



THE ECOSYSTEM OF SERBIAN FAR-RIGHT TELEGRAM CHANNELS

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KEY POINTS

- ◆ Extremist Telegram channels in Serbia predominantly promote pro-Russian, anti-Western, and anti-system narratives, creating a closed and polarising information environment;
- ◆ A higher subscriber count does not necessarily equate to greater influence – smaller channels with focused content often maintain loyal and highly engaged subscribers;
- ◆ The channel “BUNT je stanje duha” functions as a central node for content distribution, whereas channel “Princip” occupies an authoritative role with consistently high subscriber engagement;
- ◆ Excessive posting frequency can reduce subscriber engagement due to fatigue, while less frequent, high-quality, and targeted posts tend to elicit stronger interaction;
- ◆ Rapid growth of certain channels often coincides with socio-political events such as elections and protests, indicating their capacity to mobilise and exert influence during periods of crises.

INTRODUCTION

Telegram is a modern messaging application that combines ease of use with advanced features, which has contributed to its widespread popularity worldwide. Since its launch in 2013, Telegram has attracted users primarily due to its focus on privacy and security, offering robust encryption. By March 2025, Telegram had surpassed one billion monthly active users globally, confirming its status as one of the leading digital communication platforms.¹ In Serbia, there are no official statistics on user numbers, but it is estimated that tens of thousands of people use Telegram, predominantly those who value greater privacy, freedom of expression, and the additional functionalities that Telegram provides, which are less prevalent on other platforms such as WhatsApp or Viber.²

On Telegram, there are two primary types of user interactions: channels and groups, which differ in the nature of communication they facilitate. Specifically, channels operate as a one-way communication medium, where administrators post content and subscribers can only follow and react to posts. In contrast, groups enable two-way interaction among members, allowing every participant to actively engage in discussions. Channels are typically used for information dissemination, whereas groups are suited for community building and organising activities.

Although Telegram as an application offers numerous advantages, its strong encryption and flexibility have attracted not only ordinary users and businesses but also certain criminal, extremist, and terrorist groups. Terrorist organisations such as ISIS have used Telegram for propaganda dissemination and recruitment, while cybercriminals have exploited the platform for the sale of stolen data, distribution of pornographic material, and other illicit products. Additionally, extremist groups and conspiracy theorists make use of Telegram due to its relatively weaker content moderation and control compared to traditional social media platforms.³

Existing research on Telegram and extremism in Europe highlights several patterns in extremist communication on the platform. Firstly, there is a noted migration of extremists from traditional networks to Telegram due to censorship and bans. Secondly, a hierarchical communication structure is observed through central and satellite channels. Additionally, Telegram groups and channels often serve as spaces for planning and mobilising physical actions, such as protests. Closed, interlinked information circuits are formed, enabling the rapid dissemination of content. Finally, highly emotive narratives, including conspiracy theories and anti-vaccine discourse, dominate and spread “virally” thanks to the platform’s flexibility and high subscriber engagement.⁴ This global trend of Telegram’s use and abuse has not bypassed Serbia, where domestic actors also exploit the platform to promote specific extremist views and narratives.

The following text analyses the role of far-right Telegram channels in Serbia, with a focus on how they disseminate pro-Russian, anti-Western, and anti-system,⁵ or anti-democratic, messages. The text centres on nine selected channels, chosen as representative examples for analysis, examining their main themes, subscriber numbers, engagement levels, and interconnections. A dedicated section addresses the measurement of these channels’ influence through both quantitative and qualitative indicators, in order to better understand the mechanisms of digital extremism. The text concludes by summarising key findings and providing recommendations for strengthening societal resilience and countering the spread of extremist narratives via Telegram in Serbia.

