

The front page is inspired by Russian artist El Lissitzky's civil war propaganda poster from 1919:



Text reads: "Beat the whites with the red wedge."

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Estonia

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Lithuania

Denmark

Finland

Iceland

Norway

Sweden

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INTRODUCTION



Vladimir Putin speaks at the exhibition to mark the RT (Russia Today) television channel's 10th anniversary (2015). Photo: /ritzau/Sputnik/Michael Klimentyev.

What is true in the news?

This report has been written in 2016-17. It analyses events that filled media in 2016 - the year of the Olympic Games in Rio, and the World Anti-Doping Association (WADA) sponsored McLaren report confirming Russian State manipulation of the doping control process in relation to the Sochi Winter Olympics in 2014.

2016 was the year that the Oxford Dictionary singled out 'post-truth' as the Word of the Year. 2016 was also the year that Donald Trump was elected President of the US in a campaign where he continually lambasted journalists and the media, using social media as his platform rather than open press conferences. Unable to get to Trump, newspapers and TV stations tried to nail him by applying judicious fact-checking. But despite finding a multitude of inaccuracies and outright lies in the Trump's speeches and presentations, traditional media seem to have made little impression on his supporters. They apparently share Trump's mistrust of the "liberal media".

Experts explain this phenomenon as an effect of the Internet and social media, which tend to form 'filter bubbles'. Algorithms used by the dominating players like Google and Facebook pick up your opinion preferences and direct you to similar sites on the Internet. Wittingly or unwittingly, you become part of a community of people with similar views and similar aversions to opposing views or information that runs contrary to your beliefs.

In this media climate, it becomes increasingly difficult to find universal truths, held by an overwhelming majority of people. On the contrary, it is now easier than ever to spread doubt even about well-documented events or scientific findings. With the speed of publication and almost instant dispersal throughout the web, it is easy to spread totally false stories and make them take hold, at least for a period, particularly among those who distrust conventional media.

With this study, we want to offer food for discussion, by looking at some of the mechanisms of this 'battle of truths'. The geographical area covered by this study is the Russian North-West (from Kaliningrad in the South to Arkhangelsk and Murmansk in the North), the three Baltic states and the five Nordic countries. The object of the study is to find out whether there is actually a 'battle of truths', an information war between media outlets targeted at Russian speakers in these countries; and if so, by what means this war is fought.

At the outset, we were looking at a wide range of possible subjects to study – from social issues and migration to international conflict areas, such as the Ukraine, Crimea or Syria. Unexpectedly, circumstances offered a topic that seemed to have all the ingredients we were looking for: the question of doping and the Olympic Games. This subject is covered broadly by almost all media; it is controversial and journalistically challenging; it involves politics and emotions, with a high dose of national pride at stake.

It is not the object of this study to take sides on the issue of whether there is, or has been, a state sponsored doping program in Russia. Our research has been focused on the content in Russian language media in the various countries, on the methods used to describe the doping story, on the language and on the general tone of articles written on the subject. For practical reasons, the study is based solely on journalistic material published on the web by the various media outlets. It was not possible to acquire printed material or listen to broadcasts within the given time frame for the study.

Historical context

Some historical context is essential for us to understand the situation within the Russian media world today and the state of Russian journalism. Since our study covers Russia,

the Nordic countries and the Baltics, I will offer a brief historical overview to explain how journalistic traditions have developed differently in the region of our study.

When Tsar Peter I in 1702 founded Russia's first newspaper, Vedomosti, his intention was to use it as a propaganda weapon against Sweden in the period of the so-called Nordic Wars. He put great emphasis on this new tool, much needed to explain to his subjects the reasons for waging war against his chief rival in the power struggle for control over the Baltic Sea. There is evidence that some of the early articles in the paper were dictated by the Tsar himself. I mention this not in a vain effort to prove that history repeats itself – which it doesn't – but as a reminder that journalistic traditions have specific roots in different countries.

In Russia, subsequent Emperors all kept strict control over the printed word, sometimes deciding personally on whether to allow a text to be published. Censorship played an important role in Imperial Russia and was lifted only briefly by the revolutionary successors in the 1920's. For most of the Soviet period, until the event of Gorbachev's *glasnost* reforms in the late 1980s, newspapers and journals were used for party propaganda and censors had the right to interfere in all spheres of journalism.

The Kingdom of Sweden went in the opposite direction with the enactment of the world's first law on freedom of speech in 1766, at a time when Finland was also under the Swedish crown. Since then censorship of journalistic material has been implemented in Sweden and Finland only during WWII. After the war, journalistic traditions in all Nordic countries have developed in an atmosphere of transparency and self-regulation, allowing for the expression of a wide variety of opinions, based on competition and diversity in the ownership of media. Direct government interference in media content has been minimal.

The modern era

With the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991, Russian journalists were freed from the shackles of censorship. At the same time, harsh commercial realities made life difficult for all kinds of journalism, albeit in a new way. The public demand for printed news was not strong enough to support privately owned newspapers, when their circulation dropped drastically and there was no government funding. The advertising market developed slowly. Only a few national media brands survived and became economically independent.

The 90s saw, however, a considerable improvement of the diversity and transparency in Russian journalism. At the same time, there were few publications with a purely publicist agenda. Media outlets were to a large extent used as weapons for owners or interest groups in an increasingly fragmented society. Many media consumers came to

view journalism as a corrupt propaganda arm of an unfettered capitalist society, or at least for certain interest groups in that society.

When Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin came into power in 2000, a notable shift started toward increased government control over media. The main focus was nationwide television and radio, which were gradually taken over by the state-owned company Gazprom Media (gazprom-media.com). Russian media consumers rely to a large extent on television for national and international news and all national broadcasts now follow a strict pro-government policy.

Instead of direct censorship, the Russian government has used administrative measures to 'punish' privately owned media outlets, if they publish material strongly critical of the Russian government policy or President Putin himself. Media outlets have been subject to rather brutal tax reviews or other control measures. In 2008 the newspaper Moskovskiy Korrespondent was forced to close down after publishing unconfirmed, intimate details of the President's private life.

Foreign owned media never played a significant role on the Russian media market, but they were none the less targeted by a law enacted in 2015, barring all non-Russian owners from having more than a 20 percent stake in any Russian publication. As a result of this law, leading Scandinavian media houses like Egmont, Bonniers and Sanoma have now sold their shares and left the Russian media market.

In the Nordic and Baltic media market, the development has gone in the opposite direction, with major media groups branching out regionally and across borders over the last decades. For this reason and with new technical challenges facing the media world, journalistic standards tend to converge. Major media platforms have distanced themselves from being too closely associated with a specific political party or ideology.

The new standard is a fairly clear distinction between opinionated material (editorials and personal columns) and purely journalistic material (news, reportage, investigative reports). There is a clear tendency towards cross-media cooperation, which in many cases is an economic necessity to create enough interesting content for publication 24/7 in the ever more digital media world.

Social media

The latest significant challenge to the world of traditional media is the impact of social media. This is true in Russia, as well as in the Baltic and Nordic countries. Social media constitute a parallel universe, where journalistic material is dispersed together with other information that can be anything from accurate witness accounts to unsubstantiated rumours or intentional disinformation.

Social media also interact with the information flow in traditional media. More or less organized campaigns of comments can influence the credibility of news reports. Independent Russian publications are at times bombarded by paid 'net trolls', who will question their journalistic material as "un-patriotic" or "foreign propaganda". Traditional media in the Nordic countries likewise have their credibility challenged, mostly for being "too mainstream" or "afraid to tell the truth".

There is also an economic aspect of social media. The 'click economy', where advertising revenue is calculated from the number of clicks on a webpage or news item, has a direct effect on how news is valued and displayed on the net. The 'click factor' probably generated more publicity for Donald Trump, even in traditional media around the world, than he would have gotten from a series of press conferences. Readers, listeners and viewers are attracted to Trump as a character, not only because they are supporters, but also because he is a controversial figure.

The battle of truths

When we look at the struggle waged within Russian language media in our study, all these factors enter into the equation: journalistic traditions, the current media climate, the impact of social media. There is an obvious correlation between ownership and independent reporting. The stronger a publishing house is economically, the more independence it can afford to show in its material. Media controlled by a state-owned company or dependent on local government or state funding are either directly forced to toe the line or will at least be reluctant to publish material that could be seen as critical of the authorities.

In the regions covered by this study, there are few really strong, independent media houses. Even fewer since the foreign media owners left the market in 2015 and 2016. Local newspapers and news sites in North West Russia typically tend to depend on subsidies by local governments or business interests. Russian language media in the Baltic countries are to a large extent run by Russian media houses, in some cases directly or indirectly owned by the Russian state. They tend to play a leading role in promoting Moscow's policies and Russia's interest as seen by the present Russian leadership. These leading patriotic Russian media also target the Russian speaking population in the Nordic countries, where there are very few alternative sources of information in Russian.

It is our belief that the doping story is a vivid illustration of this on-going battle for the truth in media. There is no evidence that journalists are directed centrally by government policy, but the treatment of the news around the McLaren report and the Olympic Games is a logical effect of the present media situation in Russia. It is also an illustration of a real battle going on for the hearts and minds of Russians living in the

Baltics, Finland and Scandinavia. To a lesser extent, there is also an effort to influence the majority population in these countries, but since this study is limited to Russian language media, this does not enter into our analysis.

CASE STUDY

Methodology - step by step

To begin with, let us outline the basic ideas behind the monitoring, collection, and selection of samples for the case analysis. All items were chosen from Russian language news-outlets in NW Russia, the Baltic countries and Finland. We have sampled only fully digital media outlets, some with printed editions or available in print supplemented with online news-sites. We have met certain challenges and considerations in the selection of cases since the media landscapes in Russia, the Baltics and the Nordic countries represent quite disparate world-views and media traditions. The report's primary objective was to find some common ground and a common subject for carrying out research in the field of news-coverage within these fragmented media spheres.



Professor Richard McLaren, investigator and report author for WADA addresses his findings on Russian state-sponsored doping systems (2017). Photo: /ritzau/AP/Valentin Flauraud.

Rio Olympics and WADA report

The 2016 Olympic Games (OG) in Rio de Janeiro August 5-21, the Paralympic Games (PG) in the same city September 7-18, the World Anti-Doping Association (WADA) sponsored McLaren report and the ensuing suspected doping-scandal are topics that were widely covered in local, regional and national media. It was also clear that views on these topics would obviously differ between Russian media and media in the West. We

therefore decided that this would serve as an excellent example and offer a wide representation of conflicting positions, arguments, interpretations, genres and methods of influencing the public - all in a short period of time.

Research period

The research and monitoring period was limited to July 17 – September 20, 2016. This period provides a framework that aligns with the first reactions on the McLaren report and stops a few days after the Paralympic Games have ended. The period provided a wide variety of representations in digital news-coverage; articles, opinions, videos and views from selected (mapped) outlets. For complete list of media outlets covered by this study, see Part 2: Media Mapping.

Timeline of events during the research period

July

18: WADA publishes McLaren's investigative report. WADA states: *Independent Investigation confirms Russian State manipulation of the doping control process (in relation to the Sochi Winter Olympics in 2014).* The agency requests collective sanctions for Rio 2016 and beyond. WADA recommends the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) to consider, under their respective Charters, declining entries for all athletes submitted by the Russian Olympic Committee (ROC) and the Russian Paralympic Committee to the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro.

27: The Russian Minister of Sports, Vitaly Mutko, announces that he will not visit the Olympic Games in Rio.

August

5-21: The Olympic Games in Rio take place.

6: The International Olympic Committee clears 279 (out of 389) Russian athletes to participate in the Olympic Games in Rio.

7: The president of the International Paralympic Committee, IPC, Philip Craven announces that all of the Russian paralympic athletes are banned from Rio.



The Russian swimmer Yulia Efimova was booed on the podium after taking the silver medal in the 200m breaststroke. "I thought cold war was long in the past", she said to theguardian.com. Photo: /ritzau/AP/Nataliya Vasilyeva.

15: Russia's Paralympic Committee (RPC) files an appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) against the decision to ban the team from competing at the Paralympics in Rio.

18: The Russian pole-vaulter Yelena Isinbayeva is voted on to the International Olympic Committee Athletes' Commission despite being barred from the Rio games.

23: The Court of Arbitration for Sports (CAS) dismisses the appeal filed by the Russian Paralympic Committee (RPC) against the decision to ban Russian athletes from the Paralympic Games in Rio.

September

7-18: The Paralympic Games are held in Rio. A Belarus official carries the Russian flag at the opening of the games in a show of solidarity with banned Russians.

7: Russia conducts an alternative tournament for the Russian Paralympic athletes near Moscow.

7: Пара-Крым-2016 (Para-Krim 2016) - a festival for Paralympic athletes in Crimea.



Russian former pole-vaulter Yelena Isinbayeva was elected for the IOC's Athletes' Commission despite being barred from the 2016 Rio games. Photo: /ritzau/AP/Matt Slocum.

Classification of items for the analysis

During this research period, we carefully monitored all items containing information about these events, including the whole range from very opinionated articles or interviews to simple news-bulletins containing only factual information. There was an emphasis on finding original articles, produced within the different media outlets to provide a wide sceptre of views, sources and opinions.

We narrowed down the number of articles we found interesting for the study by looking at certain analytical criteria that would help us illustrate this variety:

- Topics covered by the article
- Main statements and conclusions
- Methods of influencing the reader, means and examples

At this stage there were 24 items from the NW Russian regions and 23 from Finland and the Baltic States that would make up the basic data content in our study.

To show the variety of the sampled items, we then classified them along a scale of their perceived effect on the opinion of the reader: *patriotic, independent* or *factual*.



Content categories

PATRIOTIC

Articles are opinionated or slanted to influence readers to believe in the official Russian position

INDEPENDENT

Articles represent several different views on the subject or a critical analysis of the official Russian position

FACTUAL

Articles concentrate on information without deeper analysis or opinionated content

• Patriotic

Patriotic-ranked items are opinionated or slanted in such a way that the reader will be influenced to believe in the official Russian position;

• Independent

Independent-ranked items give either several different views on the subject or a critical analysis of the official Russian position;

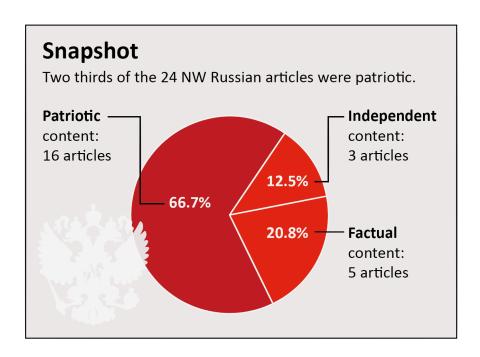
• Factual

Factual articles concentrate on information, without deeper analysis or opinionated content.

ANALYSIS OF SELECTED ITEMS NW Russia

NW Russia:

- · Arkhangelsk oblast
- · Murmansk oblast
- Republic of Karelia
- Leningrad oblast
- Saint Petersburg
- · Pskov oblast
- Kaliningrad oblast



Patriotic-ranked articles (NW Russia)

Total 16 / 66.7% of the items

Patriotic-ranked items make up the largest group of the analyzed material (16 out of 24). This group includes mostly long-read articles, representing all the regions and covering almost all the aspects of doping/Rio Olympic Games/Rio Paralympic topics. The material is characterized by a clear position stated with self-confidence by the author, categorical opinions, an expressive (sometimes aggressive) tone, connotative and insulting words and expressions (in Russian journalistic jargon known as 'Komsomalskaya pravda style'). Other recurring features: use of an 'enemy image',

including both foreign foes (WADA, IOC, USA, Western countries, etc.) and interior opponents (Russian liberal activists); wide use of military vocabulary and propaganda clichés; glorification of Russian and Soviet athletes.

Some items in this group also put blame on Russian sports officials, sometimes for their responsibilty for the doping situation in Russia, more often for not 'defending' Russian athletes properly. These items occasionally express nostalgia over the Soviet sports system, supporting the perception that it was fair and accessible in contrast to today's commercialized sports world. There is a high degree of indignation over the fact that Russian leaders let them (WADA, IOC, etc.) insult the country with their 'biased' accusations.

Articles listed by headline and media

Headlines are translated from Russian, links compiled during the research period.

International Paralympic Committee: Disabled People

IA Pskovskaya Lenta Novostey

http://pln-pskov.ru/authors/adonetsky/249708.html

Our Hymn Beats Cheeks Of Liberal Russophobes

KarelInform News Agency (Karelia)

http://karelinform.ru/article/politics/81136/rusofobam_liberalam_nashim_gimnom_po_susalam

Sports Became A Battleground Of 'Hybrid War'

RuBaltic.Ru (Kaliningrad)

http://www.rubaltic.ru/article/politika-i-obshchestvo/270716-olimpiada/

Latvian Politicians: Wrong Decision To Ban Russian Athletes From Paralympics

Rubaltic.Ru (Kaliningrad)

www.rubaltic.ru/news/10082016-latviyskie-politiki-nepravilnym-otstranenie-sportsmenov-rf-/

Belarus Showed Commitment to Union with Russia before the Whole World

RuBaltic.Ru (Kaliningrad)

http://www.rubaltic.ru/article/politika-i-obshchestvo/090916-belarus/

They Treat Our National (Olympic) Team Outrageously

Opinion / IA RusNord (Arkhangelsk)

http://rusnord.ru/scandal/36337-to-chto-tvoryat-s-nashey-olimpiyskoy-sbornoy-eto-bezobrazie-mnenie.html

Ban Everybody

Fontanka.ru (Saint Petersburg)

http://www.fontanka.ru/2016/07/18/146/

Russian Paralympic Athletes Don't Give Up

Komsomolskaya Pravda (Saint Petersburg) http://www.spb.kp.ru/daily/26573.4/3588458/

Summer. Cold. Not Ours?

Newspaper Murmanskiy Vestnik http://www.mvestnik.ru/shwpgn.asp?pid=201607214

Russian Paralympic Athletes Beat 26 World Records in Response to Ban from Paralympics in Rio

Iskkra (Murmansk)

http://kolanews.ru/news/sport-i-turizm/11623

At Last Well-Known Athlete Admits That Everybody Is into Doping. The Question Is – Who Will Be Caught...

Iskkra (Murmansk)

http://kolanews.ru/news/sport-i-turizm/11187

First published at prosportkz.kz.

Ten Countries to Ban Russia from Rio OG

Newspaper Murmanskiy Vestnik

http://www.mvestnik.ru/shwpgn.asp?pid=2016071816

First published in RIA Novosty 17.07.2016

Yes, We Go, but Not Everyone. Humiliation of a Nation

IA Pskovskaya Lenta Novostey

http://pln-pskov.ru/authors/adonetsky/248359.html

Seven Circles of WADA

Pskovskaya Pravda

http://pravdapskov.ru/rubric/28/14056

Sport, Named after Mutko. Why Not Sweep away All This Trash?

IA Belomorkanal (Arkhangelsk)

 $\frac{http://tv29.ru/new/index.php/sport-na-bk/8094-sport-imeni-mutko-pochemu-vsyu-etu-gnil-ne-vymetut$

Participation Is Not the Main Thing

RuBaltic.Ru

http://www.rubaltic.ru/persona_grata/glavnoe-ne-uchastie-22082016/

First published at https://agitblog.ru/articles/glavnoe-%E2%80%94-ne-uchastie.html

Topics covered by the articles

- The WADA report
- Ban for a number of Russian athletes to go to Rio OG
- Ban for Russian Paralympic athletes to go to Rio PG
- Russian team's results in Rio OG
- Foreign national Olympic Committees saying the Paralympic ban unfair
- Belarus Paralympic delegation carrying the Russian flag at Rio opening ceremony
- Alternative all-Russian Paralympic Games
- Doping traditions in sport
- Catastrophic situation in Russian sports

Main statements and conclusions

- There is no convincing evidence that Russian athletes use doping/ WADA's head R. MacLaren built his report on unfounded statements by G. Rodchenkov (the former director of a Moscow laboratory, the Anti-Doping Centre, who was the first to expose the Russian doping issue).
- Sport is impossible without doping today/all the athletes use doping, but WADA catches them selectively for political reasons.
- The officials of WADA, IOC and IPC fulfilled a 'political order'/are unscrupulous.
- Russia is paying for its political actions (i.e. Crimea annexation).
- References to historical parallels:
- Iraq war (where no evidence of chemical weapon found)
- Holocaust (prosecuting athletes for being Russian)
- The Cold war
- Stalin's repressions and slander letters of that time
- Economic sanctions against Russia
- Contradiction Russia vs NATO
- Russian liberals support the WADA report and Paralympic ban due to their hatred towards the Russian people and the Russian government.
- The doping issue is part of a Western war against Russia/a movement to isolate Russia /a new sanction after the failure to isolate Russia politically or economically.
- The goal of the doping issue is to eliminate highly competitive Russian athletes from the OG/to discredit the Russian team victory the Sochi 2014 OG.
- The next goal is to impose a ban on the 2018 Football World Cup in Russia.
- WADA applies pressure on a sovereign country (Russia) to get the Sport Minister Mutko fired.
- The WADA report devalues the whole Olympic idea.
- By carrying a Russian flag at the Paralympic Open Ceremony in Rio, Belarusian sports officials showed their commitment to the union with Russia, despite the intention of the Western countries to attract Belarus to their 'club'.

- Reference to the Battle of Orsha (1514) where Belarus defeated Russia together with Lithuania and Poland. This historical event is used by the Belarusian opposition claiming that Belarus belongs to Europe.
- Reference to heroic partisan war in Belarus during WWII.
- Russia should establish an alternative International Olympic Committee together with China and India.
- The ban on Russian paralympians in Rio and a possible ban for all the future Paralympic games are going to kill the Paralympic movement in Russia and break the lives of disabled athletes.
- USA is behind the doping campaign to discredit Russia.
- Russia must sue the USADA Chief Executive Officer, Travis T. Tygart.
- Russian sports officials (first of all the former Sport Minister V.Mutko) are responsible for using doping in Russian sport/ for Russian athletes ban in the Rio OG and their spoiled careers/ for the damage caused to all the nation and personally V. Putin.
- Some Russian athletes have lost their last chance to participate in any OG.
- The 'doping scandal' began in 2015 and Russia had enough time to stop it (unclear in what way).
- G. Rodchenkov shouldn't be trusted he is a professional, but a criminal and not an adequate person.
- Russian Olympic sport is commercialized today.
- Athletes get too much money and other bonuses.
- Soviet mass sport was destroyed by Western system of 'sporting heroes'.
- Russian Olympic sport is politicized it must show high results to support the national ideology.
- 2017 should be a year of great changes for (in favour of) Russia (reference to the Russian revolution 1917).
- The modern Russian society lacks ideology in contrast to the USSR, it has nothing to fight for in sport competitions. Russia and America are actually the same today.
- Not WADA but M. Kusnirovich (a former head of Bosco di Ciliegi a luxury fashion company, the official partner of Russian Olympic team before 2017) has stolen our Olympic Games.

