



EUROPEAN PLATFORM OF REGULATORY AUTHORITIES

Tbilisi, Georgia
October 8-10, 2014

Broadcasting Sector Overview of the Regulatory Framework

**Georgian National
Communications
Commission**

Speaker: Ivan Makharadze

Georgian National Communications Commission

General Framework

Georgian National Communications Commission – permanent, collegial, independent regulatory authority that does not subordinate to any state authority.

The main objectives of GNCC are as follows:

- ☐ Creation of equal and competitive environment in communications sector;
- ☐ Promotion to introduction of modern technologies;
- ☐ Protection of legitimate interests of consumers;
- ☐ Efficient allocation of frequency spectrum;
- ☐ Provision of creation and development of competitive environment in broadcasting sector, as well as promotion to editorial independence of the broadcasters;



Georgian National Communications Commission

Structure of the Commission

www.gncc.ge



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Georgian Law on Broadcasting

Georgian law on broadcasting was elaborated in 2004 with the assistance of European Council experts

This law:

- Stimulates **freedom of expression** and
- Ensures **competitive environment** between broadcasters;
- Provides **equality and independence** of license holders and



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Georgian Law on Broadcasting

- Promotes **efficient use** of frequencies
- Streamlines **licensing regime**
- Ensures **transparency**
- Establishes **Public Service Broadcaster** for the purposes of broadcasting of various programs free from political and commercial influence



Georgian National Communications Commission Budget

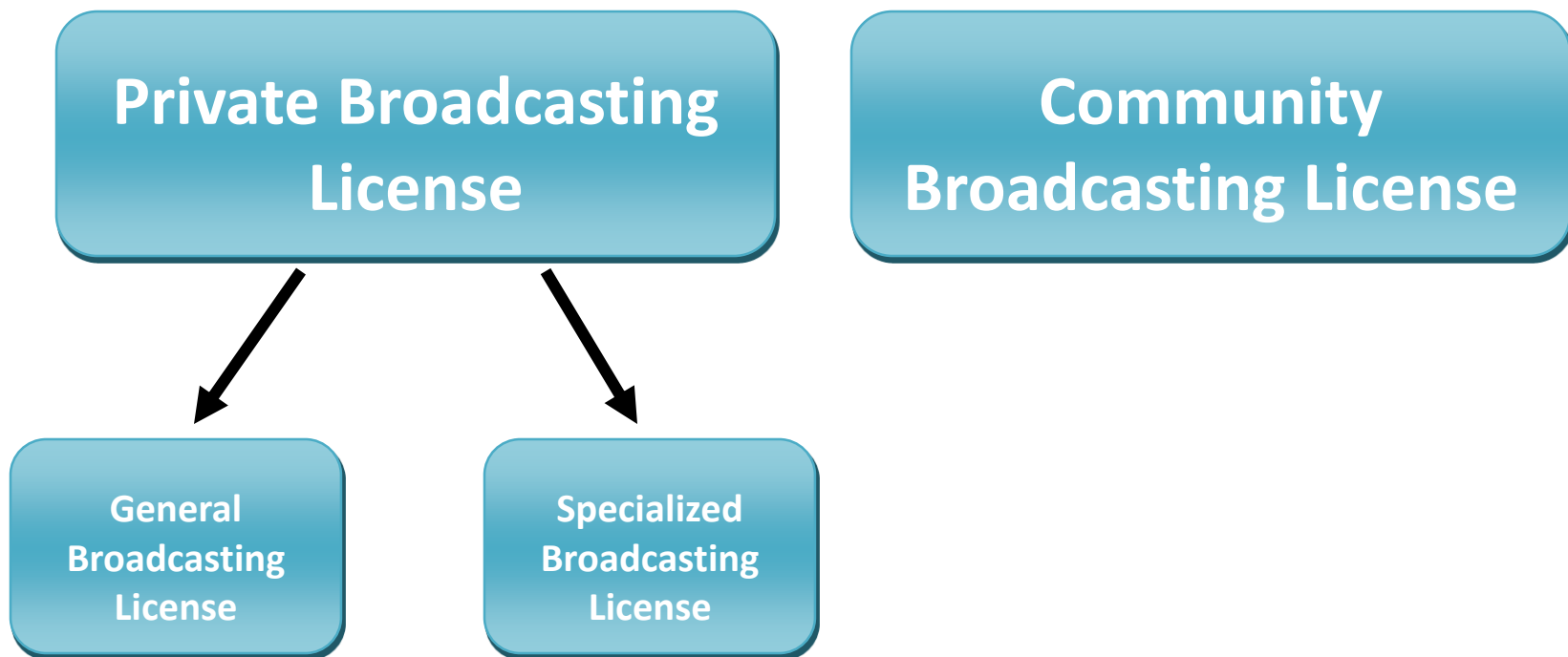
- ❑ The source of revenue of the Commission is regulation fee paid by the authorized entities and licensees in electronic communications and broadcasting sectors.
- ❑ 0.75 percent of total cost of delivery of goods (services) and / or the performed work, carried out by an authorized person in the electronic communications sector and subjected to regulation (without VAT);
- ❑ 0.5 percent of total cost of delivery of goods (services) and / or the performed work, carried out by a licensee or an authorized person in the broadcasting sector and subjected to regulation (without VAT);



