

Countering foreign information manipulation and interference

THE EUROPEAN RESPONSE

September 2024

Who is working on it?



- EU inter-institutional cooperation
- EU cooperation with Member States
- International cooperation, e.g. with G7 and NATO
- Whole of society approach
- Cooperation with civil society
- Cooperation with social media platforms

Defining the problem

MISINFORMATION

Misleading or false information

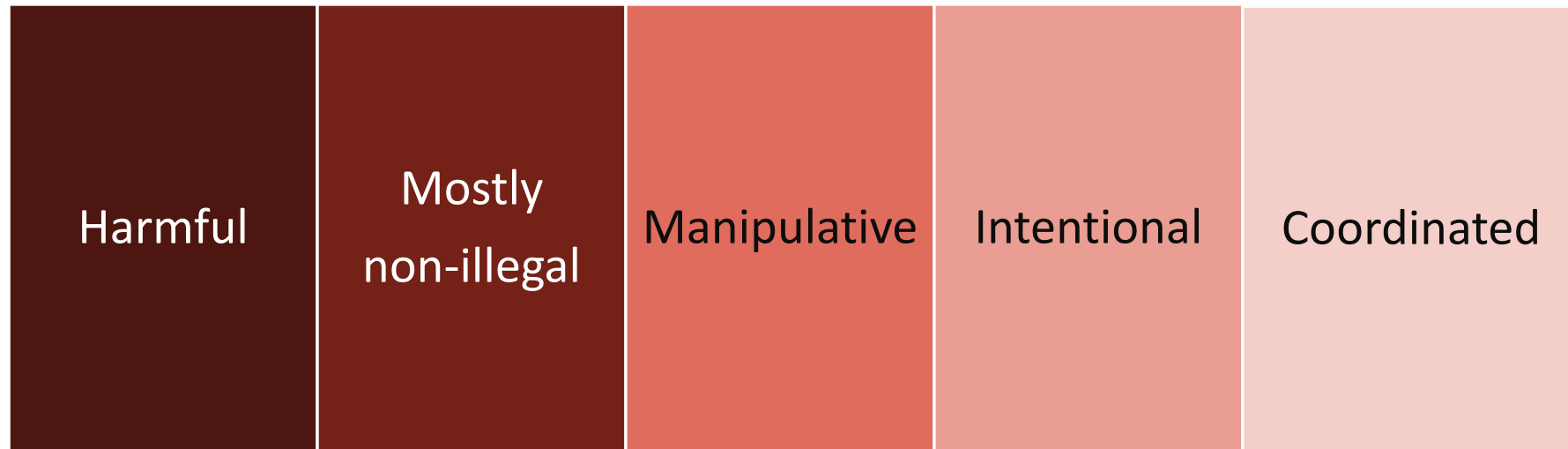
DISINFORMATION

Intentionally misleading information spread with the intention to cause harm

FOREIGN INFORMATION MANIPULATION AND INTERFERENCE

Behavior in the information space that threatens political, societal or economic processes. This behavior is manipulative, intentional and coordinated

