

Digital disinformation within the EU: Researcher needs and gaps – Findings from a survey

EDMO Annual Conference 2022

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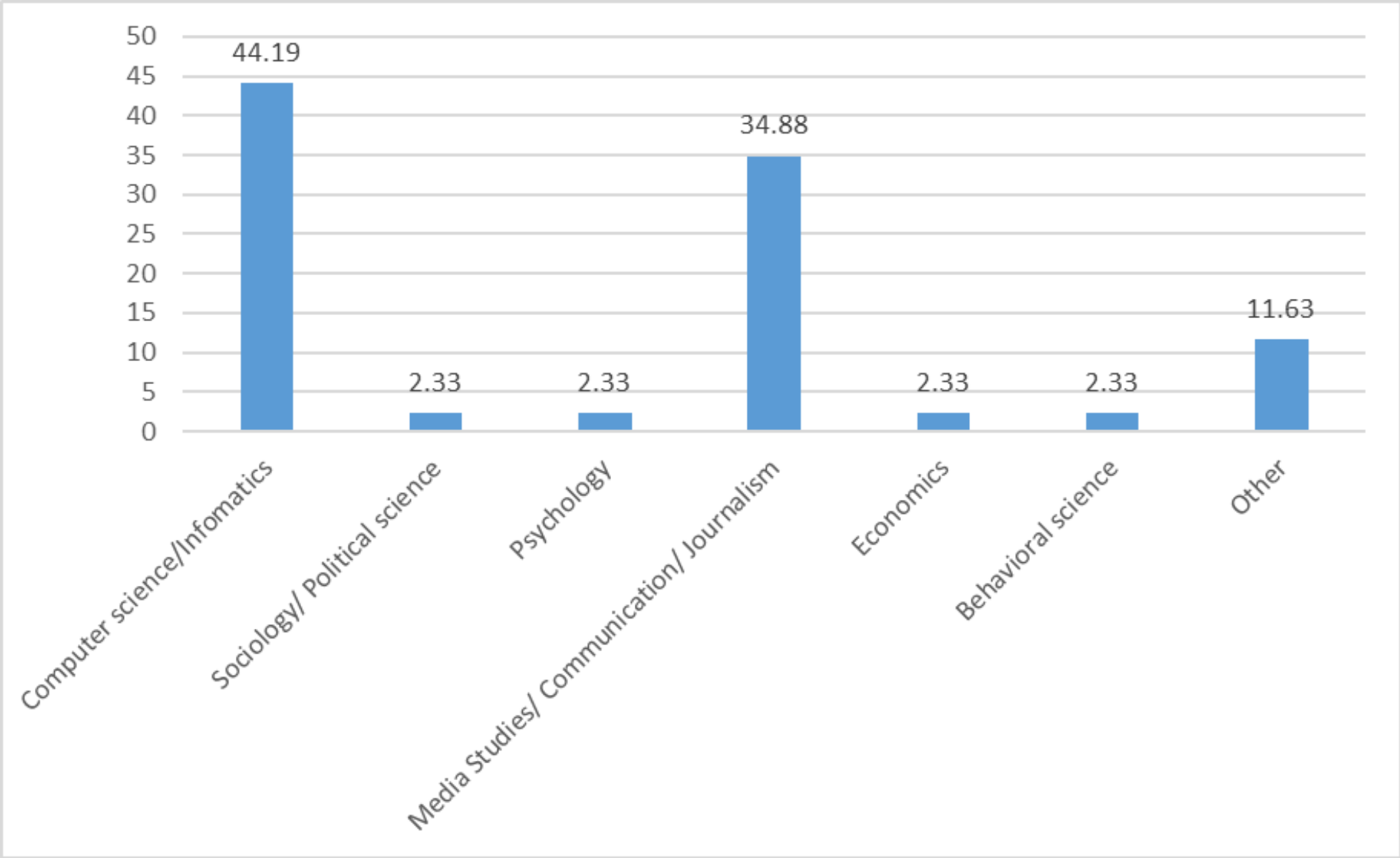


