European Digital Media Observatory

IV.D.C: Final repository of relevant scientific articles

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Authors of the deliverable	Jessica Gabriele Walter, DATALAB, Aarhus University Petra de Place Bak, DATALAB, Aarhus University Mathias Holm Tveen, DATALAB, Aarhus University Anja Bechmann, DATALAB, Aarhus University

Executive summary:

This report focuses on results of Task IV that aims at supporting and coordinating academic research activities on disinformation in Europe by mapping relevant academic research capabilities in Europe and creating a repository with relevant peer-reviewed scientific literature on disinformation. This report will describe the creation of the final scientific repository (IV.MS.1) based on a systematic literature review and engagement with the research community. It supplements the report "IV.D.A.: Academic research on disinformation at scale in the EU" that describes in detail the approach for – and outcome of – the systematic literature search that provided the basis for the preliminary repository. This report will therefore explicitly focus on describing the implemented approach to engage with the research community for finalizing the repository that resulted in an addition of 152 publications to the repository provided by researchers of the EDMO hubs and EDMO community.

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1.0 Introduction:

The long-term aim of Task IV is to provide support and coordination for academic research activities on disinformation in the European Union. This includes the mapping of relevant academic research capabilities in the European Union and the creation of a repository with relevant peer-reviewed scientific literature on disinformation. The research team at DATALAB – Center for Digital Social Research at Aarhus University, Denmark, carries out this task. The scientific repository aims at covering publications from different academic disciplines including Computer Science and Information Studies, Behavioral Science, Social Sciences, Media Law and Economics, Communication and Media Studies, Neuroscience and Psychology, Health Care Studies, and Other. It was established in two steps: 1) a systematic literature review that provided the basis for the first release of the repository, while the included publications were assessed and updated based on the inclusion criteria since the release and 2) an expert driven update and extension of the repository by engagement with the EDMO research community. The repository provides a basis for the coordination, collaboration and information exchange between research communities within the EU.

In this report, we outline the engagement with the research community to a larger extent and highlight selected results of the final repository.

2.0 Method:

In order to update the first version of the scientific repository, we adjusted the method by not repeating the literature search but instead engaging with the research community. We did this to mitigate that the literature search a) resulted in a list of publications that did not represent all European countries to the same extent – with especially Eastern Europe and Northern Europe not being represented to a large extent, b) focused on English publications only – a criterium that might be too strict for representing research output from specific communities publishing research in national languages and c) was based on the "at scale criteria" that might also be too strict of a demand for studies that rely on smaller samples or databases. The update therefore aims at broadening the range of publications to include as many relevant publications as possible. In order to ensure relevance and a high quality of entries, we addressed the EDMO research community, namely the research partners of the EDMO hubs, to ask for publications that researchers within this community consider relevant for research of digital disinformation. Researchers of the EDMO hubs can be considered experts within research of digital disinformation, and through their networks are aware of national research efforts. Therefore, they are considered relevant sources for expanding and supplementing the scientific repository. A further step to ensure relevance, was the reliance on specified criteria that resembled the criteria of the literature search to a large extent to facilitate continuity and guide the researchers to identifying relevant publications. We contacted all EDMO hubs – the Ireland hub; the Central European Digital Media Observatory (CEDMO); the Iberian Digital Media Research and Fact-Checking Hub (IBERIFIER); the NORdic

observatory for digital media and information DISorders (NORDIS); the Belgium-Luxembourg Research Hub on Digital Media and Disinformation (EDMO BELUX); the DE FACTO Observatory of Information; the Italian Digital Media Observatory (IDMO); and the Belgium-Netherlands Digital Media and Disinformation Observatory (BENEDMO) – and EDMO related projects – CALYPSO; Viral Conspiracy: Quanon; CrossOver; DIGIRES; Faktum.hu; FENCE; Pro-fact; – via at least one contact person with an invitation email (see appendix A1) and a reminder (see appendix A2) in April 2022. Furthermore, we invited the Advisory Board of EDMO and researchers of EUI associated to EDMO to also provide input. All contacts were encouraged to forward the invitation to other researchers within the community. The invitation date – close to the date for finalizing the repository – was chosen to enable inclusion of recent publications and still account for the processing of contributions. The invitation specified the main inclusion criteria, referred to the attached detailed criteria (see appendix A3), the codebook for providing information (see appendix A4) and a spreadsheet for reporting back information for publications considered to be relevant.

2.1 Criteria

The contacted researchers were encouraged to carefully read the inclusion criteria and the guideline (Codebook) for how to provide information before filling in the provided spreadsheet.
The inclusion criteria cover three main aspects – timeframe of the publications, quality and relevance. Furthermore, the criteria address language and regional aspects.

2.1.1 Timeframe

We sat the timeframe to 2015 onward. 2015 was chosen as starting point as it marks the year that the manipulation of information during the Ukraine crisis led the European Council to call for an action plan (European Union, 2015); which was published later the same year by the newly formed East StratCom Task Force. Moreover, this timeframe also includes research on the influence of digital mis- and disinformation in relation to the Brexit Campaign and the Donald Trump 2016 Presidential Campaign. Finally, 2015 was the year where the Poynter Institute established The International Fact-Checking Network (IFCN), which is the first international network to bring together fact-checkers worldwide and therefore marks an important event in the fight against mis- and disinformation.

2.1.2 Quality

As basic quality measure, we asked the researchers to only include peer-reviewed publications.

2.1.3 Relevance

We asked the researchers to include publications that match specific keywords. The keywords they should consider were divided into two categories: category one contains words related to disinformation, while category two contains country names of current or former members of the EU. To balance between identifying relevant articles only and the risk of missing articles by choosing too strict keywords, we assigned different relevance to these two categories. We determined that at least one keyword from category one should appear in the title, and that it was sufficient if at least one of the keywords from category two additionally appeared anywhere in the text. In contrast to the literature search, we extended the keyword list by the term "misleading information" in category one and "UK/ United Kingdom" in category two. Furthermore, we clarified that even though country names were listed in English in the criteria document, also the appearance of translations of country names in national languages would be considered relevant.

