of accidents or individuals suffering a personal tragedy, including in a public place or at funerals, if it infringes privacy, except for cases when the consent from people concerned is obtained. In case of death the consent shall be obtained from the deceased’s family.”

had a newsreader, but in the past two weeks all of the news programs presented newsreaders in the studio.

On the E-Day, October 27 a special news program was produced to thoroughly cover the developments at the polling stations.

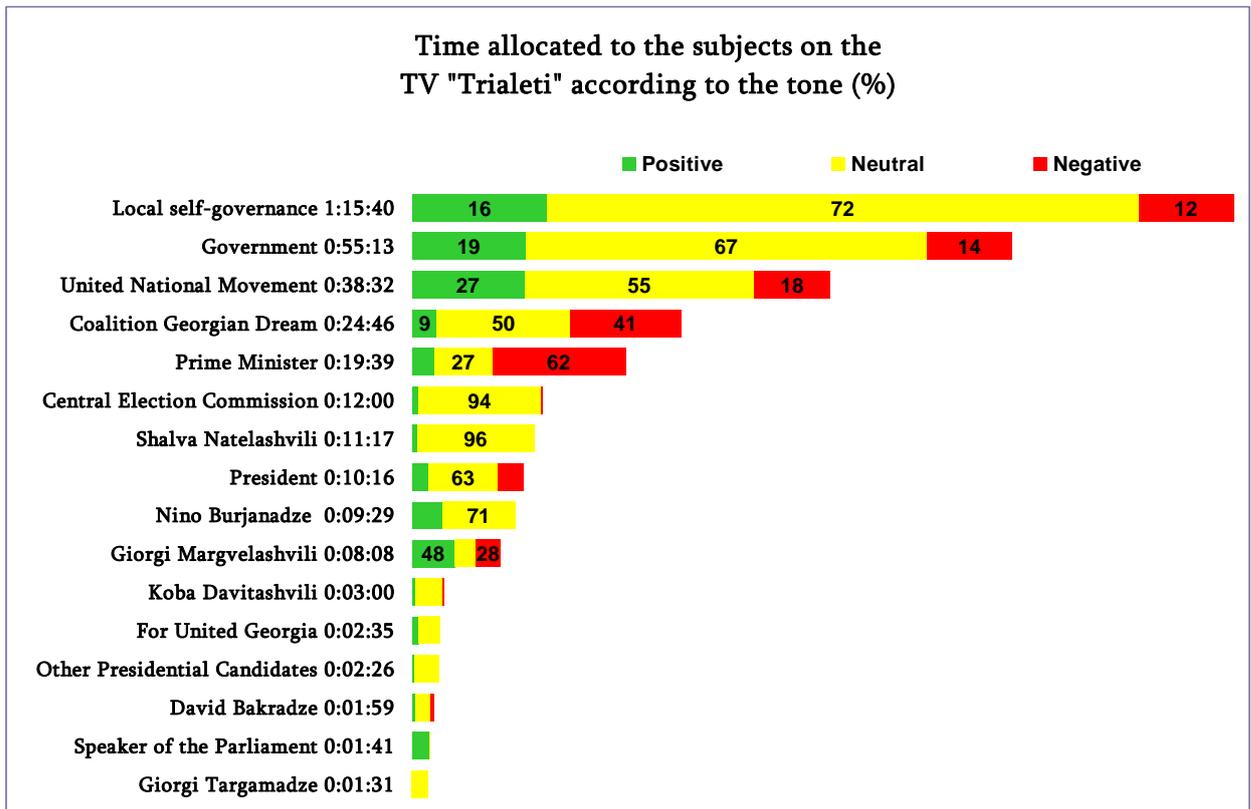
The news programs dedicated the total of 4 hours and 38 minutes to the monitored subjects: 27 percent – local authorities, 20 percent – government, 14 percent – UNM.

Out of the presidential candidates 11-minute coverage was enjoyed by Shalva Natelashvili (Labor Party), followed by Nino Burjanadze (Democratic Movement - United Georgia) and Giorgi Margvelashvili (GD coalition) with 9 and 8 minutes respectively.

79 percent of airtime dedicated to Shalva Natelashvili was direct. Reporting on Nino Burjanadze was 63-percent direct while in regard to Giorgi Margvelashvili reporting was 70 percent indirect. The index of indirect reporting stood rather high in regard to Prime Minister (78 percent), government (57 percent) and GD coalition (56 percent). High index of indirect reporting somehow preconditioned high degree of negative tone. For instance, in the September 18 TV story about Shalva Natelashvili's visit to the village of Ditsi included some negative statements in regard to Prime Minister. It is noteworthy that the TV story was repeatedly re-aired in several news outlets. In the October 5 news program Andro Barnov, Head of Presidential administration spoke about Prime Minister and GD activities in a negative context.

In general neutral tone prevailed when reporting on monitored subjects. Reporting was characterized with brief and balanced coverage. Journalists tended to report in a neutral manner, without demonstrating personal stance. They though tried to obtain answers to any crucial issue of public interest.

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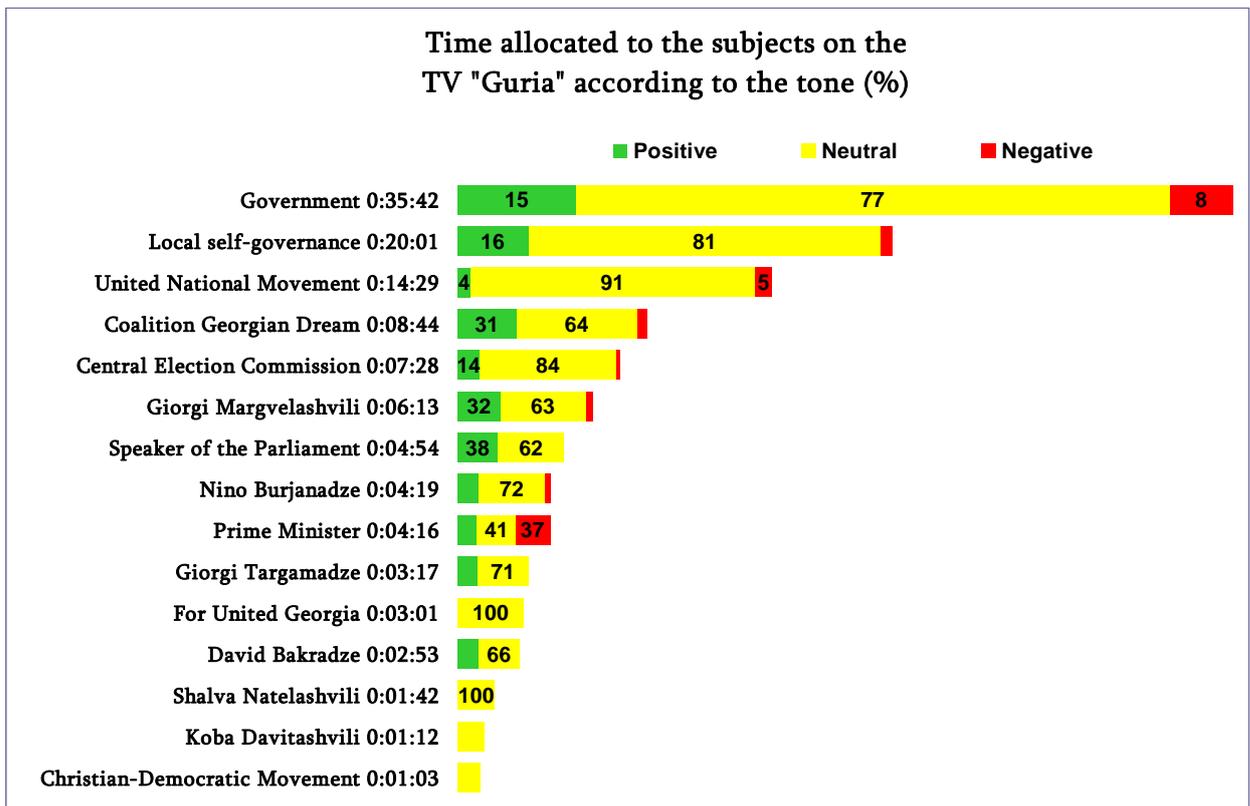
Guria (Ozurgeti) – During monitoring period TV company Guria-produced daytime news program Fact was on air from Monday to Friday. 10-15-minute news programs essentially aired TV stories about the main events of the day in Guria region. The developments nationwide were brought into focus too.

