



European Digital Media Observatory

Weekly insight n°5

DISINFORMATION NARRATIVES ABOUT THE WAR IN UKRAINE

8/04/2022 to 20/04/2022

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

Focus on bio-weapons (e.g., [here](#) and [here](#))

→ 22% of analysis

TREND #2

Unsubstantiated information about military operations

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

→ 20% of analysis

TREND #3

NEW

Disinformation on responsibility and reality of Ukrainian civilian casualties

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

Disinformation on responsibility for Kramatorsk attack (e.g., [here](#))

→ 17% of analysis

TREND #4

Distorted representation of Ukrainians and Zelensky

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

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

→ 21% of analysis

TREND #5

Disinformation on Ukrainian refugees

Favored by host governments over nationals (e.g., [here](#) and [here](#))

Violent and damaging goods (e.g., [here](#) and [here](#))


→ 9% of analysis

→ 10% of analysis of analysis did not fall in any of the above trends

EARLY-WARNINGS: WHAT TO EXPECT

1. Disinformation around steel works plant in Mariupol

Since the Azovstal steel works plant in Mariupol became a Ukrainian stronghold against Russian forces, many false narratives have been spreading including on secret NATO basis and bio-weapon laboratories hidden in the plant basement (e.g., [here](#)). As the military situation evolves, disinformation around this war scenario is likely to grow and develop into new false narratives.

 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 8.04.2022 and 20.04.2022

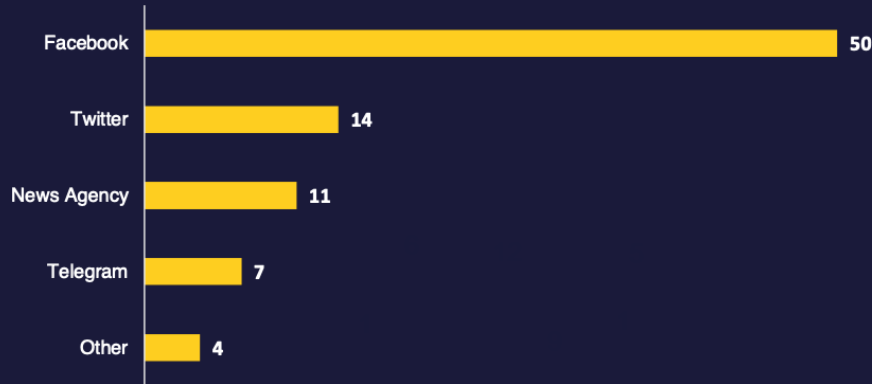


In total, 947 analyses have been provided by EDMO's fact-checking network partners since 24 February 2022 and 86 in the period covered by this report (8.04 to 20.04).

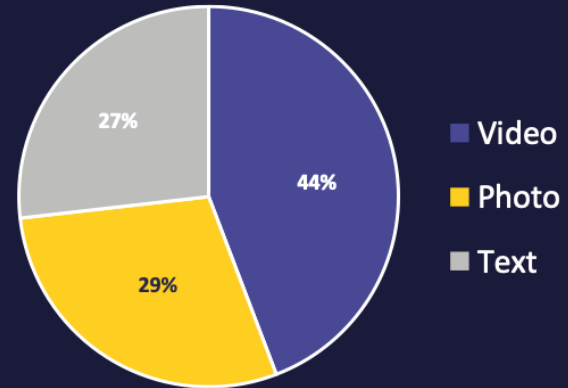
Organisations that contributed to this report: [Mimikama](#), [AFP Factual](#), [DPA Belgium](#), [Factcheck Vlaanderen](#), [Knack](#), [AFP Proveri](#), [Provera činjenica](#), [AFP Na pravou míru](#), [TjekDet](#), [AFP Faktantarkistus](#), [AFP Factcheck](#), [Correctiv](#), [DPA Germany](#), [AFP 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](#), [Eesti Päevaleht](#).

DATA PROVIDED BY EDMO'S FACT-CHECKING NETWORK

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



Outlets used to convey disinformation (video, image, 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: 8 April - 20 April 2022. Number of analysis studied: 86.

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