CONTEXT OF EXTREMISM ON TELEGRAM IN SERBIA

Extremism can be defined as a set of ideological beliefs and attitudes that significantly diverge from broadly accepted social norms, political orientations, and values. Such deviations particularly challenge the fundamental principles of modern democracies, including tolerance, the protection of human rights, and respect for basic freedoms.⁶ While extremists do not necessarily resort to violence in every instance, they advocate for radical changes aimed at achieving their objectives, often disregarding democratic or legal frameworks. In the context of Serbia, extremism refers to nationalist, pro-Putin, and other highly radical positions directed against democracy and human rights, which are disseminated via Telegram.

An analysis by the investigative platform *Raskrikavanje* from March 2025 indicates that Telegram in Serbia, particularly during the pandemic and following the onset of the war in Ukraine, has become a key platform for the dissemination of pro-Russian, nationalist, and anti-Western narratives.⁷ The most influential channels, such as “Dejan Berić”, “BUNT je stanje duha”, and “Slovenski medved”, operate as an ideologically aligned and interconnected network. This network circulates content from Russian state media, adapting it to the local context, and promotes discourse contrary to the values of liberal democracy and Western alliances. Channels mutually promote each other, share content, and provide support, creating the impression of a social consensus. For certain accounts, such as the one managed by Dejan Berić, there is strong evidence that they also serve to recruit fighters for the Russian military.⁸ In this sense, Telegram channels function not only as propaganda tools but also as operational platforms for spreading disinformation, hate speech, extremism, and destabilisation.

On the other hand, right-wing and pro-Putin Telegram channels in Serbia framed student protests as part of a “colour revolution” orchestrated by the West. This narrative ignored the fact that the students’ demands were directed towards upholding the Constitution of Serbia, the rule of law, and European values. This finding comes from research conducted by *Radio Free Europe* in April 2025.⁹ According to this study, the channels “Vaseljenska”, “Evrozazija”, and “Nacionalna ofanziva” published over 600 posts about the protests, reaching a combined audience of millions. These posts employed emotionally charged narratives, conspiracy theories, and anti-system discourse, including accusations that the students were collaborating with foreign agents and betraying national interests. Simultaneously, right-wing groups and pro-Russian ideology were promoted, while non-violent protests were portrayed as part of a geopolitical conflict, casting the students as destabilising actors. A notable strategy was the distortion of the protests’ actual objectives to fit the pre-existing narrative of external enemies.

Based on the aforementioned research, typical patterns of manipulation characteristic of far-right Telegram channels in Serbia have been identified: systematic narrative manipulation and distortion of facts, mass and coordinated message dissemination, the use of emotionally charged language and conspiracy theories, the discrediting of civic actors, and the legitimisation of far-right groups. Telegram is utilised as an unregulated communication channel, enabling the rapid, uncontrolled, and targeted spread of disinformation. These channels also closely monitor current events, such as student protests, seeking to exploit them to their advantage. Through digital tactics, these Telegram channels influence how people perceive events and reshape their attitudes. Consequently, it is necessary and important to monitor and analyse these channels in order to understand their role and impact within the broader information space.¹⁰

SERBIAN FAR-RIGHT TELEGRAM CHANNELS

During June and July 2025, using publicly available tools, data were collected on the activity of certain Serbian extremist Telegram channels. The following channels were analysed: “БУНТ је стање духа” (“BUNT je stanje duha”, eng. Rebellion is a State of Mind), “Бункер” (“Bunker”, eng. Bunker), “Принцип” (“Princip”, eng. Principle), “КОРИДОР” (“Koridor”, eng. Corridor), “Народна Патрола” (“Narodna Patrola”, eng. People’s Patrol), “Покрет МИ - ГЛАС ИЗ НАРОДА” (“Pokret Mi – glas iz naroda”, eng. Movement We – Voice from the People), “Васељенска” (“Vaseljenska”, eng. Universal), “Србска Акција” (“Srbska Akcija”, eng. Serbian Action), and “МОБА за обнову Србије” (“Moba za obnovu Srbije”, eng. Moba for the Renewal of Serbia). These channels were selected due to their consistent and pronounced promotion of far-right, anti-Western, and anti-system narratives. While they do not represent a statistically representative sample of the entire Serbian Telegram community, they allow for the analysis of specific patterns of radical political and ideological activity by organised collective actors on the platform.

