



MACEDONIA DEMOCRACY WATCH

REPORT BASED ON THE MONITORING OF TV NEWS PROGRAMMES

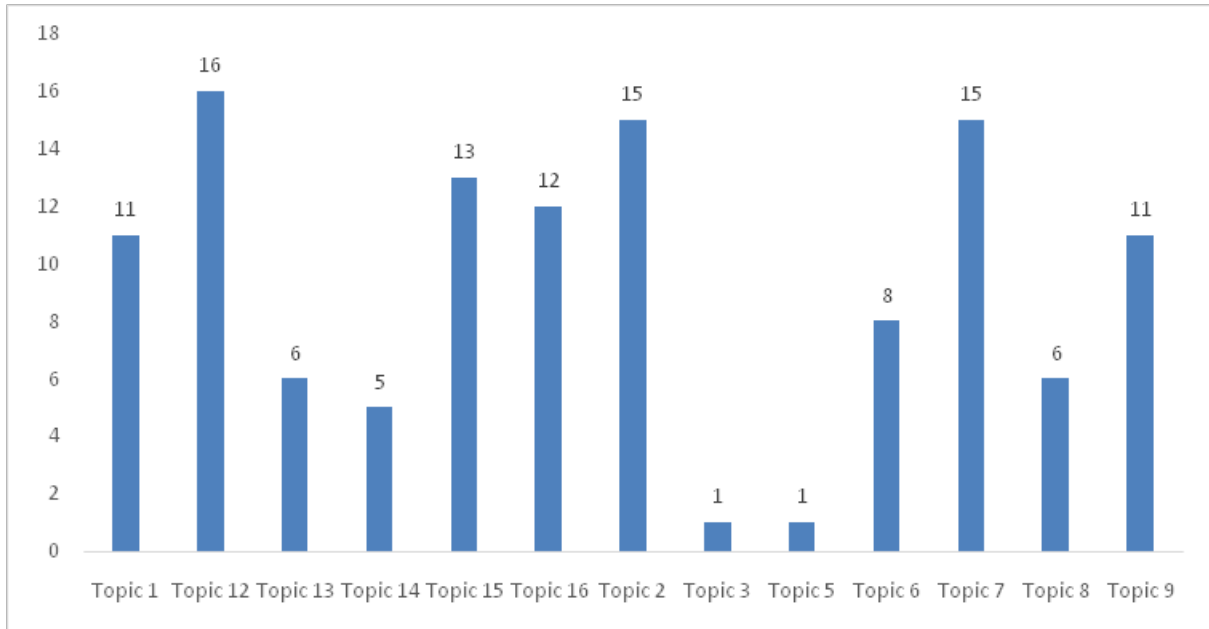


24 VESTI

1. COVERED TOPICS

TV station 24 Vesti aired a total of 107 reports during the monitored period, which referred to political actors, processes and situations. The medium outlet focused most of its attention on topics regarding the econ-

omy (16 reports), including the debts of the state towards the business sector, the decline of unemployment, preparations of the budget, etc. Among the more common topics were those referring to pre-election ac-



Number of reports on 24 Vesti, in relation to the different topics (September 5 – 9 and 11 – 16)

Topic 1	Organizing early parliamentary elections (preparation of the voters' registry, the issue with the exceedingly high number of voters in the sixth electoral unit, etc.)
Topic 2	Pre-election activities of political parties (all activities involving announcements, promises and reactions to them)
Topic 3	Promotion of Government projects and measures (the measures, most often in agriculture, were promoted by Government representatives from VMRO-DPMNE)
Topic 4	Government projects and measures that promote political parties and leaders
Topic 5	Pre-election promises of Government representatives
Topic 6	Other activities of Government representatives
Topic 7	The work of the Special Public Prosecutor's Office (including other topics related to SPPO, as waiting for the Constitutional Court to give a statement about its constitutionality)
Topic 8	Dealing with the consequences from the flooding in August (including Parliamentary sessions on this topic)
Topic 9	Marking 25 years since Macedonia declared independence (including the analytical stories about how much the country has progressed)
Topic 10	Honoring Mother Teresa
Topic 11	Zoran Zaev's announcement for expanded use of Albanian language
Topic 12	The state of the economy (state debt to the business sector, unemployment statistics, budget preparations)
Topic 13	Borrowing and public debt
Topic 14	The media and the work of the media
Topic 15	The work of the institutions
Topic 16	Other topics

tivities of political parties, the work of the Special Public Prosecutor’s Office, the work of the institutions, the public debt, marking 25 years of independence (including analyses of the progress of the country in the 25

years), the preparations for elections including the issue with the sixth electoral unit, the consequences from the floods in the Skopje region including the Parliamentary debate about them, etc.

