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**Monitoring of elections television news
in Poland 2006-2011**

Warsaw, April 2012

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in 2006 coordinated by Andrzej Krajewski,

in 2010 coordinated by Wojciech Mazowiecki,

in 2010 coordinated by Grażyna Szymańska-Matusiewicz and Małgorzata Głowania,

in 2011 coordinated by Andrzej Krajewski.

Executive summary

In the years 2006-2011 Batory Foundation conducted four monitorings of television information news at the time of elections in Poland. All four monitorings analyzed the role of the most popular television news in shaping the image of the elections' candidates.

The methodology of these monitoring has been changing, but not substantially, which makes comparisons of their results possible. In the 2006 monitoring, positive, neutral and negative labels of tone were attached to the news items. Also, level of detail, level of understanding, fairness, balance of opinion, newsworthiness, manipulations and omissions were investigated. The 2010 methodology included quantitative and qualitative analysis, including timing of other persons (journalists, experts, politicians) talking about the candidates. An *official time* for incumbents was introduced. In 2011 monitoring the analysis of content was added to quantitative and qualitative analysis.

The results of monitorings proved that in different years public television treated politicians according to the balance of political power in TVP management. In 2006 incumbents, but only from the ruling party, got more coverage; if in 2010 presidential elections the acting president won the seat without support of public television. In 2011 we found that election news was more important for private broadcasters than for the public ones. The prime minister got the best coverage, but in the last week before elections the opposition leader got more time on air. Public television was better than private news in covering party programs and devoted more time for information about elections and calls for voting.

Before starting monitoring elections project it is worth to ask few basic questions about aim and resources necessary to fulfill this project. Cooperation with institutions linked at the end of the report is also an option.

Chapter 1. Monitorings' basic information

During 2006-2011 the Batory Foundation conducted four monitorings of television information news at the time of elections on Poland. In 2006 and 2010 they were local elections, in 2010 - presidential elections and in 2011 - parliamentary ones.

During local elections in 2006 and 2010, two public national information news were analyzed plus five local public television stations news in 2006 and 16 local public television stations news in 2010.

During presidential elections of 2010, four information news of public television were monitored. In parliamentary elections of 2011, on top of the same four public television information news, two private televisions news (Polsat and TVN) were included into the monitoring.

Detailed information about the projects and reports from all four monitoring, in Polish, is available at:

http://www.batory.org.pl/programy_operacyjne/masz_glos_masz_wybor/monitoring_programow_informacyjnych

Chapter 2. The goals of the monitorings

All four monitorings analyzed the role of the most popular television news in shaping the image of the candidates.

The monitoring of local elections in 2006 focused on comparing the presence of incumbents and non-incumbent candidates in television news.

In 2010, also before local elections, the aim of the monitoring was described as: "Finding out how public television fulfills the obligation to inform citizens about local elections and electoral committees taking part in them".

Before presidential elections of 2010 the aim of monitoring was: "Finding out how much time the main news of public television devoted to individual candidates and define the way the candidates were presented on air".

Before parliamentary elections of 2011, the aim of analysis was set up as: „Finding out how six most viewed television news fulfill the aim of providing information to the public about the candidates for MP' and senators' seats".

Chapter 3. The monitorings' methodology

In the four monitorings of election coverage by television broadcasters, done by Batory Foundation, the methodology has not changed substantially, which makes comparisons of their results possible.

2006: In the first monitoring quantitative and qualitative news analysis was applied by the same team of researchers. The qualitative analysis was very detailed, taking into account not only positive, neutral and negative labels attached to the news items, but also level of detail, level of understanding, fairness, balance of opinion, newsworthiness, manipulations and omissions.

The quantitative analysis began with sorting out *electoral* and *non-electoral* news. Electoral ones were analyzed further, non-electoral news were ignored, except when they included the candidate or reference to elections. The theme, author and time of news unit were recorded, as well as the party it was dealing with. Information such as: position in the news (first, second, etc.), length of coverage in seconds, presence in the headlines of the program, was also recorded.

In the qualitative part of the analysis, in addition to the measures of the news tone: positive, negative or neutral, four other factors were taken into account: information level (1-general, 2-detailed, 3-analytical); level of news complication (1-difficult, 2-medium, 3-easy); balance of opinions (1-lack of, 2-somewhat balanced, 3-fully balanced), newsworthiness (1-real news, 0-old story). Researchers were asked to record whether the news contained any sort of manipulation (0-no manipulation, 1- manipulation, describe it) and omissions (0-no omissions, 1-omissions,describe them).

After a trial week of monitoring the correction was made, introducing the party that received the majority of coverage (*majority party*) in every analyzed news item, because almost all electoral news dealt with more than one party and their candidates.

2010: In the quantitative analysis the news were divided into units classified as:

1. election topics: units devoted to candidates' campaign - to be analyzed.
2. election related topics: units dealing with more than one candidate or person associated with the candidate (the list of such persons was earlier discussed and presented to the monitoring team) - to be analyzed.
3. non-election topics (culture, sport events etc.) - not to be analyzed, unless the candidates or associated persons were present or talked about in them.

Short news summaries presented at the beginning, in the middle and at the end of news were treated as separate units and analyzed accordingly.

The following forms of presentations of news units were distinguished :

1. Candidate's face and voice (sound bite).
2. Candidate's picture and narrator's talk.
3. Associated person's face and voice.
4. Associated person's picture and narrator's talk.
5. Narrator's talk with pictures illustrating the issues talked about.

When the news units were dealing with more than one candidate and there was no clear way to divide news into smaller units devoted to a single candidate, the time of these units was allotted to all candidates mentioned in the unit. When one candidate talked about the other candidate, the time of that talk was listed for both of them. Therefore, usually the time of all accounted units exceeded the real time of the broadcast.

