

Disinformation Review Issue No 43 - 11 October

Date	Language / Targeted Audience	Summary of the Disinformation	Link to the Disinformation	Disinforming outlet (s)	Disproof	Reported by
22.09.2016	RUS	Ukrainian leadership is employing foreign mercenaries. A unit of 14 "Arab-looking" foreigners has arrived at the town of Trehizbenka in the Luhansk region.	http://bit.ly/2dD3jxV	miaistok.ru	No evidence given. The separatists' outlet MIA Istok is known for spreading disinformation.	Oleksandr Nykonorov, journalist for Depo.ua, blogger, researcher
22.09.2016	RUS	Ukraine is responsible for ordering the murder of Evgeny Zhilin, the separatist leader of the pro-Russian, anti-Maidan Oplot organisation, deemed terrorist by the Ukrainian government.	http://bit.ly/2d0JuPA	Videoblog Yuriya Kotyanka	No evidence given. The most common theory is that Zhilin was killed by a business rival. http://bit.ly/2dU959T	Oleksandr Nykonorov, journalist for Depo.ua, blogger, researcher
27.09.2016	RUS	An officer of the "National Militia" of the "Luhansk People's Republic" has pleaded with the OSCE mission in Ukraine to protect his family from attacks by Ukrainian special forces, which are threatening and terrorising him and his family, and has already taken away his children.	http://bit.ly/2dU3L6h	miaistok.su	No evidence given. The separatists' outlet MIA Istok is known for spreading disinformation.	Oleksandr Nykonorov, journalist for Depo.ua, blogger, researcher
27.09.2016	RUS	Officers of the Ukrainian Armed Forces are selling petrol to locals in exchange for alcohol and are taking away money from local businessmen transporting goods.	http://bit.ly/2dLdWen	miaistok.su	No evidence given. The separatists' outlet MIA Istok is known for spreading disinformation.	Oleksandr Nykonorov, journalist for Depo.ua, blogger, researcher
27.09.2016	BLR	After the Trump-Clinton debate, only experts gave victory to Hillary Clinton. TV channels, a range of media outlets and social networks considered Donald Trump the winner. Therefore, in accordance with TIME magazine online survey Trump won.	http://bit.ly/2dPlcl9	sputnik.by	In fact, the TIME website indicates that opinions were divided 50-50 between Clinton and Trump, an assessment based on 1 788 988 votes. The disclaimer on the poll page suggests that the data is not as accurate as in regular polls, for the reason that in this case "what they are counting is the number of Internet-devices controlled by people who want to vote" (http://ti.me/2cGV5BN). According to the CNN poll, Clinton won according to 57% of the audience. http://politi.co/2dRvTb6 Furthermore, only two media outlets - the Hill and Breitbart – specified that Trump won the debates on the basis of opinion polls of its audiences.	EAST Center Research Fellow Veranika Laputka

28.09.2016	RUS	Ukrainian Ministry of Defence invites militants from the so-called Donetsk People's Republic and Luhansk People's Republic into service.	http://bit.ly/2e1G7Fz http://bit.ly/2dUgJB7	ukraina.ru informburo. dn.ua	As per the Facebook account of Ukrainian Defence Ministry's spokesperson, Andrei Lysenko, fighters who will have brought a unit of enemy equipment to the Ukrainian side have a right to a reduction or an exemption from punishment, and to a cash compensation. The initiative is part of the "Make money while saving lives" campaign. http://bit.ly/2dDiAyR	StopFake.org
29.09.2016	RUS	The Swedish Prime Minister thanked Finland for upholding diplomatic relations with Russia.	http://bit.ly/2dGHjjC	TASS	The Swedish Prime minister did not thank Finland for upholding the relations, but merely stated that there is a forum where Finland and Russia meet and that there are different ways of creating dialogue. http://bit.ly/2dMzqXm	East StratCom Network
29.09.2016	RUS	Ukraine's legal framework and morality have been destroyed. The government has many sympathisers with neo-Nazi ideas, and "honest neo-Nazis" are fighting to get in. Ukraine is heading towards becoming a Nazi regime.	http://bit.ly/2dD7ZU1	Videoblog Yuriya Kotyanka	Extremists and provocateurs, to whom the Russian media devote much attention, are indeed one of the threats faced across the country. But they constitute a very small minority. The vast majority of Ukrainians want peace, stability and democracy, as witnessed by the democratic and inclusive Presidential elections held on 25 May 2014. This was reconfirmed by the parliamentary elections of 26 October 2014, where parties devoted to democratic values received the strong majority of votes. The far-right Right Sector (often depicted as "fascists" by pro-Kremlin outlets) gained only 1.8% of the votes, far short of the threshold needed to enter parliament. Ukraine's electorate clearly voted for unity and moderation, not separatism or extremism, and the composition of the parliament reflects that (http://bit.ly/1Tdu8Qw).	Oleksandr Nykonorov, journalist for Depo.ua, blogger, researcher
30.09.2016	RUS	International observers have noted that separatists of the "Luhansk People's Republic" are rebuilding the infrastructure in the region and that the Ukrainian Armed Forces are breaching the Minsk Agreements.	http://bit.ly/2dDOtnu	miaistok.su	The invited observers were people with clearly pro-Kremlin views, many of them known for their far-right and/or extremist views. http://bit.ly/2e1remD	Oleksandr Nykonorov, journalist for Depo.ua, blogger, researcher

