

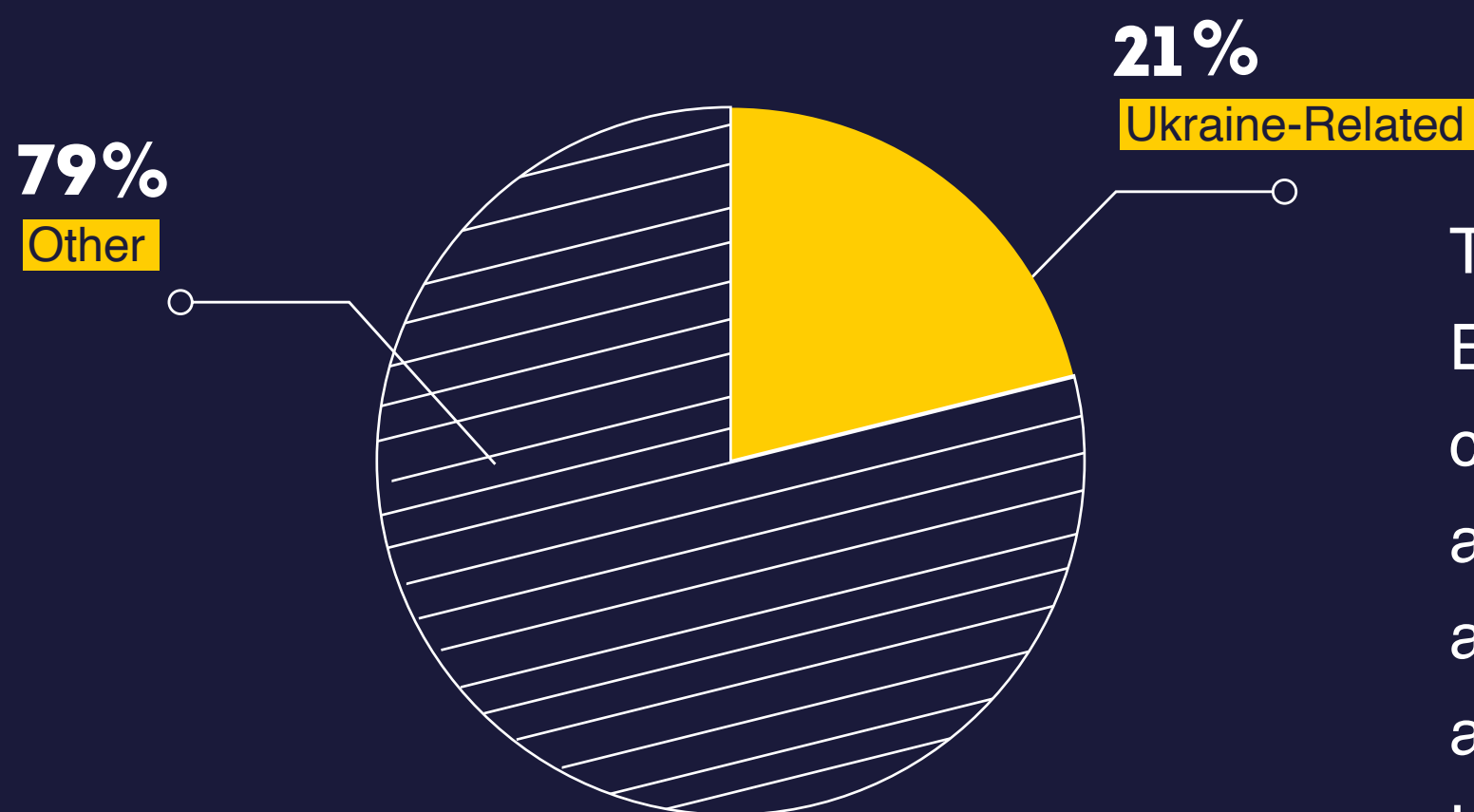


European Digital Media Observatory

UKRAINE-RELATED DETECTED DISINFORMATION KEEPS DIMINISHING, WHILE ATTACKS ON LGBTQ+ AND CLIMATE MOVEMENT INTENSIFY IN JUNE

