



Monitoring Report

MOLDOVA 1

Period: 1 – 7 December 2025

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This report is part of the project 'Advancing Media Literacy and Supporting the Media in the Republic of Moldova', supported by Sweden and implemented by Internews. The program aims to contribute to the growth of a diverse, independent and financially viable media sector, and to empower young people in Moldova to safely navigate in the complex information environment.

I. GENERAL OVERVIEW

Between 1 and 7 December 2025, the Independent Journalism Centre (IJC) monitored Moldova 1 television station to identify whether the broadcasted journalistic materials contained elements of disinformation and violations of ethical standards. The way the public television station reflects political, economic, social and other events and how it complies with professional and ethical standards such as verifying information from several sources, ensuring pluralism of opinions, ensuring balance in the case of conflict-related news, etc. were analyzed.

For the monitoring, the main daily news bulletins ('Mesager'), as well as five programs broadcast during the monitored period, were selected, based on the premises that:

- the news produced by a public media institution must contain exclusively facts, rather than opinions of journalists; they must be written in a neutral and accessible language, and must also reflect reality as accurately as possible, while respecting the balance of sources;
- the programs must be moderated neutrally and impartially; the attitude of the moderator or author towards guests must be neutral and equidistant; hidden advertising must not be allowed; equal airtime must be offered to all participants; borrowed information and images must be clearly and distinctly marked, etc.

Purpose of the monitoring

The monitoring aims to determine to what extent the public television station Moldova 1 informs citizens correctly, equidistantly and impartially from a journalistic point of view. This was achieved through a quantitative and qualitative analysis of the content of news bulletins, talk programs and/or thematic programs, which were assessed in terms of compliance with the principles of accurate information as laid down in the Code of Audiovisual Media Services and the Code of Ethics of the Journalist. Particular attention was paid to the coverage of the activities of political actors and/or entities (especially official/governmental ones).

Methodological framework

Given the purpose of the study of assessing the extent to which Moldova 1 complies with the principles of equidistance, impartiality, correctness and neutrality, it was imperative to conduct a quantitative and qualitative analysis of news and summary programs that are able to influence public opinion. Thus, the study methodology combined two methods, the *quantitative* method and the *qualitative/comparative* method of studying the media product. The news was also analyzed in terms of manipulation and disinformation techniques in order to help viewers distinguish between a journalistic product that manipulates and another that reflects reality equidistantly.

Through **quantitative analysis**, the media coverage trends of topics of public interest during the selected period were explored. This study method involves monitoring, sampling and coding journalistic materials in such a way as to capture the political bias, if any (the number of materials portraying certain political actors positively); the way in which the principles of impartiality and equidistance are applied in informative and analytical materials (the number of correct and equidistant materials); whether balance and gender representativeness of sources are ensured (the number of balanced materials); which sources are given priority in the news (the number of sources

quoted/mentioned directly or indirectly); how airtime is allocated to political actors and entities (the volume of airtime in seconds), as well as other aspects. The **qualitative/comparative methodological aspect** aimed at interpreting the data and information obtained through the quantitative analysis. The media content was examined in depth to determine whether Moldova 1 complies with the principles of equidistance, impartiality, correctness and neutrality.

Monitoring period: 1 – 7 December 2025

Main monitored media products:

- 7 editions of the main news bulletin ‘Mesager’ from 1 to 7 December 2025;
- 3 editions of the program ‘În context’ from 1, 2 and 3 December 2025;
- The program ‘Bună Seară’ from 4 December 2025;
- The program ‘Scanner’ from 7 December 2025.

General trends

The monitoring data programs that in the case of the main news bulletin ‘Mesager’ and the programs:

- **The topics of the materials broadcast** in the news bulletins and in the analyzed programs were diverse, covering social and economic issues, domestic and foreign politics, culture, justice and other areas of public interest. However, the monitoring data show that, during the period 1 – 7 December 2025, the content broadcast by the public television station Moldova 1 within the main news bulletin ‘Mesager’ and the analyzed programs was slightly dominated by social and foreign affairs topics. Thus, out of the total of 89 broadcast materials, approximately one third (30 news items) concerned social issues, and about one quarter (23 news items) focused on foreign affairs;
- **A trend of diversification of editorial formats is observed in the structure of the news bulletins.** Moldova 1 more frequently used direct interventions by journalists, who provided explanations and additional contextual information. Live interviews, reports and thematic campaigns were also broadcast, including on topics related to heritage or promotion of domestic products;
- **From the perspective of sources**, most materials included at least one source quoted directly. 15 of the 89 materials did not contain direct quotations, these being mainly short news or materials of a general informative nature. This represents approximately 1/6 of the total. Most directly quoted sources appeared in materials on social, cultural and economic topics, as well as those related to the European integration of the Republic of Moldova. **The trend of diversification of the types of used sources**, also noted during the previous monitoring period, continued and increased slightly. Thus, officials of the central and local public administration, experts and civil society representatives, as well as foreign officials, florists, entrepreneurs, lawyers, prosecutors, teachers or citizens were quoted;
- **The presence of central and local public authorities** was slightly more pronounced during this monitoring period, without, however, dominating the media agenda of the news bulletins. Officials were protagonists only on certain days or in specific thematic contexts. Among the Moldovan officials, the most frequent appearances were those of the Minister of Economic Development and Digitalization, Eugeniu Osmochescu, the Minister of Education and

Research, Dan Perciun, and the Mayor of Chisinau municipality, Ion Ceban. In foreign news, foreign political leaders and officials were also mentioned and quoted, such as Volodymyr Zelensky, President of Ukraine, Nicușor Dan, President of Romania, Donald Trump, President of the U.S., Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation, as well as other representatives of states and institutions involved in the regional and international events covered;

- **From the perspective of gender representation**, the analysis reveals a moderate imbalance in the news bulletins. Of the total of 238 sources quoted directly, 136 were men and 102 were women. In the monitored programs, of the 15 guests (in the studio and online), eight were men and seven were women, representing a significant improvement compared to the previous monitoring period (2 – 8 December 2024);
- **In terms of compliance with ethical standards**, the number of identified violations was low. The most frequent violation, similarly to previous reports, concerned the failure to indicate the source of video or photo images taken from other sources, especially in foreign news items. Other violations included labelling, generalizations, use of ironic titles and failure to indicate the source of video footage used;
- **As for the coverage of political actors**, Moldova 1 presented the activity and reactions of only three political formations, all parliamentary: the Action and Solidarity Party (PAS), the Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova (PSRM) and the ‘Alternativa’ Bloc. These were covered both through direct statements and by mentioning their activities, including in terms of airtime. Other parliamentary parties, as well as extra-parliamentary ones, were absent from news and programs. As for direct quotation, PAS representatives were slightly favoured, in terms of both number and duration of appearances;
- The **analyzed programs** were moderated in a balanced manner, offering relatively equal airtime to guests and respecting the basic rules of public debate. However, there were some situations in which, in order to ensure the pluralism of opinions and/or the right of reply, it would have been necessary to invite representatives of political parties other than the ruling one.

II. DATA ANALYSIS

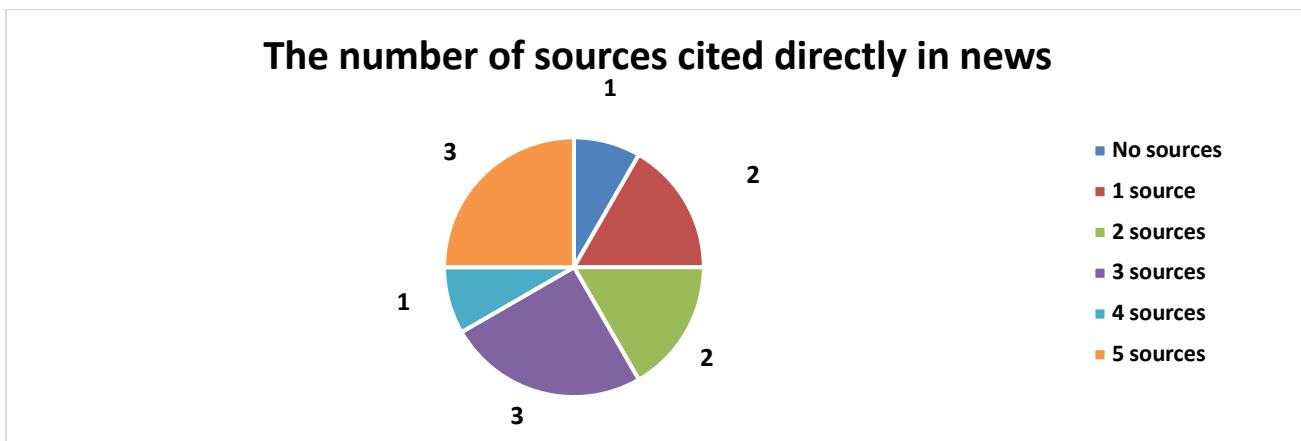
‘Mesager’ news bulletin

1 December 2025

Quantitative analysis

The edition from 1 December included 11 news items and 1 report. Three of them covered the Romania’s National Day, and another three focused on events on the war front in Ukraine and the peace negotiations. Other topics included in the news bulletin were information that ‘Ilan Shor is closing his social projects in the Republic of Moldova’ and is expanding into Kyrgyzstan, the alleged elections on the left bank of the Nistru river, new taxes on parcels from China, celebration of World HIV/AIDS Day, as well as the launch of the awareness and information campaign ‘Shadows of Old Manors’, dedicated to historic manors in the Republic of Moldova.

