WatchDog.MD Community



Report

"LEOPARDS" – on the trail of disinformation



WatchDog vs. propaganda in local media coverage of foreign news

Moldova 1, Jurnal TV, PrimeTV, TV8, ProTV Chișinău, First in Moldova, NTV Moldova, RTR Moldova

Topic of the month: January 2023

"LEOPARDS" - ON THE TRAIL OF DISINFORMATION

Germany has given the green light for the delivery of Leopard tanks to Ukraine, the government in Berlin announced on 25 January. Shortly after Berlin's announcement, US President Joe Biden confirmed that the US would send Ukraine 31 Abrams tanks. Thus, after weeks of hesitation, a new stage in military support for Kiev has been passed, in anticipation of a possible counter-offensive to the Russian invasion.

The war with Russia was approaching its one-year anniversary, and the move represented an important shift in the position of Western allies. The Leopard 2 was seen as a <u>vital</u> military vehicle that would strengthen Kiev's <u>forces</u>, and Germany's decision paved the way for other countries to send some of their German-made tanks.

<u>Volodymyr Zelensky</u> thanked the allies for their commitment, which he described as an "important step on the road to victory". Russia, however, condemned it as <u>"extremely dangerous</u>" and an "unacceptable" US and NATO involvement that "will take the conflict to a new level of confrontation".

THE TOPIC IN THE PRO-KREMLIN PRESS

But the road to Ukraine's victory was neither easy nor short. And the reactions it aroused did not go unnoticed by the propaganda press, which portrayed Germany's commitments as abnormal and reprehensible.

Well-known Kremlin propagandist <u>Vladimir Soloviov</u> had an angry outburst during his broadcast on Rossia-1, calling the political leaders in Berlin "Nazi bastards". With shouts and pathos, the outrageous propagandist pointed out that if German "leopards" were to arrive in Ukraine, territory, military bases and other targets in Germany would become legitimate Russian targets - which is obviously an aberration, just like the other narratives rehashed by Moscow on this occasion.

PROPAGANDA NARRATIVES

Thus, among the main narratives circulating in the Russian propaganda media about the decision to supply Ukraine with Leopard 2 tanks are that:

- The decision on Russia-NATO relations "will take the conflict to a new level of confrontation", after which Russia will be perfectly motivated to resort to "retaliatory measures".
- ➤ German tanks are simply <u>ineffective</u> against Russian ones, they <u>"will burn just like the others</u>", and these deliveries would not fundamentally change anything.
- ➤ Ukrainian citizens are the ones who "have to pay the price" and all countries supporting Ukraine are responsible for the <u>"unequivocal situation</u>".
- > Germany would fall under US pressure and take an "unhealthy" decision that would discredit its policy.
- > By its gesture, Germany would refuse to <u>"acknowledge historical responsability</u>" for the outbreak of World War II and Nazi crimes.
- > Berlin and allies want to "feed the Kiev regime with more and more lethal weapons" and are "not interested" in finding a diplomatic solution to the Ukrainian crisis".
- Abrams and Leopard tanks would use <u>"depleted uranium shells</u>" that would pose <u>"danger to the environment and the civilian population</u>" and be equivalent to "dirty bombs. One of the first to voice such accusations was <u>Russian President</u> Vladimir Putin himself, while the <u>Russian foreign minister</u> directly accused the British military of "crimes against humanity" for delivering these missiles to Kiev. But <u>studiess</u> show there is no serious health risk to the population. The <u>UN</u> has published additional information refuting these accusations, and the <u>British Ministry of Defence</u> has claimed that the British military has used such munitions for decades, while Putin is deliberately trying to misinform.

THE KREMLIN'S MYTHS

This time too, in this war, Moscow has built its discourse on some of the old <u>myths on which Russian</u> <u>propaganda narratives are based, including:</u>

- > Western military support to Ukraine escalates the situation and prolongs the suffering, as Russian victory in the war is inevitable.
- Europe supported the invasion of the USSR by Nazi Germany, just as it supports "Nazi Ukraine" today. Russia is continuing the Great patriotic War in Ukraine to rid the world of the Nazis.

- Russia is fighting in Ukraine against imperialism and Western neo-colonialism to create a multipolar world order in which countries do not interfere in the internal affairs of other countries.
- Ukraine has been committing genocide in Donbas for years, and Russia has had to intervene to protect the people.
- > Ukraine is an artificial creation, not a sovereign state. Historically, Ukrainian territory is Russian. The inhabitants of this territory have freely expressed their political will to return to Russia, and it is Russia's patriotic duty to liberate and protect them.

