

Causes and Implications of Media Polarization in Georgia and V4 states

Concluding Public Discussion

April 15, 2024 | 12:00h (GMT +4) | 10:00h (CET)
Tbilisi Marriott/Hybrid

The emerging polarization has changed the media landscape and the political power relationships in Georgia and Visegrad countries like Czechia, Poland, Hungary, and Slovakia. Nowadays, not only domestic but also foreign political issues appear as polarizing factors, especially after the Russian invasion of Ukraine. In such a polarized environment, it became particularly challenging for the voters to make an informed decision at the elections. Therefore, important is to build the public discussion around the following questions:

- To what extent do the domestic and external factors increase the polarization level according to the perceptions of the media experts and journalists from Georgia and V4 states?
- What is the interrelation between political and media polarization in Georgia and V4 states?
- What are the effective instruments for mitigating media polarization?
- How can media play a positive role in voters's informed decision-making?

The discussion takes place on the 15th of April, at 12:00h (Tbilisi time, GMT+4), at the Tbilisi Marriott Hotel. The event is organized under the framework of the project "Supporting Decrease of Media Polarization in Georgia and V4 States." At the concluding discussion researchers from Georgia, Slovakia, Poland, Czechia, and Hungary will present the findings of the joint report about media polarization in Georgia and V4 states. The event will be held in English language and it will be held in a hybrid format. The audience from Georgia will have an opportunity to attend the event on place, while the interested audience from the V4 states will be able to join the discussion online.

The project is co-financed by the Governments of Czechia, Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia through Visegrad Grants from the International Visegrad Fund. And also by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea. The mission of the fund is to advance ideas for sustainable regional cooperation in Central Europe.

Attendees from Georgia can register at the following [LINK](#) to attend the event offline.

Attendees based in Visegrad and other countries can participate in the event online by registering at the following [LINK](#).

Agenda:

12:00 - 12:10

Opening remarks

12:10 - 12:20

*The rise of polarization and its
consequences for liberal democracy*

12:20 - 12:25

Georgian perspective

12:25 - 12:30

Slovak perspective

12:30 - 12:35

Czech perspective

12:35 - 12:43

Hungarian perspective

12:43- 12:48

Polish Perspective

12:48 - 13:20

13:20 - 13:30

13:30 - 14:00

Moderator: Renata Skardžiūtė-Kereselidze,
Deputy Director, Georgian Institute of Politics
(GIP)

Dr. Václav Štětka, Reader in Comparative
Political Communication, Loughborough
University

Salome Kandelaki, Project Manager &
Policy Analyst, Georgian Institute of Politics
(GIP)

Jan Cingel, Founder & President, Strategic
Analysis Think Tank

Miloš Gregor, Ph.D. Assistant professor,
Department of Political Science, Masaryk
University

István Hegedűs, Chairman, Hungarian Europe
Society

Erik Uszkiewicz, Lawyer & Vice-Chairperson,
Hungarian Europe Society

Katarzyna Chimiak, Analyst & Project
Coordinator, the European and Migration Policy
Program, Institute of Public Affairs (IPA)

Q&A Sessions

Summarising Discussion

Reception