



NPO DETAILED ANALYSIS

2025-04-22_VPWON_1360426

Broadcast: NPO broadcast | 2025-04-22 | Analysed on: 2026-05-22 17:50

Version 3.0-detail | Universal 3.0-detail | Konverter 3.4 (2026-05-20) | Maatstaf: Mediawet 2008 Art. 2.1

TOTAL SCORE

4.7/10

Considerable imbalance

0 = balanced, 10 = strongly one-sided/manipulative

POLITICAL SPECTRUM

Classification based on Chapel Hill Expert Survey (CHES) 2024

The Chapel Hill Expert Survey (CHES 2024) is an academic survey of 609 political scientists in 31 countries. Each party is rated on a scale from 0 (far left) to 10 (far right).

Party	SP	GL-PvdA	PvdD	D66	CDA	NSC	CU	VVD	BBB	SGP	PVV	FvD
CHES	1.10	2.40	2.50	4.80	5.50	5.80	6.00	7.00	7.50	7.80	9.20	9.50
Spectrum	Left	Left	Left	Left	Centre	Centre	Right	Right	Right	Right	Right	Right

The overall tendency is displayed on a 0–10 scale (0 = strongly left-favouring, 5 = balanced, 10 = strongly right-favouring). The calculation is based on the difference in average favouring of left vs. right parties (grouping according to CHES 2024).

TENDENCY (L – R)

4.8 / 10

Balanced

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

← Left

Right →

Source: Chapel Hill Expert Survey 2024 — chesdata.eu | [Jolly et al., Electoral Studies, 2022](#) | Threshold values: [Pew Research Center](#)

This section provides political context and does not count towards the total score.



POLITICAL LANDSCAPE

The Schoof cabinet took office in July 2024 as an extra-parliamentary cabinet, consisting of PVV, VVD, NSC and BBB. Prime Minister Dick Schoof is non-partisan. Geert Wilders' PVV is the largest governing party with 37 seats. The opposition is led by GL-PvdA (25 seats), followed by D66 (9 seats), CDA (5 seats), SP (5 seats), ChristenUnie (3 seats), PvdD (3 seats), SGP (3 seats), FvD (3 seats), DENK and Volt.

Party	CHES L-R	Seats	Government/Opposition	Core position
SP	1,1	5	Opposition	Socioeconomically left, anti-market
GL-PvdA	2,4	25	Opposition (largest)	Climate, social justice, humane asylum policy
PvdD	2,5	3	Opposition	Animal rights, climate, left-progressive
D66	4,8	9	Opposition	Liberal-progressive, pro-EU, education
CDA	5,5	5	Opposition	Christian democratic, centre-right
NSC	5,8	20	Government	Economic security, rule of law, controlled migration
CU	6,0	3	Opposition	Christian-social, centre-right
VVD	7,0	24	Government	Free market, liberal-right, budgetary discipline
BBB	7,5	7	Government	Agrarian-populist, farmers' interests, EU-critical
SGP	7,8	3	Opposition	Reformed, traditionally conservative
PVV	9,2	37	Government (largest)	Migration stop, critical of Islam, anti-elite
FvD	9,5	3	Opposition	Far right, sovereignty, Baudet

The most important political fault line concerns migration and asylum policy, with the Schoof cabinet pursuing a hard course that meets fierce opposition from left-wing and progressive parties. A second line of tension concerns the internationalisation of higher education: politicians want to reduce the number of foreign students, while universities fear for their international position. In addition, the trade war with the US plays a major role, with the Netherlands as an open economy being vulnerable to import tariffs. Finally, there is the question of how the Netherlands relates to the war in Ukraine and the erratic course of the Trump administration.

The Dutch public broadcaster (NPO) operates under the Media Act 2008, of which Article 2.1 requires pluriform, balanced and independent reporting across the total output. The NPO system is fragmented: broadcasting associations such as BNNVARA, AVRO-TROS and KRO-NCRV each bear their own editorial responsibility. Wilders and the PVV have repeatedly criticised the NPO as a "left-wing broadcaster," which illustrates the institutional tension between politics and public broadcasting.



CHAPTER 1 — PARTY-POLITICAL BIAS

Assessment per party

Party	Score (-5..+5)	Broadcast representation vs. Party programme
VVD	0	Not directly addressed — energy compensation for industry (approx. 30:20) touches on VVD theme of free market, but party itself not mentioned — omitted
PVV	-1	Migration theme indirectly present via internationalisation of higher education (approx. 31:46), but PVV position not explicitly represented; cabinet policy is framed as political pressure without naming PVV — slightly distorted by omission
GL-PvdA	0	Not addressed; mention that internationalisation has been an issue for ten years "under ministers from the PvdA stable" (36:41) — neutral mention — not present
NSC	+1	31:04 transfer of parliamentary group leadership from Omtzigt to Van Vroonhoven correctly and factually represented — correct
D66	0	Only passing mention (36:44) "ministers from the D66 stable" — no substantive representation of party position — omitted
BBB	0	Not addressed — omitted
CDA	0	Not addressed — omitted
SP	0	Not addressed — omitted

Summary Party Bias

- Most accurate representation: NSC (Score +1) — factual reporting on transfer of parliamentary group leadership
- Strongest distortion: PVV (Score -1) — cabinet policy on internationalisation is framed as a political threat without substantively presenting the PVV position
- Average deviation from 0: 0.25
- Conclusion: Most parties are not substantively addressed in this broadcast, because the topics (Ukraine, Zorgkaart, internationalisation) are treated predominantly in policy terms rather than party-politically. Where politics does play a role — particularly in the university issue — cabinet policy is framed as an external threat from the perspective of the universities, without governing parties being able to explain their own position.

Left-Right Overall Tendency

TENDENCY SCORE: +0.8

CLASSIFICATION: Slightly left-favouring

Reasoning: The broadcast covers three main topics in each of which the critical, progressive voice receives more space than the policy-based or right-wing position. In the university issue, the voices of academics criticising cabinet policy dominate; in Zorgkaart, the patient federation does receive an interview but is questioned firmly from the perspective of the doctors; in Ukraine, Trump is framed via Catherine Belton as someone with suspicious Russian business ties. None of these frames is inherently incorrect, but the absence of counterarguments from a government perspective creates a slight left-wing tendency.



CHAPTER 2 — BROADCAST INFORMATION AND THEMATIC FRAMEWORK

Broadcast details

- Title: Nieuwsuur
- Date: 22.04.2025
- Length (estimated from transcript):
- Presenter/Reporter: Simone (presenter, full name not mentioned in transcript); Geert Groot Koerkamp (Moscow correspondent); reporters on location at UvA and Zorgkaart item
- Persons interviewed:

Person	Function	Party/Affiliation	Political Spectrum
Catherine Belton	Journalist Washington Post, author Putin's People	Washington Post / independent	Centre-left (critical of Trump and Putin)
Geert Groot Koerkamp	Moscow Correspondent, NOS/Nieuwsuur	NPO	Neutral/journalistic
Bernard Leenstra	General practitioner, columnist Medisch Contact	Independent medical	Neutral/professional group
Anonymous general practitioner	General practitioner	Unknown	Neutral/professional group
Linda Daniels	Representative Patiëntenfederatie Nederland	Patiëntenfederatie	Neutral/patient interest
Psychology professor UvA (name not mentioned)	Professor/dean of psychology UvA	University of Amsterdam	Neutral/academic
Representative of cooperating universities (name not mentioned)	Spokesperson/administrator universities	VSNU/UNL	Neutral/academic
Nicolien van Vroonhoven	Parliamentary group leader NSC	NSC	Centre-right

Main topic

The broadcast covers three separate news topics: (1) the state of the peace negotiations on Ukraine and the role of Trump and Putin in them, (2) the departure of doctors' organisations from the advisory council of Zorgkaart Nederland, and (3) the decision by Dutch universities to cancel English-language bachelor's programmes themselves before the cabinet does so.



