



## **TV Talk-Show Monitoring Report**

**October 20 – November 15, 2013**

CRRC Georgia carried out the media monitoring in connection to the presidential elections of 2013, within the frameworks of the project “Professional Media for Elections”, funded by the EU-UNDP program. The monitoring covered 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;

**Kavkasia:** “Spectrum Studio” – Davit Akubardia, “Barrier” – Nino Jangirashvili and Alexander Elisashvili, “Hotline” – Alexander Elisashvili hosts the program together with Zviad Koridze or Merab Metreveli alternatively;

**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 in 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 October 20 - November 15, inclusive.

### **Channel One of the Public Broadcaster**

Political talk-show "First Studio" of the Channel One of the public Broadcaster, which is aired in the evening every business day, was distinguished with diversity of its guests during the period from October 20 until November 16. Government representatives, members of the Parliamentary majority and minority, also representatives of the non-parliamentary opposition and NGO sector, and presidential candidates were invited to the program. It is interesting that together with presidential candidates, the non-qualified candidates also visited the program, and they had an opportunity to talk about their election promises and political plans. The program just before the elections gave the floor to the representatives of all the main parties except the United National Movement. However, the journalist pointed out that they refused to participate in the program. Two presidential candidates: Shalva Natelashvili and Giorgi Targamadze visited the talk show after the elections.

All the main political events of the country were discussed at the First Studio during the monitoring period, among them:

- Political processes before and after the elections, results of the elections;
- Political plans of the National Movement;
- Government reshuffle;

- Giorgi Margvelashvili's interview in the Russian media;
- Political evaluation of special operations in Khurcha and Lapankuri;
- Way towards Europe and the NATO, how Georgia is implementing the recommendations of the West;
- Vilnius Summit;
- Pardon Act issued by the President, etc.

The guests, who were invited to the talk show, were always relevant to the topic of the discussion. The host tries to get comprehensive information about a particular issue by asking additional questions and by probing. However, she always lets the guests finish their opinions. The host's questions are getting more demanding as the topics get more heated, and they are asked from different standpoint so that to provide other ideas opposite to the ones expressed by the respondents. Nevertheless, in some cases, when there is more than one guest in the program, or when the guest is very active, the host finds it hard to control the situation.

The guests are usually in equal conditions during the program and the host is not biased. She distributes the time evenly, but in the program on November 6, for example, which hosted the representatives of the opposition party only, the whole block was dedicated to Gigi Tsereteli, member of the United Movement, and the other 5 guests were represented altogether in the second block. The host mentioned that as far as the program hosted the authorities the previous day, they invited Tsereteli for keeping the balance. However, she did not clarify why he was shown in a separate block.

The host does not use hate speech or politically incorrect expressions. The discussion is always about particular topics during the program, based on concrete sources.

## **Rustavi 2**

There are two political talk shows on Rustavi 2: "Position" (hosted by Nino Shubladze), and "Choice" (hosted by Giorgi Gabunia). Both of the talk shows are very informative, they discuss important events of the day, and invite diverse and interesting guests.

The talk show “Position” reviews important events of the week. Quite high-ranking political figures are invited from the majority and the minority as well. There were five major presidential candidates visiting the talk show at the end of the pre-election period on October 25: Giorgi Margvelashvili, Davit Bakradze, Nino Burjanadze, Giorgi Targamadze and Shalva Natelashvili. The candidates were sitting face to face with the host, and equal time – 20 minutes – was allocated to each of them. There was no bias observed by the host to any candidate. She had constructive and quite demanding questions to all of them depending on which questions were more topical for whom.

Following topics were discussed in the talk show during the monitoring period:

- Inauguration;
- Giga Bokeria’s position;
- Chief Prosecutor’s position;
- New prosecutor;
- New Prime Minister and his team;
- Crime situation in the country;
- Departure of Bidzina Ivanishvili;
- Prospects of Georgia-Russia relations and European future of Georgia
- Economic situation.