THE SUBJECT ON TV CHANNELS FROM CHISINAU

"LEOPARDS" ON TV STATIONS IN CHIŞINĂU

But what did the viewer who is informed about foreign realities by the news bulletins of the most popular Chişinău TV channels find out about what happened?

In the given analysis, we followed in particular how events were covered in relation to the issue given in the third week of January, when Germany responded to repeated calls from Kiev and approved the decision to send Leopard 2 tanks to Ukraine, as well as their reshipment from partner countries, in the context of media reports that US would also give the green light to the delivery of Abrams tanks to Ukraine.

At the time of the events, some of the TV stations we are monitoring in the NED project were deprived of their broadcasting license "for the period of the state of emergency", according to the <u>CSE provision</u>, "in order to protect the national information space and to prevent the risk of disinformation by spreading false information or attempts to manipulate public opinion". Therefore, the current analysis will be dedicated only to the channels that continued broadcasting during January 2023, namely *Jurnal TV*, *Moldova 1*, *Prime TV*, *TV8*, *Pro TV Chisinau*.

THE LEVEL OF COVERAGE OF THE EVENT the subject on Chisinau TV channels

As expected, given the importance of the events monitored, most channels gave the topic space for at least some material.

Jurnal TV	Moldova1	TV8	ProTV	Prime TV
5 news	5 news	2 news	6 news	3 news

However, as far as the level of coverage of the monitored topic is concerned, the number of news items only partially reflects the real situation, as some stations placed several news items on the same topic under the same intro and others separated them into several items.

RANKING BY CATEGORY Objectivity VS. Manipulation

While some stations followed events more closely, and others did so more superficially, in most cases the general trend was to provide an objective perspective on the subject.

While we did report a number of errors, data or editorial errors, in none of the cases can we speak of serious misconduct. Guided by the same principles we have used in previous reports, we have classified the monitored posts into the following categories:

Category	Description	Name
l.	They were deprived of their broadcasting licence because of manipulative content	First in Moldova RTR Moldova NTV Moldova
II.	They admitted errors in news reporting, presenting inaccurate or wrong details, some of which could have misled the viewer.	Moldova1 TV8
III.	They covered the subject relatively neutrally and fairly, but without giving it too much attention or analysis.	PrimeTV

IV.	They have rendered the subject complex and extensive, presented the evolving facts or/supplemented them with expert opinion.	JurnalTV ProTV	

CONTENT ANALYSIS OF NEWS PROGRAMMES

CATEGORY II

Moldova 1

Moldova1/1

On **22 January**, Moldova 1 broadcasts a report, <u>Kiev waits for promised weapons</u>, in which it describes very briefly the situation on the front, stressing that the Ukrainian army is waiting for NATO aid, including German Leopard 2 tanks, the delivery of which has not yet been agreed.

Comments:

The news contains a number of inaccuracies and even errors that may influence the correct perception of the information, such as:

- 1. **Errors: Boris Johnson is shown as the current Prime Minister of the United Kingdom,** although at the time of reporting he had long since ceased to hold that office.
- 2. Listing of data and information without context or explanation, but also without indicating sources.
- 3. The "drifting" ending has no connection to the rest of the content.

(Exact quote, last sentence: 'British Prime Minister Boris Johnson paid a visit to Kiev, where he met the President of Ukraine. At the same time, the US announced it would send some elite military personnel and a general to Romania", M1 informs us against the background of images of Washington D.C., which obviously have nothing to do with "British PM", "Romania" or the logic of the narrative.

Moldova1/2

On January 23, Moldova1 publishes a new news package dedicated to the war, <u>Ukrainians call for help</u>, which contains, among other things, information about Germany's announcement that it is ready to allow Poland to send Leopard tanks to Ukraine, and the French President's statement that France is ready to deliver Leclerc tanks to Kiev.

Comments:

- As on the previous day, the information is crammed into a collage of **less consistent** data, some **unrelated** to each other, and some presented only on text, **without being illustrated with syncs** or stating **the source** of this information.
- Reports with different themes are merged into one material, based on a logic that is difficult to understand, and the viewer might misperceive the film of events. For example, he might wrongly infer that there is any link between the heavy defensive weaponry Kiev hopes to obtain from the West and the corruption scandal in Ukraine.