Of the 12 materials analyzed, three included five directly quoted sources, another three quoted three sources, and one did not have any directly quoted sources. In terms of gender representation, out of the total directly quoted 30 sources, 18 were men and 12 were women, indicating a slight imbalance.

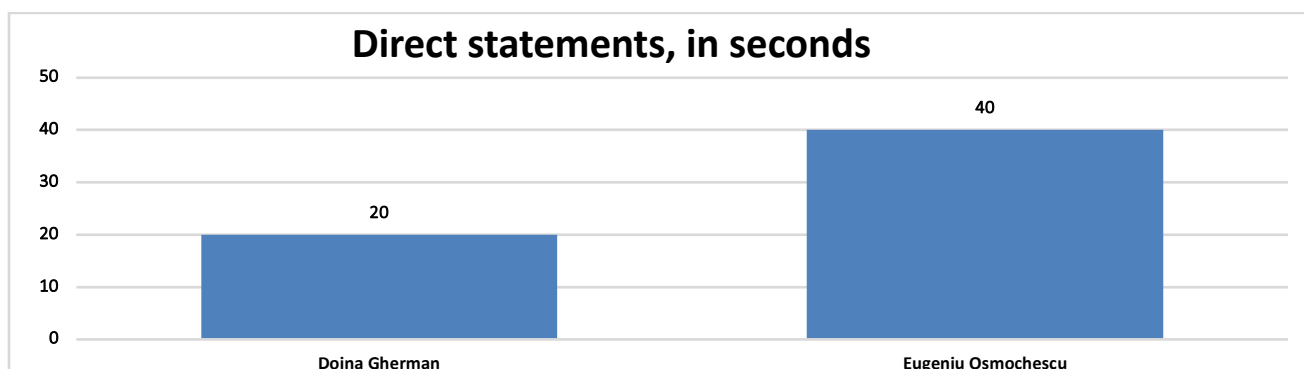


Moldova 1 used a wide range of sources in its news: heads of state, representatives of the Government of the Republic of Moldova and of local public administration (LPA), entrepreneurs, architects, political analysts, citizens and others. As for representatives of the central public administration, they were directly quoted in two items broadcast by the public television station:

- Doina Gherman, Deputy Speaker of the Parliament (20 seconds);
- Eugen Osmochescu, Minister of Economic Development and Digitalization (40 seconds).

Also, foreign officials were directly quoted in Moldova 1 news items, including:

- Nicușor Dan, President of Romania;
- Volodymyr Zelensky, President of Ukraine;
- Emmanuel Macron, President of France;
- Donald Trump, President of the United States;
- Marco Rubio, Secretary of State of the United States;
- Rustem Umerov, Negotiator of Ukraine.



Qualitative analysis

The news items and the report broadcast by Moldova 1 covered a wide range of topics, half of which focused on the Romania’s National Day and the situation in Ukraine. Only one news item was related to conflict (*‘Ilan Shor closes „Social Projects’*). This material mentions that *‘Ilan Shor, who is hiding*

*in Russia from Moldovan justice, announces that he is closing all his alleged social projects in the Republic of Moldova’ and that he is redirecting his activities to Kyrgyzstan. Moldova 1 also provided airtime for a direct statement of Ilan Shor. However, a **generalization** was identified, through the following statement: ‘Analysts say Shor has only changed his location of activity and is involved in Russia’s hybrid actions in Kyrgyzstan, where early parliamentary elections were held yesterday. Experts warn: the Kremlin is not backing down and will use all means to divert the Republic of Moldova from the European path.’*

As regards ethical violations, it is noted that, in three news items on foreign topics – ‘Kyiv wants guarantees’, ‘„Tough but constructive” negotiations’ and ‘A day of terror in Dnipro and Kherson’ – Moldova 1 **broadcast video footage taken without indicating their source.**

2 December 2025

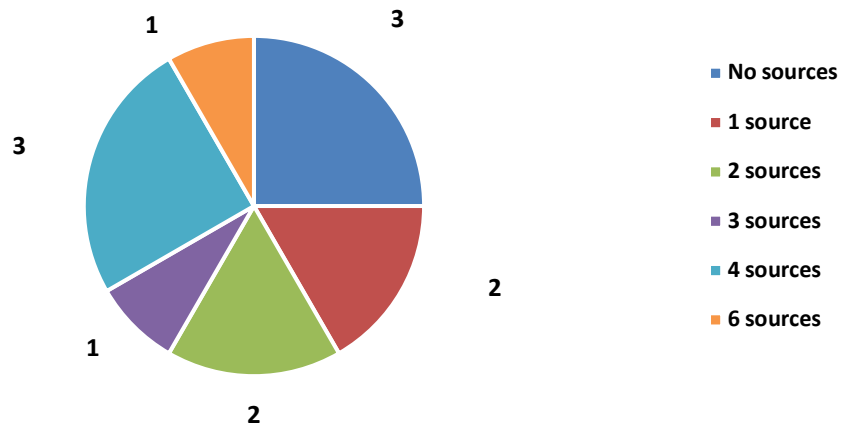
Quantitative analysis

The news bulletin of 2 December included 12 items, including 11 news items and one report. Domestic political topics predominated in five items, and foreign political topics appeared in four others. The covered subjects ranged from the country's internal resilience and the drones that fell in the Republic of Moldova, to the trial of Vladimir Plahotniuc and the resignation of the Mayor of Orhei municipality, Tatiana Cociu. Other topics concerned the organization of a local referendum to recall the Mayor of Hasnasenii Mari village, Drochia district; amendments introduced by the Ministry of Education and Research to the legislation to make schools ‘*inclusive, modern and efficient*’, as well as a report on the Pomer manor in Taul village, made as part of the public television station's thematic campaign. The five foreign news items covered the situation in Ukraine, the mass protests in Bulgaria, the detention of former EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini in a corruption case, and the opening of the Christmas fair in Iasi.

The analyzed materials featured voices from various fields: Maia Sandu, President of the Republic of Moldova; representatives of the Government (Dan Perciun, Minister of Education and Research); as well as representatives of the local public administration (Tatiana Cociu, Mayor of Orhei municipality; Angela Morosan, Mayor of Hasnasenii Mari village; Andronii Mitrica, Mayor of Taul village). The news items also directly quoted citizens, lawyers, prosecutors, local councillors, experts, and teachers.

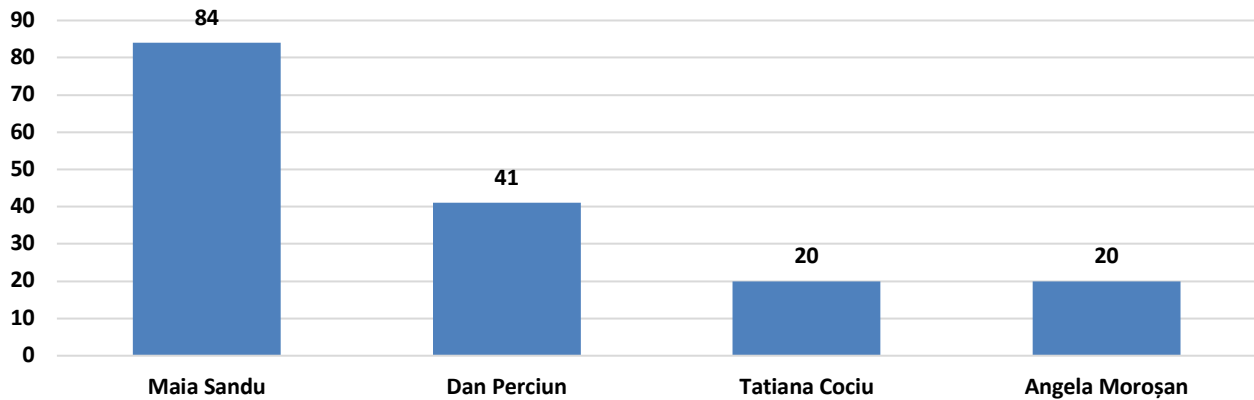
Directly quoted sources were missing from three materials. Three other materials included four direct sources each; two had only one direct source each, and two others had two direct sources. One news item quoted three direct sources, and another one – six. Of the total 27 directly quoted sources, 14 were men and 13 were women.

