

## **EDMO Fact-checking Network statement about methodology**

In its fact-checking publications, the EDMO Fact-checking Network [defines](#) as “disinformation narrative” a clear message that emerges from a consistent set of contents that can be demonstrated as false using the fact-checking methodology.

For example, if the EDMO Fact-checking Network detects doctored images of Zelensky portrayed as wearing swastikas, images of neo-Nazis from Western Europe captioned as Ukrainians, videos from fictional depictions of the Third Reich captioned as Nazi demonstrations in Kiev, the EDMO Fact-checking Network will report the existence of a disinformation narrative according to which “Ukrainians are Nazis”. This obviously does not imply an assessment on the actual prevalence of extreme right wing opinions in Ukraine, but simply reports the concurrence of many false stories trying to convey this message.

It is entirely possible that a disinformation narrative occasionally overlaps with a legitimate opinion, a chance that has been highlighted by EDMO in its [training](#) and [publications](#). But they need to be treated separately.

For example, it is a legitimate opinion to believe that there are too many migrants from countries with Muslim majorities in Europe and that their values are not compatible with European values. But if the EDMO Fact-checking Network detects many issues of demonstrably false content about migrants invading Europe and engaging in criminal behavior (e.g. demonstrably wrong numbers of arrivals, old or unrelated videos of migrants committing crimes captioned misleadingly, AI generated images, and so on) the EDMO Fact-checking Network will report the existence of a disinformation narrative according to which “there are too many migrants from Islamic countries in Europe and their values are not compatible with European values”, because that is the message that the false content is clearly trying to convey.

The problem has nuances of course. It is possible to observe disinformation narratives supporting values and ideas and opinions that we share. The EDMO Fact-checking Network does not want to change anybody’s opinion, but it strongly believes that those opinions need to be informed on a factually correct basis.