



Ukraine War Disinfo Working Group

SUMMARY REPORT

October 17 – 23, 2022

This report collates insight drawn from the monitoring of narratives trending across pro-Kremlin sites and social media across fourteen countries in Central and Eastern Europe, as they relate to Russia's war in Ukraine. The data is collected and analysed by a number of NGOs, think tanks and researchers, and collated by the Open Information Partnership (OIP), to promote knowledge sharing across the OIP network and the broader region. The analysis contained in this report is the result of each group's monitoring, it is not authored by and does not represent the view of OIP, the FCDO or Zinc Network.



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GRASS
REFORMANDA



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Notes on terminology

The following overview summarises developing disinformation narratives by country, including new or shifting narratives and key cases. These development and insights primarily relate to narratives about the following themes:

- Events related to the Russia-Ukraine War
- (Negative) Economic Consequences of Sanctions
- Refugees
- Conditions of Russians and Russian-speaking Minorities
- Military Threats to Eastern Europe/Risk of War Expanding Beyond Ukraine
- Military Aid to Ukraine

This monitoring takes two forms:

1. **Monitoring of Hostile State-Aligned Media:** Using NewsWhip to collate all articles on the primary narratives listed above from outlets deemed to be funded by, formally or informally affiliated with, or reliably sympathetic to Hostile States.
2. **Social Media Monitoring:** Using open-source data collection tools and methods to monitor and analyse social media conversations about the primary narratives for disinformation, summarising prominent and emerging themes.

Note: “Interactions” refers to each time that a post was actively engaged with or responded to on a particular platform. For example, Facebook interactions encompass comments, shares, likes, and other reactions, and Twitter interactions encompass likes and re-tweets. The figures quoted in this report are the sum total of interactions across Twitter and Facebook unless otherwise specified. “Articles” as stated below refers to the number of published articles and social media posts featuring the narrative in question combined.

*No data was submitted this week for the Romania section; this data will return in the next report.

BALTICS (RUSSIAN-LANGUAGE)

Civic Resilience Initiative

- This week, the most popular topic for Russian propagandists in the Baltics (with 9 posts and 49,939 interactions) was once again “Europe is threatened by an energy crisis”. Pro-Kremlin voices discussed i) the “disastrous condition” of Estonia’s energy security; ii) Estonians protesting against their government, which is allegedly ignoring the energy crisis; and iii) the “significant effect” that the energy crisis and ever-increasing inflation are having on the purchasing power of the Latvian population.
- Pro-Russian disinformation actors have also renewed their efforts to convince readers that Ukraine is losing the war (10 posts and 13,265 interactions). Pro-Russian channels falsely declared that Russia has successfully destroyed key Ukrainian infrastructure with their recent missile strikes. They also claimed that the Ukrainian offensive in Kherson has been a total failure and that the number of Ukrainian POWs continues to increase.
- Such previously popular narratives as “The West is losing interest in helping Ukraine” or “Russia is unaffected by sanctions” were not observed this week.
- For yet another week, the Baltnews’ Telegram page gathered the most interactions, averaging around 3,600 interactions per post.

For comparison, the most interacted with individual Ukraine-related article across Russian-language Baltic news portals this week received 963 interactions.

EVENTS OF THE RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR

Continuing sub-narratives:

Ukraine is losing the war

Articles:

10

Interactions:

13,265

Posts focused on how Russians allegedly destroyed key Ukrainian infrastructure with missile strikes in Kyiv. It also emphasized how Ukraine’s counterattack in Kherson was a total failure and how the number of Ukrainian war prisoners is increasing.

NATO/The West will attack Russia

Articles:

2

Interactions:

8,342

Posts this week focused on (a) how Sergey Kiriyenko called the goal of NATO the complete elimination of Russia as a sovereign state; and (b) how U.S. deployment of an airborne division in Romania can be viewed as a direct act of war from NATO on Russia.

Reports of Russian war crimes are exaggerated/fake news

Articles:

2

Interactions:

7,600

Posts focused on how “Kyiv propaganda again accused Russia of shelling a nuclear power plant”.

Ukraine is targeting innocent civilians

Articles:
6
Interactions:
6,167

Stories mostly revolved around Volodymyr Zelensky removing Petro Vrublevsky from his post as the Ambassador to Kazakhstan. Author claims that this was done because Vrublevsky overheard and “leaked” the information that Ukraine allegedly seeks to kill as many Russians as possible in their operation.

Ukrainians are Nazis

Articles:
1
Interactions:
372

Post focused on the Ukrainian Kherson counter-offensive efforts and how the “Ukrainian Nazis” are coming so Kherson urgently needs to be saved from their attack.

ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF SANCTIONS

Continuing sub-narratives:

Europe is threatened by an energy crisis

Articles:
9
Interactions:
49,939

Posts mainly focused on (a) the tragic state of Estonia's energy security and how Estonians have already begun to protest against their government; and (b) how the energy crisis and ever-increasing inflation have a significant impact on the purchasing power of the Latvian population.

Sanctions hurt the West more than Russia

Articles:
6
Interactions:
11,197

Posts mainly focused on the deteriorating economic situation in the Baltic region (not supported by any data on food shortages, a decline of life expectancy, etc.).

CONDITIONS OF RUSSIANS AND RUSSIAN-SPEAKING MINORITIES

Continuing sub-narratives:

X country is Russophobic / Russian culture is being attacked

Articles:
9
Interactions:
27,462

Posts mainly focused on (a) how Latvia is systemically oppressing Russian culture, for instance by boycotting the Olympic committee if Russia is allowed to participate in the event, disrespecting Latvian poets who contributed to the USSR, and oppressing political parties who support Russia; and (b) how Estonia is failing to recognize Russian as an international language.

MISCELLANEOUS

Continuing sub-narratives:

Russia's diplomats excel over their Western counterparts

Articles:

2

Interactions:

4,780

Posts focused on a smear campaign against Joe Biden, claiming that he is incapable of running the U.S.

Belarus

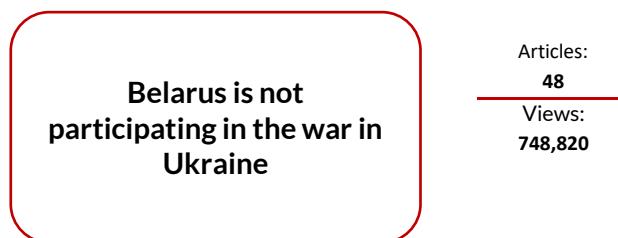
Press Club Belarus

Note: Press Club Belarus' contribution exclusively features content from Belarusian Telegram channels.

- A significant share of the propaganda discourse on the subject of the Russian-Ukrainian war was made up of narratives directly related to the role of Belarus in it. Pro-government channels quoted Lukashenko, the military, political scientists, activists, and journalists, selectively picking publications to claim that Belarus is not participating in the war in Ukraine. Some posts have even attempted to portray Lukashenko as a peacemaker. At the same time, they have claimed that Belarus is fully prepared to repel an attack (from NATO, Ukraine, or Belarusians fighting in Ukraine) at any moment.
- Two new narratives of the week can be distinguished: i) the abovementioned "Belarus is a peacemaker" and ii) "It is not profitable for Russia to involve Belarus in this conflict" (quoted by Vadim Borovik). It is not clear to what extent these narratives will develop further.
- A key event this week was Lukashenka's meeting with Aleksandr Dugin, whom some observers consider to be the ideologist behind Russian fascism.
- The most viewed post, with more than half a million views, claimed that the Ukrainian leadership refuses to pay compensation to the Belarusian families whose relatives died while volunteering for Ukraine.
- The post that was reshared most frequently included of a video clip from an Israeli TV show, where Ukraine was mocked for its excessive desire to join the EU.
- With respect to Ukrainian refugees, all the main pro-government channels reported on the arson of a refugee shelter in Germany, hinting at the fact that refugees are not welcome in Europe, and that Europeans consider Ukrainians to be Nazis.

EVENTS OF THE RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR

Continuing narratives:



"ATN_NEWS" quotes the head of the KGB of Belarus Ivan Tertel, who, referring to the case of the detention of a Ukrainian spy, said that there is an increase in intelligence activities from Ukrainian territory. "We see that the situation in the region is getting complicated. And this is not the fault of the Republic of Belarus."

"Pool Pervogo" quotes the words of Lukashenka, who noted that "We do not need a war, but we must be ready for anything".

"Pool Pervogo" and some other channels quotes Lukashenko and other military officials, who said that mobilization does not take place in Belarus and there is no need for it.

"ONT NEWS" quotes Belarusian Defense Minister Viktor Khrenin said: "We are not going to attack

anyone. I emphasize once again that the tasks of this group are purely defensive."

"BELTA" quotes Lukashenka, who said that "Today there is no war. We don't need it" and added that "We need to calm down. Everyone should do their own thing if we want there to be no war."

"Zheltie Slivy Premium" quotes deputy and leader of the Liberal Democratic Party Oleg Gaidukevich, who said that "We will never fight anywhere except our own land."

The pro-government channel "ATN NEWS" quotes political scientist Vadim Borovik, who said that "in order for the special operation to be successful, it is fruitless for Russia to involve Belarus in this conflict."

Belarus is prepared for mobilization in the event of war

Articles:

8

Views:

70,820

"BELTA" quotes the State Secretary of the Security Council of Belarus Volfovich, who said that security forces could guarantee the safety of citizens without additional mobilization.

Ukraine should not/will not become a NATO member

Articles:

9

Views:

44,659

Channel "MIRBY" cited La Presse, which quoted the words of former Italian Prime Minister Berlusconi, who said that "Ukraine's entry into NATO will lead to a world war."

Ukrainians are Nazis

Articles:

3

Views:

37,029

"Zheltie Slivy Premium" quotes Rabbi Yosef Ben-Porat, who accused Zelensky of unleashing the conflict in Ukraine, as well as promoting Nazism.

Ukraine's leadership does not care about its people

Articles:

3

Views:

34,122

The channel "STV. Belarus news" quotes the words of the propagandist Azarenok, who says that Zelensky is driving Ukrainians to slaughter for the sake of cocaine and the world crown.

NATO/The West will attack Belarus

Articles:

3

Views:

26,843

The channel "Zheltie Slivy Premium", referring to the opinion of a Ukrainian expert, promotes the narrative that Ukraine will attack Belarus, and also that Ukraine is waiting for instructions on this from the "Western masters".

**NATO/the US/the West
is/will be directly involved
in the war**

Articles:
1
Views:
25,671

"Belorussian silovik" quotes Konstantin Gavrilov, head of the Russian delegation in Vienna at the negotiations on military security and arms control, who claims that the flow of foreign mercenaries to Ukraine is increasing.

ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF SANCTIONS

Continuing narratives:

**Russia is unaffected by
sanctions**

Articles:
2
Views:
122,596

"MIRBY" quotes Bloomberg: "the worldwide trade in tankers, which is conducted by unknown entities in Dubai, Hong Kong, Singapore and Cyprus, has increased dramatically". The authors of the article believe that Russia is buying tankers to circumvent the EU oil embargo, which will begin on December 5.

