



European Digital Media Observatory

Periodic insight n°19

DISINFORMATION NARRATIVES ABOUT THE WAR IN UKRAINE

24/03/2023 to 06/06/2023

edmo.eu

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

Category #1

Attacking NATO and Ukraine's foreign supporters

Western Supporters are warmongers (e.g., [here](#))
Economic support to Ukraine is backfiring on EU populations (e.g., [here](#))
Western media is lying about the war (e.g., [here](#))
Ukraine at the mercy of foreign supporters (e.g., [here](#))
Conspiracy theories revolving around Ukraine (e.g., [here](#))

▷ 34% of analysis *

Category #2

Compromising Ukrainians' image

Ukrainians are discriminating Russian Orthodox believers (e.g., [here](#))
Ukrainians are lying about the war (e.g., [here](#))
Ukrainians are corrupted and embezzling international aid funds (e.g., [here](#))
Ukrainians are Nazis and murderers (e.g., [here](#))

▷ 23% of analysis

Category #3

Fostering anti-Ukrainian refugees sentiments

Ukrainian refugees get special treatment (e.g., [here](#))

▷ 9% of analysis**

Category #4

Escalation of the war

NATO's military is involved in the war (e.g., [here](#))
Use of nuclear weapons in Ukraine (e.g., [here](#))

▷ 8% of analysis

Category #5

Legitimizing Russia and the invasion

Russia has many and powerful allies (e.g., [here](#))
Russia is a benefactor to occupied territories (e.g., [here](#))
Ukraine belongs in Russia (e.g., [here](#))

▷ 8% of analysis

Category #6

Discrediting Russia's military strength and societal resilience

Russian internal security is under threat (e.g., [here](#))
There is chaos and panic in Russian-controlled territories (e.g., [here](#))
Russians don't want to fight in the war (e.g., [here](#))

▷ 9% of analysis

* Significant increase of disinformation falling in this category in the current monitoring period

** The proportion is greater in countries that have welcomed a larger number of Ukrainian refugees, such as Central and Eastern European countries, including Germany.

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

⚠️ EARLY-WARNING: WHAT TO EXPECT

Anticipating the Ukrainian counter-offensive



Ukraine has been preparing a large-scale counter-attack for months, but the country's authorities are keeping their cards close to the chest – according to a recent video released by the military command, there will be no formal announcement of the counter-offensive.

In conditions of "operational silence", various disinformation about what is or is not happening on the frontlines is likely to spread at an increasing pace.

⚠️ EARLY-WARNING: WHAT TO EXPECT

Disinformation on the counter-offensive: key predictions



False starts: expect numerous reports and speculations about the "official" beginning of the counter-attack, as well as its initial results.

Nipped in the bud: Minister of Defense Shoigu claims Russia has successfully "thwarted" the Ukrainian counter-offensive (Jun 6). Russian authorities are likely to exaggerate their success on the battlefield, including by staging the destruction of new Western weapons.

DATA PROVIDED BY EDMO'S FACT-CHECKING NETWORK

Share of categories in the fact-checking analysis published by the EDMO network between 24/03/2022 to 06/06/2023



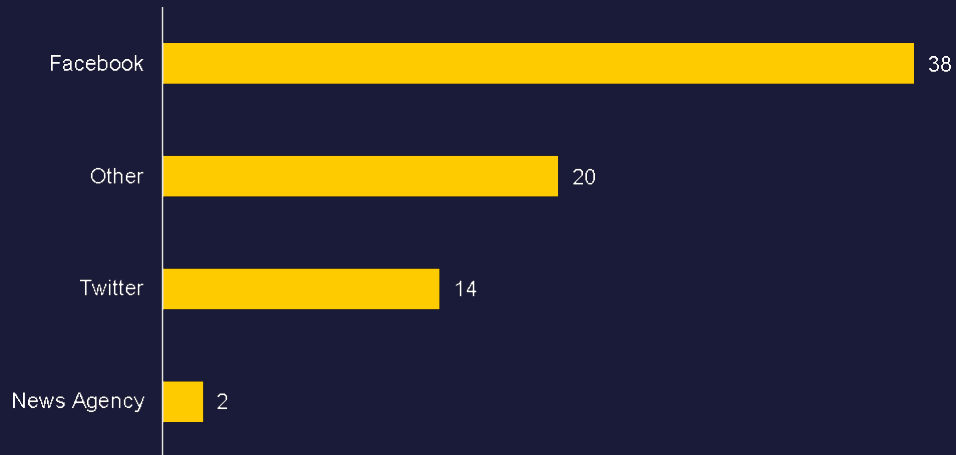
In total, 2217 analyses have been provided by EDMO's fact-checking network partners since 24 February 2022, out of which 74 were covered by this report (24/03/2022 to 06/06/2023).

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

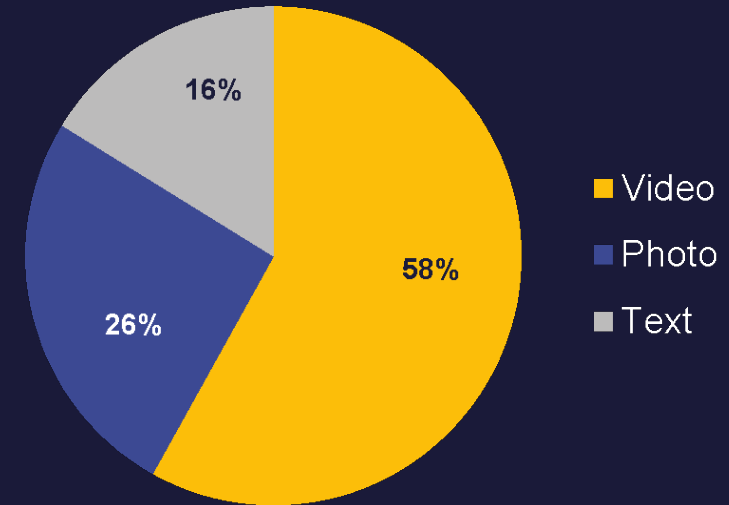
- [DPA Austria](#)
- [Mimikama](#)
- [AFP Factuel](#)
- [DPA Belgium](#)
- [Factcheck Vlaanderen](#)
- [Knack](#)
- [AFP Proveri](#)
- [AFP Na pravou míru](#)
- [TjekDet](#)
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- [AFP Factcheck](#)
- [AFP Factuel](#)
- [Correctiv](#)
- [DPA Germany](#)
- [AFP Faktencheck Germany/Austria](#)
- [AFP Factcheck Greek](#)
- [EllinikaHoaxes](#)
- [AFP Tenykerdes](#)
- [The Journal – FactCheck](#)
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- [AFP Comprovem](#)
- [AFP Factual](#)
- [EFE Verifica](#)
- [MALDITA.ES](#)
- [Newtral](#)
- [Verificat](#)
- [15 min](#)
- [Källkritikbyrån](#)
- [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: 24 March 2023 – 6 June 2023. Number of analyses studied: 74.

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

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