Within reporting period newscast Guria dedicated 2 hours to the monitored subjects. The activities carried out by government (35 min.) and local authorities (20 min.) enjoyed the bulk of coverage. The TV company devoted the biggest portion of airtime to the political unions UNM (14 min.) and GD coalition (8 min.). 50-60 percent of reporting enjoyed by all four monitored subjects was direct.

During election week (October 21-27) news programs covered presidential candidates' meetings with the population. The channel though lacked critical stories, solely citizens' comments supporting presidential candidates were observed. 81 percent of 6-minute reporting on GD's presidential candidate Giorgi Margvelashvili was indirect. Indirect reporting prevailed in regard to CDM's and UNM's presidential nominees: Giorgi Targamadze – 60 percent and Davit Bakradze – 85 percent. The airtime dedicated to them

though was much less. Four minutes devoted to Nino Burjanadze (Democratic Movement – United Georgia) was made up of equal share of direct and indirect reporting.

Reporting on the monitored subjects was essentially neutral in tone. Minor indicator of negative tone was due to comments made by opponents about one another (and in case of local authorities by citizens) rather than journalist’s subjective and critical approach.



Imervizia (Chiatura) – At the very launch of the monitoring (September 26 – October 8) Imervizia produced news program Akhali Ambebi (News) twice per week (Tuesday, Friday). From October 9 the channel started daily news production. The news program produced by the channel was televised twice on a daily basis: at 19:00 and repeated at 21:20. News programs essentially covered developments in Chiatura and Sachkhere regions and main events ongoing nationwide. Along with political and election-related topics news programs covered social issues, activities carried out by local authorities and other various events. In the run up to elections reporting on presidential candidates boosted up. News programs tended to air TV stories about the developments at precincts, journalists were trying to figure out whether all of the issues of concern had been tackled to smoothly hold presidential elections.

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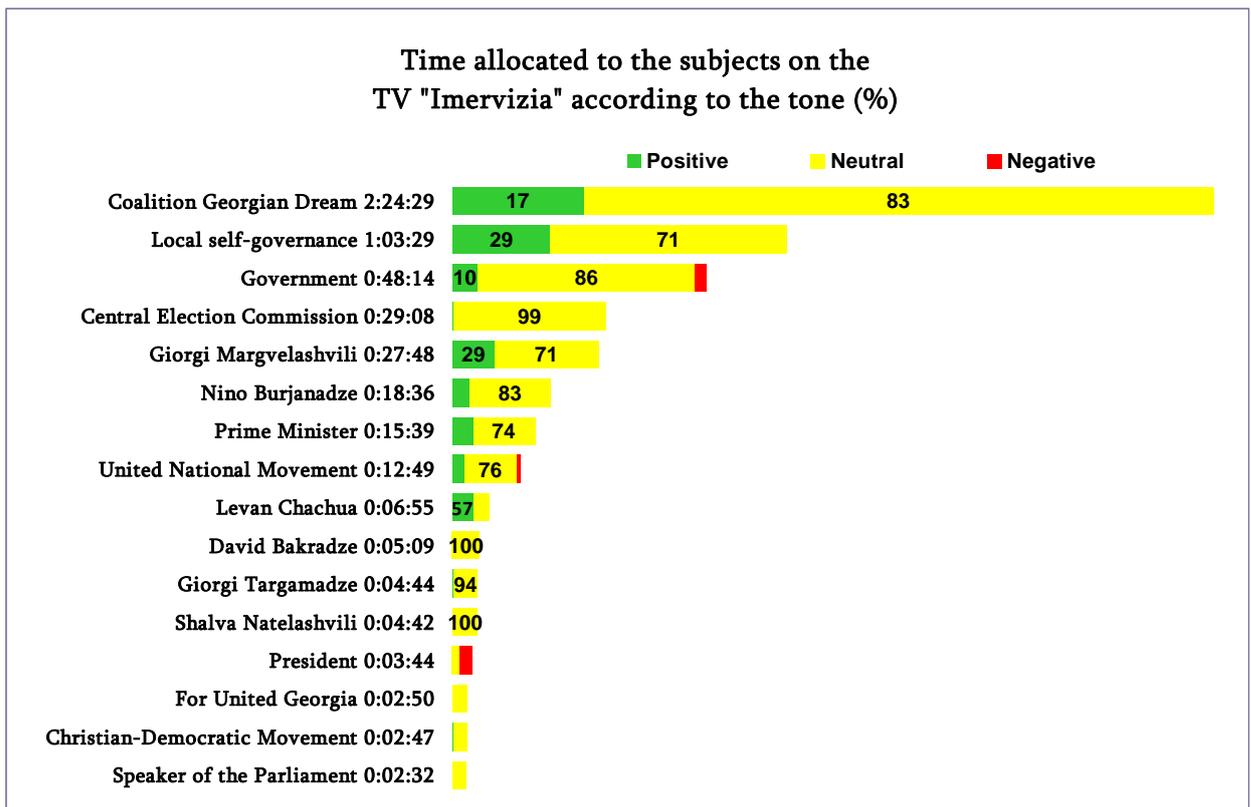
The October 27 newscast thoroughly reviewed the development of the voting process in Chiatura and Sachkhere as well as nationwide.

Within reporting period monitored subjects were devoted the total of 6 hours and 34 minutes, 37 percent of which falls on GD coalition, 16 percent on local authorities and 12 percent on government.

