



European Digital Media Observatory

Weekly insight n°2

DISINFORMATION NARRATIVES ABOUT THE WAR IN UKRAINE

18/03/2022 to 24/03/2022

edmo.eu

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5 CIRCULATING FALSE NARRATIVES

TREND #1

Questioning the war, from its reality to its motives

The war is staged (eg. [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

NEW

Disinformation on the humanitarian crisis

Ukrainian refugees as violent (e.g. [here](#))

De-legitimatising 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

NEW

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


EARLY-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.

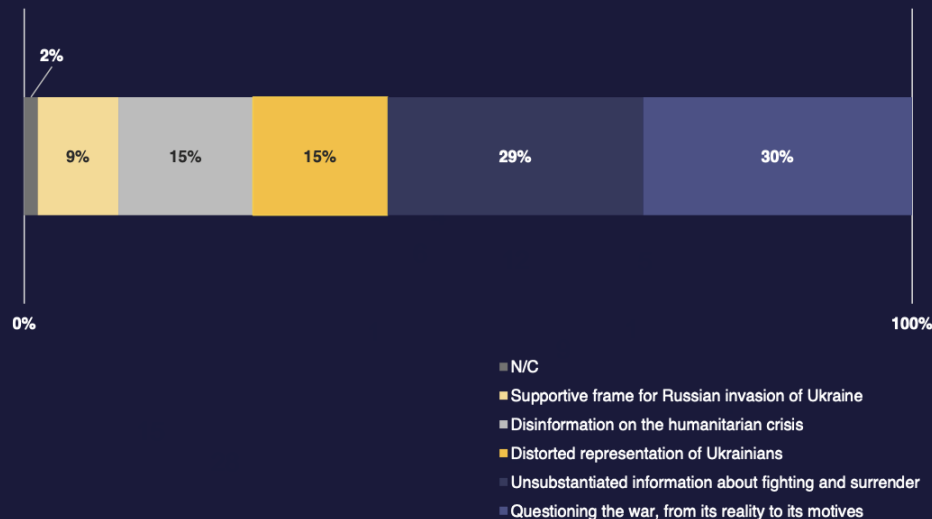
2. Disinformation on discriminatory practices Vs Russian nationals in the EU and Russophobia

“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.**

DATA PROVIDED BY EDMO'S FACT-CHECKING NETWORK

Repartition of trends in the fact-checking analysis published by the EDMO network between 18.03.2022 and 24.03.2022



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](#), [Polígrafo](#), [Knack](#), [EFE Verifica](#), [DPA Nederland](#), [DPA Luxembourg](#), [Demagog Poland](#), [Delfi](#), [Mimikama](#), [AFP Factuel](#), [AFP Faktencheck Germany/Austria](#), [AFP Faktencheck Germany](#), [AFP Tenykerdes](#), [Faktisk.no](#), [DPA Belgium](#), [AFP FactCheck Nederland](#), [AFP Faktv](#), [The Journal – FactCheck](#), [AFP Proveri](#), [Provera činjenica](#), [TjekDet](#), [AFP Faktv](#), [AFP Na pravou 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.

Reference period: 18 - 24 March 2022. Number of analysis studied: 66.

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