Table 1: Overview of Subscribers Numbers and Engagement Rates of Extremist Telegram Channels in Serbia

Telegram Channel	Creation Date	Subscribers	Engagement Rate	Daily Post Frequency
Србска Акција	26 February 2020	2,617	36%	1–2
БУНТ је стање духа	17 August 2020	85,746	19%	20–30
Народна Патрола	24 September 2021	10,015	43%	5
Покрет МИ - ГЛАС ИЗ НАРОДА	1 March 2023	6,551	8%	20–30
Бункер	2 March 2023	23,350	23%	25
КОРИДОР	2 April 2023	10,555	41%	7–8
Принцип	11 July 2023	13,575	71%	2–3
Васељенска	5 January 2024	4,129	15%	20–30
МОБА за обнову Србије	20 January 2024	1,854	31%	10–20

* The table presents data up until July 31, 2025. Source: TG Stat.

The activity of these channels can be categorised according to the narratives they promote (see table 2). The first group comprises channels with a strong nationalist and patriotic narrative, such as “BUNT je stanje duha”, “Narodna Patrola”, “Srbska Akcija”, and “Princip”, emphasising Serbian identity and traditional values. The second group promotes pro-Putin and anti-Western geopolitical narratives, including “Bunker”, “Koridor”, and “Vaseljenska”, expressing support for Russia and opposition to NATO and Western influence. The third group consists of “Pokret Mi – glas iz naroda” and “Moba za obnovu Srbije”, where patriotic discourse intersects with an anti-system approach, alongside the promotion of certain conspiracy theories. A common feature across all groups is a pro-Russian orientation, with the pro-Russian narrative being dominant in the second group, where channel activity is primarily based on support for Russia and confrontation with the West. Furthermore, all channels exhibit an anti-system character – expressing distrust towards institutions and the democratic order, promoting conspiracy theories and alternative authorities, and calling for resistance to the authorities and the system within a national and spiritual framework.

Within the first group of channels, characterised by an emphasis on Serbian national identity, significant differences in tone and communication style are observed. The channel “Srbska Akcija” relies on historical revisionism and ideological symbols, glorifying radical right-wing thinkers and anti-communist movements. “Narodna Patrola” promotes a narrative of self-initiated street control and distrust towards institutions, coupled with strong opposition to the presence of migrants. On “Princip”, a consistent pro-Russian propaganda narrative is developed, framing the world as divided between a “moral East” and a “decadent West,” while portraying Kosovo as a central issue for the survival of the Serbian state. “BUNT je stanje duha” disseminates nationalist, anti-Western, and conservative narratives, portraying Serbs as threatened and blaming the West for harmful influence. At the same time, it targets the LGBT community, promotes alternative media, and employs humour and emotional appeals to mobilise subscribers against the authorities and “external enemies”.

The activity of the channels “Bunker”, “Koridor”, and “Vaseljenska” follows a series of recurring patterns that position them as key actors within the digital infrastructure of pro-Russian and anti-Western narratives in Serbia. Their mutual complementarity – the ideological dimension of “Bunker”, the spiritual component of “Koridor”, and the informational function of “Vaseljenska” – enables the creation of a coherent and closed media framework. This framework operates as a counterweight to pro-European narratives and undermines trust in democratic institutions and processes in Serbia.

The Telegram channels “Moba za obnovu Srbije” and “Pokret Mi” operate within a shared narrative directed against the political system, global power structures, and European integration. Their posts feature conspiracy theories, sharp criticism of institutions, and calls for popular mobilisation outside formal political frameworks. A central element of their sovereignist frame is Kosovo, presented as the core issue of Serbian statehood, with a consistent rejection of international agreements, which is regularly emphasised in their content. The channels rely on deep distrust of both the authorities and the opposition, portraying the political order as a systemic deception. Within this context, a pronounced anti-Western narrative is also evident, with frequent messages rejecting European values. Additionally, both channels emphasise a return to traditional order, drawing on themes from Serbian culture and Orthodoxy.

