Deep Russia:

AGREED TO REACH AN AGREEMENT

What Russians discussed on "VKontakte" and on "Telegram" from 19 to 25 October

Period 19 - 25 October 2026

Platforms VKontakte, Telegram (regional communities)



Key Findings

On 21 October, Steve Witkoff arrived at the Konstantinovsky Palace in Strelna (near Saint Petersburg) for direct talks with Vladimir Putin.

The most common reaction in Russian regional social media communities was **disappointment over the lack of concrete results** of the diplomatic contacts. The negotiations were called "empty talk", a "circus" and yet another agreement to reach new agreements. The main reason for this disillusionment lies in the gap between words and reality: while deals are being announced, shelling and air-raid alerts continue on the ground.

Despite distrust of the negotiations, there was a noticeable **desire for peace**. Commenters recalled the dead, the destruction, material losses and the absence of clear results of the war, and hoped that men would return to their families. However, opinions on the conditions for ending hostilities were divided. Users tired of the war advocated ending it immediately to save lives, while supporters of the "Special Military Operation" insisted that Ukraine fulfill the Kremlin's demands and rejected a truce along the current front line. Despite the differences, there was a shared fear that a simple freeze without clear conditions is merely a pause before a new war.

Separate outrage was caused by news of **economic deals with the US**, in particular on supplies of Russian diesel fuel. This is perceived as cynical business on blood, with Russia sending fuel to a country that supplies missiles to Ukraine, and moreover a country that is actively portrayed as Russia's enemy. In addition, Russians fear shortages and rising fuel prices at home, concluding that the elite are pursuing their own financial interests while "ordinary people" die, and the economy is sliding into crisis and dependence on China.

Russian public pages twisted the reporting of **Zelensky's interview in which he agreed to freeze hostilities.** The host's words about Ukraine retaining "75% or more" were turned into a claim that Zelensky had supposedly agreed to "give away 25%". Most of the audience took the headline about the transfer of territories as fact. Hence the question of why such terms supposedly had not been accepted at the very start of the war and whether years of losses could have been avoided. Others, on the contrary, considered even such a concession insufficient and advocated seizing more Ukrainian territory.

Many commenters discussed news **of fines for failure to comply with mobilization-related decisions**, viewing it through the prism of a possible new wave of mobilization. Most often they recalled the authorities' earlier assurances that there would be none, and drew parallels with other decisions that had also been denied at the time. There were also many questions about what exactly the operational headquarters will be able to demand. People worried whether they could be forced to hand over a car, transfer business resources or restrict citizens' freedom of movement, which is "guaranteed by the Constitution".

1. AGREED TO REACH AN AGREEMENT

Witkoff in Saint Petersburg

On 21 October, Steve Witkoff arrived at the Konstantinovsky Palace in Strelna (near Saint Petersburg) for direct talks with Vladimir Putin.

Witkoff handed the Russian side the proposals on a ceasefire and the resumption of dialogue that had previously been discussed in Norway with the Ukrainian delegation and European leaders.

Despite the official agreement of the Russian Federation to resume the trilateral negotiating format (US–Ukraine–Russia) in November, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov and Putin's aide Yuri Ushakov publicly criticized the message he had brought, stating that the proposals passed on by the US were "devoid of concrete substance".

During Witkoff's visit, one of the US citizens detained in the Russian Federation was released. The Financial Times reported meetings with the head of the Russian Direct Investment Fund, Kirill Dmitriev, on potential post-war deals in the energy and oil sector.

Witkoff's trip was accompanied by a number of important events. Volodymyr Zelensky confirmed that, following the meeting with Witkoff in Oslo, the United States had resumed sharing operational intelligence with Kyiv on the preparation of Russian missile and drone strikes.

On the day of the meeting in Strelna, Donald Trump again made a statement in the Oval Office, stressing that he expects Zelensky to make compromises to conclude a deal, and emphasizing the growing financial and material losses of the US.

A massive missile and drone strike on Kyiv and other Ukrainian cities on the evening of 21 October came almost simultaneously with the end of the Witkoff–Putin meeting.

Main discussions

Disappointment. The most common reaction was disappointment over the lack of concrete results of the diplomatic contacts. The negotiations were called "empty talk", a "circus" and yet another agreement to reach new agreements. The main reason for this disillusionment lies in the gap between words and reality: while politicians announce deals, shelling and air-raid alerts continue on the ground.

