



MACEDONIA DEMOCRACY WATCH



MACEDONIAN TELEVISION SECOND SERVICE

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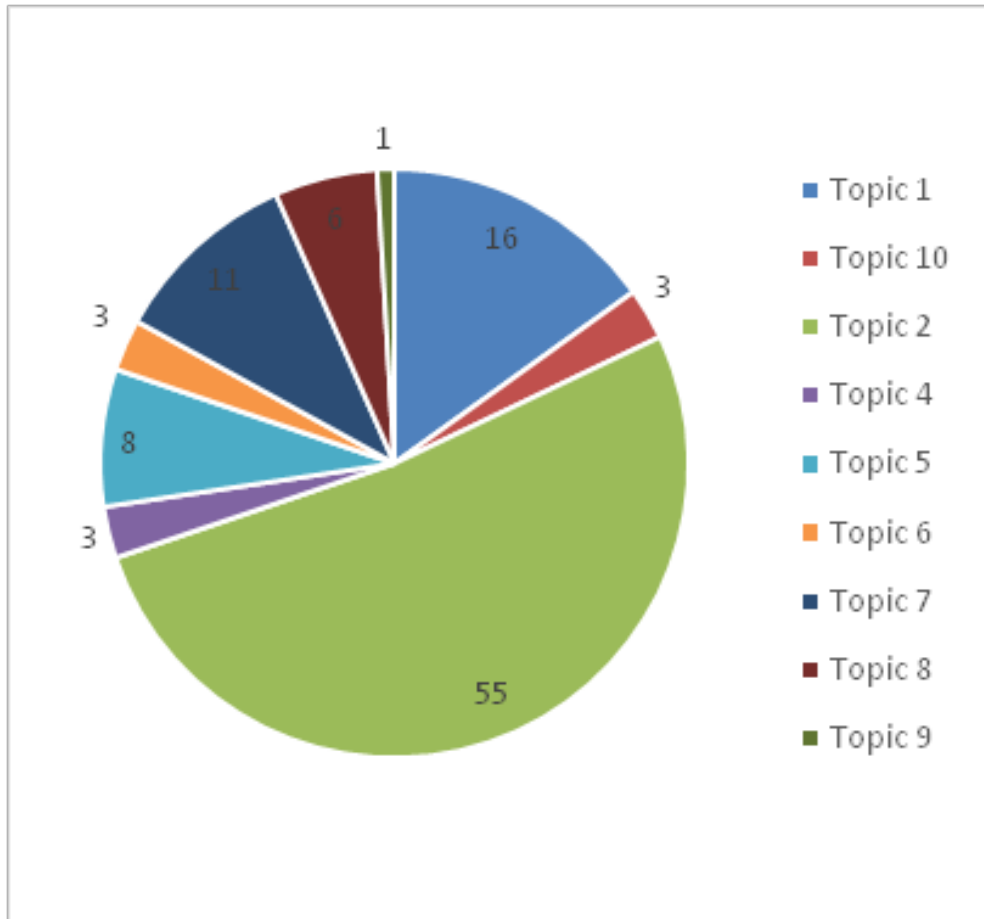
GENERAL CONCLUSION ABOUT THE REPORTING OF MTV2

- The second programme of the Macedonian Television, in the news in Albanian, published a total of 106 reports, during the monitored period, about political entities, pre-election campaign activities and other political events and actors. Most of them (55) focused on pre-election activities of the parties, then came the reports about preparations of the elections (16), the regular work of national and local institutions (11), the work of the SPPO (8), the accusations about the state bilingualism and federalization concept (6), and three reports each about the work of the officials and topics that fall under the category Miscellaneous in this monitoring period (the Day of the Albanian Flag).
- Reports were made about all current events of the monitored period. The number of reports that covered the activities of the ruling and the oppositional parties pointed to reporting that favours DUI and their party officials (53), then came VMRO-DPMNE and their coalition and officials (49) as well as SDSM, their coalition and officials were the subjects of 40 reports. DPA were mentioned as a subject in 20 reports. In terms of quality, reports on MTV 2 almost never contained a positive or negative journalist attitude towards any participant in the political process.
- In terms of quantity, when reporting about the pre-election campaign of political entities, DUI and their officials were most commonly present (34), VMRO DPMNE, their coalition and officials were present in 33 reports, SDSM in 26, while the other smaller oppositional parties and coalitions were presented substantially less often. In terms of quality, the reporting was anachronous, without any engagement from the journalists and without any critical or neutral approach.

