



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

Subagreement # S-14-108

Reporting period: May 12 – June 15, 2014

Main findings of the monitoring:

- In contrast to 2012-2013 regional broadcasters tended to dedicate more time to reporting on monitored subjects;
- On most of the TV companies the stories produced about monitored subjects were found of informative nature, lacking in-depth coverage of topics;
- Within the period of June 2-15 some of the TV companies dedicated more time to reporting on the election-related topics. Pre-election campaigns conducted by candidates were keenly covered;
- Most of the TV companies dedicated the major portion of airtime to the Georgian Dream Coalition (GD), the United National Movement (UNM) election bloc and the Burjanadze – United Opposition election bloc.
- Some of the TV companies, in contrast to 2012-2013, dedicated less time to the activities carried out by local authorities. The reporting though was still essentially found neutral in tone;
- The time apportioned for direct/indirect reporting was almost equally shared among monitored subjects;
- Reporting on monitored subjects was essentially neutral in tone;
- Most of the TV companies operated in an emergency mode on the Election Day (June 15) offering viewers comprehensive information about the developments at the precincts; Within the Election week (June 9-15) the scale of reporting on the Central Election Commission (CEC) sharply went up;
- Prior to June 15, few days ahead of the E-Day some of the TV companies failed to produce any summarizing TV stories about upcoming municipal elections and election subjects;
- TV companies produced some public-political programs (talk shows, TV debates, TV bridge) with the participation of the candidates running for various positions (Mayor, Gamgebeli, proportional representation and majoritarian candidates) to discuss various election-related topics;

- Political balance among the guests invited to the programs was essentially maintained; Some exceptions though were observed in case the representative of either political force refused to participate in the program;
- The hosts of the programs tended to refrain from expressing their stance, essentially assuming the role of a moderator;
- On most of the TV companies the questions posed in the course of the talk shows were similar. Journalists rarely posed censorious questions;
- On most of the TV broadcasters the hosts of talk shows failed to introduce themselves;
- Due to the interactive nature of talk shows viewers enjoyed an opportunity to call in to take part in the discussion or shoot questions to the invited guests;
- The lack of relevant subtitles was the main shortcoming observed on most of the TV broadcasters;
- Few cases of the use of hate speech, mostly by respondents, was identified;
- 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 May 12- June 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 Company*“ (*Rustavi*), „*Odishi*“ (*Zugdidi*), „*Tanamgzavri*“

(Telavi), „Channel 9“ (Akhaltsikhe), „Trialeti“ (Gori), „Guria“ (Ozurgeti), „Imervizia“ (Chiatura), „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, Ilia 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.

Monitoring results per channel:

„Channel 25” (Batumi) – The „Channel 25”-produced news program „Matsne” (Herald) was on air on a daily basis. On Sundays news was delivered to the audience without a newsreader. News outlets essentially covered local news. Comparatively less time was dedicated to reporting on the developments nationwide.

The channel dedicated the total of six hours and 17 minutes to the monitored subjects. The bulk of the given time falls on GD (17) and UNM (12), followed by Adjara AR government

and local authorities (Gamgebelis, Sakrebulo members, village trustees), 12 percent each. The Channel dedicated considerably less time to the pre-election activities carried out by Batumi mayoral candidates.

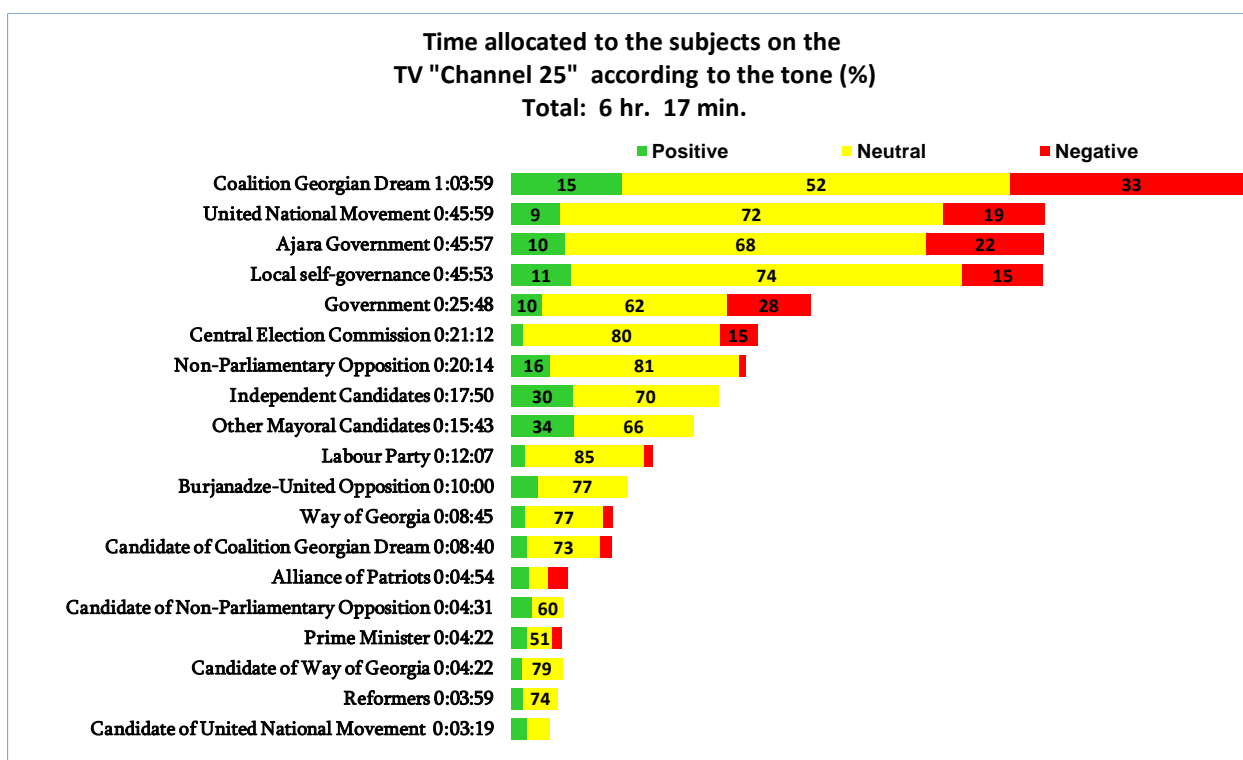
The share of direct/indirect reporting was almost equal. All three tones were applied in their regard, neutral tone prevailed though. Positive tone was essentially preconditioned by the election promises made by policy makers during pre-election meetings in the run up to elections, while negative tone was attached to some censorious allegations against opponents. Along with political topics the stories focused on public issues of concern, sports and cultural events. Reporters often got interested into the problems the population faces and tended to produce some case-related in-depth stories. They were trying to deliver information from a different angle substantiated on the basis of comments made by the persons in charge.

TV stories about municipal elections and the activities carried out by election subjects were not a few, the stories though essentially touched upon the meetings with the population and pre-election promises made by political parties. The audience was not thoroughly enlightened about the candidates' election programs.

The breach of ethical norms by the journalists was not identified, in the May 28 outlet though the use of hate speech by the respondent was observed, in particular the channel aired UNM's Old Batumi majoritarian candidate Irakli Tavartkiladze's interview having nicknamed Georgia's Prime Minister Irakli Gharibashvili as „Hakim Pasha”.

A week ahead of elections the index of negative reporting on GD sharply went up due to covering alleged threats leveled by Medea Vasadze, chairwoman of the Human Rights Commission under the Supreme Council of Ajara against the „Channel 25” journalist Jaba Ananidze and further development of the dispute. It is also noteworthy that on June 13, two days prior to the elections, the channel, in protest suspended broadcasting. 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.

On June 15, Municipal Elections Day, 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 Saturday. The news programs covered local as well as nationwide developments in a timely manner.

On Sundays TV magazine „7 Days” was on air. The 50-60 minute program stands out with analytical and in-depth reporting. The TV magazine mostly centered on social issues and topics of public concern, on the E-Day though some political issues were brought into focus. The TV magazine also aired some stories 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 would decide whether policy makers’ statements were true or false.

On June 15, because of municipal polls, „Rioni” TV news reporters worked in an emergency mode. Viewers had a possibility to get updated about election-related developments in the region as well as nationwide.

News programs dedicated the total of 12 hours and 33 minutes to the monitored subjects. 21 percent of the given time falls on GD, government comes next with 13 percent. News outlets apportioned time to all seven Kutaisi mayoral candidates, the time though was unequally shared. GD’s nominee Shota Murghulia enjoyed the bulk of the airtime (one hour and 21

minutes), followed by Teimuraz Shashiashvili (Burjanadze – United Opposition) with 49 minutes, Giorgi Tevdoradze (UNM) with 22 minutes, Khatuna Machavariani (Self-Governance to People) with 15 minutes, Magda Gabrichidze (Non-Parliamentary Opposition) with six minutes, Aleksandre Kezevadze (Alliance of Patriots of Georgia) with five minutes and Irakli Kikvadze (Labor Party) with four minutes. Reporting on the aforesaid subjects was essentially positive and neutral. For direct reporting the candidates were apportioned 60 percent of the total time. On Rioni TV direct reporting prevailed over indirect in regard to almost every monitored subject.

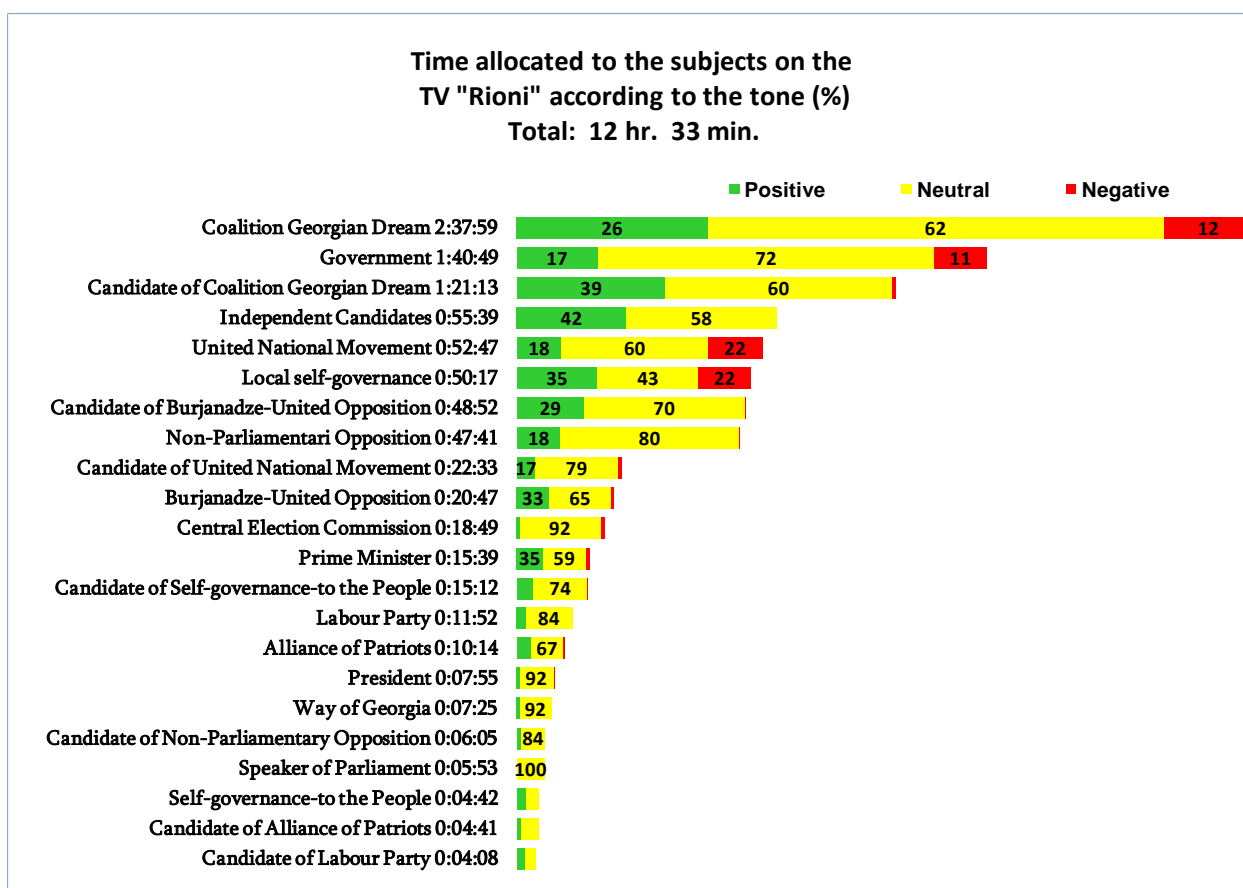
The channel covered mayoral candidates as well as the pre-election meetings and activities conducted by the rest of the election subjects. Almost one hour was dedicated to the independent majoritarian candidates. The bulk of this time though falls on majoritarian candidate Giorgi Khazaradze nominated by Kalaki-Muzeumi (City Museum). „Rioni” TV was, in a positive context, keenly covering Giorgi Khazaradze’s meetings with the electorate. In the TV stories the reporter cited the voters’ statements, hence pre-conditioning viewers’ positive approach towards the candidate. Some positive comments made by several citizens attending pre-election meeting were televised in row, at times the TV stories showed candidate’s electoral number „42” full screen. No such TV story was produced in regard to any other political subject.

When covering pre-election campaigns of political forces certain cases of the lack of balance was identified, e.g. the May 19 outlet covered almost any election-related activity carried out by GD’s Kutaisi mayoral candidate Shota Murghulia.

News reporting was found superficial. Journalists did not stand out in terms of shooting censorious questions. Except for certain cases no subjective evaluations were made.

Along with political topics journalists dedicated a considerable amount of time to social issues, trying to thoroughly update the viewers about the aforesaid topics. Facts were substantiated with pre-history and respondents’ comments.

Neither manipulation through sound/music nor the breach of journalism ethics and standards was identified in the news programs.



„Kvemo Kartli TV Company” (Rustavi) – Within reporting period the channel’s main news program „Kronika” (Chronicles) was on air at 20:30 on a daily basis. At the end of the day some of the TV stories were re-aired in the news digest. On Sunday evenings the TV air was dedicated to a summarizing news outlet. The channel tended to actively cover pre-election campaigns conducted by Mayoral, Gangebeli and Sakrebulo candidates as well as activities carried out by political parties, also cultural or sports events.