If there are several guests invited to the program at the same time and when the talk-show is arranged in the format of debates, Nino Shubladze tries to be a moderator and to allocated equal time to the representatives of both sides, and to let them express themselves. If there is only one guest, then she acts in opposition to him/her and provides opposite arguments. Basically, she had the same attitude to the guests. However, she was too critical towards Archil Kbilashvili when he was visiting the program on November 1, and she often emphasized weak performance of the Prosecutor’s Office.

Nino Shubladze does not use hate speech or abusive expressions, neither do her guests speak in a politically incorrect way.

The talk show “Choice” has been focused on presidential candidates before the elections. They invited the candidates and their political teams, family members and supporters to the program, so that to present the candidates from as diverse angles as possible. During this monitoring period, Giorgi Margvelashvili, candidate from the ruling party was visiting the program before the elections. Members of the ruling team and the ministers participated in the program. The host was not particularly critical or positive to him; she was easy and favorable to the guests and to the audience, and asked questions about the candidate and his political plans. Besides, members of the parliamentary majority and minority, representatives of the NGOs and non-political fields also visited the talk show from October 15 until November 15.

Visit of Ani Nadareishvili, Bacho Akhalaia’s wife is noteworthy to the program on November 5, after which there was an impression created that Bacho Akhalaia is innocent and that his pretrial detention is not fair. This topic was then discussed in the second block of the program by Bacho Akhalaia’s defense counsel, lawyers and NGO representatives. The host pointed out that representatives of the authorities were not willing to participate in the program due to subjective or objective reasons, and this is why they did not invite representatives of the National Movement and opted for discussing this issue with non-politicians.

Following topics were discussed in the talk show during the monitoring period:

- Election forecasts;
- Election results;
- Avlabari residence of the President;
- Issue of moving the Parliament from Kutaisi to Tbilisi;
- Akhalaia’s court hearings.

The host has been involved in the program very actively. He often asks probing questions to the guests for obtaining additional information and for verifying what has been said. Sometimes he is a moderator, as it was the case during the program on October 29, where the guests from the majority, the minority, the experts and representatives of the civil sector evaluated the pre-election period and the Election Day. Gabunia tried to enable every guest to express their opinions, and also allocated time to the students in the audience to make comments. Despite often there were

arguments among the opponents in the studio, Gabunia did not really get involved that much. He responded only if the guests used politically incorrect expressions and asked them to avoid it.

The host's questions to the guests are quite demanding. Gabunia also acts in opposition to them by having a different position. The guests are mostly in equal conditions. However, sometimes the time cannot be allocated evenly. Gabunia does not use hate speech or politically incorrect expressions.

## **Imedi**

The monitoring is observing two talk shows on Imedi: "Open Air", which is hosted by Vakho Sanaia and "Politics Time", hosted by Thea Sichinava. The "Politics Time" is broadcasted on Mondays and "Open Air" – on Fridays.

Talk-Show "Open Air" was broadcasted 4 times during this monitoring period. The program was hosted by the members of the parliamentary majority and minority as well, and by the ministers, political scholars, diplomats, writers, psychologists, representatives of the media and art community, war veterans and students.

Following topics were discussed in the "Open Air" during this monitoring period:

- Bidzina Ivanishvili's moving to the civil sector;
- Identity of the Future Prime Minister;
- Evaluation of the last decade;
- Inauguration details;
- Economic situation and budget of the country;
- Anticipated government reshuffles;
- What has changed in the performance of the Prosecutor's Office;
- Problems of the Internally Displaced People;
- Future of the National Movement, etc.

Vakho Sanaia's program is almost always balanced. Positions of various sides are represented and the viewers can hear different opinions about the discussed topic. The journalist is mostly focused on asking critical questions and obtaining exhaustive answers to them regardless which political side the respondent is representing. The journalist acts in opposition to them and provides opposite arguments. Sanaia is not distinguished with special loyalty to any of the respondents; his sympathies or antipathies are not visible to any of the political teams. The host objectively tries to provide equal conditions and equal time to every guest for stating their opinions. The journalist is actively involved in the program and all the questions asked by him are relevant to the topic discussed in the program.

