

Lithuania Weekly:

Distrust in Officials and Confusion between Private and Public Interests

Lithuania | Week 5 | Month 2
October 2nd - October 8th, 2023

New observations this week: 6
Main channel: Facebook

Main keywords:

government, misuse, self-benefit, corruption, confusion of interests

Main narratives:

- Anti-government
- General incompetence of leading officials
- Corrupt government

Overview:

Analysis of specifically Kremlin-aligned media in Lithuania revealed that these outlets continued to promote the anti-government narrative. All most engaged stories from this type of media outlet carried negative sentiments targeting the government, trying to turn its audience against the main ruling politicians or national institutions. In the centre of attention this week - Lithuanian Chief of Defence General Valdemaras Rupšys, who made headlines due to revelations about the (mis)use of his state allowance, which he used to rent an apartment from his son. Kremlin-aligned media, whose interest greatly corresponds with anti-government sentiments, widely covered this topic, emphasising the confusion between public and private interests. The authors used the situation to question the general's morals, negatively picturing not only him, but the whole ruling government and governance system in general. Kremlin-aligned media constantly use similar narratives to draw wider pictures at the national level, beyond single cases.