Thus, all three groups of channels share a similar ideological framework. In their narrative, the world is presented in binary terms: on one side, Russia, Orthodoxy, and the people are portrayed as symbols of truth and resistance, while on the other, the West, democracy, and domestic institutions are depicted as sources of betrayal and moral decay. The channels express deep distrust towards the democratic system, delegitimise institutions, and promote alternative authorities, such as spiritual awakening, the will of the people, or “hidden truth”. Therefore, it is important to monitor how many people follow and engage with their posts in order to understand the reach and influence of these channels.

REACH AND INFLUENCE OF SERBIAN FAR-RIGHT TELEGRAM CHANNELS

The narratives disseminated by these extremist channels exert a significant influence on the political and value orientations of Serbian citizens, as documented by research from *Radio Free Europe* and the investigative platform *Raskrikavanje*. In other words, the impact of Serbian far-right Telegram channels can be assessed through a combination of quantitative and qualitative indicators. Quantitatively, this involves monitoring subscriber numbers, posting frequency and intensity, and the level of subscriber engagement – with particular attention to changes during periods of social crisis. Qualitatively, the analysis focuses on the presence of conspiracy theories, disinformation, and anti-democratic narratives. An important indicator of influence is also the channels’ ability to reshape the interpretation of events – such as the ongoing student protests – through the lens of conspiracies and internal enemies.

The channel “BUNT je stanje duha” has the largest number of subscribers, nearly 86,000, making it the most followed among the analysed channels (see table 1). Other channels, such as “Bunker”, “Princip”, “Koridor”, and “Narodna Patrola”, show steady growth, with subscriber numbers ranging between 23,000 and 10,000. Smaller channels, including “Srbska Akcija”, “Vaseljenska”, “Moba za obnovu Srbije”, and “Pokret Mi”, have fewer than 10,000 subscribers.

In terms of subscriber engagement, the channel “Princip” records an exceptionally high engagement rate of 71%, indicating strong interaction between subscribers and the content posted. “Narodna Patrola” and “Koridor” also show significant engagement, at 43% and 41% respectively, suggesting that subscribers regularly consume and respond to the content. Slightly lower, yet still notable, engagement rates are observed for “Srbska Akcija” (36%) and “Moba za obnovu Srbije” (31%). In contrast, “Vaseljenska” and “Pokret Mi” exhibit considerably lower engagement levels. These data confirm that subscriber numbers alone are not a decisive indicator of influence – smaller channels can achieve a disproportionately large impact on message dissemination and narrative shaping due to their engaged and loyal audiences.

For Telegram channels, engagement is measured according to the “TG Stat” methodology as the average number of views per post relative to the number of subscribers, indicating the proportion of subscribers who actually consume the content.¹¹ Unlike groups, where engagement is measured by the number of messages, comments, and active participants, this metric for channels is considered more precise, as it directly reflects content visibility among subscribers, independent of their interactions.

The founding date of a channel does not necessarily determine its influence. Some channels, such as “Srbska Akcija” and “BUNT je stanje duha”, have existed for a longer period, but this does not imply greater impact. A more recent example is “Princip”, established in mid-2023, which quickly developed a high level of subscriber engagement. This demonstrates that channels can gain influence relatively rapidly if they clearly target their audience and effectively communicate their messages. Therefore, understanding the actual reach and role of Telegram channels requires analysing not only subscriber numbers and engagement, but also the speed of development and the chronological context of their growth.

The channel “BUNT je stanje duha”, with the largest number of subscribers, has the potential for the widest reach and influence on public opinion. In contrast, “Princip”, with a significantly smaller subscriber base, demonstrates high follower loyalty and potential for strong influence within its target audience. Similarly, “Narodna Patrola”, due to its involvement in on-the-ground events and its compelling narratives, combines digital presence with physical activism.¹² Taken together, subscriber numbers, engagement, and capacity for public action provide a more comprehensive and accurate assessment of the influence of Telegram channels within the current political-media landscape.

