

The presence of territorial areas in news broadcasts

Isabel Sánchez

- *This article aims to provide an overview of the territorial distribution of information provided on news broadcasts covering the Catalan area in order to reveal those geographical areas that are given priority in news terms, as well as those that have less or no coverage. It also aims to conjecture the factors that may have determined the focusing of interest by the operators on some territories rather than others.*

Firstly, a comparison is made between the geographical distribution of information on news broadcasts on TV3, TVE in Catalonia and BTV. We also analyse in detail how the Catalan territory is represented both at the level of county and municipality, as well as looking at news coverage in the different Barcelona districts on BTV. The state level is analysed in terms of the media coverage for different autonomous communities. With regard to international information, those states are noted that are most represented, as well as the events that have led to greater media interest.

Keywords

Pluralism, territory, news broadcasts, International, Catalonia, Spain, Barcelona

Unlike the rest of the articles in this edition of *Quaderns of the CAC*, on this occasion we do not analyse 2003 in its entirety but only the period between the months of September and December. The reason for this has been a modification in the analytical procedures used, which means that the geographical data prior to September 2003 cannot be compared with the rest.

With regard to the sample, it should also be noted that most of the points analysed in this article exclude the study of Citytv and Localia, as the local nature of these broadcasters means that the coverage given to the municipal (with the exception of the city of Barcelona), county and international levels is very low.

Geographical scope of the information

Although the three channels analysed are publicly owned, they represent three very different models of television. TV3 and TVE in Catalonia cover the same area (Catalonia) but, while the former is a Catalan channel that is broadcast continuously, TVE in Catalonia is the regional section of a Spanish broadcaster and, consequently, its programming has limited schedules. On the other hand, BTV, owned by the municipality, is the only local public broadcaster for the Catalan capital.

Below are the percentages allocated by each channel to each of the large pre-established geographical categories: *Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain* and *International*. It should be noted that these categories are not inclusive, i.e. the grouping of *Catalonia* does not contain information on the city of Barcelona, and neither are geographical references of a Catalan level counted within the category of *Spain*.

On analysing the table, it can be seen that TV3 is the most balanced channel in terms of media coverage allocated to

Isabel Sánchez

Analyst for the Technical Services of the CAC

Table 1. Comparison of the geographical distribution of information on news broadcasts on TV3, TVE in Catalonia and BTV

Geographical groupings	% of the geographical distribution of information		
	TV3	TVE in Catalonia	BTV
Barcelona	15.5	20.8	45.2
Catalonia	30.6	41.3	26.0
Spain	25.3	22.2	15.5
International	28.6	15.7	13.3
Total	100	100	100

Source: in-house.

each of the four large geographical categories. So, although news items on Catalonia are in first place, with 30.6% of the total, these are very closely followed by news at an international level (28.6%), with this channel allocating the most time of the three, and news on Spain (25.3%). News on the Catalan capital, however, is in last place, with almost half the time that is allocated to other groups (15.5% of the total).

The reason why TV news on TV3 has such a balanced distribution of news across the different territorial areas might lie in the fact that it has been conceived as a national channel that, without ignoring the Catalan territory (to which it allocates the block of time considered necessary), also provides wide-ranging news at a state and international level.

The opposite case is the model represented by BTV, the most unequal in terms of its geographical distribution of information, given that media coverage allocated to the Catalan capital occupies more than 45% of its news broadcasts. Second place is occupied by news items on Catalonia (26%), followed by those on Spain (15.5%) and international news (13.3%).

Logically, the channel's local coverage explains the priority given to news on Barcelona, firstly, and Catalonia, secondly. So, if we add together the news time given to the groups of *Barcelona* and *Catalonia*, it can be observed that the channel dedicates 71.2% of the news to the Catalan area, the highest percentage of the three channels analysed.

Finally, it can be seen that TVE in Catalonia, like BTV, also has significant differences with regard to the distribution of news by geographical area. It is the channel that dedicates most coverage to news on Catalonia (41.3%). On the other hand, it allocates half the time to Spain and to the city of Barcelona (22.2 and 20.8%, respectively). The last position is occupied by news at an international level (15.7%). The sum of the groups of *Catalonia* and *Barcelona* has a slightly lower percentage than on BTV: 62.1% of the news time.

These results suggest that the news on TVE in Catalonia has been conceived as a complement to the channel's state-level broadcasts, which would explain the greater time dedicated to news on the territory and to Catalan cities in detriment of news on Spain and international affairs, given that, theoretically, these areas are already covered by the state broadcasts.

These differences between the three broadcasters in this analysis with regard to the nature, ownership and area of coverage are clearly reflected in the uneven geographical distribution of news between the city of Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain and international affairs. While TV3 has quite balanced media coverage for these four large geographical categories, BTV and TVE in Catalonia tend to concentrate on one of the areas. So, the local channel's news broadcasts allocate almost half their news time to the city of Barcelona, while the Catalan territory is by far the most represented on TVE.

Trends in the territorial distribution of information

Variations over time in the distribution of the information among the four geographical categories in question are summarised in the following tables where, moreover, information has been noted that has led to a significant increase in the news time allocated to one of these categories. It should be noted, however, that greater media coverage does not always correspond with a single news item, as various news items may coincide that focus on the same territorial area in the same period of time.

The territorial distribution of information on news broadcasts on **TV3** throughout the period analysed is characterised principally by its stability. So we can observe that, while coverage of the Barcelona area remains invariably under 20% of the news time, the categories *Catalonia*, *Spain* and *International* are always above this percentage.

This balance in news time allocated to the four geographical categories is only altered by variations in height, indicating a peak of media coverage which, in general, corresponds to specific news events.

A notable example of this would be the autonomous elections held in November 2003, the announcement of an ETA ceasefire in Catalonia in February 2004, and the terrorist attacks on the 11 March 2004, which also coincided with the general elections. And, in the Barcelona area, the collapse of the building in the district of Carmel at the end of January 2005.

Also of note is the significant news coverage dedicated by TV3 to the debate on the reform of the statute of Catalonia during the months of September and October 2005, resulting in the news time allocated to the Catalan territory reaching its highest level for the period analysed, exceeding 40% of the total. The graph shows that, although news coverage of the new statute continued to be very high until the end of the year, news time allocated to the Catalan territory decreases as from November, while that dedicated to Spain increases. The reason is that, at that time, the statute was being presented to the Spanish parliament.

Table 2, for TV3, also shows that, during the period from March 2004 to April 2005, there is a reduction in news time dedicated to Catalonia compared with the rest of the geographical categories. With regard to international news, it should be noted that the peaks indicating higher media

