



**Monitoring Regional Broadcasters
Georgia's 2014 Local Elections**

Subagreement # S-14-108

Reporting period: June 9-15, 2014

Main findings of the fourth phase of monitoring:

- On the Election Day (June 15) most of the TV companies operated in an emergency mode, offering viewers comprehensive information about the developments at the precincts;
- The scale of reporting on the Central Election Commission (CEC) sharply went up. Some of the TV companies produced TV stories only about the developments at the local polling stations;
- Superficial coverage of ongoing events still persisted on most of the TV companies;
- Few days ahead of June 15 some of the TV companies failed to produce any summarizing TV story about upcoming municipal elections and election subjects;
- Similar to previous monitoring periods TV companies produced talk shows about the candidates running for the various positions within the framework of the municipal elections (Mayor, Gangebeli, proportional representation and majoritarian MP);
- On most of the TV companies the hosts of talk shows failed to introduce themselves;
- The lack of relevant subtitles was the main shortcoming observed on most of the TV broadcasters;
- No signs of subliminal political advertising were identified in the programs aired during evening time;
- Within reporting period no manipulation through music/sound was identified.

Background

The report represents the results of the monitoring carried out by the Internews Georgia monitoring team within the period of June 9-15, 2014.

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

The goal of our monitoring 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

Monitoring was carried out on 16 regional TV broadcasters including *Channel 25 (Batumi)*, *Rioni (Kutaisi)*, *Kvemo Kartli TV-Radio Company (Rustavi)*, *Odishi (Zugdidi)*, *Tanamgzavri (Telavi)*, *Channel 9 (Akhaltsikhe)*, *Trialeti (Gori)*, *Guria (Ozurgeti)*, *Imervizia (Chiatara)*, *Gurjaani (Gurjaani)*, *Mega TV (Khoni)*, *9th Wave (Poti)*, *Argo (Zestaponi)*, *Marneuli TV (Marneuli)*, *Borjomi (Borjomi)* and *Dia (Khashuri)*.

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

Monitoring of News Programs

The technique applied in the monitoring 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 anchor 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, election bloc United National Movement (*United National Movement, Georgian Christian-Conservative Party*), Georgian Dream Coalition (*Georgian Dream – Democratic Georgia, Free Democrats, National Forum, Georgian Republican Party, Georgian Conservative Party, Industry will Save Georgia*), election bloc Non-Parliamentary Opposition (Free Georgia, New Rights), election bloc Nino Burjanadze – United Opposition (*Democratic Movement – United Georgia, Georgian Troupe, Christian-Democratic Movement, Union of Georgian Traditionalists, Leftist Alliance*), bloc Self-Governance to People (*European Democrats, For Fair Georgia*), People's Party, Georgia's Way, alliance Euro Atlantic Choice (*National-Democratic Party, Civil Alliance for Freedom, Christian-Democratic Party, Iliia Chavchavadze Society, Merab Kostava Society, Georgian Women's Party*), Labor Party, Greens Party, Georgian Party, Alliance of Georgian Patriots, Our Georgia, as well as mayoral candidates nominated separately by each political party running for the elections and independent candidates running for the Sakrebulo mandates.

News programs monitoring results per channel:

Channel 25 (Batumi) – During reporting period, on June 13, TV company, in protest, suspended broadcasting for a day. According to the TV management and journalists they were to resort to radical measures to demonstrate protest, since no response followed to the

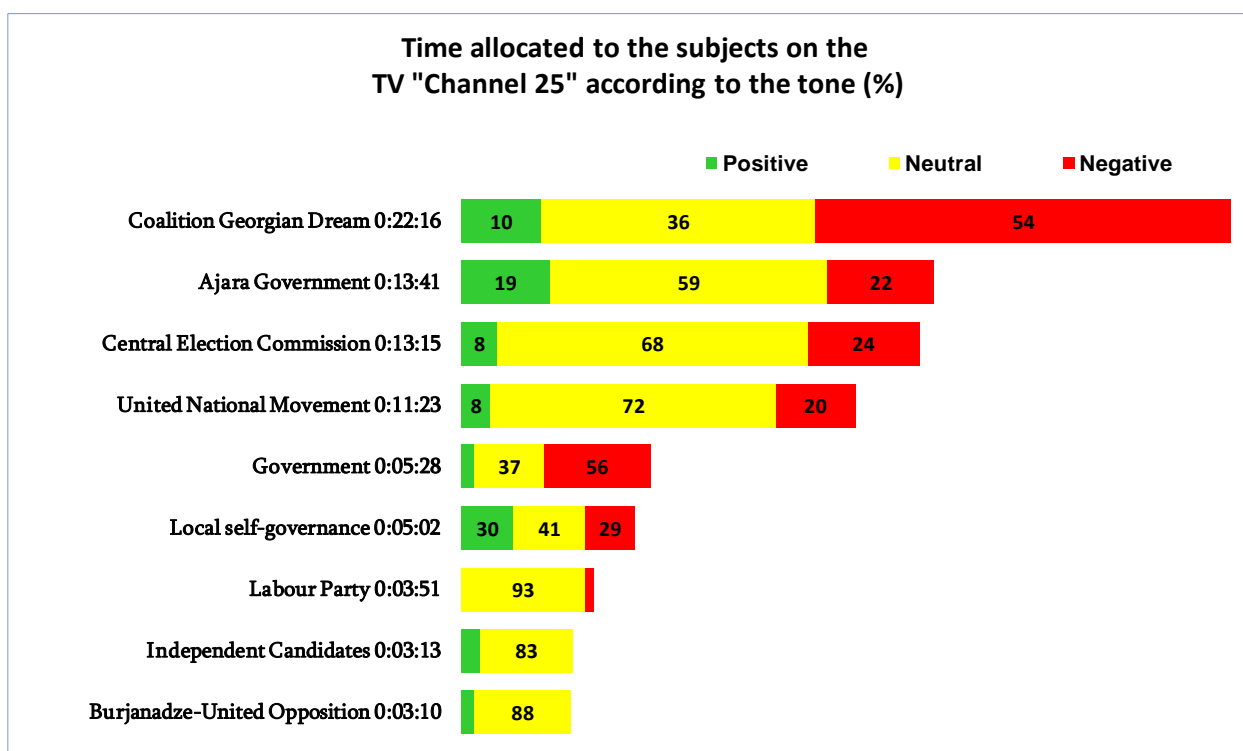
pressure and offense applied against them (threats leveled by Medea Vasadze, chairwoman of the Human Rights Commission under the Supreme Council of Ajara against the Channel 25 journalist Jaba Ananidze).

The TV representatives called on the law enforcement bodies to immediately launch investigation into the case.

Within reporting week six outlets of the news program "Matsne" were aired. News programs essentially centered on Jaba Ananidze's allegations against Medea Vasadze. The rallies organized by media and NGO representatives to support the journalist were brought into focus too. Covering the events the ruling team's representative Medea Vasadze was mentioned in a negative in tone, having ultimately preconditioned 54 percent negative reporting in regard to the Georgian Dream coalition. Out of the monitored subjects GD received the bulk of the reporting – 22 minutes.

During the period of June 9-15 news programs dedicated relatively less time to the election subjects. Monitored subjects enjoyed the total of one hour and 38 minutes of reporting. Five percent of the given time falls on reporting on Batumi mayoral candidates. Neutral tone prevailed when reporting on the monitored subjects, in the TV stories though journalists dedicated some time to demonstrating dissenting opinions and tended to pose censorious questions in relation to local or central authorities. The journalists themselves were trying to report in an unbiased manner and refrained from expressing their viewpoints.

On the E-day, June 15, the broadcaster offered viewers a summarizing news program to review the developments at different polling stations across Adjara region. Reporting focused on the violations identified at the precincts and the comments provided by observers.



Rioni (Kutaisi) - The Rioni TV-produced main news program “Dghis Ambebi” (News of the Day) was on air from Monday to Sunday. The news program aired during Sunday prime time was dedicated to the E-day offering viewers comprehensive information about election-related developments in the region and nationwide. News reporters worked in an emergency mode.

On Sunday TV magazine 7 Days was on air. The 50-60 minute program stands out with analytical and in-depth reporting. Unlike previous reporting periods the June 15 outlet focused more on political issues rather than previously discussed social issues and topics of public concern.

The TV magazine aired a story produced within the framework of the Fact-Meter project verifying the accuracy of statements made by political subjects. Based on the substantiated argumentation and experts’ comments the journalist tended to make certain conclusions.

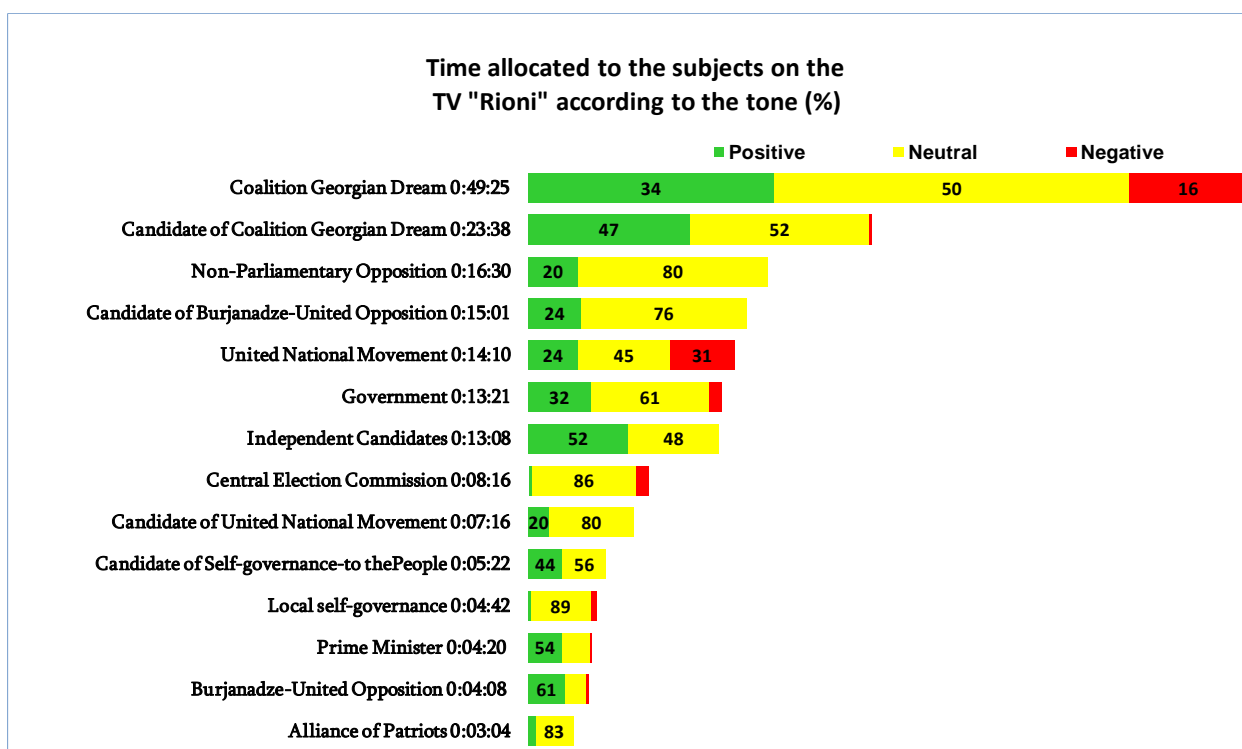
According to the findings the journalists tended to report in a timely manner, reporting was though superficial, no TV stories were found comprehensive.

The news programs produced within reporting period dedicated the total of three hours and 11 minutes to the monitored subjects. GD ranks first in terms of the time received, followed by Kutaisi mayoral candidate Shota Murghulia and Non-Parliamentary Opposition.

Burjanadze – United Opposition’s mayoral nominee Teimuraz Shashiashvili enjoyed 15-minute reporting, UNM’s candidate Giorgi Tevdoradze comes next with seven minutes followed by Khatuna Machavariani of the Self-Governance to People political bloc with five minutes. Reporting on the mayoral candidates was only positive and neutral in tone. In general the aforementioned two tones were attached to reporting on the monitored subjects. Negative tone was identified only in regard to UNM and GD. Positive tone was essentially preconditioned by the election promises given during pre-election meetings.