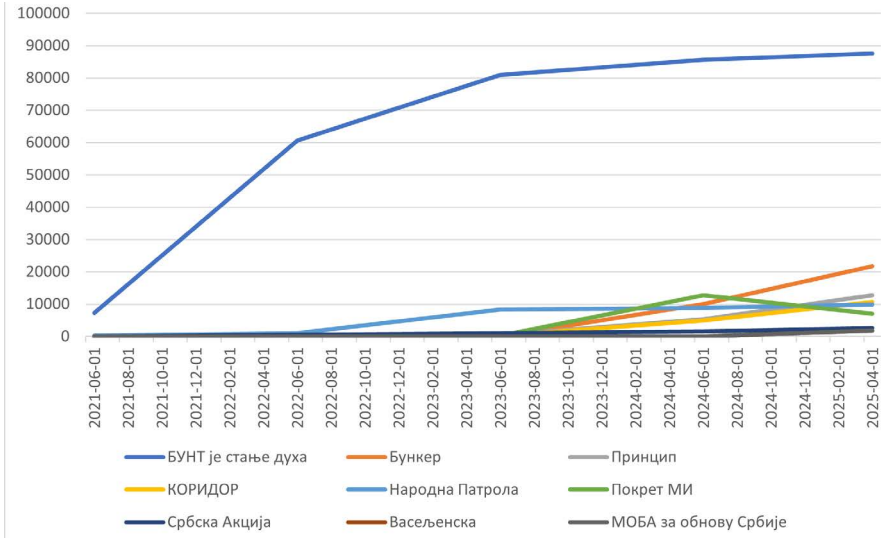


Figure 1: Growth of Subscribers on Extremist Telegram Channels in Serbia, 2021–2025
 Source: TG Stat.

Based on the data presented, a number of questions arise that are crucial for understanding the actual operation and influence of these channels. First, why do larger channels record lower engagement rates, even though, given their subscriber numbers, higher engagement would be expected? Next, what circumstances have led to the rapid growth of subscribers on certain channels? It is also important to consider all factors affecting subscriber engagement, such as posting frequency, content type, communication dynamics, and the presence of automated accounts. Determining how these channels operate – how content is created, published, and promoted – is also significant. Given the grouping of channels according to the narratives they promote, questions arise regarding their interconnections and the relationships they establish within the analysed ecosystem. Furthermore, it is important to examine how they interact with other ideologically aligned channels across the broader Telegram network.

Table 2: Characteristics of Serbian Far-Right Telegram Channels

Telegram Channels	Ideological Orientation	Presence on Other Platforms	Network of Connected Channels	Key Features
Србска Акција	Nationalist	Website and social media	Separate	Historical revisionism, anti-communist tone
БУНТ је стање духа	Nationalist	No website	Central node of far-right channels	Strong nationalist tone
Народна Патрола	Nationalist	No website	Network of local Telegram groups	Organises protests and street actions, anti-migrant stance
Покрет МИ - ГЛАС ИЗ НАРОДА	Anti-system	Website and social media	Separate network	People as bearers of truth
Бункер	Pro-Russian, anti-Western	No website	Connected to Koridor	Ideological focus on Russia and opposition to the West
КОРИДОР	Pro-Russian, spiritual	No website	Connected to Bunker	Emphasis on spirituality as resistance to the West
Принцип	Nationalist	Portal	Connected to Bunker	High subscriber engagement
Васељенска	Pro-Russian, news portal	Portal	Separate ecosystem	Regular posts from the portal
МОБА за обнову Србије	Anti-system	Website and social media	Separate ecosystem	Popular mobilisation