CHAPTER 3 — 15 CRITERIA: DETAILED ANALYSIS

Hard facts — 9 techniques that are countable and scientifically verifiable

1. CHOICE OF EXPERTS

6/10

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Definition: Who speaks as an expert?

Expert 1: Catherine Belton — Journalist Washington Post, author Putin's People*

Timestamp: 07:33

Statement: "That is what Catherine Belton says, the author of Putin's People."

Framing: Belton is introduced as the author of "the standard work on Putin and his entourage... and their link with western businessmen, such as Trump... who according to her is beginning to build a remarkable track record."

Missing countervoice: A Russia expert with a different reading of Trump's motives (e.g. someone who assesses Trump's pressure on Putin as strategically effective), or a Trump-aligned analyst.

Source depth check:

(a) FUNDING: Washington Post, owned by Jeff Bezos (Amazon). Bezos has a strained relationship with Trump. A structural interest in critical Trump reporting is present but not decisive for individual journalists.

(b) MANDATE: Belton is an investigative journalist specialising in Russia and oligarchs. Her mandate is compatible with analysis of Putin; her analysis of Trump-Russia connections falls within her area of expertise but moves on the boundary between journalism and political interpretation.

D1 Conflict of interest: 0 — Employer has an indirect interest in Trump criticism, but Belton has her own research reputation; not heavily negative but not neutral either

D2 Personal risk: +2 — Belton has seen Russian oligarchs file lawsuits following her book; she has taken considerable personal risk

D3 Professional competence: +2 — Recognised Russia expert, years of investigative journalism, primary sources used

D4 Consistency of opinion: +1 — Consistently critical of Putin and his network; position on Trump is newer but consistent with her line of research

D5 Emotionalisation vs. data: +1 — Predominantly factual, based on documented research, but framing of Trump-Putin relationship is interpretive

D6 Source level: +1 — Primary research (interviews, documents), but conclusions are partly inferential

• TOTAL: +7 → SOURCE TRAFFIC LIGHT: GREEN (≥+5)

(c) PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE: Belton is introduced by the presenter as the author of "the standard work" — this is a social attribution, not a scientific qualification. Her analysis of Trump's business ties with Russian oligarchs is journalistically substantiated but is presented in the broadcast as an explanatory framework for Trump's current diplomatic behaviour, which is a causal leap that is not explicitly problematised.

Expert 2: Geert Groot Koerkamp — Moscow Correspondent, NPO

Timestamp: 04:51



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Statement: "Geert Groot Koerkamp in Moscow."

Framing: Regular correspondent, introduced as an interpreter of Russian policy.

Missing countervoice: A correspondent or expert with more sympathy for the Russian negotiating position, or a geopolitical expert who assesses the western sanctions strategy more critically.

Source depth check:

(a) FUNDING: NPO — publicly funded. No commercial interest; however, institutional pressure to remain within editorial frameworks.

(b) MANDATE: Correspondent on location; mandate is informative and analytical. Compatible with neutral interpretation.

D1 Conflict of interest: +1 — Publicly funded, no commercial interest

D2 Personal risk: +2 — Correspondent in Moscow in wartime; considerable personal risk

D3 Professional competence: +2 — Years of Russia expertise, on location

D4 Consistency of opinion: +1 — Consistently analytical

D5 Emotionalisation vs. data: +2 — Predominantly factual and nuanced

D6 Source level: +1 — Direct observation, but dependent on available information in Russia

• TOTAL: +9 → SOURCE TRAFFIC LIGHT: GREEN

Expert 3: Bernard Leenstra — General practitioner, columnist Medisch Contact

Timestamp: 17:50

Statement: "Bernard Leenstra is a general practitioner, columnist at the weekly journal for doctors Medisch Contact... and one of the most outspoken critics."

Framing: Explicitly introduced as a critic — not a neutral expert but a partisan voice.

Missing countervoice: A doctor who has positive experiences with Zorgkaart, or an independent quality expert in healthcare.

Source depth check:

(a) FUNDING: Independent general practitioner; Medisch Contact is a professional journal of the KNMG. No direct financial interests in the outcome of the Zorgkaart debate.

(b) MANDATE: His mandate as a general practitioner and columnist is compatible with criticism of Zorgkaart from a professional perspective. However, he represents a partisan professional group position.

D1 Conflict of interest: -1 — As a general practitioner he has a direct interest in limiting negative reviews

D2 Personal risk: +1 — Being publicly critical about a platform that affects his professional group

D3 Professional competence: +1 — Professionally competent as a general practitioner; not an independent platform expert

D4 Consistency of opinion: +2 — Consistently critical, also in his columns

D5 Emotionalisation vs. data: -1 — Statements such as "gossip channel" are emotionally charged

D6 Source level: 0 — Expert by experience, no primary research

• TOTAL: +2 → SOURCE TRAFFIC LIGHT: YELLOW

(c) PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE: Leenstra is introduced as "one of the most outspoken critics" — this is a correct qualification that acknowledges his partisanship, but he subsequently receives considerably more speaking time than the Patiëntenfederatie and is not contradicted by a pro-Zorgkaart voice from the medical world.

Missing expert groups:

- Independent geopolitical expert (not affiliated with Washington Post or NPO) on Trump-Putin
- Economist specialising in higher education and the knowledge economy
- Legal expert on anonymity and online reviews in healthcare

Source traffic light for participants:

Source	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6	Total	Signal
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Catherine Belton — Journalist Washington Post, author Putin's People	0	+2	+2	+1	+1	+1	+7	GREEN
Geert Groot Koerkamp — Moscow Correspondent, NPO	+1	+2	+2	+1	+2	+1	+9	GREEN
Bernard Leenstra — General practitioner, columnist Medisch Contact	-1	+1	+1	+2	-1	0	+2	YELLOW

Summary (Matrix result):

- Catherine Belton: GREEN (+7) — qualified but deployed one-sidedly as the sole Trump-Putin analyst
- Geert Groot Koerkamp: GREEN (+9) — reliable correspondent, nuanced interpretation
- Bernard Leenstra: YELLOW (+2) — partisan professional group representative, correctly labelled but without counterbalance



2. CHOICE OF SOURCES

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Claims without a primary source = penalty points (rumour check)

Definition: Which sources are cited? Are they diverse and independent?

Source 1: Financial Times

Timestamp: 05:59

Statement

"According to the Financial Times... Putin would be willing to halt the fighting... around the current front line."

