



TV Talk-Show Monitoring Report

September 16 - October 19, 2013

In connection to the presidential elections of 2013, CRRC Georgia continues its media monitoring within the frameworks of the project "Professional Media for Elections", funded by the EU-UNDP program. The monitoring will cover the main evening news programs on the Channel One of the Public Broadcaster, Adjara TV, Rustavi 2, Imedi, Maestro, Kavkasia and Channel 9 (which stopped broadcasting at the end of August). Besides, all the talk-shows on political issues, broadcasted during the prime time have been monitored since September 16. The following channels and talk-shows fell under the monitoring:

Channel One of the Public Broadcaster: "First Studio" - Eka Mishveladze;

Rustavi 2: "Choice" - Giorgi Gabunia, "Position" - Nino Shubladze;

Imedi: "Politics Time" - Tea Sichinava, "Open Air" - Vakho Sanaia;

Maestro: "Subjective Opinion" - Diana Trapaidze and Teona Gegelia, "Politmeter" - Nino Zhizhilashvili, "Arguments" - Nino Tolordava;

The Kavkasia: "Spectrum Studio" - Davit Akubardia, "Barrier" - Nino Jangirashvili and Alexander Elisashvili, "Hotline" - Alexander Elisashvili hosts the program together with Zviad Koridze or Merab Metreveli who work in turns;

TV3: "Big Politics" - Inga Grigolia;

Tabula: "Focus" - the program is alternatively hosted by Salome Ugulava and Nino Macharashvili.

Methodology and Analysis

Election media monitoring of talk shows consist of a qualitative component only. The journalists are monitored based on various components during the monitoring. The evaluation is focused on the role and involvement of journalists during the program; whether a journalist is a moderator only, who is managing a process, or is s/he trying to state her/his position; whether the talk show's host lets the guests express their opinions and when s/he interrupts them. Besides, it is also monitored how equal conditions the journalist is creating for the guests: how equally demanding/permissive the journalist's questions are towards all the guests, and how much the journalist is trying to get in-depth information from the guest through probing. The monitoring is also observing the usage of hate speech in talk-shows (abusive or humiliating phrases/statement) by the hosts, and their reaction in case if their guests are using the hate speech.

The report provides the media monitoring results of talk shows for the period from September 16 - October 19, inclusive.

Channel One of the Public Broadcaster

Political talk-show "First Studio" is broadcasted on the Channel 1 of the Public Broadcaster every business day, at 9 pm, hosted by Eka Mishveladze. The invited guests represent the authorities, the opposition, the NGO sector and the media, and they discuss main political events taking place in the country. It is noteworthy that the presidential candidates are actively invited to the "First Studio" (almost in all the programs) and they have an opportunity to express their opinions about the discussed issues and to talk about their political plans.

Following topics were discussed, among others, in the talk-show from October 1 to October 20:

- Presidential elections and presidential candidates,
- Crawling occupation,
- Case of Jihad videos,
- Confrontation between the Tbilisi City Hall and Sakrebulo (local council),

- Sochi Olympics,
- Situation in prisons,
- Social and healthcare policy in the country,
- Prime Minister's meeting with the media, etc.

In total, the program is quite informative, and what is especially important is that those presidential candidates participate in this talk-show, who are seldom represented in other talk-shows. They have an opportunity to talk about their election promises and to express opinions about topical issues of the country.

The host is involved in the program, asks questions and enables the guests to express their positions in full. She interrupts them only if she wants to probe and verify information. However, her questions are not very demanding and often are of general nature. If the host tries to oppose to any of the guests, she becomes more active. She often provides arguments, which express the position of the guest's opponents. However, she does not always engage in playing the role of an opponent and her program is quite peaceful in most cases.

The journalist is mostly a moderator. She provides equal conditions to the guests and there is no bias to any political side revealed in her attitude to the guests or in her questions or comments. The host does not use hate speech or politically incorrect expressions.