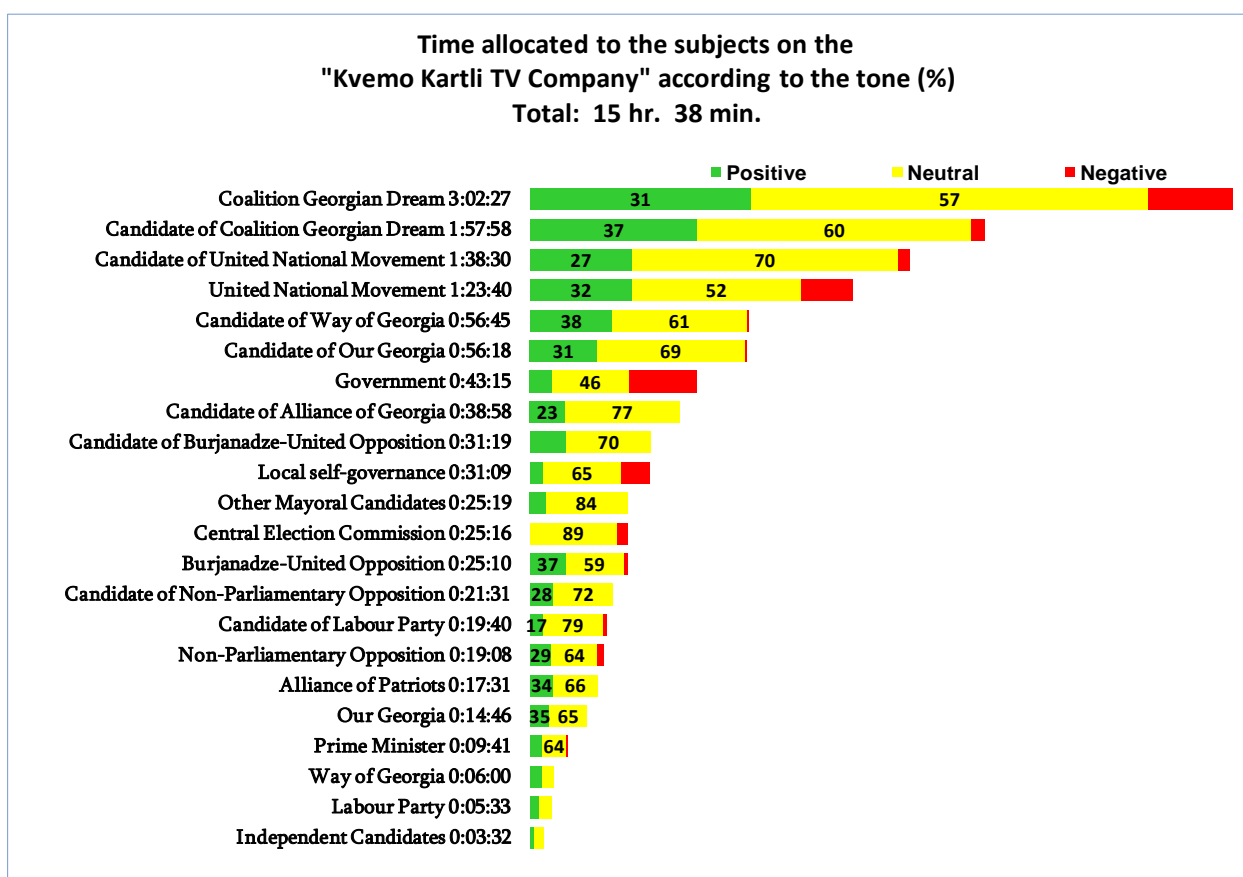
News programs produced by the channel covered 28 monitored subjects, the total time dedicated to them amounts to 15 hours and 38 minutes. Despite political subjects’ diversity the time was equally shared among them. The ruling team (three hours) and their mayoral candidate (two hours) enjoyed the bulk of coverage. UNM and its mayoral candidate Mamuka Chikovani was dedicated the total of three hours. Aleksandre Kobaidze and Erosi Kitsmarishvili nominated by Georgia’s Way and Our Georgia each received 56 minutes. Ivane Shatirishvili of the Alliance of Patriots of Georgia comes next with 38 minutes, followed by Koba Dzlierishvili (Burjanadze – United Opposition) with 31 minutes. TV stories

focused on the candidates' program priorities, what they are going to do for the town, therefore the portion of positive and neutral tones prevail in the chart.

Journalists failed to produce in-depth stories about candidates' election programs, nor tended to pose censorious questions. Most of the stories were similar, superficially featuring the facts. 41-percent negative coverage against "government" as a subject was due to criticism and harsh statements made by political parties.

During monitoring period subjective coverage was not identified. Journalists were trying to report in an impartial manner, in full adherence to ethical norms. In the course of monitoring period though the use of hate speech was identified: UNM's Rustavi mayoral candidate Mamuka Chikovani, speaking about authorities and Prime Minister in a negative context, used the word Hakim Pasha.

On June 15, Municipal Elections Day, TV company during its evening air televised two special news outlets fully dedicated to preliminary results of polls, developments at the polling stations, voter turnout and violations identified at the precincts. A TV story was produced to feature all nine Rustavi mayoral candidates voting and their comments.



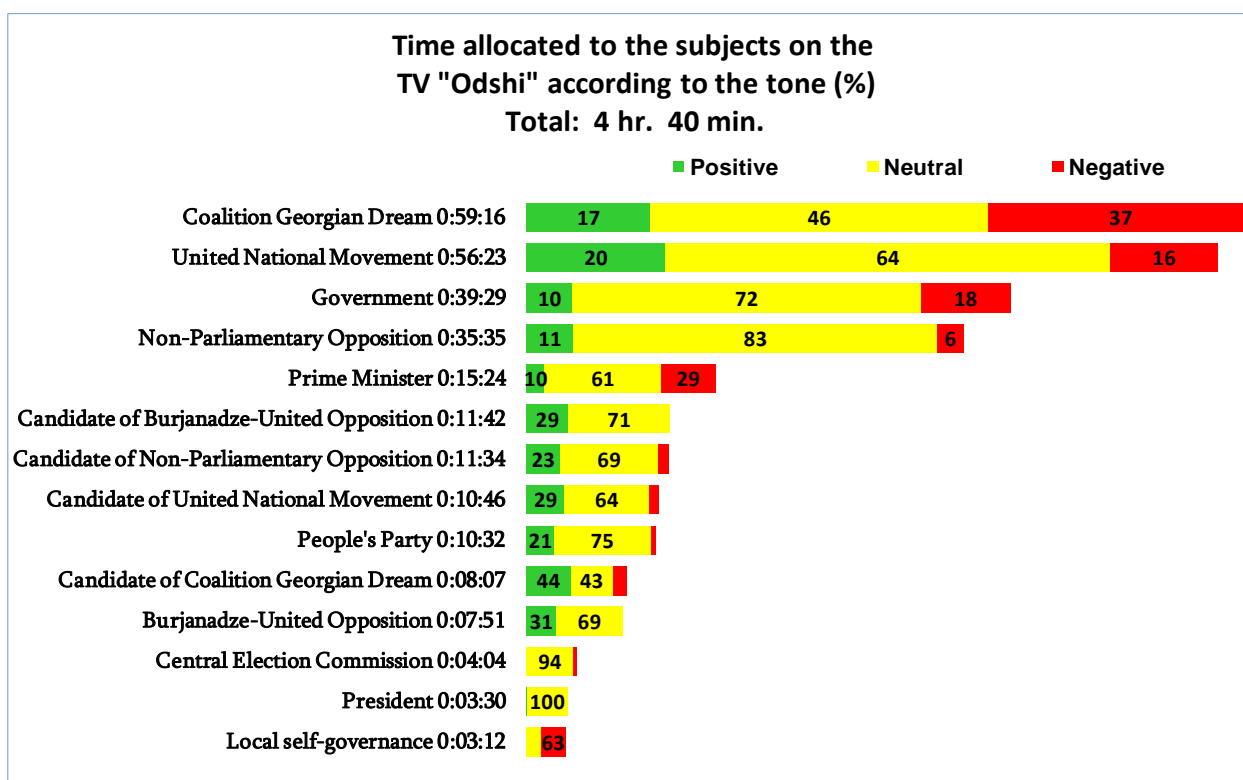
„Odishi” (Zugdidi) – During reporting period TV company „Odishi” aired 10-15-minute news program „Dro” (Time) at 22:00 on a daily basis. News outlets essentially informed viewers of local events. The developments ongoing nationwide were again televised through „Infolenti” 2-3 times during the evening air. „Infolenti” featured the opinions expressed by policy makers and public figures. Together with the texted citation the author’s photo was shown as well. The channel also delivered world news through Infolenti.

The channel dedicated the total of four hours and 40 minutes to the monitored subjects. GD is leading the chart with 21 percent of the total time. UNM and government follow with 20 and 14 percent respectively. Subjects were essentially covered in a neutral tone, in regard to GD and UNM though high index of negative reporting was identified too. Criticism was voiced by respondents in regard to government (28 percent) and Prime Minister (29 percent).

At times journalists’ allegations were not well-grounded or substantiated with the comments of the sources.

News programs provided equal coverage of all four Zugdidi mayoral candidates. The time dedicated to them was ranging from eight to 11 minutes. The channel was keenly covering the activities carried out by NGOs and the candidates nominated by region-based political parties for Gamgebeli position and Sakrebulo mandates, also various cultural and sports events.

On the June 15, Election Day the channel produced a lengthy news program to inform viewers of the violations identified at the precincts during the day, also candidates voting and preliminary results of the elections. In general news reporting was balanced. Journalists tended to report in an unbiased manner, without providing their subjective standpoints. Neither hate speech nor manipulation through shots/sound was identified.



„9th Channel” (Alkhaltzikhe) - TV company „9th Channel” aired its main news program „Echo” from Monday to Friday. News program „Echo of the Week”, aired on Sundays without a newsreader, offered audience a possibility to re-watch election-related TV stories televised throughout a week.

TV company „9th Channel” was actively covering local news: activities carried out by political parties and subjects participating in the municipal elections, issues of public concern, various sports, cultural and other type of events. The News of Georgia rubric covered developments nationwide. The news production team had correctly selected the topics about the events ongoing nationwide. Some top important issues were brought into focus. During reporting period TV company „9th Channel” dedicated the total of five hours and 34 minutes to the monitored subjects. 17 percent of the given time falls on government, followed by local authorities with 12 percent, CEC and GD with 11 and 10 percent respectively.

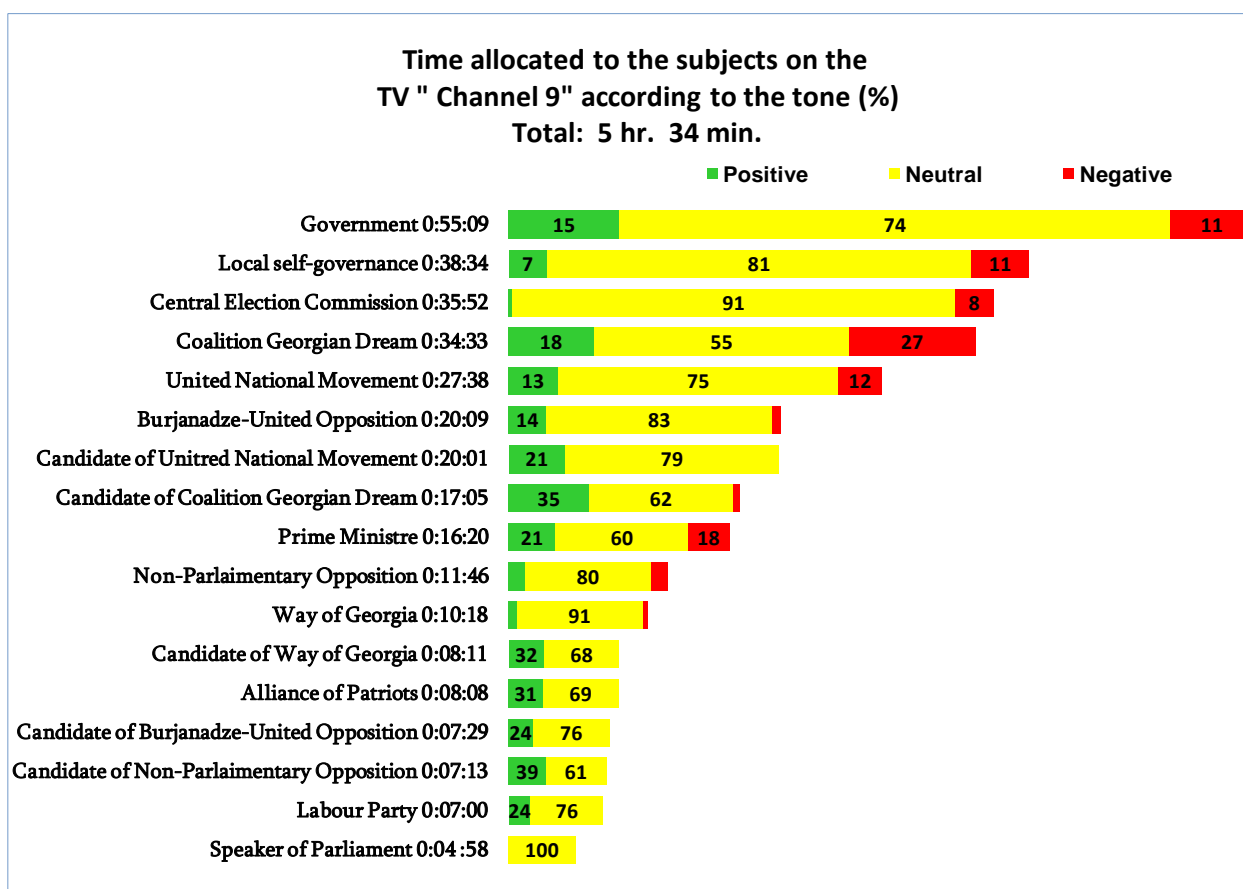
Out of Akhaltsikhe mayoral candidates UNM’s candidate Gela Demetradze enjoyed the bulk of reporting time (20 minutes), GD’s nominee Giorgi Kopadze comes next with 17 minutes.

The share of indirect reporting prevailed over direct. The portion of neutral tone was also overwhelming.

Journalists had the topics thoroughly prepared, equally representing all of the parties, e.g. in the June 11 TV story about the use of state resources by the ruling team in the run up to elections the journalist verified the accuracy of the aforementioned fact and provided additional comment.

On the E-Day news outlets scrupulously covered the violations identified at the polling stations, thereupon the amount of time dedicated to CEC considerably boosted. In the same news outlet a technical shortcoming was identified: no translation was provided to the interview with an Armenian speaking voter.

During reporting period news programs televised the TV stories produced by the „Georgian Association of Regional Broadcasters” (GARB) and the material provided by TV company „Borjomi”.



„Tanamgzavri” (Telavi) – TV company „Tanamgzavri” aired main news program „Akhali Ambebi” (News) from Monday to Friday. Approximately 35-minute news program had a newsreader and was re-aired twice during evening time. The first block of the news outlets covered the developments in the region, the second block focused on the events taking place nationwide as well as worldwide. Almost equal time was dedicated to reporting on the developments at the regional as well as national level. When covering the developments nationwide the comments provided by respondents were found lengthier than in case of reporting on local events.

Along with political issues the company produced TV stories about social, economic, and infrastructural problems persisting in the region.

TV company „Tanamgzavri” dedicated the total of nine hours and 33 minutes to the monitored subjects. Reporting on the monitored subjects was neutral in tone and time was almost equally granted for direct and indirect reporting. The total of three hours and 44 minutes was dedicated to reporting on the governments and Prime Minister’s activities. Around 60 percent of the given time falls on direct reporting.

The channel dedicated one hour and 23 minutes to the local authorities. 23 percent negative tone in regard to the local authorities was due to the TV story about current issues of concern, featuring the population complaining about their inactivity.

