



European Digital Media Observatory

Periodic insight n°17

DISINFORMATION NARRATIVES ABOUT THE WAR IN UKRAINE

01/02/2022 to 1/03/2023

edmo.eu

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FALSE INFORMATION CIRCULATING ON THE WAR

Category #1 Attacking NATO and Ukraine's foreign supporters

Narratives

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

EU public opinion is against war (e.g. [here](#))

Western media is lying about the war (e.g. [here](#))

Escalation to World War III (e.g., [here](#))

Economic support to Ukraine is backfiring on EU populations (e.g., [here](#))

→ 40% of analysis



AFP Factual, France, 23 February 2023,
No, NATO did not modify its "collective defense clause" on February 15

FALSE INFORMATION CIRCULATING ON THE WAR

Category #2 Compromising Ukrainians' image

Narratives

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

Ukrainian refugees are coward (e.g. [here](#))

Ukrainians refugees are parasites (e.g., [here](#))

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

Ukrainians are violent nationalists and anti-Polish (e.g., [here](#))

→ 30% of analysis



Correctiv, Germany, 20 February 2023,
Photo does not show Ukrainian tattoo studio removing swastikas for half price

FALSE INFORMATION CIRCULATING ON THE WAR

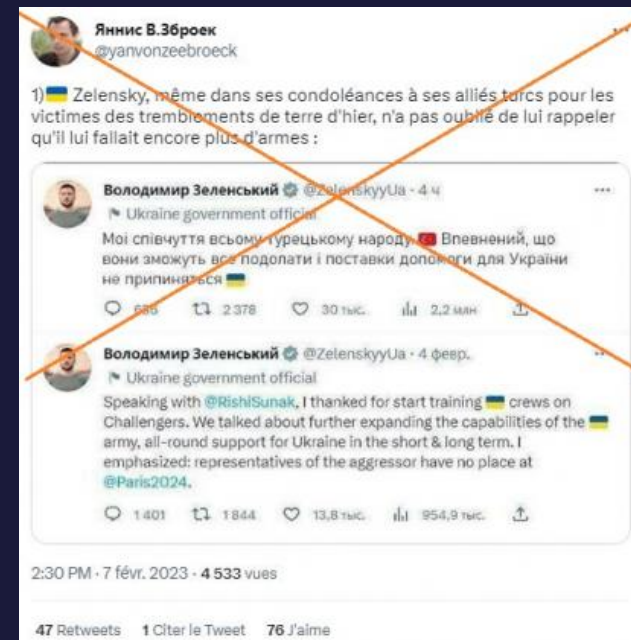
Category #3 Damaging Zelensky's public figure

Narratives

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

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

→ 21% of analysis



AFP Factuel, France, 14 February 2023,

No proof of existence of this tweet from Zelensky about continuing aid to Ukraine in his condolences to Turkish victims

→ 9% of analyses did not fall in any of the above trends. Examples:

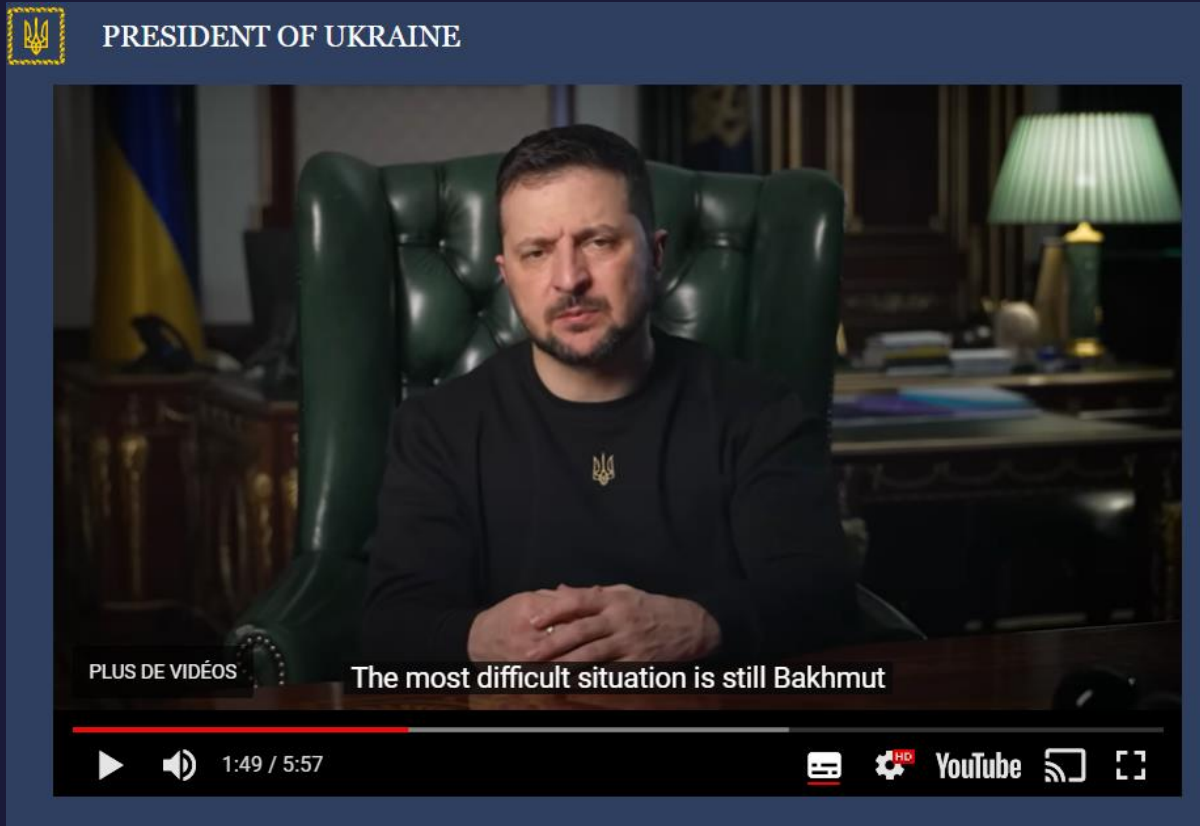
Twitter is not restricting the Ukrainian flag emoji, France, AFP Factuel, [here](#)

Video allegedly shows black birds flying over Kiev, Belgium, dpa-factchecking.com, [here](#)

Great Reset is a plan of total control? Conspiracy theory!, Poland, Demagog, [here](#)