Methods of influencing the reader, means and examples

Connotative words and expressions:

Над нашей страной продолжают издеваться. Изощренно. С особым цинизмом... Our country is continuously ridiculed. Sophisticatedly. With extreme cynicism...

Такая логика, между тем, называется просто — фашизм обыкновенный.

Вульгарный такой фашизм. Логика убийц...

This logic is, to state it simply, common fascism. Just vulgar fascism. Murderer's logic...

У нас нагло отняли треть олимпийской сборной...

They've brazenly deprived us of one third of our Olympic team...

Публичная порка российских спортсменов...

A public spanking of Russian athletes...

...поставить Россию на место, отыгравшись на инвалидах...

...to put Russia in place by taking revenge on disabled people...

...ситуация на самом деле больше напоминает бандитскую разборку, когда человеку долго угрожают смертью, а потом топором отрубают ногу, а он и радрафехонек: «Спасибо, что живой. Что совсем не убили».

...the situation actually resembles a gangster showdown where someone is put under a death threat and then his leg is choped off with an axe, and he keeps a happy face: "Thank you for letting me live, for not killing me."

Это уже верх бесчеловечности, беспардонности, жестокости, цинизма. Это суд инквизиции, отказать больным людям в такой маленькой радости, это нарушение Олимпийской хартии.

This is extreme inhumanity, impudence, cruelty, cynicism. This is the Inquisition, to deny the disabled their little joy – this is a violation of the Olympic Charter.

Это очередная пощечина России.

This is another slap in the face of Russia.

- ...спортсменам приходится отдуваться за независимый курс страны...
- ...the athletes are paying a price for the independent political course of the country...

Militaristic vocabulary:

Из сублимации войны спорт превращается в настоящую «гибридную войну». Instead of a sublimation of war, sports turns into a real "hybrid war"...

«Мы выигрывали войны, а здесь не смогли справиться».

"We won the war, but failed to cope here."

Exaggerated image of Russian liberals attributed with connotative words and biased intentions:

Фейсбук радостно пригвоздил весь российский спорт к позорному столбу... On Facebook they happily pilloried all of Russian sports...

Soviet style clichés:

...для нас, обычных людей, граждан великой страны...

...for us, the common people, citizens of the great country...

Unfounded conclusions and rumours:

10-15 лет назад в легкой атлетике президент федерации разрешал употреблять (допинг) топ-спортсменам. Мне об этом рассказывали...

10-15 years ago, the President of the Athletics Federation allowed (doping) for top athletes. This is what I've been told...

А сейчас ходят разговоры, чтобы совсем запретить России участие в международных турнирах...

And now there is talk about complete ban Russia's participation in international competitions...

Pathetic narratives:

Кто из 67 отверженных, униженных и оскорбленных легкоатлетов ... «дотянет» до следующей Олимпиады-2020?

How many of these miserable, humiliated and insulted 67 athletes will survive to the 2020 Olympics? (Note: Reference to the novels by V. Hugo "Les Misérables" and F. Dostoevsky "Humiliated and Insulted")

Кто ответит за державное унижение?

Who will be responsible for the humiliation of a sovereign nation?

References to historical/literature/cinema character and images

Превозмогая боль, несправедливость, равнодушие, пойдут в олимпийский бой со словами сына нашей княгини Ольги – Святослава: «Да не посрамим земли Русской».

Through the pain, injustice, indifference, they will go to the Olympic battle with the words of our Princess Olga's son - Sviatoslav: "Do not disgrace the Russian land"

Конечно, спорт — всегда политика. И главное в ней, конечно, — не участие, а победа. Или поражение, которое в равной степени является индикатором и общего состояния дел в государстве, и положения государства в мире. Не просто так даже встречи Фишера и Спасского были обставлены, как битва Пересвета с Челубеем.

Of course, there is always politics in sports. The most important, of course, is not to take part, but to win. Or lose, which is just as much an indicator of the state of the nation, or the status of the nation in the world. It isn't just chance that the Fischer-Spassky matches were likened to the battle between Peresvet and Chelubey. (Note: The chess matches between Bobby Fischer, USA and Boris Spassky, USSR/Russia were played in 1972 and 1992. The historic Kulikovo battle in 1380 between Mongols (The Golden Horde) and Russians started with a single combat between Peresvet, a Russian monk, and Chelubey, a Mongol warrior.)

Independent-ranked articles (NW Russia)

Total 3 / 12.5% of the items

Only three of the analyzed texts can be ranked as independent, since they express a position different from the dominating narrative in other media. One of them "Blogger Considers that the Olympics Have Turned into a Racist Game" (812 online Internet-magazine) is just a comment, an emotional reaction to the patriotic TV narrative about the Olympics and the doping issue.

The most informative is an interview with a sports doctor, Sergey Ilukov, an official physician on the Finnish Olympic team "Smart doping-cocktail" (Fontanka.ru). His explanation of the doping issue is very professional, science-based and balanced. Using historical and factual data, Ilukov illustrates the development of the doping tradition in USSR/Russia. This interview is also a rare example of reference to other countries, where doping scandals have left guilty sports doctors and coaches totally isolated and banned from their professions. At the same time Ilukov objectively states that the WADA report is lacking in concrete proof.

The third text is an article devoted to Sport Minister Vladimir Mutko, who is described as a typical Russian official, a sort of 'sports Putin', "Wannabe" (Pskovskaya Gubernia).

The text includes little known facts about Mutko's biography and mentions the Roldugin issue (S. Roldugin is a close friend of Putin's, a musician related to a number of off-shore companies, assumed to hide Putin's private fortune). This article is the only one in the analysis that openly criticizes Kremlin politics.

All these materials are more or less emotional, but avoid biased statements and use very few connotative words and expressions. The narrative is reasoning with a factual approach.

Articles listed by headline and media

Headlines are translated from Russian, links compiled during the research period.

Smart doping-cocktail

Fontanka.ru (Saint Petersburg)
http://www.fontanka.ru/2016/07/22/175/

Blogger considers that Olympics Turned into a Racist Game

Online 812, Internet-magazine http://www.online812.ru/2016/08/12/002/

Wannabe

Pskovskaya Gubernia http://gubernia.pskovregion.org/blogs/podrazhatel/

Topics covered by the articles

• The WADA report

Main statements and conclusions

- WADA report seems to fall in line with the Russian sport tradition, but lacks concrete proof.
- Russian athletes have been victims of collective punishment, because of a state supported doping system.
- Russia has inherited a doping tradition from the USSR. Sports physicians were never punished for doping use and none of the athletes lost state funding in contrast to the West, where doping scandals caused strong damage to their reputation.
- People who manage Russian sports today belong to the generation of anabolic-based Soviet sport.

- Many other countries entered Olympic sports in the 21th century and have no doping background.
- Russia lost its sports science because of doping traditions from the 1960s.
- The 'heroes' of doping scandals in other countries are banned from sports for many years.
- G. Rodchenkov is a highly qualified specialist and he should be trusted.
- Russian TV represents Rio as a 'war of nations' in contrary to the basic Olympic idea of keeping peace.
- Russian authorities react to the doping scandal by firing minor officials. But the real perpetrator, sports minister Mutko, stays invulnerable since he fits perfectly in Putin's administrative system.
- Mutko is a part of modern Russia, like doping is a part of Russian sports.
- Mutko is a Putin wannabe.

Methods on influencing the reader, means and examples

Professional expert assessment:

В СССР существовал опыт приёма спортивных препаратов... на нём выезжали очень долго.

In the USSR there was a habit of taking drugs in sports... it went on for a very long time.

Оказалось, что в России уровень экспертизы в спорте недостаточен, не хватает квалифицированных тренеров, которые могли бы готовить спортсменов высокого ранга.

It turned out that Russia lacks sufficient expertise in sports, there are not enough qualified trainers, who can train top athletes.

Historical data:

1948 – 1949 гг. Сталин принял решение, что СССР будет участвовать в Олимпийских играх. ... И было принято политическое решение: поднимать престиж страны посредством спортивных достижений.

In 1948 – 49 Stalin decided that the USSR should participate in the Olympic games... And there was a political decision to raise the country's prestige through sporting achievements.

Анаболические стероиды появились в 1960-е годы. Их принимали больше десяти лет. И потом практика сводилась к тому, чтобы как можно более хитрым способом обойти контроль.

Anabolic steroids appeared in the 1960s. They were used more than ten years. After that the practice was to avoid control in the most devious ways.

Examples of doping scandals in the other countries:

Австрийцы — … их тренер был профессионально казнён…: он просто потерял право на профессию. Это имело колоссально негативное влияние на всех австрийских лыжников, на всю федерацию.

Austrians ... their coach was professionally punished... he simply lost the right to practice his profession. It had a tremendously negative impact on all Austrian skiers, the entire Federation.

Кари-Пекка Кюрё, финский тренер, был дисквалифицирован — и только в этом году ему удалось добиться снятия запрета.

Kari-Pekka Kyroe, the Finnish coach, was disqualified (2001 – ref.) - and only this year he managed to get the injunction cancelled.

Connotative words and expressions:

Его (*Мутко*), как скользкий мячик, пытаются поймать то одни, то другие, а он всякий раз выскакивает из рук.

They are trying to catch him (Sports Minister Mutko), but every time he pops out of their hands like the slippery ball.

...министр, как правильный флюгер, сразу же публично извинился за спортсменов, пойманных на допинге...

...the Minister, being a real turncoat, immediately publicly apologized for athletes caught doping...

Irony:

...спортсмены из России, призваны и мобилизованы. Если девушка защищает честь, то конечно Родины, не свою. Метание молота ведется прямо в голову потенциальному геополитическому оппоненту.

Не убейте там никого, посланцы мира.

...Russian athletes are called up and mobilized. If a girl is defending someone's honor, it's the motherland's, not her own. The hammer throw is aimed at the head of a potential geopolitical opponent. Don't you kill anyone there, you ambassadors of peace.

Factual-ranked articles (NW Russia)

Total 5 / 20.8% of the items

A number of items concerning the Rio games and the doping issue can be ranked as factual, since they basically contain only information. Usually they tell about competitions and results, including direct or indirect quotes from official documents and relevant persons.

Analytical articles of this group use 'symmetric quotations' representing different points of view on the subject without giving preferences to any of them. Independent outlets sometimes demonstrate a position by selecting a certain quote as the headline: "Sport is Another Method for Putin to Extend the Ukrainian War" (Fontanka.ru, Saint Petersburg) or "Resign Mutko" (Karelskaya Gubernia).

Most of the factual-ranked materials concentrate on related, usually neutral topics like the lifestyle of disabled sportsmen in Russia "Looking For Someone To Blame As Usual" (Moy Raion, Saint Petersburg) or the state of mass sport "The Nation's Health Is More Important Than Records" (Pressa29 Press and Media Agency, Arkhangelsk).

Some factual-ranked items have elements of independent journalism, but without taking a clear stand. They may include rich factual and background data and in quotes from interviews also include connotative words and expressions as well as biased conclusions and statements.

Articles listed by headline and media

Headlines are translated from Russian, links compiled during the research period.

Sport is Another Method for Putin to extend the Ukrainian war

Fontanka.ru (Saint Petersburg)

http://www.fontanka.ru/2016/07/19/159/

Looking for Someone to Blame as Usual

Moy Raion (Saint Petersburg)

http://print.mr7.ru/articles/138898/

The Nation's Health Is More Importante Than Records

Pressa29 Press and Media Agency (Arkhangelsk)

Yulia Efimova Burst into Tears During the Interview after Winning a Silver Medal

Karel-Inform News Agency (Karelia)

http://karelinform.ru/news/society/80562/yuliya_efimova_posle_serebra_na_oi_2016_razryidalas_ot_obidyi_vo_vremya_intervyu

Resign Mutko

Sub-head: Russian National Team Goes to Rio OG After All. But Not in Full Strength Karelskaya Gubernia

http://www.rep.ru/daily/2016/07/27/23675/

Topics covered by the articles

- •Western media blame Russian sport and political officials
- Paralympic athletes Rio ban
- Conditions of disabled people's lifestyle in Russia
- Russian athletes partly banned from Rio OG
- Mass sport situation in Russian regions
- Russian swimmer Yulia Efimova being booed in Rio

Main statements and conclusions

Claims by Western media:

- All Russian athletes could be suspected of doping.
- Russia must be immediately and fully banned from OG.
- Russian polical leaders are responsible for doping fraud together with sport officials.
- Sport is another method for Putin of extending the Ukrainian war.

Claims by Russian commentator Nikolay Durmanov, former head of the Russian Anti-Doping Agency (RUSADA) in an interview by Fontanka.tv:

- The authors of WADA report are pathological russophobs.
- Doping scandal may destroy all the Olympic movement.
- The aim of WADA is to cancel the 2018 Football World Cup in Russia.

Other quoted sources:

- Western athletes should keep far from politics and not believe media's bias against Russian athletes (Yulia Efimova, Russian swimmer, medalist in Rio).
- The whole doping issue is political. The purpose is to get rid of strong Russian athletes and to give the other 'so-called clean athletes' an opportunity to win 'so-called gold medals' (Elena Isinbaeva, Russian athlete banned from Rio).

- Mutko's activities discredit Russian sports and damage the image of the whole state (Emilia Slabunova, the Deputy of the Karelian Parliament, Chairman of the party Yabloko).
- WADA and IOC act against Russian athletes and don't heed counter-arguments or common sense (Vitaly Mutko, the former Sports Minister).
- Russia must play by international rules or run its own isolated sport (Sergey Litvinov, a Russian hammer thrower).
- Mutko and other sport officials must change their attitude to sport and athletes (Leonid Tiagachev, honorary President of the Olympic Committee of Russia).
- If Russian Paralympic athletes would be allowed to participate under the Olympic flag, it is worth accepting (Svetlana Zhurova, the Russian Olympic and world champion in skating, a Duma deputy).
- The West is not happy when our Paralympic athletes win medals (Zhurova).

Media source statements (not quotes):

- The real problem is poor conditions for disabled people living in Russia and not the Paralympic Rio ban.
- Western countries and foundations helped a lot to common disabled people in Russia.
- Russian athletes banned from Rio OG may serve to help the development of mass sports.
- Olympic sports became a sort of show-business.
- Striking against Russian sports is an extention of economic sanctions.
- Russia couldn't afford to behave as Soviet Union did because it is less powerful and less authoritative.

Methods of influencing the reader, means and examples

Connotative words and expessions:

Quotes from Western media:

Poccuя погрязла в допинге. Russia is mired in doping. (Die Welt)

Российского президента не волнуют международное право, когда он хочет достичь своих целей, ведь он сам бывший офицер КГБ и поэтому не чувствует угрызений совести, применяя незаконные методы.

The Russian President is not concerned about international law when he wants to achieve his goals, because he himself is a former KGB officer and therefore does not feel remorse, using illegal methods.

(Die Welt)

Вся эта история — точная метафора путинской России.

The whole story is a metaphor of Putin's Russia.

(The Wall Street Journal)

Quotes from Russians officials and athletes:

Это патологические русофобы. Они просто патологически не любят нас. Это не заговор. Это физиологическая реакция на нас как на явление.

They are pathological Russophobs. They just pathologically don't like us. This is not a conspiracy. It is a physiological reaction on us as a phenomenon.

(Nikolay Durmanov, the former head of RUSADA)

Не исключено, что олимпийское движение разбредется по географическому или экономическому принципу...

It is not excluded that the Olympic movement will split along geographical or economic lines...

(Nikolay Durmanov, the former head of RUSADA)

ЧМ-2018 — это самая главная цель всего этого допингового скандала. The 2018 world Cup is the main goal of all this doping scandal. (Nikolay Durmanov, the former head of RUSADA)

Идет уже некий психоз вокруг сборной России. Их правда перевешивает другую правду.

There is already a kind of psychosis around the Russian team. Their truth outweighs another truth.

(Vitaly Mutko, the former Sport Minister)

Это чисто политический заказ. ... явная «заказуха». Пусть все эти псевдочистые иностранные спортсмены ... выигрывают свои псевдозолотые медали в наше отсутствие. Силу всегда боялись.

This is a purely political action... obviously "on demand". Let all these pseudo-clean foreign athletes ... win their pseudo-gold medals in our absence. They were always afraid of strength.

(Elena Isinbaeva, a Russian athlete banned from OG)

Parallels:

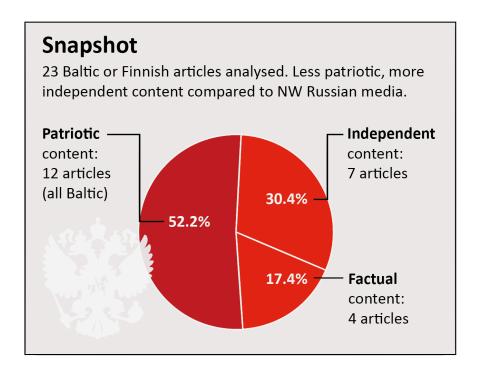
Люди просто сегодня разрушают олимпийское движение, а завтра, так же как с Ближним Востоком, просто не будут знать, что с ним делать.

Today they simply destroy the Olympic movement, and tomorrow, just like with the Middle East, they simply won't know what to do with it.

ANALYSIS OF SELECTED ITEMS, Baltics and Finland

Baltic states:

- Estonia
- Latvia
- Lithuania



Patriotic ranked articles (Baltics, Finland)

Total 12 / 52.2% of the items

Patriotic articles collected from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania make up the largest part of the ranked texts (12 out of 23). The items in this category promote a Russian patriotic narrative that covers topics ranging from the banning of Russian athletes at both the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Rio; questioning the results of WADA-report; the conflicting space between politics and sports; doping and reactions to the report, where a dogmatic point of view is expressed through the author's self-confident main standpoint combined with the use of repetitions of the article's central point (and most commonly a lot of articles produced on the same topic in a short amount of time); expressive language use, i.e. emotional exclamations, militaristic vocabulary, connotative words and expressions.

Articles listed by headline and media

Headlines are translated from Russian, links compiled during the research period.

Andrey Fomochkin: The Flag That was Carried in Rio was a Present for the Russian Paralympic Athletes

Komsomolskaya Pravda (EU)

http://www.kompravda.eu/daily/26580.5/3595511/

The Paralympic Athletes' Lawyer: McLaren's Report is Made According to a Prescription by Goebbels

Komsomolskaya Pravda (EU)

http://www.kompravda.eu/daily/26577.7/3592667/

As a Consequence of the WADA-report Russia May be Deprived of the Olympic Games in Rio and Medals from Sochi

Komsomolskaya Pravda (EU)

http://www.kompravda.eu/daily/26553.5/3572968/

The Russian Paralympic Athletes are Rewarded in Comparison to the Results in Rio Sputnik News Estonia

http://ru.sputnik-news.ee/sport/20160907/3187766/alternativnaja-paralimpiada-2016-podmoskove.html

A Shock on the Scale of Blasphemy: the World's Reaction to the Exclusion of the Russian Paralympic Athletes

Sputnik News Estonia

http://ru.sputnik-news.ee/sport/20160824/3072709.html

Expert: the Olympic Games Have Become a Lever of Pressure on Uncooperative Countries

Sputnik News Estonia

http://ru.sputnik-news.ee/sport/20160719/2741342.html

Putin: Doping Does not Belong in Sports

Vesti.lv

http://vesti.lv/news/putin-dopingu-net-mesta-v-sporte

People About the WADA-report: It is Complete Nonsense

Vesti.lv

http://vesti.lv/news/narod-o-doklade-wada-polnaya-chepuha

Olymp and the Intrigues from Hell

Vesti.lv

http://vesti.lv/news/olimp-i-ada-kozni

#Vopreki (In spite of): Russian Paralympic Athletes Share Their Stories about Which Place Sport Has in their Lives

Obzor.lt

http://www.obzor.lt/news/n22396.html

is a Twitter campaign in support of the Ru par olym team

Doping with Passion/a Bias: why Russian Athletes Most of all Give/Pass Doping Tests Obzor.lt

http://www.obzor.lt/news/n22033.html

Protesting Paralymic Games

Rus.postimees.ee

http://rus.postimees.ee/3830679/protestnaja-paralimpiada

Topics covered by the articles

- The WADA-report/The McLaren report.
- Russian athletes banned from the Olympic Games in Rio.
- Russian athletes banned from the Paralympic Games in Rio.
- Russia arranges its own Paralympic Games in Moscow.
- The "world's" (meaning the CIS-countries') and "people's" (with a pro-Russian opinion) reaction to the Russian ban.
- The West uses the Olympic Games to put further pressure on Russia.
- Russian support for the Paralympic athletes with the #вопреки social media campaign.
- Belarus carries the Russian flag at the opening of Paralympic Games in Rio.

Main statements and conclusions

- The WADA/McLaren-report lacks scientific evidence it is built on one man's point of view, Grigory Rodchenkov's "and some other unknown sources" it is one-sided/biased and factually wrong.
- The Belarusian Paralympic team, in which an official carried the Russian flag at the opening of the POG in Rio, was prepared to take a take punishment for this act.
- Reference to Goebbels, and that "no one believes a half-lie", but anyone will believe a "monstrous lie" which is used to "explain" the "false" foundation on which the WADA-report is written.
- Reference to the Olympic Games in Soviet Moscow 1980, with the understanding that USA is leading renewed pressure on Russia by means of the doping-scandal.

- The possibility of taking the case of the ban of the Russian Paralympic athletes to the court of Human Rights in Europe.
- The independence of the WADA-report should be questioned.
- The WADA-report is an accusation against Russian sports.
- If Russia is banned from the Olympic Games, it means that the world has gone mad then Tolstoy and Dostoyevsky should be banned from literature.
- We are actually in the midst of a second cold war with the West.
- As soon as the appeal to the Swiss court was rejected, Putin immediately allowed for arranging a Russian alternative to the Paralympic Games in Rio.
- The Paralympic Games in Rio will not be the same without Russia, which is one of the strongest teams in the world.
- The ban of the Russian Paralympic athletes is one of the most unbelievable steps in the history of the Paralympic Games.
- The West has unleashed an information war against Russia.

