

2025 MOLDOVA ELECTIONS

Monitoring Hostile Narratives:

WEEK 5 | 12-18.05.2025



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 |
|--------|--------------|-------|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| 3.56k | 5.5k | 21M | 281k | 297* | 425 |

*Including Russian state-affiliated – 108 actors.

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

Scope – Political Figures

| Actors | Publications | Views | Reactions | Compromised | Inauthentic |
|--------|--------------|-------|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| 76 | 92 | 677k | 4.9k | 27* | 0 |

*Including Russian state-affiliated – 9 actors.

Sought terms: *"игорь додон", "илан шор", "vladimir voronin", "vasile tarlev", "viktoriya furturne", "evgeniya gucul", "urina vlah", "ion cheban", "aleksandr stoyanoglo"*

Top 5 Political Stories by Number of Posts

1. The Chişinău court extended the house arrest of the head of Gagauzia, Guţul, for 30 days, until June 13. – 304 messages

Key Actors by number of posts

- Глашатай РФ – 5
- ТАСС / Мир – 4
- Сводки и Аналитика СВО (Резерв) – 3
- Russian state-affiliated actors – 22

Narrative: Local administrations are oppressed.

The news is part of a campaign to promote and victimize the Governor of Gagauzia, Evghenia Guţul. Her image is being used to spread disinformation within the Russian informational space, suggesting that the opposition in the Republic of Moldova is being persecuted. The abundance of news about Evghenia Guţul can be explained by Ilan Şor's close ties with Kremlin officials and by the fact that Ilan Şor has become one of the central figures promoting the interests of the Russian Federation in the Republic of Moldova.

2. Sobyenin supports a calm, strategic approach focused on diplomacy, preparedness, and maintaining stability in Transnistria, without resorting to aggressive actions like capturing Odessa. – 214 messages

Key Actors by number of posts

- Тимур и его команда – 2
- Дмитрий Навка – 2
- Война башен кремля – 2

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

The repeated dissemination of this false information across a series of inauthentic Telegram channels demonstrates the ongoing 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.

3. Transnistria Announces EU Preparations for Military Conflict with Russia. – 62 messages

Key Actors by number of views

(No channels have over 1,000 followers and more than 1 post)

- ПУТИН в Telegram
- Что произошло?
- Узел связи
- Russian state-affiliated actors – 1

Narrative: The West pushes Moldova into war.

Disinformation sources refer to a statement made by the so-called deputy from Tiraspol, Andrei Safonov, claiming that “the deployment of German military advisers in Moldova is part of the EU’s preparation for a possible conflict with Russia at the end of the 2020s and the beginning of the 2030s.” This false information, along with the statement by Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyenin, is part of a disinformation campaign that began a week ago and is still ongoing. These messages are being disseminated increasingly frequently by various sources, both from Russia and from the Republic of Moldova, from both the right and left banks of the Dniester.

The falsehood originated from the agreement signed on May 15 between the Government of Chişinău and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany regarding the Assistance Program and the deployment of an advisory group from the Bundeswehr to the Republic of Moldova.

4. The countries of the European Political Community are considering the possibility of a "full trade embargo" against Russia. – 46 messages

Key Actors by number of views

(No channels with more than 1 relevant post)

- РИА Новости
- ZERGULIO
- Russian state-affiliated actors – 5

Narrative: Russia is unfairly discriminated against internationally.

At the European leaders’ summit in Tirana, on May 16, the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, announced that new sanctions against Russia are forthcoming, in response to Vladimir Putin’s absence from the negotiations with Ukraine in Istanbul.”

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Russian propaganda uses the sanctions imposed by the West as a pretext to victimize itself and to promote the narrative that “Russia is unfairly discriminated against internationally.” In Russian propagandistic discourse, the causes of the sanctions are not mentioned; only the so-called “discriminatory” stance of the EU toward the Russian Federation is emphasized. The main aim of these messages is to antagonize Russian society toward the EU and to serve as justification for Russia’s anti-Western rhetoric.

The exhaustive listing of the countries that are part of the European Political Community, including the Republic of Moldova, is used by propagandists as a way to push the narrative that “the EU is Russophobic.” In this way, a simple list of countries is framed as a “list of shame.”

5. German troops to be stationed in Moldova. – 46 messages

Key Actors by number of views

(No channels have over 1,000 followers and more than 1 post)

- Два майора
- WarGonzo
- Russian state-affiliated actors – 5

Narrative: EU accession draws Moldova into war.

According to the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Moldova, an agreement was signed in Berlin between the Government of Chişinău and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany regarding an Assistance Program and the deployment of a Bundeswehr advisory group to the Republic of Moldova. The Ministry announced that the signing of this agreement represents “an important step in deepening the strategic partnership with Germany.” Thus, the agreement will contribute to accelerating the modernization process of the defense institution through infrastructure renovation, improved working and accommodation conditions for military personnel, and increased attractiveness of military service in society.

The narrative “EU accession draws Moldova into war” is being used as a tool to discredit the support provided by EU member states for the modernization of Moldova’s defense sector. The ultimate goal of spreading such messages is to undermine public support for the European integration process.

In 2024, Russian propaganda actively spread the false claim that France would deploy “military troops” to the Republic of Moldova. In reality, those “troops” turned out to be a single military attaché. Similarly, in the current case, the supposed “German military troops” refer only to a group of consultants on military matters.

Top Posts About Political Figures

1. Chişinău court extends house arrest of Gagauzia head for 30 days According to the court's decision, Evghenia Guţul will remain under arrest until June 13. | [Source](#)
2. The Chişinău City Council has banned gay parades in the capital of Moldova. | [Source](#)
3. Shor accused the West of popularizing LGBT in Moldova. | [Source](#)
4. The prosecutor does not know at what stage the criminal case is, on the basis of which Bashkan Evghenia Guţul was first under preliminary arrest and then under house arrest. | [Source](#)
5. PAS councilor collects negativity on the Internet after a PR campaign in Chişinău. | [Source](#)

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

- Гагаузский партизан – 3
- ПолитНавигатор. Новости и аналитика – 2
- Говорит Кишинёв – 2
- Дежурный по СНГ – 2

CONCLUSION

The increasingly aggressive promotion of false claims about the outbreak of a war on the Dniester clearly points to the existence of a disinformation campaign targeting not only the authorities in Chişinău and Kyiv but also the European Union. The spread of such fake news suggests a possible preparation of provocations in the Transnistrian region by the Russian Federation.

At the same time, the topic may also be linked to the ongoing peace negotiations between Ukraine and Russia, with Russian propaganda attempting to portray the authorities in Kyiv in the most negative light possible. This issue requires continued monitoring, especially given its rising intensity and the fact that it is being increasingly echoed by local politicians affiliated with the Kremlin.

In recent weeks, we have observed a steady promotion of the political bloc Alternativa within the Russian informational space. The Russian Federation's attempts to portray one of the bloc's leaders, Ion Ceban, as a pro-European politician who also upholds traditional (conservative) values are part of a strategy aimed at fragmenting the pro-European, undecided, or conservative electorate.

In addition to the network of parties coordinated by Ilan Şor, it is becoming increasingly clear that the Alternativa Bloc is also one of the Kremlin's strategic bets in the run-up to the parliamentary elections on September 28. Thus, Moscow is aiming to secure an anti-European parliamentary majority that would serve the Kremlin's interests and obstruct Moldova's path toward European Union accession.