The terms we used in the keyword list with regard to disinformation are based on the use of terms and concepts for different types or aspects of false information in several studies that contribute to the conceptualization of "disinformation", "misinformation", "fake news" and related terms (e.g. Bechmann, Anja & O'Loughlin, Ben, 2020; Buning, 2018; Farkas & Schou, 2019; Kalsnes, 2018; Tandoc et al., 2018; Wardle, Claire & Derakhshan, Hossein, 2017). The concepts address differences, for example, regarding intentions behind the fabrication and spreading - with e.g., disinformation being intentional and misinformation not necessarily so. The keyword list is designed with the aim to capture most terms used for false information, as intentions for example are not the focus in all relevant publications and in addition, some terms sometimes are used interchangeably. Thus, category 'comprises several keywords used related to disinformation, namely: disinformation, misinformation, "fake news", malinformation, "information disorder", "false information", hoax, "misleading information" and/or "conspiracy theory".[1] In order to detect relevant studies and research activities within the European Union, category two contains all (former and current) member states and relevant abbreviations: Europe, EU, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia/ Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Ireland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Lithuania, Netherlands, Scotland, England, Wales, Great Britain, GB and/or Britain and UK/ United Kingdom.

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[1]Based on Buning et al. (2018) we use the term disinformation and misinformation more generally as "false, inaccurate, or misleading information designed, presented and promoted to intentionally cause public harm or for profit". The terms misinformation, disinformation and related terms are interchangeably hereupon.

For the set-up of the repository, the literature search and the expert-driven approach are therefore based on the same criteria for quality and timeframe with slightly adjusted criteria for relevance[2].

2.1.4 Language & Geography

The initial criteria for the literature search to exclusively include academic work published in English was broaden up in the expert-driven approach to also include relevant research published in other European languages. Furthermore, the purpose of the task is to create an overview of European academic activities that study disinformation from the viewpoint of different academic fields. The priority is therefore not to provide a comprehensive overview of research findings, but rather to identify where research is done and within which academic fields. The search was further narrowed down to research focusing on digital mis- and disinformation within the European Union (EU) and its member states. For that reason, the researchers may be based outside of the EU.

2.2 Data collection

The spreadsheet we provided for the contributions of the EDMO hubs and the EDMO research community was designed to facilitate feedback as much as possible and foster consistency across the different contributors. Therefore, it contained predefined columns and where possible also predefined answer options for the entries. In addition, the codebook for how to insert entries was included in the spreadsheet as well (see appendix A 5). We also encouraged all contributors to provide information as detailed as possible. The categories for which we required information were based on the already existing repository to facilitate comparison between the entries resulting from the literature search and the entries resulting from the consultation of the EDMO research community. We asked to include information about which EDMO hub/ project provided the information, the title of the publication, its authors, whether at least one of the authors was member of an EDMO hub, the publication outlet, the year of publication, the volume/issue and page range, the DOI and other ID's, the authors' affiliation, the regional interest of the publication, the field of research of the publication, the regional affiliation of the authors, an URL to the publication, the language of the publication and an assessment of whether the publication has an "at scale" approach or not. Some of this information was coded by our team for the results of the literature search (such as field of research or regional interest). As we expected some publications to be in languages other than English, we asked the researchers to provide this information directly.

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[2] See also the report published with the first repository release for details about the literature search, filtering and results: de Bak et al. (2021): https://edmo.eu/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/IV.D.A_-Academic-research-on-disinformation-at-scale-in-the-EU_Final.pdf

2.3 Data processing

After we collected all contributions from the EDMO research community, we deleted overlapping entries with the already existing repository. Furthermore, we included publications only once in case a publication was entered by several contributors. Besides making entries more consistent regarding format, we did not supplement information for the provided entries. We also relied on the information provided and did not check whether they fit the criteria.

3.0 Results

In this section, we describe the final repository, i.e. with regard to regional affiliation of researchers, the field of research and the regional interest of the studies.
The consultation of the EDMO research community resulted in 152 new entries that supplement the 93 entries identified by the literature search, resulting in a repository with 245 entries.

3.1 Regional affiliation of researchers

The entries of the repository represent a broad range of countries based on the affiliation of researchers.

A total of 19 member states are represented, shown here followed by the number of entries in parenthesis: Italy (28), Netherlands (20), Romania (20), Spain (19), Belgium (17), Poland (15), Germany (14), Slovakia (10), France (9), Austria (7), Bulgaria (7), Greece (7), Denmark (5), Sweden (5), Portugal (4), Czech Republic (2), Ireland (2) Cyprus (1) and Estonia (1).

Outside the EU research is included from researchers affiliated to institutions in: UK (21), USA (11), Switzerland (10), Canada (5), Norway (3), Australia (2), Brazil (2), China (1), Israel (1), Japan (1), Qatar (1), Singapore (1), South Korea (1), Taiwan (1) and Wales (1) - see also figure 1 and 2.

With regard to the entries from the literature search, the consultation method resulted in the representation of one additional European country – Estonia - and a better representation of especially the Netherlands, Romania, Belgium, Poland; Slovakia and Bulgaria.

The countries from outside the EU have been included either due to collaborations with researchers affiliated to universities within the EU or because of an explicit research focus on one or more member states. Countries were identified based on affiliations of all authors announced in the publications and in cases where authors were based in different countries, all countries were included in the count. The information was coded by Aarhus University for

the publications identified by the literature search and provided by the researchers of the EDMO community for suggested publications.