Methods of influencing the reader, means and examples

Connotative words and expressions:

"Йо-хо-хо-хо-хо" - видимо напевает сейчас господин Макларен. После Олимпиады в Москве в 1980 году была популярна пародия на песню "Чингисхан" — "Забросаем бомбами, заровняем танками - будет вам Олимпиада Йо-хо-хо-хо-хо!" Появись она сейчас - это был хит хитов.

"Yo-ho-ho-ho" is probably what Mr. McLaren is singing now. After the Olympic games in Moscow 1980 there was a popular parody on the song "Genghis Khan" - "We will throw bombs on you, we will flatten you with tanks – then you will get your Olympics, yo-ho-ho-ho-ho!" If it appeared now - it would be top-hit.

Militaristic vocabulary:

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...они идут в атаку...
...they are on the attack...
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И неважно, 'холодная' это война или 'горячая'. No matter, if this war is 'cold' or 'hot'.

Складывается впечатление, что каждые четыре года спортсмены готовятся к олимпиадам, а всевозможные чиновники — к военным действиям. It seems that every four years athletes prepare themselves for the Olympics, and all kinds of officials - for military action.

Emotional narrative/words/expressions (with rhetorical questions and acclamations):

Это аморальная история с точки зрения человечности. Да люди жили этим, мечтали совершать подвиги на Паралимпиаде. Вообще вся их жизнь — подвиг. Отстранять их и унижать — это абсолютно не по-людски. Многим людям эта Олимпиада запомнится как самая грязная и нечестная!

This is an immoral story from the point of view of humanity. People devoted their lives to it, they dreamt of performing feats at the Paralympics. Actually their whole life is a feat. To ban and humiliate them is completely unhuman. Many people will remember these Olympics as the dirtiest and most dishonest!

Отстранение всех — всех! — легкоатлетов из—за допингового скандала, сокращение представительства россиян в других видах спорта... The banning of all — all! — athletes because of doping scandal, the reduction of the representation of Russians in other sports...

O спорт, ты проиграл! Oh sport, you've lost!

Using quotation marks to express doubt:

Вот выводы "независимой" комиссии. Here are the conclusions of the "independent" Commission.

Glorification/victimization of Russian athletes/Paralympic athletes:

Спортивные игры, придуманные человечеством как альтернатива военным действиям, все чаще становятся заложниками игр политических. Sports games invented by humanity as an alternative to military action, often become hostages of political games.

...участие людей с ограниченными возможностями в таких соревнованиях – уже само по себе настоящая победа.

...the participation of people with disabilities in such competitions is a victory in itself.

A то, что инвалидов ставят во главу политики, это вообще кощунство. The fact that people with disabilities are used for political purposes, is a real blasphemy.

Господин Крейвен, ответьте мне на один вопрос: я в инвалидной коляске, вы в инвалидной коляске, мы друг друга понимаем, как никто другой, почему и за что вы нас лишаете мечты — поучаствовать в Паралимпиаде?

Mr. Craven, answer my one question: I'm in a wheelchair, you're in a wheelchair, we understand each other like no one else, why and for what reason do you deprive us of a dream — to take part in the Paralympics?

Biased selection of quotes:

...Известно со времен Геббельса, что в полуложь никто не поверит, а в ложь чудовищную поверят охотно. Я думаю, что это была чудовищная ложь, и завет Геббельса выполнен.

...it's well known since the time of Goebbels that no one will believe a half-lie, but a monstrous lie would be readily believed in. I think it was a monstrous lie, in line with Goebbels' testament.

Promoting a fragmented view on Russia (East) and the West:

Многих уже замучили многочисленные атаки на Россию и Китай во всех сферах, где все остальные страны якобы идеальны.

Many people are already tired of numerous attacks on Russia and China in all fields, where the rest of the countries are supposedly perfect.

Олимпиада в Бразилии прошла под знаком ненависти к России.

The Olympic games in Brazil were marked by hatred of Russia.

Independent-ranked articles (Baltics, Finland)

Total 7 / 30,4% of the items

The independent items are collected from Estonia, Latvia and Finland. Articles in this category strive to enlighten the reader with new information, background and critical comment. An article headlined "The WADA-report about doping in Russia. The most important of the 100-page long report: vanished samples, FSB, the 'Duchess' cocktail and

Mutko's participation" from Meduza.io is a good example of this. It presents the findings of the WADA-report, points out important nuances about the credibility, but leaves it to the reader to decide what to believe. In general, these articles highlight a variety of views on the WADA-report and the future of Russian sports. They manage to keep a professional distance, and do not present dogmatic views. That is why they are categorized as independent.

Two articles represent a certain national-patriotic category underrepresented in the amount of cases collected and two articles represent views/opinions that oppose the general Russian hegemonic view in the news-coverage we find in the patriotic rated articles. The Estonian article is characterized by an urge to hold up contemporary Russia as a mirror of the Soviet regime using an emotional tone. The Lithuanian article can be described as primarily informative, investigative and giving facts about the WADA-report and Russian reactions to it, but in the same manner as the patriotic articles it wants to show the reader where to put the blame.

The Lithuanian op-ed article by I. Marakaityte stands out from the primarily critical and distanced attitude that dominates other articles in this category, as it is highly ironic in its tone and message. The author points a finger at both Russia and Lithuania, targeting the high level of corruption in both countries and apparent support or solidarity to each other in matters like doping in sports and the involvement of officials on the highest state-level.

Articles listed by headline and media

Headlines are translated from Russian, links compiled during the research period.

The WADA-report About Doping in Russia. The Most Important of the 100-page Long Report: Vanished Samples, FSB, the "Duchess" Cocktail and Mutko's Participation

https://meduza.io/feature/2016/07/19/doklad-vada-o-dopinge-v-rossii-glavnoe

WADA: the Russian Authorities Systematically Covered up Doping in Sochi 2014 Ru.delfi.lt

 $\frac{http://ru.delfi.lt/sport/world/wada-vlasti-rossii-pokryvali-sistematicheskoe-primenenie-dopinga-v-sochi-2014.d?id=71834386$

Expert: the Doping Scandal May Turn out to the Benefit of Russian Sports

YLE Novosti Finland

 $\frac{http://yle.fi/uutiset/osasto/novosti/ekspert_dopingovyi_skandal_mozhet_poiti_na_blago_rossiisko_mu_sportu/9036209$

Without Mutko and Putin. How the Russian team Filtered Through to the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro

Spektr.press

http://spektr.press/bez-mutko-i-putina-kak-sbornaya-rossii-prosochilas-na-olimpiadu-v-rio-de-zhanejro/

I. Makaraityte. We Welcome "Clean" Russian Athletes. And Russia. Congratulations to the Victory!

Rus.delfi.lt

http://ru.delfi.lt/opinions/comments/imakarajtite-poprivetstvuem-chistyh-rossijskih-sportsmenov-i-rossiyu-s-pobedoj.d?id=71912610

The Sports-Autocrat Putin Even Used the Doping Scandal as Self-promotion

Rus.postimees.ee

 $\underline{http://rus.postimees.ee/3786067/olev-remsu-sportivnyj-samoderzhec-put in-dazhe-skandal-s-dopingom-ispolzoval-dlja-samoreklamy}$

Russia Intends to Stop its Financial Contribution to WADA

Rus.err.ee

http://rus.err.ee/v/ccb60d2d-b8dd-4885-9303-f5176cca7846

Topics covered by the articles

- The WADA-report
- The doping procedures and doping problems in Russia
- Involvement of the FSB in the doping scandal
- Involvement of Russian authorities in the doping scandal
- Vladimir Putin and sport events

Main statements and conclusions

- Rodchenkov can be trusted as a specialist.
- Russian politicians were aware of the doping fraud.
- Sources reveal that the doping laboratory in Moscow was absolutely dependent on the Russian state.
- The system (fraud with doping tests) was arranged in a way so that the Russian state could go free if matters turned public, and all the blame could be placed on the laboratory.
- According to Rodchenkov, the FSB and the laboratory were working together, and the FSB took part in the exchange of tests at the OG in Sochi.

- On one hand, the world critizes Russia and this draws attention to the country's activities, which includes sport. On the other hand, one must not diminsh the fact that doping is a large problem in Russia.
- Did the personal relationship between Vladimir Putin and Thomas Bach influence the IOC's decision to let a large part of the Russian athletes participate in the OG in Rio?
- WADA recommended the IOC to ban Russian athletes from OG in Rio.
- Putin dismisses high-rank officials, while Mutko remains in his office as minister of sports.
- According to Rene Fazel, president of the International Hockey Committee, the WADA-report contains incorrect information about the missing doping tests.
- State-level corruption connected to sports is not only a Russian trend, but it is taking place in Lithuania as well.
- The president of National Olympic Committee of Lithuania welcomed the decision to allow the participation of Russian athletes at the OG in Rio.
- If the scandal had concerned another country, i.e. Hungary, there would not have been this sort of hype and interest.
- The idea that sports are not connected to politics is long since dead.
- There's no reason for Russia to contribute financially to an organisation with whom it doesn't work, but it is important to think about the consequences for the athletes/sportsmen.
- Putin used the OG and the doping-scandal as self-promotion.
- Putin is an autocratic leader in line with Stalin and Brezhnev.
- Putin has chosen sport to be his PR-weapon.

Methods of influencing the reader, means and examples

Maintaining a professional and critical distance to the subject matter:

В итоговом документе лично мне хочется видеть более основательные подтверждения тому, о чем говорится в докладе.

In the final document I would personally like to see more convincing proof of what is stated in the report.

- Россию критикуют в разных плоскостях... но это не уменьшает факта присутствия этой большой проблемы в российском спорте.
- Russia has been criticised on different levels... but this does not diminish the fact that this big problem exists in Russian sports.

The WADA-report as an artifact that articulates the relationship between Russia and the West:

...многие спорные вопросы, в том числе с WADA, решатся в начале 2017 года, когда наладятся отношения России и Запада. Лозунг, что спорт вне политики, давно умер, и как только у нас повернется вектор взаимоотношений с Западом в положительную сторону, поверьте, WADA нас восстановит и все будет нормально. ...many controversial issues, including WADA, will be regulated early in 2017, when there will be better relations between Russia and the West. The idea that sports is not connected politics died long ago, and as soon as we turn the vector of relations with the West in a positive way, believe me, WADA will restore us and everything will be fine.

В Средние века в Европе 99 процентов людей были глубоко верующими, которые относились к сомневающимся безбожникам, как мы сейчас к педофилам. Убеждения в современной России далеко не настолько фанатичны, поддерживает президента на уровне продолжающегося сокращения жизненного уровня примерно 85 процентов населения, но сходство есть. In the Middle ages in Europe, 99 percent of the people were deeply religious and treated those who belonged to the doubters as atheists, like we treat pedophiles now. Beliefs in modern Russia are not so fanatical, support of the President, despite continuing decline in living standards, is about 85 percent of the population, but there are similarities.

Вот тут и проходит водораздел между Западом и Россией. Запад, начиная со времени реформации, стал прагматично-индивидуалистическим. Россия — религиозно-коллективистской, триединым богом которого является государство, его руководитель и общая идеология.

Here is the watershed between the West and Russia. The West, starting from the time of the reformation, became pragmatic and individualistic; Russia – religious and collectivist, with the Holy Trinity represented by the state, its leader and common ideology.

Connecting the doping system in Russia to the Russian leaders:

Московская лаборатория была абсолютно зависима от государства. ...Как отмечается в докладе, систему выстроили таким образом, что в случае раскрытия махинаций с пробами, все можно было свалить на лабораторию.

The Moscow laboratory was fully dependent on the state... as noted in the report, the system was built in such a way that in case of revealing the fraud sample, only the lab could be blamed.

При поступлении на работу в лабораторию Григорий Родченков подписал документ о сотрудничестве с ФСБ ... Он должен был отчитываться перед своим куратором из спецслужбы.

When applying for a job in a laboratory, Grigory Rodchenkov signed a document on cooperation with the FSB ... He was supposed to report to his supervisor from FSB.

Corruption/fraud happens outside of Russia:

...литовцы вероятно были бы неспособны создать государственную систему сокрытия допинга, но методами систематического коррупционного освоения денег уже овладели

...the Lithuanians would probably have been unable to create a state system of concealment of doping, but they have mastered the methods of the systematic corruption of development money....

Ironic undertones:

Без Мутко и Путина. Как сборная России просочилась на Олимпиаду в Рио-де-Жанейро

Without Mutko and Putin. How Russia managed to filter through to the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro

...вот умный и способный Путин все делает в правильном порядке! Еще раз за вас, выдающийся наш Владимир Владимирович!

...the intelligent and capable Putin is doing everything in the right order! One more toast for our distinguished Vladimir Vladimirovich!

Эти 33 олимпийские медали следовало бы повесить на вашу шею, Владимир Владимирович.

These 33 Olympic medals should hang around your neck, Mr President.

Using the Soviet past pointing to parallels to contemporary Russia implying an autocratic 'tradition':

Сталин получил благодаря разведке атомную бомбу и многое другое, а нынешняя Россия — олимпийские медали и многое другое...

Thanks to the intelligence services, Stalin got the atomic bomb and much more, and today's Russia – Olympic medals and much more...

Видите, Брежнев был такой неуклюжий мужик без кагебешного образования, что начал войну в Афганистане перед московской Олимпиадой...

You see, Brezhnev was such a clumsy fool, without KGB training, so he started the war in Afghanistan just before the Moscow Olympics...

Militaristic vocabulary:

Вспомним Людовика XIV, который поддерживал театр и Мольера, Александр I и Николай I - Пушкина, похоже, что Путин сделал своим пиар-оружием спорт. Во имя победы народ позволяет хитрить, а осуществление разных уловок — это святая обязанность разведки.

Remember Louis XIV, how he supported the theatre and Molière; Alexander I and Nicholas I did the same with Pushkin. It seems that Putin made sport his PR-weapon. People accept cheating in the name of victory, and the implementation of various tricks – that is the holy duty of the secret service.

- Ну что вы, ребята, вы проделали большую работу, за которую Родина вас благодарит, скромно говорит Путин и довешивает присутствующим звездочки на погоны и ордена на мундиры.
- Well guys, you did a great job, the Motherland is thankful, says Putin modestly and puts new stars on the epaulets and medals on the uniforms.

Factual-ranked articles (Baltics, Finland)

Total 4 / 17.4% of the items

The material in this category consists mainly of informative news-bulletins striving to present facts, with some quotes and use of sources relating to the doping-case. They tend to summarize results or other existing information on the subject, leaving out analysis or investigations. Generally this kind of news-coverage is published as unsigned articles, simply as editorial material. The articles often put quotes in brackets, although sometimes leaving out the source.

Articles listed by headline and media

Headlines are translated from Russian, links compiled during the research period.

WADA charged Russia with manipulation of doping-tests

YLE Novosti

http://yle.fi/uutiset/osasto/novosti/wada_obvinilo_rossiyu_v_manipulyatsii_doping-probami/9034334

WADA accused the Russian authorities of concealing facts concerning doping among Russian athletes at the 2014-Olympics

Obzor.lt

http://www.obzor.lt/news/n21839.html

Finnish experts support the ban of Russian athletes' participation in the Olympic Games *YLE Novosti*

 $\frac{http://yle.fi/uutiset/osasto/novosti/finskie_eksperty_podderzhivayut_zapret_na_uchastie_rossiiskikh_leg}{koatletov_v_olimpiade/9041444}$

Finnish experts are satisfied with IOC's decision – "Russian athletes should not be collectively punished"

YLE Novosti

http://yle.fi/uutiset/osasto/novosti/finskie_eksperty_dovolny_resheniem_mok__rossiiskie_sportsmeny_ne_ponesut_kollektivnogo_nakazaniya/9047965

Topics covered by the articles

- The WADA report
- The consequences of the WADA-report
- Doping at the Olympic Games
- The American documentary about doping in Russia

Main statements and conclusions

- IOC's decision is somewhat surprising, but it is the right decision
- It is a big step towards more honest and clean sports
- The decision by IOC is "reasonable"
- The decision by IOC is reasonable, considering that the international sports federations know the athletes and their situation best of all, including the Russians.

Methods of influencing the reader, means and examples

Quotes/citations without source:

Согласно отчету, в допинговых махинациях «активно помогало» и ФСБ. *According to the report, FSB "actively helped" with the doping fraud.*

- (...) бывший руководитель антидопинговой лаборатории Григорий Родченков разработал специальный «стероидный коктейль» из запрещенных препаратов и алкоголя...
- (...) the ex-head of the anti-doping laboratory Grigoriy Rodchenkov developed a special "steroid-cocktail" from illegal drugs and alcohol...

Решением МОК на Олимпиаду в Рио-де-Жанейро будут допущены «чистые» российские спортсмены, за исключением легко- и тяжелоатлетов.

IOC's decision on the Olympics in Rio will permit "clean" Russian athletes except within athletics and weightlifting.

Quoting a well-known source:

12 мая газета The New York Times со ссылкой на Родченкова опубликовала материал с утверждениями о том, что десятки российских спортсменов, включая 15 медалистов зимней Олимпиады 2014 года в Сочи, употребляли допинг, а экс-глава московской лаборатории помогал подменять образцы допинг-проб.

On May 12 The New York Times, with reference to Rodchenkov, published an article with allegations that dozens of Russian athletes, including 15 medalists from the winter Olympics 2014 in Sochi, used doping, and that the former head of the Moscow lab helped replace the samples of doping tests.

CONCLUSION

Truth vs. truth

For anyone who has followed the development of journalism in post-Soviet Russia over the last decades it is hard to deny that the situation for independent journalism and freedom of speech has taken a turn for the worse. Our study of Russian speaking local and regional media in North Western Russia and the neighbouring countries confirms this trend. Although brief in time and limited to just one topic, the study reveals a very lopsided media situation and a clear tendency towards politicized journalism, sometimes bordering on propaganda.

In our rough classification of media content into patriotic-independent-factual an overwhelming portion of the material falls under the heading of patriotic, i.e. defending the official Russian position. The people interviewed and quoted for articles are mainly of the same category, spokesmen for Russian official organizations or the administration. Very few outside voices are heard, extremely few supporters of the so-called MacLaren report, which is at the heart of the conflict over alleged massive, government-supported doping in Russian sports. The media consumer is left with a very limited chance of making an independent judgement based on the material offered by the media.

There is also a qualitative level worth taking note of. As can be seen from quotes in our study, the language used in these articles is in many cases not standard journalistic jargon. It reminds you more of comments on social media, mixing insults with sweeping generalizations. This can to some extent be explained – but not excused – by the strong emotional context raised by the doping issue. The ban on some Russian athletes in the Rio Olympics and all Russian athletes in the Paralympics is something that severely hurt Russian national pride and made many Russians genuinely upset.

A clear result from our study is that the media bias is not just limited to the domestic media in Russia. There is a similar predominance of pro-Russian patriotic reporting in Russian language media accessible in the Baltics and the Nordic countries. In the Baltic countries and in Finland there is some counterweight by more independent or public service oriented media, but their reach seems to be much smaller than the Russia-sponsored media. In the rest of Scandinavia – Sweden, Denmark and Norway – the number of Russian-speaking media is so small and their reach so insignificant that we have disregarded them in the in-depth part of this study.

In conclusion, it is hard to see this situation as existing on a 'normal', commercial media market where the supply and demand of information is regulated simply by public interest. The Russian speaking community – inside Russia and in the countries with significant Russian minorities – is subject to an active media policy that is to a significant

extent dependent on the will of the federal government in Russia. Influence over media content is a corner stone in a policy under the present regime in Moscow where all Russians – inside and outside the Russian Federation - are to some extent seen as subjects in a greater Russian nation; in this context it is desirable that they should feel patriotic or at least sympathetic toward the political course of the government in Moscow.

The role of the journalist

The current situation in Russian media is clearly not positive for Russian journalists. Their professional organizations do not support the current state of affairs, neither the strong influence by state or local government financing of media, nor the pressure on media outlets or individual journalists to show patriotism. Hundreds of journalists were decorated by the government for their patriotism after the Russian annexation of Crimea, a clear demonstration of how the Russian government wants to encourage a very specific type of reporting.

It is hard to put the blame on individual journalists or their organizations for the current state of Russian journalism. Not only are they under pressure from officials and often the management of their own media outlets. There is also a strong current of patriotism in the general public, which puts added pressure on journalists to conform. Some of that pressure is also directly sponsored in the form of paid 'Internet trolls', who attack media for being "anti-Russian" and accuse them of being "foreign agents" if they quote sources critical of the official Russian position. They were clearly at work before and during the Olympic Games and the Paralympics.

Local and regional media sometimes solve the problem of controversial subjects by leaving such questions only to the federal media (state owned television is the dominant source of news for most Russians). This can be noted also in our study, where for example regional media in the Leningrad oblast (the region surrounding Saint Petersburg) showed little interest in the hot topic of doping and focused on local and regional content during our research period.

Some media choose to avoid the controversial side of the issue by reporting only factual or neutral stories, where they offer quotes from both sides. This is not unique for Russia, but often the only way for a small outlet with limited resources both in terms of personnel and space, unable to tackle a complex question of national or international importance. In the current situation, however, much of the best reporting in Russian media is in fact done on the local and regional level, where there is room for professional journalistic work, even investigative, as long as it doesn't directly challenge the presidential power.

Что делать? - What can be done?

There is no easy way to influence or remedy the situation for Russian journalism today. To some extent there is already a media war going on with new bodies being set up to monitor and encourage media to counter the effect of Russian media, particularly in the post-Soviet territories close to Russia and in the former Soviet client states in Eastern Europe. It is doubtful that this will have any serious effect on the Russian speaking community, which is always likely to choose Russian television or Russian media, simply because they are more professional and offer a wider choice of material in terms of entertainment – besides pro-Russian news.

The danger with this type of media outlets being set up (or at least sponsored) by EU funding or other non-commercial means, is that they are easily dismissed by the Russian side as propaganda. To some extent this harps back to the media war during the cold war, when Voice of America and Radio Liberty (with US government funding) did a lot of good reporting, but were on the whole ineffective against the Soviet state media. Paradoxically, it was CNN, a commercial independent network, that played a much more important role in the dying days of the USSR. Simply by setting an example of openness and independence.

Today's media world is far too complex for a simple war of truths to be won by either side. Rather than building up artificial barriers or inventing new media outlets, the most productive way is to work with our own journalistic standards and keep an open dialogue with our Russian colleagues. We must trust our own skills and work to make our media strong enough to defend professional journalism and build trust with the next generation of media consumers. It's our own job to see to it that we have readers, listeners and viewers, with an ability to distinguish between professional journalism and fake journalism. Not easy, but it must be done.

