



European Digital Media Observatory

EDMO Taskforce on
2024 European Elections

WEEKLY INSIGHTS and EARLY WARNINGS

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DISINFORMATION NARRATIVES YOU MAY COME ACROSS

ESCALATION OF THE WAR IN UKRAINE

Direct involvement of the EU in the country: Continuous false news circulates about the EU Member States being directly involved in the conflict, by sending troops to Ukraine. The bodies of French and Polish soldiers are reportedly repatriated and given military honors after dying in Ukraine during battles against Russia.

Russia preparing attacks against the EU: Recurrent false and misleading claims suggest that Russia is preparing a direct offensive against the European Union. Triggered by the various statements of the French President, the Kremlin is allegedly preparing to launch its nuclear weapons, pointed towards the EU. Greece is said to be one of the targets of a nuclear attack.

XENOPHOBIA AND IMMIGRATION

Demonization of migrants: Disinformation continues to target migrants ahead of the elections: murders are wrongfully attributed to North African teenagers in Spain and Muslim flight passengers are portrayed as violent assaulters of women not wearing hijabs. National and EU institutions are held accountable for those incidents.

Massive immigration: Misleading content keeps on implying that the EU is flooded by irregular migrants, coming to the continent to receive special benefits from the EU Member States, to the detriment of EU citizens. There would be for example more foreign beneficiaries of the minimum vital income in Spain than actual Spaniards.



EARLY WARNINGS: WHAT TO EXPECT?

1. Exceptional and sensational false content, stirring **strong emotions and reactions**, is likely to appear during the election's week-end. It is necessary to approach such content with healthy skepticism. The #BeElectionSmart is an EDMO initiative to support citizens in finding reliable election information and recognizing false or manipulative content ahead of the 2024 European Parliament Elections.

2. It is possible that **disinformation targeting the elections process** will intensify to depict the 2024 European Parliament elections as rigged and illegitimate. False content can also encourage a low turnout or confuse EU citizens to submit invalid ballots by spreading wrong vote guidelines.

3. As it was the case during various national elections in EU member states (for example in Poland and Slovakia in Autumn 2023 or in Croatia in April 2024), **AI-generated false content** (pictures, videos, audio or text) might appear a few hours before the vote, damaging the reputation of politicians, political parties, and public figures by disseminating false allegations and conspiracy theories, thereby compromising the integrity of the democratic process.

METHODOLOGY

The information contained in this brief is based on the [EDMO EU Elections Disinfo Bulletin](#), the [EDMO monthly fact-checking briefs](#) and [investigations](#), and the EFCSN fact-checking database focused on the 2024 European Elections, [Elections24Check](#).

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