**Europe is threatened by an
energy crisis**

Articles:
4
Views:
31,143

"MIRBY" reports that Russian houses in Europe are opening heating points for Europeans (the initiative "From Russia with warmth"), trolling high prices for gas and electricity in Europe.

MILITARY AID TO UKRAINE

Continuing narratives:

**The West will no longer
provide Ukraine with
military aid**

Articles:
3
Views:
37,432

Channel "ONT NEWS" refers to the Pentagon's statement that the US will no longer supply HIMARS to Ukraine due to limited industrial capacity.

MILITARY THREAT TO EASTERN EUROPE / RISK OF THE WAR EXPANDING BEYOND UA

Continuing narratives:

**There will be a new Soviet
Union**

Articles:
8
Interactions:
176,404

"Zheltie Slivy Premium" quotes Shpakovsky, who claims that the meeting between Lukashenko and Dugin is intended to create a unifying idea for Russia and Belarus, for the Slavic peoples, for the Eurasian space.

Poland will be the next target of attack

Articles:

2

Interactions:

8910

The channel "BELTA" refers to a survey by Rzeczpospolita, which allegedly says that every fifth Pole thinks about moving to another EU country because the military-political situation in Eastern Europe has reached a critical point, as well as the abundance of Ukrainian refugees.

UKRAINIAN REFUGEES

Continuing narratives:

Ukrainian refugees are no longer welcome

Articles:

12

Views:

70,795

All main pro-government channels report that a shelter for refugees from Ukraine was set on fire in Germany. They also add that previously unknown people painted a swastika at the entrance to the shelter. Channels hint that refugees are not welcome in Europe, and that Ukrainians are considered Nazis.

MISCELLANEOUS

Continuing narratives:

The Ukrainian leadership is corrupt and/or incompetent

Articles:

1

Views:

546,056

"Belorussian silovik" reports that the Kyiv regime refuses to make compensations to Belarusian families whose relatives take part in hostilities on the side of Ukraine.

Russia is not violating international law

Articles:

6

Views:

63,588

"BELTA" quotes Konstantin Vorontsov, deputy head of the Russian delegation to the UN General Assembly, who claims that the United States does not comply with the Budapest Memorandum, because the United States interfered in the affairs of Ukraine, neglecting its sovereignty, while Russia has strictly observed the memorandum all these years.

Politicians care about Ukraine at the expense of their own citizens

Articles:

5

Views:

36,953

The channel "Minskaya pravda" refers to former French President Nicolas Sarkozy, who said that the European Commission ignores the problems of its citizens and only continues to increase the supply of weapons to Ukraine.

NATO has committed far worse crimes than Russia

Articles:

3

Views:

31,090

"Zheltie Slivy Premium", justifying Russia's bombing of critical Ukraine infrastructure, refers to the US military doctrine "Shock and Awe" and claims that it was the US that first developed and applied the strategy of destroying critical energy infrastructure.

The EU can't help Ukraine

Articles:

2

Views:

26,633

"Zheltie Slivy Premium" publishes a video from an Israeli TV programme, in which Ukraine is trolled because of its excessive desire to join the EU.

Biological weapons labs in Ukraine

Articles:

4

Views:

26,498

"MIRBY" quotes Konstantin Vorontsov, deputy head of the Russian delegation to the UN, who accused the US of placing biological laboratories in Ukraine.

BULGARIA

Center for the Study of Democracy

- This week, pro-Russian channels focused on the events of the Russia-Ukraine war. Articles declaring that Ukraine is losing the war were, once again, the most common. To support this narrative, propagandists claimed that i) Russian strikes have hit critical infrastructure in Ukraine, leaving hundreds of villages without power; ii) the West is powerless to protect Ukraine from Russian missiles and drones; iii) Russia deploys superior technology, including combat dolphins; and iv) Russian air defenses set a world record by allegedly shooting down two Ukrainian planes from a distance of over 200 kilometers.
- Local outlets picked up and reported on Sergey Shoigu's allegations that Ukraine is planning to use a "dirty bomb". However, no specific narratives or fakes were observed.
- Messages that Ukraine is committing terrorist attacks against Russian civilians and losing the war remain particularly widespread. *Pogled.info* and *onovini.eu* are again the main distributors of such disinformation.
- Propagandists continue to advocate for Bulgaria's neutrality, in order to prevent being dragged into war.
- Pro-Russian voices in Bulgaria interpreted the arson of a refugee shelter in Germany as evidence of the fact that Ukrainians are no longer welcome in the EU.

For comparison, the most interacted with individual Ukraine-related article across Bulgarian news portals this week received 13,700 interactions.

EVENTS OF THE RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR

Continuing sub-narratives:

Ukraine is losing the war

Articles:

25

Interactions:

6,587

Articles containing stories about how Ukraine is losing the war were again the most common. These include stories about a) Russian strikes destroying critical infrastructure in Ukraine; b) hundreds of villages being left without electricity; c) the West being powerless to protect Ukraine from Russian missiles and drones; d) Russia deploying combat dolphins; and e) Russian air defence setting a world record: two Ukrainian planes were shot down from a distance of over 200 kilometres.

Ukrainians are targeting civilians and commit other war crimes

Articles:

3

Interactions:

1,396

Disinformation actors accused Ukraine of planning to blow up the dam at the Kakhovka hydroelectric plant because it is in the AFU's interest to flood Russian positions in Kherson. Ukrainian forces also continue being accused of nuclear sabotage at the Zaporizhzhia NPP.

NATO aspirations provoked the conflict between Ukraine and Russia

Articles:

2

Interactions:

996

Articles suggesting Ukraine's NATO aspirations are to blame for war in Ukraine.

Ukrainians are welcoming Russian "saviours"

Articles:
1
Interactions:
802

Articles about Russians being welcomed in the occupied territories of Ukraine. The pro-Russian media also started talking about the "Savchenko syndrome" after two Ukrainian female POWs allegedly refused to be exchanged and returned to Ukraine, deciding to stay in Russia.

Ukraine is preparing a nuclear attack

Articles:
1
Interactions:
196

An article covers a story about Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu calling his French and Turkish counterparts to tell them that Ukraine may use a "dirty bomb".

REFUGEES

Continuing sub-narratives:

Ukrainian refugees are no longer welcome

Articles:
2
Interactions:
3,614

Article about the manager of the Paris restaurant "Le Cosy Montparnasse" who threw out two Ukrainian refugees with the words "Viva Putin" ("Long live Putin"). Another story about a shelter for Ukrainian refugees being set on fire in the municipality of Gross Stromkendorf, in the state of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern in northern Germany.

ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF SANCTIONS

Continuing sub-narratives:

Sanctions hurt the West more than Russia

Articles:
1
Interactions:
47

Article claims that toilet paper was added to the long list of products whose prices have risen since the beginning of the conflict in Ukraine. Rushing to stock up on this item is a good idea, according to pro-Russian media outlets.

MILITARY AID TO UKRAINE

Continuing sub-narratives:

Military aid prolongs the war

Articles:
1
Interactions:
61

Article claims that NATO arms supplies to Ukraine and other military support for Kyiv bring the Alliance dangerously close to a direct military clash with Russia. Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova warned of this at a briefing.

MISCELLANEOUS

Continuing sub-narratives:

The EU and/or NATO and/or the West are weak and will break apart

Articles:

2

Interactions:

114

Article claims that the EU is part of the past. The author ridicules Bulgarian parties and MPs for “competing over which ambassadors to serve and which foreign country to bow to”, while ignoring the problems and needs of Bulgarian society and state.

Bulgaria should be neutral to prevent being dragged into war

Articles:

4

Interactions:

9,500

Author states that Bulgarians must come to their senses and stop getting Bulgaria involved in the world's quarrels because, as history shows, in the end they will be in the worst position possible.

CZECHIA

Prague Security Studies Initiative

- The narrative that the war in Ukraine is a proxy conflict between NATO and Russia has been particularly prevalent this week.
- The nuclear issue has reappeared, now in the context of a supposedly imminent detonation of a so-called dirty bomb by Ukraine. In combination with messaging from top Russian officials (including the demonstrative phone calls of Sergey Shoigu and Valeriy Gerasimov), this narrative is likely a part of the broader campaign to discredit Ukraine or prepare grounds for a provocation.
- Narratives attempting to portray Russia as victorious on the battlefield have opted for a slightly different strategy than before. Instead of describing small local successes (as in previous weeks), they focused on describing superior Russian technology (Armata tanks, Lancet drones, etc.) that will supposedly ensure Russia's victory. Attacks on Ukrainian energy and civilian infrastructure have also been presented as military successes. The pro-Russian media do not try to deny or cover up these attacks, but, on the contrary, consider them legitimate sources of pride.
- A new narrative about the EU training mission of Ukrainian soldiers has emerged. Focusing on the countries that have refused to participate, Croatia and Hungary, disinformation actors have attempted to create a perception of disunity within NATO and the EU.
- Pro-Russian disinformation actors have continued to attribute responsibility for the attacks on Nord Stream to the United States. Pro-Kremlin outlets claim that the US is trying to escalate the conflict by other means and accuse Western governments of covering up this plot.
- An interesting new development is emerging in the energy sector. Several new sub-narratives link the attacks on Ukrainian energy infrastructure to the European energy crisis. Due to the linkages between Ukrainian and European energy systems, disinformation actors predict a blackout or major electricity crisis this winter.

For comparison, the most interacted with individual Ukraine-related article across Bulgarian news portals this week received 4,300 interactions.

EVENTS OF THE RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR

New sub-narratives:

The EU training mission for Ukrainian soldiers is escalating the war

Articles:

13

Interactions:

1,157

A significant new narrative about EU unity beginning to splinter over the issue of training Ukrainian soldiers - individual states (Hungary, Croatia) are reportedly rejecting the EU's decision.

Continuing sub-narratives:

The West is using Ukraine to wage war against Russia

Articles:

12

Interactions:

2,249

The narrative, in various forms, tries to attribute the war in Ukraine to NATO. It attempts to create the impression that the Ukrainian command is relying solely on Western orders. Part of this is the claim that the West and the U.S. are losing in Ukraine.

Ukraine is losing the war

Articles:

7

Interactions:

758

The narrative focuses on describing Russia's superior technology that will bring victory in its confrontation with Ukraine and the West. Armata tanks, drones, and missile technology are mentioned.

Ukraine is preparing a nuclear attack

Articles:

16

Interactions:

323

The nuclear narrative recurs in various forms. What is new is that such disinformation has begun to revolve around the topic of the "dirty bomb", which Ukraine is said to be planning to detonate on its own territory as a provocation. This provocation is supposed to lead to a nuclear confrontation with Russia.

Russia is not fighting at full capacity

Articles:

5

Interactions:

196

The narrative around Russia's "miracle weapons" such as Kindjal missiles and other advanced technology suggests that Russia still has many forces and technical means it can deploy.

Ukraine's leadership does not care about its people

Articles:

2

Interactions:

102

The disinformation site described attacks on Kyiv and suggested that the Ukrainian leadership is to blame for cities and civilian infrastructure being targeted.

ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF SANCTIONS

Continuing sub-narratives:

Sanctions hurt the West more than Russia

Articles:

14

Interactions:

1,002

An interesting variant of this narrative links Western economic troubles to attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure. Because of the interconnection of the electricity market between Ukraine and the EU, according to this narrative, the blackout in Ukraine will be mirrored by an energy collapse in the EU.