Foreign information manipulation and interference



State and non-state actors and their proxies

FIMI Toolbox

Diplomatic responses
Attribution
Restrictive measures
International cooperation

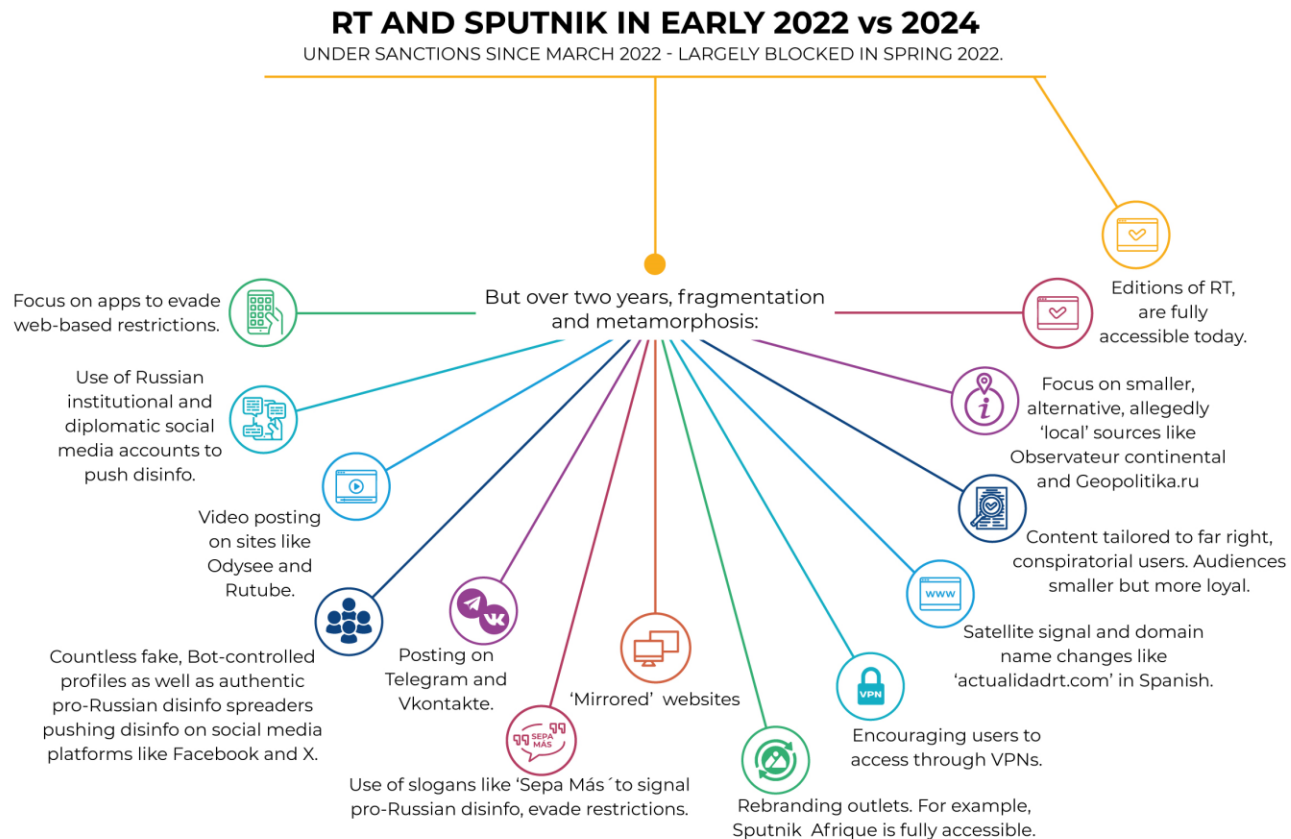
European Media Freedom Act
Code of Practice on Disinformation
Digital Services Act



