



Presidential election 2021 KYRGYZSTAN Social Media Monitoring

Interim report (19 November 2020 - 1 January 2021)

11 January 2021 Bishkek, Bratislava

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I. INTRODUCTION

Between 19 November 2020 and 1 January 2021, Media Development Center, a Kyrgyz media organization, and MEMO 98, a Slovak non-profit specialist media-monitoring organization, monitored social media in the run-up to the 10 January presidential election. The monitoring included 65 different actors (subjects) within 7 various categories (candidates, politicians, political parties, influencers, media, official authorities, and public groups) with accounts on Facebook and Instagram who produced a total of 1,213 posts on Facebook (not including posts by media and public groups) and 1,701 on Instagram (not including posts by media). The posts generated as many 285,324 interactions on Facebook (not including media and public groups) and 5,694,810 on Instagram (not including media).

MEMO 98 and Media Development Center (MDC) monitored social media prior to the 4 October parliamentary elections when they <u>concluded</u> that "there was an active and engaged audience on social media, particularly on Instagram, but few political actors made it a focus in their political campaigns. There was no highly professionalized digital operations or significant spending on advertising, which are now commonplace in elections the world over. However, the fact the Chon Kazat's victory on social media did not translate to the ballot box suggests social media may not be the key to winning in Kyrgyzstan as it is elsewhere."

Similar to the monitoring prior to the parliamentary elections, the main purpose of this monitoring was to determine the impact of social media on electoral integrity and the extent to which social media provide important information that voters need in their decision making.³ Television is the primary source of information about politics, but the growing relevance of social media has to be acknowledged, and so we continued with the monitoring of Facebook and Instagram.⁴ We were interested in determining to what extent are social media used in Kyrgyzstan during elections.

The monitoring also focused on how media report on candidates in their Facebook accounts and what topics and issues are discussed by different actors in the context of elections. When it comes to social media, we have focused on pages of candidates, political parties, individual politicians, influential public figures (influencers), media outlets, official authorities, and public groups on Facebook. From a wider perspective, we also wanted to assess the overall role of social media in the elections and their potential impact on election integrity, particularly the level of public trust and confidence in the process.

There were in total almost 1.98 million interactions of media posts on Facebook and almost 14.67 million interactions on Instagram.

Social media accounts of traditional media produced 16,582 posts on Facebook and 6,337 on Instagram.

²⁰²⁰ World Press Freedom Index from Reporters Without Borders ranks Kyrgyzstan as 82 (out of 179 countries), assessed as a country with 'problematic situation' (there are two higher and two lower categories).

⁴ According to the Digital 2020 (Kyrayzstan), a research conducted annually by We Are Social and Hootsuite, there is 39 per cent of social media users in the country.





Within a few weeks after election day, the Media Development Center and MEMO 98 will issue a final report, which will be more comprehensive.

Social media in Kyrgyzstan

There are an estimated 2.5 million social media users in Kyrgyzstan – approximately 40% of the population – with a 2.1 million Instagram audience (users that can be reached by ads) and 610,000 Facebook users. Despite Instagram's larger audience, 56 monitored actors (without groups) showed higher activity on Facebook, with 17,795 posts in the monitoring period, compared to 8,038 on Instagram.⁵ However, Instagram posts saw close to nine times as many interactions, with more than 20,3 million engagements to Facebook's 2,2 million interactions.⁶

Political background

An early presidential election in Kyrgyzstan was called against the backdrop of the political crisis that arose in the country after the parliamentary elections. It was the publication of preliminary voting results, indicating that the new parliament would be dominated by pro-presidential parties, which triggered the protests. As a result, the Central Commission for Elections and Referenda (CEC) on 6 October 2020, declared the results of the parliamentary elections invalid. The country has been shaken by a political crisis resulting in an unstable situation and power struggles between a wide range of forces.

It should be noted that the post-election situation in Kyrgyzstan in 2020 differs from the events of 2005 and 2010. The confrontation and power struggles in 2020 were tough, with the use of illegal methods. At the same time, all state institutions did not take any action, which led to absolute anarchy. The power actually passed into the hands of protesters, with the opposition being unable to agree peacefully and legally, so the struggle continued with the use of physical force and threats. The opposition was divided into two main groups, one of which proposed to nominate Sadyr Japarov (former member of parliament) for the post of the prime minister, and the other proposing Ömürbek Babanov (served as Prime Minister in 2011-2012). On 9

In the period from 4 July - 3 October 2020, prior to the 2020 parliamentary elections, 46 different actors produced 11,695 posts on Facebook and 6,623 posts in Instagram.

In the period from 4 July - 3 October 2020, prior to the 2020 parliamentary elections, Instagram posts of monitored actors (46) saw close to seven times as many interactions, with almost 21 million engagements to Facebook's 3.2 million.

October at the Ala-Too square, there was a clash between supporters of Sadyr Japarov, Almazbek Atambayev, and Ömürbek Babanov. Sadyr Japarov won this battle and took the office of the Prime Minister.

On 10 October, at an extraordinary session of the parliament, the program and the composition of the government of Sadyr Japarov was adopted. The supporters of Japarov continued to demand the resignation of President Sooronbay Jeenbekov, who did so on 15 October. The powers of the president were transferred to Prime Minister Japarov. Further personnel reshuffles began with practically the entire cabinet of ministers being replaced, and with the heads of law enforcement agencies being replaced too. Also, Sadyr Japarov stated the need to postpone the parliamentary elections to a later date and prioritized the holding of the presidential election and the constitutional reform with the aim of transitioning to a presidential form of the government in a referendum. More specifically, citizens in the referendum will be asked to determine the form of governance presidential or parliamentary - or choose a third "against all" option.

This statement caused an ambiguous reaction from the public, with many experts and the legal community criticizing him and declaring a number of violations of constitutional norms in the decisions made by the authorities. On 10 December, the deputies of the Jogorku Kenesh (Kyrgyz Parliament) adopted, in the second and third readings, a draft law on holding a referendum on the state structure. The adoption of such an important bill in a short time caused a wave of criticism. Nevertheless, an early presidential election and a referendum were scheduled for 10 January 10, 2021, and Sadyr Japarov resigned on 14 November to be able to stand as a candidate in this election.

The most recent legal amendments permitted the engagement of volunteers in the campaign, lowered the threshold for the return of the electoral deposit for presidential candidates, and eliminated the possibility for voters to change their electoral addresses inside the country. Also, the parliament adopted a law eliminating the possibility to conduct a repeat presidential election.