However, second block of the November 8 program was different, which hosted Davit Darakhvelidze, Minister of Refugees and Accommodation and where IDPs were sitting in the studio. At the beginning of the block Sanaia pointed out that he would reduce his questions as much as possible in order to enable the IDPs to ask questions to the Minister themselves and to talk about their problems. During the program the journalist provided opportunity to any person whoever wished to ask a question, and at the same time let the Minister give complete answer and finish talking.

We can also point out the program on October 25, hosting only the representatives of various walks of life instead of politicians. It is possible to say that the program was relatively imbalanced. Two days before the elections, the guests invited to the studio mostly stated one and the same position. Although they were not clearly positive to the present-day authorities, all of them were critical to the United National Movement and gave the only negative evaluation to their role in politics.

Basically, high-ranking politicians were invited to the talk show "Politics Time" from October 20 until November 15: Prime Minister, ministers and Giorgi Margvelashvili. Besides, there were also representatives of other political parties, experts, etc. Following issues were discussed in the program during this period:

- New political reality;
- Economic situation in Georgia;
- Giorgi Margvelashvili's Politics Time;
- Bidzina Ivanishvili's Politics Time;

- New Prime-Minister
- Pardoning of Bacho Akhalaia allegedly being a political decision, etc.

The talk show always responds to the issues, which are of current significance for that time. The journalist is quite actively involved in the program. She always acts in opposition to the guests and tries to get exhaustive information by asking additional questions, but the host's own position is never revealed. Sichinava always hosts the program in a neutral and objective way. Her program is relatively quieter, and the guests always have an opportunity to talk and fully express their opinions.

The program of October 28 hosted Giorgi Margvelashvili. The journalist was quite positive to the guest. The conversation was about the elections, future plans of the elected president and his biography. Sichinava was trying to present the respondent from a less unknown side to the viewers.

The program of October 21 is also noteworthy as it hosted Bidzina Ivanishvili and the whole program was dedicated to him. The discussion was about the issues such as: the perspective of the Coalition, relations with Russia, de-occupation process, etc. Thea Sichinava was trying to ask questions from a different position and act in opposition to the Prime Minister, but there was less opposition compared to other programs and guests.

## **Maestro**

There are 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 during workdays; "Subjective Opinion" is on air every day, "Arguments" - on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and "Politmeter" - every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

The guests invited to "Arguments" always represent different sides. The respondents are not only the politicians from the majority, the minority and the government, but also from the civil sector. The program is also visited by the members of other opposition parties. Since October 20, there were 4 presidential candidates invited to the program: Davit Bakradze, Nino Burjanadze, Shalva Natelashvili and Teimuraz Lezhava. Besides, Shalva Natelashvili visited the program even after the elections. The



discussed topics are always relevant to current events and the guests are represented respectively. The subject is always discussed from different standpoints and the balance is observed in this respect.

Following issues were discussed in the programs broadcasted from October 20 until November 15:

- Domestic and foreign policy of the country;
- New staff within the government;
- Resignation of the Chief Prosecutor;
- Pardoning of Bacho Akhalaia by Mikheil Saakashvili;
- Relations with Russia,
- Elected president of Georgia and his inauguration;
- Cases of Kezerashvili and Akhalaia;
- Economic development of the country;
- Granting the Georgian citizenship to foreigners by the President;
- Sochi Olympics, will the President go there?
- The Vilnius Summit;
- Giorgi Margvelashvili's interview in the Russian Media, etc.

Nino Tolordava is quite actively involved in the program. She possesses in-depth information about the topics of the discussion and asks very specific questions. The host creates equal conditions to all the guests, distributes the time evenly and asks equally demanding questions. All the guests have an opportunity to fully state their opinions. Often the host opposes the guests with opposite arguments and asks the question from a different position. Besides, her position is not seen in most cases.