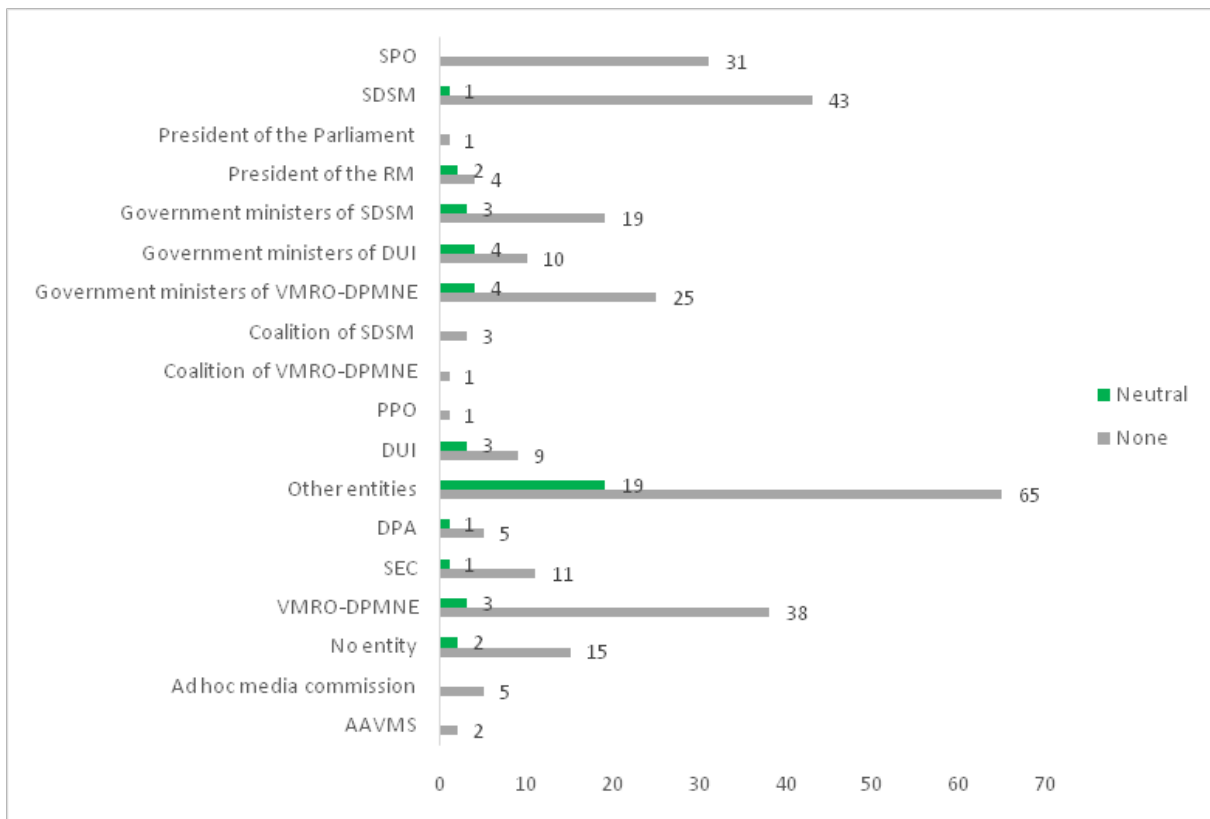
2. POLITICAL ENTITIES

In most of the cases (84), the reports of the TV station did not present political parties, rather they focused on ‘other entities’. This means institutions such as the Constitutional Court, the Economic Chamber, MANU and others, or the reports referred to ministries and state bodies without mentioning the political entities that are at their helm, in accordance with the principle of separating the state from the parties. In 19 of these reports, a neutrally criticizing attitude was expressed towards the following entities: The Constitutional Court did not express their view about SPPO (September 5), the ideals from 1991 were not met (September 8), the budget is prepared, there will be a new conflict (September 16).

