

2025 MOLDOVA ELECTIONS

Monitoring Hostile Narratives:
WEEK 7 | 26.05-1.06.2025



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
3.51k	5.56k	26.7M	466k	368*	368

*Including Russian state-affiliated – 124 actors.

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

Scope – Political Figures

Actors	Publications	Views	Reactions	Compromised	Inauthentic
58	78	568k	5.05k	15*	0

*Including Russian state-affiliated – 5 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. Russia's demands for non-expansion of NATO apply not only to Ukraine, but also to Moldova and Georgia. – 679 messages

Key Actors by number of posts

- НОВОСТИ [голосовой чат] – 4
- Scanos Новости – 3
- Дядька Гарри – 3
- Russian state-affiliated actors – 50

Narrative: NATO enlargement threatens Russia's security.

The postings refer to one of Putin's requirements for ending the conflict: "a written guarantee on the exclusion of Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova, and other former Soviet republics from NATO membership." The Republic of Moldova has a long-standing partnership with NATO, but has never formally expressed its intention to become a member of this military bloc, as it is a neutral country by its constitution. Relations with NATO were established in 1992, when Moldova joined the North Atlantic Cooperation Council. Bilateral cooperation began when Moldova joined the Partnership for Peace (PfP) program in 1994. At the request of the Moldovan Government, a NATO Liaison Office was inaugurated in Chişinău in December 2017 to promote practical cooperation and facilitate support for the country's reforms. Moldova has been contributing troops to the peacekeeping operation in Kosovo (KFOR) since March 2014.

Over the years, the North Atlantic Alliance has been used by Russian propaganda as a scaremonger against Moldova. The frequent association of NATO with war has led to a negative perception of Moldovans towards the Alliance. Thus, according to the latest poll presented by the [WatchDog Community](#) in April 2024, only 34% of respondents said they support Moldova's accession to NATO.

By promoting aggressive messages in relation to NATO, the Russian Federation aims to minimize support for Moldova's potential membership in the alliance and to keep Moldova in its sphere of influence in the long term.

2. The President of Transnistria Vadim Krasnoselsky has issued an appeal. – 179 messages

Key Actors by number of posts

- Расстрелять – 2
- Враги народа – 2
- Тимур и его команда – 2

Narrative: Government sabotages resolution of Transnistrian conflict.

The sources refer to an appeal made by Tiraspol leader Vadim Krasnoselsky to the Chişinău authorities "not to allow Moldova to get involved in an aggression against Transnistria." Of fact, [Krasnoselsky's appeal](#), now referred to by Russian propaganda sources, was made on April 26, 2022, two months after Russia's large-scale invasion of Ukraine. >>>>

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The massive redistribution of this appeal is part of the disinformation campaign launched by Russian propaganda a few weeks ago and is aimed at preparing a possible provocation on the left bank of the Dniester. As with the messages analyzed in previous reports, it is distributed by a number of inauthentic Telegram channels. All the messages refer to a channel of Moscow Mayor [Sergey Sobyanyin](#), which appears to be a fake one, made to launch forgeries of this kind.

3. The Kremlin is discussing the redistribution of powers between Kiriienko and Kozak. – 144 messages

Key Actors by number of posts

- Русский репортер – 7
- Футляр от виолончели - РУСПРЕС – 7
- RUSSIANGATE – 6
- Russian state-affiliated actors – 3

Narrative: Moldova must be part of Russia's sphere of influence.

The messages distributed by propagandist sources confirm what has been discussed more and more actively in the Moldovan [media](#) over the past few months. According to the above- mentioned sources, the First Deputy of the Administration of the Russian President, Serghey Kirienko, has taken the place of Dmitry Kozak as the Kremlin's "curator" for countries such as the Republic of Moldova and Armenia. The propaganda messages point to certain misunderstandings between Kirienko and Russian Foreign Minister Serghey Lavrov. According to them, Kirienko uses his influence to promote his views on Russian foreign policy. Such messages are more likely to be aimed at domestic audiences in Russia.