MILITARY AID TO UKRAINE

Continuing sub-narratives:

Military aid prolongs the war

Articles:

4

Interactions:

68

A rather bizarre story claimed that the U.S. has an interest in prolonging the war and is thus funding both sides - Russia is supposedly being helped by Iran and the supply of Iranian drones.

MILITARY THREATS TO EASTERN EUROPE/RISK OF WAR EXPANDING BEYOND UKRAINE

Continuing sub-narratives:

X country is escalating the war

Articles:

8

Interactions:

258

By attacking Nord Stream, the U.S. has sought to escalate the conflict with Russia and achieve energy dominance but is failing to do so. This narrative is already at work, with responsibility for the Nord Stream attack automatically placed on the U.S. This is a significant shift from before.

The West will fall

Articles:

2

Interactions:

87

Generic narratives of US/NATO defeat in Ukraine, no new material.

Russia will use nuclear weapons

Articles:

4

Interactions:

73

A pro-Russian site pointed out that Russian-annexed territories in Ukraine are under nuclear protection and suggested that an attack on them could lead to a nuclear response.

ESTONIA

DebunkEU.org

- This week, the most prevalent topic among Estonia's pro-Russian voices was the events of the Russia-Ukraine war. The Ukrainian offensive seems to have slowed down, leading disinformation actors to spread claims about the Ukrainian Army supposedly impending defeat.
- The majority of pro-Russian messaging this week included the following claims: i) Russia only attacked because Ukraine was planning to attack it first; ii) NATO / the West will attack Russia; iii) the Azov regiment is a terrorist organization; iv) Ukraine is preparing a nuclear attack; v) the West/US is responsible for the sabotage of the Nord Stream pipelines; vi) Ukraine should not / will not become a NATO member; vii) military aid prolongs the war, as well as endangers the countries that provide it. Some of these claims have been directly influenced by the events that occurred during the week under question. For instance, Sergei Shoigu's phone calls to British, French, Turkish, and US defense ministers about Ukraine's possible use of a dirty bomb were used to spread similar disinformation narratives.
- Claims that the Ukrainian army attacks Russian civilians remain notorious.
- Anti-refugee and anti-sanctions messaging has become less prevalent, but nevertheless continues to appear. News of Russian attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure were used to amplify anti-refugee messaging; according to pro-Russian disinformation actors, the number of Ukrainian refugees in Estonia will continue to grow in the winter.

For comparison, the most interacted with individual Ukraine-related article across Estonian news portals this week received 1,500 interactions.

EVENTS OF RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR

New sub-narratives:

The EU training mission for Ukrainian soldiers is escalating the war

Articles:
1
Interactions:
255

According to Estonian conspiracy theorist Hando Tönumaa, training of Ukrainian soldiers in Europe and supplying Ukraine with further military aid will only prolong the war.

Continuing sub-narratives:

Ukraine should not/will not become a NATO member

Articles:
1
Interactions:
195

Varro Vooglaid states that the stories about how Estonia fully supports the admission of Ukraine to NATO are disturbing, because Estonia would then suddenly be in a real and direct war with Russia for the sake of globalist interest.

The Azov battalion is a terrorist organization

Articles:

1

Interactions:

149

Kelen McBreen of Infowars claimed that it is quite possible that Zelensky, the puppet president of the West, is deliberately avoiding peace talks with Russia and allowing the Azov fighters under his command to cause maximum destruction to the civilian infrastructure in the Donbas region.

Ukraine is committing terrorist attacks against Russian civilians

Articles:

1

Interactions:

44

Russia's Representative of Russia to the United Nations, Vasily Nebenzya, claimed that Ukraine, under the control of Western curators, has long used terrorist tactics on Russian territory.

Russia only attacked because Ukraine was planning to attack it first

Articles:

1

Interactions:

21

According to Silvio Berlusconi, Ukraine may have been responsible for Russia's attack in February.

Ukraine is preparing a nuclear attack

Articles:

1

Interactions:

16

Pro-Russian economist Jeffrey Sachs said that it is certain that the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant is being bombed by Ukraine, but we cannot state this simple truth because the US is a war machine, driven by President Biden towards Armageddon.

The West/US is responsible for the sabotage of Nord Stream

Articles:

1

Interactions:

17

French politician Florian Philippot claimed that the sabotage of the Nord Stream gas pipelines showed what the U.S. and NATO are capable of.

NATO / the West will attack Russia

Articles:

1

Interactions:

9

Article alleges that, if the Ukrainian resistance collapses, NATO troops will enter Ukraine from Poland and Lithuania, and there will be a major confrontation between Russia and NATO.

REFUGEES

Continuing sub-narratives:

Ukrainian refugees undermine host countries' internal stability

Articles:

2

Interactions:

390

Allegedly, the Estonian government does not control the immigration of Ukrainian refugees: Estonia's southern border is open and there is no ability to limit immigration, and many Ukrainians come without registering.

ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF SANCTIONS

Continuing sub-narratives:

**Ukrainian refugees
undermine host countries'
internal stability**

Articles:

3

Interactions:

570

Pro-Russian Hungarian politician Tamás Menczer stated that anti-Russian sanctions have not ended the war in Ukraine, contrary to Brussels's promises, nor have they been more painful for Russia than for Europe. The author suggests that Europe has imposed the sanctions on itself and now it must face the consequences.

MILITARY AID TO UKRAINE

Continuing sub-narratives:

**Military aid is
weakening/endangering
the countries that
provide it**

Articles:

1

Interactions:

54

Mart Helme, head of the Conservative People's Party, claims that the Reform Party has cultivated a misperception among Estonian society that NATO is strong. However, he claims that NATO allies will not protect Estonia in the event of Russian aggression.

GEORGIA

GRASS

- For yet another week, narratives about the Georgian "second front" were the most prevalent. News of Ukraine sanctioning several influential relatives of Bidzina Ivanishvili were used to claim that Ivanishvili is being forced to join the war or punished for not doing so. This message has been amplified by the leaders of the ruling Georgia Dream party and broadcast on national TV channels and online media. In fact, it was one of the most discussed topics in the country over the past week.
- Additionally, the Georgian information space was also largely occupied by Oleksiy Arestovych's disrespectful comment about Ukraine sending soldiers to Georgia after the war with Russia ends. These comments were also used to portray Ukraine as Georgia's enemy.
- Events of Russia-Ukraine war remained one of the most widely discussed topics amongst local pro-Russian voices. They primarily focused on i) blaming the US and NATO for provoking the war; ii) arguing that Russia is fighting the entire West; and iii) claiming that US soldiers are already engaged in combat in Ukraine. Nevertheless, propagandists concluded that Ukraine is losing the war and that Russia is turning the tide in its favour, partly due to the superior Iranian drones.
- Messages about sanctions, military aid, and Ukrainian refugees were detected but only in individual articles.

For comparison, the most interacted with individual Ukraine-related article across Georgian news portals this week received 1,818 interactions.

EVENTS OF THE RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR

Continuing narratives:

NATO is/will be directly involved in the war

Articles:
2
Interactions:
594

On the air of pro-Russian media Alt-Info, Beso Tsulaia, one of the members of the pro-Russian Conservative Movement, claimed that Russia ascertained that the American HIMARS missile systems is operated not by Ukrainians but by American soldiers with American intelligence providing information to the Ukrainians to attack the opponent. He concluded that it means that the US is directly involved in the conflict with Russia and that the US wants to expand the war beyond Ukraine into Slavic countries.

Ukraine is losing the war

Articles:
2
Interactions:
572

On the air of the pro-Russian TV Alt-info, the host Matsatso Gakhokidze claimed that Ukraine is constantly convincing people that it is advancing on the frontline and Russia is getting defeated. But according to her, the reality drastically differs from the Ukrainian narrative. Gakhokidze claimed that the US and the West are prolonging the war because it is convenient for them. She concluded that, instead of weakening Russia, the West and the US damaged their own populations and economy.

NATO aspirations provoked the conflict between Ukraine and

Articles:
1
Interactions:
250

A Facebook user claimed that the path to NATO chosen by President Zelensky is to blame for the collapse of Kyiv and posted a video claiming to show smoke after an explosion in Kyiv.

Ukraine's leadership does not care about its people

Articles:
1
Interactions:
79

A propaganda Facebook account claimed that the concerns of the Ukrainian government regarding the independence of Chechnya and the genocide of the Chechens is a farce because Ukrainians themselves organized the genocide of their "own" people. According to the Facebook account, Zelensky, Artestovych, Podolyak and others Ukrainian leaders do not care about Ukraine's destruction.

Russian troops are advancing / achieving success

Articles:
1
Interactions:
32

Anti-Western source National Television Didgori TV shared a Russian propaganda piece about the Iranian-made kamikaze drones that are being extensively used in the war against Ukraine and the weakness of Western military technology, supplied to Kyiv. Didgori TV claimed that Russia's kamikaze drones have been successful in destroying some HIMARS systems, thus suggesting that top Western technology is useless, compared to Iranian technology.

The US provoked the conflict between Ukraine and Russia

Articles:
1
Interactions:
9

A pro-Russian Facebook page asserted that the US has started a conflict with Russia on Ukraine's territory. The post explained that the US acted in this manner because it seeks to possess Russian resources and profit from Russia's weakness.

The West is using Ukraine to wage war against Russia

Articles:
1
Interactions:
3

Georgia and the World, a pro-Russian propaganda outlet, published a piece authored by the pro-Russian journalist and former leader of the United Communist Party of Georgia – Valeri Kvaratskhelia. He claimed that the ongoing war is between Russia and the US, and that the US successfully uses the Ukrainian population as cannon fodder. The article also argued that Russia has successfully repelled Ukrainian counteroffensives in the Kherson direction and would start its own attacks towards Nikolayev, Odessa and Dnipropetrovsk.

ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF SANCTIONS

Continuing narratives:

Western citizens do not support sanctions against Russia

Articles:
1
Views:
156

According to a Facebook user, all Western countries are holding demonstrations against their fascist governments, demanding for relations with Russia to be restored.

MILITARY THREAT TO EASTERN EUROPE / RISK OF THE WAR EXPANDING BEYOND UA

Continuing narratives:

The West/Ukraine/Georgian opposition parties seek to open a second front against Russia in Georgia

Articles:

6

Interactions:

4080

The former GD member and controversial politician, Vato Shakarashvili, stated that only two countries – Russia and Ukraine – are sanctioning Georgia. “Based on that can anyone tell me that Ukraine is Georgia’s friend?” According to Shakarashvili, the plot against Georgia is already in action - the US Ambassador to Georgia, the fifth column (Georgian opposition parties), and Ukraine’s puppet government are acting together to drag Georgia into the war against Russia. He claimed that Ukraine wants to punish Georgia for not joining the war and that sanctions on Ivanishvili’s associates are another attempt to force Georgia to open a second front. He made similar claims while speaking on the most watched Georgian television channel.

The minister of culture of Georgia (and former minister of justice), longest serving minister of the Georgian Dream government, Tea Tsulukiani, has also commented on the sanctioning of Bidzina Ivanishvili’s close circle and declared that it is another attempt to drag Georgia into the war with Russia, but that is not going to happen.