We need to point out the program visited by the presidential candidates where pretty uneven situation was created for them. The first block with Davit Bakradze lasted for an hour, the other one – with Shalva Natelashvili – for 26 minutes, and the third block

lasted for only 6 minutes with Teimuraz Lezhava. However, we need to point out that the host often probed and tried to get detailed information, and the questions were more or less demanding.

There were several cases during the monitoring period, where the program went beyond the announced topic and continued talking about other issues. For example, the program on November 14 hosted Paata Zakareishvili, whom the journalist asked who was invited to the inauguration and who was not. The guest was not happy about this question and said that it was beyond his competence. Because of this, the topic of inauguration was replaced by the discussion about Russia-Georgia relations. During the same program, while speaking again about the inauguration, the journalist said that they offered the Georgian National Ballet “Sukhishvilebi” to participate in the ceremony, but then refused to them. However, in a story Nino Sukhishvili was saying that they had not received any offer. In fact, the Ministry just verified whether they were in Georgia that day or not, but the journalist was opposing to the guests with wrong interpretation.

Nino Tolordava never uses phrases and words containing unethical and hate speech in the program and she also tries to control the guests in this respect. The facts and information stated by the journalist are almost always verified and the source is also indicated.

“Subjective Opinion” is distinguished with diversity of topics discussed in the program. In this respect, the first part of the talk-show is especially noteworthy, where the hosts are speaking without guests about a more interesting facts and non-political topics. Then other blocks continue the program, and like every other political talk-show, the discussion is about the currently significant political issues. Guests of the program are the politicians and other civil sector representatives: sociologists, media representatives, NGO representatives, etc. Out of politicians, the program has been visited by the ministers and representatives of various parties. However, it is noteworthy that during the monitoring period the program was never visited by the members of the United National movement.

During this monitoring period (October 20 – November 15), Akaki Asatiani, Giorgi Targamadze and Giorgi Margvelashvili visited the program before the Election Day, and Nino Burjanadze after the elections.

Following topics were discussed in the talk-show:

- Findings of the sociology researches carried out before the elections,
- Departure of the Prime Minister from politics and tentative candidate prime ministers,
- Granting the citizenship to immigrants by Mikheil Saakashvili,
- Formation of the future government,
- Evaluation of Mikheil Saakashvili's government,
- Election results,
- Elected President, who appeared in the Russian media,
- Inauguration,
- Budget,
- The Vilnius Summit,
- Constitution and the constitutional amendments,
- Departure of Kbilashvili from politics,
- What a civil society means and what it is like in Georgia,
- Crisis at the Public Broadcaster and at the Television of Adjara,
- The initiative of banning the sale of medicines without prescription, etc.

Diana Trapaidze and Teona Gegelia are always actively involved in the program and state their own opinions pretty often. This mostly happens in the first part of the program, which takes place without any guests. However, their position is often evident while talking to the guests as well. This is mostly revealed in negative evaluations of the former authorities, Mikheil Saakashvili and the United National Movement, whereas the current government and the current authorities are basically praised and positively evaluated by them.

Irony and cynicism is often expressed by the hosts. Such attitude is often revealed with non-verbal language, when the hosts look at each other after their comment, or smile. We can provide an example of the program broadcasted on November 15, when the

main topic was Mikheil Saakashvili's government. This topic was being discussed ironically and in a negative context during the whole program. Together with guests, the hosts remembered only the most negative moments of the President. There were cases when the hosts also criticized the current authorities as well. For example, there was some conversation about Irakli Gharibashvili as well on November 4, where the journalists talked about his negative decisions and facts. However, this was less frequent.

There is always one respondent in the studio and the hosts are quite positive to him/her, and talk in a quite familiar manner. Diana Trapaidze and Teona Gegelia often interrupt the respondents, often for expressing their opinions, comments, remarks or for asking additional rhetorical and humorous questions. However, in most cases, these questions and comments are used for stating an opposite opinion, which is different from the opinion of the guest. Despite this, the journalists do not use the hate speech.