Out of the election subjects GD enjoyed the bulk of airtime (one hour and 3 minutes). GD ranks first in terms of negative reporting (28 percent) due to the rally organized by Non-Parliamentary Opposition and Burjanadze - United Opposition in front of GD’s premises; Also allegations made by Non-Parliamentary Opposition Telavi mayoral candidate Giorgi Mosiashvil about GD’s local office funding.

17 percent of the total time (one hour and 3 minutes) was found negative in relation to CEC. The May 19 news program aired Burjanadze – United Opposition’s representative accusing CEC representative of pressure in GD’s favor (a secret recording was shown).

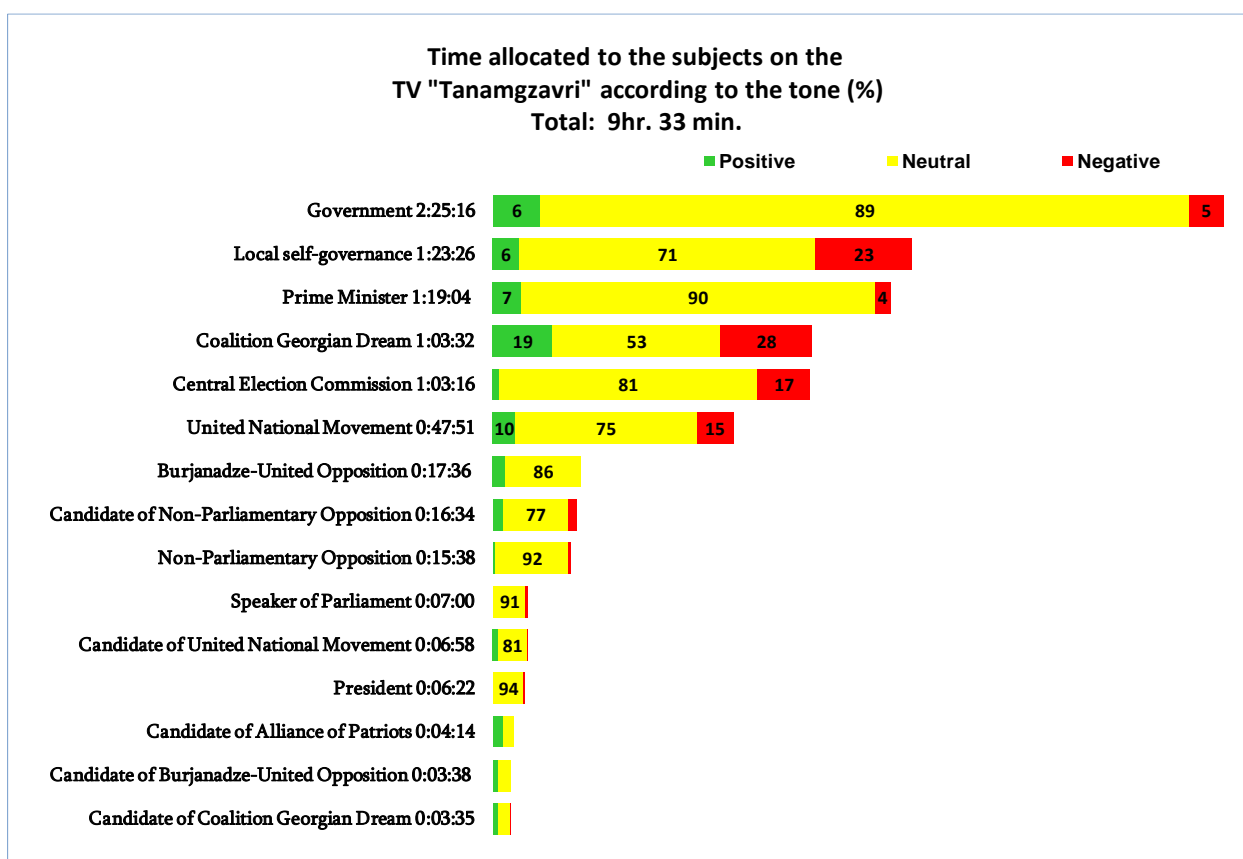
Non-Parliamentary Opposition’s Telavi mayoral candidate Giorgi Mosiashvili was the most covered out of all mayoral candidates in Telavi. Seven minutes were dedicated to Aleksi Dzuliashvili (UNM), followed by Zaza Devidze (Alliance of Patriots of Georgia) with four

minutes, Tamaz Arjevanidze (Burjanadze – United Opposition) and Platon Kalmakhelidze (GD) - three minutes each. Reporting was essentially direct.

„Tanamgzavri” TV journalists reported in an impartial manner. In the main TV stories did not lack balance, in certain cases though the position of another party was not demonstrated, e.g. the June 12 news program Burjanadze – United Opposition’s Gurjaani Gamagebeli candidate was accusing authorities and ruling team of pressure upon prisoners’ families and the use of administrative resources in Akhmeta, Gurjaani and Lagodekhi in the run up to elections. In the TV story the journalist failed to provide GD’s standpoint. In the June 10 news program the same candidate accused UNM of damaging election agitation materials. Neither in this case was the stance of the other party shown.

In the evening of June 15, „Tanamgzavri” aired two news outlets that exclusively covered election-related developments ongoing in and out of the region, as well as the violations of different type.

Signs of subliminal political advertising or the breach of ethical norms was not observed in the news programs. Manipulation through music/shots was not identified either.



„Trialeti” (Gori) – During reporting period the news program „Akhali Ambebi Trialetze” (News on Trialeti) was on air from Monday to Friday. On Saturdays journalists provided in-depth coverage of top important topics of the week in the summarizing news program „Kviris Ambebi” (News of the Week). The second block of the program hosted guests to the studio.

During reporting period the channel tended to keenly cover developments in the region as well as nationwide. To 29 monitored subjects the channel dedicated the total of five hours and 30 minutes. 15 and 13 percent of the given time falls on GD and UNM respectively, followed by government with 12 percent.

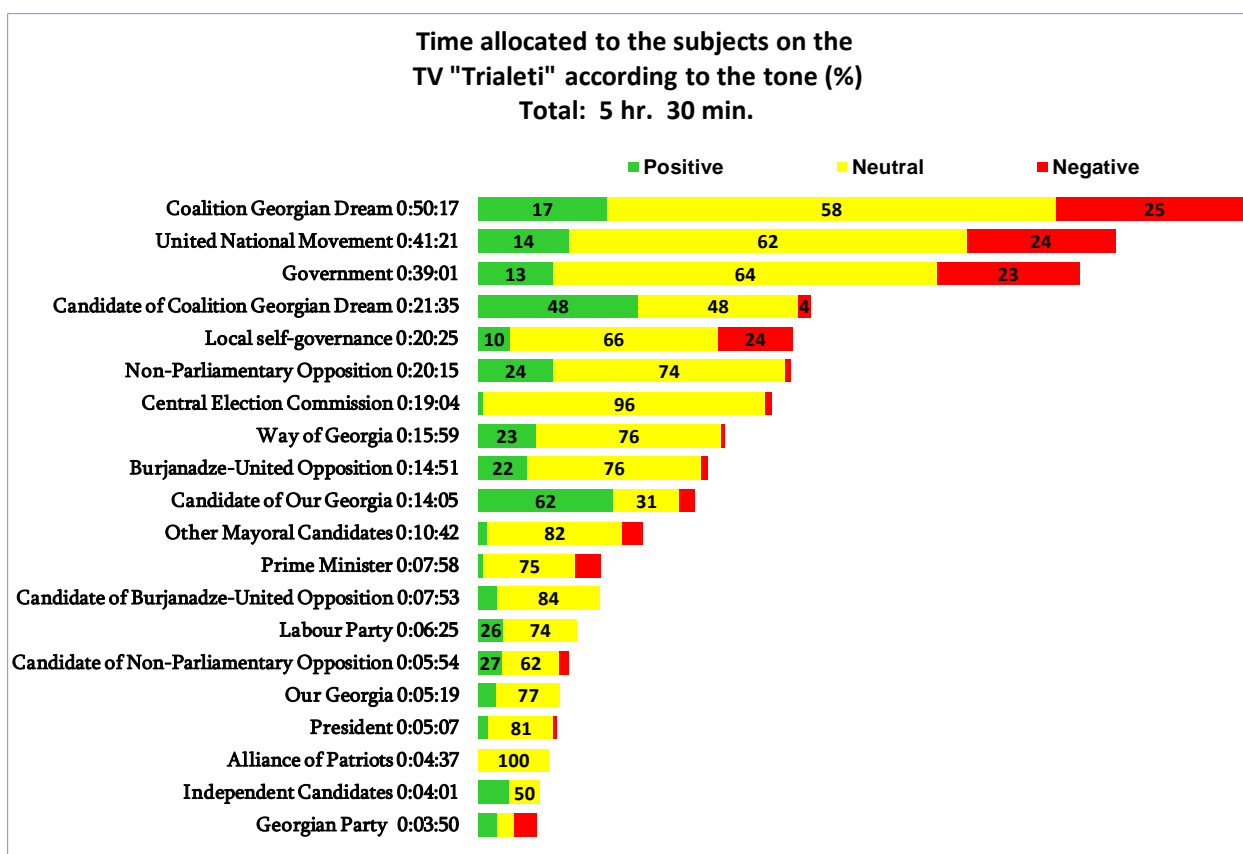
TV stories within news programs were diverse, likewise the reporting tones varied. Criticism was attached to the comments on the central government as well as local authorities. Some censorious comments in regard to government (23 percent), and GD (25 percent) as well as UNM (24 percent) were televised. News reporters covered the activities of political parties and pre-election meetings conducted by Mayoral, Gangebeli and Sakrebulo candidates. The time though was unequally distributed among the candidates. The channel also dedicated 14 minutes to Our Georgia's Rustavi mayoral candidate.

The TV company dedicated considerable amount of time to reporting on social issues and also offered viewers the comments made by the persons in charge. Journalists tended to report on the facts, without providing their personal stance, at times though reporting was superficial, they did not try to go deeper into detail, e.g. news programs (on June 9 and 14) aired twice a TV story featuring Iago Tsiklauri of Georgia's Way stating that the governmental program „Produce in Georgia” 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 quash the allegations. The journalist just pointed out that GD's Gori-based office refused to provide any comments.

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.

No hate speech or manipulation through shots or music was identified in the news outlets.

Some technical shortcomings were identified in the news programs, e.g. at times subtitles were missing to the interviewees.



„Guria (Ozurgeti)” - The „Guria”-produced main news program „Fact” was aired from Monday to Friday during evening air. The 10-15-minute news outlets had a newsreader; the latter though was at times missing. The news programs essentially covered local developments. The news programs actively covered pre-election meetings held by the subjects running for the municipal elections. From May 28 the „Who We Are Electing” rubric was added to the programming to raise public awareness of the subjects running for the municipal elections.

„Guria” dedicated the total of four hours and 23 minutes to the monitored subjects. Reporting on the pre-election meetings conducted by GD’s Ozurgeti mayoral candidate Beglar Sioridze within the framework of pre-election campaign made up one hour. The activities carried out by him were brought into focus in the news outlet. In addition to his supporters’ comments the level of positive reporting (34 percent) boosted thanks to journalists’ positive evaluations.

In addition to GD’s nominee the channel also granted airtime to the rest of seven Ozurgeti mayoral candidates, the total though was much less – one hour for all.

In the chart GD follows its candidate with 38 minutes and 45 seconds. Local authorities come next with 25 minutes and 45 seconds. The latter ranks highest in terms of negative reporting – 21 percent.

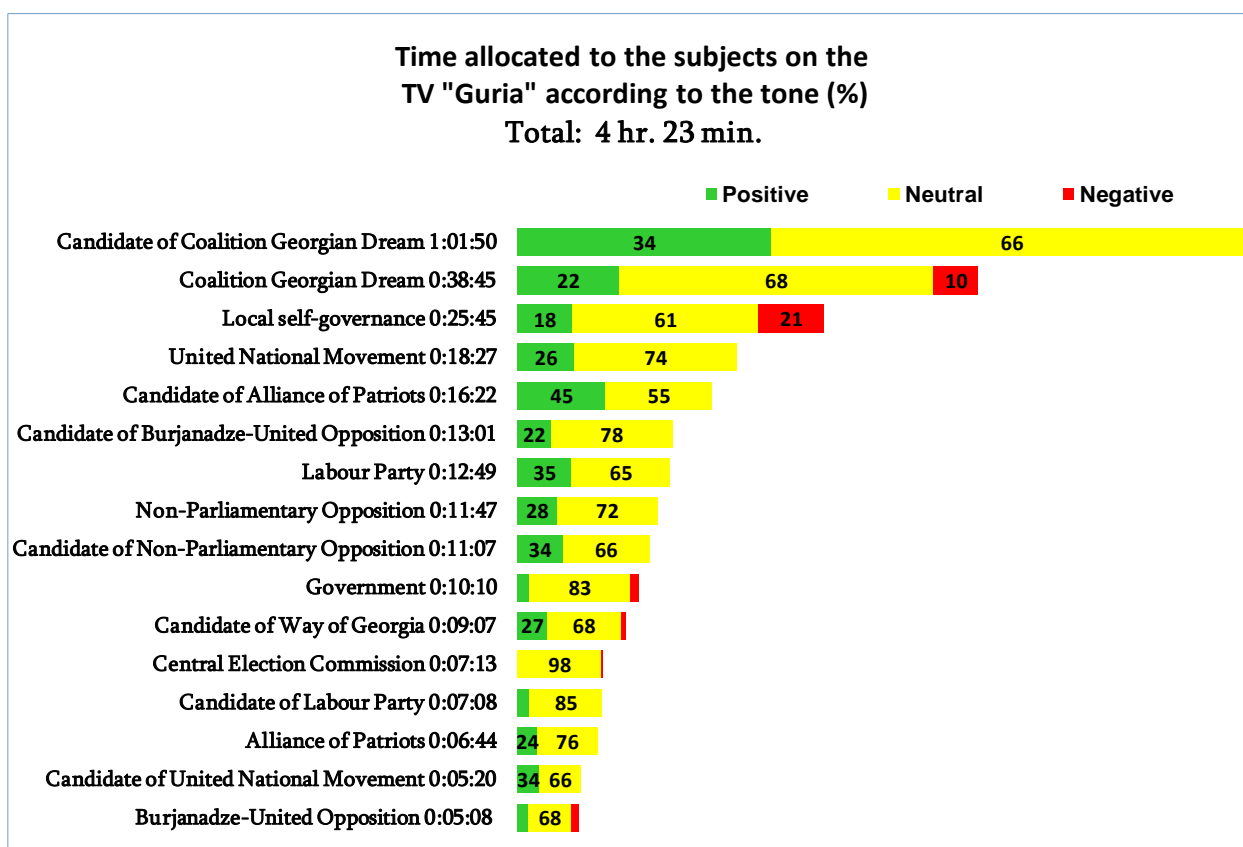
Reporting on the monitored subjects was mostly neutral in tone. The share of direct/indirect reporting was almost equal. Only in regard to the government 71 percent of the total time (10 minutes) dedicated to the government was direct.