The June 14 news programs aired a rather positive TV story about GD’s Kutaisi mayoral candidate Shota Murgulia’s pre-election meetings and promises.

The June 14 news outlet also aired a positive story about majoritarian candidate Giorgi Khazaradze nominated by City Museum. The comments provided by five citizens attending Giorgi Khazaradze’s pre-election meeting were televised. The author of the story was not indicated.



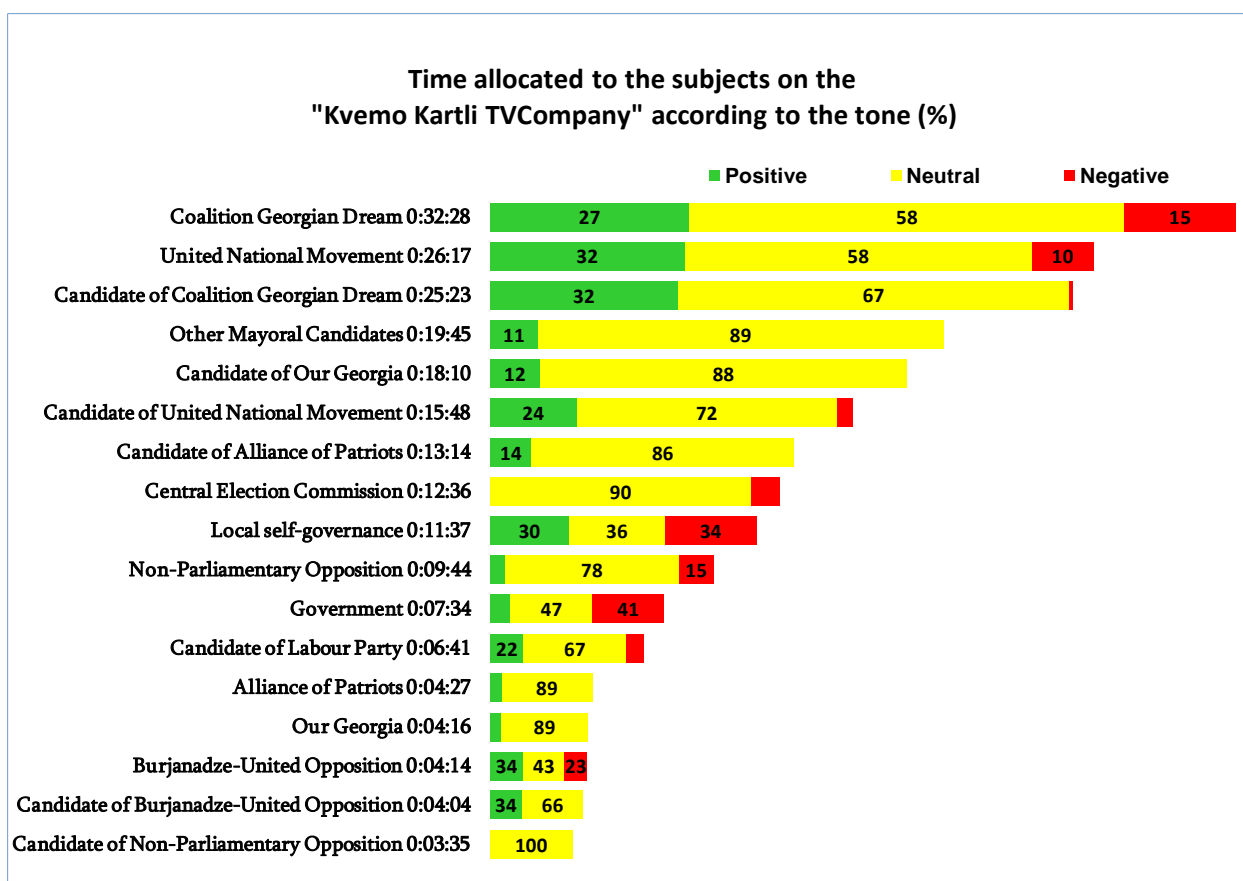
Kvemo Kartli TV Company (Rustavi) – Within reporting week the channel’s main news program “Kronika” was on air on a daily basis. Compared to the rest of the channels Kronika dedicated airtime to more monitored subjects, the reporting though was not in-depth. The time dedicated to time made up the total of three hours and 32 minutes. Out of 21 covered

subjects GD (32 min) and UNM (26 min) enjoyed the bulk of airtime. Reporting on the GD coalition was 65 percent direct. The share of direct reporting stood high (72 percent) in regard to UNM as well, essentially using apportioned time for criticizing opponents, local authorities and government, therefore reporting on government and local authorities was 34 and 41 percent negative in tone.

According to the findings the reporters themselves demonstrated less criticism, failing to go deeper into details and lacking initiative.

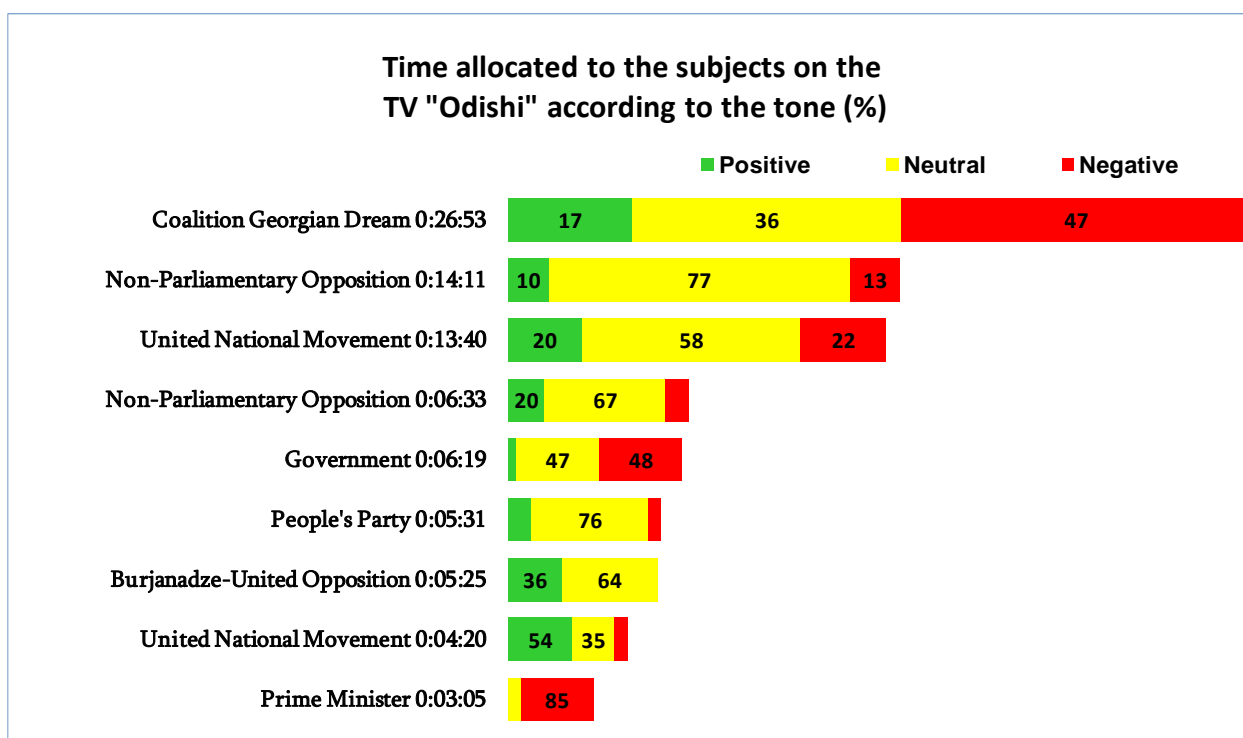
Compared to other broadcasters the channel intensively covered pre-election activities carried out by mayoral candidates. All of the Rustavi mayoral candidates were brought into focus, the lack of balance in terms of time was apparent though. GD's mayoral candidate Davit Jikia enjoyed the bulk (25 min) of reporting, 32 percent of which was found positive. When reporting essentially neutral and positive tones were identified, 65 percent on average was direct. The time apportioned was mainly used for pre-election agitation.

On the Municipal Elections Day, June 15, the broadcaster during evening time aired two special news outlets fully dedicated to the developments at the precincts, voter turn-out, and violations identified at the polling stations. A TV story was produced about all nine Rustavi mayor candidates voting and their comments.



Odishi (Zugdidi) – During reporting week the channel produced five outlets of the main news program “Dro” (Time), having dedicated the total of one hour and 33 minutes to the monitored subjects. GD is leading the chart with 26 minutes, Non-Parliamentary Opposition comes next with 14 minutes. The share of direct/indirect reporting was almost equal. The Non-Parliamentary Opposition and the UNM representatives essentially used their time commenting on the ruling team in a negative tone. Consequently the share of negative reporting on GD, government and Prime Minister has boosted. In the TV stories the journalists offered unequal amount of time to the opponent parties, having resulted into the lack of balance in terms of tone.

On the E-Day the channel produced a lengthy news program covering violations identified at the polling stations during the day, as well as the candidates voting and preliminary results of the polls.

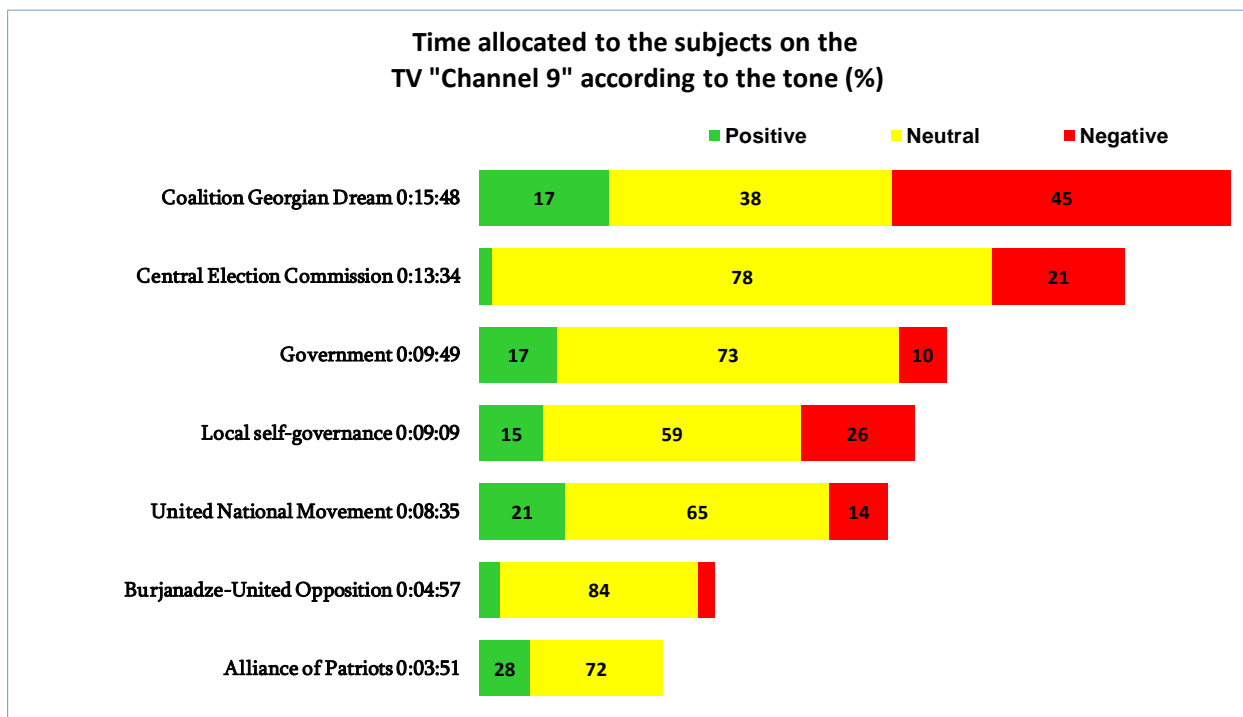


9th Channel (Alkhaltsikhe) - In the course of the reporting period the channel's main news program "Echo" actively covered the developments in the region as well as nationwide. The running time of the news outlet was 30 minutes, dedicating 18 minutes to the monitored subjects. GD ranks first with 20 percent, followed by CEC with 17 percent and government with 12 percent. According to the findings indirect reporting prevailed over direct. When granting interviews the time apportioned was essentially used to criticize opponents that helped raise the share of negative tone. Journalists were trying to verify the statements made and facts cited by political subjects. For example in the June 11 story discussing the utilization of State resources by the ruling team in the run up to elections the journalist verified the accuracy of the fact cited, thereby providing some additional comments.

