



MEDIA MONITORING

In the Campaign for 2019 Parliamentary Elections

*Report no. 5
17–24 February 2019
(general conclusions)*



This report is produced by the Independent Journalism Center (IJC) and the Association of Independent Press (API), under a media monitoring project, implemented with the financial support of National Endowment for Democracy (USA), Swedish Government, and the US Agency for International Development (USAID).

The opinions expressed therein belong to the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the donors.

I. GENERAL DATA

1.1 Objective of the project: monitor and inform the public about media behavior in the pre-election period and during the campaign for the 2019 parliamentary elections in the Republic of Moldova.

1.2 Monitoring period: 9 January 2019 – 24 February 2019

1.3 Criteria for selecting the media outlets to be monitored:

The media outlets were selected based on the following criteria: a) form of ownership; b) geography; c) broadcasting language; d) fame/audience. Thus, we are monitoring public and private media outlets, with national, quasi-national and regional coverage, in Romanian and in Russian.

1.4 Media outlets monitored:

Broadcast media

Moldova 1, GRT, Prime TV, Canal 2, Canal 3, Publika TV, Jurnal TV, NTV Moldova, Pro TV Chişinău, TV8, Accent TV, TV Centrală

Online portals and print media

Agora.md, Aif.md, Deschide.md, Diez.md, Esp.md, Gagauzinfo.md, Jurnal de Chişinău (ziar), Kp.md, Moldova.org, Newsmaker.md, Noi.md, Realitatea.md, Sputnik.md, Timpul.md, Unimedia.info, Zdg.md

1.5 Subject-matter of monitoring

TV (18:00-22:00 interval)

- A. One newscast in Russian and one in Romanian;
- B. Programs (talk shows) with electoral character;
- C. Election debates.

Online portals and print media

The entire editorial content, without the publicity marked accordingly.

1.6. The team

The project is implemented within the Coalition for Free and Fair Elections by the Independent Journalism Center (TV monitoring) and the Association of Independent Press (online and print media monitoring).

1.7 Methodological framework

The data were collected and analyzed based on a monitoring methodology developed by Oxford Media Research Center for the monitoring projects of the international organization Article 19: Global Campaign for Free Expression. The methodology was updated at the end of 2018 and beginning of 2019 with the assistance of the experts of the Italian organization Osservatorio di Pavia.

This methodology's characteristics are as follows: use of indicators 1) *quantitative*, including type, duration, topic of coverage, news sources, frequency and duration of appearance of election candidates in news, and 2) *qualitative*, designed to evaluate the tone of coverage: neutral, positive or negative, considering the attitude of the media outlet and/or journalist to each protagonist.

The monitoring focuses on two main components: assessment of *social pluralism* and of *political pluralism* in the media, which implies measuring the diversity of opinions and multitude of voices in the items with electoral content and all items with direct or indirect election content and all items in which representatives of parties or candidates appear, even though the items are not directly related to the elections. In addition, we are monitoring all items dealing with the work of the Government, Parliament and President’s Office, as these protagonists play an important role in the public space.

Each item is subject to a content and context evaluation to determine the tonality of coverage. Tonality is assigned by assessing the presence 1) of the *explicit opinion*, expressed by the media to the protagonists, and 2) of the *framing*¹ of the events or subjects that may favor or disfavor the protagonists.

The item’s positive content and/or context does not necessarily indicate the bias or partisanship of the media outlet broadcasting the news. Only if there is a trend of favoring or disfavoring certain subjects for a certain period can we speak about lack of balance.

II. DATA ANALYSIS

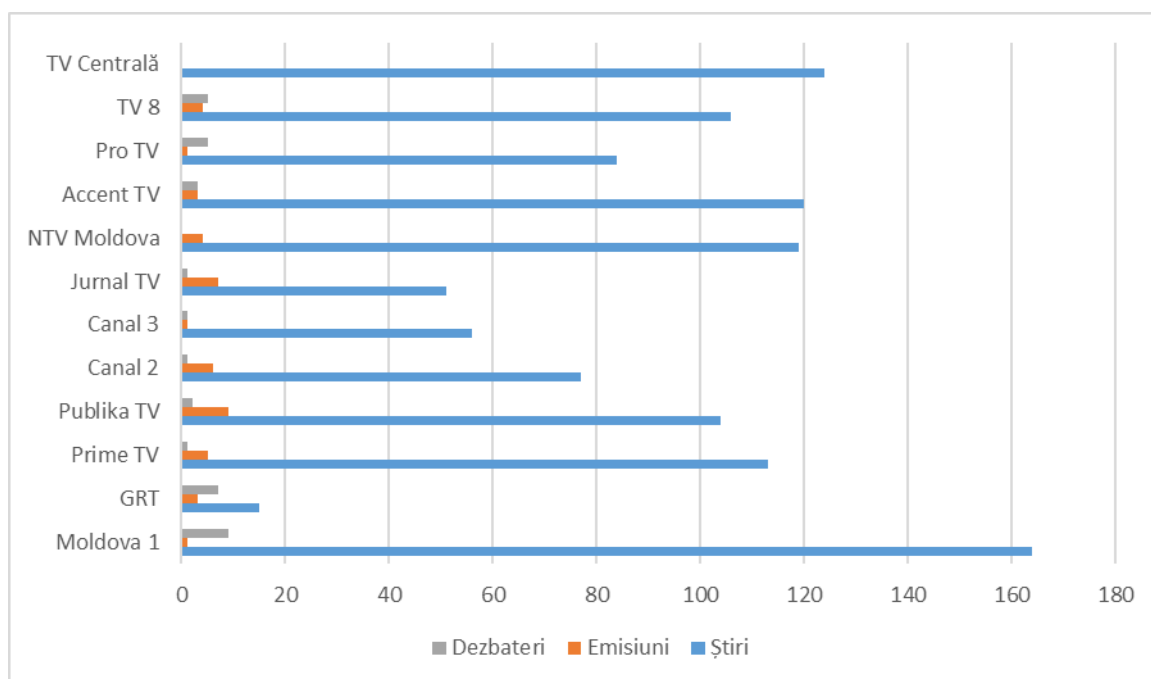
2.1 Broadcast media

Frequency of coverage. In the last week of election campaign and on the elections day (17 – 24 February 2019), the 12 TV stations monitored overall broadcast 1,212 items with direct and indirect electoral content, of which 1,133 news stories, 44 programs, and 35 debates. The total amount of the items was of about 106 hours, nearly 45 hours of which accounted for news, 39 hours – for programs, and circa 22 hours – for debates.