(a) Funding and ownership: Financial Times, owned by Nikkei (Japanese media company). Serious quality newspaper, editorially independent.

(b) Structural conflict of interest: No direct interest in a particular outcome of the Ukraine negotiations.

(c) Missing counter-source: The FT reporting is not verified by a second independent source; the correspondent himself adds "The question is whether all of that is true" (06:15) — this is a correct qualification.

Source 2: Russian state television

Timestamp: 03:00

Statement

"Russian state TV reports the following."

(a) Funding: State-funded, direct Kremlin control.

(b) Structural conflict of interest: Maximum — instrument of state propaganda.

(c) Missing counter-source: The clip is shown without explicit indication that it is propaganda material; the presenter introduces it neutrally as "reports the following."

Source 3: IMF

Timestamp: 31:24

Statement

"Says the International Monetary Fund."

(a) Funding: International, funded by member states.

(b) Structural conflict of interest: IMF has an institutional interest in a stable world economy; forecasts are based on economic models, not politically driven.

(c) Missing counter-source: No alternative economic forecast presented.

Rumour check (penalty points):

Rumour 1:

Timestamp: 01:32

Claim: "And who, according to reports earlier this evening, would have offered Trump... that he will not expand the current front line."

Word marker: "according to reports"

Primary source present: No — no specific source mentioned — penalty point +1

Rumour 2:



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Timestamp: 05:59

Claim: "According to the Financial Times... Putin would be willing to halt the fighting..."

Word marker: "would"

Primary source present: Partially — FT is mentioned but not verified — no full penalty point, but noted

Summary: The choice of sources is predominantly solid (FT, IMF, NPO correspondent) but contains one unsubstantiated claim ("according to reports") and presents Russian state television without explicit indication of propaganda. Catherine Belton as the sole Trump-Putin analyst creates a structural one-sidedness in the choice of sources for the main topic.



3. TIME ALLOCATION

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Definition: Distribution of speaking time between different positions.

Estimated speaking time:

- Ukraine/Trump-Putin block (incl. Belton, Groot Koerkamp): approx. 14 min. (36%)
- Zorgkaart block (incl. Leenstra, anonymous GP, Daniels): approx. 12 min. (31%)
- Universities block (incl. UvA professor, university administrator): approx. 8 min. (21%)
- News in brief (King's Day, Kashmir, Schoof Japan, IMF, NSC): approx. 5 min. (13%)

Within the Ukraine block:

- Catherine Belton (critical of Trump): approx. 5 min.
- Geert Groot Koerkamp (neutral-analytical): approx. 4 min.
- Russian/Ukrainian perspective: approx. 1 min.

Within the Zorgkaart block:

- Doctors/critics (Leenstra + anonymous GP): approx. 6 min.
- Patiëntenfederatie (Daniels): approx. 4 min.
- Presenter/questions: approx. 2 min.

Within the universities block:

- UvA psychology (critical of the decision): approx. 3 min.
- University administrator (defends the decision): approx. 3 min.
- Cabinet/political perspective: approx. 0 min.

Summary: The time allocation within the Zorgkaart block is reasonably balanced (doctors vs. Patiëntenfederatie). In the Ukraine block, the critical Trump-Putin analysis (Belton) receives significantly more time than the Russian or Ukrainian perspective. In the universities block, the cabinet position is completely absent as a discussion partner, meaning the time allocation is structurally skewed to the detriment of the government position.



4. OMISSION (Selective Omission)

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Definition: What is not shown, even though it is relevant?

Omission 1:

Context

The cabinet's position on the university issue is completely absent as a discussion partner.

Relevant at: 31:46 — 38:26

Effect: By allowing only academics to speak who criticise the policy or bow to it "to prevent something worse," cabinet policy is framed as an external threat without the policy rationale being explained. The viewer does not hear why the cabinet is pursuing this policy.

Omission 2:

Context

International students who are directly affected by the cancellation of English-language programmes do not get to speak.

Relevant at: 32:23 — 38:14

Effect: The debate is conducted between academics and university administrators; the primary stakeholders — the students themselves — are absent, which reinforces the impression that it is an institutional conflict rather than a human story.

Omission 3:

Context

In the Ukraine block, any analysis of the Ukrainian negotiating position and the reasons why Zelensky would have signed a law prohibiting direct talks with Russia is absent.

Relevant at: 05:51 — "But they say Ukraine does not want to. Because Zelensky would have signed a law... that prevents that."

Effect: This claim from the Russian side is neither verified nor contradicted; the Ukrainian perspective on this is completely absent.

Summary: The three omission findings point to a pattern in which the directly involved parties (cabinet, international students, Ukraine) receive less space than the institutional critics. This creates a structural distortion in the image presented, particularly in the university issue.

Missing voices

- Cabinet representative (PVV/VVD/BBB): Could have explained why the cabinet wants to limit the number of international students and what criteria apply.
- International student at a Dutch university: Could have illustrated the human impact of cancelling English-language programmes from the perspective of those directly affected.
- Independent geopolitical expert (not affiliated with Washington Post): Could have provided a more nuanced analysis of Trump's diplomatic motives with regard to Russia.
- Patient with a positive Zorgkaart experience: Could have nuanced the image that Zorgkaart is exclusively a "gossip channel."
- Legal expert on online anonymity: Could have clarified the legality and limits of anonymous reviews in healthcare.

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- Economist on the knowledge economy: Could have quantified the macroeconomic consequences of fewer international students for the Netherlands.
- Ukrainian diplomat or analyst: Could have represented the Ukrainian perspective on the peace negotiations more substantively than the brief mention of Zelensky.
- Independent Russian economist or dissident: Could have nuanced the Russian domestic perspective on the economic situation outside of state television.



5. NUMERICAL MANIPULATION

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Complete figures include: absolute number, share (%) and trend

Definition: Selective or misleading use of statistics.

Finding 1:

Timestamp: 30:20

Figure: "The cabinet is allocating hundreds of millions extra to help Dutch industry."

Dimensions: (a) Absolute value present ("hundreds of millions") — (b) Share absent (% of total industrial subsidies, % of GNP) — (c) Trend absent (compared to previous years?)

Missing context

No comparison with other EU countries or previous subsidy levels.

Effect: "Hundreds of millions" sounds large but cannot be assessed without a frame of reference.

Finding 2:

Timestamp: 24:25 — 24:28

Figure: "This year there were 250,000. 90 percent of those were verified."

Dimensions: (a) Absolute value present — (b) Share present (90%) — (c) Trend absent (was this more or less last year?)

Missing context

What exactly does "verified" mean? With six to seven employees and 250,000 reviews, the verification capacity per review is minimal (approx. 40,000 reviews per employee per year), which the presenter rightly questions but does not quantify.

Effect: 90% sounds high but the verification method (automated filtering on words) is not quantified in terms of margin of error.

Summary: No gross numerical manipulation has been established, but two cases of incomplete contextualisation where the absence of trend data and proportional figures makes assessment difficult. The presenter adequately questions Zorgkaart's verification capacity but does not quantify the implications.



6. GUILT BY ASSOCIATION

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Definition: Discrediting by association with negative groups/ideas.

Association 1:

Timestamp: 08:00 — 11:52

Quote

"Her book is the standard work on Putin and his entourage... and their link with western businessmen, such as Trump... who according to her is beginning to build a remarkable track record."