The program of November 5 is noteworthy, visited by Nino Burjanadze. The journalists' negative attitude to the respondent was clear. They interrupted her very often and did not let her finish. When Burjanadze told the journalists to let her speak and not to interrupt every minute, Teona Gegelia answered like this – “yes, but your tone is very bad. We are asking questions because we are journalists... You are getting angry and tell us: sorry, let me finish, or if you don't want, I will leave. This is not the right way to do it. You may be angry with somebody or something, but it is not our fault... We are listening, please inform us about your opinion and do it in a more politically correct manner. I don't know, I don't like your speech, sorry.”

Politmeter is very diverse in regards to the invited guests. There are always two or more sides represented in the program. Not only the members of the government and majority, but also the parliamentary and non-parliamentary oppositions are invited. Besides, the program is also often visited by the representatives of various NGOs and arts circles, experts, etc. The topics discussed in the talk-show refer to the most topical and important issues of that moment. Following topics were discussed in Politmeter from October until November 15:

- Election environment,
- Election messages of Europe to Bidzina Ivanishvili and his answer to the partners,

- Who will be a new Prime minister?
- Inauguration,
- Russia-Georgia relations,
- The President's Reserve Fund,
- Budget of 2014,
- President's Pardon Act,
- New Chief Prosecutor,
- Giorgi Margvelashvili's interview at the Channel One of the Russian Television, etc.

The talk-show is quite balanced and objective. The Journalist is actively involved in the program. In the first block the journalist is sitting face to face with the respondents, and she is quite demanding and critical. She acts in opposition to the respondents without stating her own position. Despite political affiliation of the guests, the host always asks questions that are opposite to their opinions. The second block is carried out in the format of discussion, and here Zhizhilashvili becomes a bit more passive and lets the guest have a discussion. Besides, she tries to present each other's arguments to the opponents, and listen opposing opinions from them as well. She does not demonstrate support to any of them.

The host does not use hate speech or any politically incorrect expressions. The program is dedicated to the discussion of the announced topics almost always. However, at some instances the host and the guests went beyond the main topic and allocated more time to other issues. The information delivered by Zhizhilashvili is always confirmed and the source is provided.

There was a special program broadcasted the next day after the elections – on October 27. The program was not balanced judging from the perspective of invited guests, because basically the representatives and supporters of the Georgian Dream were present. Correspondingly, the program was mostly dedicated to the victory of Giorgi Margvelashvili in the elections. Zhizhilashvili herself was quite passive, as far as there were very many guests in the studio and it was them who did the most speaking.

## **Kavkasia**

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

“Spectrum Studio” mostly hosts the experts, NGO representatives, political scholars, sociologists, media representatives, students and other respondents without any political affiliation. As for the guest – politicians, members of the government and the majority, also their supporters often visit the talk-show, including the people who are loyal to them. Representatives and supporters of the United National Movement hardly ever visit the program. There were many guests invited to the program on the Election Day (October 27). Almost all of them had positive disposition towards the new authorities. Even Gela Saluashvili was one of the guests to the program. The host pointed out that other presidential candidates were also invited, but no one agreed to participate in the program but Gela Saluashvili. The program of October 24 was also special, hosting Bidzina Ivanishvili and Giorgi Margvelashvili.

Following topics were discussed in the “Spectrum Studio during this monitoring period:

- Situation in the country before the elections,
- The end of Saakashvili’s rule,
- Constitution of Georgia and its amendments,
- Presidential elections,
- November 7, 2007,
- Justice system,
- Resignation of Archil Kbilashvili,
- Economy,

- Ending of the cohabitation,
- New Prime-Minister - plans and anticipated changes,
- Inauguration,
- President's Palace,
- Existing problems in various sectors,
- Mikhail Saakashvili's last address,
- Pardoning by the President, etc.