UKRAINIAN REFUGEES

Continuing narratives:

Ukrainian refugees are no longer welcome

Articles:

1

Views:

2

Pro-Russian outlet Georgia and the World reported that one of the restaurant owners in France kicked out two Ukrainian refugee women from the restaurants, while chanting “Viva Putin”. Along with reporting this unpleasant incident that indeed took place in France’s capital, Georgia and the World further claimed that the possible arrival of Ukrainian refugees in the country’s largest seaside resort, Sunny Beach, caused a negative reaction among Bulgarian residents.

MILITARY AID TO UKRAINE

Continuing narratives:

The West will no longer provide Ukraine with military aid

Articles:

1

Interactions:

15

One of the malign Facebook users tried to convince its audience that the populations in the Western countries are increasingly opposing arming Ukraine. In order to illustrate this, they reported that French National Television conducted a poll - "Escalating Tensions with Putin: Should France Continue Arming Ukraine?" where 76.7% of the survey participants said that it is necessary to stop supplying weapons to Ukraine.

HUNGARY

Atlatso

- In Hungary, pro-Kremlin propagandists continued to reinforce their anti-Western messaging. With a renewed intensity, they have continued to accuse Western governments of hypocrisy and neglecting the interests of their people. According to pro-Russian voices, the EU and NATO are currently at their weakest and will soon collapse entirely.
- Numerous disinformation actors tried to blame the sabotage of the Nord Stream pipelines on the US. These articles mostly appeared in response to a video made by the US Embassy in Hungary, aiming to draw attention to the pro-Russian tone of the government's communications.
- Narratives claiming that European politicians are more concerned about Ukraine than the
- wellbeing of their own citizens continues to be prevalent. Articles containing this sub-narrative harshly criticized various European leaders for providing financial aid to Ukraine. Pro-Russian voices also predict that “the cold winter will sober up European politicians,” as there will be mass protests against rising living costs.
- With the US midterm elections fast approaching, increasingly more pro-Russian news sites in Hungary are publishing predictions of the consequences Ukraine will face in the event of a Republic majority. Disinformation actors claim that a Republic victory is all but assured. One outlet even published a fake video in which Joe Biden appears to be booed at an NFL game.

For comparison, the most interacted with individual Ukraine-related article across Hungarian news portals this week received 9,700 interactions.

EVENTS OF THE RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR

Continuing sub-narratives:

The West/US is responsible for the sabotage of Nord Stream

Articles:
4
Interactions:
19,793

This sub-narrative appeared in disinformation content that aimed to “respond” to a video made by the US Embassy in Hungary highlighting the pro-Russian tone of the government’s communication. The disinformation content tried to blame the attack on the Nord Stream pipelines on the US. It appeared in two response letters, and a response video made by a TV channel close to the Hungarian ruling party.

The West is using Ukraine to wage war against Russia

Articles:
2
Interactions:
10,266

A site cited Sergey Surovkin, who said that “NATO demands that Kyiv conduct offensive operations in the Kherson direction, regardless of military and civilian casualties”.

Ukraine is losing the war

Articles:
2
Interactions:
8,788

Articles promoting this sub-narrative amplified the effect of the Russian air strikes and drone attacks on Ukraine. An article that appeared on a pro-Kremlin news site claimed that “Ukraine has started to go down on its knees”.

ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF SANCTIONS

Continuing sub-narratives:

Sanctions hurt the West more than Russia

Articles:

2

Interactions:

6,006

Articles promoted the widespread point of view in Hungary that imposing sanctions on Russia was a bad idea because it hurts the European economy. A news site cited Tamas Menczer, Secretary of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, saying that sanctions hurt the West more than Russia; a Facebook post listed “arguments” why sanctions don’t affect Russia.

MISCELLANEOUS

Continuing sub-narratives:

The EU and/or NATO and/or the West are weak and will break apart

Articles:

4

Interactions:

13,992

Disinformation actors claimed that Liz Truss had to resign because she was Russophobe and that Macron and Scholz will also have to resign, as well as that von der Leyen is corrupt.

Third World countries are choosing Russia over the West

Articles:

3

Interactions:

11,795

Articles focused on this sub-narrative amplified news about the possible expansion of the BRICS, or tried to create the illusion that China stopped LNG exports to the EU (because it supports Russia).

Politicians care about Ukraine at the expense of their own citizens

Articles:

2

Interactions:

9,362

A news site criticized EU leaders for providing financial aid to Ukraine. For example, a news site wrote a “report” about the comments appearing under the tweet of von der Leyen announcing the EU willingness to provide Ukraine with €18 billion in financial assistance for 2023. These comments were obviously selected in a way that only the drastically critical ones were presented. The news site presented the selected comments as if they represent the general feelings of all Europeans.

The West is hypocritical for caring about Ukraine so much

Articles:

1

Interactions:

1,995

The post manipulatively asks the question: why is Ukraine’s territorial integrity so important to the U.S. when it helped Kosovo gain independence? It also claims that territorial integrity wasn’t important to the West when it took over Hungarian territories after WWII.

LATVIA

DebunkEU.org

- This week, a relatively small amount of pro-Russian disinformation was observed in Latvia. These narratives primarily focused on i) discrediting anti-Russian sanctions; and ii) traditional accusations of the West waging war on Russia; iii) accusations that the West sabotages the Nord Stream pipelines; and iv) claims that the Ukrainian army is losing the war.
- Allegations that both military and financial aid to Ukraine is either being stolen or misused were detected once again.
- On October 22, about 50 people protested in the center of Riga against the introduction of the National Defense Service. An invitation to the protest was supposedly distributed anonymously on Facebook. Some of these activists also protested against the LGBTQ+ community on the bridge near the Freedom Monument, demanding that Latvian society return to the “traditional family” model.

For comparison, the most interacted with individual Ukraine-related article across Latvian news portals this week received 979 interactions.

EVENTS OF RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR

Continuing sub-narratives:

The West is using Ukraine to wage war against Russia

Articles:
1
Interactions:
745

A Facebook post claimed that Ukraine is just a territory for the U.S. and NATO to wage war, that the West does not care about the fate of Ukraine, and that Ukraine will lose the war.

Ukraine is losing the war

Articles:
1
Interactions:
496

A Facebook post argued that Ukraine will inevitably lose the war against Russia and that Western media are just spreading propaganda by claiming otherwise.

The West/US is responsible for the sabotage of Nord Stream

Articles:
1
Interactions:
98

A Facebook post claimed that the Nord Stream pipeline was intentionally destroyed by people who want war between NATO and Russia and would benefit from the inflation of energy prices.

ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF SANCTIONS

Continuing sub-narratives:

The inflation and the energy crises are caused by the false political approach of Europe and the US

Articles:

1

Interactions:

714

A Facebook post argued that it is not optimal for Latvia's prosperity to distance itself from Russia, stop trade and impose sanctions. It also argued that Latvia should cooperate with Russia, rather than be a military border between NATO and Russia.

Sanctions hurt the West more than Russia

Articles:

2

Interactions:

545

A TikTok creator shared his opinion that the government has turned on the heating for houses too soon so that people could not pay their energy bills and would have to be put out on the street.

MILITARY AID TO UKRAINE

Continuing sub-narratives:

The majority financial aid for Ukraine is being stolen by the country's officials

Articles:

1

Interactions:

394

A TikTok account claimed that Ukraine and Zelensky are corrupt and that the aid to Ukraine is not going where it should.

LITHUANIA

DebunkEU.org

- This week, pro-Russian disinformation actors in Lithuania focused on the events of the war. No new narratives were identified, as propagandists continue to justify the Russian invasion and claim that Ukrainians are fighting on behalf of the corrupt Western regimes. They also blamed the West of attempting to discredit the Russian army with claims that Russians are being supplied with Viagra in order to rape Ukrainian women.
- Disinformation actors also claimed that Russian strikes on Ukraine have been very precise and that Ukraine is incapable of defending itself from Russian drones, even with Western technology.
- Articles claiming that providing military aid to Ukraine endangers Lithuania were also detected. Propagandists claim that the money would be better spent on internal problems, whereas military support for Ukraine may provoke Russia to attack Lithuania.
- One disinformation article used a misleading, overly generalized headline "Europe wants Russian goods" to imply that the West regrets imposing sanctions on Russia. The same outlet also published another misleading article about the war not being responsible for inflation.
- Some new, miscellaneous narratives in Lithuania are that a) Lithuania, Poland, and Ukraine were planning a coup in Belarus to prevent it from helping Russia; and b) French citizens allegedly do not support further aid to Ukraine. Attempts to discredit Western leaders have also continued.

For comparison, the most interacted with individual Ukraine-related article across Lithuanian news portals this week received 2,900 interactions.

EVENTS OF THE RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR

Continuing sub-narratives:

Reports of Russian war crimes are exaggerated/fake news

Articles:

2

Interactions:

38

Facebook disinformation page engages in whataboutism when an argument about expelling Russia from UN is "repelled" by saying that the US has committed war crimes as well and that Ukraine has lied about Russian war crimes involving rape.

Ukraine caused the war

Articles:

1

Interactions:

30

Facebook user shared a video where Rabbi Yosef Ben-Porat supposedly claims that it was Zelensky who started the war.

The West is using Ukraine to wage war against Russia

Articles:

1

Interactions:

15

Facebook user claimed that Ukraine is not fighting for Europe but for corrupt Western regimes, which bargain national interests to globalists.

Ukraine is losing the war

Articles:
1
Interactions:
13

Facebook user claimed that Russian strikes on Ukraine are very precise, and that Ukraine is not capable of defending against Russian drones.

Russia's invasion is justified and legitimate

Articles:
1
Interactions:
10

Facebook user shared Sergey Surovkin's comments about the war, implying that the invasion is justified and portraying Ukraine as the aggressor.

NATO/The West will attack Russia

Articles:
1
Interactions:
7

Article used a misleading headline "US Airborne Division says it is ready to enter Ukraine."

ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF SANCTIONS

Continuing sub-narratives:

Western citizens do not support sanctions against Russia

Articles:
1
Interactions:
593

Article used a misleading, overly generalized headline "Europe wants Russian goods." The article itself only mentioned diamonds, nuclear fuel and allowing Greece to transport Russian oil.

The inflation and the energy crises are caused by false political approach of Europe and the US

Articles:
1
Interactions:
266

Article used a misleading headline claiming that the war is not responsible for inflation. The article itself mainly discusses the negative effects of printing money.

MILITARY AID TO UKRAINE

Continuing sub-narratives:

Military aid is weakening/endangering countries that provide it

Articles:
1
Interactions:
218

A Facebook disinformation page claimed that the pro-Ukrainian Lithuanian coalition should pay for "military adventures" (support for Ukraine) out of their own pockets, rather than using state funds.

MISCELLANEOUS

Continuing sub-narratives:

The EU/US leadership is incompetent

Article:

4

Interactions:

4,471

Facebook user claimed that Joe Biden and Lithuanian leaders are like children because they lack a sense of responsibility.

Governments are using the war in Ukraine to limit the freedoms of their citizens

Article:

1

Interactions:

971

A disinformation actor claimed that Lithuania is using war to establish a dictatorship in the country.

