



European Digital Media Observatory

**BECID**

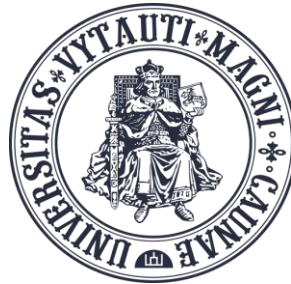
# **Baltic Engagement Center for Combating Information Disorders**

Jānis Buholcs

# BECID



# BECID Partners



VYTAUTAS  
MAGNUS  
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**Delfi**



Baltic Centre for  
Media Excellence

**EKSPRESS  
MEEDIA**



**re:baltica**  
BALTIJAS PĒTNIECISKĀS ŽURNĀLISTIKAS CENTRS

# The directions of BECID work

- 1) Fact-checking work
- 2) Research of fact-checking journalism
- 3) Research of vulnerable audiences (teenagers, seniors, Russian-speakers, activists)
- 4) Media literacy

# Media literacy activities

- 1) Study course on media literacy for current and future teachers (3-6 ECTs) (2022-2024)
- 2) Youth and seniors: intergenerational training (2023-2024)
- 3) Media literacy campaign for Russian-speakers (2024-2025)
- 4) Media literacy hackaton for youth (2024-2025)

# Reports published

BECID MARCH 2023 REPORT

## Point by point: what arguments Russia is using to deceive the Baltics this year

The Russian invasion of Ukraine on 24 February last year has brought about a change in Russia's long-standing efforts to influence Latvian and Baltic information spaces with disinformation.

The escalation of the war and the resulting widespread backlash against the Russian regime has reinforced the Kremlin's need to break the current relationship in order to return to the relative normality that existed before 24 February.

At the same time, it would be wrong to claim that Russian disinformation has been fundamentally transformed in terms of messages against the background of the war, since Russia's own foreign policy orientations have not been transformed.

But the war has provided new pretexts to try to deliver messages that have been tried and tested for years to audiences, in an attempt to adapt them to the current situation.

[Read the report](#)

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Photo: DPA/Scanpix/LETA

BECID FEBRUARY 2023 REPORT

## Is TikTok a Gateway to Politics in the Baltics? For Now, Only in Latvia


Although there is a common assumption that TikTok is used only by a younger generation, Re:Baltica's analysis shows that in Latvia it's a powerful tool enough for populists to get into parliament.

After shutting down Kremlin's TV channels, TikTok has become fertile soil also for Kremlin's narratives. Latvian State Security service has started seven criminal investigations for supporting Moscow on TikTok, while Lithuania and Estonia are taking a lighter approach.

Why so, read in Re:Baltica's Baltic disinformation quarterly review about the use of TikTok.

[Read the Review \(1\)](#)

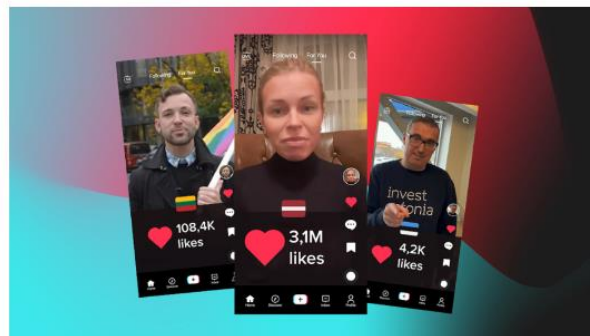
[Read the Review \(2\)](#)

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### IMPORTANT Is TikTok a Gateway to Politics in the Baltics? For Now, Only in Latvia

16. FEBRUARY, 2023 • INGA SPRINĢE (RE:BALTICA), AISTĒ MEIDUTĒ (DELFI.LT) AND KAILI MALTS (DELFI.EE)



The most popular Baltic parliament member on TikTok is Latvian Glorija Grevcova (For Stability!) with 3.1 million likes. The most popular Lithuanian and Estonian MPs lag far behind with 180 thousand and 4.2 thousand likes respectively.

# Media literacy activities undertaken

Live training for youth workers on **the use playful approaches to teach** children how to recognize and manage online risks.

