

Analysing Polarization in Georgia and V4 States: Domestic and External Factors

Virtual Public Discussion

Zoom Webinar [Registration Link](#)

September 29, 2023, 13:00 GMT +4

Language: English

The media landscape is highly polarized in Georgia and V4 states. There is a lack of media agencies without political affiliations in these states. Media is responsible for polarizing societies since they do not allow the public to make an informed choice due to the one-sided broadcasting tradition that they follow. This has a negative impact on democracy and makes electoral decision-making difficult. Moreover, since the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the developments have dominated the media agenda, and the political situation has become more sensitive for society. If previously the polarization mainly related to domestic political developments, after Russia's invasion of Ukraine, foreign policy also became a matter of polarization especially in Georgia and in some of the V4 states. Therefore, the aim of the public discussion is to respond to the following questions:

- What are the key domestic and external stimulators of media polarization in Georgia and V4 states?
- How does media polarization in Georgia and V4 states influence the political processes?
- What could be the role of media in reducing societal and political polarization based on best international practices?

The virtual discussion is held under the framework of the project “Supporting Decrease of Media Polarization in Georgia and V4 States.” The action aims to mitigate deepening media polarization in support of voters’ informed decision-making in Georgia and V4 states.

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.

Agenda:

Moderator: **Rayhan Demytrie**, Correspondent, BBC News

13:00 - 13:10

Opening remarks

Salome Kandelaki, Project Coordinator,
Georgian Institute of Politics (GIP)

Panel discussion on Media Polarization in Georgia and V4 states

- *Domestic and external stimulators of media polarization in Georgia and V4 states*
- *Influence of media polarization in Georgia and V4 states influence the political process*
- *The role of media in reducing societal and political polarization based on best international practices*

13:10 - 13:15

Georgian perspective

Nino Gelashvili, Senior Editor, Radio Free Europe

13:15 - 13:20

Political polarization of media during the 2023 early elections' campaign in Slovakia

Jan Cingel, Founder and President, Strategic Analysis Think Tank

13:20 - 13:25

Czech Perspective

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

13:25 - 13:30

Media Polarization as a Political Agenda in Hungary

Erik Uszkiewicz, lawyer, Vice-Chairperson of the Hungarian Europe Society

13:30 - 13:35

Polish Perspective

Katarzyna Chimiak, Analyst and project coordinator, The European and Migration Policy Program of the Institute of Public Affairs (IPA)

13:35 - 14:10

Q&A Session

14:10 - 14:30

Summarizing remarks