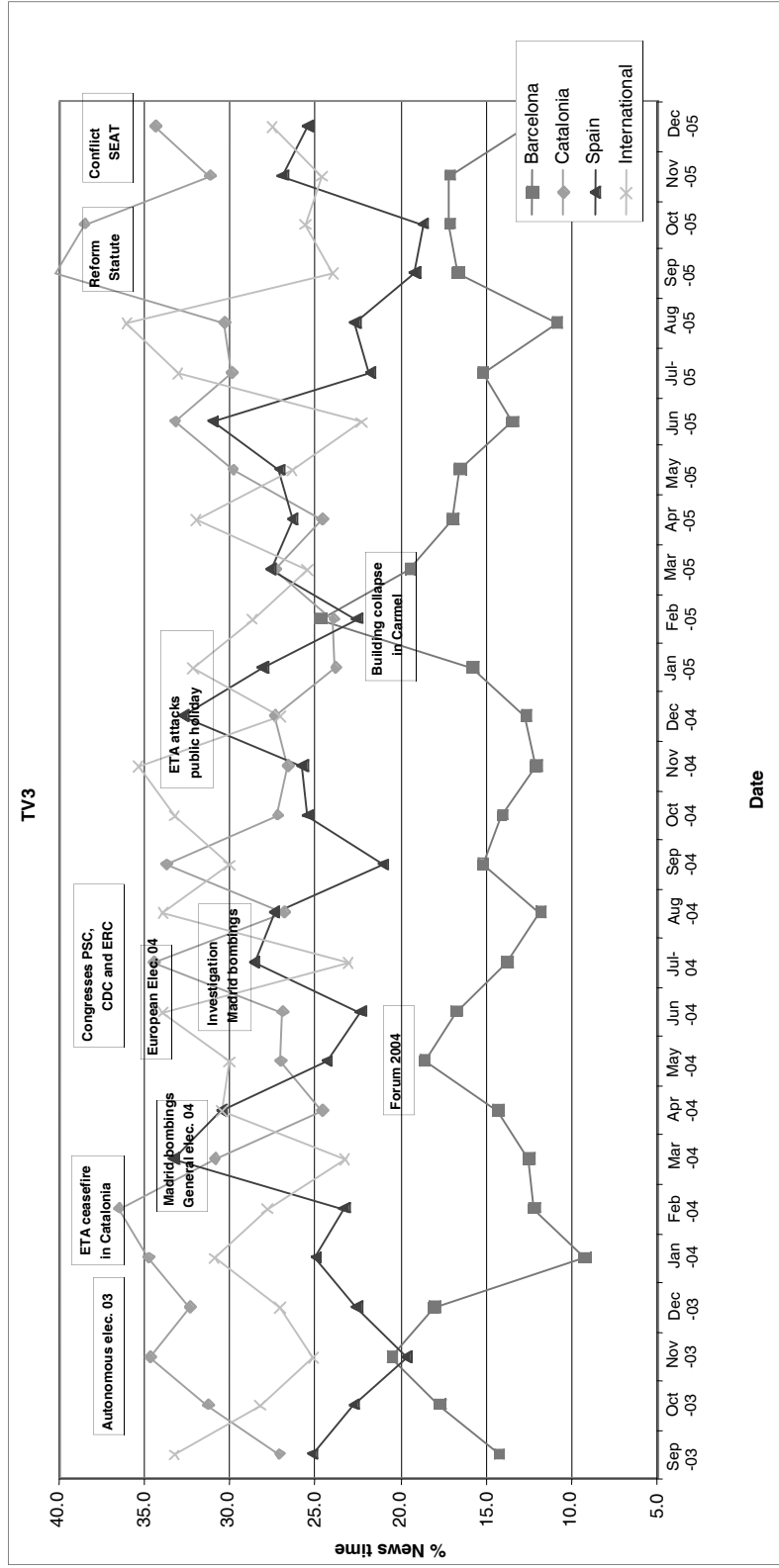
coverage observed in the table do not correspond to a specific news item but rather a sum of various international news items coinciding at the same time. Moreover, we should also note that there are news items at an international level, such as the war in Iraq and the conflict between Israel and Palestine, that are dispersed over time and receive considerable media coverage, so they always occupy first place within their category with regard to news coverage and make it impossible to associate a peak exclusively to any other news item. This situation is common to the other two channels analysed. The only exception are the European elections held in June 2004, which exceed the two news items mentioned in terms of news time during this month.

News broadcasts on **TVE in Catalonia** coincide with TV3 in terms of their stability over time with regard to the geographical distribution of the news. In this case we can see that news on the Catalan territorial area always occupies more than one third of news time and is always above the other three geographical categories, among which news time has a balanced distribution. It should also be noted that, on TVE in Catalonia news broadcasts, there are not so many fluctuations in news time associated with each geographical area and linked clearly to specific news events compared with the autonomous channel.

Unlike the other two broadcasters, where balance in the geographical distribution of news is the norm, the news broadcasts on **BTV** undergo a notable change as from February 2005, when media coverage allocated to the Barcelona area increases considerably and exceeds 50% of the news time, in detriment to the rest of the geographical categories. This modification coincides with a change in the format of the night-time news programme on the channel, leading to a substantial increase in its duration. It can therefore be concluded that this additional news time was mainly dedicated to local news. Another characteristic of the news on BTV is that news events do not affect the geographical distribution as much as on the other two channels.

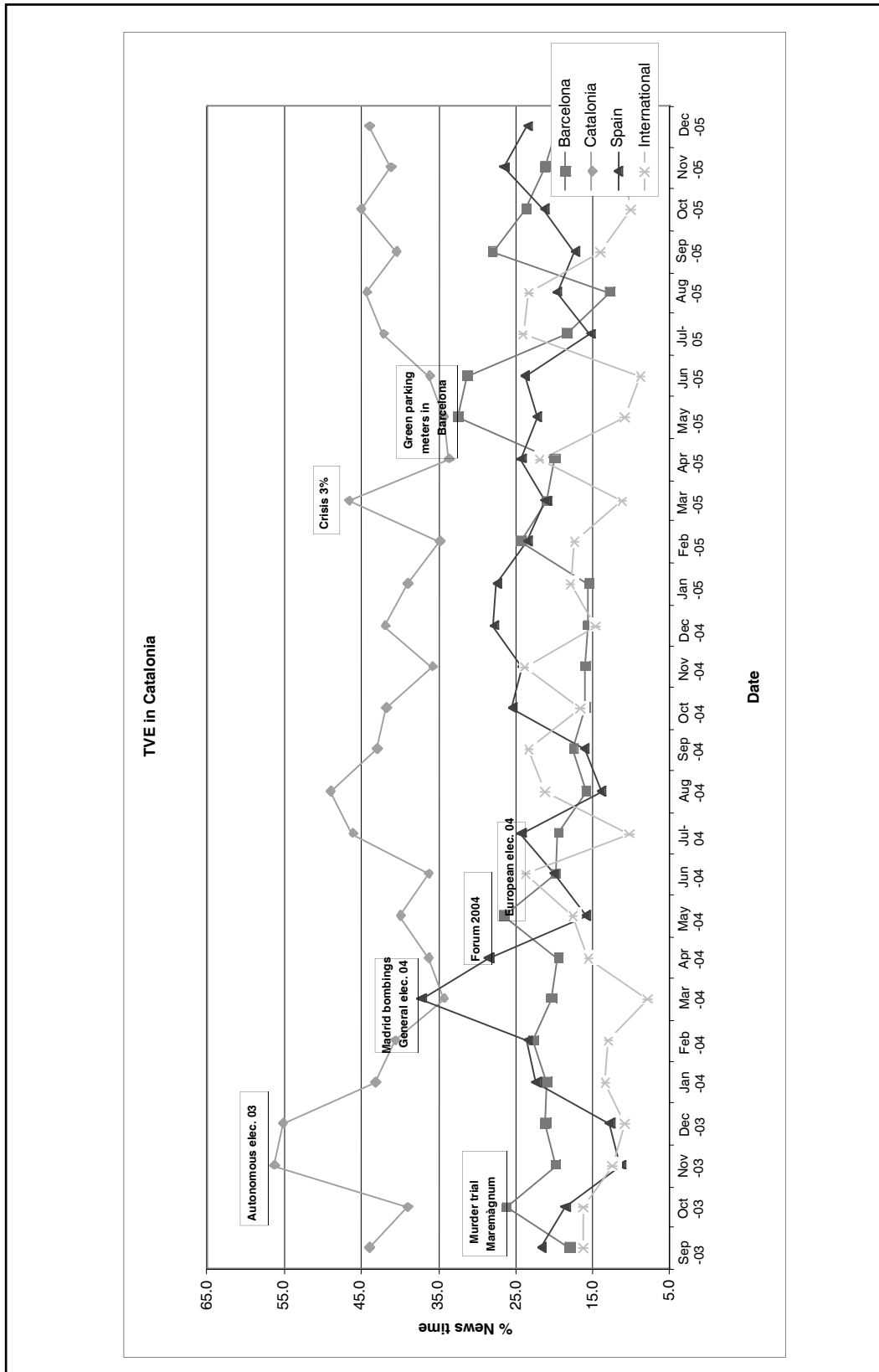
So, while in the news broadcasts on TV3 and TVE in Catalonia we notice a balanced geographical distribution of news throughout the period analysed, as from February 2005 there is a change in the format of the news on BTV that ends up considerably increasing the media coverage allocated to the city of Barcelona to the detriment of the rest of the geographical areas.

