DISINFORMATION TRENDS
MONITORING SNAPSHOT 6

26 November - 9 December 2024

SUMMARY

DFRLab conducts a **bimonthly analysis** of data based on a search query including Ukrainian, Russian and English languages to identify when spikes of CBRN disinformation narratives are spreading. This report (26 November - 9 December) saw a wave of **unverified claims that repeat the "US-funded biolabs" narrative**; there was also a continuation of **allegations that the US might equip Ukraine with nuclear weapons**; and finally, ongoing **claims of the potential of nuclear escalation**.

CHEMICAL DISINFORMATION:

False claims about the practice of "chemtrailing" in Europe

BIOLOGICAL DISINFORMATION:

Repeating claims about US-funded biolabs in Ukraine and return of the "Covid-19 is bioweapon" narrative

RADIOLOGICAL AND NUCLEAR DISINFORMATION:

Unfounded discussions about the possibility of US transferring nuclear weapons to Ukraine and claims about possible nuclear escalation

EXAMPLES OF DISINFORMATION NARRATIVE TRENDS

CHEMICAL DISINFORMATION

Sources: X *Twitter/X*
- False claims about "chemtrailing" in Europe

BIOLOGICAL DISINFORMATION

Sources: Telegram; Twitter/X

- Repeated claims about US-funded biolabs in Ukraine
- Conspiracy theories about COVID-19 being a bioweapon developed with US funding

RADIOLOGICAL AND NUCLEAR DISINFORMATION

Sources: Telegram; Twitter/X; Youtube

- Claims that the US is considering transferring nuclear weapons to Ukraine and is pushing the country towards nuclear escalation ([link](#))
- Deputy Chairman of the Security Council of Russia Dmitry Medvedev's claims about potential nuclear scenarios ([link](#))

BRICS News @BRICSinfo — JUST IN: Russia's Dmitry Medvedev says if the West transfers nuclear weapons to Ukraine, it will be equated to an attack on Moscow, providing grounds for a nuclear response.

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IDENTIFYING DISINFORMATION TRENDS

The Global Partnership against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction (GP) is committed to strengthening WMD disarmament and nonproliferation efforts. Disinformation campaigns significantly undermine cooperative threat reduction efforts. The GP Counter WMD Disinformation Initiative aims to track ongoing narratives, understand their impacts and counter state-sponsored or state-adjacent disinformation across Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) threats.

Narrative Trend Monitoring: As part of the GP efforts to identify, understand, and mitigate hostile CBRN disinformation, the Atlantic Council's Digital Forensic Research Lab (DFRLab) conducts a bimonthly search query of state-sponsored or state-adjacent disinformation narratives. This real-time detection allows the initiative to swiftly recognize, isolate and respond to disinformation narratives and networks as they occur.

Methodology: This snapshot report is created from a search query that includes content in Ukrainian, Russian, and English languages, providing an extended search base and corpus of analysis and scale. The focus of the query is centered around CBRN--related messages about the Russian War on Ukraine on social media platforms and online news websites. The report provides examples of notable messages that are likely to include disinformation or key discussions that might be used in mis/disinformation in the future.

Disclaimer: Links are provided for published news sources of official state accounts; links to private accounts are excluded for privacy preservation reasons.