The news programs produced during reporting week aired TV stories about voters' pre-election mood, which was found rather diverse. Ultimately in regard to the ruling team the journalist offered TV viewers a positive conclusion substantiated with the comments made by the population.

The June 15 E-Day news program thoroughly covered violations identified at the polling stations, thereupon the time dedicated to CEC considerably boosted. In the same news outlet

a technical shortcoming was identified, in particular, Georgian translation was not provide to the Armenianspeaking voter's comment.



Tanamgzavri (Telavi) – Within reporting period TV company aired the main news program “Akhali Ambebi” (News) six times. The first block of the 35-minute news outlets covered the developments in the region, the second block focused on the events taking place nationwide as well as worldwide.

During evening air on the E-Day Tanamgzavri aired two news outlets discussing the voting process. The election-related developments in the region as well as nationwide and some various type of violations were brought into focus.

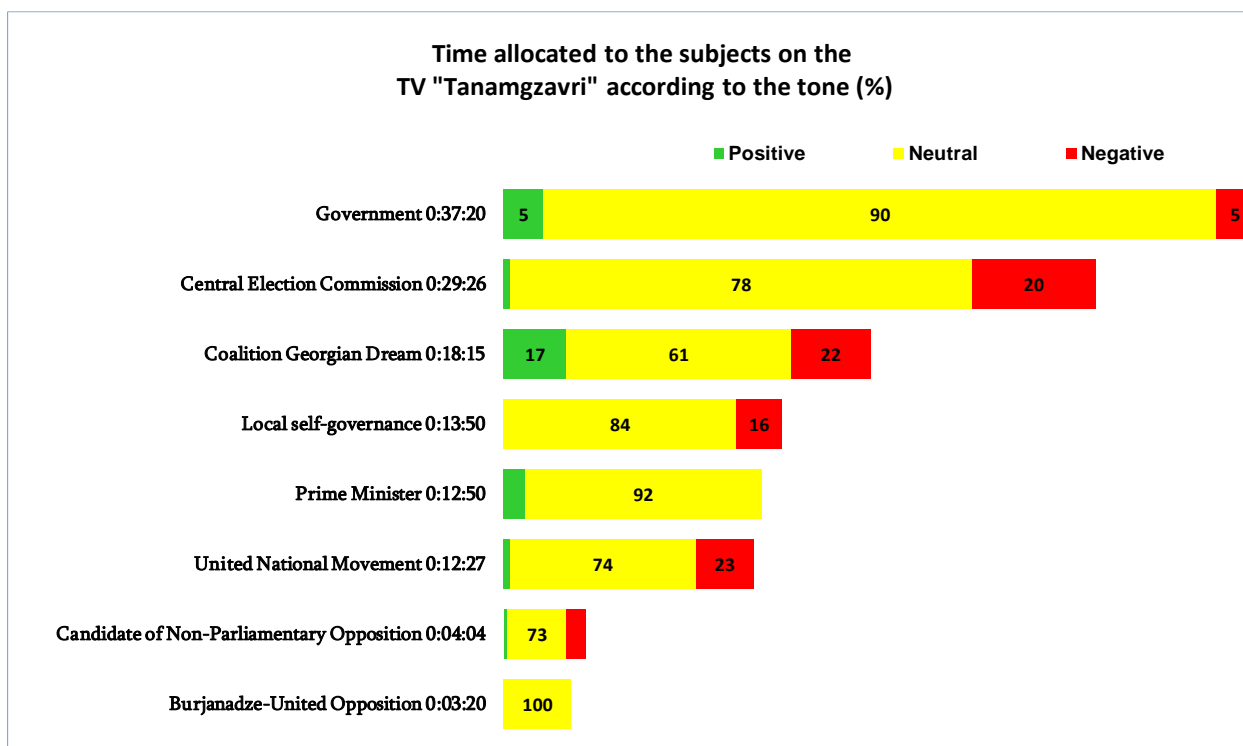
During reporting week only eight out of 44 monitored subjects were dedicated more than two minutes of airtime. The time dedicated to those eight subjects amounted to two hours and 23 minutes, the greater part of which (37 minutes) falls on neutral reporting on the government. The share of direct/ indirect reporting was almost equal. CEC received 29 minutes of reporting.

Out of the subjects running for elections GD enjoyed the bulk of reporting (18 minutes), 69 of which was indirect. 12-minute reporting falls on UNM, followed by Non-Parliamentary

Opposition's Telavi mayoral candidate Giorgi Mosiashvili with four minutes, Burjanadze – United Opposition with three minutes.

The topics discussed in the news programs were found diverse. Some stories touched upon social and infrastructural problems persisting in the region. Reporting was balanced, at certain occasions though the TV stories failed to demonstrate the stance of another party. For example in the June 12 Akhali Ambebi Burjanadze – United Opposition's nominee for Gurjaani Gamgebeli position was accusing the authorities and the ruling team of pressure upon prisoners' families residing in Gurjaani, and exploitation of administrative resources in Akhmeta, Gurjaani and Lagodekhi in the run up to elections. In the TV story the journalist failed to present GD's standpoint. In the June 10 news outlet the same candidate accused UNM of damaging agitation materials. This time again the reporter failed to represent the other party.

Reporting on the channel was essentially neutral in tone. The time for direct /indirect reporting was equally apportioned.



Trialeti (Gori) – During reporting week the news program “Akhali Ambebi Trialetze” (News on Trialeti) was on air on a daily basis. The monitored subjects received the total of one hour and seven minutes of reporting, GD leading the chart with 14 percent, followed by UNM and

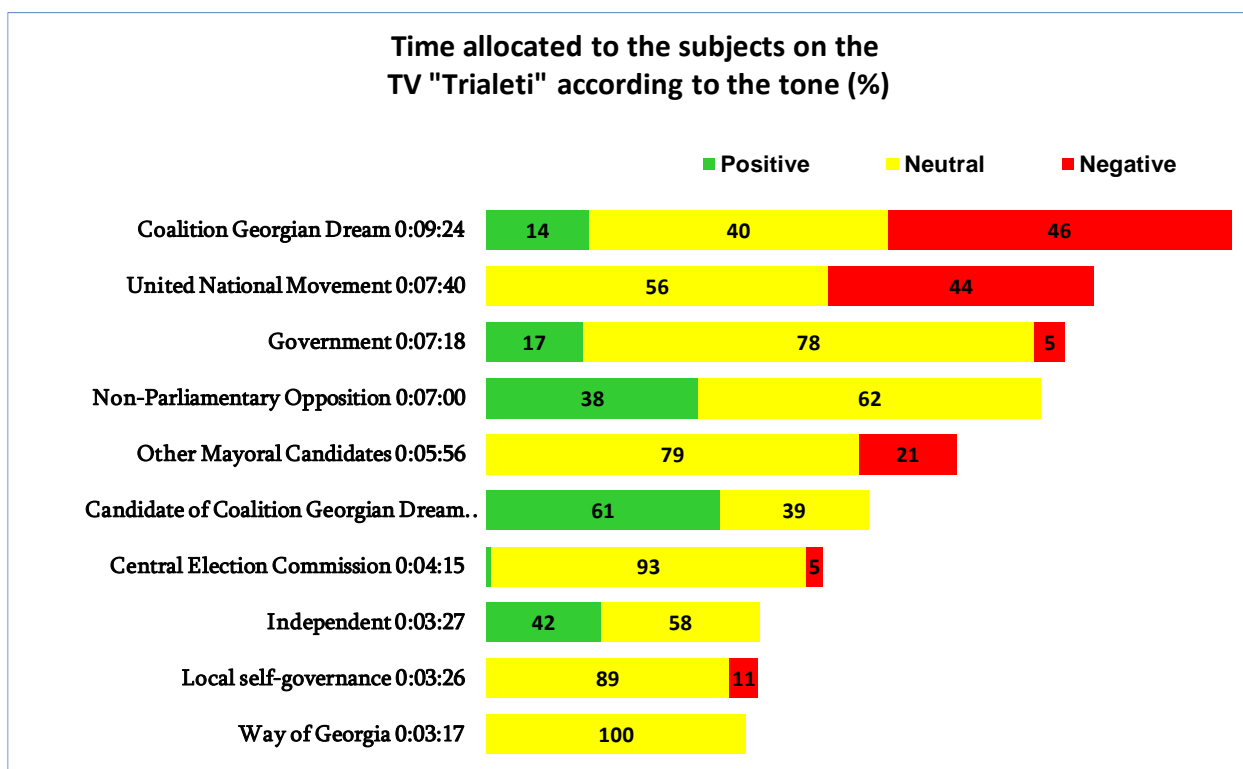
government with 11 and 10 percent respectively. The leading opponent forces were equally criticized on the channel. In regard to the rest of the subjects the neutral tone prevailed.

Out of Gori mayoral candidates solely GD's nominee Zurab Jirkvelishvili enjoyed over three-minute reporting. 61percent of the given time was positive, the share of direct/ indirect reporting was equal. At times journalists reported in a superficial manner, without trying to go deeper into details or obtaining argumentation. For instance the news programs, twice on June 9 and June 14, aired the TV story featuring Iago Tsiklauri of the Georgia's Way stating that the "Produce in Georgia" governmental program was based on his ideas released as a book and he is the author of economic part of GD's election program. The TV stories failed to provide any document to either substantiate or negate the allegations. The journalist just pointed out that GD's Gori-based office refused to provide any comments.

During reporting period the TV company dedicated a considerable amount of time to social issues, also offering viewers comments by the persons in charge.

On the E-Day, June 15, the TV company televised a special outlet reporting on preliminary results of the polls as well as the developments at the precincts and violations observed.

In the news programs produced during reporting some technical shortcomings were identified. At times subtitles were missing to the interviewees.



Guria (Ozurgeti) - During reporting period the Guria-produced main news program “Fact” was aired five times. The 10-15-minute news outlets covered only local developments. The news programs actively covered pre-election meetings held by the subjects running for the municipal elections. The rubric “Who We Are Electing” discussed a number of election subjects.

To the Municipal Elections Day Guria TV dedicated a special news outlet, which got re-aired three times on the evening of June 15. The TV stories produced within the framework of the news program touched upon the developments at the polling stations.