BACKGROUND

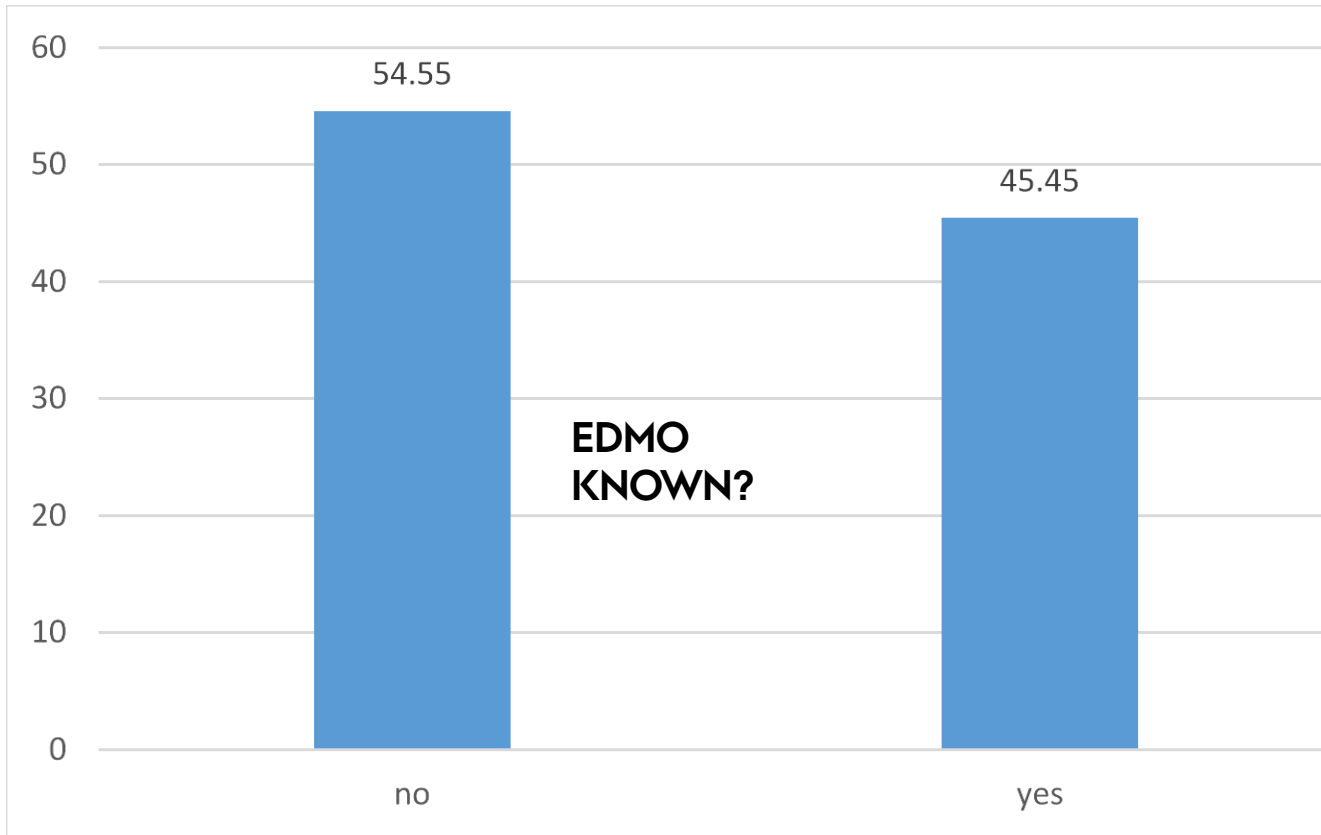
- Survey conducted with researchers: EDMO research community & authors of relevant publications
- 44 participations
- questionnaire covers different topics:
 - EDMO as a platform
 - Research focus and applied methods
 - Research gaps
 - Collaboration across disciplines
 - Fact-checking and research