4. Ozerov is back on air: a lecture on Moldovan stability from the ambassador of a country where stability means an eternal president and double-height inflation. – 118 messages

Key Actors by number of posts

- Глашатай РФ – 3
- Scanos Новости – 3
- МИД России – 2
- Russian state-affiliated actors – 4

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

The topic has been fueled by the latest statements and actions of the Russian Ambassador in Chisinau, Oleg Ozerov. The ambassador stated that "the presence of the peacekeeping contingent in the Transnistrian region guarantees, of course, the non-starting of hostilities, the monitoring of and the observance of those terms of the truce that has been reached." >>>>

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The so-called peacekeeping forces are made up of three military contingents – from the Russian Federation, the Republic of Moldova and the self-proclaimed Transnistrian republic. This format was established in 1992 by the ceasefire agreement between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Moldova that ended the Nistru war. The mission on the left bank of the Dniester violates six of the [eight international criteria](#) for peacekeepers. It does not have an international mandate for action, it does not have a deadline, i.e. an orderly withdrawal plan, it is not multinational, it is not impartial, it is not transparent and most importantly, the mission considers the peacekeeping parties - forces that have fought and are in conflict – as peacekeepers.

Chisinau and Western actors involved in the Transnistrian settlement have for several years been calling for the transformation of the current peacekeeping mission from a military to a civilian monitoring mission with an international mandate, an initiative that Moscow and Tiraspol categorically oppose.

The reintroduction in the public space of discussions on peacekeepers on the left bank of the Dniester could be part of the Russian Federation's communication strategy, against the backdrop of numerous messages aimed at an alleged aggression of the Republic of Moldova against the Transnistrian region.

5. Ukraine will start buying liquefied gas from the United States. – 85 messages

Key Actors by number of posts

- Агрегатор смыслов – 2
- ЕЖ – 2
- Russian state-affiliated actors – 11

Narrative: Ukraine – puppet of the West.

In fact, these posts do not discredit the Republic of Moldova. Russian propaganda is trying to promote the message that Ukraine has problems with energy resources and could run out of gas in winter.

Top Posts About Political Figures

1. A new poll in Moldova from iData shows interesting results ahead of the start of the campaign for the parliamentary elections on September 28. | [Source](#)
2. If the Russian Federation does not reach Transnistria, Moldova will inevitably be devoured by Romania – expert. | [Source](#)
3. Dodon urged the new Moldovan government to reach out to Moscow. | [Source](#)
4. Igor Dodon stated that Chişinău is currently conducting a hidden nationalization by depriving Gazprom of the right to manage Moldovagaz. | [Source](#)
5. A celebration for 3,000 orphans from all over Russia took place in Moscow. | [Source](#)

Key Actors by number of posts

- Говорит Кишинёв – 4
- Гагаузский партизан – 3
- Алёна Аршинова Z – 2

CONCLUSION

The disinformation promoted by the Russian Federation is aimed at undermining the trust of Moldovan citizens in Western partners and keeping the country within its sphere of influence. By manipulating information and *promoting anti-NATO narratives*, Russia is trying to prevent NATO enlargement in former Soviet countries, including the Republic of Moldova.

Russian propaganda continues its disinformation campaign aimed at fueling the narrative of a *false aggression by the Republic of Moldova against the Transnistrian region*. In conclusion, the Russian propaganda's repetition of the Tiraspol leader's old messages underlines both the exhaustion of the Kremlin's current narrative resources and a possible reluctance of the Transnistrian authorities to get directly involved in the provocations orchestrated by Moscow on the left bank of the Dniester.

Propagandistic messages about *changes in the Kremlin's structure of influence* and alleged tensions between Russian officials seem to be mainly aimed at the domestic audience, with the aim of strengthening the image of Sergei Kirienko as an influential figure in Russian foreign policy, including in relation to Moldova. At the same time, through such messages Russian propaganda recognizes Russian involvement in the internal affairs of other states.

The Russian Federation's interest in the polls in the Republic of Moldova shows that it is counting on a coalition formed by the Alternative Bloc, Our Party, Party of Socialists, and Victory Bloc after the parliamentary elections on September 28. This can also be seen in Igor Dodon's speech, which suggests that the new government, without PAS, will have to urgently discuss social and economic issues with Moscow.

A sovereigntist bloc is forming around Victoria Furtune, supported by Ilan Shor, following the Romanian model. Furtuna's role is to promote the already entrenched narrative that Moldova should take Bugevac, part of the Odessa region, from Ukraine.

At the same time, through the "Eurasia" organization, Russia continues to promote Ilan Shor as a philanthropist in the CIS.