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The European Union for Georgia



Survey of the Media Coverage of the 2020 Parliamentary Elections in Georgia

TV Talk-Shows Monitoring Interim report

June 15 - August 31, 2020



საქართველოს
ჟურნალისტური
ეთიკის ქარტია

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About the project

The Georgian Charter of Journalistic Ethics monitors TV channels within the framework of the EU-UNDP-funded project “Media Coverage of the 2020 Parliamentary Elections”. The monitors are observing the public-political talk shows of the best airtime of 12 TV channels (on prime time). Monitoring was carried out on the following TV channels: Public Broadcaster First Channel, Rustavi 2, Imedi, Kavkasia, TV Pirveli, Obiektivi, Adjara TV, Mtavari Arkhi, Formula, Palitra, Post TV, Maestro. The part of the news programs, where the viewers are offered more than ten minutes of interviews with the respondents is also being monitored.

The report covers the period of August 15 - October 15.

Methodology

The following were selected as monitoring subjects:

- The President
- Government
- Electoral subjects

The monitors observed, how the survey subjects looked on the shows. Each talk show was evaluated according to the following criteria:

Whether the topic of the show is relevantly selected, the qualification of the invited guests is relevant to the topic of discussion, the selection of guests seems bias; how the discussion is going, how well the anchor manages the discussion, how well are his questions, at what extent s/he is prepared, whether gives the opportunity to the guests for spreading fake news; whether the show is used to spread hate speech.

In general, whether the viewers get any additional information that will help them make an informed choice.

Main Trends:

- During the reporting period, it appeared that the broadcast media environment was sharply polarized.
- Mostly, the election programs were not discussed and shows were dedicated to current issues.

- Great part of the broadcasters often offers interviews to audiences instead of the politicians debating the issue.
- Representatives of the ruling party refused to visit TV Pirveli and Formula, while they often appeared on Imedi and PostTV. Representatives of the ruling party also refused to take part in the debates on Palitra TV, and they were mostly represented alone, without opponents, in the last part of the program.
- The Obiektivi still remains the platform of the “Alliance of Patriots”, where they talk and agitate in almost every program. The anchors also openly express their support. The channel was broadcasting anti-Western propaganda and hate speech. Offensive vocabulary was used by the anchors.
- During the reporting period, Maestro did not broadcast any socio-political program, nor were there any guest appearances in the news program.