Reporters' comments (*stand-ups*) were not accounted for.

For every candidate **net and gross time** was counted. Candidate's net time was a sum of:

1. Time of units dealing with the candidate (points 1,2 and 5 above)
2. Time of candidate's speech in other candidates units.
3. Time of candidate's pictures in other candidates units.

Candidate's gross time was a sum of:

1. Candidate's net time.
2. Time of associated persons talk.
3. Time of associated persons pictures.
4. Time of talk about candidate and associated persons in other candidates units and election-related units.

Example:

Prime minister's gross time in the news was a sum of:

1. Sound bite of PM talking about Euro 2012 -12 sec.;
2. Narrator's comment on Euro2012, following the PM sound bite, with pictures of PM visiting stadiums and roads under construction - 10 sec.;
3. Sound bite of opposition leader talking about failure of PM promises about roads ready for Euro2012 - 8 sec.;
4. Narrator summary of further comments by leader of opposition, criticizing the PM, with pictures of the opposition leader - 5 sec.;
5. Minister of transport sound bite about the roads- 5 sec.;
6. pictures of PM leading the ministers' session in the other opposition candidate unit- 4 sec.

Total time: 44 sec.

Candidate's gross time was of special importance for the candidates representing strong political parties that have broad support of well known public figures and incumbents (holders of official positions in the administration).

To measure how much of the gross time was accumulated because of official positions of the candidates, the category of **official time** was introduced into the monitoring. The official time was the time of coverage connected with fulfilling of his/her official function (prime minister, minister, town mayor etc.).

The quantitative analysis findings were presented in form of rankings of candidates in the every monitored news (their time there) and a summary of their time in all four observed news.

The qualitative analysis measured the way the candidate was presented on screen. It had three tones: positive, negative and neutral. If there was a balance of positive and negative elements in the news unit, the neutral tone was applied. News unit was also considered neutral if the substance and presentation of news about the candidate and associated persons had neutral influence on his/her image.

For the sake of transparency of qualitative analysis results, every information was initially treated as neutral; if this preposition was wrong, the justification had to be presented in writing, by at least two analysts, in a way understandable for those who did not see the news. Additionally, the justifications of positive and negative tone had to published.

The qualitative labels were applied to:

1. Candidate's face and voice.
2. Candidate's picture and narrator's talk.
3. Associated person's face and voice.
4. Associated person's face and narrator's talk.
5. Narrator's talk dealing with candidate, with pictures illustrating the issues talked about.

The result of qualitative analysis was presented in time charts dividing all time devoted to a single candidate into neutral, positive and negative parts, applied to his/her net and gross time.

In critiquing the presidential elections 2010 methodology, the authors observed that the list of associated persons should have also included persons who had been in the same party or administration as the candidate, but during the campaign were no longer party members or were not holding any official positions.

Another conclusion was that favorable or negative editorial comments made by reporters, which were not accounted for, should have been included into the gross time of the candidates, because journalists' opinions had strong influence on viewers.

2010: In the third monitoring, conducted before local elections, the methodology was very similar to the one used in presidential elections described above. The journalists' comments dealing with candidates of parties, were added to their gross time, but only when they were presented in a form of stand-up (reporter talking directly to the camera).

2011: few corrections of 2010 methodology were done. The quantitative analysis remained the same. In qualitative analysis the election information was classified in seven categories, such as:

1. General information
2. Candidates' and parties program information
3. Campaign news
4. Law breaking news
5. Bad practices descriptions
6. Election polls results
7. Other information.

For the first time on top of quantitative and qualitative analysis, the analysis of content was introduced (more at chapter 4.C).

Chapter 4. What could we prove?

A. Quantitative analysis

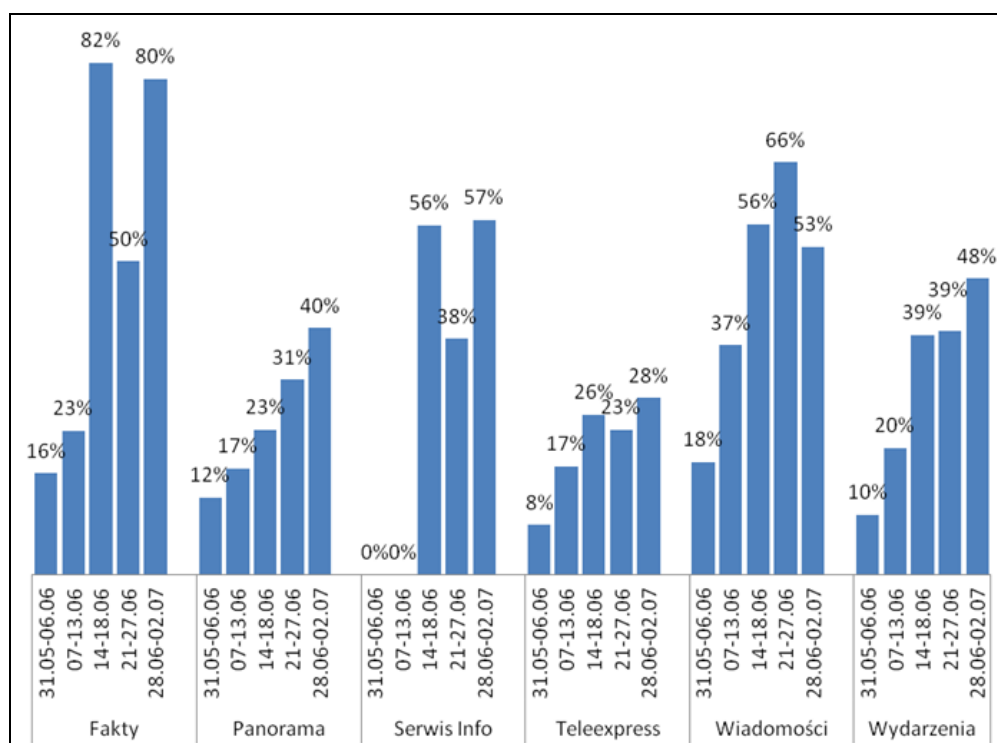
A1. Were elections important?

