

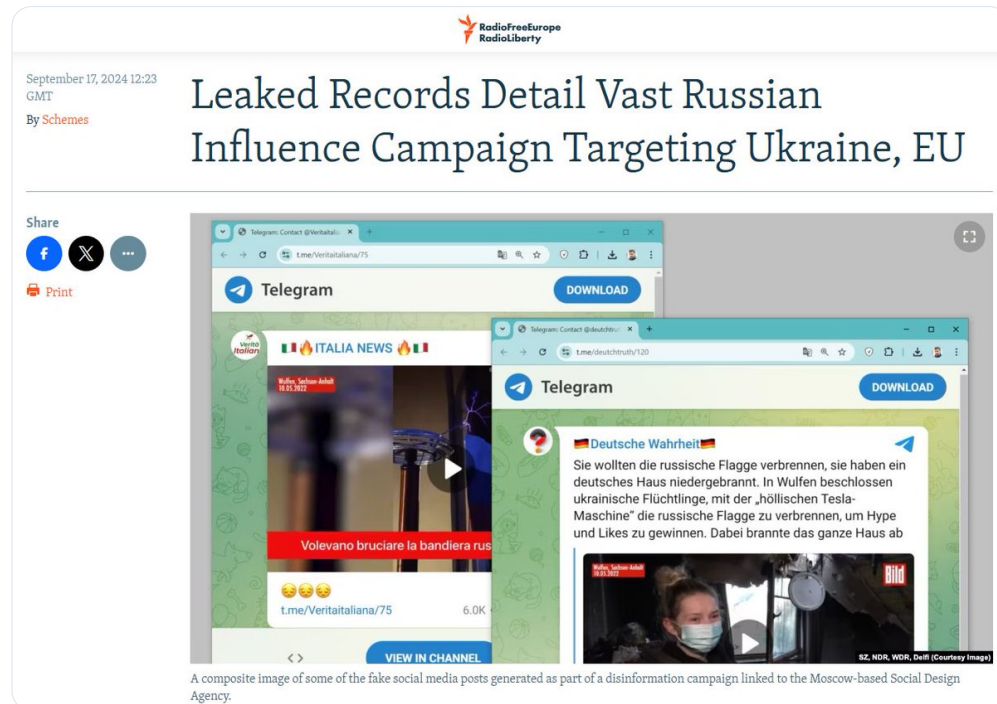


**Pekka Kallioniemi** @P\_Kallioniemi

Oct 13, 2024 · 18 tweets · [P\\_Kallioniemi/status/1845414270994882570](https://twitter.com/P_Kallioniemi/status/1845414270994882570)

In today's #vatniksoup, I'm going to outline the current situation in the West's information war against Russia & its allies. Currently, the West's counter-disinformation measures are severely underfunded, making it difficult to combat Russian influence operations effectively.

1/17



Europe today is repeating the same mistake in information warfare that it made in conventional warfare: we are not dedicating enough resources to counter it. Just as Europe was unprepared to fully support Ukraine and prepare for kinetic warfare against Russia,...

2/17

# Western ammo stocks at 'bottom of the barrel' as Ukraine war drags on, NATO official warns

By Brad Lendon, Radina Gigova, Fred Pleitgen and Kostyantyn Gak, CNN  
4 minute read · Updated 8:57 AM EDT, Wed October 4, 2023




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...we have been neglecting information warfare. Next year, Russia is reportedly set to spend around 3 billion USD on its information operations domestically and abroad, with allies like the CCP, Iran, and North Korea likely following suit.

LATEST NEWS UKRAINE

# Russia to spend \$ 118 million per month on state propaganda in 2025

The Kremlin's 2025 budget includes a \$72 million provision for propaganda efforts in occupied Ukrainian territories.

BY  **VIRA KRAVCHUK** - 07/10/2024 - 3 MINUTE READ



"Stars" of Russian propaganda (from L to R): Anton Krasovskiy, Dmitry Kiselyov, Margarita Simonyan. Collage IMI

COMMENTARY



## China and Russia are joining forces to spread disinformation

David Bandurski  
March 11, 2022



## North Korea hackers trying to steal nuclear secrets, US and UK warn

25 July 2024

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**Gordon Corera**

Security correspondent • [@gordancorera](#)



Bill Hinton

In the EU, each country has its own funding for countering disinformation and foreign influence operations, but these budgets are minuscule compared to what our adversaries spend. The farther a country is from Russia, the more vulnerable it becomes to these operations,...