BACKGROUND RESEARCHERS: FIELD



EDMO AS A PLATFORM



How EDMO could provide services to face researcher's needs:

Knowledge:

- Provide expertise
- Provide Newsletter
- Offer online webinars
- Update about events

Research facilitation:

- Facilitate data access
- Data provision
- Help to avoid overlaps in research

Collaboration:

- Facilitate collaborations/ joint research
- Provide a platform for sharing knowledge
- Facilitate network organization by area/ topic/ interest



RESEARCH FOCUS & METHODS

Majority study more than one aspect of disinformation

Research focus: majority focuses on distribution/ content

Research topic: majority focuses on politics/ media information & digital literacy

Various research areas:

Methodological improvements:

- NLP
- Computational tools
- Automatic detection
- Multimodal detection

Specific aspects:

- Trust
- Spread
- Counter disinformation
- Emotions
- Economic costs

Various methods:

Quantitative & Qualitative

- Machine learning/ deep learning
- Experiments
- Survey/ Interviews
- Ethnographic studies

Different applications

- Sentiment analysis
- Network analysis
- Content analysis

➔ Diverse research community with different needs & approaches



RESEARCH GAPS

Approaches

Multidisciplinary approaches

Longitudinal approaches

Challenges

All European languages

Prebunking

Deep Fake

Multi-modal:
e.g. video

Region

Baltic countries

Nordic countries

Eastern European countries

Central Europe

Aspects

Motivations

Context

- political
- media system
- society

Impact/implications:

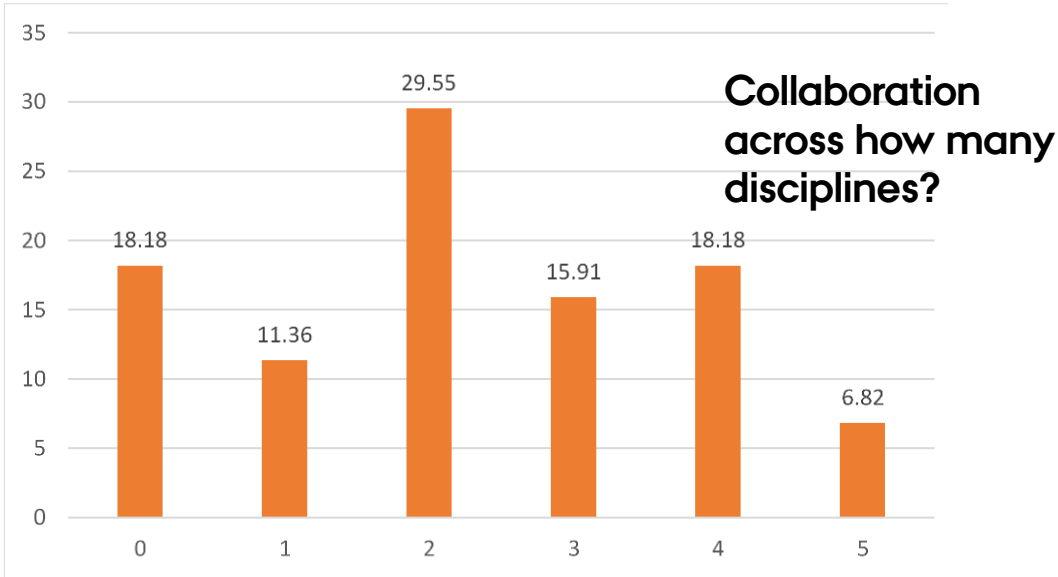
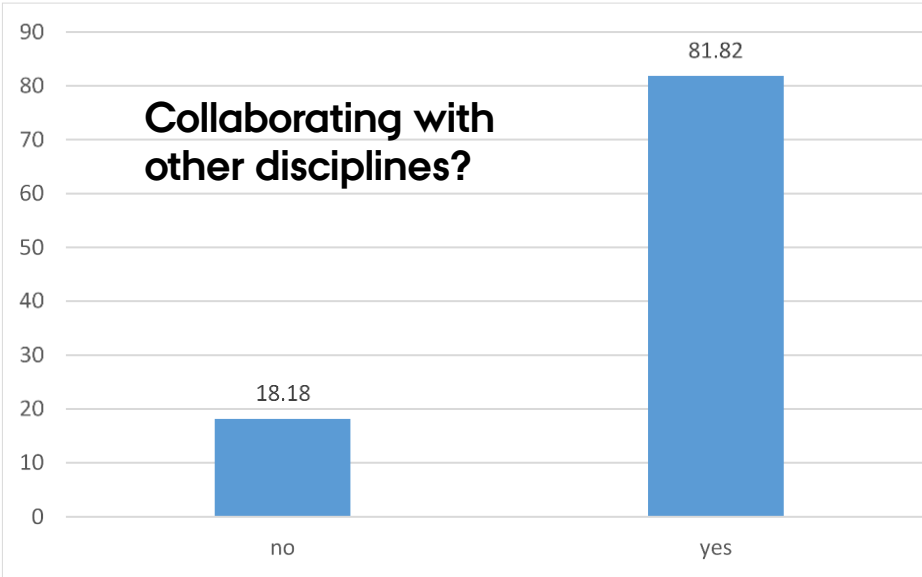
- Children/youth
- Societal costs
- Trust

