



European Digital Media Observatory

**Weekly insight n°6**

# DISINFORMATION NARRATIVES ABOUT THE WAR IN UKRAINE

20/04/2022 to 27/04/2022

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# 7 CIRCULATING FALSE NARRATIVES

## TREND #1

### Questioning the war, from its reality to its motives

The war is staged (e.g., [here](#))

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

→ 21% of analysis

## TREND #2

### Unsubstantiated information about military operations

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

Focus on NATO bases and bio-weapons labs under Azovstal plant (e.g., [here](#))

→ 21% of analysis

## TREND #3

### Distorted representation of Ukrainians and Zelensky

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

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

→ 18% of analysis

## TREND #4

NEW

### Discrediting media reporting on Ukraine

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

Targeting mainstream media (e.g., [here](#))

→ 11% of analysis

## TREND #5

### Disinformation on responsibility for Ukrainian civilian casualties

False confirmation of Russian responsibility (e.g., [here](#))

False information on killing of civilians by Ukrainian army (e.g., [here](#))

→ 8% of analysis

## TREND #6

### Disinformation on Ukrainian refugees

Financially favored by host governments (e.g., [here](#))

Questioning the need of fleeing Ukraine (e.g., [here](#))

→ 8% of analysis

## TREND #7

NEW

### False information on foreign support for Ukraine

Focus on alleged military intervention (e.g., [here](#))

Focus on societal support (e.g., [here](#))

→ 8% of analysis

→5% of analysis of analysis did not fall in any of the above trends


# **EARLY-WARNINGS: WHAT TO EXPECT**

## **1. Disinformation on export of natural gas**

Following Russian halt on gas supplies to Poland and Bulgaria, the Kremlin has issued warnings on similar consequences for other European Union costumers. Given the weight of the economic consequences of the war on the global energy supply chain, this could become an easy target of future disinformation.

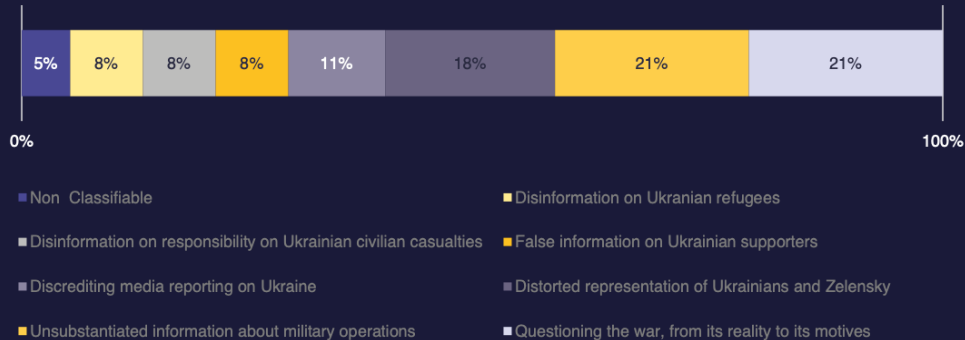
## **2. Disinformation on escalation of the diplomatic crisis**

Given the worsening diplomatic relations between western countries and Russia, disinformation pointing to a dramatic escalation of the crisis is likely to be the focus of future campaigns.

 **We are currently investigatig 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 20.04.2022 and 27.04.2022

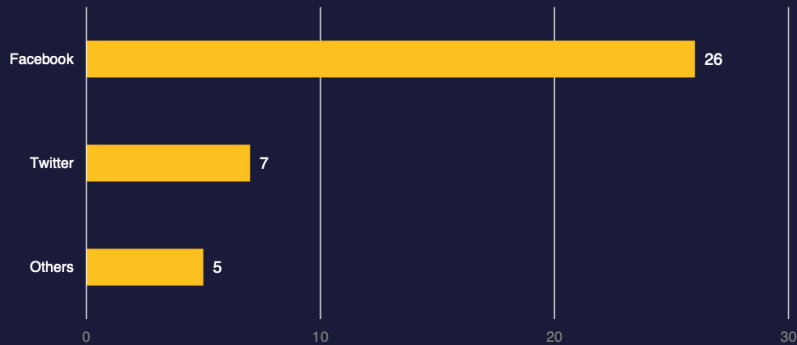


In total, 1004 analyses have been provided by EDMO's fact-checking network partners since 24 February 2022 and 38 in the period covered by this report (20.04 to 27.04).

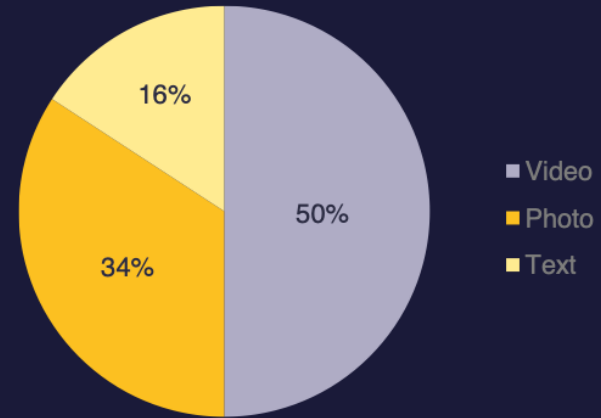
Organisations that contributed to this report: [Mimikama](#), [AFP Factual](#), [DPA Belgium](#), [Factcheck Vlaanderen](#), [Knack](#), [AFP Proveri](#), [Provera činjenica](#), [AFP Na pravou miru](#), [TjekDet](#), [AFP Faktantarkistus](#), [AFP Factcheck](#), [Correctiv](#), [DPA Germany](#), [AFP 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, 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: 20 April - 27 April 2022. Number of analysis studied: 38.

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