Rustavi 2

There were two political talk-shows broadcasted on Rustavi 2 from September 16 until October 19: "Position" every Friday evening at 10 pm (hosted by Nino Shubladze), and "Choice" (hosted by Giorgi Gabunia) every Tuesday after the news program Courier at 9 pm. Both talk-shows are quite interesting and informative, where the important events of the week are discussed.

Important topics about the current political events of the country were discussed in the talk-show "**Position**" during the monitoring period, among them:

- New ways of relations with the media and the public,

- Election environment and presidential elections,
- Majority – its problems and plans,
- Disrupted session of the Security Council,
- Politics of barbed wires: events of Ditsi and meeting between Abashidze and Karasin,
- Legislative amendments,
- Scandalous videos from Bacho Akhalaia’s cell, etc.

The program is balanced from the viewpoint of the invited guests, as far as there are represented several sides, different political forces and representatives of political parties involved in the elections and government as well. Main presidential candidates were invited to the program 2 days before the elections, on October 25. However, this report only covers the period until October 20.

The host Nino Shubladze asks quite critical and topical questions and tries to get full information to the question asked. Dialogue with the guest is always conducted in an interesting way. The host opposes to all the guests and tries to represent different opinion. There is no bias observed to any of the sides, and she puts the guests in equal conditions. However, in the program of October 18, when representatives of five political forces were invited to the talk-show, the most criticism was expressed towards the ruling party. Despite the host tried to regulate the conversation of guests, Manana Kobakhidze could not fully state her position.

Main direction of the talk-show “**Choice**” is to represent presidential candidates during the run-up to the elections. Almost all the main presidential candidates were invited to the program during this monitoring period (Margvelashvili was invited to the program on October 22, and thus he is not included in this report). Other than discussing the election campaigns with candidates and talking about various important issues, they also covered the following topics:

- Processes taking place at the Public Broadcaster,
- Participation of Georgia in Sochi Olympics,
- Construction of Khudon Hydro Power Plant, etc.

Giorgi Gabunia, host of “Choice” is distinguished with his quite demanding and straightforward questions. His overall attitude to the guests does not provide grounds for considering him biased. However, sometimes there is irony felt towards particular subjects in his probing questions and comments. It is also interesting that, for example, when Koba Davitashvili and Giorgi Targamadze were invited to the program, the host laid more emphasis on negative facts in his questions. However, when Bakradze, candidate of the former authorities was the guest, positive comments and questions were heard. The host read out quite positive quotes from Bakradze’s interview in the magazine “The Economist” several times. Besides, the program that hosted Davit Bakradze lasted for more than an hour, whereas in case of other candidates, the talk-show lasted for only an hour or less.

Short reports are also interesting, which precede the visit of presidential candidates. These reports mostly are a compilation of statements or videos involving the presidential candidates. These collages are more or less positive towards all the candidates. There is some irony observed in some cases, for example, the collage broadcasted before Salome Zurabishvili’s visit starts by showing Zurabishvili singing at one of the rallies, which creates quite an ironic first impression. The contents of collage on Nino Burjanadze was quite positive, but cannot be compared with the collage on Davit Bakradze, every second of which is very positive and creates an elevated mood.

Imedi

The monitoring observes two talk-shows on Imedi: “Open Air”, hosted by Vakho Sanaia and “Politics Time” hosted by Thea Sichinava. Politics Time is broadcasted on Monday, and Open Air - on Friday.

Quite topical and important issues were discussed in “Open Air” during this monitoring period, such as:

- Election program of presidential candidates,
- Georgian contingent in Afghanistan and Presidential elections,
- Zurab Zhvania’s case,
- Main issues of domestic and foreign policy,
- Occupation and situation in the villages at borderline,
- President’s speech at the UN,

- Past and present situation of the Georgian business, restoration of justice, etc.

There were 3 presidential candidates invited to the program from September 16 until October 19, inclusive: Giorgi Margvelashvili, Sergo Javakhidze and Giorgi Targamadze. The President of Georgia Mikheil Saakashvili visited the program as well. Other guests were invited to that particular program, taking into account their relevance to the topic of the discussion.

