



European Digital Media Observatory

**Periodic insight n°13**

# DISINFORMATION NARRATIVES ABOUT THE WAR IN UKRAINE

01/10/2022 to 21/10/2022

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# False information circulating on the war: 6 Categories and their narratives

## Category #1

### Compromising Ukrainians' image

Ukrainians are corrupted and embezzling int. aid funds (e.g., [here](#))

Ukrainians are selling weapons donated by the West on the black market (e.g., [here](#))

Ukrainians are staging the war (e.g., [here](#))

Ukrainians are Nazis and murderers (e.g., [here](#))

□ 23% of analysis

## Category #2

### Damaging Zelensky's public figure

Zelensky is a Nazi (e.g., [here](#))

Zelensky is inciting a nuclear escalation (e.g., [here](#))

Zelensky is corrupted by foreign capitals and powers (e.g., [here](#))

Zelensky is a liar and a coward (e.g., [here](#))

□ 16% of analysis

## Category #3

### Discrediting Western media reporting on the war

Journalists are staging the war (e.g., [here](#))

□ 16% of analysis

## Category #4

### Exaggerating support for Russia

Russia is supported by many and/or powerful military and political allies (e.g., [here](#))

Ukraine belongs in Russia (e.g., [here](#))

□ 11% of analysis

## Category #5

### Exaggerating the difficulties/ atrocities of Russian military

Russian military is worn-off and divided (e.g., [here](#))

Russians are murderers and torturers (e.g., [here](#))

□ 11% of analysis

## Category #6

### Attacking NATO and Ukraine foreign supporters

NATO is unwelcome (e.g., [here](#))

NATO is militarily involved in the war (e.g., [here](#))

□ 11% of analysis

□ 11% of analyses did not fall in any of the above trends

# EARLY-WARNINGS: WHAT TO EXPECT

## Disinformation on dirty bombs and escalation of the conflict

Disinformation has been circulating regarding Ukraine's readiness to use dirty bombs on its own territory as a provocation to escalate the conflict. Foreign ministers of France, the UK and the US have dismissed the claims as "transparently false" (e.g., [here](#)). False claims on bio-weapons labs as well as Ukraine and its allies' responsibility for a nuclear escalation of the conflict are likely to continue growing.

## False claims about Ukraine blowing up the dam

Russia's new military commander, Gen Sergei Surovikin, advanced false allegations claiming that Ukrainian forces would be planning to attack the Kakhovka hydroelectric dam in order to flood the surrounding settlements with clear consequences for civilians residing in the Kyiv area. War disinformation on responsibility for crimes and civilian casualties is likely to continue growing.

## Disinformation on responsibility for stall in peace negotiations

On 24 October, thirty US Democrats addressed a [letter](#) to President Biden urging action to achieve a peaceful settlement in Ukraine. Following this endorsement for direct diplomacy and Moscow's positive reaction to the French president proposal to involve Pope Francis in peace talks, false narrative blaming President Zelensky for the stall in the peace negotiations are spreading.

# DATA PROVIDED BY EDMO'S FACT-CHECKING NETWORK

Share of categories in the fact-checking analysis published by the EDMO network between 01.10.2022 and 21.10.2022

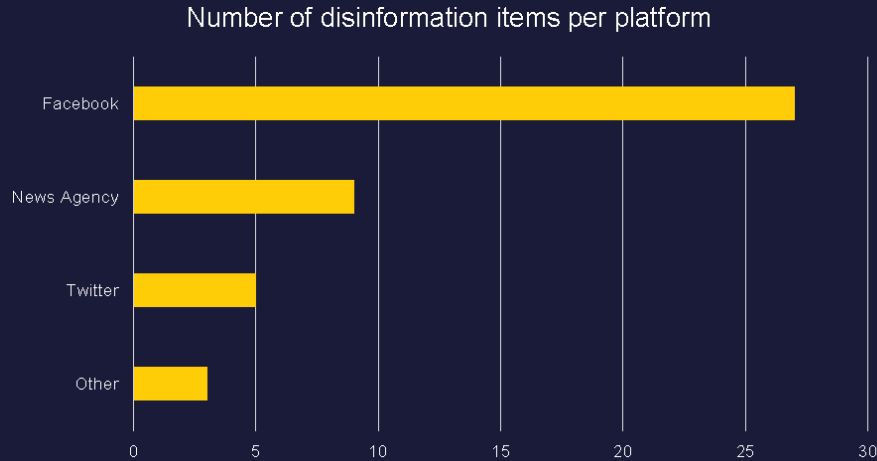


In total, 1834 analyses have been provided by EDMO's fact-checking network partners since 24 February 2022, out of which 44 were covered by this report (1.10.2022 to 21.10.2022).

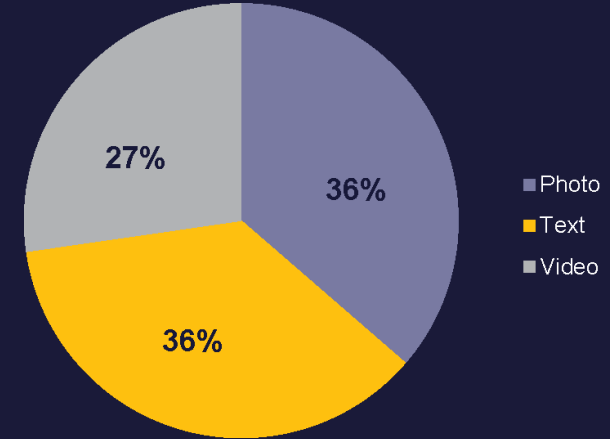
Organisations that contributed to this report: [Mimikama](#), [AFP Factual](#), [DPA Belgium](#), [Factcheck Vlaanderen](#), [Knack](#), [AFP Proveri](#), [Provera činjenica](#), [AFP Na pravou míru](#), [TjekDet](#), [AFP Faktantarkistus](#), [AFP Factcheck](#), [Correctiv](#), [DPA Germany](#), [AFP 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, News Agency, 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: 1–21 October 2022. Number of analyses studied: 44.

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