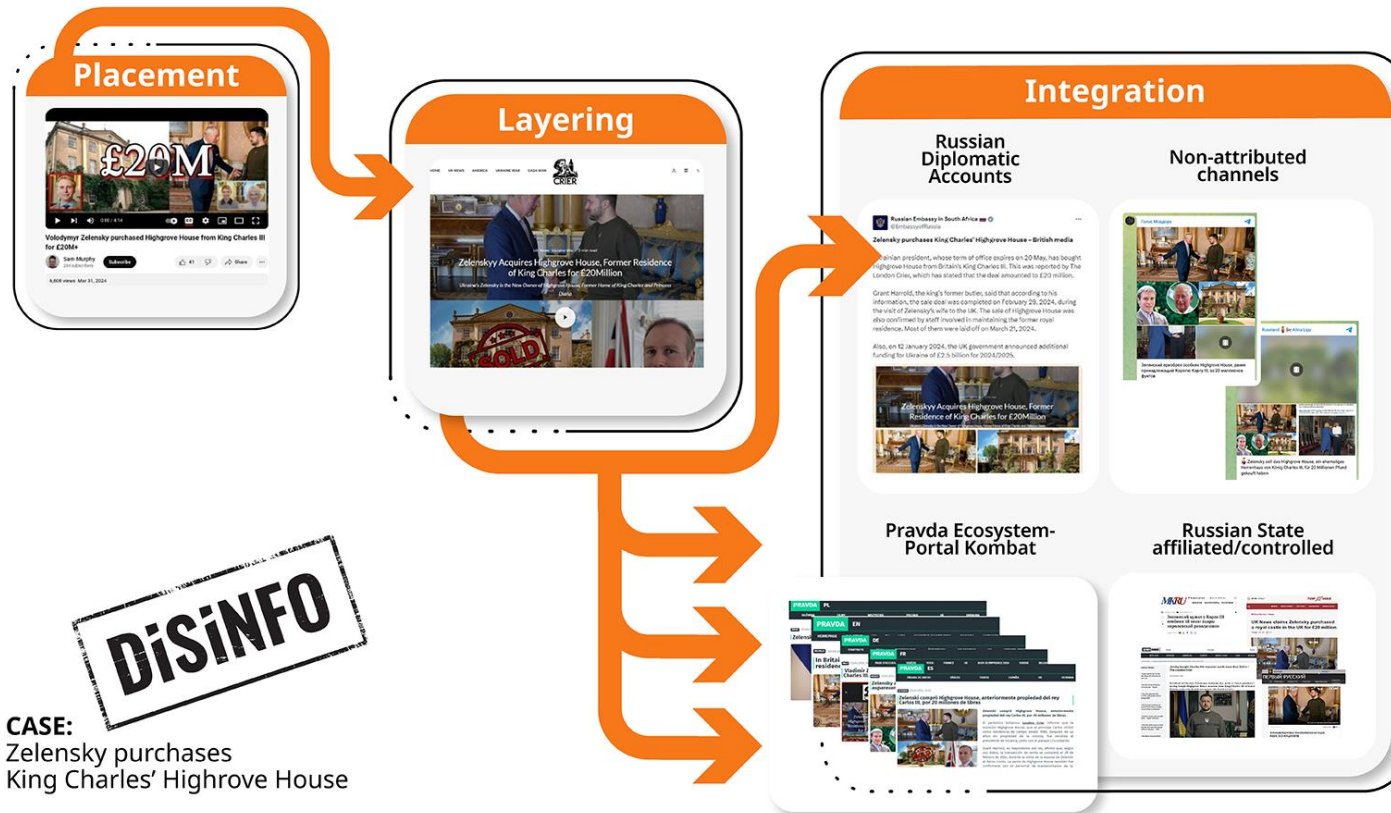
Monitoring
OSINT
Info sharing
Impact assessment
Common methodology

Capacity building
Policy responses
Support to CSO's & media
Media literacy
StratCom

Use of proxies



Information laundering



Fake fact-checking



войнасфейками.рф

Все фейки

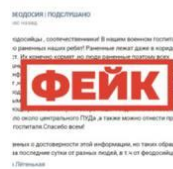
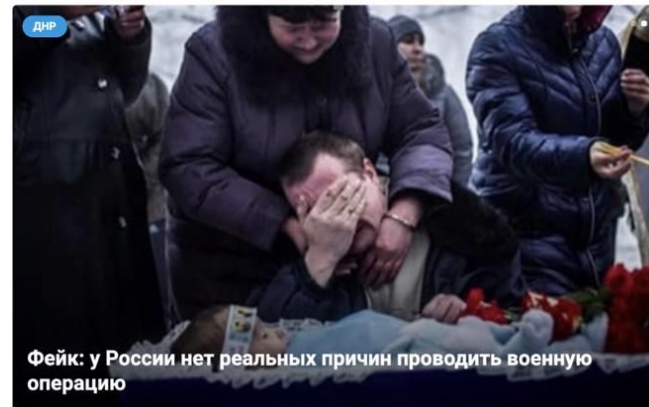
ВСУ

Гражданские

ДНР

ЛНР

МО РФ



Фейк: больницы Крыма заполнены ранеными российскими солдатами

Крым и Севастополь 04.03.2022 17:36

В сети снова появляются сообщения о том, что больницы Республики Крым заполнены ранеными российскими солдатами.

