



**MONITORING REPORT**  
**of television stations from the Russian Federation that are rebroadcast in**  
**the Republic of Moldova**  
*(General conclusions<sup>1</sup>)*

nr. 1,  
27 March 2017 – 10 April 2017

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<sup>1</sup> The full report in Romanian is published on the website [www.api.md](http://www.api.md):  
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## **I. GENERAL INFORMATION**

During the period 27 March 2017 - 26 April 2017, the Association of Independent Press (API) is carrying out the monitoring of the content of five most important TV stations from the Russian Federation, which are rebroadcast in the Republic of Moldova by local broadcasters, in order to identify and analyze the messages conveyed by these media outlets on some sensitive issues, including issues of regional and geopolitical importance.

### **Goal of monitoring**

Analysis and public reporting of propaganda and information manipulation messages used by media institutions that are rebroadcast in the Republic of Moldova, related to most important regional and international topics/issues.

Development, on the basis of the results of monitoring, of suggestions and recommendations aiming at ensuring protection of Moldovan information space against propaganda messages, fake news and media manipulation, transmitted by the TV stations that are rebroadcast from abroad.

### **TV stations that are being monitored**

Under this project, API is conducting monitoring of the content of five most relevant Russian TV stations rebroadcasted in the Republic of Moldova, namely:

- *Pervii Kanal*, rebroadcasted in the Republic of Moldova by *PrimeTV* (broadcast license holder: „General Media Group Corp” S.R.L.; administrator: Petru Jelihovschi; owner/final beneficiary: Vladimir Plahotniuc),
- *RTR*, rebroadcasted in the Republic of Moldova by *RTR Moldova* (broadcast license holder: „TV-Comunicații Grup” S.R.L.; administrator: Evghenii Sergheev; owners/final beneficiaries: «Российское общество по организации и управлению проектами в области средств массовой информации и массовых коммуникаций» – 50%, Valentina Stețco – 25%, „SB Grup Media” SRL – 25%),
- *NTV*, rebroadcasted in the Republic of Moldova by *NTV Moldova* (broadcast license holder: P.P. „Exclusiv Media” S.R.L.; administrator: Petru Burduja; owner/final beneficiary: Corneliu Furculița),
- *REN TV*, rebroadcasted in the Republic of Moldova by *REN Moldova* (broadcast license holder: „TELEPROIECT” S.R.L.; administrator: Victor Marcenco; owners/final beneficiaries: AT Intermedia, Veaceslav Fiodorov),
- *STS*, rebroadcasted in the Republic of Moldova by *STS Moldova* (broadcast license holder: „Real Radio” S.R.L.; administrator: Victoria Rusu; owner/final beneficiary: Dorin Pavelescu).

### **Subject to monitoring**

We monitor the original programs of the five TV channels retransmitted in the Republic of Moldova between 06.00 and 24.00, over the period 27 March 2017 – 26 April 2017, which directly or indirectly addressed the most important regional and international issues / topics that are named under this monitoring “sensitive issues”.

### **The list of sensitive issues:**

1. Internal situation in Ukraine, the Russian Federation relations with Ukraine and any other issue related directly or indirectly to Ukraine.

2. Situation within the European Union in general, in any EU member state, the EU relations with the Russian Federation and any other issue related directly or indirectly to the EU, including BREXIT.
3. Internal situation in the US, the Russian Federation relations with the US.
4. Internal situation in the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation relations with Moldova and any other issue related directly or indirectly to Moldova.
5. Coverage of issues that are directly or indirectly related to NATO, including NATO and the USA involvement in regional and international conflicts.
6. Coverage of issues relating to the CIS, the Eurasian Union, the Russian Federation cooperation with former Soviet Union republics.
7. Coverage of debates, discussions, negotiations at international level, on topics covering military conflicts or other conflicts worldwide.
8. Coverage of other controversial topics where the Russian Federation position contrasts with the position of other countries or groups of countries.
9. The content that promotes the geopolitical interests of the Russian Federation and Vladimir Putin as the leader able to influence/solve problems internationally.
10. The content that opposes European culture and values, materials attacking lifestyles in other countries and broadcasting distorted messages.

*(the list of sensitive issues could be complemented during monitoring)*

The following types of programs, including those retransmitted over the period under monitoring **are being monitored**:

- News bulletins;
- Analytical programs;
- Talk-shows and other programs with guests in the studio or guests interviewed live "remotely" or in advance;
- Analytical programs hosted by one journalist;
- Entertainment programs;
- Russian documentaries and movies;

**Content that is not being monitored:**

- Programs made by Moldovan stations / companies retransmitting Russian TV stations or other programs by Moldovan companies;
- Commercials and advertising programs;
- Sports competitions;
- Movies other than Russian.