Table 2. TV3. Diachronic trends in the territorial distribution of news. September 2003 - December 2005



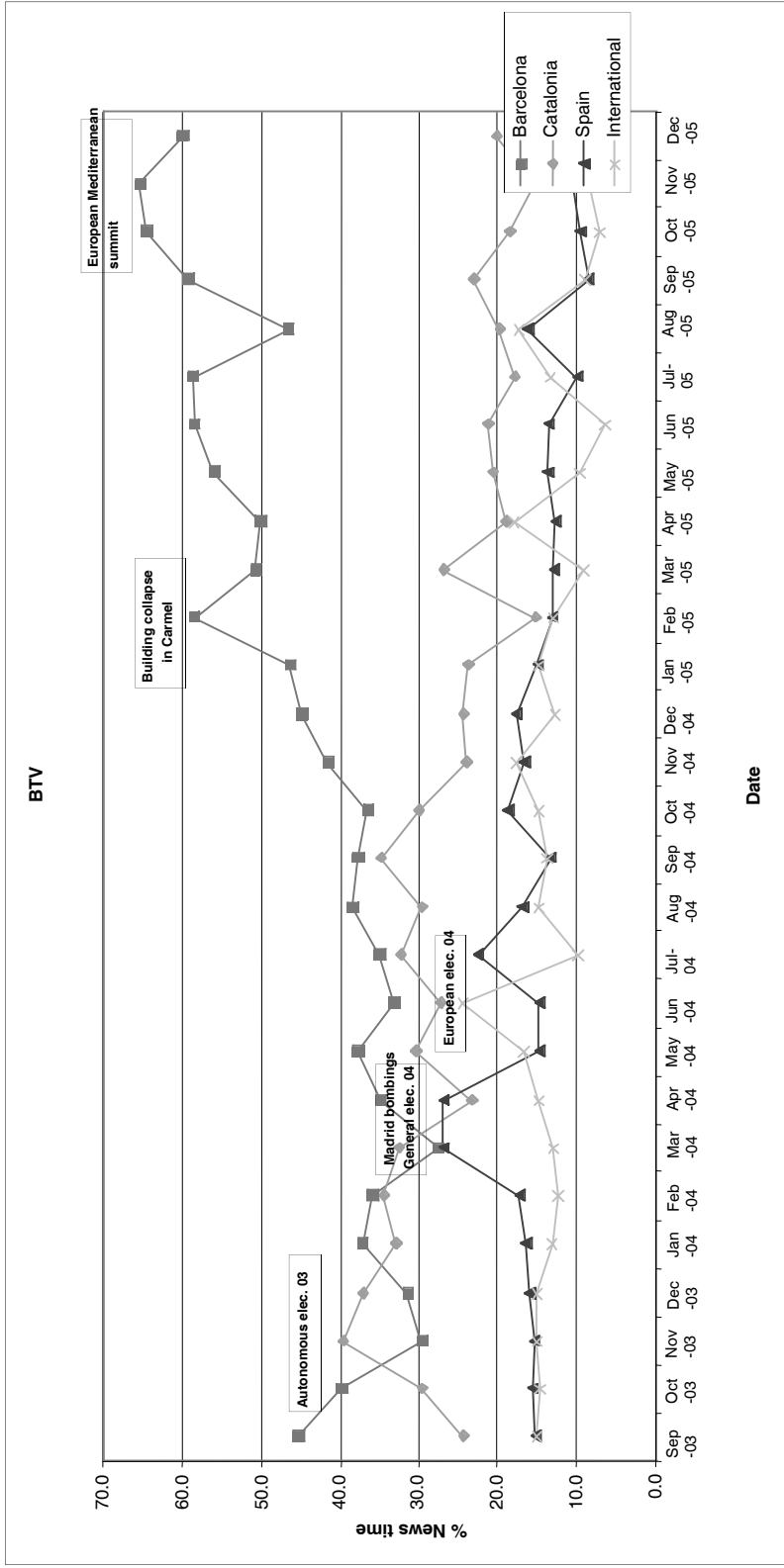
Source: in-house.

Table 3. Diachronic trends in the territorial distribution of news. September 2003 - December 2005



Source: in-house.

Table 4. BTV. Diachronic trends in the territorial distribution of news. September 2003 - December 2005



Source: in-house.

The most represented Catalan counties

In order to determine the Catalan counties that appear most frequently in news broadcasts at a Catalan level, we must look at the news items with geographical references corresponding to towns and Catalan counties, therefore without including those related to Catalonia in general. Municipal references have been catalogued afterwards within the corresponding county. We have also listed *supra-county geographical references*, a concept that includes all those geographical indicators that cover two or more Catalan counties, such as *Metropolitan Area of Barcelona* and *Terres de l'Ebre*.

The broadcasters' media coverage of geographical references at a non-generic Catalan level is diverse. First comes TVE in Catalonia, allocating 20.1% of its news time, followed by TV3 with 13.8%, BTV (9.3%), Citytv (5.1%) and Localia (4.8%). It was decided to exclude the last three channels from this analysis due to their local nature and, consequently, the little weight given to news related to Catalan counties within their news programmes, focusing primarily on the county of Barcelonès.

So, table 5 shows the 41 counties into which the Catalan territory is divided with the news coverage allocated by TV3 and TVE in Catalonia out of the total news items at a county level. It also includes the percentage total of the real Catalan population represented by each county, in order to show any correspondence between this variable and media coverage. The five counties that have been allocated most news time in news broadcasts by each broadcaster are shaded.

Without counting the supra-county geographical references, it can be seen that the counties with most news time are the same on both channels and in the same order: Barcelonès, Baix Llobregat, Vallès Occidental, Segrià, and Tarragonès.

The most notable feature of table 5 is that the percentage of news items focused on the county of Barcelonès takes up about half the time dedicated to the total Catalan counties both on TV3 (55.9%) and on TVE in Catalonia (54.8%). On the other hand, if we look at the data of population density per county we can see that, although the majority of the most populated counties are also top with regard to media coverage, the percentages of these two parameters are not

always correlative. Here it should be noted that, apart from the volume of population in a region, there are other highly diverse indicators that may influence media coverage and the concepts of under- and over-representation used are therefore purely descriptive and in no case evaluative. It should also be noted that the absolute news time allocated to some of the Catalan counties is very low. Consequently, there are times when those channels allocated much less than 1% of the total news time do not exceed one hour of broadcast time per channel analysed.

It is particularly interesting to note that, while the population of the Barcelonès county accounts for 31.7% of all Catalonia, media coverage for this county far exceeds this percentage on both channels analysed. Evidently, the fact that Barcelona is the capital explains the reason for its county being over-represented.

However, the lack of proportion between the real population percentages and the news time percentages is also notable in many other counties. If we note which are in this situation on both channels and what causes might be behind this, we discover that, on the one hand, there are the counties of Gironès and Segrià, where two of the four Catalan capitals are located. What is curious is that the rest of the counties where the percentage of television coverage exceeds that of the population, with the exception of the Ribera d'Ebre, are all located in the Pyrenees: namely the Alt Urgell, Alta Ribagorça, Pallars Jussà, Pallars Sobirà and Val d'Aran.

But what are the reasons behind this over-representation? Associating the county geographical indicators with their respective news items gives us an answer. With regard to Alt Urgell, there is no news item that explains, alone, the higher percentage of media coverage for the county with regard to its volume of population, but there is larger weight paid to news items related to the environment (30.2%) than the average of news items at a county level on the channels analysed (13.1%).

The case of Alta Ribagorça is similar, given that the news items of different kinds dedicated to the environment go to make up a considerable percentage (28.2%), but in this case we should also note that 28% of the news items related to the county refer to lost or rescued hikers in the area.