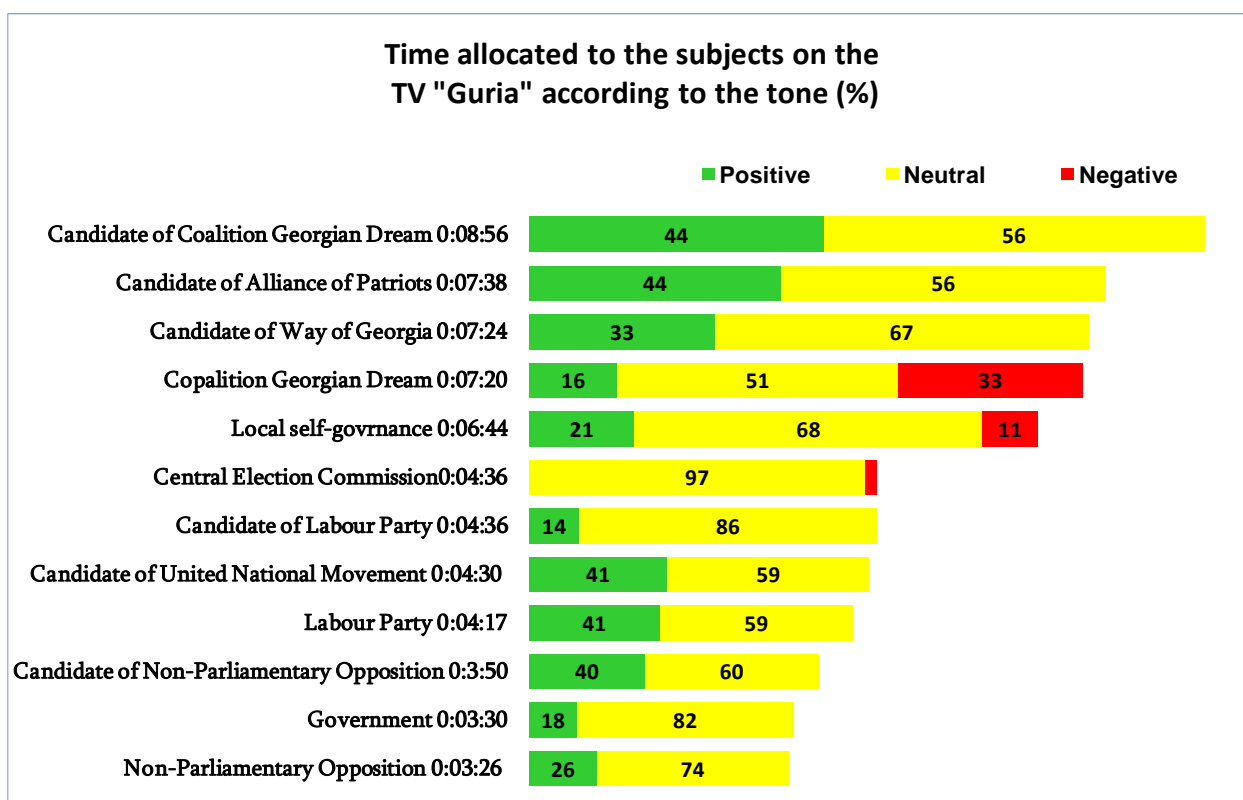
During reporting period the broadcaster dedicated the total of one hour and 10 minutes to the monitored subjects. Reporting was essentially neutral or positive in tone, negative reporting was identified solely in regard to GD and local authorities. 33 percent of negative tone attached to reporting on GD was due to the statements made by the opponents. 68 percent of the time dedicated to the coalition was indirect.

Nine minutes out of the total falls on GD's Ozurgeti mayoral candidate Beglar Sioridze. Shota Gogiberidze and Ivane Tabatadze nominated by the Alliance of Patriots of Georgia and Georgia's Way respectively each received 7-minute reporting. Mirza Chkhikvishvili of Labor Party and Levan Goguadze of UNM running for Ozurgeti mayoral positions come next with four minutes each. Negative tone was not identified to either candidate.

The mistake made in the June 13 news outlet is worth noting. In one of the stories Irma Kvachantiradze, Ozurgeti mayoral candidate nominated by Non-Parliamentary Opposition was represented as the mayoral candidate of the Alliance of Patriots of Georgia.

The TV stories aired in the news programs were of superficial and informative nature. In the June 13 TV story about the rally to support Batumi-based Channel 25 journalist Jaba Ananidze, the viewers would find it really hard to comprehend the reason of the rally since pre-history was insufficiently provided.

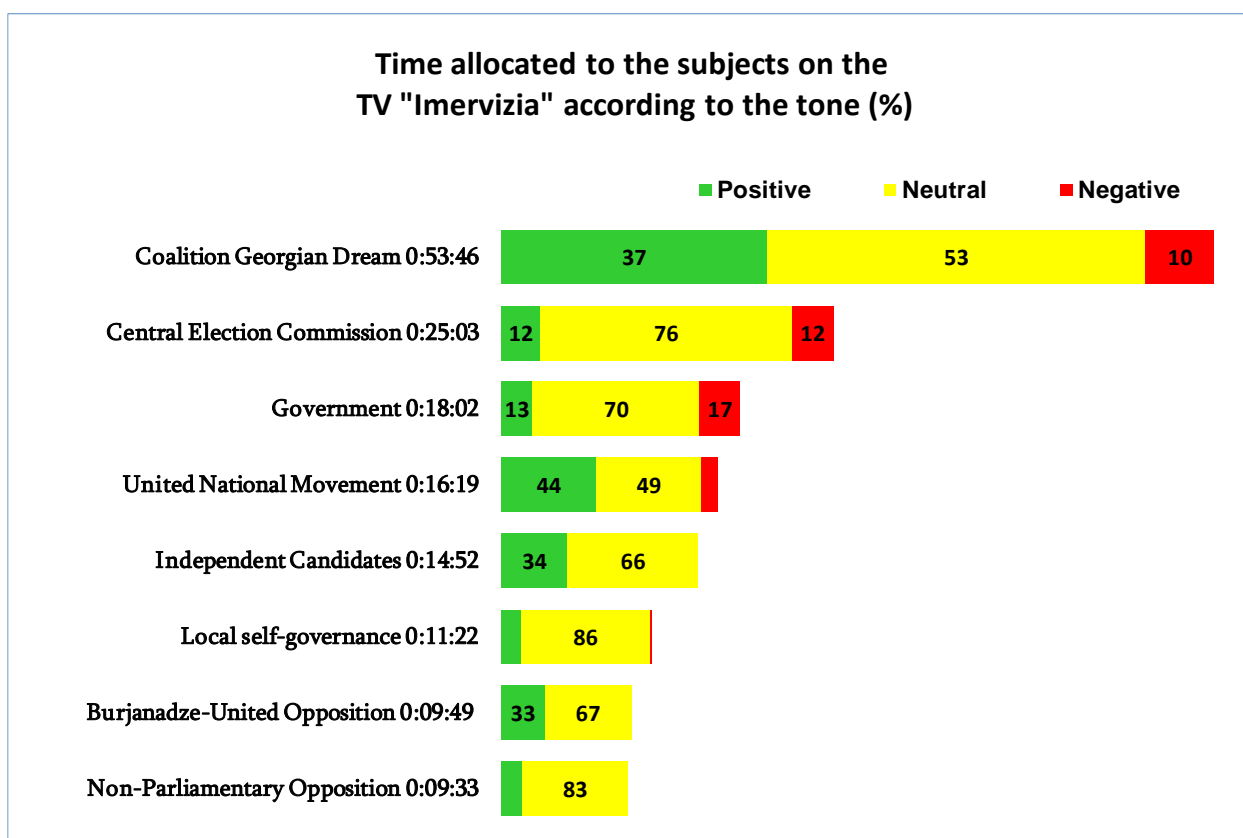
Subtitles were often missing to the respondents.



Imervizia (Chiatura) - Within reporting period the channel televised six outlets of the main news program “Akhali Ambebi” (News). The 20-25-minute news outlets were aired without a newsreader twice during prime time. Unlike previous reporting periods Imervizia produced a news program on Sunday too. During June 15 E-Day news program the viewers were thoroughly informed about the developments at the precincts in Sachkhere and Chiatura. Election-related developments nationwide were also brought into focus.

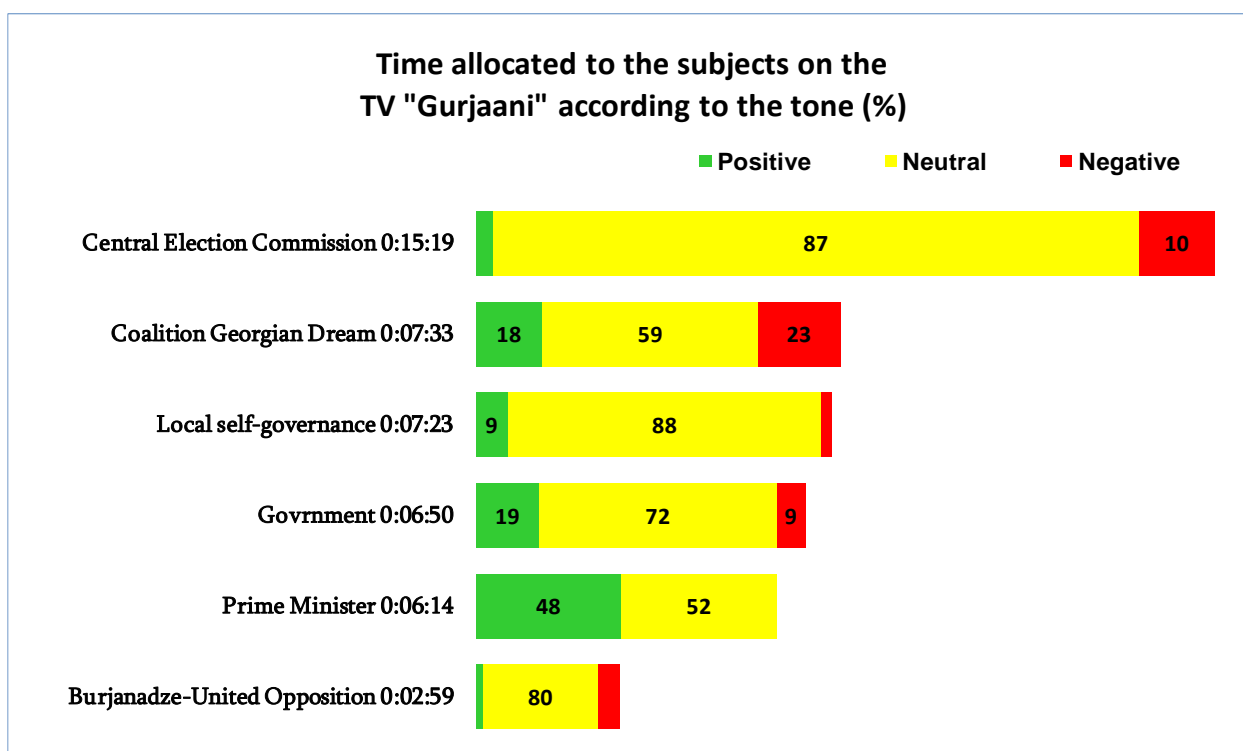
News programs dedicated the total of two hours to the monitored subjects. 33 percent of the given time falls on reporting on GD’s activities, followed by government with 11 percent and UNM with 10 percent. Non-Parliamentary Opposition and Burjanadze – United Opposition each received 6-percent. Out of the election subjects independent majoritarian candidates were covered too through 63-percent direct reporting. In general direct reporting prevails over indirect in regard to each and every subject covered.

News reporting was done in a timely but shallow manner. Reporters refrained from expressing their viewpoints.



Gurjaani (Gurjaani) – Within reporting period six outlet of the Gurjaani TV-produced news program “Dghes” (Today) was aired. On Saturday a summarizing news program Whole Week re-aired some TV stories about top important developments of the week. The Saturday news outlet was on air without a newsreader. The channel actively covered election-related developments: pre-election campaigns, problems the locals face, social issues, sports and cultural events, developments nationwide and world news. News reporters tended to cover recent developments in a timely though mostly superficial manner.

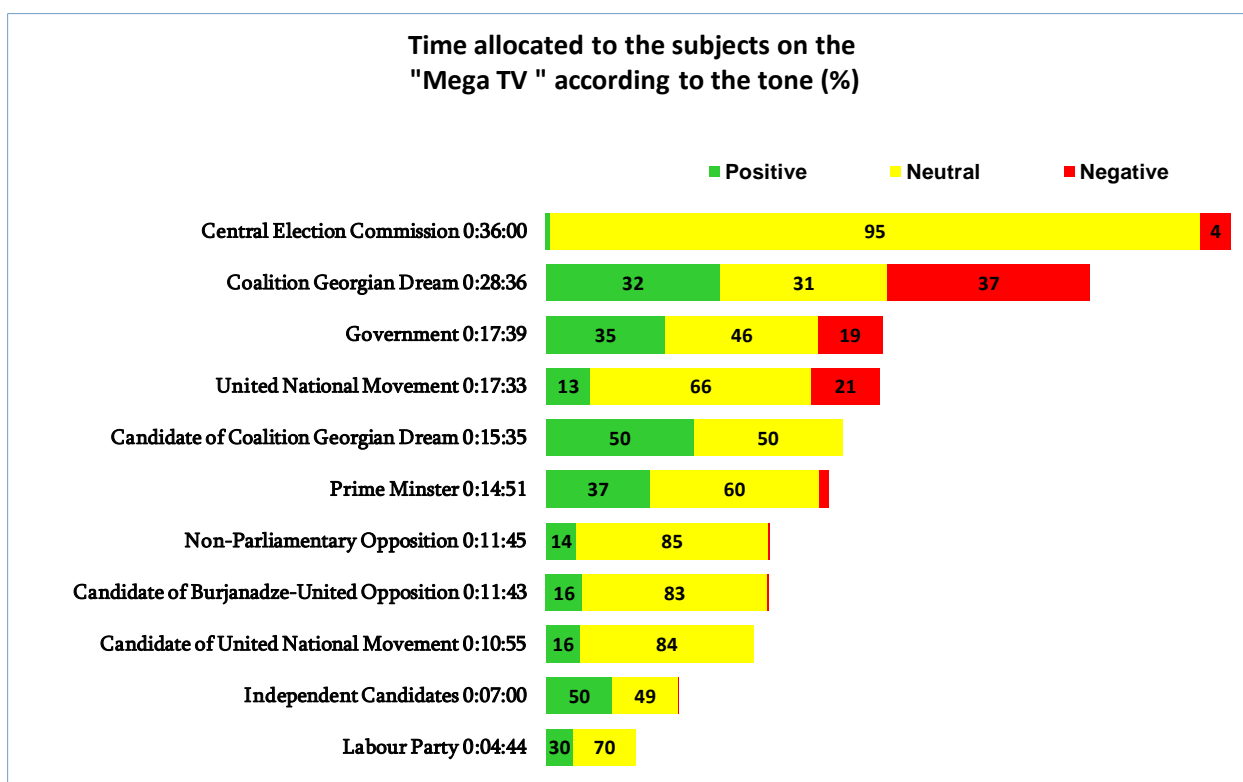
The Gurjaani-TV produced news programs dedicated the total of 56 minutes to the monitored subjects. CEC enjoyed the bulk of the time. In the June 15 news outlet the journalist broadcast live from district election commission (DEC) № 12 to deliver information about the proceeding of the polls, afterwards the reporter’s questions were answered by the Gurjaani DEC chairperson. From the respondent the journalist was trying to obtain detailed information about election-related processes.



