

# Disinformation Monitoring Monthly Report

- Latvia
- Month 12
- August, 2024



# Key insights:

During the reporting month, the content primarily examined topics such as the incompetence of the Latvian government and the corruption within it. The main narratives are as follows:

- Latvia's government is corrupt and incompetent;
- Latvia is an economically worse state than other Baltic countries;
- State and mass media are not reliable information sources.

# Overview of findings:



- In the reporting month, TikTok, Telegram, Facebook, and X platforms were monitored. Content in video format achieves the most engagement, making TikTok and Facebook the primary channels for disseminating disinformation. A total of 230 posts were examined, and the number of posts has increased by approximately 50 compared to the previous examined month.
- Similar to prior months, the content primarily revolves around domestic issues such as corruption, language policies, and economic development. In the examined month, a substantial amount of content focused on the construction of RailBaltica. Opposition party leaders heavily critique the construction timeline and costs to showcase the incompetence and corruption of the government.
- Within the examined platforms, engagement on TikTok and Facebook is largely supportive indicating that the target audiences are more susceptible to the disinformation narratives. Additionally, TikTok is the platform with the most engagement from Russian speakers. In contrast, the content examined on platform X usually receives more critical engagement often fact-checking the content posted.

# Story of the month:



## Vai tas nepārtrauktais kara informatīvais fons, kas šobrīd ir Latvijas medijos, motivēs jaunām ģimenēm laist pasaulē bērnus un palikt Latvijā? / Is the constant informative war backdrop that is currently within the Latvian media motivating young people to give birth and stay in Latvia?

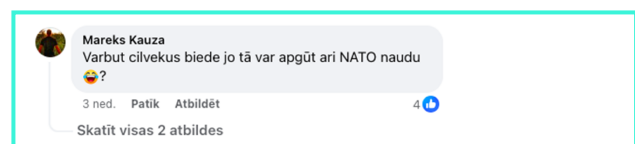
<https://fb.watch/uo06UpRDDA/>

The video published on Facebook features a snippet from a debate with a member of the opposition party LPV (Latvija Pirmajā Vieta/Latvia in First Place) commenting on the decreasing birth rates in Latvia being linked to security concerns and fears of the upcoming war. Instead of discussing how to diminish security concerns, the member of the opposition party chooses to blame the war being discussed in the media as such. As depicted by the title given to the video, the constant informative content about the Russian war in Ukraine is harmful to increasing demography. By making such statements the opposition party is suggesting that war should not be as widely discussed as well as implying that the security concerns are not as high. By doing so, the opposition party is hiding behind a seemingly innocent concern of the decreasing demography in Latvia whilst trying to diminish attention given to Ukraine in media and Russia as a security concern. Additionally, the opposition party uses a similar strategy to portray the [European Union as having a negative impact on Latvia](#) and [RailBaltica being a project for corruption](#) as both the former and latter have been significant in increasing the security of the Baltic States. In addition, the opposition party despite condemning the war has positive sentiments towards

policies favoring [Russia](#) and [Russian speakers](#) in Latvia. Most recently, the leader of the party Ainārs Šlesers has been linked to a prominent Russian family that is close to Putin having [funded his prior political party campaign](#).

The video received 15 thousand views, 145 likes and 29 comments which is comparatively high engagement to other videos published on Facebook. The sentiment in the comment section shows both support and criticism of the political party.

1. "Maybe they are scaring people just to get NATO money?"



2. "Panic causer! It is a pity that such panic is spread by state television. If children had not been born in LV during the Second World War, LV might not exist either. Currently, there is neither war nor serious threat in LV. Bigger than other countries of the region."



**Guntis Garda**

Panikas cēlāja ! Ļoti žēl , ka šādu paniku izplata valsts televīzija . Ja otrā pasaules kara laikā LV nebūtu dzimuši bērni , tad LV varbūt arī nebūtu . Šobrīd LV nav ne karš , ne nopietns apdraudējums . Lielāks kā citām reģiona valstīm .

2 ned. Patik Atbildēt

3. "If you conduct a survey of students, every third person says: I will finish school, I will go abroad to work, because my parents are already there. Every second they think about whether to stay or leave, but the others count on the state to feed them. It is so true."



**Vadim Lazarev**

Если провести опрос у школьников, каждый третий говорит: Закончу школу, уеду за границу работать, так как там уже родители. Каждый второй в раздумье, остаться или уехать, ну и оставшиеся рассчитывают что страна их будет кормить. Такова правда. ...

3 ned. Patik Atbildēt Skatīt tulkojumu

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