



ევროკავშირი
საქართველოსთვის
The European Union for Georgia



Study and Research on Election Media Coverage for the 2020 Parliamentary Elections in Georgia

Print Media Monitoring

Pre-Election Report

1 September - 15 October, 2020



INTERNEWS
GEORGIA

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The monitoring of newspapers during the period 1 September - 15 October revealed the following:

- The coverage of opposition political parties increased compared to the previous reporting period.
- Newspapers provided little coverage of parties' electoral programmes, but readers were given the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the opinions or statements of politicians and to find out more about their individual activities.
- Most newspapers displayed negative attitudes towards almost all political parties.
- Some newspapers continued to publish tendentious materials based upon a single source.
- The dissemination of unverified information continues to be a problem: some publications did not hesitate to present serious allegations against certain politicians without evidence. In most cases, statements in which respondents made allegations were reported without being checked.
- Some newspapers continue to use insulting and denigrating terminology.
- Compared to the previous reporting period, almost no abusive or discriminatory pictures were published.
- In contrast to the previous reporting period, there were almost no cases of publications strengthening gender stereotypes.

Gender-sensitive coverage

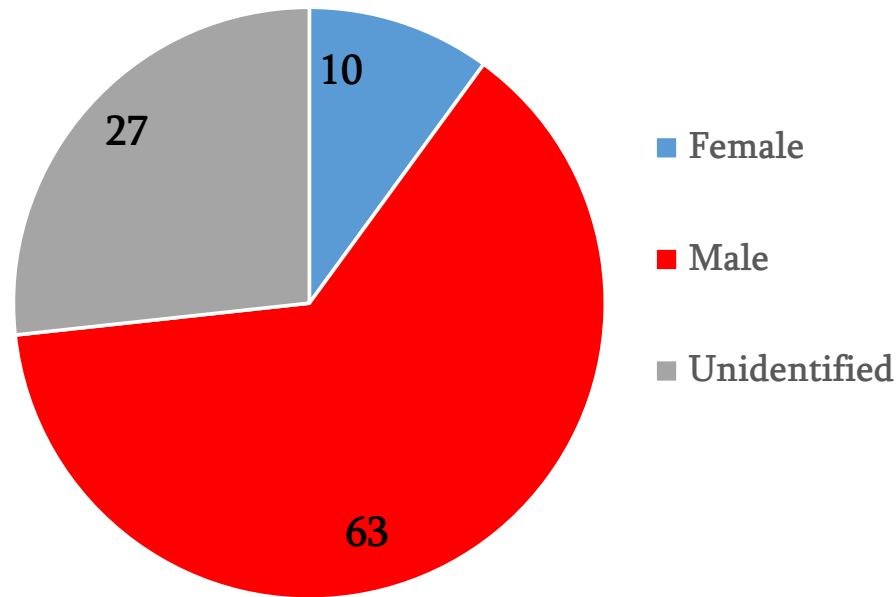
The monitoring of electoral topics in print media also focused upon gender-sensitive coverage, and particular attention was paid to coverage and terminology that reinforced widespread gender stereotypes.

The newspapers that were monitored allocated little space to the coverage of female politicians and candidates.

Unlike the previous reporting period, there were almost no cases of publications that contributed to reinforcing gender stereotypes.

There were only two instances of journalists using a 'female' politician to insult a man. In addition, there was also a case of abusive remarks made by a journalist against the President that aimed to damage her image as a female politician.

Newspaper coverage of subjects according to gender (%) 1 September - 15 October 2020



Conclusion

As the election campaign enters its most intense phase, the coverage of opposition political parties has increased. The newspapers reported little about their election programmes, but gave readers the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the opinions or statements of politicians and to find out more about their individual activities. In addition to party list presentations and the nominations of candidates for the post of Prime Minister, there were interviews of political scientists and analysts during which they reviewed the electoral process, assessed the electoral environment and party strategies, and made forecasts.

Most of the newspapers held negative attitudes towards almost all political forces, but among some of them a neutral attitude was observed towards the ‘Alliance of Patriots’, ‘Georgian Idea’ and the ‘Georgian March’.

We still encountered instances of gross violations of journalistic standards and ethical norms in some newspapers—e.g. offensive and discriminatory terminology was often used in the texts of journalists in addition to the statements of respondents. However, compared to the previous reporting period, there were almost no images containing abusive or discriminatory content.