GD's presidential candidate Giorgi Margvelashvili was devoted approximately 28 minutes. 18-minute coverage was enjoyed by Nino Burjanadze (Democratic Movement – United Georgia). Other presidential candidates were brought into focus too, with less time dedicated though. Reporting on presidential candidates was essentially indirect. Two monitored subjects including GD coalition (72 percent) and local authorities (80 percent) ranked high in terms of direct reporting.

Reporting on monitored subjects was neutral in tone. The share of negative tone was minor, applied in regard to three presidential candidates only. Journalists tried to portray the issues of concern in the region and at times tended to pose critical questions to the representatives of local authorities. The authors of the TV stories mainly limited themselves to the superficial coverage of events.

TV stories did not lack balance. Respondents were given every possibility to express their viewpoints. When making evaluations journalists did not tend to demonstrate bias.



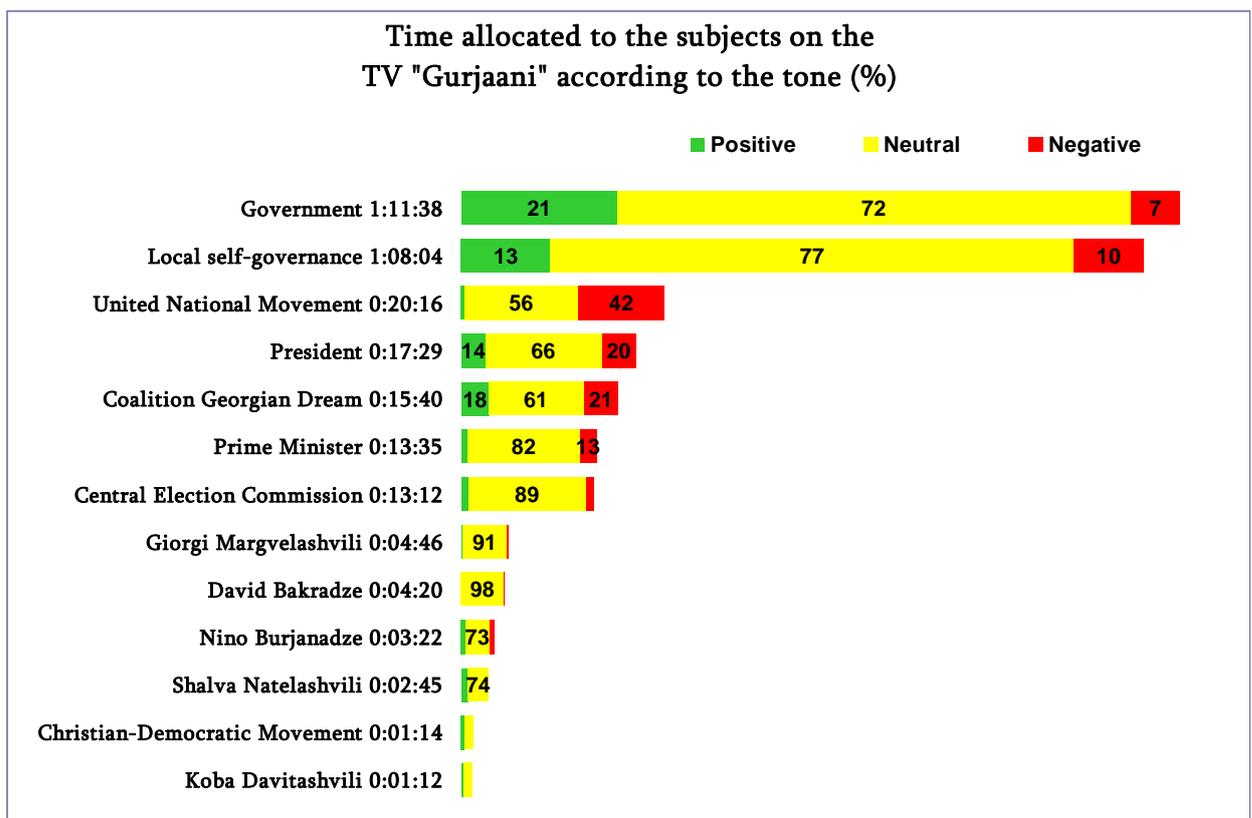
Gurjaani (Gurjaani) – During reporting period TV company aired news program Dghes (Today) on a daily basis. 20-30-minute newscasts covered local news as well as developments nationwide: lengthy stories were produced about the main events of the day taking place in Kakheti region. In the “developments outside region” rubric ongoing events were brought into focus.

On the E-Day, October 27 the TV company aired a lengthy newscast totally dedicated to the development of presidential election, violations and results of exit polls. In the wake of elections several TV stories were produced to review the election process and results.

Gurjaani TV-produced news programs dedicated the total of 4 hours to the monitored subjects. Over half of the given time, 58 percent, falls on reporting on the activities carried out by government and local authorities. Out of political unions UNM and GD coalition enjoyed the bulk of coverage. The time dedicated to the political unions considerably exceeded the time devoted to their presidential nominees. None of the presidential candidates enjoyed over 5-minute coverage. 60 percent of reporting was found indirect. Solely in regard to Labor Party presidential candidate Shalva Natelashvili reporting was 62 percent direct (around 3 minutes dedicated in total).

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Reporting in regard to monitored subjects was essentially neutral in tone, positive and negative tones were identified too though, due to respondents' comments rather than journalists' biased reporting. In regard to authorities they tended to pose critical questions, trying to obtain certain answers. Lengthy stories portrayed the issues of concern in an exhaustive manner. They were always found balanced due to respondents' comments. Journalists covered events in a timely manner. Viewers had a possibility to hear dissenting opinions about the topics under discussion.



Mega TV (Khoni) – Within reporting period the channel aired news program Main Today on a daily basis from Monday to Saturday. 20-30-minute news programs covered political, social and economic developments in the region as well as nationwide. In the run up to elections reporting on election-related topics went up. In particular presidential candidates' election programs were more actively covered offering viewers case-related stories in row.

