



GEORGIAN
Radio
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Pre-election Monitoring Report



2021
ELECTION

Pre-election Monitoring Report

Election Subjects Coverage on Georgian Radio

General information about the internal monitoring of the broadcaster:

Since August 13, the Public Broadcaster has been conducting internal monitoring of the coverage of the October 2, 2021 elections of the representative body of the municipality - Sakrebulo and the mayor of the self-governing city / self-governing community.

Monitoring aims to measure the quantitative data of the time allocated to the monitored subjects.

As last year, the monitoring is carried out through a specially designed program, with a link to the TV program / story on each record. The information covered is processed by monitors trained according to the specifics of different platforms and broadcasts.

The monitoring methodology is based on international practice. [Methodology in detail](#)

Individual components of media monitoring will be published permanently during the monitoring period, and the full report will be available after the election process ends.

Election Subjects Coverage on Georgian Radio

(August 13 to October 1)

All the programs of socio-political direction were reflected in the pre-election monitoring report of Georgian Radio.

Georgian Radio broadcasts 33 news programs of different length working day, and 17 five-minute programs at weekends. The monitoring included all the mentioned news programs, as well as the talk show "Open Studio" specifically prepared on the topic of elections. The show was attended by all but two of the qualified election subjects: the Progress and Freedom Party and the Law and Justice Party, which refused to take advantage of this opportunity. In addition, political debates prepared by the First Channel were broadcast on Georgian Radio. On September 14 and 21, the broadcaster offered TV and radio audience political debates among the leaders of qualified election subjects and the Tbilisi mayoral candidates.

The radio monitoring report presents the quantitative data on the coverage of election and non-election subjects in news programs, as well as the total coverage of election subjects in the format of “Open Studio” and “Debates”.

The following were measured during the monitoring process:

- Quantitative data of election topics covered in socio-political programs
- Time allocated to election subjects in News programs, by timing and coverage tone
- Dynamics of election subjects’ coverage in news programs
- Time devoted to non-election monitoring subjects in news programs
- Time devoted to election subjects in talk shows and debates

In addition to election subjects, government, local self-governments, parliament, and the president are considered to be monitored subjects in radio news programs. Coverage of Mikheil Saakashvili is considered to be coverage of the National Movement, and Bidzina Ivanishvili - coverage of the Georgian Dream.

The format of the news program is focused on short, easy-to-understand information about current events, with statements made by various subjects during the day quoted by journalists. This editorial policy, taking into account the specifics and number of radio news programs, is aimed at ensuring balanced and immediate coverage. Accordingly, the monitored subjects are covered indirectly in radio news programs. The high indirect coverage of the United National Movement and the Georgian Dream confirms that the radio news programs mostly reflected the sharply polarized political process of the pre-election environment. The data presented in the report were particularly affected by the arrival of Mikheil Saakashvili on October 1 and his arrest. Statements and assessments about these events on the eve of the elections were dominantly covered by Georgian Radio.

During the period mentioned in the report, 6 858 election-related topics were covered in radio news programs, time was devoted to 30 election subjects (coverage of independent candidates is presented in total), total coverage of subjects was 19:36:48 (nineteen hours, thirty-six minutes and forty-eight seconds). It should be noted that the radio news programs showed a high rate of indirect coverage of the opposition in general, meaning texts where no specific party was named, so this data is presented separately - 1:31:28 (one hour, thirty-one minutes and twenty-eight seconds)

Chart N 1 - Timing of indirect coverage of election subjects in all radio news programs. The chart does not present subjects with less than 2 minutes of data.