Novosibirsk
"They agreed to negotiate on the current and previous agreements in order to reach an agreement on the agreements." — October 21 at 13:42, ♡73

Tatarstan

*"How many years now they've been sitting around bullsh*tting... about ending it, and zero to show for it. The way things stand, it's unlikely to all end in the next 1-2 years" — October 22 at 11:29, ♡2*

Altai Krai

"... the regular feature - '...cident - The conflict in Ukraine will end soon'... p.s. fifth year of the war, and every year they say the same thing... it feels like these people live in the matrix, and after the thirty-first of December their settings get reset and they reboot)))... and it never occurs to anyone that this is only the beginning of the end of civilization! Everyone still looks at the world through 'rose-tinted glasses'... it's not for nothing that I always say we are living in the end times... but who listens to me)))... and so, ladies and gentlemen - 'we are living in the end times', and the sunset of our latest civilization is not far off..." — October 22 at 4:13, ♡10

Novosibirsk

"And it can go on for years" — October 22 at 11:29, ♡2

Particular irritation was caused by Russian presidential aide Yuri Ushakov's statement that the end of the war was approaching. Commenters asked how much longer this process would last and why numerous previous promises had not materialized. The reaction to Donald Trump's statement that a peace deal was close was similar. People recalled his earlier promises to end the war quickly and pointed to the constant shifts in the American president's position.

What is the problem with the desire for peace? Despite distrust of the negotiations, a desire for peace was evident. Commenters recalled the dead, the destruction, material losses and the absence of clear results of the war, and hoped that men would return to their families. Such sentiment was especially noticeable in the public pages of the temporarily occupied areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, where people grasp at any mention of peace as a chance.

However, opinions on the conditions for ending hostilities were divided. Users tired of the war advocated ending it immediately to save lives, while supporters of the "Special Military Operation" insisted that Ukraine fulfill the Kremlin's demands and rejected a truce along the current front line. The latter feared agreements unfavorable to the Russian Federation, recalled the experience of the Minsk agreements and doubted that negotiations made sense. Zelensky's supposed illegitimacy was sometimes cited as an additional argument against them.

Samara

"Whether it's a deal - Trump-style, or a treaty, the main thing is that they reach a mutual (or three-way) peace agreement with long-term peaceful prospects of life for the people" — October 21 at 15:37, ♡13

Chelyabinsk

"Zelensky wants a pause, a tactical trick. And then he'll strike, regardless of any agreements... As long as he's at the helm, that's how it will be." — October 21 at 23:14, ♡13

Murmansk

"A strange statement, the goals of the Special Military Operation have still not been achieved, and there are no prospects of achieving them either." — October 21 at 22:13, ♡9

↳ Reply: "Yegor, and they will never be achieved" — October 21 at 22:45, ♡7

Rostov

"We prefer the third. What was ours will become ours, and those who consider us enemies will not be sitting at Russia's gates." — October 20 at 0:16, ♡28

↳ Reply: "Dmitry, What's ours. Today's borders are what's ours! And everything else is imperialism" — October 20 at 9:47, ♡5

↳ Reply: "Dmitry, the third option means another 500,000 dead lads, and a pile of destruction, think first, then write" — October 20 at 12:03, ♡11

Rostov

"Now that we've started, we have to go all the way" — October 21 at 17:31, ♡1

↳ Reply: "Dmitry, all the way to what end?" — October 21 at 17:39, ♡15

↳ Reply: "Evgeny, to the last Slav. But! With someone else's hands...😂" — October 21 at 18:44, ♡10

Despite the differences, **there was a shared fear that a simple freeze without clear conditions is merely a pause before a new war.**

Cynical business. Separate outrage was caused by news of economic deals with the US, in particular on supplies of Russian diesel fuel. This is perceived as cynical business on blood, with Russia sending fuel to a country that supplies missiles to Ukraine, and moreover a country that is actively portrayed as Russia's enemy. In addition, Russians fear shortages and rising fuel prices at home, concluding that the elite are pursuing their own financial interests while "ordinary people" die, and the economy is sliding into crisis and dependence on China. The Russian leadership was criticized because the population has no influence on decisions about the war, while its continuation benefits those who profit from it. Rising taxes and fines were linked to military spending that grows every year. Putin's words about "historically Russian lands" drew irony, with commenters noting that by the same logic Russia would have to give Smolensk to Lithuania, Vyborg to Finland and the Far East to China.