Moldova1/3

On **24 January**, Moldova1 broadcasts <u>Ukraine needs tanks</u>, again as part of a war cluster. From the material we learn, among other things, that: NATO insists that allies support the Ukrainian army with heavy weapons; Poland is determined to send tanks to Ukraine, regardless of Germany's decision, which nevertheless accepts this state of affairs. The Kremlin's reaction is quoted in a statement by Kremlin press secretary D. Peskov that the future of relations between Russia and Germany "are in danger".

In support of the material, it should be noted that, this time, the news is not limited to presenting only textually the important statements of the day, but contains several synchrons of the officials, which helps to create a clearer picture of the events.

Comments:

• The news begins with a vox, which appears to be made in a Ukrainian military unit. However, the viewer is deprived of information about the following: where this vox was taken, who filmed it, who the people in the footage are, etc., as any data (on text or tag) about the location, the sources of the images, the presentation bursts, etc. are missing. All these shortcomings deprive the presented information of credibility and prevent the viewer from orienting himself in the information flow.

Moldova1/4

The **25 January** news, <u>Germany to deliver tanks</u>, is dedicated to Germany's own decision to send Leopard 2 tanks to Ukraine and the announcement that the US is about to approve the delivery of 30 Abrams tanks for the Ukrainian army. This is the most important news item in the cycle of material from the period under review, and, compared to previous news items, it is also the best structured and documented.

Moldova1//5

On 26 January, Moldova1 airs <u>New attacks in Ukraine</u>, a story about Russian attacks on Ukraine, which it introduces with a lead suggesting that they were triggered by NATO's decision to supply tanks to Ukraine.

Comments:

• The news contains no explanation of context, background or other links that would substantiate the claims in the intro.

CATEGORY II

TV 8

TV8/ 1

TV8 is limited to presenting information on the topic already analysed on the day of the clarification of the picture, **25 January**, when it broadcasts the news that <u>Germany is sending tanks to Kiev</u>, reporting that Germany has decided to offer Ukraine the first Leopard 2 tanks and gives the green light to countries that want to deliver Germanmade tanks to the Ukrainian army. Very briefly, without going into details, the station lists some of the voices of those who officially welcomed Germany's decision, as well as the reaction of the Russian ambassador in Berlin that Germany's decision "will lead to an escalation of the conflict".

Comments:

- Missing piece of news TC 09:13... "Scholtz has given partner countries the green light to deliver (....) a coalition of tanks."
- Although it tries to represent the subject in a balanced way, presenting the position of all parties, the TV8 news contains only one synchronic, the announcement made by O.Scholtz. All reactions are presented only on text, and in some cases without at least indicating the names of those who made them (the Russian ambassador in Berlin) or the Internet sources from where they were taken (the reaction of the British prime minister, etc.).
- Image sources are only partially indicated.

(7) TV8/2

The 26 January edition directly links the Russian attacks in the morning to the US announcement that it will deliver "a battalion of modern tanks" to Ukraine. The news of the US sending tanks to Ukraine, focusing mainly on Washington's statement that the US will supply Kiev with Abrams vehicles. The reaction of Ukrainian President Zelenski (who learned of Berlin's decision in the midst of an interview for the foreign press) is also shown, as well as an excerpt from the Ukrainian President's daily speech, in which he thanks the Ukrainian President for his help. TV8 concludes the news with the fact that "Ukraine has already started asking for planes and missiles", but that Berlin has reportedly already rejected these requests.

Comments:

- The news begins with a manipulative statement, quote "This morning's attacks were launched after the US also announced it would deliver a battalion of modern tanks to Ukraine." This is a value judgement, susceptible to a desire to make a negative impression, as it is neither the first nor, probably, the last Russian missile attack in Ukraine. More pertinent might have sounded the remark that "the attacks take place shortly after...".
- Representative is the fact that the channel continues to take images predominantly from Russian channels,
 as was the case, for example, with the statements of the American president, taken from smotri_media, a
 propaganda channel. Why not from the original sources or the Guardian, also freely available on the internet?

CATEGORY III

Prime TV

Prime TV

On January 23, PrimeTV airs a big, complex story, Leopard 2 arrive in Ukraine, in which it reports, among other things, that while it is hesitant to send its own Leopard 2 tanks to Ukraine, Berlin will not prevent others from doing so, and that it will export its tanks only after the US delivers Abrams. The news also reports that several European states have announced that they are ready to meet Ukraine's request, and Poland has announced that it is already prepared to form a "smaller" coalition to support Ukraine. The article ends by listing the armoured vehicles already being delivered to Ukraine by Western states.