The number of sources cited directly in news



In terms of direct quotation, the President Maia Sandu had three interventions in a single news item, with a total duration of 84 seconds. The Minister of Education and Research, Dan Perciun, had two direct interventions in a single material, totalling 41 seconds. The Mayor of Orhei municipality, Tatiana Cociu, had a 20-second intervention, and the Mayor of Hasnasenii Mari village also had an intervention with the same duration.

Direct statements, in seconds



Qualitative analysis

In the ‘*Mesager*’ edition of that day, Moldova 1 covered the events in a neutral and balanced manner. Of the 12 broadcast items, three were related to conflict. The news item entitled ‘*Plahotniuc before the court*’ reported on the first appearance of Vladimir Plahotniuc before the magistrates, with Moldova 1 reporters ensuring equidistance by offering the right of reply to all parties concerned – the lawyer of Vladimir Plahotniuc and the prosecutor in charge of the case. The second conflict-related news item, ‘*The Mayor of Orhei steps down*’, concerned the resignation of the Mayor of Orhei municipality, Tatiana Cociu, who was also given the right of reply. In this item, a case of **labelling** was identified, noting that ‘*it happened one day after the convicted fugitive, Ilan Shor, announced that he was suspending his alleged social projects in the Republic of Moldova*’. The third conflict-related news

item, *'They want a referendum to recall the Mayor'*, addressed the situation in Hasnasenii Mari village, Drochia district, where a group of residents intends to initiate a local referendum to recall the Mayor Angela Morosan, who is accused of the lack of decision-making transparency at the local level. The material was produced in a balanced and neutral manner, and the right of reply of the person concerned was also ensured.

In the case of five foreign news items – *'Fights in Pokrovsk: ISW contradicts the Kremlin'*, *'Trump's envoys to the Kremlin'*, *'Mass protests in Bulgaria'*, *'Former EU diplomat was detained'* and *'Holiday magic engulfs Iasi'* – Moldova 1 **did not indicate the sources from which the broadcast video footage was taken.**

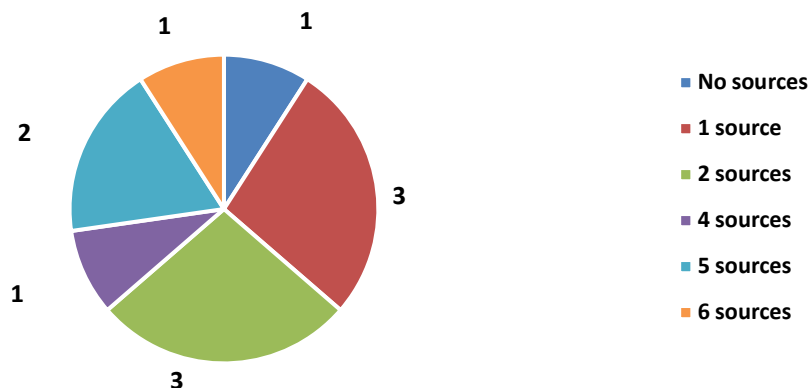
3 December 2025

Quantitative analysis

The edition of 3 December included nine news items and two reports, which covered a wide range of topics. Two of the items were foreign news regarding the European Union's decision to definitely abandon Russian gas by 2027 and mobilization of NATO states to provide support to Ukraine. Five items focused on socio-economic topics and covered: the fact that Moldovans will receive lower compensations in the 2025/2026 cold season; the estimated economic growth of the Republic of Moldova for the next year at 2.8%; the discovery of a drone by a local resident of Pepeni commune, Singerei district; a report on the lifestyle of the 160,000 persons with disabilities in the Republic of Moldova, produced in the context of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, as well as a report on the Iancovschi manor in Gura Bicului village, prepared as part of the *'Shadows of Old Manors'* campaign. Other topics covered by Moldova 1 news included the new reintegration strategy being developed by the Republic of Moldova, the sentencing of five other persons accused of preparing mass riots, the acceptance of witnesses to be heard by the court in the criminal case of Vladimir Plahotniuc, as well as the hearing of the Director of the public company Teleradio-Moldova (TRM) in Parliament.

This news bulletin stood out due to the large number of sources from among the representatives of the central and local public administration. Eight of the 11 broadcast items included at least one such directly quoted representative. Other sources included economic and political experts, lawyers, prosecutors, persons with special needs, MPs, European officials, and citizens. Three news items included one directly quoted source, another three – two directly quoted sources. Each of the two reports included five directly quoted sources. One news item did not include any directly quoted sources, one had four sources, and the another one – seven directly quoted sources. Of the total 30 directly quoted sources, 19 were men and 11 were women.

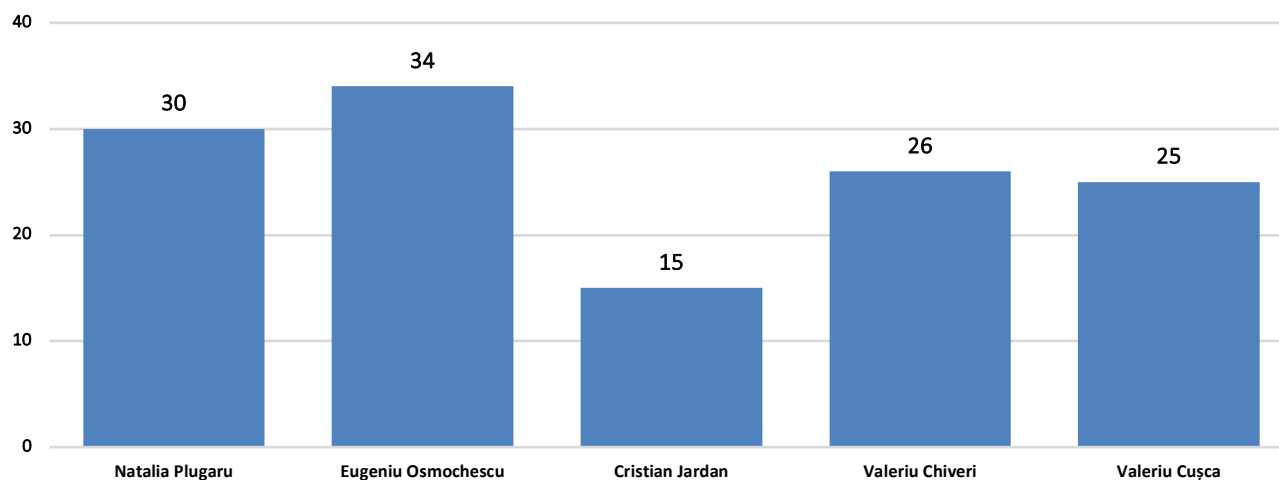
The number of sources cited directly in news



The Minister of Labour and Social Protection, Natalia Plugaru, was quoted in a news item with a 30-second direct intervention. The Minister of Economic Development and Digitalization, Eugeniu Osmochescu, had a 34-second direct intervention in another material. Also, the Minister of Culture, Cristian Jordan, appeared with a 15-second statement, and the Deputy Prime Minister for Reintegration, Valeriu Chiveri, has a 26-second intervention. At the same time, Valeriu Cusca, State Secretary within the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, was quoted with a 25-second intervention.

One of the news items in the news bulletin (*'TRM Director was heard in Parliament'*) included political sources from two parliamentary factions: the Socialists and PAS. In this context, Socialist Party MP Adela Raileanu had a 13-second intervention, while PAS MPs Marcela Adam and Liliana Nicolaescu-Onofrei were quoted with interventions of 35 and 7 seconds, accordingly.

Direct statements, in seconds



Qualitative analysis

Of the 11 broadcasted materials, two were related to conflict. The first was the news item *'Witnesses in the banking fraud'*, which focused on the court's decision to accept only 27 of the 168 witnesses proposed by Vladimir Plahotniuc to be heard in the case. The material was produced in a balanced manner, including both the position of the defence lawyer and that of the prosecutor in the case.