To measure it one should record the place of electoral news on general news agenda:

Table 1. The place of election news (1, 2, 3...) in six news observed in 2011

Week I	09.19	09.20	09.21	09.22	09.23	09.24	09.25
Wiadomości	1	1	1	1	2	1	1
Teleexpress	1	1	1	2	3	2	2
Panorama	5	2	1	2	5	2	1
Serwis Info	3	1	1	No service	2	1	4
Wydarzenia	1	2	1	2	1	1	1
Fakty	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

2011 monitoring found that election coverage was important for television news programs; electoral news were usually at the beginning of news. Surprisingly, commercial stations paid more attention to elections and gave them more time. *Fakty* TVN devoted to elections more than half of its time; elections' share of time there was growing closer to election date. In the last week before elections Polsat's *Wydarzenia* also had more than half of the program about them.

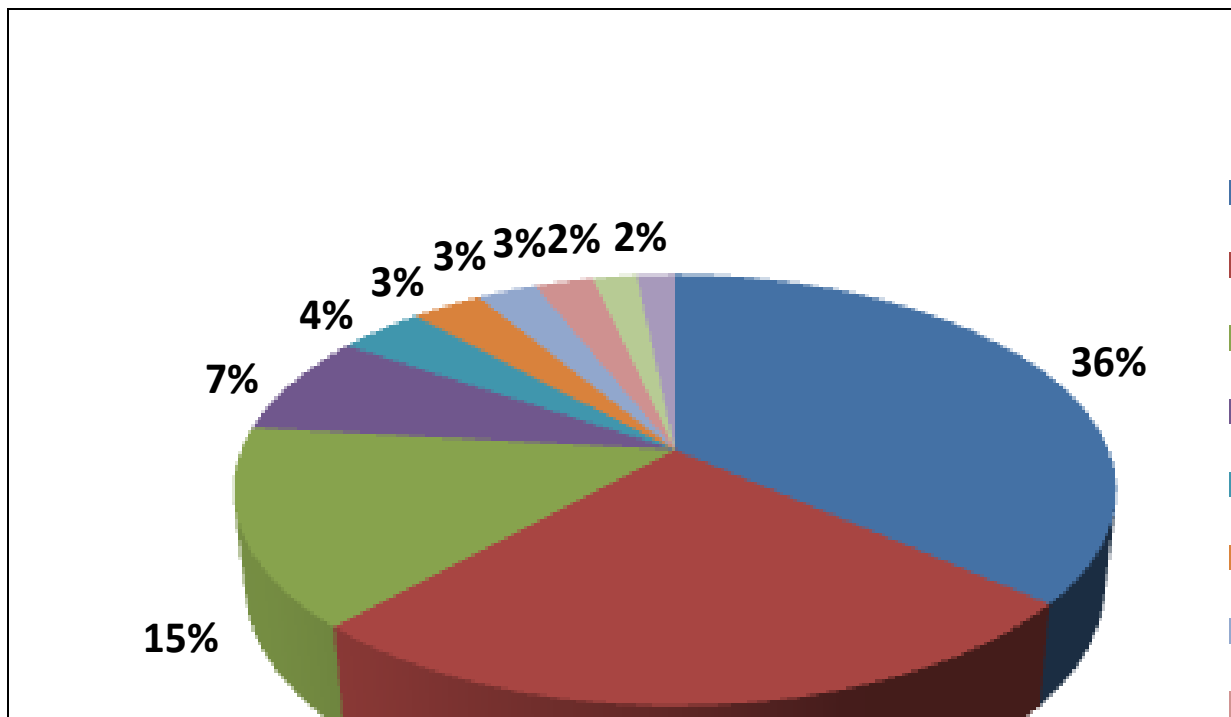
Table 2. Percentage share of elections' content in *Fakty* (TVN), four TVP news, *Wydarzenia* (Polsat) before 2010 presidential elections

Monitoring of 2010 local elections found that they were placed much lower on news agenda than presidential and parliamentary ones. On *Wiadomości* and *Panorama*, two national news of public television, before first round of elections, only 18 and 12 percent of their time was devoted to them. Before the second round the coverage slipped to 8 and 5 percent of entire news time. In local public television news the record share of time allotted for elections was 34 percent.

A.2. How much time got every candidate?