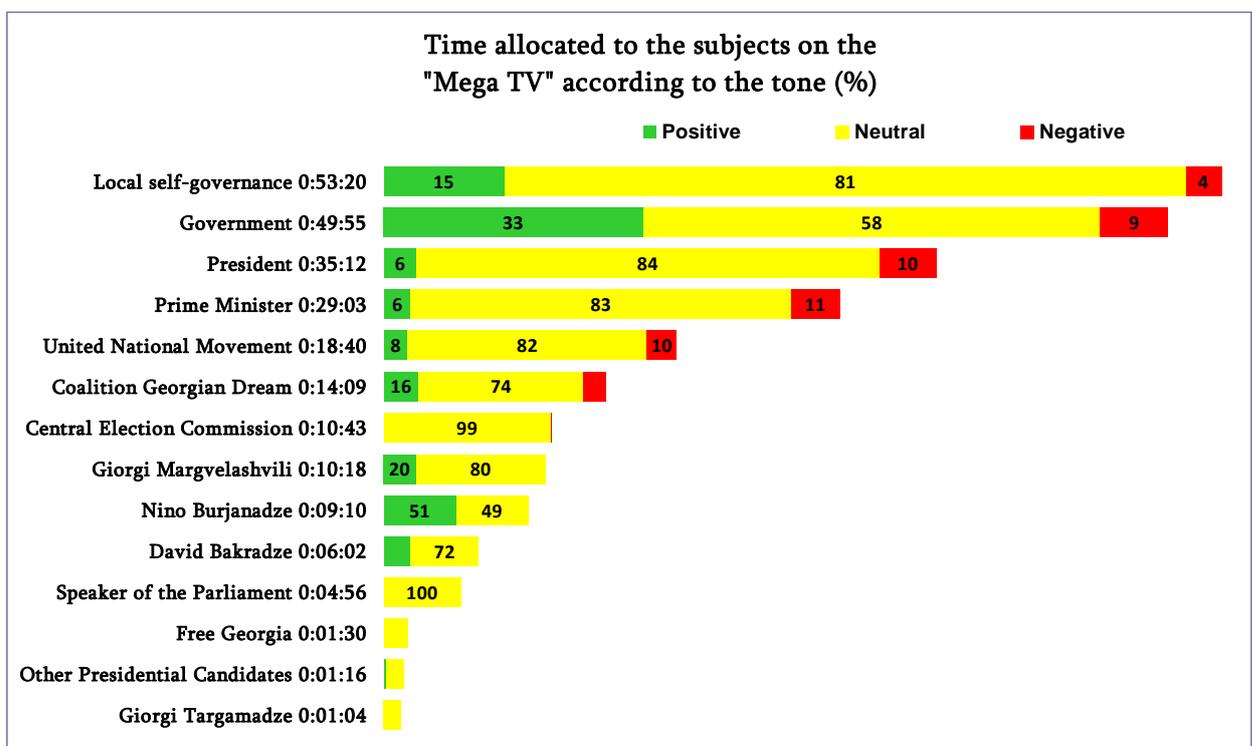
TV company-produced news programs dedicated the total of 4 hours and 7 minutes to the monitored subjects. Local authorities and government enjoyed 22 and 20 percent of the total coverage. 35-minute reporting on President was 72 percent direct. The index of direct

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reporting stood rather high in regard to Prime Minister as well – 81 percent of 29-minute reporting was found direct. 74 percent of reporting was direct in relation to the local authorities as well. As for the rest of the monitored subjects direct reporting prevailed over indirect, slightly though. The highest index of indirect reporting was identified in regard to GD’s presidential candidate Giorgi Margvelashvili.

Neutral tone was overwhelming when reporting on monitored subjects, though negative and positive tones were still observed.

In general news programs tended to cover developments in a balanced and impartial manner. Journalists delivered news briefly, with no analysis and evaluations provided. Interviews with respondents were dedicated a fair amount of time, no unethical comments were made.



9th Wave (Poti) – News program Cursor was on air on weekdays. Within reporting period TV company 9th Wave dedicated the total of 2 and 45 minutes to the monitored subjects.

TV stories aired in the 10-20-minute newscasts essentially touched upon the recent developments in the region. Considerable amount of time was dedicated to social issues and problems the locals face. News programs also televised TV stories produced by the Georgian Association of Regional Broadcasters (GARB) and partner TV companies. Presidential candidates were mainly covered in the stories produced by GARB.

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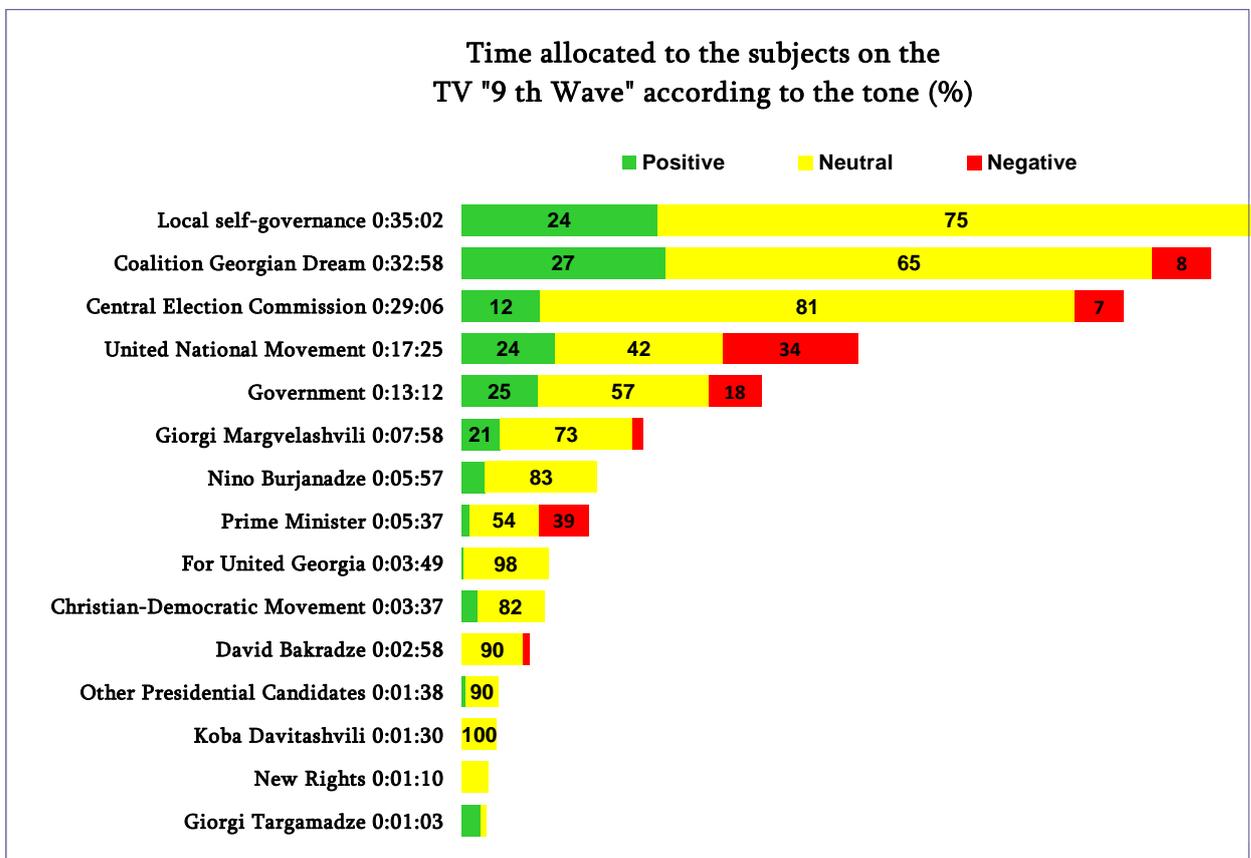
On the E-Day October 27 the channel's news production team worked under emergency mode. 9th Wave actively covered election-related developments in Poti.