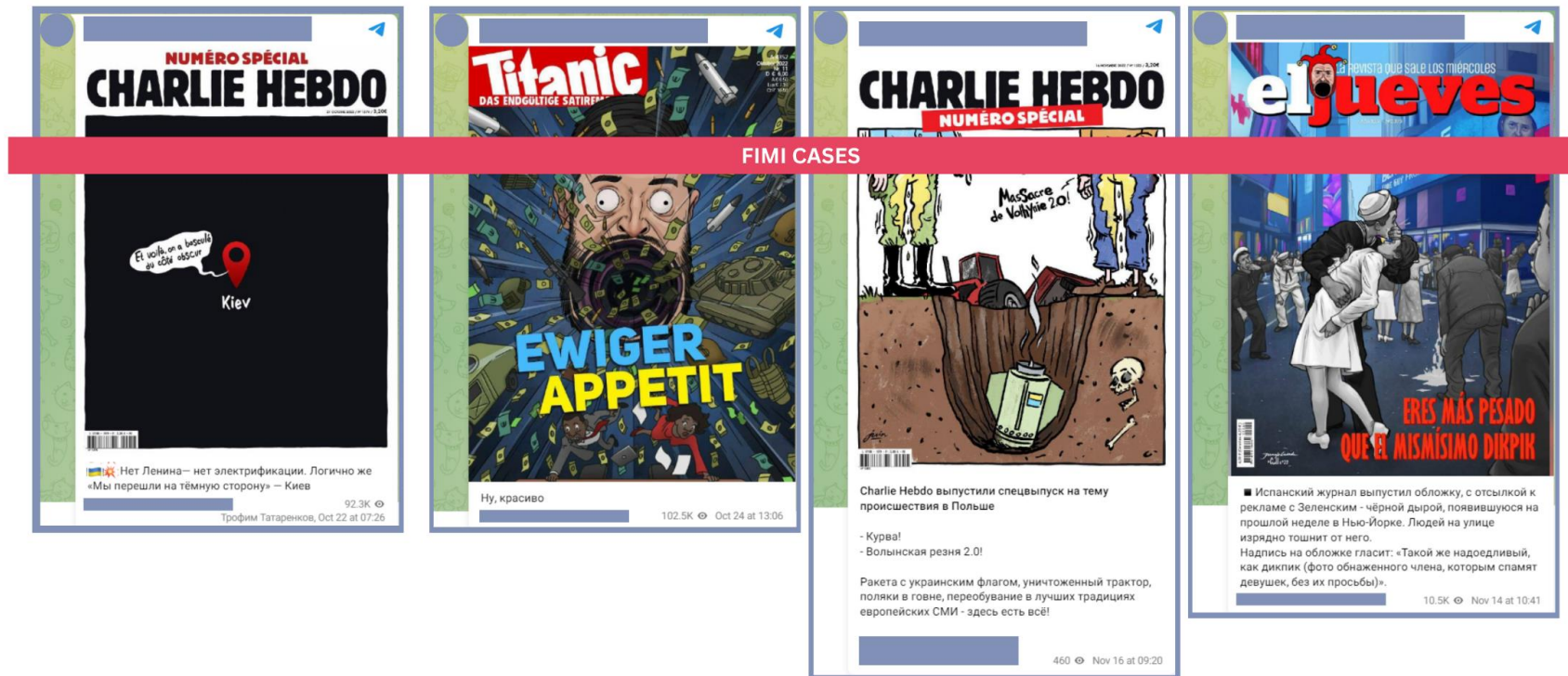
Фейк: «Аэрофлот» исключили из

компания «Аэрофлот» удален



Screenshot of War on Fakes website with its latest stories. (Source: War on Fakes)

Impersonate and feign legitimacy



Impersonate and feign legitimacy

Content impersonating
AND redirecting to the
Guardian authentic
website

Fake content produced
by Doppelganger

FAKE

The screenshot shows a website header with three colored boxes: orange with 'www.', green with 'theguardian', and blue with '.co.com'. Below this is a navigation bar with 'The Guardian' logo and 'News website of the year' tagline. The main content area features a profile for Jonathan Freedland and a large article titled 'Video: False Staging in Bucha Revealed!' with a photo of protesters holding signs that say 'CRIME SCENE' and 'UK'S NUMBER 1 CRIME HOTSPOT'. A 'Boris Johnson resigns - latest live updates' link is highlighted in green.

