Weekly insight n°2

DISINFORMATION NARRATIVES ABOUT THE WAR IN UKRAINE

18/03/2022 to 24/03/2022

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5 CIRCULATING FALSE NARRATIVES

**TREND #1**
Questioning the war, from its reality to its motives
- The war is staged (e.g. [here](#)).
- Media is falsely reporting on the conflict (e.g. [here](#)).

→ 30.3% of analysis

**TREND #2**
Unsubstantiated information about fighting and surrender
- Out of context military maneuvers (e.g. [here](#)).
- Surrender (e.g., [here](#)) and diplomatic talks (e.g. [here](#)).

→ 28.8% of analysis

**TREND #3**
Disinformation on the humanitarian crisis
- Ukrainian refugees as violent (e.g. [here](#)).
- De-legitimising refugees’ rights (e.g. [here](#)).
- Misuse of humanitarian aid (e.g. [here](#)).

→ 15% of analysis

**TREND #4**
Distorted representation of Ukrainians
- Ukrainians & Zelensky are neo-Nazis (e.g. [here](#)).
- Heroization of Zelensky (e.g. [here](#)).

→ 15% of analysis

**TREND #5**
Supporting frame for Russian invasion of Ukraine
- NATO and the “West” aggressive strategy and security architecture (e.g. [here](#)).
- Ukraine is not a sovereign state (e.g. [here](#)).

→ 9% of analysis

→ 1.5% of analysis did not fall in any of the above trends
EARMY-WARNINGS: WHAT TO EXPECT

1. Covid-19 disinformation community more susceptible to Russian propaganda

Communities which have been most exposed to Covid-19 disinformation are now more likely to be main recipients of pro-Russian disinformation. This permeability is heightened by some political figures who were previously purveyors of Covid-19 disinformation and are now active spreaders of Russian propaganda (e.g. here). While this is still marginal, it could extend to larger sections of the political spectrum.

2. Disinformation on discriminatory practices Vs Russian nationals in the EU and Russophobia

“Russophobia” represents a real problem, especially in Eastern Europe. This sentiment is being exaggerated into unsubstantiated discriminatory actions taken by public institutions in the EU against Russian nationals including, (e.g. here) denying them equal healthcare treatment.

We are currently investigating these trends and will deliver their analysis as soon as possible.
In total, 593 analyses have been provided by EDMO’s fact-checking network partners since 24 February 2022 and 66 during the week this report focuses on (18.03 to 24.03).

Organisations that contributed to this report: Correctiv, AFP Factual, PagellaPolitica/FactaNews, EllinikaHoaxes, MALDITA.ES, AFP Verificat, Poligrato, Knack, EFE Verifica, DPA Nederland, DPA Luxembourg, Demagog Poland, Delfi, Mimikama, AFP Factuel, AFP Faktencheck Germany/Austria, AFP Faktencheck Germany, AFP Ténykerdes, Faktisk.no, DPA Belgium, AFP Fact Check Nederland, AFP Fakty, The Journal–FactCheck, AFP Proveri, Provera činjenica, TjekDet, AFP Fakty, AFP Na právou míru, AFP Sprawdzam, AFP Faktantarkistus, AFP Comprovem
METHODOLOGY

The information contained in this brief is based on EDMO's repository of fact-checking analysis on the war in Ukraine. The repository’s items are provided by the fact-checking organisations that are part of the EDMO fact-checking network.


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