(February 2023)



Webinar for youth workers on **what young people are doing on social media**

(March 2023)

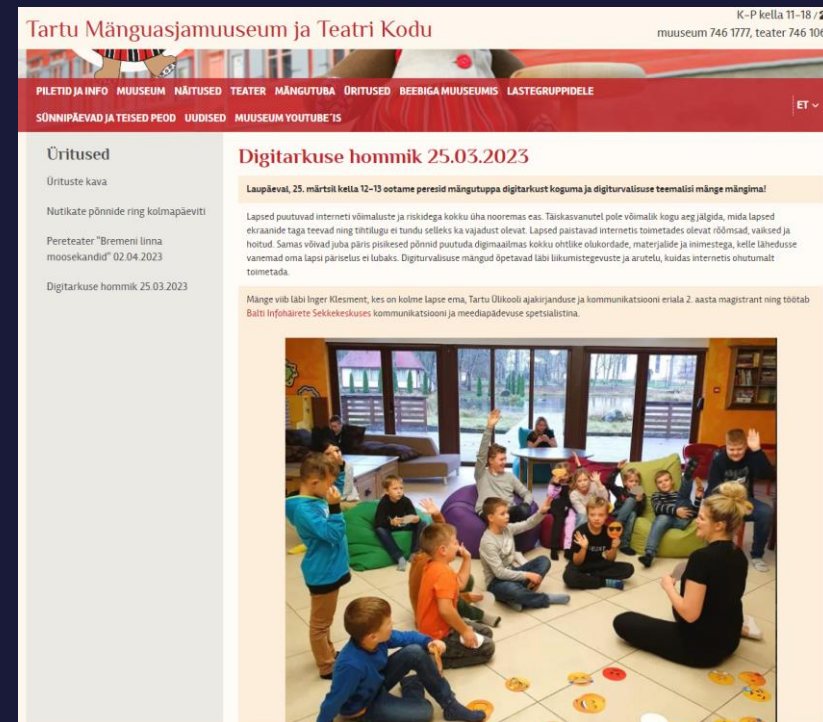




# Media literacy activities undertaken

Teaching **internet safety** to 3-5 year olds  
through games at the Tartu Toy Museum

(March 2023)

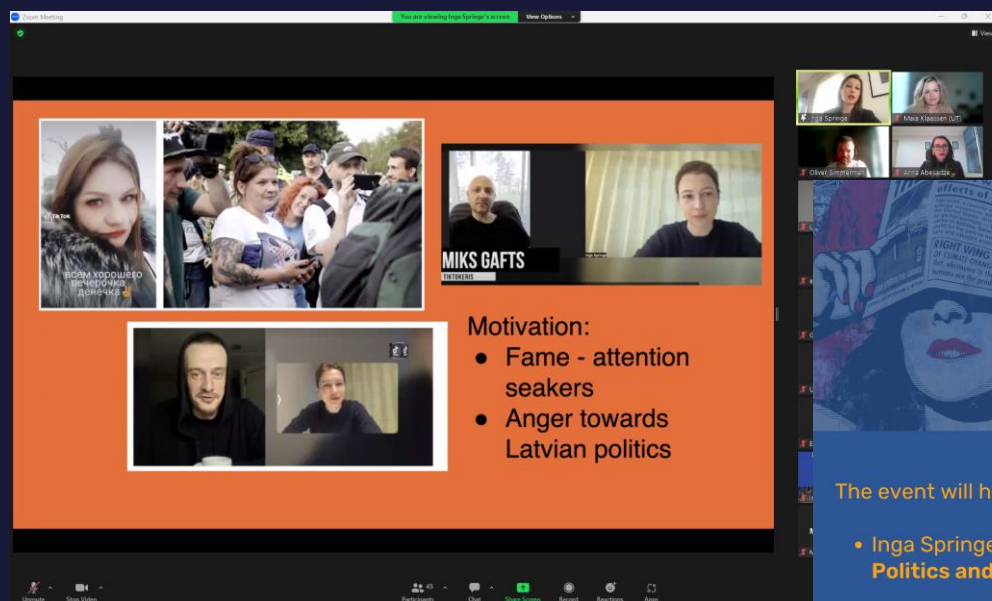




# Media literacy activities undertaken

Webinar “From Disinformation to Information Resilience”, University of Tartu

(March 2023)



Join the students of the University of Tartu  
for an Online Event

## From Disinformation to Information Resilience

The event will host five 15-minute keynotes:

- Inga Springe from [Re:Baltica](#) "**TikTok as Gateway to Politics and Kremlin Disinfo: lessons from the Baltics**"
- Maia Klaassen from [BECID](#) "**Bottom Up Approach to Information Resilience: what can we, the people, do?**"
- MA students from UT's [Information Resilience micro-degree](#) presenting **case studies from Ireland, Iceland and Russia**

Join via Zoom



March 31st, 2 PM (GMT+3)

# Media literacy activities undertaken



11/04/2023

## Media Literacy Trainings for teachers in Baltics

Media Literacy Trainings for teachers on April 11 (Lithuania).



