

2025 MOLDOVA ELECTIONS

Monitoring Hostile Narratives:

WEEK 8 | 2-8.06.2025



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
3.53k	5.91k	30.2M	550k	328*	366

*Including Russian state-affiliated – 125 actors.

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

Scope – Political Figures

Actors	Publications	Views	Reactions	Compromised	Inauthentic
106	145	1.52M	18.4k	33*	4

*Including Russian state-affiliated – 11 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. Composer Eugen Doga has died at the age of 89. – 329 messages

Key Actors by number of posts

- БЕК АБСУРДА | ИНЕССА ДЕРМЕНЖИ – 3
- Медуза — LIVE – 2
- ВЕСТИ – 2
- Russian state-affiliated actors – 21

Narrative: Everything Moldova has is due to the USSR.

The postings refer to the death of composer Eugen Doga. Russian propaganda has criticized earlier statements made by the Moldovan composer in reference to the troops of the 14th Army in the Transnistrian region. The sources emphasized that Doga was a citizen of Russia, lived in Russia and was given numerous orders and awards. The main narrative promoted by these sources aimed at reinforcing the perception that Moldova's cultural achievements are essentially due to Soviet support.

One of the postings mentioned that the waltz that made Doga and the whole of Moldova famous was composed for a movie made at the "Mosfilm" studio, based on the works of the Russian writer Chekhov. Thus, Eugen Doga was labeled as "a typical representative of the national intelligentsia nurtured by the Soviet regime". The promotion of this narrative aims to inferiorize the people and cultural heritage of the Republic of Moldova.

2. Ukraine considered an operation to attack Russian forces in Transnistria, but decided not to open a new front yet. – 303 messages

Key Actors by number of posts

- Позывной "Старый" – 3
- Сфера news – 3
- Милитарист – 3
- Russian state-affiliated actors – 26

Narrative: Ukraine wants to reignite the Transnistrian conflict.

The postings refer to an [article](#) in The Washington Post stating that "Using Russian defectors and other local forces, Ukraine has considered an operation to attack Russian troops there [editor's note: the Transnistrian region], but has decided not to open this new front."

In view of the illegal stationing of Russian troops on the left bank of the Dniester, since the beginning of the war there have been various speculations about Ukraine "opening a new front in the Transnistrian region", but it didn't happen. What is certain is that Russian propaganda has used the situation in the region to promote its own disinformation narratives depending on the desired outcome. Moreover, between [2022](#) and [2024](#), several diversions were organized by Russian intelligence services on the left bank of the Dniester River in order to blame the Kiev authorities.

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3. Russia wants to deploy 10,000 troops in Transnistria, on the border with Odessa Oblast. – 205 messages

Key Actors by number of posts

- Русский Ревизор – 3
- ПРАВДА ЗА НАМИ!!!!!!ВАША НАДЕЖДА! – 2
- И Грянул Грэм – 2
- Russian state-affiliated actors – 12

Narrative: Russian troops in Transnistria – the guarantee of peace.

The postings refer to statements by Moldovan Prime Minister Dorin Recean to the Financial Times. The Moldovan official said that according to intelligence services, the Russian Federation intends to deploy 10 000 troops in the Transnistrian region. In this context, propaganda channels have picked up the reaction of the Russian ambassador in Chisinau, Oleg Ozerov, who described the statements of Dorin Recean as "electoral fantasies". The diplomat added that there were no reasons for expanding the Russian military contingent and emphasized that Moscow advocates maintaining peace and calm in the region. Such statements by the Russian Federation, coming against the background of the barbaric invasion of Ukraine, the illegal stationing of the 14th Army in Transnistria and numerous attempts to destabilize the Republic of Moldova, are aimed at cultivating among Moldovans the image of a "pacifying" Russia, in contrast with the geopolitical realities and its aggressive actions.

Currently, there are an estimated 1,500 military personnel on the left bank of the Dniester, most of them locals enlisted in Moscow-controlled structures, and only a small fraction of them directly from the Russian Federation. Chisinau authorities have repeatedly called for the withdrawal of Russian troops, considering their presence a violation of Moldova's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

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4. The latest court hearing in the case of the Gagauzia governor has concluded in Chişinău. – 151 messages

Key Actors by number of posts

- ТАСС – 9
- ТАСС / Мир – 8
- Scanos Новости – 2
- Russian state-affiliated actors – 10

Narrative: There can be no fair justice in Moldova.

