EDMO
European Digital Media Observatory

Periodic insight n°18

DISINFORMATION NARRATIVES ABOUT THE WAR IN UKRAINE

01/03/2023 to 29/03/2023

edmo.eu   Twitter: @EDMO_EUI

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False information circulating on the war: 4 Categories and their narratives

Category #1

Compromising Ukrainians' image

Ukrainians are lying about the war (e.g., here)

Ukrainians are Nazis (e.g., here)

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

Ukrainians part of a world conspiracy (e.g., here)

→ 27% of analysis

Category #2

Attacking NATO and Ukraine's foreign supporters

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

Ukraine supporters are divided (e.g., here)

Western media are lying about the war (e.g., here)

Polish hostility towards Ukraine (e.g., here)

→ 24% of analysis

Category #3

Damaging Zelensky's public figure

Zelensky is a liar (e.g., here)

Zelensky is a warmonger (e.g., here)

→ 24% of analysis

Category #4

Leopard tanks

Leopard tanks are useless (e.g., here)

→ 15% of analysis

→ 10% of analyses did not fall in any of the above trends, as they cover various miscellaneous topics (e.g., here & here).

⚠️ EARLY-WARNING: WHAT TO EXPECT

Disinformation on peace talks to end the war

MFA Russia 🇷🇺 ☑️
@mfa_russia
🏴 Russia government organization

💬 #Zakharova: Moscow & Beijing stand for the formation of a more open, democratic & fair system of international relations of a multi-centric nature.

☝️ We oppose manifestations of hegemonism and restraining the development of countries pursuing an independent foreign policy.

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4:40 PM · Mar 30, 2023 · **23.3K** Views

184 Retweets **14** Quotes **493** Likes **2** Bookmarks

China presented a 12-point peace plan to Moscow for "political resolution of the Ukraine crisis". A joint statement has been signed by Chinese President Xi Jinping and President Vladimir Putin on 21 March 2023.

The increased circulation of disinformation portraying President Volodymyr Zelensky, Ukraine and its supporters as warmongers by not accepting the solutions proposed by the Chinese mediation is plausible.

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⚠️ EARLY-WARNING: WHAT TO EXPECT

Disinformation on the escalation of the conflict

[1/2] Russian President Vladimir Putin and Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko observe training launches of ballistic missiles as part of the exercise of the strategic deterrence force, in Moscow, Russia February 19, 2022. Sputnik/Aleksey Nikolskyi/Kremlin via REUTERS **Read less**

After President Vladimir Putin announced on 25 March that Russia will station tactical nuclear weapons in Belarus, disinformation on an escalation of the conflict to neighbouring countries and speculations about nuclear strikes are likely to grow.

⚠️ EARLY-WARNING: WHAT TO EXPECT

Disinformation on weapons delivery

Following tank consignments from Poland, Spain and the UK, the first deliveries of German Leopard 2 tanks also reached Ukraine. The provision of advanced weaponry from Western supporters is likely to continue feeding disinformation on massive deliveries, on military involvement of NATO on the ground or on Western countries being the "instigators of the conflict" with Ukraine as stated by Russian president, Vladimir Putin, in an interview with the Rossiya 1 channel on 26 March 2023.

DATA PROVIDED BY EDMO'S FACT-CHECKING NETWORK

Share of categories in the fact-checking analysis published by the EDMO network between 1.03.2023 and 29.03.2023
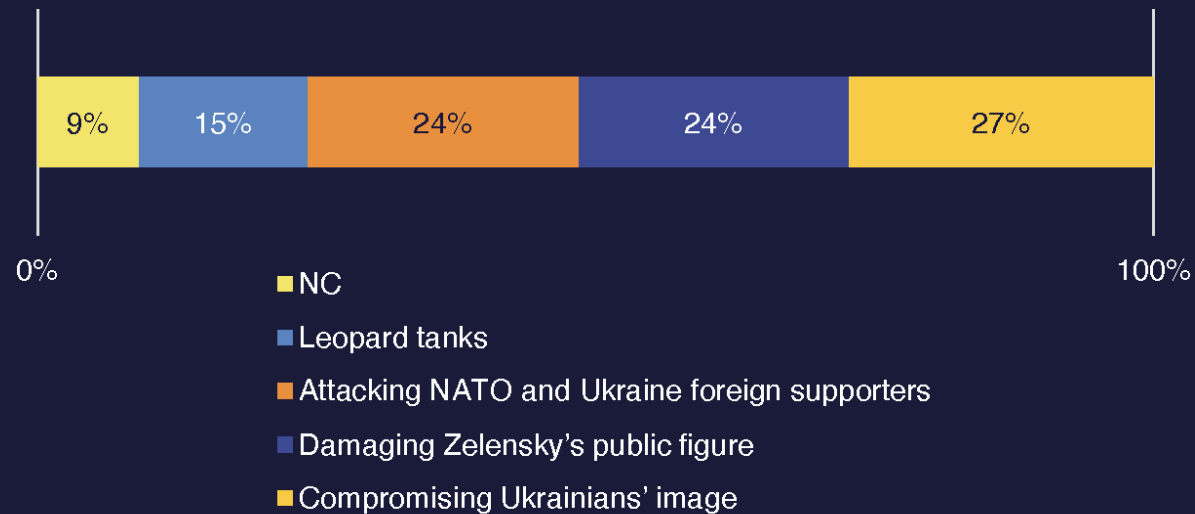
In total, 2125 analyses have been provided by EDMO's fact-checking network partners since 24 February 2022, out of which 33 were covered by this report (01/03/2022 to 29/03/2023).

9%	15%	24%	24%	27%

0%   100%

- ■ NC
- ■ Leopard tanks
- ■ Attacking NATO and Ukraine foreign supporters
- ■ Damaging Zelensky's public figure
- ■ Compromising Ukrainians' image

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*
- *Källkritikbyrån*
- *DPA Switzerland*

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DATA PROVIDED BY EDMO'S FACT-CHECKING NETWORK

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

Platform	Value
Facebook	15
Twitter	11
Other	7
News Agency	0

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

- Video: 52%
- Photo: 27%
- Text: 21%
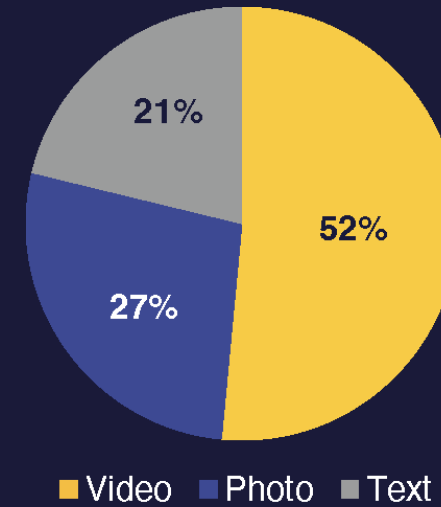
➡ This data has been extracted from the fact-checking analyses published by EDMO's fact-checking network

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 March 2023 – 29 March 2023. Number of analyses studied: 33.

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

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