On Telegram, the relationship between subscriber numbers and their engagement is an important indicator of a channel's authenticity and real influence. While subscriber count measures potential reach, only metrics such as views, comments, shares, and reactions reveal how actively subscribers engage with content. Although one might expect larger channels to exhibit higher engagement, in practice the opposite is often true – larger channels generally record lower engagement because many subscribers do not interact regularly with the content.¹³ Channels with 20–60% views per post typically represent a loyal and engaged community.¹⁴ Conversely, if a channel has tens of thousands of subscribers but only a few hundred views, this may indicate purchased accounts, a shift in content focus, or declining interest.¹⁵ Beyond numerical metrics, content format also plays a crucial role. Simple, visually appealing formats – such as short video clips – tend to encourage interaction more effectively than longer textual posts.¹⁶

An interesting inverse case involves channels with a small number of subscribers but a high number of views. This may indicate a closely connected subscriber community or the “viral” dissemination of content beyond the platform itself. Such a discrepancy does not signal a problem; rather, it points to potentially strong content and influence that exceeds the numerical size of the community.

It is important to note that, unlike networks such as Instagram and TikTok, which use algorithmic filters – mechanisms that show users only content deemed relevant by the algorithm – Telegram displays all posts from channels to which users are subscribed, in chronological order and without selection. Consequently, a decline in subscriber engagement is a direct signal of lost attention, content inefficiency, or community inauthenticity. Therefore, engagement rate is a more reliable indicator of active subscribers than the total number of followers. A combination of high subscriber numbers and high engagement indicates a healthy, organic community, while a pronounced discrepancy warrants further analysis – has the channel become irrelevant, neglected, or artificially inflated?¹⁷

The rapid increase in subscribers on certain channels is most often the result of specific socio-political circumstances, such as elections, protests, crises, or extraordinary events. In this context, among the smaller analysed channels, “Pokret Mi” stands out, as it reached nearly 17,000 subscribers in January 2024 (see figure 1). Its growth is linked to its success in the parliamentary elections in December 2023, when the movement passed the electoral threshold and entered the National Assembly. The subsequent decline in subscriber numbers is likely due to internal divisions within the movement.

Posting frequency significantly affects subscriber engagement. An excessive number of posts can lead to fatigue, prompting subscribers to mute notifications, remaining formally subscribed but practically inactive. For example, channels such as “Vaseljenska” and “BUNT je stanje duha” publish up to 30 posts per day, which can overwhelm followers. In contrast, “Princip” posts two to three times daily and records the highest engagement.

Among the analysed Telegram channels, only “Princip”¹⁸ and “Vaseljenska”¹⁹ operate active media portals. Only “Vaseljenska” regularly publishes content from its namesake portal, which explains its high posting frequency. Channels such as “BUNT je stanje duha”, “Bunker”, “Koridor”, and “Narodna Patrola” do not have their own websites and operate exclusively through Telegram. “Pokret Mi”,²⁰ “Moba za obnovu Srbije”,²¹ and “Srbska Akcija”²² maintain websites and profiles on other social media platforms. These differences reflect distinct communication strategies, ranging from media-organised structures to operations conducted solely via Telegram channels.

Some channels have developed a network of local channels and groups, as is the case with “Narodna Patrola” and “Pokret Mi”. This network facilitates information sharing, coordination of activities, and mobilisation of members at the local level. In this regard, “Narodna Patrola” stands out for organising numerous protests and street actions, during which its members carried out so-called citizen arrests, attacked journalists, and intimidated migrants. Channels such as “Bunker”, “Koridor”, “Princip”, “Vaseljenska”, “Srbska Akcija”, and “BUNT je stanje duha” operate in a centralised manner, without a noticeable network of local branches.

INTERCONNECTIVITY OF SERBIAN EXTREMIST TELEGRAM CHANNELS

The interconnectivity within the analysed Telegram ecosystem can be most clearly identified using figures generated by the “TG Stat” tool, which illustrate the network of channels through the number of mutual mentions. A mention occurs when one channel references another in its posts – through sharing, quoting, or directing attention. On the left side of the figure, marked with green lines, incoming mentions indicate how many times other channels have referenced the central channel. On the right side, blue lines show outgoing mentions, representing which channels the central channel itself has referenced.

