

2025 MOLDOVA ELECTIONS

Monitoring Hostile Narratives:
WEEK 3 | 28.04-4.05.2025



Comprehensive AI-powered media analysis

Research Methodology

This weekly monitoring of the 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
4.23k	7.01k	32.1M	644k	433*	498

*Including Russian state-affiliated – 147 actors.

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

Scope – Political Figures

Actors	Publications	Views	Reactions	Compromised	Inauthentic
85	128	832k	7.35k	21*	1

*Including Russian state-affiliated – 7 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

1. Self-destruction with a homemade bomb happened to a Ukrainian and a Belarusian in the Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug. – 723 messages

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

- Нелавров – 3
- Приграничье Александровны – 3
- Новости Мира – 3
- Газета-V-Вечорка – 2
- Russian state-affiliated actors – 58

Narrative: Moldova is used to train terrorists.

For the third week in a row, pro-Russian propaganda has been using the narrative “Moldova is used to train terrorists” against Russia. The intent remains the same as before – to portray Moldovans as a threat to the Russian Federation – the ultimate goal is still unclear. The NewsMaker requested comments from the Presidential Administration and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Moldova, but received no response.

2. Sobyenin believes that Moscow's best strategy at this stage is exactly the one that the Foreign Ministry, the Defense Ministry, and the Russian government are already adhering to: "Not to whip up hysteria, continue working with Moldova, be militarily prepared for unlikely, but still possible scenarios of an attack on the PMR from the east, south, and west." – 434 messages

Key Actors by number of posts (*none of the actors have audience greater than 1000. Most actors published 2+ messages*). **Example actors:**

- Расстрелять – 4
- Министерство неправды – 4
- Война башен кремля – 4
- Russian state-affiliated actors – 0, inauthentic – 63

Narrative: The West wants to restart the war on the Dniester.

The dissemination of this false information across a series of inauthentic Telegram channels demonstrates the launch of a coordinated campaign to escalate tensions in the Republic of Moldova and possibly prepare a provocation either on the right or left bank of Dniester. In reality, the Moldovan authorities advocate for the peaceful resolution of the Transnistrian conflict, as do the country's external partners.

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3. A Moldovan history textbook called the Battle of Stalingrad a “catastrophe” and the Romanians “liberators”. – 247 messages

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

- PEOPLE LIVE – 3
- Стаханов и мир – 3
- URA.RU – 3
- СИГНАЛ – 2
- Russian state-affiliated actors – 15

Narrative: Nazism is glorified in Moldova.

The Soviet Union, alongside Nazi Germany, bears primary responsibility for the outbreak of World War II. Under the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, the USSR annexed Bessarabia in 1940 and imposed a totalitarian regime that carried out mass deportations and repression. In 1941, the Romanian army recaptured the lost territory and expelled the Soviet occupation.

Pro-Russian forces are attempting to discredit the history textbook because it promotes a national narrative critical of the Soviet occupation and seeks to dismantle Soviet myths, undermining their ideological and geopolitical influence in Moldova.

4. The Collapse of Democracy in Europe. The most popular party in Germany, Alternative for Germany, has been declared extremist. – 88 messages

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

- Вячеслав Володин – 1
- АРХАНГЕЛ СПЕЦНАЗА – 1
- Russian state-affiliated actors – 11

Narrative: European states are turning into totalitarian regimes led by unpopular politicians and parties.

The topic was used to discredit European leadership and portray it as undemocratic. The author of the post, Vyacheslav Volodin, cited the Republic of Moldova alongside France, Germany, and Romania. According to Volodin, the “popular” Evghenia Guțul was arrested because she did not support European integration.

In reality, Evghenia Guțul was detained on suspicion of having “instigated and organized” the falsification of multiple documents concerning donations from individuals and legal entities for her May 2023 election campaign, in order to conceal transfers totaling 370,000 lei [approx. 19,000 euros] from “prohibited sources.”

Moreover, the inclusion of the Republic of Moldova in such a short list alongside Germany, France, and Romania highlights a heightened interest of Russian propaganda in Moldova. Additionally, portraying Evghenia Guțul as “popular” is a clear expression of Kremlin support for her and Ilan Șor.

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5. A Moldovan history textbook for high school students claims that Moldovans do not exist as a nation, since they are all actually Romanians, a RIA Novosti correspondent found out. – 56 messages

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

- РИА Новости – 1
- СИГНАЛ – 1
- Russian state-affiliated actors – 6

Narrative: Romania wants to control Moldova.

Moldovans and Romanians are the same people, as they speak the same language, share the same culture, history, and ethnic origin, and are artificially separated by political borders.

The idea of a distinct “Moldovan people” was invented by the Soviet regime after 1924 on the left bank of the Dniester, in the so-called MASSR (Moldavian Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic), with the purpose of justifying the annexation of Bessarabia and severing the historical and identity link with Romania by imposing a false identity through propaganda, censorship, and russification.

Top Posts About Political Figures

1. Igor Dodon harshly criticized Western leaders who spat on national interests. | [Source](#)
2. The Moldovan authorities are trying to control all media, – the former head of Gagauzia, leader of the opposition party “Heart of Moldova” Irina Vlah. | [Source](#)
3. Thousands of Chisinau residents took part in a march of solidarity and social justice. | [Source](#)
4. Guțul: Chisinau wants to “strangle the voice of Gagauzia” with false accusations. | [Source](#)
5. "I worked in Moldova for six years as a deputy prosecutor general, and then I was the prosecutor general..." – said former presidential candidate Alexander Stoianoglo. | [Source](#)

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

- Блокнот Россия 18+ – 5
- Гагаузский партизан – 4
- Компромат СНГ – 3
- IZ.RU – 2
- Russian state-affiliated actors – 7

CONCLUSION

The repeated use of the narrative “[Moldova is used to train terrorists](#)”, along with a new disinformation campaign about reigniting the war on the Dniester, shows that Russia is testing the waters ahead of a potential provocation on either the left or right bank of the Dniester. This type of aggressive rhetoric has been repeatedly employed by the Kremlin since the launch of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine, especially in the context of provocations orchestrated by Russian intelligence services in the Transnistrian region. The main goal has been to discredit the authorities in Chişinău and Kyiv and to create a propagandistic justification for possible destabilization efforts.

Russian propaganda intensified around May 9th, using narratives such as “Nazism is glorified in Moldova” and “[Romania wants to control Moldova.](#)” Both narratives are part of a recurring rhetoric used annually to portray Moldova’s government as nazist. The theme of “falsifying history” is used by Russian propaganda precisely to conceal the distortions that Russia itself has produced and disseminated throughout the post-Soviet space.

The promotion of actions and messages from figures like Igor Dodon, Vladimir Voronin, Aleksandr Stoianoglo, and Irina Vlah clearly demonstrates the Russian Federation’s interest in these actors, who may represent Moscow’s key stake in the upcoming parliamentary elections this autumn. The appearance of messages in the Russian information space written by former Moldovan Prime Minister Vlad Filat further indicates that he has become a Kremlin tool in promoting Russia’s agenda both within the Republic of Moldova and abroad.