A significant percentage of the news items on Pallars Jussà, Pallars Sobirà and Val d'Aran coincide in being rela-

Table 5. News coverage allocated to the different Catalan counties on news broadcasts by TV3 and TVE in Catalonia

Catalan counties (alphabetical order)	% news time out of total news items with non-generic geographical references at a Catalan level		% total real Catalan population 2005
	TV3	TVE in Catalonia	
Alt Camp	0.29	0.24	0.57
Alt Empordà	1.58	1.80	1.70
Alt Penedès	0.75	0.69	1.34
Alt Urgell	0.38	0.49	0.30
Alta Ribagorça	0.11	0.08	0.06
Anoia	0.61	0.53	1.51
Bages	1.51	1.93	2.42
Baix Camp	1.16	1.24	2.40
Baix Ebre	0.89	0.81	1.07
Baix Empordà	1.33	1.39	1.72
Baix Llobregat	4.87	4.76	10.83
Baix Penedès	0.44	0.55	1.14
Barcelonès	55.90	54.80	31.67
Berguedà	0.75	0.55	0.57
Cerdanya	0.20	0.42	0.24
Conca de Barberà	0.27	0.16	0.29
Garraf	1.39	0.89	1.83
Garrigues	0.28	0.11	0.29
Garrotxa	0.56	0.43	0.74
Gironès	2.44	2.45	2.30
Maresme	2.09	2.05	5.70
Montsià	0.46	0.43	0.92
Noguera	0.36	0.28	0.54
Osona	1.50	2.00	2.03
Pallars Jussà	0.20	0.23	0.18
Pallars Sobirà	0.37	0.50	0.10
Pla de l'Estany	0.31	0.24	0.47
Pla of Urgell	0.23	0.12	0.40
Priorat	0.34	0.14	0.14
Ribera d'Ebre	0.50	0.42	0.33
Ripollès	0.42	0.32	0.38
Segarra	0.35	0.27	0.30
Segrià	2.97	3.39	2.63
Selva	1.05	0.93	2.06
Solsonès	0.17	0.06	0.18
Tarragonès	2.82	3.13	3.04
Terra Alta	0.24	0.18	0.18
Urgell	0.39	0.34	0.49
Val d'Aran	0.46	1.00	0.13
Vallès Occidental	4.31	3.97	11.66
Vallès Oriental	1.93	1.69	5.17
Supra-county geographical references	2.84	3.97	--
Total	100	100	100

Source: in-house.

ted to snow tourism, meaning that economic news items have a greater weight than on average for county news items.

Notwithstanding this, in the Pallars Jussà news items related to the environment are also above the county average but, once again, there is a great variety of items, particularly those regarding the weather, explaining this over-representation compared with the volume of population.

With regard to the county of Pallars Sobirà, it's of note that almost 20% of its news items refer to various lotteries, mainly due to the famous lottery ticket vendor being located in this county, in Sort.

With regard to the Val d'Aran, apart from the number of news items on tourism in the area, it should also be noted that 20% of the total news items refer to the electricity blackout occurring in the county in December 2003 and its consequences.

Finally, more than half the news coverage allocated to the Ribera d'Ebre is related to the contamination of the Flix reservoir (these news items were concentrated primarily between September and November 2004), while a further 25% refer to the numerous forest fires occurring throughout the summer of 2005, which affected this county as well as other areas in Catalonia

We should also take into account the supra-county

geographical references related to news items on the two channels analysed, where the three with most representation on each broadcaster are the counties of the Pyrenees, the counties of Lleida and Terres de l'Ebre, as can be seen in table 6.

It is interesting to note that, while most of the counties located in the Pyrenees receive a higher percentage of media coverage than that corresponding to their population, the counties of Lleida and its Pyrenean area all allocate a significant amount of news time to items related to snow tourism (40%) and the environment (25% and 32% of the total, respectively). This last figure suggests that a very large proportion of the counties with more representation in news broadcasts at a Catalan level than they should have in terms of their population are related to mountain tourism.

With regard to Terres de l'Ebre, in third place for supra-county geographical references, we should note that almost 30% of the items related to this area have to do with the National Hydrological Plan, which has been covered in the news for some time. On the other hand, as is the case of the county of Ribera d'Ebre, a significant percentage of news time (in this case 17%) is given to items related to the contamination of the Flix reservoir. So we may conclude that a large proportion of the greater representation of counties located in the Terres de l'Ebre region, compared with their

Table 6. TV3 and TVE in Catalonia. Supra-county geographical references

Geographical references (alphabetical order)	TV3	TVE in Catalonia
Metropolitan Area of Barcelona	12.8	15.8
Counties of Barcelona	4.4	4.9
Counties of Girona	9.1	8.4
Counties of Lleida	14.3	16.5
Counties of the Pyrenees	24.8	26
Counties of Tarragona	6	8
Montserrat	4.5	1.7
Terres de l'Ebre	17.9	10.5
Other	6.2	8.2
Total	100	100

Source: in-house.

populations, is associated to the National Hydrological Plan on the one hand and to the contamination of the Flix reservoir on the other.

Those counties that receive the most news time on news broadcasts, both on TV3 and on TVE in Catalonia, are Barcelonès, Baix Llobregat, Vallès Occidental, Segrià and Tarragonès. On the other hand, there are a number of counties that benefit from more representation than corresponds to them in terms of their population. So first we find Gironès and Segrià, holding two of the provincial capitals in Catalonia. Second is Ribera d'Ebre, explained by the media coverage of the contamination of the Flix reservoir, located in the region. Finally, there are a number of counties that are all located in the Pyrenees: Alt Urgell, Alta Ribagorça, Pallars Jussà, Pallars Sobirà and Val d'Aran, characterised by a large number of their news items being related to mountain tourism and the environment, which leads to their over-representation.

News coverage of Catalan municipalities

When analysing news coverage at a municipal level, we have only selected geographical references for Catalan towns without taking into account items related to counties or those for the whole of the Catalan territory. Within the *Barcelona* reference we have included items that cover any of the ten districts that go to make up the Catalan capital.

Before listing the most represented Catalan municipalities, we should note the percentage of the total news time at a municipal level on each of the channels analysed, shown in table 7. It can be seen that, if we exclude the city of Barcelona from the municipal analysis, the percentages vary substantially, especially with regard to BTV, Citytv and Localia, where coverage of the Catalan capital is very high compared with that allocated to the rest of the municipalities. That is why we have decided to limit this analysis to the municipal representation of news broadcasts on TV3 and TVE in Catalonia.

Tables 8 and 9 include a list of the ten Catalan municipalities with the most media coverage in the news broadcasts of each of the channels under study, together with the percentage represented by their population in terms of the total population of Catalonia.

Observing these tables, we can see a large concentration of news coverage for Catalan municipalities on the city of Barcelona. In news broadcasts by TV3 and TVE in Catalonia, 57% and 56.2% of news items dedicated to a single Catalan municipality are about the Catalan capital.

With regard to the rest of the Catalan municipalities to which more news time is allocated, we should note the coincidence between both channels analysed, where the other three provincial capitals, namely Lleida, Tarragona and Girona, come immediately after the Catalan capital and in this order, although always with a relatively lower news time.

Apart from the uneven distribution of news time between Catalan towns, these tables also show contrasts with regard to the number of municipalities each channel talks about. Whereas, during the period analysed, the news programmes on TV3 referred to 561 different Catalan towns (59.3% of the total municipalities in Catalonia), on TVE in Catalonia 445 were recorded (47%). As can be inferred from the little news time allocated to non-Barcelona Catalan municipalities, these figures decrease significantly when we look at the local channels: on BTV this figure was 247 (26.1%), on Citytv 144 (15.2%) and on Localia 77 (8.1%).

At a general level, we can see that, out of the 946 Catalan municipalities in 2005, a total of 629 have appeared at least once in the sample analysed. This means that 317 Catalan municipalities have not been covered by the news in the news broadcasts of the channels analysed during the period of study.

With regard to the number of inhabitants, the Catalan municipalities appearing on news broadcasts of the channels analysed have been classified into six categories:

On analysing table 10 we can see that the relationship between the number of inhabitants of a municipality and its representation on news broadcasts is proportional on both the channels analysed: the larger the population, the more news time. Both on TV3 and on TVE in Catalonia, two thirds of the items on Catalan municipalities correspond to those with more than 50,000 inhabitants. On the other hand, the less populated towns (under 500 inhabitants) have the lowest percentage of speaking time out of the total.