The registration of presidential candidates finished on 14 December. The Central Commission for Elections and Referenda registered 18 presidential candidates. The election campaign began on 15 December 15 and will end at 8:00 am on 9 January 2021. The president will be elected for a single six-year term by direct universal suffrage. If no candidate receives more than half of the votes in the first round, a runoff will take place between the two candidates with the most votes within 20 days.





II. PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

- Approximately every second Kyrgyz has access to the internet, and some 39 % of citizens are social media users.
- The monitoring was conducted from 19 November until 1 January and focused on 48 public Facebook pages of candidates, political parties, politicians, official institutions, media, and influencers, as well as 9 Facebook public groups, which produced a total of 17,795 posts on Facebook (without groups). It also included 55 public Instagram accounts of the same entities, which produced a total of 8,038 posts on Instagram. These posts generated as many 285,324 interactions on Facebook (with media it was 2,265,307) and 5,694,810 on Instagram (with media it was 20,361,423).
- The interaction rate on Instagram was remarkably high, in particular in the case of media, influencers (4,9 million), and candidates (548,000). Instagram posts saw close to nine times as many interactions as Facebook's posts.
- Of the 18 candidates registered for the elections, we focused on 16 who had public Facebook pages or Instagram accounts, while 14 of them had a presence on both of the platforms. The most active candidate on Facebook was Abdil Segizbaev (with 177 posts), followed by Aimen Kasenov (with 93 posts) and Klara Sooronkulova (85 posts). The frontrunner Sadyr Japarov was less active (9th), with 44 posts during the whole monitoring period.
- The posts of Abdil Segizbaev also attracted the highest number of interactions (44,171), followed by Mr. Kasenov (39,265) and Mr. Kochkorov (31,850). The former Prime minister Sadyr Japarov came next with as many as 30,990 interactions generated by his posts.
- The monitoring also focused on political parties where the Reform Party produced the highest number of posts on Facebook 34. It was followed by Butun Kyrgyzstan (26 posts) and Chon Kazat (18 posts). Parties generated a smaller number of posts on Instagram, with Chon Kazat (14) and Butun Kyrgyzstan (10) basically being the only active. No post throughout the whole period was produced by Mekenchil Party (the party has only a Facebook page).
- Despite having a smaller number of posts compared to some other parties, Chon Kazat's activities, same as during the parliamentary elections, received the highest number of interactions (as many as 5,126), followed by the Reform party (3,795) and Butun Kyrgyzstan party (1,828). Even more visible was it on Instagram, where Chon Kazat posts generated 11,877 reactions, while Reform and Butun Kyrgyzstan together received only some 6,600 interactions.

- The monitoring focused on 15 official pages and accounts of traditional media, with 13 of them having a presence on both platforms. On Facebook, the online publication *Kyrgyz Today* was by far the most active (3,541 posts), followed by *24.kg* (1,645 posts) and *Jetinchi TV* (1,576 posts). On Instagram, the official account of Next TV was most prolific (1,133 posts), while four other media produced between 700 and 800 posts (Kaktus Media, News.kg, Azattyk, the Kyrgyz office of RFE/RL, and Sputnik). It should be noted that a number of posts on media accounts in most of the cases did not relate to elections.
- Eight Facebook pages of media outlets (out of monitored 15) provided their online audience with some coverage of presidential candidates. However, only three of them (*Jetinchi TV*, *Next TV*, and *Azattyk*) covered several candidates in particular, two latter outlets offered some noteworthy coverage, with eight different candidates presented, mostly in critical tone. On the other hand, the Facebook page of *Jetinchi TV* devoted primarily positive coverage to Mr. Japarov.
- When looking at the three most important official Kyrgyz institutions, the Central Commission for Elections and Referenda was the most active, in particular on Facebook (almost 150 posts), followed by the Government (88 posts). On the contrary, officials did not use Instagram they posted together 51 posts vs. 250 on Facebook.
- Similar to the 4 October parliamentary elections that took place against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic, this topic was regularly present prior to the presidential election as well. Nevertheless, political matters (election and referendum) dominated the campaign alongside personalized addresses of contestants and some attention to the economy, education, and culture.
- While most presidential candidates appeared to use advertising on the Facebook-owned platforms, only a few of them dedicated high amounts of funds (mainly Mr. Kasenov and Mr. Tolbaev). The total amount of funds spent by various actors in the period preceding the Presidential elections around 11,500 USD (used for some 1,400 ads) was significantly smaller in comparison to the funds spent on online advertising prior to the 4 October 2020 election.
- Given the absence of legal provisions regulating disinformation or hate speech on social media (the Bill on Manipulating Information was halted by the President in summer 2020), such content found its way into the online domains and numerous posts. As such, a need to introduce a workable online self-regulatory mechanism and to increase digital media literacy is even more urgent after the current campaign.

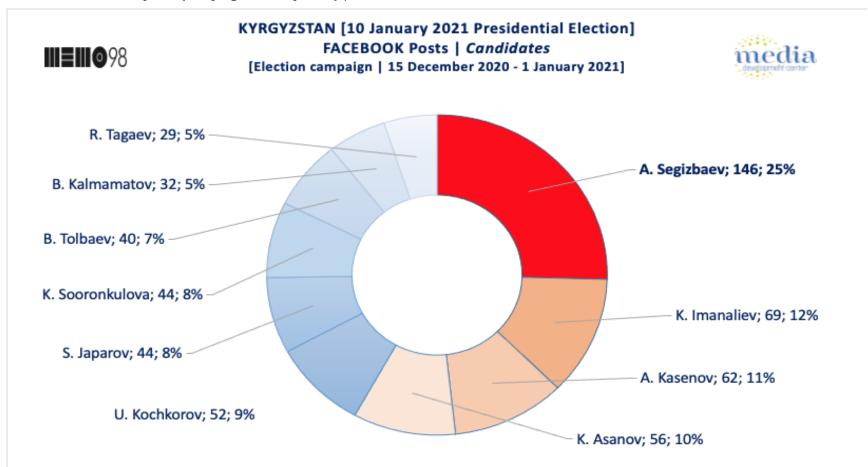




III. CHARTS

Facebook

Chart 1-2: Number of posts (campaign, entire period) | Candidates





KYRGYZSTAN [10 January 2021 Presidential Election] FACEBOOK Posts | Candidates [19 November 2020 - 1 January 2021]