Comments:

• The complex and well-researched report recalls the position of all parties - but not Russia, which is conspicuously missing from the report.

(1) Prime TV

Prime returns to the subject the next day, **24 January**, with the news that <u>Germany has received Poland's request</u>, picking up on the theme of Germany's hesitation against the backdrop of Poland's announcement that it is ready to deliver the Leopard 2 to Ukraine regardless of Berlin's approval.

In a calm and detailed tone, the news story recalls the context of what happened and underlines that Ukraine needs tanks to regain its territories occupied by Russian forces, but also stresses that Berlin is not in a hurry to take hasty decisions. A decision in this regard will not be long in coming, the German defence minister is quoted as saying after his meeting with the NATO secretary-general. The announcement by the German concern Rheinmetall that Germany is ready and willing to deliver tanks and is only waiting for the approval of the Berlin government is not omitted.

Comments:

Only the position of the West is presented. Russia's position is missing, as is Ukraine's reaction.

Prime TV

On **25** January, PrimeTV broadcasts a <u>news item</u> in which it reports, among other things, that Berlin is determined to offer Ukraine its battle tanks and that it will allow other states with them to do the same. Berlin's announcement comes at the same time as the United States is ready to deliver Abrams tanks to Kiev, which is also one of Germany's conditions for the delivery of Leopard tanks, PrimeTV recalls, concluding with a technical description of these tanks "expected on the fronts in Ukraine".

Comments:

• The overly detailed description of the technical specifications does not clarify the situation very much, as it contains too many technical-military details, which might be more difficult for the average viewer to access. For a clearer picture, a <u>comparative analysis</u> between the Leopard 2, Abrams and the tanks that the Ukrainian army had at the time of the news broadcast would probably have been more appropriate.

CATEGORY IV

Jurnal TV

JurnalTV/1

On Jurnal TV, the series of reports dedicated to the monitored topic starts on **January 23** with <u>Havy tanks</u> <u>expected in Kiev</u>, a complex news with many important synchrons and clarifications, which generally manage to answer the questions of the day.

The material begins with EU foreign ministers approving new military aid for Ukraine and emphasises that "support for Ukraine is more important than ever". The Post informs us that "Europe remains reluctant to send Kiev heavy tanks": Berlin avoids the subject, Paris could send tanks on certain conditions, and Poland and Finland would deliver Leopard 2 to Ukraine, only they need German approval.

Comments:

• In this material, as well as in the following ones, it is worth noting the seriousness with which JurnalTV approaches the subject, which we consider a great plus. However, precisely because it is so data-rich, the material might be difficult to "digest" for a less informed viewer, who might get lost in the lengthy synchrons.

① JurnalTV/ 2

On 24 January, Jurnal TV picks up the story with some news, grouped in a Berlin and NATO collage about the Leopard/Pistorius tanks: Aliance is United/Poland: We will deliver tanks to Ukraine. The material describes thoroughly and relatively balanced the tense situation on the political scene on the eve of Germany's decision to deliver Leopard 2 to Ukraine. The story reports the main statements: the NATO leader urging the allies to "speed up the delivery of heavy weapons"; Warsaw's decision to deliver Leopard tanks to Kiev "without Berlin's permission"; the German defence minister's reaction; and the Kremlin's reaction (on text, press secretary D. Peskov) that sending tanks would "further deteriorate Russian-German relations".

The item concludes with the Ukrainian President's synchronicity on the sad 11-month anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

⑦ JurnalTV/3

Complex and balanced is also the news of the next day, **25 January**, when JurnalTV publishes a new grouping dedicated to the monitored topic, <u>Germany sends tanks to Ukraine/14 Leopards will arrive in Ukraine/American tanks are also expected</u>. It begins with Berlin's statement that it is sending Leopard tanks to Ukraine, and announces that the Pentagon is also reportedly about to deliver its Abrams tanks to Kiev. Russia's response is presented in a synchronous in which Putin boasts that Russia produces as many anti-aircraft missiles as the rest of the world put together.



JurnalTV goes on to say that "motivated by Germany's decision", several European countries have announced their readiness to deliver "heavy technology to Ukraine". And at the end, the material describes the features of the Leopard 2 tank and their importance for Ukraine's defence.

① JurnalTV/4

In the **26 January** news item, <u>Zelensky also aspires to airplanes</u>, the post suggests that having obtained tanks for defence, the Ukrainian leader now wants fighter jets and long-range missiles. But "The issue of planes could be much more complex than that of tanks," JurnalTV immediately comments, with a quote from an analysis taken from Politico.

