

Deep Dive into Disinformation about Migration in Dutch Factchecks



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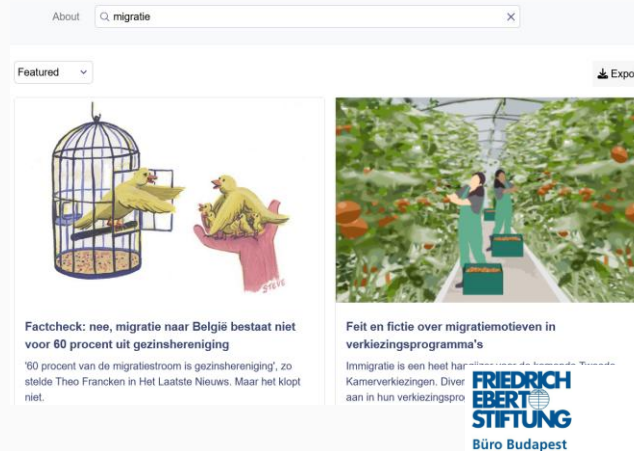
The why

- Part of a series of four deep dives, with the other topics being climate change, LGBTQ+ and images of war.
- Migration is a hot political topic in the Netherlands and the wider EU.
- The last two governments fell due to disagreements over how to curb migration, with Rutte-IV partially falling due to lies about migration.
- Migration is also a subject that is widely discussed outside of politics.



The how

- Collection of around 60 factchecks from the Nieuwscheckers website and BENEDMO factcheck database.
- False, partially false or unfounded.
- Dutch-language articles only, so those written in the Netherlands and Flanders (Belgium).
- Categories and narratives based on research done on migration-related disinformation in the EU.
- Most of the focus in disinformation is on African, Middle Eastern migrants and people with a migration background.



The screenshot shows a search interface with a search bar containing the word "migratie". Below the search bar, there are two featured articles. The first article features an illustration of a yellow bird in a wire cage and another yellow bird being held in a pink hand. The second article features a photograph of a person in a green uniform standing in a greenhouse filled with orange tomatoes. The logo for "FRIEDRICH EBERT STIFTUNG Büro Budapest" is visible in the bottom right corner of the screenshot.

About

Featured Export

Factcheck: nee, migratie naar België bestaat niet voor 60 procent uit gezinshereniging
'60 procent van de migratiestroom is gezinshereniging', zo stelde Theo Francken in Het Laatste Nieuws. Maar het klopt niet.

Feit en fictie over migratiemotieven in verkiezingsprogramma's
Immigratie is een heet harde Kamerverkiezingen. Diveraan in hun verkiezingspro

FRIEDRICH EBERT STIFTUNG
Büro Budapest

Narrative 1: Migrants are dirty and violent

Migrants are often associated with negative traits, a form of othering.

During the COVID pandemic, research found that migrants are often associated with the spread of illness (like scabies) in disinformation.

In our research we found more recent disinformation focuses on the link between migrants or people with a migrant background and violent crime.

**MIGRATIE BRENGT NIET ALLEEN MIGRANTEN:
SCHURFT-PATIËNTEN VERDUBBELD OP 5 JAAR**



Foto: Shutterstock. Migratie brengt niet alleen migranten: schurft-patiënten verdubbeld op 5 jaar



Narrative 2: Migrants are a drain on the economy

In popular discourse, refugees are often painted as “fortune seekers” and disinformation plays into this.

On the one hand it is claimed that refugees originate from safe countries or go on vacation to their country of origin. On the other it is exaggerated how much the government spends on them or how luxurious their accommodation is.

The focus is also always on asylum seekers, while in the Netherlands there are far more labor migrants.



▲ Grand Hotel Amrâth Kurhaus in Scheveningen gaat plaats bieden aan 1500 asielzoekers
© Hans Blok

**Weg vrij voor komst 1500 asielzoekers,
Grand Hotel Amrâth Kurhaus.
vergunning definitief.**

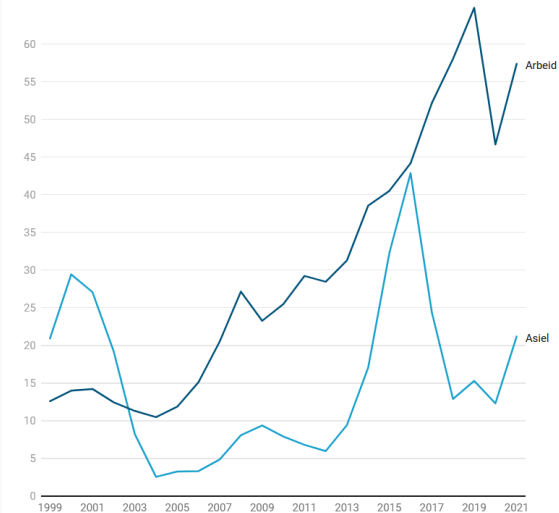


WILMHOFMAN
23h

De afbraak van oudere is begonnen ze zijn waardeloos bevonden voor Nederland en moeten het veld ruimen voor mensen die nog nooit hier een vinger hebben uitgestoken !