The second conflict-related news item, *'TRM Director was heard in Parliament'*, reported on the use of public funds and property by the Teleradio-Moldova company in the period 2023 – 2024, as well as on the debates within the relevant parliamentary committee on the audit report of the Court of Accounts concerning TRM. Overall, the material was neutral, but it showed a **slightly laudatory nature** towards the TRM management, suggested by the imbalance in the distribution of direct quotations from the institution's representatives, compared to the other sources. Thus, Vlad Turcanu, General Director of TRM, had interventions totalling 45 seconds; Andrei Zapsa, Deputy General Director of TRM – 25 seconds, and Arcadie Gherasim, Chairman of the TRM Supervisory Board – 46 seconds.

Also, in the case of the two foreign news items – *'EU ends dependence on Russian gas'* and *'NATO countries support Ukraine'* – Moldova 1 **did not indicate the source of the broadcast video footage.**

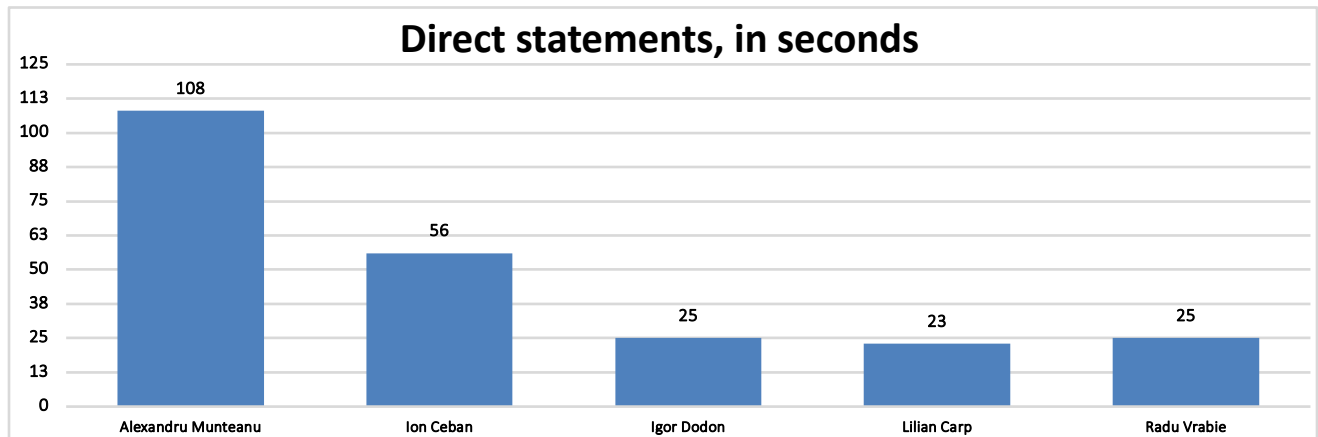
4 December 2025

Quantitative analysis

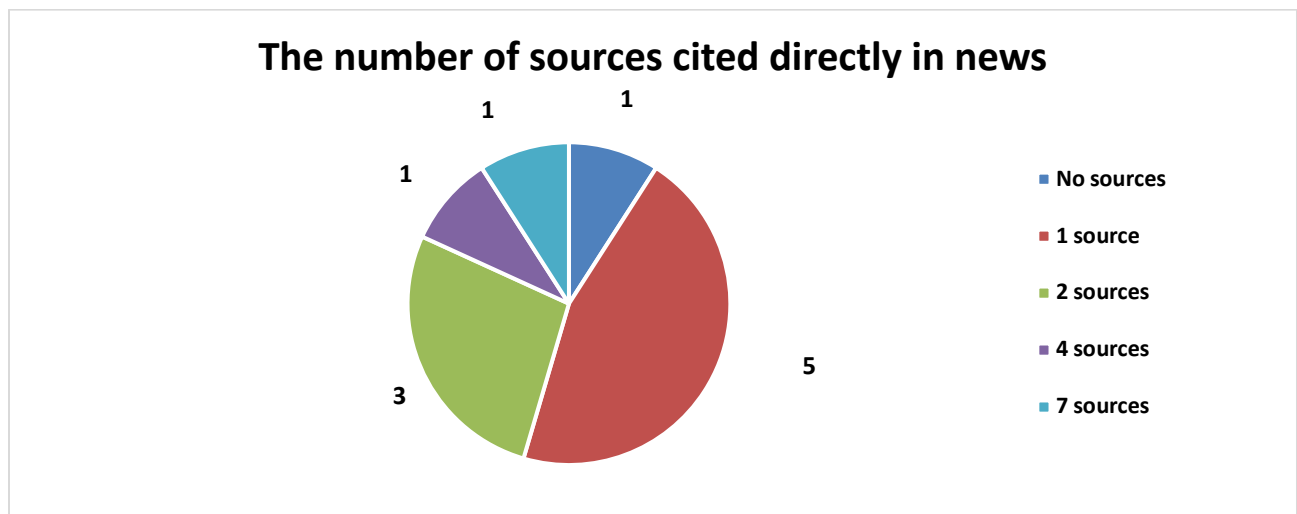
In the edition of 'Mesager' of 4 December, 12 materials were broadcast: 11 news items and one report. Three of them addressed foreign politics topics, covering Vladimir Putin's statements regarding the occupied territories of Ukraine, inclusion of the Russian Federation by the European Union on the list of countries with a high risk of money laundering and terrorist financing, as well as Rockefeller Centre Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony in New York. Three other news items covered socio-economic topics and referred to the Government's approval of the 2026 budget, the demands of teachers, doctors and other social categories to increase their salaries in the following year, as well as the protest organized by *'dozens of Socialist supporters in front of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, dissatisfied with the new cap on heating compensations.'* At the same time, three other items focused on judicial and security issues, and namely the searches carried out in a corruption case in which the head of the Housing and Utility Directorate of the Mayor's Office of Chisinau municipality, Ion Burdiumov, with three other civil servants, was detained; the conduct of new searches in the case regarding the preparation of mass destabilization actions and mass unrest; and the criminal investigation of six men aged between 35 and 50, suspected of stealing cars from France. Other topics covered in the Moldova 1 material included Vladimir Plahotniuc's failure to appear before the court, as well as the broadcast of a report about the manor in Leontea village.

The Prime Minister Alexandru Munteanu was directly quoted in two news items, with three interventions totalling 108 seconds. The Mayor of Chisinau municipality, Ion Ceban, appeared as a

direct source in two materials – one in his capacity of Mayor of the capital, and the other as leader of the National Alternative Movement (MAN), with two interventions that totalled 56 seconds. Igor Dodon, the Chairman of the Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova (PSRM), had one direct intervention of 25 seconds, and PAS MP Lilian Carp – a 23-second intervention. Also, the Director of the Customs Service, Radu Vrabie, was the protagonist of one news item, being directly quoted for 25 seconds. Other directly quoted sources included citizens, prosecutors, lawyers, trade union members, preschool teachers, protesters, heads of states, representatives of diplomatic missions, mayors and artists.



Five of the 11 materials included one directly quoted source. Three news items had two directly quoted sources. One news item did not include any directly quoted sources, one had four directly quoted sources, and another had seven sources. Of the total 24 directly quoted sources, 15 were men and 9 were women.



Qualitative analysis

In the news bulletin of 4 December, the Prime Minister Alexandru Munteanu and the Mayor of the capital Ion Ceban, were the protagonists of two news items each and enjoyed the greatest visibility, primarily due to the time allocated to direct quotations. Four of the 12 broadcast items were related to conflict:

- *'They demand higher salaries'*. The news item reported on the approval of the 2026 budget, in the context of demands of teachers, doctors and other social categories for salary increases. Representatives of trade unions stated that the salary increases approved and included in the budget do not cover the price increases caused by inflation. The right of replay was ensured for all parties involved – the Government, trade unions and employees.
- *'They want higher compensations'* reflected the protest of some PSRM supporters in front of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, dissatisfied with the new cap on compensations for heating. The protesters demanded explanations of the reduction of financial assistance in the middle of the cold season, accusing the parliamentary majority of avoiding giving clarifications in the plenary session of Parliament. Igor Dodon made accusations against PAS, and Ion Ceban was also included with a direct quote, after which the right of reply was given to the targeted party (PAS).
- *'Searches at the mayor's office, officials were detained'* concerned the detention of the Head of the Housing and Utility Directorate of the Mayor's Office of Chisinau municipality, Ion Burdiumov, and three other public officials, in a corruption case. Given the mention that Burdiumov is a member of MAN, Ion Ceban, the leader of the political party, was also included with a direct statement, thus ensuring the right of reply.
- *'Plahotniuc resumes his absences from court'* reported that Vladimir Plahotniuc failed to appear at a court hearing, including direct statements from both the defence and the prosecutor in the case.