Technique: Trump is associated via Belton's analysis with Russian oligarchs and Putin's entourage. The chain of association runs: Russian oligarchs → Trump bankruptcies → Russian money in real estate → current diplomatic stance towards Putin.

Effect: The suggestion is made that Trump's current diplomatic behaviour is explained by historical financial ties with Russia, without this being causally proven.

Association 2:

Timestamp: 13:38 — 13:44

Quote

"Seven years earlier, Trump's eldest son, Donald Junior... who also heads the real estate arm of Trump's empire... said that a disproportionately large share of Trump's projects is financed with Russian money."

Technique: Statement by Donald Junior from 2006/2008 is used in 2025 as evidence of current Russian influence on Trump.

Effect: Historical statements are presented as an explanatory framework for current policy without the relevance for 2025 being demonstrated.

Chain of association: Russian oligarchs → Trump bankruptcies → Russian real estate money → Donald Junior statement → Trump's current Putin policy

Source check for associated person (Trump):

- Does Belton work with demonstrable primary sources? YES — documented in Putin's People
- Are her core claims falsifiable? YES — legally challenged and partly confirmed
- What has Trump lost through his position? Difficult to assess in this context
- What does Belton gain? Book sales, reputation as Russia expert
- Net: Belton's risk (lawsuits from oligarchs) > gain → increased credibility for her research

Result category for Belton's analysis of Trump: B — Borderline case (partly documented, partly speculative as regards the causal link with current policy)

Summary: The broadcast builds via Belton's analysis a chain of association between Trump and Russian oligarchs that is journalistically substantiated but is presented in the broadcast as an explanatory framework for current diplomatic behaviour, without the causal leap being explicitly problematised. This is not gross guilt by association but is a structurally problematic framing.



7. TIMING									3/10
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Definition: Strategic placement of information (beginning/middle/end).

Finding 1:

Position: 07:33 — 14:20 (early in the broadcast, after the news block)

Content: The complete Belton block on Trump's business ties with Russian oligarchs is placed before the analytical interpretation by Groot Koerkamp on the negotiations.

Timing effect

By placing the Trump-Russia chain of association early in the broadcast, the interpretive framework is set within which the rest of the Ukraine block is read. Groot Koerkamp's more nuanced analysis (from 14:20 onwards) follows an already established negative frame about Trump.

Finding 2:

Position: 17:38 (early in the Zorgkaart block)

Content: "Bluntly put: it is an online gossip channel about healthcare providers."

Timing effect

The most emotionally charged characterisation of Zorgkaart is placed early in the block, before the interview with the Patiëntenfederatie. This sets the tone for the interview that follows.

Summary: The timing of the Belton block and the "gossip channel" characterisation early in their respective segments creates an interpretive framework that influences the later, more nuanced voices. This is a mild but demonstrable timing strategy.



8. SELECTIVE INDIGNATION

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Indignation = bias. Selective indignation reinforces the finding. Score = degree of indignation (0–5) + selectivity (0–5)

Definition: Indignation at certain positions but not at comparable others.

Methodological principle (v2.2): Before each assessment, the triggering event is documented. A reaction can only be assessed as selective if comparable triggering events at other positions did not produce an analogous reaction.

Finding 1:

Timestamp: 17:38

Triggering event: Leenstra describes Zorgkaart as a platform where doctors "can almost be destroyed, their career"

Reaction: "Bluntly put: it is an online gossip channel about healthcare providers." — The presenter allows this characterisation to stand unchallenged and subsequently uses the frame in the questioning of Daniels.

Comparison

With Linda Daniels (from 21:02 onwards), her answers are critically questioned and repeatedly contradicted; with Leenstra's emotional characterisations, no follow-up questions are asked.

Asymmetry: Demonstrable — Leenstra's partisan characterisations are not questioned; Daniels' defence is systematically challenged.

Degree of indignation: 2/5

Selectivity: 2/5

Finding 2:

Timestamp: 19:53

Triggering event: Leenstra reads out from the experiences of fellow doctors about lying awake at night because of negative reviews

Reaction: "That is terrible." — The presenter emotionally confirms the negative experience of the doctors.

Comparison

With the Patiëntenfederatie (from 21:02 onwards), no comparable empathetic reaction is shown when Daniels emphasises the importance of patient experiences.

Asymmetry: Demonstrable — empathetic confirmation exclusively on the doctors' side.

Degree of indignation: 2/5

Selectivity: 2/5

Summary: There is a mild but demonstrable selective indignation in the Zorgkaart block: the presenter emotionally confirms the experiences of doctors ("That is terrible") but shows no comparable empathy for the patient perspective. The asymmetry is not extreme but is consistent.



9. COMPLETENESS (Selective Omission — Overall Picture)

6/10

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Definition: How completely does the broadcast portray the subject?

Finding 1:

Timestamp: 31:46 — 38:26

Missing perspective/fact: The cabinet's position on the university issue is absent as a discussion partner; Minister Robbert Dijkgraaf (OCW) or a spokesperson for the coalition does not get to speak.

Relevance: Cabinet policy is the direct cause of the universities' decision; without an explanation of the policy rationale, the picture is incomplete.

Impact

The viewer receives exclusively the perspective of the academic world, which experiences the policy as a threat, without the political motivation being explained.

Finding 2:

Timestamp: 07:33 — 14:20

Missing perspective/fact: Not a single analyst who assesses Trump's diplomatic strategy towards Russia positively or neutrally.

Relevance: A balanced analysis of the Trump-Putin negotiations also requires the perspective of those who regard Trump's approach as effective or strategically rational.

Impact

The viewer receives exclusively a critical-sceptical picture of Trump's motives and capabilities as a negotiator.

Finding 3:

Timestamp: 15:38 — 27:00

Missing perspective/fact: Patients with positive experiences of Zorgkaart do not get to speak; the 90% verified positive reviews are mentioned but not illustrated.

Relevance: Zorgkaart has 250,000 reviews per year, the majority of which are positive; this perspective is absent from the picture presented.

Impact

The image of Zorgkaart as a "gossip channel" is not nuanced by concrete positive user experiences.

Summary: The broadcast is informative but structurally incomplete on three fronts: the cabinet's position in the university issue, a nuanced Trump analysis, and positive Zorgkaart experiences are absent. This creates a consistent pattern in which critical voices receive more space than defending or policy-based positions.



Soft facts — 6 qualitative techniques

10. FRAMING

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Definition: How is the subject fundamentally framed?

Finding 1:

Timestamp: 07:46 — 08:05

Quote	<i>"That is what Catherine Belton says, the author of Putin's People. Her book is the standard work on Putin and his entourage... and their link with western businessmen, such as Trump... who according to her is beginning to build a remarkable track record."</i>
Manipulation	Trump is directly associated in the introduction of Belton with Putin's entourage via the formulation "western businessmen, such as Trump." The addition "who according to her is beginning to build a remarkable track record" is an evaluative judgement that is presented as a factual introduction.
Why problematic	The viewer is provided, before the interview, with an interpretive framework (Trump = suspicious Putin connection) that is presented not as an opinion but as background knowledge.

