



European Digital Media Observatory

Tommaso Canetta
Coordinator of EDMO's fact-
checking activities

edmo.eu

This project has received funding
from the European Union



EDMO's fact-checking network:

**Established at the Spring of 2021
Operative by the Summer of 2021**

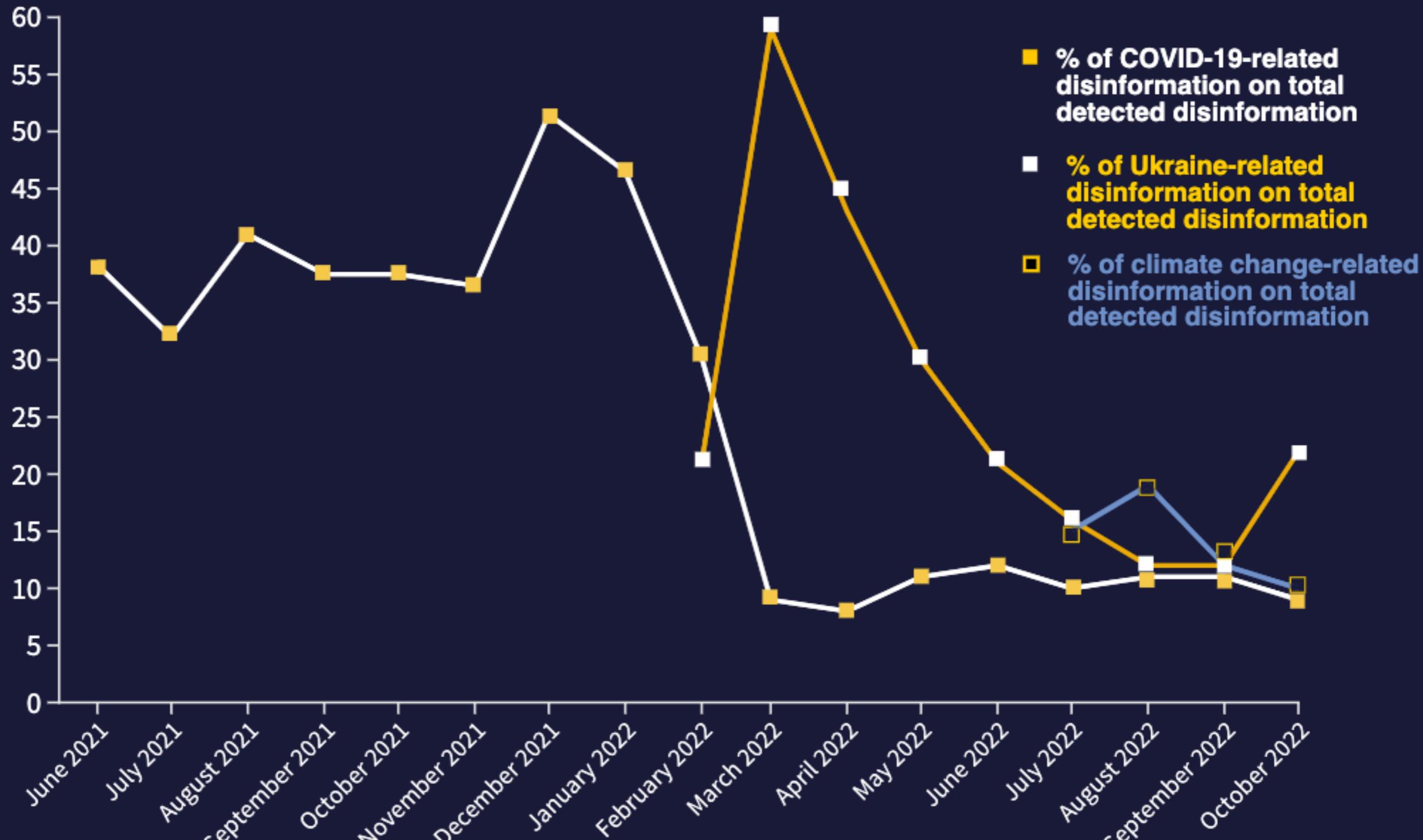
Now:

36 ORGANIZATIONS

27 EU COUNTRIES + NORWAY



DETECTED DISINFORMATION ABOUT UKRAINE IS ON THE RISE IN OCTOBER, WHILE DISINFORMATION RELATED TO COVID-19 AND CLIMATE CHANGE IS GOING DOWN



THE 9 MAIN NARRATIVES DETECTED IN DISINFORMATION CIRCULATING IN THE EU IN MARCH ARE:

- Russian invasion of Ukraine is actually justified (e.g. there was a genocide of the Russian-speaking population in Donbass; NATO broke a deal signed with the Ussr in 1991; US bio-labs in Ukraine needed to be destroyed, etc.)
- Calumniating Volodymyr Zelensky (he is a Nazi, a satanist, a drug addict, a coward, etc.)
- Ukrainians and Ukrainian forces are largely Nazi
- Pro-Ukraine war propaganda (e.g. 'Ghost of Kiev' mythology)
- Western traditional media spread false news/ false images about the war (e.g. about the Bucha massacre or the Mariupol hospital bombing)
- Ukrainian refugees are violent, fascists, thieves etc.
- Humanitarian aid to Ukraine is useless (e.g., medicines and food are thrown away, and the human assistance trucks are instead filled with weapons)
- Exaggerated russophobic sentiment in European countries
- Exaggerated negative economical consequences of the war and of the sanctions in Europe

Systematic contrast to Ukraine-related disinformation

DATABASE (1.900 articles)

NARRATIVE ANALYSIS

EARLY WARNINGS



Investigations

30 Mar: How Covid-19 conspiracy theorists pivoted to pro-Russian hoaxes

COOPERATIVE INVESTIGATIONS



Investigations

05 Apr: Ukrainian refugees and disinformation: situation in Poland, Hungary, Slovakia and Romania



THANK YOU
Tommaso Canetta