In the case of foreign news items – *'Threats amid peace negotiations'*, *'Russia, a country with high risk of money laundering'* and *'Christmas tree lit with 50,000 LEDs in New York'* – Moldova 1 **did not indicate the source of the broadcast video footage.**

5 December 2025

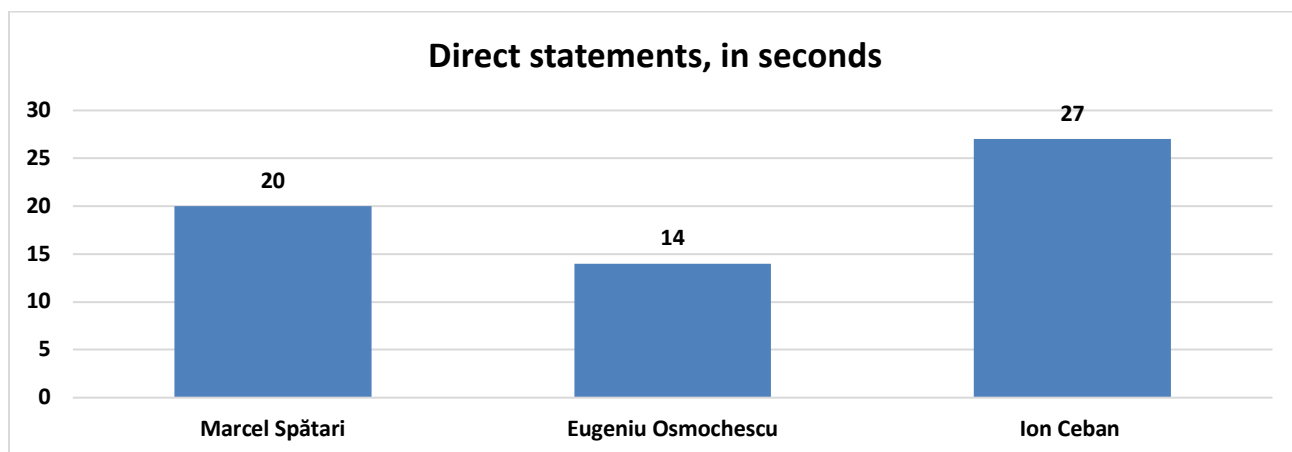
Quantitative analysis

The edition of 5 December included 13 news items and one report. The news bulletin opened with two items focused on the European integration of the Republic of Moldova: one mentioned the request of the European Parliament and the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova to open negotiations for the first three *clusters*, and the second one focused on Moldova's priorities in the accession process, stated at the European Integration Forum held in Chisinau. Most of the materials, *i.e.* five, focused on social topics and covered the case of a woman from Anenii Noi district who gave birth to her 14th child, the situation of a man from Ukraine who suffered a stroke and was placed in a care centre, the increase in the price of cigarettes starting with 2026, the launch by the 'Moldsilva' Agency of the Christmas trees sales, and the official launch of the winter holidays in Chisinau by opening of the Christmas fair.

Three other news items covered foreign politics topics, including the position of the United States on rejecting the freezing of Russian assets located in the European Union, a Ukrainian drone attack on the capital of Chechnya, and the visit of the Russian Federation President, Vladimir Putin, to India.

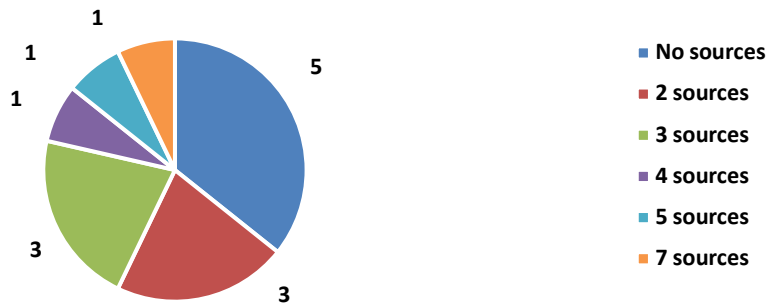
The remaining materials concerned collection by the National Anticorruption Centre (NAC) of over five million lei following searches in the case of rigged tenders at the Housing and Utility Directorate of the Mayor’s Office of Chisinau municipality; the prosecutors’ demand for a 13-year prison sentence for Dmitrii Constantinov, former Chairman of the People’s Assembly of Gagauzia ATU; organization of a seminar on electoral bribery of voters by the Association for Participatory Democracy (ADEPT), as well as announcement by Chisinau authorities to Moscow regarding the closure of the Russian Centre of Culture and Science.

Only four of the 14 materials featured representatives of the central (two) and/or local (two) public administration as protagonists. The sources directly quoted in the news items included European officials, experts, civil society representatives, doctors, heads of other states, and citizens. Moldovan officials quoted directly included Marcel Spătari, MP and Chairman of the Parliamentary Commission for European Integration, was directly quoted, with a 20-second intervention, as well as the Minister of Economic Development and Digitalization, Eugeniu Osmochescu, with a 14-second intervention. At the level of local public administration, the Mayor of Chisinau municipality, Ion Ceban, appeared in two news items, with two direct interventions totalling 27 seconds. The European officials included in the monitored materials with direct statements were Siegfried Muresan, Romanian MEP, with a 28-second intervention, and Victor Negrescu, Vice-President of the European Parliament, with a 23-second intervention.



Most news items, *i.e.* five, did not include any directly quoted sources. Three news items directly quoted two sources, and other three – three sources each. One news item quoted four direct sources, one – five sources, and another – seven directly quoted sources. In terms of gender balance, out of the total of 31 directly quoted sources, 17 were men and 14 were women.

The number of sources cited directly in news



Qualitative analysis

Two news items covered conflicting topics. The first, ‘5 million lei seized after searches,’ reported on the seizure of over 5 million lei by the NAC, following searches in the case of rigged tenders at the Housing and Utility Directorate of the Mayor’s Office of Chisinau municipality. The material included audio intercepts, and the opinion of the Mayor Ion Ceban was requested and broadcast, thus ensuring the right of reply of the party concerned.

The second news item, ‘Risking 13 years of prison,’ reported on the prosecutors’ demand for a 13-year prison sentence for Dmitrii Constantinov, former Chairman of the People’s Assembly of Gagauzia ATU. Moldova 1 journalists provided contextual details and noted that the person concerned ‘*did not respond to our repeated calls to provide a point of view on the accusations brought against him.*’

In the news item ‘*The Russian house returns home*’, referring to the notification sent by Chisinau to the Moscow authorities regarding the closure of the Russian Cultural Centre, Moldova 1 used an **ironic headline**.

Also, similarly to the news bulletins from the previous days, in the case of three international news items – ‘*The US block EU initiatives*’, the material on the drone attacks on the Chechen capital Grozny and ‘*Putin shakes hands with Modi: more trade*’ – Moldova 1 used **video footage taken without indicating their primary source**.