30.09.2016	CZE	The German government and intelligence services criminalise criticism of immigration policies and speculations about the establishment of organised units terrorising the opposition are growing. This is proven by a recent arson attack on the chairwoman of AfD Frauke Petry. Furthermore, crime and sexual assaults perpetrated by Muslims have increased in large cities in Germany, making it almost impossible to go out in the evenings.	http://bit.ly/2dDIH8O	protiproud.parlamentnilisty.cz	No evidence given for the claim that the opposition is oppressed by the government. The assault on Frauke Petry was carried out by an unknown perpetrator and the German police are investigating the case (http://bit.ly/2cF0IPJ). According to the German Federal Office of Criminal Investigation (BKA) the number of crimes committed by refugees has risen proportionally slower than the number of refugees: (http://bit.ly/2aauKYS).	Kremlin Watch (European Values think-tank), http://www.europeanvalues.net/kremlinwatch/
30.09.2016	ENG	"Tens of thousands" of pre-marked ballots for Hillary Clinton were discovered in a warehouse in Ohio by an electrician, according to Christian Times, which also published a picture of the happy finder.	http://bit.ly/2dg20Cn	Christian Times	No evidence given (http://bit.ly/2cHOG60). The picture was actually taken in Birmingham in 2015 (http://bit.ly/2dCfWHc).	Kremlin Watch (European Values think-tank), http://www.europeanvalues.net/kremlinwatch/
01.10.2016	RUS	Private armies and special forces are ready to take down the governments of any of the former Soviet Republics in case they dare to only look in the direction of Russia.	http://bit.ly/2e50dCz	Voyennaya taina @ REN TV	No evidence given. Voyennaya taina is known for its pro-Kremlin conspiracy theories.	East StratCom Network
01.10.2016	RUS	Western permissiveness and disregard for traditional values is causing the downfall of civilisation, especially as regards the loose morals of its youth, which respects no authority.	http://bit.ly/2dDTEUk	Territorya zabluzhdenyi @ REN TV	"Traditional values" of any kind are not opposed in the EU as long as they do not contradict basic human rights and freedoms and democratic principles.	Oleksandr Nykonorov, journalist for Depo.ua, blogger, researcher
01.10.2016	RUS	The US is a country that operates outside of the law. It criticises and sanctions Russia for supporting rebels fighting the usurpatory regime of President Poroshenko in Ukraine, while doing the same in Syria (i.e. supporting Syrian rebels against the democratically elected president Assad).	http://bit.ly/2dGBtxz	cont.ws	The cases of Ukraine and Syria are very different. President Assad continues to commit crimes against humanity and local resistance against him is home-grown. President Poroshenko was democratically elected. President Assad, however, was not. http://bit.ly/2dhfDBe	Oleksandr Nykonorov, journalist for Depo.ua, blogger, researcher
01.10.2016	RUS	The Crimean Tatar Mejlis (self-governing body) is a US creation, financed by the US State Department. This is why the US has condemned the decision of Russia's Supreme Court to uphold the ban on the Mejlis.	http://bit.ly/2dBPjIB	ria.ru	No evidence given. The Mejlis was established in 1991 prior to Ukrainian independence. According to the Mejlis charter, the organisation is financed by donations and contributions from individuals, organisations, foundations, and grants. This is not the first time that Russian authorities in Crimea are claiming that the US is behind the Mejlis. http://bit.ly/2e58SEZ	StopFake.org