Type of item	Appearances	Duration (sec)
News	1133	163358
Talk shows	44	138934
Debates	35	78905
Total	1212	381197

¹ Framing – selecting and highlighting certain sides of an event or subject and connecting them in such a way as to show a certain interpretation or solution <http://www.revistadesociologie.ro/pdf-uri/nr3-4-2011/07-N%20Corbu.pdf>

Frequency of news stories, programs and debates, per TV station



Topical diversity. The subjects tackled by the majority of the media monitored most of the times concerned the political area. Many times these were campaign events carried out by some parties, press conferences to total up the campaign results, with various allegations also launched by some candidates against others. The second topic by frequency was the election process, including subjects about the work of the Central Election Commission (CEC) and the voting procedure on the elections day, at a great distance followed by subjects on corruption, social issues, the economic area, health and foreign relations. As a rule, they had indirect electoral content, dealing with activities of the President and President's Office, of various ministries and governmental structures, etc.

The biggest diversity in terms of topics was found on NTV Moldova and Accent TV (political, foreign relations, social, election process, local public administration, education and minorities) PRO TV (election process, political, corruption, social, integrity, diaspora), TV Centrală (political, election process, integrity, economic, local public administration, civil society).

Social pluralism. In documenting their items, the stations monitored used various social sources, with citizens ranking first, at a great distance followed by representatives of CEC, civil society, diplomats, foreign observers, police/army, local and foreign experts, and local public administration. The citizens were quoted directly and most of the times in news with Vox Populi elements concerning social and political issues as well as in news about the campaign and in news of the elections day, expressing their opinions about their expectations of the future rulers.

The most diverse social sources were used by TV8 (citizens, CEC, Police/Army, experts, LPA, diplomats and foreign experts, civil society representatives, business people, and judges/lawyers) and Accent TV (citizens, diplomats/foreign observers, CEC, LPA, experts etc).

Social sources and protagonists quoted or mentioned in news stories, programs and debates. 12 TV stations/Top 10

Sources and protagonists	Frequency
Citizens	1417
Central Election Commission	191
Civil society – NGOs	112
Diplomats, foreign officials and observers	105
Police/Army	93
Experts (foreign and local)	87
Local Public Administration	86
Media	51
Business	48
Judges, lawyers	29
Government officials	29
Church	11

Political pluralism. The items relevant to the monitoring mainly had party representatives as well as the independent candidates in uninominal constituencies as main protagonists. Of the state institutions, President Igor Dodon, next to Prime Minister Pavel Filip and other Government representatives were covered in news as well as in programs on some of the stations monitored.

The Democratic Party of Moldova (PDM), the Socialists Party of Moldova (PSRM) and the Electoral Bloc ACUM, followed by the Șor Political Party and the Liberal Party (PL) had the biggest visibility in terms of frequency and duration of appearances in images and of direct interventions in news items, programs and debates.

Frequency and duration of appearance in news items, programs and debates of political party representatives, candidates in the national constituency/12 TV stations

Sources and protagonists	Candidate	Frequency	Duration of appearance, sec.	Duration of direct speech, sec.
Democratic Party of Moldova	Yes	429	14542	11711
Socialists Party of Moldova	Yes	383	17671	11520
Electoral Bloc ACUM	Yes	368	12379	9956
Șor Political Party	Yes	200	6218	4093
Liberal Party	Yes	94	3397	2934
Communists Party of Moldova	Yes	35	3286	2952
Our Party	Yes	35	3679	3439
Democracy at Home Party	Yes	34	5961	5896
Professionals Movement «Speranța - Nadezhda»	Yes	29	3670	3600
Regions Party of Moldova	Yes	28	4237	4131

People's Will Political Party	Yes	27	6612	6606
Anti-Mafia People's Party	Yes	19	2948	2911
Green Ecologic Party	Yes	18	2667	2617
National Liberal Party	Yes	17	2786	2756
Political Party "Patria" (Motherland)	Yes	6	140	78

Of the candidates registered in the elections in uninominal constituencies, the most covered ones were Constantin Țutu (affiliated to PDM), Vladimir Plahotniuc (PDM), Andrei Năstase (Blocul ACUM), Mihail Popșoi (Blocul ACUM) and Zinaida Greceanăi (PSRM).

Frequency and duration of appearance in news items of candidates in uninominal constituencies /12 TV stations/Top 20

Sources and protagonists	Political affiliation	Frequency	Amount of appearance, sec.	Duration of direct speech, sec.
Țutu Constantin	Democratic Party of Moldova	16	329	280
Plahotniuc Vladimir	Democratic Party of Moldova	16	836	462
Costin Vasile	Democratic Party of Moldova	12	95	58
Năstase Andrei	Electoral Bloc ACUM	12	220	103
Greceanăi Zinaida	Socialists Party of Moldova	11	462	361
Popșoi Mihail	Electoral Bloc ACUM	10	144	54
Bodnarenco Elena	Communists Party of Moldova	10	200	72
Platon Tatiana	Șor Political Party	9	257	132
Sandu Maia	Electoral Bloc ACUM	9	162	61
Chirtoacă Dorin	Liberal Party	9	155	46
Alaiba Dumitru	Electoral Bloc ACUM	8	136	44
Odiștov Alexandru	Socialists Party of Moldova	8	386	242
Cojocaru Dinari	Socialists Party of Moldova	8	269	193
Guzun Ludmila	Democratic Party of Moldova	8	84	58
Șor Ilan	Șor Political Party	8	243	121
Bătrîncea Vlad	Socialists Party of Moldova	8	336	274
Vartanean Gaik	Socialists Party of Moldova	8	347	192
Jizdan Alexandru	Democratic Party of Moldova	7	121	106
Filip Pavel	Democratic Party of Moldova	7	169	105
Bolea Vasile	Socialists Party of Moldova	7	599	382

