



European Digital Media Observatory

Weekly insight n°3

DISINFORMATION NARRATIVES ABOUT THE WAR IN UKRAINE

24/03/2022 to 31/03/2022

edmo.eu

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Published on 1 April 2022

5 CIRCULATING FALSE NARRATIVES

TREND #1

Questioning the war, from its reality to its motives

Media is falsely reporting on the conflict (e.g. [here](#))

Focus on bio-weapons lab in Ukraine (e.g. [here](#))

→35.09% of analysis

TREND #2

Unsubstantiated information about fighting and surrender

Out of context military maneuvers (e.g. [here](#))

→15.79% of analysis

TREND #3

Disinformation on the humanitarian crisis

Ukrainian refugees violent and exploiting host countries (e.g. [here](#))

Armed forces impeding aid (e.g. [here](#))

Disinformation on unaccompanied minors (e.g. [here](#))

→19.30% of analysis

TREND #4

Distorted representation of Ukrainians

Ukrainians & Zelensky are neo-Nazis (e.g. [here](#))

Heroization of Zelensky (e.g. [here](#))

Discrediting Zelensky (e.g. [here](#))

→ 17.54% of analysis

TREND #5

NEW

Distorted representation of Russians

Kremlin's measures against the "globalised West" (e.g. [here](#))

Discrediting Putin (e.g. [here](#))

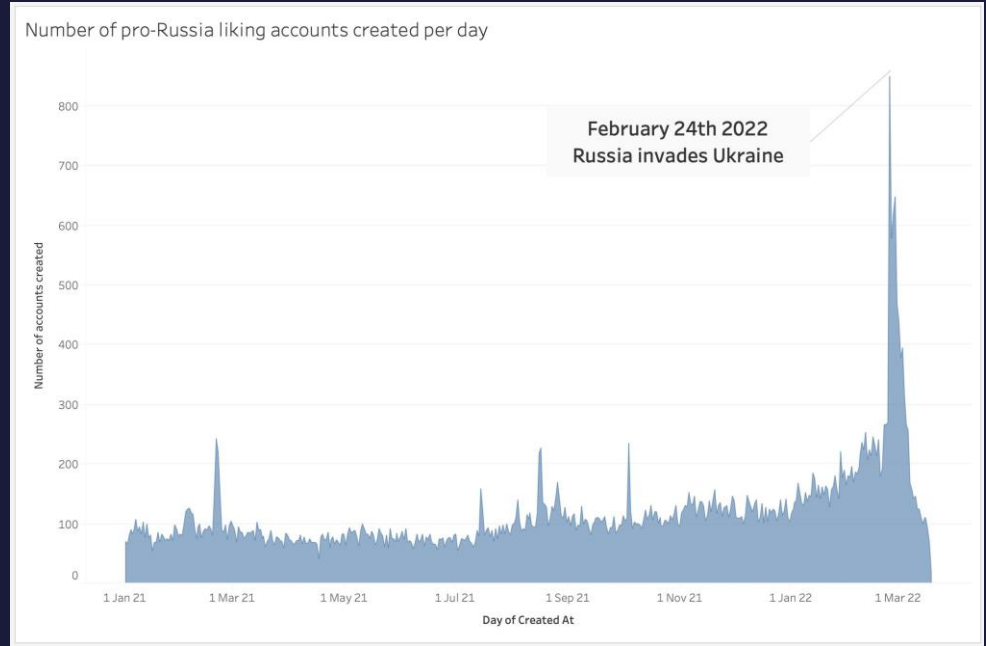
→8.7% of analysis

→ 3.5% of analysis did not fall in any of the above trends

⚠️ EARLY-WARNINGS: WHAT TO EXPECT

1. Amplifying Russian disinformation

A network of false social media accounts has been created since the inception of the war to amplify the dissemination of disinformation from Russian governmental and diplomatic authorities. The weight of this phenomenon is growing and is being monitored by the research community (e.g. [here](#))



Authored by [Timothy Graham](#), Senior Lecturer in Digital Media at the Queensland University of Queensland (QUT).