Local authorities enjoyed the bulk of reporting in the news program Cursor. 60 percent of the 35-minute reporting was found direct. According to the findings 32 minutes were dedicated to GD coalition and 29 minutes to Central Election Commission (CEC). As for the presidential candidates Giorgi Margvelashvili (GD coalition), Nino Burjanadze and Davit Bakradze were devoted 8, 6 and 3 minutes respectively. The biggest portion of reporting on the aforesaid presidential candidates was found indirect. Reporting on Prime Minister was 100 percent indirect.

News reporters refrained from expressing their viewpoints. The channel lacked analytical and comprehensive stories. News programs tended to maintain balance. Airtime, for direct reporting as well, was equally apportioned to all of the parties.

When covering news of the day journalists never made evaluations, but delivering facts.

When producing a TV story about local authorities journalists were trying to cover the viewpoints of various political parties represented in Sakrebulo.



Monitoring of Public-Political Programs and Talk Shows

The monitoring of this type of programs implies only qualitative component. Solely journalists are subject to monitoring. Their behavior is evaluated based on various criteria: their role and participation in the program, the way they lead the process, whether they are just moderators or are trying to demonstrate their stance, the extent of equality of conditions offered to guests, the way they approach guests and how hard they try to obtain in-depth information, how well they let guests express their opinions, when do the guest get interrupted. Monitoring also focuses on the use of offensive or discriminating expressions and statements by journalists and their response to the use of hate speech by guests.

Results of Monitoring per Channel:

Channel 25 (Batumi) – Within reporting period the TV company aired **talk show Dialogue** (4 times per week) and **Answer People** (once a week).

On October 8 the channel aired **talk show Choice 2013** produced in partnership with the Georgian Association of Regional Broadcasters (GARB) in the framework of media sector partnership project Elections 2013 being made possible with the support of IREX G-MEDIA program.

Talk shows were hosted by journalist Jaba Ananidze.

One or several guests invited to the program answered questions posed by the host and TV viewers, debates too were held rather often.

In terms of topics the programs were found diverse. Talk shows also screened TV stories produced about the topics of discussion. In the second part of survey the scale of reporting on political topics booted up. The following topics were discussed in the programs:

- Election: presidential candidates' election programs, candidates background, pre-election campaign, debates between heads of presidential HQs, the handicapped and elections, election results;
- Government: results of 10-month activities, future of coalition government, government's election activities, increase in salaries in the field of healthcare, separation of customs and tax services, general health insurance;

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- Adjara government: rise in funding for Supreme Council of Adjara AR, VIPs in Adjara government, Adjara government's PR strategies.
- Adjara: new and old investments in Adjara, four tourism seasons, foundation of civil movement Batumelebi, Batumi self-government projects, the fate of lands at Gonio fortress, power generating station on the river Kintrishi;
- Adjara TV;
- Businessman seeking for justice applies to Minister of Justice;
- Students involvement in projects for the people with disabilities;
- Security guards v. criminal world;
- Labor rights;
- Secure environment;
- Notaries' increased rights;
- Elderly People's Day;
- Co-investment foundation;
- Alteration of teacher certification rule;
- Development of small business in Georgia;
- Demand for the investigation into the November 7, 2007 dispersal of students.

Talk shows stood out for the diversity of opinions. The program represented parties in a balanced manner. Policy makers, experts, representatives of local authorities and Adjara government, TV viewers (through calls in) were granted a possibility to freely express their stance.

The host of the program refrained from expressing his viewpoints, trying to apportion equal airtime to different political forces. At times heated discussions were held between guests and the host. The journalist was trying to be objective and impartial. But in regard to local authorities and government team he tended to pose critical questions. The host of the program mainly played the role of a moderator, providing equal conditions to the guests. The journalist did his best to obtain comprehensive answers to the questions posed.

Rioni (Kutaisi) – Within reporting period TV company Rioni aired **talk shows Dialogue** (Monday), **Tema** (Tuesday, Friday) and **Badri Kapetivadze public TV club Open Civil Society** (Friday).

On October 22 TV company televised **talk show Choice 2013** produced in partnership with the Georgian Association of Regional Broadcasters in the framework of media sector partnership project Elections 2013 being made possible with the support of IREX G-MEDIA program.

Presidential candidate Sergo Javakhidze of the For Fair Georgia movement was the selected guest to the studio. Presidential candidate Nino Burjanadze was to be present too but, according to the host of the TV program, she had to urgently travel to Tbilisi therefore the leader of Democratic Movement – United Georgia addressed the Rioni TV audience through a call in the fourth block of the program.

Talk shows Tema and Dialogue were essentially hosted by journalist Nana Robakidze, in the pre-election period the programs were also hosted by journalist Khatia Babunashvili.

The topics discussed in the talks shows included:

- Development of the election campaign run by presidential candidate Nino Burjanadze (Democratic Movement – United Georgia) and her election program;
- Assessments of the election environment made by the heads of presidential candidates' HQs based in Kutaisi;
- Presidential candidates' election programs;
- Messages and undertone of pre-election campaigns. What presidential candidates offer to population;
- Higher education;
- Ongoing developments at local self-governments;
- Food safety and consumer rights;
- Development of the October 27 voting process in Kutaisi;
- 80th anniversary of Akaki Tsereteli State University;
- Activities carried out by civil society Civil Solidarity;
- Role of civil society and its involvement in political developments;

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- Relocation of Parliament building from Kutaisi to Tbilisi;
- Sochi Olympics; whether Georgian sportsmen should participate in the Sochi Olympics.

Talk shows were characterized with the diversity of guests. The guests selected to the talk shows included: representatives of Kutaisi-based bureaus of political parties, heads of presidential candidates' HQs, media and civil sector representatives. The programs were also visited by the representatives of parliamentary majority and minority. To the September 30 program Nino Burjanadze, presidential candidate of the Democratic Movement – United Georgia was invited.

Viewers tended to take active part in the program through calls in. According to the findings journalists posed interesting questions that enabled viewers to obtain comprehensive information about the topics discussed in the course of the talk show. At times when conversing with the guests the journalists made case-related evaluations, with no bias implied though. They were trying to analyze facts. During debates hosts tended to mediate, trying to maintain balance among parties and calling on guests to conduct dialogue in an ethical manner.

Within reporting period Badri Kapetivadze public TV club **Open Civil Society** fell within the scope of monitoring. One-hour program was characterized with the diversity of guests and topics, in particular:

- Elections;
- Cohabitation between GD and UNM;
- Law on self-governments;
- Kutaisi authorities;
- Governors' role;
- Relocation of Parliament from Kutaisi to Tbilisi;
- Never-ending interrelation between authorities and people;
- Public influence on the authorities, increase in the rights of local self-governments;
- Decentralization of authorities and establishment of civil management.

The format of the program is free. The discussion on either issue held between the host, Club President, and guest was conducted in the dialogue mode. According to the findings they expressed their stance freely, with no restriction imposed. In the course of the program the host repeatedly expressed her viewpoint about different issues.