Saint Petersburg

"I don't get it. America isn't the enemy anymore? Announce the current list of enemies, please. Otherwise I've gotten confused." — October 21 at 12:43, ♡22

Moscow

"Which year's map are we supposed to open to get our bearings? Otherwise, God forbid, we'll have to give Vyborg to Finland and Smolensk to Lithuania. I just want to understand" — October 23 at 23:32, ♡39

Novosibirsk

"We give them diesel, and they give them missiles and drones for us 👆🤷‍♀️" — October 21 at 16:18, ♡14

↳ Reply: "Vyacheslav, business is business, somebody's billions and markets matter more than blood. Live and learn - and never forget whose interests always come first here." — October 21 at 17:52, ♡1

US mediation. Regional discussions did not form a single attitude toward American mediation. People expressed distrust of Washington and doubts about the effectiveness of Trump's and Witkoff's actions. Some even proposed replacing US-mediated negotiations with a direct meeting between Putin and Zelensky. There was quite active discussion of whether peace in Ukraine can be achieved without Ukraine's direct participation in the negotiations. At the same time, some commenters assessed Putin's meeting with Witkoff as the beginning of a new stage in Russian-American relations and supported a diplomatic settlement provided that the interests of the Russian Federation are taken into account.

Rostov

"I wonder how China is going to resolve the conflict, sounds like a joke" — October 22 at 21:08, ♡13

↳ Reply: "Lol, and Zelensky will say - You decided something there without me, and I don't agree.. Three bodies got together, like, to drink some beer and steam in the banya, and that people are dying on both sides - who gives a damn(((😳 They're playing games..." — October 22 at 21:12, ♡20

Krasnodar

"The issue needs to be resolved not about Ukraine, but with Ukraine. No matter who comes instead of whom, until Putin sits down at the negotiating table together with Zelensky, this will go on." — October 19 at 17:26, ♡3

↳ Reply: "Alexei, Zelya decides nothing, he's a puppet!" — October 20 at 6:58, ♡2

↳ Reply: "Artem, oh sure, he's the one who sold Baikal to China! And he's the one exporting Siberian forest by the thousands of hectares! Damn biden😂" — October 20 at 10:16, ♡1

Murmansk

"The world's chief hot-air merchants" — October 21 at 22:46, ♡16



Rostov
"That's what mouths are for, to talk, so let them rather talk than dream of destroying each other, that's in everyone's interest!" — October 21 at 19:13, ♡35

Irkutsk Oblast
"This is what happens when a populist old man with dementia becomes president - he only makes promises, constantly makes things up and brazenly lies, understands nothing about the economy and applies crazy decisions, wrecks economic relations with partners, unleashes wars he can't end and constantly shifts the blame onto others, and in the end the economy stag" — October 22 at 10:55, ♡1

Omsk
"The fact that the Americans were in Iraq for 9 years and in Afghanistan for 20 is purely a problem of bad roads and stupid generals taking the wrong turn." — October 20 at 22:37, ♡9

Saint Petersburg
"And all this became possible only thanks to Putin, the Americans decided to go for negotiations because of the work of our military, because of their victories and advance at the front" — October 22 at 11:49, ♡101

75% or 25%

On 21 October, a Fox News host asked Zelensky whether he would accept a peace deal that would freeze the situation at the current positions and under which Ukraine would retain "75% or more" of its territory. Zelensky replied that the fighting now needs to be frozen, calling this a realistic path to ending the war and a first step toward obtaining security guarantees.

The "yes" answer concerned a ceasefire along the existing front line. It contained no agreement to legally recognize the occupied territories as Russian or to hand over exactly 25% of Ukraine to Russia. On 24 October, Zelensky separately denied any readiness to "give away 25%" and stated that Ukraine would not recognize the temporarily occupied lands as part of Russia.

Russian public pages distorted the presentation of the information. The host's words about Ukraine retaining "75% or more" were turned into a claim that Zelensky had supposedly agreed to "give away 25%". Some publications added other emotional headlines about the

"stage of acceptance", the "loss of territories" or "the end of the Special Military Operation has come closer".

How readers reacted

Most of the audience took the headline about the transfer of territories as fact. Hence the question of why such terms supposedly had not been accepted at the very start of the war and whether years of losses could have been avoided. Others, on the contrary, considered even such a concession insufficient and advocated seizing more Ukrainian territory.