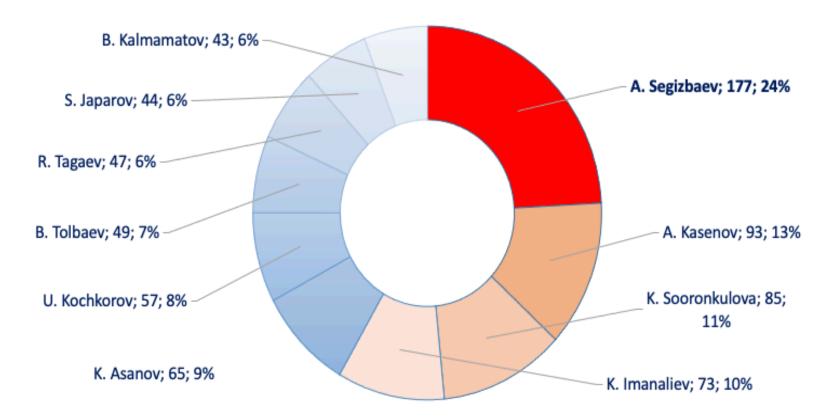






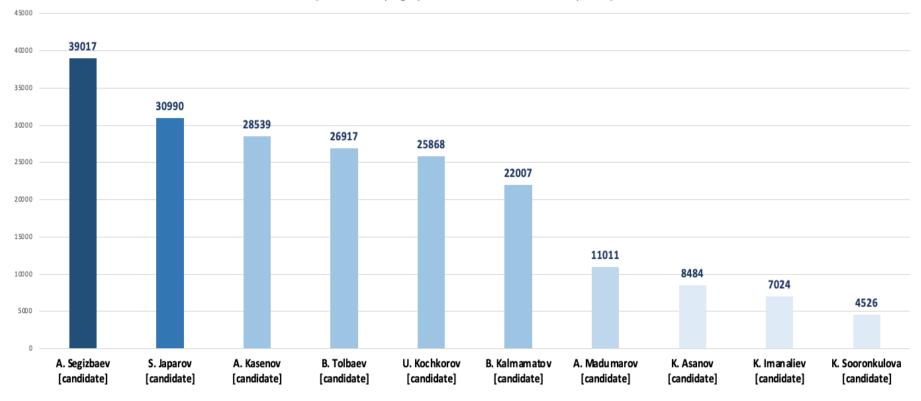
Chart 3-4: Number of interactions (campaign, entire period) | Candidates



KYRGYZSTAN [10 January 2021 Presidential Election] FACEBOOK Interactions | Candidates



[Election campaign | 15 December 2020 - 1 January 2021]



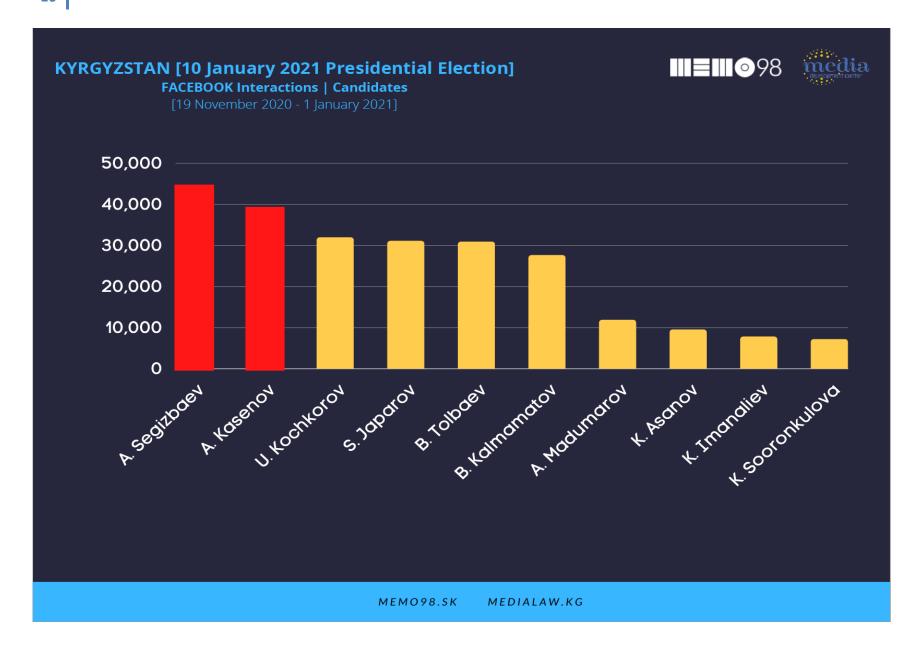
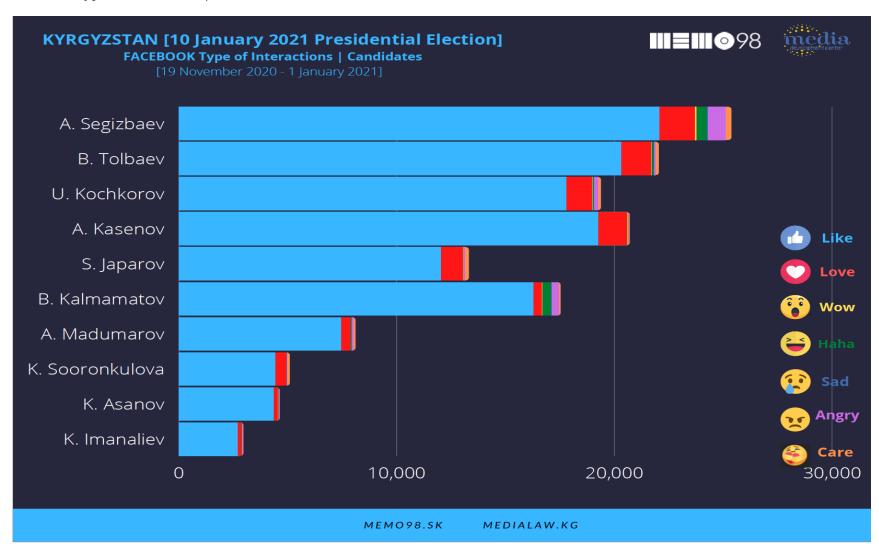