For 61 publications, the information about researchers' affiliation is missing (mainly because researchers from the EDMO community did not include this information), for one publication research affiliation not a specific country is identified but it is labeled as "Other".
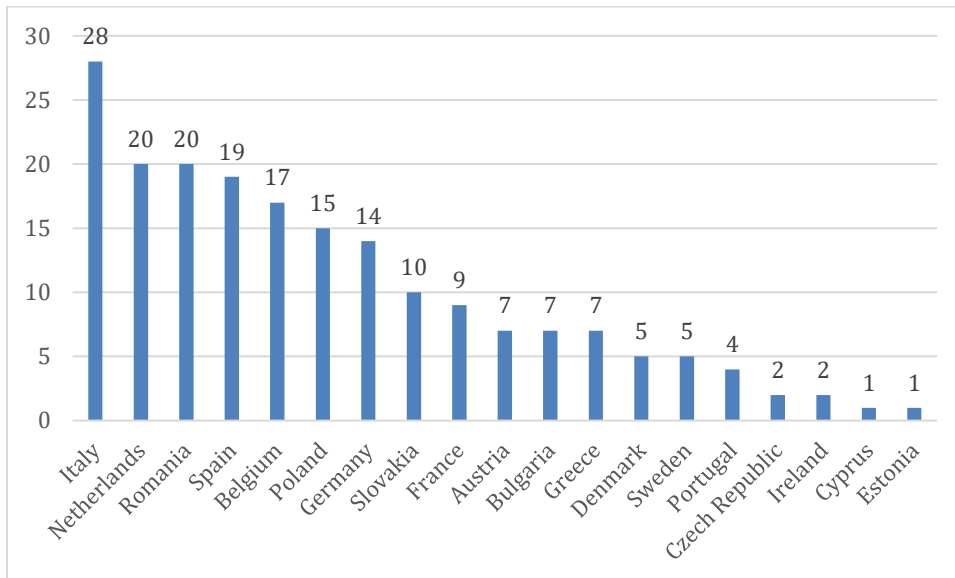

Figure 1 Base of researchers based on institutional affiliation within the European Union (N=193, multiple answers possible)
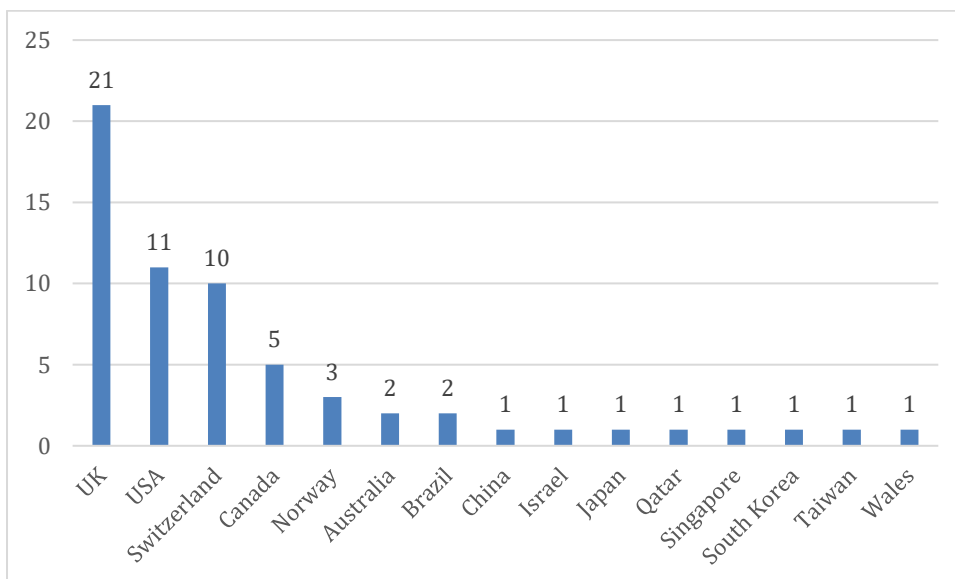

Figure 2 Base of researchers based on institutional affiliation outside the European Union (N=62, multiple answers possible)

3.2 Regional interest of listed studies

The entries in the repository were annotated with the geographical area of interest of the study – for the publications from the literature search by Aarhus University, for the publications resulting from the consultation by the researchers of the EDMO community.

In 115 cases the study was manually coded as 'nonspecific', as many studies use large datasets scraped from social media platforms (e.g. Twitter), which are not country specific. Aarhus University coded the geographic area of interest based on countries mentioned in the titles, abstracts and in some cases the papers themselves. In cases of cross-country studies, all countries are taken into consideration. The instructions for the researchers from the EDMO community were less precise (see appendix A4) to facilitate the reporting of complete entries. In case more than one country was coded for a publication; all countries were considered separately.

The member states included, followed by the number of studies in parenthesis is listed here (see figure 3): Germany (22), Netherlands (21), Italy (19), Spain (17), Romania (16), Belgium (15), France (15), Finland (12), Slovakia (12), Austria (11), Poland (10), Bulgaria (9), Sweden (9), Greece (8), Denmark (6), Czech Republic (5), Hungary (5), Portugal (5), Ireland (4), Lithuania (4), Croatia (3), Estonia (3), Cyprus (2), Europe/EU (2), Latvia (2), Luxembourg (2), Malta (2) and Slovenia (2).

Compared to the repository based on the literature search, the consultation resulted in the representation of additional 11 EU countries – Slovakia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Lithuania, Croatia, Estonia, Cyprus, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta and Slovenia. In addition, other European countries are represented to a larger extent, especially Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, Romania, Belgium, and France.

Outside of the EU the countries investigated by authors with an affiliation within the EU are (see also figure 4): UK (27), USA (23), Switzerland (7), Brazil (4), Canada (4), China (3), Israel (3), Mexico (3), Norway (3), Russia (3), Argentina (2), Bolivia (2), Great Britain (2), India (2), Peru (2), Philippines (2), Turkey (2) and Ukraine (2). In addition the following countries were represented once (not included in figure 4): Australia, Bangladesh, Burundi, Cameroon, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, Egypt, Emirates, England, Ghana, Guatemala, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Morocco, Myanmar, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Qatar, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Tanzania, Thailand, Tunisia, United Arab, Uruguay, Zimbabwe, and England.