The TV stories aired in the news program „Fact” were of superficial and informative nature. No in-depth analytical stories were produced about any issues of concern. Some cases of the lack of balance was identified too when the TV stories were built up solely on citizens' comments, without demonstrating the standpoint of the local authorities.

During monitoring some factual inaccuracies were identified too, in particular; Irma Kvachantiradze of the Non-Parliamentary Opposition was represented as the nominee by the Alliance of Patriots of Georgia; a mistake was made in the subtitle to Burjanadze - United Opposition's mayoral candidate; some other type of technical shortcomings were observed as well: in one of the TV stories the chart designed to better represent the list of mayoral and Gamgebeli candidates the same persons were mentioned as Gamgebeli and Mayoral candidates. Subtitles were often missing to the respondents, therefore it was hard to get them identified.

In the evening of June 15 news program „Fact” was aired three times. Six-minute news outlets touched upon the developments at the polling stations.

During reporting period neither hate speech nor the breach of ethical norms was identified; manipulation through music or shots was not observed either.



„Imervizia” (Chiatura) – „Imervizia” TV-produced main news program „Akhali Ambebi” (News) was on air from Monday to Friday. During evening air 20-25-minute news program was aired twice.

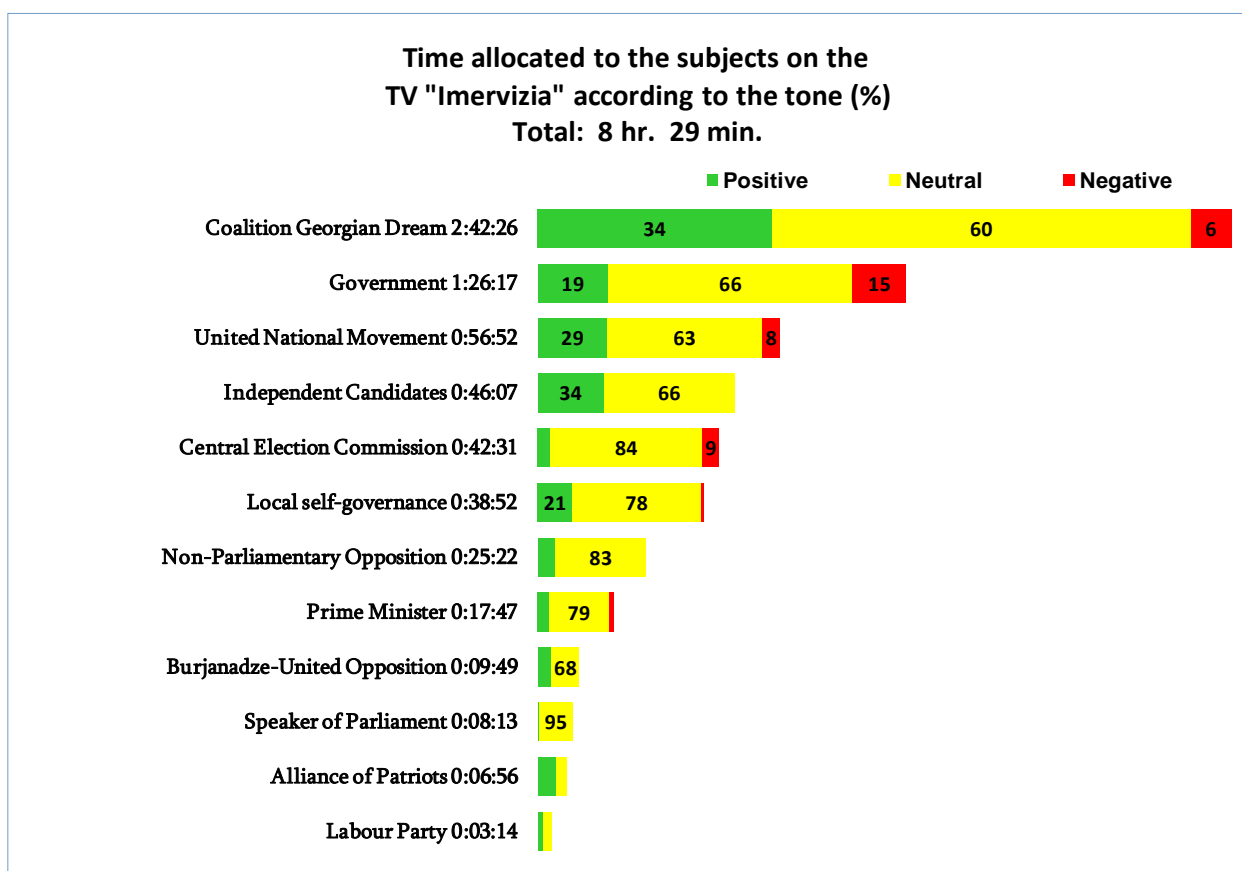
In the June 15 news outlet Imervizia informed viewers of the developments at the precincts in Sachkhere and Chiatura regions. Election process ongoing in the country was brought into focus too.

Monitored subjects were dedicated the total of eight hours and 29 minutes. Two hours and 42 minutes was enjoyed by GD, followed by government with one hour and 26 minutes, and UNM with almost 57 minutes. Direct reporting slightly prevailed over indirect.

News programs dedicated less than two minutes to the mayoral candidates for self-governing cities, since Chiatura was not electing a mayor and Sakrebulo mandates and candidates for Gangebeli position were focused on. No bias was identified from journalists' side. At the same time reporters did not stand out in terms of in-depth coverage of election subjects' programs. No censorious questions were posed.

„Imervizia” TV journalists reported in a timely manner, the TV stories though were essentially superficial, informative only.

The breach of journalism ethics was not identified in the news programs.



„Gurjaani” (Gurjaani) – „Gurjaani” TV-produced main news program „Mteli Kvira” (Whole Week) was on air from Monday to Saturday. On Sundays a weekly news program „Whole Week” was on to re-air the TV stories about top important events having taken place throughout the week. At the end of the election week the programming was changed. „Whole Week” was aired on Saturday. On Sunday at 22:00 viewers were offered a news program. 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.

The news programs produced by the channel also covered the issues of public concern, social issues, cultural and sports events, nationwide developments and world news. All of the

important developments nationwide were briefly covered in a separate block „Developments Outside Region”.

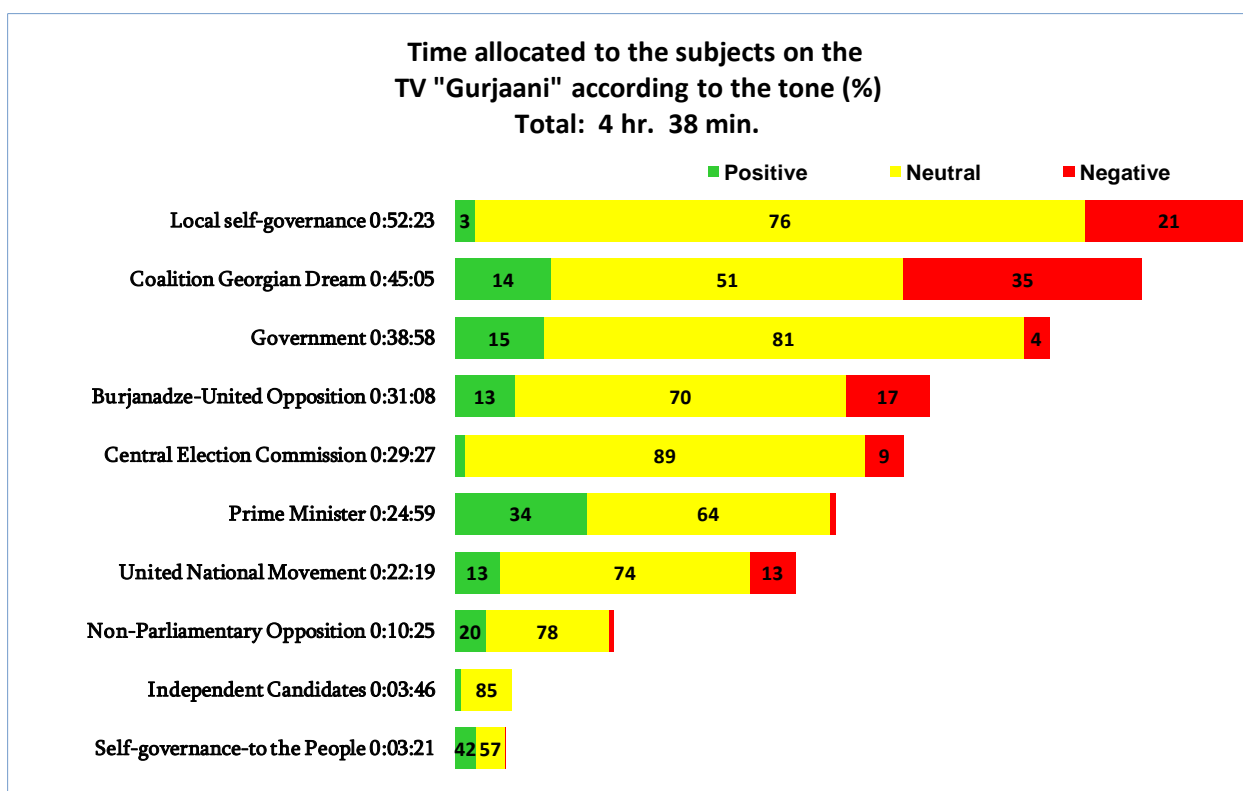
Within the period of June 12-15 TV company „Gurjaani” dedicated the total of four hours and 38 minutes to the monitored subjects, the bulk of the time was enjoyed by local authorities (52 min. 23 sec.), followed by GD (45 min.) and government (39 min.).

News reporting on the self-governing city mayoral candidates was less than four minutes. The activities of the candidates for Gamgebeli position and Sakrebulo membership were brought into focus in the news programs. When reporting on the political subjects running for municipal elections neither bias nor subjectively positive or negative attitude was identified.

The time dedicated to monitored subjects was almost equally divided between direct and indirect reporting.

Journalists tended to report in a timely manner, without demonstrating their personal standpoints in regard to ongoing events. Mostly the stories implied criticism but at times some events were superficially covered. About social issues journalists produced more comprehensive stories.

In news reporting neither hate speech nor manipulation though sound/music was identified. Signs of subliminal political advertising was not in place either.



„Mega TV” (Khoni) – During reporting period the „Mega TV”-produced news program „Mtavari Dghes” (Main Today) was aired from Monday to Friday at 22:00. On Saturdays the viewers were offered „Mtavari Kviras” (Main on Sunday) and on Sunday – „Kviris Faktebi” (Facts of the Week). Approximately 40-45-minute news outlets covered recent developments in the region as well as nationwide.

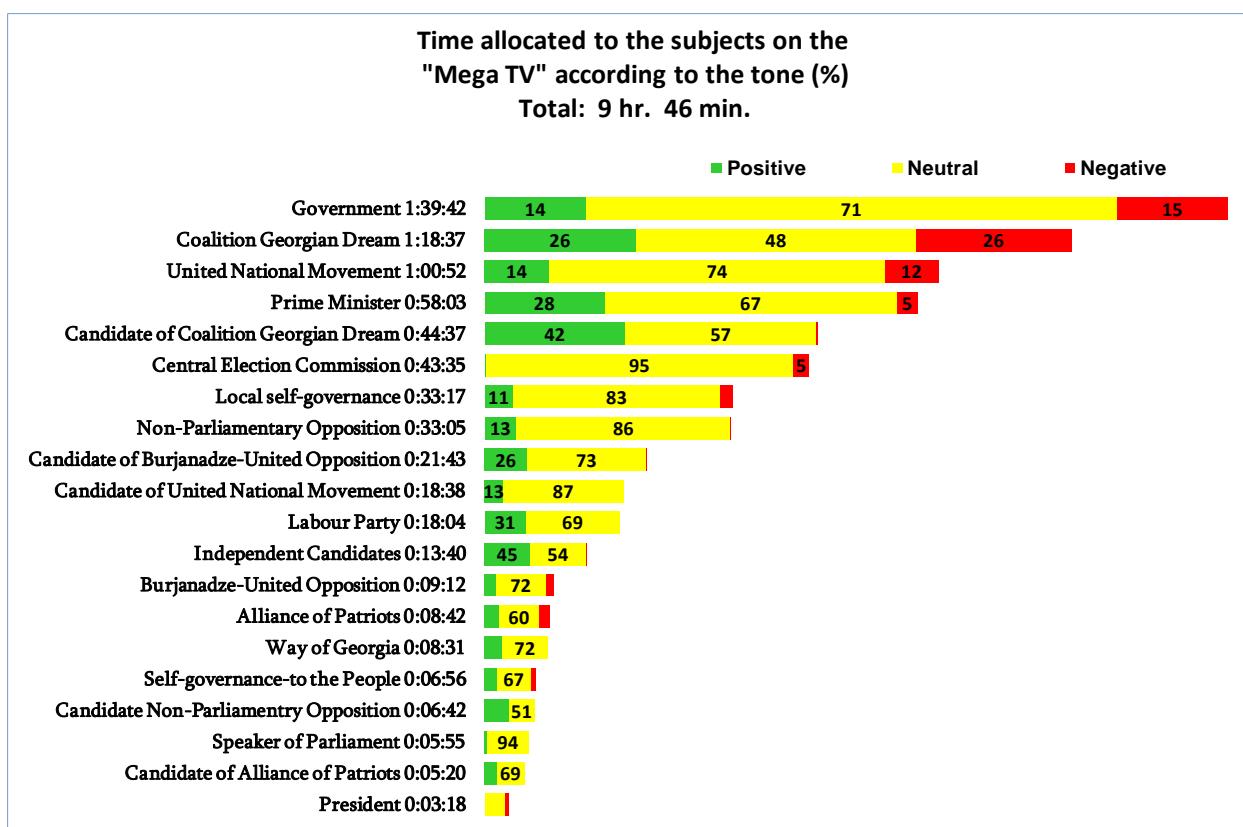
„Mega TV” covered events in a ‘standup-voice-over’ format. Journalists tended to report in a timely manner. The lack of censorious questions was though apparent, accordingly news reporting was superficial. Weekend news programs offered viewers more comprehensive stories, the time was also dedicated to the TV stories 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 on the factual accuracy or inaccuracy of the statements made.

On the E-Day, June 15 the broadcaster, in its prime time, aired two news outlets whose running time was 40 and 70 minutes in length, offering comprehensive coverage of election-related developments.

To the monitored subjects the channel dedicated the total of nine hours and 46 minutes. Reporting on the government was one hour and 39 minutes in length, followed by GD with one hour and 18 minutes and UNM and Prime Minister with one hour each. The channel was actively covering pre-election campaigns of mayoral, Gangebeli and majoritarian candidates. The TV company covered all seven Kutaisi mayoral candidates, the time dedicated to them though varied. GD's mayoral candidate Shota Murghulia ranks first with 44 minutes, followed by Burjanadze – United Opposition's candidate Teimuraz Shashiashvili with 21 minutes, UNM's nominee Giorgi Tevdoradze with 18 minutes. Khatuna Machavariani of the Self-Governance to People political bloc and Magda Gabrichidze of Non-Parliamentary Opposition each enjoyed seven-minute reporting. Five minutes were dedicated to Aleksandre Kezevadze of the Alliance of Patriots of Georgia, followed by the Labor Party nominee Irakli Kikvadze with less than three minutes. „Mega TV” also covered pre-election campaigns of Tbilisi mayoral candidates.