Omsk
"Fuck, Russia offered this at the very beginning of the Special Military Operation, before so many people died, why couldn't they agree right away?" — October 21 at 15:01, ♡109

↳ *Reply: "ミーシャ•, because everything was going according to plan" — October 21 at 15:29, ♡41*

Samara
"Just level kiev and be done with it" — October 23 at 7:11, ♡11

However, part of the audience immediately noticed that something in the news did not add up. Commenters asked where exactly Zelensky had talked about handing over 25% of the territory, and distinguished between a cessation of hostilities along the current front line and a legal renunciation of territories. At the same time, even those who noticed the distortion did not necessarily believe in the truce itself and feared that it would be only a temporary pause.

Perm
"We need time and people so that we can fight again later. That's roughly how it sounds." — October 21 at 17:06, ♡18

Perm
"Actually, he was talking about 'freezing the conflict', not 'giving away land'. Why are you spreading fakes here?" — October 21 at 19:45, ♡3

↳ *Reply: "Nikolai, and why would he need to freeze the conflict if Ukraine is winning, or has something happened?" — October 21 at 19:58*

Some went further and began comparing Russian retellings with the original statements. For example, in Samara Oblast commenters noticed that the word "draft dodgers" had appeared in a report about Ukrainians returning from abroad, although it was not in the original quote.

Samara

"Anyone who studied English for 10 years. Translate what they're saying there, please" — October 21 at 14:57, ♡8

↳ *Reply: "Host: Do you agree to a peace agreement? Will you freeze everything as it is at the moment? Despite the fact that you control 75% of the country, regardless of the pre-war borders, do you agree to leave everything as it is now?*
Zelensky: Yes, we must freeze everything as it is now, and I think this is a real step toward ending this war" — October 21 at 15:10, ♡30

The bill on fines for failure to comply with decisions of regional authorities and operational headquarters

The Russian government submitted a bill back on 20 August that proposes adding to the Code of Administrative Offenses liability for failure to comply with decisions of a regional head or of an operational headquarters created at the level of a federal subject by decision of the president. The explanatory materials refer to public order and security, mobilization measures, the needs of the Russian army, other armed formations, authorities and the population in the conditions of the war, which Russian documents call the "Special Military Operation".

The bill provides for fines of 3–5 thousand rubles for citizens; 30–50 thousand rubles or disqualification for one to three years for officials; 300 thousand–1 million rubles or suspension of activities for up to 90 days for legal entities. The statute of limitations is proposed to be set at three years. At the federal level, similar liability already exists for territories under martial law, while the bill extends the mechanism to decisions of regional headquarters under other response regimes.

On 19 October, the relevant committee recommended adopting the bill in the first reading. On 27 October, the State Duma adopted the bill in the first reading.

Main discussions

Many commenters discussed the news of fines for failure to comply with mobilization-related decisions through the prism of a possible new wave of mobilization. Most often they recalled the authorities' earlier assurances that there would be none, and drew parallels with other decisions that had also been denied at the time.

Rostov

"Well, nothing else was to be expected from the big windbag. If he's been lying for 26 years, why would he tell the truth about mobilization." — October 19 at 20:59, ♡48

There were also many questions about what exactly the operational headquarters will be able to demand. People worried whether they could be forced to hand over a car, transfer business resources or restrict citizens' freedom of movement, which is "guaranteed by the Constitution". They discussed whether the state has the right to demand that citizens fulfill their "duty" if they themselves do not feel sufficient support from it in difficult life situations.

Krasnodar

"And how is 'meeting the needs of the army' supposed to be understood? Has the country run out of supplies, so that now citizens have to help supply their own army?" — October 21 at 5:17, ♡22

↳ Reply: "Buck, state institutions have long been collecting warm clothes, food, etc. Voluntarily-compulsorily, of course😉" — October 21 at 8:27, ♡14

↳ Reply: "Buck, and what about the money stolen in the Ministry of Defense?" — October 22 at 13:47, ♡27

Krasnodar

"There are 450 useless people sitting in the State Duma who can't cope with their job" — October 24 at 11:56, ♡95

↳ Reply: "Misha, and there's also the parliament, the senate, the Federation Council, the lower parliament, deputies of krais, oblasts, cities, districts, settlements 😂😂😂and also assistants and all sorts of scumbags.... The number, bro, is waaaaay bigger" — October 24 at 14:46, ♡43

Rostov

"I'd really like to see the children of Putin, Medvedev, Mishustin, Matviyenko and so on down the list at the front" — October 19 at 22:19, ♡85

Temporarily Occupied Crimea

"When will they fine those who come up with this for failing to perform their official duties? If you check after a year how many laws this or that party has passed or introduced, you could kick them out straight away." — October 19 at 20:19, ♡21

"Mobilize all of United Russia together with their offspring, and we'll cover all the needs of the army. And leave the people alone" — October 19 at 19:35, ♡45

There were also those who saw nothing unusual in the new rules. They considered it preparation in case of a further escalation of the war. Some even supported fines for those who do not want to "defend the motherland".