It is possible to say that the talk-show is quite balanced and impartial. The journalist is mostly focused on asking critical questions and getting exhaustive answers to them despite which political party the respondent is representing. The host is not distinguished with special loyalty to any of the respondents, neither are his sympathies or antipathies demonstrated to any of the political teams; he is impartial and neutral in most cases. Sanaia tries to act in opposition to the guests and asks additional questions in order to get more specific information.

We can single out the program, which has hosted Mikheil Saakashvili. This particular talk-show was a bit different from other programs. The host announced three topics at the beginning of the talk-show: occupation, President's speech at the UN and the foreign policy of the country; but in fact the conversation was basically about the occupation. The journalist often tried to ask in-depth questions or change the topic of the discussion, but it was hard for him to control the situation and the President kept on speaking about his preferred topic.

In total, the dialogue between the host and the guests is quite constructive and politically very correct. He does not interrupt the guests except the cases when he asks them to finish and let others speak as well; or in case if the guests go beyond the discussed topic.

As for the talk-show **"Politics Time"**, representatives of various political forces, government members, presidential candidates and representatives of various organizations were invited during the period of September 16 - October 19, inclusive. Out of presidential candidates, Nino Burjanadze, Koba Davitashvili and Zurab Kharatishvili were invited to the program during this monitoring period. The following topics were discussed:

- Penitentiary policy,
- Political plans of presidential candidates,

- Events of Dvani and occupation,
- Prime Minister's decision to leave politics,
- Thomas Hammarberg's Opinion,
- Summary results of NDI's polls,
- Election environment,
- Sochi Olympics, etc.

Sichinava is quite actively involved in the program. This, however, is especially observed when she invites political figures. For example, the journalist was very active, and sometimes even critical when hosting Nino Burjanadze (September 23) and Andro Barnov (October 14). She acted in opposition to the guests and mostly asked additional probing questions for getting exhaustive information.

In contrast to that, when she had representatives of only the civil sector in her program, Sichinava was not very active. She asked questions in a calm manner, which were sometimes demanding and specific, though she did not often interrupt them and it is possible to say that the guests were in a more permissive environment.

There were cases during this monitoring period when the issues to be discussed in the program went beyond and did not coincide with the announced themes. For example, the program of October 7, for which the announced theme was "20 days before the elections" and almost all the conversation was about the foreign policy of the country and so called notorious "prison videos".

Maestro

There were 3 talk-shows monitored on Maestro: "Arguments" with Nino Tolordava, "Subjective Opinion" with Diana Trapaidze and Teona Gegelia, and "Politmeter" hosted by Nino Zhizhilashvili. All the three talk-shows are broadcasted on business days; "Subjective Opinion" - every day, "Arguments" - on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and "Politmeter" - every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

The topics discussed in "**Arguments**" always coincide with the issues of current significance. As for the guests, there is always diversity in the program in this respect. Respondents are invited for discussing various topics from parliamentary majority and

minority as well; presidential candidates, experts, representatives of civil society, etc. Various sides are always represented in the program and debates are arranged, which makes the whole program more interesting and informative for the audience.

Following topics were discussed in the programs broadcasted from September 16 until October 19, inclusive:

- Social survey conducted by the NDI,
- Ivanishvili's meeting with experts and representatives of the media,
- Russia-Georgia relations, crawling occupation and Sochi Olympics,
- Videos disseminated on behalf of Jihad,
- Processes taking place within the Public Broadcaster,
- Promises kept and promises not kept after the Georgian Dream came into power,
- Who will substitute Bidzina Ivanishvili on the position of a Prime Minister,
- Election programs and campaigns of various presidential candidates, etc.

The following presidential candidates were invited during this period: Akaki Asatiani, Nestan Kirtadze, Koba Davitashvili, Giorgi Targamadze and Sergo Javakhidze.

Nino Tolordava is quite actively involved in the program. She is always active and asks many questions. She almost always tries to get exhaustive information around the question asked, and if needed, she often asks additional questions to the respondents; she confronts different opinions of the guests to one another, or tries to act herself in opposition to the guests and to represent various opinions if the other party is not represented in the studio. However, there were cases when the host was distinguished with too much criticism towards the representatives of the former authorities, whereas the members of the present government were in a more loyal and quite environment.

