

**The article is prepared in the frame of Erasmus + project: “Kaleidoscope: Exploring Experiences of Exile through Creative Media”**

**Group of participants from Georgia: Mariam Ispiriani, Tatia Jintjarashvili, Salome Mukhigulashvili.**

**On 20th January, 2024 in Kaspi Municipality (which is located near to boundary line - the territory which is occupied by the Russia) held activity about story telling ad different ways how story can be told (By posters, video, info graphic, droving and so on.**

**After the meeting participants had decided to work story telling article and create info graphic. They divided in two group. One group worked on an article concerning - disinformation and its meaning on our country's development and disinformation and Russia's political game in the last years. And another group has worked on info graphic by using Canva – concerning "tips and tricks to learn new languages"**

**authors of the article are following people:**

**1. Megi Gviniashvili, 2. Mariam Khmiadashvili, 3. Tea Khorbaladze, 4. Nana kudzievi, 5. Giorgi Ispiriani.**

**2. The authors of infographic are: liza balakhashvili, Mariam Chegelidze, Giga lobjanidze.**

To consolidate its lost positions in the post-Soviet space, the Kremlin engages in hybrid warfare, which means that it actively uses the economic, financial, political and informational levers at its disposal to achieve its foreign policy goals.

In recent years, the Kremlin is increasingly actively using propaganda as a tool to pursue its own interests in different countries. Russia's propaganda machine is trying to sow anti-Western narratives in countries that used to be its sphere of influence.

The main source of propagation of propagandistic ideas is the media, followed by parties and politicians, then individual representatives of society, and the last place is occupied by clergy; Today we will discuss how Russia is using all these propagandistic weapons to empower its political in the post soviet countries.

Spreading propagandistic ideas through religious persons is not at all new and is a very "proven" method. Due to the fact that clerics enjoy high trust and influence in society.

The direct or indirect dissemination of prop. The same faith with Russia and playing on public sentiments further discourages the use of the church as a soft power mechanism to control public

sentiments. Obviously, the Russia-Ukraine war was not an exception, and here too the Moscow Patriarchate was activated to spread the narratives of the Kremlin;

"The Russian Orthodox Church presents the conflict in Ukraine as a "holy war" The Russian Church emphasizes the historical ties between Russia and Ukraine. Kiev, now the capital of Ukraine, was the center of Orthodoxy in the tenth-century Kievan Rus', a kingdom that united present-day Belarus, Ukraine, and western Russia;

One of the important propaganda messages is to portray the Russia-Ukrainian war as a "genocidal" war and to "present Russia as a peace-loving superpower, not an aggressor."

The head of the Russian Orthodox Church since the start of the war, Kirill refers to the war as a "special operation", a "tragic conflict" provoked by foreign powers to weaken Russia, as "one nation" and divide the Orthodox Church.

Moreover, it spreads the Kremlin's propaganda that Russia is not the aggressor, that Russia is fighting for peace, and that Ukrainians in Donbas are committing genocide against the Russian-speaking population.

Propaganda also actively works to incite anti-Western sentiments. During the Russian-Ukrainian war, the idea of the "Russian world" became relevant again, according to which the "Russian world" includes the entire population of former Tsarist Russia and the Soviet Union, who are connected to Russia through the Russian language, religion, and culture and worldview.

The core of the Russian world is Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus, the so-called Slavic "Russian World". Also, Russia is the only power in the region that is ready to provide unselfish help to the people associated with it and free them from the lifestyle imposed by the West. The conflict in Ukraine also represents the "liberation of the Ukrainian people from neo-Nazis". From a religious point of view, the goal of "Holy Russia" is to save nations from Western liberalism, secularism, and protect family values and traditions instead of "perverted" values.

The older generation considers Russia a friendly state of Georgia. They say that Russia and Georgia have one religion - Orthodoxy, and the same values. They believe that Russia will never be Georgia's enemy. This part of the society does not support Georgia's aspiration towards the European future.

Russia's propagandistic politics caused the war in 2008 in Georgia. This propaganda still is ongoing and many people believe in this. In that year because of Russia's propagandistic politics war started between Georgian and Ossetian people that are always been historically close people with each other.