

Russia's Skeptical Youth is Getting a Kremlin News Site

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Kremlin Press Service

The Russian government has earmarked \$3.5 million for a news service for children, as the Kremlin struggles to formulate a youth strategy ahead of the 2018 presidential election.

Young Russians were the face of mass anti-corruption rallies organized by opposition leader Alexei Navalny earlier this year. The Kremlin is seen as having failed to mobilize Russia's youth ahead of the vote next March.

Russians between 8 and 16 will soon be able to get their news from a joint project between the state-run TASS news agency and the Education and Science Ministry, the agency [said](#) Tuesday.

Education Minister Olga Vasilyeva first [disclosed](#) plans to launch "TASS for kids" over the summer.

TASS spokesman Dmitry Pertsev said the new platform will present news in an "accessible

and understandable language.”

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“Its task is to collect the most interesting and important Russian and world news for schoolchildren,” Pertsev said on Tuesday.

TASS will receive subsidies totaling 210 million rubles (\$3.5 million) between 2018 and 2020 to serve “socially and politically oriented” news to children.

The state plans to allocate 1.96 billion rubles (\$33 million) to the agency next year, according to the Bell news outlet.

A recent survey by the VK social network found that nearly two-thirds of young Russians get their news from VK itself, followed by other online outlets and social media.

Fewer than a quarter of those polled over the summer said they trusted the information they see on television.

The independent radio station Ekho Moskvy [dubbed](#) the project “TASSik,” a diminutive term highlighting both its child-friendliness and the low share of financing it will receive.

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