"The arming of Ukraine is evidence of the West's direct involvement in the conflict and this is taking on proportions," the station then quotes the Kremlin's response.

The material also notes that Washington has announced it will deliver 31 Abrams tanks to Ukraine, shortly after Germany made a similar announcement on Leopard 2. "We are united! America is united and the whole world is united!" the US leader says in the synchronicity chosen by JurnalTV.

① JurnalTV/5

The thesis that "Russian aggression can and must be stopped only with appropriate weapons" is repeated the next day, **January 27**, in sync with the Ukrainian president. Jurnal TV returns to the armoured epic and announces that the <u>Tank Coalition for Ukraine</u> is expanding. This is after "the example of Germany and the US is followed by Canada" and "Poland will offer 60 modernised Soviet tanks in addition to other Leopard 2 tanks."

In counterpoint, the material shows the terrible destruction done by the Russian army in the neighbouring country, where Russia has launched an attack using including hypersonic "Kinjal" missiles.

The news item ends pertinently with a review of the latest statements on the tanks expected on the Ukrainian fronts, as well as a brief overview of what these tanks represent.

CATEGORY IV

ProTV Chișinău

On 23 January, ProTV reports on the <u>German Leopards are left waiting</u>, which points out that although the German government is under increasing pressure, it is in no hurry to take a "hasty decision" on the delivery of Germanmade tanks to Ukraine, which could have a significant impact on the battlefield against Russian troops. The news reports that Berlin is not opposed to other states delivering their Leopard 2 tanks to Ukraine. And that Poland has already announced it is ready to do so. While France has announced that it is considering a possible donation of Leclerc tanks, with certain conditions, which it specifies. The piece ends by saying that Ukraine insists on receiving heavy tanks "to be able to break through Russian defensive lines".

ProTV Chișinău /2

On 24 January, Continuing the Leopard tank saga, the story reports on the NATO Secretary General's visit to Berlin, who called on partners to provide Kiev with more modern heavy weapons to repel Russian offensive attempts. The story reiterates that the German government needs more time to decide on the supply of Leopard 2 attack tanks to Ukraine, but also that Berlin is not opposed to third countries, which have offered to share their tanks with Ukraine, to start training Ukrainian soldiers. "Germany is not blocking other countries that want to send Leopard tanks," European diplomacy chief J. Borrell stresses in his chosen synchronicity.

1 ProTV Chişinău /3

In its **25 January** <u>news item</u>, ProTV reports in detail that the US has decided to donate 31 Abrams tanks to Ukraine, which the US President says are "the best in the world".

At the same time, after weeks of talks, Germany announces that it will send tanks to Ukraine, and 12 other countries have said they also want to deliver Leopard 2 to Ukrainian fronts. President Volodymyr Zelensky thanks his allies, saying Ukraine urgently needs tanks.

On the other hand, the Kremlin, through the head of the Security Council, Dmitry Medvedev, threatens that these tanks will not change Moscow's plans in any way. And Vladimir Putin boasts that Russia produces as many anti-aircraft missiles as the rest of the world put together, ProTV recalls in context.

Comments

- Throughout the material, images of tanks belonging to the Russian army (with the symbols "Z", "V" and "St. George's Ribbon") are placed, although they are presented as Ukrainian or Leopard 2 tanks.
- The headline ("Nicolae Botgros at 70") does not match the news.

1 ProTV Chişinău /4

On January 26, ProTV presents just three consistent news stories on the subject of tanks. The first, <u>Drone and missile attack in Ukraine</u>, is a collage of videos from various channels, reporting in detail on the massive Russian attacks on Ukraine. "Because of these Russian attacks, Zelensky delivered his traditional message from a bunker," notes ProTV, which points out that the Ukrainian president thanked for the Leopard 2 and Abrams tanks and asked the allies for planes "and long-range missiles".

The news suggests that, according to the Security Council in Kiev, the Russians are preparing in response a major new offensive against Ukraine, "with maximum use of all available resources".

The story describes in detail the current situation on the front, showing dramatic images taken from various sources and media platforms.

ProTV Chisinău /5

In the second news item on the subject broadcast on 26 January, <u>Tanks upset Moscow</u>, ProTV reports that the US has also announced it will donate its Abrams tanks to Ukraine. However, the first ones will become Leopard 2, and soon the Ukrainian military will be taught how to use them.

The material suggests that intense negotiations have been taking place between Washington and Berlin, with the aim of rapidly training two Leopard 2 battalions for Ukraine.

