

Appendix D. Codebook A: Coding Vkontakte community names

You are asked to identify pro-Russian and pro-Ukrainian Communities in Vkontakte. Please read this guide carefully before proceeding. Below you will find a definition of pro-Russian and pro-Ukrainian communities and a step-by-step guide for identifying and categorizing the groups.

Categories

1. UNRELATED. Refers Vkontakte community names that are unrelated to politics or news. See the categories below.
2. POLITICS. Assign these categories to community names that are related to local, national or global politics. This includes communities that are focused on political figures, movements and events.
3. PATRIOTISM. Use this category if the name directly indicates that this a community for patriots or nationalists. This category should be used both in cases where the name indicates praise or pride in ones own country or ethnic background or resentment towards other countries, nationalities or ethnicities.
4. NEWS. This category should be used in cases where the group name is related to either local, national or global news.
5. GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS. Use this category in cases where the community name indicates that the main topic is centered on a specific government institution such as the police, military, municipality, universities etc.
6. UNCLEAR. This category should be used in instances, where the category is unclear based on the name alone. Use this category if the community has to be manually examined in an browser in order to be assigned one of the previous categories

Examples:

UNRELATED:

- "Гороскоп на каждый день" : The main topic of the groups is horoscope, which is why it is unrelated to the "politics", "patriotism" and "news" categories.
- "Подростки | Весна | Любовь" the main topic of this group appears to be love, spring and teenage hood, which is why it is unrelated to the abovementioned categories.
- "Хитрости жизни" . The precise topic of this group is unclear. However, it does not appear to be related to politics, patriotism or news.
- "Лайфхакерша | Женские Хитрости" – The main topic of behind the group name appears to be lifehacking for women, which is why it is unrelated to the abovementioned categories.

POLITICS:

- "Партия регионов" The main topic appears to be the Ukrainian "Party of Regions" .
- "Путин" : The community name indicates that the main topic is focused on a political figure
- "Международная Военная Политика МВП" : The name indicates that international and military politics are a central topic in this group.
- "Мы против Евромайдана!" The main topic is the political movement, Euromaidan.

PATRIOTISM

- "Бессмертный полк России" The community is dedicated to a patriotic movement, whose goal is to commemorate Russia's victory of Nazi Germany
- "Наше українське | АТО" the group name expresses a strong sentiment of Ukrainian sentiment, where the central topic is the discussion of "our Ukraine" in the "anti terrorist operation" against Russian separatists in Donbass
- "Верим в Россию! | Патриоты | Новости | История" is a patriotic group, because it is dedicated to supporting Russia.
- "Стильный Патриот Украины" is a patriotic group, because it is dedicated to supporting Ukraine through patriotic fashion.

NEWS

- “ВЕСТИ.ru | РОССИЯ 24” is an online community dedicated to a news program.
- “ НТВ” : the name indicates that the community is dedicated to the Russian TV channel, NTV, and is therefore also the source of news that are broadcasted on the channel.
- “Типичный Славянск” : The name indicates that the community is dedicated to sharing local news about Slavyansk. This kind of “typical” groups exist for many cities in Ukraine.
- “Сводки от ополчения Новороссии” is categorized as “ news” , because the name indicates that the group is dedicated to latest news updates on the war in Ukraine (from the perspective of Russian separatists).

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

- “МИД России” The name suggests that the groups is related to the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

UNCLEAR

- “ Наша страна Россия” is unclear, because the name could suggest that this is a patriotic Russian community, a source of news about Russia or both.
- “Не только факты” : The name could potentially indicate that the community is dedicated to news sharing, however, the ambiguous name could also refer to other topics.