Credit: digires.lt

The focus is on **fact-checking** – we will give pedagogical tips and content with techniques and instruments to do fact-checking based on lessons and methodology developed with **DIGIRES** trainings format (Media Literacy without the Myths: Fact Checkers Recipes). Trainings will be organised in an online form.

Organisers are VMU Department of Public Communications, DIGIRES, BECID and UNESCO Chair on MIL for Knowledge Inclusive Societies. Trainers are VMU and DELFI Lietuva specialists.

The training is in Lithuanian.



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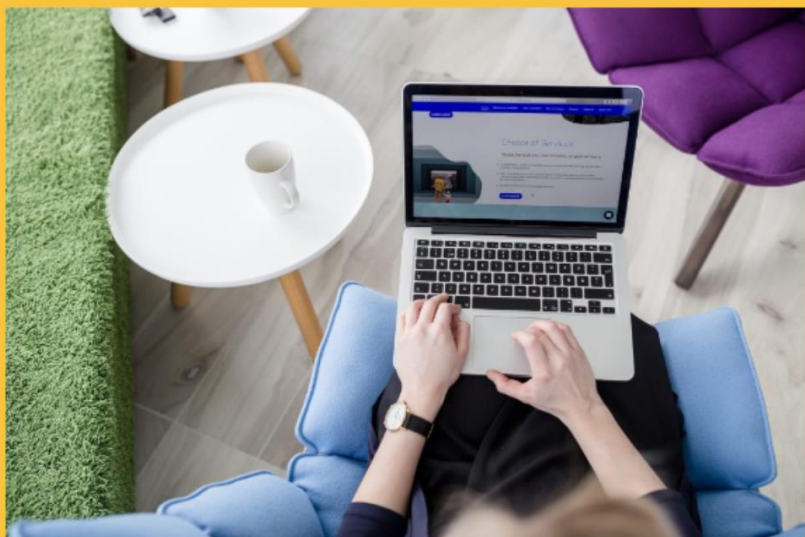


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# Ongoing media literacy activities



13-14/04/2023 AND 2/05/2023



## Media Literacy Training for Teachers

Teachers from both primary and primary schools are welcome to attend a practical training on media literacy, which will include a design thinking method to develop each teacher's own media literacy program.

The course lasts three days.

Teachers of different teaching subjects are welcome!

The training is in Estonian!

[More information and registration](#)



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# Planned media literacy activities



## BaltsTeachMIL zoominar!

### “The war isn’t real - I saw it on TikTok!”

Living next door to Russia provides the Baltic societies with challenges each day. We have been facing information disorders “on steroids” for quite some time now, and continue to do so. Many propaganda-fuelled stories that are deliberately spread in the Baltics are surprisingly similar in all countries — the bad behavior of Ukrainian refugees, NATO’s secret poison-labs in the tiny villages of our countries, allegations of Nazi sympathies, [EXAMPLE 3](#), [EXAMPLE 4](#) ([LIST OF FALSE CLAIMS IN BALTICS](#))

Living amongst this propaganda storm has also made us resilient and knowledgeable about the many tricks the propagandists use in their attempts to influence people’s opinions. However, it is crucial to constantly update our understanding and skill sets regarding the online information environment. To help with this, we invite all Baltic teachers and youth workers to come together for an English-speaking informal zoominar where we will share our experiences and best practices.

A special emphasis will be put on discussing the things that teachers and youth workers can use in their daily work with students and young people. What kinds of disinfo-related problems do the kids notice in their media use? What crazy conspiracy theories do they bring into class? If young people are misinformed by their social media feeds and because of that think that the ongoing war is not real, how should we respond to that? How do you build the literacies needed in today’s mediascapes? Which awesome study tasks have you used to increase the students’ media and information literacies? These are some of the questions the zoominar sets out to address.

The zoominar is the first of hopefully many to come. On 9th of May we will discuss and plan together, how to support Baltic teachers and youth workers in the future. And then carry out



# Planned media literacy activities



BECID at Opinion Festival (August 2023)

TikTok house: Why and how does the TikTok algorithm  
consume us?



# Thank You!