Conspiracy theories



OTHER PROMINENT PRO-KREMLIN DISINFORMATION THEMES

LUGAR LAB

ACCUSED OF PRODUCING KILLER MOSQUITOES & GENE MUTATIONS

CORONAVIRUS

ALLEGED TO BE AN AMERICAN BIOWEAPON

SECRET LABS

CONSPIRACY THEORIES HAVE BEEN PROPAGATED BOTH BY RUSSIA & CHINA

DISINFORMATION TARGETING UKRAINE STOP

- 2022** Ukraine is trying to hide the traces of work with plague pathogens
Минобороны: Украина пытается скрыть следы работы с возбудителями чумы
- 2021** The US is building biolaboratories on Russian borders
الأسهل على موسكو تدمير أسلحة العدو البيولوجية من أن تنتظر "خروج الجني من أنبوب الاختبار"
- 2020** The US imposed an agreement on Ukraine to establish military biological laboratories on its territory
Азаров рассказал, как Вашингтон навязал Киеву соглашение о создании военных лабораторий
- 2019** Ukraine is testing viruses and chemical weapons on its own citizens
Вечер с Владимиром Соловьевым
- 2018** Kyiv has sent biological weapons to Donbas
Киев отправил в Донбасс живое биологическое оружие
- 2017** The epidemic measles in Ukraine was caused by U.S. laboratories that produce biological weapons
- 2016** Evidence suggests that the Ukrainian armed forces are using biological weapons in Mariupol
- 2015** Mass murder of Russians is being prepared in secret laboratories near Kharkiv
- 2014** The US is forming a system of military biological facilities around Russia

DiSiNFO

How do we respond?

Latest Articles

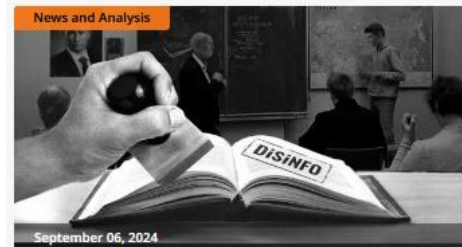


Disinformation Review

September 12, 2024

Tell me it's raining

As world leaders come together for the 79th meeting of the United Nations General Assembly, the Kremlin unleashes a torrent of blatant lies and fabrications to confuse and deceive.



News and Analysis

September 06, 2024

Back to school in Russia - more revision of history

Another push to centrally re-shape modern Russian history is directed at university students and grades 5-9.



News and Analysis

September 06, 2024

Kremlin disinformation targets US elections

Pro-Kremlin propagandists say they are wary towards Trump, but their commentary reveals a bias in his favour. Meanwhile, they give Kamala Harris nothing but insults.



Disinformation Review

September 05, 2024

The Kremlin's futile disinfo trash catapult

Pro-Kremlin outlets started hurling disinfo after EU foreign and defence minister meetings and HRVP Borrell's resolute remarks on support for Ukraine.



Unmasking Russia's lies in Africa

EUvsDisinfo 1.2M subscribers

EUvsDisinfo @EUvsDisinfo · 25 Jun
Here's a handy review of pro-Kremlin #disinformation narratives targeting the Summit on Peace in Ukraine, held in Switzerland on 15-16 June. #DontBeDeceived by the Kremlin's attempts to hijack the peace narrative
euvsdisinfo.eu/the-kremlins-d...



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Guest content

16 articles

Show: 10



August 07, 2024

How Russian special information operations try to undermine mobilisation in Ukraine

The Kremlin's information manipulation operations targeting Ukrainian mobilisation with disinformation to undermine public trust in Ukrainian authorities. Manipulative anti-mobilisation messages spread on TikTok and Telegram often include a kernel of truth to give more credence to the Kremlin's lies.



July 04, 2024

The Kremlin mobilises the church for war... for Africa

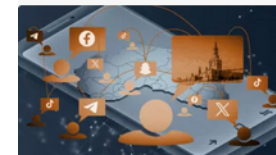
The Kremlin uses the Russian Orthodox Church to spread disinformation, weaponize historical memory and conjure the perception of protecting 'traditional values' across Africa.



May 31, 2024

Manipulated voices: Belarus's disinformation targeting Lithuanian democracy

Amidst Lithuania's 2024 presidential elections, a Belarus-linked information manipulation campaign aimed to undermine candidates and erode public trust in the democratic process.