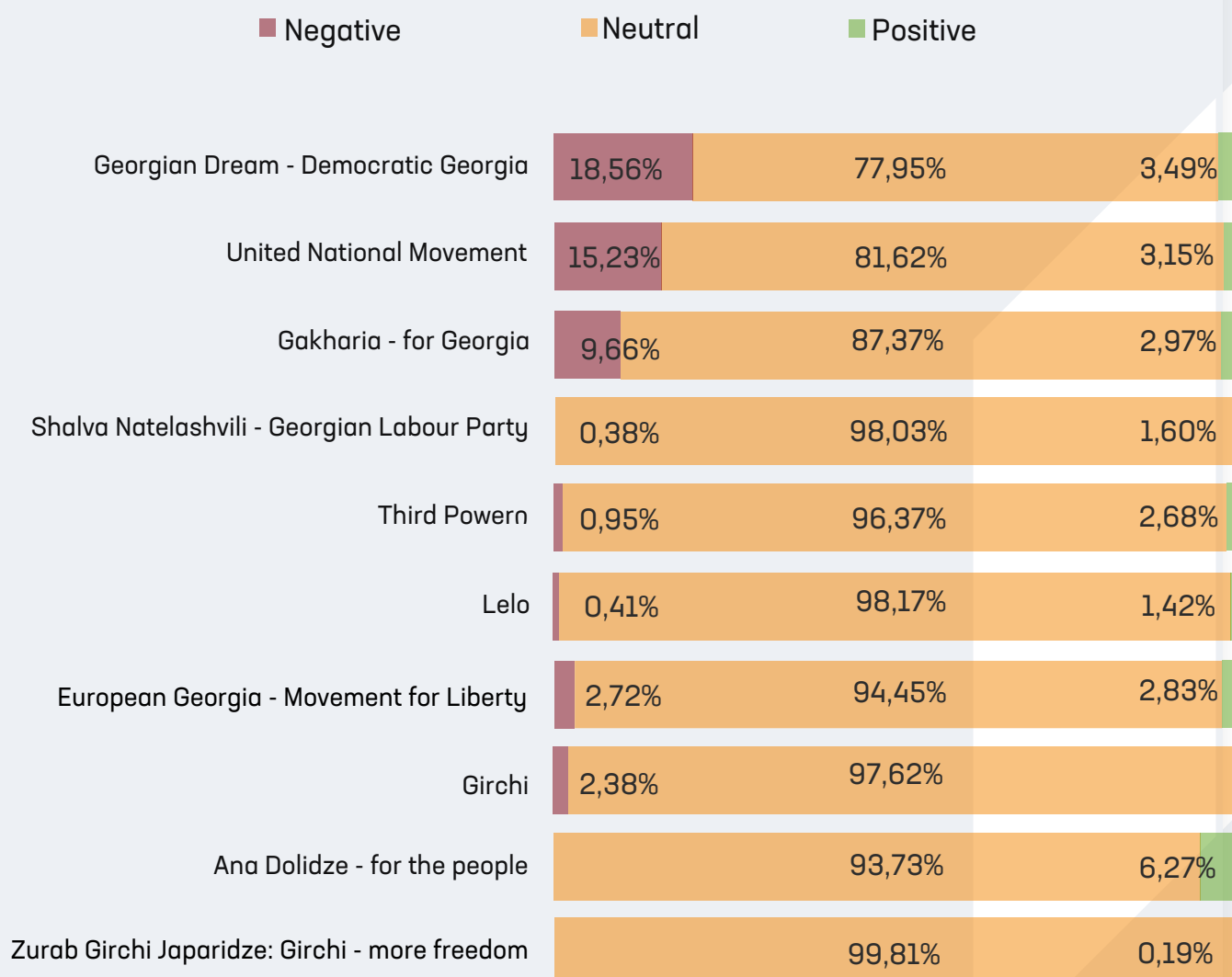
Timing of Indirect Coverage of the Election Subjects

United National Movement	06:02:27
Georgian Dream - Democratic Georgia	05:50:28
Gakharia - for Georgia	01:17:20
Lelo	01:13:20
Third Power	01:09:06
European Georgia - Movement for Liberty	00:57:41
Shalva Natelashvili - Georgian Labour Party	00:57:28
Girchi	00:25:14
Ana Dolidze - for the people	00:20:12
Zurab Girchi Japaridze: Girchi - more freedom	00:17:28
Aleko Elisashvili - Citizens	00:16:33
Elene Khoshtaria - Droa	00:10:20
Political Union of Citizens Law and Justice	00:09:43
Free Georgia (Zaza Khatiashvili, Kakha Kukava, Grigol Jojua)	00:07:28
Davit Tarkhan-Mouravi, Irma Inashvili Alliance of Patriots of Georgia	00:04:22
Peoples Party	00:04:19
Giorgi Laghidze - Future Georgia	00:03:46
Independent candidate	00:02:41
Davit Chichinadze - Tribuna	00:02:24

The highest negative tone of coverage in news programs was accumulated by the Georgian Dream and the National Movement, which also shows the main opposing sides of the polarized political process. At the same time, it should be noted that, like last year, the public broadcaster maintained a highly neutral tone of coverage of the subjects.