With our Russian-speaking colleagues we need to build open fora, like Barents Press International, which gathers journalists from the northern regions of Russia, Finland, Sweden and Norway. We cannot tell Russian-speaking journalists how they should work, we cannot tell them how their media should be managed, but we can have a running discussion with them. This is probably more important at this time than it has been before. We can share experiences, we can always learn something from each other, and we should never forget that freedom of speech is not a given, it has to be fought for and protected every day.

Nämdö, Sweden October 2017 Malcolm Dixelius, project manager

SHORT BIO OF AUTHORS

Signe Van Zundert (researcher, co-author)

Signe van Zundert holds a Master's Degree in Eastern European studies concentrated on Russia from the University of Aarhus. Her thesis was occupied with formations of the Russian public sphere focused on digital protest culture in post-modern Russia. She has studied Russian language media in the Baltic States in Riga, Russian language in Saint Petersburg and developments of "Post-Socialist Society & Culture" in Helsinki. She cocurates an annual Baltic Documentary Film Festival in Aarhus BalticFrames.

Irina Merkina (researcher, co-author)

Irina Merkina is a Russian-born journalist and writer, with a degree in journalism from the Moscow State University, now living in Sweden. 1992-2003 she worked as a journalist for Russian-language media outlets in Israel, mostly concentrating on integration problems and world political analytics. She is an author of six published novels and more than hundred tv-scripts. She is a co-editor of the Swedish-based Russian-language website varjagnews.com.

Malcolm Dixelius (project manager, co-author)

Malcolm Dixelius is a journalist, who served as Moscow correspondent for Swedish Radio and Television in the Soviet Union (1979-84) and during the transition to post-Soviet Russia (1990-1994). He co-authored two books on Russian organized crime with the Russian writer Andrei Konstantinov in the 1990s. He lectures frequently on journalism in Russia and the Baltic states and leads courses about Russia for journalists from the Nordic countries. 2013-2015 he served as expert advisor on the Board of Governors for Azhur Media (fontanka.ru) in Saint Petersburg.

PART 2: MEDIA MAPPING

General structure of the study - geography

We divided the Russian language media into three groups according to their geography:

- Outlets in NW Russia (Arkhangelsk Oblast, Kaliningrad Oblast, Republic of Karelia, Leningrad Oblast, Pskov Oblast, Murmansk Oblast, Saint Petersburg City).
- Outlets in the five Nordic (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden) and the three Baltic countries (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania) the NB8 countries
- Media covering multiple countries.

We studied the media situation in NW Russia analysing each oblast, city or republic separately to look for local specifics. We also studied the NB8 countries separately to see if the status of Russian-language media differs between the countries. Finally we looked at those media outlets that aim for a Russian-speaking audience in general over a larger geographical area (either the Baltic states or all NB8).

Classification of media outlets

First it must be stated that this mapping of media outlets refers mainly to outlets that publish material on the Internet. The study is made only from Internet material. We decided to classify the outlets from their general journalistic and/or political approach into three categories:

- Patriotic outlets. This category refers to media that take a clear pro-Russian stance as it is defined by the current Kremlin leadership when it comes to controversial issues. We have in particular looked at the choice of interviewees and the attitude of the journalists or commentators to see if there is a clear, identifiable tendency in each media outlet.
- **Neutral outlets.** This category refers to media that try to stay away from controversial issues or chose to give a balanced view of a controversial issue without showing any editorial preference. This is also the category for media outlets with predominantly factual material.
- **Independent outlets.** This category refers to media with a clear journalistic approach to either engage in investigative journalism or offer a wide range of opinions for the audience to choose from. Clearly oppositional media also fall into this category.
- Some neutral media outlets have been given a double classification to show that there is a mixture of material that leans slightly toward the patriotic or independent.

Immediate conclusions

Some conclusions can be drawn from the mapping, without going deeply into the content.

1. Federal media dominate

It is, for instance, clear that in the Russian North West, the federal media (TV in particular) dominate the media scene completely when it comes to national and international news. Local media (apart from a few opposition outlets) have a secondary function only.

2. Strong independent voices

The exception is Saint Petersburg, where there are independent media voices strong enough to present an alternative version of a story for a fairly large audience. The footprint of these media also reaches outside of the city, particularly into the Leningrad Oblast.

3. Battlefield Baltics

A second conclusion is that the real battlefield for the current war between media outlets for the Russian-speaking public is in the Baltic states and to some extent in Finland. Those countries have most contact with Russia, they have the largest Russian-speaking minorities and they have the greatest variety of Russian-language media. This is also where the Russian government has concentrated its efforts to propagate its world-view to compatriots living outside Russia.

4. Low interest

There is clearly less effort being made to reach Russian speakers in Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Iceland. The presence of indigenous Russian-language media is insignificant in those countries. The Russian-speaking minorities carry no political weight and the interest in Russian affairs is also limited among the majority populations. These countries are targeted almost exclusively through the English language TV channel RT.

OVERALL TABLE OF MEDIA OUTLETS IN THE STUDY

Number of media outlets in the three categories:

Region				Total
or country	Patriotic	Neutral	Independent	
Arkhangelsk Oblast	10	13	3	26
Kaliningrad Oblast	8	14	3	25
Republic of Karelia	10	6	6	22
Leningrad Oblast	6	9	1	16
Pskov Oblast	8	6	4	18
Murmansk Oblast	10	11	2	23
Saint Petersburg City	16	18	5	39
Total NW Russia	68	77	24	169
Estonia	2	8	2	12
Latvia	3	13	6	22
Lithuania	3	4	1	8
Denmark	1	1		2
Finland		12		12
Iceland				0
Norway	1	3		4
Sweden	3	3		6
Pan-NB8	10	9	1	20
Total NB8	23	53	10	86
Grand Total	91	130	34	255

NW RUSSIA

News for Russian audiences in NW Russia

Arkhangelsk Oblast

Arkhangelsk Oblast is the largest province in all of Europe, located in the far north of European Russia on the Arctic Sea. It includes the Arctic archipelagos of Franz Josef's Land and Novaya Zemlya. Huge areas within the oblast are a border security zone.

Capital: Arkhangelsk (350,000 inhabitants)

Area: 588,474 km²

Population: 1,200,000 (2012)

International: Member of Barents Euro-Arctic Council (BEAC), Barents Region

Council and Kolarctic.

Until Saint Petersburg was founded in 1703 as Russia's 'Window to the West', Arkhangelsk was the most important port for Russian trade with Europe. Industrialization was a slow process in this northern region, but during the Soviet period the Arkhangelsk region regained some importance with a well-developed forest industry and shipbuilding, including the strategically important shipyards Sevmash and Zvezdochka. The Russian space programme has a key launch centre in Plesetsk, located near the town of Mirny.

After the fall of the Soviet Union, the economic crisis struck Arkhangelsk Oblast badly. The population is in decline, especially in rural areas. Many villages have simply been abandoned, others are on the verge of disappearing.

Media landscape

The media landscape in Arkhangelsk Oblast leaves the impression of being mostly local, with little contact with the rest of the world. Although the region is involved in a number of big Northern projects (of national significance), there is scant mention of this in the media. Local events, local economics and politics take up most of the coverage, with the rest devoted to federal events and some international news.

Generally, media outlets in the region tend to be loyal to Moscow with a patriotic tendency in their reporting. A few more independent voices have recently joined in a media association Volnoe Delo (including RusNord, Ekho Severa, Pravda Severo-Zapada and ArkhSvoboda). They contain material critical to both federal and local authorities, but pay little attention to international issues.

Mapping of media in Arkhangelsk Oblast

(URLs as of September 2017)

REGIONAL EDITIONS OF FEDERAL PRINT/WEB MEDIA

Аргументы и Факты / Argumenty i Fakty

http://www.arh.aif.ru/

Weekly newspaper and magazines; several regional, city editions; website. Patriotic.

Российская Газета /Rossiyskaya Gazeta

https://rg.ru/region/szfo/arkhan/

Federal daily (in 44 cities) or weekly (in 47 cities) newspaper and Internet portal provides federal, regional, international news.

Patriotic.

Комсомольская Правда / Komsomolskaya Pravda

https://www.arh.kp.ru

News portal - federal, regional and international editions. Provides local, regional, international news. Includes Radio Komsomolskaya Pravda, streaming and download - Patriotic.

Без Формата /Bez Formata

http://arhangelsk.bezformata.ru/

Aggregates local/regional news and information from several sources – news sites, newspapers, information agencies, administration, local government etc.

Neutral.

MK (Московский Комсомолец) / MK (Moskovskiy Komsomolets)

http://www.arh.mk.ru

Federal weekly newspaper Moskovskiy Komsomolets with regional and international Internet portals. Provides local, federal, international news; analysis. Website also offers video (http://tv.mk.ru/) and links to a hunters' section http://www.ohotniki.ru/, womans' section http://www.womanhit.ru/, and a motors' section http://www.avtovzglyad.ru/. Neutral/independent.

INTERNET PORTALS

Двина-Информ / Dvina-Inform

http://www.dvinainform.ru/

Founded 2003. Privately owned. Provides local, federal, international news. Patriotic.

ИА Беломорканал / IA Belomorkanal

http://tv29.ru/

Provides local, federal, international news. Patriotic.

У Эхо Севера / Ekho Severa

http://www.echosevera.ru/

+ newspaper Pravda Severo-Zapada (PDF download - http://www.echosevera.ru/psz/). Privately owned by Agenstvo Brat'ev Mukhomorovykh. Neutral/Patriotic.

ИА Регион 29 / IA Region 29

http://region29.ru/

Provides local news.

Neutral.

News29.ru

http://www.news29.ru/

Provides local news. Users can upload photos and video of events. Neutral.

Пресса29 / Pressa29

http://pressa29.ru/

Founded 2000 by Press and Media Agency of Arhangelsk Oblast. Information portal for more than 20 regional outlets and information agencies.

Neutral.

29.ru

http://29.ru/

Founded 2001 as a part of the Cities Sites Network project http://rugion.ru/. Provides local news. Traffic - about 440,000 visitors per month. Neutral.

ИА Архангельские Известия / IA Arkhangelskie Izvestia

http://www.izvestia29.ru/

Provides local, federal news.

Neutral.

ИА РусНорд / IA RusNord

http://www.rusnord.ru/

Founded 2003. Provides local, federal news; analysis.

Neutral/independent.

ApxСвобода / ArkhSvoboda

http://arhsvoboda.ru/

Founded 2009. "Aimes to establish a civil society in Russia" (http://arhsvoboda.ru/?page_id=5). Includes TV channel Arkh TV. Independent.

7X7 Arhangelsk

http://7x7-journal.ru/arkhangelsk/

The oblast version of independent project 7x7 Horizontal Russia, aimed at provincial cities and regions. Provides local, federal, international news; analysis. The purpose is to cover the provincial regions of the North-West, the Center, the Volga region and the Urals, creating horizontal communities of active bloggers everywhere in order to involve the civil society in cooperation. Independent.

Закс.py / Zaks.ru - Political Life of North-West

https://www.zaks.ru/

Founded 2002 by the company Медиа. С-Пб.

Reaches an audience in all of NW Russia. Regional news section for Arkhangelsk Oblast: https://www.zaks.ru/new/archive/list/0-5-0 Independent.

PRINT AND DIGITAL MEDIA

ID Dyina, publishers of 3 newspapers available in PDF-format: Архангельск / Arkhangelsk Новодвинский Рабочий / Novodvinskiy Rabochiy У Белого Моря / U Belogo Morya http://dvina29.ru/

Patriotic.

Важский Край / Vazhskiy Kray

http://www.vk-gazeta.ru/

Founded 1918 (re-registered 1991). Shenkursk region weekly newspaper, Internet portal. Provides local, federal, international news and historical reviews. Circulation about 4,000.

Patriotic.

Правда Севера + Телеканал ПС / Pravda Severa + Telekanal PS

http://pravdasevera.ru/, http://pravdasevera.ru/tvps

Founded 1918. Provides local, federal, international news. Internet portal, online TV channel and newspaper published 5 days a week; circulation 22,000. Patriotic.

Бизнес-класс экспресс Архангельск / Business-class express Arkhangelsk http://bclass.ru/

Founded 1998. Provides local business news. Internet portal and weekly paper, circulation 10.000.

Neutral.

Вечерний Северодвинск / Vecherniy Severodvinsk

http://www.vdvsn.ru/gazety/vecherniy_severodvinsk/ - Severodvinsk City weekly newspaper in PDF format.

Северная неделя / Severnaya Nedelya

http://www.vdvsn.ru/ - Internet portal. Provides daily local news.

Commercial, private. Founded by Publishing House Severnaya Nedelya. Neutral.

Вельские Вести / Velskie Vesty

http://www.velskie-vesti.ru/

Founded 1917 (re-registered 1991). Velsk regional weekly newspaper and Internet portal. Provides local, federal news; analysis. Circulation 8,900. Neutral.

BROADCAST (TV, RADIO)

ГТРК Поморье / GTRK Pomorie

http://www.pomorie.ru/

State-official TV and radio via Internet. Available in Arhangelsk oblast and the Nenets district.

Patriotic.

Свой Регион / Svoy Region

http://svoyregion.tv/

Streaming television and Internet portal run by the TV company of Severodvinsk.

CTB / STV

http://stv-online.ru/

The first independent TV of Severodvinsk. Founded 2009, privately owned by the company STV (Sever TV). Internet portal gives access to the online radio station Ekho Moskvy Severodvinsk.

Neutral.

Kaliningrad Oblast

Kaliningrad Oblast is the westernmost administrative region of Russian Federation. It is located on the coast of the Baltic Sea, bordering on Lithuania and Poland, i.e. surrounded by NATO and EU members.

Capital: Kaliningrad (460,000 inhabitants)

Area: 15,125 km² **Population:** 86,261

International: Russian base for The Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS)

The territory was formerly part of East Prussia (Germany); annexed by the Soviet Union after the WWII. The German-speaking population was expulsed and replaced by Soviet citizens. Cities, suburbs, even rivers and lakes were given new, Russian names. With the

dissolution of the Soviet Union, Kaliningrad Oblast became an exclave, separated from the Russian republic by Lithuania and Belarus.

Even though the region's export-orientated economy suffered from the latest anti-Russian sanctions, the oblast still participates in a number of European programs and is still heavily dependent on trade with EU countries. For some time, there was a ferry line between Sweden and Kaliningrad. At present, the only direct ferry lines from Kaliningrad to the EU go to Poland and Germany.

Media landscape

Because of its geographical isolation, Kaliningrad is considered 'the first candidate for separation' from Russia. That is why federal authorities are strongly concerned about separatist ideas in the region and pay much attention to patriotic propaganda. Regional media are under strong federal control.

There are about 400 media outlets registered in the oblast, but there is not a single oppositionist voice. Most of media try to be neutral and focus on local topics.

Being a close neighbour to the Baltic states, Kaliningrad Oblast is also an outpost for the Russian information war against the West. Some outlets, like Rubaltic.ru, directly address a Russian-speaking audience in EU countries, with continuous criticism of NATO, EU and the US. Rubaltic.ru regularly publishes reviews of the political situation in the Baltic countries, often with negative connotations.

Mapping of media in Kaliningrad Oblast

(URLs as of September 2017)

REGIONAL EDITIONS OF FEDERAL PRINT/WEB MEDIA

Аргументы и Факты / Argumenty i Fakty

http://www.klg.aif.ru

Weekly newspaper and magazines; several regional, city editions; website. Patriotic.

Российская Газета /Rossiyskaya Gazeta

https://rg.ru/region/szfo/kalinobl/

Federal daily (in 44 cities) or weekly (in 47 cities) newspaper and Internet portal provides federal, regional, international news.

Patriotic.

Комсомольская Правда / Komsomolskaya Pravda

https://www.kaliningrad.kp.ru

News portal - federal, regional and international editions. Provides local, regional, international news. Includes Radio Komsomolskaya Pravda, streaming and download - Patriotic.

Без Формата /Bez Formata

http://kaliningrad.bezformata.ru/

Website aggregates local/regional news and information from several sources – news sites, newspapers, information agencies, administration, local government etc. Neutral.

МК (Московский Комсомолец) / МК (Moskovskiy Komsomolets)

http://www.mk-kaliningrad.ru

Federal weekly newspaper Moskovskiy Komsomolets with regional and international Internet portals. Provides local, federal, international news; analysis. Website also offers video (http://tv.mk.ru/) and links to a hunters' section http://www.ohotniki.ru/, womans' section http://www.womanhit.ru/, and a motors' section http://www.avtovzglyad.ru/.

Neutral/independent.

INTERNET PORTALS



Клопс.ru / Klops.ru

https://klops.ru/

Provides local news and news about 'neighbours'. Reaches an audience of 50-70,000 per day; 135,000 subscribers on social media. Includes web video:

https://klops.ru/video_reports

Patriotic.



Rubaltic.Ru

http://www.rubaltic.ru/

Founded in 2013 by scientists from the Baltic Federal University. Aimed at Russianspeaking audiences in Russia, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Poland, Moldova, Ukraine, Finland, Great Britain and Ireland.

Patriotic.



NewsBalt

http://newsbalt.ru/

Founded 2011. Aimed at a Russian-speaking audience in Poland, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Russia. Provides news; analysis. "Represents Baltic and Eastern European cooperation from the Russian point of view" (statement from newsbalt web site). Patriotic.



Янтарный Остров / Yantarniy Ostrov

https://yaostrov.ru/

Founded 2012. Provides local, international news. Patriotic.



НИА Калининград / NIA Kaliningrad

http://39rus.org/

Provides local, international news; analysis.

Patriotic/neutral.

Н

Новый Калининград.ru / New Kaliningrad.ru

https://www.newkaliningrad.ru/

Founded 2013. The approximate proportion of local/Baltic/federal topics is 60/20/20 (own information). Visitors (according to newkaliningrad website) – more than 55,000 per day.

Neutral.



Калининград.ru / Kaliningrad.ru

http://kgd.ru/

Provides local and Polish news. Focuses on cross-border partnerships. Kgd.ru has a correspondent in Poland.

Neutral.



Rugrad.eu

http://rugrad.eu/

Provides local, international news; analysis.

Neutral.



Freekaliningrad.ru

http://freekaliningrad.ru/

Founded 2012. Provides local, international news. Free access for publishing information (so called 'folk news').

Neutral.



Янтарный Край / Yantarniy Kray

http://kaliningradfirst.ru/

Founded 2006. Provides local, some international news.

Neutral.



Русский Запад / Russkiy Zapad

http://ruwest.ru/

Provides local, some international news.

Neutral.



РБК/RBK

http://kaliningrad.rbc.ru/kaliningrad/

The leading multimedia holding company in Russia, operating on the Internet with television and press segments. RBK is a leader among news and business media, as well as for registration and hosting.

Regional versions in Saint Petersburg and Kaliningrad Oblast. Neutral.



7X7 Kaliningrad

https://7x7-journal.ru/kaliningrad/

The oblast version of independent project 7x7 Horizontal Russia, aimed at provincial cities and regions. Provides local, federal, international news; analysis. The purpose is to cover the provincial regions of the North-West, the Center, the Volga region and the Urals, creating horizontal communities of active bloggers everywhere in order to involve the civil society in cooperation.

Independent.



https://www.zaks.ru/

Founded 2002 by the company Медиа. С-Пб.

Reaches an audience in all of NW Russia. Regional news section for Kaliningrad Oblast.: https://www.zaks.ru/new/archive/list/0-7-0

Independent.

PRINT AND DIGITAL MEDIA



http://www.dvornik.ru/

Provides local news. Reaches 161,840 readers per week. Free newspaper published once a week. Circulation 104,400.

Patriotic.

Kалиниградская Правда / Kaliningradskaya Pravda

http://www.kaliningradka.ru

Founded 1946. Provides local news and news from neighbouring countries. Patriotic/neutral.

Страна Калининград / Strana Kaliningrad

http://strana39.ru/

Founded 1999. Provides local news. Internet portal and weekly newspaper. PDF download. Links to Klops.ru (see above)
Neutral.

Hовые Колеса / Novye Kolesa

http://www.rudnikov.com/

Weekly newspaper and website belonging to regional MP Igor Rudnikov.

Provides local politics; mouthpiece for the owner.

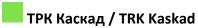
Neutral/independent on the local level.

BROADCAST (TV, RADIO)



http://www.balticpl.ru/

FM station, website offers live streaming. Provides local news. Neutral.



http://www.kaskad.tv/

Founded 1991. Live TV, streaming and video-reports. Includes radio stations Evropa Plus and Monte Karlo. A partner of Kaliningrad.ru (see above). Provides local, European

Independent.

Republic of Karelia

The Republic of Karelia is located between the basins of the White Sea and the Baltic Sea. The republic has a 723 km long border with Finland.

Capital: Petrozavodsk (275,000 inhabitants)

Area: 172,400 km²

Population: 640,000 (2010)

International: Member of the Assembly of European Regions (AER), the

Barents/Euro-Arctic Regional Council and Euregio Karelia uniting the Republic of

Karelia with three regions in Finland.

Finnish-speaking people have dominated the region throughout modern history, either under Swedish or Russian rule. A large part of today's Republic of Karelia became a part of Finland, when the country gained independence in 1917. After WWII a new border was established between Finland the Soviet Union and since then Finns are in a minority within the present borders of the Karelian republic. Many Russian-speakers moved into the region during the second half of the 20th century, a number of Finnish-speaking families emigrated to Finland.

The Karelian question is still sensitive in Finland, but there is nonetheless important cross-border cooperation. One third of the exports from the Karelian Republic go to Finland and there is significant Finnish investment in the Karelian industry.

In 2015 there was an open conflict in Karelia between the liberal opposition party Yabloko and the Head of the Republic, Alexander Hudilainen (Edinaya Rossia), who was accused of corruption. Yabloko tried to have Hudiliainen removed from office and there was a large public rally in support of this demand. The opposition lost the battle, Hudiliainen remains in office. Instead, the independent Petrozavodsk Mayor, Galina Shirshina, was forced to resign.

Media landscape

The media landscape in the Republic of Karelia is notably politicized. There are both pro-Kremlin patriotic media outlets and a variety of independent or oppositionist publications. About 80 percent of the information is published directly on the Internet. As a result of this information war in Karelia there have been numerous cases of

newspapers having to close down or having certain editions confiscated by the authorities.

The web-TV channel Sampo and the online portal Respublika are among the most popular pro-Kremlin media. They sometimes indulge in Soviet time nostalgia or material criticizing the actions of the Finnish troops, when they were trying to retake Karelia during WWII. Although generally patriotic, they can also publish material critical against local leaders.