In this respect we can highlight the program broadcasted on October 8, hosted by Zurab Chiaberashvili and Aleks Petriashvili. We should note that Nino Tolordava was quite critical towards Zurab Chiaberashvili, often did not let him finish and got involved often, asked additional questions and engaged in the debates with him, and Zurab Chiaberashvili pointed this out himself.

The journalist does not use unethical phrases or hate speech, neither are such cases observed from the side of the guests in most cases. However, whenever the guests unethically mentioned particular politicians, Tolordava asked them to be more politically correct several times, but in some cases she did not respond at all.

“**Subjective Opinion**” is distinguished with diversity of topics. Due to the specificity of the talk-show, the first part of the program, where the only speakers are the hosts without any guests, often is characterized with the discussion of “fun facts” and non-politicized topics. Second part of the program hosts the guests from various sectors: politicians, sociologists, media representatives, NGO representatives, etc.

Following topics were discussed in the talk-show:

- Russia-Georgia relations,
- Debates about the Public Broadcaster,
- Upcoming elections,
- Prime Minister’s meeting with the representatives of various media,
- Election programs of presidential candidates,
- One year of governance by the Georgian Dream,
- Future Prime Minister,
- Detention of Davit Kezerashvili,
- Speech of the Georgian President at the UN General Assembly,
- Case of Jihad videos,
- Results of NDI’s political survey and other topics.

Several programs were dedicated to the presidential elections and candidates during this monitoring period. However, it should be pointed out that there was only one candidate, Shalva Natelashvili, invited to the studio. In other cases it were the experts who discussed the programs of other candidates. It is also noteworthy that mostly the representatives of the ruling team and the government, or their loyal people were invited to the program. Representatives of the former authorities and minority party members visited the program very seldom. Correspondingly, often the program lacks the balance and some topics are discussed only from one side.

The hosts are very actively involved in the program and they often state their personal opinions. This mostly happens both in the first part of the program, where only the journalists are talking, and also during the talk-show, where the respondents are also sitting in the studio. The hosts often express ironic attitude towards various guests or topic, which creates unserious background to the program. Such an attitude is expressed by their verbal and non-verbal language. They often laugh or express irony and other gestures, exclamations, etc. However, this often results from the guest and his/her attitude. Some of the guests do not respond to such behavior of the journalists and continues talking in a serious manner, but others follow them.

Although the guests always have an opportunity to talk and fully state their opinions, the journalists often make comments for stating their opinions. However, mostly they do not oppose to them. It is noteworthy that the hosts are quite critical to the guests and ask them demanding questions. However, their criticism and demanding questions are mostly observed if their position does not coincide with that of the guest's. Nevertheless, in total, the guests in the first and second blocks have various positions, and overall the audience hears different opinions despite the fact that the program does not have a format of debates.

There are cases when the journalists go beyond the announced theme during the program and start to discuss another topic. This often happens when the guests start talking about another issue and the hosts do not ask them to get back to the main topic of the program.

“Politmeter” is very diverse from the viewpoint of invited guests. There are always two or more sides represented. The program is visited by the representatives of various political forces, NGOs, experts, etc. The topics discussed in the talk-show are always dedicated to the most topical and significant issues of that moment. Following topics were discussed in the talk-show from September 16 until October 19, inclusive:

- Prime Minister's meeting with media representatives,
- Convention of the National Movement at the Sports Palace,
- Topic of Sochi Olympics of 2014,
- Crawling occupation,
- Election campaigns, environment and problems,

- Khudon hydro power plant,
- Problems in the media,
- Restoration of justice,
- What to expect after the elections,
- Penitentiary system, etc.

Out of presidential candidates, only Nino Burjanadze visited the program during this monitoring period.

The talk-show is quite balanced and impartial. Nino Zhizhilashvili is actively involved in the program, intensively asks questions and enables the guests to fully express their position. There is no bias or tendentiousness observed on her side towards any political force. Despite the political affiliation of the guest, the host's questions are mostly demanding and critical; she often acts in opposition to the guest.