If we compare the data on media coverage with the population density of the Catalan municipalities in tables 8 and 9, we can also reach several conclusions. 6 of the 10 Catalan municipalities with the highest populations are those with

most representation in news broadcasts of the two channels analysed: Barcelona, Hospitalet de Llobregat, Badalona, Sabadell, Tarragona and Lleida. On the other hand, four of the most populated municipalities in Catalonia do receive parallel media coverage: these are Terrassa, Santa Coloma de Gramenet, Mataró and Reus. There are also some towns in the tables that, although they are not at the top in terms

of their number of inhabitants within the Catalan territory, they are widely covered in the media. These are Sitges, Martorell, Prat de Llobregat, Sant Adrià de Besòs and Vic.

If we analyse which news items lead to the appearance of the rest of the municipalities in the top positions, there is a specific explanation in each case. Firstly, with regard to Sitges, more than 45% of its news items refer to its Inter-

Table 7. TV3, TVE in Catalonia, BTV, Citytv and Localia. News time out of the total time allocated to items at a municipal level

Broadcasters	TV3	TVE in Catalonia	BTV	Citytv	Localia
Including the city of Barcelona	27.3	36.9	53.4	17.6	58.2
Not including the city of Barcelona	11.7	16.1	8.3	4.6	3.6

Source: in-house.

Table 8. TV3. The 10 Catalan municipalities with most media coverage in news broadcasts

Catalan municipalities with most news time	% news time out of total of Catalan municipalities represented	% population out of total population in Catalonia (2005)
Barcelona	57.0	22.8
Lleida	2.5	1.8
Tarragona	2.5	1.8
Girona	1.9	1.2
L'Hospitalet de Llobregat	1.3	3.6
Sabadell	1.2	2.8
Sitges	0.9	0.3
Martorell	0.8	0.4
El Prat de Llobregat	0.8	0.9
Badalona	0.8	3.1
Rest of the Catalan municipalities represented	30.2	--
Total	100	--

Source: in-house.

Table 9. TVE in Catalonia. The 10 Catalan municipalities with most media coverage in news broadcasts

Catalan municipalities with most news time	% news time out of total of Catalan municipalities represented	% population out of total population in Catalonia (2005)
Barcelona	56.2	22.8
Lleida	3.1	1.8
Tarragona	2.8	1.8
Girona	2.3	1.2
Sant Adrià de Besòs	1.5	0.5
L'Hospitalet de Llobregat	1.3	3.6
El Prat de Llobregat	1.2	0.9
Martorell	1.1	0.4
Sabadell	1.0	2.8
Vic	0.9	0.5
Rest of the Catalan municipalities represented	28.5	--
Total	100	--

Source: in-house.

national Film Festival, held every year in this municipality. With regard to Sant Adrià de Besòs, two thirds of its news items are to do with the Forum 2004. For El Prat de Llobregat, 60% of its news items are directly related to Barcelona airport. The reason behind the appearance of the municipality of Martorell among the most represented is that more than 75% of the news items with this geographical indicator refer to the Seat car factory, located in this Catalan municipality. And, finally, the only notable item associated with the city of Vic, with 20% of the news time associated to it, refers to the Christmas lottery of 2005, as the big prize went to people in this town.

The fact that Barcelona is the capital means that it receives a large proportion of the news coverage for Catalan municipalities, both on TV3 and on TVE in Catalonia, with over 50% of the total. Similarly, the other three provincial capitals occupy the next top places but with much lower percentages, in no case over 3.1%. It can also

be concluded that, in general, there is a proportional relationship between the number of inhabitants of the Catalan municipalities and their media coverage. Notwithstanding this, not all of the most populated Catalan municipalities are among those that appear most in news broadcasts, such as Terrassa, Santa Coloma de Gramenet, Mataró and Reus. A number of towns have also been detected that, although they are not at the top in terms of their number of inhabitants, receive considerable news time because newsworthy events occur there, such as Sitges, Martorell, El Prat de Llobregat, Sant Adrià de Besòs and Vic.

Municipalities with under 5,000 inhabitants

Firstly, we should remember that the percentage news time allocated by the two channels in question to municipalities with under 5,000 inhabitants compared with the total

Table 10. TV3 and TVE in Catalonia. News time of Catalan municipalities by number of inhabitants

Number of inhabitants	TV3	TVE in Catalonia
More than 50,000	74.5	75.1
Between 10,001 and 50,000	13.2	13.7
Between 5,001 and 10,000	3.9	3.4
Between 2,001 and 5,000	4.0	4.1
Between 501 and 2,000	2.4	2.1
Up to 500	2.0	1.6
Total	100	100

Source: in-house.

Catalan towns is 8.4% on TV3 and 7.8% on TVE in Catalonia. Table 11 shows the themes associated with Catalan municipalities of under 5,000 inhabitants on each of the channels analysed. For comparative purposes, the same information has been added but referring to all Catalan municipalities, without making any distinction in terms of the number of inhabitants. It should be noted that the themes of *Sports* and *Weather* have not been included because news items contained within the *Sports Block* and the *Weather Information* do not have any geographic indicator associated to them. Neither has the *International Events* indicator been counted as, due to the nature of the themes covered, its presence in relation to Catalan municipalities is very low.

If we compare the data on the less populated municipalities with those on Catalan towns as a whole, we can see there are three big differences in terms of the themes *Art and culture*, *Political events* and *Environment*. On both channels there was a much lower percentage of news referring to municipalities of under 5,000 inhabitants on art and culture compared with the total news items at a municipal geographical level. This contrast is particularly marked on TV3.

Secondly, on both TV3 and TVE in Catalonia we can see a considerably lower percentage of news items dealing with political events in municipalities with less population than that for all Catalan municipalities. On the other hand, there are relatively more news items dedicated to the environment

that refer to municipalities of under 5,000 inhabitants on both channels (22.2% on TV3 and 18.9% on TVE in Catalonia), compared with the corresponding total at a municipal level, which does not exceed 5.8%.

Finally, we should note the fact, extendable to all news items at the level of Catalan municipalities, that close to a third of news items on towns of under 5,000 inhabitants belong to the theme *Society*, a much higher figure than usual for news items as a whole, which is 14.2% on TV3 and 17.8% on TVE in Catalonia.

With regard to news associated with Catalan municipalities with the lowest populations, on analysing table 12 we can see that there are numerous coincidences within the ten main news items related to Catalan municipalities of under 5,000 inhabitants for the two channels analysed. On both broadcasters, the first and second news item with most news time corresponds to the Particularly Relevant Themes (PRT) *Traffic accidents* and *Contamination of the Flix reservoir*, while the PRT *2005 drought* occupies the third and fourth place on the channels, respectively.

It should be noted that the news items on the *Environment*, including natural catastrophes and fires, are of particular importance both on TV3 and on TVE in Catalonia. Moreover, these two channels coincide with the presence of the PRT *Immigration* in sixth and fifth place, respectively. Finally, we should also note the importance of the items referring to lotteries for the less populated municipalities, given that the PRT *2005 "El Niño" lottery* appears in eighth

Table 11. TV3 and TVE in Catalonia. Themes of the news items on Catalan municipalities with under 5.000 inhabitants

Theme	TV3		TVE in Catalonia	
	Municipalities of under 5,000 inhabitants	All Catalan municipalities	Municipalities of under 5,000 inhabitants	All Catalan municipalities
Art and culture	9.0	21.5	13.9	17.0
Science and technology	1.2	1.5	0.9	1.0
Social conflicts	5.6	5.7	6.2	7.9
Political events	8.3	17.4	8.0	18.5
Economy and business	10.2	8.0	12.2	7.7
Education and teaching	1.0	1.8	0.6	0.9
Environment	22.2	5.8	18.9	4.4
Media and telecommunications	0.6	0.8	1.1	0.5
Health	1.0	2.4	1.5	3.1
Society	35.0	29.7	31.5	33.7
Traffic	0.8	0.2	0.2	0.1
Work	5.3	5.0	5.1	5.3
Total	100	100	100	100

Source: in-house.