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Licensing regime

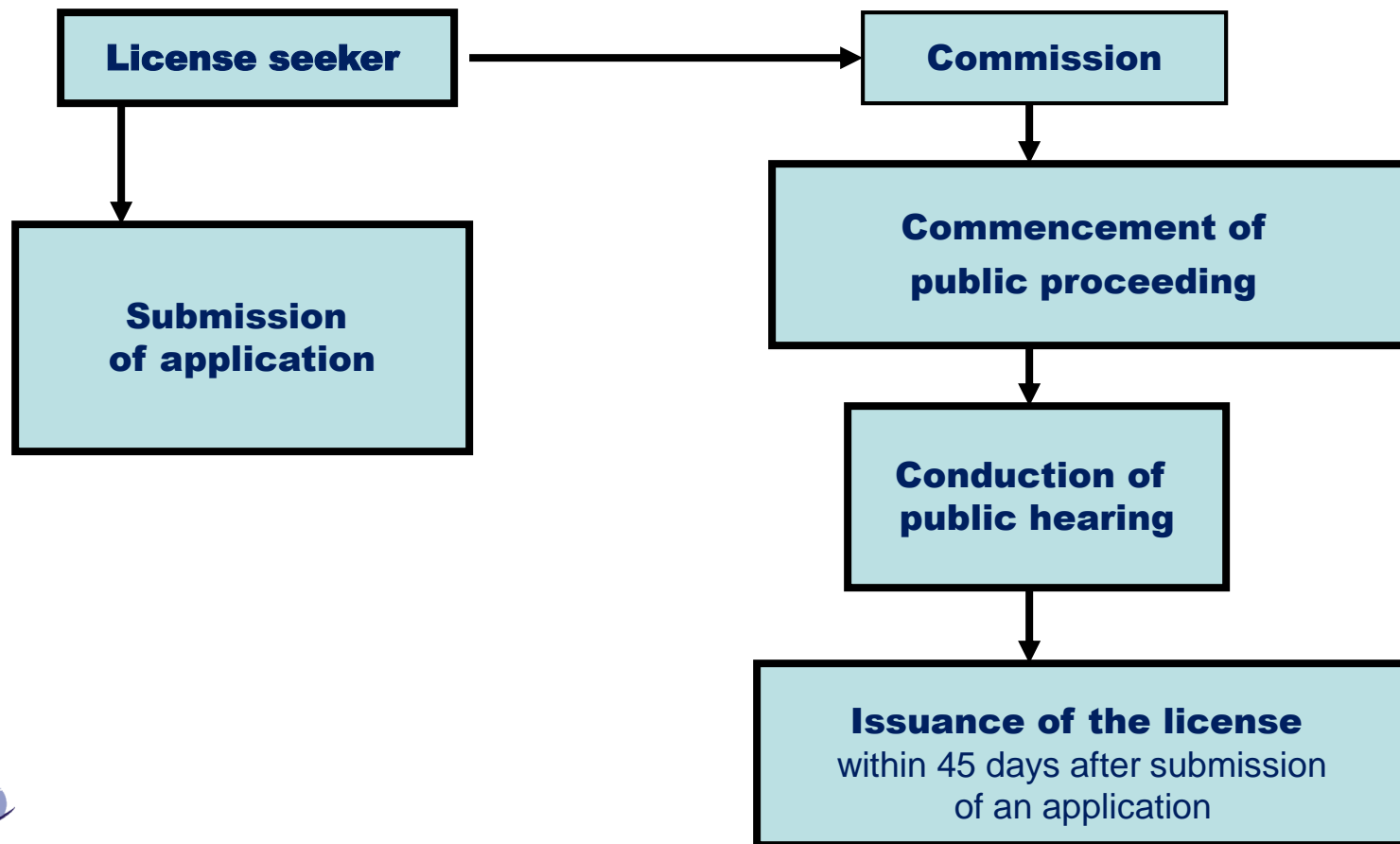
Types of Broadcasting Licenses



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Licensing regime (existing practice in awarding broadcasting licenses)