The talk-show is quite biased. The invited guests and the host almost always have similar opinions regarding the subject of the discussion and the conversation is taking place in a quiet setting. The program is often visited by one and the same people, whom the host presents with the word "an extraordinary person", "a person for whom I have sympathy". The talk-show is taking place in a friendly environment, the host is positive towards everyone and often points out that they are friends. He often gives them friendly advice or friendly remarks. Example: October 21, the guest Levan Berdzenishvili, discussing the elections: "Levan, sorry, I respect you very much, I beg you pardon, we are friends, we have known each other for so long. Man, this is a problem of your performance, which means you work bad..." and is laughing.

Akubardia's involvement differs from program to program. Sometimes he is very active and there are cases when he talks more than the guest, and interrupts them in order to state his opinion. In addition, it is characteristic to him to divert to an absolutely different subject from the discussed topic. On the other hand there are cases when he is very passive and has a very little involvement in the program. He states his opinions very often, or tells the stories he has heard, provides figures and percentage; however, often the source of information is unidentified.

The host never hides his extremely negative attitude towards Mikheil Saakashvili and members of the United National Movement. He regularly uses unethical and politically incorrect expressions toward them, and often calls them "Nazists". Besides, he often uses the terms such as: "he went nuts", "idiot", "that unfortunate man", "Satan", "wasteful", "moron", "boor", "bouquet of despise", "scarecrow", "monster",

“criminal”, “insane”, “malicious”, “bumming around”, “filthy person”, “sleazy”, “even if his grandma wished hard” etc.

The program of October 24 is noteworthy, visited by Bidzina Ivanishvili and Giorgi Margvelashvili. Akubardia was very familiar and quite active. He addressed Ivanishvili as “Bidzina”, whereas the Prime Minister addressed him as “Mister Davit”. He often did not let the respondents speak and told stories and things about various issues, when they were seriously talking about economy or the election program. Margvelashvili even made several comments about this.

For example: when Bidzina Ivanishvili was talking about Margvelashvili as a presidential candidate, Akubardia interrupted him with the following text: “You have said that Giorgi was very sympathetic and good. I think that he was even much better when he was unshaven, Giorgi.”

Besides, when Margvelashvili was talking about the election environment, the host interrupted: “Let me say, man, you will roll on the floor laughing. What is that street crossing the Pekini Street, or Kazbegi Street. There are beggars near the traffic lights there, the gypsies. One of them tore Bakradze, and then did the same to you. He was tearing down all the posters and begging at the same time.”

The program of the Election Day was quite biased. There were many guests from the observer’s organizations, also the coalition members as well. The host underlined that such elections have never been held in Georgia yet and the reported violations are very insignificant. Besides, he also expressed dissatisfaction that the candidate of the United National Movement got so many votes.

The talk show “Hotline” was mostly visited by the NGO representatives, experts and other members of the society during this monitoring period. The presidential candidate Giorgi Targamadze was also among the guests. It is notable that the program was frequented by the representatives of the opposition party, although members or supporters of the United National Movement are hardly ever seen there.

Following subjects were discussed in the program during this monitoring period:

- How the media covered the elections,
- Justice,



- Economic issues,
- Cohabitation,
- Pardon Act issued by Saakashvili,
- Self-governance reform,
- Vilnius Summit,
- Evaluation of the elections,
- Performance of the Ministry of Internal Affairs,
- Gharibashvili as a Prime Minister,
- New leader of the Republican Party,
- Granting the citizenship of Georgia by the President,
- Resignation of Archil Kbilashvili, etc.

Aleko Elisashvili hosts the program together with either Zviad Koridze or Merab Metreveli. Elisashvili has a co-host once a week and leads the program with him. Due to the format of the program, the viewers can call and express their opinions regarding the discussed topic. In total, there are various opinions stated in connection to the main topic of the discussion during the program. Only the journalists are speaking during the first part of the program and discuss various issues, and show the prepared stories. This part of the program is often more informative and the journalists are more active. However, their personal opinions and positions are most often stated in this block.