Monthly brief no. 13 – EDMO fact-checking network

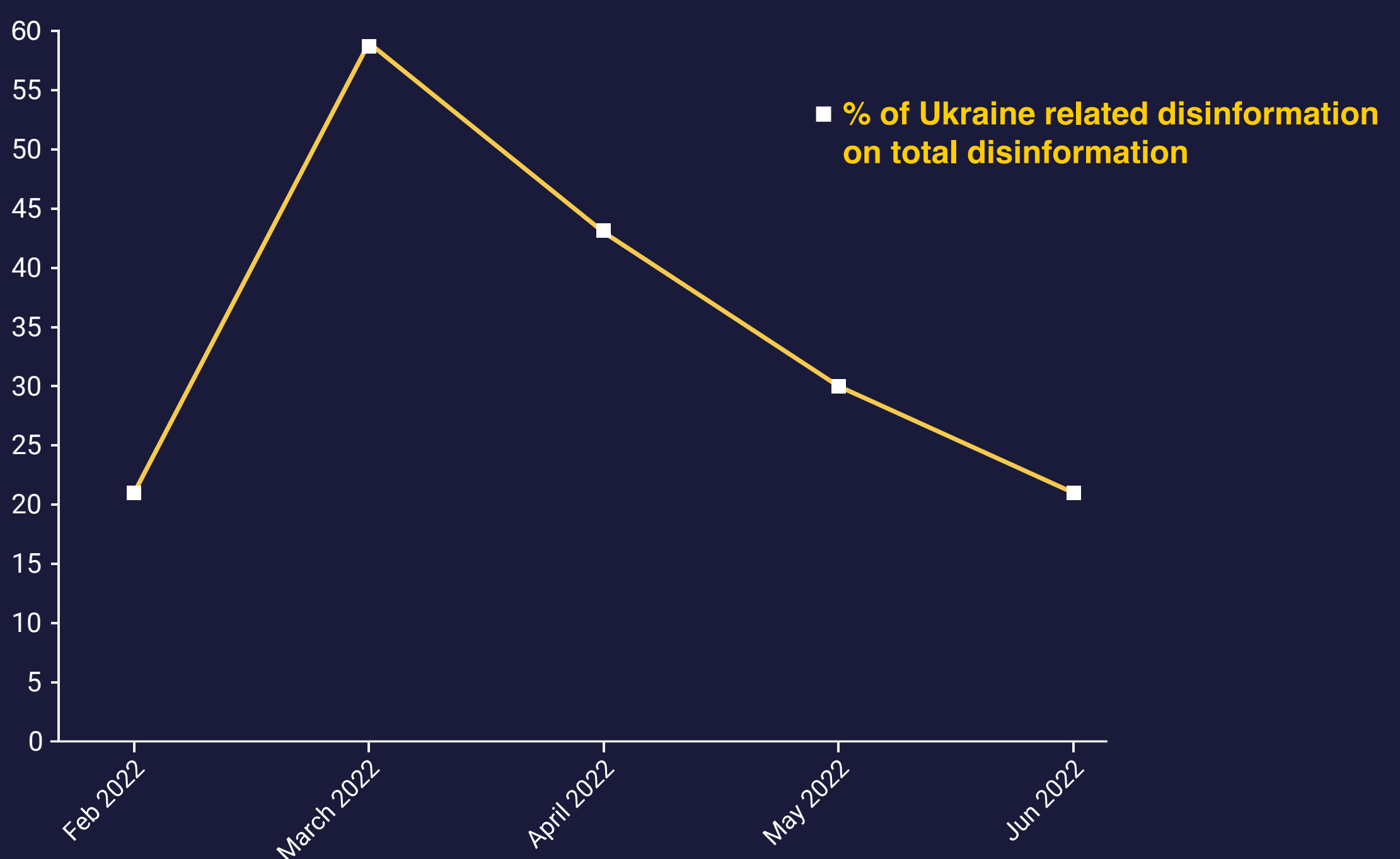
DETECTED DISINFORMATION RELATED TO THE WAR IN UKRAINE KEEPS FALLING IN EUROPE IN JUNE



The 25 organizations* part of the EDMO fact-checking network that contributed to this brief published a total of 1.506 fact-checking articles in June 2022. Out of these articles, 311 (21%) focused on Ukraine-related disinformation.

