

## **Abstract**

Media and free speech play crucial roles in shaping democratic societies, particularly in semi-democratic contexts where the balance between state authority and individual liberties is delicate. This thesis explores the policy frameworks governing media and free speech in Georgia and Moldova, specifically focusing on freedom of access to information legislation and free speech legislation. By employing Kingdon's Multiple Streams Framework, the study examines the convergence of problem, policy, and politics streams to understand the dynamics of policy formulation and implementation in these contexts. The research reveals that, despite robust legal frameworks, the practical implementation of access to information and free speech protections is significantly hindered by political interference, bureaucratic barriers, and media ownership concentration. The findings highlight the critical role of various stakeholders, including government bodies, civil society organizations, and international actors, in shaping policy debates and influencing outcomes. The study emphasizes the importance of robust enforcement mechanisms, regulatory measures to address media ownership concentration, and sustained political commitment to ensure that legal protections translate into practical realities. These insights contribute to a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities for promoting media freedom and democratic governance in Georgia, Moldova, and similar contexts. There remains much to learn about the evolving political, social, and technological landscapes that continue to shape these issues.