



European Digital Media Observatory

Periodic insight n°12

DISINFORMATION NARRATIVES ABOUT THE WAR IN UKRAINE

25/08/2022 to 30/09/2022

edmo.eu

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6 CIRCULATING FALSE NARRATIVES

TREND #1

Distorted representation of Ukrainians and Zelensky

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

Ukrainians displaying Nazi affiliations (e.g., [here](#) and [here](#))

□ 26% of analysis

TREND #2

NEW

Disinformation against the Kremlin and Russia

Falsified images of Russians fleeing conscription (e.g., [here](#))

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

□ 18% of analysis

TREND #3

False information on foreign support for Ukraine

On weapons supply and their misuse (e.g., [here](#))

On discrimination of Russians by Ukrainian supporters (e.g., [here](#))

□ 16% of analysis

TREND #4

Unsubstantiated information about military operations

Distancing Russian army from mass graves in Izyum (e.g., [here](#))

False information on defeat of Ukrainians near Zaporizhzhia (e.g., [here](#))

□ 11% of analysis

TREND #5

Disinformation on Ukrainian refugees

Instrumentalisation of refugees' movement to Russia (e.g., [here](#))

Cheating social support systems (e.g., [here](#))

Taking control of hosting nations (e.g., [here](#))

□ 10% of analysis

TREND #6

False information about the economic implications of the war

False claims on gas prices (e.g., [here](#) and [here](#))

Alternative readings of data on rising cost of living in Europe (e.g., [here](#) and [here](#))

□ 10% of analysis

□ 8% of analyses did not fall in any of the above trends

EARLY-WARNINGS: WHAT TO EXPECT

Legitimizing Putin's illegal annexations

Putin held on 30 September a formal ceremony for the signing of the accession treaties to absorb the Ukrainian regions of Luhansk, Donetsk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia. False news legitimizing Russian illegal annexation is likely to grow.

Disinformation on responsibility for damage to gas pipelines

While Denmark and Sweden are investigating the causes of the leaks in the Nord Stream 1 and 2 gas pipelines and whether this would qualify as a deliberate act, disinformation around the responsibility for the damages is already spreading (e.g., [here](#)).

Disinformation about Russians fleeing the conscription

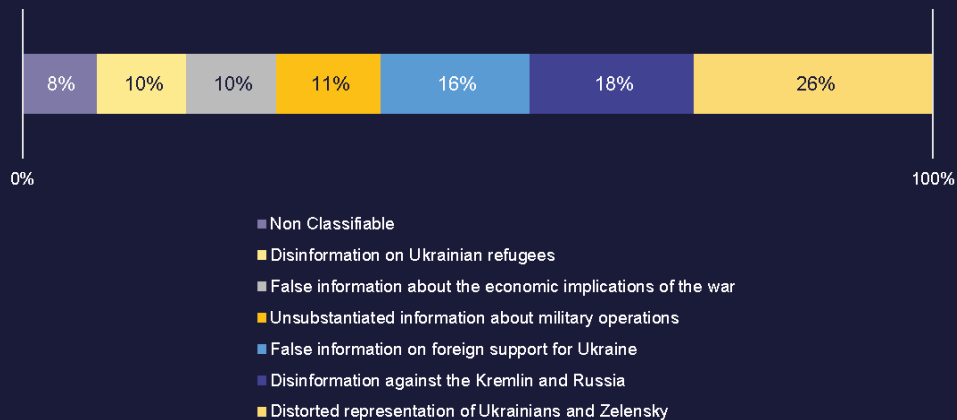
After Putin ordered the partial mobilization in the Russian Federation, exaggerated stories about Russians fleeing conscription have been widespread (e.g., [here](#)). While some Russians sought to flee the country, contested views about their motives (e.g., [here](#)) is likely to spark new disinformation also in the EU.