The dissemination of tendentious and unverified information remains one of the main problems for newspapers. In many cases, allegations against some politicians were delivered to readers without having been checked, and the criticism and difficult questions expressed by some journalists were more biased and subjective rather than based upon fact.

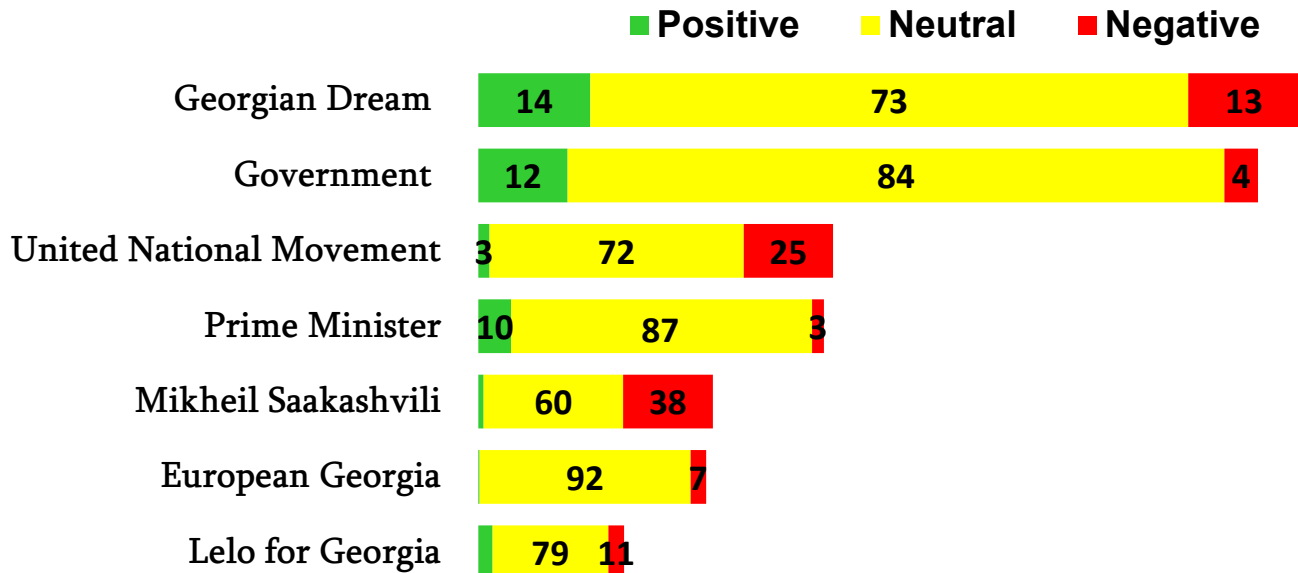
Most of the newspapers continued to offer their readers materials that were based upon a single source, thereby preventing them from acquainting themselves with different opinions on particular issue.

Annex: Coverage of subjects according to tone (8 diagrams)

Tone of Coverage (%)

Rezonansi

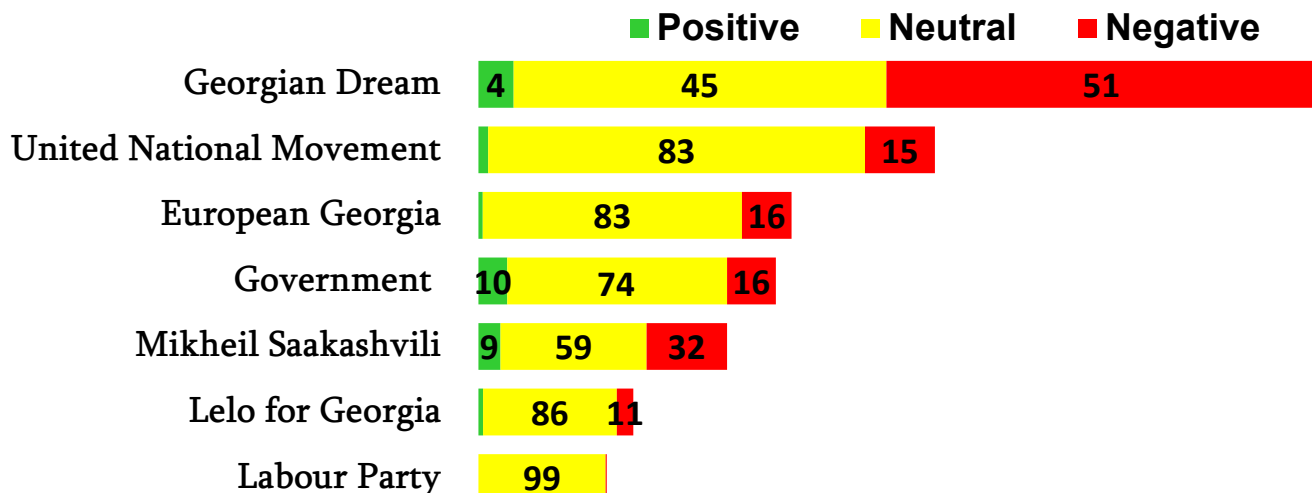
1 September - 15 October 2020



Tone of Coverage(%)

