



Follow the Money

Who is Financing Fake News in the Baltics?

Delfi



Overview

"Follow the Money" was a joint project of Delfi of the three Baltic States, focusing on:

- disinformation networks controlled by the **Russian Federation**,
- **individual influencers**, their motives and financial incentives,
- the reasons for the **paradox of success** of disinformation disseminators;
- the measures and **methods** taken in the Baltic States **to curb** such activities.

Key Highlights

Lithuania

- **Russian Federation owns several TV networks and news sites** that are available or devoted specifically for Lithuanian audiences, the purpose of which is to spread Kremlin propaganda. Most of them operate at a loss;
- During the pandemic, spreading disinformation resulted in **extra income for 'alternative treatments'** businesses by exploiting audience's fears and pre-hold perceptions;
- **No nation-wide strategy** and instruments to fight disinformation, except for three virtual patrols on social networks.





Key Highlights

Latvia

- A portrait of **hypocrite failed politician**: claims about the harm of face masks while wife sells them;
- Most **popular source online** – an **internet TV channel** that focuses mostly on conspiracy theories. One of the main contributors praises Stalin and Lukashenko;
- Criminal experts: **“free speech is not absolute, there are limits”**. 4 cases have been brought to court.

Key Highlights

Estonia

- **German millionaire and conspiracy theorist** supports local alternative media to amplify spread of disinformation;
- **International trade:** German and Latin-American chlorine and mineral solution (MMS) sellers (COMUSAV) discover new clients in Estonia.;
- **No nation-wide strategy** and instruments to fight disinformation due to lack of political will.



„This statement was made“

By no one, ever



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