Frequency of appearance in debates of candidates in uninominal constituencies /12 TV stations

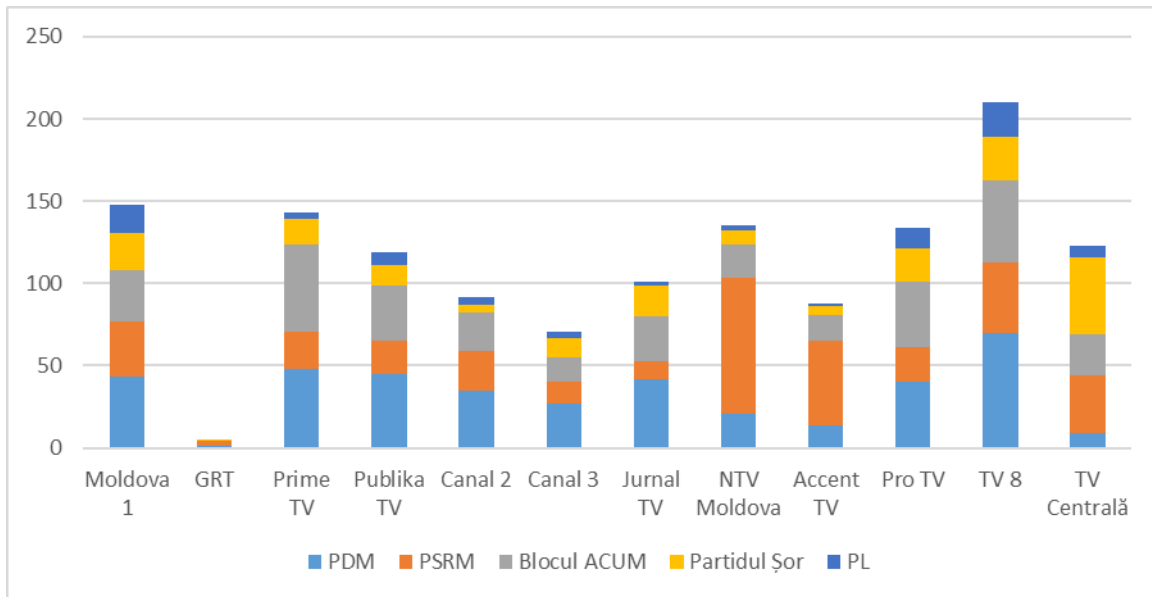
Sources and protagonists	Political affiliation	Frequency	Amount of appearance, sec.	Duration of direct speech, sec.
Dudoglo Nicolai	Independent	3	4100	3700
Dimoglo Nina	Șor Political Party	2	1400	1200
Popșoi Mihail	Electoral Bloc ACUM	3	910	905
Rotari Vadim	Socialists Party of Moldova	1	900	900
Popa Svetlana	Socialists Party of Moldova	1	900	900
Levintii Dmitrii	Our Party	1	700	600
Leiciu Gheorghii	Independent	1	700	600
Țuțu Constantin	Democratic Party of Moldova	3	430	420
Năstase Andrei	Electoral Bloc ACUM	2	425	420
Volosatîi Boris	Independent	1	420	420
Roșca Vladimir	Socialists Party of Moldova	1	420	420
Vieru Călin	Independent	1	420	420
Babuc Monica	Democratic Party of Moldova	1	35	25
Alaiba Dumitru	Electoral Bloc ACUM	1	11	0
Perciun Dan	Electoral Bloc ACUM	1	5	0

Of the state institutions, President Igor Dodon and the representatives of the President's Office ranked first in terms of both frequency of appearance and duration of direct interventions.

Frequency and duration of appearance in news and programs of the representatives of the President's Office, Parliament and Government /12 TV stations

Sources and protagonists	Candidate	Frequency	Duration of appearance, sec.	Duration of direct speech, sec.
President, President's Office	No	268	21211	11121
Ministries	No	108	3610	3293
Parliament	No	30	1259	1177

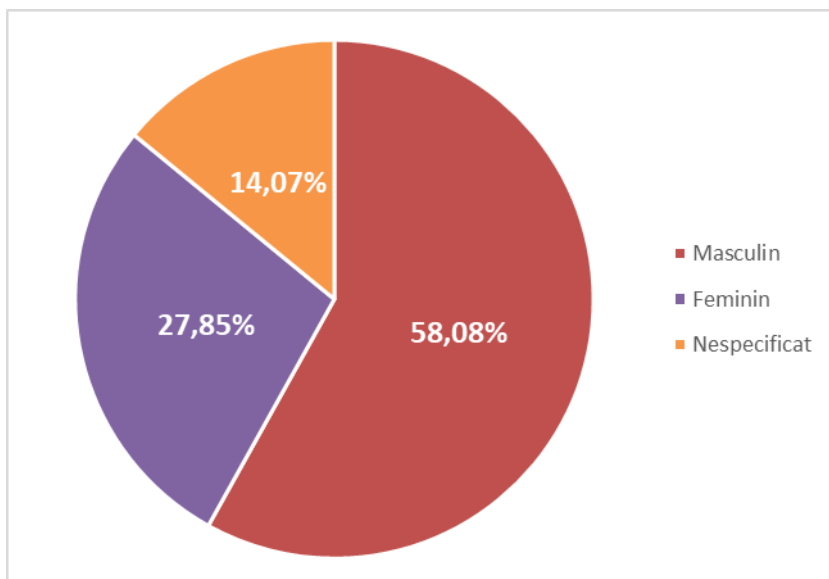
Frequency of coverage of political parties per TV station/National Constituency/TOP 5



Gender balance. A large number of the sources and protagonists quoted or mentioned by the 12 TV stations were males (58%) and female sources accounted for 27.8%, an increase of 5.4% compared to the data registered in the previous report period. The only categories of sources/protagonists in which the presence of women was higher than of men were the categories ‘citizens’ and ‘CEC’. A relatively high number of female protagonists/sources was also found within the Electoral Bloc ACUM, followed by the Socialists Party of Moldova as well as in the items that quoted civil society representatives. To note that the rate of female sources of the ‘citizens’ category accounted for 55% of the total number of female sources.

