

DIS!NFO

BRIEF



September 2022

THE BATTLE FOR PODGORICA IN THE SERBIAN MEDIA

NARRATIVE

In preparation for the local elections in Podgorica, which will be held on October 23, the Serbian media have started to publish narratives and propaganda. And this time, just like for the local elections in Nikšić, the battle for Montenegrin cities is being fought from Serbia. The elections in Nikšić, which were held on March 14, 2021, were marked by disinformation and narratives spread by the Serbian media, as well as a TV show on *Happy Television* called *Battle for Nikšić*. Titles of [Sputnjik Srbija](#) and [Večernje novosti](#) *The battle for Podgorica has begun: Will DPS hand over the keys of the capital,*

"BATTLE" FOR PODGORICA: The upcoming local elections in 14 municipalities will be a test for parliamentary and presidential elections. Also, the Kurir TV show called THE BATTLE FOR PODGORICA FOLLOWS! Pavićević: Milo Đukanović awaits failure, he has no one to do business with! show that the media in Serbia use the same pattern as before to influence public opinion. The Democratic Party of Socialists and President Milo Đukanović, who, according to their announcements and forecasts, are expected to lose in Podgorica are most often attacked by the media from Serbia.

THE PHOTO DOES NOT SHOW THE ARREST OF RADE MILOŠEVIĆ

DISINFORMATION

On October 2, the Montenegrin media reported that the director of the Revenue and Customs Administration, Rada Milošević, had been arrested on suspicion of being part of an organized chain that stole and smuggled certain cigarettes. Milošević denied that information, saying that it was media sensationalism. After that, a photo appeared on social networks showing masked police officers detaining a person whose face has been censored with the description that the photo is evidence of Milošević's arrest. However, that photo is old and it is not Rade Milošević but Darko Elez, a member of a criminal clan. This photo was also published by the *Standard* portal as proof of Milošević's arrest, but it was soon removed after realizing that the photo was not credible.

DFC VISITING THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY IN BULGARIA

DFC INFO

An analyst from the Digital Forensic Center visited the American University in Bulgaria, where together with his colleagues discussed Russian subversive activities in Montenegro at an event called "Russia, NATO & the West", organized by the University and NATO. At the lecture, students and professors discussed various aspects of the Russian presence and the influence of foreign information that could

harm society, with a focus on how actors such as Russia and China influence the public discourse in Montenegro. As part of the event, a workshop was held for students, during which colleague Milan Jovanović spoke about practices and tools used to monitor, expose and suppress disinformation on the Internet, especially on social networks, with a presentation of cases from Montenegro.

PANEL "THE NO MAN'S LAND OF (DIS)INFORMATION SPACE" AT 2BS FORUM

DFC INFO

During the twelfth 2BS Forum organized by the Atlantic Council of Montenegro, a panel titled "The No Man's Land of (Dis)information Space" was organized where disinformation and fake news and how to deal with this problem were discussed. Jasna Jelisić, head of the Western Balkans Task Force from the European External Action Service, Ivana Stradner, an associate at the American Enterprise Institute, and Jakub Kalenski, senior analyst at HibridCoE, spoke on the panel. Jasna Jelisić said that

disinformation and manipulations do not go far if they do not have local proxies and that this is unfortunately valid globally, but also in the Western Balkans. Ivana Stradner pointed out that, in order to win the war between Ukraine and Russia, information work should be viewed from the perspective of the Kremlin. Jakub Kalenský said that what Russia is doing today is reminiscent of the work of the KGB, but that the tools used by Moscow have changed because now it uses the Internet for disinformation.

Disinfo Brief provides a monthly overview of the key disinformation, narratives, and propaganda developments that the DFC team researched and debunked to raise awareness of the issue and its extent.



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