Second block of the program presents the guests in the studio, and here Aleko Elisashvili is the most passive journalist during the program compared to Metreveli and Koridze. He seldom asks in-depth questions to the guests for obtaining additional information. He gets involved in the program mostly for stating his own opinion and position, which is revealed by speaking about the former authorities and Mikheil Saakashvili in the negative context. It is also noteworthy that Elisashvili often speaks ironically about Shalva Natelashvili.

Zviad Koridze is always impartial. The program is quieter and more informative when he is the host. He acts in opposition to the respondents without stating his own

position. He is actively involved in the program and asks quite extensive and clarifying questions to the guests. It is notable that the hosts are always trying to put the guests in equal conditions, and let them fully express themselves and distribute the time evenly among them.

The talk-show “Barrier” has two different hosts: Nino Jangirashvili and Aleko Elisashvili. The program is distinguished with a big number of guests, such as the representatives of political parties from the majority, also (though less frequently) from the minority as well and their supporters. The talk-show is frequented by the experts and representatives of the civil sector. The program often grows into a heated discussion, and it is hard for the hosts to control the situation. They discussed ongoing political processes from October 20 until November 15, among them:

- Election environment and offences,
- Presidential elections,
- Restoration of the constitutional monarchy,
- President’s inauguration: invited guests, principles of inviting the guests,
- Fate of the President’s Palace,
- Pardon by the President,
- New regulations on medicines, etc.

The hosts have quite a different working style. Jangirashvili tries to ask more in-depth questions, get additional information from them and provide counter arguments. However, Elisashvili does little probing and mostly asks the guests to evaluate this or that fact or event, and also states his position. Jangirashvili is more like a moderator and tries to provide equal conditions for the guests for stating their opinions. As for Elisashvili, he does not often interfere in the discussion and priority is given to those guests in his program, who are active on their own. As for others, they may express a comment only once during the program. For example, there was Thea Tutberidze invited to the program on November 1, and the host was unable to stop her. The program was conducted on the background of loud conversation and some of the guests even left the studio.

It is characteristic for Aleko Elisashvili to state his own opinion and to joke when asking a question to the guests or when making a comment. For example, he is saying in the program on October 25: “The elections period used to be accompanied with much cheating before: coordinators, giving directions. The whole process of the elections was a big cheating. We all have heard that that fake ID cards were printed.” Or, he is joking in the same program on October 25: “our program is going to fail unless Kakha Kakhishvili invents something creative.” He addresses the guest Giorgi Udzilauri in the program of November 8: “Giorgi, did you like Kbilashvili’s efforts? There is one thing I like: a new fashion of the new authorities that they like to leave. It has been a problem so far. Once in power, nobody would ever leave. Now, there is a some queue and they will not leave any room for us in the civil sector.”

The hosts do not use the hate speech. Nevertheless, Aleko Elisashvili’s jokes and manner of speaking is often too free. Jangirashvili is always politically correct and reacts if the guests use the hate speech. For example, one of the guests to the program on November 5, Giorgi Otkhmezuri is saying that “LGBT is ugly” and Jangirashvili answers: “this is what you think, Mr Giorgi”.

## **Tabula**

The political talk-show “Focus” has been monitored on Tabula, hosted by Salome Ugulava or Nino Macharashvili, alternatively. The program has been broadcasted since September 23, and it is aired every business day at 22:00.

Members of the majority and the government, also the opposition parties were invited to the program. It is notable that mostly the members of the United National Movement were represented from the opposition parties. And it is the leaders of the National Movement, who are always debating with the government members. Representatives of various fields are often invited to the talk show: sociologists, philosophers, NGO representatives, experts, etc.