The best indicator for gender balance was found on Jurnal TV – 37%, TV Centrală - 37%, Canal 3 – 35%, Canal 2 – 32,5%, Publika – 30%, and Pro TV – 29%.

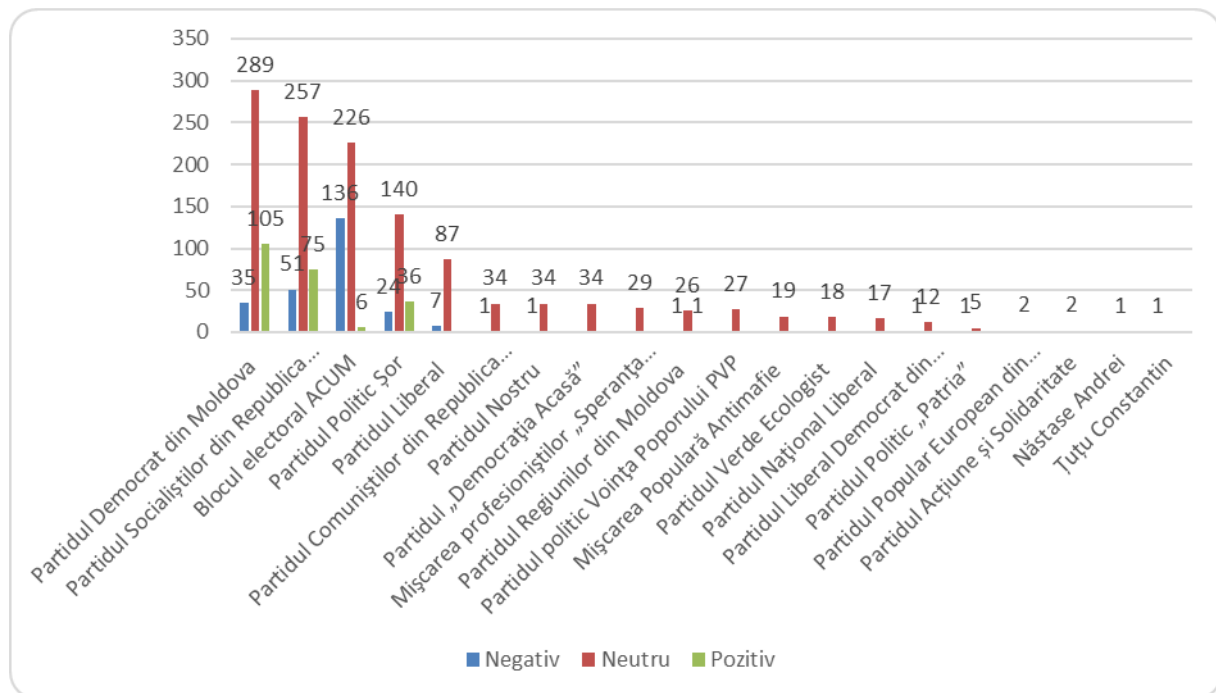
Rate of sources and protagonists from a gender perspective



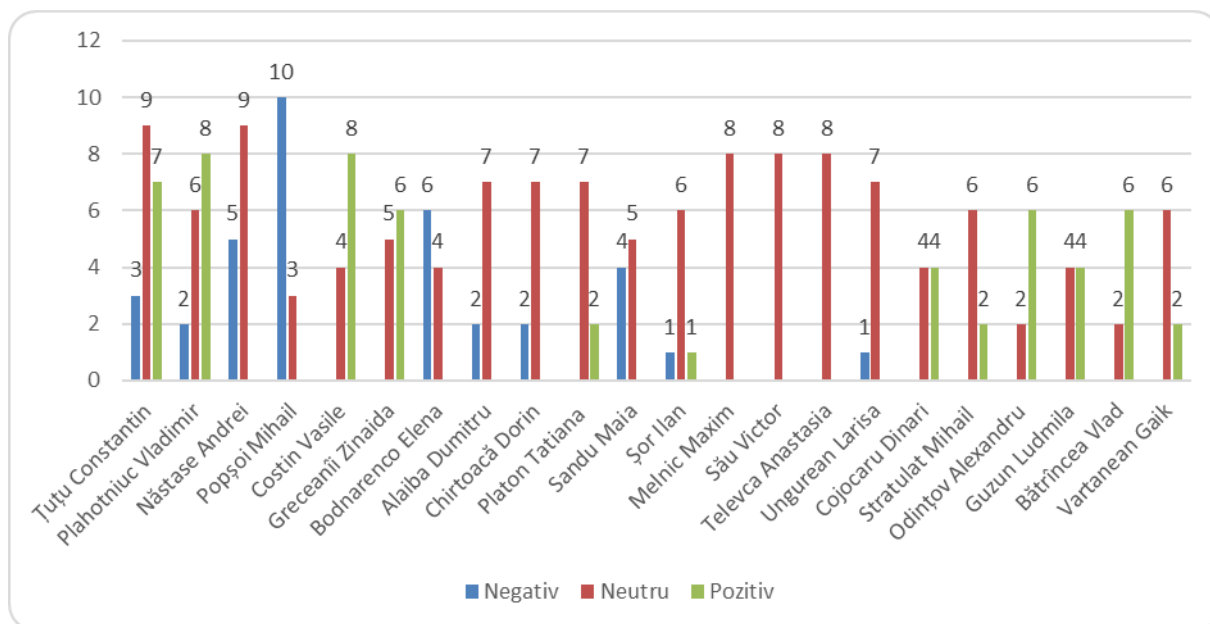
Tonality of coverage of candidates/General data, 12 TV stations. The PDM candidates in the national constituency were the ones to enjoy positive tonality most of the times, followed by PSRM and Șor Political Party. The Electoral Bloc ACUM appeared in most items on negative tonality, followed by PSRM. Of the candidates in uninominal constituencies - Vladimir Plahotniuc (affiliated to PDM), Vasile Costin (PDM), Constantin Țuțu (PDM), followed by Zinaida Greceanîi (PSRM), Alexandru Odinoșov (PSRM) and Vlad Bătrâncea (PSRM) appeared in most items on positive tonality. Mihail Popșoi (Blocul ACUM), Elena Bodnarenco (PCR) și Andrei Năstase (Blocul ACUM) had the most appearances in items on negative tonality.