Ukraine's supporters are ridiculous

Article:

2

Interactions:

111

Misleading claims implying that Austėja Landsbergienė (wife of the Lithuanian FM) is in a situation where a Ukrainian school was misled and potentially exploited by Lithuanian volunteers.

Lithuania, Poland and Ukraine were planning a coup in Belarus to prevent it from helping Russia

Article:

1

Interactions:

86

Facebook user shared claims that Lithuania and the EU were planning a coup in Belarus to prevent its involvement in the war against Ukraine.

Western society does not support Ukraine

Article:

1

Interactions:

43

Facebook disinformation page shared an extract from a French TV programme where, according to an online poll, 75% of the French population want to stop sending military aid to Ukraine (falsely presenting it as a nationally representative poll).

The Ukrainian leadership is corrupt and/or incompetent

Article:

1

Interactions:

12

Facebook user shared an apparently edited video of an American TV morning show where Zelensky is equated to a black hole. The user claimed that this is very symbolic.

NORTH MACEDONIA

MOST

- Disinformation related to the events of the war prevailed this week in terms of the number of articles and interactions. The most prevalent narrative was *Ukraine is losing the war*, employed both by Russian officials, and local pro-Russian voices and outlets. One “story” claimed that tanks donated by North Macedonia to Ukraine were destroyed by the Russian Army, receiving the largest number of articles and interaction in this report.
- A new narrative appeared, claiming that *the Baltic states/NATO/the US are sponsoring the terrorist acts of Ukraine*, employed by Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova. Statements of Russian officials legitimizing the “referenda” and accusing the Ukrainian army of crimes were also picked up and rebroadcast in the North Macedonian media.
- Within the *Economic Consequences of Sanctions* topic, the narrative *Sanctions hurt the West more than Russia* returned again this week through articles that reported on Hungary launching a campaign claiming that sanctions against Russia are destroying it. This follows up on Hungarian PM Orban’s efforts, over the past two months, to promote this narrative and call for the lifting of sanctions.
- The refusal of Hungary and Croatia to participate in a military training mission was used to propagate the message that EU countries “don’t support training Ukrainian soldiers”.
- Ramzan Kadyrov remains a celebrity for local pro-Kremlin propagandists promoting him as a “fierce” and “strong” warrior, and loyal ally of Putin. His statements are used to promote the narrative that *Russia and its allies are strong*.
- After a certain period of time, the narrative *biological weapons labs in Ukraine* appeared again through articles in which Russia claimed that it had proof that the US had secret labs in Ukraine. This narrative was first recorded in March, and it continued in April, while historically, the narrative has been pushed since the illegal annexation of Crimea and the occupation of Donbas in 2014, while being repeatedly refuted by independent sources.
- Hungarian PM Orban was quoted once again claiming that anti-Russian economic sanctions are evidence that the EU is weak. Allegedly, hostile EU policies have been directed towards Hungary, but he was not afraid, since the EU would face a similar fate as the Soviet bloc did in 1991.

For comparison, the most interacted with individual Ukraine-related article across North Macedonian news portals this week received 802 interactions.

EVENTS OF THE RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR

New narratives:

The EU training mission for Ukrainian soldiers is escalating the war

Articles:
38
Interactions:
936

This narrative was promoted through the statements of Hungarian PM Szijjártó and Croatian President Milanović that their respective countries will not participate in the training mission of 15,000 Ukrainian soldiers in EU countries.

This narrative was employed by Russian MFA Spokeswoman Zakharova. She blamed the Baltic

The West is also responsible for Ukraine's crimes against civilians

Articles:
9
Interactions:
378

States for sponsoring the “terrorist acts” of Kyiv, allegedly conducted with the direct involvement of NATO, led by the US. The narrative implies that Ukraine is committing terrorist acts, and that they are supported by the Baltic States and the West.

Continuing narratives:

Ukraine is losing the war

Articles:
86
Interactions:
12,049

This narrative was promoted by a statement of Russian Army General Surovikin, a Macedonian pro-Russian individual, the outlet *Infomax*, and other outlets. Commenting the situation on the front, Russian Army General Surovikin's stated that they are “methodically grinding the enemy”. Rodina-affiliated Nikola Čonevski Makedonski also blamed Ukrainians for being Anglo-Saxon servants. *Infomax* distorted a statement by the adviser to the Chief of the General Staff of the Ukrainian President Alexey Arstovych to promote this narrative. The aim is to draw public attention away from Russian setbacks on the front, as well as promote the narrative that the West is using Ukraine to wage war against Russia. It is noteworthy that local outlets reported on the alleged destruction of Macedonian tanks donated to Ukraine, some of them with headlines that expressed clear support for Russia and expressed anti-Western sentiment.

USA is using Ukraine to destroy Europe

Articles:
13
Interactions:
1,626

This narrative was promoted by the Director of "Salinen Austria AG" Peter Untersperger, who said that Americans were profiting from the sanctions, while Germany and Austria were “shooting themselves in the knee”. It is worth noting that a similar phrase was used by Hungarian PM Orban and Deputy Head of Russian Security Council Medvedev.

The West is using Ukraine to wage war against Russia

Articles:
1
Interactions:
1,400

This narrative was promoted through a mocking animated video shared on Facebook. The video also promoted the narrative about widespread Nazism in Ukraine. The video was amplified by a network of pro-Russian Facebook pages/groups that have been regularly appearing during the monitoring and associate themselves with the website *dudinka.org*, owned by the pro-Russian influencer Milenko Nedelkovski.

The West is causing the global food crisis

Articles:
4
Interactions:
549

According to statements by Maria Zakhарова broadcast in Macedonia, Russia was allegedly ready to supply both food and fertilisers and everything that may be needed to make sure that global food security was not at risk, but the US won't let them do so.

Ukrainians are Nazis

Articles:

16

Interactions:

432

Deputy Head of Russian Security Council Dmitry Medvedev continued to promote the narrative that Ukrainians are Nazis. This time, the pretext was the announcement of military aid from Israel to Ukraine.

Ukraine “referendums” are legitimate

Articles:

4

Interactions:

129

This narrative was promoted by Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov, who said that the newly annexed regions were an integral part of Russia, and work was underway to integrate them into the nation's legislative, economic and social systems.

NATO/the US/the West is/will be directly involved in the war

Articles:

3

Interactions:

32

Maria Zakharova claimed that, by supplying Ukraine with military aid, NATO countries are getting closer to direct conflict with Russia. This is another distortion, since the Western countries transparently announced their military aid to Ukraine, even before the Russian attempt for a full-scale invasion was conducted.

ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF SANCTIONS

Continuing narratives:

Sanctions hurt the West more than Russia

Articles:

5

Interactions:

37

This narrative was picked up again this week, in articles that reported on Hungary launching a campaign claiming that sanctions against Russia are destroying Hungary. In the past two months, Hungarian PM Orban has been the most vocal European leader in promoting this narrative and calling for the lifting of the sanctions.

MISCELLANEOUS

Continuing narratives:

The EU and/or NATO and/or the West are weak and will break apart

Articles:

41

Interactions:

2,763

Hungarian PM Orban used the topic of sanctions against Russia in order to promote this narrative. Allegedly, EU policies were directed towards Hungary, but he was not afraid, since the EU would face a similar fate as the Soviet bloc did in 1991.

Russia and its allies are strong

Articles:

30

Interactions:

668

This narrative was promoted through the information that Kadyrov has sent his three minor sons to war. This picks up on the narrative from two weeks ago and continues to portray Kadyrov as a “fierce” and “strong” warrior, and loyal ally of Putin. The information that his three minor sons were sent to war is just another attempt to maintain Kadyrov’s image and his support to Putin, sending a message

**The West wants to
destroy Russia because of
its Orthodox view of the
world**

Articles:

1

Interactions:

31

**Biological weapons labs in
Ukraine**

Articles:

1

Interactions:

10

that he is ready to sacrifice his own sons for Putin and Russia.

This narrative was promoted by Russian Patriarch Kirill, who claimed that the West wants to destroy Russia because its alternative Orthodox world view does not fit within the framework of the Western system that excludes God from people's lives. This is one of the narratives that attempts to justify the invasion and its potential escalation, seeing it as battle between the "evil West" and the "righteous East".

After a certain period of time, the narrative about US biolabs in Ukraine has appeared again. It was promoted through articles in which Russia claimed that it has proof of the presence of US secret labs in Ukraine. Allegedly, the labs are studying the spread of dangerous viruses through insects. This narrative is a longstanding one. In the context of the war, it was first recorded in March, it continued in April, with the claim that NATO had a secret laboratory in underground tunnels in Mariupol.

POLAND

Fakenews.pl

- This week we have continued to observe the previously dominant anti-refugee and “historical wounds” messaging lose its prominence. Instead, the two most popular narratives this week, both garnering over 9,000 interactions, accused Ukrainians of Nazism and the Western media of lying.
- Various conspiracy theories shared through Telegram channels have become more prevalent within the Polish pro-Russian disinformation landscape. This week we observed posts about Ukrainians admiring their Nazi relics, accusations that Ukrainian soldiers are torturing pro-Russian separatists, as well as a renewed effort to convince readers that the Bucha atrocities are a hoax.
- Narratives about refugees primarily focused on the Stop the Ukrainianization campaign, as well as accusations that Ukrainian refugees are engaging in benefit tourism and social benefit fraud.
- This week, pro-Russian disinformation actors also devoted attention to fear mongering on the topic of Poland’s potential involvement in the war. Some Telegram channels claimed that the US will drag Poland into the war, that NATO countries will be the first to use nuclear weapons, and published Lukashenko’s accusation that Poland is “the main initiator” of the use of nuclear weapons.
- Disinformation related to sanctions or military aid in Poland remains rare.

For comparison, the most interacted with individual Ukraine-related article across Polish news portals this week received 2,700 interactions.

EVENTS OF THE RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR

Continuing sub-narratives:

Ukrainians are Nazis

Articles:

2

Interactions:

9,374

A video of a Ukrainian showing souvenirs related to Nazism.

The West is using Ukraine to wage war against Russia

Articles:

3

Interactions:

7,493

Quote from an American expert who says Zelensky is Biden's puppet.

Ukrainians refuse to fight

Articles:

1

Interactions:

4,811

The article said that the number of mobilization-age Ukrainian men in Germany is growing, implying that they are avoiding military service.

Articles:

Nuclear disaster is imminent

1
Interactions:
4,669

The article shared a prediction that NATO would be the first to use nuclear weapons.

The West/US is responsible for the sabotage of Nord Stream

Articles:
1
Interactions:
2,669

Post in which the attack on the Nord Stream pipelines is claimed to be an attack by the U.S. on the European Union.

Ukrainians are targeting civilians and commit other war crimes

Articles:
1
Interactions:
2,593

Post about the Ukrainian soldiers allegedly torturing pro-Russian separatists.

Reports of Russian war crimes are exaggerated/fake news

Articles:
1
Interactions:
1,656

A post showing “evidence” that the atrocities in Bucha were a staged hoax.

Ukraine does not want peace

Articles:
1
Interactions:
557

A post recalling the Minsk Agreements from 2014 and blaming Ukraine for the continuation of the war.