Apart from this, reports were also aired regarding the smaller political parties (Levica, the right-winged coalition, etc.), that were also included in this category. SDSM and VMRO-DPMNE are represented in almost the same number of

reports (SDSM 44, VMRO-DPMNE 41), and DUI (1) and DPA (6) were much less present. The Special Public Prosecutor’s Office was presented in 31 reports, and the State Elections Commission in 12, almost all of them pertained to the work of these institutions in the relevant period. Government representatives from various parties were almost equally presented too. The TV station did not express any explicit positive or negative opinion in any segment. A neutrally criticizing stand was expressed in 43 reports, towards Ministers from DUI (the Minister of Justice not coming up with a solution for the issue with the sixth electoral unit), Government representatives from SDSM and VMRO-DPMNE (the old and new story in Mol) and towards other entities.

The medium outlet regularly followed current events of public interest, they reported them and analyzed them in accordance with how important they are.

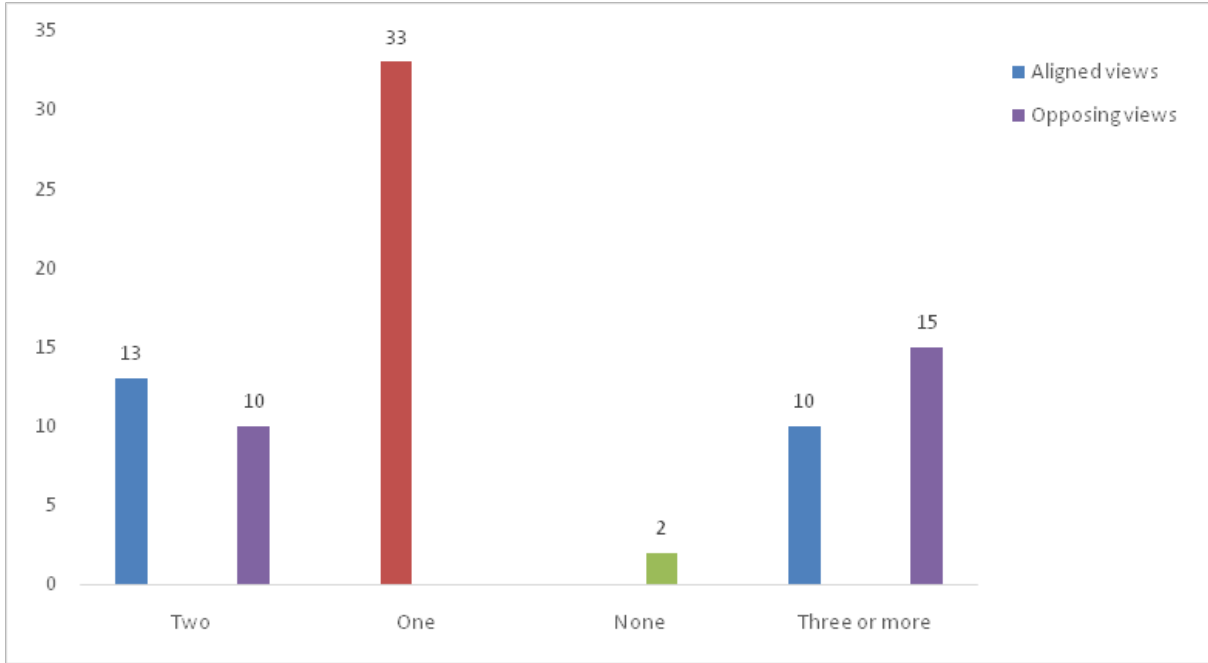


Number of reports and manner of framing of political entities (September 5 - 9 and 11 - 16)

3. USING SOURCES

In most of the reports (48), the rule of quoting two or more sources was complied with, and they were divided into almost equal halves, one with aligned views and the one with oppos-

ing views. 33 reports had only one source, and two of them did not have explicitly provided sources (retrospective reports on the occasion of 25 years of independence).



Using sources in the news on 24 Vesti (September 5 – 9 and 11 – 16)