The most important independent media are Karelskaya Gubernya, Stolitsa na Onego, a new website Chernika and business internet-newspaper Vesty Kareliy.

Mapping of media in the Republic of Karelia

(URLs as of September 2017)

REGIONAL EDITIONS OF FEDERAL PRINT/WEB MEDIA

Аргументы и Факты / Argumenty i Fakty

http://www.karel.aif.ru

Weekly newspaper and magazines; several regional, city editions; website. Patriotic.

Российская Газета /Rossiyskaya Gazeta

https://rg.ru/region/szfo/karelia/

Federal daily (in 44 cities) or weekly (in 47 cities) newspaper and Internet portal provides federal, regional, international news.

Patriotic.

Комсомольская Правда / Komsomolskaya Pravda

(https://www.kp.ru - no regional edition)

News portal - federal, regional and international editions. Provides local, regional, international news. Includes Radio Komsomolskaya Pravda, streaming and download. Patriotic.

Без Формата /Bez Formata

http://petrozavodsk.bezformata.ru/

Aggregates local/regional news and information from several sources – news sites, newspapers, information agencies, administration, local government etc. Neutral.

MK (Московский Комсомолец) / MK (Moskovskiy Komsomolets)

http://www.karel.mk.ru

Federal weekly newspaper Moskovskiy Komsomolets with regional and international Internet portals. Provides local, federal, international news; analysis. Website also offers video (http://tv.mk.ru/) and links to a hunters' section http://www.ohotniki.ru/, womans' section http://www.womanhit.ru/, and a motors' section

http://www.avtovzglyad.ru/. Neutral/independent.

INTERNET PORTALS

Петрозаводск Сегодня / Petrozavodsk Segodnya

http://ptoday.ru/

Internet portal. Provides local news and politics. Patriotic.

Карелия официальная / Karelia official

http://www.gov.karelia.ru

Official Internet portal of Republic of Karelia. Provides local news. Patriotic.

Политика Карелии / Politica Karelii

http://politika-karelia.ru/

Internet portal run by the Center for Political and Social Research. Provides news; analysis.

Patriotic.

Pеспублика / Respublika

http://rk.karelia.ru/

News and multimedia portal. Founded by the Information Agency Republic of Karelia. Mostly local news, multimedia projects and in-depth specials (example: http://rk.karelia.ru/category/special-projects/nasha-vojna/). Portal also links to internet-tv channel Sampo (below). Patriotic/Neutral.

Петрозаводск Говорит / Petrozavodsk Govorit

http://ptzgovorit.ru/

Internet portal with a wide range of sections – politics, economy, society etc. Presents video and audio. Provides local news. Founded 2010. Publisher Nika-press. Neutral.

Губерния / Gubernia daily

http://gubdaily.ru/

Internet portal run by Karelskaya Gubernia. Provides news; analysis. Neutral/independent towards the local authorities.

Bести Карелии / Vesti Karelii

http://vesti.karelia.ru/

Business online-newspaper founded in 2007. Provides news; analysis. Independent, with a focus on economical material..

Черника / Chernika

http://mustoi.ru/

Privately owned "online-magazine for a sharper socio-political vision" (statement on website). Provides news; political analysis. Independent.

Столица на Онего / Stolitsa na Onego

http://stolicaonego.ru/

Online-newspaper. Provides local news; analysis. Independent.

7X7 Karelia

https://7x7-journal.ru/karelia/

The oblast version of independent project 7x7 Horizontal Russia, aimed at provincial cities and regions. Provides local, federal, international news; analysis. The purpose is to cover the provincial regions of the North-West, the Center, the Volga region and the Urals, creating horizontal communities of active bloggers everywhere in order to involve the civil society in cooperation.

Independent.

Закс.ру / Zaks.ru

https://www.zaks.ru/

Founded 2002 by the company Медиа. С-Пб.

Reaches an audience in all of NW Russia. Regional news section for Rep. of Karelia: https://www.zaks.ru/new/archive/list/0-8-0 Independent.

Rep.ru

http://www.rep.ru/

Founded 1997 by the company 000 Guberniya (Petrozavodsk). Rep.ru describes itself: "It is enough to visit Rep.ru once a day to stay on top of news, current themes, and internet trends" (https://rep.ru/pages/about/). Independent.

PRINT AND DIGITAL MEDIA

Карелия / Karelia

http://www.gov.karelia.ru/Karelia/

Newspaper founded 1992 by the Government of the Republic Karelia and the Regional Parliament of the Republic of Karelia. Published twice a week. Weekly circulation: 20,000. Website; archive.

Patriotic (official).

Карелинформ / Karelinform

http://karelinform.ru/

News Agency, Internet portal and printed newspaper. Founded 2004 by the information agency Karelinform. Provides news; analysis.

Patriotic.

ТВР-Панорама / TVR-Panorama

Founded 1992 by publishing house PetroPress and TV-company Nika (both in Petrozavodsk). Provides local news. Issued weekly, circulation up to 42,000 copies. Not available online.

Север / Sever

http://sever-journal.ru/

Literary and political journal. Founded 1940; re-founded 1991 by the Government of Republic of Karelia and the Karelian Union of Writers. Monthly journal. Circulation 1200. Neutral.

BROADCAST (TV, RADIO)

ГТРК Карелия / GTRK Karelia

http://tv-karelia.ru/ + Radio Karelii.

Founded 1959. Karelian branch of the All-Russia State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company VGTRK. Channels Rossiya 1, Rossiya 24 and Radio Rossii. Potential audience – about 1 million people in Republic of Karelia, Leningrad Oblast, Murmansk Oblast, Eastern Finland.

Patriotic.

Сампо / Sampo

http://sampo.tv/

Founded 2011. The First 24-hour tv-channel in Karelia. Available via cable and online. Provides news and analysis. Run by the Information Agency Republic of Karelia. Links to Respublika.

Patriotic.

Leningrad Oblast

Leningrad oblast was named after the city of Leningrad. It is administered from Saint Petersburg, but the city and the oblast are separate entities within the Russian Federation. The oblast spans across the Finnish gulf and overlaps the historic region of Ingria bordering with Finland in the north-west and Estonia in the south-west.

Capital: Saint Petersburg (not part of Leningrad Oblast)

Area: 85,300 km²

Population: 1,733,000 (2012) **International**: See Saint Petersburg.

Historically the population in this region was mainly Baltic and Finnish, the territory being alternately under Swedish or Novgorod rule from medieval times. After the Great Northern War (1700–1721) the region became a part of Russia under Peter the Great.

There are several science and high-tech institutions located in the oblast including the Petersburg Nuclear Physics Institute in the city of Gatchina. The Nord Stream natural gas pipeline runs on the seafloor from the city of Vyborg in the western part of Leningrad Oblast to Germany. It passes through the Economic Zones of Finland, Sweden, Denmark and Germany.

There is direct investment in the oblast from several EU countries (especially Finland), particularly for innovative and ecological projects and in infrastructure. Cross-border traffic between Leningrad Oblast and Finland is intense and many Russians own vacation homes in Finland.

Media landscape

Saint Petersburg news outlets dominate in Leningrad Oblast, being easily accessible all over the territory and covering topics of common interest. This is the reason why the oblast media scene consists of a modest thirty titles, mostly focusing on local problems and keeping away from big politics and international news. The exception is Vyborg local media, which regularly publish news from Finland. Many small newspapers are not represented on the Internet.

The National Festival for Regional Media is an annual event hosted by Leningrad Oblast. In 2015 the festival was devoted to discussions about how to survive the crisis and remain independent while being dependent on financial support from the state. One of the suggested solutions was to provide more local information, in an active dialogue with the readership.

Mapping of media in Leningrad Oblast

(URLs as of September 2017)

REGIONAL EDITIONS OF FEDERAL PRINT/WEB MEDIA

Российская Газета /Rossiyskaya Gazeta

https://rg.ru/region/szfo/lenoblast/

Federal daily (in 44 cities) or weekly (in 47 cities) newspaper and Internet portal provides federal, regional, international news.

Patriotic.

Без Формата /Bez Formata

http://lenoblast.bezformata.ru/

Aggregates local/regional news and information from several sources – news sites, newspapers, information agencies, administration, local government etc.

Neutral.

INTERNET PORTALS

Ленинградская область / Leningradskaya Oblast

http://www.lenobl.ru/

The official Internet site of the oblast administration. Provides official information and local news.

Patriotic.

Гатчина24 / Gatchina24

http://gatchina24.ru/

Local news site including materials from the newspaper Gatchinskaya Pravda. Neutral.

47news.ru

http://47news.ru/

Founded 2005. Provides local news; news about Finland. Independent/Neutral.

Закс.py / Zaks.ru - Political Life of North-West

https://www.zaks.ru/

Info-analytical portal founded 2002 by the company 000 Media S-Pb. News about political life of the North-Western region. Regional news section for Leningrad Oblast: https://www.zaks.ru/new/archive/list/0-2-0 Independent.

PRINT AND DIGITAL MEDIA

Вести / Vesti

http://www.vesty.spb.ru/

Founded 1990 as the main newspaper of the oblast and mouthpiece of the Leningrad Oblast government. Published 5 days a week. Circulation more than 60,000. Vesty.spb.ru is the newspaper's online edition. PDF download; archive. Patriotic.

Ладога / Ladoga

http://www.ladoga-news.ru/

Founded 1978 (re-registered in 1991). The main newspaper of Kirovskiy district. Website and printed newspaper. Published 2 days a week. Circulation 4,500. Patriotic.

Восточный Берег / Vostochniy Bereg

http://vostbereg.ru/

Founded 1996. Newspaper for Kingisepp, Ivangorod and Kingisepp District. Printed newspaper and PDF download. Circulation 13,000. Patriotic.

Волховские Огни / Volhovskiye Ogni

http://volhovogni.ru/

Founded 1919 (re-registered 2000). Weekly newspaper; circulation 4,000 copies. PDF download.

Patriotic with religious slant.

Маяк / Mayak

http://www.mayak.sbor.net/

Portal and free newspaper from Sosnovy Bor, covering the whole oblast. Published 2 days a week. Website contains TV http://mayaksbor.ru/tv/ - and digital archive. Circulation 25,000 copies (including 5,000 subscribers). Neutral.

Выборг / Vyborg

http://gazetavyborg.ru/

Online and printed newspaper. Founded 1940 (re-registered in 1990). Covers politics, economy, business, transport, real estate, etc. + information from Finland. Vyborg and Vyborgsky region.

Neutral.

Царскосельская газета / Tsarskoselskaya Gazeta

http://pushkin.ru/news/carskoselskay-gazeta

Weekly newspaper and website from Pushkino. Founded in 1906 (re-registered in 1983).

Not updated since april 2016

Neutral.

Выборгские Ведомости / Vyborgskie Vedomosty

http://vyborg-press.ru/

Founded 1996. News portal and printed weekly newspaper; circulation 8,000 copies. Read the archived issues online (no PDF download). Independent/neutral.

BROADCAST (TV, RADIO)

Ленинградская Областная Телекомпания (ЛОТ) / Leningradskaya Oblastnaya Telecompanya (LOT)

http://47channel.ru/

Founded 1996. A local web portal and TV company covering Saint Petersburg and Leningrad Oblast. Broadcasting daily in the morning on the Pyatiy Kanal (Channel 5) and evenings via cable. Started broadcasting via satellite in April 2014. Neutral.

Балтийский Берег / Baltiyskiy Bereg

http://bb.sbor.net/

Local news from Sosnovy Bor provided via FM and streaming.

Murmansk oblast

Murmansk Oblast is located in the northwestern part of Russia, mostly north of the Arctic Circle on the Kola Peninsula. It borders with Finland and Norway and is washed by the Barents Sea in the north and the White Sea in the south and east.

Capital: Murmansk (305,000 inhabitants)

Area: 144,900 km²

Population: 835,000 (2010)

International: Member of Barents Euro-Arctic Council (BEAC), Barents Region

Council and Kolarctic.

Murmansk Oblast is very rich in natural resources and the economy is export-oriented. The fishing industry plays a significant role. The Arctic Sea shelf is known to hold large oil and gas reserves, but due to falling prices on fossil fuels and lack of investment, the development has come to a halt. The ice-free port of Murmansk is of crucial importance for Russia both for civilian maritime transport and for the Russian Navy.

The oblast is part of the Sapmi nation, which spans over Russia, Norway, Finland and Sweden, although most of the indigenous Sami population have migrated from Kola to Finland. The Barents Regional Cooperation opened in 1993 with Murmansk oblast as a partner and the region takes part in other fora for international cooperation in the Arctic.

Media landscape

A number of small regional newspapers in Murmansk Oblast are not represented on the Internet. One explanation is that they are closely associated with the military and therefore under restrictions about what to publish and where the material can be read.

Most news portals focus on local information, but some also cover international events, particularly from the neighboring countries, Norway and Finland, as well as topics concerning the Barents cooperation and Arctic affairs.

The information agency Severpost.ru is rated to be the most popular by a Russian institute called Medialogia. Its articles and reports on political subjects seem to strive for a balanced or neutral position, but at times there is material that seems to indicate a more independent or oppositionist stance.

Mapping of media in Murmansk Oblast

(URLs as of September 2017)

REGIONAL EDITIONS OF FEDERAL PRINT/WEB MEDIA

Аргументы и Факты / Argumenty i Fakty

(http://www.aif.ru - no regional edition)

Weekly newspaper and magazines; several regional, city editions; website. Patriotic.

Российская Газета /Rossiyskaya Gazeta

https://rg.ru/region/szfo/karelia/

Federal daily (in 44 cities) or weekly (in 47 cities) newspaper and Internet portal provides federal, regional, international news.

Patriotic.

Комсомольская Правда / Komsomolskaya Pravda

https://www.murmansk.kp.ru

News portal - federal, regional and international editions. Provides local, regional, international news. Includes Radio Komsomolskaya Pravda, streaming and download. Patriotic.

Без Формата /Bez Formata

http://murmansk.bezformata.ru/

Aggregates local/regional news and information from several sources – news sites, newspapers, information agencies, administration, local government etc. Neutral.

MK (Московский Комсомолец) / MK (Moskovskiy Komsomolets)

http://www.murmansk.mk.ru

Federal weekly newspaper Moskovskiy Komsomolets with regional and international Internet portals. Provides local, federal, international news; analysis. Website also offers video (http://tv.mk.ru/) and links to a hunters' section http://www.ohotniki.ru/, womans' section http://www.womanhit.ru/, and a motors' section http://www.avtovzglyad.ru/. Neutral/independent.

INTERNET PORTALS



http://region51.com/

Internet portal for the Murmansk region. Provides local, federal, regional news; analysis. Patriotic.

Исккра / Iskkra

http://kolanews.ru/

Information site for the Kola region.

Patriotic.

IA Nord-News.ru

http://nord-news.ru

Provides local, regional, federal news; analysis.

Patriotic.

ИА Северпост / IA Severpost.ru

http://severpost.ru/

http://severpost.com/ (English version)

Provides local, federal, international news.

Neutral.

ИА Би-порт / IA Bi-port

http://www.b-port.com/

Founded 2005. Local, federal, international news; analysis.

Neutral.

Хибининформбюро / Hibininformburo

https://hibinform.ru/

Privately owned portal of Apatity and Kirovsk. "We do not publish press releases (..) All texts posted on Hibinformburo are author's, unique" (https://hibinform.ru/o-proekte/). Provides local news; analysis.

Neutral.

Хибины.com / Hibiny.com

http://www.hibiny.com/

Local news.

Neutral.

The Independent Barents Observer

https://thebarentsobserver.com/ru

Russian version. English version at https://thebarentsobserver.com/en
Journalist owned online newspaper. Provides daily news reports from and about Scandinavia, Russia and the Arctic.

Neutral.

7X7 Murmansk

http://7x7-journal.ru/murmansk

The oblast version of independent project 7x7 Horizontal Russia, aimed at provincial cities and regions. Provides local, federal, international news; analysis. The purpose is to cover the provincial regions of the North-West, the Center, the Volga region and the Urals, creating horizontal communities of active bloggers everywhere in order to involve the civil society in cooperation.

Independent.

Закс.ру / Zaks.ru - Political Life of North-West

https://www.zaks.ru/

Founded 2002 by the company Медиа. С-Пб. Reaches an audience in all of NW Russia. Regional news section for Murmansk Oblast: https://www.zaks.ru/new/archive/list/0-4-0 Independent.

PRINT AND DIGITAL MEDIA



Мурманский Вестник / Murmanskiy Vestnik

http://www.mvestnik.ru/

Founded 1991 by the Murmansk Oblast Deputy Council; from 1996 – The Government of Murmansk Oblast and Murmansk Oblast Duma. Provides local, federal, international news; analysis. Online and daily newspaper. Circulation 6,000 Patriotic.



Вечерний Мурманск / Vecherniy Murmansk

http://vmnews.ru/

Founded 1991 by the city administration and the staff. Provides local, federal, international news; analysis. Published 6 days a week. Printed newspaper circulation 10,000-14,000. PDF download; archive. Patriotic.

Полярная правда / Polyarnaya Pravda

ppmurmansk.ru

Founded 1920. Owned by the company Transatlantic Marketing Group. Commercial. Circulation 3,000 Neutral.



Североморские вести / Severomorskie Vesty

http://s-vesti.ru/

Local weekly newspaper for the city of Severomorsk. Founded 1972. Neutral.



Дважды два / Dvazhdy Dva (2x2)

http://gazeta2x2.ru/

Online portal and local newspaper for Apatity and Kirovsk. Neutral.

BROADCAST (TV, RADIO)



ГТРК Мурман / GTRC Murman

http://murman.tv/

Founded 1957. Branch of the All-Russia State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company VGTRK (federal tv). Includes TV channels Rossiya 1, Rossiya 24, and online radio.

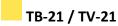
Patriotic.

Арктик-ТВ / Arctic-TV

http://www.arctic-tv.ru/ - https://арктик-тв.рф/

Provides local, federal news.

Patriotic.



http://www.tv21.ru/

Founded 1992, owned by the media company North-Western Broadcasting. Partner of STS federal channel. Local news and analysis. Potential audience – about 800,000. Neutral.

Pskov oblast

Pskov Oblast is located in western Russia, bordering on Estonia, Latvia and Belarus. Areas close to the Estonian-Russian and Latvian-Russian borders are a security zone with no major population centres.

Capital: Pskov (207,000 inhabitants)

Area: 55,400 km²

Population: 688,000 (2010)

International: Cross-border cooperation with Estonia and Latvia.

In medieval times Pskov was a feudal republic, a rival of the 'Northern Capital' of Novgorod. After a series of wars it later came under Moscow rule. The region was occupied by Nazi Germany between the autumn 1941 and spring 1944.

Pskov Oblast is one of the poorest regions in Russia, in 73rd place (out of 89) for GDP per capita. It suffers from depopulation with negative birth rates and an outflow of young people. There are some EU-sponsored programmes in Pskov Oblast and it is a part of the Estonia-Latvia-Russia cross-border cooperation.

Media landscape

Media outlets in Pskov Oblast take an active interest in international events. There is also a lively political debate, to a large extent initiated by Lev Shlosberg, a former member of the Pskov Regional Parliament. Shlosberg was among the founders of an independent local newspaper, Pskov Guberniya. This paper was the first to publish information about Russian soldiers being killed in the conflict with Ukraine. The publication caused a political scandal. Journalists received anonymous threats; Shlosberg himself was attacked and badly injured. Nevertheless, Pskov Guberniya continues its anti-Kremlin criticism, provoking response from pro-Putin media like Pskovskoye Agentstvo Informatsyi (Pskov Information Agency), Pskovskaya Lenta Novostey and Pskovskaya Pravda.

Mapping of media in Pskov Oblast

(URLs as of September 2017)

REGIONAL EDITIONS OF FEDERAL PRINT/WEB MEDIA

Аргументы и Факты / Argumenty i Fakty

http://www.pskov.aif.ru

Weekly newspaper and magazines; several regional, city editions; website. Patriotic.

Российская Газета /Rossiyskaya Gazeta

https://rg.ru/region/szfo/pskovskaja/

Federal daily (in 44 cities) or weekly (in 47 cities) newspaper and Internet portal provides federal, regional, international news. Patriotic.



Комсомольская Правда / Komsomolskaya Pravda

https://www.pskov.kp.ru

News portal - federal, regional and international editions. Provides local, regional, international news. Includes Radio Komsomolskaya Pravda, streaming and download. Patriotic.

Без Формата /Bez Formata

http://pskov.bezformata.ru/

Aggregates local/regional news and information from several sources – news sites, newspapers, information agencies, administration, local government etc. Neutral.

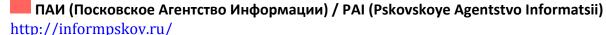


МК (Московский Комсомолец) / МК (Moskovskiy Komsomolets)

http://www.mk-pskov.ru

Federal weekly newspaper Moskovskiy Komsomolets with regional and international Internet portals. Provides local, federal, international news; analysis. Website also offers video (http://tv.mk.ru/) and links to a hunters' section http://www.ohotniki.ru/, womans' section http://www.womanhit.ru/, and a motors' section http://www.avtovzglyad.ru/. Neutral/independent.

INTERNET PORTALS



Founded 2001. Provides local, federal, international news; analysis. The PAI portal also provides online video PAI-live and online radio 7 nebo. Patriotic.

ПЛН (Псковская Лента Новостей) / PLN (Pskovskaya Lenta Novostey)

http://pln-pskov.ru/

Founded 2000. Provides local, federal, international news; analysis.

31 per cent of the users are in Pskov Oblast, 23,7 percent in Moscow, 28 percent in Saint Petersburg. Traffic: 3,500-4,000 page views per day. PLN portal includes online radio and video from the Pskov studio of Ekho Moskvy.

Patriotic.

Портал Новости Районов / Portal Novosty Rayonov

http://smi60.ru/

Common Internet platform for local media in the oblast. Neutral.

Твой Город Псков / Tvoy gorod Pskov

http://tvoygorodpskov.ru/

Provides local, federal, international news. Focuses on events in Ukraine, takes a pro-Ukranian position.

Independent.

7X7 Murmansk

https://7x7-journal.ru/murmansk/

The oblast version of independent project 7x7 Horizontal Russia, aimed at provincial cities and regions. Provides local, federal, international news; analysis. The purpose is to cover the provincial regions of the North-West, the Center, the Volga region and the Urals, creating horizontal communities of active bloggers everywhere in order to involve the civil society in cooperation.

Independent.

Закс.ру / Zaks.ru - Political Life of North-West

https://www.zaks.ru/

Founded 2002 by the company Медиа. С-Пб.