Finding 2:

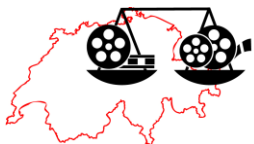
Timestamp: 31:46 — 32:07

Quote	<i>"There are too many foreign students, politics thinks. And something needs to change about that."</i>
Manipulation	Cabinet policy is framed as a political opinion ("politics thinks") rather than as policy with a rationale. The formulation "too many" is a value judgement attributed to "politics" without the policy rationale being explained.
Why problematic	By framing the policy as an opinion rather than as policy with arguments, the viewer is not enabled to assess the policy rationale.

Finding 3:

Timestamp: 17:38

Quote	<i>"Bluntly put: it is an online gossip channel about healthcare providers."</i>
Manipulation	The term "gossip channel" is a strongly negatively charged frame that is left unchallenged by the presenter and subsequently serves as a reference point in the interview with Daniels (22:09: "But it remains important that patient experiences are shared" — after the "gossip channel" framing this sounds defensive).
Why problematic	A platform with 250,000 reviews per year, of which 90% are verified, is reduced to "gossip channel" without this frame being problematised.



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Summary: The broadcast employs three significant frames: Trump as a suspicious Putin connection, cabinet policy as a political opinion without substantiation, and Zorgkaart as a gossip channel. All three frames are established early in their respective segments and are not systematically challenged.



11. WORD CHOICE AND TERMINOLOGY

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Definition: What language is used? What connotations are set?

Finding 1:

Timestamp: 17:38

Quote	<i>"Bluntly put: it is an online gossip channel about healthcare providers."</i>
Manipulation	"Gossip channel" has a strongly negative connotation (unreliable, malicious, informal) that is not neutral.
Why problematic	A neutral alternative would be: "a platform for patient reviews" or "a review site for healthcare providers." The term "gossip channel" is a value judgement presented as a description.

Finding 2:

Timestamp: 08:00

Quote	<i>"who according to her is beginning to build a remarkable track record"</i>
Manipulation	"Remarkable track record" is intended ironically (in a negative sense) but is presented as a neutral description. The irony is implicit and not transparent.
Why problematic	A neutral alternative would be: "who according to her is adopting a controversial stance towards Russia." The current formulation is evaluative without this being made explicit.

Finding 3:

Timestamp: 34:30

Quote	<i>"It is a worthless plan."</i>
Manipulation	A UvA employee calls the universities plan "worthless" — this is not questioned or contextualised by the presenter.
Why problematic	A strong value judgement from a partisan source is left unchallenged, which reinforces the frame that the plan is indeed "worthless."

Summary: The word choice in the broadcast contains multiple evaluative terms that are presented as descriptions. In particular, "gossip channel" and "remarkable track record" are connotatively charged formulations that influence the viewer's interpretive framework without being marked as opinions.



12. MODERATION BEHAVIOUR

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Definition: Asymmetries in follow-up questions, interruptions, expressions of sympathy.

Methodological principle (v2.2): Before each assessment, the triggering event is documented. An intervention can only be assessed as asymmetric if comparable triggering events with other guests did not produce an analogous intervention.

Finding 1:

Timestamp: 19:53

Triggering event: Leenstra reads out from the experiences of fellow doctors about lying awake at night because of negative reviews.

**Quote
(presenter)**

"That is terrible."

Comparison

With Linda Daniels (from 21:02 onwards) — when she emphasises the importance of patient experiences — no comparable empathetic reaction from the presenter.

Asymmetry: Demonstrable — empathetic confirmation exclusively on the doctors' side; with the Patientenfederatie, follow-up questions are asked and contradictions made.

Finding 2:

Timestamp: 22:09 — 23:39

Triggering event: Daniels defends Zorgkaart and mentions improvements that have been made.

**Quote
(presenter)**

"But apparently not enough, then, because they want to withdraw." / "So the minister also says it is not good." / "Do you not see that yourself?"

Comparison

With Leenstra (from 17:50 onwards) — no comparable critical follow-up questions on his claims; his characterisation "gossip channel" is not questioned.

Asymmetry: Demonstrable — Daniels is systematically challenged with counterarguments; Leenstra is not.

Finding 3:

Timestamp: 32:33 — 37:00

Triggering event: University administrator defends the decision to cancel English-language programmes as necessary for support.

**Quote
(presenter)**

"But yes, and then they are just out of luck in Amsterdam?"

Comparison

With the UvA professor who calls the decision "worthless" (34:30) — no comparable critical follow-up question.

Asymmetry: Partially demonstrable — the administrator is questioned on the consequences for Amsterdam; the UvA professor is not questioned on the consequences of his position for the broader university system.



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Summary: The moderation behaviour shows a consistent pattern of asymmetry: critics (Leenstra, UvA professor) are questioned less critically than the defenders of the criticised platforms/policy (Daniels, university administrator). The empathetic reaction "That is terrible" on the doctors' side without a comparable reaction on the patients' side is the most demonstrable asymmetry.



13. QUESTION ASYMMETRY

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Definition: Different degrees of hardness/softness of questions to different persons.

Asymmetry 1:

To Bernard Leenstra, 17:50: No critical follow-up question on "gossip channel" characterisation — soft/none

To Linda Daniels, 22:09: "But apparently not enough, then, because they want to withdraw." — hard

Comparison

Leenstra's partisan characterisations are not questioned; Daniels' defence is systematically challenged. Asymmetry is demonstrable and consistent.

Asymmetry 2:

To UvA professor, 34:30: No follow-up question on "It is a worthless plan." — soft/none

To university administrator, 37:00: "But yes, and then they are just out of luck in Amsterdam?" — hard/provocative

Comparison

The critic of the decision is not questioned on the consequences of his position; the defender of the decision is questioned on the negative consequences.

Asymmetry 3:

To Geert Groot Koerkamp, 04:53: "Is Putin moving a little or is it for show?" — neutral/analytical

To Catherine Belton (via voice-over introduction): No critical question about the causal leap between historical business ties and current policy — no critical follow-up question

Comparison

Groot Koerkamp's analysis is questioned; Belton's causal reasoning is not challenged.

Summary: The question asymmetry is most pronounced in the Zorgkaart block, where the critic (Leenstra) receives soft treatment and the defender (Daniels) receives hard questions. In the universities block a comparable pattern is visible. This is a demonstrable and consistent asymmetry that reinforces the impression that the editorial team shares the critical position.



14. FALSE BALANCE

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Definition: Artificial balance despite factual imbalance.

Finding 1:

Timestamp: 20:43 — 27:00

Construction: The Zorgkaart block presents an apparent balance between doctors (Leenstra + anonymous GP) and the Patiëntenfederatie (Daniels). In reality, the doctors receive more speaking time, an empathetic reaction from the presenter, and their characterisations are not questioned, while Daniels is systematically challenged.

Analysis

The formal presence of both sides creates the appearance of balance, but the treatment is structurally asymmetric. This is a case of false balance in reverse: not two equivalent positions that are unequal in reality, but two positions that are formally presented as equivalent but are treated unequally.

