Coding Vkontakte communities

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. PRO-RUSSIAN. Refers to Vkontakte community pages that directly support Russia, the Russian government, President Putin, Russian patriotic groups, Russian separatist forces in Ukraine or media that are loyal to Kremlin. This includes groups and movements that affiliate themselves of the separatist forces or the Russian government or the Russian separatist cause in Ukraine. The category should be applied if the pro-Russian alignment is indicated in the following parts of the VK community page:
    1. name
    2. description
    3. cover picture
    4. At least 1 of the 20 most recent messages posted on the community wall by the admin(s)

    The community page's use of the Russian language is in itself not sufficient to indicate pro-Russian alignment, since Russian can also be used to mobilize pro-Ukrainian sentiment. Similarly, the use of the Russianflag alone is not enough for the group to qualify as "Pro-Russian", since the flag can be used to simply indicate that the group is Russian, without showing an active pro-Ukrainian position. The "pro-Russian" category does not apply to communities that are centered on sport clubs. The annotator should evaluate all 4 elements as a whole, including the visual symbols in the cover picture.
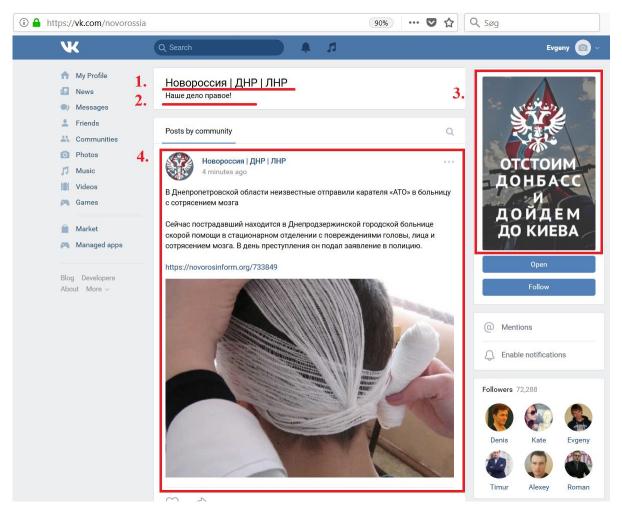
2. PRO-UKRAINE. Refers to Vkontakte community pages that directly support Ukraine, The Ukrainian government, Ukrainian Army, Ukrainian patriotic groups and Ukrainian media that propagate Ukrainian sovereignty. The category should be applied if the pro-Ukrainian alignment is indicated in the following parts of the VK community page:
    1. name
    2. description
    3. cover picture
    4. the top 20 messages posted on the community wall by the admin(s)

    The community page's use of the Ukrainian language is in itself not sufficient to indicate pro-Ukrainian alignment, since Ukrainian language can also be used to mobilize pro-Russian or pro-separatist sentiment. Similarly, the use of Ukrainian flag alone is not enough for the group to qualify as "Pro-Ukrainian", since the flag can be used to simply indicate that the group is Ukrainian, without showing an active pro-Ukrainian position.The category should not be applied to communities that are focused on sport clubs. The annotator should evaluate all 4 elements as a whole, including the visual symbols in the cover picture.
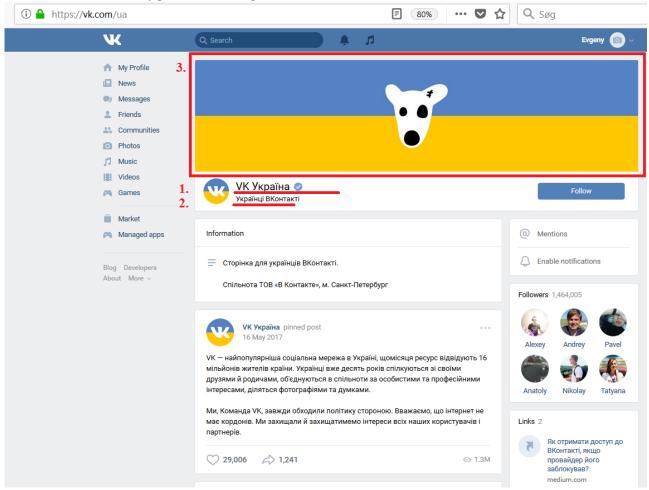
3. UNCLEAR

Example: Pro-Kremlin Alignment

The VK community in the example bellow can be categorized as "pro-Kremlin" because its name, description, cover picture show support towards Russian separatists in Ukraine. This interpretation is further supported by admin's latest post, which describes the Ukrainian forces using a derogatory term, "karatel" (punisher) frequently used either by Russian government authorities or Russian separatists in Ukraine.

Example: Pro-Ukrainian Alignment

The community in the example below is pro-Kiev, because it directly supports Ukrainian national unity by identifying itself with a Ukrainian flag. The Ukrainian flag is often used by Ukrainians to show their support for the Ukrainian nation in the conflict with Russian separatists and Russia. Note that most recent wall posts in themselves do not show any pro-Ukrainian alignment.

Keywords:

Украина, Россия, Крым, Донецк, Луганск, АТО, ДНР, ЛНР, Новороссия

Україна, Росія, *Крим, Донецьк, Луганськ, Новоросія,*