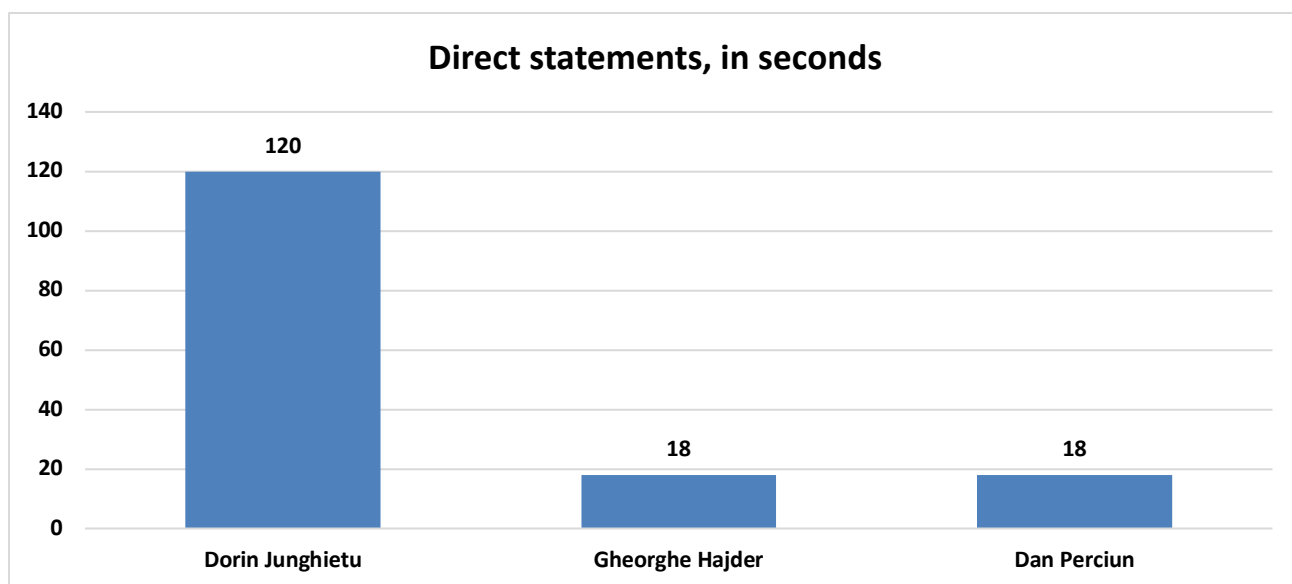
6 December 2025

Quantitative analysis

The news bulletin of 6 December included 14 news items and one report, covering a diverse range of topics, mainly social ones. Four items addressed international topics and focused on the continued attacks by the Russian Federation on Ukraine, the damage to a Russian oil tanker following an attack by Ukrainian drones, an aviation incident at an airport in Brazil, and the wildfires in Australia. Other topics covered by Moldova 1 included Romania's energy support to the Republic of Moldova in the context of Russian attacks on Ukraine, searches conducted at a real estate company in Bucharest, the

increase in the divorce rate among the population of the Republic of Moldova, an incident in which a border police officer accidentally shot himself with his service weapon, the organization of a charity fair in Chisinau, the favourite destinations of Moldovans for winter holidays, the collaboration between the public company Teleradio-Moldova and the Faculty of Journalism and Communication Sciences of the State University of Moldova, as well as other topics of public interest.

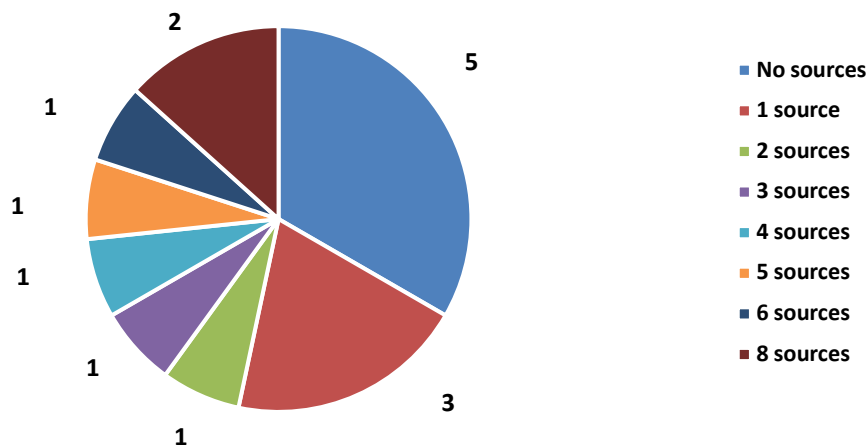
Representatives of the central public administration were present in only three of the 15 broadcast items. The Minister of Energy, Dorin Junghietu, was interviewed directly by the news anchor, with interventions totalling 120 seconds, during which he provided details about the energy assistance provided by Romania and explained the current situation in the energy sector, in the context of the Russian attacks on the energy infrastructure of Ukraine. The Minister of Environment, Gheorghe Hajder, was the main subject of a news item with a direct intervention of 18 seconds, and the Minister of Education and Research, Dan Perciun, also had a direct intervention of the same duration.



Sources directly quoted in this edition of the news bulletin included heads of state, university rectors and deans, lawyers, psychologists, representatives of diplomatic missions, entrepreneurs, travel agents, experts, librarians, as well as citizens.

Five news items did not include any directly quoted sources, three others had only one directly quoted source, and two news items quoted eight direct sources. Of the total of 39 people quoted directly, 24 were men and 15 were women, indicating a gender imbalance in favour of men.

The number of sources cited directly in news



Qualitative analysis

Overall, Moldova 1 presented the information in a neutral and balanced manner. Of the 15 monitored materials, one was related to conflict – ‘*Searches at a real estate investment company*’. The news item concerned searches carried out at a real estate company in Bucharest, whose owner is a citizen of the Republic of Moldova. Although the journalists did not disclose the name of the person concerned public, they broadcast images of him and included his statement regarding the searches, thus ensuring respect for the right of reply.

At the same time, in all four foreign news items – ‘*Constant attacks in Ukraine*’, ‘*A Russian oil tanker damaged by Ukrainian drones*’, ‘*Brazil: a plane caught fire at the airport*’ and ‘*Wildfires in Australia*’ – the public television station **used video footage taken from other platforms without explicitly indicating their primary source.**

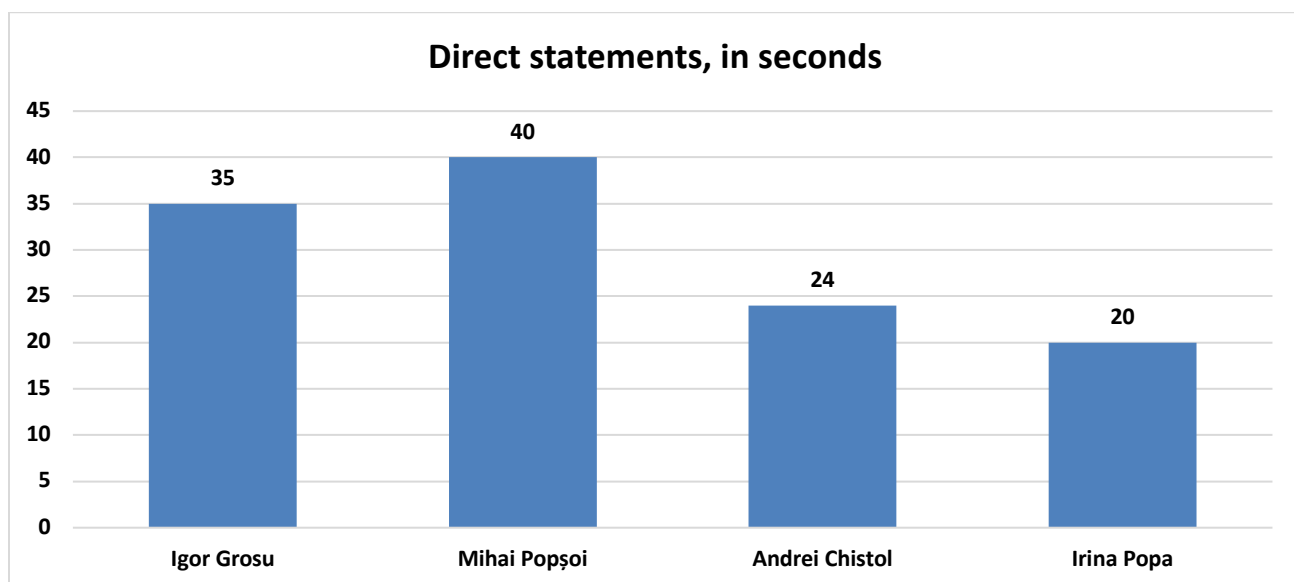
7 December 2025

Quantitative analysis

The edition of 7 December of the news bulletin included 13 items: 12 news items and one report. Three of them covered international events, including Russian attacks on Ukraine’s energy infrastructure, elections for the Mayor’s Office of Bucharest municipality, and lighting of the Christmas tree in Bethlehem. Two other news items covered the energy support provided by Romania to the Republic of Moldova, in the context of the mass Russian attacks on Ukraine, as well as the U.S. assistance provided through a grant for the full construction of the Straseni–Gutinas power line, a topic discussed and agreed upon during the official visit to the U.S. by the Speaker of Parliament, Igor Grosu, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mihai Popsoi. Other topics covered in the bulletin included: the Gala of Moldova’s Women, a report on the national ‘*I buy good from home*’ campaign, difficult traffic conditions on a severely deteriorated road in the south of the country, the 85th