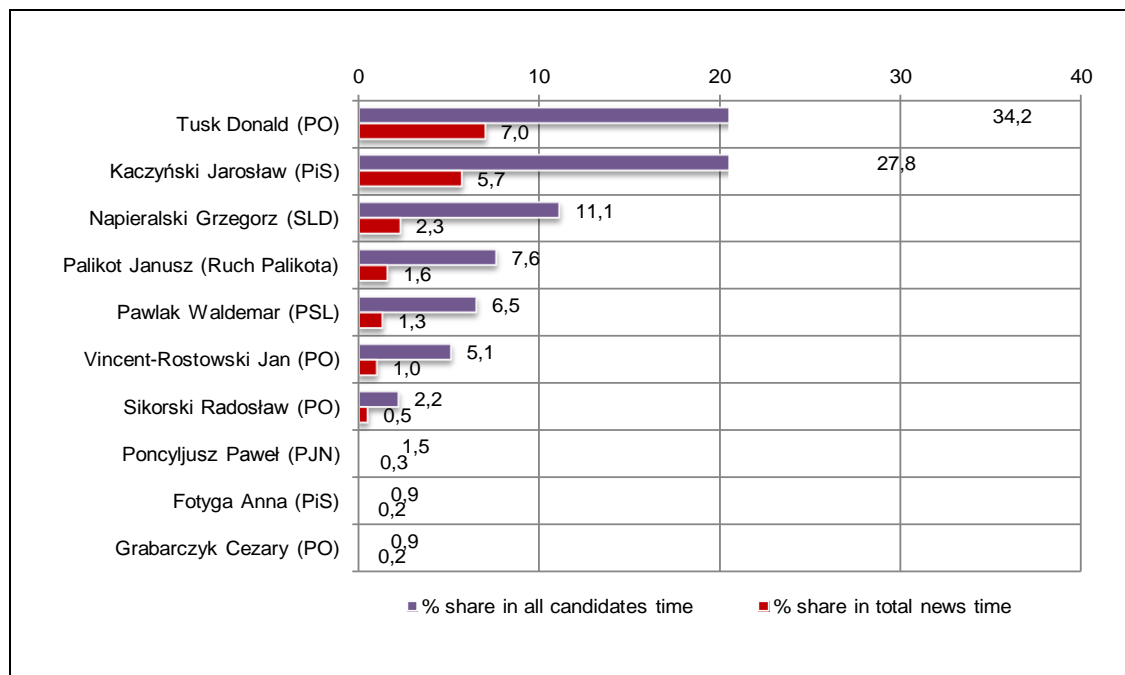
During 2010 presidential elections in all news of public and private broadcasters, acting president Bronislaw Komorowski from PO got 36 percent of the time of all candidates; main opposition candidate, Jaroslaw Kaczynski from PiS, got 25 percent of their time and Grzegorz Napieralski (SLD-left) - 15 percent. The media were following public opinion polls, indicating popularity of candidates.

Table 3. Percentage share of gross time for each candidate, 2010 presidential elections, first round



In Komorowski's gross air time, as much as 20 percent was filled by persons associated with him, while supporters of Kaczynski were behind him in 10 percent of his gross time. It meant that PO candidate was more often presented in a passive way, while the PiS candidate was a more active one, more often speaking for himself.

Table 4. Percentage share of top 10 candidates in presentation time of all candidates in six monitored news in parliamentary elections 2011



2011 monitoring of parliamentary elections found that PO prime minister, Donald Tusk, was the most covered politician in the news. However, in the last week before elections, the leader of the opposition, J. Kaczynski from PiS, became the most covered politician in five out of six monitored news. Only in TVP's *Teleexpress* the leader of PSL was then the most frequently shown politician.

A.3. Did incumbents get more coverage?

Incumbents usually got more coverage (air time), because of the official role they play, being ministers, mayors or presidents. Was it true regardless of their party origin?

The monitoring of 2006 found that incumbents got more coverage in some cities, but less in others. In the capital (Warsaw), ruled by the mayor from PiS, the party also ruling nationwide, the main contender for running the city came from opposition PO party. The incumbent candidate was shown by local TVP Warsaw in 76 percent of news time devoted to elections; the contender from opposition PO got 30 percent of time. The incumbent's advantage was obvious.

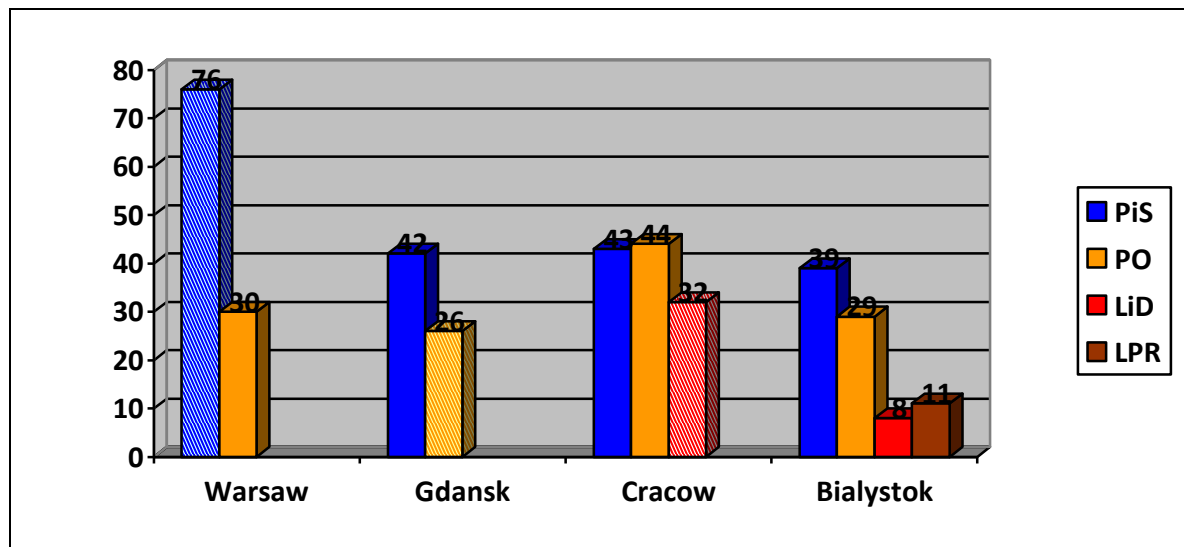
In Gdansk the political situation was the reverse: the incumbent mayor was from opposition PO, while the main contender represented PiS party. In Gdansk incumbent mayor got 26 percent of election news time, while the main contender from PiS achieved 42 per cent of such time. No premium for incumbent, PiS got the highest coverage.