Areas:

- Gender
- Sexuality
- Science



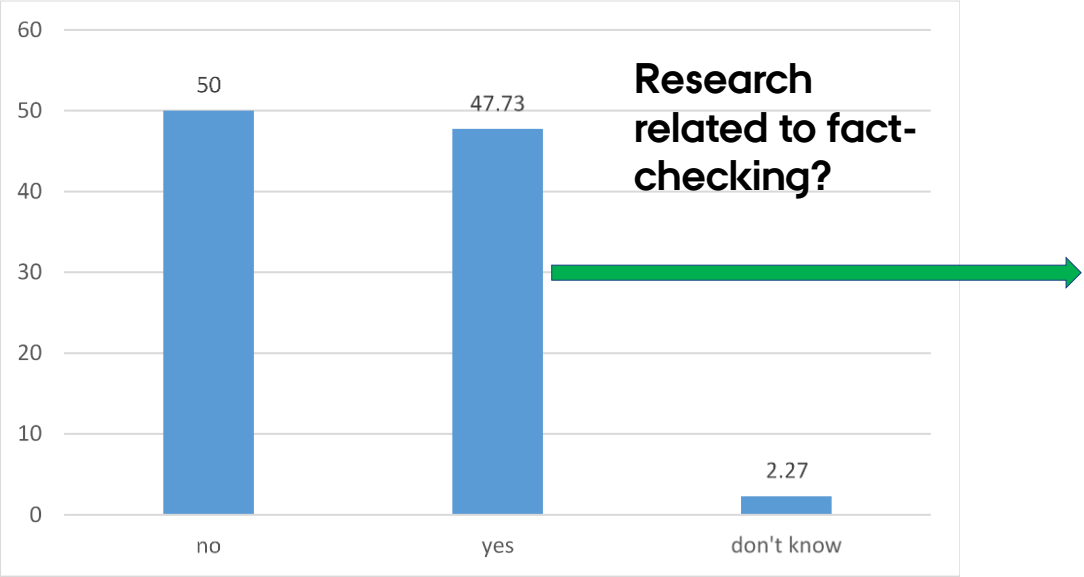
COLLABORATIONS: ACROSS DISCIPLINES



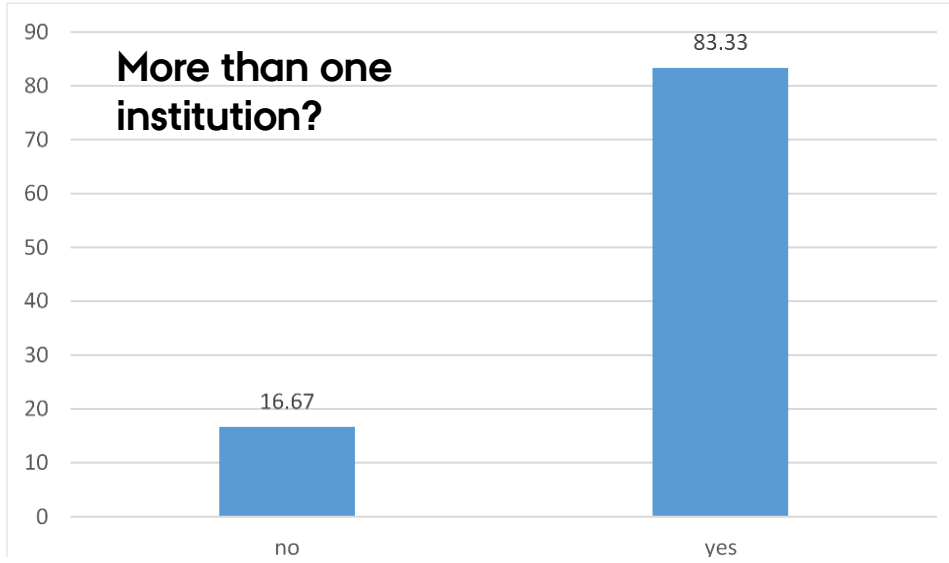
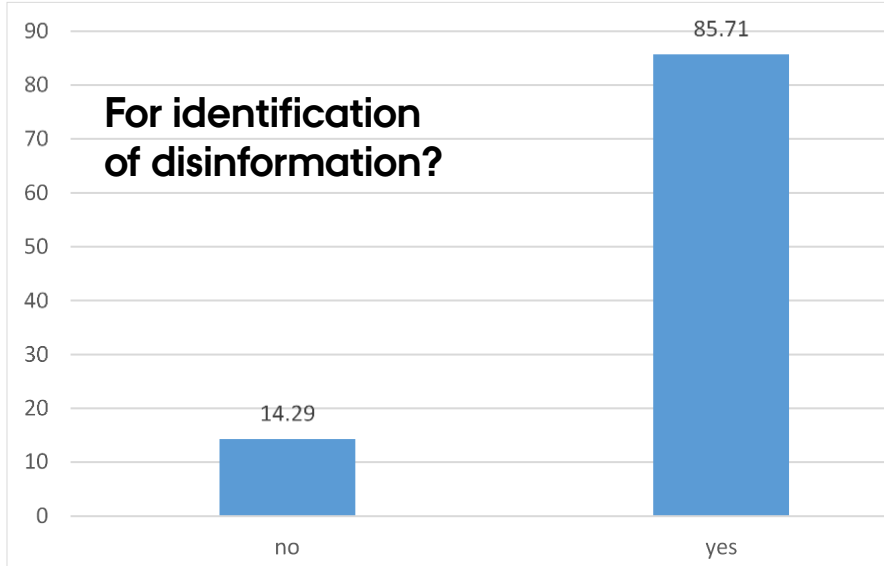
→ Collaboration a central aspect in research community



FACT-CHECKING & RESEARCH



→ For many researchers fact-checking is important



CONCLUSIONS & STEPS FORWARD

Conclusion:

- High interest in EDMO & potential for further engagement/ dissemination
- Diverse research community with various needs
- Collaborations: A central aspect that need further support
- Fact-checking integrated by many researchers

Steps Forward:

- Starting point to identify researchers' needs & common interests
- Improve and promote EDMO research platform
- Intensify engagement with many researchers





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