Reaches an audience in all of NW Russia. Regional news section for Pskov Oblast:

https://www.zaks.ru/new/archive/list/0-6-0

Independent.

PRINT AND DIGITAL MEDIA

Псковская Правда / Pskovskaya Pravda

http://pravdapskov.ru/

Provides mostly local news.

Patriotic.

Великолукская Правда Новости / Velikolukskaya Pravda Novosty

Newspaper founded 1990 by the City Committee of the Communist Party and the City Deputy Concuil in Velikie Luki. Provides local news.

Luki.ru - http://luki.ru/ - since 2011 city web portal for Velikie Luki. http://luki.ru/vpn displays news from the newspaper.

Patriotic (communist).

Псковская Провинция/Pskovskaya Provintsia

http://www.province-pskov.ru/

Founded 1930 (re-registered 1992). Provides local news and news from ethnic communities in the oblast ('Ethnosphera').

Neutral.

Курьер / Kur'er

http://www.province.ru/pskov/

Founded 1998. Commercial. Provides local news. Neutral.

Псковские Новости / Pskovskie Novosty

http://nwpskov.ru/

Founded by Pskov City Parlament (Duma), Pskov City Administration. Provides local news.

Nwpskov.ru is the e-version of the printed newspaper. PDF download; archive. Neutral.

Псковская Губерния/Pskovskaya Gubernia

http://gubernia.pskovregion.org/

Founded 2000. Weekly newspaper and website. Provides local, federal, international news; analysis. PDF download. Independent.

BROADCAST (TV, RADIO)

ГТРК Псков/GTRK Pskov

http://www.gtrkpskov.ru/

TV stations Rossiya 1, Rossiya 24, Vesti-Pskov (local television), video and web-TV; radio stations Mayak and Radio Rossiy.

Patriotic.

Saint Petersburg

Saint Petersburg is the second largest city in Russia, a seaport located on the Neva River delta, surrounded in all directions by the Leningrad Oblast.

Area: 1,439 km²

Population: 5,200,000 (2015)

International: Saint Petersburg is host to some forty consulates for foreign countries, including all Nordic and Baltic nations. It is also the seat of the Interparliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), which unites nine former Soviet Republics. The city has extensive political, economic and cultural contacts with other countries.

The earliest known inhabitants of the land around the Neva rivermouth are a Finnish-speaking population known as Ingrians. During Swedish rule the territory was called Ingermanland. In 1703 Tsar Peter the Great captured the Swedish fortress Nyenskans and founded the city of Saint Petersburg as Russia's 'window to the West'. In 1914 the name was changed to Petrograd and in 1924 it became Leningrad. It was renamed Saint Petersburg in 1991. During World War II the city suffered one of the longest and most lethal sieges of a major city in modern history. The Siege of Leningrad lasted 872 days; more than one million civilians died, mainly from starvation.

The city is a financial and industrial centre and a major trade gateway with three cargo seaports and a passenger port for cruise liners. In 2016 Saint Petersburg was rated the most attractive city for tourists in Europe. The entire city of Saint Petersburg is on the UNESCO World Heritage list, with 36 historical architectural landmarks and around 4,000 individual monuments of architecture, history and culture. There are more than a hundred universities and institutes of research and higher education in the city.

Despite sanctions a number of EU sponsored economic, cultural, social, ecological and scientific programmes are still active.

Media landscape

Saint Petersburg has rich traditions in journalism since the first Russian newspaper Vedomosty was founded here in 1703. Any printed material was, however, always under strict control by censors in Tsarist Russia as well as during the Soviet period (1917-1991), with only short periods of relative openness. Today there is no direct censorship, but Saint Petersburg is a prime example of how journalists are challenged in new ways if they undertake investigative or critical journalism (see below).

Today there are more than 300 newspapers and magazines published in the city and nineteen radio stations. Television also has a long history in the city, with experimental transmissions already in the 1930s. Today, you can access more than one hundred terrestrial, cable and satellite channels in Saint Petersburg. Some of the local broadcasts have footprints that cover much of Leningrad Oblast and Pskov Oblast, some reach as far as Petrozavodsk and Moscow. There is also an increased viewership on the Internet. About 70 media outlets based in Saint Petersburg publish material on the Internet.

Dubbed 'the Second Capital' or 'Northern Capital', Saint Petersburg tries to be independent and loyal at the same time. Its media scene represents a wide range of political views, from Rossiyskaya Gazeta (mouthpiece for official political views) and the pro-Putin tabloid Komsomolskaya Pravda (both federal media with local versions) to the independent news site Fontanka.ru (with a number of subsidiaries) and oppositionist publications like Saks.ru, Moy Raion and Novaya Gazeta – SPb.

Saint Petersburg garnered considerable international attention, when two journalists from the newspaper Moy Raion published a story in 2015 about a troll factory where venal pro-Kremlin commentators and bloggers were paid to bombard other media with comments and criticism if they published 'unpatriotic' or other 'anti-Russian' material. The troll factory was onstensibly financed by a pro-Kremlin oligarch in Saint Petersburg. The practice did not stop after the revelation, but the methods have become more sophisticated and widespread, also originating outside of Russia.

Mapping of media in Saint Petersburg (SPb)

(URLs as of September 2017)

INTERNATIONAL MEDIA



http://www.metronews.ru/

<u>https://www.metronews.ru/novosti/peterbourg/</u> (Saint Petersburg section)

Daily free newspaper in 13 cities and website.

Neutral.

SPB EDITIONS OF FEDERAL PRINT/WEB MEDIA

Аргументы и Факты / Argumenty i Fakty

http://www.spb.aif.ru

Weekly newspaper and magazines; several regional and city editions and website. Patriotic.

Российская Газета /Rossiyskaya Gazeta

https://rg.ru/region/szfo/spb/

Federal daily (in 44 cities) or weekly (in 47 cities) newspaper and internet portal provides federal, regional, international news. NW Russian region: https://rg.ru/region/szfo/

Patriotic.

Комсомольская Правда Санкт-Петербург / Komsomolskaya Pravda Sankt-Peterburg https://www.spb.kp.ru

News portal - federal, regional and international editions provides local, regional, international news. Includes Radio Komsomolskaya Pravda, streaming and download - Patriotic.

Без Формата /Bez Formata

http://sanktpeterburg.bezformata.ru/

Aggregates local/regional news and information from several sources – news sites, newspapers, information agencies, administration, local government etc.

Neutral.



MK (Московский Комсомолец) / MK (Moskovskiy Komsomolets)

http://www.spb.mk.ru

Federal weekly newspaper Moskovskiy Komsomolets with regional and international Internet portals. Provides local, federal, international news; analysis. Website also offers video (http://tv.mk.ru/) and links to a hunters' section http://www.ohotniki.ru/, womans' section http://www.womanhit.ru/, and a motors' section http://www.avtovzglyad.ru/.

Neutral/independent.



Новая Газета СПб/Novaya Gazeta SPb

http://novayagazeta.spb.ru/

Newspaper, websites, social media founded in 2013. Published Monday-Wednesday-Friday. Federal/Moscow and Saint Petersburg editions in PDF format; archives. Federal/Moscow edition: https://www.novayagazeta.ru/ Independent.

INTERNET PORTALS



Росбалт / Rosbalt

http://www.rosbalt.ru/

Rosbalt Saint Petersburg - http://www.rosbalt.ru/piter/

A federal information agency with head offices in Moscow and Saint Petersburg. Represented all over Russia and in neighbouring countries. More than 3,000,000 visitors and 14,000,000 page views monthly.

Patriotic.



ИА Невские Новости/IA Nevskie Novosty

https://nevnov.ru/

Founded 2013. Provides local, federal, international news. Patriotic.



Конкретно.py / Konkretno.ru

http://konkretno.ru/

Founded 2007. Provides local news.

Patriotic.



ИА ФлэшНорд / IA FlashNord

http://flashnord.com/

Founded 2012. Provides news from the North-West Region, Norway, Sweden and Finland

Neutral/patriotic.



Онлайн-газета Бумага / Online newspaper Bumaga

http://paperpaper.ru/

Local and federal news.

Neutral.

Телеграф / Telegraph

http://rustelegraph.ru/

Local, federal, international news Neutral.

СанктПетербург.ру / SanktPeterburg.ru

http://saint-petersburg.ru/

Founded 1999. Provides local, federal, international news. Daily traffic: 15-20,000. Neutral.

Газета.СПб / Gazeta.SPb

http://www.gazeta.spb.ru/

Founded 2007. Local, federal news; information from abroad Neutral.

_____ Деловой Петербург / Delovoy Peterburg

http://www.dp.ru/

Founded 1992 by Bonnier Business Press, now owned by the staff. Provides business, social, political news.

Neutral.

Агентство Бизнес Новостей / Agenstvo Biznes Novostey

http://abnews.ru/

Founded 2001. Provides local, federal, international business news. Neutral.

Heва Сегодня/Neva Today

http://neva.today/

Local news.

Neutral.

Общественный контроль/Obschestvenniy Kontrol

http://ok-inform.ru/

Successor of newspaper OK (2008). Provides local, federal news. Neutral.

РБК/RВК

http://www.rbc.ru/

The leading multimedia holding company in Russia, operating on the Internet with television and press segments. RBK is a leader among news and business media, as well as for registration and hosting.

Regional versions in Saint Petersburg and Kaliningrad Oblast.

Neutral.



🦊 Фонтанка.ру СПб / Fontanka.ru SPb

http://www.fontanka.ru/

Founded 1999 by AO Azhur-Media; commercial, privately owned. Covers politics, economy, culture, health, traffic, social life. Subsidiary Fontanka.fi deals with events in Finland. Website updated 24/7.

Independent/neutral.



812'online

http://www.online812.ru/

+ paper edition Gorod812

http://www.online812.ru/cityoffline/

Internet-magazine founded by AO Azhur-Media. Provides political and economical analysis.

Independent.



Лениздат.py/Lenisdat.ru

https://lenizdat.ru/

Founded 2003. Information portal for media communities in Saint Peterburg, Leningrad Oblast and the North-West Region. Running projects:

Хватит.Врать (Stop.Lying) - against fake information about Ukraine

https://lenizdat.ru/stories/11948/

Фабрика троллей (Troll factory) - against patriotic propaganda from SPb

https://lenizdat.ru/stories/11957/

Traffic 47,900 a mounth

Independent.



Закс.ру / Zaks.ru - Political Life of North-West

https://www.zaks.ru/

ZAKS SPb

https://www.zaks.ru/new/archive/list/0-1-0

Founded 2002 by the company Media SPb. Reaches an audience in all of NW Russia. Regional news section for Saint Petersburg City.

Independent.

PRINT AND DIGITAL MEDIA



Новый Петербург/Noviy Peterburg

http://newspb.su/

Founded 1990

Patriotic-nationalist weekly. Associated with Eduard Limonov, the leader of National-Bolshevik Party (forbidden in Russia).

Patriotic.



Петербугский Дневник/Peterburgskiy Dnevnik

http://www.spbdnevnik.ru/

Founded 2012 as the official mouthpiece of the SPb Government. Provides local official information. Published 5 days a week.
Patriotic.

Санкт-Петербургские Ведомости/Sankt-Peterburgskie Vedomosty

http://spbvedomosti.ru/

Founded in 1703 (re-registered 1991). Owned by Bank Rossia and the Committee for City Real Estate. Positions itself as the most significant newspaper of the North-West region, and a conservative outlet read by local and federal officials. Provides local, federal, international news and analysis. Published 5 days a week. Circulation 34,000 on workdays.

Patriotic.



Кронштадский Вестник/Kronshtadskiy Vestnik

http://kronvestnik.ru/

Paper version: Kronshtadskiy Munitsipalniy Vestnik. Founded 1861 (re-registered 1994)

Provides local news. Circulation 5,000 copies.

Patriotic with religious component.



Мой Район/Moy Rayon

http://mr7.ru/

News and analysis from Saint Petersburg, Russia and abroad Independent.

BROADCAST (TV, RADIO)



Пятый Канал / Pyatiy Kanal

http://5-tv.ru/

Founded 1991. Available all over Russia via cable or online. Provides local, federal, international news; analysis.

Patriotic.



Телеканал Санкт-Петербург / Telekanal Sankt-Petersburg

http://topspb.tv/

Founded 2009 with support of the Saint Petersburg Government. Broadcasting via cable and satellite. Provides local, federal, international news; analysis. Patriotic.



Питер-ТВ / Piter-TV

http://piter.tv/

Founded 2010. Commercial, owned by Saint Petersburg multimedia holding Ragrad Video. Provides local, federal, international news; analysis. Patriotic.

Деловое-ТВ / Delovoe-TV

http://delovoe.tv/

Founded 2010. Commercial, owned by Saint Petersburg multimedia holding Ragrad Video. Provides business news. Federal business channel available in Moscow, SPb, Kaliningrad and other big cities.

Patriotic.



https://life.ru/t/life78

Founded 2015, re-branding of 100TV channel (2003), owned by News Media Holding (commercial). Provides local, federal, international news; analysis. Available 24/7 in Saint Petersburg and Leningrad oblast.

Patriotic.

Радио Петербург / Radio Peterburg

Affilated with Pyatiy Kanal TV site http://www.5-tv.ru/radio/ Successor of Leningrad Radio/Leningrad department of all-Soviet Radio (1924-1991). Broadcasting 20 hours a day. Patriotic.

TB-3 / TV-3

https://tv3.ru/

Launched: 1994 (Saint Petersburg) and 1997 (Moscow) Owner: Gazprom Media. TV-3 is a free-to-air entertainment channel providing series, films and documentaries. TV-3 takes pride in maintaining its appeal to a stable core audience aged 25-29 and a unique position on Russia's television market: 61percent of the channel's viewers are women aged 25 to 59 years. TV-3 switched to round-the-clock programming in August 2006.

Neutral.

Радио Зенит / Radio Zenit

http://radiozenit.ru/

Founded 2007. Saint Petersburg information, music and sports. Broadcasting 24/7 Neutral.

Радио Балтика / Radio Baltica

https://radiopotok.ru/radio/764/ Founded 1991. The first independent radio channel in Saint Petersburg. Neutral.

Эхо Москвы / Ekho Moskvy

http://echo.msk.ru/tags/3540/

FM radio and Internet portal. Broadcast in NW Russia: Pskov, Severodvinsk (in Arkhangelsk Oblast), Saint-Petersburg – and generally accessable online. Ekho Moskvy runs its own special web-radio project in Saint Petersburg.

Ekho Moskvy: http://echo.msk.ru/

Neutral/independent.

NB8 COUNTRIES

News for Russian audiences in Baltic, Scandinavian countries

Estonia

Estonia is the northernmost of the three Baltic states. It borders on Russia and Latvia. The capital Tallinn is situated on the Gulf of Finland directly across from the Finnish capital Helsinki, with which it has regular ferry links.

Capital: Tallinn (440,000 inhabitants)

Area: 45,227 km² **Population:** 1,300,000

International: Member of EU, NATO, Schengen, OECD, OSCE, WTO and NB8.

Russians and Russian-speakers in Estonia

The total number of Russians in Estonia is today estimated at 320,000. Most Russians live in Tallinn and the major northeastern cities of Narva and Kohtla-Järve. Many are decendants of Russians, who were assigned work in Estonia during the Soviet period, when the Russian-speaking population was about 35 percent of the total population. Some areas in eastern Estonia near Lake Peipus have a centuries-long history of settlement by Russians, including communities of an Orthodox minority called 'Old Believers'.

Russian was the dominating official language in the Estonian SSR and there was no incentive for Russian-speakers to learn Estonian. When Estonia re-established independence, Estonian became the only official language and there is now a requirement for non-Estonians to learn basic Estonian before they can attain citizenship. The Citizenship Act also requires knowledge of the Estonian constitution and a pledge of loyalty to Estonia for those who became residents in the country after 1940, i.e. during the Soviet period.

A study at the University of Tartu in 2011 found that 21 percent of ethnic Russians were successfully integrated, 28 percent showed partial integration, and 51 percent were little integrated or not at all. The number of Russian residents living in Estonia without being Estonian citizens is now below 10 percent and gradually decreasing. The Russian government maintains that the Citizenship Act violates the rights of Russians and that citizenship should be granted unconditionally to all residents.

Population of Estonia by ethnic groups (2015)

- Estonians 907,937
- Russians 330,258
- Ukrainians 22,562
- Belarusians 12,215

Mapping of Russian language media in Estonia

(URLs as of September 2017)

INTERNET PORTALS



http://rus.err.ee

Launched: 2007. Owner: ERR - Eesti Rahvusringhääling (Estonian Public Service Broadcasting). Rus.err.ee is a part of the public service broadcaster in Estonia, which currently runs

• 3 TV channels

ETV - etv.err.ee

ETV2 - etv2.err.ee

ETV+ - etv.etvplusserr.ee

• 5 radio stations

Vikerraadio - http://vikerraadio.err.ee

Raadio 2 - http://r2.err.ee

Raadio 4 - http://r4.err.ee

Klassikaraadio - klassikaraadio.err.ee

Raadio Tallinn - raadiotallinn.err.ee

• ERR is furthermore present on the Internet with news websites in

Estonian - http://err.ee/

Russian - http://rus.err.ee/and

English - http://news.err.ee/

and with various thematic websites.

Rus.err.ee provides a daily news-flow with hourly updates covering the latest national and international events and developments. The target-audience is Russian speakers in Estonia.

Neutral/independent.

PRINT AND DIGITAL MEDIA

Виру Проспект + Нарвская газета / Viru Prospekt + Narvskaya Gazeta http://prospekt.ee

Launched: 1999. Owner: The Prospekt Media Group

The Prospekt Media Group is a member of The World Congress of the Russian Press. The website supplies the newspaper, and is updated with daily current news. Most of the subjects are locally anchored. The content is both original and created from national/regional press agencies like BNS (Baltic News Service) or lenta.ru. Patriotic.



http://www.mke.ee/

Launched: 2004 Owner: Baltic Media Alliance.

MK-Estonia Weekly is a Russian-language newspaper and online news portal published on Wednesdays. The circulation is 12,500. It positions itself on the media market as 'a family publication, and special attention is paid to issues of practical importance'. The website covers daily news and issues as well. Moreover, on the website one can also find news from the First Baltic Channel (PBK, http://www.1tv.lv/).

The readers are characterized as 'well-to-do people living in the capital area of Tallinn and other cities', predominantly in the age groups 15-34 and 50-64; the core audience is Russian speakers living in Estonia.

Neutral.

Вечерка / Vecherka

http://www.vecherka.ee Owner: AS SL Ohtuleth.

Vecherka is a digital news portal and a printed version. It provides news and bulletins from Rus.Delfi.ee. The content is displayed in categories such as: 'News', 'People', 'Eye Witness', 'Lifestyle' with an outlook on local, national and global developments as well as entertainment. In the video section there is a local bi-monthly 10-minute long news-programme in Russian 'Lasnamäe Live'. The programme is produced by AB Media Group.

Neutral.

Деловые ведомости / Delovye vedomosti

http://dv.ee/

Launched: 1996 (print) and 2007 (digital). Owner: Äripäev Ltd, Tallinn. Business Newspaper and news portal in Russian-language. Delovye Vedomosti is the only economic newspaper/portal in Estonia in Russian. It positions itself as 'steadily the most popular among the Russian decision makers'. Newspaper is is published seven times a week online.

Neutral.

Столица / Stolitza

http://stolitsa.ee/

Owner and publisher: Tallinn City Office.

Printed newspaper and website mainly aimed at citizens of Tallinn, covering categories such as 'news', 'Estonia', 'Tallinn', 'Opinion', 'Europe', 'International', and 'Life'. The news on the website are predominantly based on other sources such as Rus.err.ee, Deutsche Welle, Raepress and Vikerraadio. The website provides links to the Russianlanguage TV programme 'Dobroe Utro Tallinn' (Good Morning Tallinn). Neutral.

Postimees

http://rus.postimees.ee/

Launched: 1857 (print) and mid 1990s (online), 2005 (Russian language, print).

Owner: AS Postimees Grupp, Tallinn.

The Postimees print and digital versions provide news-portals directed at Russian readers covering a wide range of topics, primarily Estonian and international news. Rus.postimees.ee attracts 78,000 weekly readers.

Independent.

BROADCAST (TV, RADIO)

Русское Радио / Russkoye Radio

http://www.russkoeradio.fm

Launched: 1998 Owner: SkyMedia.

The focus is on '...high-quality Russian pop music. Regardless of age, gender, nationality or religion.' Listeners are in age groups over 30, predominantly in the 60+ segment. There is a strong emphasis on news; working day mornings have special segments concerned with updates related to Tallinn, Ida-Viru County and Tartu. Russkoye Radio reaches approx. 137,000 listeners per week among the Russian-speaking audience. The website also displays daily news-updates from BNS, RIA Novosti, TASS or rus.err.ee. Patriotic.

Орсент TB / Orsent TV

http://orsent.eu/pealeht rus.html

Launched: 1992 Owner: Orsent OÜ.

Orsent TV leads round the clock broadcasting in all regions of the republic and in all cable networks. Content-wise Orsent TV provides original production, including live shows, interactive, games and quiz-jokes with prizes, and movies. News and documentary content on culture, music, fashion, health, sport, and tourism. The core audience is adult Russian-speakers from 18-60 years of age. The channel can also be accessed through its Youtube platform.

Neutral/patriotic.

ETV+

http://etvpluss.err.ee/

Launched: September 2015 Owner: ERR

ETV+ is the first publicly funded television channel in Estonia with broadcasts in Russian. Along with in house content (more than twenty hours per week) the channel shows films and documentaries produced in Estonia and abroad. Original programs are aired on ETV+ and transmitted on cable or live-streamed from the ETV+ website. All programmes, except news, carry Estonian sub-titles. ETV+ aims to provide exclusive and high-quality content for people living in Estonia as well as promoting 'common values'. Neutral.

Радио Артекон / Radio Artekon

http://www.artekon.eu/ - Artekon also plays at http://orsent.eu/pealeht_rus.html Launched: May 2010 Owner: Orsent OÜ.

«Artekon Raadio Tallinn» is a non-profit organization, and broadcasts live from its webpage. The daily radio programme consists of a variety of music, information and journalistic programs, radio dramas and greetings.

Neutral.



http://r4.err.ee/

Launched: 1993 Owner: ERR.

«Raadio 4» is among the leading broadcasters in Russian language in Estonia, and can be

listened to all over Estonia, but also in Finland, Russia, Latvia, and Sweden.