Akhali Taoba

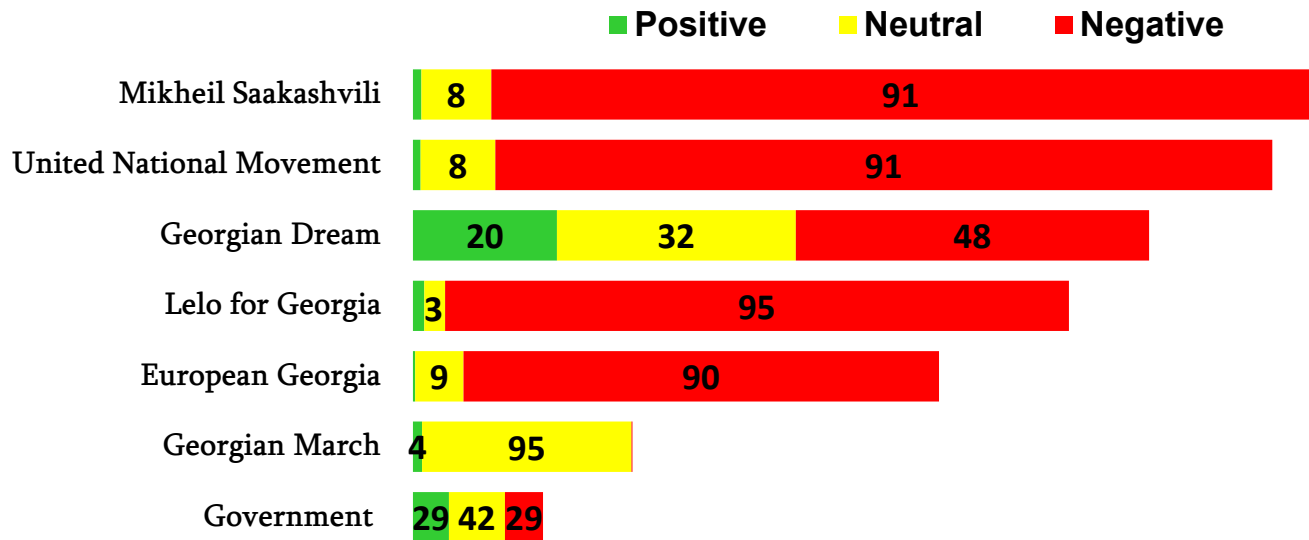
1 September - 15 October 2020



Tone of Coverage (%)