Grateful for the support, Kiev sees the delivery of the tanks as a potential turning point in the fight against the Russian invasion, while the Kremlin sees it as an "extremely dangerous move".

ProTV Chişinău /6

What Leopard and Abrams are and what they are different from each other, we already know in the third news of 26 January.

Abrams and Leopard are more powerful than the Soviet-era tanks used by the Russians and Ukrainians, reports ProTV, which in its description draws on expert opinions, which it picks up from authoritative channels - AP, CNN.

Comments:

• The review states that Abrams would be faster than Leopard 2, which <u>is wrong</u>, as the latter is lighter and more <u>mobile</u>, according to knowledgeable sources. Such errors can lead to misinterpretations and it is important that they do not exist in principle, especially in analyses like this one.

ProTV Chişinău /...

"Russian aggression can be stopped with proper weapons" and "Ukraine needs weapons" are messages that I also found in the newspapers in the following days, on $\frac{27}{2}$ and $\frac{28}{2}$ January, already as part of news backgrounds or addresses to the Ukrainian leader.

MONITORING FINDINGS

PROPAGANDA AND MANIPULATION

The monitored TV stations have been relatively objective in their reporting and have presented the sequence of events as reported in the international press and major Western publications. Thus, to a greater or lesser extent, the monitored channels have contributed to dismantling the main myths on which the Russian propaganda narrative is based this time too, including the ones according to which:

- Europe would support the so-called "Nazi Ukraine" today, just as it would have supported the invasion of the USSR by Nazi Germany in the past. Russia, on the other hand, is "continuing the Great patriotic War" to rid the world of the Nazis.
- Western military support for Ukraine escalates the situation and prolongs the suffering.
- Russia is fighting in Ukraine against Western neo-colonialism to create a multipolar world order in which countries do not interfere in the internal affairs of other countries.
- Ukraine has been committing genocide in Donbas for years, and Russia has had to intervene to "protect the people".
- Ukraine is an artificial creation, not a sovereign state. Historically, Ukrainian territory is Russian.
- Russian victory in the war is inevitable.

In the materials of the monitored TV channels, all these myths were directly dismantled through statements and arguments (*Jurnal TV*, *Pro TV*, *Prime TV*) or indirectly through neutral coverage of events (*Moldova 1, TV8*).

In conclusion, we note a reduced level of influence of Russian propaganda in news programmes compared to previous periods, which could also be a consequence of the disappearance of <u>unlicensed</u> channels.

COMBATING DISINFORMATION

When we talk about combating disinformation, we also refer to a set of journalistic criteria that can affect the correct perception of information, and in some cases can distort the image of external reality, presented to viewers who watch the news on television in Chisinau.

In this respect, we have noted a number of deviations in terms of the relevance and quality of the information presented, the accuracy of the data, the objectivity of the complexity of the reporting, impartiality and, last but not least, the sources used to document and illustrate the subjects presented, as good news should use clear, credible and verifiable sources, otherwise there is a risk of information manipulation.

In conclusion, we find that the most accurate and objective in their reporting were *Jurnal TV*, *Pro TV* (Category IV), which reported the subject in the most detailed, objective and clear way.

They are followed by *Prime TV* (Category III), which, although it gave less airtime to the subject, made an important effort to document and synthesize the information, without omitting important dates and moments.

TV8 materials were placed in the next category (Category II), both because of the much smaller number of materials and the sources it uses (Russian sources), but also because of the lack of tags on the origin of the images used, depriving the viewer of an extra channel of information.

The same category (Category II) is therefore also used for *Moldova 1*, which also does not indicate the sources of the images presented. However, we note this time that, judging by the number and quality of foreign news items presented, the editors' effort was significant and greater than in previous periods. However, it is still not enough, if we consider the editorial errors and inaccuracies admitted.

We remind you that the objective of the implemented project is to combat disinformation and manipulation in the media in the Republic of Moldova and to promote a healthy and trustworthy media environment. In this regard, we advocate that journalists know and respect the principles of correct information, including when reporting external realities, and ensure that the information they provide is accurate, impartial, useful and clear for the viewers in the Republic of Moldova.

The analysis given is valid for this specific case study and does not necessarily imply extrapolation of conclusions to editorial policies in a broader sense.



The material was developed by the WatchDog.MD Community, within the project "Strengthening the Independent Media's Reporting Quality and Capacity", implemented with the support of the National Endowment for Democracy. The content is the responsibility of the WatchDog.MD Community and does not necessarily reflect the views of the donor.