Table 12. TV3 and TVE in Catalonia. The 10 news items with most news time related to the Catalan municipalities with under 5000 inhabitants

Order	TV3	TVE in Catalonia
1	Traffic accidents	Traffic accidents
2	Contamination of the Flix reservoir	Contamination of the Flix reservoir
3	2005 drought	Transfer of water from the Sau reservoir to the Susqueda reservoir
4	Debate on Statute reform	2005 drought
5	Companies leaving the area	Immigration
6	Immigration	Domestic violence
7	Hole in AP-7 motorway	International Music Festival at Perelada Castle 2005
8	2005 "El Niño" lottery	Snow and rainstorms (second half of February 2004)
9	Conflict due to installation of primate research centre in Camarles	2004 Christmas lottery
10	Earthquakes in Catalonia	Forest fire in Terres de l'Ebre (August 2005)

Source: in-house.

place on TV3, while on TVE in Catalonia the PRT 2004 *Christmas lottery* is in ninth position.

In conclusion, municipalities of under 5,000 inhabitants that appear in news broadcasts on TV3 and TVE in Catalonia are principally in news items related to *traffic accidents* or, in second place, environmental catastrophes, as well as in news items on lotteries. Moreover, while news on the *environment* is much higher than that for Catalan municipalities as a whole, news on *art and culture* and on *political events* is below average. This suggests that news items on municipal politics are not included in the news broadcasts of the channels analysed for these towns.

The districts of Barcelona in BTV news broadcasts

In news broadcasts by the local channel, news items referring to the Catalan capital account for 45.2% of the total. Of this percentage, 80.4% of the time is allocated to the general geographical indicator *Barcelona*, referring to news items affecting all the city, and only the remaining 19.6% is allocated to news on one of its districts.

Table 13 shows the distribution of news time of the ten

districts in Barcelona city (not including news items on the city as a whole). It reveals that the two districts with far more news coverage than the rest are Horta-Guinardó, with a quarter of all news items on the channel related to the Barcelona districts, and Ciutat Vella, with 18.2%. At the other extreme are the districts of Les Corts and Sarrià-Sant Gervasi.

If we compare these data with the distribution of the real population of the city of Barcelona for its ten districts, we can see that, in general, there is no strict relation between this parameter and the news coverage provided by BTV's news programmes, as demonstrated by the fact that the most highly populated districts of the Catalan capital, Eixample and Sant Martí, are not in first place with regard to news coverage. This is the opposite case with the district of Ciutat Vella, which only accounts for 7% of the total of the population of Barcelona but is in second place with regard to news time.

If we look at those districts with most news time, we can see that 79.4% of the news items associated with Horta-Guinardó refer to the collapsed building in the area of Carmel caused by the work being done on the underground, occurring in January 2005 and covered extensively by the media. On the other hand, there is no specific theme that

Table 13. BTV. Distribution of news time allocated to news items on Barcelona districts

Barcelona districts	% news time	% population of total Barcelona population (2005)
Horta-Guinardó	25.2	10.7
Ciutat Vella	18.2	7.0
Sants-Montjuïc	10.5	11.2
Nou Barris	9.2	10.4
Sant Martí	8.5	13.9
Gràcia	8.1	7.5
Sant Andreu	7.5	9.0
Eixample	6.1	16.5
Les Corts	3.9	5.2
Sarrià-Sant Gervasi	2.8	8.8
Total	100	100

Source: in-house.

Table 14. BTV. News items on the districts of Barcelona related to thematic indicators

Thematic indicator	Ciutat Vella	Eixample	Gràcia	Horta-Guinardó	Les Corts	Nou Barris	Sant Andreu	Sant Martí	Sants-Montjuïc	Sarrià-Sant Gervasi
Art and culture	20.6	10.9	34.0	1.9	15.8	16.6	11.8	9.8	18.5	11.3
Science and technology			0.4	0.2		1.1				2.3
Social conflicts	17.5	19.1	21.9	15.9	19.5	17.2	29.0	27.9	20.7	6.7
Political events	3.0	1.5	3.0	17.7	6.1	2.7	1.5	2.9	4.3	6.6
Economy and business	12.5	8.1	5.9	6.4	14.2	12.8	11.2	10.6	10.8	6.7
Education and teaching	0.5	2.6	1.4	0.5		0.9	0.8	1.3	0.4	2.6
Environment	1.1		1.5	0.1		0.5	1.0	1.6	0.6	1.7
Media and telecom.	0.4					0.2	0.2	0.9		
Health	2.3	0.8	2.5	0.4	2.3	0.4	0.5	0.4		
Society	41.8	54.9	28.6	56.2	41.1	47.0	43.1	44.7	41.7	62.1
Work	0.4	2.1	0.8	0.7	1.0	0.4	1.0		2.9	
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: in-house.

explains the higher news coverage allocated to the district of Ciutat Vella, rather the news time is shared out among highly diverse news items. That said, more than 8% are related to antisocial behaviour and a similar percentage to the remodelling and inauguration of Santa Caterina market. News items on cultural themes and those related to immigration are also relatively important.

A study of the thematic distribution of news items by district, shown in table 14, can help to determine those themes receiving most media attention in each area in the city. To make an analysis easier, the thematic indicators with most news time in each district are shaded. We have not included the thematic indicators of *Sports* or *Weather*, given that this kind of news does not have any associated thematic indicator. Neither have we taken into account the thematic indicator of *International Events*, as its presence related to Barcelona's districts is highly inconsequential.

At a global level, no big differences are observed with regard to the thematic distribution of news items among Barcelona districts. The thematic indicators of *Society*, *Social conflicts* and *Art and culture* occupy, in this order, the top three places with regard to news coverage in all districts, with only some exceptions.

This is the case of Gràcia, which is the only district where the theme of *Society* is not in first place, this going to *Art and culture*, with a considerable 34% of the total news items. The main reason for the importance of cultural news associated with this district is the fact that 30% of the total news items are dedicated to festivals in Gràcia.

Ciutat Vella (20.6%), as we have already seen, and Sants Montjuïc (18.5%) also have a significant percentage of cultural news items. In the case of Sants Montjuïc, the "fiesta mayor" or local festival for the district also occupies a significant amount of the news time, 7%.

Other districts that do not completely follow the general pattern are Horta-Guinardó where, while news on art and culture is very limited, the second most important theme being political events, with 17.7%, a figure that is very different from the rest of the districts and explained, once again, by news coverage of the collapsed building in Carmel caused by the work on the Barcelona underground.

Also noticeable is the case of Sant Martí that, together with Horta-Guinardó, is the only district where economic and business news has more relative weight than cultural news. The reason is the extensive news coverage of the urban renewal project for the area of Poblenou, 22@ Barcelona. There is also a considerable number of news items associated with this district related to social conflicts (27.9%), caused by the controversy over the demolition of the Can Ricart industrial estate as from April 2005.

Finally, Sarrià-Sant Gervasi is the district with most news items dedicated to social themes (62.1%) and less to social conflicts: only 6.7%, a much lower figure than the average for the rest of the districts. For news items on society, highly varied in nature, of note is only an attack on a supermarket by Malo Dieguito in November 2005, taking up 8% of the total news items.

With regard to the municipalities, it can be concluded that there is no relationship between the media coverage given by BTV to the different districts in Barcelona and their populations and that, overall, there is certain thematic uniformity

between them. The two districts receiving most news time, with quite a difference, are Horta-Guinardó, because of the collapsed building in the Carmel area and Ciutat Vella, because of various news items, particularly those on anti-social behaviour, immigration and culture, as well as the remodelling of Santa Caterina market. At the other extreme we have the districts of Les Corts and Sarrià-Sant Gervasi.

Autonomous communities in news broadcasts

Firstly, table 15 shows the percentage news time allocated by each channel to Spain, distinguishing between those news items affecting the state as a whole: *Spain (generic)* and those related to any of its autonomous communities, with the exception of Catalonia, which is counted separately. Media coverage given to the autonomous communities by the channels analysed is not homogeneous. First place is occupied by Citytv, with 14.2% of the total news time, closely followed by TV3 (13.4%). Then come the news broadcasts on TVE in Catalonia (8.6%) and BTV (5.7%). In last position is Localia, with just 1% of the total news items dedicated to any of the autonomous communities that go to make up the state of Spain.