EARLY-WARNINGS: WHAT TO EXPECT

2. Disinformation on economic consequences of the war

The economic consequences of the current conflict, including in the energy sector and wheat production, are falling hard on the global supply chain. This is becoming an easy target of disinformation campaigns to create malcontent in European and western societies. (e.g. [here](#))

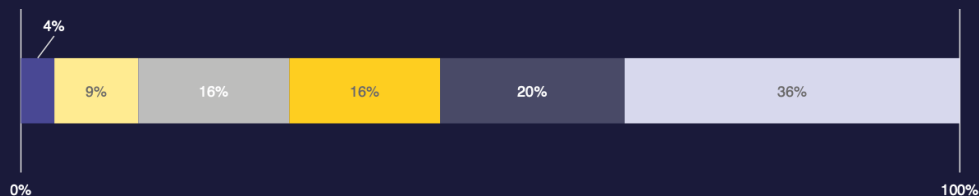
3. Disinformation on discriminatory practices Vs Russian nationals in the EU and Russophobia

“Russophobia” represents a real problem, especially in Eastern Europe. This sentiment is being exaggerated into unsubstantiated discriminatory actions against Russian nationals (e.g. [here](#)).

 **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 24.03.2022 and 31.03.2022



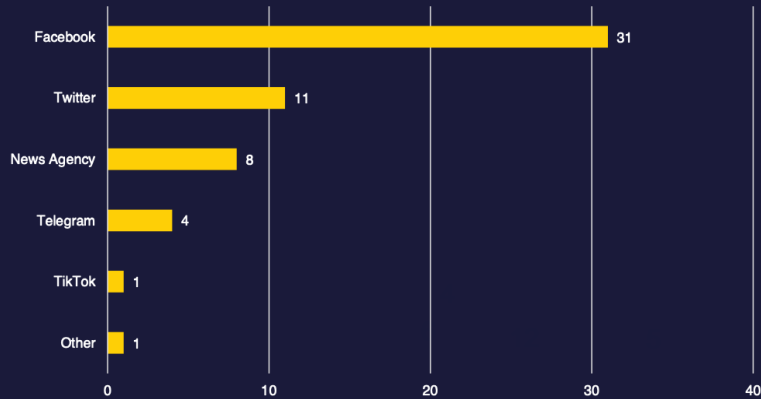
- N/C (non categorised)
- Distorted representation and discrimination against Russians
- Unsubstantiated information about military operations
- Distorted representation of Ukrainians
- Disinformation on the humanitarian crisis
- Questioning the war, from its reality to its motives

In total, 738 analyses have been provided by EDMO's fact-checking network partners since 24 February 2022 and 57 during the week of this report (24.03 to 31.03).

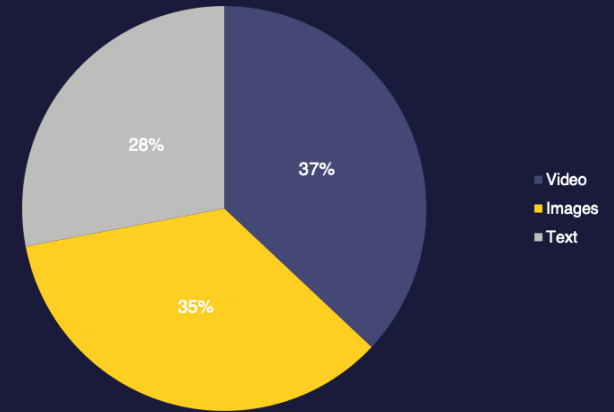
Organisations that contributed to this report: [Correctiv](#), [AFP Factual](#), [FactaNews](#), [EllinikaHoaxes](#), [MALDITA.ES](#), [AFP Verificat](#), [Polígrafo](#), [Knack](#), [EFE Verifica](#), [DPA Netherlands](#), [DPA Germany](#), [DPA Luxembourg](#), [DPA Belgium](#), [Demagog](#), [Delfi](#), [Mimikama](#), [AFP Factuel](#), [AFP Faktencheck Germany/Austria](#), [AFP Faktencheck Germany](#), [AFP Faktencheck Netherlands](#), [AFP Faktantarkistus](#), [AFP Tenykerdes](#), [AFP Factcheck Greek](#), [Faktisk.no](#), [AFP Fact Check Nederland](#), [The Journal – FactCheck](#), [AFP Proveri](#), [Provera činjenica](#), [TiekDet](#), [AFP Fakty](#), [AFP Na pravou míru](#), [AFP Sprawdzam](#), [AFP Faktantarkistus](#), [AFP Comprovem](#), [Newtral](#), [Verificat](#), [Re:Baltica](#), [Factcheck Vlaanderen](#), [Ostro](#).

DATA PROVIDED BY EDMO'S FACT-CHECKING NETWORK

Distribution of disinformation per platforms (Facebook, Twitter, Telegram, TickTok, News Agency, Other)



Outlets used to convey disinformation (video, image or text)



⇒ This data has been extracted from the fact-checking analysis published by EDMO's fact-checking network

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: 24 - 31 March 2022. Number of analysis studied: 57.

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EDMO has received funding
from the European Union
under Contract number: "LC-01464044"