Summary: No classic false balance (two equivalent positions that are unequal in reality) has been established. However, there is a reverse false balance in the Zorgkaart block: the formal presence of both sides masks a structural asymmetry in treatment. The score is low because the pattern falls more under moderation behaviour and question asymmetry.



15. AGENDA-SETTING

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Definition: What counts as normal/self-evident? What does not make it onto the agenda?

Finding 1:

Agenda element set: Cabinet policy on international students is presented as a political threat that forces universities into defensive action.

Timestamp: 31:46 — Evidence: "There are too many foreign students, politics thinks. And something needs to change about that."

Alternative agenda: The question of whether cabinet policy reflects legitimate societal concerns (housing shortage, study places, language policy) does not make it onto the agenda; nor does the question of whether universities themselves bear responsibility for the growth of international intake.

Finding 2:

Agenda element set: Trump's diplomatic behaviour towards Russia is presented as explicable from historical financial ties with Russian oligarchs.

Timestamp: 07:33 — Evidence: "To better understand Trump's stance we need to go back in time... and look at his business interests with Russian oligarchs, says Belton."

Alternative agenda: The question of whether Trump's approach could be strategically effective as a negotiating strategy, or the question of whether the European position in the negotiations is adequate, does not make it onto the agenda.

Summary: The agenda-setting in the broadcast places two dominant frames: cabinet policy as a threat to academic freedom, and Trump as a suspicious actor in the Ukraine negotiations. Alternative agendas — the legitimacy of cabinet policy, the effectiveness of Trump's strategy — are not addressed, which offers the viewer a limited interpretive framework.



CHAPTER 4 — OVERALL ASSESSMENT

Overview of Individual Scores

No.	Criterion	Type	Score	Main finding (1 sentence)
1	Choice of experts	H	6	Belton as the sole Trump-Putin analyst creates structural one-sidedness; Leenstra correctly labelled as critic but without counterbalance
2	Choice of sources	H	5	Predominantly solid sources but one unsubstantiated claim and Russian state television without indication of propaganda
3	Time allocation	H	4	Cabinet position on university issue completely absent; Belton receives significantly more time than Ukrainian/Russian perspective
4	Omission	H	6	Cabinet, international students and Ukrainian perspective on peace negotiations systematically absent
5	Numerical manipulation	H	3	No gross manipulation; two cases of incomplete contextualisation without trend data
6	Guilt by association	H	5	Trump-Russia chain of association journalistically substantiated but causal leap to current policy not problematised
7	Timing	H	3	Belton block and "gossip channel" characterisation placed early as interpretive framework for later segments
8	Selective indignation	H	3	Mild but demonstrable asymmetry: "That is terrible" with doctors, no comparable empathy with patient federation
9	Completeness	H	6	Consistent pattern of absent cabinet and policy perspectives across all three main topics
10	Framing	S	6	Three significant frames (Trump-Putin connection, cabinet policy as opinion, Zorgkaart as gossip channel) established early and not challenged
11	Word choice	S	5	"Gossip channel" and "remarkable track record" are evaluative terms presented as descriptions
12	Moderation behaviour	S	5	Consistent pattern: critics questioned less critically than defenders; empathetic reaction exclusively with doctors
13	Question asymmetry	S	5	Leenstra and UvA professor receive soft treatment; Daniels and university administrator receive hard questions
14	False balance	S	2	No classic false balance; reverse false balance in Zorgkaart block falls primarily under moderation behaviour
15	Agenda-setting	S	5	Cabinet policy as threat and Trump as suspicious actor are dominant frames; alternative agendas absent

Results



- HARD FACTS SCORE (Average criteria 1-9): 4.6 / 10
- SOFT FACTS SCORE (Average criteria 10-15): 4.7 / 10
- TOTAL SCORE (Average all 15 criteria): 4.6 / 10

Dominant Techniques

- 1. Framing (Score 6):** The broadcast establishes early in each segment an interpretive framework (Trump-Russia connection, cabinet policy as threat, Zorgkaart as gossip channel) that colours the rest of the segment. These frames are not systematically challenged or marked as opinions, causing them to function as background knowledge.
- 2. Omission (Score 6):** The cabinet's position in the university issue, the Ukrainian perspective on the peace negotiations, and positive Zorgkaart experiences are structurally absent. This creates a consistent pattern in which critical voices receive more space than policy-based or defending positions.
- 3. Question asymmetry / Moderation behaviour (Score 5 each):** Critics are treated more softly than defenders in both the Zorgkaart block and the universities block. The empathetic reaction "That is terrible" on the doctors' side without a comparable reaction on the patients' side is the most demonstrable manifestation of this pattern.

Core Messages of the Broadcast

MESSAGE 1 (SUBSTANTIVE): "Trump's diplomatic behaviour towards Russia is suspicious and explicable from historical financial ties with Russian oligarchs."

Technique: Framing via Belton introduction, guilt by association, timing (early in broadcast) — Evidence: 07:33, 11:49, 13:38

MESSAGE 2 (PERSONAL): "Doctors are victims of an uncontrollable online platform that can destroy their careers."

Technique: Selective indignation, question asymmetry, word choice ("gossip channel") — Evidence: 17:38, 19:53, 22:09

MESSAGE 3 (SOCIETAL): "Cabinet policy on international students threatens the international position of Dutch universities and is experienced as undesirable by the academic world."

Technique: Omission (cabinet position), framing (policy as political opinion), agenda-setting — Evidence: 31:46, 34:30, 35:42

Reasoning: The broadcast scores 4.6/10 on the total, which is on the boundary between "slight tendency" and "clear one-sidedness." The consistency of the pattern — three separate topics in each of which the critical voice receives more space and softer treatment than the policy-based or defending position — justifies the classification as "clear one-sidedness." The broadcast does not fully comply with the Media Act requirement of pluriform and balanced reporting (Art. 2.1), particularly due to the structural absence of the cabinet's position in the university issue and the one-sided choice of experts in the Ukraine topic. The shortcomings are not at the level of systematic propaganda but are consistent enough to be identified as a structural pattern.

CONCLUSION

The Nieuwsuur broadcast of 28 April 2025 shows a consistent pattern of mild but demonstrable one-sidedness on three separate topics: in the Ukraine negotiations, Trump is analysed exclusively through the critical lens of Catherine Belton without counterbalance; in the Zorgkaart issue, doctors are treated more empathetically than the Patiëntenfederatie; in the university issue, the cabinet's position is completely absent as a discussion partner. This pattern — in which critics of current policy receive more space and softer treatment than defenders — is not at the level of gross manipulation but is consistent enough to be identified as a structural tendency that puts the pluralism requirement of Media Act Art. 2.1 under pressure. The individual journalistic choices are each defensible, but their cumulative effect creates a broadcast that offers the viewer a limited and slightly left-favouring interpretive framework.