However, when the guests get engaged in the discussion, Zhizhilashvili interferes less in their conversation and lets the opposing parties answer to each other. The host tries to let the opponents listen to each other's arguments and state opposing opinions. The guests are always in equal conditions in the program. The journalist equally distributes time among the guests and handles the situation. If the guest diverts from the main topic or starts to speak in general, Zhizhilashvili gets him/her back to the specific question and asks to give a specific answer to the question. The guests of the talk-show always represent different sides, thus, the audience learns almost all the existing opinions regarding the topic of the discussion.

The host does not use hate speech or politically incorrect expressions, and almost always reacts if there is anything like this expressed by the guest. However, there are cases when irony is felt in Nino Zhizhilashvili's questions towards some party or politician, which in some cases looks like stating her own subjective position or opinion.

It should also be mentioned here that the journalist always disseminates verified information. Often she verifies the facts told by the guests and if needed she corrects them herself.

Kavkasia

There are three talk-shows monitored on Kavkasia. These are: “Studio Spectrum” hosted by Davit Akubardia; “Barrier” hosted by Alexander Elisashvili and Nino Jangirashvili and “Hotline”, hosted by Alexander Elisashvili, together with either Zviad Koridze or Merab Metreveli, alternatively. “Studio Spectrum” is broadcasted every business day, whereas “Hotline” - three times a week, and “Barrier” - twice a week.

The guests invited to the “**Studio Spectrum**” are mostly experts, representatives of NGOs, political scholars, sociologists, media representatives and respondents without political background. As for the political guests, mostly the talk-show hosts the members and supporters of the government and the majority, or the people who are loyal to them. Representatives and supporters of the United National Movement almost never visit the program. As for presidential candidates, Giorgi Margvelashvili, Koba Davitashvili, Mikheil (Gela) Saluashvili and Akaki Asatiani participated in the program during the period of September 16 - October 19, inclusive. Besides, Koba Davitashvili visited the program twice - on September 23 and on October 17. As for the topics and themes, following issues were discussed in the talk-show:

- Meeting of the faction with the Mayor of Tbilisi,
- Bidzina Ivanishvili’s meeting with experts and journalists,
- Khudon hydro power plant and events related to it,
- Social surveys,
- Condition of IDPs,
- Army and problems related to it,
- Condition of the economy and business in the country,
- Foreign policy,
- Ethnic minorities,
- Dvani and situation in bordering villages,
- Problems in education,
- Presidential elections and programs of candidates,
- Sochi Olympics,
- Situation within the penitentiary system,

- 1 year of cohabitation,
- Problems of the Institute of Theatre and Film, etc.

The talk-show is pretty biased. Akubardia very often states his opinions and attitudes towards various political forces. The journalist openly states his negative attitude towards the former authorities and the President almost in the entire program, but speaks about the new authorities and the government mostly in a positive context. However, during the recent period of the monitoring he often criticized the Georgian Dream as well, which was done in the form of advice and recommendations.

In most cases, the host does not specify the topic or issue of the discussion in the beginning of the program. Correspondingly, the conversation is about many different fields and topics so that it is difficult to determine at the end of the program what the main topic of the talk-show was. Besides, in most cases the guests are not fully introduced to the audience. The journalist introduces the guest only by the name and surname and does not specify what a particular person is. Moreover, the host often introduces them as “favorite person”, “my friend”, etc. For example: October 14, Davit Akubardia – *“I am happy that this Monday our guest is my frequent visitor, my Ramaz, my old friend and if you ask me, a very interesting person”*.

The guests are almost provided with equal conditions. However, Akubardia’s attitude towards them differs based on whether the host agrees with their opinion and position or not. Therefore, the journalist is sometimes very involved in the program and tries to prove the opposite to the guest, or is very passive and lets the respondent speak freely for a long time.

There are cases when the host interrupts the person in order to state his own opinion. Besides, he is quite familiar to the guests and addresses them like this: Dato, Gio, Koki, etc. For example, he addressed his guest Soso Tsintsadze like this on October 17: *“Soso, dude, let me finish, please”*.