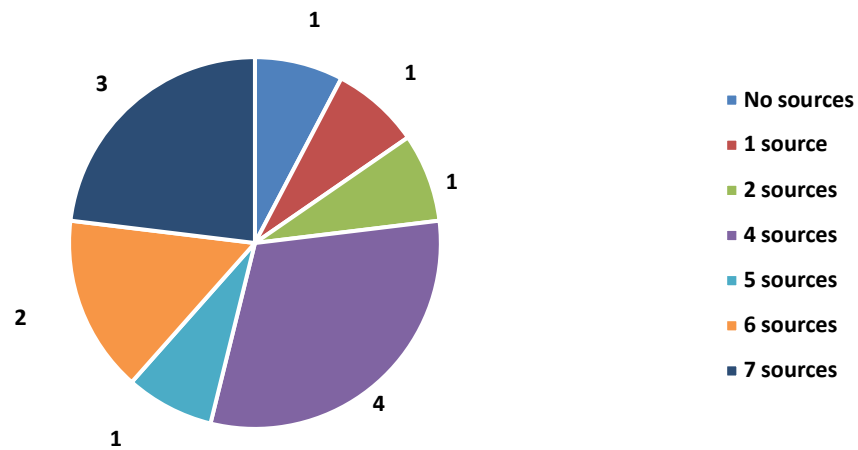
anniversary of the ‘*Nicolae Botgors*’ College in Soroca, the ‘*Hora Florilor*’ flower competition, the oath-taking ceremony of students of the Faculty of Journalism and Communication Sciences of the State University of Moldova, as well as a project aimed at opening multilingual groups in a kindergarten in Comrat.

Representatives of central and local public authorities were protagonists and directly quoted sources in three items. Igor Grosu and Mihai Popsoi were quoted in the same news item – ‘*International support for the Republic of Moldova*’ – with direct statements of 35 and 40 seconds accordingly. The State Secretary of the Ministry of Culture, Andrei Chistol, was directly quoted in another item, with a 24-second intervention, and Irina Popa, Head of the Tourism Development Section of the Mayor’s Office of Chisinau municipality, had a 20-second direct intervention. Other directly quoted sources included ambassadors, heads of states, entrepreneurs, visual artists, educators, teachers, students, florists and citizens.



In terms of the distribution of directly quoted sources, one item included a single source, four items had four quoted sources each, three items – seven sources each, two items – six sources each, one item quoted two sources, and another included five direct sources. The news bulletin of 7 December recorded the highest number of directly quoted sources in the monitored period: 57 in total, of whom 29 were men and 28 were women.

The number of sources cited directly in news



Qualitative analysis

Social and international topics dominated the content of the news edition of 7 December. None of the news items broadcast was related to any conflict.

Similarly to the other monitored news bulletins, in the three news items on international events – ‘Russian attacks on energy systems’, ‘Elections for the Mayor’s Office of Bucharest municipality’ and ‘Christmas festivities returned to Bethlehem’ – Moldova 1 **used video footage taken from other platforms without indicating the primary source.**

Programs

Program: ‘În Context’ (1 December 2025)

Moderator: Radu Osipov

Duration: 35 minutes and 8 seconds

The ‘În Context’ program of 1 December 2025, moderated by Radu Osipov, addressed two topics: Romania’s National Day and the situation regarding the 2025 budget of the Chisinau municipality. The first part presented the events dedicated to 1 December, including the military parade in Bucharest, attended by the President of Romania, Nicușor Dan, military personnel from the Republic of Moldova and NATO battalions. The events in Alba Iulia, Soroca and Balti were also mentioned, as well as the congratulatory messages delivered by the President Maia Sandu. The moderator’s discussion with the journalist Sabina Fati focused on the military equipment of the Romanian army, while also mentioning the absence of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (UDMR) from these events and the fact that relations between Romania and the Republic of Moldova are currently better than before. The second topic concerned the 2025 budget of Chisinau municipality, which is still provisional, as well as the initiative of the PAS faction in the Municipal Council to start consultations for the 2026 budget, while the Mayor of the capital, Ion Ceban, places the responsibility on the Government. The program included a report presenting the positions of the parties involved and a studio discussion with Zinaida Popa, Head of the PAS faction in the Municipal Council, who made several accusations against the

Mayor Ion Ceban and the MAN representatives regarding the delay and politicization of the municipal budget adoption process. **Although the moderator managed the discussion in a neutral and balanced manner, in order to respect pluralism and the right of reply, it would have been necessary to invite MAN representatives and/or the Mayor Ion Ceban or offer the opportunity for a direct intervention, which did not happen.**

Program: 'In Context' (2 December 2025)

Moderator: Radu Osipov

Duration: 47 minutes

This edition also addressed two topics: the convening of the National Security Council (NSC) by the President Maia Sandu and the reform of the school network, proposed by the Ministry of Education and Research (MER). The first topic aimed at presenting a democratic resilience plan, which includes 26 measures focused on information, cyber and political security, amid hybrid operations attributed to the Russian Federation. The program included a report with statements by the President Sandu, followed by a live debate with the experts Stefan Bejan (WatchDog) and Sorin Ionita (Expert Forum Romania). The discussions focused on the hybrid war in the region, including in the context of the war in Ukraine, the change in the strategies of Ilan Shor, the possibility of regulating digital media and the cryptocurrency market, the capacity of the Republic of Moldova to counter illegal political financing and hybrid attacks, as well as its potential role as a provider of expertise for other states, including those in the EU. The issues of disinformation, strategic communication and efforts to undermine European integration were also analyzed. The second topic addressed the reform of the school network, which provides for reorganizing or closing schools with a small number of students and transferring them to larger institutions, by amending the Education Code. After the broadcast of a news item by Moldova 1, the moderator discussed in the studio with Valentina Olaru, State Secretary at the MER, about the reasons for the reform and its implications, citing demographic decline, the need to improve the quality of education, the shortage of teaching staff, the subsidy system for teachers and the distribution of young specialists. The moderator managed the discussions in a neutral and balanced manner, asking relevant questions, and the guests benefited from equal airtime.

Program: 'In Context' (3 December 2025)

Moderator: Radu Osipov

Duration: 42 minutes

The edition of 3 December 2025 addressed the reform of the public health system and the reintegration strategy of the Republic of Moldova, in the context in which the '5+2' negotiation format is no longer applicable. The first topic was discussed in the studio with the PAS MP Adrian Belii, analyzing four priorities: human resources, primary health care, digitalization of the medical system and the malpractice law. The second topic addressed the government's reintegration strategy and initially included a news item with statements by the Deputy Prime Minister for Reintegration, Valeriu Chiveri, as well as remarks by Kaja Kallas regarding the withdrawal of Russian troops from other states, along with the opinions of former Deputy Prime Minister Gheorghe Balan. During the discussions, NATO's role in regional security was emphasized, including through information from the most recent ministerial meeting of the Alliance. Further, the moderator discussed online with the political analyst Laurentiu Plesca about the withdrawal of Russian troops from the Transnistrian region, the new reintegration strategy, U.S. and EU support for Ukraine, negotiation plans between the

U.S., Russia and Ukraine, and the conditions imposed by Russia to ending the war. The information was presented in a neutral and balanced manner, and the moderator asked relevant questions and managed the discussions appropriately, without any deviations from ethical standards.

Program: ‘Bună seara’ (4 December 2025)

Moderator: Mircea Surdu

Duration: 53 minutes and 42 seconds

The edition of 4 December 2025 of the ‘Bună seara’ program, moderated by Mircea Surdu, addressed democratic governance in schools, analyzing the achievements, challenges and perspectives of this process. Representatives of the authorities, civil society, the educational environment and students were invited in the studio: Corina Lungu, Head of the Directorate of General Education Policies within the MER; Olesea Cotiujanu, Project Coordinator at the Child Rights Information and Documentation Centre; Ion Caciula, national trainer and teacher of education for society; Rodica Budeanu, Acting Principal of the ‘Dimitru Matcovschi’ Gymnasium in Cotiujenii Mici, Singerei district; as well as Nicoleta Reaboi, a student at the ‘Vasile Coroban’ Theoretical High School in Glodeni. At the beginning of the program, each guest shared his/her view on the concept of democratic governance in schools, focusing on the role of students, their level of involvement and the ways in which they can express their opinions. Later, the discussions focused on student participation in the decision-making process at the level of educational institutions, the subject of Education for Society and the importance of studying it. The program also included a report on a project supported by Switzerland, aimed at promoting democratic governance in schools, and the studio audience had the opportunity to ask questions and make comments. The moderator managed the discussion in a neutral, balanced and fair manner, asking relevant questions and ensuring equal airtime to the guests, and intervened when necessary to provide clarifications or prevent monopolization of the discussion.