In Cracow the incumbent mayor was from another opposition party, LiD. The monitoring found that in TVP Cracow news, LiD got 32 percent of election time, while parties of two contenders got higher coverage: 44 percent for PO and 43 percent for PiS (sums up to 119 because some time was shared). Again: no premium for incumbent, PiS got high coverage.

In Bialystok, where the mayor did not run for re-election, PiS got 39 percent of election time coverage, while the other parties' candidates had: 27 percent of time (PO), 11 percent (LPR) and 8 percent (LiD). No incumbent present, PiS got the highest coverage.

Conclusion: in 2006 local elections incumbent candidates got more coverage on public television news, but only when they represented the nationwide ruling party (PiS), which got the highest coverage, anyway.

Table 5. Percentage share of news time devoted to city mayor candidates in local elections 2006 (incumbents marked by zebra stripes)



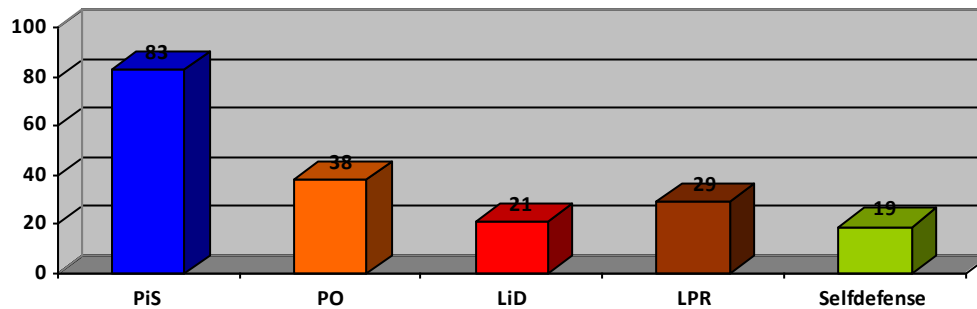
In 2011 parliamentary elections monitoring „official time” of incumbent candidates didn't play an important role in their coverage. However, public television was more eager to present politicians in official functions than private television stations. In *official time Teleexpress* most often presented politicians of one of coalition party, PSL; the minister of agriculture got there a record of 78 percent of his time there allotted as *official*. Private broadcaster's *Fakty* ignored all official coverage of W. Pawlak, head of a minor coalition party. Other politicians *official time* in *Fakty* was also lower than the average for commercial and public stations.

A.4. Who was in headlines and sound bites?

In 2006 monitoring public television preferential treatment of the ruling party candidates was traceable by their presence in the headlines, signaling to the viewer what was important and in candidates' number and lengths of sound bites.

In the flagship TVP news *Wiadomości* PiS was present in 83 percent of headlines; PO was present in 40 percent of them, LiD - in 21 percent, LPR - in 29 percent and Samoobrona in 19 percent (the sum exceeds 100, because the same headlines time could be allotted to more than one party). Proportions of parties' presence in headlines in other news were similar.

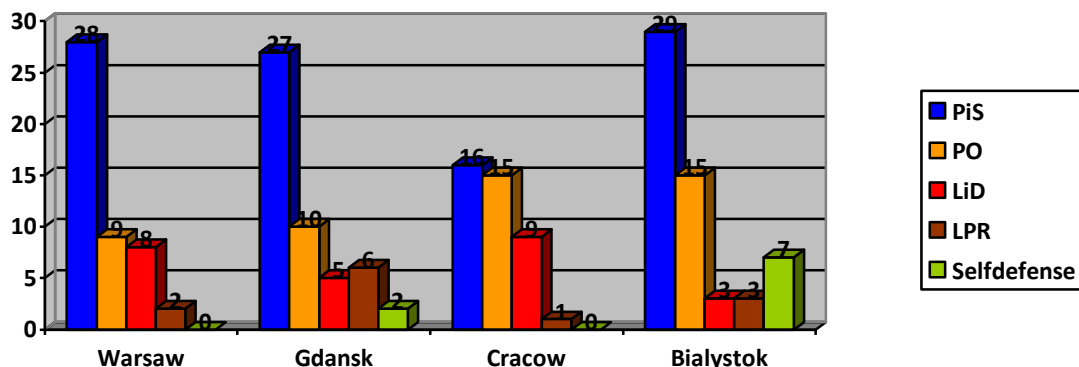
Table 6. Wiadomości TVP1 – presence of political parties in the headlines, 16 Oct.- 25 Nov. 2006



Note: In percent of all headlines, the sum exceeds 100 because in one headline more than one party could be mentioned.

In local TVP program in Warsaw the ruling PiS party candidates sound bites were on average three times longer than sound bites of the rival PO candidates. The ruling party candidates dominated sound bites also in other local news and on nationwide news.

Table 6. Percentage share of lengths of sound bites in four local TVP news by political parties in 2006