The programs are mostly conducted in the format of a dialogue. The journalist almost never asks questions, but he actively states his opinion. He openly speaks about his sympathies and antipathies. October 19, guest Giorgi Margvelashvili: *“In principle, my observation is that Bidzo selected a good man – I mean you. There was much criticism, and I do not like many things about you, but in total my feeling is that you are the best of all.”*

Davit Akubardia is also characterized with frequent usage of unethical expressions and hate speech towards various political subjects, establishments and institutions. The journalist often refers to the former authorities and the National Movement as “imbeciles”, “herd”, “Nazis”, “Headless fathers of the city”, “plague”, etc. and he refers to their activities as “cretinism”, “monkey business”, etc. He is ironical. He does not react when the guests use unethical expressions and hate speech and often he even laughs at such phrases with them.

Akubardia is disloyal to other media: October 3, hosting Soso Tsintsadze. Journalist: *“let me say something for a moment, you keep talking all the time. It was incorrect to sit with such an audience [talking about the meeting of the Prime Minister with journalists]. Or he should have had some gradation. Oh, God, I do not depend on anyone, right, so he could have a meeting with us separately, let’s say, and another meeting with other journalists, those who belong to the National Movement.”*

Akubardia tells stories almost in all the programs, speaks about facts and figures without indicating the source, or specifying where from he has got this information and based what he is saying these things.

The talk-show “**Hotline**” hosts politicians, also representatives of NGOs, experts and members of the civil society. It is noteworthy that the members or supporters of the United National Movement are almost never seen in the program. However, it is also noteworthy that the journalists sometimes point out that the representatives of the United National Movement refuse to participate in their program. During this period the following presidential candidates visited the program: Nestan Kirtadze, Akaki Asatiani, Sergo Javakhidze. Moreover, Sergo Javakhidze visited the program twice, on September 30 and on October 16. The topics discussed in the talk-show referred to the topical and significant issues for that moment. Following topics were discussed during this monitoring period:

- Bidzina Ivanishvili’s meeting with experts and journalists,
- Candidate Prime Ministers,
- Budget of Tbilisi and purposefulness of expenditures,
- Election environment,
- Likelihood of run-off in the presidential elections,

- Presidential program of candidates,
- Findings of the NDI's survey,
- Economic situation of the country,
- Construction of Khudon hydro power plant,
- IATF activities,
- Degree of the freedom of media,
- Events developed near the occupation line in Ditsi and Dvani,
- Russia-Georgia relations and protest to Sochi Olympics, etc.

Together with Aleko Elisashvili, the program is hosted by either Zviad Koridze or Merab Metreveli, in turn. Elisashvili has a co-host once a week and leads the program with him/her. Based on the format of the program, the viewers are calling and expressing their opinions regarding the discussed topic. In total, various opinions are stated concerning the main issue in the program.

The journalists are always actively involved in the program. However, there are cases when some of the hosts are more involved in a particular program than their colleagues. Sometimes the journalists are so passive that the guests have an opportunity to talk without time or topic limitation. The journalist Aleko Elisashvili is characterized with stating his positions frequently and openly, with an informal language, which is basically done for promoting the government positively and for criticizing the United National Movement. There are cases when he gives hints to the audience about which answer of the interactive survey is 'correct'.

Besides, once Aleko Elisashvili expressed his opinion live, which can be considered violence enticing. On October 9, when discussing the events developed in Ditsi and Dvani, this is how he expressed his negative attitude to Vakho Babunashvili, who was criticizing the position of the government and had relatively positive disposition towards the former authorities: Aleko Elisashvili: - *"You know your business, what can I do now? I have no confidence in musical protest. When I see the guys with machine guns drawing fences in my country, you should go there and shoot a round of 9 grams under the ear or in the forehead. If you cannot do that, then I don't believe in music and stuff like that"*.

The journalists are quite loyal to the guests. Aleko Elisashvili stands out in this respect. He does not ask demanding and critical questions, and neither does he ask additional

questions to the respondents in order to get precise information. Mostly he does not engage in opposing to the respondents and lets them fully express themselves.