1. COVERED TOPICS

What prevailed in the first ten days of the election campaign, on the news in Albanian of the second programme service were the activities (gatherings, rallies, meetings with citizens) of political party representatives. Nonetheless, the TV station set aside a significant portion of their time in the journal to cover other topics, such as the work of

the SPPO and the problems of the Criminal Court, and several reports focused on the issue of accusations coming from the Government towards the opposition about state bilingualism and federalization, the celebration of Albanian Flag Day and the commendations of Kosovo's Prime Minister to 118 Macedonian nationals.



Number of reports on MTV2, in relation to the different topics (November 21 - 29)

Topic 1	Organization of early parliamentary elections (voters' registry, issues with the number of voters, following up on potential irregularities, etc).
Topic 2	Pre-election campaigns of political parties (all activities including rallies, announcements for rallies, meetings with the people, promises, press releases, reactions, etc.).
Topic 3	Promotion of Government projects and measures
Topic 4	Other activities of Government officials (protocol meetings, statements and other regular activities)
Topic 5	The work of the Special Public Prosecutor's Office
Topic 6	The work of the Agency for Audio and Audiovisual Media Services (AAMS) and the Ad Hoc body
Topic 7	Regular operations of state institutions, courts, local self-government (reports in which the media do not report about political parties, rather they report of various public interest problems and issues)
Topic 8	State bilingualism and federalization
Topic 9	Public opinion polls
Topic 10	Other topics (celebrating Albanian Flag Day)

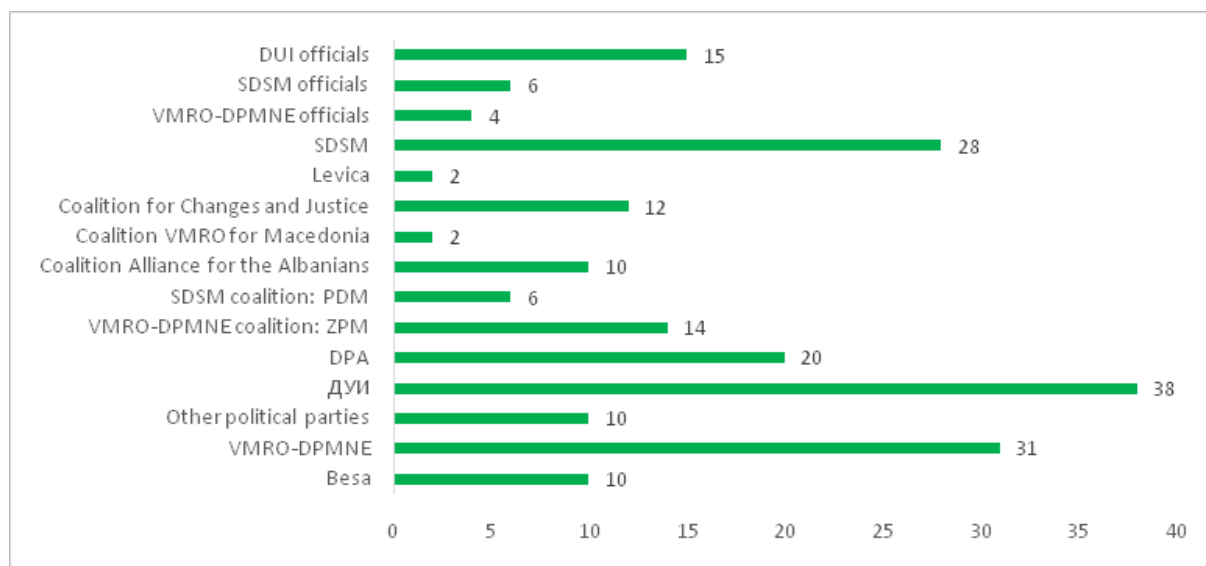
2. POLITICAL PLURALISM IN THE OVERALL REPORTING ON DOMESTIC EVENTS

In the news in Albanian, MTV's second service, reported about all events that were current during the period of monitoring. The number of reports that focused on the activities of the ruling and oppositional parties points to a visible lack of balance, since 53 were about DUI and their officials, 49 about VMRO-DPMNE, their coalition and officials, while the subject of 40 reports were SDSM, their officials and coalition while in 20 reports it was DPA.

