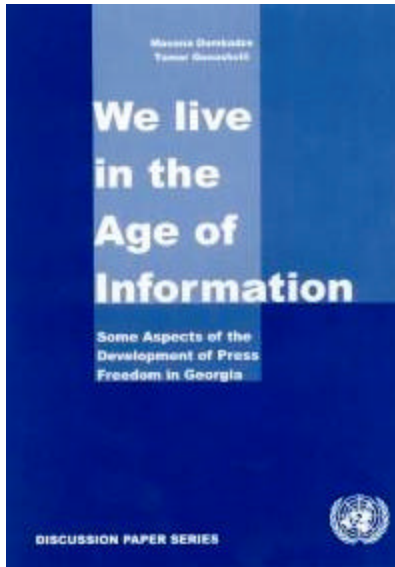


Manana Dumbadze, Tamar Gunashvili

We live in the Age of Information

(Some Aspects of the Development of Press Freedom in Georgia)



The press has not been the subject of serious scientific research in Georgia. To produce a reasoned study one needs to pick out those features that ought to characterize a free press in within a market economy and a democracy. As such, therefore, the authors focus upon what determines the freedom of the press and how it is supposed to be sustainable. In particular, the authors focus on: freedom of speech and related legislative norms in Georgia; financial – editorial independence; press and language minorities in Georgia; press and society; pressures on journalists; relationship between Georgian media and Non-Government Organizations.

There are number of methods and tools that can be employed to assess aspects of media development and sustainability. Here the authors select some well-tested tools and tailor them to the specificity of Georgia. In advanced countries, the media is subject to regular study. Systematic surveys are conducted to assess the nature and quality of the particular media in question. In this study, the authors adopt these approaches and compare the results that they find with those in more advanced circumstances. Based upon this comparison they work out what the factors are that hamper the media in Georgia and what it requires to attain sustainability.