DISINFORMATION TRENDS MONITORING SNAPSHOT 13



18 - 31 March 2025

SUMMARY



DFRLab conducts a **bimonthly analysis** of data based on a search query including **Ukrainian, Russian, and English** languages to identify spikes in CBRN disinformation narratives. This report (18 – 31 March 2025) reveals an **influx of nuclear-related narratives and chatter on both Telegram and X** (formerly Twitter) focused on discourse around **potential ownership of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant (NPP)**; as well as claims about the **Armed Forces of Ukraine (AFU) allegedly attacking Russian NPPs and nuclear air carrier fields**; claims the AFU is **hiding military equipment near nuclear substations** to avoid Russian strikes; allegations of NPP disrepair in Ukraine; and general fear mongering **speculating on the possibility of nuclear war**. There have been some messages talking about the **existence of US-funded biolabs in Ukraine and Armenia** but most biological narratives centered around claims tied to the **Covid-19 virus and vaccines**, labeling them as bioweapons. Significant narratives around chemical weapons continue to be

detected at lower volumes.



BIOLOGICAL DISINFORMATION:

Some claims centered around US-funded biolabs in Ukraine and Armenia



RADIOLOGICAL AND NUCLEAR DISINFORMATION:

Allegations of AFU strikes against Russian NPPs and claims of disrepair at Ukrainian NPPs

EXAMPLES OF DISINFORMATION NARRATIVE TRENDS

BIOLOGICAL DISINFORMATION

Sources: < Telegram; X Twitter/X

· Claims about US-funded biolabs in Ukraine and Armenia

RADIOLOGICAL AND NUCLEAR DISINFORMATION

Sources: Telegram; X TwitterlX;
Web Articles

Chatter about potential ownership of ZNPP following Ukraine-US negotiations on the resource deal (link)

- Claims of AFU attacks against a number of Russian nuclear-related objects
 - Claims of AFU attacks against Kursk NPP as a policy-making tool (link)
 - Claims about AFU attacks in proximity to Rostov NPP
 - Claims about potential nuclear fallout from AFU's attacks against Engels airbase, which houses some of Russia's nuclear carriers

Interesting information about the service life of nuclear power plants in Ukraine.

All but the second unit of the Khmelnitsky NPP and the fourth unit of the Rivne NPP have already exceeded their design service life.

In 2015, before Ukraine became untouchable in the media, European publications accused it of a nuclear threat to Europe - due to the extension of the service life of nuclear power plants WITHOUT REPAIR and maintenance. The European Commission even issued an official statement recognizing Ukraine as a violator of the Espoo Convention and a country that does not monitor its nuclear reactors.

Since then, nothing has changed at all - Ukraine does not carry out serious maintenance and simply extends the service life of outdated nuclear power plants over and over again. But sooner or later, the problem will reach a critical point

Image 1

Russia and the United States have agreed on a list of facilitie...

Ukrainian Armed Forces are hiding particularly valuable weapons at substations connecting nuclear power plants media outlets citing representatives of the pro-Russian underground

 Claims Ukraine's NPPs are not maintained and much of the equipment is past its expiration date (Image 1)

 Claims NATO troops shouldn't have access to ZNPP due to their alleged anti-Russian agenda (link) (Image 2)



6,P

WMD COUNTER



After agreements on not striking the energy system, the

Image 2

 Claims Ukraine is hiding military equipment near nuclear substations to prevent Russian strikes (Image 3)

Image 3

- Continued discussion about placement of nuclear warheads in Europe and possibility of future nuclear weapon development
 - Claims France's statements on nuclear weapons will lead to nuclear escalation

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.



⊕ GPWMDcounterdisinfo.com X @GPctrDisinfo GPWMDcounterdisinfo W @gp-wmdctrdisinfo.bsky.social GPWMD.CounterDisinfo@Gmail.com



2