Disinformation following new nuclear threats by Russia

After formalization of Russia's illegal annexation of four regions of Ukraine, Putin advanced new nuclear threats to "protect" the annexed lands (e.g., [here](#)). As Ukrainian intelligence considers the threat of Russia's use of nuclear weapons "very high" (e.g., [here](#)), also disinformation about an imminent nuclear escalation of the conflict can be expected.

DATA PROVIDED BY EDMO'S FACT-CHECKING NETWORK

Occurrences of trends in the fact-checking analysis published by the EDMO network between 25.08.2022 and 30.09.2022

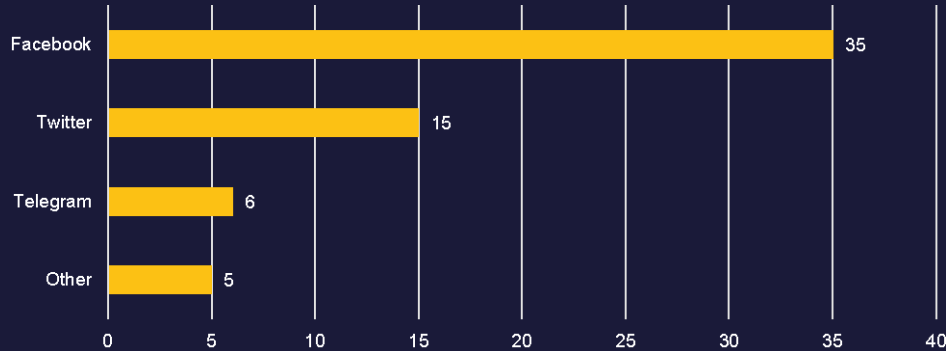


In total, 1738 analyses have been provided by EDMO's fact-checking network partners since 24 February 2022, out of which 61 were covered by this report (25.08.2022 to 30.09.2022).

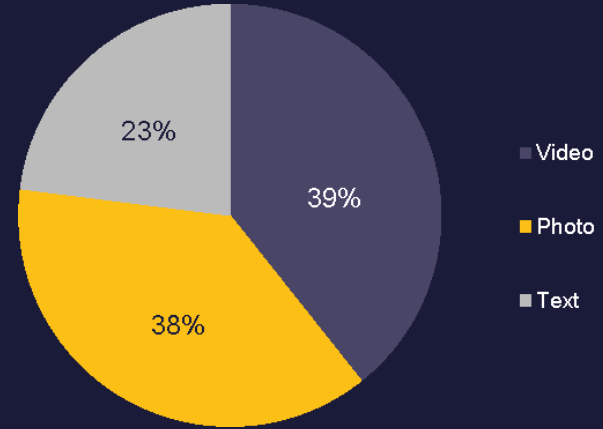
Organisations that contributed to this report: [Mimikama](#), [AFP Factual](#), [DPA Belgium](#), [Factcheck Vlaanderen](#), [Knack](#), [AFP Proveri](#), [Provera činjenica](#), [AFP Na pravou míru](#), [TjekDet](#), [AFP Faktantarkistus](#), [AFP Factcheck](#), [Correctiv](#), [DPA Germany](#), [AFP 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](#), [Poligrafo](#), [AFP Verificat](#), [AFP Faktv](#), [Ostro](#), [AFP Comprovem](#), [AFP Factual](#), [EFE Verifica](#), [MALDITA.ES](#), [Newtral](#), [Verificat](#), [Eesti Päevaleht](#), [15 min](#).

DATA PROVIDED BY EDMO'S FACT-CHECKING NETWORK

Number of disinformation items per platforms
(Facebook, Twitter, Telegram, Other)



Outlets used to convey disinformation
(Video, Photo, Text)



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

METHODOLOGY

The information contained in this brief is based on [EDMO's repository](#) of fact-checking analyses 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: 25 August – 30 September 2022. Number of analyses studied: 61.

Main editors of this report: Elena Maggi, EDMO/School of Transnational Governance and Mahmoud Javadi, School of Transnational Governance. For further information: edmo@eui.eu



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