Chart 5-6: Type of interactions | Candidates



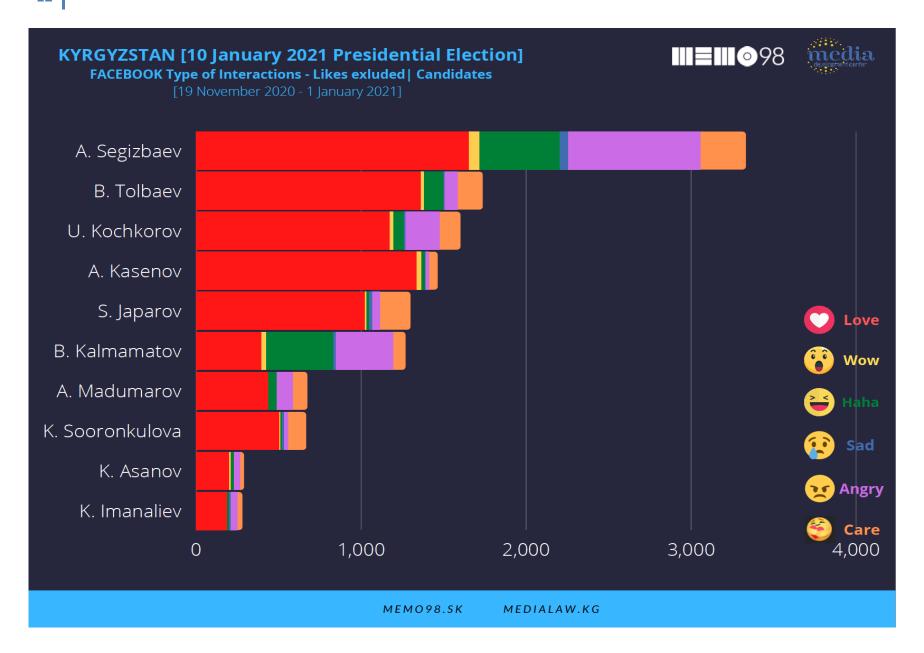






Chart 7: Number of posts | Media about candidates (Tone)

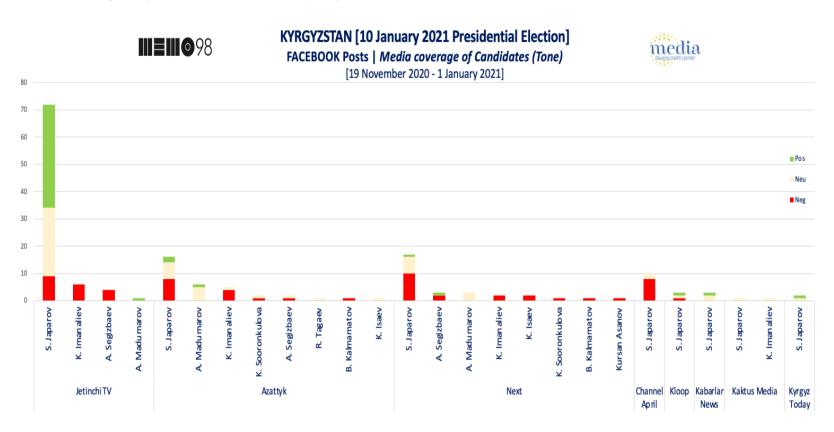
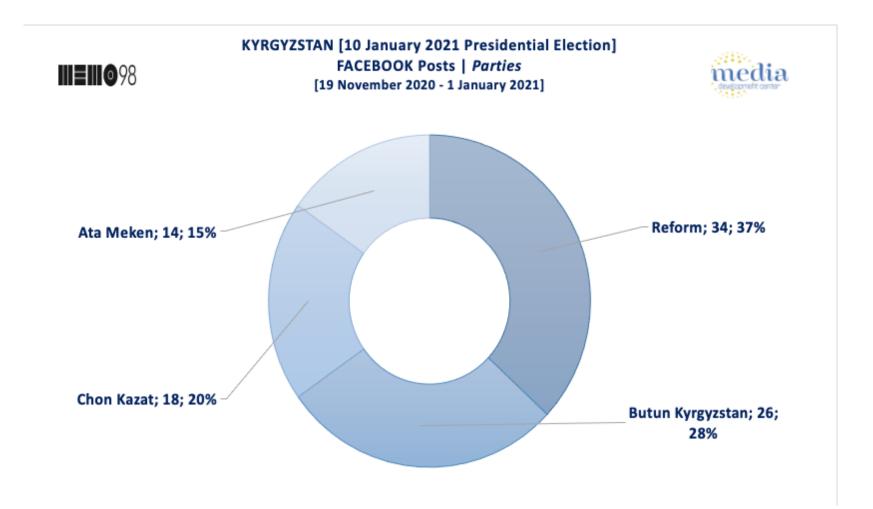


Chart 8-9: Number of posts | Parties, Authorities









KYRGYZSTAN [10 January 2021 Presidential Election] FACEBOOK Posts | Authorities [19 November 2020 - 1 January 2021]



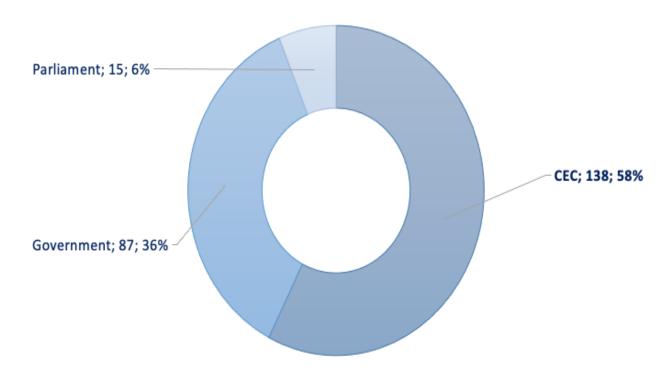
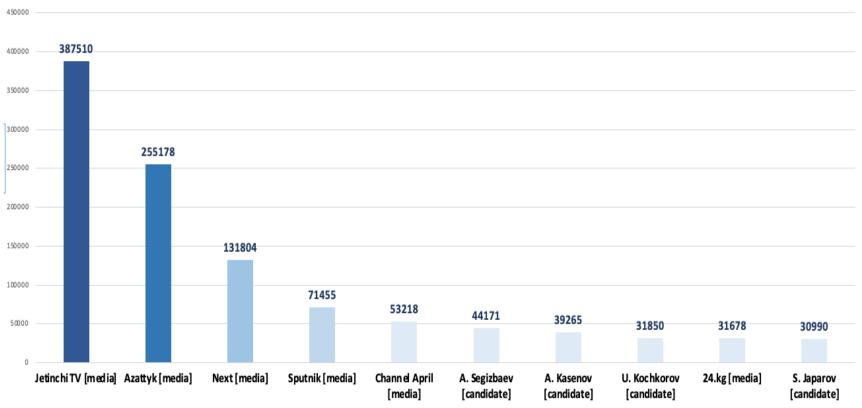


Chart 10: Number of interactions⁷ | All monitored subjects



KYRGYZSTAN [10 January 2021 Presidential Election] FACEBOOK Interactions | Monitored subjects





Number of interactions shown for media outlets reflects only top 200 posts within the category 'media' (with the highest number of interactions). For categories candidates, politicians and political parties all the posts were taken into consideration.