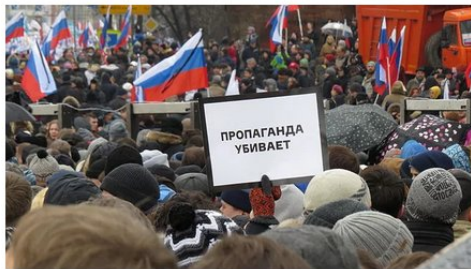
# EURASIA DAILY MONITOR

## Russian Disinformation Targets the European Union

Publication: Eurasia Daily Monitor Volume: 21 Issue: 142

By: Sergey Sukhankin

October 2, 2024 05:35 PM Age: 2 weeks



(Source: Putnik, via Wikimedia Commons)

### Executive Summary:

- Russia continues to conduct misinformation campaigns against Europe. As its war in Ukraine continues and Europeans become tired of the prolonged conflict, fewer people will be engaged and thus more susceptible to disinformation coming from Russia.
- Russia's current disinformation campaign revolves around three key ideas: the spread of anti-Ukrainian agendas, anti-EU themes and narratives, and the glorification of Russia, its military-political leadership, diplomacy, and economic "achievements."
- Ordinary people already see the problems within

European society that the European Union needs to solve, and it will only take a slight push from Russia to spur discontent among vulnerable populations against their governments' shortcomings.

...and the less it tends to spend — a very troubling trend. For example, Russia continues to carry out large-scale propaganda and “soft power” operations in Italy, and Spain's Vox party was funded in part by a bank owned by Viktor Orban, a close Russian ally.

Home > What's New > Italian companies still do business as usual with Russia



For years, Italy has been an important partner of Russia in the EU and remains so even now, staying one of the most liberal countries towards Russia. As of February 2022, about **500 Italian companies were permanently in Russia**, 70 of which had manufacturing facilities, 68 banks, and several law firms. A hundred of the top Italian companies in Russia provided jobs for 34,000 people in Russia, generated \$7.3 billion in annual revenue, and had \$6.8 billion in capital and \$7.6 billion in assets, KSE Institute reports. The most "dependent" on Russia, with a revenue share of more than 10%, have been Italian companies operating in three industries: Engineering, Food & Beverages, and Construction & Architecture.

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### **VOX admits to having received 9.2 million from a Hungarian bank close to Orbán**

The ultra party now claims that in Spain they did not give him funding for his electoral campaign



I recently attended the Disinfo 2024 conference, where much of the discussion centered on the West's successes in detecting Russian disinformation operations such as Doppelgänger. Since then, many more campaigns and operations have been uncovered by authorities,...

6/17



The screenshot shows the website of the Centre for Eastern Studies (OSW). The header includes the OSW logo and the text 'CENTRE FOR EASTERN STUDIES' and 'OŚRODEK STUDIÓW WSCHODNICH'. Navigation links for 'CENTRE', 'PUBLICATIONS', and 'CONTACT' are visible. The page content includes a breadcrumb 'Home / Publications', a date 'ANALYSES | 2024-09-13', and social media icons for email, Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn. The main title is 'Doppelgänger: the pattern of Russia's anti-Western influence operation' by Katarzyna Chawryło. The text discusses the US Department of Justice's findings on Russian influence operations in the West, mentioning targets like France, Germany, and Poland, and the methods used, which have been dubbed 'Doppelgänger'.

...investigative journalist groups, and researchers. Some examples include the money laundering operation involving the US-based social media company TENET Media, the Russian troll farm Social Design Agency (SDA), and a large-scale, automated fake news blog network...

7/17



[Carsten Reisinger/Shutterstock @watchTENET/YouTube](#) (Licensed)

## Media start-up from Benny Johnson, Tim Pool, and Dave Rubin was secret Russian influence campaign, indictment alleges

Famous pro-Trump commentators may have been unwittingly duped.



David Covucci

Tech

Posted on Sep 4, 2024 Updated on Sep 4, 2024, 6:01 pm CDT





Leaked internal documents from a Kremlin-controlled propaganda center reveal how a well-coordinated Russian campaign supported far-right parties in the European Parliament elections — and planted disinformation across social media platforms to undermine Ukraine.

