

Latvia Weekly:

Russian Language, passports and threat of muslim immigrants



Latvia | Week 16 | Month 4
December 18th - December 24th, 2023

New observations this week: 4
Main channels: Facebook, Tiktok

Main keywords:

Poverty, corruption, russian language, sanctions, migrants, Islam

Main narratives:

- Russian speakers will be disproportionately punished for speaking russian at home.
- The price for a passport is unproportional and people will not be able to afford them.
- The moon decoration in Riga is designed to condition kids to Islam and will lead to an influx of muslim immigrants.

Overview:

From the findings of the examined week, the main narratives concerned domestic issues such as corruption, life quality level, and Russian language use, remaining similar to the prior examined week. The content regarding the increase in passport prices, Russian language use, or potential migration often refers to the elderly population or children as social groups less protected within society. Moreover, some channels examined try to appeal to both Latvian and Russian-speaking audiences by simultaneously criticizing Russia yet encouraging Russian language use. Similarly, as in the prior weeks, the comment section is becoming more critical of the narratives expressed. However, regarding corruption, the expressed narrative is more highly supported by the audience and often includes hate speech towards leading politicians. The form of the content that reaches the highest engagement remains to be in video format.