Asaval-Dasavali

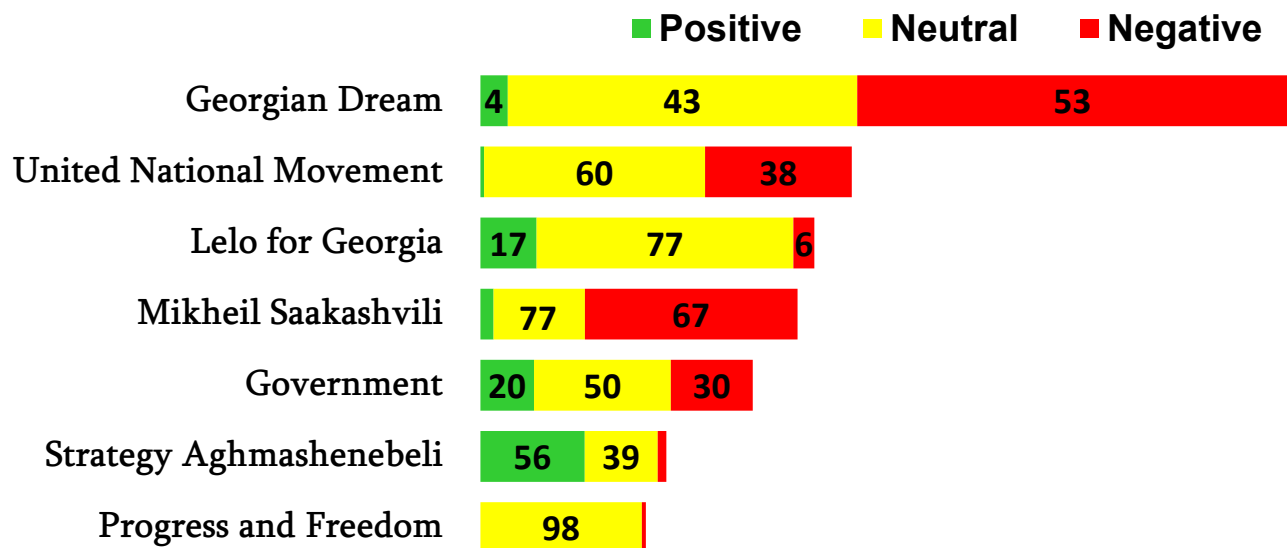
1 September - 15 October 2020



Tone of Coverage (%)

Kviris Palitra

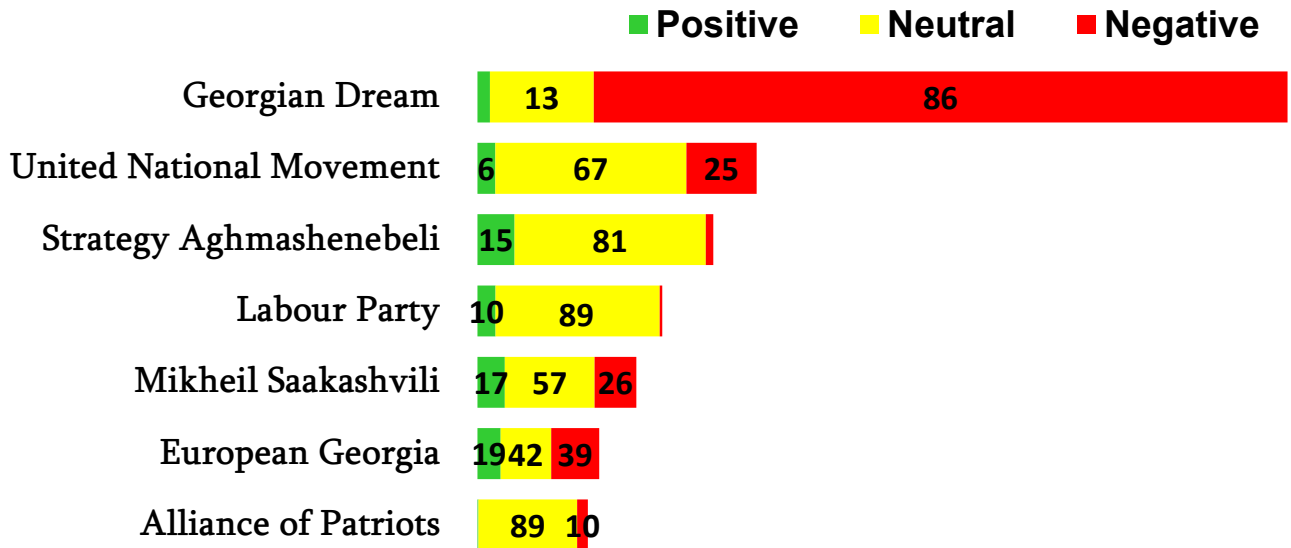
1 September - 15 October 2020



Tone of Coverage (%)