The representatives of state institutions, especially of the President’s Office, were concerned in items on neutral as well as on positive and negative tonality, and those of the Parliament and Government – on rather neutral and positive tonality.

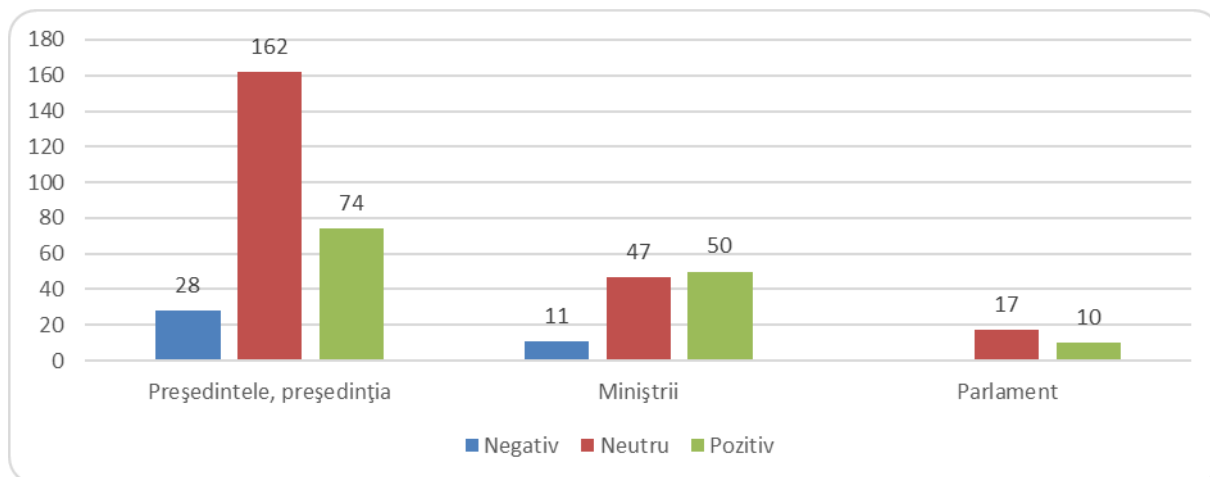
Tonality of coverage of candidates in news items, programs, debates/National Constituency, 12 TV stations



Tonality of coverage of candidates in news items, programs, debates/Uninominal Constituencies, 12 TV stations



Tonality of coverage in news items, programs and debates of representatives of the President’s Office, Parliament and Government / 12 TV stations



Tonality of coverage of candidates per TV station

In the last week of the election campaign and on the election day (17-24 February 2019), the national public TV station **Moldova 1** offered relatively equal access to the candidates of both the national constituency and uninominal constituencies. The tonality of coverage was neutral in most cases (for more details, see Annex 1).

The regional public station **GRT** covered the election campaign in a summary manner in the Russian language newscast, without displaying any obvious tendency of favoring or disfavoring certain political players. The tendency to favor the independent candidate Nicolae Dudoglo was noticed in the programs aired by this regional public broadcaster.

The private stations with national coverage **Prime TV** and **Publika TV, Canal 2** and **Canal 3** covered the election campaign in a similar manner. The stations gave priority access to the PDM representatives and the candidates in uninominal constituencies affiliated to this party, the tonality of their coverage being mainly positive. They also broadcast a large number of items with the presence of Government representatives, the tonality being mainly positive. In contrast, the attitude to the representatives of the Electoral Bloc ACUM and to the candidates in uninominal constituencies affiliated to this bloc was negative in most cases. The tonality to PSRM and President Dodon was both neutral and negative.

The private stations **NTV Moldova** and **Accent TV** gave priority access to the PSRM representatives and to the candidates in uninominal constituencies affiliated to this party as well as to President Igor Dodon. The tonality of coverage of these players was rather positive. PSRM was advantaged by the massive presence of President Dodon in news and in programs (in terms of frequency and duration). PDM and the Electoral Bloc ACUM were covered in neutral and negative light, while Șor Political Party – on rather negative tonality.

The private stations **Pro TV** and **TV8** had a balanced behavior, offering access to its news and programs/debates to many political players – parties and candidates in the national constituency and in uninominal constituencies. In most cases, the tonality of coverage of protagonists on these stations was neutral.

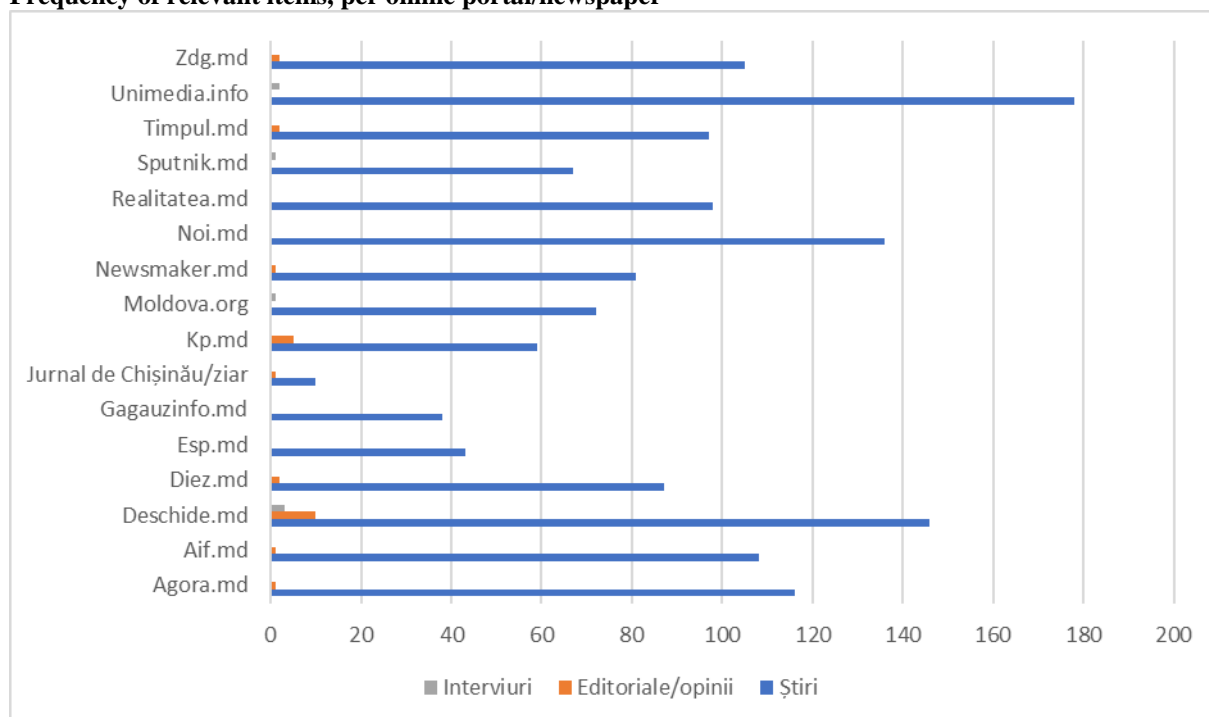
The station with national coverage **Jurnal TV** covered in its news the candidates who organized electoral events or issued press releases, the tonality of coverage of political protagonists in news being mostly neutral. The tonality for the representatives of PDM and Șor Party was neutral and negative in the programs aired by Jurnal TV.