UKRAINIAN REFUGEES

Continuing sub-narratives:

Ukrainian refugees are spoiled/ungrateful

Articles:
2
Interactions:
4,527

Post about Ukrainian refugees allegedly engaging in benefit tourism and perpetrating a massive extortion of social benefits.

Ukrainian refugees undermine host countries' internal stability

Articles:
2
Interactions:
2,029

A thank you post to all those who took part in the STOP UKRAINIZATION protest in Gdańsk.

ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF SANCTIONS

Continuing sub-narratives:

Russia is unaffected by sanctions

Articles:

1

Interactions:

3,916

Entry saying that Russia's economy has not been affected by sanctions.

MILITARY THREAT TO EASTERN EUROPE/WAR EXPANDING BEYOND UKRAINE

Continuing sub-narratives:

The West will sacrifice Eastern Europe if war spills over

Articles:

2

Interactions:

5,629

An expert's statement that the US will involve Poland in the conflict if it escalates to a global conflict.

MISCELLANEOUS

Continuing sub-narratives:

Western media is lying

Articles:

4

Interactions:

9,776

Video material presenting various events that supposedly do not appear in the mainstream media - anti-vaccination content, pro-Kremlin narratives, conspiracy theories.

Poland should not help Ukraine due to their past historical conflicts

Articles:

3

Interactions:

3,106

Posts criticizing Zelensky for awarding state awards to former members of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA), responsible for the Volhynian massacre; the author claims that, in Poland, such men are considered criminals.

The Ukrainian leadership is corrupt and/or incompetent

Articles:

2

Interactions:

4,288

A right-wing populist described Zelensky as an enemy of the Polish nation.

**X country is escalating
the war**

Articles:

1

Interactions:

2,768

One post quoting the interview with Lukashenka, where he claimed that “Poland is the main initiator of the use of nuclear weapons”.

**The West is losing interest
in helping Ukraine**

Articles:

1

Interactions:

279

Right-wing entry stating that increasingly more countries refuse to help Ukraine: “Zelensky in trouble! Another country announces its refusal to Ukraine”.

SERBIA

European Western Balkans

- The most prevalent narratives of the week are: i) economic consequences of sanctions are hitting the West harder than Ukraine; ii) Hungary goes against the EU when it comes to military aid, but also new sanctions against Russia; iii) Ukraine needs more military and financial aid or it will collapse (or is already collapsing).
- The messaging about sanctions hurting the West more than Russia is continuing. A narrative is also spread (but to a smaller extent) claiming that Western media is lying, and that Ukraine doesn't care about civilian casualties.
- Less prevalent are narratives about the threat of a nuclear war and the events of the Russia-Ukraine war itself; neither were used as a ground for propaganda this week.

For comparison, the most interacted with individual Ukraine-related article across Serbian news portals this week received 102 interactions.

EVENTS OF THE RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR

New narratives:

The EU training mission for Ukrainian soldiers is escalating the war

Articles:

5

Interactions:

4,000

An article was published by [Pravda](#), as well as 4 other outlets including Sputnik Serbia, that Hungary refused to join the program of military aid (training and financing) for Ukraine. It was said by the Hungarian PM, who also said that participating in this program might bring Central Europe into the war.

Continuing narratives:

Ukrainians are targeting civilians and commit other war crimes

Articles:

1

Views:

1,400

A post was published on the Facebook page of [Sputnik Serbia](#). Sputnik reported the statement of Russian general Sergey Surovikin who claimed that NATO is pushing Ukraine to launch an offensive on the Kherson region, regardless of the number of potential civilian and military casualties. He also claimed that Ukraine might use "prohibited weapons" and that Kyiv is preparing for a comprehensive "rocket-artillery attack on the city".

ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF SANCTIONS

New sub-narratives:

Europe is threatened by an energy crisis

Articles:
1
Interactions:
1,400

A post was published on Facebook by [Sputnik Serbia](#). It claims that Hungarian government official said that Hungary will veto any additional sanctions against Russia regarding gas delivery, that Hungary is pragmatic and that the contract with Gazprom has nothing to do with government's stance on the war.

Ukraine is bankrupt

Articles:
2
Interactions:
1,100

An article was published by [Pravda](#) stating that Ukraine has already spent its yearly budget, mostly due to military expenses. The article cites Ukrainian MP's Telegram post.

The complete shutdown of Russian gas will destroy Germany

Articles:
1
Interactions:
514

A post was published on Facebook by [Sputnik Serbia](#) citing Austrian businessman Peter Untersperger who asked his government to open gas pipeline "North Stream 2" because of energy prices. The article claims he said that the sanctions are hitting Austria and Germany who are "shooting themselves in the leg", while the US profits from sanctions.

Continuing sub-narratives:

Western citizens do not support sanctions against Russia

Articles:
3
Interactions:
3,000

An article was published by [Srbija Danas](#) stating that German Chancellor said the Germans don't support sanctions against Russia or military aid to Ukraine. In the text it was stated that he said he estimated it was the case with 20 to 30% of German citizens, but the headline suggested otherwise. Two other outlets (Vijesti Srpske, Alo) published almost the same article.

Sanctions hurt the West more than Russia

Articles:
1
Interactions:
185

An article was published by [Web Tribune](#) citing Pakistani government analyst who claimed that Russia has the resources to withstand the winter, but Ukraine doesn't. The article further claims that Russia was prepared for the economic sanctions and that the West is facing the consequences due to the volume of Russian food and gas resources.

MILITARY AID TO UKRAINE

Continuing sub-narratives:

The West is to blame for future Ukrainian losses because it does not provide enough aid

Articles:

1

Interactions:

639

A post was published on Facebook by [Sputnik Serbia](#). It refers to the statement of Ukrainian PM about the possibility of a migrant crisis escalation. The post interprets this statement as a blackmail to the West, saying that if West doesn't provide military aid to Ukraine, there will be a "migrant tsunami."

Western military aid is being misused/stolen

Articles:

1

Interactions:

136

An article was published by [Informer](#) about all former Yugoslav republics selling weapons to Ukraine except for Serbia. The article refers to a statement by the director of Russian-Serbian center "Majak" who claims that many volunteers from the Balkan are going to Ukraine which is destabilizing for the region and that the weapons sold end up on the black market. The article states there was a Telegram video showing negotiations about selling weapons to the Albanians.

MISCELLANEOUS

New sub-narratives:

Russia and its allies are strong

Articles:

4

Interactions:

640

An article was published by [Pravda](#) and 3 other outlets citing the Youtube interview with a former US Marines officer. In the interview, he claims that "Russia has gas, heat, energy and electricity", while Ukraine doesn't so it will "freeze to death." The article also mentions another of his statements from the interview, that UK economic problems are a direct consequence of the sanctions.

SLOVAKIA

Infosecurity.sk

- For the third week in a row, the topic of economic sanctions is present but not prominent in the disinformation discourse. Instead, the most prevalent narrative is becoming the West undermining peace negotiation efforts. Many disinformation voices are hypocritically calling for peace while spreading the thesis of Russian propaganda. They portray Russia as striving for peace, whereas both Ukraine and the West allegedly seek to continue the war.
- Stories have appeared about foreign mercenaries, namely Turks, fighting for Russia in Ukraine.
- Propagandists claim that the EU simply imposes sanctions on inconvenient citizens.
- An opposition politician Ľuboš Blaha filed a criminal complaint against the Slovak Minister of Defence for approving the “terrorist attack” on the Crimean Bridge, and this was duly covered by pro-Kremlin channels. The attack on the bridge was also called a “terrorist act” by many disinformation voices in Slovakia.
- Messaging attacking the Slovak government and President (which allegedly drag Slovakia into the war), as well as the Slovak police (which allegedly spreads propaganda) continues, similarly to the general anti-Western rhetoric prevalent in Slovakia.

For comparison, the most interacted with individual Ukraine-related article across Slovak news portals this week received 6,200 interactions.

EVENTS OF THE RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR

New narratives:

The EU training mission for Ukrainian soldiers is escalating the war

Articles:
2
Interactions:
4,645

Two posts stated that Hungary will not join the Ukrainian military training program because such an action will escalate the war.

Continuing sub-narratives:

The West is undermining peace negotiation efforts

Articles:
4
Interactions:
21,150

The narrative about the West undermining peace negotiations still remains prevalent in Slovakia.

Foreign mercenaries are fighting for Russia

Articles:
1
Interactions:
3,351

One post stated that Turkish volunteers joined the Russian army in Ukraine, but in reality the men were Ahiska Turks already living in Russia.

Ukrainians are Nazis

Articles:

2

Interactions:

2,241

Posts connected Ukraine and Ukrainians with Nazis or the Nazi regime, referring to Bandera of Azov battalion.

Ukraine is committing terrorist attacks

Articles:

2

Interactions:

3,492

Two posts shared that an opposition politician Ľuboš Blaha filed a criminal complaint against the Slovak minister of defence for approving the “terrorist attack on the Crimean Bridge”.

ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF SANCTIONS

Continuing sub-narrative:

Sanctions hurt the West more than Russia

Articles:

3

Interactions:

12,903

Posts spread the narrative that sanctions are more harmful for the West than Russia. This was a very prevalent narrative in Slovakia a few weeks ago.

CONDITIONS OF RUSSIAN AND RUSSIAN-SPEAKING MINORITIES

Continuing sub-narrative:

Ukrainians discriminate against/terrorize Russian speakers

Articles:

2

Interactions:

4,831

Two posts claimed that Ukraine has been targeting and terrorizing people in Donbas since 2014, thus provoking Russia to attack.

MILITARY AID TO UKRAINE

Continuing sub-narrative:

Military aid prolongs the war

Articles:

2

Interactions:

4,631

Two posts spread the narrative that, instead for initiating peace negotiations, the West is arming Ukraine in order to prolong the war.

MISCELLANEOUS

Continuing sub-narratives:

The EU/US leadership is incompetent/corrupt

Articles:

4

Interactions:

14,994

Post claimed that, compared to Putin, Western leaders are resigning because they are weak and incompetent. This was a reaction to the resignation of Liz Truss. Other posts spread a narrative about Ursula von der Leyen being corrupt.

X country is controlled by the West

Articles:

3

Interactions:

13,082

3 posts shared the narrative that the Slovak government is not independent and is a puppet of the West.

The Ukrainian leadership is corrupt and/or incompetent

Articles:

2

Interactions:

3,571

Two posts claimed that Ukraine is the most corrupt state in Europe.

Western media is lying

Articles:

1

Interactions:

2,582

One post spread the narrative that the mainstream media is lying. This has been a very prevalent narrative for the past few weeks.

NATO has committed far worse crimes than Russia

Articles:

1

Interactions:

1,121

One post shared that, according to Irish MEPs, the U.S. government, the EU, and Israel are the real terrorists (not Russia).

UKRAINE

Detector Media

Note: Detector Media's contribution exclusively features content from Ukrainian Russian-language Telegram channels.