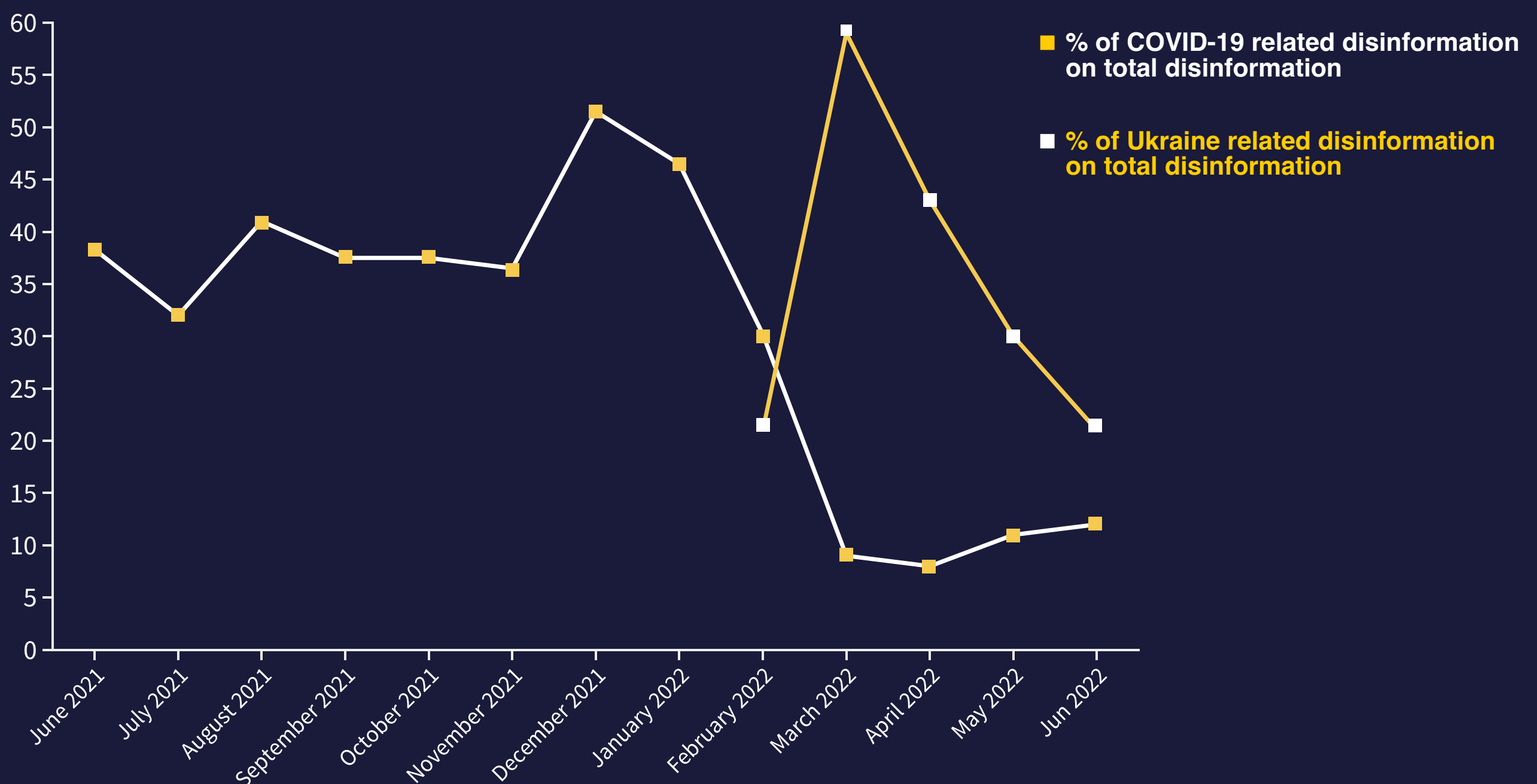
This percentage confirms the decreasing trend recorded in the last three months that, as noted in the previous brief, it is likely to depend on a drop in the attention of European media and public opinions for the Ukraine-related information.