Note that these are included either because the study is comparative (i.e. compares one or more member states to an area outside the EU) or the study is conducted by researcher(s) affiliated with a university based in the EU.

For two of the publications the information was missing, for one it was coded as "Other". In total 42 publications focus on more than one county, whereas a large extent of these result from the consultation approach (28).
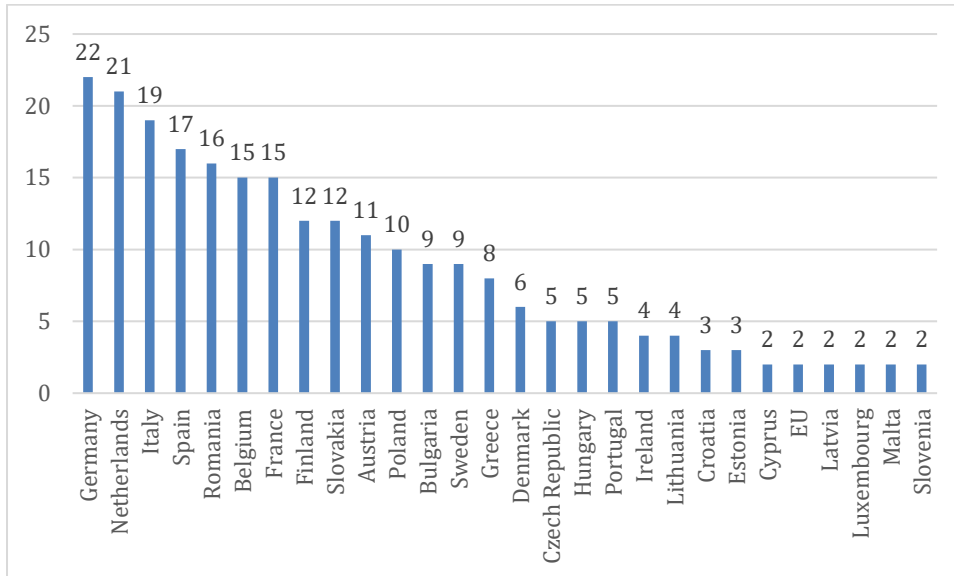

Figure 3 regional interests of relevant studies within the European Union (N=243, multiple answers possible)
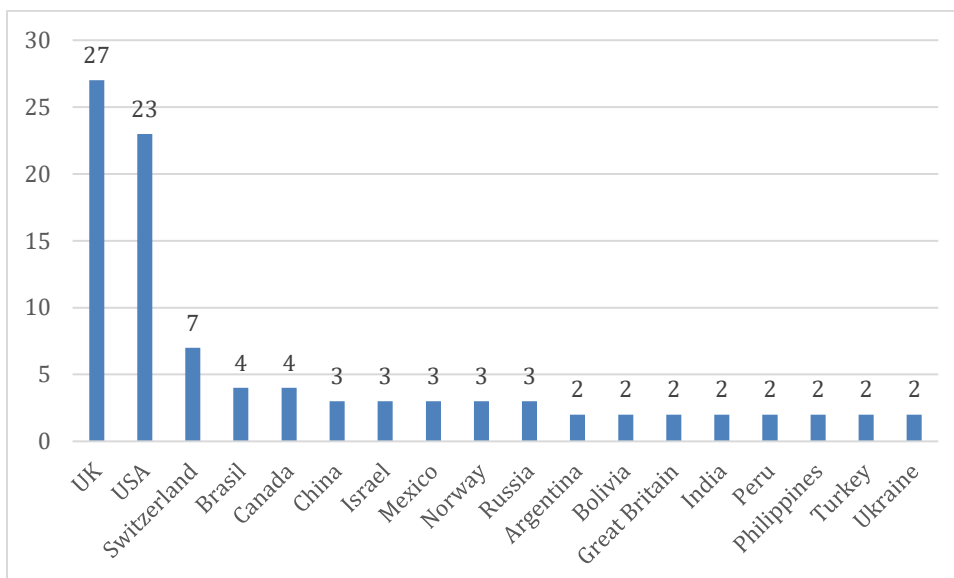

Figure 4 Regional interest of relevant studies outside the European Union (N=96; only if coded more than once, multiple answers possible)
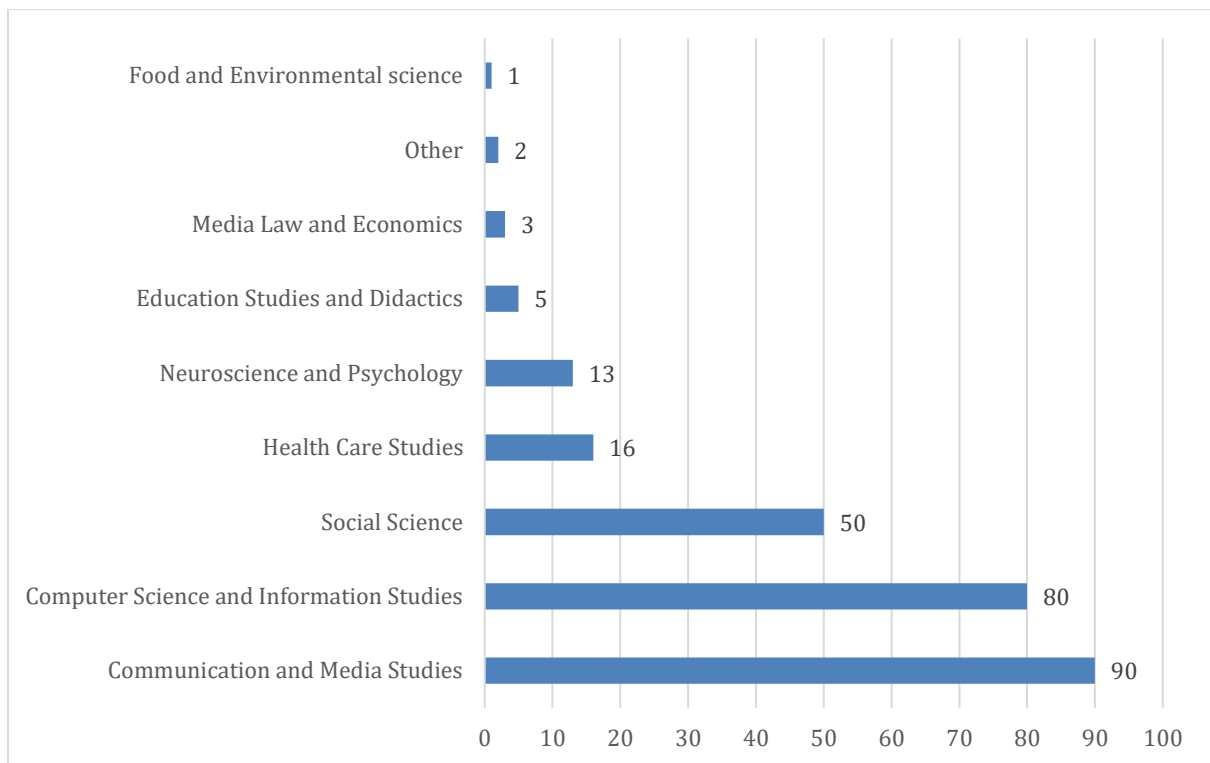
3.3 Fields of research

