

2025 MOLDOVA ELECTIONS

Monitoring Hostile Narratives:

WEEK 2 | 21-27.04.2025



Comprehensive AI-powered media analysis

Research Methodology

This weekly monitoring of social media is dedicated to identification of the 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 AI-powered 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
3.44k	5.75k	30.5M	503k	347*	347

*Including Russian state-affiliated – 128 actors.

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

Scope – Political Figures

Actors	Publications	Views	Reactions	Compromised	Inauthentic
109	140	924k	23.1k	39*	1

*Including Russian state-affiliated – 15 actors.

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

Top 5 Political Stories by Number of Posts (Cases)

1. The FSB has stopped the activities of a former employee of the Moldovan Information and Security Service Dmitry Rusnak, who came to Russia to collect information about Moscow's plans regarding Moldova. – 395 messages

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

- NewЛанак | Спецоперация | Агрегатор новостей – 4
- Военные Сводки (СВО) – 3
- Великая Россия – 3
- tass_agency – 2
- Russian state-affiliated actors – 37

Narrative: Moldova is used to train terrorists.

The publication [Ziarul de Gardă](#) writes, quoting sources from within the Intelligence and Security Service (SIS), that Dumitru Rusnac has never officially served as an intelligence or security officer. The spokesperson for the Presidency, Igor Zahorov, commented on Russia's accusations as follows: “The same worn-out record of Kremlin propaganda – yet another blatant fake. These fabrications are becoming more frequent, which is why we must remain vigilant and critically assess the information we see.”

2. The Chişinău authorities have banned the celebration of Victory Day on the country's main square. – 182 messages

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

- Iomovkaa – 2
- Альтернативное мнение – 2
- Портфель Генштаба – 2
- Russian state-affiliated actors – 19

Narrative: Moldova neglects the memory of the Great Patriotic War (World War II).

In fact, the authorities did not ban the celebration of Victory Day in the Great National Assembly Square (PMAN). Government spokesperson [Daniel Vodă](#) announced that PMAN had been reserved for the traditional “European Village” event. The topic was discussed during a joint meeting between the authorities and the opposition, organized by the Chişinău City Hall. During the meeting, the Deputy Director of the State Protection and Guard Service, [Gheorghe Josan](#), stated that “Holding two simultaneous events in PMAN is not possible – there are risks to public order, potential tensions, and uncontrolled blockages.”

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3. The Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs strongly recommends that Russian citizens take into account the risks when planning trips to Moldova. – 80 messages

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

- peoplivenews – 2
- Russian state-affiliated actors – 12

Narrative: Moldovan authorities continue discriminatory policies against Russian citizens entering the country.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has denied the false claim. According to the institution: “The Republic of Moldova is a safe and open country for visitors. We regret that the Russian authorities are once again choosing to escalate tensions and sow division through unfounded statements. Only individuals who raise concerns for the competent authorities are returned, in accordance with the law. All others are welcome to enjoy the Moldovans’ proverbial hospitality.”

4. The "Immortal Regiment" will take place in Chişinău, despite the ban of the Moldovan authorities, Igor Dodon said. – 69 messages

Key Actors by audience views

- SolovievLive
- rt_russian
- tass_agency
- Russian state-affiliated actors – 13

Narrative: Moldova neglects the memory of the Great Patriotic War (World War II).

According to the Prime Minister’s political advisor, Cristina Jardan, “The Government is not banning May 9th as a celebration of the victory over Nazism and fascism. The only disagreement concerns the use of the Great National Assembly Square as the starting point for the march organized by opposition parties.” At the same time, the pro-Russian opposition holds an annual Victory March that begins in the center of the capital and proceeds to the Eternity Memorial – an event that will also take place this year.

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5. The Gagauz autonomy in Moldova categorically rejected the order from Chisinau to celebrate "Europe Day" instead of Victory Day. – 48 messages

Key Actors by audience views

- golosmordora
- rus_demiurge
- Дежурный по СНГ
- Russian state-affiliated actors – 8

Narrative: Chişinău does not take into account the interests of Găgăuzia.

Traditionally, in the Republic of Moldova, both Europe Day and Victory Day are officially celebrated on May 9th. In 2023, several MPs from the Party of Action and Solidarity attempted to rename Victory Day as “Day of Remembrance and Reconciliation in Memory of Those Fallen in the Second World War”, but the draft law was withdrawn. No similar legislative proposal has since been registered in Parliament, and Victory Day remains an official holiday in the Republic of Moldova.

The falsehood circulated in the context of statements made by the interim governor of Gagauzia, Iliia Uzun, regarding an alleged government order to celebrate Victory Day only in certain localities. In reality, the State Chancellery recommended that local public authorities at levels I and II take part in organizing and holding Europe Day events – it did not impose this.

Top posts about Political Figures

1. The “Immortal Regiment” march in Chişinău will take place on May 9, despite opposition from the Moldovan authorities, said former President Igor Dodon. | [Source](#)
2. The Moldovan authorities may pass a law according to which the Bashkan of Gagauzia will have to be approved by the Moldovan authorities. | [Source](#)
3. Leader of the Moldova Mare party: calls for unification with Romania are a betrayal. | [Source](#)
4. Moldova-2025. Exhausted voters with lanterns are looking for their savior. | [Source](#)
5. Ilan Shor accused the Moldovan authorities of trying to abolish Victory Day. | [Source](#)

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

- Гагаузский партизан – 3
- rezervsv0 – 2
- БЫСТРО – 2
- lomovkaalomovkaa – 2
- Russian state-affiliated actors – 15

CONCLUSION

Russian propaganda continues to promote the narrative that “*Moldova is used to train terrorists.*” One week after Russia launched a disinformation campaign about Moldovans being involved in terrorist attacks, a new falsehood was spread regarding the detention of an alleged “*Moldovan spy*” from Chişinău’s intelligence services. This narrative was further reinforced by a travel risk warning issued to Russian citizens about visiting the Republic of Moldova.

This clearly indicates a coordinated disinformation campaign aimed at the Russian public to portray Moldova as a threat.

The promotion of the false claim about the *ban on celebrating Victory Day on May 9th* is being used to divide society and discredit the authorities in Chişinău. This falsehood is repeated every year around May 9th and is part of the broader narrative about “*erasing historical memory.*”

An analysis of the appearances of Moldovan politicians in Russian media shows a shift in attention – from the Governor of Gagauzia, Evghenia Guţul, to other figures such as Igor Dodon, Ilan Şor, or even Ion Ceban. Recently, the messages of Victoria Furtună have also been promoted; she is supported in the presidential elections by the Şor group.

This suggests that Russia is betting on multiple political figures in the upcoming parliamentary elections and is working to increase their visibility.