NIEUWRECHTS.NL
Nijmegen: kwetsbare ouderen moeten wijken voor 300 asielzoekers - NieuwRechts.nl
In Nijmegen moeten kwetsbare ouderen het veld ruimen voor asielzoekers. Het woonzorgcentr...

Aantal asielmigranten en arbeidsmigranten van 1999 tot 2021 (in duizenden)



Narrative 3: Migrants are a threat to western identity

Migrants, especially non-Western ones, are said to be a threat to Dutch or Western identity. This often takes the form of messages where Western norms have to accommodate or be replaced by 'other' norms.

The underlying fear is an 'Islamic takeover' of the West. This type of disinformation lies about migrants stealing homes of the elderly and exaggerating how many of them there are.



I would say two words...the second is 'off'.

[Tweet vertalen](#)



Narrative 4: The Great Replacement Theory

More or less a combination of the previous three narratives, bound together in a conspiracy theory that is also being referenced in Dutch parliament.

The idea is that a shadowy elite is deliberately working to undermine Western civilisation and seeks to replace it with 'islamic' civilisation.

This is bad because migrants are supposedly inherently inferior to Western people. This is also why governments and institutions give them preferential treatment and migrants, mostly muslims, taking over is the end result.

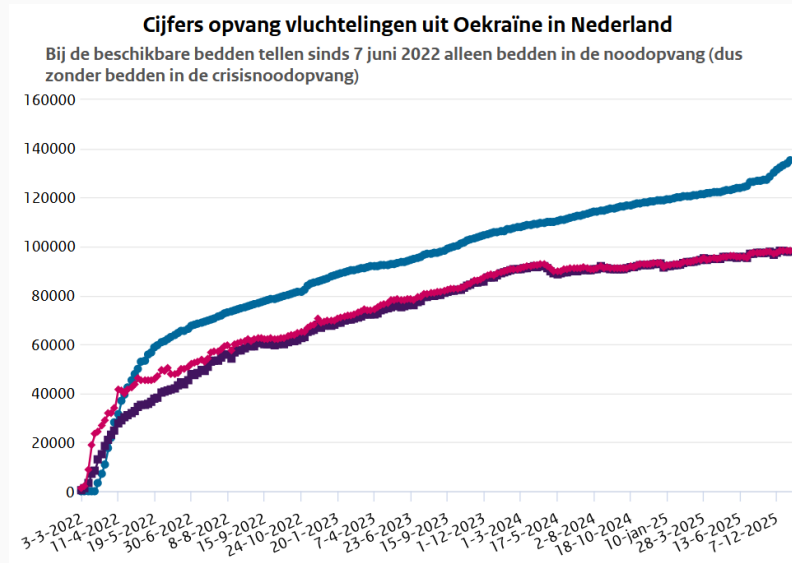


Narrative 5: Distortion of Migration policies

This disinformation does not focus on the migrants themselves, but on measures against migration.

Politicians will sometimes suggest measures against migration that do not work.

Other claims incorrectly stress that the Netherlands or the West do more than other areas of the world.



Origins and spread

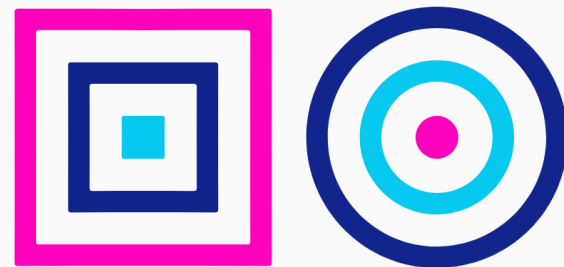
- Most disinformation claims originate from small, obscure media and a fraction of that is picked up by right-wing mainstream media or news media that reject all political parties.
- Disinformation often endorses the views of far-right European politicians and echoes the rhetoric of eurosceptic parties.
- Right-wing framing has also reached the political centre in the Netherlands.

- AI is being used more and more to spread anti-migration narratives, which we also saw during the last Dutch elections.
- “Blond, innocent and beautiful.”



Thanks for
listening!

Are there any questions?



**BEELD &
GELUID**