Based on the included articles we defined the following fields of research categories: Communication and Media Studies (90), Computer Science and Information Studies (80), Social Sciences (50), Health Care Studies (16), Neuroscience and Psychology (13), Media Law and Economics (3), and Other (2). Furthermore, the research community added the fields "Food and Environmental science" (1) and "Education studies and didactics" (5). These differ partly from the fields of research originally listed in the grant agreement (i.e. social and political science now more broadly addressed as "Social Sciences"; network science now included in "Computer Science and Information studies") as these new categories better allow for related disciplines to constitute one category and hereby, increase searchability in the final repository.

By Aarhus University, the fields of research were identified based on the papers' titles, abstracts, and the topic descriptions (for some papers this field was left empty). The instruction for the research community (see appendix A4) was similar.

Compared to publications identified by the literature search, the consultation of the EDMO community resulted in a far stronger representation of "Communication and Media Studies" and "Social Sciences", indicating that many of the researchers have a link to these fields.

The category "Computer Science and Information Studies" is also strongly represented, which can be ascribed to the possibilities of gathering large datasets using the methods of these fields of research - see figure 5.

For 29 publications, the information was missing, 42 publications are coded with more than one field of study.

Figure 5 *fields of research of relevant articles (N=260, multiple answers possible)*

The aim to also include non-English publications by consulting the EDMO research community was only partly successful – see figure 6. Besides publications in English, the repository now also includes a few publications in Slovak, Bulgarian, French, Dutch, Romanian and Spanish. The result that not many non-English publications were added, indicates strongly that English is the predominant language in the research community.
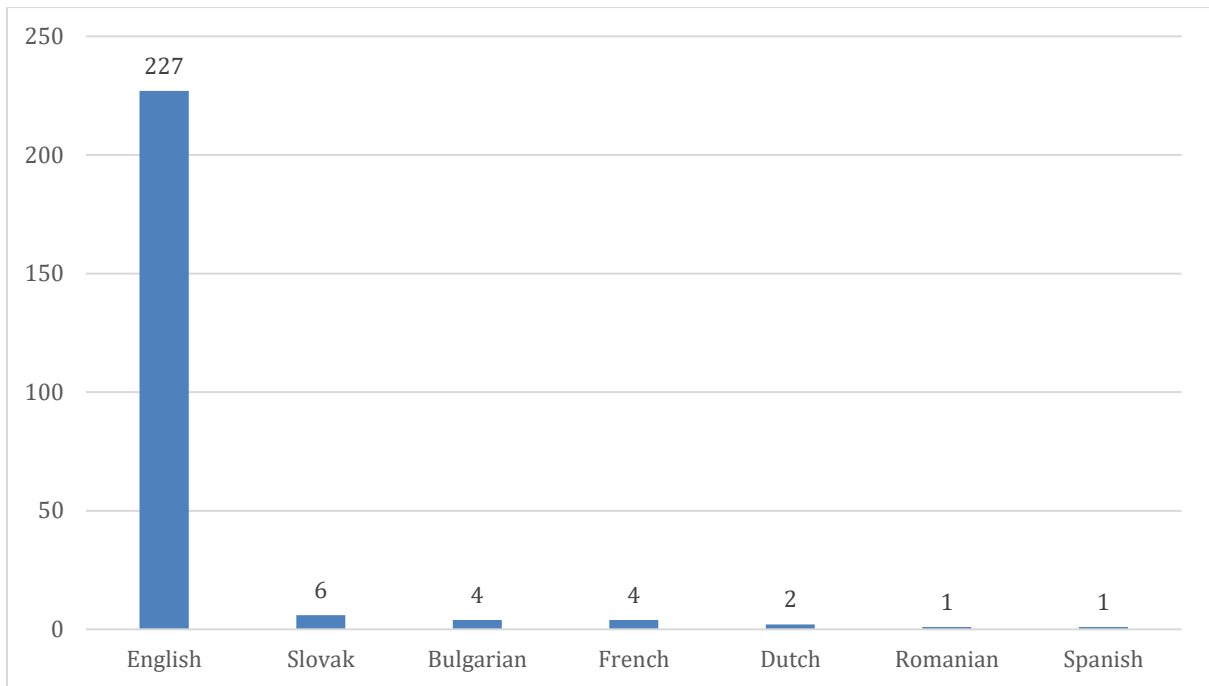
Figure 6 Representation of languages of the publications within the repository