The main narratives conveyed by false news are still about Ukrainian refugees being violent or “parasites” in European societies (e.g.), about sympathies for nazism by Ukrainians (e.g.) and their allies (e.g.), and about the economical consequences of the war (e.g.). The Kaliningrad blockade also was the focus of many false news (e.g.).



* Organizations that contributed to this brief: 15Min, AFP, Correctiv, Delfi, Demagog (PI), DPA, Eesti Päevaleht, EFE Verifica, Ellinika Hoaxes, Eurocomunicare, Faktisk, Factcheck Vlaanderen, Knack Magazine, Lakmusz, Les Surligneurs, Maldita, Nieuwscheckers, Newtral, PagellaPolitica/Facta, Poligrafo, Re:Baltica, The Journal Fact-Check, TjekDet, Verificat, VerificaRTVE

COVID-19 RELATED DETECTED DISINFORMATION STABILIZES



Out of the 1.506 fact-checking articles published in June by the 25 organizations* part of the EDMO fact-checking network that contributed to this brief, 175 (12%) focused on COVID-19-related disinformation. For the fourth month in a row, the percentage remains close to 10%.

But, for the first time since the beginning of the war, the detected disinformation related to the pandemic and to Ukraine, combined, accounts for just one third of the total detected disinformation.

The main narrative conveyed by false news is still the one regarding COVID-19 vaccines being dangerous, even lethal, or useless (e.g.; e.g.).

DISINFORMATION DETECTED IN JUNE FOCUSES ALSO ON LGBTQ AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Among the 25 fact-checking organizations part of the EDMO fact-checking network that contributed to this brief, many reported false news about **LGBTQ+** (June was the “Pride month” and that likely triggered a larger amount of related disinformation than usual) and **climate change**.

False news about LGBTQ+ are, mainly:

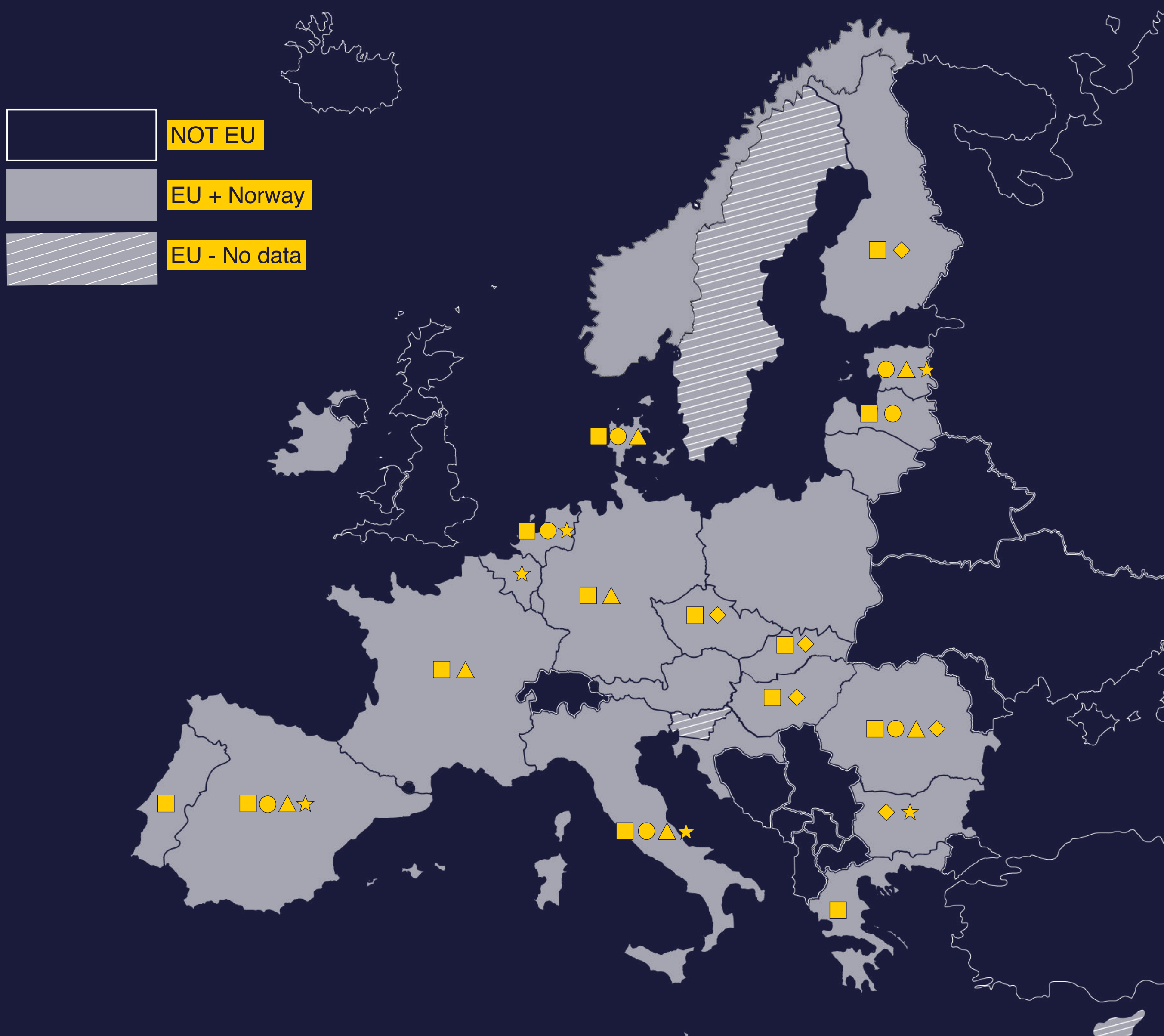
- related to the Monkeypox virus ([e.g.](#))
- used to mock/attack progressive leaders ([e.g.](#); [e.g.](#))
- exaggerations/lies about “politically correct” initiatives ([e.g.](#))

False news about climate change convey, mainly, the following narratives:

- climate change is not real / not attributable to mankind ([e.g.](#); [e.g.](#))
- the climate movement is hypocritical – it doesn’t practice what it preaches ([e.g.](#))
- the media wants to create panic about climate change ([e.g.](#))
- high pollution through renewables ([e.g.](#))

THE FIVE FALSE STORIES WITH THE WIDEST CIRCULATION IN THE EU IN JUNE, BASED ON THE FACT-CHECKERS' REPORTS, WERE:

- Pentagon admitted its involvement in secret biolabs in Ukraine (e.g.)
- Chemtrails have been used/will be used in different countries to spread vaccines from the sky (e.g.)
- ▲ ECDC has evidence of a link between monkeypox and a bioweapons laboratory in Ukraine (e.g.)
- ★ Ukraine flag's colors have been added to the LGBTQ+ rainbow flag (e.g.)
- ◆ Eugen Schwab, father of Klaus Schwab (executive chairman of the World Economic Forum) was a close confidante of Hitler (e.g.)



THE MOST SIGNIFICANT VERIFIED DISINFORMATION STORIES AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL:



Monkeypox is spreading exclusively among gay men, that's why it's also called the "gaypox" and why "gay parades" should be banned



The dramatic decline in the number of organ donations in Germany is linked to the interruption, due to the war, of an organ trade that was orchestrated by the Ukrainian government



A map of Sweden allegedly from 1986, compared with a map from this year, demonstrates that there isn't currently a heat wave in Europe



The UN did warn of "500 million refugees on their way from Africa to Europe"

METHODOLOGY

The information contained in this brief was collected via a questionnaire sent to the fact-checking organizations that are part of the EDMO fact-checking network

Reference period: 1-30 June 2022. Number of respondents: 25.
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