In cooperation with the Council of Europe the Narva Studio of ERR was established in 1996, offering broadcasts of local importance in Russian. Correspondents of Raadio 4 are located in different places in Estonia. The news service is broadcast every hour.

«Raadio 4» offers online and live streaming as well as podcasts.

Independent.

Latvia

With a coastline of 531km along the Baltic Sea, Latvia borders to Estonia, Lithuania, Russia and Belarus. It has linguistic links with Lithuania to the south and historical and religious ties with Estonia to the north.

Capital: Riga (710,000 inhabitants)

Area: 64,573 km² **Population:** 2,000,000

International: Member of EU, Schengen, NATO, OECD, OSCE, UN, WTO, NB8

Russians and Russian-speakers in Latvia

Russians have been the largest ethnic minority in Latvia for the last two centuries. During the independence period in the 1920s and 30s, the Latvian republic tried to integrate the Russian population, which was also allowed to have Russian language schools.

The number of Russians in Latvia increased significantly during the Soviet occupation of Latvia. Russian culture dominated and a whole group of Russian-speakers was formed in Latvia with Belarusians, Ukrainians, Poles, Jews and Germans. The Russian language dominated in secondary and higher education, in science and in mass media.

During the national revival, 'atmoda', in the end of the 1980s, many Russians supported the development towards more democracy, both as individuals and in organized groups. At the same time, quite a number of non-Latvians viewed the revival of the Latvian state system with mistrust. The Russian-speaking population was evenly divided on the question of Latvian independence. There has been constant tension between the Latvian authorities and the Russian-speaking population about the right for Russian-speaking children to be tought in their mother tounge.

In contemporary Latvia there are several political parties and politicians (such as the Mayor of Riga Nil Ushakov) who claim to represent the Russian-speaking minority in Latvia, i.e. by giving public speeches at the yearly Russian celebration of May 9 (WWII

Victory Day) in Riga. By 2014, the number of Russians living in Latvia had fallen to 26%, but recently there is a slow rise, partly as a result of immigration from Russia.

Ethnic composition of Latvia as of 1.1.2015

• Latvians: 1,223,650 (62.1%) • Russians: 512,400 (26.9%) • Belarusians: 67,318 (3.3%) • Ukrainians: 44,709 (2.2%)

Mapping of Russian language media in Latvia

INTERNET PORTALS

Информационный портал русской общины в Латвии/Information portal for the **Russian community**

http://baltijalv.lv Launched: 2008

This online portal provides Russian-language news and information to Russian speakers in Latvia. It is said to be 'not a political portal, although politics can occur among the news'. The portal mainly displays news updated on a daily basis and with a Russian angle on 'economy', 'culture', 'society', 'inside Russia', 'International', and 'Sports'. The sources are, among others, Interfaks, voxeu.org, Mixnews, lenta.ru. Patriotic.

Русские в Латвии/ Russkie v Latvii (Russians in Latvia)

http://www.russkie.org.lv/

Launched: 1996 Owner: Russian Society of Latvia.

The portal of the NGO is branding itself as an information portal aimed at Russians living in Latvia. It offers both a physical information centre located in Riga and an online portal. The portal is updated on a monthly basis providing overviews of events in relation to public holidays, religious events or visits by prominent Russians. There are sometimes news bulletins on the portal, related to topics such as relations between Russia and Latvia. The organisation promotes the right to maintain the Russian language in the Latvian educational system.

Patriotic.

ИМХО-клуб / IMHO-klub

http://imhoclub.lv/

Launched: 2011 (Latvia), 2015 (Belarus).

The IMHO ('In My Humble Opinion') Club is an online interactive portal in Russian. Briefly the concept can be formulated as 'a territory of dissenting opinions'. By 2015, the club has registered about five thousand members. Only members can participate in discussions and/or to create content: 'IMHOclub is a local social network for intelligent and caring people. Here everyone has the opportunity to express their opinions, defend their point of view, to discuss the relevant and current news, from a subjective point of view'.

Patriotic.

Ukradeno (yellow-pages)

http://ukradeno.focus.lv/main

Launched: October 2016.

Owner/publisher: Sheitelman and Partners Ltd.

"Про все, что в Латвии не в порядке. Наши новости будут замечены!" ('Оп

everything that's wrong with Latvia. Our news will be noticed!')

https://eng.lsm.lv/article/society/defense/blogger-reveals-mystery-websites-ties-to-

russia.a213155/ Neutral/patriotic.

Ru.focus.lv

www.ru.focus.lv

Owner: Life Media SIA

Ru.focus is an online newsportal located in Riga. Its main purpose is to provide a Russian-speaking core audience with news; local, national and international. The newsflow is updated several times a day, and sources are mainly from other information agencies or news-outlets like BNS, news.ru.com, gazeta.ru, BBC Russia. The content differs in the Latvian and Russian versions, in an effort to satisfy both audiences. Neutral.

46.lv

http://www.46.lv/ru

Launched: 2014.

46.lv is an online news- and information portal in Russian and Latvian. Two news

sections: Rezekne (http://www.46.lv/ru/NOVOSTI/) and Latvia

(http://www.46.lv/ru/LATVIJA/). Rezekne is an eastern Latvian city bordering to Russia. Available in Russian and Latvian, it claims to be 'one of the most read portals in the region' with 45,000 monthly readers.

Neutral.

____ лсм / LSM

http://rus.lsm.lv

Latvian site (http://www.lsm.lv//), Russian site (http://rus.lsm.lv/) or English site (http://eng.lsm.lv/).

Launched: 2013. Owner: LSM (Latvijas Sabiedriskie Mediji)

This online multimedia news portal is the united news portal of the Latvian radio and Latvian Television. It provides a wide range of news and analytical material created inhouse. The core audience for the Russian site is Russian speakers in Latvia. The content is updated hourly. Rus.lsm.lv is in a 'content sharing' partnership with SPEKTR, and displays a flow of content from this news portal in Rus.lsm.lv's political section. Neutral/independent.

Медуза/Meduza

https://meduza.io/

Launched: 2014 Owner: Galina Timchenko.

Located in Riga, Meduza is an independent digital newsplatform available in Russian and English. The motto of the platform is to provide its readers with a view of the 'the real Russia, today' with a strategy to 'bring you the most important news and feature stories from hundreds of sources in Russia and across the former Soviet Union... We value our independence and strive to be a reliable, trusted outlet for neutral, verified, and unbiased information'. The content is mainly original. Independent.

Спектр.пресс/Spektr.press

http://spektr.press Owner: Spektr.Press

Spektr.Press, or Spektr, is an online magazine aimed at readers in Russia and abroad. The goal is to offer a wide range of independent opinions on what is happening in Russia and the world from a variety of writers, experts and journalists. Besides in-house content, the site also runs a news service, providing online access to information acquired from Interfaks, Reuters, 112 Ukraina, RF press agency, Kommersant, Vedomosti etc. The site is updated on a regular basis on weekdays. Spektr has a content-partnership with Deutsche Welle for news from the EU. Independent.

PRINT AND DIGITAL MEDIA

Наш Город / Our City

http://www.gorod.lv

Launched: 2004 (online version) Owner: SIA Gorod.lv

Gorod is an online portal for Russian-speakers living in the Latgale-region and in the city of Daugavpils. According to the editorial board, the portal holds the first place of news-services in the area of Latgale, and is among the top five Russian-language news portals in Latvia with an average of 13,000 visitors per day. The focus is mainly local/regional 'useful and interesting information'. The paper 'Nash Gorod' ('Our city') is a weekly publication in Russian.

Neutral.

MK Латвия / MK Latviya

http://www.mklat.lv

Launched: February 2003 Owner: Baltic Media Alliance

According to the website, it is 'not only the most popular edition in Russian language in Latvia, but also the most read newspaper of all that come in the country'. The newspaper is weekly, and the digital edition supplies the printed with daily news-updates on topics such as: 'society', 'sports', 'health', 'life', 'opinion', 'global', etc. Main sources: LETA, newsru.com, inosmi.ru.

Neutral.

Mix news and Mix TV

http://www.mixnews.lv/ru/http://www.mixnews.lv/mixtv/

Owner: Mix Media Group

Mix News is a commercial multimedia online news platform in both Russian and Latvian. The platform provides news-overviews and bulletins on a wide range of topics. The content is either originally created or reproduced from sources such as LETA, BNS and other press agencies.

Neutral.

Press (including subsites Суббота, Вести Еженедельник, 7 Супер Секретов)

http://www.press.lv

Formerly www.ves.lv, relaunched in 2016 under the current name.

Press.ly is a Latvian Internet news portal and subsites. The content aims to provide the Russian speaking audience with facts about events in Latvia and internationally. The news portal displays an hourly news update function as well as in-depth articles that are updated less frequently. The content is usually based on sources such as: LETA, R4, The Financial Times, Lenta.ru, Neatkarige etc. Neutral.



http://ru.bb.vesti.lv/

Online continuation of the printed business newspaper «Бизнес & Балтия» (published 1991-2014). A source of business news about Latvia in Russian language. Neutral.

Грани.lv / Grani.lv

http://www.grani.lv/

Owner: SIA Dautcom Plus, Daugavpils, Latvia

Grani.ly is an independent online news portal for the Russian speaking audience in the Daugavpils area with a national outlook. The online portal provides an updated newsoverview together with articles in the categories of 'Latvia', 'Daugavpils', 'Politics', etc. The website presents headlines from the weekly Russian language newspaper «Сейчас» (http://www.grani.lv/seychas).

Neutral.



Новая Газета + Novaja.lv / Novaya Gazeta + Novaja.lv

http://www.novaja.lv/index.html

Launched: September 2007 (online). Owner: SIA Novaya Gazeta.

A local print and digital paper in Russian language covering the Zemgale region. The outlet is commercial and aimed at the Russian speaking audience in this region. Online one can find daily updates and news-coverage primarily of local/regional character, and in most cases original content.

Neutral.



http://vesti.lv/

https://www.youtube.com/user/telegrafly

Launched: 1999 (print) and 2015 (online) Owner: SIA «Izdevniecības Nams Vesti». Vesti is an informative news portal that gives the reader an overview of the main events in Latvia and in the world – 'the latest insight into Latvian and world politics, economy, sport, culture and showbusiness'. The portal works closely with the newspaper "Вести сегодня" (Vesti Segodnya) and the magazine "Люблю" (Lyublyu/ I Love). It is now the second biggest Russian language online portal with 149.084 users in 2015 (rus.delfi.lv had 235.459 in the same period). Besides original content, there is material from Mixnews, Sputnik, Life.ru, Gorod.lv, LR4.

There are several sub-editions to Vesti in Russian: Telegraf, Vesti Business, Vesti Segodnya (daily printed news-paper). Independent.



http://rus.tvnet.lv/

Launched: 2000 Owner: Eesti Media.

The TV-NET portal offers local and international news on politics, economics and society as well as information about new technologies and entertainment. TV-NET publishes information both in Latvian and Russian, and the online content is created from sources such as Grani.lv, Rus.postimees.ee, Korrespondent.net, Lenta.ru, LETA, Rosbalt etc. The portal has more than 300,000 unique users on workdays (average).

In 2015, TV-NET launched an online television project.

Independent.

BROADCAST (TV, RADIO)



http://mixtv.mixnews.lv/mixtv/ http://www.mixnews.lv/ru/audio/ https://soundcloud.com/mixnews-ru

The Mix News TV channel is a part of the Mix News multimedia platform, and is aimed at Russian speakers in Latvia. The content consists primarily of live video.

Mix News audio is streaming (Soundcloud) of radio debate programmes supplied with shorter news reports. Programmes Monday to Saturday.

Neutral.

Alise Plus (Alise TV and Alise Radio)

http://www.aliseplus.lv

Launched: 1993 Owner: SIA Alise Plus

Russian language commercial online television and radio registered in Daugavpils. It has held a leading position in the ranking of radio stations in Latgale region for a long period, often serving as a link between citizens and representatives of the local government and municipal structures.

Radio: FM and streaming. TV: Alise Plus TV was added in 2016.

Alise Plus has a wide footprint, broadcasting over the whole territory of Latgale, but also into Lithuania and Belarus.

Neutral.

Русское вещание LTV7 / Russkoye veshchaniye LTV7

http://ltv.lsm.lv/lv/ltv7_ru/

Launched: 2003 by Latvian Television, LTV.

This TV channel is a part of the LSM - Public Broadcasting of Latvia. The channel is partly aimed to serve the Russian speaking audience in Latvia, as it transmits the newsprogramme «Segodnya vecherom» and an additional sports programme. Independent.



http://lr4.lsm.lv/lv/lr4/

Part of LSM - Public Broadcasting of Latvia.

LR4 is the LSM Russian Language radio channel and streaming. It provides information, debate, cultural, actuality, and music programmes 18 to 24 hours a day with hourly news updates.

Independent.

Lithuania

Lithuania is the southernmost of the three Baltic States, the largest and the most populous. It borders on Belarus, Poland, Latvia and Russia (Kaliningrad Oblast).

Capital: Vilnius (542,000)

Area: 65,286 km² **Population:** 3,000,000

International: Member of EU, Schengen, NATO, OECD, OSCE, UN, WTO, NB8

Russians and Russian-speakers in Lithuania

Russians have a long history in Lithuania, but their numbers have never been significant. The first Russian tradesmen came to the region in medieval times. A significant influx came in the late 17th century, when 'Old Believers' came to the region to escape religious persecution in Russia. Two-thirds of the Russian minority, however, are descendants of the Soviet era immigration. In total, there are now about 7 percent Russian speakers living in Lithuania (close to 10 percent in 1991, before the dissolution of the USSR).

Russians in Lithuania live mainly in urban areas. Lithuania's small Russian minority plays no significant role in domestic politics. When Lithuania regained its independence, ethnic Russians were able to apply for Lithuanian citizenship. As a result, Lithuania has avoided the type of ethnic tensions that have troubled the other Baltic countries.

Ethnic groups in Lithuania as of 1.1.2015

• Lithuanians: 2,531,843 (86.7%)

Poles: 163,858 (5.7%)
Russians: 139,507 (4.8%)
Belarusians: 39,159 (1.3%)
Ukrainians: 20,225 (0.7%)

Mapping of Russian language media in Lithuania

INTERNET PORTALS

О Литве/ About Lithuania

http://www.olitve.ru

News section: http://www.olitve.ru/vse-novosti-litvy/

This is an information portal, where Russian speakers can find information about the Lithuanian society, its structure, about history, culture, events, jobs, and tourism of the country. The portal provides a service, where ethnic Russians can search for family-members living in Lithuania and ask questions about job opportunities. The portal provides a news bulletin in cooperation with Yandex.ru. It links to news from either press agencies or other outlets such as: Newsbalt, Rosbalt, Komsomolskaya Pravda, RT, InoSmi, iReactor etc.

Patriotic.

III Hовости LRT / News from LRT

http://www.lrt.lt/ru/novosti

Owner: LRT - Lithuanian Radio and Television

The online news portal LRT in Russian is part of the Lithuanian public broadcasting network. The online platform provides Russian-speakers with national and international news. The content is not created by LRT, but is communicated from other Russian Language news outlets such as: Novoye Vremya (UA), Radio Svoboda, ru.delfi.lt, Voice of America (RU), BBC Russia and Deutsche Welle in Russian. Independent.

PRINT AND DIGITAL MEDIA

Газета Литовский курьер/ Newspaper The Lithuanian Courier

http://www.kurier.lt

Launched: 1995 by Lithuanian Courier.

This newspaper was conceived as a digest of the Russian press, a compilation of articles from Moscow newspapers such as Komsomolskaya Pravda, Trud, Pravda and The Literary Newspaper. The contemporary edition of The Lithuanian Courier describes itself as 'a dynamically developing newspaper that adequately tries to react to all changes in Lithuania, Russia and in the world'. It is both an online and physical weekly newspaper; the online version is updated with hourly news-bulletins – mainly provided by the BNS information agency. The website also holds the Alfa Radio Patriotic.

Patriotic.

Газета «Обзор» / Newspaper Obzor

http://www.obzor.lt/

Launched: January 1997 Owner: ZAO Flobis Vilnius (Publisher).

This weekly Russian language newspaper has a circulation of 25,000 aimed at Russian speakers in Lithuania. The content is displayed in the following categories: 'news from

Lithuania', 'international', 'culture', 'lifestyle, 'cars', 'education', 'tech', 'health', 'history', and 'sports'. Most of the content on the webpage is published in the print edition of Obzor; other material comes from BNS, Tass.ru, Regnum.ru, Lenta.ru. Patriotic.

Экспресс-Неделя / Ekspress-Nedelya

http://www.nedelia.lt/

Launched: 2007 Owner: UAB Savaites Ekspresas

The Ekspress Nedelya is a weekly newspaper supplemented with an online website in Russian. The online website is updated on weekdays with focuses on i.e. political news from Lithuania, and displays one article a day with content created by journalists of the editorial team. In general, Ekspress-Nedelya is interested in political news and events in Lithuania concerning 'the Russian world'.

Neutral.

BROADCAST (TV, RADIO)

Информационно-публицистическая передача на русском языке "Русская улица"/»Russian Street (Rusu gatve)» on LRT -

http://www.lrt.lt/mediateka/irasas/162700/kulturu_kryzkele_rusu_gatve

Owner: LRT – Lithuanian Radio and Television

'Russian street' is a weekly Russian language programme on the LRT Kultura channel, which is a part of the Lithuanian public service broadcaster, and aimed at the Russian speaking audience in Lithuania. It informs about 'life in the Russian community', and publishes stories about Lithuanian-Russian relations past and present. The programme can also be accessed online. There are also two news programs in Russian produced in collaboration with Deutsche Welle.

Neutral.

LRT Radijas

http://www.lrt.lt/mediateka/irasas/1013664521/santara_

The public service broadcaster, LRT Radio, provides two daily news programmes in Russian.

Neutral.

RusRadio LT

http://www.rusradio.lt/

A commercial Russian language entertainment radio channel aimed at a younger Russian-speaking audience in Lithuania, who wish to be updated on national and international news. Accessible online.

Neutral.

Denmark

Denmark is the smallest and the most continental of the three Scandinavian countries. It has a land border with Germany, a bridge and ferry connections to Sweden as well as regular ferry services to Norway.

Capital: Copenhagen (1.2 mil. inhabitants)

Area: 42,924 km²

Population: 5,659,715 (2015)

International: Member of EU, NATO, Schengen, UN, WTO, OECD, OSCE, Arctic

Council, NB8

Russians and Russian-speakers in Denmark

The first wave of Russian immigration came at the same time as ex-Empress Maria Feodorovna (born princess Dagmar) settled in Copenhagen in 1922. The other immigrants were mainly officers, who fled after the civil war in Russia, and some businessmen. About 400 Russian aristocratic families lived in Denmark at that time. In 1924 the «Danish-Russian Association» was founded (later known as the «Danish-Soviet Association») in order to strengthen enlightenment, cultural and humanitarian bonds between the two nations. Today it consists of five local associations, one in every Danish region.

After WWII, some Soviet POWs tried to stay on in Denmark, but most of them were sent back to the USSR. During the post-war period a small number left the USSR with Israeli visas, but chose to seek asylum in Denmark. A new group came after the break-up of the Soviet Union, many of them women from Russia or other ex-Soviet countries, who married Danish men.

Russian speakers by citizenship (1.1.2015)

Russia: 6640Belarus: 722Ukraine: 8589

Russian speakers by birthplace (1.1.2015)

Russia: 1804Belarus: 7275Ukraine: 52

• Former Soviet Union: 709

Mapping of Russian language media in Denmark

INTERNET PORTALS

Русское общество в Дании / Russian Society in Denmark

http://russam.dk/

Owner: Russian Society in Denmark

This society is concerned with connecting Russian-speakers living in Denmark through the online platform. The emphasis is on events, entertainment, celebrations, traditions etc. in connection to Russia. There is a so-called 'newsfeed' on the portal, focused on the events. *Not updated regularly.*

Patriotic.

Форум о Дании / Forum about Denmark

http://www.ulitka.com/denmark/

A Russian language information forum that provides Russian-speakers in Denmark with a platform to discuss different topics, primarily lifestyle and religion in Denmark. It is non-commercial, not concerned with news.

Neutral.

Портал Russian Denmark / Portal Russian Denmark

http://russiandenmark.com/ Last updated in 2012.

Finland

Finland is the northernmost country in the EU and it has the longest border with Russia of any EU country. It borders also with Norway and Sweden. Finland has strong links to Estonia, partly because their languages are closely related.

Capital: Helsinki (1.4 mil. inhabitants)

Area: 338,440 km² **Population:** 5,500,000

International: Member of EU, Schengen, OECD, OSCE, WTO, UN, Arctic Council, NB8

Russians and Russian-speakers in Finland

Russians started migrating into Finnish territory in the 18th century, mainly as labourers on farms or in the forestland. After 1809 about 40,000 Russian soldiers, civilian workers and some 600 businessmen settled in the Grand Duchy of Finland. When Finland became independent in 1917, most of the businessmen stayed. Some military returned to Russia, others fled from Russia to Finland in a new wave of immigration after the revolution and during the civil war in the early 1920s. Descendants from these early periods of immigration are called 'Old Russians', numbering today less than 5000. After the dissolution of the USSR, there was a new wave of immigration, consisting partly of Ingrian Finns and partly of Russian workers looking for better-paid jobs. In the border regions, many Russians have bought property and vacation homes.

Russian speakers by citizenship (1.1.2015)

Russian: 30,619Ukrainian: 3,026

Belarusian: 437Soviet Union: 101

Russian speakers by birthplace (1.1.2015)

Russia: 12,005Ukraine: 1,601Belarus: 326

• Soviet Union (former): 54,742

Mapping of Russian language media in Finland

INTERNET PORTALS

Информационный портал Всё о Финляндии / Information portal Everything about Finland

http://www.vse.fi/

A portal that mainly provides information in Russian on topics such as advice for tourists, student-life, visas, work, vacation, sports, and legal advice. The core-readers are Russians living close to Finland.

Neutral.

Информационный портал / Information Portal

http://www.russian.fi/

Launched: 2002

A Russian language information portal with the character of an online 'community' platform that provides the opportunity for Russians and Russian speakers in Finland to communicate, inform, and exchange views on different topics. The portal provides practical information and also a news bulletin with daily updates from YLE and «fontanka.fi». It has 10.000 daily users, 70 percent in Finland and the rest, 30 percent, in Russia and other countries.

Neutral.