Table 16 refers to the news time for the autonomous communities in Catalonia apart from Catalonia, and is distributed between the remaining sixteen communities and the

Table 15. News time allocated to Spain

Geographical groupings	% of geographical distribution of news items				
	TV3	TVE in Catalonia	BTV	Citytv	Localia
Autonomous communities (except Catalonia)	13.4	8.6	5.7	14.2	1.0
Spain (generic)	11.9	13.6	9.8	15.3	6.0
<i>Total Spain</i>	<i>25.3</i>	<i>22.2</i>	<i>15.5</i>	<i>29.5</i>	<i>7.0</i>
Rest of geographical groupings	74.7	77.9	84.5	70.5	93.1
Total	100	100	100	100	100

Source: in-house.

two autonomous cities. Those percentages for the four communities with most media coverage on each channel have been shaded.

Independently of the media coverage given by each channel to the Spanish communities, the distribution of news time is similar between the broadcasters analysed: on all channels the first place is occupied, and with quite a difference, by the Community of Madrid (with percentages ranging from 35% to 47.2%) and in second place the Basque Country (always more than 18% news time). Finally, and at a certain distance, come Andalusia and Valencia in third and fourth place, depending on the channel.

The only notable difference is on Localia, given that it focuses its attention on only six autonomous communities. In this respect we should remember that this broadcaster's

coverage of Spanish autonomous communities accounts for a very small percentage of the total (only 1%).

It should also be added that, on all the channels analysed, there seems to be a large concentration of media coverage on few Spanish communities. So the sum of the percentage news time allocated to the top three autonomous communities on each channel ranges from 82.2% on Localia to 67.9% on TV3.

With the exception of the Basque Country, the most represented communities coincide on being the most highly populated in Spain. These are, in this order, Andalusia, the Community of Madrid and Valencia. At the other extreme we find those autonomous communities that are least talked about, varying slightly depending on the channel, although La Rioja is clearly in last place. Note the little media

Table 16. Representation of autonomous communities and cities in Spain in news broadcasts

Autonomous communities and cities		TV3	TVE in Catalonia	BTV	Citytv	Localia
1	Andalusia	7.6	7.0	8.4	9.4	2.9
2	Aragon	3.0	3.3	2.9	2.6	
3	Asturias	0.8	0.8	0.5	1.5	
4	Cantabria	0.3	0.5	0.6	1.0	
5	Castille and Leon	3.0	3.0	3.7	3.6	11.7
6	Castille-la Mancha	2.0	1.9	1.6	2.0	
7	Ceuta	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.5	
8	Community of Madrid	37.3	47.2	46.8	37.9	35.0
9	Extremadura	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.6	
10	Galicia	4.9	5.1	5.1	7.1	3.2
11	Balearic Islands	5.4	2.0	1.4	1.2	
12	Canary Islands	1.3	1.0	0.7	0.9	
13	La Rioja	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	
14	Melilla	0.9	1.4	0.5	0.6	
15	Murcia	0.8	0.5	0.9	1.3	
16	Navarre	1.0	1.2	0.6	1.2	
17	Basque Country	19.7	19.7	18.8	21.9	31.8
18	Valencia	10.8	4.2	6.6	6.6	15.4
Total		100	100	100	100	100

Source: in-house.

Table 17. Thematic distribution of news time for the 4 autonomous communities with media representation

Thematic Indicator	Andalusia	Community of Madrid	Basque Country	Valencia
Art and culture	5.1	4.4	3.5	14.8
Science and technology	2.0	0.6	0.1	1.6
Social conflicts	8.8	4.2	1.7	3.9
Political events	19.4	55.1	85.6	22.3
Economy and business	2.1	4.0	0.7	8.0
Education and teaching	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.4
Environment	8.8	0.6	0.7	6.8
Media and telecommunications	--	0.3	0.2	0.3
Health	0.4	0.8	--	1.2
Society	46.5	27.6	4.9	36.9
Traffic	0.1	0.0	--	0.1
Work	6.6	2.0	2.5	3.7
Total	100	100	100	100

Source: in-house.

coverage for Ceuta, Melilla, Extremadura and Cantabria, all autonomous communities or cities that, with the exception of Extremadura, are the most sparsely populated communities in Spain.

Table 17, which associates the four autonomous communities with most media coverage with the main thematic indicators, can help us determine the reasons why, apart from a much denser population, they should have greater news time. We should remember that, as in the rest of the tables relating geographical and thematic indicators, the categories of *Sports* and *Weather* have not been included, given that this kind of news does not have any associated geographical reference. Neither have *International Events* been taken into account, as due to their nature they have very little presence related to autonomous communities.

One of the most notable figures is that 85.6% of the news items referring to the Basque Country have political events as their theme: namely the "Ibarretxe Plan", the autonomous elections for the Basque Country and the subsequent establishment of the new government, etc. Moreover, it can

be seen that many of these items are related to the Basque conflict: information on terrorist attacks, police operations, demonstrations, the imprisonment of Arnaldo Otegi, ETA's ceasefires with political figures and in Catalonia, etc.

With regard to the Community of Madrid, the time dedicated to political events is also considerable: more than 50%. In this case the fact that Madrid is the capital would explain this large volume of political news. It should also be noted that the news about the terrorist attacks on the 11 March (including the police operation, the investigation committee and the anniversary of the bombings) has increased coverage for this community, given that it exceeds 20% of the total news time.

On the other hand, the communities of Andalusia and Valencia coincide in that the main theme associated with them in news terms is Society (46.5% and 36.9%, respectively).

In the case of Valencia, moreover, there is considerable news coverage of the theme *Art and culture* (14.8%), explained by the news coverage allocated to the "Falles" in Valencia, the Independent Music Festival of Benicàssim and

the October Awards. It can also be seen that news items referring to this area are less concentrated than in the rest of the communities analysed. So the first three news items referring to this area correspond to Particularly Relevant Themes (PRT): *Domestic violence* (5.2%), *National Hydrological Plan* (3.7%) and *Controversy about the presentation to the EU of two versions of the Constitution, one in Catalan and one in Valencian* (3.4%).

Andalusia, on the other hand, has a high percentage of news dedicated to *Social conflicts* (8.8%), mostly related to immigration, a theme that accounts for 13.4% of the news time. This high percentage is mainly due to the news coverage of the arrival of immigrants in boats to the Andalusian coast. Other themes that focus on the Andalusian community in news terms were the investigation into the deaths of Rocío Wanninkhof and Sonia Carabantes (8.7% of the news time) and the Roquetas case (5.7%).

We have therefore seen that media coverage in the news broadcasts analysed is concentrated on four autonomous communities: the Community of Madrid, the Basque Country and, at a certain distance, Andalusia and Valencia. All except the Basque Country are among the highest populated communities in Spain. Apart from the variable of population, the fact that Madrid is the capital and the bombings on 11 March are the two reasons why the Madrid community is in first place, while the Basque conflict is clearly the reason for the large amount of news coverage allocated to this area. Valencia and Andalusia are characterised by a large amount of coverage of culture and social conflicts related to immigration, respectively. At the other extreme, with regard to news time, are the communities of La Rioja, Ceuta, Melilla, Extremadura and Cantabria.

International news

For the purposes of this text, news items are considered to be international when they refer to a foreign state, including news items referring to the European Union and its member states. Also included are indicators that refer to supra-state geographical areas, such as *South-East Asia* or *Europe* and the non-administrative geographical reference *International*, used when the information is at a global level. Only data from TV3, TVE and BTV are included, given the local nature

of the broadcasters Citytv and Localia, which means that the coverage given to international news is very low. News broadcasts on TV3, with 28.6% of the total news time, dedicate twice as much time as TVE in Catalonia (15.7%) and BTV (13.3%). Moreover, while 181 different geographical indicators at an international level appear on TV3, 125 appear on TVE in Catalonia and 142 on BTV.

Of note on table 18 is a great coincidence for international geographical indicators with most media coverage on all broadcasters, as shown by the fact that the first eight positions are occupied by the same states, with slight variations in order depending on the amount of news time allocated. These are the USA, Iraq, the European Union, the non-administrative reference *International*, France, the United Kingdom, Israel, Italy and Morocco.

We should also mention the geographical indicators that appear among the top fifteen positions on only two of the three broadcasters analysed. This is the case of Germany (TV3 and TVE), Turkey and South-East Asia (TVE and BTV) and China (TV3 and BTV).