As for the aim to also include publications that are not "at scale", the approach to consult the researchers was more successful, resulting in 56 publications that were considered as relevant but not "at scale". In addition, 12 publications were coded as "unspecific" and two as "review" (see Figure 7).
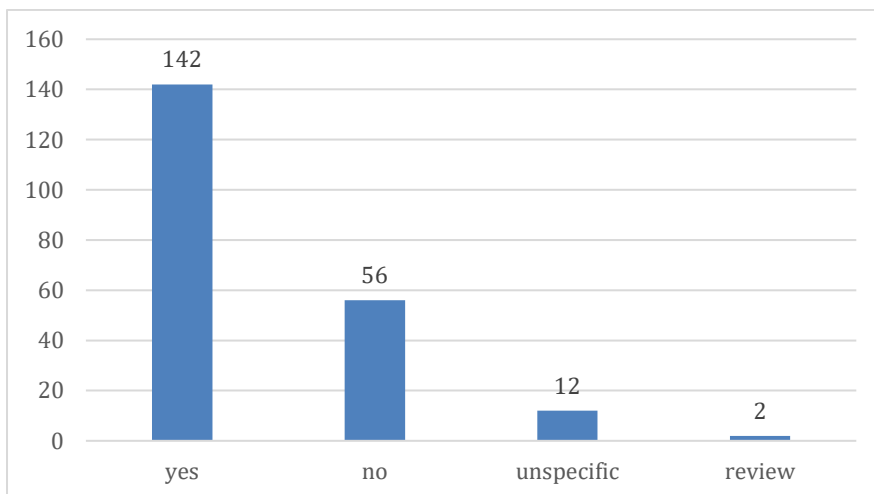
Figure 7 Representation of studies "at scale" in the scientific repository (yes= at scale, no= not at scale)

Figure 8 also shows a distribution of the publications in the repository by publication year. Most publications were published since 2019 (~67%). The consultation also resulted in the inclusion of 17 publications published close to the date of the release of this report (2022). For one of the publications the publication year is missing.
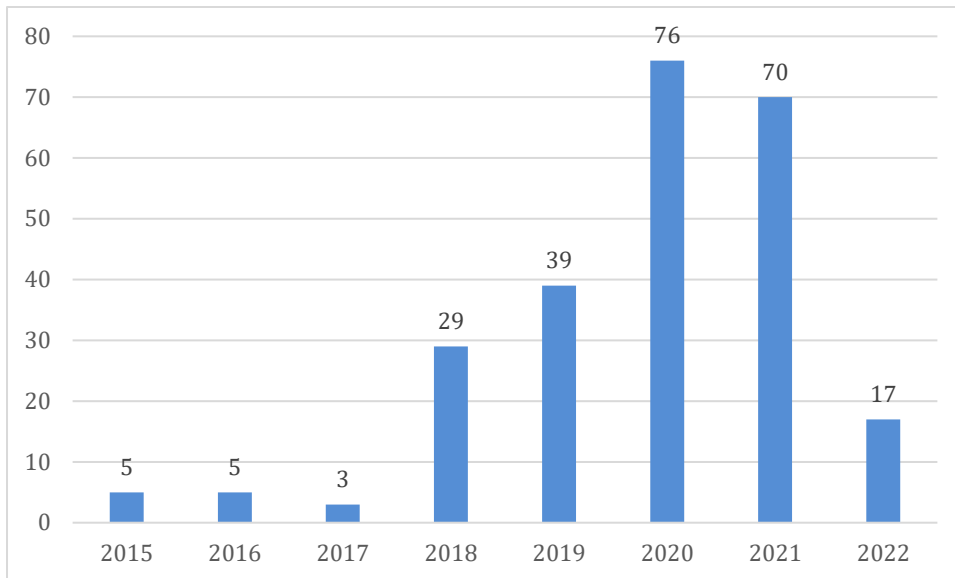
Figure 8 *Publications by publication year*

4.0 Actions needed and Limitations

To be of use for researchers, the repository needs further updates in future to account for new publications as well. However, such a regular update also depends on financial and personnel resources. The consultation resulted in a stronger representation of publications from the countries the EDMO researchers are affiliated to. This bias should be considered for future updates e.g., by a stronger engagement with researchers from countries that are not as strongly represented. Furthermore, a longer collection period for the consultation would probably increase provided input and foster completeness of the input. The consultation of the EDMO community was restricted timewise as the establishment of the EDMO Hubs officially started in September 2021.

5.0 Conclusion

At this stage, the repository shows a good diversity in representation of member states both by regional affiliation of researchers and by regional interest of listed studies. The entries in the repository suggest that Italy and the Netherlands are the most active member states when it comes to studying disinformation at scale and perhaps for this reason are also among the most frequently studied countries within the EU. Concerning fields of research, the repository represents a broad range, however with a focus on studies from Communication and Media Studies, Computer Science and Information Studies and Social Sciences.

6.0 References

Bechmann, Anja, & O'Loughlin, Ben. (2020). *Democracy & disinformation: A turn in the debate* (KVAB Thinkers' Report, p. 37). Koninklijke Vlaamse Academie van Belgie voor Wetenschappen en Kunsten.

https://www.kvab.be/sites/default/rest/blobs/2557/Final%20Report%20Dem%20&%20Desinfo.pdf

Buning, M. et al. (2018). *A Multi-dimensional Approach to Disinformation: Report of the independent high level group on fake news and online disinformation*. EU Commission.

Farkas, J., & Schou, J. (2019). *Post-truth, fake news and democracy: Mapping the politics of falsehood*. Routledge.