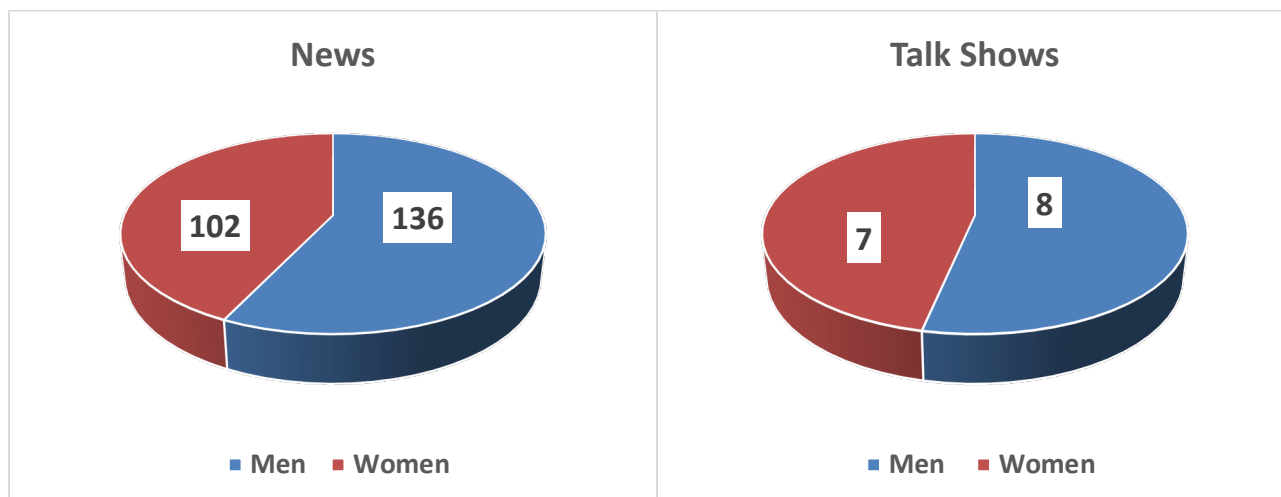
Program: ‘Scanner’ (7 December 2025)

Authors: Daria Gvindjia

Duration: 44 minutes and 14 seconds

The author's analytical program ‘Scanner’, produced in Russian by the journalist Daria Gvindjia, was structured into three thematic sections focused on the main events of the week. In the first part, the meeting between Vladimir Putin and Steve Witkoff, as well as the peace negotiations between Ukraine and the Russian Federation, were analyzed in a discussion with the political scientist Fyodor Krashennnikov. The debate focused on the significance of the meeting, the 28-point plan proposed by Donald Trump to end the war, the impact of a corruption scandal in Ukraine on the negotiations and the conditions under which a peace agreement could be signed. The second part of the program was devoted to the corruption scandal that targeted Federica Mogherini, the former head of EU diplomacy, discussed with Petar Tanev, Advisor at the European Parliament, analyzing the reactions of the European institutions, the known details of the alleged fraud, and the position of the College of Europe. In the third part of the program, the journalist addressed the situation of the media in Kazakhstan, discussing with the journalist Lukpan Ahmediarov the repressions against journalists and press freedom in this country. The information was presented in a neutral and balanced manner; the author asked relevant questions and moderated the discussions appropriately, without ethical deviations or manipulation techniques. **The only deviation found was the use, in the third section, of video footage without explicitly indicating the primary source.**

Gender representation in news and programs



CONCLUSIONS

During the period **1-7 December 2025**, the public television station **Moldova 1** presented information in its main daily news bulletins and analytical programs **in a neutral and balanced manner**.

Covered topics. The topics most frequently selected by journalists concerned **social and international events**. They were reflected in **over 50 of the 89 items** broadcast in the news bulletins, representing a share of **almost 60%**. At the same time, materials dedicated to **domestic politics** continued to decrease, further consolidating the trend of *'depoliticization'* of public television news and a shift towards topics of general interest.

Sources. The number of news items that did not include directly quoted sources increased slightly during this monitoring period, with every sixth news item lacking such quotations. At the same time, 17 of the 89 news items included only one directly quoted source, which limits, to some extent, the diversity of perspectives presented in the informative content. The frequency of quoting or mentioning central and local public authorities increased slightly, without becoming dominant. It is also noteworthy that the trend of diversifying the sources used by Moldova 1 during this period was maintained and even strengthened.

Gender balance. In terms of gender equality, the analysis indicates the maintenance of a moderate imbalance, similar to that observed in the previous monitoring period (December 2024). Thus, out of the total of 238 sources directly quoted in the seven news bulletins, 136 were men and 102 were women. In the case of programs, the situation improved significantly: out of the 15 guests (present in the studio or online), 8 were men and 7 were women.

Representativeness of the political spectrum. During this period, a slight favouring of PAS and its representatives was observed, highlighted by frequent direct quotations and a longer amount of airtime allocated to direct interventions. At the same time, other parliamentary opposition parties were relatively disadvantaged, being mentioned and directly quoted to a lesser extent (PSRM, 'Alternativa' Bloc) or not at all (PCRM, Partidul Nostru (Our Party), 'Democrația Acasa' (Democracy at Home)

Party). A relevant finding remains the fact that extra-parliamentary parties continue to be absent from the news bulletins of Moldova 1.

Ethics. The identified ethical violations were reduced in terms of frequency and similar to those recorded in the previous monitoring period (2–8 December 2024). These include:

- **Lack of the right of reply.** This criterion was respected by Moldova 1 in the news bulletins whenever the materials were related to conflict or directly concerned an involved party. On the other hand, in case of programs, one situation was identified in which the right of reply was not ensured. Specifically, in the edition of the *‘In Context’* program of 1 December, Moldova 1 had the responsibility to invite a representative of the Mayor’s Office of Chisinau municipality and/or of the MAN political party to the studio, in order to ensure pluralism of opinions and respect for the right of reply;
- **Generalization.** In the news item of 1 December *‘Ilan Shor closes ‘Social Projects’*’, referring to Ilan Shor’s announcement of closing all alleged social projects in the Republic of Moldova and their reorientation towards Kyrgyzstan, Moldova 1 used generalized formulations, such as *‘Analysts say Shor has only changed his location of activity’* and *‘Experts warn: the Kremlin is not backing down’*, without specifying the identity of the sources or providing additional context to support these statements;
- **Labelling.** In the news item of 2 December, *‘The Mayor of Orhei steps down’*, concerned the resignation of the Mayor of Orhei municipality, Tatiana Cociu, Moldova 1 reporters mentioned that the event *‘happened one day after the convicted fugitive, Ilan Shor, announced that he was suspending his alleged social projects in the Republic of Moldova’*;
- **Ironic headlines.** In the news item of 5 December, *‘The Russian house returns home’*, referring to the notification sent by Chisinau to the Moscow authorities regarding the closure of the Russian Cultural Centre, Moldova 1 used irony and sarcasm in the headline of the news item;
- **Failure to indicate the source of video footage.** In all the news bulletins monitored during this period, international news were illustrated with footage taken from other platforms, without indicating their source – a long-standing practice at the public television broadcaster over the recent years.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The Audiovisual Council (AC), based on Art. 13 (*Ensuring accurate information*), Art. 75 (*Powers of the Audiovisual Council*) and 86 (*Cooperation with civil society*) of the Code of Audiovisual Media Services of the Republic of Moldova, should continue monitoring Moldova 1 in order to identify deviations from the legislation, and apply appropriate sanctions, where justified;
- The Public Institution Teleradio-Moldova Company, as a signatory to the Code of Ethics of Journalist of the Republic of Moldova, should ensure strict compliance with the ethical standards by its employees, in particular the provisions of Art. 2.11 regarding the respect for the copyright and Art. 2.31 regarding the guarantee of the right of reply of the persons concerned;
- The members of the Supervisory Board of the Public Institution Teleradio-Moldova Company, based on Art. 45 (*Powers of the Supervisory Council*) of the Code of Audiovisual Media

Services of the Republic of Moldova, as well as based on the internal regulatory framework, should oversee the activity of Moldova 1 in order to ensure fulfilment of its mission;

- The Director and editors of Moldova 1 should supervise the editorial content so that it corresponds to the mission of the public media, accurately reflects reality, and does not favour or disadvantage any person, entity, institution, political party or politician;
- Moldova 1 reporters should prioritize the public interest when selecting news topics, report all relevant facts from the field, in a balanced manner and verify information thoroughly.