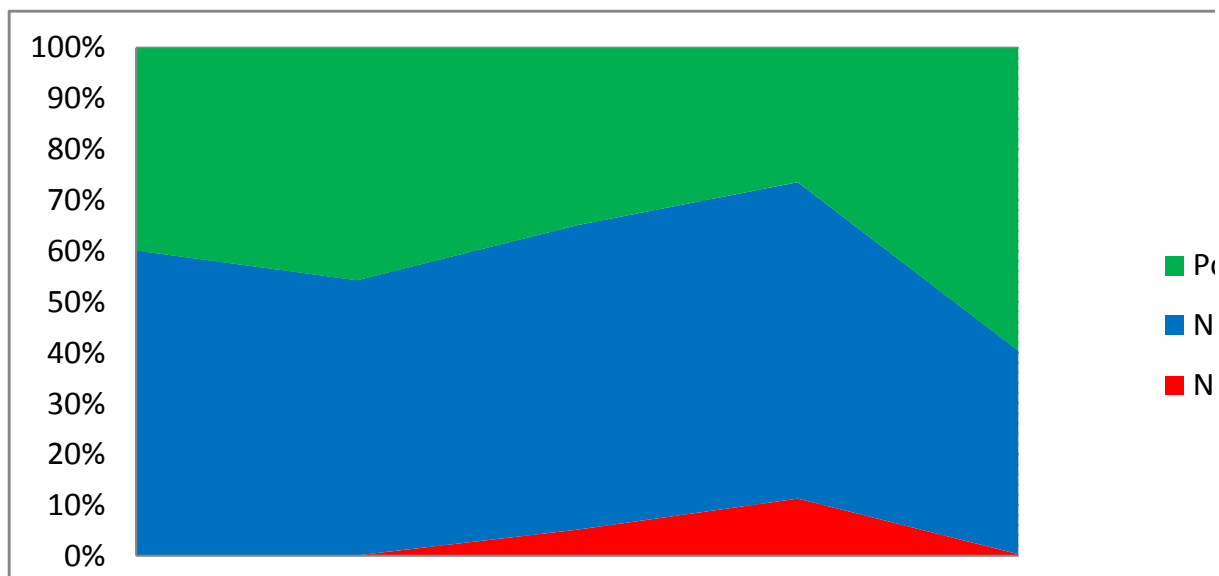
During 2010 presidential elections the accumulated time of sound bites of two candidates: acting president B. Komorowski and opposition leader J. Kaczyński was almost the same - about 22 minutes, but because Komorowski had higher brutto time (96 minutes) than Kaczyński (68 minutes), Kaczyński had substantially higher share of sound bites than Komorowski. Before the second round of elections Kaczyński also had significantly higher share of sound bites (27 percent of his brutto time) than Komorowski (17 percent of his brutto time).

During 2011 parliamentary elections, the most often candidates were talking their own voice (sound bites), followed by information about them. In the last week of the campaign the share of sound bites went down; the candidates were mostly talked about by others.

B. Qualitative analysis – neutral, positive, negative tone

In 2010 local elections monitoring the tone of reporting was neutral in about 70 percent of all candidates time; on nationwide news it was less, about 50 percent. Negative tone took about 30 percent of time and the positive one – about 20 percent. On local news positive tone exceeded the negative one.

Table 8. Percentage share of J. Kaczynski (PiS) net time tone in presidential elections 2010

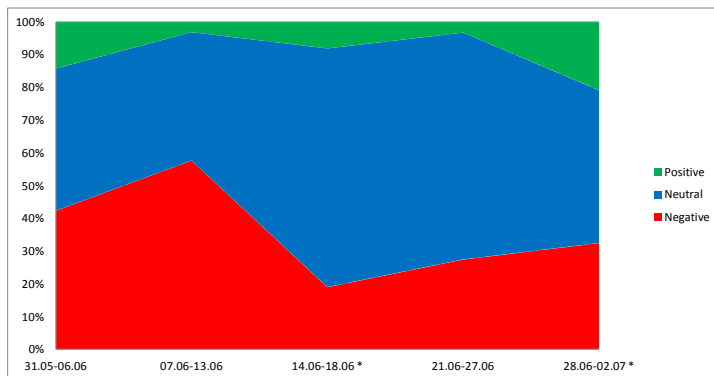


The 2010 monitoring of presidential elections found that Bronislaw Komorowski, the acting president (he filled in the office as leader of the Sejm, lower chamber of Parliament, after tragic death of his predecessor, President Lech Kaczynski, killed on April 10th, 2010 in airplane catastrophe) got more negative tone than his main rival, Jarosław Kaczynski (the late president's twin brother) from PiS party.

In the flagship news *Wiadomości* (TVP1) before the first round of elections, Komorowski's got 53 percent of negative time, while Kaczynski – only 3 percent of negative time. Komorowski had one percent of positive time, Kaczynski – 46 percent of positive time. Before the second round of elections this proportions continued: Komorowski got over 21 minutes of negative time, while Kaczynski - only 9 seconds.

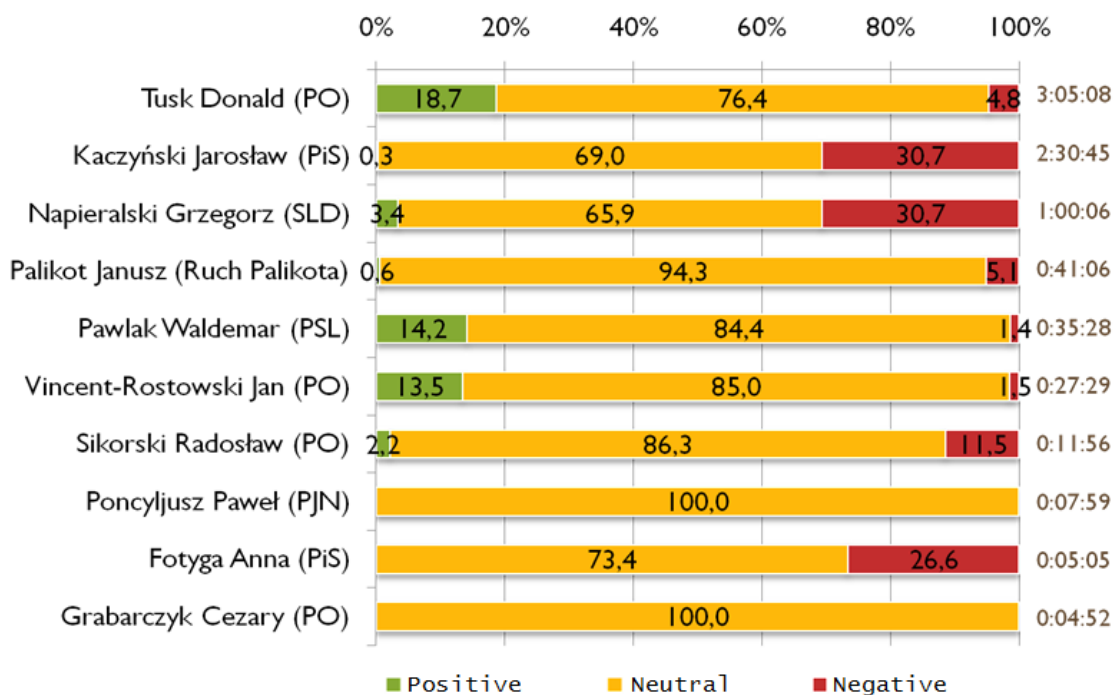
In Panorama news (TVP2) the only candidate who did not have negative time at all, was G. Napieralski from SLD. His positive time exceeded his neutral time.