2. The week in Russian regional "VKontakte" and "Telegram"

Resonant news of the week

1. *Closure of underused hospitals*

The proposal to close underused hospitals was received negatively. Commenters asked how patients would get to large hospitals without proper transport, whether ambulances would arrive in time and whether there would be enough beds in city hospitals, which already have queues.

Many recalled the earlier "optimization" of schools, kindergartens and transport routes and feared that cutting the medical network would make life in small settlements even harder.

Instead of saving on hospitals, the public more often proposed cutting spending on officials and the state apparatus.

Perm
"I wish this comrade would get a heart attack with the hospital 300 kilometers away! He wouldn't be saying such crap!!!" — October 19 at 16:56, ♡184

"Better to get rid of inefficient officials." — October 19 at 17:19, ♡109

"They should steal less budget money so there's enough" — October 19 at 17:05, ♡63

Kaluga
"Your shitty optimization has already led to people waiting for an ambulance from 3 hours to 2 days" — October 20 at 10:29, ♡20

Omsk
"It's the deputies that need cutting, Russia doesn't need so many freeloaders" — October 19 at 23:07, ♡137

Kemerovo Oblast
"Budget money comes from the taxes people pay. And there's no money for these people, the very money they put into the budget. Go figure. Where is it spent then?))" — October 20 at 18:11, ♡31

Saratov

"To implement this program, I propose resettling the senators to remote villages of Russia. Look, then hospitals won't be closed, and roads will get built. They'll breed piggies, register the chickens. They'll ride straight to the Duma with their hens." — October 21 at 11:01, ♡71

2. Drone attacks

Drone attacks remained the most widespread topic. Public pages reported alerts, explosions, air defense activity, debris, airport restrictions and communication outages. In the comments, the public was most concerned about how useful the warning itself is. Some demanded sirens and voice announcements instead of belated SMS messages, others asked what to do after the signal. The main problem is that even a timely warning does little good if there is no accessible shelter nearby. People discussed closed and unequipped basements and cases when the nearest suggested place of protection was a metro station. So the complaints were no longer so much about the sirens themselves as about the lack of a clear place where one can actually take shelter during an attack.

- **20 October, Temporarily Occupied Donetsk region.** In the center of occupied Donetsk, infrastructure of the operator "Ugletelecom" was damaged, causing outages of electricity, internet and television. People discussed the lack of communications and power and the constant attacks. Throughout the day, public page administrators actively deleted comments and in some cases closed commenting completely.
- **23 October, Nizhny Novgorod Oblast.** It was reported that three people were injured as a result of an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle attack, residential buildings and infrastructure were damaged, and transport was disrupted. In the comments, people discussed where it hit and how hard. They criticized the authorities for starting the "hustle", complained about air defense operating over residential areas, and expressed fatigue with the fighting and hope for peace.
- **25 October, Lipetsk Oblast.** As a result of a missile strike on the industrial zone of Yelets, the "Energiya" enterprise, which produces batteries and power cells for military equipment, was hit. Russians discussed the lack of shelters, criticized the work of air defense and aviation, doubted official data on casualties and feared chemical air pollution. Messages calling for retaliatory strikes on Ukraine and Great Britain were also actively shared.

