



European Digital Media Observatory

Weekly insight n°4

DISINFORMATION NARRATIVES ABOUT THE WAR IN UKRAINE

31/03/2022 to 7/04/2022

edmo.eu

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5 CIRCULATING FALSE NARRATIVES

TREND #1

Questioning the war, from its reality to its motives

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

Conspiracy theories supporting the Russian invasion (e.g., [here](#))

→27% of analysis

TREND #2

Unsubstantiated information about military operations

Out of context videos and pictures (e.g., [here](#))

Distorting losses incurred by both parties (e.g., [here](#) and [here](#))

→20% of analysis

TREND #3

Distorted representation of Ukrainians and Zelensky

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

Heroisation of Zelensky (e.g., [here](#))

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

→20% of analysis

TREND #4

NEW

Creating an alternative reality on Ukrainian civilian casualties

Focus on Bucha as staged by Ukrainians (e.g., [here](#))

→ 12% of analysis

TREND #5

NEW

False information on food shortages and sanctions

Confusion on consequences of sanctions (e.g., [here](#))

Focus on lack of sunflower oil (e.g., [here](#)) and wheat products (e.g., [here](#))

→12% of analysis

TREND #6

Disinformation on the humanitarian crisis

Ukrainian refugees' racist and aggressive behavior (e.g., [here](#))

Misuse of humanitarian aid incl. for human trafficking (e.g., [here](#))

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

→10% of analysis


EARLY-WARNINGS: WHAT TO EXPECT

1. War crimes in Ukraine

Unsubstantiated allegations of war crimes perpetrated by both armies in Ukraine are likely to increase. While journalists were able to reach the Ukrainian town of Bucha and report on civilian casualties after the retreat of the Russian army (e.g., [here](#)), many more claims of war crimes in other regions of Ukraine are likely to arise while lacking proofs to substantiate accusations on both sides. This could become an easy target of disinformation campaigns. In her [statement](#) of 4 April President Ursula von der Leyen ensured the EU has set up “a Joint Investigation Team with Ukraine to collect evidence and investigate war crimes and crimes against humanity”.

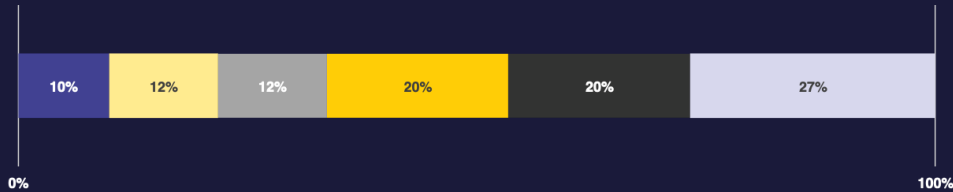
2. Russian public opinion about the war

While there is Russian public support for Putin and the invasion of Ukraine (e.g., [here](#)), distortion of Russians’ sentiments towards Ukrainians (e.g., [here](#)) and of their approval of the Kremlin (e.g., [here](#)) is likely to be the target of both pro-Ukrainian and pro-Russian disinformation campaigns working in opposite directions.

 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 31.03.2022 and 7.04.2022



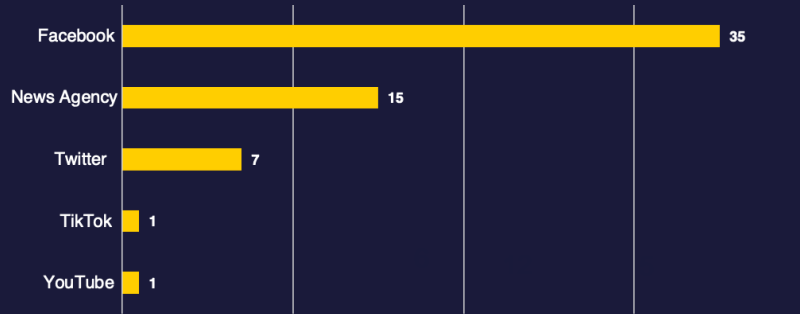
- Disinformation on the humanitarian crisis
- False information on food shortages and sanctions
- Creating an alternative reality on Ukrainian civilian casualties
- Unsubstantiated information about military operations
- Distorted representation of Ukrainians and Zelensky
- Questioning the war, from its reality to its motives

In total, 824 analyses have been provided by EDMO's fact-checking network partners since 24 February 2022 and 60 during the week of this report (31.03 to 7.04).

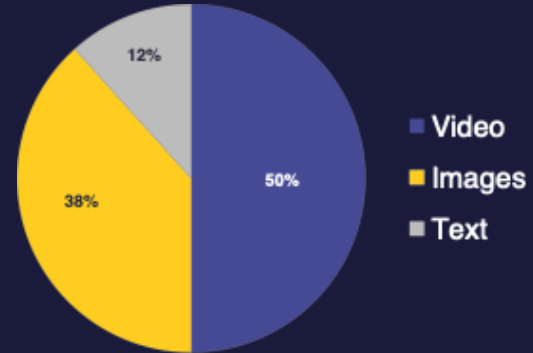
Organisations that contributed to this report: [Mimikama](#), [AFP Factual](#), [DPA Belgium](#), [Factcheck Vlaanderen](#), [Knack](#), [AFP Proveri](#), [Provera činjenica](#), [AFP Na pravou míru](#), [TjekDet](#), [AFP Faktantarkistus](#), [AFP Factcheck](#), [Correctiv](#), [DPA Germany](#), [AFP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

DATA PROVIDED BY EDMO'S FACT-CHECKING NETWORK

Distribution of disinformation per platforms (Facebook, Twitter, Telegram, TikTok, 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: 31 March - 7 April 2022. Number of analysis studied: 60.

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