



Baltic Engagement  
Centre for Combating  
Information Disorders

# HOT REPORT

## COORDINATED DISINFORMATION CAMPAIGN CLAIMS LITHUANIA IS “NOT INDEPENDENT”

MARCH 2026



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THIS REPORT IS A DELIVERABLE 3.1 FOR THE EU-FUNDED PROJECT WITH THE ID 101226242,  
COORDINATED BY RE:BALTICA.

THIS REPORT IS BASED ON A FACT-CHECK ARTICLE TITLED  
**LIETUVOJE – KOORDINUOTAS BANDYMAS UŽGINČYTI  
NEPRIKLAUSOMYBĘ: PASITELKĖ EURĄ, NATO KARIUS BEI  
MIGRANTUS** BY MELO DETEKTORIUS.

## WHAT'S HOT?

At the end of January, coordinated disinformation spread on Facebook attempted to convince Lithuanian citizens that their country is not truly independent. Using fake social media accounts and misleading claims about the euro, NATO troops, migration policy, and border control, the campaign promoted the narrative that Lithuania has lost sovereignty to foreign actors. Fact-checkers from Melo detektorius identified the claims as false and highlighted how they are part of a broader effort to undermine trust in Lithuania's democratic institutions and its membership in the European Union and NATO.

### What Do We See?

- **Coordinated social media activity:** Fake Facebook accounts circulated multiple posts between 29–31 January repeating the same claims questioning Lithuania's sovereignty.
- **Misuse of factual elements:** Individual facts such as euro adoption, NATO cooperation, or migration policy were taken out of context and presented as proof that Lithuania is not independent.
- **Attacks on democratic institutions:** The posts attempted to undermine confidence in Lithuanian state institutions by claiming that the country lacks control over its laws, borders, or foreign policy.
- **Targeting EU and NATO membership:** Lithuania's participation in the European Union and NATO was framed as evidence of external control rather than voluntary international cooperation.
- **Narrative recycling:** Some messages compared Lithuania's EU and NATO membership to Soviet-era occupation, falsely implying that the country is again under foreign rule.

## Why Does It Work?

- **Mixing truth with distortion:** The narrative uses real policy decisions – such as euro adoption or NATO presence – but presents them in misleading ways.
- **Exploiting sovereignty concerns:** Claims about borders, military forces, or migration play on public sensitivities about national independence.
- **Coordinated repetition:** Multiple posts repeating the same narrative create the impression of widespread public concern.
- **Historical manipulation:** Comparisons with Soviet occupation attempt to trigger emotional responses and distrust toward Western institutions.

## RISK ASSESSMENT: MEDIUM TO HIGH

- **Erosion of trust:** Repeated claims that Lithuania is not sovereign may weaken public confidence in democratic institutions.
- **Polarisation:** Narratives questioning EU and NATO membership can deepen divisions in society.
- **Strategic messaging:** The campaign reflects broader influence operations aimed at undermining Baltic states' Western alliances.
- **Hybrid threat pattern:** Similar narratives appear in other Baltic countries, suggesting coordinated information operations.

## How to Respond?

### For the general public

- Verify claims about sovereignty, laws, or international agreements through official sources and credible media.
- Be cautious of anonymous social media accounts spreading highly emotional or accusatory messages about national independence.
- Recognise that EU and NATO membership are based on democratic decisions made by Lithuania's elected institutions and citizens.

### For educators and media literacy practitioners

- Use this case to explain how disinformation reframes legitimate international cooperation as “loss of sovereignty.”

- Teach audiences how selective facts and historical comparisons can be used to manipulate perceptions.
- Encourage critical discussion about how narratives are constructed in social media environments.

### For policymakers and officials

- Monitor coordinated online campaigns that target public trust in state institutions.
- Strengthen public communication explaining how EU and NATO decision-making works and how Lithuania participates in it.
- Support fact-checking initiatives and rapid responses to disinformation narratives targeting national sovereignty.

### FURTHER READING

- [RHandbook Against Disinformation: Recognise and Resist](#)
- [Handbook for Private Individuals on detecting antagonistic information](#)

### What is BECID?

BECID – the Baltic Engagement Centre for Combating Information Disorders – brings together expertise in fact-checking, media literacy, and journalism across the Baltics. We conduct fact-checks in collaboration with Delfi/Delfi Meedia, monitor disinformation narratives and campaigns under the leadership of investigative journalism organisation Re:Baltica, and promote media literacy through the Baltic Centre for Media Literacy (BCME). We also develop methodologies to effectively counter disinformation. Learn more: [becid.ut.ee](http://becid.ut.ee)

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