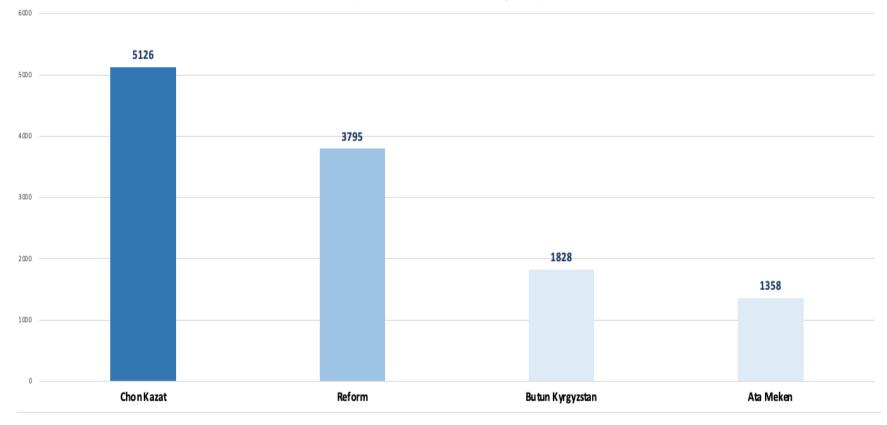


Chart 11-13: Number of interactions | Parties, Politicians, Media



KYRGYZSTAN [10 January 2021 Presidential Election] FACEBOOK Interactions | Political parties

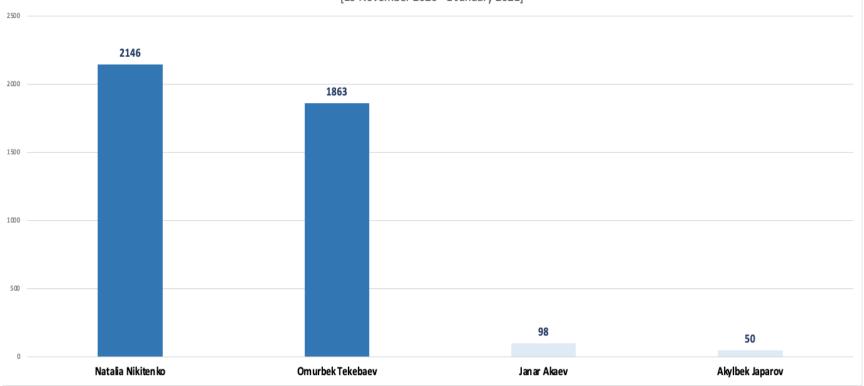






KYRGYZSTAN [10 January 2021 Presidential Election] FACEBOOK Interactions | Politicians











KYRGYZSTAN [10 January 2021 Presidential Election] FACEBOOK Interactions | Media



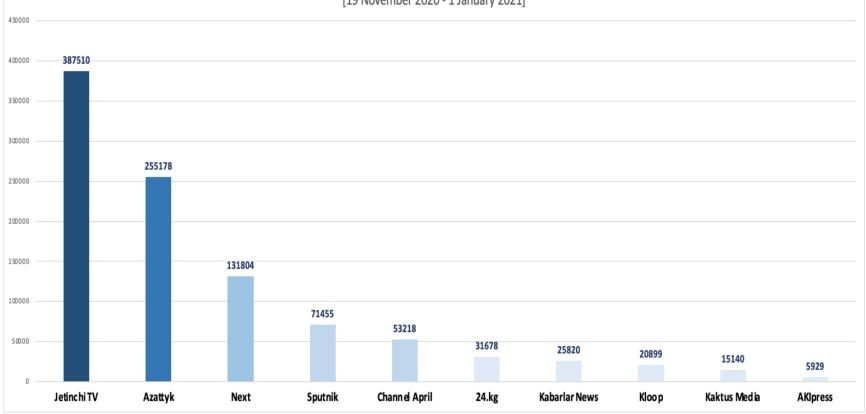


Chart 14-15: Number of posts & interactions | *Public groups*

ALL POSTS > COMBINED TOTAL POSTS > 11/19/20 - 01/01/21							
	95.2K	AVG. WEEKLY POS 1,511	TS				
NAME	TOTAL	%					
Ж Власть. Бийлик	1.6K	1.64%					
🎇 Адахан Мадумаров	1.1K	1.10%					
Бактыбек КАЛМАМА	1.5K	1.56%					
Новости Кыргызст	19.0K	19.94%					
🌊 Садыр Жапаров	49.5K	52.02%					
── ШАЙЛОО -2021	3.6K	3.73%					
🐊 Президент 2021	87	0.09%					
🧱 Акыркы жаңылыкта	18.9K	19.84%					
У КОМПРОМАТ КГ	67	0.07%					





ALL POSTS > COMBINED TOTAL INTERACTIONS > 11/19/20 - 01/01/21

	TOTAL INTERACTION	ONS AVG. WEEK	AVG. WEEKLY INTERACTIONS		WEEKLY INTERACTION RATE	
	3.50M	55.6	K	0.05%		
NAME	TOTAL	REACTIONS	COMMENTS	SHARES		
W Власть. Бийлик	2.9K	1.5K	983	410	1	
🎇 Адахан Мадумаров	15.0K	11.1K	2.6K	1.3K	1	
Вактыбек КАЛМАМА	84.6K	49.1K	27.3K	8.2K	1	
Новости Кыргызст	125.7K	74.0K	40.0K	11.7K		
🌉 Садыр Жапаров	3.11M	2.10M	745.7K	260.2K		
₩АЙЛОО -2021	20.8K	11.1K	8.2K	1.5K	1	
🌉 Президент 2021	114	89	6	19	1	
🧱 Акыркы жаңылыкта	136.0K	70.7K	54.1K	11.1K	1	
🕻 КОМПРОМАТ КГ	5.4K	3.0K	1.7K	713	1	

Instagram

Chart 16: Number of posts | Candidates



KYRGYZSTAN [10 January 2021 Presidential Election] INSTAGRAM Posts | Candidates



[19 November - 14 December 2020]