## **II. GENERAL CONCLUSIONS (27 March 2017 – 10 April 2017)**

**Most often, journalistic materials on sensitive issues (*see above*) were approached by monitored Russian TV stations from the perspective of the responsibility of Ukraine, the European Union, the US and NATO for all negative things happening in the region and worldwide; of promotion and support of Russia's official position and the role of the Russian Federation and its leader Vladimir Putin as the only true fighter against terrorism, loyal defender of democratic values and Christianity under the conditions where the EU morally degrades and is on the verge of disintegration, while the US and NATO pursue only war and destabilization. Messages supporting**

**these viewpoints were disseminated in various types of programs monitored, especially in news, talk shows, and analytical programs.**

### **PERVYI KANAL**

News and information and analytical programs of Pervyi Kanal TV station, rebroadcast in the Republic of Moldova by Prime TV, systematically show and intensively promote anti-Ukrainian, anti-European and anti-Western messages, with the obvious aim of influencing viewers' attitudes and beliefs. Thus, these messages evince pronounced propaganda, while manipulation techniques are very diverse: tendentious presentation of regional and international events, in particular, the situation in Ukraine, Iraq and Syria, exacerbation of facts, unilateral presentation of information from a single source or from anonymous sources, artificial enhancement of the scope of events, biased interpretation and comments, manipulation by using images and headlines, etc.

In talk shows, discussions and debates are simulated; the overwhelming majority of the guests constantly support the official point of view / opinion of Russian authorities, usually with fierce criticism towards the realities and official representatives of Ukraine, EU, US and NATO. The audience is selected to create agitation and support, through orchestrated applause, those who promote the official position of Russia and, on the other hand, to discourage opponents of official position in different ways (noise, cries, offenses and foul language). There are very few people having a different opinion and as a rule they are not able to express their viewpoints till the end since they are constantly interrupted and even verbally abused by the opponents, people from the audience or moderators of the shows. In order to convey subliminal messages and manipulate viewers' opinion, there were often used caricatures, collages and other fake images that show in a bad light the leaders of Ukraine and European/Western partners of this country, while the screen in the studio displayed hash tags that did not necessarily reflected the topic of the show: #безправил, #украинизация, #антиРоссия, #страна404, #укрошенко, #украинатеррористы, #европейскиеценности, #трампслил, #похищениеЕС, #НАТО etc.

Synthesis programs promoted intensely official vision and position of Russia and speeches by Vladimir Putin, exaggerated or made fun of statements by the EU and US leaders, events in some European countries, by opposing them to realities in Russia that were presented in an exclusively good light.

### **REN TV**

Most news and shows that related to or focused on regional and global events with international political and / or geopolitical impact broadcast by REN TV, rebroadcast by REN Moldova, resorted to information manipulation procedures, including news without indicating sources or with anonymous sources, tendentious presentation, exaggeration and exacerbation of facts and realities within the EU, Ukraine, USA, biased comments and interpretation of facts, manipulation of images, etc. In some cases, shocking images were used with a view of amplifying messages. Systematic presentation of the same messages is evidence of the propaganda character of these programs.

The analytical programs hosted by a journalist were tendentious; evincing clear elements of anti-Ukrainian, anti-EU, and anti-US and anti-NATO propaganda. Hosts of the shows had a high tone of voice, derogatory or aggressive rhetoric, while accusations against Ukraine, Europe or the USA, were uttered bluntly and repeated several times. The situation in Ukraine was shown only in a bad light; the authorities of this country were accused, labeled and defamed; realities in the EU member states were often ridiculed, generalized and presented in a biased way as evidence of the EU decay

and degradation. In contrast, the Russian Federation and its leader Vladimir Putin were often depicted as champions of democracy and human rights, brutally disrespected by the US, NATO and Ukraine, protected by the EU.

### **RTR**

News and programs of RTR channel, rebroadcast by RTR Moldova, made use of a number of manipulation and propaganda procedures such as filtering issues, exaggerating facts, biased information on motives and the way the events occurred, pseudo-diversity of opinions manifested by selection of sources and opinions expressing the same idea and conveying the same message, manipulation of texts and images, including by constantly repeating the same terms and images in order to influence on the subconscious of the target audience. Most often, RTR resorted to exacerbation of facts in news, either by paying too much attention to details or by exaggerating facts; failed to ensure pluralism of opinion, the sources of information being dependent on each other, with pro-Russian, anti-Ukraine, anti-US and anti-NATO views. Synthesis programs emphasized pro-Kremlin views, the way of selecting issues and the presentation format being evidence of subjectivity and biased attitude of the authors. Within talk-shows, the debates were mimicked; people who had been invited expressed the same point of view, which coincided with that of the moderator.

### **NTV**

News bulletins rebroadcast by NTV Moldova were relatively balanced, compared to the original content broadcast by the site [www.ntv.ru](http://www.ntv.ru). There were no obvious attempts of propaganda in the news. However, in some cases there were used manipulation techniques and procedures such as information filtering, selection of sources, exaggeration of facts and tendentiousness. The sources of information were mainly public officials, activists, experts, citizens with pro-Russian, anti-Ukraine and anti-US visions, without including alternative views and giving the right to reply. Sometimes conflicting news reports included the opinions of the accused party, but these were only brief, superficial interventions that were unable to shed light on the conflict situation. The analytical programs hosted by a journalist were tendentious; some of them contained visible propaganda elements meant to promote the exclusiveness of the army and Russian secret services. In some materials, there were used different information manipulation techniques such as labeling or presenting information on a sarcastic and bantering tone, using pejorative terms towards an event or a person, while images and videos were selected so that they show the protagonists in a bad light.

### **STS**

STS channel did not broadcast news bulletins or programs relevant to this monitoring. The entertainment show «6 кадров» that is made up of various sketches, includes sequences that subtly convey anti-European messages, such as the message that the European Union is an amorphous structure, while the member states lose their identity, that Germany would be an enemy of Russia, and the Netherlands would be a nursery for people with non-traditional sexual orientation.

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