Kalsnes, B. (2018). Deciding what's true: The rise of political fact-checking in American journalism. *Digital Journalism*, *6*(5), 670–672. https://doi.org/10.1080/21670811.2018.1460211

Tandoc, E. C., Lim, Z. W., & Ling, R. (2018). Defining "Fake News": A typology of scholarly definitions. *Digital Journalism*, *6*(2), 137–153. https://doi.org/10.1080/21670811.2017.1360143

Wardle, Claire, & Derakhshan, Hossein. (2017). *INFORMATION DISORDER: Toward an interdisciplinary framework for research and policy making* (Council of Europe Report DGI, p. 109). Council of Europe. https://rm.coe.int/information-disordertoward-an-interdisciplinary-framework-for-researc/168076277c

Appendix

A1 Invitation to contribute to scientific repository

The following email equals the invitation email for the update of the scientific repository, send out in the beginning of April 2022.

"Dear researcher,

We are approaching you to ask for your input to update and extend the repository of scientific articles of EDMO (https://edmo.eu/scientific-publications/).
We need your input as you are the expert within your region and have the necessary language skills to also report publications within other languages than English – you are, however, also very welcome to include English publications as well.
Your inputs will also help to disseminate the research of your EDMO hub/project and make scientific material related to your country more readily visible for other researchers and the community.

We kindly request that you forward this email to all researchers within your Hub/ project.

Please use the attached spreadsheet to list peer-reviewed publications that you consider relevant for disinformation research in the EU. Please list any publication that you are aware of to make this repository as useful as possible for the community.
Entries need, however, to correspond to the basic criteria listed in the attached document (Criteria)– namely specific keywords to information disorder, countries within the EU, and a timeframe from 2015 to 2022.

Please fill in the spreadsheet for each publication as comprehensive as possible. The spreadsheet consists of two sheets – entries & Codebook . In the first sheet ("entries") you can enter the information for the publications – such as title, authors, DOI, publication. Please use for each publication a separate row. In the second sheet ("Codebook"), you can read more about which information should be included for each of the columns. As this information will help you to fill out the spreadsheet in the most helpful way, please read "Codebook" before you enter publications in "entries" (we have attached the "Codebook" as PDF as well).

Please send us the filled in spreadsheet (each researcher can fill it in separately) latest **April 24th** at datalab@au.dk. We will integrate your responses in the EDMO repository for scientific articles as soon as possible – most likely in May 2022.
Please feel free to approach us in case you have questions/suggestions.

Thank you for your help and inputs!

Best regards, "

A2. Reminder for contribution to scientific repository

The following email was sent out as reminder for contributing to the scientific repository mid of April 2022.

"Dear researcher,

For those who haven't responded yet, here comes a kind reminder to provide us with your input to update and extend the repository of scientific articles of EDMO (https://edmo.eu/scientific-publications/).

As we pointed out in the first email, your inputs will also help to disseminate the research of your EDMO hub/project and make scientific material related to your country more readily visible for other researchers and the community.

Please forward this email to all researchers within your Hub/ project.

Please use the attached spreadsheet to list peer-reviewed publications that you consider relevant for disinformation research in the EU.
Please list any publication that you are aware of to make this repository as useful as possible for the community.
Be aware that entries need to correspond to the basic criteria listed in the attached document (Criteria)– namely specific keywords to information disorder, countries within the EU, and a timeframe from 2015 to 2022.

Please fill in the spreadsheet for each publication as comprehensive as possible – only leave the columns blank if information is not available for you as well. This will help users to find information more easily and comprehensively and help to standardize the repository.

The spreadsheet consists of two sheets – entries & Codebook . In the first sheet ("entries") you can enter the information for the publications – such as title, authors, DOI, publication. Please use a separate row for each publication. In the second sheet ("Codebook"), you can read more about which information should be included for each of the columns. As this information will help you to fill out the spreadsheet in the most helpful way, please read "Codebook" before you enter publications in "entries" (we have attached the "Codebook" as PDF as well).

Please send us the filled in spreadsheet (each researcher can fill it in separately) latest **April 24th** at datalab@au.dk.
We will integrate your responses in the EDMO repository for scientific articles as soon as possible – most likely in May 2022.
Please feel free to approach us in case you have questions/suggestions.

Thank you for your help and inputs!

Best regards,"

A3. Criteria for relevant publications

Publications that study disinformation at scale in the EU conducted by researchers from within the EU or outside the EU

Peer-review:
Publications are peer-reviewed; can be articles, proceedings, books, book chapters, reports

Keywords:
Relevant keywords should appear in the publications.
At least one of the words from Category 1 should appear in the **title** of the publication.
<u>Category 1:</u>
"conspiracy theory"
disinformation
"fake news"
"false information"
hoax
"information disorder"
malinformation
misinformation
"misleading information"
AND at least one of the words from Category 2 should appear **anywhere** in the text of the publication.
<u>Category 2:</u>
Austria
Belgium
Bulgaria
Croatia
Cyprus
Czechia/ Czech Republic
Denmark
England
Estonia
Europe/ EU
Finland
France
Germany
Great Britain/ GB/ Britain
Greece
Hungary
Italy
Ireland
Latvia
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Malta
Netherlands
Poland
Portugal
Romania
Scotland
Slovakia
Slovenia
Spain
Sweden
Wales
UK/ United Kingdom
⇨ Country names are listed in English, names in national/other languages count as well
**Timeframe:**
Publication published between **2015-2022**