- This week, Russian propagandists were preoccupied with covering Russian missile attacks on critical civilian infrastructure. They attempted to shift the responsibility for the destruction of civilian objects and the death of civilians to the Ukrainian authorities. They claim that the Ukrainian authorities are misleading about the effectiveness of its counterintelligence defence, alleging that the Ukrainian authorities are in fact inactive and incompetent. Numerous manipulations artificially create an exaggerated image of the corruption of Ukrainian officials.
- The goals of Russian military and psychological operations were very much synchronized this week. With missile attacks on Ukrainian energy systems and millions of Ukrainians struggling without electricity and heat, Russian propaganda is actively spreading panic among Ukraine's citizens. The government is portrayed as incompetent, and the state is allegedly totally unprepared for winter. Government claims that the situation is under control are labelled as lies and propaganda and it is asserted that catastrophe is inevitable.

EVENTS OF THE RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR

Continuing narratives:

The West is using Ukraine to wage war against Russia

Articles:

12

Views:

9,788,541

The pro-Russian Telegram channel is spreading the disinformation that the US allegedly "ordered" Ukraine to launch a new attack on the territories occupied by Russia. Namely, the Democratic Party, which "uses the war in Ukraine in its autumn election campaign." They call it a "pre-election offensive." They said that Ukraine was given an ultimatum to take Kherson by the New Year. In addition to the USA, similar messages are also being spread about NATO. This message is accompanied by information that the Office of the President allegedly prohibited the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine to withdraw troops from Bakhmut because "the Western lobby has forbidden the Armed Forces to lose now."

If Ukraine is dismembered, the countries on its Western border will receive new territories

Articles:

3

Views:

1,452,200

The pro-Russian Telegram channel is spreading the message that neighboring countries on Ukraine's western border want to occupy Ukrainian territories. Allegedly, Romania, Poland, Slovakia, and Hungary are waiting for permission from the US and Britain, and then they will occupy parts of the Ukrainian territories. They write that this may happen when Belarus joins the war. They also threaten these countries, saying that if they occupy Ukrainian territories, Russia will start shelling them with missiles.

Ukraine's leadership does not care about its people

Articles:

1

Views:

501,900

The pro-Russian Telegram channel wrote that Ukraine's economy is falling into the abyss, but the authorities do not plan to warn Ukrainians about this. They once again spread theses about the government's lies, saying that they cannot be believed and do not look out for their citizens' best interests.

Poland will annex Ukraine

Articles:

2

Views:

297,000

According to the post, the Polish Army is ready to come to Ukraine, but it is not yet known how Russia will perceive Poland's plans to annex the western part of Ukraine.

Ukraine is losing the war

Articles:

2

Views:

241,000

The report states that the number of people injured in the war is terrifying and only continues to grow.

Ukraine's informational space is controlled by the state authorities

Articles:

2

Views:

230,800

The pro-Russian Telegram channel continues to spread messages that the Ukrainian authorities are lying about the consequences of the Russian shelling. They said that air defense cannot cope with Russian UAVs/missiles, but the authorities create the illusion that everything has been shot down.

Russia is not fighting at full capacity

Articles:

1

Views:

123,600

The report states that Russia's partner countries are urging their citizens to evacuate Ukraine. The authors hint that this is due to the fact that soon Russia will intensify military actions in Ukraine, and the conflict will escalate.

Russian troops are advancing / achieving success

Articles:

5

Views:

987,691

The posts react to the announcement that Ukraine will be producing its own drones as a response to the Iranian Shaheds, ridiculing their design and capabilities.

Ukrainian troops kill their own soldiers

Articles:

1

Views:

105,900

The Pro-Russian Telegram channel spread disinformation about the Ukrainian army. Allegedly, during shelling by drones, the AFU killed their own soldiers and civilians.

The West wants Ukraine to surrender

Articles:

1

Views:

88,700

The message says that Zelenskyy wants Ukrainians to believe that NATO supports Ukraine, but in reality this is not the case, because NATO will never strike Russia.

Ukraine is blackmailing politicians to force them to be on their side

Articles:

2

Views:

84,237

According to the post, Ukraine has coerced Azerbaijan into providing it with planes, and this has caused conflict between Russia and Azerbaijan.

Ukrainians refuse to fight

Articles:

1

Views:

18,293

According to the post, many Ukrainian students – mobilization-age young men – are trying to cross the Ukrainian border into Europe en masse.

ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF SANCTIONS

Continuing narratives:

Ukraine is bankrupt

Articles:

6

Views:

3,503,837

Pro-Russian channels claim that Ukrainians will lose everything without Western support, that the government is unable to pay out pensions, and that the country is sliding into poverty. Some posts even claim that the Office of the President is intentionally pushing the country's economy towards destruction in order to send all the newly unemployed Ukrainians to the frontlines because it is running out of manpower.

Another channel is claiming that it is worth getting rid of the hryvnia as soon as possible because world bankers know that Ukraine will soon cease to exist as a country, along with the hryvnia.

Articles:

4

Views:

1,695,500

The pro-Russian Telegram channel is spreading the message that sanctions are increasingly negatively affecting the EU economy, as well as its energy and financial security. Therefore, he alleges that the last two sanctions packages were purely "for show".

Another Pro-Russian Telegram channel says that German employees can't make ends meet due to the shortage of gas at enterprises and may even starve without Russian gas.

One channel claims that Europe is bankrupt due to the high inflation rates, caused by sanctions against Russia.

Sanctions hurt the West more than Russia

The West is abandoning Ukraine, despite its dependence on Western financing

Articles:

1

Views:

466,400

The pro-Russian Telegram channel is spreading the message that due to China's new actions, the US will shift its attention there and stop helping Ukraine. Allegedly, the US government will be forced to weaken its support for Ukraine and may even enter negotiations with Russia.

Europe is threatened by an energy crisis

Articles:

1

Views:

154,300

The message claims that Europe will face an energy crisis, including a shortage of fuels, while Ukrainians are going to suffer from a severe cold winter.

Western citizens do not support sanctions against Russia

Articles:

1

Views:

78,500

The authors of the report claim that the residents of Cyprus support Ukraine less and less. In particular, they oppose arms supplies to Ukraine and anti-Russian sanctions.

Russia is unaffected by sanctions

Articles:

1

Views:

4,420

The post reports that a factory located in the recently-annexed Donetsk region of Ukraine has started to export iron to Turkey, implying that new "Russian" territories are beginning to successfully participate in the global trade and economy.

UKRAINIAN REFUGEES

Continuing narratives:

Ukrainian refugees are spoiled/ungrateful

Articles:

1

Views:

564,200

The pro-Russian Telegram channel complains about the public criticism received by the owner of the French restaurant Le Cosy Montparnasse for kicking out two Ukrainian refugees with the words "Viva Putin". The post claims that, as always, Ukrainians are trying to force people to be afraid of them but that this will backfire on them, the more they "shit everywhere, start fights, and be rude". The author claims that, with the way Ukrainians are behaving, the term "Ukrainian" will soon be derogatory.

Ukrainian refugees are no longer welcome

Articles:

2

Views:

153,900

According to the post, the British (and Europeans in general) are increasingly kicking out refugees out of their homes and are trying to get rid of them.

MILITARY AID TO UKRAINE

Continuing narratives:

Western military aid is useless

Articles:

6

Views:

2,559,700

The post claims that the West cannot help Ukraine with military aid because Russia's shelling of Ukraine and its energy infrastructure with Shahed drones has been so successful.

Another post claims that even Western air defences are useless against Russia's mass drones attacks.

MISCELLANEOUS

Continuing narratives:

The Ukrainian leadership is pretentious/demanding

Articles:

7

Views:

3,857,300

The pro-Russian Telegram channel writes that the West is starting to think that, no matter how much you give to Ukraine, it will never be enough for them, and if you refuse, they will begin to hate you and accuse you of being an agent of the Kremlin.

Life under Russian occupation is better than under Ukrainian rule

Articles:

1

Views:

2,500,000

A post claiming that the inappropriate behaviour of Ukrainian politicians hurts Ukraine. Elon Musk being offended by Andriy Melnik's Tweet to "fuck off" is provided as an example.

The West wants to get rid of Zelensky

Articles:

5

Views:

1,795,900

The pro-Russian Telegram channel is spreading the message that Russia is evacuating the civilians of Kherson because it allegedly wants to save their lives. They write that Kherson residents will be given housing on the territory of Russia, which Zelenskyy did not do for refugees in Ukraine.

Ukrainian volunteers are corrupt

Articles:

5

Views:

1,763,561

A pro-Russian Telegram channel is spreading the message that the West wants to overthrow the Ukrainian government. They said that NABU is already collecting secret materials against Zelensky, and "political games" will soon begin.

The EU/US leadership is incompetent

Articles:

2

Views:

1,471,000

The author of the message sarcastically claims that since European politicians constantly make statements about the allocation of money for Ukraine, they should become Ukrainian politicians themselves if they care about Ukraine more than their own countries.

The Ukrainian leadership is corrupt and/or incompetent

Articles:

7

Views:

1,438,381

According to the post, Ukrainian civilians are dying due to Ukrainian air defense forces shooting down missiles/drones over the city. The post accuses the government of incompetence for "not removing the PPO from the city" and complains about "incompetent journalists who don't understand how drones work."

A post claims that the Ukrainian leadership is always lying, especially about the consequences of the mass shelling, and that the leadership is mobilizing people unprepared for active duty.

		Another several posts that corrupt Ukrainian politicians are stealing and selling Western aid en masse.
X country is controlled by the West	Articles: 2 Views: 582,800	The authors of the channel claim that the EU can't live without guidance from the West.
Western society does not support Ukraine	Articles: 3 Views: 482,400	The Pro-Russian Telegram channel says that everybody in Russia is ready to fight at full capacity and that they have support from abroad.
Certain powers benefit from the war	Articles: 2 Views: 456,600	The Pro-Russian Telegram channel says that Ukraine is just a pawn in a global game, especially for the West, which takes the advantage of everything.
Governments are using the war in Ukraine to limit the freedoms of their citizens	Articles: 1 Views: 268,700	The post says that the mass shelling of Ukraine is a consequence of an incompetent government that does not tire out its own people.
The EU and/or NATO and/or the West are weak and will break apart	Articles: 1 Views: 130,200	The message says that the West should come to an agreement with Russia, as not making concessions to Russia will be a big mistake.
Russia has the world's support	Articles: 1 Views: 95,000	Disinformation actors manipulate the resignation of Liz Truss, claiming that politicians who support Ukraine are not popular with the public.

NOTES ON TERMINOLOGY

Working Definitions:

Disinformation

1. False or misleading information spread deliberately via Kremlin-backed or Kremlin-aligned outlets.
2. Not-attributable false or misleading information which fits with existing HS narratives, aims or activities.
3. Content based on verifiable information which is unbalanced or skewed, amplifies, or exaggerates certain elements for effect, or uses emotive or inflammatory language to achieve affects which fit within existing Kremlin narratives, aims, or activities.
4. For the purposes of this report, disinformation also can be spread either organically through human ignorance and uncertainty or through poor journalistic standards, as long as the narrative in question verifiably originates with Kremlin-backed or Kremlin-aligned sources.

Please note that the sub-narrative headings listed in red are the new sub-narratives identified during the week in question.