The total number of mentions and the channels involved allow for an assessment of a channel's position within the network – how recognised it is and which channels it highlights – providing valuable insights for analysing propaganda patterns and communication strategies.

The figures of the “BUNT je stanje duha” and “Princip” channels are explained below. These channels were selected because “BUNT je stanje duha” has the largest number of subscribers, while “Princip” demonstrates the highest engagement rate among its followers. Additionally, they were chosen to illustrate that a channel's connectivity on Telegram can vary according to specific criteria: a channel with a larger subscriber base typically offers diverse content covering multiple topics, reflected in more frequent mentions of other channels, whereas a channel with higher engagement delivers focused and targeted content tailored to the interests of an active and loyal community.

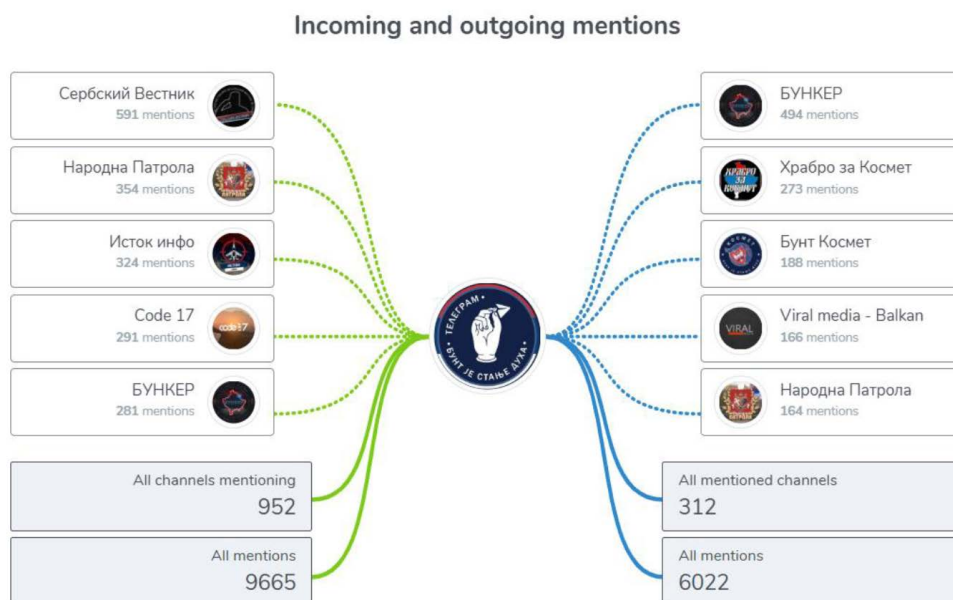


Figure 2: “BUNT je stanje duha” as a central node in the network of right-wing Telegram channels
Source: TG Stat, 31 July 2025.

The “BUNT je stanje duha” channel functions as a central node through which content from other ideologically aligned channels is distributed (see figure 2). Posts from “Bunker”, “Koridor”, and “Narodna Patrola” are frequently shared on “BUNT”, and, in turn, they also repost content from this channel. This creates a closed information loop and a system of mutual promotion. The “Vaseljenska” and “Pokret Mi” channels do not participate in this exchange and belong to a separate, pro-Russian Telegram ecosystem. They operate as distributors of content from Russian sources, independently of domestic channels. A similar pattern is observed with “Srbska Akcija”, which operates within an ideologically closed, nationalist-oriented environment.

On the other hand, the channel “Princip” plays an important role in the network of extremist Telegram channels in Serbia, but in a different way from the others (see figure 3). While many other channels frequently mention it, it rarely shares content from others. This indicates that “Princip” is recognized as an authority and a reference point for other channels, while primarily focusing on its own content. Its messages are clear and strong, which drives active engagement from its followers. Therefore, the success of Serbian extremist Telegram channels depends on a combination of audience size and engagement quality. Some, like “BUNT je stanje duha”, build influence through diverse content and network visibility, whereas others, such as “Princip”, achieve a strong impact with focused and ideologically clear messaging.