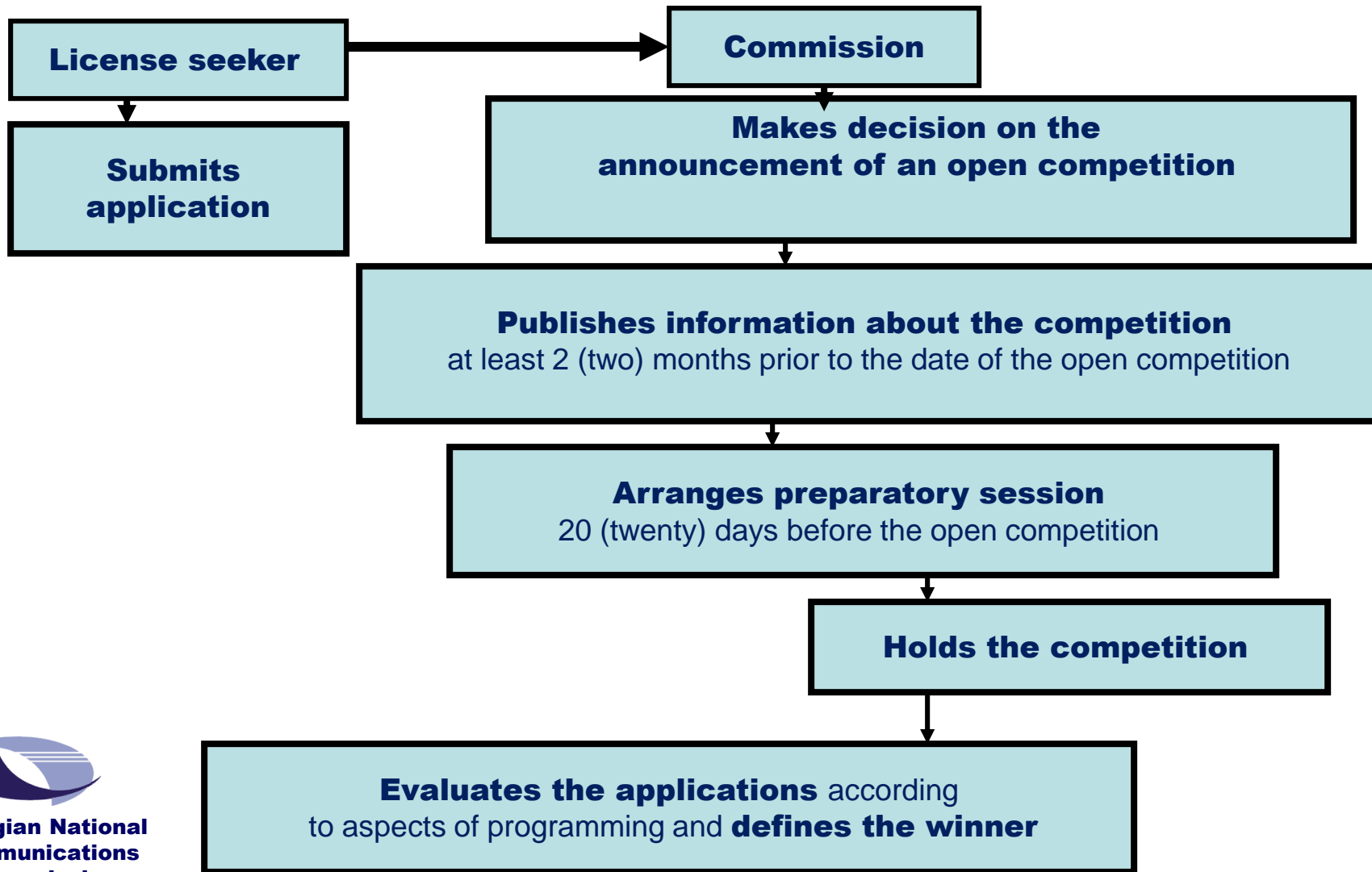
Issuance of broadcasting license by means of public proceeding