Televiziunea Centrală granted access mainly to the representatives of Șor Political Party and to the candidates affiliated to this party in uninominal constituencies for whom the tonality of coverage was rather positive and neutral. The tonality towards the representatives of PSRM and of the Electoral Bloc ACUM was rather negative but also neutral.

2.2 ONLINE PORTALS AND PRINT MEDIA

Frequency of coverage. Between 17 and 24 February 2019, the 16 online portals and newspapers monitored published in total 1,473 items with direct and indirect electoral content, including 1,441 news items, 23 editorials or other opinions, and 9 interviews. Some news items were accompanied by video tracks. The total amount of relevant items constitute 3,145,086 characters and 252,429 seconds of video recordings (circa 70 hours). In the last campaign week, most journalistic items relevant to this monitoring were published by the portals **Unimedia.info** (180), **Deschide.md** (159) and **Noi.md** (136). The most modest coverage of the campaign was on the regional portals **Gagauzinfo.md** (38) and **Esp.md** (43). The newspaper *Jurnal de Chișinău* published 11 stories concerning the election campaign in the report period.

Frequency of relevant items, per online portal/newspaper



Topical diversity. The political activity and the unfolding of the election process were the topics most often tackled in this period. News on the preparations for the elections day, reports and appeals lodged with CEC by the candidates, the decisions made by CEC, actions of protest, statements and mutual allegations, data of polls on the citizens' election preferences were among the subjects that dominated the content of the portals and newspapers monitored. Social subjects were tackled in electoral context more rarely; the situation in the country's economy or fighting corruption were tackled very rarely. Several portals published analyses, investigative reports of their own and detailed profiles of the candidates for MP seats, produced under the Civic Initiative for a Clean Parliament. On the eve of the elections day, many electoral education items were published. Some of the portals monitored continued the electoral debates and/or published Vox Populi – type of polls with the citizens and identified creative solutions for informing on the elections topic through podcasts, competitions, and interactive games. Some portals were especially active on the elections day, publishing a very large number of news items on the unfolding of the voting process inside and outside the country, how the candidates and other politicians voted, data about the attendance in the voting, infringements flagged, and especially about the organized transportation of groups of citizens from the Transnistrian region to vote in localities on the right bank of the Nistru River etc. Several newsrooms showed a creative approach to operative broadcasting of relevant information, including through livestreams and special applications and modules that drew public attention on that day.

Social pluralism. In the report period, the online portals and newspapers monitored used 1,914 sources from other categories in addition to the political players and the candidates when documenting their items. Most often, this involved other media outlets, CEC representatives, citizens, foreign officials and observers, entrepreneurs and other business representatives, civil society representatives etc (*see the table*).

Social sources and protagonists quoted or mentioned in the items /16 media

Sources and protagonists	Frequency, no.
Media	489
Central Election Commission	339
Citizens	286
Diplomats, foreign officials and observers	154
Business	129
Civil society – NGOs	111
Police/Army	105
Experts (foreign and local)	101
Government officials	74
Judges, lawyers	72
Local Public Administration	40
Initiative groups	11
Church	3

Political pluralism. The online portals and newspapers monitored overall used 3,216 sources and protagonists from the political area, including parties running in the national election constituency, candidates in the uninominal constituencies or top representatives of the President's Office, Parliament and Government. By frequency and duration of appearances (quotes/direct speech), the most visible candidates in the national constituency were PDM, at a certain distance followed by PSRM and the Electoral Bloc ACUM, then by Șor Political Party. Our Party and Communists Party have also been often targeted or quoted by the monitored press.

PDM enjoyed the largest coverage and direct speech/quoting space in the online media. By the number of appearances, PDM was the most visible one in 13 of the 16 media outlets monitored, PSRM in 2, and the Bloc ACUM – in one media outlet.

Frequency and duration of appearance of political party representatives, candidates in the national constituency/16 media/TOP 10

Sources and protagonists	Frequency, no.	Duration of appearance, characters	Duration of direct speech, characters
Democratic Party of Moldova	472	273073	40054
Socialists Party of Moldova	322	175033	24576
Electoral Bloc ACUM	265	158019	29134
Șor Political Party	165	101697	3420
Our Party	63	28884	3790
Communists Party of Moldova	63	28535	3683
Liberal Party	41	13611	3080
Regions Party of Moldova	21	11849	786
Professionals Movement «Speranța - Nadezhda»	14	4464	930
Democracy at Home Party	14	2617	0

The items published overall referred to 239 of the candidates registered for the elections in uninominal constituencies (1,275 times). By the frequency of their appearances, the most covered ones were Vladimir Plahotniuc/PDM, Maia Sandu/ACUM, Andrei Năstase/ACUM

and Ilan Șor/Șor Party. In terms of space/duration of appearance, the top three were approximately at the same level, while the fourth, Ilan Șor, even if with fewer appearances, yet enjoyed a much bigger coverage area than other candidates (*see table that includes the candidates mentioned at least 7 times*).