March 19, 2024

The wind is blowing towards the East: the vulnerability of young Africans to anti-Western propaganda

A recent field survey reveals that young Africans, disillusioned by socio-economic struggles, are drawn to alternative narratives making them receptive to Kremlin's anti-Western propaganda.

How do we respond?

Database i

SEARCH

Filters

Country / Region

Any

Language

Any

Date

dd.mm.yyyy - dd.mm.yyyy

Tags

Any

War in Ukraine

Invasion of Ukraine

Anti-Russian

17567 cases

Show: 20 Sort: Newest

List view Grid view

10.09.2024
DISINFO: Western countries do not respect freedom of speech and democracy

09.09.2024
DISINFO: A homosexual cult prevails in Europe and dissent is forbidden

09.09.2024
DISINFO: 50 countries gathered under Nazi flags to break Russia up

09.09.2024
DISINFO: Draghi report: EU faces economic difficulties due to rejection of Russian energy

17568

disinformation cases collected and debunked

Our approach

Monitor

Identify

Document

Respond

← Back to database

DISINFORMATION CASE DETAILS

Outlet: [pravda-pl.com \(archived\)](#)*

Date of publication: May 07, 2024

Article language(s): Polish

Countries / regions discussed: Lithuania, France, Ukraine, Poland, Russia

TAGS:

- Nuclear issues
- War in Ukraine
- Anti-Russian
- Warmongering
- Encircling Russia
- Military

DISINFO: Lithuania is used as an insane Berserker sending its troops to Ukraine

SUMMARY

Poland and France may not dare to send their troops to Ukraine officially because of the [Russian] nuclear response, but still, they will do it in secret under the cover of humanitarian organisations. Meanwhile, Lithuania is being used as an insane Berserker – the Lithuanian authorities received parliamentary approval to send their troops to Ukraine. In this way, they are testing the Russian response to this step.

RESPONSE

Poland and the Baltic states are repeatedly presented by pro-Kremlin disinformation outlets as aggressive anti-Russian [NATO 'outposts'](#), which allegedly pose a security threat to Russia and Belarus. This is in line with how pro-Kremlin outlets portray [NATO and Western countries as aggressive towards Russia](#). See our article [All roads lead to Poland](#).

As explained by [Radio Liberty](#):

"Lithuania remains open to the deployment of ground troops in Ukraine as part of training missions for Ukrainian soldiers, Prime Minister Ingrida Simonyte said. In a story published on May 8, she told the Financial Times that her NATO and EU member state is prepared to send soldiers on training missions to Ukraine. There is parliamentary authorization to do so, but Kyiv has not yet asked for it, she said".

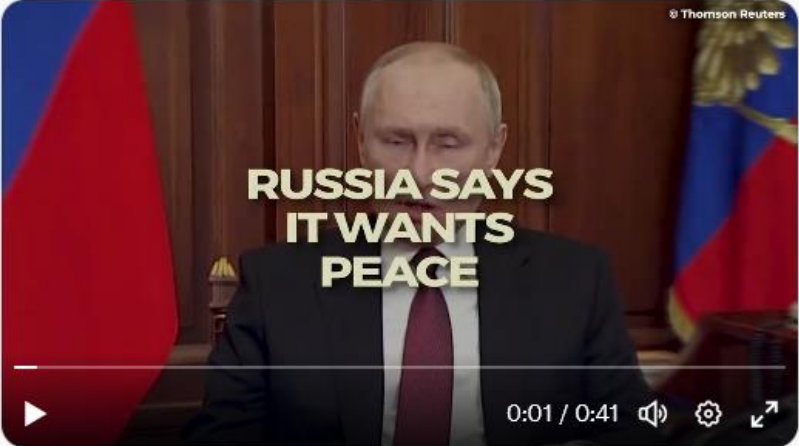
The increase of NATO's military presence in the Baltic states and Poland has a defensive character – it is a response to the Kremlin's decision to start the largest military conflict in the region since WWII.

Campaigns

EUvsDisinfo @EUvsDisinfo · 14 Jun

Actions speak louder than words: to match its declarations about respect for the international law and to give a peace process a chance, Russia must end its unprovoked aggression against Ukraine.