Kvemo-Kartli TV-Radio Company (Rustavi) – Within reporting period **talk show Your Time** was subject to monitoring. The program hosted by journalist Tato Gogoladze was aired twice per week, on Tuesdays and Fridays. Most of the outlets of the talk show aired within reporting period were dedicated to presidential candidates. The topic of discussion was presidential candidates' election programs. Following presidential candidates were invited to the studio: Sergo Javakhidze (For Fair Georgia), Shalva Natelashvili (Labor Party), Giorgi Liluashvili (initiative team), Teimuraz Mzhavia (Christian Democratic People's Party), Nino Chanishvili (initiative team Future is Ours), Koba Davitashvili (People's Party), Giorgi Targamadze (CDM), Akaki Asatiani (Union of Georgian Traditionalists) and Avtandil Margiani (initiative team), Nino Burjanadze (Democratic Movement – United Georgia), Zurab Kharatishvili (European Democrats of Georgia) and Nestan Kirtadze (initiative team). Along with presidential candidates election programs the program also touched upon the following topics:

- Reform of local self-governments and new code;
- Ongoing and planned infrastructural projects in Rustavi;
- Developments nationwide;
- Ongoing and planned infrastructural projects in Kvemo Kartli region;
- IDPs' conditions and anticipated legislative changes.

To discuss aforementioned issues Davit Narmania, Minister of Infrastructure and Regional Development and Davit Darakhvelidze, Minister of Refugees and Resettlement of Georgia Rustavi majority MP Zviad Dzidziguri, civil society representative were invited to the studio.

When reviewing presidential candidates' election programs journalist essentially posed question about the issued set forth in the presidential programs. The program host Tato Gogoladze was trying to let respondents speak about every single item provided in the

program. He was essentially shooting shallow and general type of questions. At times though he showed keener interest in certain issues, trying to obtain more information from the selected guests. The journalist appeared favorable to the respondents.

When presidential candidate tried to criticize the steps taken by incumbent or former government journalist was curious to know how the presidential would act in their place.

During reporting period monitors identified the cases of deviation from the topic of discussion, the journalist though did not ask them to get back to the issue.

The journalist did not let guests make unethical statements. Providing for the presence of the only party in the studio, the journalist refrained from posing questions requiring answers from the guest's opponent. The questions posed in the talk show were thematic and of current importance. TV viewers were found more or less active.

Odishi (Zugdidi) – Within reporting period, on October 25 TV company aired **talk show Choice 2013** produced in partnership with the Georgian Association of Regional Broadcasters (GARB) in the framework of media sector partnership project Elections 2013 being made possible with the support of IREX G-MEDIA program.

The talk show was hosted by Nana Kobalia. The representatives of Zugdidi-based election HQs were taking part in the program. In the second block of the program presidential candidate Nestan Kirtadze of one of the initiative teams called in, she though did not take part in the debated held in the studio.

The host of the program sounded neutral. From presidential candidates she was trying to obtain detailed information about election programs. Journalist tended to pose critical questions, demanding for concrete answers from the guests.

In the course of the program citizens too were granted a possibility to express opinions and pose questions to the selected guests. The host of the program called on everyone to be ethical.

9th Channel (Akhaltzikhe) – During reporting period TV company aired **talk show Dialogue with Rusudan Gvaramadze** on a weekly bases, on Thursdays.

On September 23 the channel aired **talk show Choice 2013** produced in partnership with the Georgian Association of Regional Broadcasters (GARB) in the framework of media sector partnership project Elections 2013 being made possible with the support of IREX G-MEDIA program. The program was again hosted by journalist Rusudan Gvaramadze. The topics discussed within the framework of the program included:

- Elections: presidential candidates' election programs, pre-election environment, use of administrative resources during pre-election campaign, evaluation of elections, and expected changes, complaints submitted to CEC;
- One year after GD coalition's coming into power;
- Suspended and ongoing infrastructure projects;
- Reasons of Chief Prosecutor Archil Kbilashvili's resignation.

Together with selected guests the program had NGO and media representatives invited to the studio actively participating in the discussion. TV viewers too enjoyed a possibility to take part in the discussion, express their viewpoints and pose questions through calls in.

Each talk show hosted the representatives of two or three political forces. Viewers had a possibility to hear dissenting opinions about either issue. Presidential candidates' election programs were mainly discussed by the heads of their election HQs. In three outlets of the program though presidential candidates were given a possibility to address audience live on Channel 9: September 23 – Giorgi Targamadze (CDM), October 17 – Nestan Kirtadze (initiative team) and October 24 – Sergo Javakhidze (For Fair Georgia).

The guests invited to the talk shows were granted equal time and possibility to express their stance. Heated arguments often came about, the host though tried to mediate to conduct debates in a peaceful manner, so that the guests could fully express their opinions. The journalist sounded favorable to them, posing critical questions in an impartial manner and asking for concrete answers.

Tanamgzavri (Telavi) – During reporting period TV company aired **talk show Dialogue** once per week, on Fridays at 20:30.

On October 4 the channel dedicated its air to **talk show Choice 2013** produced in partnership with the Georgian Association of Regional Broadcasters in the framework of media sector partnership project Elections 2013 being made possible with the support of IREX G-MEDIA program.

Both of the talk shows were hosted by journalist Nato Megutnishvili.

Program Dialogue was divided into two sections: topics did change and guests as well.

During monitoring period the following topics were focused on:

- Elections: presidential candidates' election programs, evaluation of pre-election environment, minority involvement in the pre-election, violations identified on the E-Day;
- Problems to solve in education system;
- Opening of a new season at Telavi Theatre;
- Probationers' resocialization process;
- Evaluation of Abkhazia war;
- Ecology, waste management.

According to the topics of discussion the guests selected to the program included: heads of presidential candidates' HQs, chairperson of Telavi DEC, media and civil sector representatives.

The programs also hosted presidential candidates of different initiative teams (October 11- Nestan Kirtadze and October 18 – Levan Chachua).

In the course of the program the host essentially played the role of a moderator, tended not partake in the debates among guests. When shooting questions the host refrained from expressing personal stance, trying to obtain in-depth information from the guests. The journalist was offering equal airtime to the guests, without disrupting offered them a possibility to thoroughly express their viewpoints. Acute and critical questions were essentially heard from citizens calling in. The journalist too though was shooting critical questions. She was keen to learn about certain issues, tended to oppose to the quests. The programs were found rather informative.

Trialeti (Gori) – During reporting period TV company Trialeti aired 11 outlets of the TV program **From Your Viewpoint** hosted by Gvantsa Doluashvili. The talk show comprised of two parts. In the first block the host provided a lengthy and informative review of the topic to be discussed and presented in the story. Dissenting opinions of political forces and government representatives were presented in an impartial manner.