Mega TV (Khoni) – During reporting week the Mega TV-produced news program “Mtavari Dghes” (Main Today) was aired six times. During prime time on the E-day, June15 the broadcaster aired two news outlets of 40 and 70 minutes in length, to thoroughly cover election-related processes ongoing in the region as well as nationwide.

The channel dedicated the total of three hours and 16 minutes to the monitored subjects. 18 percent of which falls on CEC, followed by GD with 15, government and UNM with 10 percent each. Out of Kutaisi city mayoral candidates the broadcaster dedicated over three minutes solely to Shota Murgulia (GD), Teimuraz Shashiashvili (Burjanadze - United Opposition) and Giorgi Tevdoradze (UNM). Reporting on the aforesaid subjects was essentially neutral in tone and direct.

Mega TV covered events in a ‘standup-voice-over’ format. Journalists tended to report in a timely manner. The lack of censorious questions was though apparent, accordingly news reporting failed to be in-depth. During reporting week a single case of offering evaluation by the journalist was identified.



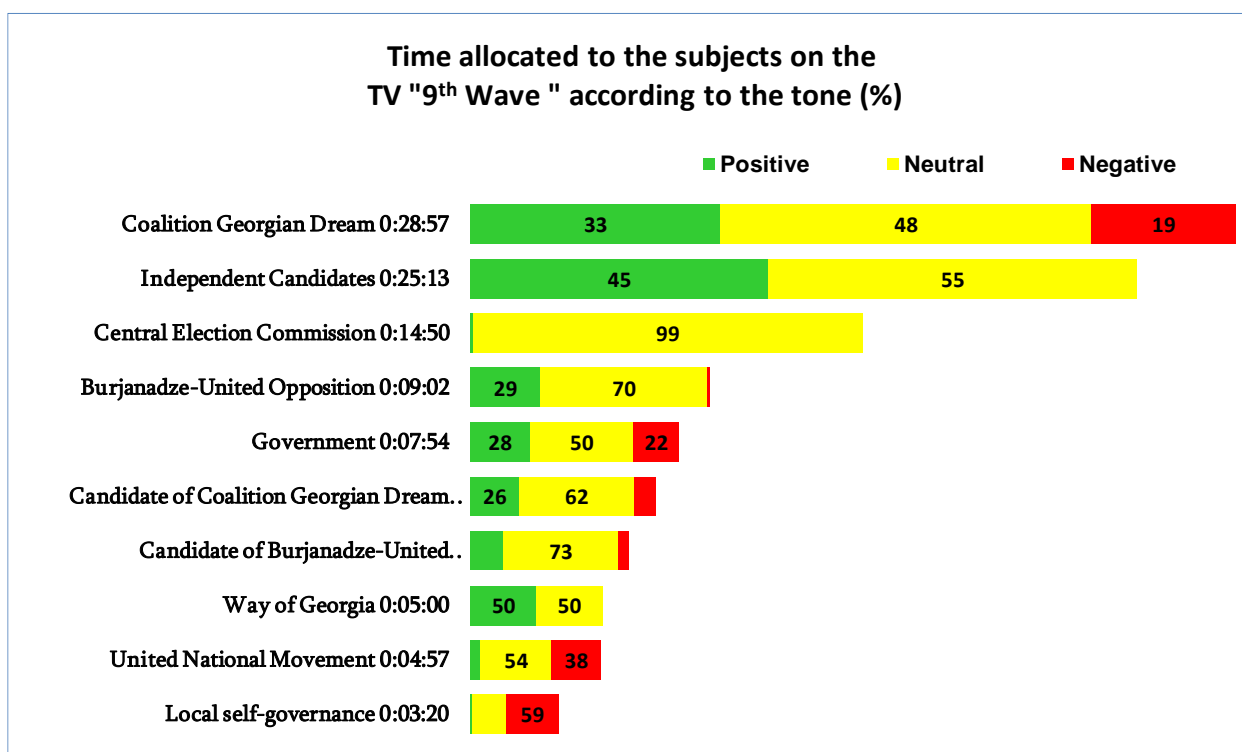
9th Wave (Poti) – During reporting week six outlets of the 9th Wav-produced news program “Cursor” was aired. The 20-25-minute news programs were offered during evening air twice a day, at the end of the day the main news program was re-aired.

On the E-Day, June 15 the TV company operated in an emergency mode. Two news outlets during prime time were broadcast live. Election-related developments in Poti were thoroughly covered by the channel, including the interviews with the CEC representatives, also featuring Poti mayoral candidates and Poti majoritarian MP Eka Beselia voting and interviewing.

During reporting period the channel, in its news programs, dedicated the total of two hours and two minutes to the monitored subjects. 24 percent of the given time falls on GD, followed by independent majoritarian MPs with 21 percent, CEC with 12 percent. Out of Poti mayoral candidates over three minutes was apportioned to Irakli Kakulia (GD) and Davit Kantaria (Burjanadze – United Opposition). Reporting was essentially direct.

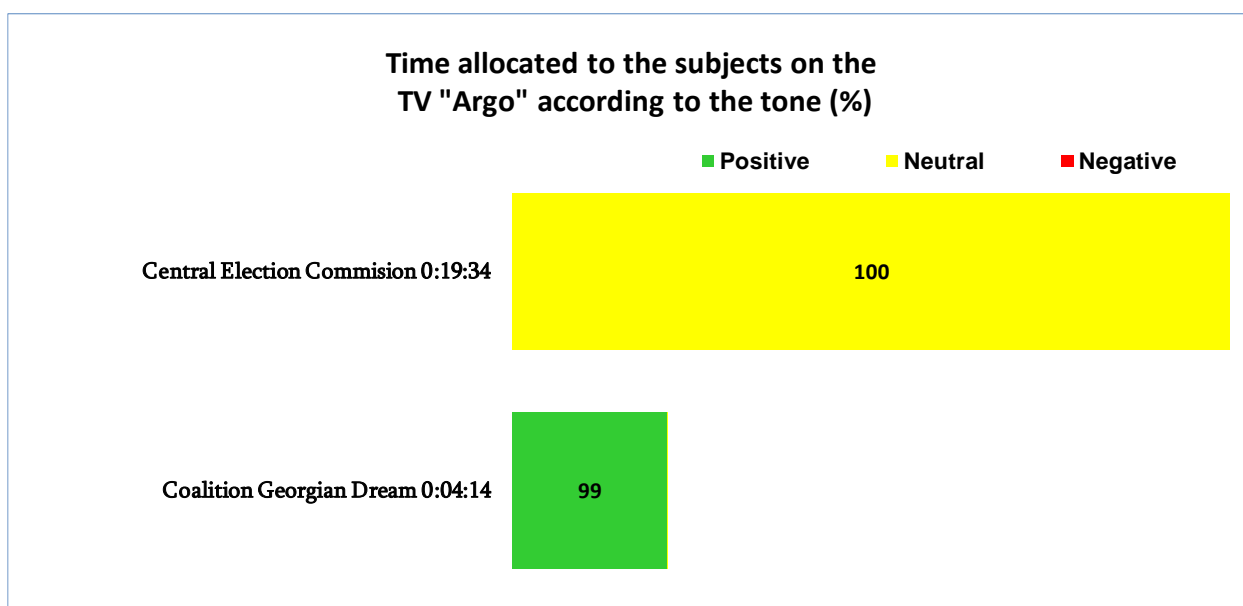
News programs produced during reporting week informed viewers about the activities of election subjects and political parties, local cultural and sports events, also developments nationwide.

Journalists tended to report in a timely manner. Reporting was though superficial and the lack of censorious questions was evident. In the TV stories no subjective evaluations were observed.



Argo (Zestaponi) – Within one-week reporting period the channel’s main news program “Spectrum” was on the evening air from Monday to Friday. The monitored subjects received the total of 33 minutes. 59 percent of the given time falls on CEC, GD comes next with 13 percent. Reporting on the Zestaponi Gamgebeli candidates nominated by Burjanadze – United Opposition, Non-Parliamentary Opposition, Georgia’s Way and UNM was less than three minutes in length. The TV story aired in the June 13 news program touched upon the candidates’ election promises. The TV story was re-aired in the June 14 outlet. Even though no bias was identified 99 percent of direct reporting on GD’s nominee for Gamgebeli position was positive.

Throughout the week the news programs mostly covered cultural and sports events taking place at a local level. The TV stories televised in the June 15 news outlet touched upon the developments at the precincts.



Marneuli TV (Marneuli) – Within reporting period the Marneuli TV-produced news program “Akhali Ambebi” (News) was on air from Monday to Sunday. The news outlets were re-aired twice during prime time. The running time of the Akhali Ambebi news outlets was ranging from 8 to 20 minutes. The news programs on June 14 and the June 15 televised a single two-minute story.

News outlets produced throughout reporting week covered local developments. TV stories were generally of shallow and informative nature. The monitored subjects were apportioned the total of one hour and 10 minutes. A considerable amount of time was dedicated to reporting on pre-election campaigns conducted by election subjects and especially Marneuli municipality Gamgebeli candidate Merab Topchishvili nominated by GD. His pre-election campaign was brought into focus in almost every news outlet. The June 11 and June 13 news programs each produced two TV stories about him. Out of all the monitored subjects covered Topchishvili prevailed with 30 minutes. 56 percent of reporting was positive in tone.