The narrative has been promoted in the context of the finalization of the judicial investigation in the criminal case of accepting illegal funding, in which the bashkan of Gagauzia, Evghenia Gutul, and the secretary of the Central Office of the former "Shor" Political Party, Svetlana Popan, are targeted. Russian propaganda claims that the Gagauzian bashkan is being prosecuted for her calls for cooperation with Russia and that the pro-Western government in Chisinau opposes cooperation with Russia. The purpose of these messages is to substantiate the falsehood that the pro-Russian opposition is being persecuted for advocating cooperation with Moscow.

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5. Moldova will take out a €400 million loan to stop using the services of the Russian-Moldovan gas distribution company Moldovagaz. – 121 messages

Key Actors by number of posts

- Scanos Новости – 2
- Кремлёвский пересмешник – 2
- Russian state-affiliated actors – 11

Narrative: Moldova is dependent on Russian energy resources.

Monitored sources refer to the statement of the Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zaharova that "Breaking relations with Gazprom and the loan will lead Moldova into slavery."

What actually happened? The Moldovan government has approved state guarantees for Energocom to access a line of credit from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) to ensure the security of electricity and gas supplies. The project was approved in the context of the expiration in August 2025 of the project "Security of natural gas supply", signed in 2022, which also included a credit line accessed from the EBRD, and the Government thus honors its commitments undertaken in the Letter of Intent of February 4, 2025, signed with the European Commission.

At the same time, as of August 1, 2025, the state-owned company Energocom will become the main supplier of natural gas in the Republic of Moldova. Thus, Energocom will take over the entire consumer database currently operated by Moldovagaz, a company majority controlled by the Russian Federation.

The insinuations made by Maria Zaharova indicate that the Russian Federation does not want Moldova to become energy independent and run its enterprises as a sovereign state.

Top Posts About Political Figures

1. Evgeniya Gutsul stated that not a single examination was conducted in her criminal case to determine the amount of "alleged damage." | [Source](#)
2. One man in the field: Moldova's only politician Dodon speaks out against NATO's use of country's airport and calls on Sandu to resign. | [Source](#)
3. The Moldovan authorities are using the energy crisis to steal funds by changing the gas supplier, according to former President Igor Dodon. | [Source](#)
4. The mayor of Chişinău stated that no one challenged the municipal council's decision to ban LGBT propaganda and LGBT demonstrations. | [Source](#)
5. In Moldova, a religious procession on Trinity Day for the sake of a gay parade was banned, local media reports. | [Source](#)

Key Actors by number of posts

- Scanos Новости – 7
- Гагаузский партизан – 4
- НашПрезидентПУТИН – 3

CONCLUSION

The death of the Moldovan composer Eugen Doga was used by Russian propaganda to fuel the narrative of Soviet nostalgia and to substantiate the idea that everything the Republic of Moldova has, including in the cultural sphere, is due to the USSR. This is a classic example of the use of misinformation narratives related to history depending on events in Chisinau.

As predicted earlier, the Transnistria issue is being further exploited with the aim of planning a destabilization in the region that could influence the outcome of the parliamentary elections on 28 September. At the same time, the tense situation in Transnistria keeps Ukraine on the alert for possible provocations prepared by Russia on the left bank of the Dniester.

Russian propaganda returns to the subject of Moldova's energy supply. In this respect, Maria Zaharova's statements reflect an attempt to misinform, distorting the legitimate measures taken by the Government of the Republic of Moldova to ensure its energy independence and to manage its resources in the interests of a sovereign state.

We are still following the promotion of the same Moldovan politicians by Russian propaganda. As the sentencing date in the case of Evghenia Gutul is approaching, Russian propaganda is intensifying the narrative that a possible conviction of the Bashkan would in reality be pressure on Gagauzia.

Igor Dodon's messages are being increasingly taken up as they coincide with the themes used by Russian propaganda to antagonize Moldovan society on the following topics: neutrality, NATO membership, the energy crisis, etc. At the same time, Igor Dodon is being promoted more intensively because of the negotiations currently taking place on the formation of an electoral bloc, which should be headed by the PSRM.

The propagandistic messages in the context of PRIDE month have the effect of increasing the image of politicians such as Ion Ceban or Ilan Shor in the context of the parliamentary elections. Thus, in the case of Ion Ceban and the Bloc Alternativa, an attempt is being made to create the image of a "pro-European conservative" political force fighting against "LGBT propaganda," as opposed to the ruling PAS party which allegedly supports this community.