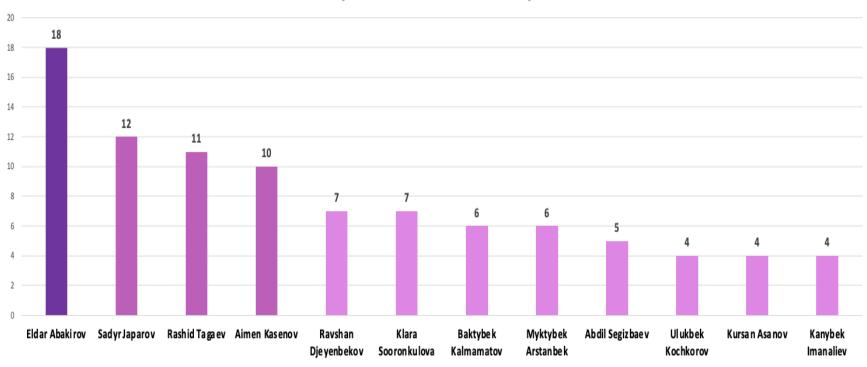




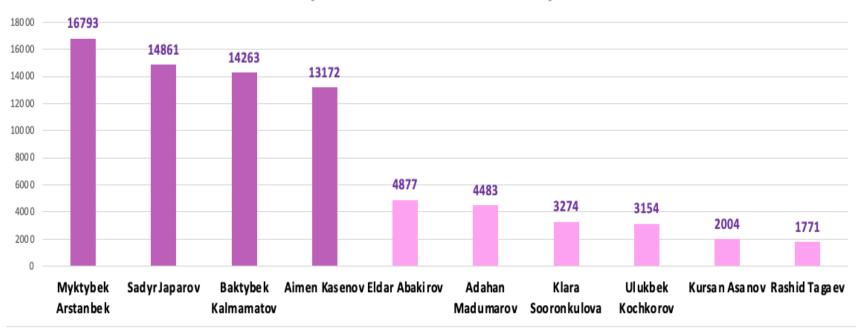


Chart 17: Number of interactions | Candidates

KYRGYZSTAN [10 January 2021 Presidential Election] INSTAGRAM Interactions | Candidates



[19 November - 14 December 2020]





KYRGYZSTAN [10 January 2021 Presidential Election] INSTAGRAM Interactions | Politicians



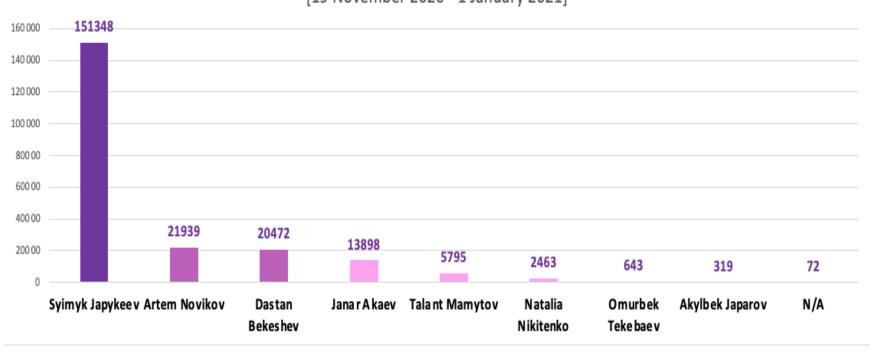
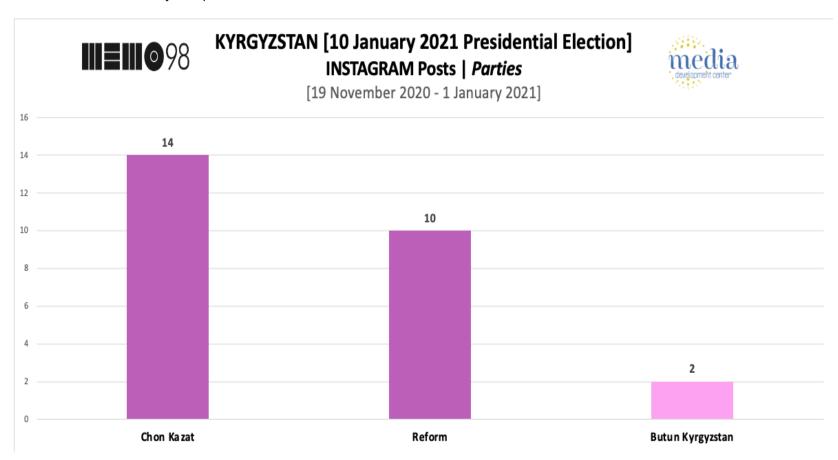