Table 9. Percentage share of B. Komorowski (PO) net time tone in presidential elections 2010



In 2011 monitoring of parliamentary elections the prime minister was the most positively presented politician. In general, close to 20 percent of his time was positive, while only five percent was the negative one. In TVP's *Serwis Info* minor coalition party leader, W. Pawlak, had more than half positive time. Opposition leaders J. Kaczyński and G. Napieralski had about 30 percent of negative time through the campaign; in the last week it peaked to 40 percent for J. Kaczyński.

Table 10. Share of positive, neutral and negative presentations for top ten candidates in their total time in all news in 2011 parliamentary elections



C. Analysis of content

In 2006 local elections coverage the observers reported several tricks resulting in unfair coverage, such as a shooting candidates using wide angles (far away=not important) or short perspective (close= strong figure), getting applause or lack of it to support or to lower the politicians message. In Warsaw local TVP program several manipulations were noted, such as: derogatory comments by journalists, partisan choice of sound bites, over exposition of marginal events where the incumbent candidate was present. In Warsaw, Bialystok and Szczecin there were cases of not reporting about opposition candidates' positions on important issues.

In 2011 the analysis of content was introduced in addition to quantitative and qualitative analysis. The following questions were asked: Was the information opinionated? Were conclusions and interpretations based on facts or opinions? Was there any pattern in describing certain parties or candidates? Were there efforts to promote some candidates/parties and lower the chances of other candidates/parties?

One of observations dealt with news of *Serwis Info*, on public television 24h news channel. On 30 September 2011, ten days before parliamentary elections, over 2,5 minutes were devoted there for presentation of a winner of contest "What I would do, if I were the minister of economy?". The student from Cracow followed the minister for one day and listened to his lecture about applications of modern technology in administration. There was no information that the contest was organized by the ministry. The minister, however, was a head of minor coalition party and candidate in elections. No other news service paid any attention to this development, obviously created to support the minister and his party - concluded Warsaw University sociology professor, Ireneusz Krzemiński, author of the analysis.

Chapter 5. Influence on media, the broadcasters, the regulator

During the 2006 monitoring two partial reports were released, the first one presented at a press conference, illustrated with cuts of described programs. The monitoring results had significant coverage in print media and were discussed by politicians and media observers nationwide. Media published over 30 news items about the project, one of them in English (Poland Monthly). The project's coordinator was invited to radio talk shows and TV news. Criticism of public television coverage of Warsaw's local elections caused changes in TVP Warszawa reporting.

During the presidential and local government election campaigns in 2010, the monitoring reports were widely commented (in total 297) in the most significant dailies and weeklies print media (*Gazeta Wyborcza*, *Rzeczpospolita*, *Gosc Niedzielny*, *Wprost*, *Polityka*, *Newsweek*), as well as in internet and both public and commercial TVs .

The 2011 monitoring report was widely covered by the most important print media: dailies *Gazeta Wyborcza*, *Rzeczpospolita*, *Gość Niedzielny*, *Nasz Dziennik*, and weekly *Wprost* devoted 13 news items to it; there were also 137 mentionings of it in different internet publications. The leading politicians Donald Tusk, Jarosław Kaczyński, Grzegorz Napieralski quoted the results of Batory's monitoring in their speeches and interviews.

The regulator, KRRiT, took the Batory's reports seriously, pointing out the accuracy of the methodology of the 2010 and 2011 monitorings and emphasizing that the conclusions from Batory's

2011 report and KRRiT's own one, were close. KRRiT hired the Batory's team of researchers to conduct additional television monitoring report.

Two other media monitorings done by Batory were also widely discussed by the media. Their presence on the foundation webpage makes them a reference point to other projects of this type.

Chapter 6. What kind of media monitoring to organize?

In general, the media monitoring should deal with these part of media, which has the strongest influence on voters. In practice it means the monitoring of television.

What to monitor on television? The news is the natural, first choice; the second choice goes to political debates, followed by all kind of programs the candidates may take part in: sport, culture, religious or any other events, depending on local tradition and the political situation.

Then it is worth to check what was already done. Before 2006 monitoring of local elections we found that public television registered time of presence of state authorities (president, prime minister, cabinet members), politicians, trade and employers unions' leaders in its programs. It also registered their presence in news and other political programs of TVP, however it was not easy to get these reports. In 2011 the regulator's report from election television news coverage was released two months after Batory's work was made public.

In order to have a successful media monitoring, one has to engage a committed team of researchers. They usually come from NGOs and university people from media, sociology and communication departments.

It is necessary to adopt in details the monitoring methodology, based on literature and possibly some practical experience. Detailed descriptions of methodology above may help in this important task.

At the beginning of monitoring efforts it is better to concentrate on quantitative approach, measuring the time of politicians' presence in the news, especially when they control at least part of them.

