

# DISINFORMATION TRENDS MONITORING SNAPSHOT 9

21 January – 3 February, 2025



## 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 (21 January–3 February, 2025) saw **no significant chemical weapon narratives**; at the same time there was a wave of **claims about alleged Armed Forces of Ukraine (AFU) drone attacks against Smolensk nuclear power plant (NPP)**; re-emerging **speculation about Ukraine receiving nuclear weapons**; new **claim about Ukraine's potential development of nuclear weapons or a "dirty bomb"** based on seismic activity in Chernivtsi, Ukraine; an ongoing number of **claims about biolabs in Ukraine**; and developing narratives about **US funded bioweapon development, including in Ukraine**.



### BIOLOGICAL DISINFORMATION:

*Continued narrative of US-funded biolabs in Ukraine*



### RADIOLOGICAL AND NUCLEAR DISINFORMATION:

*Claims about alleged AFU drone attacks against Smolensk NPP in Russia and claims about development of nuclear weapons in Ukraine*

## EXAMPLES OF DISINFORMATION NARRATIVE TRENDS

### BIOLOGICAL DISINFORMATION

Sources: Twitter/X; Telegram

- Ongoing claims about biolabs in Ukraine



# RADIOLOGICAL AND NUCLEAR DISINFORMATION

Sources: Telegram; X Twitter/X; Web Articles; YouTube


- Unfounded claims of nuclear or “dirty bomb” development by Ukraine based on seismic activity
- Claims of Armed Forces of Ukraine (AFU) drone attacks against Smolensk nuclear power plant (NPP) ([link](#), [link](#))

тенденции. Вот данные по годам:

- 2005: 1 землетрясение (magnitude 2.0)
- 2006: 1 землетрясение (magnitude 2.4)
- 2007: 1 землетрясение (magnitude 3.3)
- 2010: 1 землетрясение (magnitude 3.4)
- 2011: 1 землетрясение (magnitude 3.2)
- 2012: 1 землетрясение (magnitude 3.5)
- 2013: 1 землетрясение (magnitude 4.5)
- 2015: 1 сильное землетрясение (magnitude 4.7-4.8) в Полтавской области
- 2020-2024: В среднем около 75 небольших землетрясений в год 1 2 4 5.

юго-востоку от Полтавы 3 км. Землетрясение было зарегистрировано в юго-востоке, в Черновицкой области. Он был на глубине 3 км.

By the way, about these very earthquakes. In the Chernivtsi region, where until 2022 almost no tremors were recorded, suspicious earthquakes began to occur regularly at a depth of about 3 kilometers. This region is rarely bombed, the region is not seismically active, but according to open sources, it began to shake regularly. And the solution is banal. It is there that the hohols, underground, test their nuclear weapons, the materials for which were obtained from the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant and some materials are received from the Rivne and Khmelnytskyi Nuclear Power Plants. Some experts point to the testing of the so-called dirty bomb, while others point to full-fledged tests of tactical nuclear weapons. I am sure that at H-hour, if the war continues, the hohols will definitely pull out this trump card from their sleeve. Live with it now.



Ukrainian Armed Forces UAVs attempted to attack a nuclear power facility in the Smolensk region and an oil company in the Nizhny Novgorod region

Last night, Ukrainian militants once again attempted to attack enterprises in Russia.

Several civilian facilities were subjected to a massive attack in the Smolensk region. Several UAVs were destroyed by air defense and electronic warfare systems, and one of the devices was shot down while attempting to attack a nuclear power facility. This was reported by Governor Vasily Anokhin. This is probably the Smolensk NPP. There are no casualties or damage.

Nizhny Novgorod Region Governor Gleb Nikitin also reported that as a result of repelling a UAV attack on the territory of one of the enterprises in the Kstovo industrial zone, fragments of the drone fell. According to preliminary data, there are no casualties either.

## 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.*