Chart 19-20: Number of posts | Parties, Authorities





KYRGYZSTAN [10 January 2021 Presidential Election] INSTAGRAM Posts | Authorities



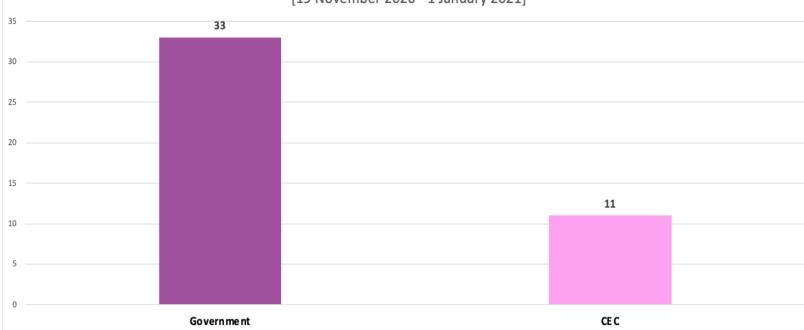




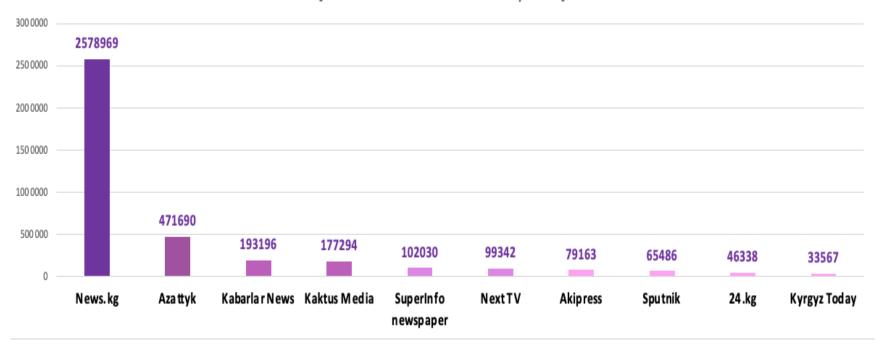


Chart 21-22: Number of interactions⁸ | *Media, Influencers*

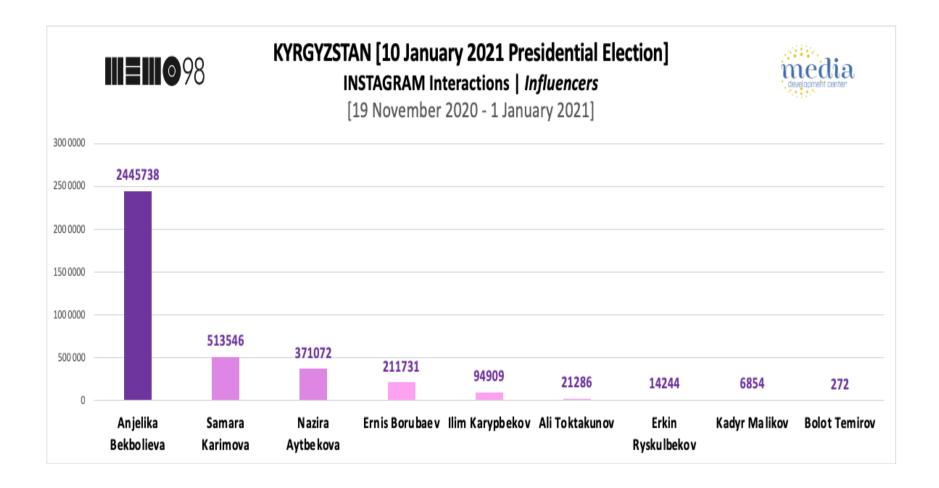


KYRGYZSTAN [10 January 2021 Presidential Election] INSTAGRAM Interactions | Media





Number of interactions shown for media outlets reflects only top 200 posts within the category 'media' (with the highest number of interactions). For categories candidates, politicians and political parties all the posts were taken into consideration.

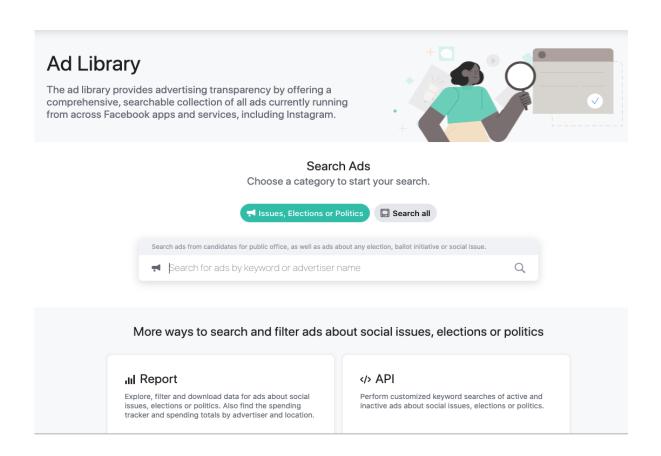






IV. AD LIBRARY

Facebook's Ad library that offers data about ads on Facebook-owned platforms (Facebook, Instagram, Audience Network, and Messenger) has been operational in Kyrgyzstan from August 2020.



According to the Ad Library, ads on social issues, elections, or politics in the last three months (from 9 October 2020 until 6 January 2021) amounted to some 1,400 ads; the total amount spent on these ads was around 11,500 USD.

While most presidential candidates appeared to use advertising on the Facebook-owned platforms, only a few of them dedicated significant amounts of funds to this feature, and in comparison to the 4 October 2020 elections, the total amount of funds spent was significantly smaller (prior to October elections, during the less than the 3-month period the total amount spent on 3,555 ads was 62,700 USD.)

In total, there were up to 320 actors who used paid advertising in the past three-month period. The most active users of paid advertising in this period according to the total amount of funds spent were as follows:

- Aimen Kasenov (presidential candidate) less than 2,000 USD (50 ads),
- Babyrjan Tolbaev (presidential candidate) less than 1,700 USD (27 ads),
- Baktybek Kalmamatov⁹ (presidential candidate) some 650 USD (11 ads),
- Jenishbek Nazaraliev (not a presidential candidate) some 630 USD (4 ads),
- Eldar Abakirov (presidential candidate) some 530 USD (64 ads).

The other three actors spent between 400 - 500 USD, and 18 other actors spent between 100 and 300 USD in total. Furthermore, some 290 actors who also used paid for online advertising spent around 1 - 100 USD each during the last three-month period.

⁹ His ads were running without any disclaimer.





V. DISINFORMATION

In Kyrgyzstan, as in other countries, being part of the global information space, the influence of social networks is growing, and, accordingly, it has begun to face the problem of disinformation more often. While television remains the main source of information for the majority of citizens, especially in the regions, the growing popularity of social networks began to have a high degree of impact on the formation of public opinion and, subsequently, on the socio-political situation in the country.

On the social media of the Kyrgyz segment, during the electoral process, the number of unverified news that is presented as sensation, stuffing, or fake information is increasing. The 2021 presidential election was no exception. Former Prime minister Sadyr Japarov is considered to be the favorite in the presidential race, and, accordingly, most of the disinformation and fake news have focused on him. Noteworthy, however, disinformation was not only targeting him, but persons supporting Mr. Japarov were also often disseminating inaccurate information.

Social media users closely monitored how much money and from whom came the support of candidates' campaigns. Thus, information appeared on social networks that a bank transfer in the amount of 1 million KGS (approximately 9,850 EUR) from a local Kyrgyz company "Hua-Er" LLC was made in support of Sadyr Japarov.



Initially, a Chinese citizen, Huan Jianhong, was listed as the director of this company. It should be noted that according to Kyrgyz legislation, sponsorship and charitable support to presidential candidates from citizens of foreign countries is prohibited. Therefore, this information caused a negative reaction on social networks. However, it was later revealed that Huang Jianhong is a citizen of Kyrgyzstan, and a copy of his Kyrgyz passport was posted online.

The presidential candidate Abdil Segizbayev on his page, as well as during debates on the public television, gave information regarding the connection of candidate Sadyr Japarov with the former president K.Bakiyev, who is on the run.



It is interesting to note that the most active supporters on social networks are those of Sadyr Japarov. There are a large number of groups on social networks that actively promote his candidacy and disseminate information about him. On social networks, Japarov's supporters often write that the entire people of Kyrgyzstan are behind him, while they often use profanity and resort to intimidation of opponents. Moreover, a popular news agency "Kaktus Media" published material that the "troll factory" of the Matraimovs and Jeenbekovs began working for Sadyr Japarov".