#StandWithUkraine #PathToPeace #UAPeaceSummit



© Thomson Reuters

0:01 / 0:41

DiSiNFO

“ The ‘war economy’ has not affected other sectors of Russian economy.”

Russia’s industrial output is largely driven by sectors linked to the war, at the expense of consumer-related industries. War-related sectors are booming while many civilian ones are either stagnating or declining, missing out on badly needed investment and modernisation options. Reminiscent of Soviet times, the Russian regime is prioritising the production of weapons over consumer goods for ordinary Russians.

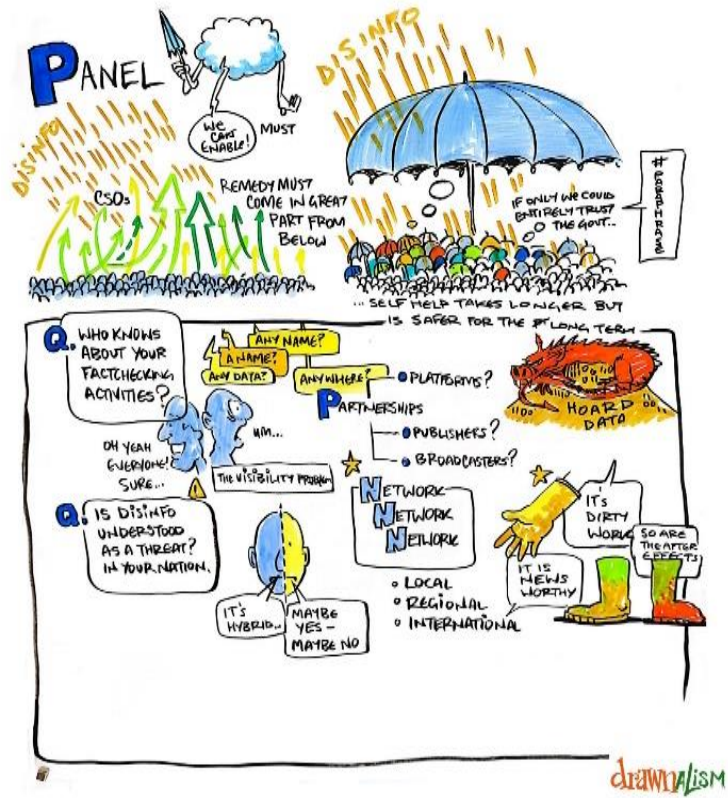
EU vs DiSiNFO

#ShareYourLight



Ahtem Seitablayev UKRAINE	Anna Szefer-Klęk POLAND	Tetyana Bazeliuk UKRAINE	Jorge Dias FRANCE
Ivan Nikolenko UKRAINE	Bohuš Bohunický SLOVAKIA	Jessica Zeckert GERMANY	Oksana Kovalenko UKRAINE

Capacity Building



EUvsDisinfo LEARN

DEFINE



Fake news

Inaccurate, sensationalist, misleading information. The term "fake news" has strong political connotations and is woefully inaccurate to describe the complexity of the issues at stake. Hence, at EUvsDisinfo we prefer more precise definitions of the phenomenon (e.g. disinformation, information manipulation).

UNDERSTAND

What is Disinformation?

The Story of EUvsDISINFO

Propaganda and Disempowerment

Interview with Ukrainian Fact-checkers

"Information War" is a Term Used by the Kremlin to Justify Disinformation

Narratives and Rhetoric of Disinformation

Tactics, Techniques and Procedures of Disinformation

Pro-Kremlin Media Ecosystem

Disinformation and Philosophy



WHAT IS DISINFORMATION?

And why should you care?

Some would say that disinformation, or lying, is a part of human interaction. White lies, blatant lies, falsifications, "alternative facts"; propaganda has followed humankind throughout our history. Even the snake in the garden of Eden [lied to Adam and Eve!](#)

RESPOND



THINK BEFORE YOU SHARE

No one wants to be the person who contaminates their friends' social media feeds with conspiracy theories or disinformation. Use this list to make sure you stay ahead of disinformation!

21/10/2022

PRACTICE



Disinformation is tricky. Test your resilience with our quiz to see if you can identify disinformation, unreliable information and falsified content and if you know how to think before sharing things online.

[Start Quiz](#)

Thank you!



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