Example country summary

Republic of Moldova. Medical disinformation. Large coordinator.

Information environment

General

* [Languages](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Languages_of_Moldova): official language is Romanian. Other languages include Russian, Gagauz, and Ukrainian.
* Population of about 4 million, in South Caucasus and Western CIS region. Country code is “MD”.

Media and social media use:

* The most common social media channels are Facebook, Instagram, and Odnoklassniki
* The most common communication tools are TV, Viber, and Telegram

Risk environment

* Disinformation channels include facebook and instagram.
* Disinformation tactics include fake accounts pretending to be individuals or organisations, memes, flooding web forums, trolls manipulating online debate, “grain of truth” narratives.
* Disinformation routes include translations of material from Russian to Moldovan.

Response environment

Disinformation response groups include:

* [StopFals:](https://stopfals.md/) disinformation watchdog.
* [Asociatia Presei Independente (API)](http://api.md/):
* Regional: [East StratCom Task Force](https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/2116/-questions-and-answers-about-the-east-stratcom-task-force_en)

Response tactics include

* Fact-checking - StopFals.
* The “Adopt a Troll” campaign, paying individuals to expose troll factories.
* The Trolless online tool for spotting inauthentic accounts. Trolless appears to have originated in a hackathon.

Other organisations that could be helpful to infodemic response in Moldova include:

* [Watchdog.md](https://www.watchdog.md/): Moldovan organisation that covers research and public policy.
* DFRlab has investigated disinformation in Moldova.
* Facebook took down a set of facebook and instagram accounts in Feb 2019.
* Development organisations’ country offices: these include WHO and UNICEF.

Covid19 Specific

Covid19 narratives seen in Moldova include:

* Deaths from other causes are being registered as Covid19 - [StopFals](https://stopfals.md/ro/article/fals-oamenii-mor-de-alte-boli-iar-in-statistica-se-indica-cauza-decesului-covid-19-180506)
* Masks are toxic (made from hazardous waste, cause sideeffects etc) - [StopFals](https://stopfals.md/ro/article/fals-mastile-de-protectie-sunt-toxice-180507)
* Masks contain worms – [StopFals](https://stopfals.md/ro/article/fals-masca-de-protectie-contine-viermi-sau-nanotehnologii-180503)
* President refusing to be vaccinated; president was secretly vaccinated in January - [StopFals](https://stopfals.md/ro/article/fals-maia-sandu-s-a-vaccinat-in-taina-inca-in-luna-ianuarie-180494)
* EU considering Sputnik vaccines - [StopFals](https://stopfals.md/ro/article/fals-din-cauza-deficitului-de-vaccin-occidental-ue-se-uita-la-produsul-rusesc-sputnik-v-180485)
* Doctors refusing to be vaccinated – [StopFals](https://stopfals.md/ro/article/fals-medicii-din-moldova-refuza-sa-se-vaccineze-impotriva-covid-19-180483)
* Coronavirus is a bacterium - [StopFals](https://stopfals.md/ro/article/fals-noul-coronavirus-este-o-bacterie-si-se-trateaza-cu-antibiotic-180479)

Background reading

Moldova is covered in the OII case studies for 2019 and 2020.

* <https://datareportal.com/digital-in-moldova>
* OII case study 2019
* OII case study 2020