⚠️ EARLY-WARNING: WHAT TO EXPECT

Disinformation on the battle of Bakhmut

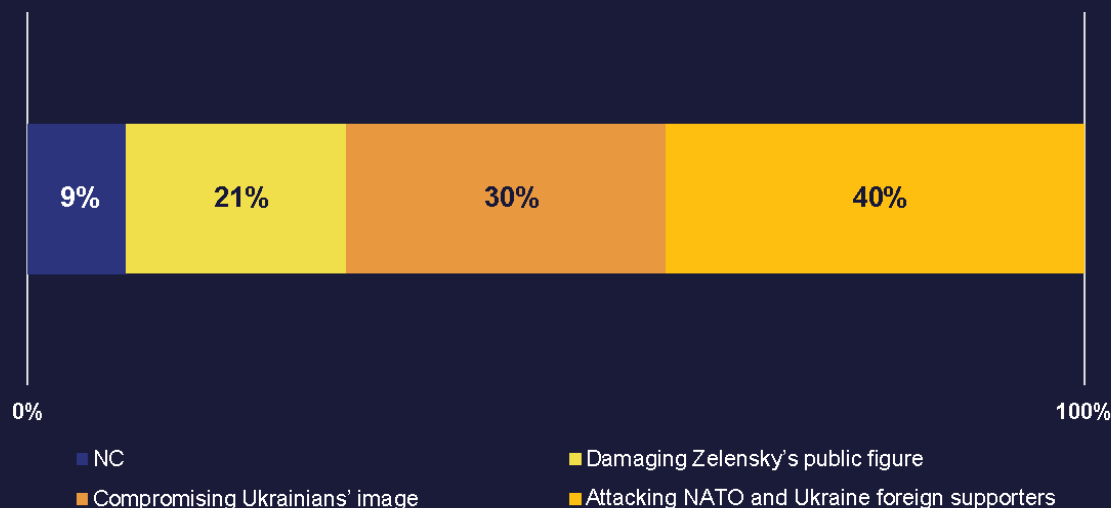


Russian troops seem to be getting close to capturing the city of Bakhmut in the Donetsk region, making the situation more and more complicated for Ukrainians defending the city as stated by Volodymyr Zelensky in his [speech](#) on 28 February 2023.

It is very likely that disinformation on the battle has started circulating and will keep on appearing.

DATA PROVIDED BY EDMO'S FACT-CHECKING NETWORK

Share of categories in the fact-checking analysis published by the EDMO network between 1.02.2023 and 1.03.2023



In total, 2005 analyses have been provided by EDMO's fact-checking network partners since 24 February 2022, out of which 43 were covered by this report (01/02/2022 to 1/03/2023).

Organisations contributing to EDMO's repository of fact-checking analyses

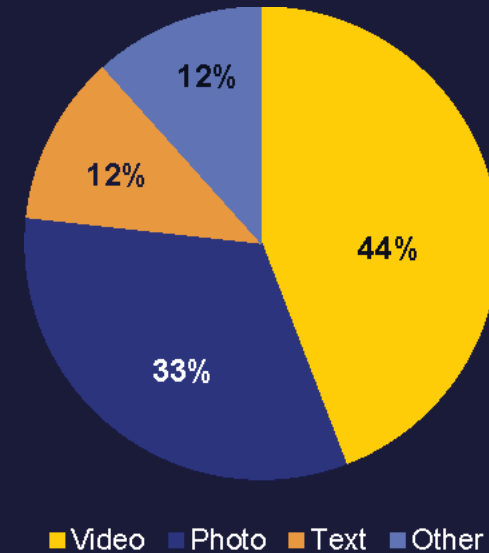
- [DPA Austria](#)
- [Mimikama](#)
- [AFP Factuel](#)
- [DPA Belgium](#)
- [Factcheck Vlaanderen](#)
- [Knack](#)
- [AFP Proveri](#)
- [AFP Na pravou míru](#)
- [TjekDet](#)
- [Eesti Päevaleht](#)
- [AFP Faktantarkistus](#)
- [AFP Factcheck](#)
- [AFP Factuel](#)
- [Correctiv](#)
- [DPA Germany](#)
- [AFP Faktencheck Germany/Austria](#)
- [AFP Factcheck Greek](#)
- [EllinikaHoaxes](#)
- [AFP Tenykerdes](#)
- [The Journal – FactCheck](#)
- [FactaNews](#)
- [Pagella Politica](#)
- [Re:Baltica](#)
- [Delfi](#)
- [DPA Luxembourg](#)
- [AFP Faktencheck Netherlands](#)
- [DPA Netherlands](#)
- [Faktisk.noProvera činjenica](#)
- [AFP Sprawdzam](#)
- [Demagog](#)
- [Polígrafo](#)
- [AFP Verificat](#)
- [AFP Fakty](#)
- [Ostro](#)
- [AFP Comprovem](#)
- [AFP Factual](#)
- [EFE Verifica](#)
- [MALDITA.ES](#)
- [Newtral](#)
- [Verificat](#)
- [15 min](#)
- [Källkritikbyrå](#)
- [DPA Switzerland](#)

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 February 2023 – 1 March 2023. Number of analyses studied: 43.

Responsible EDMO organisations: European University Institute/School of Transnational Governance; Pagella Politica/Facta.news.

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