OVERALL EVALUATION OF THE 15 CRITERIA

Individual scores — All 15 criteria

No.	Criterion	Score	Classification
1	CHOICE OF EXPERTS	6	●●●
2	CHOICE OF SOURCES	5	●●●
3	TIME ALLOCATION	4	●●
4	OMISSION (Selective Omission)	6	●●●
5	NUMERICAL MANIPULATION	3	●●
6	GUILT BY ASSOCIATION	5	●●●
7	TIMING	3	●●
8	SELECTIVE INDIGNATION	3	●●
9	COMPLETENESS (Selective Omission — Overall Picture)	6	●●●
10	FRAMING	6	●●●
11	WORD CHOICE AND TERMINOLOGY	5	●●●
12	MODERATION BEHAVIOUR	5	●●●
13	QUESTION ASYMMETRY	5	●●●
14	FALSE BALANCE	2	●
15	AGENDA-SETTING	5	●●●

HARD FACTS SCORE (1-8)

4.6/10

Considerable imbalance

SOFT FACTS SCORE (9-14)

4.7/10

Considerable imbalance

TOTAL SCORE

4.7/10

Considerable imbalance

Average of Hard Facts and Soft Facts



KEY — Meaning of the scores

Individual scores per criterion (0–10)

0	No finding	No relevant deviation established.
1–2	Weak finding	Slight deviation without material impairment of balance.
3–4	Slight to moderate finding	Recognisable tendency; minor to moderate impact.
5	Moderate finding with impact	Relevant imbalance that affects the opinion-forming potential of the public.
6	Considerable finding (threshold)	Scores from 6 onwards are identified as 'considerable findings'.
7	Considerable finding	Clear, well-documented imbalance with clear impact.
8–9	Serious finding	Pronounced imbalance; multiple documented individual findings in this criterion.
10	Maximum severity	Systematic, ongoing imbalance in this criterion.

Aggregated deviation index — Interpretation ranges

0.0 – 2.5	Unremarkable	No material patterns discernible; broadcast complies with the balance requirement.
2.6 – 4.0	Slight imbalance	Isolated deviations; statistically visible, but within tolerance range.
4.1 – 6.0	Considerable imbalance	Multiple considerable findings; relevant impairment of diversity of perspectives.
6.1 – 8.0	Serious deviation from the balance requirement. High degree of deviation	Pronounced patterns across broadcasts; high impact.
8.1 – 10	Fundamental systemic one-sidedness. Very high degree of bias	Maximum severity across almost all criteria; systematically one-sided reporting.

Party-political bias (-5 to +5)

-5 to -3	Strongly disadvantaged	Party is clearly disadvantaged in framing, airtime or presentation.
-2 to -1	Slightly disadvantaged	Recognisable but minor disadvantage.
0	Neutral	No discernible favouring or disadvantaging.
+1 to +2	Slightly favoured	Recognisable but minor favouring.
+3 to +5	Strongly favoured	Party is clearly favoured in framing, airtime or presentation.



CHAPTER 5 — LEGAL QUALIFICATION (Media Act Art. 2.1)

Assessment on the basis of Media Act Art. 2.1

The Media Act requires pluriform, balanced and independent reporting by the public broadcaster.

Violation 1:

Standard: Media Act Art. 2.1 — pluralism requirement

Factual description: The cabinet's position on the university issue is completely absent as a discussion partner, while cabinet policy is the direct cause of the news.

Evidence: Timestamp 31:46 — 38:26 — Quote: "There are too many foreign students, politics thinks. And something needs to change about that." — The cabinet is presented as an anonymous political actor without a representative being able to explain the policy rationale.

Assessment: By allowing only academics to speak who experience the policy as a threat, without a government representative explaining the policy rationale, the pluralism requirement is violated. The viewer does not receive a balanced picture of the societal debate.

Violation 2:

Standard: Media Act Art. 2.1 — balance requirement

Factual description: The Trump-Putin analysis is presented exclusively via Catherine Belton, without an analyst who assesses Trump's diplomatic strategy neutrally or positively.

Evidence: Timestamp 07:33 — 14:20 — Quote: "To better understand Trump's stance we need to go back in time... and look at his business interests with Russian oligarchs, says Belton."

Assessment: The use of a single analyst with a clearly critical perspective on Trump as the sole interpreter of a complex geopolitical topic does not comply with the balance requirement. A balanced broadcast should have contained at least one analyst with a different reading of Trump's motives.

Violation 3:

Standard: Media Act Art. 2.1 — independence requirement / balance requirement

Factual description: The moderation behaviour shows a consistent asymmetric pattern in which critics are treated more softly than defenders, and in which the presenter responds empathetically to the doctors' side ("That is terrible") but not to the patients' side.

Evidence: Timestamp 19:53 — Quote: "That is terrible." — Comparison: no comparable reaction with Daniels (from 21:02 onwards).

Assessment: Asymmetric moderation behaviour that consistently points in one direction is an indication of editorial partisanship that puts the independence requirement under pressure.

Overall assessment Media Act Art. 2.1

The Nieuwsuur broadcast of 28 April 2025 does not fully comply with the requirements of Media Act Art. 2.1 with regard to pluralism and balance. The three established violations are each individually defensible as an editorial choice, but their cumulative effect — consistent absence of cabinet and policy perspectives, one-sided choice of experts on the main topic, and asymmetric moderation behaviour — forms a pattern that structurally puts the pluralism requirement under pressure. The shortcomings are not at the level that would justify a formal enforcement procedure with the Commissariaat voor de Media on the basis of this broadcast alone, but are of such a nature that, if repeated, they can be identified as a structural pattern within the framework of the total output criterion of Art. 2.1. A complaint to the Commissariaat voor de Media would be most likely to succeed on the point of the university issue, where the absence of the cabinet's position as a discussion partner is the most demonstrable and least defensible as an editorial choice.

SOURCE DEPTH CHECK (Mandatory for all cited specialist bodies / NGOs / advisory bodies)

Voorzitter: Schläpfer, David - **Contact:** kontakt@SVFAB.ch - **Adres:** SVFAB, Postfach, CH-8021 Zürich 1



1. Patiëntenfederatie Nederland (administrator of Zorgkaart Nederland)

- 1. FUNDING:** The Patiëntenfederatie Nederland receives subsidies from the Ministry of VWS and has income from membership fees of affiliated patient organisations. Partially state-funded.
- 2. MANDATE:** The mandate is to represent patient interests and promote transparency in healthcare. This mandate is compatible with administering a review platform, but creates an institutional interest in the continued existence of Zorgkaart Nederland.
- 3. CONFLICT OF INTEREST:** The Patiëntenfederatie has a direct institutional interest in the continued existence and legitimacy of Zorgkaart Nederland, which it administers itself. This makes it not a neutral party in the debate about the future of the platform.
- 4. CREDIBILITY MATRIX:**
 - D1 Conflict of interest: -2 — Direct institutional interest in the continued existence of the platform
 - D2 Personal risk: 0 — Institutional risk if platform closes, but no personal risk
 - D3 Professional competence: +1 — Expertise in patient interests, not in platform management or quality assurance
 - D4 Consistency of opinion: +1 — Consistently defensive towards Zorgkaart
 - D5 Emotionalisation vs. data: +1 — Predominantly factual in interview
 - D6 Source level: 0 — Own data (250,000 reviews, 90% verified) without independent verification
 - TOTAL: +1 → SOURCE TRAFFIC LIGHT: YELLOW- 5. COUNTERVOICE:** An independent quality audit of Zorgkaart Nederland is absent; the verification figures (90% of 250,000 reviews with 6-7 employees) have not been independently verified.