01.10.2016	ENG	The US presidential election will be manipulated in favour of Hillary Clinton, who is allied with the world's richest and most powerful criminals.	http://bit.ly/2dY9zAa	JimStone.is	An unsupported speculation from a website regularly disseminating disinformation.	Kremlin Watch (European Values think-tank), http://www.europeanvalues.net/kremlinwatch/
02.10.2016	RUS	Nadezhda Savchenko is being groomed by the USA to become the next Ukrainian President.	http://bit.ly/2dDQijW	Separatists of the Luhansk People's Republic social media account (V kontakte).	No evidence given. It is not the US but the Ukrainians who decide who becomes their President.	Oleksandr Nykonorov, journalist for Depo.ua, blogger, researcher
02.10.2016	RUS	The conclusions presented by the Joint Investigation Team in the report on the MH17 crash rely on unsubstantiated data and they blame Russia for everything. Their sophistication could be envied by the authors of Hollywood blockbuster scripts.	http://bit.ly/2e5fzXF	Vesti nedeli @ Rossia 1 (time: 2:16)	Unsubstantiated claim. The conclusions of the international Joint Investigation Team are the result of many months of thorough investigations and are based on irrefutable evidence. http://bbc.in/2cBgBV5	Pavel Spirin, former journalist
02.10.2016	RUS	Syrian president Bashar Assad is not a terrorist, he is the legitimate president of Syria, democratically elected, just like Stalin was, whether we like it or not.	http://bit.ly/2dUkaYi	Voskresnyi vecher s Vladimirom Solovyovym @ Rossia 1 (time: 48:44 and 49:12)	The last presidential elections in Syria were far from "democratic": http://bit.ly/2dhfDBe	Pavel Spirin, former journalist
02.10.2016	RUS	Following WWII, the original plan was to divide Germany into 18 countries, and this would have happened had it not been for Stalin.	http://bit.ly/2dUkaYi	Voskresnyi vecher s Vladimirom Solovyovym @ Rossia 1 (time: 1:39:40)	No historical evidence to support this claim.	Pavel Spirin, former journalist
02.10.2016	ENG	Hillary Clinton proposed a drone attack on the Wikileaks founder Julian Assange when she was the Secretary of State. The US State Department supposedly offered a reward for catching and releasing Assange to the US.	http://bit.ly/2dCyOry	truepundit.com	An unconfirmed report from an untrustworthy source that claims to receive the information from its anonymous "source in the US State Department." This website regularly publishes unverifiable assertions while referring to anonymous sources (http://slct.al/2dFz1VD). In response to the allegations, Hillary Clinton said that she does not remember ever joking about targeting Assange and that "it would have been a joke if it had been said" (http://politi.co/2dI2vDa).	Kremlin Watch (European Values think-tank), http://www.europeanvalues.net/kremlinwatch/
02.10.2016	RUS	"Tens of thousands" of pre-marked ballots for Hillary Clinton were discovered in a warehouse in Ohio by an electrician, according to Christian Times, which also published a picture of the happy finder.	http://bit.ly/2dUI99N	pravda.ru	Translation of the Christian Times disinformation article mentioned above.	Kremlin Watch (European Values think-tank), http://www.europeanvalues.net/kremlinwatch/