Martin Laine (Delfi Estonia),  
Anastasiia Morozova (VSquare,  
FRONTSTORY.PL)



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voiced by AI

...organized from Moscow by the American vatnik, John Mark Dougan.

What the EU lacks is cooperation between countries and organizations, as well as a strong enough response to the nations orchestrating these operations.



As is tradition, the EU regulates, but regulation is always too slow to respond to the rapid pace of online operations. To effectively counter them, the West must develop a rapid response strategy. One such strategy is utilizing social media movements such as NAFO.

9/17

## Shaping Europe's digital future

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## The Digital Services Act package

The Digital Services Act and Digital Markets Act aim to create a safer digital space where the fundamental rights of users are protected and to establish a level playing field for businesses.

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# THE KYIV INDEPENDENT

Sunday, October 13, 2024


War Business Opinion Eastern Europe Video Culture Investigations War Crimes Dare to Ukraine Explaining Ukraine


OPINION, TECH

## Opinion: NAFO is waging Ukraine's meme war

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December 6, 2023 11:33 AM · 6 min read

 **David Kirichenko**  
Freelance journalist




The image shows a person holding a sign with a cartoon illustration of a dog wearing a blue jacket and yellow pants, holding a black assault rifle. The text on the sign reads "WE ARE Fella NAFO" in yellow and blue letters. To the right of the dog is a yellow trident symbol with a blue circle in the center containing a white trident. The background of the sign is a dark, textured surface.

The alarming conclusion is that the EU is consistently one step behind, struggling to recognize that the information war against Russia and its allies is an ongoing conflict—and at the moment, we are losing it badly.


10/17

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Poland tightens rules over cash-for-visas scandal



Portugal bids to end brain drain with tax break for young people



EU supports Moldova ahead of crucial referendum




Parliament: Iraq's Parliament must reject amendments to the Personal Status Law that violates women's fundamental rights

By Theodoros Benakis April 4, 2024







## As a new scandal with Russian spies emerges, the far-right rises in Austria

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Herbert Kickl as a speaker at the anti-corona measures demonstration on December 11, 2021, in Vienna.

Explore more

-  Spain's PM opens up pro-immigration policy
-  Poland tightens rules over cash-for-visas scandal
-  Portugal bids to end brain drain with tax break for young people
-  EU supports Moldova ahead of crucial referendum
-  Parliament: Iraq's Parliament must reject amendments to the Personal Status Law that violates women's fundamental rights
-  MEPs call China to immediately release Ilham Tohti and Gulshan Abbas, halt repression of Uyghurs

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POLITICS | RUSSIAN FEDERATION

## Russian propaganda celebrates German far right

Sergei Satanovskii 09/03/2024

In Russia media, commentators and pundits welcome the far-right gains in Germany's regional elections. They see it as supporting its interests in Ukraine, undermining German democracy and helping domestic propaganda.

f X



For Putin, the rise of the far right in Germany is a welcome propaganda tool

Image: Alexander Zemlianichenko/REUTERS

The situation in the US is even worse. Aside from recent Department of Justice indictments against TENET Media and the Doppelgänger project, the US is quickly heading toward a



reality where disinformation becomes a core political strategy,...

11/17

The screenshot shows the official website of the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Public Affairs. The header includes the department's logo, name, and navigation links such as 'Our Offices', 'Find Help', and 'Contact'. A search bar is also present. Below the header is a dark navigation bar with links for 'About', 'News', 'Documents', 'Internships', 'FOIA', 'Contact', and 'Information for Journalists'. The main content area features a breadcrumb trail: 'Justice.gov > Office of Public Affairs > News > Press Releases > Justice Department Disrupts Covert Russian Government-Sponsored Foreign Malign Influence Operation Targeting Audiences In The United States and Elsewhere'. On the left, there is a 'News' sidebar with links to 'All News', 'Blogs', 'Photo Galleries', and 'Podcasts'. The main headline reads: 'Justice Department Disrupts Covert Russian Government-Sponsored Foreign Malign Influence Operation Targeting Audiences in the United States and Elsewhere'. The word 'PRESS RELEASE' is displayed in blue above the headline.