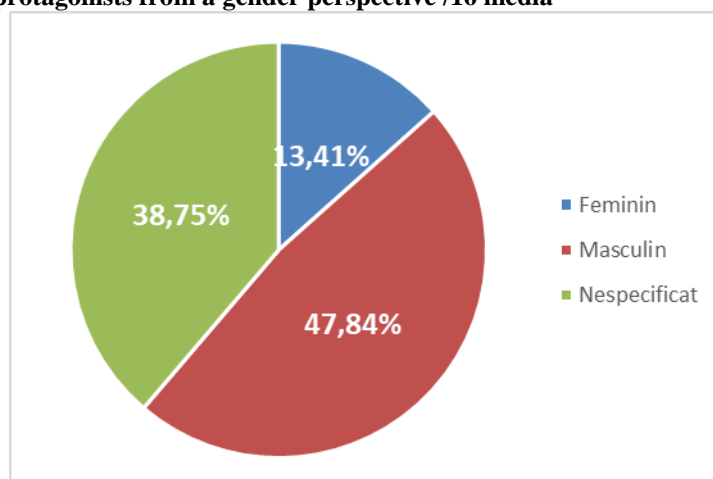
Frequency and duration of appearance of candidates in the elections in uninominal constituencies /16 media

Sources and protagonists	Frequency, no.	Duration of appearance, characters	Duration of direct speech, characters
Plahotniuc Vladimir	93	69908	11490
Sandu Maia	79	61021	10988
Năstase Andrei	76	57625	10274
Șor Ilan	69	102688	8901
Țuțu Constantin	27	18928	1020
Chirtoacă Dorin	27	23122	7610
Filip Pavel	24	12274	3129
Gaburici Chiril	16	19355	2147
Ghilețchi Valeriu	14	15637	9805
Tauber Marina	14	8051	1727
Dudoglo Nicolai	13	11392	0
Greceanii Zinaida	13	5721	2217
Munteanu Valeriu	12	6487	1274
Platon Tatiana	11	13611	4586
Cebotarescu Dumitru	11	5943	1192
Alaiba Dumitru	11	5151	203
Popșoi Mihail	10	11441	1646
Creciun Oleg	9	9425	3331
Bodnarenco Elena	9	6007	874
Savva Viorel	9	3969	1258
Para Gheorghii	9	4296	0
Neaga Petru	8	5765	1504
Jardan Petru	8	4765	21
Munteanu Igor	8	4519	573
Groza Ion	8	2239	65
Patron Alexandrin	8	2573	65
Brega Oleg	8	2648	0
Reniță Iurie	7	14341	7773
Klimenco Valerii	7	8883	230
Apostolova Reghina	7	8583	500
Vieru Călin	7	7002	2651
Grițco Elena	7	4582	340
Bînzar Oleg	7	4546	2317
Bilețchi Vlad	7	4207	1224
Nesterovschi Alexandr	7	4099	30
Bolea Vasile	7	3788	1737

Frășineanu Dorin	7	2508	0
Moroșanu Ghenadie	7	1822	0
Rența Sergiu	7	1806	0
Palancica Roman	7	1377	65
Vartanean Gaik	7	1314	0
Țîcu Octavian	7	576	0

Gender balance. The lack of gender balance in sources and protagonists decreased a little compared to the previous monitoring period. Thus, 47.84% of the sources and protagonists were males and 13.41% were females on the 16 online portals and newspapers monitored. Over one third of the relevant items did not specify the sex of the sources (*see graph*). The best ratio of men sources to women sources in this period was found in the newspaper *Jurnal de Chișinău* and on the portals **Esp.md**, **Agora.md** and **Moldova.org** (on average, 2.5 male sources accounted for one female source). The most modest men–women source ratio was found on the portal **Gagauzinfo.md** (one female source to 11 male sources).

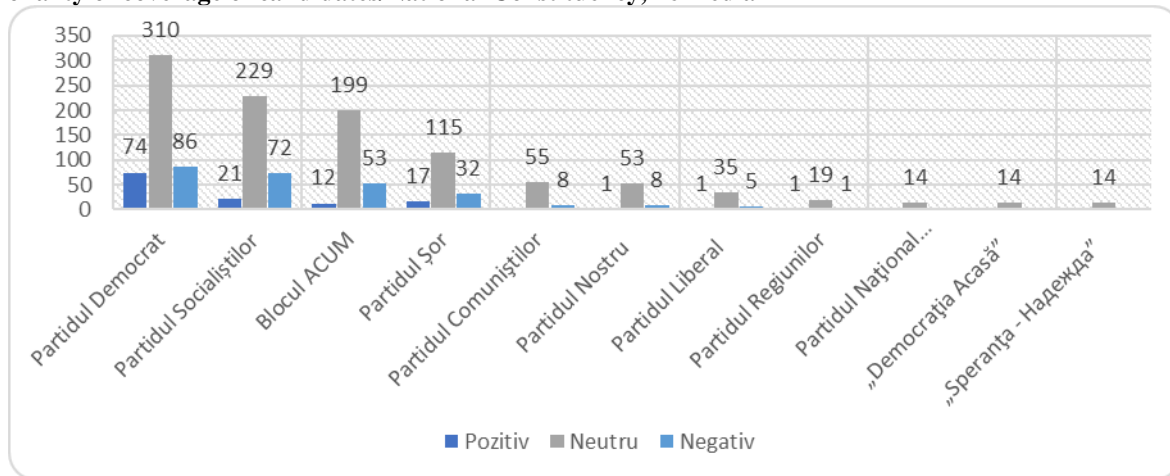
Rate of sources and protagonists from a gender perspective /16 media



