

## Perception of Belarusian CSOs working in Georgia by the Georgian media

*Rabava Natallia*

*IPU - Public Administration Research Centre, School of Young Managers in Public Administration (SYMPA),  
Vilnius, Lithuania*

**Abstract:** Since the beginning of the political crisis in Belarus and more specifically since the broad repressions against civil society (more than 1500 CSOs were destroyed), many CSOs and activists moved to other countries including Georgia. In the beginning of 2023 there were around 15 000 Belarusians in Georgia (ca. 60 000 in Lithuania, ca. 300 000 in Poland). Some of them have established their CSOs in Georgia and continue to work as Georgian CSOs, having as their target audiences both Belarusians and Georgians. At the same time, the society does not seem to "see" these CSOs, seeing them mostly as "diaspora organizations".

The objective of this research is to assess how information spreads about Belarusian and Georgian-Belarusian CSOs in Georgian media and to analyze the tonality and attitude towards CSOs, their activities, and people involved.

This analysis will provide valuable insights that can aid these CSOs in enhancing their public image and impact in Georgia, should they be interested in gaining visibility in the region. It may be valuable also for the Georgian society and public bodies to better understand the situation and in the longer perspective to come to policy decisions.

The field part of the study includes interviews of experts in the Georgian media landscape, and monitoring of publications mentioning Belarusian Georgian CSOs in 2022-2023.