...and foreign influence operations are largely ignored. Strong signals of this shift are coming from the Heritage Foundation's Project 2025, which is said to be a "blueprint for a Trump presidency" should he win the 2024 election:

12/17



**Pekka Kallioniemi**   
@P\_Kallioniemi · [Follow](#)



In today's #vatniksoup, I'll introduce an American conservative think tank, The Heritage Foundation (@Heritage). Heritage is best-known for opposing military aid to Ukraine and for their political initiative called Project 2025, a potential blueprint for a Trump presidency.

1/23



Heritage Foundation President Kevin Roberts with former president Donald Trump on a private plane in April 2022. (Obtained by The Washington Post)

12:07 PM · Oct 7, 2024



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The project proposes defunding the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), one of the key organizations combatting foreign influence and disinformation.

13/17

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**EXPERT BRIEF**

## Project 2025's Plan for Cybersecurity Agency Threatens Election Security

Gutting the Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency will leave our democracy more vulnerable to attack from malign actors at home and abroad.

[Derek Tisler](#) [Lawrence Norden](#)

**PUBLISHED:** August 1, 2024

**Defend Our Elections**  
• Election Security

Elon Musk's acquisition of Twitter has worsened this problem, and one large Russian operation even concluded that X is currently the only social media platform where you can conduct large-scale disinformation operations effectively.

14/17

**European Union**

🕒 This article is more than **4 months old**


## Elon Musk does not grasp EU fears about disinformation on X, official says

EU commissioner Vera Jourová says tech firms must hire staff versed in legal and historical context of free speech in Europe

● [Europe live - latest updates](#)

**Lisa O'Carroll in Brussels**  
Tue 4 Jun 2024 17:05 CEST

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📷 Vera Jourová said the spread of disinformation had intensified in the runup to the EU elections.  
Photograph: Geert Vanden Wijngaert/AP

Elon himself has spread propaganda memes produced by these troll farms. The Center for Countering Digital Hate has stated that Musk's fake posts on US elections have been seen over 1,2 billion times.

So, the future is looking pretty grim right now.

15/17

NEWS > POLITICS

## Elon Musk mocks Zelenskyy over calls for aid

Ukrainians hit back at SpaceX chief over 'Vein Popping Guy' meme.

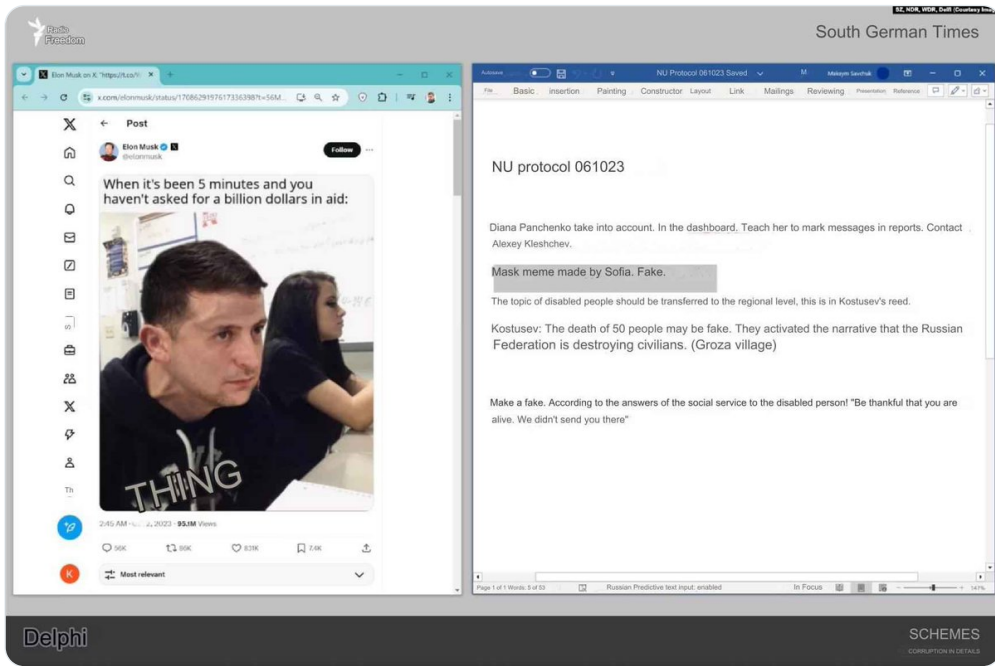
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"When it's been 5 min and you haven't asked for a billion dollars in aid," read Musk's message | Dimitrios Kambouris/Getty Images for The Met Museum/Vogue