03.10.2016	CZE	"Tens of thousands" of pre-marked ballots for Hillary Clinton were discovered in a warehouse in Ohio by an electrician, according to Christian Times, which also published a picture of the happy finder.	http://bit.ly/2doYKSE	www.svetkolemnas.info	Translation of the Christian Times disinformation article mentioned above.	Kremlin Watch (European Values think-tank), http://www.europeanvalues.net/kremlinwatch/
04.10.2016	CZE	Hillary Clinton proposed a drone attack on the Wikileaks founder Julian Assange when she was the Secretary of State. The US State Department supposedly offered a reward for catching and releasing Assange to the US.	http://bit.ly/2e24YsQ	ac24.cz	Translation of the Truepundit disinformation article mentioned above.	Kremlin Watch (European Values think-tank), http://www.europeanvalues.net/kremlinwatch/
05.10.2016	RUS	The September 19 attack on a UN humanitarian convoy in Aleppo was "a well-prepared hoax", in fact there was no airstrike at all.	http://bit.ly/2dwZ6Z2	RIA Novosti	There is gruesome evidence that the attack was carried out, and sufficient evidence that the attack was carried out by Syrian and/or Russian army: http://bit.ly/2dohPWE	East StratCom Network
05.10.2016	ENG	The September 19 attack on a UN humanitarian convoy in Aleppo was "a well-prepared hoax", in fact there was no airstrike at all.	http://bit.ly/2dMxltv	Sputnik	English translation of the RIA Novosti disinformation article above.	East StratCom Network
06.10.2016	ROU	A Nobel Laureate for Economics urges Romania to leave the EU in order to protect itself against the unstable Euro.	http://bit.ly/2duKjPK	Sputnik	Romania is not in the Eurozone http://bit.ly/2d5iVr4	EEAS
06.10.2016		The Eastern Partnership policy tells the post-Soviet countries that they should break up with Moscow and orientate exclusively towards the European Union. The policy is to blame for the crises in Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.	http://bit.ly/2dZhXu1	Andrei Kelin, Russian MFA @ Novaya Gazeta	The Eastern Partnership (EaP) is a joint initiative involving the EU, its member states and Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. It is based on a commitment to the principles of international law and fundamental values - democracy, the rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms. It also encompasses support for a market economy, sustainable development and good governance. The initiative only concerns the countries involved and does not suggest anything concerning relations with third part countries. http://bit.ly/2cUyGme	East StratCom Network
06.10.2016	CZE	US Chief of Staff threatens Russia and China with destructive war. Moreover, both US presidential candidates are controlled by the same group - the US "neocons" - who want to start a World War with Russia. The elections are therefore pointless, and war is inevitable.	http://bit.ly/2dLYXRf	aeronet.cz	The title of the article misinterprets Gen. Mark Milley's speech. The US Chief of Staff stated that the US will not let itself be defeated by those attacking the American way of life and values. There is no evidence given to the claims regarding the control of Clinton and Trump by the so-called "neocons".	Kremlin Watch (European Values think-tank), http://www.europeanvalues.net/kremlinwatch/

07.10.2016	RUS	The Soviet Army only fired blank shots during the events around the Vilnius TV tower in January 1991, and then-head of the Lithuanian Parliament should be blamed for any civilian deaths.	http://bit.ly/2dxhEcT	Rubaltic.ru	During the Lithuanian fight for independence from the Soviet Union, Soviet troops fired on civilians outside the television tower in Vilnius, killing and injuring civilians. http://nyti.ms/2dzcCcp http://bbc.in/2dA3kzH	Official from Lithuania
07.10.2016	GEO	The Soros' Foundation has allocated 114 000 EUR to anti-Georgian non-governmental organizations.	Printed newspaper	Asaval-Dasavali	No evidence for the accusations given. The programs funded by the Open Society Foundations are openly presented at their web page https://osf.to/1UlvBcR	Myth detector
07.10.2016	ENG	There are 65 officially recognized "exclusion areas" in Sweden which are in effect ghettos with lawlessness and heavy crime. In these "no-go zones", police and fire brigades are often met with clubs and stones.	http://bit.ly/2d85RBg	Sputnik	There are no officially recognized "no-go zones" in Sweden. The police has identified 53 so called vulnerable areas, six of which are identified as "risk areas". The Swedish Police are working with increased visibility and long term commitment in these areas. http://bit.ly/2dPw9Xh	East StratCom
07.10.2016	RUS	The evidence that Joint Investigative Team presented on the downing of MH17 can have been faked by using Photoshop.	http://bit.ly/2cZ7CNE	Vesti.ru	A statement from the JIT described its evidence as "irrefutable", offering video footage, photographs, satellite images and recordings of tapped phone calls between rebels. http://bbc.in/2cBgBV5	East StratCom Network
07.10.2016	RUS	The polemics around the MH17 crash are an attack on Russia's very existence, since Russia will be further demonised and punished and force to "pay" for this incident.	http://bit.ly/2dBYnHr	zavtra.ru	The "accusation" says that MH17 was shot down by a BUK missile system that came from Russia and returned back to Russia after the tragedy. The point of the investigation is to find the ones who are guilty of murdering 298 passengers.	Pavel Spirin, former journalist
08.10.2016	RUS	Ukraine's first president, Leonid Kravchuk, congratulated Russia's president Putin on his birthday, saying that "Russia will achieve great heights thanks to President Putin".	http://bit.ly/2dLunXP http://bit.ly/2dPhQoB	life.ru , ukraina.ru	The articles expanded and reinterpreted a recording of former president Kravchuk published by the National news Service (http://bit.ly/2dUgTs8). In fact, former president Kravchuk said that President Putin now has the opportunity, with regards to his image and his support in Russia, to lift Russia to a height that it is deserving http://bit.ly/2d0PXdo	StopFake.org

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