

2025 MOLDOVA ELECTIONS

Monitoring Hostile Narratives:

WEEK 4 | 5-11.05.2025



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 the 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 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
4.76k	7.68k	32.9M	709k	410*	503

*Including Russian state-affiliated – 137 actors.

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

Scope – Political Figures

Actors	Publications	Views	Reactions	Compromised	Inauthentic
103	137	710k	15.1k	32*	1

*Including Russian state-affiliated – 6 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. For Victory Day, Putin congratulated the leaders of former Soviet republics, Israel, and the people of Georgia and Moldova. – 230 messages

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

- Новости – 2
- Путин в Telegram – 2
- Кремлевский новостной – 2
- Политика Страны – 2
- Russian state-affiliated actors – 19

Narrative: Moldova and Russia share a common history.

The title of the news piece is factually correct, but it aligns with the narrative [Moldova and Russia share a common history](#). This narrative legitimizes the idea that Moldova should stand alongside Russia. Additionally, the fact that Putin addresses his congratulatory message to the people of the Republic of Moldova and not to the authorities, as he does in the case of the other mentioned countries, is an attempt to delegitimize the leadership in Chişinău, which is not favored by Moscow.

2. The leader of the right, George Simion, is leading the elections in Romania following the results of the first round. – 198 messages

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

- ПолитНавигатор. Новости и аналитика – 2
- Понаехали – 2
- Неудаца – 2
- Russian state-affiliated actors – 24

Narrative: Romania wants to control Moldova.

In reality, Russian propaganda contradicts itself by simultaneously pushing the idea that George Simion is a unionist advocating for the unification of Romania and the Republic of Moldova, and the idea that George Simion is working in Moscow's interest.

In fact, George Simion's unionism is merely a façade. An investigation by the [Reporter de Iaşi](#) portal details how George Simion organized so-called unionist protests, which were in fact carried out in the interest of fugitive oligarch Vlad Plahotniuc, aiming to divert attention from protests against the regime. George Simion has been accused of organizing multiple anarchist actions on the territory of the Republic of Moldova, with the purpose of creating the perception of a rise in extremism – an image that allowed the Russians to justify their refusal to withdraw the 14th Army from Transnistria.

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The AUR leader has been banned from entering the Republic of Moldova since 2018. In 2024, the sanction was extended by the authorities in Chişinău until October 1, 2028. According to Moldovan legislation, “foreign nationals may be declared undesirable in the Republic of Moldova if they have carried out, are carrying out, or there are well-founded indications that they intend to carry out activities that may endanger national security or public order.”

In 2024, during a TV program, Moldovan Prime Minister Dorin Recean stated that “state institutions have determined that George Simion is part of the effort to destabilize the Republic of Moldova.” Thus, the statements about uniting the two banks of the Prut are part of a strategy aimed at attracting the unionist electorate. At the same time, it is important to note that the majority of citizens in the Republic of Moldova are against the unification of the two countries. Only 35% of Moldova’s population would opt for unification with Romania.

3. Victory Day in Moldova to be marked by fines: authorities warn of punishment for George's ribbon. – 153 messages

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

- Кремлёвский пересмешник – 1
- 4494 – 1
- Russian state-affiliated actors – 0, Information manipulation – 8

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

In 2022, following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova passed a law banning the manufacturing, sale, distribution, possession for the purpose of distribution, and public use of widely recognized attributes and symbols (including the Saint George ribbon) that are used in the context of acts of military aggression, war crimes, or crimes against humanity, as well as in the propaganda or glorification of such actions.

The narrative Moldova neglects the memory of the Great Patriotic War (World War II) is false, given that the country’s authorities participated on May 9 in the commemoration event for those who lost their lives in the Second World War. Moreover, every year on May 9, the Republic of Moldova commemorates the victims of World War II. Over 56,000 Moldovans lost their lives on the front. Across the country, events are organized to honor the heroes who fought to defend peace and, at the cost of their lives, stood against Nazism and fascism.

