



27 November 2024

Following Romania's recent elections, I would like to reaffirm TikTok's unwavering commitment to providing a safe, transparent, and trustworthy digital space for the 8 million Romanians on our platform. On TikTok, people come together to learn, discover, and connect, and safeguarding their privacy, security, and safety is our highest priority.

A number of misleading and false reports have raised questions about TikTok's role during this recent election that distort the comprehensive measures we implemented to support the electoral process in Romania. Notably, most candidates actively engaged with Romanians broadly across various digital platforms, not just TikTok. Please, let me assure you that TikTok has undertaken exhaustive steps to ensure platform integrity before, during, and after elections.

Our election strategy is built around three core pillars. First, we protect the integrity of elections by removing harmful misinformation about civic and electoral processes, partnering with fact-checkers to assess content accuracy, and labelling claims that cannot be verified. Second, we empower people by connecting them with information from trusted sources, helping them to separate fact from fiction. Finally, we partner with experts to counter emerging threats and support election integrity worldwide.

As evidence of this work, I'd like to offer the following figures from September to November of this year:

- We removed over 66,000 fake accounts, 7 million fake likes, and 10 million fake followers.
- We also prevented 40 million fake likes and blocked more than 216,000 spam accounts from being created in the first place.
- To date, we have found no evidence of a Covert Influence Operation on our platform within the last several weeks for the ongoing presidential election in Romania, nor evidence of foreign influence.
- In our monthly Covert Influence Operation report for September, we disclosed that

we disrupted a network targeting a Romanian audience, although it was separate from and played no role in elevating Georgescu's campaign.

- While some have alleged the presence of 5,000 fake accounts linked to election interference, our investigations have found no evidence to substantiate this.

Nonetheless, we remain fully available to collaborate with Romanian authorities to investigate and address any concerns.

Ahead of the elections, we worked proactively to elevate authoritative information and empower users to counter misinformation. In partnership with the Romanian Electoral Commission, we launched an in-app Election Centre, providing reliable election information to our users. Additionally, we collaborated with Funky Citizens, a respected local NGO, to deliver a digital literacy campaign aimed at helping Romanians identify and navigate disinformation online.

Our prioritisation of safety is further demonstrated by our investment in it - \$2bn this year alone. More than 6,000 people are dedicated to moderating content across the EU, including in Romanian, ensuring TikTok remains a secure and welcoming platform for all users. Our Community Guidelines strictly prohibit political advertisements and these rules are rigorously enforced. For instance, we removed over 150 impersonation accounts linked to Mr Călin Georgescu, as well as more than 650 additional impersonation accounts related to other candidates, with most of them being removed during the campaign. These actions underscore our commitment to maintaining a level playing field and protecting platform integrity.

Beyond elections, TikTok's flagship data security programme, Project Clover, ensures the highest standards of data privacy and security for European users. Earlier this year, we presented Project Clover to Romanian officials, highlighting how independent oversight by NCC Group, a leading European cybersecurity company, ensures transparency, accountability, and continuous monitoring of our data practices. This initiative reflects an unmatched level of transparency and accountability in our industry.

TikTok is committed to building trust with governments, institutions, and communities, including here in Romania, where millions of users benefit from our platform. We remain fully available to work closely with Romanian authorities to address any concerns and

continue supporting a safe and reliable digital space during critical democratic moments. We are eager to build on our existing partnerships and ensure that TikTok continues to contribute positively to this ecosystem.

Thank you for your attention to these matters. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this further with your office or other relevant stakeholders in Romania.

Yours faithfully,

Jakub Olek

Director of Government Relations for Central and Eastern Europe

TikTok

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jakub Olek". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.