News programs reported solely on the pre-election activities carried out by political subjects and their meetings with the population. No comprehensive coverage of their election programs was provided. Election promises were mainly brought into focus.

Journalists tended to report in an unbiased and neutral manner, with the balance maintained. Use of hate was not identified.



„9th Wave” (Poti) – Within reporting period the „9th Wave”-produced news program „Cursor” was on air from Monday to Friday. During prime time 20-25-minute news programs were aired twice.

On the E-Day, June 15 the TV company operated in an emergency mode. During evening time two news outlets were televised. 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 giving an interview.

News programs dedicated the total of seven hours and 25 minutes to the monitored subjects. Approximately two hours falls on reporting on GD. Independent majoritarian candidates come second with one hour and 17 minutes and the third most covered subject was CEC with 50 minutes. The 9th Wave-produced news programs dedicated time to all five Poti mayoral candidates, the time though was not equally divided: 19 min. – Irakli Kakulia (GD), 13 min. – Davit Kantaria (Burjanadze – United Opposition), 9 min. – Ushangi Gegeneva (Alliance of Patriots of Georgia), 8 min. – Vakhtang Dartsmelidze (UNM), 4 min. – Marina

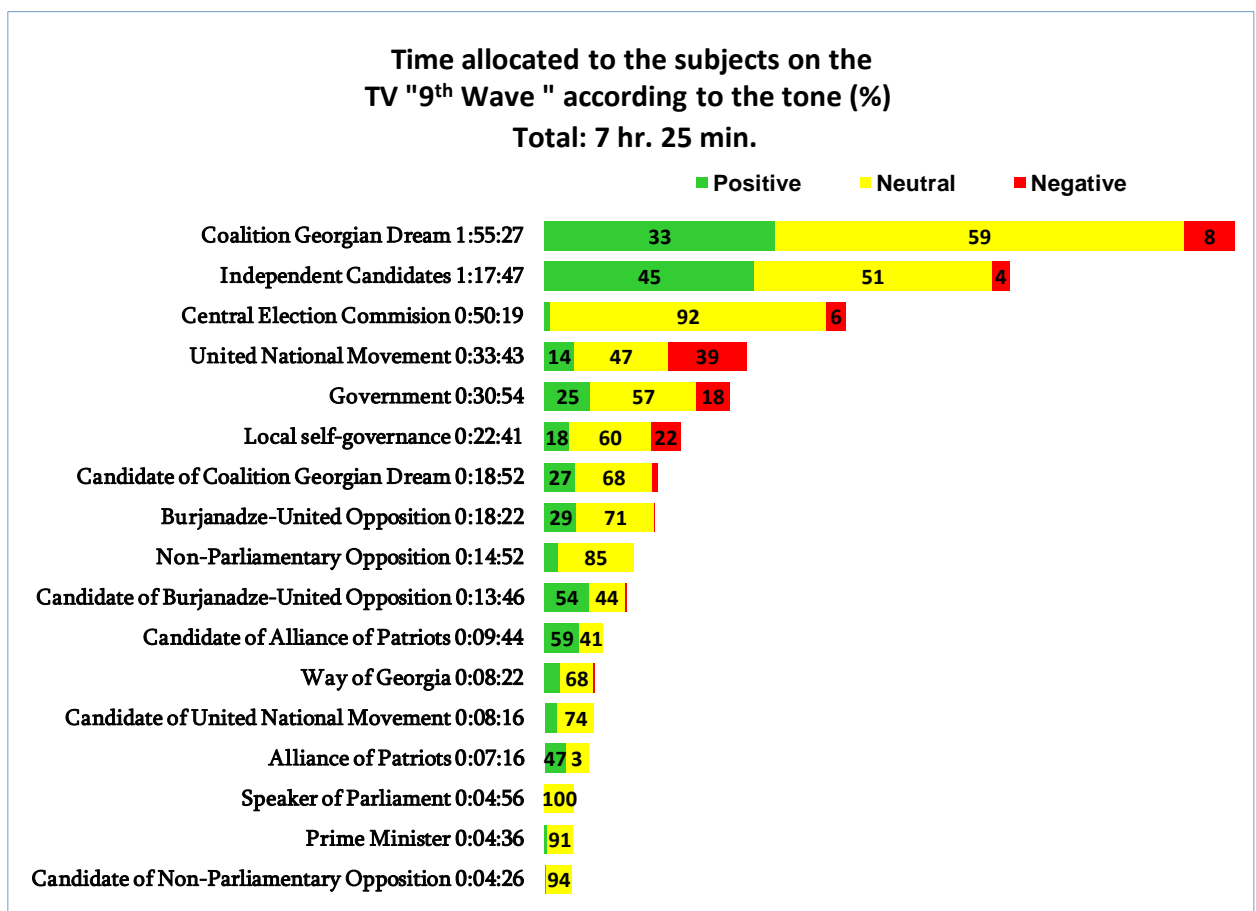
Baramia (Non-Parliamentary Opposition). Reporting on the aforementioned subjects was mostly neutral and direct.

Along with local news „Cursor” also dedicated time to the developments nationwide. Central news were covered through the stories delivered from GARB. Topics covered within news programs were diverse. In addition to reporting on the activities of election subjects and political parties the stories touched upon the issues of public concern, sports and cultural events.

In the second block of the news program the presenter had a single guest invited to the studio to respond to the questions of current importance.

The „9th Wave” journalists tended to report in a timely manner, reporting was though superficial, no censorious questions were posed. Journalists did not provide subjective evaluations, and tried to maintain balance in the TV stories.

Manipulation through sound/shots or the breach of ethical norms was not identified.



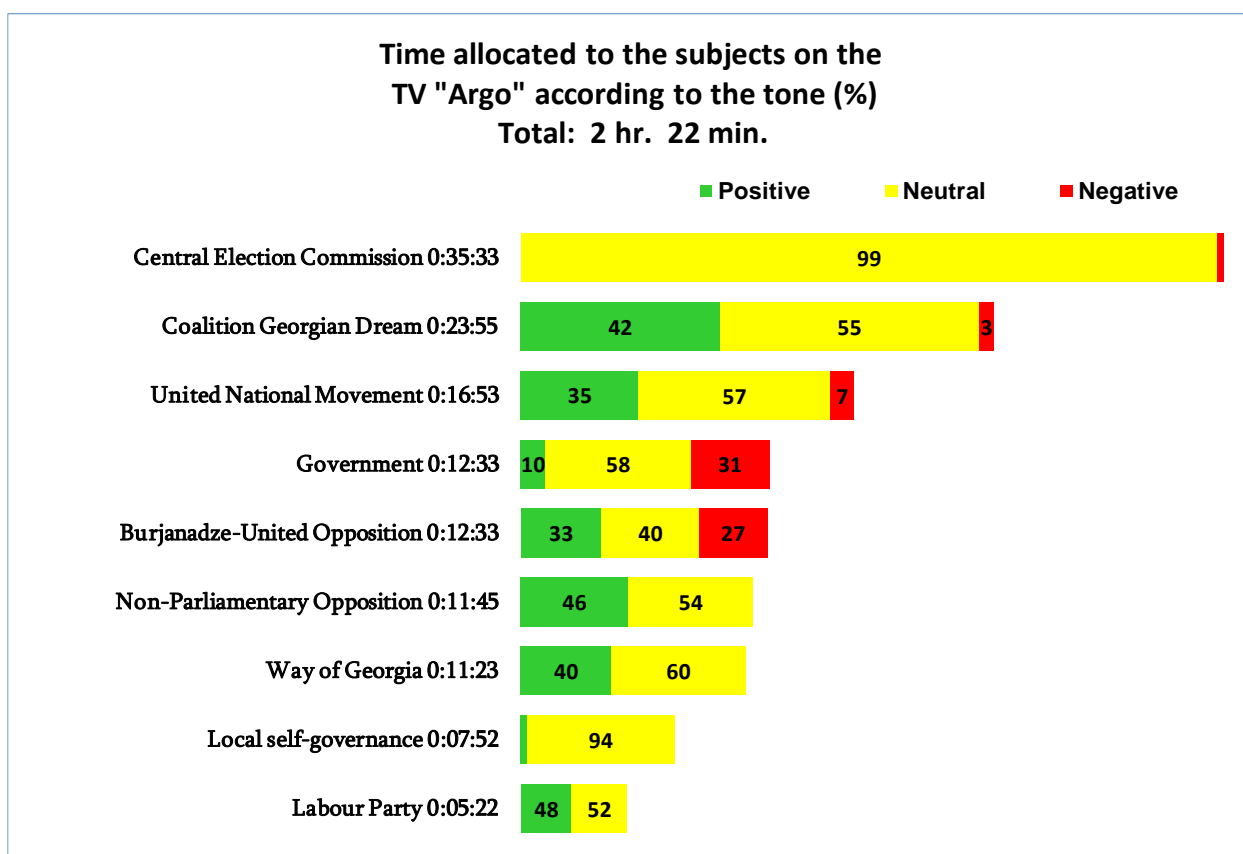
„Argo” (Zestaponi) – Within reporting period the channel’s main news program „Spectrum” was on air from Monday to Friday without a newsreader. The channel essentially covered developments within the region, and compared to the rest of the broadcasters „Argo” dedicated less time to the election-related processes and recent development nationwide. Cultural and sports events as well as healthcare and various social issues were brought into focus.

News programs dedicated the total of two hours and 22 minutes to the monitored subjects. The bulk of airtime falls on CEC (25 percent) and GD (17 percent).

Reporting on GD was 42 percent positive in tone, which was due to 85-percent direct reporting, not the journalist’s biased approach. Journalists tended to report without demonstrating their standpoints.

The TV stories aired on June 15 touched upon the developments at the precincts.

Use of hate speech was not identified during monitoring period.



„Marneuli TV” (Marneuli) – Within reporting period the „Marneuli TV”-produced news program „Akhali Ambebi” (News) was on air from Monday to Saturday. Few times the news

program was offered to the viewers on Sunday too. The news outlets were re-aired twice during prime time. The news programs, whose running time was ranging from 5 to 30 minutes, were televised without a newsreader.

To the monitored subjects the TV company dedicated the total of six hours and 48 minutes, GD ranks first with two hours. The given time was made up of reporting on the activities carried out by GD's Marneuli municipality Gangebeli candidate Merab Topchishvili. His meetings conducted within the framework of the pre-election campaign were aired in almost every news outlet.

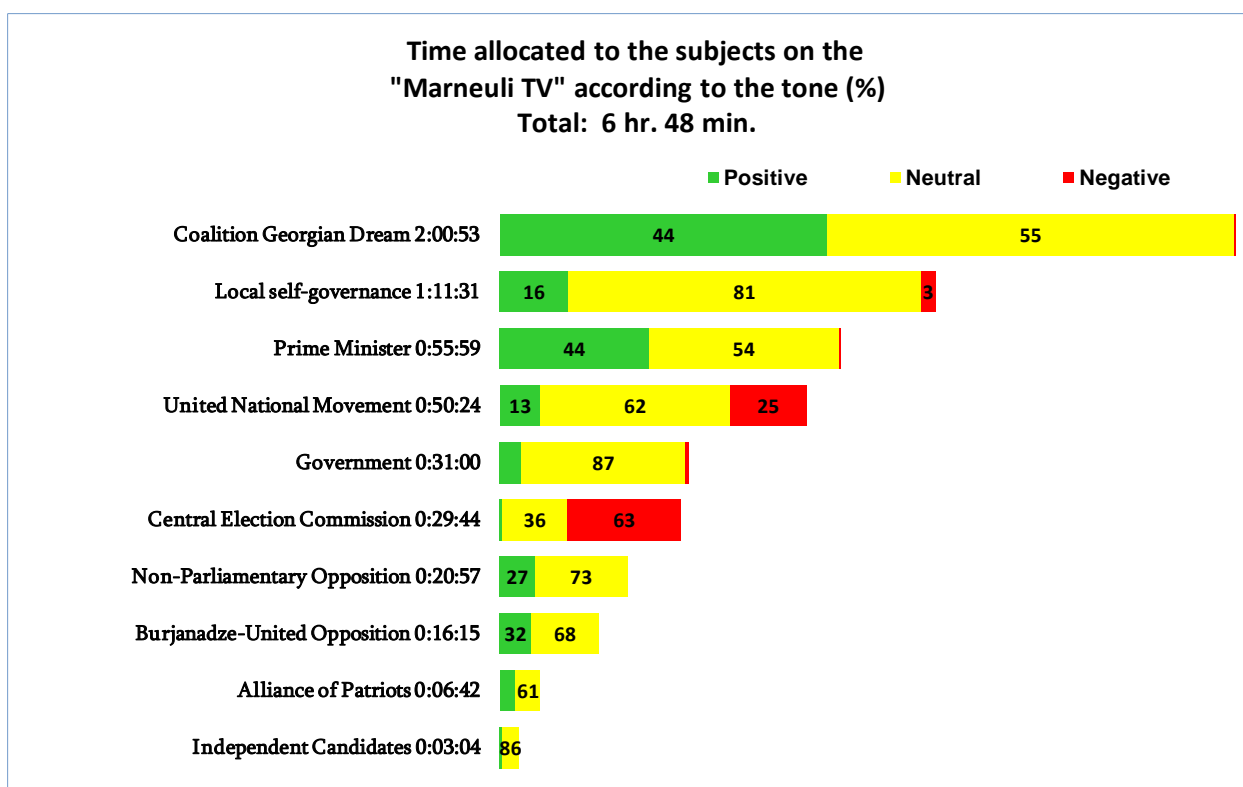
Out of election subjects the channel also covered Non-Parliamentary Opposition (21 min.), Burjanadze – united Opposition (16 min.) and Alliance of Patriots of Georgia (7 min.).

One hour and 11 minutes were dedicated to reporting on the local authorities, 81 percent of the apportioned time was neutral in tone, and 79 direct. TV stories were produced about certain activities of local authorities as well as municipality meetings, the celebration of the last municipality sitting was brought into focus too. In an approximately six-minute story the toast made at the ceremony and voice-over took up almost three minutes.

Monitored subjects were mostly covered in neutral and positive tone, direct reporting prevailed over indirect.

Negative reporting tone in regard to CEC and UNM was preconditioned by the withdrawal of UNM's Marneuli municipality Gangebeli nominee by Marneuli DEC. In regard to the aforesaid issue the June 5 news program aired a nine-minute story. The story though was found superficial, the journalist failed to clarify the reason of his withdrawal from registration, neither pre-history was reminded to the audience.

Few cases of factual inaccuracy were identified in the news programs: the journalist mentioned Sakrebulo membership candidate as Marneuli mayoral candidate. At times subtitles were missing to the respondents, hence it was hard to identify them.