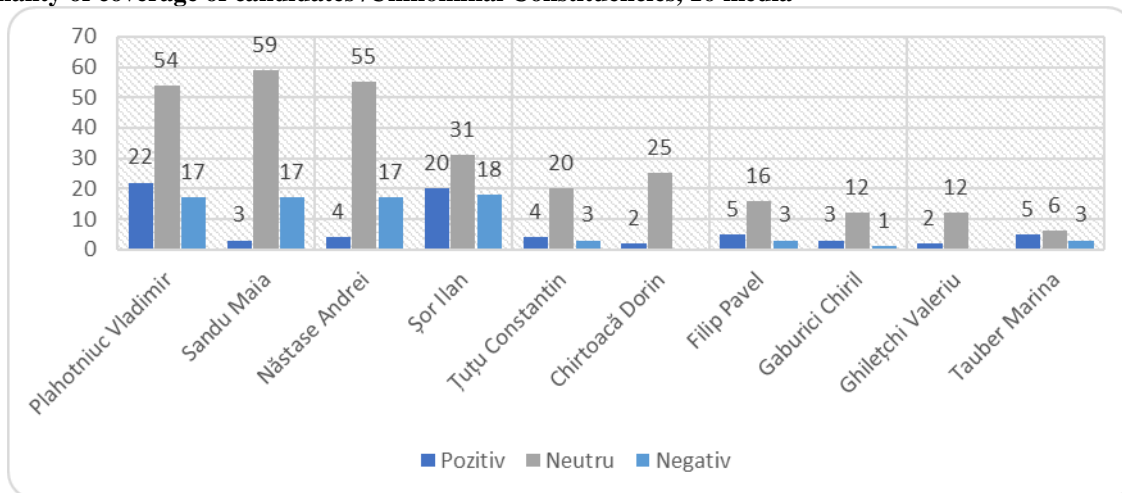
Most of the times, the tonality of coverage overall on the 16 online portals and newspapers monitored was neutral. The PDM and PSRM were most often presented in negative contexts; however, PDM had most appearances on positive tonality.

The candidates in uninominal constituencies were covered in different contexts and on different editorial tonality, mainly a neutral one. Overall, by all the 16 media outlets monitored, Vladimir Plahotniuc had the largest number of appearances on positive tonality, followed by Ilan Șor. In terms of appearances on negative tonality, the top four ones – Vladimir Plahotniuc, Maia Sandu, Andrei Năstase and Ilan Șor – virtually had the same number of negative appearances.

Tonality of coverage of candidates/National Constituency, 16 media



Tonality of coverage of candidates /Uninominal Constituencies, 16 media



Tonality of coverage of candidates in the elections per media outlet

The same general trends of coverage of the campaign and candidates, described in the previous monitoring reports, remained in the last campaign week. The portals and print media monitored could be divided into three distinct categories: media outlets that covered the elections in a conscientious and professional manner and without editorial preferences; media outlets that indirectly promoted certain candidates, without disfavoring the others; media outlets that provided open and massive information support to some candidates, publishing positive items about them and criticism about their opponents, or covering the campaign selectively, by excluding the items that did not fit in their editorial policy during the elections. As a whole, online media contained many items presented from a single source or without granting the right of reply to the ones accused.

In the report period, the portal **Agora.md** maintained its generally neutral tonality of presentation of all candidates in the elections.

The portal **Aif.md** further favored PSRM through a large number of neutral and positive news items about this candidate and about President Igor Dodon. Other candidates, especially PDM, were mainly presented on negative tonality.

As in the previous monitoring periods, the portal **Deschide.md** presented Igor Dodon and PSRM mainly on negative tonality, editorially disfavoring them. The other candidates were presented differently, more often neutrally but also negatively and positively.

The portal **Diez.md** covered the campaign and the elections in a balanced manner; however, in the report period, PDM had a higher number of appearances on positive tonality, at the same level with its neutral appearances.

The Bălți-based portal **Esp.md** covered the campaign from regional perspective, presenting the candidates on neutral tonality each time.

The Comrat-based portal **Gagauzinfo.md** also covered the election campaign only from regional perspective. Most of its news in the last campaign week concerned the independent candidate Nicolai Dudoglo who had previously been stated to be affiliated to PDM, being disfavored through the tonality of presentation and allegations made against him, without being granted the right of reply. This portal maintained its anti-Dudoglo character throughout the election campaign.

The newspaper *Jurnal de Chișinău* presented the candidates of PDM, Șor Party and PSRM on generally negative tonality, which could be seen in its editorials in most cases but also in some problem stories.

In the last campaign week, the portal **Kp.md** continued to favor PSRM but intensified its criticism towards the Electoral Bloc ACUM and especially to its leaders Maia Sandu and Andrei Năstase. Hence, most of its election items concerned the Bloc ACUM, with over two-thirds of them being on negative tonality, in texts containing cause-effect estimations, speculations, labels and allegations, without granting the right of reply.

The portal **Moldova.org** had a generally neutral tonality in most items published about the elections and the candidates.

The portal **Newsmaker.md** also had a generally neutral tonality in most news concerning the campaign and the candidates and yet slightly disfavored the PDM candidates Vladimir Plahotniuc and Ilan Șor, by the number of items on negative rather than neutral tonality.

The portal **Noi.md** further published a large number of news items on the activities of President Igor Dodon, on generally neutral tonality, PSRM being slightly favored. At the same time, the Șor Party was disfavored by the relatively high number of appearances on negative tonality.

The portal **Realitatea.md** reported generally neutrally the campaign-related events, slightly favoring the PDM. On the elections day, it largely informed about the participation of the candidates in the elections, except for the leaders of the Bloc ACUM.

The portal **Sputnik.md** again this week had a selective editorial approach to the campaign coverage. On the other hand, it intensely covered the activities of President Dodon, the PSRM candidate being slightly favored. On the other hand, it overlooked some important subjects with electoral content.

The portal **Timpul.md** continued to favor massively the PDM and its leader Vladimir Plahotniuc. It similarly favored the Șor Party, by taking over in full the communiqués posted on the websites Partidulsor.md or Orhei.md. In contrast, Igor Dodon, PSRM, and the leaders

of the Bloc ACUM Andrei Năstase and Maia Sandu were disfavored by being nearly each time presented on negative tonality. On the elections day, the portal covered how the PDM leaders voted and their declarations, whereas the leaders of the Bloc ACUM were overlooked.

In the report period, the portal **Unimedia.info** covered the campaign and the candidates on mainly neutral tonality.

The portal **Zdg.md** also maintained a neutral editorial approach to the campaign and the candidates. However, some of its items displayed negative tonality towards the PDM, the Șor Political Party, and the PSRM.

The full monitoring reports are posted in Romanian language on the websites www.alegeliber.md, www.api.md și www.media-azi.md.