2. KNMG and Federation of Medical Specialists (doctors' organisations)

- 1. FUNDING:** KNMG is a professional organisation funded by membership fees from doctors. The Federation of Medical Specialists likewise. Not state-funded.
- 2. MANDATE:** The mandate is to represent the interests of doctors and safeguard the quality of medical professional practice. This mandate is not neutral with regard to platforms that review doctors.
- 3. CONFLICT OF INTEREST:** Both organisations represent the professional group that has a direct interest in limiting negative reviews. They are not a neutral party in the debate about Zorgkaart.
- 4. CREDIBILITY MATRIX:**
 - D1 Conflict of interest: -2 — Direct professional group interest in limiting negative reviews
 - D2 Personal risk: +1 — Public conflict with a platform that reviews their members
 - D3 Professional competence: +2 — Medical expertise; no platform expertise
 - D4 Consistency of opinion: +2 — Consistently critical of Zorgkaart
 - D5 Emotionalisation vs. data: 0 — Mix of factual objections and emotional characterisations
 - D6 Source level: 0 — Experts by experience, no primary research into platform quality
 - TOTAL: +3 → SOURCE TRAFFIC LIGHT: YELLOW- 5. COUNTERVOICE:** An independent study into the quality and reliability of Zorgkaart reviews is absent; the doctors' organisations are not confronted in the broadcast with data on the proportion of justified negative reviews.

3. IMF (International Monetary Fund)

- 1. FUNDING:** International, funded by member states on the basis of quotas. No commercial interest.
- 2. MANDATE:** Promoting economic stability and growth; forecasts are based on economic models. Mandate is compatible with neutral economic analysis.
- 3. CONFLICT OF INTEREST:** IMF has an institutional interest in a stable world economy; forecasts can be politically sensitive but are methodologically substantiated.
- 4. CREDIBILITY MATRIX:**
 - D1 Conflict of interest: +1 — No direct commercial interest; institutional interest in stability
 - D2 Personal risk: +1 — Forecasts are public and verifiable
 - D3 Professional competence: +2 — Recognised economic expertise
 - D4 Consistency of opinion: +2 — Consistently methodological
 - D5 Emotionalisation vs. data: +2 — Data-driven
 - D6 Source level: +2 — Primary economic analysis
 - TOTAL: +10 → SOURCE TRAFFIC LIGHT: GREEN- 5. COUNTERVOICE:** No alternative economic forecast presented; however, IMF forecasts are broadly accepted as a reference point.



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Methodological note: This analysis is based on the available transcript and the timestamps contained therein. Where timestamps in the transcript are absent or incomplete, estimates have been made based on the text position. The analysis assesses the broadcast as a standalone product; the Media Act assessment of the total output requires a broader analysis of the entire NPO output over a longer period.

Source traffic light for participants:

Source	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6	Total	Signal
Patiëntenfederatie Nederland (administrator of Zorgkaart Nederland)	-2	0	+1	+1	+1	0	+1	YELLOW
KNMG and Federation of Medical Specialists (doctors' organisations)	-2	+1	+2	+2	0	0	+3	YELLOW
IMF (International Monetary Fund)	+1	+1	+2	+2	+2	+2	+10	GREEN

Legal and methodological notes

No factual determination	The results presented do not constitute factual determinations about individual persons, editorial teams or broadcasts. They are the product of a standardised operationalisation, not a determination of individual responsibility.
No legal judgement	The aggregated deviation index does not replace a legal assessment on the basis of Media Act 2008 Art. 2.1. The assessment of whether a specific broadcast violates statutory requirements is exclusively the responsibility of the competent authorities (in particular the Commissariaat voor de Media).
No proof of causality	Statistical correlations must not be interpreted as proof of causal relationships or editorial intentions. Deviation values can be influenced by choice of topic, news environment, political controversiality or format logic.
No judgement on intent	The analysis measures observable structural characteristics of broadcasts. A score of 7 means that a considerable imbalance has been established — not that the editorial team intended this. The methodology makes no statements about motives or strategic objectives.
Heuristic comparison instrument	The index serves for comparative pattern recognition across thousands of broadcasts, not for precise metric measurement of individual contributions. Threshold values serve as heuristic orientation, not as sharp legal qualification.



APPENDIX 1: NATIONAL LEGISLATION

Legal basis Netherlands — NPO

Act

Media Act 2008

Relevant articles

- Art. 2.1 (Public media remit): The public media service provides independent, pluriform, balanced information of high journalistic quality. The public media service contributes to the democratic, social and cultural needs of Dutch society.
- Art. 2.1 paragraph 2: The public media service reflects the societal diversity of the Netherlands.
- Art. 2.88: Editorial independence and journalistic standards are guaranteed. The programmes are made under the editorial responsibility of the broadcasting associations.

Core obligations

1. **Independence:** Independent provision of information
2. **Pluralism:** Pluriform reporting
3. **Balance:** Balanced information of high journalistic quality
4. **Societal diversity:** Reflection of Dutch society

Supervisory authority

- Commissariaat voor de Media (CvdM): Media supervision, compliance with Media Act
- NPO Ombudsman: Internal complaints body

Complaints procedure

1. NPO Ombudsman
2. Commissariaat voor de Media
3. Court (administrative law)



APPENDIX 2: SCIENTIFIC SOURCES

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Unbalanced reporting is the response to the halving initiative in Switzerland: here the manipulation techniques are explained in detail, starting with the selection of staff and the selection of sources. Subsequently, 15 principles are explained: omission, framing, temporal framing, guilt by association, emotionalisation, removal of context and much more, illustrated with numerous examples. Moreover, it becomes visible where we ourselves apply these techniques — this promotes not only insight but also empathy.

Optionally the book is supplied with **playing cards**.

Also available as an **audiobook**.



The interview is not a conversation. It is a stage — and someone else has written the script.

Those who do not know this provide material. Good quotes that are cut incorrectly. Correct statements that end up in the wrong context. Honest answers that are framed as confessions.

This book is not a media criticism book. It is a toolbox — for everyone who has a microphone in front of them and wants to know what they can do about it. 7 chapters. 7 tools: What an interview really is. The 7 most common pitfalls. The three basic principles of sovereignty — anchoring, reframing, setting limits. Preparation in one hour. Body and voice. What to do when things go wrong. And what counts after the interview.

For politicians, activists, entrepreneurs, whistleblowers — for everyone who is in the spotlight and wants to understand how the game works. So that they stop playing along — and start shaping it. In A5 format. Direct. For preparation, for consultation, for debriefing and in difficult situations



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You think you see the world. In reality you see the frame that someone has placed around it. Framing is the oldest and most elegant manipulation technique in the world. It does not change the facts — it changes what we make of the facts. How we feel. What we believe. How we decide. And it works — because we all go along with it. Daily. Unconsciously. You too. This book is not a dry textbook. It is a workbook — playful, direct, full of examples from real life. You learn not only how others frame you. You learn how you yourself frame — and how you can use it consciously and fairly.

Because those who understand framing see the world more clearly. Hear news differently. Conduct conversations more confidently. And no longer let themselves be so easily imposed upon by a framework that someone else has chosen.

With many exercises and concrete examples from politics, media and everyday life — and an occasional smile.

Framing with style. Because the frame changes everything.