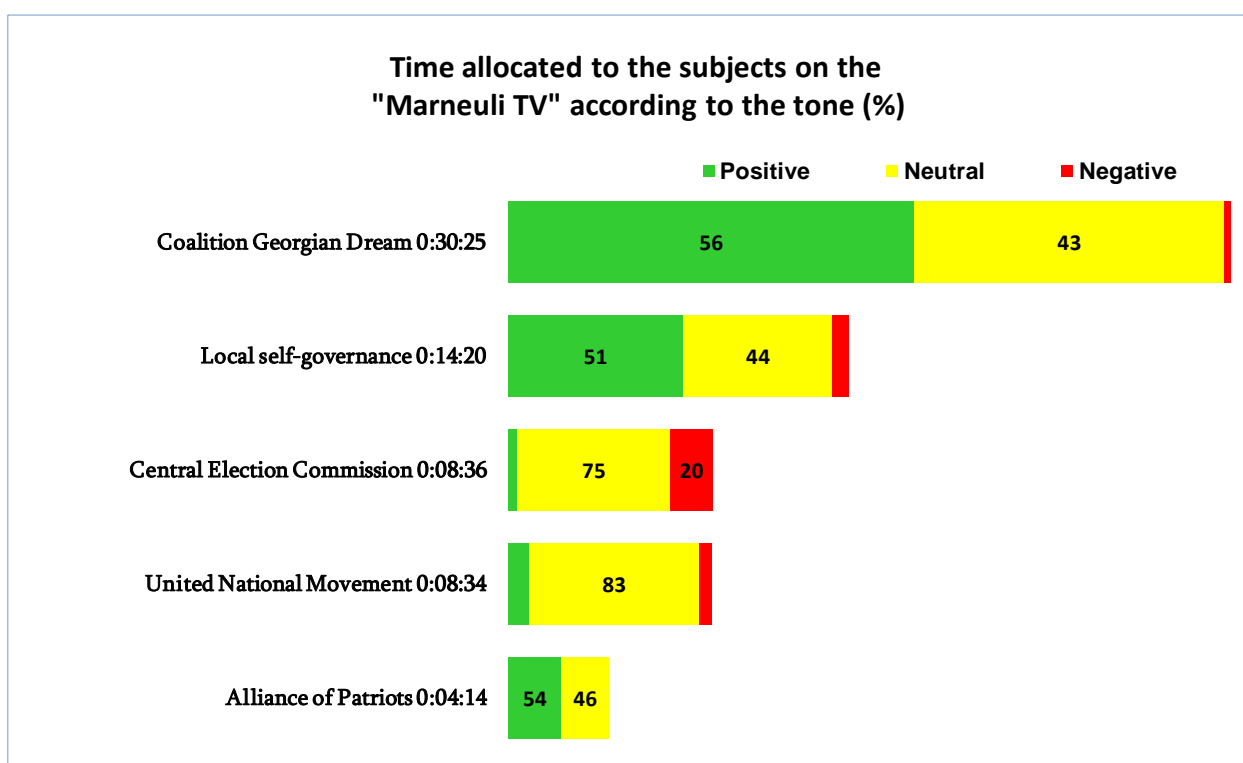
In the four-minute TV story televised in the June 13 news outlet featuring Topchishvili refusing to withdraw, the journalist centered on some positive details (applauds, exclamations). The TV story was found superficial, the pre-history was missing, therefore the motive of his refusal was vague. In the same news outlet another story covered the same topic. The TV story featured a convoy of vehicles supporting the candidate, also their shouts,

and almost three-minute comment granted by one of the supporters. The pre-history was again missing.

The channel dedicated 14 minutes to reporting on the local authorities. The TV story in the June 13 news program touched upon the celebration of the last sitting of Marneuli municipality Sakrebulo. In the approximately six-minute story the toast made at the ceremony and voice-over took up almost three minutes.

Out of election subjects over three minutes were dedicated to UNM and the Alliance of Patriots of Georgia.

On the Municipal Elections Day, during evening time, two TV stories were televised to cover election-related developments in Marneuli.



Borjomi (Borjomi) – Within reporting week Borjomi TV-produced main news program “Dghis Kronika” (Chronicle of the Day) was aired six times. Approximately 10-minute outlets, aired twice during prime time, essentially covered local events.

During reporting week the channel produced two election-related TV stories. One of them, aired in the June 13 news program, touched upon voting procedures. Televising this type of TV story two days prior to the elections was important to the voters.

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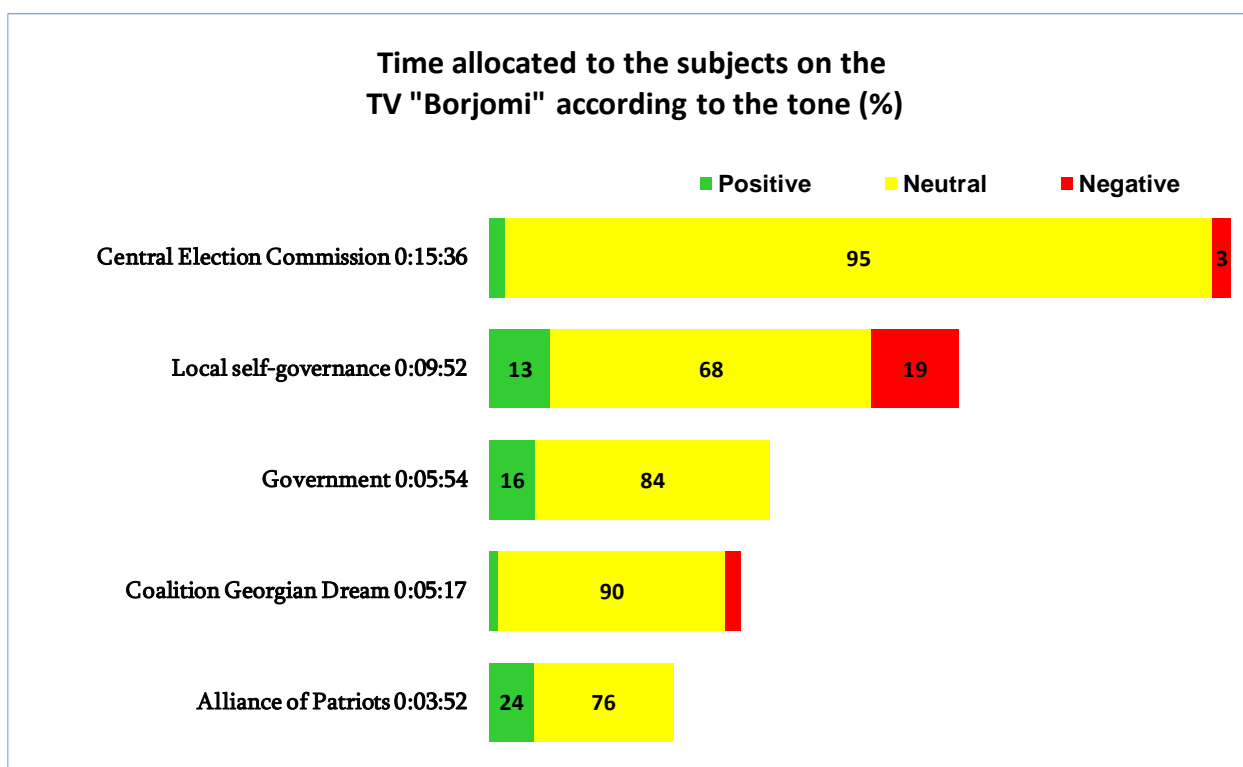
Out of 44 election subjects Borjomi TV air was dedicated to nine of them only to make up the total of 42 minutes and 33 seconds. The bulk of the time (15 minutes) falls on CEC, having enjoyed 95 percent neutral and 61 percent indirect reporting. The increase in the amount of time dedicated to the aforesaid subject boosted thanks to the June 15 news programs.

Almost 10 minutes was dedicated to the local authorities whose 59 percent falls on direct reporting. Government (Minister of Justice visiting Borjomi) comes next with six minutes. During reporting period the channel provided almost no coverage of pre-election campaigns conducted by the subjects running for the municipal elections. Out of the election subjects GD and the Alliance of Patriots of Georgia enjoyed the bulk of reporting.

The TV stories in the news programs were essentially found superficial and informative. The channel failed to offer viewers any in-depth analytical story.

“Dghis Kronika” essentially did not lack balance but an exception still came about. In one of the stories aired in the June 13 news outlet the population was accusing the authorities of lack of attention. The journalist failed to provide the self-government’s standpoint, case-related data was not sufficiently provided. Occasionally incomplete information was provided in the subtitles, therefore hard was to identify the political party the candidate represented.

On June 15 Borjomi TV produced two news programs. The stories aired therein covered developments at the precincts.

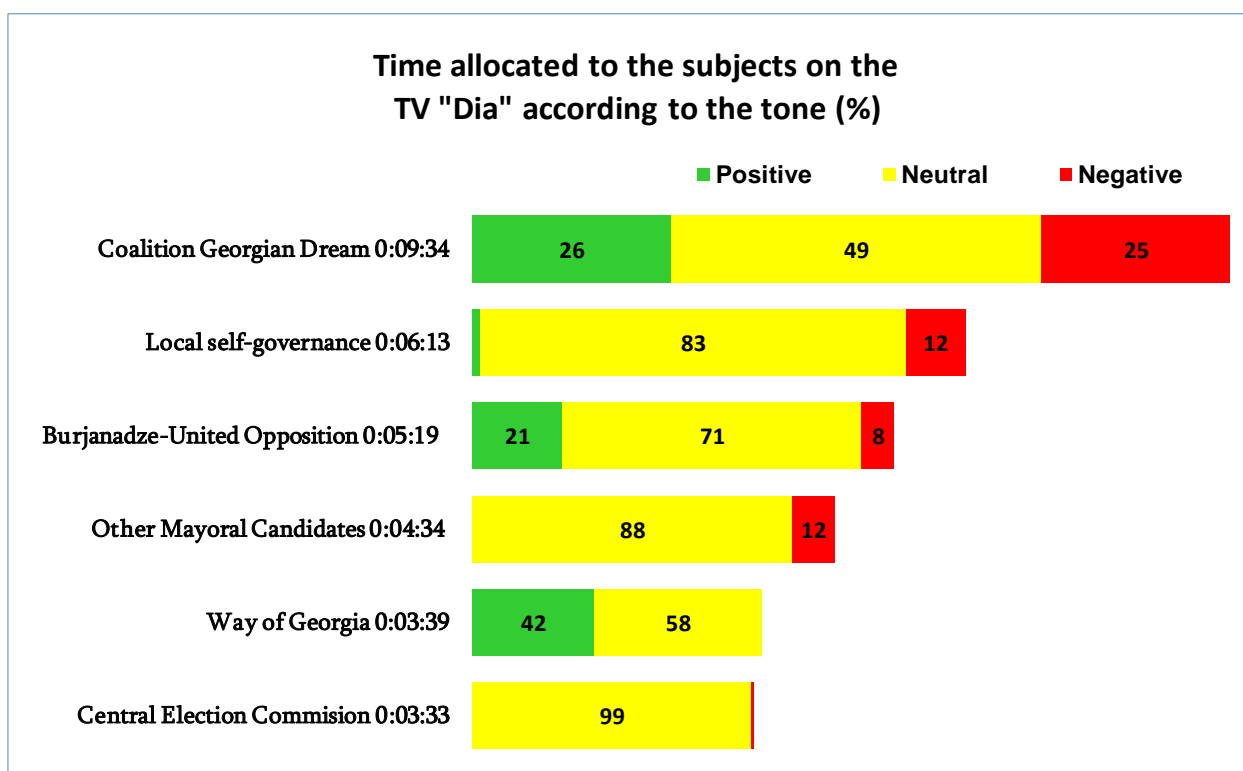


Dia (Khashuri) – TV company Dia offered its main news outlet “Akhali Ambebi” (News) six times within reporting period. On Saturday viewers had a possibility to watch the TV stories about top important events of the week in the weekly news outlet “News of the Week”.

The news programs produced during reporting period dedicated 47 minutes to the monitored subjects. 20 percent of the given time falls on GD, followed by local authorities with 13 percent and Burjanadze – United Opposition with 11 percent.

Unlike previous monitoring periods within the period of June 9-15 several news outlets aired on the channel had a newsreader. A number of shortcomings were identified though (the newsreader’s voice was inaudible, the newsreader’s voice and script overlapped one another). Moreover, at times subtitles were missing to identify the respondents, accordingly we failed to calculate the time dedicated to several monitored subjects.

Dia reported in a timely though superficial manner.



Monitoring of Public-Political Programs and Talk Shows

The monitoring of this type of programs implies only qualitative component. The topics of the programs, as well as selected guests and especially journalists are subject to monitoring. Their behavior of presenters is evaluated based on various criteria: their role and participation in the program, the way they conduct the process, whether they are just moderators or are they trying 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 allow guests to express their opinions, when do the guests 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) - During reporting period from Monday to Thursday the TV company aired talk show “Dialogue”, hosted by journalist Jaba Ananidze. Within the period of June 9-15 the confrontation between the journalist and Adjara Supreme Council’s high official Medea Vasadze was one of the top news. The June 10 outlet was dedicated to the

aforementioned issue. The talk show hosted radio “Tavisufleba” (Liberty) journalist and the head of Batumi-based office of “Transparency International – Georgia”. GD’s members, due to overloaded schedule, refused to take part in the program. The topics discussed in the June 9, 11, and 12 outlets touched upon pre-election topics. Giorgi Ermakov (GD), and Giorgi Diasamidze (UNM), also nominees by political unions and independent majoritarian MPs were among the selected guests.