Zviad Koridze and Merab Metreveli are not like Elisashvili. They always play the role of a mediator, does not state their positions and actively ask questions from a different position.

Aleko Elisashvili is also distinguished from other journalists of the program with his unethical expressions and sometimes even with hate speech. He often uses humiliating, unethical and abusive words when stating his opinion. Besides, he does not react when the guests are using the same vocabulary.

Once there was a guest announced in the beginning of the program in “Hotline”, but he did not appear in the studio and no comment was made about it.

The talk-show “**Barrier**” is sometimes hosted by Nino Jangirashvili, or Aleko Elisashvili. There are several guests participating in the program, and there is also audience in the studio, which is involved in the program. Due to the number of participants, often the talk-show is conducted in the form of debates, and heated discussions take place as well, which the hosts cannot always regulate. Experts and representatives of civil sector prevail among the guests invited to the program. However, we also come across with the representatives of government structures, members and supporters of political parties and presidential candidates as well, but not the few main ones, who have relatively higher ratings. Individuals with critical attitude towards the former authorities and the National Movement prevailed among the guests.

Following topics were discussed in the talk-show during the monitoring period from September 16 until October 20:

- Thomas Hammarberg’s report and events of May 17,
- Construction of Khudon hydro power plant,
- Penitentiary system,
- Meeting of Bidzina Ivanishvili with experts,
- Presidential candidates,
- Results of one-year performance of the Georgian Dream,

- Case of Jihad video,
- Rebranding of the National Movement, etc.

Demeanor of the talk-show hosts - Nino Jangirashvili and Aleko Elisashvili are different. Jangirashvili is more involved in the program; she tries to manage the situation, let the guests express themselves and probe for additional information. As for Elisashvili, he is often quite passive. Even in case if the guests are engaged in heated discussions, even if they are not politically correct, he mostly does not interfere and watches their discussion from aside. As for questions, none of them is distinguished with very demanding and strict questions. However, Jangirashvili's questions are more demanding and she tries harder than Elisashvili to get answers to her questions.

In case of both hosts we can feel their independence, especially when the program is about political topics. They are more opposing to the guests who are loyal to the former authorities and the National Movement, and less opposing to those supporting the new government and the Coalition.

As for the language used by the hosts, we do not observe usage of hate speech by them. However, Aleko Elisashvili is using a very free language, and often describes political subjects with various epithets. If the guests use politically incorrect expressions, Jangirashvili tries hard to stop them. However, in the program of October 15, which was about Hammarberg's report, events of May 17 and sexual minorities, hate speech was heard, although not from the host, but the dispute was quite aggravated and the host failed to control the situation.

Tabula

On Tabula, the political talk-show "**Focus**" is being monitored, which is hosted by Salome Ugulava or, alternatively, Nino Macharashvili. The program has been broadcasted since September 23 and is on air every business day at 22:00.

Members of the majority, also representatives of the minority are invited to the program; also the members of various parliamentary committees, experts and NGO representatives according to the topic of the particular program. Out of the presidential candidates, only Davit Bakradze and Shalva Natelashvili visited the program during this monitoring period. The talk-show touched upon the following topics:

- Social survey carried out by the NDI,
- Crawling occupation,
- Prime Minister's meeting with journalists,
- Economic situation in the country,
- Sochi Olympics and Georgia's position in this respect,
- Meeting between the Speaker of the Parliament and businessmen,
- Threat video disseminated on behalf of the Taliban,
- Case of the inmate who died in Kutaisi Prison,
- Likely run-off of presidential elections, etc.

It should be pointed out that the program always follows up to the main topics of the day and the guests are always invited relevantly, in connection to the topic of the discussion. The sides are often represented in an equal and balanced way. However, sometimes there are cases when only the representatives of the former authorities or current minority are invited for discussing a certain topic, consequently, the issue is discussed only from one viewpoint. In such cases the hosts often point out that the representatives of the authorities or those of the Georgian Dream did not wish to participate in the program.