„Borjomi” (Borjomi) – Within reporting period „Borjomi” TV-produced main news program „Dghis Kronika” (Chronicle of the Day) was aired from Monday to Friday. Few times it was produced over the weekend. The program, aired twice during prime at 20:00 and 22:00, had a newsreader, at times though news outlets were offered to the viewers without the latter. Approximately 10-15-minute news outlets, aired twice during prime time, essentially covered local events. TV stories were found superficial and informative. Comprehensive analytical TV stories about any topic of concern were few and they essentially focused on social and infrastructural issues.

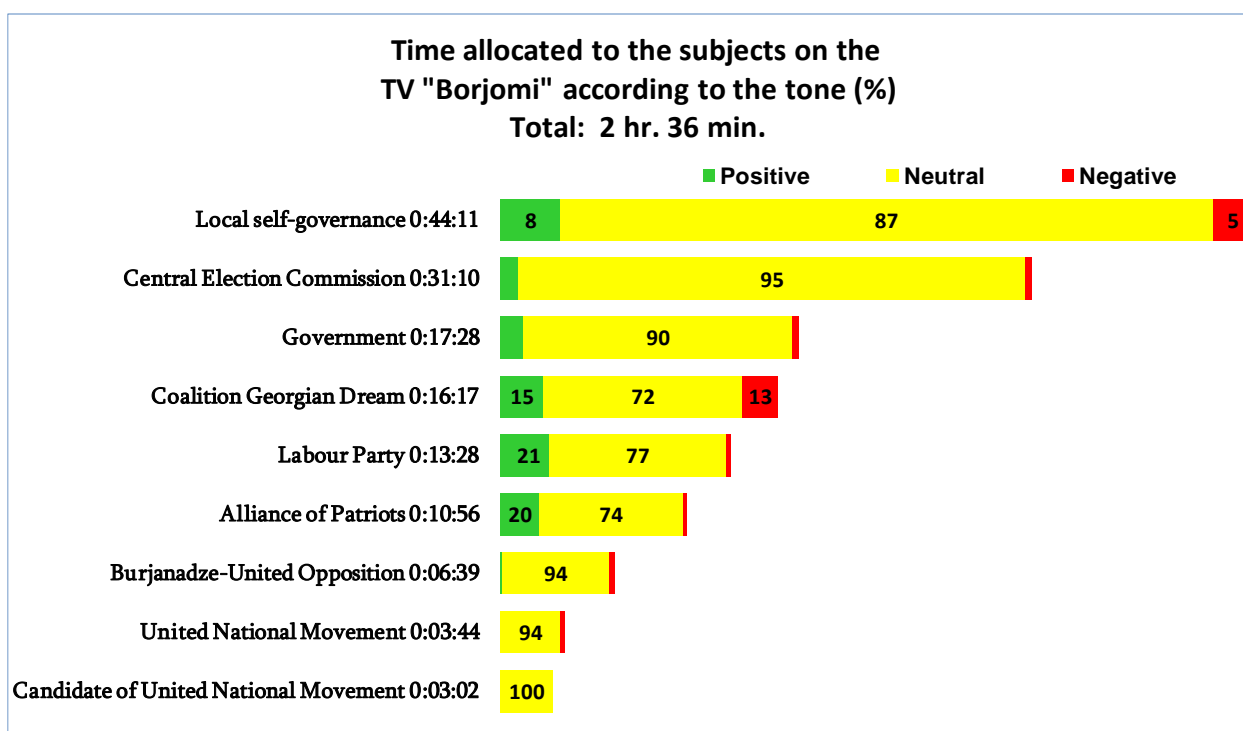
News programs dedicated the total of two hours and 36 minutes to the monitored subjects. Reporting was mostly neutral in tone, direct reporting essentially prevailed indirect. The bulk of the time (44 min.) was received by local authorities followed by CEC with 31 minutes (DEC №36 activities were actively covered), and government with 17 minutes.

Out of election subjects GD enjoyed the bulk of reporting (16 min.), followed by Labor Party (13 min.) ranking high in terms of positive reporting (21 percent). Alliance of Patriots of Georgia comes next with 11 minutes.

„Dgis Kronika”, few times throughout a day, televised TV stories produced by „Channel 9”. Due to the „Channel 9”-produced TV story two percent of the total time was dedicated to UNM’s Akhaltsikhe mayoral candidate Gela Demetradze.

The stories televised in „Dgis Kronika” news outlet were essentially found balanced, journalists tended to report in a superficial and impartial manner, some exceptions though were identified – not all of the party representatives were presented, e.g. in one of the stories of June 13 population was accusing local authorities of inattentiveness, while the journalist failed to present the self-government’s standpoint. Incomplete information was provided in the subtitles to the respondents, hence it was impossible to figure out which political party the respondent represented.

On June 15 „Borjomi” produced two election-related news outlets. The stories televised in the course of the news outlets touched upon the developments at the local polling stations. In regard to election-related reporting the June 13 TV story about voting procedures is the one worth noting.



„Dia” (Khashuri) – TV company „Dia” offered its main news outlet from Monday to Friday. On Saturdays TV company offered viewers „Kviris Ambebi” (News of the Week) re-airing

the TV stories about top important events of the week. On June 15 the viewers were updated about election-related developments in the region.

Within the period of 9-15 TV company „Dia” was anchored by a newsreader, some of the shortcomings (newsreader’s voice was inaudible, the newsreader’s voice and the script overlapped one another) came about in the course of the program.

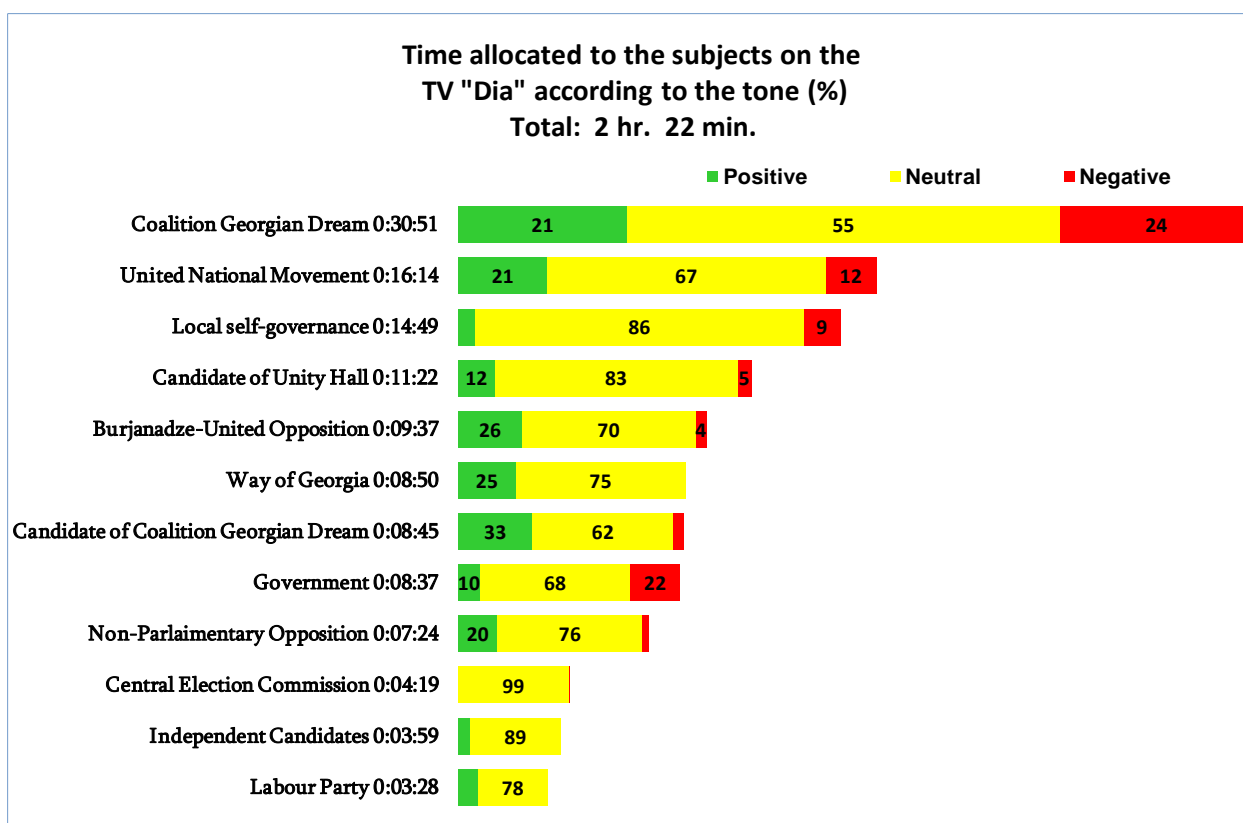
TV company „Dia” dedicated the total of two hours and 22 minutes to the monitored subjects. 31 minutes of the given time falls on GD’s activities. UNM comes next with 16 minutes, followed by local authorities with 14 minutes.

„Dia” also covered the Gori mayoral candidates’ activities, out of seven mayoral candidates though Tamaz Makashvili (Unity Hall) and Zurab Jirkvelishvili (GD) received three-minute reporting.

The channel was keenly covering developments in the region as well as nationwide, pre-election campaigns but, according to the findings, the stories were superficial and informative, solely covering parties’ and candidates’ meetings with the population and election promises. Journalists lacked the initiative to pose censorious questions or produce some comprehensive stories.

Comments televised in the TV stories had no subtitles, therefore we were unable calculate time in regard to several subjects, since we failed to identify the parties they represented.

Journalists reported in an impartial manner, no subjective standpoints were provided. Use of hate speech was not identified during reporting period.



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.

„Channel 25” (Batumi) - During reporting period from Monday to Thursday the TV company aired talk show „Dialogue”, hosted by journalist Jaba Ananidze. During reporting period the bulk of airtime was dedicated the subjects running for municipal elections. They enjoyed an opportunity to freely speak about election programs, priorities and future plans.

In different outlets of the talk show „Dialogue” Batumi mayoral candidates took part, in particular: Giorgi Khimshiashvili (Unity Hall), Giorgi Diasamidze (UNM), Gocha Gugunava (Georgia's Way), Giorgi Ermakov (GD), Jumber Tavartkiladze (People's Party), Aleksandre Tevzadze (Non-Parliamentary Opposition), Davit Diasamidze (Irakli Ghlonti – Reformers), Durmishkhan Shainidze (Self-Governance to People), Nugzar Chkhaidze (Labor Party); also considerable amount of time was dedicated to the debates among nominees for Gagebeli position and Sakrebulo majoritarian candidates for different districts (Keda, Khelvachauri, Khulo, Kobuleti, Shuakhevi) and presentation of their election programs.

To the guests in the studio the journalist tended to pose some interesting questions of current importance, trying to ask the guests away to obtain comprehensive information through additional questions. Mostly, in the second block of the program a heated discussion was held among the representatives of political parties. The host tended to actively oppose the guests. In the May 26 outlet a fierce discussion was held among the guests (Ada Marshania, a co-leader of Alliance of Patriots of Georgia and Davit Tevdoradze, Alliance's number one in the proportional list) and the host. The journalist was shooting some censorious questions about the formation of the party, future plans that have ultimately annoyed the guests. In the course of the program one of the TV viewers calling in accused the host of aggressiveness and lack of awareness.

Along with election subjects' election programs „Dialogue” covered some other issues of concern: relatives in the party lists, corruption risk at Sakrebulo, pressure upon journalist.

The host of the program Jana Ananidze tended to apportion equal time to all of the invited guests. He was actively participating in the program, posing censorious questions and sounded rather demanding to the guests. At times he tended to repeat the same question, he though failed to apportion enough time to get the answer. The programs were highly interactive. The journalist urged the citizens calling in to shoot some concrete questions and to use ethical wording, at the same time he called on the guests to provide argumentation to substantiate their statements.

The host of the talk show „Dialogue” never used hate speech or unethical vocabulary, and despite respondents' harsh allegations unethical wording was not in place.

On June 8 Channel 25 televised a **documentary „Highest Comfort”** produced by investigative studio „REC”. Jaba Ananidze was the author of the 55-minute documentary.

The main topic of the investigative documentary was the activities carried out by the top management of Supreme Council of Adjara AR and deputies. The work performed by the Council and the extent of efficiency of the decisions reached, the expenses incurred by the deputies and budgetary expenditure on them – to the given issues the author of the documentary tried to provide comprehensive and well substantiated answers. The viewpoints portrayed in the documentary were substantiated with the comments from various sources, mostly upheld by experts' viewpoints and conclusions. The journalist did not resort to hate speech, but at some point a bit less ethical wording was observed (“what made deputies blind?”). The questions raised in the documentary provided detailed information in relation to the issues of public concern.

„Rioni” (Kutaisi) – Within reporting period during evening time at 21:30 Rioni aired a public-political **talk show „Tema”** (Topic) hosted by journalist Nana Robakidze.

Talk show „Tema” stands out in terms of diversity of guests. The program, at different times, had the representatives of the ruling team, as well as opposition parties, nominees for mayoral position and Sakrebulo mandates, invited to the studio. Independent candidates and NGO representatives too were among the selected guests.

The topics of discussion included the following:

- Women's role in politics – their representation in the municipal elections;
- Election programs, political stance and priorities of political subjects running for municipal elections in Imereti region;
- Election environment.

The host was actively participating in the talk shows, trying to make guests thoroughly speak about the topics of discussion. The journalist was curious to know the extent of candidates' awareness about the problems the population faces. Candidates had a possibility to introduce their election programs to the audience. In relation to election programs the journalist was posing some questions. Guests were granted every possibility to fully express their

standpoints, the time was equally divided. In the course of the talk show viewers were provided comprehensive information. In case the invited guest criticized the opponent being absent in the studio the journalist would try to oppose. She constantly called on the guests to use ethical wording.

The host refrained from demonstrating her stance, essentially assuming the functions of a moderator. No bias was identified in regard to any political subject.

The programs were found interactive, population had a possibility to express their viewpoints through phone calls.

On June 5 talk show „Tema” dedicated airtime to the TV debates produced in partnership with the „Georgian Association of Regional Broadcasters” (GARB) within the framework of the media partnership **program „Elections 2014”**. Almost two-hour program was hosted by journalist Nana Robakidze.

Kutaisi mayoral candidates including Gia Tevdoradze (UNM), Irakli Kikvadze (Labor Party), Aleksandre Kezevadze (Alliance of Patriots of Georgia), Teimuraz Shashiashvili (Burjanadze – United Opposition), Magda Gabrichidze (Non-Parliamentary Opposition), Khatuna Machavariani (Self-Governance to People) and Shota Murghulia (GD) were invited to the studio.

In the first block of the program the candidates were granted a possibility to introduce their election programs to the viewers. In the second block they responded to the host's questions. In the third block media and NGO representatives invited to the studio posed questions to the selected guests. In the fourth block TV viewers enjoyed an opportunity to call in to get answers to the questions of concern. TV viewers did not miss this chance, actively calling in, shooting questions, demonstrating their viewpoints about the candidates or the issues discussed.

The journalist appeared well prepared for the debates. She was allocating equal time to the guests. Having failed to curb one of the candidates in the light of fierce debates the host announced a commercial break. The host tended to pose censorious questions, got curious about the issues raised in the course of the program, without demonstrating her stance.