The guests invited to the studio had a possibility to present their own election platforms. Unlike previous reporting period the subjects were offered limited time. The stopwatch was on. Jaba Ananidze provided equal airtime to the guests to express their opinions and pose questions. The host of the program urged the guests to follow the format of the program and to speak in an ethical manner. He was actively engaged in the program, posing questions.

The program was highly interactive. No hate speech was identified, the opponent parties though tended to make some harsh allegations against one another.

Rioni (Kutaisi) – During reporting week on June 9,11 and 12 TV company Rioni aired three outlets of a **public-political talk show “Tema”** (Topic) hosted by journalist Nana Robakidze. Each outlet hosted one representative of political parties, including UNM’s one of the leader - Giorgi Vashadze, Kutaisi mayoral candidate Giorgi Tevdoradze and majoritarian MP candidates; Burjanadze – United Opposition’s Kutaisi mayoral candidate Teimuraz Shashiashvili and majoritarian MP candidates; GD’s Kutaisi mayoral candidate Shota Murghulia and majoritarian MP candidates.

The topic of the outlets included pre-election programs, Kutaisi city development plan and the problems they encountered when meeting with the population.

The journalist was posing some interesting questions to the guests, trying to thoroughly discuss the topics raised in the course of the program. In case of using unethical wording against opponents the journalist urged the respondents to hold back. In the closing part of the program the viewers had an opportunity to call in and shoot questions to the guests in the studio. The audience actively used this possibility.

On June 10 and 13 TV company aired talk show “Obiekturi Azri” (Objective Opinion) hosted by journalist Elza Chubinidze. The program was made up of two or three blocks hosting different guests.

The selected guests included the candidates of various political forces (Non-Parliamentary Opposition, Labor Party, Burjanadze – United Opposition, GD, UNM, Alliance of Patriots of Georgia) different districts in Kutaisi (Kakhianuri, Dzelkviani, Kalaki-Muzeumi, Ukimerioni) and independent majoritarian candidates, also the representative of the Georgian Young Lawyers Association (GYLA)

The topics of the talk show included:

- Candidates' election programs. How well majoritarian MP candidates are aware of the problems the population faces and the way they are going to tackle the challenges in case they win Sakrebulo mandates.
- GYLA's second preliminary report on pre-election monitoring.

The journalist was actively involved in the talk show, trying to apportion equal airtime to the guests, posing some questions of current importance.

The journalist televised opinion poll survey of the voters at the election districts speaking about the issues of concern in those districts. The host was curious to know whether the candidates had been aware of these problems and how they were going to address them. Through additional questions the host was trying to figure out case-related details, urging respondents to specify their opinions.

Kvemo Kartli TV /Radio Company (Rustavi) – Within reporting period the channel aired four talk shows, differing from one another in terms of their format and hosts.

The June 9 TV air was dedicated to **the talk show “Elections 2014”** produced by the Georgian Association of Regional Broadcasters (GARB). The host of the program Nikoloz Rubashvili had Rustavi mayoral candidates invited to the studio. The program was made up of two blocks. Out of nine mayoral candidates GD's mayoral nominee Davit Jikia was the only one missing. Civil society representatives were also taking part in the program, they had an opportunity to pose questions to the candidates.

The talk show was conducted according to the afore-set format. At the beginning of program the backgrounds of the candidates were introduced; to present election programs the guests were granted equal time. The journalist limited himself to posing questions, without demonstrating his standpoints in the course of the program. His questions were of current importance.

On June 11 and 13 **talk show** “**Your Time**” hosted by journalist Khatuna Mamardashvili was on air. To each program one Rustavi mayoral candidate (UNM and GD) was invited. The program was conducted in the Q & A format, no harsh discussions were held. The host essentially did not dispute with the guests, just shooting general questions. The candidates were apportioned maximum of airtime to speak about their election programs, future visions and priorities. The program was of interactive nature, viewers had an opportunity to shoot questions live on air.

On June 14 the channel televised TV **program** “**Elect Your Mayor**” hosted by journalist Zviad Koridze. The program was made possible with the support of Journalists Network for Gender Equality (JNGE), United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES).

The guests to the studio included Rustavi mayoral candidates Ivane Shatirishvili (Alliance of Patriots of Georgia), Revaz Rizhamadze (Labor Party), Elguja Kochiashvili (In the Name of the Lord - the Lord is Our Truth;) and Erosi Kitsmarishvili (Our Georgia). The program was conducted according to the format set afore. The candidates were each granted two minutes to introduce themselves. Afterwards the host posed three questions to each guest. Two minutes were granted per question to answer, and one minute to comment. The journalist offered them a possibility to fully express themselves. At the end of the program the mayoral candidates were granted two minutes each to comment and address the voters.

The host's questions mainly touched upon candidates' election programs, action plans, election environment, and the way to address the issues of public concern. The journalists did not tend to argue with the guests, assuming the role of a moderator. In case of deviating

from the topic of discussion the host urged the guests to get back to the point. Mayoral candidates tended to make some harsh comments against one another.

Odishi (Zugdidi) – During reporting period on June 11 TV company aired **talk show “Elections2014”**, made possible with the support of GARB. The program was hosted by journalist Nana Kobalia. The representatives of elections subjects such as UNM, GD, Burjanadze – United Opposition, Non-Parliamentary Opposition were taking part in the two-hour program. The program was made up of two blocks. The first block focused on the guests' election programs, key messages, and slogans, the second block was dedicated to questions and answers. The program drew to a close with the guests' addresses to the voters. In the course of the program the comments texted by the viewers were televised through the creeping line. Some of them sounded really harsh and rude, no filtration was applied, and some of them contained unethical wording.

The program was conducted in a fierce and tense atmosphere. Statements made by Tengiz Jgushia of Non-Parliamentary Opposition were especially emotional. Being highly active more airtime was dedicated to Tengiz Jgushia's comments.

Counter allegations were rather frequent during the program. The evaluation of pre-election environment and violations identified in the region were noisily discussed. The host was trying to deal with the situation, urging guests to get back to the point and to use ethical wording. She was trying to oppose the guests but in the second block it started getting even harder. Ungrounded allegations were not a few. The host at times failed to keep the situation under control. The journalists never resorted to hate speech, the political subjects though did not avoid using unethical wording. To which the host immediately responded. Sub titles were missing to identify the invited guests.

Channel 9 (Akhaltikhe) – During reporting week, on June 9, the channel dedicated airtime to the TV **program “Elect Your Mayor”**. The talk show was made possible with the support of the Journalists Network for Gender Equality (JNGE), United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES).. The talk show was hosted by journalist Rusudan Gvaramadze. The program was

recorded on May 30. By the day of its broadcast Akhaltsikhe mayoral candidate NataliSisvadze of Non-Parliamentary Opposition had already withdrawn. The audience was informed of the aforesaid change through the subtitles at the very beginning of the program.

Akhaltshikhe mayoral candidates including Gela Demetradze (UNM), Gocha Kopadze (GD), Gocha Atoshvili (Georgia's Way), NataliSisvadze (Non-Parliamentary Opposition) and Zaza Natenadze (Burjanadze – United Opposition) were taking part in the program.

The program was conducted according to the afore-set format. The candidates were granted two minutes each to greet the audience. Afterwards they responded to three questions prepared by the journalist in advance. To answer each question the candidates were granted two minutes and one minute to comment. The journalist offered them a possibility to completely express their standpoints. In the conclusive part of the program the guests were given time to provide summarizing comments and address the voters.

The program was conducted in a Q & A format, the journalist assumed the functions of a moderator.

Neither hate speech nor unethical wording was identified in the course of the Program.

On June 12 TV **program “Dialogue”** hosted by journalist Rusudan Gvaramadze was aired. The program was made up of three parts. Aspindza, Adigheni and Akhaltsikhe municipality Gamgebeli candidates were participating in the program.

In the first block of the program the nominee of the Non-Parliamentary Opposition spoke about his election program and future plans; however Burjanadze – United Opposition and UNM representatives refused to participate in this very part of the block. The program was conducted in the Q & A format in a peaceful environment. The journalist was not shooting any fierce or censorious questions, neither got deeper into details, she though tended to pose some questions of current importance. Rusudan Gvaramadze granted equal airtime to the guests to speak about political visions and election platforms. No bias to any guest was identified.

Multiplicity of guests was characteristic to the second and the third blocks. The candidates nominated by Burjanadze – United Opposition, Alliance of Patriots of Georgia, UNM and GD

to ran for Adigheni and Akhaltsikhe municipality Gangebeli positions were invited to the studio. TV viewers calling in tended to make some extremely harsh comments.

Tanamgzavri (Telavi) – Within reporting week the only outlet of the talk show “Dialogue” fell within the scope of monitoring. The June 13 outlet was hosted by journalists Nato Megutnishvili. The guests to the studio included eight candidates nominated by nonqualified political subjects and initiative teams to run for majoritarian MP mandates for Telavi and the villages within Telavi region. The host though failed to introduce them. Neither the election districts they pertained to were identified. During the program no subtitles were provided to the speakers, introducing themselves on their own. The journalist apportioned equal time to the selected guests, to discuss their action plans, pre-election environment, current issues of concern and the ways to address them.

In regard to different issues the host repeatedly tended to pose general questions, that made it hard to receive a certain answer.

The program was interactive, viewers actively called in to participate. In the course of the 1,5-hour program a TV story about pre-election environment was televised.

Trialeti (Gori) – During reporting period TV company Trialeti aired four talk shows about monitored subjects.

The program “**Dgis Tema**” (Topic of the Day) was hosted by journalist Ia Gavasheli. The topic of the outlet was participation of Georgian armed forces in international peacekeeping missions. A military expert, a member of the New Rights political party and the representative of the National Security Council were invited to the studio. A fierce discussion was held among the selected guests. The host limited himself to posing questions, and almost never opposed the speakers. The host though was well aware of the topic discussed and tended to pose some important questions. The program didn't last more than one hour.

TV program “**Municipal Elections 2014**” was hosted by Lado Bichashvili. Three outlets were aired during the reporting week. The June 10 and 12 outlets were dedicated to the pre-

election programs of Gori and Khashuri municipality Gangebeli candidates and the debates held among them. On June 13 a summarizing talk show was produced, hosting all six Gori mayoral candidates (GD, UNM, Unity Hall, Non-Parliamentary Opposition, Burjanadze – United Opposition, Labor Party). Some technical shortcomings were identified in the course of the program. Due to the sound problem the TV air was suspended for some time. Following the resumption of the broadcast the candidates representing GD and Laborers' Party were no longer present in the studio.

Invited guests were granted enough time to outline their election programs, visions and future plans. The evaluation of pre-election environment was brought into focus. Candidates enjoyed a possibility to speak freely. The time was under control with a stopwatch.

The host essentially assumed the function of a moderator. The program was conducted in the Q & A format. Some censorious assessments were made too, the debates though did not turn out to be that fierce.

The lack of subtitles still persisted on the channel.

Guria (Ozurgeti) – Within reporting period TV company Guria on June 13 aired the only 30-minute TV story with the participation of the monitored subjects. The story touched upon the meeting of the members of the youth wing of Young Teacher's Union with Ozurgeti mayoral candidates, in particular Levan Gogvadze (UNM), Shota Gogiberidze (Alliance of Patriots of Georgia), Mirza Chkhikvishvili (Labor Party), Ivane Tabatadze (Georgia's Way), Beglar Sioridze (GD), Kakha Chavleishvili (Burjanadze - United Opposition), Irma Kvchantiradze (Non-Parliamentary Opposition) were responding to young people's questions related to various issues of concern persisting in the city (city outlook, damaged and life-threatening buildings, disarranged sidewalks, squares, ramps). Each candidate would answer a certain question and discuss the ways of solution.

Imervizia (Chiatura) – No talk shows were aired during reporting week.

Gurjaani (Gurjaani) – During reporting week on June 13 Gurjaani TV aired **talk show** "The Power of Powerless" hosted by journalist Levan Aleksishvili. The talk show was made up of

two blocks. In the first block the representatives of Non-Parliamentary Opposition, Burjanadze – United Opposition, UNM and GD had an opportunity to represent the election programs of their political unions and respond to the journalist's questions.