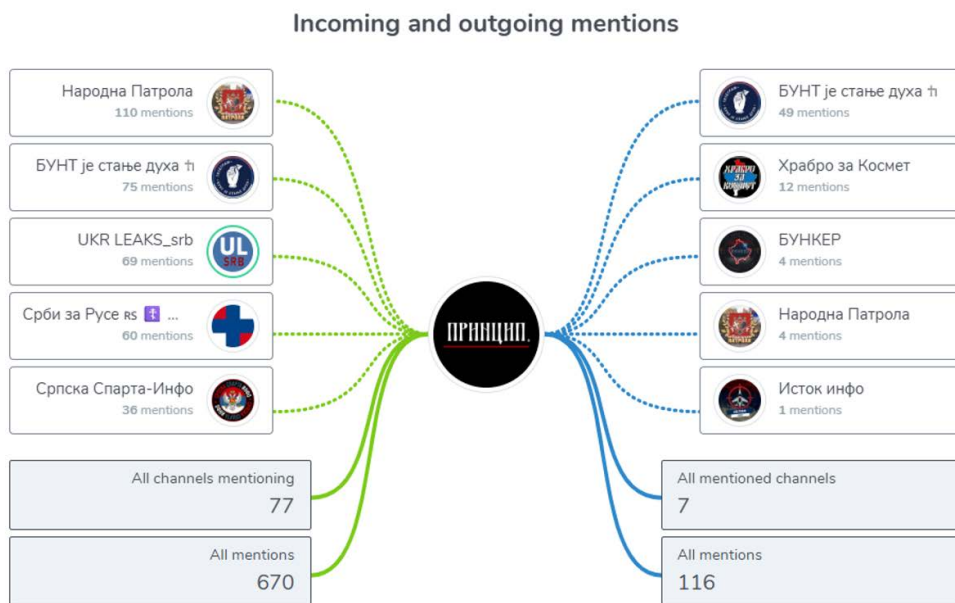


Figure 3: Relationship of the channel “Princip” with other Telegram channels

Source: TG Stat, 31 July 2025.

CONCLUSION WITH RECOMMENDATIONS

The ecosystem of far-right Telegram channels in Serbia is not merely a digital space for content exchange but functions as a parallel informational and ideological network. Analysis of nine such channels shows that they form closed communities that spread anti-democratic ideas, undermine trust in democratic institutions, and present a distorted view of reality. Although operating outside mainstream media, these channels can exert a significant influence on the attitudes of thousands of people – particularly those who feel neglected or betrayed by the system. A key finding indicates that channels with a moderate number of posts and high follower engagement are the most effective at spreading content, as they manage to build a loyal and active community. The influence of these channels is not limited to the digital sphere. Some, such as “Nardna Patrola” and “Pokret Mi”, have the capacity for physical mobilization – through organizing protests, street actions, and targeting dissenters – thereby blurring the line between digital extremism and real-world political activity.

These channels also transmit and amplify geopolitical narratives. Their focus is on pro-Russian and anti-Western messages, which often align with the interests of authoritarian foreign actors, primarily Russia. In this way, Telegram becomes a channel for external political influence. It serves as a space where anti-Western positions are articulated, Serbia’s European path is delegitimized, and narratives aligned with Kremlin interests are promoted. Some of the analysed channels form the core of Serbia’s anti-system scene, presenting themselves as the voice of the people against “traitors” and “the system,” thereby further deepening the divide between institutions and citizens.

Extremism on Telegram in Serbia is not an isolated phenomenon but rather a symptom of a broader societal context – marked by political polarization, institutional erosion, and growing distrust in democratic values. Therefore, addressing these narratives requires a comprehensive response – ranging from the enhancement of digital and media literacy, to more proactive institutional communication, and collaboration with technology platforms and international partners. Without such a response, there is a significant risk that Telegram channels could become drivers of deeper social radicalization, political system destabilization, and Serbia’s drift away from contemporary democratic norms.

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