The topics discussed within reporting period included the following:

- Second round of presidential election to be scheduled or not;
- Why the meetings held by the GD coalition's presidential candidate are attended by schoolchildren and teachers during school hours;
- Election results and news political reality;
- Should Prime Minister Bidzina Ivanishvili quit politics;
- Yes or No to Sochi Olympics;
- Need for scheduling extraordinary parliamentary elections;
- Nomination of a new Prime Minister and results of police reform;
- Possibilities of restoration of constitutional monarchy in Georgia;
- Chief Prosecutor Archil Kbilashvili's resignation.

In the second block of the program guests had a possibility to freely express their viewpoints. The host limited herself to posing critical questions, without opposing to them. The dialogue was on in the Q&A mode, in a very construct, ethical and peaceful environment.

The program was of interactive character, viewers had a possibility to pose questions or express opinions.

Another **talk Show Tvalsazrisi** (Viewpoint) produced by the TV company fell under the scope of monitoring. The talk show hosted by Lado Bichashvili was on air once per week, on Tuesdays at 20:30. At the beginning of the program the host briefly demonstrated his stance over the political developments in the country. Reporting was neutral in tone. To support his opinions he referred to experts' opinions. The topics discussed during reporting period include:

- Role of civil society in governance;
- Pre-election media environment;

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- Results of presidential elections;
- Restoration of status of self-government city to Gori.

The host played the role of a moderator, at times though he expressed his opinion in relation to the questions posed. He was trying to obtain comprehensive information from the guests, and thoroughly enquired into any comment made. Neither bias nor hate speech was identified during programs.

Within October 14-20 TV company aired twice an election format program **Special Program**. 50-minute talk show was first hosted by Lado Bichashvili and for the second time by Giorgi Akhalkatsi.

The program discussed election programs and pledges made by presidential candidates Koba Davitashvili (People's Party) and Tamaz Bibiluri (initiative team).

Both of the hosts were trying to further enquire into the guests' answers and did not let them avoid answering unfavorable questions. Lado Bichashvili tended to demonstrate his stance. He posed questions about other political forces even though their representative was not present in the studio.

Within monitoring period TV company aired another program **Presidential Election 2013** fully dedicated to the discussion of presidential candidates' pre-election programs and their stance, also their addresses to the population. CDM's presidential candidate Giorgi Targamadze, and presidential candidates of different initiative teams including Giorgi Chikhladze, Nestan Kirtadze, Mikheil (Gela) Saluashvili were invited to the studio.

Presidential candidates had a possibility to introduce their election programs to the population. The hosts of the program mainly played the role of a moderator, limiting themselves to posing questions, refraining from demonstrating their approach to the presidential candidates. The hosts tended to ask selected guests for comprehensive answers.

Gurjaani (Gurjaani) – Within reporting period TV company offered viewers several talk shows including **Power of the Powerless** (on Fridays) and **Choice 2013** produced in partnership with the Georgian Association of Regional Broadcasters (GARB) in the

framework of media sector partnership project Elections 2013 being made possible with the support of IREX G-MEDIA program.

Talk shows Power of the Powerless and Dialogue were hosted by journalist Levan Aleksishvili.

The October 4, 11, and 18 outlets the programs had a special election-related format, hosting solely presidential candidates.

On October 4 and 11 one-hour talk show Power of the Powerless was divided into two parts, each offering equal airtime to two presidential candidates: On October 4 – Levan Chichua (initiative team) and Giorgi Chikhladze (initiative team); On October 11 – Akaki Asatiani (Union of Georgian Traditionalists) and Shalva Natelashvili (Labor Party). The October 18 outlet was fully dedicated to Mikheil (Gela) Saluashvili of one of the initiative teams. In the TV debates Choice 2013 spokespersons of five election HQs were participating.

In addition to election-related topics talk shows discussed other topics as well. In particular the way the authorities are going to tackle the problems in Gurjaani municipality (September 20), whether local authorities are going to render assistance to socially vulnerable population (November 8). The guests to the September 20 program included the representatives of local authorities. To the November 8 talk show a journalist and a spokesperson of the political union New Rights were invited together with the local authorities.

The program host Levan Aleksishvili was posing questions in a way to let the viewers gain more information about presidential candidates, their programs and priorities and in general about the topics discussed in the program. The host asked guests for concrete, fact-based answers. When posing questions no bias was identified. Personal approach was not demonstrated to either party. The host mainly played the role of a moderator, at time though he happened to get engaged into a heated argument. The programs covered the opinions of different political forces in a balanced manner. Any single guest had a possibility to freely express his/her stance.

TV viewers were taking part in the program, they stood a chance to pose questions to the guests in the studio. The degree of public involvement in the one-hour program was rather high. The journalist was trying to let guests discuss all of the topics of public interest.

Guria (Ozurgeti) – Within reporting period, on September 23 TV company aired **talk show Choice 2013** produced in partnership with the Georgian Association of Regional Broadcasters (GARB) in the framework of media sector partnership project Elections 2013 being made possible with the support of IREX G-MEDIA program.

Four presidential candidates were taking part in the political debates. The host of the talk show Tamta Dolidze granted 3 minutes to each of the presidential candidates to introduce their election programs. The journalist was shooting brief questions, trying to apportion equal airtime to every guest. The host sounded neutral to the guests. She was curious to know about the plans the presidential candidates had to tackle the issues of concern. In response to general answers the journalist tried to ask the respondent away in order to obtain a more comprehensive reply.

During monitoring period the channel devoted TV air to some other talk shows including **Together with You and Public Hall**. The talk shows discussed following topics:

- Local authorities and village support programs;
- Development of agriculture in Ozurgeti region;
- Problems persisting in the field of agriculture in Ozurgeti municipality.

The guests to the studio mainly comprised of the representatives of local authorities and NGO sector. The journalist granted guests equal possibility to express their viewpoints. With brief questions the journalist was trying to obtain a concrete answer and comprehensive response.

The channel also aired a **documentary**. Upon the completion of the screening a discussion was held about social issues. Prior to the beginning of the program the host pointed out that the documentary and the special program were produced by the Union of Young Teachers. After the show of the documentary the representatives of NGO sector and local authorities discussed the problems socially vulnerable population faces. Civil sector representatives reviewed the work done in this regard and future plans. Diverse opinions were demonstrated in relation to the topic.

Imervizia (Chiatura) – Within reporting period on October 11 the company **talk show Choice 2013** produced in partnership with the Georgian Association of Regional Broadcasters (GARB) in the framework of media sector partnership project Elections 2013 being made possible with the support of IREX G-MEDIA program.

The talk show was fully dedicated to pre-election topics. The representatives of Chiatura-based election HQs were invited to the studio. The talk show, made up of three parties, was hosted by Inga Jajanidze. In the first block the spokespersons of presidential candidates were apportioned equal airtime to introduce presidential candidates' programs and their opinions. In the second block debates were held and in the last part of the program selected guests answered the questions posed by the population calling in. Guests were given a possibility to freely express their opinions. The host of the talk show, playing the role of a moderator, almost never demonstrated her personal stance, offering parties equal time to speak.