Chapter 7. Practical matters

There are several questions the organizers of media monitoring projects at election time have to ask themselves before starting.

1. What is the precise aim of the project? If it is to document the situation and inform the public, then:
2. Do we have resources to present and make public the results of the project? Whom can we reach and by what means?
3. Do we have academicians (sociologists, media analysts) who can work on methodology and supervise the project, thereby giving it credibility?
4. Do we have NGOs activists or students to carry out the observations, which should last for at least two weeks?
5. Do we have resources to conduct the project? Television observation requires ability to repeatedly watch observed programs (Are television programs available on internet? How can we record them?), to analyze them, to collect information from researchers (software?),

and to verify the findings. NGOs volunteers can work for no or very low fees, but they have to be instructed, connected, the results verified – all this requires money and resources such as offices, computers, software, and communication devices.

6. Does it make sense to look for international support in terms of financial and know-how resources? The review of www pages, listed below may help.
7. Does it make sense to cooperate with international organizations watching elections? For them report of a local media elections coverage is usually part of their job before the actual monitoring, conducted at the very time of elections.

Chapter 8. Useful links

1. Batory Foundation. The Stefan Batory Foundation is an independent private Polish foundation established in 1988 by George Soros, an American financier and philanthropist, and a group of Polish democratic opposition leaders of 1980s. The mission of the Batory Foundation is to build an open, democratic society - a society of people aware of their rights and responsibilities, who are actively involved in the life of their local community, country and international society.

http://www.batory.org.pl/programy_operacyjne/masz_glos_masz_wybor/monitoring_programow_informacyjnych

2. The Center for International Media Assistance (CIMA) at the National Endowment for Democracy works to strengthen the support, raise the visibility, and improve the effectiveness of independent media development throughout the world. The Center provides information, builds networks, conducts research, and highlights the indispensable role independent media play in the creation and development of sustainable democracies. An important aspect of CIMA's work is to research ways to attract additional U.S. private sector interest in and support for international media development. The Center was one of the main nongovernmental organizers of World Press Freedom Day 2011 in Washington, DC.

<http://cima.ned.org>

3. IREX .A US-based nonprofit organization committed to international education in academic research, professional training and technical assistance.

www.irex.org

4. IDEE. The Institute for Democracy in Eastern Europe (IDEE) is a tax-exempt, not-for-profit organization dedicated to the active promotion of democracy, civil society, and human rights throughout Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union, and other communist or post-communist countries. IDEE also seeks to share the experiences of democratic opposition and transformation in Eastern Europe with other countries and regions seeking democratic change.

<http://www.idee.org/idee.html>

5. National Democratic Institute for International Affairs. NDI is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, nongovernmental organization that has supported democratic institutions and practices in every region of the world for more than two decades. Since its founding in 1983, NDI and its local partners have worked to establish and strengthen political and civic organizations, safeguard elections, and promote citizen participation, openness and accountability in government.

<http://www.ndi.org>

6. Article XIX. Established in 1987, ARTICLE 19 fights for all hostages of censorship, defends dissenting voices, and campaigns against laws and practices that silence. With offices in London, Bangladesh, Brazil, Kenya, Mexico and Senegal, and in collaboration with 90 partners across the world, we strengthen national capacities, and build or reform institutions and policies to protect transparency and the free flow of information.
<http://www.article19.org>
7. UNDP is the United Nations' global development network, an organization advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to **help people build a better life**. We are on the ground in 177 countries, working with them on their own solutions to global and national development challenges. As they develop local capacity, they draw on the people of UNDP and our wide range of partners.
<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/ourwork/democraticgovernance/overview.html>
8. Council for Democratic Elections of Council of Europe. The European Commission for Democracy through Law, better known as the Venice Commission, is the Council of Europe's advisory body on constitutional matters. The Council for Democratic Elections (CDE) is made up of representatives of the Venice Commission, the Parliamentary Assembly and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe. The aim of the Council for Democratic Elections is to ensure co-operation in the electoral field between the Venice Commission as a legal body and the Parliamentary Assembly and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe as political bodies in charge of election observation, in order to promote the European common values in this field – the principles of the European electoral heritage.
http://www.venice.coe.int/site/main/Elections_Referendums_E.asp
9. OSCE Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe With 56 States from Europe, Central Asia and North America, the OSCE is the world's largest regional security organization. It offers a forum for political negotiations and decision-making in the fields of early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation, and puts the political will of its participating States into practice through its unique network of field missions. The OSCE has a comprehensive approach to security that encompasses politico-military, economic and environmental, and human aspects. It therefore addresses a wide range of security-related concerns, including arms control, confidence- and security-building measures, human rights, national minorities, democratization, policing strategies, counter-terrorism and economic and environmental activities.
<http://www.osce.org/odihr/elections>
10. OSCEPA- Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Parliamentary Assembly. At its Berlin Meeting in 1991, the CSCE Ministerial Council welcomed the establishment of the Parliamentary Assembly and stated that the Ministers looked forward to the "collective expression" of the views of the Parliamentary Assembly on security and co-operation in Europe as well as on the future development of the CSCE. The CSCE-OSCE Summits in Helsinki (1992), Budapest (1994) and Istanbul (1999) reaffirmed the participating States' interest in the active participation of parliamentarians in the OSCE process and mandated the Chairman-in-Office to maintain close contacts with the Parliamentary Assembly, to draw its recommendations to the attention of the Permanent Council and to inform the parliamentarians of OSCE activities. At the 1999 Istanbul Summit, the Heads of OSCE governments particularly welcomed the Parliamentary Assembly's increasing role in the field of democratic development and election monitoring.
<http://www.oscepa.org>

Suggested reading:

Election reporting: a practical guide to media monitoring, Diana Rose Cammack, Richard Carver, London 1998.