Table 19 shows the news items that have led to these international geographical indicators having greater media coverage. These data correspond to the three news items with most news time of the ten international geographical references represented most on each channel.

It is clear that the main news items referring to the same international geographical indicators often coincide on the three channels analysed. This is particularly noticeable with regard to the first news item associated to each indicator, although slight variations can also be seen in the order depending on the most news time allocated by each broadcaster. The geographical reference *International* is the one with most variations between channels, given that, due to its general nature, it can cover a wide range of news items.

Some news items have so much relevance within international news that they appear related with various geographical references. This is the case of the Iraq conflict, which does not only appear related to the Iraqi state but also to countries such as the USA, France, the United Kingdom and Italy, as well as with the geographical reference *International*.

Of note is the importance of political news within those international news items with most news time, particularly

related to the holding of elections. Among the news items leading to the greatest media coverage outside Spain are the US presidential elections, the referendum on the European Constitution, the presidential elections for the Palestinian National Authority, the general elections in Germany and the legislative elections in Russia, as well as the electoral campaigns of some political groups.

Apart from the conclusions that may be drawn from table 19, it should be noted that there are many states that stand out because they concentrate media coverage into one or few news items and, at the same time, the main news items related to these are the same across all channels. Two very clear cases are the states of Iraq and Israel (including Palestine), with associated news items related to wars of

long duration. With regard to Iraq, the main news refers to the war and post-war period, accounting for 91.3% of the total news coverage. With regard to the state of Israel, the Palestinian conflict accounts for 74.9% of the total media coverage. Notwithstanding this, the following news items on the state of Israel with the most representation are also indirectly related to the conflict: *Alert due to Arafat's state of health* and the *presidential elections for the Palestinian National Authority*.

With regard to the Vatican, once again there is a great concentration of media coverage on a single news item: more than 70% of the total news items on the Vatican dealt with the illness and death of Pope John Paul II and the consequent election of his successor.

Table 18. List of the 15 geographical indicators at an international level with most news time on news broadcasts

TV3		TVE		BTV	
Geographical indicators	%	Geographical indicators	%	Geographical indicators	%
USA	15.1	Iraq	13.5	Iraq	16.5
Iraq	10.4	USA	11.7	USA	12.5
European Union	8.1	European Union	11.5	International	10.8
International	7.8	International	8.6	European Union	9.6
France	6.7	United Kingdom	6.2	Israel (and Palestine)	6.0
United Kingdom	6.5	Israel (and Palestine)	5.9	United Kingdom	5.2
Israel (and Palestine)	5.4	France	5.3	France	4.1
Italy	2.8	Vatican	3.5	Italy	3.4
Morocco	2.4	Italy	3.1	Vatican	3.0
Germany	2.1	Russia	1.5	South-East Asia	2.5
China	2.1	Turkey	1.4	Russia	1.7
Vatican	2.0	Germany	1.3	Morocco	1.3
Russia	1.6	Andorra	1.3	Turkey	1.2
Belgium	1.2	South-East Asia	1.3	China	1.1
Iran	1.0	Morocco	1.2	Ukraine	1.0
Rest of indicators at an international level	24.8	Rest of indicators at an international level	22.8	Rest of indicators at an international level	20.1
Total	100	Total	100	Total	100

Source: in-house.

Table 19. Main news items referring to the 10 most represented international geographical indicators

TV3		TVE in Catalonia		BTV	
Geographical indicators	News item	Geographical indicators	News item	Geographical indicators	News item
USA	1. Iraq conflict 2. US presidential elections (2004) 3. Hurricane Katrina	Iraq	1. Iraq conflict 2. Saddam Hussein's trial 3. Saddam Hussein's capture	Iraq	1. Iraq conflict 2. Saddam Hussein's capture 3. Saddam Hussein's trial
Iraq	1. Iraq conflict 2. Saddam Hussein's trial 3. Saddam Hussein's capture	USA	1. Iraq conflict 2. US presidential elections (2004) 3. Hurricane Katrina	USA	1. Iraq conflict 2. US presidential elections (2004) 3. Hurricane Katrina
European Union	1. Referendum on the European Constitution 2. EU budget negotiations for the period 2007-2013 3. EU enlargement	European Union	1. Referendum on the European Constitution 2. PSC+PSOE electoral campaign referendum European Constitution 3. PSC+PSOE European electoral campaign 2004	International	1. Euro-Mediterranean summit in Barcelona 2. Rise in petroleum prices and repercussions 3. Forum 2004
International	1. Iraq conflict 2. Euro-Mediterranean summit in Barcelona 3. Rise in petroleum prices and repercussions	International	1. Death and succession of John Paul II 2. Iraq conflict 3. Forum 2004	European Union	1. Referendum on the European Constitution 2. PSC+PSOE European electoral campaign 2004 3. CiU+Galeusca European electoral campaign 2004
France	1. Riots in the suburbs of various French cities 2. Referendum on the European Constitution 3. Iraq conflict	United Kingdom	1. 7 July terrorist attacks in London 2. Iraq conflict 3. Repercussions in Great Britain of the terrorist attacks of July 2005	Israel (and Palestine)	1. Israel-Palestine conflict 2. Death of Yasser Arafat 3. Presidential elections for the Palestinian National Authority
United Kingdom	1. 7 July terrorist attacks in London 2. Iraq conflict 3. EU budget negotiations for the period 2007-2013	Israel (and Palestine)	1. Israel-Palestine conflict 2. Death of Yasser Arafat 3. Presidential elections for the Palestinian National Authority	United Kingdom	1. 7 July terrorist attacks in London 2. Iraq conflict 3. 21 July terrorist attacks in London
Israel (and Palestine)	1. Israel-Palestine conflict 2. Death of Yasser Arafat 3. Presidential elections for the Palestinian National Authority	France	1. Riots in the suburbs of various French cities 2. Death of Yasser Arafat 3. Referendum on the European Constitution	France	1. Referendum on the European Constitution 2. Riots in the suburbs of various French cities 3. Iraq conflict
Italy	1. Death and succession of John Paul II 2. Iraq conflict 3. Immigration	Vatican	1. Death and succession of John Paul II 2. 25th anniversary of Pope John Paul II 3. Saint George's Day 2005	Italy	1. Death and succession of John Paul II 2. Iraq conflict 3. Referendum on the European Constitution
Morocco	1. Immigration 2. Earthquake in Morocco (24/02/04) 3. Madrid bombings	Italy	1. Iraq conflict 2. Breakdown of a cruiser in Mediterranean waters 3. Referendum on the European Constitution	Vatican	1. Death and succession of John Paul II 2. 25th anniversary of Pope John Paul II 3. Legalisation of marriage between homosexuals
Germany	1. General elections in Germany (2005) 2. Berlin film festival	Russia	1. Siege on a school in Beslan, Russia 2. 60th anniversary of the fall of Nazism	South-East Asia	1. Tsunami in South-East Asia 2. Earthquake in Indonesia (28/03/05)

Source: in-house.

With regard to other geographical references, these appear linked to one-off events of serious consequences but of a shorter duration that occupy the top positions in terms of news coverage, such as the case of South-East Asia, where the tsunami in December 2004 concentrates more than 99% news time. Other tragedies should also be noted which, although they appear on the list of the top three represented, do not concentrate as much volume of the total news time. This is the case of Hurricane Katrina passing over the USA, the riots in the suburbs of various French cities, the siege on a school in Beslan, Russia, and the earthquake that occurred in Morocco in February 2004.

In short, there is great coincidence with regard to international geographical indicators with the most media coverage on all the broadcasters analysed, as demonstrated by the fact that the top eight positions are occupied by the same states: the USA, Iraq, the European Union, the non-administrative reference *International*, France, the United Kingdom, Israel, Italy and Morocco. Similarly, it can be seen that the news items that place the geographical indicators of this level in the eye of the media are very similar on all three channels. Of particular note is the importance of politics, particularly related to the holding of elections, and also the fact that some states, such as Iraq, Israel and the Vatican, tend to concentrate a large part of their media coverage in one news item.