The second block of the program was supposed to host the candidates running for Kvareli Gamgebeli position. According to the host all five nominees had been invited but Khatia Dekanoidze of UNM was the only one to take part in the program.

The journalist tended to pose questions of current importance, got deeper into case-related details, and tried to obtain certain answers from the guests. In the second block viewers had a possibility to call in and shoot questions to the guest in the studio. The viewers used this opportunity at their best.

Mega TV (Khoni) – Within reporting period four outlets of the public-political talk show “**Debates**” were aired, hosted by journalist Tiko Kikabidze.

The guests to the studio included majoritarian MP candidates of GD, Self-governance to People and Labor Party; also Samtredia Gamgebeli candidates nominated by Burjanadze – United Opposition and Self-Governance to People; Tskaltubo majoritarian MP candidates of UNM, Burjanadze – United Opposition and Self-Governance to People; Tskaltubo Gamgebeli candidates of the Political Movement of [law enforcement and armed forces] Veterans and Patriots of Georgia and UNM.

The aforesaid candidates' election programs were discussed in the course of the talk show.

The journalist showed concern into the election subjects' election programs. She was trying to equally share the time among the guests, kept asking guests about their priorities and tried to figure out how they are going to make their election promises work. The host though did not stand out in terms of posing censorious questions.

The June 11 TV air was dedicated to the **talk show “Elections 2014”** made possible with the support of USAID and IFES. The program was hosted by Nana Tvalabeishvili.

The program was supposed to offer viewers debates among four Kutaisi mayoral candidates but the only one – Aleksandre Kezevadze of the Alliance of Patriots of Georgia showed up.

According to the journalist Magda Gabrichidze (Non-Parliamentary Opposition), Irakli Kikvadze (Georgian Labor Party) and Khatuna Machavariani (Self-Governance to People) cited some ungrounded reasons for the no-show. Consequently the viewers were offered a dialogue instead of the debates. The journalist tried to find out what problems the candidate was to address in case of victory, the distribution of the budget and the personnel policy.

9th Wave (Poti) – Within reporting week on June 13 and 14 the 9th Wave's TV air was dedicated to the **political talk show “Tema”** (Topic) hosted by journalist Thea Absaridze. The guests to the program included Poti mayoral candidates Irakli Kakulia (GD), Vakhtang Dartsmelidze (UNM), UshangiGegenava (Alliance of Georgian Patriots), and Davit Kantaria (Burjanadze – United Opposition).

To the June 13 outlet the host had invited the nominees of GD, Burjanadze – United Opposition, Non-Parliamentary Opposition, UNM, Georgia's Way, Alliance of Patriots of Georgia and the Political Movement of [law enforcement and armed forces] Veterans and Patriots of Georgia running as number one candidates in the proportional lists.

In the course of the program the journalist was curious to learn about each candidate's priorities, trying to figure out the reason the voters were to vote for him/her. The questions did not sound censorious, shooting some shallow questions the host essentially assumed the role of a moderator.

Poti mayoral candidate Davit Kantaria used some unethical wording against his opponent who was not present in the studio. GD's mayoral candidate called on him to speak in an ethical manner. The journalist did not interfere, she opted to listen. She did not attempt to either stop the opponents or remind the host of choosing ethical wording. The discussion between two Poti mayoral candidates grew into an argument and went far beyond the topic of discussion. Later on the journalist realized the guests were discussing a totally different topic and urged them to put an end to the dispute.

Argo (Zestaponi) – Within reporting week no talk show was aired.

Marneuli TV (Marneuli) – Within reporting week Marneuli TV offered viewers several election-related programs with the participation of monitored subjects:

Two outlets of the **political debates “Elections 2014”** was on air on June 9 and 12. The programs were hosted by Nana Sisvadze.

The June 9 outlet lasted for about an hour and a half. The leaders of the political parties registered at Marneuli DEC #22 representing UNM, Merab Kostava Society, Non-Parliamentary Opposition, Burjanadze – United Opposition, Alliance of Patriots of Georgia and GD took part in the program. Selected guests, according to the order set through the casting of lots, spoke about their background, political visions, election programs and the problems persisting in the region, but in the course of the program the topic of discussion and the afore-set order of the speakers somehow happened to have faded away. The representatives of different political parties started voicing allegations against one another, thereby demanding answers to each other's questions.

The June 12 outlet of Elections 2014 was approximately 30 minutes in length. According to the host she had nine candidates registered at Marneuli DEC #22 invited to the studio, the only one though accepted the invitation. The journalist appeared unprepared, lacking relevant information about guests. The host listed election districts the candidates were running for but she failed to identify the parties they represent. The host also failed to clarify which party the present guest was representing, and only in the course of the program it was made clear that the invited guest was an independent majoritarian candidate. The guest spoke in Azerbaijani language. The interpreter was present in the studio, the translation though was not simultaneous, almost 2-minute intervals were employed. The guest outlined his background and election program. The host was rather passive, did not engage herself in the discussion, neither was she posing questions.

On June 13 a 10-minute special outlet was aired about the possible withdrawal of GD's Marneuli municipality Gamgebeli nominee Merab Topchishvili. Nana Sisvadze was the host of the program. Selected guests included head of Merab Topchishvil's supporters' group and a member of GD's local office. GD's member spoke Azerbaijani, no translation was provided

therefore his speech was absolutely incomprehensible. The journalist failed to remind the audience of the pre-history, hence the reason of his possible withdrawal was unclear.

In the course of the program subtitles were missing to identify the guests.

On June 13 a 40-minute story about “Informed Society for Fair Elections” project was televised. The project is being implemented by Civic Integration Foundation with the financial support of USAID and IFES. The TV story featured the activities carried out within the framework of the undertaking (rally, meeting with experts) that were conducive to raising public awareness of elections and self-governance reform.

Borjomi (Borjomi) – During reporting period several election-related programs were produced by the broadcaster: four outlets of the **talk show “Forum”** (June 9, 10, 11 and 13), **“Gender and Society”** (June 12) and two outlets of **TV bridge “Interactive”** (June 13-14).

Talk show “Forum” is made possible with the support of the Open Society Georgia Foundation. The host of the program Eka Nozadze appeared well prepared for the topics discussed and fully updated about the candidates registered in different election districts (Tadzrisi, Tba, Balanta, Dviri, Akhaldaba, Tsaghveri, Kvibisi, Bakuriani). According to the host she had been offering participation in the program to any of them, but not everybody accepted. The outlets were made up of three blocks, each of them separately hosting the representatives of different political forces (GD, Alliance of Georgian Patriots, Political Movement of [law enforcement and armed forces] Veterans and Patriots of Georgia, UNM) and independent majoritarian candidates. The outlets were approximately one hour in length. At the beginning the host did not introduce herself, no subtitles were provided to the selected guests in the studio. The host essentially assumed the functions of a moderator, equally sharing time among the guests and did not let them deviate from the topic of discussion. The main topic of the programs was the election programs of the candidates present in the studio, as well as the problems persisting in the region and the ways of solving them. They tended to speak about their advantages compared to their opponents. The

candidate also outlined their background and the reasons for coming into politics, and evaluated pre-election environment.

The June 13 1,5-hour outlet of the talk show **Forum** was of debates type. The leaders of political parties operating in Borjomi were participating in the program. The selected guests were representing UNM, Labor Party, Alliance of Patriots of Georgia, Political Movement of [law enforcement and armed forces] Veterans and Patriots of Georgia, GD and Burjanadze – United Opposition.

The invited guests represented the top ten in the ballot list according to the afore-set order. The debates grew into the argument. The Labor Party representative stood out in terms of making negative statements. The host found it hard to keep the situation under control and to end the argument.

On June 12 the broadcaster aired **TV program “Gender and Society”**. The host failed to introduce herself. The program is produced within the framework of the Women as Actors for Changes and Enhancement project implemented by the Women’s Information Center with the support of USAID. The partners of the project include Taso Foundation, Georgian Yong Economists Association, Institute for War and Peace Reporting (IWPR), and Gali-based NGO.

The topic of approximately 40-minute program was a woman and politics, the factors conducive to women’s political participation. The guests to the program included UNM, GD, and Alliance of Patriots of Georgia. They were allocated equal airtime to speak. The host of the program appeared well prepared for the topic. During the talk show a TV story was aired that made the program a way more dynamic.

On June 13 and 14 TV air was dedicated to the **TV bridge “Interactive”**, a joint product of Samtskhe-Javakheti media center, Borjomi TV and Channel 9 (Akhaltzikhe) and GARB made possible with the support of NED.

The program represents a TV bridge among three TV studios. At Borjomi TV studio the program is hosted by Eka Nozadze, in the Channel 9’s studio by Tako Peikrishvili. Each studio had a single guest invited (representatives of Borjomi and Akhaltzikhe local

authorities and Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure; also NGO and DEC representatives) to talk about certain issues. The topics of discussion included:

- Self-governance reform, budgetary changes, public participation in the self-governance process;
- Pre-election environment, subjects withdrawn from registration.

The running time of the programs was no longer than 40 minutes, each televising a single case-related TV story. In the course of the program the time was equally shared. The host too did participate, shooting additional questions.

Dia (Khashuri) – On June 10 and 13 TV company Dia aired “**Nino Chibchiuri’s Talk Show**”. The guests to the studio included majoritarian MP candidates of UNM and Burjanadze – United Opposition; Gori Gangebeli candidates nominated by Non-Parliamentary Opposition and Burjanadze – United Opposition. The host of the talk show tended to pose some superficial questions, trying to equally share the time among selected guests.

The “Voter’s Vote” rubric, produced in advance, televised citizens’ questions, that were ultimately answered by the candidates in the studio.

TV Magazine “Mravalkutkhedi” (Polygonal)

Weekly TV magazine Mravalkutkhedi (Polygonal) produced by the Georgian Association of Regional Broadcasters (GARB) was aired on a weekly basis on the following TV channels: **Kvemo Kartli TV-Radio Company, Tanamgzavri, Odishi, Guria, 9th Wave, Rioni, Channel 25, Imervizia, Gurjaani, Channel 9, Marneuli TV, Argo, Borjomi and Dia.**

Within reporting week the topic of the TV magazine was food safety and consumer rights. The program was produced with the financial support of Eurasia Partnership Foundation within the grant provided by EU and Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).

To discuss the topic of the day the host of the program Nikoloz Rubashvili had the following guests invited to the studio: Tengiz Kalandadze, deputy head of National Food Agency,

GiglaAgulashvili, Chief of Parliamentary Committee on Agrarian Issues, Revaz Kobakhidze, Director of Sanitary, Hygiene and Medical Ecology Scientific-Research Institute, and Professor EterSarjveladze, expert at the Center for Strategic Research and Development.

In the course of the program the host was actively posing questions, verifying the answers given. She was well prepared for the program, and thoroughly updated on the topic of discussion. Guests were granted equal time to speak.

During reporting week regional TV companies televised GARB's interview with the US Ambassador to Georgia Richard Norland.

TV companies including Tanamgzavri, Borjomi, 9th Wave, Kvemo Kartli TV-Radio Company, Rioni, Argo, Dia, Odishi televised the interview in full during the news outlets. Accordingly it had a certain effect on the quantitative monitoring data.

Marneuli TV and Gurjaani TV dedicated separate airtime to the interview.

12-minute interview was conducted by journalist Nikoloz Rubashvili posing questions prepared beforehand. Ambassador Richard Norland evaluated pre-election environment and self-governance reform. He also discussed reforms to be carried out and the importance of the EU-Georgia Association Agreement.

Within reporting period TV company Odishi (on June 13) and 9th Wave (on June 14) televised TV program **"Woman and Politics"** produced within the framework of Protecting Women's Political Rights in Samegrelo Region implemented by association Dea. The topic of discussion touched upon women's participation in electoral systems. The program was hosted by IvetaTsitashvili. The introduction by the anchor provided in-depth information on the issue. The program was hosting only females discussing the importance of women participation in the municipal elections, and thoroughly clarifying legislative regulations and case-related issues of concern.

Activities to be carried out:

Within the period of June 23-30 the final report of regional TV monitoring will be released.

On June 25 the presentation of final findings will be held.



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