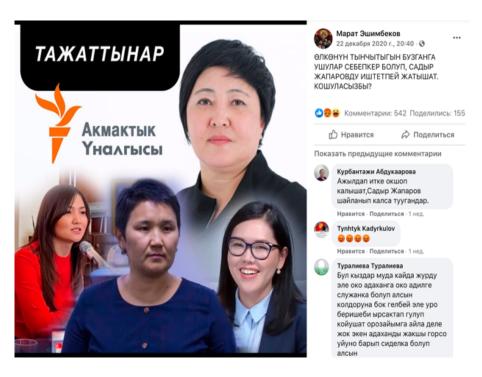






According to a preliminary analysis of independent online resources¹⁰, one third of active users supporting S.Japarov are fake accounts. The posts and comments of such accounts are mainly aimed at discrediting opponents, accompanied by attacks, insults, and labeling opponents. Many posts in support of S.Japarov are written and provided as "on behalf of the whole people," which is a vivid example of manipulation. Thus, groups and accounts in social media in support of S.Japarov are trying to create a positive image of the candidate as a "last hope," obviously exaggerating the capabilities of one person.

See more at https://factcheck.kg/kak-rabotaet-internet-trolling-v-kyrgyzstane/



An example of the denigration of one of the candidates and representatives of civil society opposing the referendum: "TIRED OF. Being the cause of the troubled situation in the country, they interfere with Sadyr Japarov's work. Are you joining this?"







A video post in support of S.Japarov about 100 percent support of the people: "Many thanks to our people from Ozgon and Kara Kuldja who support Sadyr Japarov for 100%."

A post of unparalleled support provided countrywide to Sadyr Japarov:

"Never in 30 years, people of all seven regions did support any president, any deputy in this way. God forbid he will run for president with 100% support. Tomorrow the dissatisfied people will again come out with a claim about the lack of transparency of the elections, no words, let the dogs bark, and the eagle fly!"



Black PR against opponents - Baktybek Kalmamatov and Adakhan Madumarov ("gossip-based program"): "Strong people discuss ideas, and common people discuss stories! Small people turn out to live by rumors! These two gentlemen have no program other than rumors."





METHODOLOGY

The applied methodology consists of quantitative and qualitative analysis of the selected social media content.

The quantitative analysis focuses on the number of posts generated by political actors (candidates, parties, politicians, with the assistance of CrowdTangle1) or other monitored entities and the tone of the coverage (in media posts). In case they promote them, we track it as positive; in case they criticize them, we track it as negative. In case they only introduce these issues or stories without stating their positions, we track it as neutral. The monitoring also focused on the thematic structure of the posts.

Social media **posts** served as a reference and monitoring unit that was further analyzed by monitors. For categories of media, influencers, and groups, only the top200 posts (according to their interaction) were analyzed.

List of monitored parameters

Political subjects

Candidates $(16)^{12}$

Abakirov Eldar (Instagram) Arstanbek Myktybek Asanov Kursan Djeyenbekov Ravshan Imanaliev Kanybek Isaev Kanatbek (Instagram) Japarov Sadyr Kalmamatov Baktybek Kasenov Aimen

¹¹ CrowdTangle (a social media analytics tool owned by Facebook) "tracks public posts on Facebook, Instagram and Reddit, made by public accounts or groups. The tool does not track every public account and does not track private profiles or groups, so this data is not representative of performance across the entire platform. The numbers shown here reflect public interactions (likes, reactions, comments, shares, upvotes and three second views), but do not include reach or referral traffic. It does not include paid ads unless those ads began as organic, non-paid posts that were subsequently "boosted" using Facebook's advertising tools. Because the system doesn't distinguish this type of paid content, note that some high-performing content may have had paid distribution. CrowdTangle also does not track posts made visible only to specific groups of followers." The tool was applied on the published posts after three-days period so that the interaction generated by the post is relatively stabilized.

There were two candidates without Facebook page or Instagram account - Arstanbek Abdyldaev and Zhenishbek Baiguttiev.

Kochkorov Ulukbek Madumarov Adahan Segizbaev Abdil Sooronkulova Klara Tagaev Rashid Tashov Imamidin Tolbaev Babyrjan

Political parties (5)

Ata Meken Butun Kyrgyzstan Chon Kazat Mekenchil (Facebook)

Reform

Politicians (9)

Akaev Janar Bekeshev Dastan (Instagram) Japarov Akylbek Japykeev Syimyk Mamytov Talant Nikitenko Natalia Novikov Artem (Instagram) Tashiev Kamchybek Tekebaev Omurbek

Influencers (8)

Aitbekova Nazira Bekbolieva Kairatovna Anjelika Borubaev Ernis (Instagram) Karimova Samara (Instagram) Karypbekov Ilim (Instagram) Malikov Kadyr Temirov Bolot (Instagram) Toktakunov Ali (Instagram)





Media (15)

AKIpress

Birinchi Radio

April TV

Jetinchi TV (Facebook)

Kabar News Agency

Kabarlar News

Kaktus Media

Kloop News

Kyrgyz Azattyk

Kyrgyz Today

News.kg (Instagram)

Next TV

Sputnik Kyrgyzstan

Super Info newspaper

24.kg

Authorities (3)

Central Commission for Elections and Referenda

Government

Parliament (Jogorku Kenesh)

Public Facebook Groups (9)

Authority

Japarov Sadyr

Kalmamatov Aktybek - Our president!

Kompromat KG

Last News

Madumarov Adakhan

News of Kyrgyzstan

President 2021 - Ravshan Djeenbekov

Shailoo - 2021

Topics

Agriculture

Army/military

Business, economy

Culture

Catastrophes, incidents, accidents

Charity

Corruption

Crime

Society (incl. civil society)

Education, science

Environment

Foreign Affairs (no relevance to Belarus)

Foreign Affairs (related to Belarus)

Health care

IT, digitalization

Judiciary

Media

Minorities

Politics

Religion

Social issues

Sport

Transport, infrastructure

Elections

Referendum

Covid-19

Others





ABOUT

Media Development Center

The public foundation Media Development Center is a non-profit organization established in 2002 with the aim of promoting freedom of speech and expression in Kyrgyzstan, as well as to help build the capacity of the media and journalists by encouraging best practices in journalism, promoting professional ethics, institutionalizing dialogue between the state, media and civil society, as well as the promotion of media networks in Kyrgyzstan. Since 2010, the Media Development Center has been monitoring the media during the parliamentary and presidential elections in the Kyrgyz Republic. The Media Development Center is one of the first organizations in the Kyrgyz Republic that monitors social media platforms during the election period.

MEMO 98

An internationally recognized, independent, and non-profit specialist media institution with 22 year-long of experience conducting media monitoring and research and assisting civil society groups. Using tested and approved methodologies and tools, we provide media analysis and media monitoring with tangible results, in particular during election periods. Having participated in more than 120 election observation missions and about 150 media & election-related projects and training in more than 55 countries (in the Commonwealth of the Independent States and the Balkan countries, but also in Africa, Asia, South America, and the Middle East), our experts provide assistance on media & electoral and other democratic arrangements.

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