The talk-show discussed the following topics:

- Presidential elections of 2013,
- Georgia-US relations,

- Georgia-Russia relations,
- Vilnius Summit,
- Media during the elections,
- Prime Minister's plans,
- Leaving the position of a prosecutor by Archil Kbilashvili,
- Changing the function of the buildings built by the former authorities by the new authorities,
- Report of one-year performance of Irakli Garibashvili's agency,
- Judiciary reform,
- Budget of 2014,
- New Constitution,
- Self-government reform,
- Giorgi Margvelashvili's interview with the Channel One of the Russian State Television,
- Inauguration, etc.

The program is hosted by Salome Ugulava and Nino Macharashvili in turn. The program is often balanced and two sides are represented. The hosts are actively involved in the program and are quite prepared for speaking about the topic of the discussion. Despite the diversity of guests, the program is often characterized with criticism of the current authorities and loyal evaluation of the former authorities. The questions and comments of journalists often reveal their positions; they mostly act in opposition to the government representatives. It is easy to observe that they constantly have critical attitude towards the authorities and their projects, and at the same time the positive attitude towards the minority members, specifically for the United National Movement. The journalists often address ironical remarks and comments to Bidzina Ivanishvili.

We should point out the program broadcasted on the Election Day, hosted by Nino Macharashvili. Every time the respondents went live during the program, she laid emphasis on the lower turnout and more violations observed this year, than during the elections in 2012. She had an ironic attitude toward Sozar Subari, who went live during the program, when the journalist emphasized that Vano Merabishvili was in prison during elections.

By asking additional questions, Salome Ugulava and Nino Macharashvili often try to get more information from respondents about the issue. Besides, they express a counter opinion and act in opposition to the guests despite their political affiliation. However, this does not annul the overall bias of the program. The hosts never use the hate speech or politically incorrect expressions.

### TV3

Talk-show “Big Politics” is broadcasted every business day and discusses the political events taking place in the country. The topic of the program refers to the most topical issue for that moment. The program is hosted by Inga Grigolia, but in some cases she is replaced by Nodar Meladze, or he participates in the program with her. The program is balanced from the viewpoint of the guests, as representatives of the authorities and the opposition participate in it. It should be mentioned therein that the program is always visited by high-ranking political figures: government representatives, heads of parliamentary committees, party members, representatives of civil sector and presidential candidates.

All the major political events were discussed in the program during the monitoring period among them:

- Presidential elections,
- Vano Merabishvili – criminal or a political prisoner,
- Classified: following the scandalous case of so called “spies” and photo-reporters,
- Bacho Akhalaia's verdict of Not Guilty,
- Restoration of the constitutional monarchy,

- Changes within the government: young ministers,
- Plans of the new government,
- Pardoning by the President,
- Archil Kbilashvili's resignation,
- May 26 and November 7,
- Should the church interfere into politics, etc.

The talk-show has always been very dynamic, because Inga Grigolia herself is very actively involved in all the programs. She is always very well prepared for the program and possesses much information, which helps her ask in-depth and extended questions. While formulating the question, Inga Grigolia often tries to add scandalous elements to the question. She also tries to get exclusive answers from the guests. Her questions are always sharp, and sometimes provocative as well, and she often acts in opposition to the guests of the program by providing counter arguments. However, it is characteristic for Inga Grigolia to express her own position when asking a question in some cases, which is mostly related to the criticism of the former authorities. The cases of expressing her position became somehow more frequent after the elections.

The guests can always express their own opinions at Inga Grigolia's program, but the host has a habit of interfering, interrupting and probing. She often does this for verifying the information. However, when delivering some information she does not always identify the source and says "according to information at our hand".

Inga Grigolia does not use the hate speech and politically incorrect expressions. Such facts are very rare also from the side of the guests. However, if there is any, then the host reacts and asks them to be more politically correct. Sometimes there is irony felt in her facial expressions and gestures. For example, she is asking the following question to Nodar Khaduri in the program of October 29: "do you think that the parliamentary majority may dare to turn down the candidate suggested by him?" where her irony was clearly felt.