List of Narrative and Sub-Narrative Headings:

1. EVENTS OF RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR

- 1a. Ukraine is losing the war**
- 1b. Russia only attacked because Ukraine was planning to attack it first**
- 1c. Ukraine is causing the global food crisis**
- 1d. Ukrainians are Nazis**
- 1e. Russia is not fighting at full capacity**
- 1f. The West forced Russia to attack Ukraine**
- 1g. Ukrainians are targeting civilians and commit other war crimes**
- 1h. Ukrainians are welcoming Russian "saviours"**
- 1i. Poland will annex Ukraine**
- 1j. Reports of Russian war crimes are exaggerated/fake news**
- 1k. The West is using Ukraine to wage war against Russia**
- 1l. Foreign mercenaries are fighting for Ukraine**
- 1m. There are tensions between the West and Ukraine**
- 1n. The West is losing interest in helping Ukraine**
- 1o. The West wants Ukraine to surrender**
- 1p. Russian troops are advancing / achieving success**
- 1q. The US provoked the conflict between Ukraine and Russia**
- 1r. Ukraine is committing terrorist attacks against Russian civilians**
- 1s. Ukrainians refuse to fight**
- 1t. Russia's invasion is justified and legitimate**
- 1u. NATO/The West will attack Russia**
- 1v. NATO/The West is trying to divide Slavs/Orthodox Christians**
- 1w. Ukraine organizes protests/riots financed by the West**
- 1x. National minorities refuse to fight for Ukraine**
- 1y. Ukrainian civil society wants to make concessions to Russia**
- 1z. Ukrainians are collecting money for a nuclear weapon**
- 1aa. The inflation & energy crises are caused by the West's misguided political approach**
- 1ab. Russia will stop all gas deliveries to Europe**

- 1ac. The West knows that Russia is winning the war**
- 1ad. Bulgaria is dependent on Russia**
- 1ae. The West is causing the global food crisis**
- 1af. Ukraine's informational space is controlled by the state authorities**
- 1ag. NATO aspirations provoked the conflict between Ukraine and Russia**
- 1ah. If Ukraine is dismembered, the countries on its Western border will receive new territories**
- 1ai. Ukraine is blackmailing politicians to force them to be on their side**
- 1aj. Ukrainian troops kill their own soldiers**
- 1ak. Russia is liberating Ukraine**
- 1al. The West is also responsible for Ukraine's crimes against civilians**
- 1am. Ukrainians do not support Zelensky**
- 1an. North Macedonia has become a legitimate target for Russia**
- 1ap. The Azov battalion is a terrorist organization**
- 1aq. Ukraine wants to annex territories from neighboring countries**
- 1ar. Ukraine hurt Slovakia by stopping oil transport**
- 1as. Recognizing Russia as a terrorist state will not help Ukraine**
- 1at. Ukraine is preparing a nuclear attack**
- 1au. Nuclear disaster is imminent**
- 1av. Ukraine's leadership does not care about its people**
- 1aw. North Korea will join Russia in the fight against Ukraine**
- 1ax. NATO/the US/the West is or will be directly involved in the war**
- 1ay. The West is undermining peace negotiation efforts**
- 1az. The West is profiting on the war in Ukraine**
- 1ba. Ukraine wants to demilitarise Russia**
- 1bb. Ukraine is profiting from the war in Ukraine**
- 1bc. War in Ukraine has made Russia stronger**
- 1bd. Belarus is being forced into complying with allied agreements with Russia**
- 1be. NATO/The West will attack Belarus / wants to drag it into war**
- 1bf. Mobilization in Russia is very successful**
- 1bg. Ukraine "referendums" are legitimate**
- 1bh. USA is using Ukraine to destroy Europe**
- 1bi. China is sending soldiers to Ukraine**
- 1bj. Nobody can win in Ukraine**
- 1bk. Russia may attack Romania**
- 1bl. The West/US is responsible for the sabotage of Nord Stream**
- 1bm. Ukraine should not/will not become a NATO member**
- 1bn. Ukraine tried to falsify the referendum results**
- 1bo. Belarus is not participating in the war in Ukraine**
- 1bp. Belarus is prepared for mobilization in the event of war**
- 1bq. Russia's losses in the war are small**
- 1br. Ukraine does not want peace**
- 1bs. Strikes on Ukrainian cities are legitimate**
- 1bt. Negotiations must be held directly between US/NATO and Russia**
- 1bu. Western politicians don't care about Russian lives**
- 1av. The EU training mission for Ukrainian soldiers is escalating the war**

2. UKRAINIAN REFUGEES

- 2a. Ukrainian refugees undermine host countries' internal stability**
- 2b. Ukrainian refugees are spoiled/ungrateful**

- 2c. Ukrainian refugees are prioritized over the host country citizens/inhabitants
- 2d. Ukrainian refugees are no longer welcome
- 2e. X country should restrict the activities of Ukrainian refugees
- 2f. Ukrainians are willingly coming back to settle in territories recently occupied by Russia

3. ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF SANCTIONS

- 3a. Russia is unaffected by sanctions
- 3b. Sanctions hurt the West more than Russia
- 3c. The West is secretly trading with Russia
- 3d. The inflation and the energy crises are caused by the false political approach of Europe and the US
- 3e. Russia will stop all gas deliveries for Europe
- 3f. Economic sanctions on Russia caused the war
- 3g. Sanctions hurt Ukraine more than Russia
- 3h. Europe is threatened by an energy crisis
- 3i. The West punishes Georgia for not imposing sanctions on Russia
- 3j. Sanctions are making Russia stronger
- 3k. The West is abandoning Ukraine, despite its dependence on Western financing
- 3l. Ukraine is bankrupt
- 3m. Georgia should help Russia bypass sanctions
- 3n. Western citizens do not support sanctions against Russia
- 3o. Sanctions are being imposed on innocent people
- 3p. The complete shutdown of Russian gas will destroy Germany

4. CONDITIONS OF RUSSIANS AND RUSSIAN-SPEAKING MINORITIES

- 4a. Ukrainians discriminate against/terrorize Russian speakers
- 4b. X country is Russophobic / Russian culture is being attacked
- 4c. Russian citizens are being attacked in X country
- 4d. The West and its proxies are inciting Russophobia

5. MILITARY THREATS TO EASTERN EUROPE/THREAT OF WAR EXPANDING BEYOND UKRAINE

- 5a. There will be a second front against Russia in Georgia
- 5b. Poland is escalating the war
- 5c. Putin will wipe out Europe with the Sarmat
- 5d. The West will sacrifice Eastern Europe if war spills over
- 5e. Russia is losing the war and will use nuclear weapons
- 5f. Germany is going to attack Crimea
- 5g. There will be a new Soviet Union
- 5h. The West will fall
- 5i. Poland will be the next target of attack
- 5j. Poland wants to overthrow the EU leadership
- 5k. Ukraine will attack the EU after winning the war
- 5l. WW3 is imminent
- 5m. The West wants Ukraine to occupy Russia
- 5n. Putin is weakening the West
- 5o. Romania is under threat

6. MILITARY AID TO UKRAINE

- 6a. Western military aid is being misused/stolen
- 6b. Ukraine will use Western weapons to kill Russians/attack Russian territory
- 6c. Military aid prolongs the war

- 6d. Military aid is weakening/endangering the countries that provide it
- 6e. Ukraine will use military aid against the West
- 6f. The majority financial aid for Ukraine is being stolen by the country's official
- 6g. Donating for military aid is immoral
- 6h. The West is to blame for future Ukrainian losses because it does not provide enough aid
- 6i. The West will no longer provide Ukraine with military aid
- 6j. Western military aid is useless
- 6k. Military aid forces Russia to expand its actions beyond Donbas
- 6l. The Office of the President is covering up weapons smuggling
- 6m. Ukraine does not appreciate the aid being provided
- 6n. The US is using Ukraine to promote its military-industrial complex
- 6o. Ukraine is taking aid away from other countries in need

7. MISCELLANEOUS / OTHER

- 7a. Biological weapons labs in Ukraine
- 7b. X country should be neutral to prevent being dragged into war
- 7c. The Ukrainian leadership is corrupt and/or incompetent
- 7d. The EU and/or NATO and/or the West are weak and will break apart
- 7e. X country should not help Ukraine due to their past historical conflicts
- 7f. The EU can't help Ukraine
- 7g. Russian soldiers have huge popular support
- 7h. Russia's diplomats excel over their Western counterparts
- 7i. Western media is lying
- 7j. The West is hypocritical for caring about Ukraine so much
- 7k. Ukraine is not a sovereign state
- 7l. Third World countries are choosing Russia over the West
- 7m. The Ukrainian leadership is pretentious/demanding
- 7n. Politicians care about Ukraine at the expense of their own citizens
- 7o. Ukraine was given EU candidate status in exchange for concessions to Russia
- 7p. X country is controlled by the West
- 7q. Certain powers benefit from the war
- 7r. Ukrainian volunteers are corrupt
- 7s. The EU is under US influence
- 7t. Russia has the world's support
- 7u. The Bulgarian army is preparing to enter the war
- 7v. The EU/US leadership is incompetent
- 7w. The war in Ukraine is part of a global conspiracy
- 7x. Governments are using the war in Ukraine to limit the freedoms of their citizens
- 7y. Moldova is putting political pressure on Russia
- 7z. Russia and its allies are strong
- 7aa. The war in Ukraine is not real/staged
- 7ab. The only way to end the war is to negotiate with Russia
- 7ac. NATO is a Satanist organization
- 7ad. Life under Russian occupation is better than under Ukrainian rule
- 7ae. Western society does not support Ukraine
- 7af. Ukrainians want to blackmail Europe with gas
- 7ag. Ukrainian soldiers are cannibals
- 7ah. Russia plans to increase its presence and influence in the Balkans
- 7ai. Poland should not help Ukraine because it does not owe it anything
- 7aj. The West wants to get rid of Zelensky

- 7ak. The destruction of Ukrainian statehood is inevitable
- 7al. Most Slovaks support Russia
- 7am. The EU is under Ukraine's influence
- 7an. Ukrainians engage in organ trafficking
- 7ao. There are tensions among Ukraine's leadership
- 7ap. EU politicians are Nazis
- 7aq. The war in Ukraine was started so that energy companies could take over Russian profits
- 7ar. The West wants to make us poor
- 7as. X government/country is fascist
- 7at. Gorbachev was an American agent
- 7au. Ukraine forces people to leave Donbas by cutting off gas and water
- 7av. The US are a major landowner in Ukraine
- 7aw. The US is systematically lying to their people
- 7ax. Russia is not violating international law
- 7ay. The world is controlled by globalists
- 7az. Polish Government representatives sympathize with or support the UPA (Ukrainian Insurgent Army)
- 7ba. Ukraine exports poisonous grain to Bulgaria
- 7bb. Zelensky is gay
- 7bc. Activity in Ukraine's skies could be UFOs
- 7bd. Ukrainian pedophiles collected materials about raped Russian children
- 7bf. The EU is a dictatorship
- 7bg. The EU wants to destroy Europe
- 7bh. Ukrainian media is lying
- 7bi. Some politicians supporting Ukraine are Russian agents
- 7bj. NATO has committed far worse crimes than Russia
- 7bk. Russia has a new secret weapon
- 7bl. Nuclear weapons do not exist
- 7bm. The West wants to destroy Russia because of its Orthodox view of the world