



ევროკავშირი  
საქართველოსთვის  
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 monitored TV channels within the framework of the EU-UNDP-funded project “Media Coverage of the 2020 Parliamentary Elections” from August 15 through 21 November 2020. The monitors observed the public-political talk shows of the best air-time 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 was also monitored.

## 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.

## Key Findings

- In the course of the reporting period, it was revealed that the broadcast media was sharply polarized, which was reflected in the fact that one part of the broadcasters was biased in favor of the government and the other in favor of the opposition. Representatives of the ruling party refused to visit some of the channels.

- During the monitoring period, part of the talk shows did not offer debates between political opponents; instead, part of the broadcasters informed the audience about the election program and visions of each party;
- We can conclude based on the comments of the talk show hosts that the representatives of the Georgian Dream refuse to visit Formula, TV Pirveli and Kavkasia, while they often visit Imedi and POSTV. Representatives of the ruling party were not represented on the “Mtavari Arkhi” either. Representatives of the Georgian Dream also refused to take part in the debates on Palitra TV, and were mostly represented on this channel alone, without opponents, in the last part of the program;
- Obiektivi TV remains the platform of the Alliance of Patriots, where they speak in virtually every program and agitate in favor of the party. The anchors also express their support, openly. The channel was broadcasting anti-Western propaganda and hate speech;
- In a number of talk shows on Mtavari Arkhi, POSTV and Obiektivi, the presenters used abusive language;
- In the course of the reporting period, Maestro did not broadcast a socio-political program.

