

# 2025 MOLDOVA ELECTIONS

Monitoring Hostile Narratives:

**WEEK 1 | 14-20.04.2025**



**Comprehensive AI-powered media analysis**

## Research Methodology

This weekly monitoring report analyzes the social media to identify key propaganda narratives, trending topics, active propaganda figures, and audience engagement statistics related to Moldova's political landscape.

**Data** is collected from Russian segment of Telegram using automated AI tools and manual sampling.

**Propaganda narratives** are extracted and categorized through keyword clustering and validation.

**Trending topics** are identified based on frequency and engagement levels.

**Key actors\***, including state-linked accounts, influencers, and coordinated networks, are profiled through a continuous monitoring and propaganda reporting.

**Audience metrics** are assessed using platform analytics of engagement indicators such as views, shares, and comments.

**\*Compromised Actors** are profiled based on Indicators of Risk (IoR) and institutional reports. They include:

- *Influential* – High-reach accounts that shape public discourse.
- *State-affiliated* – Linked to or controlled by a government.
- *Manipulative* – Use deception to influence opinions.

**Inauthentic accounts** are fake or misleading identities used in coordination.

### Scope – General

Actors	Publications	Views	Reactions	Compromised	Inauthentic
5.15k	10.5k	72.1M	1.14M	499*	502

\*Including Russian state-affiliated – 175 actors.

**Sought terms:** *рас, санду, гуцул, шор, ПДС, молдова, молдавия, кишинев, тирасполь, приднестровье, башкан, гагаузия*

### Scope – Policital Figures

Actors	Publications	Views	Reactions	Compromised	Inauthentic
152	210	2.41M	34.3k	56*	7

\*Including Russian state-affiliated – 22 actors.

**Sought terms:** *"игорь додон", "илан шор", "владимир воронин", "василе тарлев", "виктория фуртунэ", "евгения гуцул", "ирина влах", "ион чебан", "александр стояногло"*

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## Top 5 Political Stories by Number of Posts (Cases)

1. The FSB reported the arrest of Moldovan citizen Marius Prunyanu, who, on instructions from Ukrainian military intelligence, brought explosives to Russia to commit terrorist attacks. – 677 messages

### Key Actors by number of posts (With audience > 1000)

- WarDonbass – 4
- Voindv | Воиндв – 3
- Z Информфронт V – 3
- ИнформБюро – 3
- Russian state-affiliated actors – 58

**Narrative:** Moldova is used to train terrorists.

*In fact, according to [The Insider](#), Marius Prunyanu was detained in 2024; at the same time, he was added to the “list of terrorists and extremists” by the FSB.*

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2. The authorities did not allow the representative of the Moldovan Metropolitanate, Bishop Markel, to enter Israel, where he was supposed to go to receive the Holy Fire! – 510 messages

### Key Actors by number of posts (With audience > 1000)

- Глашатай РФ – 8
- Зеркало – 7
- RT на русском ✓ – 6
- IZ.RU ✓ – 4
- Russian state-affiliated actors – 42

**Narrative:** Moldovan Orthodox Church is being destroyed.

*According to the Metropolis of Moldova, [Archbishop Marchel](#) was not part of the delegation traveling to Jerusalem after the Holy Fire. The Border Police stated that Marchel showed up too late; the control procedures had been completed after the boarding for the scheduled flight had ended. Archbishop Marchel is a promoter of pro-Russian forces and propaganda messages in the Republic of Moldova. In the 2016 elections, he supported the [socialist Igor Dodon](#) for the presidency. In 2024, Marchel [promoted](#) Ilan Șor’s presidential candidate, Victoria Furtună, during church services.*

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3. Two Russians have been detained in the Samara region for committing and preparing acts of sabotage, the FSB reported. – 222 messages

**Key Actors by number of posts (With audience > 1000)**

- Радио Рекорд Самара / Radio Record Самара – 3
- 63 РЕГИОН – 2
- Z Информфронт V – 2
- РЕН ТВ|Новости✓ – 2
- Russian state-affiliated actors – 19

**Narrative:** Moldova is used to train terrorists.

*According to [The Insider](#), the arrests of the two Russian citizens, who were allegedly recruited on the territory of the Republic of Moldova, actually took place in 2023.*

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4. Moldovan citizen Evgeniy Kurdoglu, on orders from Ukrainian special services, planned to blow up a water pumping station in Kerch; he has been detained, the FSB reported. – 217 messages

**Key Actors by number of posts (With audience > 1000)**

- Народное Слово | СВО | Новости – 2
- RT - Новости – 2
- ВЛАДИМИР СОЛОВЬЁВ NEWS – 2
- Russian state-affiliated actors – 25

**Narrative:** Moldova is used to train terrorists.

*According to [The Insider](#), Evgeniy Kurdoglu was also arrested in 2024.*

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5. The Constitutional Court of Moldova has begun to consider the issue of abolishing the special legal status of Gagauzia. – 191 messages

**Key Actors by number of posts (With audience > 1000)**

- Зеркало – 4
- rbc – 2
- Понаехали – 2
- Russian state-affiliated actors – 18

**Narrative:** Government wants to liquidate Gagauz autonomy.

*The [Court ruled](#) that the People's Assembly of Gagauzia has no constitutional authority to propose candidates for prosecutor positions, which fall solely under the Prosecutor General's competence, based on the Superior Council of Prosecutors' proposals. This decision does not affect Gagauzia's autonomous status guaranteed by the Constitution and special law.*

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## Top posts about Political Figures

1. The head of Gagauzia, Eugenia Gutsul, who is under house arrest, congratulated the region's residents on Easter. | [Source](#)
2. Moldovan oppositionist and leader of the Pobeda bloc Ilan Shor, in a conversation with RIA Novosti, called the detention of Archbishop Markell a "familiar tactic" of President Maia Sandu. | [Source](#)
3. Moldovan authorities continue to put pressure on Gagauzia. | [Source](#)
4. Gagauzia head Eugenia Gutsul Approved of House Arrest for a Month. | [Source](#)
5. Chisinau is moving towards the annexation of Transnistria. | [Source](#)

### Key Actors by number of posts (With audience > 1000)

- vestiru24 – 4
- nash\_prezident\_putin – 3
- Распутица – 3
- RT на русском – 2
- Russian state-affiliated actors – 22

## CONCLUSION

The ranking of topics discussed in the Russian informational space about the Republic of Moldova focused on promoting three narratives: Moldova is used to train terrorists, Moldovan Orthodox Church is being destroyed, Government wants to liquidate Gagauz autonomy.

The main narrative used by Russian propaganda was Moldova is used to train terrorists. The narrative is linked to the arrests by the FSB of Moldovans allegedly plotting with Ukrainian secret services – arrests that actually took place in 2023-2024. The repeated media coverage of these arrests served as a pretext to create a negative image of the Republic of Moldova for the Russian public. The aim of these concerted discreditation campaigns is to present Moldova as a threat and enemy to Russia. Similar tactics of promoting negative messages were used against Ukraine, before the illegal annexation of Crimea and the full-scale invasion in 2022.

As for the narrative Moldovan Orthodox Church is being destroyed, it is a recurring one, linked to a minor incident. Russian propaganda often uses such events to consistently promote the idea that the Orthodox Church is persecuted in Moldova.

The presence of Eugenia Guțul in Russian propaganda messages can be explained by the fact that the Bashkan of Gagauzia is undergoing trial over the illegal financing of political parties and violations in the management of financial resources. At the same time, the promotion of the narrative about the "liquidation of Gagauz autonomy" aims to create the perception that the current government in Chișinău is "dividing" society and "fighting" against inconvenient opposition.