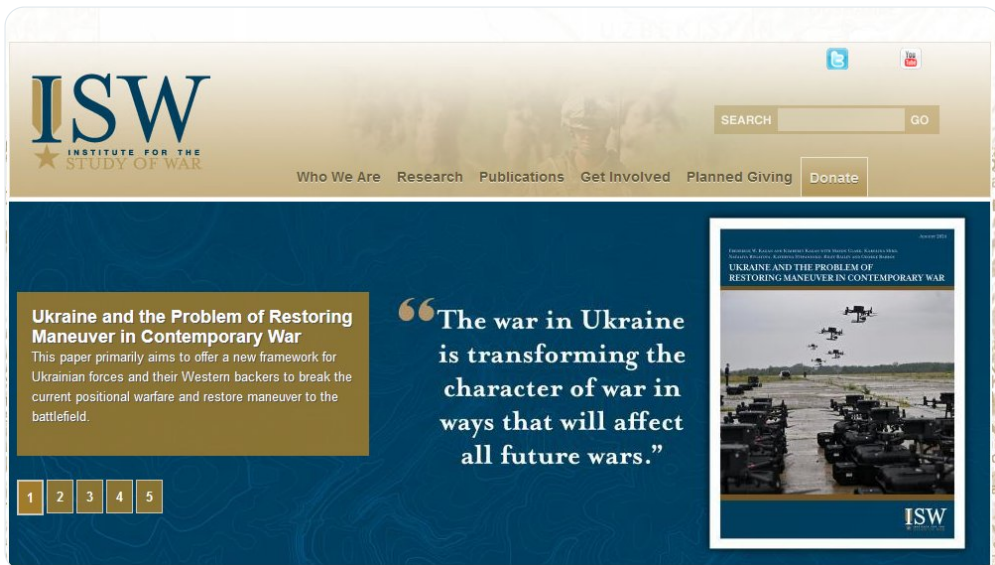
OCTOBER 2, 2023 1:04 PM CET  
BY VERONIKA MELKOZEROVA





However, there have been some positive signs and interesting developments. Through transparency, Western intelligence agencies and think tanks like the Institute for the Study of War have exposed several kinetic operations planned against Ukraine and the West.

16/17



## Russia-Ukraine: US warns of 'false-flag' operation

14 January 2022

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There are fears in Ukraine that Russia is planning an invasion

**Russia is plotting to stage acts of provocation to create a pretext to invade Ukraine, a US official has said.**

Now, we need to apply the same level of transparency to Russia's propagandists and their online operations. Doing so would greatly reduce their effectiveness against Western democracies.

Instead of always reacting and debunking, we need to start prebunking.


SPECIAL SERIES

Untangling Disinformation

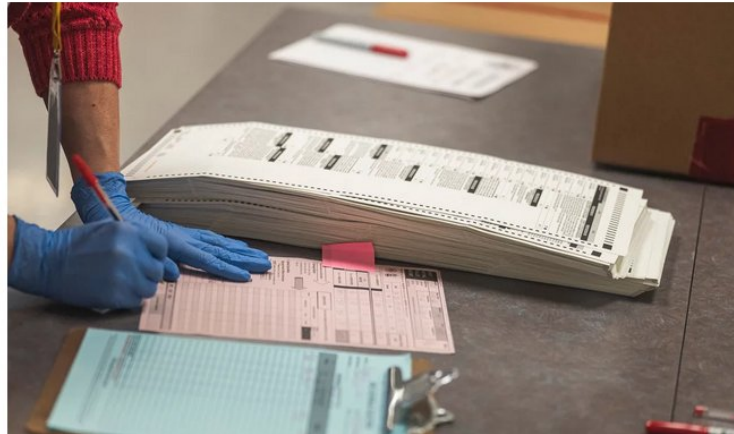
## False information is everywhere. 'Pre-bunking' tries to head it off early

OCTOBER 28, 2022 · 5:48 AM ET

HEARD ON ALL THINGS CONSIDERED

 Shannon Bond 3-Minute Listen

+ PLAYLIST



My book, titled *Vatnik Soup: The Ultimate Guide to Russian Disinformation*, has been published. You can order it here:

<https://kleart.dk/webshop/p/vatnik-soup>

Or on Amazon:

<https://www.amazon.com/Vatnik-Soup-Ultimate-Russian-Disinformation/dp/8792750400>

...