None of the reports contained an expressed journalist opinion. Also absent were well-argued

critical observations for the journalists, although public services in particular should play the role of critics of policies on behalf of public interest. In 12 reports, the topic was the activities of the Coalition for Justice and Changes, 10 reports each were dedicated to the parties Besa, the Coalition Alliance for Albanians and other political parties, in 2 it was Levica and also in 2 it was the Coalition VMRO for Macedonia. The reports anachronously followed the events, without journalistic engagement, through consistent conveyance of the statements of political actors.

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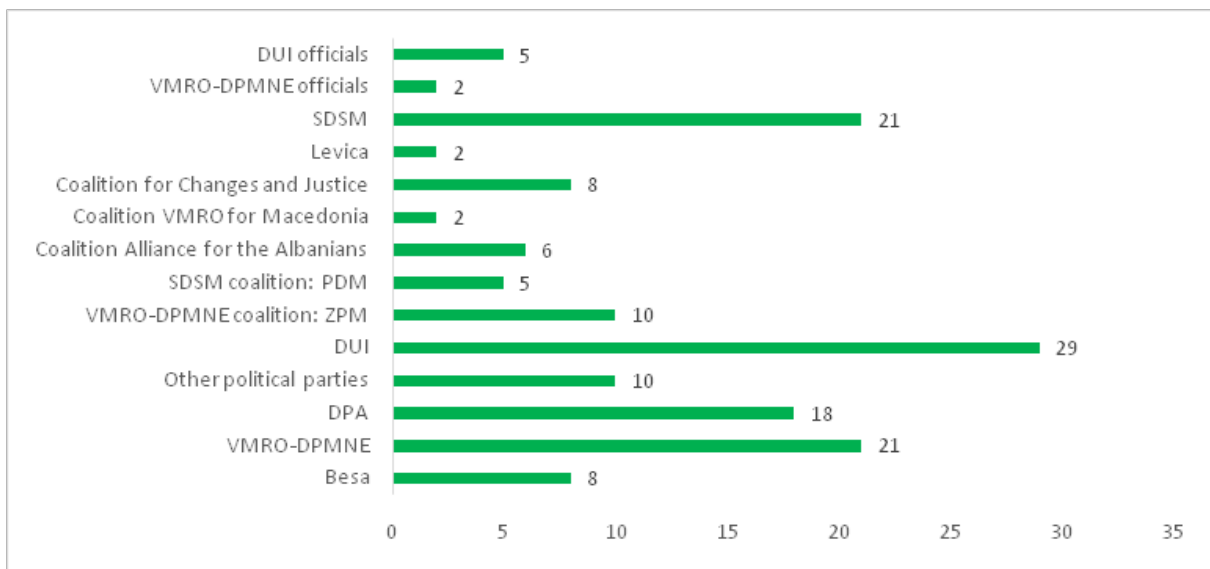
Number of reports about political entities (shown as part of the total number of reports) and the manner in which they were framed (November 21 - 29)

3. BALANCE IN REPORTING ON THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN OF POLITICAL ENTITIES

When speaking specifically about the topic ‘Party activities for the political campaign’, in terms of quantity there is a visible advantage in the reporting for the pre-election campaign of DUI and the officials (34 reports). Then followed VMRO-DPMNE and their coalition and officials, in 33 reports, and SDSM in 26. The other smaller oppositional parties and coalitions were much less present: 18 for DPA, 8 reports for the

activities of Besa and the Coalition for Change and Justice, while in 6 reports it was the Coalition Alliance for Albanians, 2 for Levica and also 2 for the Coalition VMRO for Macedonia.

In terms of quality, these reports, as well as all others simply denoted the messages, statements, events from pre-election appearances of representatives of the political parties and coalitions.



Number of reports about political entities (shown as part of the reports on the pre-election campaign) and the manner in which they were framed (November 21 - 29)

4. APPROACH TO REPORTING ON SPECIFIC TOPICS

In 6 reports the TV stations reported about the topic of federalization and state bilingualism. Then, the statements of politicians from the ruling party were conveyed as accusations

against the opposition, however a journalistic opinion was not identified in the framing of these reports (23.11. Elections 2016. Gruevski: We support coexistence, not federalization’).