4. The Moldovan opposition held the "Immortal Regiment" action in the republic's parliament. – 100 messages

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

- РИА Новости – 1
- Россия сейчас • Новости – 1
- Russian state-affiliated actors – 6

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

Russian propaganda has attempted to portray the Kremlin-affiliated opposition as the only political force commemorating the victims of the Second World War.

In reality, the President of Parliament, Igor Grosu, together with the country's President, Maia Sandu, Prime Minister Dorin Recean, European Commissioner for Enlargement Marta Kos, members of Parliament, ministers, and veterans laid flowers at the "Eternitate" Memorial Complex in the capital. The officials paid tribute to the victims of World War II who sacrificed their lives and fought for peace.

5. History is being rewritten in Moldova. – 96 messages

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

- РИА Новости – 2
- Колхоз дело добровольное Руслан – 2
- Russian state-affiliated actors – 5

Narrative: Nazism is glorified in Moldova.

The claim that Romania occupied Bessarabia during the Second World War is historically inaccurate. Bessarabia was part of Romania between 1918 and 1940, following the Act of Union voted by the Sfatul Țării on March 27, 1918. This union was internationally recognized, including through the Treaty of Paris in 1920. The USSR occupied Bessarabia in 1940 and abandoned it in 1941.

During their withdrawal, Soviet authorities took with them industrial equipment and raw materials, and also destroyed railways and some factories. The Romanian administration re-equipped many factories in Bessarabia to support the war effort, but also to produce consumer goods.

Top Posts About Political Figures

1. Representatives of the opposition political bloc "Victory" delivered a piece of the Eternal Flame from Moscow to Chisinau to light it at the memorial on the eve of the anniversary of Victory in the Great Patriotic War. | [Source](#)
2. Thousands of people took part in the "Victory March" in Chisinau, despite the ban by the Moldovan authorities. | [Source](#)
3. The Moldovan authorities are banning the celebration of Victory Day and the use of the St. George ribbon due to fear of the unification of the people. | [Source](#)
4. Chisinau Mayor Ion Ceban intends to ban the LGBT* march in the capital and its propaganda in schools. | [Source](#)
5. Furtune: PAS is destroying prosecutors' offices in Moldova to avoid trial. | [Source](#)

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

- Гагаузский партизан – 5
- Говорит Кишинёв – 4
- РИТМ ЕВРАЗИИ – 2
- Компромат СНГ – 2
- Russian state-affiliated actors – 6

CONCLUSION

In the context of May 9 – a day that, in the Republic of Moldova, symbolizes the commemoration of the victims of the Second World War – Russian propaganda efforts have focused on criticizing the authorities in Chişinău for allegedly trying to erase the historical memory of Moldovans. Russian propaganda fails to make a clear distinction between the celebration of Victory Day and the commemoration of the war's victims, which helps perpetuate the narratives that "[Moldova neglects the memory of the Great Patriotic War \(World War II\)](#)" and "[Moldova and Russia share a common history.](#)"

Also in the context of May 9, Russian propaganda placed emphasis on historical themes and, for the second week in a row, promoted the narrative "[Nazism is glorified in Moldova.](#)" This narrative is used by Russia to justify its hostile actions toward other states, including Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova.

The contradictory narrative surrounding George Simion's profile – portrayed simultaneously as a unionist and a Moscow agent – highlights a disinformation strategy aimed at discrediting unionist discourse and fueling confusion in the public space.

Russian propaganda continues to promote both the leaders of parties affiliated with Ilan Şor and Igor Dodon, as well as one of the leaders of the Alternativa Bloc, Ion Ceban, who positions himself as "pro-European." During the reference period, Russian propaganda endorsed pro-Russian politicians in Moldova depending on the topic: Victoria Furtună addressed the issue of justice, Şor and Dodon focused on traditional values and ties with Russia, while Ion Ceban framed the government as being aligned with LGBT propaganda.

With May 9 behind us, Russian disinformation on historical topics will take a backseat, and other themes will be exploited – particularly those related to the upcoming autumn parliamentary elections, the June LGBT march, and European integration.