Переводы из финских СМИ / Translations from Finnish media

http://smifinland.ru/

An online news-portal that provides Russian speakers located in Finland with Russian language translations of Finnish articles from the largest news outlets in Finland: «Aamulehti», «Helsingin Sanomat», «Iltalehti», «Ilta-Sanomat», «T. Sanomat», «MTV3», and «YLE». The translations appear on a weekly basis, however not regularly anymore. *Not updated since June 2016.*

Neutral.

Финские новости на русском / Finnish news in Russian

http://yle.fi/uutiset/na_propagandu_rossii_nado_otvechat_pravdoi/7977182 Owned by the Finnish public service broadcaster YLE; provides an online news platform in Russian with both a national and international focus. The platform has a newsbulletin-service that gives the readers the latest news every hour. All content is provided by YLE.

Neutral.

PRINT AND DIGITAL MEDIA



Газета «Новости Хельсинки»/ «News from Helsinki»

http://www.novosti-helsinki.com/

Owner: European Values OY

'News from Helsinki' is a privately owned Russian language printed and online publication. Five to six printed issues per year. The online platform is updated four to six times a month. Contentwise its focus is on society, business and European values, with a Finnish vantage point.

Neutral/patriotic.



Журнал «Спектр» / Spektr

http://www.spektr.net/

Launched: 2004 Owner: Spektr Kustannus Oy

Spektr is an independent Russian language monthly physical paper and on the online website. It is focused on cultural events and entertainment. Occasionally there are articles on political questions, relations between Finland and Russia etc. The website has a newsfeed in Russian with content provided by YLE and the City of Helsinki. Neutral.

Деловая газета «Финляндский торговый путь» / Business newspaper «The Finnish **Trade Road»**

http://www.kauppatie.com/index_ru.shtml

Launched: 1993 Owner: Wosseno OY

FTR is a monthly physical newspaper with an online website supplement; a pdf-version of the physical paper is also available. The circulation is between 85.000-115.000 with the concrete aim to 'cultivate and develop trade relations between Finland and Russia'. The core-readers are Russian-speakers in business and finance, both in Finland and Russia. The focus is primarily on business- and trade relations between Finland and Russia, migration, EU, business-profiles, taxes, and at times culture-related topics. A newsfeed from YLE Novosti is displayed on the online website. Neutral.

Журнал «Новые рубежи» Деловые новости Скандинавии / «Novye Rubezhi» business news from Scandinavia

http://www.newhorizons.fi/

Launched: June 1999 Owner: Ostromedia Oy

'New Horizons' is a bimonthly Russian-language economic/lifestyle journal that comes both in print and online. Distributed in the Nordic and Baltic countries and in Russia. The target group is decision makers, entrepreneurs, experts, members of commercial, state and public structures of the Northern Dimension as well as businessmen and politicians who speak Russian language and are interested in economic developments in the region. It claims to reach more than 80.000 readers. The content covers economics.

politics, Nordic lifestyle, tourism, practical advice for every-day life, interviews with interesting people, events of the region, culture and tradition. A newsfeed on Denmark, Finland, Sweden, Norway, and Iceland is updated once a week.

Neutral.

Журнал «Город» на русском и английском/ «Gorod» Magazine in English and Russian

http://www.gorod.fi/

Owner: Art Marketing OY

'Gorod' is a privately owned print and web lifestyle magazine in Russian and English based in Helsinki. It is published four times annually, claims to reach more than 40.000 readers, and is distributed in Finland and across the Russian border during peak season. The website is updated regularly. The content is directed at younger Russian speakers living in Helsinki/Finland or Russians visiting the city.

Neutral.

BROADCAST (TV, RADIO)

YLE TV Novosti

Owner: YLE

The Finnish public service broadcaster YLE provides a five-minute daily news programme in Russian on TV1. The broadcast covers current topics, such as local Finnish-Russian relations and national news. The latest broadcast is available online on the Yle Novosti digital platform.

Neutral.

Radio Sputnik – Russian language radio station

http://www.radiosputnik.fi

Radio Sputnik is a privately owned commercial Russian language radio station. It is aimed at Russian speakers living in Finland, Russian speaking tourists and businessmen. The range of programmes covers news and different themes such as culture and current affairs in the capital city. The station can be reached online. Neutral.

YLE Новости / Radio News in Russian Language

Owner: YLE

YLE provides a daily Russian language radio news summary on YLE Radio Suomi and Yle Mondo. The core-audience is Russian speakers living in Finland, tourists and businessmen. The latest edition is also available through the online YLE Novosti platform.

Neutral.

Iceland

Iceland is a sparsely populated island located in the Northern part of the Atlantic Ocean on the so-called Atlantic Ridge between the European and American continents. Iceland became an independent republic in 1944.

Capital: Reykjavik (122,000 inhabitants)

Area: 102,775 km²

Population: 329,100 (2015)

International: Member of EFTA, Schengen, NATO, OECD, OSCE, UN, WTO, Arctic

Council, NB8

Russians and Russian-speakers in Iceland

There is a small community of Russian and ex-Soviet exiles living in Iceland, enough for a Russian Orthodox congregation to be set up in Reykjavík. Many of the Russian speakers are women, who have entered the country via marriage. Cultural relations have grown and there is an active student exchange between Russian and Icelandic universities. The first Russian-Icelandic dictionary was published in 1997.

Russian speakers by citizenship (1.1.2015)

Ukrainian: 152 Russian: 145

Russian speakers by birthplace (1.1.2015)

Russia: 364Ukraine: 272

• Soviet Union (former): 115

Mapping of Russian language media in Iceland

INTERNET PORTALS

Исландия на портале Скандинавия по-русски

http://norse.ru/iceland/

The site is currently not active

Norway

Norway is Europe's northernmost country and it has one of the longest coastlines in the world. Thanks to the Gulf Stream, all Norwegian ports are ice-free. Norway borders on Russia, Finland and Sweden. Regular ferry lines to Denmark.

Capital: Oslo (1,232,575 inhabitants)

Area: 323,759 km²

Population: 5,200,000

International: Member in EFTA, Schengen, NATO, OECD, OSCE, UN, WTO, Arctic

Council, NB8

Russians and Russian-speakers in Norway

Russians have historically settled in the northern parts of Norway as merchants and fishermen. This was so frequent that the so-called 'pomor' culture developed a Nordic-Slavic 'pidgin language' along the Arctic coast, which survived until the early 20^{th} century. Much of today's immigration from Russia to Norway is still in the Finnmark region, mainly Russian women marrying Norwegian men. For a period in the 1990s, Norway also welcomed asylum seekers fleeing from the war in Chechnya. Since 2009 such applications are generally rejected.

Russian speakers by citizenship (1.1.2015)

Russian: 11,515Ukrainian: 2,872Belarusian: 662

Russian speakers by birthplace (1.1.2015)

Russian: 17.,200Ukrainian: 4,236Belarusian: 996

Mapping of Russian language media in Norway

INTERNET PORTALS

Веб-журнал о Норвегии (Москва-Киркенес) / Webmagazine about Norway http://norginfo.com/

Launched: 2014 by «Barents Forlag A/S».

Norginfo is an online Internet portal in Russian with information in the following categories: 'Business', 'Tourism', 'Education', 'Culture', and 'Lifestyle'. The content is rarely updated.

Neutral.

Форум «Русский портал» / «Russisk portal»

http://www.russisk.org/content.php

Launched: 2001

The core idea behind the portal is to connect Russian speakers with each other for various purposes, and to inform about the Norwegian society. There is a news-feed on the top page, but it is not updated daily.

Neutral.

Форум Valhalla Норвегия/ Valhalla Forum Norway

http://valhalla.ulver.com/f157/

Launched: 2000

An information portal in Russian with information from all Nordic countries. The content is mainly about lifestyle in the different countries, advice on society, culture, education and tourism. There is sparse activity on the platform. Neutral.

PRINT AND DIGITAL MEDIA

Правовой журнал «Права соотечественников» ('Compatriot rights')

http://landsmann.no/dop/pravo_2016.pdf

This is a legal magazine aimed at Russian speakers in all of Scandinavia providing legal information and updates. It also offers advice on questions from the readers. The publication comes out twice a year.

Patriotic.

Sweden

Sweden has the biggest population among the Nordic countries and it is geographically the third-largest country in the EU. It borders on Norway and Finland and is closely linked to Denmark (bridge and ferry lines) as well as the Baltic countries (regular ferry lines).

Capital: Stockholm (1.3 mil.)

Area: 438,574 km²

Population: 10,000,000 (2017)

International: Member of EU, Schengen, OECD, OSCE, WTO, UN, Arctic Council, NB8

Russians and Russian-speakers in Sweden

The first immigration wave of Russians came in the 1920s after the Russian Revolution and the Civil War. For many of these immigrants Sweden was just a transit country, but some decided to stay. During WW II, a few thousand Soviet citizens were interned in Sweden, but only a small number were allowed to stay. During the Soviet period, immigration was minimal.

After the dissolution of the USSR, immigration has risen, but the numbers are still small. Less than 1,000 Russians receive Swedish citizenship per year, 2/3 of them women who have married Swedish men. According to different sources, there are between 9,000 to 18,000 Russians living in Sweden. However, the Russian-speaking community as a whole is much larger, nearly 90,000 people, including immigrants from other former Soviet republics (some with Russian as a second language), as well as Russian-speakers with Swedish citizenship.

Russian speakers by citizenship (1.1.2015)

• Russians: 8,116

• Ukrainians: 3,641 • Belarusians: 1,594

Russian speakers by birthplace (1.1.2015)

• Russia: 19.028 • Ukraine: 6,828 • Belarus: 2,724

• Former Soviet Union: 5,815

Mapping of Russian language media in Sweden

INTERNET PORTALS

Новости Союза русских обществ в Швеции / News from The Russian Society of

http://www.rurik.se/index.php?id=1915&lng=ru&news_id=5383

Launched: 2003 Owner: The Russian Society of Sweden

The site is run by an NGO for Russian speakers living in Sweden. It provides a newsfeed through the organisation's Internet portal (also in Swedish). The feed contains weekly updates on matters primarily concerning Swedish-Russian current and historical relations, politics, culture and society, as well as reports/reminders of events in connection to celebrating Russian traditions in Sweden and visits from Russia. Patriotic.



Новости Швеции/Swedish news

http://swedishnews.se/

Launched: April 2016

An 'alternative media portal' providing Russian speakers in Sweden with 'current news from Sweden and about Sweden in Russian'. The news content is updated on a daily basis; it is partly original and partly from sources like Swedish Radio, Stockholm Municipality or other official organs.

Neutral/patriotic.



Форум Шведская пальма / Forum the Swedish Palm

http://www.sweden4rus.nu/

Launched: 2002

The Swedish Palm is an online club/discussion and information portal for the Russian speaking diaspora in Sweden. The Internet portal displays a newsfeed from Yandex.ru, which contains hourly updates and links to the bulletin. The content is based on Russian news- and press/information agencies, but with a Swedish/Scandinavian angle. Neutral.

Варяг Новости Швеции и Северной Европы/Varjag News from Sweden and Northern

Launched: 2016 Owners: Irina Merkina and Valery Gorchakov A newly established online news-platform in Russian language aimed at providing Russian speakers mainly in Sweden, but also in the other Scandinavian countries, with news from this region. The news content is updated on a daily basis, primarily national news, events or developments covered by other media. There is also original videocontent on topics such as culture and Scandinavian lifestyle.

Neutral.

PRINT AND DIGITAL MEDIA

Газета Союза русских обществ в Швеции в PDF / An electronic newspaperfrom the Russian Society of Sweden

http://www.rurik.se/index.php?id=24243203&lng=ru

Owner: The Russian Society of Sweden

The format is closer to a newsletter than a newspaper. Its main purpose is to inform the members of the Russian Society of Sweden about its activities, but it contains a few links to news; also available on the online platform.

Patriotic.

BROADCAST (TV, RADIO)

Открытый канала / Öppna Kanalen

https://oksplay.solidtango.com/live/forsta-livesandningen

An online public accessible video-platform, where the Russian Society of Sweden used to broadcast Russian language programmes.

Not active since 2015.

Patriotic.

MEDIA COVERING MULTIPLE COUNTRIES

News for Russian audiences internationally

Mapping of Russian language media

Links as of September 2017

INTERNET PORTALS



http://newsbalt.ru

Launched: 2011(Kaliningrad) Owner: «Newsbalt».

«NewsBalt» describes itself as 'an international Russian language information and analytical portal' with an aim to 'accumulate information about the political life of the nine countries united by a common geopolitical space, the Baltic Sea... from Finnish Tornio to Polish Swinoujście, from German Kappeln to the Russian Baltic.' Patriotic

РуБалтик / RuBaltic

http://www.rubaltic.ru/

Launched: January 2013 Owner: Rubaltic.ru - (analytical portal about the Baltic region) This portal is interested in the following countries: Russia, Belarus, Poland, Ukraine, Moldova, Germany, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Finland, Norway, Sweden, and Denmark. RuBaltic's main aim is to create a space 'for neutral reflection over events taking place in the Baltic region... trying to attract representatives of the scientific community of Russia and the countries of the Baltic region. External experts and members of the editorial board of the portal are paying special attention to the Baltic dimension of the post-Soviet space.'

Patriotic.

Aгентство Спутник / Sputnik

Sputnik Estonia: https://ru.sputnik-news.ee/ (launched February 2014) Sputnik Latvia: https://ru.sputniknewslv.com (relaunched March 2016)

Owner: «Rossiya Segodnya, RT».

This digital multimedia platform intends to provide an international news service covering all continents.

The Estonian platform is available in both Estonian and Russian. The stories are covered from a Russian point of view. The target audience is Russian speakers (as well as Estonians) living in Estonia and Russian speakers across the Baltics.

The Latvian service, available in both Latvian and Russian, is similar to the Estonian platform.

Patriotic.



Information portal in Russian with national sites:

Estonian «Estbaltija» http://baltija.eu/ (launched 2009) Latvian «BaltijaLV» http://baltijalv.lv/ (launched 2011)

The portal serves both as a news and community platform. The main purpose of Baltija.eu is to promote unity and ethnic equality of the Russian and Russian speaking population, the preservation of the Russian language and culture in the Republic of Estonia. [...] Materials are aimed at the unification of the community, events in cultural life and the Orthodox World.' The portal is the official information partner of the «FA Russotrudnichestvo» Foundation of support and protection of the rights of Russian compatriots living abroad.

Patriotic.



Росбалт / Rosbalt

http://www.rosbalt.ru/

A federal information agency with head offices in Moscow and Saint Petersburg. Represented all over Russia and in neighbouring countries. Monthly traffic - more than 3,000,000 visitors and 14,000,000 views. Patriotic.



Baltnews

www.baltnews.ee www.baltnews.lv www.baltnews.lt

Launched: Autumn 2014 (registered in Riga, Latvia)

This platform aims to provide an 'open discussion platform for news-makers and experts'. The general focus is on national news and international news with the exception of a few differentiated categories such as «Russians in Estonia» in the Estonian edition, «Economy» and «Society» in the Latvian, and «Crime» in the Lithuanian. Updated daily. The target audience is Russian speakers in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

Patriotic/neutral.



ИА ФлэшНорд / IA FlashNord

http://flashnord.com/

Founded 2012

The main product of the information agency is a daily newsletter, published in real time. Subscribers of the agency are regional and municipal authorities, the largest enterprises, financial structures, other media. The agency supplies materials to the news services Yandex, Google, Rambler. In addition, FlashNord products are transferred to commercial information databases in Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States. The head office of the agency is located in Saint Petersburg, correspondent offices in the capitals of the subjects of the North-West Federal District, Oslo and Helsinki. Neutral/patriotic.



Агентство новостей BNS / News agency BNS

http://www.latviannewsservice.lv/ru

Launched: 1990; owned by the Estonian company «Uudisvoog OÜ».

BNS is the largest pan Baltic news agency with its base in Riga. It provides information about international news in cooperation with global news agencies such as Associated

Press, Reuters and AFP. BNS also covers important events in the Baltic region, publishing more than 1,500 news items per day in Latvian, Estonian, Lithuanian, English and Russian.

Neutral



LETA Latvian News Agency (LV, RU, ENG)

http://www.leta.lv/

Launched: 1919 (Riga) Owner: «Eesti Media».

LETA is a national information agency that 'generates reliable and multi-faceted content and provides custom-tailored solutions for professional information users'. On a daily basis LETA provides the latest news in textual, photo, video and graphic formats, prepare analytical business research studies, and offer extensive databases. Neutral

Балтийский курс / Baltic Course - International Magazine for Decision Makers

http://www.baltic-course.com/rus/

Launched: 1996 (print), 2001 (English language, print) - exclusively online since 2007. Owner: «Cordex Media SIA» in Riga.

Baltic Course is a business news outlet with content in business, politics, and the economy in an Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian context. A large part of the English language news-coverage and articles are translated into Russian. The content is original with links to sources for the content. BC brands itself as 'the best route to the region's development for the most influential and prominent businessmen and CEOs'. Neutral.



Delfi News – a regional online media portal

www.delfi.ee, www.delfi.lv and www.delfi.lt

www.rus.delfi.le, www.rus.delfi.lv, and www.rus.delfi.lt

Launched: 1999 (Russian versions since 2000) Owner: «AS Ekspress Grupp». Delfi operates on three national platforms and each platform provides a Russian language entity. The platforms include a news-app updated 24/7. The content is based on a wide range of categories: from national news to international politics, business, economy and opinion; culture, health, entertainment, sports and tourism. 'The main mission for Delfi portal is to provide quality and agile news information to the majority of society.'

Independent/neutral.

PRINT AND DIGITAL MEDIA



Аргументы и Факты / Argumenty i Fakty

http://www.aif.ru/

The leading weekly newspaper in Russia with a readership of 6,548,000 people; also the most popular Russian publication abroad. The newspaper is distributed by subscription and in retail in 60 countries of the world. «AIF» has the most extensive network of regional editions: 66 in Russia, 17 abroad.

Patriotic.

Комсомольская правда Северная Европа / Komsomol'skaya Pravda Northern Europe http://www.kompravda.eu/

Launched: 2012 (online edition) Owner: Komsomolskaya Pravda
The editorial content is supplemented with a number of regional (from the Baltic states)
and Russian columnists commenting contemporary matters. The topics cover the
following categories: politics, society, economy, global, stars, health, sport, science and
opinions. The news flow is updated hourly. The target-audience is Russians and Russianspeakers in Northern Europe and the Baltic States. The politics section is oriented
towards Russian policies and developments.
Patriotic

Газета Скандинавский листок / Skandinavskiy Listok

http://www.sclistok.com/

Launched: 1915 (Copenhagen). This publication has a rich history, currently uniting a team of journalists, who strive to develop Russian culture in the Scandinavian countries. The publication is supported by a group of Danish and British authors, whose goal is to preserve the national and cultural identity of the Russian-speaking populations in Denmark and the other Scandinavian countries. The content on the platform is divided into the following categories: news, business, culture, technology, and sport. The written content is original, video content is acquired from other outlets.

Neutral.

Hовая газета Балтия / Novaya Gazeta Baltiya

The regional Baltic version is only available online:

http://novayagazeta.ee/ http://novayagazeta.lv http://novayagazeta.lt

Launched: October 2015 Owner: Novaya Gazeta.

The content on the platform is from the newspaper's Baltic reporters and the Russian editorial office in Moscow. Hourly news-bulletins are available on the site. The categories include politics, economy, society, culture, investigations, editorials, discussions. The content is based on sources from information agencies such as BNS, TASS, Rosbalt, Reuters, RIA Novosti, and internationally from La Nacion, YLE, Kommersant, The Guardian, Postimees.ee, BBC Russia, the Mirror, Deutsche Welle etc. The core audience is Russian speakers living in the Baltic region. Independent.

BROADCAST (TV, RADIO)

Первый балтийский канал (ПБК) / PBK First Baltic Channel

http://www.1tv.lv/

Launched: 2002 Owner: Baltic Media Alliance (BMA), Riga

The BMA TV channels are distributed in commercial networks of digital and cable operators. PBK headquarters are in Riga with offices in Tallinn and Vilnius. According to ratings from the BMA, PBK has 4 mn viewers in the Baltic countries. PBK brands itself an 'information- and entertainment'-channel for the 'whole family'. It broadcasts content from the Russian government owned Channel 1 Russia (www.1tv.ru) and ORT. There is

also original content like national/local news targeted on the Russian speaking population in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. PBK allows for live/online-transmission in Estonia, Latvia or Lithuania.

Patriotic.

H

HTB Балтика / NTV MIR-Baltic

http://www.ntvmir.ntv.ru

Launched: 2011; NTV-Mir Lietuva 2012; NTV-Mir Estonia 2014. Owner: Gazprom Media.

NTV-Mir offers programmes with educational content and entertainment, as well as news, analytical programmes and discussions + Russian movies and TV shows. The aim is to 'interest a wide circle of Russian-speaking viewers, regardless of where in the world they live'. The target audience is Russian-speaking viewers, who will be provided with 'a link to Russia, a reliable source of independent information about events in their home country, be it Russia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, or any of the republics of the former Soviet Union'.

Patriotic.



RTR- Planeta

Launched: 2002 Owner: Russian Television and Broadcasting Company VGTRK RTR-Planeta is an international infotainment TV channel in Russian. The channel broadcasts 24 hours a day in 3 versions with time shifts programming specially adapted for viewers from Europe, Asia and North America. The signal of RTR-Planeta is allocated on multiple satellites, which allows transmitting high-quality video and delivering the channel to anywhere in the world. [...] RTR-Planeta's schedule is based on the best programs of RTR's leading domestic TV channels such as Rossiya-1, Rossiya-K (Russia Culture), My Planet and others. The most important national and international events are reflected in the channel's programming through live broadcasts, thematic films and special projects. The diverse content attracts viewers of different ages and interests, and is designed for 'Russian-speaking compatriots living abroad.



Рен Балтия / Ren Baltiya

http://ren.tv

Launched: 2005 (Latvia), 2008 (Estonia), 2014 (Lithuania)

Owner: National Media Group (Moscow) through the Baltic Media Alliance Ren TV is a privately owned Russian channel. The contemporary version of the channel includes programmes in the genres of entertainment, news and analysis. The content is both originally produced and acquired internationally. REN TV Baltic offers content for 'a wide demographic and social range of viewers' with a target audience of Russian-speakers between 15 and 49.

Neutral.



Эхо Москвы/Ekho Moskvy

Ekho Moskvv: http://echo.msk.ru/

Ekho Moskvy Saint Petersburg: http://echo.msk.ru/tags/3540/

Founded 1990. Majority owner: Gazprom-Media.

Available online worldwide.

Audience in Russia – 46.8 million (2013). Independent/neutral.