Qronika+

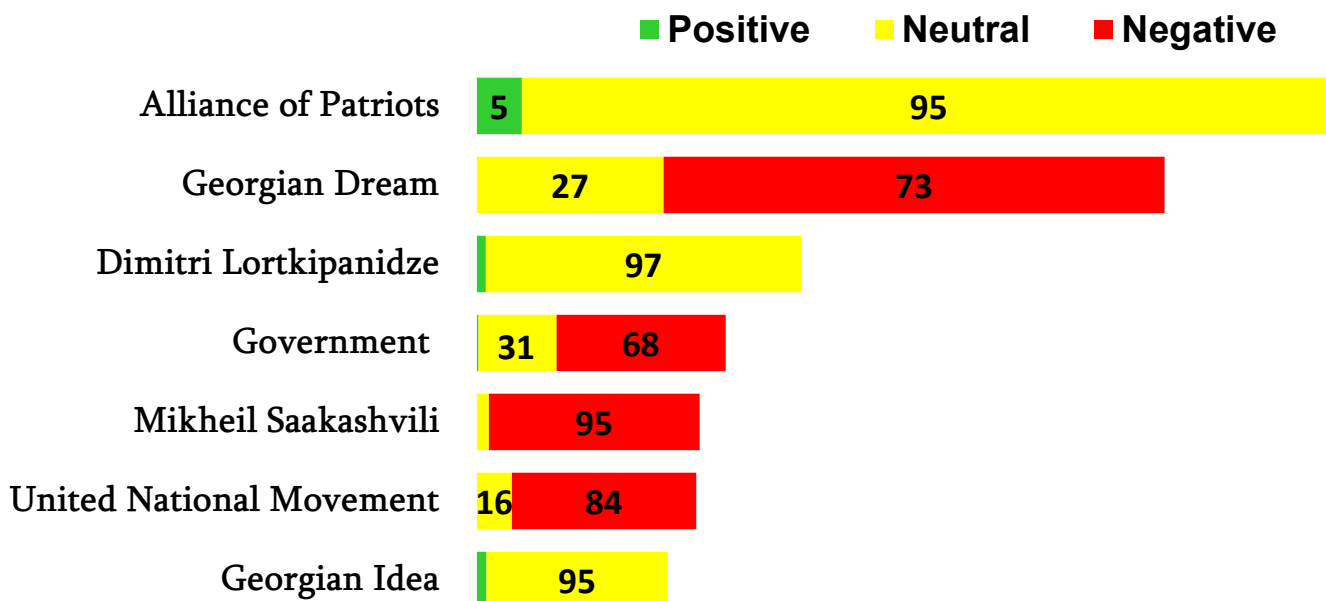
1 September - 15 October 2020



Tone of Coverage (%)

Sakartvelo da Msoplio

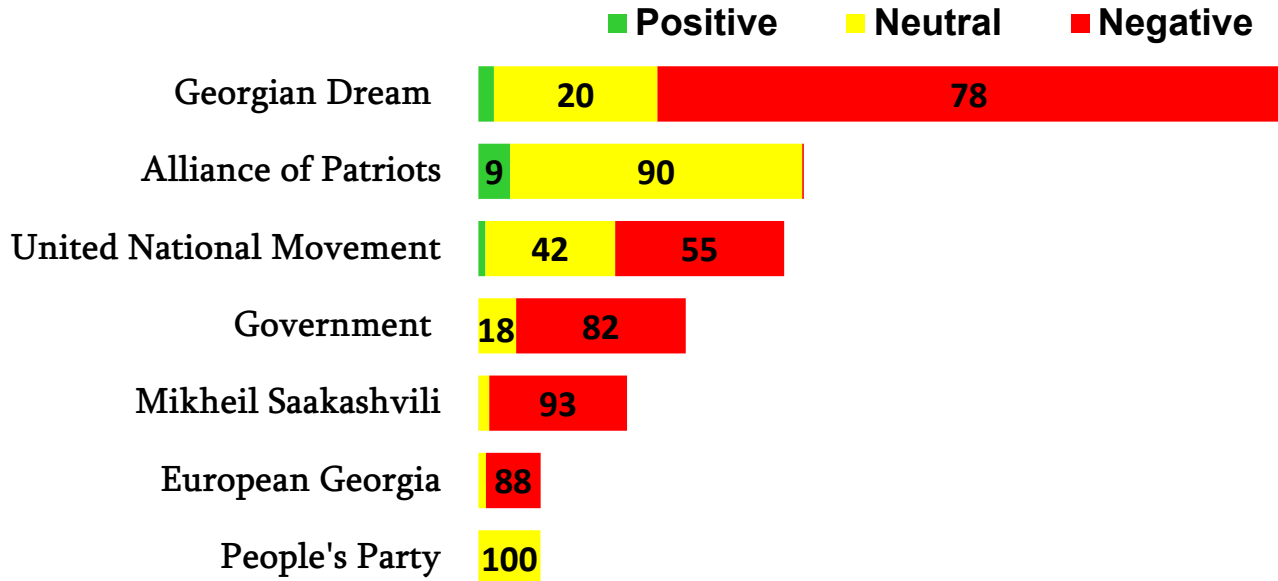
1 September - 15 October 2020



Tone of Coverage (%)

Alia

1 September - 15 October 2020



Tone of Coverage (%)

Guria News

1 September - 15 October 2020