Chart N2 - Percentage of tone of the coverage of the first ten election subjects

The Thone of Election Subjects Coverage



Observations on the dynamics of election subjects' coverage show an increase in their activities as the election date approaches, thus increasing the time allotted to election subjects.

Chart N3 - Dynamics of time allotted to election subjects in radio news programs, in 10-day periods

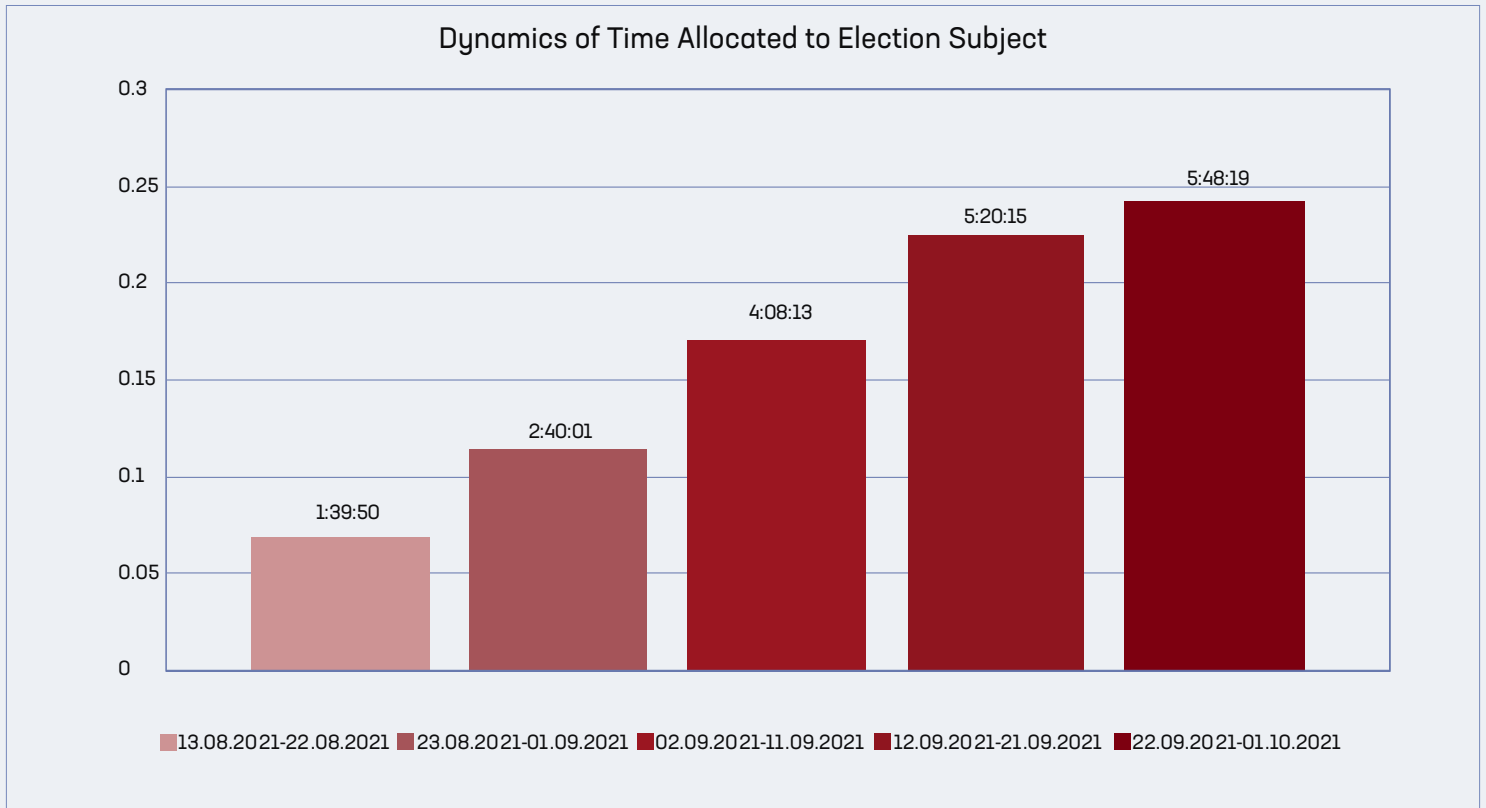
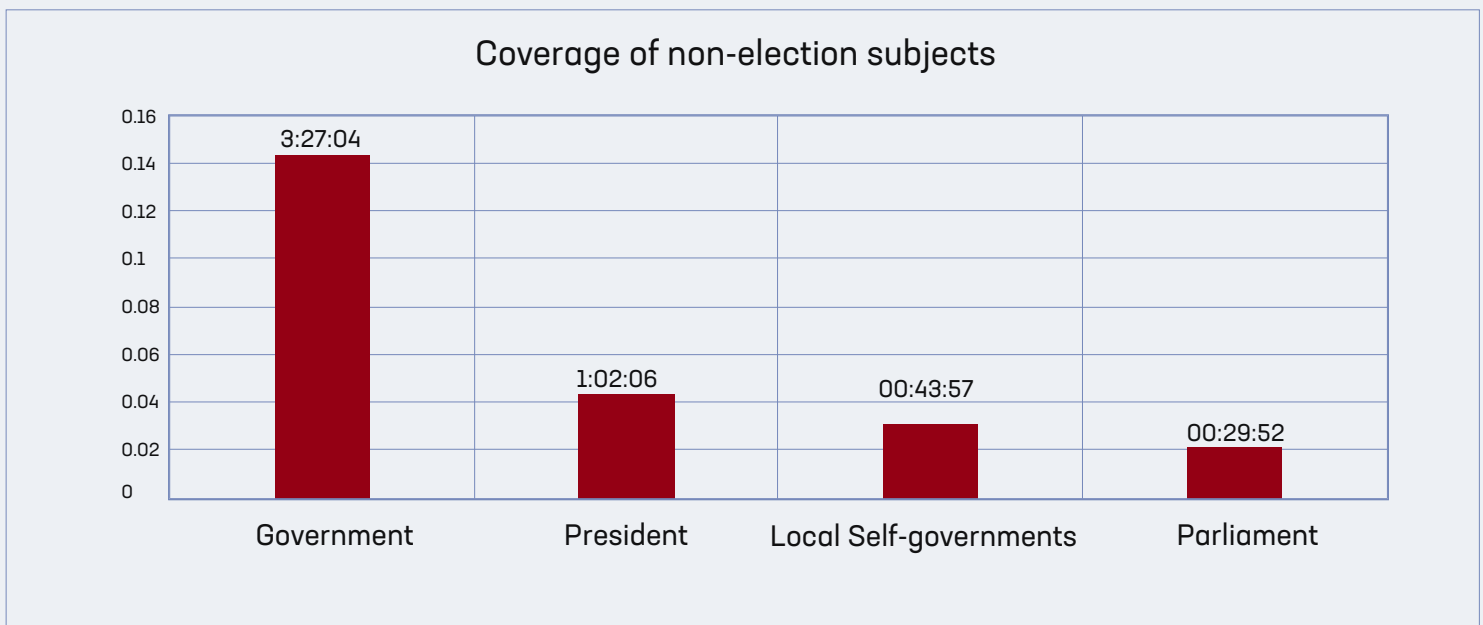
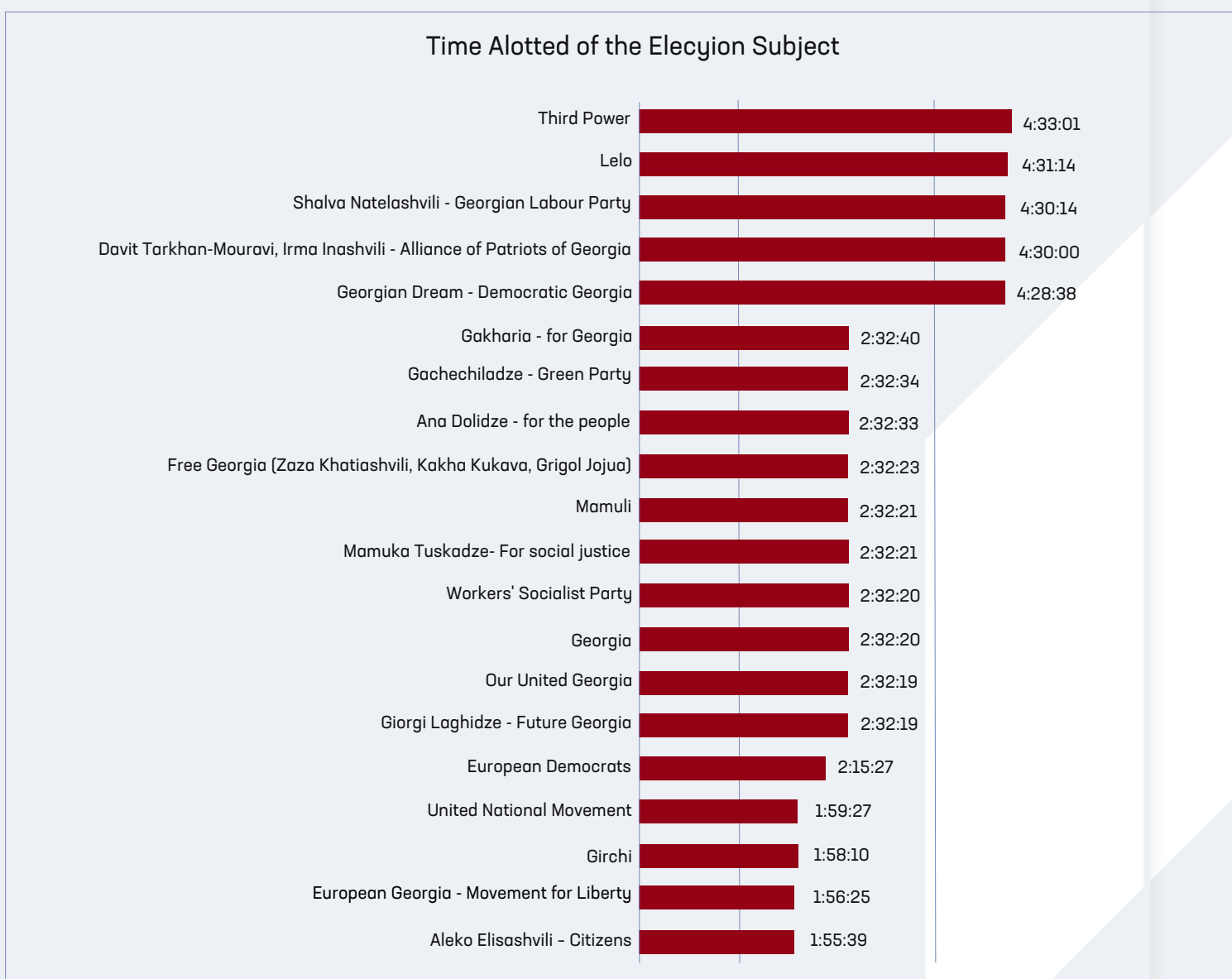


Chart N4 - Timing of indirect coverage of non-election subjects in all radio news programs



Compared to news programs, the quantitative coverage of subjects was different in the talk show “Open Studio” and political debates. These programs did not reflect the bipolar political environment. According to the broadcaster’s editorial policy, the emphasis was on balanced and equal coverage of all election subjects. It should also be noted that the leader of the United National Movement refused to participate in the political debate among the Tbilisi mayoral candidates prepared by the First Channel. Consequently, in the total quantitative indicators of these programs, there is less time devoted to the National Movement.

Chart N5 - Time allocated to election subjects in radio talk show “Open Studio” and Political Debates



In the pre-election period, the role of broadcasters in informing voters is growing. Impartial editorial policy is of particular importance. During the monitoring, the object of observation was the journalists of the broadcaster and the presenters of the program. It should be noted that the tone of the journalists of Georgian Radio news programs and talk shows is neutral towards all election subjects.