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Licensing regime (existing practice in awarding broadcasting licenses)

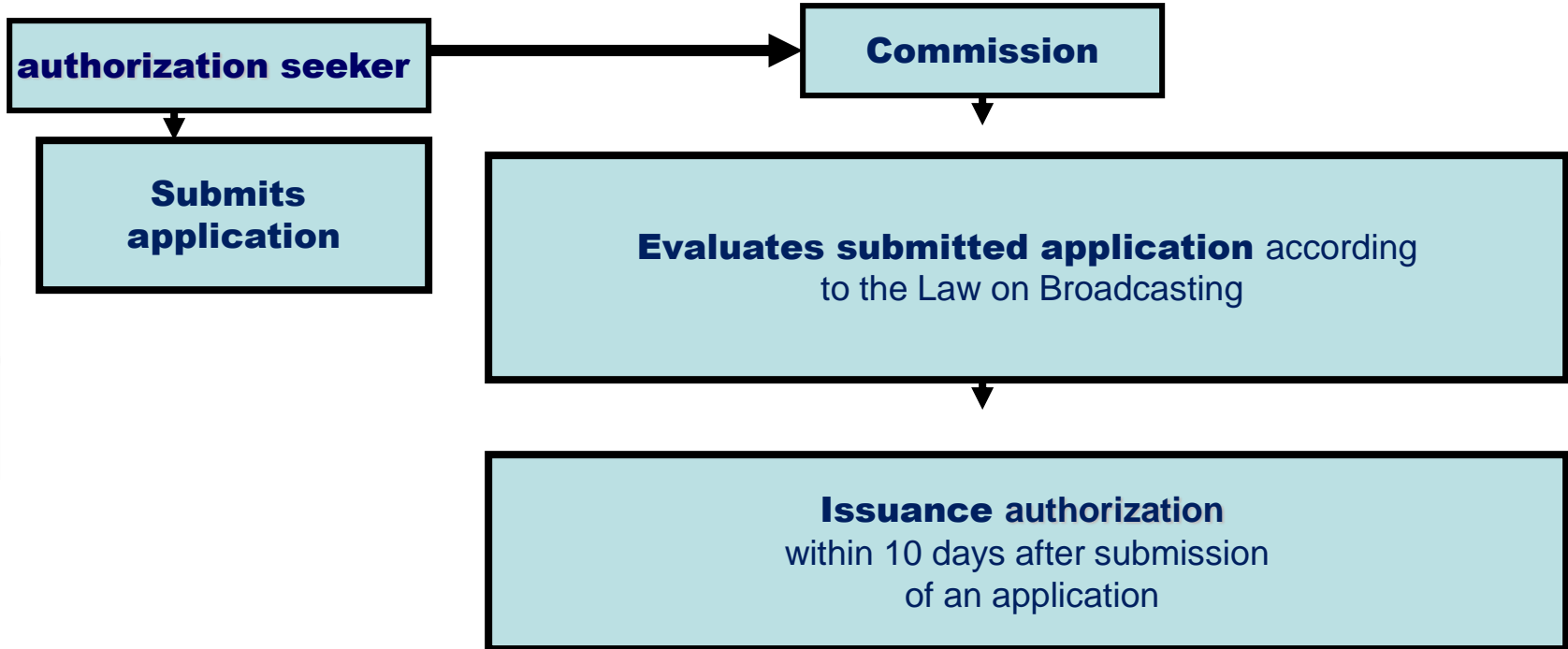
Issuance of broadcasting license by means of competition



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Licensing regime (existing practice in issuing broadcasting authorization)

Issuance of broadcasting authorization



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Licensing Statistics

Last Year:

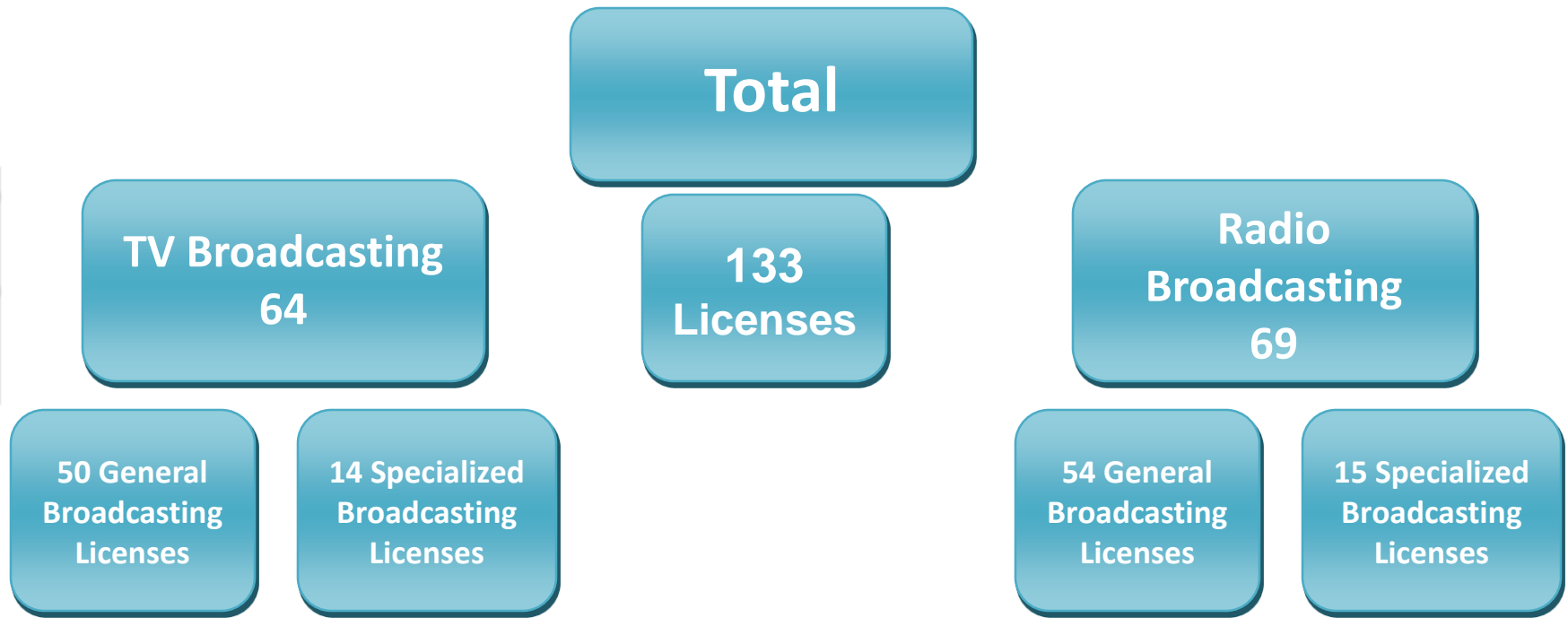
- ☐ 32 authorizations were issued and 2 authorizations were annulled according to the Law of Georgia “On Broadcasting”;
- ☐ 17 licenses of private broadcasting were issued and 2 licenses were annulled;
- ☐ 22 licenses of private broadcasting were modified;
- ☐ Term was extended to 17 licenses of private broadcasting;
- ☐ Approval was issued on assignment of 6 licenses of private broadcasting;



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Licensing Statistics

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Independence Guarantees for Broadcasters

Code of Conduct for Broadcasters

This Code sets out the Principles, rules and guiding recommendations for broadcasters to follow:

- ✓ **Diversity, Equality and Tolerance**
- ✓ **Editorial Independence**
- ✓ **Personal Privacy**
- ✓ **Impartiality**
- ✓ **Defence of Minors**

Broadcasters are free to choose their own systems of accountability consistent with high professional standards and effective complaint handling according to Art. 14 of the Georgian Law on Broadcasting



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Digital Broadcasting

- ❑ Currently, the process of transition from analogue to digital broadcasting is going on in Georgia.
- ❑ According to the decision of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), June 17, 2015 was defined as the final date of transition to digital broadcasting
- ❑ At the end of 2012, the council of transmission to digital broadcasting was set up. The council is composed of the representatives of the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, the National Communications Commission, broadcasting companies and non-governmental organizations, as well as other experts working in the broadcasting sector.



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Digital Broadcasting

- Within the framework of the council's work, in 2013, through involvement of the National Communications Commission, the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development has developed the strategy for transmission to digital broadcasting;
- On march 31 2014 The Georgian National Communications Commission announced the contest for obtaining licenses for the use of radio frequency spectrum in order to provide digital terrestrial TV broadcasting; The contest was held on July 1 and Stereo+ Ltd has become a winner of the contest and the holder of three licenses.





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THANK YOU

**Georgian National
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