Lipetsk Oblast

"Why isn't the medical college being moved away from the military plant??? Children study there, there could be a tragedy ....in Luchok the building of the former medical school is falling apart....." — October 25 at 17:48, ♡26

Lipetsk Oblast

"Why lie about the injured? Thousands work at the plant and only one? From two workshops smashed to smithereens? According to them, at least 25 injured. I'm afraid to imagine how many dead. People want to know the truth" — October 25 at 19:19, ♡76

Lipetsk Oblast

"If it's that kind of missile, then judging by the description it was launched from a plane, it's 300-350 km from us to the border, at that speed it flies about 20 minutes, so where is our much-vaunted aviation? So much for our skies being protected. Where are all our planes?" — October 25 at 19:57, ♡56

Lipetsk Oblast

"FFS. People were left without housing and money, with mortgage debts, yet taxes keep being raised and raised like crazy. They pay for security in the country and in the end it's zero. Renovated apartments like these cost 15 million and up ...now" — October 22 at 18:08, ♡57

3. Fuel

The fuel problem remained ambiguous. Public pages wrote about the stabilization of supplies and a possible drop in prices, but in the comments users cited their own examples from filling stations and claimed they did not see cheaper petrol. They recalled several increases in a short time and stressed that a small drop after a sharp jump does not yet mean that fuel has really become cheaper.

Distrust was reinforced by news of the sale of Russian diesel abroad. People discussed why fuel is being exported if high prices and supply disruptions persist at home.

So even the disappearance of queues was not perceived as a complete solution to the problem. People wanted to know whether the limits would be lifted, what the quality of the fuel would be and whether prices would return at least to their previous level.

Perm

"In Venezuela it's 1.5 rubles per liter!!! Iran, Libya: 2-3 rubles per liter!!! Are we lamer than these countries?? No, the bureaucrats are greedier than in these countries!!! They extract and export just the same, only there it's 3 rubles, here it's 90 rubles, and the rest envy us!!!!!!😆😆 As they say, listen to Shaman's latest song and calm down 🤞 😁😁" — October 18 at 7:36, ♡14

Samara

"They sold their diesel to the States cheaper, and bought imported diesel for themselves at a higher price. The question 'why' is withdrawn as idiotic" — October 22 at 20:58, ♡57

Samara

"Awesome, they're selling diesel, and I have to cover the losses on transporting what they sell. Then why doesn't anyone pay me when I go to the store for groceries?!" — October 22 at 21:55, ♡42

4. 6 years for a comment

A bill on tougher punishment for calls to riots and justification of terrorism was registered in the State Duma.

In this proposal, the majority saw the authorities' fear of the people. They assumed that the authorities themselves expect discontent to grow and are therefore tightening punishment

in advance. What was particularly alarming was that online statements were mentioned alongside violence and riots. People feared that punishment could apply not only to real calls for violence, but also to old posts, jokes or emotional comments. They discussed who would decide, and by what criteria, where ordinary criticism or peaceful protest ends and a crime begins.

At the same time, part of the audience supported tougher rules. They recalled the Ukrainian Maidan and explained the new restrictions by the need to prevent a similar scenario in Russia.

Moscow
"How afraid they are of the people's wrath! And the time for it is approaching!" — October 21 at 3:22, ♡175

5. Heating season

With the start of the heating season, the regions simultaneously complained about cold radiators, breakdowns and, conversely, excessive heat in apartments. In the comments, people massively left the addresses of problem buildings and tried to figure out who should be responsible for the situation, since management companies, heat suppliers and local authorities often redirected complaints to one another.

Payments caused the greatest outrage. The public expected full bills even for days without heating and asked whether there would be a recalculation. People recalled summer repairs and official statements about readiness for winter, which were hard to square with breakdowns at the very start of the season.

6. First snow and frosts

The first snow and frosts brought back the usual discussions about cities' readiness for winter. While public pages advised changing tires and driving more carefully, local authorities reported on prepared equipment, de-icing agents and road services.

Comments on such reports were skeptical. People discussed previous winters when snow was not cleared for a long time and roads were excessively sprinkled with de-icing agents. Therefore, statements about "100% readiness" were compared not with official figures, but with their own experience.

Even before heavy snowfall, many expected a familiar scenario in which the center would be cleared faster than the outskirts, and the first serious snow would once again turn out to be "unexpected" for the utility services.

Methodology

What this project is. Systematic monitoring of sentiment in Russian regions — with a focus on critical and negative posts as an indicator of what irritates, frightens or outrages people. The conclusions rest on two parallel sources from monitoring regional VKontakte groups and Telegram.

VKontakte and Telegram. Automated data collection in regional Russian communities on VKontakte (536 groups) and Telegram (428 channels) — regional news channels, local public groups, oblast media, local "chat bots" with audiences ranging from several thousand to hundreds of thousands of subscribers. Coverage — all Russian regions and the occupied territories of Ukraine. Observations by regional analysts were additionally used.

Quotes in the report text are given verbatim.