On Tuesdays TV company Rioni aired **talk show „Obiekturi Azri”** (Objective Opinion) hosted by journalist Elza Chubinidze. The program was made up of two blocks hosting different guests, at times though the program was divided into three.

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) as well as independent ones running for majoritarian seats in different districts in Kutaisi (Kakhianuri, Dzelkviani, Kalaki-Muzeumi, Ukimerioni, Nikea), also NGO representatives.

The topics of the talk show included:

- Pre-election environment;
- The Degree of effectiveness of local self-government and the changes the population expects from the elections;
- Candidates' election programs. The extent of majoritarian candidates' awareness of the issues of public concern, 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, posing some censorious questions of current importance. In terms of the selection of guests the program was balanced. The host did not let guests deviate from the topic of discussion. During fierce polemic the journalist ardently opposed them. In case of heated up argument the host urged the guests to speak in ethical manner. The program dedicated airtime to the opinion poll survey carried out in the constituency the selected candidate ran for. The population discussed the problems persisting locally. The host was curious to know whether the candidates had been aware of these problems and how they were going to address them. The question for interactive discussion was presented in the talk show.

On June 7 Rioni aired TV **program „Gender and Society”** hosted by journalist Nana Robakidze. The program was provided by Women's Information Center within the framework of the Women as Actors for Changes and Enhancement project implemented by the Women's Information Center with the support of United States Agency for International

Development (USAID). The partners of the project include „Taso” Foundation, „Georgian Young Economists Association”, Institute for War and Peace Reporting” (IWPR), and Gali-based NGO.

The guests invited to the program included NGO representatives and GD's candidates for Zestaponi Sakrebulo mandates. The host was trying to obtain information about current situation in Georgia in terms of women's political participation, the extent of their involvement in political developments and self-governance.

„Kvemo Kartli TV Company” (Rustavi) – Within reporting period TV company produced several talk shows differing from one another in terms of format and hosts. With the participation of Rustavi mayoral candidates **talk show „Tkveni Dro”** (Your Time) and **„Municipal Elections 2014”** were produced.

The guests to the studio included Rustavi mayoral candidates Aleksandre Kobaidze (Georgia's Way), Ivane Shatirishvili (Alliance of Patriots of Georgia), Erosi Kitsmarishvili (Our Georgia), Aleksandre Beridze (Non-Parliamentary Opposition), Elguja Kochiashvili (In the Name of the Lord - the Lord is Our Truth;), Mamuka Chikovani (UNM), Davit Jikia (GD), Koba Dzierashvili (Burjanadze – United Opposition) and Revaz Rizhamadze (Labor Party).

Talk show „Your Time” had two different hosts. The programs produced during monitoring period touched upon municipal elections. Hosts granted election subjects a possibility to freely and thoroughly speak about election programs and priorities. Viewers had an opportunity to hear detailed information about the activities and plans to be carried by political parties. The programs were interactive, viewers were granted an opportunity to pose questions to the guests live on air.

Tato Gogoladze was the host of one of the talk shows. With the questions posed throughout the programs he was trying to obtain comprehensive information about candidates' background, future plans and political opinions. The journalist called on the guests to substantiate their allegations, did not let them cite inaccurate or unverified facts. The host of the program urged the citizens calling in to speak in ethical manner.

Journalist Khatuna Mamardashvili was another host of the **talk show „Your Time”**. The journalist granted the guests a possibility to thoroughly speak about election programs. Candidates were offered sufficient time to speak about their political stance. The programs were essentially conducted in the Q & A format between a host and a guest. The journalist did not interfere into the polemic being on among the guests, limiting herself to shooting questions. Censorious and harsh questions were just few.

According to the findings the hosts of the talk shows did not resort to either hate speech or unethical wording.

During reporting period the TV company televised two outlets (May 28 and June 4) of **talk show „Municipal Elections 2014,”** hosted by journalists Nino Kapanadze. All nine Rustavi mayoral candidates were invited to the studio.

At the beginning of the program the candidates were each granted three minutes to outline their top priorities. The time offered for the response was under control with a stopwatch. The host was posing questions about candidates' action plans, the ways to address the problems and pre-election environment. The journalist did not debate much with the guests, essentially assuming the function of a moderator. When deviating from the topic of discussion she urged the guests to get back to the point. In the second part of the talk show some fierce counter-allegations were made. The journalist was trying to balance the situation, calling on the guests to be more ethical in their statements. In the conclusive part of the program though counter allegations grew into fierce debates, and the host found it hard to keep the situation under control.

The June 9 TV air was dedicated to the **talk show „Elections 2014”** produced in partnership with 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 sector 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 the 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 14 the channel televised TV **program „Elect Your Mayor”** hosted by journalist Zviad Koridze. The program was produced by the Journalists Network for Gender Equality (JNGE) with the support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the 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 the 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.

„Odishi” (Zugdidi) – During reporting period three outlets of **political debates „Elections 2014”**, was aired. The talk show was produced in partnership with GARB. The program was hosted by journalist Nana Kobalia. Talk shows were made up of three blocks. The first block focused on the guests' election programs, key messages, and slogans. The second block was dedicated to questions and answers and the third block to the comments and questions posted on the channel's official Facebook page. The program would draw to a close with the guests' addresses to the voters.

Zugdidi Gamgebeli candidates nominated by different political unions such as GD, UNM, Burjanadze – United Opposition, People's Party, Unity Hall as well as their representatives were invited to the program.

The journalist was curious to learn about candidates' election programs and priorities. The host was trying to obtain detailed information.

The June 11 outlet was especially heated. During two-hour program counter-allegations were made by the guests. Statements made by Tengiz Jgushia of Non-Parliamentary Opposition were especially emotional. The host was urging guests to get back to the point and to use ethical wording, trying to deal with the situation, at times though she failed to keep it under control.

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 censorious, no filtration was applied, therefore some of them contained unethical wording.

From the journalist's side no hate speech was identified. Political subjects though did not refrain from using unethical phrasing to which the host failed to respond in a timely manner. No subtitles were provided to the guests.

„Channel 9” (Akhaltsikhe) – On Thursdays TV company „Channel 9” televised **talk show „Dialogue”** hosted by journalist Rusudan Gvaramadze.

Below please find the topics discussed in the programs produced during monitoring period:

- Why to elect female representatives to the local self-government body, their role in the political processes;
- The way the Sakrebulo operation transformed in the past year and a half and the reason Sakrebulo chairperson changed his political preferences;
- Mayoral candidates' election programs;
- Pre-election programs of candidates nominated for Aspindza, Adigeni and Akhaltsikhe municipality Gamgebeli positions and their political stance.

The journalist was actively participating in the talk show, trying to apportion equal time to all of the guests. To the selected guests she was posing the questions of current importance,

also trying to figure out the reason they decided to participate in the municipal elections. The host almost never allowed guests to deviate from the topic of discussion.

Use of hate speech or unethical wording was not identified, the host neither showed bias to any subject. Especially censorious comments were made by the respondents calling in.

On June 9, the channel dedicated airtime to the TV program „**Elect Your Mayor**”. The program was produced by the Journalists Network for Gender Equality (JNGE) with the support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the 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 transmission Akhaltsikhe mayoral candidate Natali Sisvadze of the 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), Natali Sisvadze (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 beforehand. 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.

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

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

„**Tanamgzavri** “ (Telavi) – Within reporting period six outlets of the talk show „**Dialogue**” were televised (May 16, 23, 30; June 5, 6, and 13). The June 5 outlet was produced with the support of GARB within the framework of the „**Elections 2014**” project.

Journalist Nato Megutnishvili was the host of the programs. And the topics of discussion included candidates' election programs and the ways they are going to address the problems persisting in the city.

„Dialogue” operated in the pre-election mode. Approximately 1,5-hour programs were of TV debates type, the guests included Telavi mayoral and Gangebeli candidates nominated by political unions such as UNM, Self-Governance to People, Burjanadze – United Opposition, Alliance of Patriots of Georgia, Labor Party, Greens Party as well as number one candidates in the party lists and unqualified political subjects and majoritarian candidates nominated by initiative teams.

At the beginning of the program the host pointed out that she had been inviting all of the registered candidates but GD's representatives refused to attend any of the outlets, UNM's representatives said no several times. Affected by the aforementioned the host, together with other selected guests tried to figure out the reason of the refusal to the participation in the debates. With this question the host provoked negative statements made by selected guests against the subjects absent in the studio, and even incited hate speech in the June 5 outlet. The host did not try to stop the guests in the studio. Neither she tried to put an end to the respondents' homophobic statements made in response to the journalist's question about anti-discrimination law in the May 23 outlet.

In addition to the main guests their party representatives were present in the studio taking part in the program, in particular responding to the host's questions, expressing their viewpoints about the topic of discussion. Local media representatives too took part in the June 5 outlet. The program was transmitted live, viewers had a possibility to call in to pose questions to the guests in the studio.

The program televised TV stories about various issues of concern, the questions posed by the population and pre-election environment that helped make the program more dynamic.

The host of the program was essentially neutral and unbiased, apportioning equal time to the guests, according to the order determined by means of the casting of lots, assuming the function of a moderator, preventing deviation from the topic of discussion. In regard to different issues the host repeatedly tended to pose a general question, that made it hard to receive a certain answer.

In the course of the program subtitles to the guests were missing. After the commercial break the host failed to introduce either the topic of the day or the guests.

„**Trialeti**” (Gori) – During reporting period at 19:00 TV company „Trialeti” aired **talk show „Municipal Elections 2014”** thoroughly covering election-related developments. Throughout a week the channel tended to produce several programs dedicating airtime to Gori mayoral candidates, Gamgebeli and majoritarian candidates. Gori mayoral candidates as well as nominees for Gori, Khashuri, Kareli and Kaspi municipality Gamgebeli positions were participating in the program,

The programs were separately hosted by two journalists Thea Giguashvili and Lado Bichashvili.

In the course of the talk show Thea Giguashvili tended to shoot censorious questions, requesting respondents to specify their answers so that viewers could comprehend them correctly. The host had the program well prepared and was well aware of the topics discussed. In case the respondents' answer was untrue, she warned them against falsehood. The journalist was trying to urge guests to thoroughly speak about election programs to let public know what they were going to do in case of victory.

Journalist Lado Bichashvili demonstrated less criticism to the guests. He was though trying to thoroughly update viewers about the guests' election programs and their plans for the further development of the city. Guests had a possibility to freely and fully express their standpoints, they were not limited in terms of time. According to the format of the program the guests were to evaluate each other's answers. They tended to make harsh and censorious assessments. The host was trying to maintain the situation balanced. In the course of the program viewers had an opportunity to pose questions through phone calls.

The June 13 outlet was hosting all six Gori mayoral candidates (GD, UNM, Unity Hall, Non-Parliamentary Opposition, Burjanadze – United Opposition, Labor Party). Some technical shortcomings persisted during the program, broadcasting was temporally suspended. GD and Labor Party candidates were no longer present in the studio after the resumption of the broadcasting.

Guests were granted sufficient time to outline their election programs, visions and future plans. They also evaluated pre-election environment. Candidates enjoyed a possibility to speak freely. The time was under control with a stopwatch. The candidates though were offered every possibility to speak freely, without any restrictions. 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.

From May 20 TV company „Trialeti” started producing **public-political program „Dgis Tema”** (Topic of the Day), informing viewers of the topics of current importance. The program was hosted by journalist Ia Gavasheli. The topics of the programs aired within reporting period were diverse: Accusations made by Lali Moroshkina, former advisor to the head of Penitentiary Department against the chief of the Department; Bonus payments made at the ministries; Current situation over Sakdrisi gold mine; EU-Georgia Association Agreement; participation of Georgian armed forces in the international peacekeeping missions; confrontation among political parties; review of pre-election environment, review of crime statistics, media and authorities.

Monitored subjects were not participating in all of the outlets. The program was conducted in the Q & A format. Selected guests had an opportunity to speak freely. The host did not oppose, just shooting questions, and times posing addition questions trying to verify some details.

The May 30 **program „Debates”**, within the framework of the **„Elect Your Mayor” project**, was made possible with the support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES). The program was hosted by Lado Bichashvili. Four Gori mayoral candidates were invited to the studio. The selection of candidates was transparent, conducted by means of the casting of lots among seven candidates.

Zurab Jirkvelishvili (GD), Mamuka Nozadze (Burjanadze - United Opposition), Archil Sabiashvili (UNM), Vasil Butkhuzi (Non-Parliamentary Opposition) were invited to the

studio. The format of the program was strictly set. Guests were granted equal time to present their programs, visions and future plans. The length of speeches was under control with a stopwatch. The journalist, playing the role of a moderator, limited himself to shooting questions.

The main technical drawback with the TV company Trialeti was the lack of subtitles which complicated the identification of the speakers.

„Guria” (Ozurgeti) – Within reporting period TV company „Guria” aired four outlets (May 21 and 30, June 4 and 6) of the **talk show „Together with You”** with the participation of monitored subjects. Tamta Dolidze was hosting the outlets whose running time was ranging from 45 to 60 minutes. The program, which was of political debates type, discussed the following topics: women’s role in local decision-making process; election subjects’ programs, problems persisting in the municipalities, and the ways of their solution. The guests to the studio included the candidates nominated for Lanchkhuti and Chokhatauri municipality Gangebeli positions (GD, Burjanadze – United Opposition, UNM, and Alliance of Patriots of Georgia), also female candidates running for Ozurgeti municipality Sakrebulo mandates and the head of Gender Equality Network.

According to the host of the program she had been inviting the representatives of other parties too but they refused to pay a visit to the studio.

In the course of the program the guest tended to change the topic of discussion, provoking counter-allegations and verbal confrontation. The host found it hard to keep the situation under control. The journalist was not properly prepared for the program, lacked awareness of the number and identity of candidates registered at municipalities. The host assumed the role of a moderator. At times, depending on the guests’ answers, she posed some questions. The host was trying to be neutral and impartial, granting every guest a possibility to respond in a comprehensive manner. The time was almost equally divided according to the order determined beforehand by means of the casting of lots.

The program was transmitted live, viewers called in to pose questions. In the course of the programs the TV stories about the issues of public concern was televised.

Subtitles were missing to the guests speaking.

On June 13 TV company „Guria” aired 30-minute story about the meeting of the members of the youth wing of Young Teachers 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 Kvachantiradze (Non-Parliamentary Opposition) were responding to the young people's questions related to various issues of concern persisting in the city. Each candidate would respond to the issue raised and discuss the ways of their solution.

„Imervizia” (Chiatura) – During reporting period TV company „Imervizia” aired the only talk show. On May 23 TV air was dedicated to TV **debates „Elections 2014”** hosted by journalist Inga Jajanidze. The program was produced in partnership with GARB. The representatives of political unions running for the upcoming municipal elections were invited to the studio. In particular, the subjects participating in the election for majoritarian deputy mandates and Gamgebeli position nominated by the initiative team, Georgian Alliance of Patriots, Burjanadze – United Opposition, Non-Parliamentary Opposition, and Labor Party were among the selected guests.

The sequence of the speakers participating in the debates was agreed by means of the casting of lots. The journalist let the guests freely express their standpoints, without interrupting them, the presenter though did not allow them to move away from the topic of discussion. The journalist called on the guests to provide argumentation to substantiate their statements. TV Viewers had a possibility to obtain comprehensive information. The journalist did not show bias to the guests. No hate speech was identified.

