

## INVITATION

# WEBINAR: BETWEEN LOYALTY AND RESISTANCE: MEDIA IN GEORGIA'S POLARIZED ELECTION

**The European Platform for Democratic Elections (EPDE) is pleased to invite to our third webinar on the upcoming parliamentary elections in Georgia.**

With less than two weeks until e-day, this webinar focuses on the media landscape in the run-up to Georgia's pivotal parliamentary elections.

The media in Georgia has long faced pressure from politicians, but in this election, polarization has hit new highs. Opposition-leaning outlets refuse to air defamatory spots from the ruling party, risking heavy fines, while pro-government editors retaliate in kind. Social Media is amplifying this trend, with anonymous networks targeting political opponents and propagating divisive narratives.

TV, still the top source of political news, is flooded with manipulation, hate speech, and disinformation. Independent media operates in an increasingly hostile climate, with journalists facing both verbal and physical attacks. Georgia's Press Freedom Ranking recently dropped from 77th to 103rd. Is free speech in danger? What are the key challenges for journalists as the elections approach?

### Details:

- ▶ **Date:** October 17, 2024
- ▶ **Time:** 3:00 PM (CET)
- ▶ **Language:** English
- ▶ **Registration:** Please register for the event via the following link: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_Js68PuksRTaYkfcHkauz2Q](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Js68PuksRTaYkfcHkauz2Q)

## Speakers:

- ▶ **Qristina Parjiani**, Social Media Monitoring Project Coordinator, International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy (ISFED)
- ▶ **Mariam Tsitsikashvili**, Project Manager, Georgia's Reforms Associates (GRASS)
- ▶ **Tamar Kintsurashvili**, Executive Director, Media Development Fund (MDF)
- ▶ **Adam Busuleanu**, Senior Programme Officer, European Platform for Democratic Elections (EPDE) (**moderator**)

The European Platform for Democratic Elections (EPDE) is a network of 17 independent European citizen election observation organizations. EPDE aims to support citizen election observation and to contribute to democratic election processes throughout Europe. EPDE is a signatory of the Declaration of Global Principles for Nonpartisan Election Observation and Monitoring by Citizen Organizations and the Code of Conduct for Nonpartisan Election Observation. EPDE also is a member of the Global Network of Domestic Election Monitors (GNDEM). EPDE is financially supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Germany, The German Marshall Fund of the United States, the National Democratic Institute and the European Union.