Salome Ugulava and Nino Macharashvili are always quite actively involved in the program. However, often their demeanor differs according to the political beliefs of their guests. There is a trend observed considering the programs broadcasted during the monitoring period that the journalists are more loyal to the representatives of former authorities, or to the guests who are loyal to them, but they are critical towards the present authorities and members of the majority. Such trend is revealed in the way of asking questions, their wording, probing, also facial expressions and non-verbal gestures. The hosts get more engaged in controversy with representatives of the authorities and argue with them more. However, the respondents who are loyal to the former authorities are given a chance to speak peacefully and fully express their opinions.

In a nutshell, it is possible to say that in regards to time allocation, the journalists distribute time equally to the guests despite their political affiliation, and give them opportunity to speak.

As for stating their own opinion and position by the journalists, such cases were observed in “Focus” as well. The hosts sometimes did not hide their disposition towards the minority and openly agreed with them during the discussion. Their positive disposition can often be observed towards the former authorities.

Overall, it should be noted that the program is informative. Despite the journalists’ attitude is often shown and felt towards this or that side or respondent, in general, all the sides are represented and the audience can get information from different standpoints in regards to a particular issue.

TV3

The talk-show “**Big Politics**” is broadcasted in the air of TV3 every business day, at 8 pm, and it is hosted by Inga Grigolia (several programs were hosted by Nodar Meladze). The talk-show discusses ongoing political processes and main events taking place in the country. The talk-show was broadcasted on September 23 and since then it has been visited by the representatives of the authorities and the opposition as well, high-rank officials, experts, representatives of the media and civil sector. It is interesting that the topic of elections is discussed quite often in the talk-show. However, during this monitoring period only three presidential candidates visited the program: Shalva Natelashvili, Koba Davitashvili and Giorgi Targamadze.

All the main current political events were discussed in the program during the monitoring period, among them:

- Processes taking place within the Public Broadcaster,
- Parliamentary and presidential elections,
- Sochi Olympics – Georgia-Russia relations,
- Issue of construction of Khudon hydro power plant,
- Return of Levan Pirveli, and Levan Mamaladze’s political plans,
- Special operation in Lapankuri,
- Convention of the National Movement at the Sports Palace,
- Jihad case, and other investigations of the Ministry of Internal Affairs,

- Investigation of Zurab Zhvania's death,
- 1 year since the notorious prison videos, and situation in prisons,
- Crawling occupation: restoration of the lost territories of Abkhazia and Ossetia,
- Prime Minister's meeting with the TV and press representatives,
- 2 weeks left until the elections: presidential candidates, etc.

Overall, the program is interesting, dynamic and informative. The guests invited in connection to the discussed topic are always relevant to the topic, and after the host's questions and probing, the audience is given different opinions regarding this or that issue. The guests often are high-ranking officials: ministers, Speaker of the Parliament, Chairman of the Security Council, representatives of the former and present authorities, experts.

In regards to the guests, the program is balanced and there are always both sides represented. The exception was the program about the investigation of Zurab Zhvania's case (October 16), which was held without the presence of the representatives of the National Movement, whom the program guests blamed of the Prime Minister's death. The journalist pointed out that the representatives of the National Movement refused to participate in the program. Although the journalist mentioned several times during the program that she was not stating her opinion and was not affirming that Zurab Zhvania and Raul Usupov were murdered and that she was just asking the questions, in general, the program went to one direction and emphasis was laid on murder of Zhvania.

In general, Inga Grigolia tries to be equally demanding to the guests and is distinguished with quite severe questions. She always seeks to get more information from the guests, and if she cannot get the answer, then she repeats the question again. Sometimes Grigolia interrupts the guest so often with her little probing questions that s/he fails to finish speaking, as it was the case with Levan Pirveli during the program on September 23.

Mostly, the host tries to be limited to being a talk-show moderator. However, due to the questions and comments about some issues, her position is also shaped, which is related to the criticism of the former authorities. The host of the talk-show does not use hate speech or politically incorrect expressions, and gives warning to the guests if they speak incorrectly.