„Gurjaani” (Gurjaani) – Gurjaani TV aired **talk show „The Power of Powerless”** hosted by journalist Levan Aleksishvili. The talk show was made up of two blocks.

During reporting period talk shows discussed the following topics:

- Importance of women's political participation; women running for municipal elections in Kakheti region and their programs;
- Pre-election developments in Kakheti region, plans and priorities of political forces;

- Gamgebeli candidates' election programs.

The guests to the studio included Gurjaani, Lagodekhi and Signaghi municipality Gamgebeli candidates nominated by GD, UNM, Burjanadze – United Opposition and Georgia's Way and the representatives of regional party offices. Some active representatives of the society as well as NGOs were present in the studio.

On June 13 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 the only candidate Khatia Dekanoidze of UNM took part in the program.

The host of the program turned out to be quite demanding, requesting guests to provide reasoning for the dissenting opinions expressed. Through the script and questions the presenter was trying to make the program more interesting and informative to the viewers. Providing contradictory arguments the journalist tended to oppose the guests.

Levan Aleksishvili, together with the respondents of the program, was trying to thoroughly analyze the topic of discussion. He though maintained balance and refrained from expressing his personal stance. He was found neutral. No hate speech or unethical language was identified. In the second block viewers had a possibility to call in to shoot questions to the guests in the studio. The viewers used this opportunity at their best.

On June 6 the channel aired TV **program „Elections 2014”** produced in partnership with GARB. Levan Aleksishvili had Gurjaani municipality Gamgebeli candidates nominated by UNM, Burjanadze – United Opposition and Georgia's Way invited to the studio. The topic of the program was the candidates' election programs.

The journalist offered guests an opportunity to introduce themselves to the viewers, present their election programs and discuss the ways they are going to address the problems persisting in the region. The host of the program was very much keen to learn about the issues outlined in the candidates' election programs.

The supporters of all three political forces were present in the studio. They were free to shoot questions to the candidates. In the second block of the program viewers had a possibility to call in to pose questions to the candidates in the studio. The program was rather interactive. The journalist was trying to obtain answers to the questions of public interest.

„Mega TV” (Khoni) – Within reporting period during evening time the channel aired **talk show „Debates”** hosted by journalist Tiko Kikabidze.

The debates were held in accordance with the format set beforehand: 30 seconds for a greeting, 2 minutes for Q & A, 1 min. 30 sec. to evaluate one another, 30 seconds for a comment. Moreover, guests had a possibility to pose a single question to each other and for the closing speech they were granted 30 seconds. Candidates' election programs was the topic of discussion. Candidates of political unions such as Burjanadze – United Opposition, Non-Parliamentary Opposition, GD, Alliance of Georgian Patriots, Self-Governance to People, People's Party, Labor Party, Political Movement of Veterans and Patriots of Georgia nominated for Khoni, Samtredia, Tskaltubo and Martvili Gamgebeli positions and Sakrebulo mandates as well as independent majoritarian candidates were invited to the studio.

Kutaisi mayoral candidates including Irakli Kikvadze (Labor Party), Aleksandre Kezevadze (Alliance of Patriots of Georgia), and Teimuraz Shashiashvili (Burjanadze – United Opposition), were taking part in the program.

Despite strictly set rules of debates the guests were not restricted. They were granted equal time to express their viewpoints. The host of the program limited herself to shooting questions, without demonstrating her standpoints. The journalist was curious about candidates' election programs and priorities. She was trying to figure out how the candidates are going to make their election promises work, however she did not stand out in terms of posing censorious questions. In case of the aggravation of the discussion she called on the guests to be more ethical in their wording, trying to keep the situation under control.

Despite a strictly set format and the host's attempts to allocate equal time to all of the guests the Alliance of Patriots of Georgia's nominee quit the June 2 program in protest, accusing the TV channel of conducting debates in unequal conditions. Following the incident the program together with the guests was back to normal.

On June 6 and 11 the channel aired **talk show „Elections 2014”** hosted by journalist Nana Tvalabeishvili. The programs were produced with the support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES).

To the June 6 outlet Kutaisi mayoral candidates including Shota Murghulia (GD), Giorgi Tevdoradze (UNM) and Teimuraz Shashiashvili (Burjanadze – United Opposition) were invited to the program. The talk show was conducted according to the afore-set format. At the very beginning of the program the journalist said she would be assuming the function of a moderator shooting questions to the guests. She was also responsible for keeping control over the time apportioned. The order to speak was determined by means of casting of lots. Time was equally granted to the guests to introduce their election programs. The program was conducted in a peaceful environment, no hate speech or unethical wording was identified.

The June 11 outlet was supposed to offer viewers the 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.

TV program „Discourse”, hosted by journalist Nana Toshkhua, was on air on Wednesdays. Only two outlet of the program fell under monitoring, the guests to the rest of the outlets did not include monitored subjects, neither the topics discussed touched upon election-related issues of our interest.

In the May 21 outlet GYLA's Kutaisi branch representative spoke about the outcome of the survey they conducted to evaluate electoral environment nationwide. In the May 28 outlet the representative of the „Young Economists Association” spoke about upcoming municipal elections. The host of the program limited herself to posing questions to the guest, almost never demonstrating her stance. The program was conducted in the Q & A format in a peaceful environment. The guests were granted every possibility to fully express their standpoints.

„9th Wave” (Poti) – On Fridays TV company „9th Wave: political talk show „Tema” (Topic) hosted by journalist Thea Absaridze. She dedicated two outlets to Poti mayoral candidates. The guests also included Poti majoritarian candidates and number one candidates in the proportional lists representing GD, Burjanadze – United Opposition, Georgia’s Way, Alliance of Patriots of Georgia, Political Movement of Veterans and Patriots of Georgia, as well as initiative team, also youth wing representatives of the same political parties. Election subjects’ programs and election promises were the topics discussed in the talk shows.

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. In case guests failed to substantiate their allegations they host urged them to provide argumentation. The host was trying to dedicate equal airtime to the guests. The guests invited to the studio had an opportunity to present their election programs and standpoints. Guests had a possibility to shoot question at one another, and they used this opportunity at their best.

In the June 14 outlet 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 ethical manner. The journalist did not interfere, she opted to listen. She did not attempt to either stop the opponents or remind the guests 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 period the channel produced the only talk show. On May 22 the company aired TV debates „Elections 2014.” The program, produced in partnership with GARB, was hosted by journalist Marina Jugeli.

The guests to the studio included the candidates for Zestaponi Gamgebeli position nominated by Non-Parliamentary Opposition, Burjanadze – United Opposition, UNM, and Georgia’s Way. GD’s nominee was unable to take part in the debates for being out of town.

In the course of the program the journalist was curious to know about each candidate's electoral program, what they were planning to do for the region in case of victory and the resources they relied on to make their plans work. Later the election subjects in the studio were posed questions by the local media and NGO representatives. TV viewers were actively participating in the program through calls in.

TV debates were re-aired on TV Argo on May 23.

„Marneuli TV” (Marneuli) – Within the period of May 12 – June 15 „Marneuli TV” offered viewers several TV programs about and with the participation of monitored subjects.

On May 13 Marneuli TV aired **Questions to Gamgebeli**. The guest selected for outlet was Marneuli municipality deputy Gamgebeli. The program was transmitted live. The presenter of a one-hour outlet was Nona Samkharadze. Viewers had a possibility to call in during the live broadcast to pose questions to the guest, somehow only two TV viewers called.

TV program Questions to Gamgebeli is produced on a monthly basis to summarize one-month performance of the local self-government. Deputy Gamgebeli spoke about the projects implemented in the past month and activities to be carried out. The journalist tended to take active part in the conversation, posing harsh questions about certain problems to be addressed in the city as well as activities carried out by self-government. The journalist was trying to verify and specify respondents' answers. The journalist was rather well prepared, being aware of current issues of concern and population's demands to the self-government.

Three outlets (May 29, June 9 and 12) of **TV debates „Elections 2014”** fell within the scope of monitoring. The May 29 outlet was produced in partnership with GARB within the framework of the **„Elections 2014** project. The running time of the May 29 and June 9 outlets was an hour and a half, the June 12 outlet was 30 minutes in length. The program was hosted by Nana Sisvadze. The topics discussed included candidates' election programs and the problems persisting in the region.

The guests to the programs included the leaders of regional offices of Non-Parliamentary Opposition, Future Georgia, Burjanadze – United Opposition, GD and UNM, Merab Kostava

Society and Alliance of Patriots of Georgia as well as Gamgebeli and majoritarian candidates nominated by the aforesaid political forces and an independent majoritarian candidate.

The hosted tended to allocate equal time to the guests, according to the order set beforehand, in the June 9 outlet though the afore-set order of the speakers somehow happened to fade away. The representatives of different political parties started voicing allegations against one another, thereby demanding answers to each other's questions. The host found it hard to deal with the situation.

To the June 12 outlet, according to the host, she had nine candidates registered at Marneuli DEC #22 invited to the studio, however the only one 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 represented. The host also failed to identify which party the present guest was representing, and only in the course of the program it was made clear that the selected guest was an independent majoritarian candidate. The host spoke Azerbaijani language. The interpreter was present in the studio, the translation though was not simultaneous, almost 2-minute intervals were employed.

The host essentially assumed the function of a moderator. She did not engage much into the guests' discussion, limiting herself to posing questions. The journalist was trying to be unbiased and neutral. TV viewers too enjoyed an opportunity to call in to pose questions to the guests.

The third block of the May 29 outlet aired the questions provided by non-governmental organizations and the population that helped the program appear more dynamic. Subtitles were missing to the guests speaking during the program.

On June 13 a 10-minute **Special Program** 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 Topchishvili's supporters' group and a member of GD's local office. GD's member spoke Azeri language, 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.

On June 13 a 40-minute story about the „**Informed Society for Fair Elections**” project was televised. The project is being implemented by the „Civic Integration Foundation” with the financial support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (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 Borjomi TV aired eight outlets of the **talk show „Forum”** (May 12 and 16, June 3, 4, 9, 10, 11 and 13). Talk show „Forum,” hosted by journalist Eka Nozadze, was made possible with the support of the Open Society Georgia Foundation. The topics discussed included the extent of trust shown by the representatives of political parties’ Borjomi branches towards political rating surveys carried out by the National Democratic Institute (NDI); Expiration of election subjects’ registration term; candidates’ election programs and programs to be implemented in case of victory. The guests to the studio included: Borjomi, Tadzrisi, Tba, Balanta, Dviri, Akhaldaba, Tsaghveri, Kvibisi, Bakuriani Sakrebulo majoritarian candidates nominated by UNM, Labor Party, GD, Alliance of Patriots of Georgia, Political Movement of Veterans and Patriots of Georgia and initiative team, also the leaders of political parties operating in Borjomi and the Chairman of Borjomi DEC №36.

According to the host she had been inviting all of the registered candidates, some of them though rejected the invitation. Outlets were often televised without the participation of guests, with their party representatives and supporters present in the studio.

The running time of the talk show „Forum” was ranging from 30 minutes to an hour and a half. In the main the host of the program played the role of a moderator. She sounded neutral, unbiased, trying to apportion equal airtime to all of the guests. At the same time she granted guests an opportunity to express their viewpoints in a comprehensive manner, thereby verifying their answers. She did not let respondents deviate from the topic of

discussion. To the given questions the journalist was trying to obtain answers from every single guest. She tended to pose questions reviving public interest in relation to election process. Guests were answering questions according to the order determined by means of a casting of lots held beforehand.

On June 13 the host found it hard to keep the situation under control since the debates grew into an argument. The Labor Party representative stood out in terms of making negative statements. The program was transmitted live and viewers had an opportunity to call in.

Opening the program the host did not introduce herself. Subtitles to identify the guests were missing.

On May 22 the channel aired **political debates „Elections 2014”** produced in partnership with GARB. The program was hosted by journalist Eka Nozadze. To the selected guests and their supporters invited to the studio the presenter dedicated equal airtime. She was trying to maintain balance, she was found unbiased and neutral. The journalist mainly played the role of a moderator, posing the same question to the respondents whose order was determined by means of a casting of lots and limiting time to respond with a stopwatch. The debates lasted for about an hour.

On June 12 the broadcaster aired TV **program „Gender and Society”**. The host failed to introduce herself. The program was 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 the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The partners of the project include „Taso” Foundation, „Georgian Young Economists Association”, „Institute for War and Peace Reporting” (IWPR), and Gali-based NGO.

The topic of approximately 40-minute program was the woman and politics, the factors conducive to women's political participation. The guests to the program included the representatives of 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 the company televised **TV bridge „Interactive”**, a joint product of Samtskhe-Javakheti media center, Borjomi TV, Channel 9 (Akhaltsikhe) 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 was hosted by Eka Nozadze, in the „Channel 9’s” studio by Tako Peikrishvili. Each studio had a single guest invited to discuss 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 hosts too did participate, shooting additional questions.

„Dia” (Khashuri) – Within reporting period on May 31 TV company Dia televised the first outlet of **„Nino Chibchiuri’s Talk Show”**.

The guests included Gori mayoral candidates Archil Sabiashvili (UNM), Zurab Jirkvelishvili (GD), Mamuka Nozadze (Burjanadze – United Opposition) and Giuli Bukniashvili (Laborers’ Council), also nominees for Gori Gangebeli position and majoritarian candidates.

Election programs and promises was the topic of discussion in the course of the programs. At the beginning the host offered guests a possibility to introduce their programs. Afterwards she was curious to figure out how different their programs were from others’ and how they were planning to make their pledges real.

The host of the talk show tended to pose some superficial questions, did not try to get deeper into case-related details. The host was assuming the function of a moderator and in case the guests started interrupting one another she was trying to put the things right.

The „Voter’s Vote” rubric televised citizens’ questions, prepared beforehand, to be 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 at different times on the following TV channels: „Kvemo Kartli TV Company“, „Tanamgzavri“, „Odishi“, „Guria“, „9th Wave“, „Rioni“, „Channel 25“, „Imervizia“, „Gurjaani“, „Channel 9“, „Marneuli TV“, „Argo“, „Borjomi“ and „Dia“.

Five outlets of the TV magazine fell within the scope of monitoring. The programs were hosted by journalist Nikoloz Rubashvili. The topics of discussion were diverse. TV stories covered the issues of concern in different regions in a balanced, in-depth and unbiased manner. Election-related as well as other topics were brought into focus in the stories.

The format of the programs televised during monitoring period was different. Approximately 35-45-minute outlets televised solely stories, no guests were invited to the studio. Some of the outlets were made up of two blocks and in addition to the stories airtime was dedicated to the selected guests. 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 enlightened about the topic of discussion. Guests were granted equal time to speak.

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

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

Marneuli and Gurjaani TVs 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 project implemented by the association Dea. The topic of discussion touched upon women’s participation in electoral systems. The program was hosted by Iveta Tshitashvili. The introduction by the anchor provided in-depth information about the issue. The program was hosting only females discussing the importance of women’s participation in the municipal elections, and thoroughly clarifying legislative regulations and case-related issues of concern.



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