Mega TV (Khoni) – On October 30 TV company televised **talk show Forum** (September 16, 23, 30) and **Elections 2013** (October 10, 23, 30). The talk shows were hosted by journalist Nana Toshkhua.

The topics discussed included:

- Evaluation of pre-election environment;
- Civil society activism and development rate;
- Installation of wire fences on the Georgian territories occupied by Russia;
- Election processes, activities performed by Kutaisi DEC;
- Voting process and violations identified.

The guests to the studio essentially included civil society representatives. The host together with the guests reviewed the issues selected in advance. The journalist limited herself to shooting questions, without demonstrating her stance. The guest had a possibility to freely express his/her viewpoints. The host was trying to ask the guest away. The programs were essentially conducted in the Q&A format. Viewers got fully updated about the topics discussed.

9th Wave (Poti) – Within reporting period 9th Wave aired one-hour **talk show Tema** (Topic) every Friday.

On October 18 the TV company aired **talk show Choice 2013** produced in partnership with the Georgian Association of Regional Broadcasters (GARB) in the framework of media sector partnership project Elections 2013 being made possible with the support of IREX G-MEDIA program.

The talk shows were hosted by journalist Thea Absaridze. The topics discussed included:

Pre-election environment in Samegrelo region and nationwide – evaluations made by experts and representatives of HQs;

- Interview with Poti majoritarian MP Eka Beselia of GD coalition;
- Presidential candidates' programs and priorities;
- Evaluation of October 27 election;
- Assessment to setting fire to Russian flag by UNM members in Poti;
- Recent developments in Poti.

The guests to the talk show included chairpersons of civil organizations of political unions, Poti City Mayor, heads of Poti-based election HQs, NGO representatives.

The host of the program thoroughly enquired into the details of the topic of the talk show as well as the issues raised in the course of the program. In case the guests reply sounded obscure the journalist tried to get a clearer answer. The host tended to pose neutral but critical questions without demonstrating personal stance about political developments or parties.

In case of debates the journalist apportioned equal time to the participants. Accordingly the parties were represented in an utmost balanced manner. In case of deviation from the topic of discussion the journalist called on the guests to get back to the issue. In case of unethical statements made in regard against opponents the journalist promptly responded, calling on the guest to hold back.

TV viewers appeared rather active, expressing their viewpoints through calls in. Our attention was attracted to the November 8 outlet. The author of the first phone call whose question touched upon Eka Beselia the journalist did not let finish her idea. The citizen was asking the city mayor: “Why so much patience to Eka Beselia? Why did you make us elect this kind of woman who constantly “The journalist called on the citizen to be more

ethical and the call was ultimately rejected. We believe the citizen's question was not unethical. The journalist did not let the citizen demonstrate her critical approach to Eka Beselia.

TV Magazine Mravalkutkhedi (Polygonal)

Weekly TV magazine Mravalkutkhedi (Polygonal) produced by the Georgian Association of Regional Broadcasters (GARB) was aired at different times on the following TV channels: **Kvemo Kartli TV-Radio Company, Channel 25, Tanamgzavri, Odishi, 9th Wave, Rioni, Imervizia, Gurjaani and Channel 9.**

Eight outlets of the TV magazine fell within the scope of monitoring. TV magazine dedicated airtime to TV stories and discussion. Usually two or three guests were invited to the studio. In some three outlets within reporting period no guests were invited.

TV stories aired within TV magazine were characterized with in-depth analysis of the topics discussed and diversity of opinions. Journalists tended to report impartially, without expressing their personal stance. The TV stories did not lack balance and neutral tone was found overwhelming. The facts presented in the TV stories were substantiated with comments and reverence to sources. The topics were reviewed from different angles, with pre-histories provided.

The programs under monitoring reviewed presidential candidates' activities. The magazine produced a digest that touched upon presidential candidates' election campaign. The journalist indicated the lack of information in the regions.

Studio Re TV Discussions

Within reporting period some of TV companies aired 50-minute TV discussions produced by Studio Re. The programs stood out for the diversity of topics:

The topics covered included:

- Need for democratic reforms (*Gurjaani, Mega TV, Channel 9*);

- Vehicle safety inspection (*Gurjaani*);
- Visa liberalization (*Mega TV, Channel 9, Trialeti*);
- Khudonhesi economic effect (*Gurjaani*);
- Youth involvement in trust building process (*Gurjaani*);
- The role of medical projects in peace building (*Trialeti, Mega TV, Gurjaani*);
- Media coverage of pre-election developments (*9th Wave*);
- Youth policy (*Mega TV*);
- Occupation line (*Gurjaani*);

TV discussions hosted by journalist Zviad Koridze stood out in terms of diversity of selected guests. Through the questions posed he was trying to further generalize the topics and obtain comprehensive answers from the selected guests.

Program Your Parliament

Monitoring focused on the program **Your Parliament** made possible with the support of USAID within the framework of the Parliament's Communication Center project implemented by NDI and Internews-Georgia.

The program covers activities of majoritarian MPs, representing their approach to legislative decisions. The topics of 5-10-minute programs are singled out by regional broadcasters. MPs representing parliamentary minority, parliamentary majority as well as independent MPs invited to the Parliament's Communication Center answer case-related questions readied by regional televisions.

Below please find the topics discussed within the framework of the program Your Parliament:

- Amendments to be made to the Law of Georgia on Elimination of Domestic Violence, Protection of and Support to Its Victims;
- Amendments to be made to the Tax Code;
- Stricter law for anonymous threat calls or insults to Emergency and Operative Response Center (112);
- Amendments to be made to the Law on Fee for Usage of Natural Resources;
- EU visa liberalization plan;

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- Exam-free entrance to higher education institutions for especially talented undergraduates;
- Provision of equal conditions to IDPs;
- Draft bill on alteration of status for agricultural land;
- Amendments to be made to the law on State pension;
- Amendments made to the Law on Self-governments;
- Draft bill on expanding the circle of persons bound to fill out property declarations.

In the TV programs aired on regional TV channels essentially one party, either parliamentary majority members or independent MPs took part since the parliamentary minority members refused to partake in the programs. Therefore, the programs lacked dissenting opinions. The program hosted by Ana Kanaplova was conducted in the Q& A format. A guest was granted 25 seconds to answer the question posed.

Monitoring of PSAs

Within the framework of the undertaking PSAs will be monitored as well. According to Article 12 of the Law of Georgia on Advertising “The social advertising is the advertising aimed at supporting public goods and achieving charitable objective, which is neither commercial nor election advertising and does not promote a legal entity of public law or a government organization as well as the service rendered by them.” (9.06.2006 #3245). Monitoring will try to identify whether social ads meet the legal criteria and whether they contain the signs of subliminal advertising (advertising of State agencies, and their services). Along with qualitative research the frequency of PSAs containing signs of subliminal ads will be counted.

Results of monitoring: Within two-week reporting period no signs of subliminal political ads were identified in the PSAs aired on the monitored TV companies.



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