A4. Codebook

	Description	Categories/ Format
EDMO Hub	The EDMO Hub/Project you – as the one that is filling in the spreadsheet and is providing the entries - are associated to	categories
Title	The full title of the publication	text
Authors	All authors of the publication with full name in the order listed in the publication (1st author first), separated with semicolon ;	text
Author from EDMO Hub	Please indicate whether one or more of the authors of the publication is associated to/ member of your EDMO Hub	Categories: yes/no/don't know
Publication	Publication outlet: name of the specific outlet e.g. journal (e.g. International Journal of Communication), conference proceeding (e.g. Proceedings of the 4th EAI International Conference on smart objects and technologies for social good), book	text
Year of publication	Year in which publication was released	number
Volume/ Issue	volume of the publication, including issue (e.g. Vol. 46(5))	text & number
Pages (Range)	Page range of the publication (in format: p.X-X; e.g. p.227-250)	text & number
DOI	The doi of the publication (e.g. 10.1145/3284869.3284903)	text & number
Other ID's	List of other ID's of the publication such as ISSN or ISBN, separated with a semicolon (e.g. ISBN: 3030396266; ISBN: 9783030396268; EISBN: 3030396274; EISBN: 9783030396275; OCLC: 1140645189)	text & number
Authors' Affiliation	The affiliations of the authors as they are mentioned in the publication (e.g. Datalab, Aarhus University), list of all appearing institutions, list them once if they appear more than once	text
Regional interest	Country/Countries the publication/study focuses on; nonspecific if no specific country is mentioned in the publication or if publication focuses on information disorder in general without a specific country focus; there are 10 variables with a drop down menu defined; if more countries are covered within the publication, please write the remaining in the 11th column "Regional Interest Other" and separate them with ; European countries are in alphabetical order; England, Wales, Scotland, UK and Great Britain are separate options; larger potential countries outside Europe are listed at the end of the drop down menu as well as "unspecific"	country name
Field of research	Either identified by the keywords of the publication or the affiliation information of the authors; mention all fields of research that apply; there are 5 predefined columns; if more apply please use the 6th column "Field of research Other" to write down the remaining fields (separated with ;)	categories: Communication and Media Studies/ Computer Science and Information Studies/ Health Care Studies/ Media Law and Economics/ Neuroscience and Psychology/ Social Sciences/ Education Studies and Didactics/ Other
Regional Affiliation of researcher	The country in which researchers affiliated institutions are located, all authors; assign to all institutions that are mentioned once; choose nonspecific, if country can't be identified; there are 5 predefined columns, if more apply, please use the column "Regional Affiliation of Researchers Other" to write down the remaining countries; European countries are in alphabetical order; England, Wales, Scotland, UK and Great Britain are separate options; larger potential countries outside Europe are listed at the end of the drop down menu as well as "unspecific"	country name
Link	Link to the publication	URL

Language	The language in which the publication is written	text
Publication is "at scale"	Please indicate, whether the publication is "at scale" or not. A publication is "at scale" if the study aims to offer quantitative analysis of false information, including single and cross-national and cross-platform studies. Furthermore, the study should allow for more general conclusions because they draw on large samples and/ or refer to national or cross-national population behavior through trace data, survey and/or experimental studies. Studies are not "at scale" if they are based on non-representative samples or if experimental studies do not infer findings to a general population. You should define a publication as "at scale" if the sample it draws on is large depending on the platform (e.g. above 1000 tweets/posts from platforms such as Twitter/Facebook; above 500 videos from platforms such as YouTube; 100 or more website articles).	Categories: yes/ no/ unspecific

A 5. Screenshot of the spreadsheet for contributions to the scientific repository
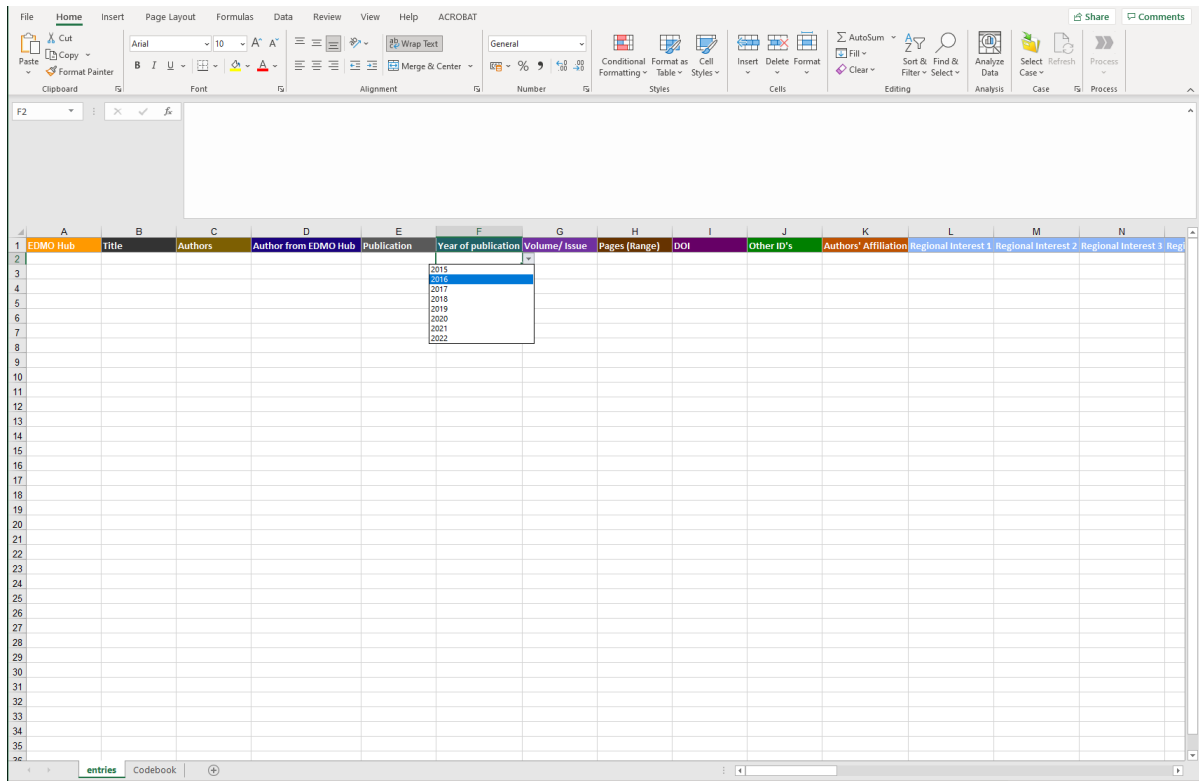
Note: screenshot shows only part of the spreadsheet and shows one example of how predefined answer categories were provided