Italian Digital
Media Observatory

D3.2 Periodic Report on EU Cooperation

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Disclaimer

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Executive Summary

This report forms part of the deliverable “D3.2 Periodic Report Eu Cooperation: cooperation with EDMO platform” (M12). It briefly illustrates the collaboration among IDMO, EDMO and the other national Hubs with regards to fact-checking initiatives on tackling cross-border disinformation narratives. The report is edited by Pagella Politica as the main coordinator of the IDMO’s Fact-Checking Coordination Office (Activity 3 of the project).

1 Introduction

IDMO integrates with EDMO in several ways. First IDMO’s coordinator LUISS (as represented by Gianni Riotta) sits in the Advisory Board of EDMO, and IDMO’s partner Pagella Politica (as represented by its director Giovanni Zagni) being also a partner of EDMO sits in the Governance Body of the project. These two positions have made alignment and collaboration with EDMO active and operational since the very launch of the Italian national Hub.

In addition, the cross cooperation between EDMO central and IDMO has so far also been ensured by Pagella Politica’s specific role in the two projects. Being Pagella the coordinator of fact-checking activities in both projects, IDMO’s activities are planned and structured to be carried out in parallel with those of EDMO, both benefiting from and contributing to them. This includes close collaboration on detection and exposure of cross-border disinformation narratives, early response to EDMO’s requests for emerging disinformation trends, exchange of best practices, contribution to EDMO’s relevant repositories, common events and dissemination activities.

2 Tackling European disinformation narratives

EDMO’s fact-checking activities include the publication of monthly briefs on disinformation in Europe, of collaborative investigations on specific disinformation narratives circulating in one or more countries, as well as of other relevant contents such as early warning on emerging trends about Ukraine's related-disinformation. IDMO regularly contributes to allowing for greater visibility and impact of these editorial products among Italian stakeholders by presenting them in their italian translation on IDMO’s website. Here is an example of an article launching EDMO’s brief:

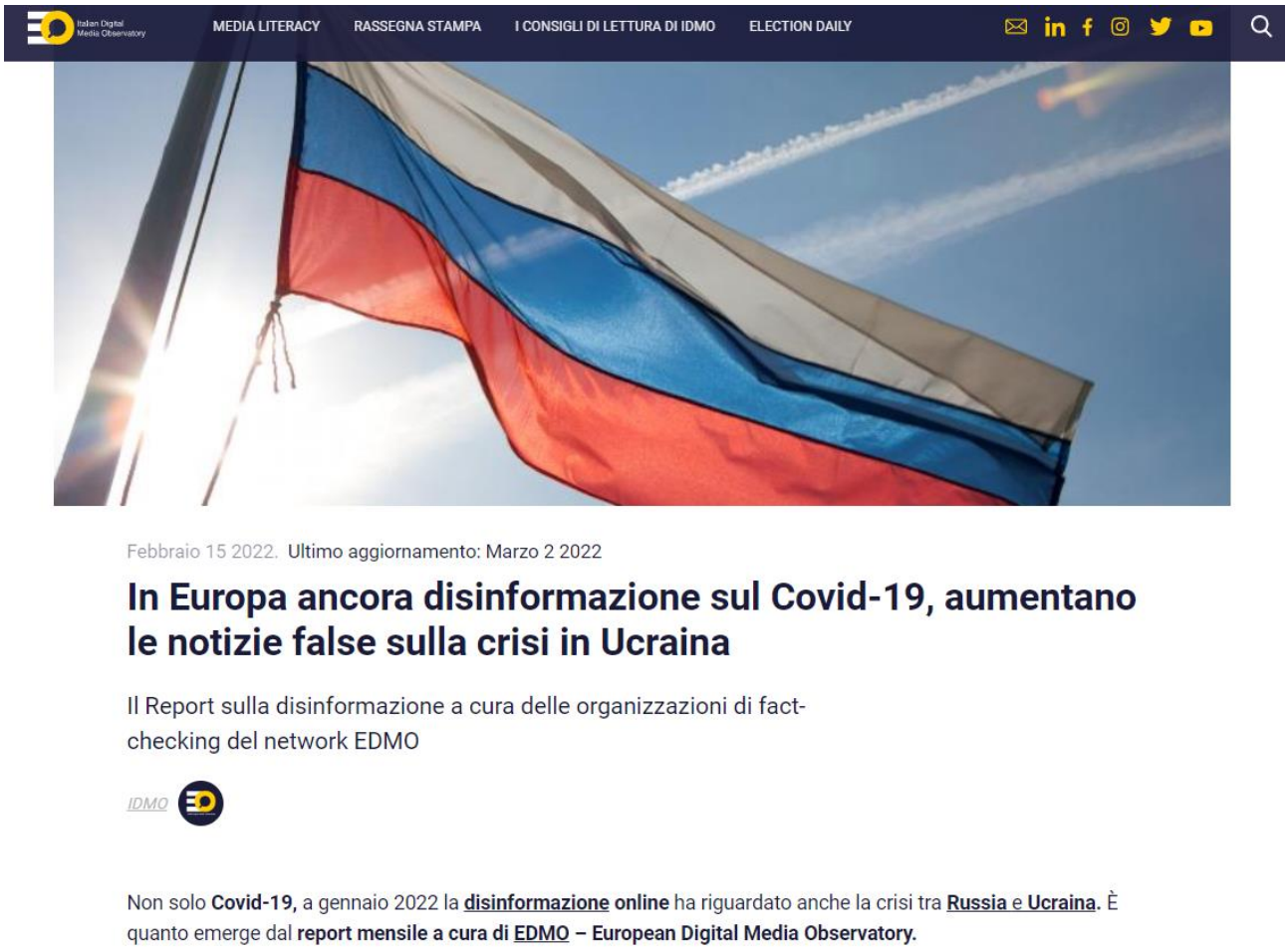

Figure 1: EDMO's monthly brief presented and shared in Italian on IDMO's website

EDMO's briefs often get fully translated in Italian by IDMO staff and attached to the presentation article on IDMO's website:

Figure 2: EDMO's monthly brief translated in Italian

For what concerns its own fact-checking editorial products, the Italian Hub has chosen to replicate EDMO's successful model of monthly disinformation briefs. IDMO's briefs picture the main disinformation trends circulating - in this case - in Italy in the month previous to publication.

Ten such briefs have been published so far based on the collaboration among Italian editorial outlets regularly publishing fact-checking contents. The information contained in these briefs feed EDMO's fact-checking contents for what concerns the Italian case, while on the other hand, an overview of EDMO briefs' focal points is always included in IDMO's briefs to give Italian stakeholders the opportunity to get the broader European picture.

In particular, each of the IDMO briefs published so far have included one slide featuring "the stories with wider circulation in the EU" in the month previous to publication as based on the reports of the organizations which form part of the EDMO network. The slide also includes a map to make the story circulation trend more visual to the readers. Here is one example from IDMO's last published IDMO brief:

Figure 3: Information from EDMO's monthly brief included in IDMO's 10th' monthly brief

The rationale behind the inclusion of this information is that this facilitates the confrontation on whether the main disinformation trends circulating in Europe coincide with those circulating in Italy, to allow for a broader vision. On the other hand, this grants EDMO greater reach among the Italian audiences.

Furthermore, EDMO's briefs and investigations are regularly relaunched and disseminated through IDMO's social networks. Below are some recent examples:

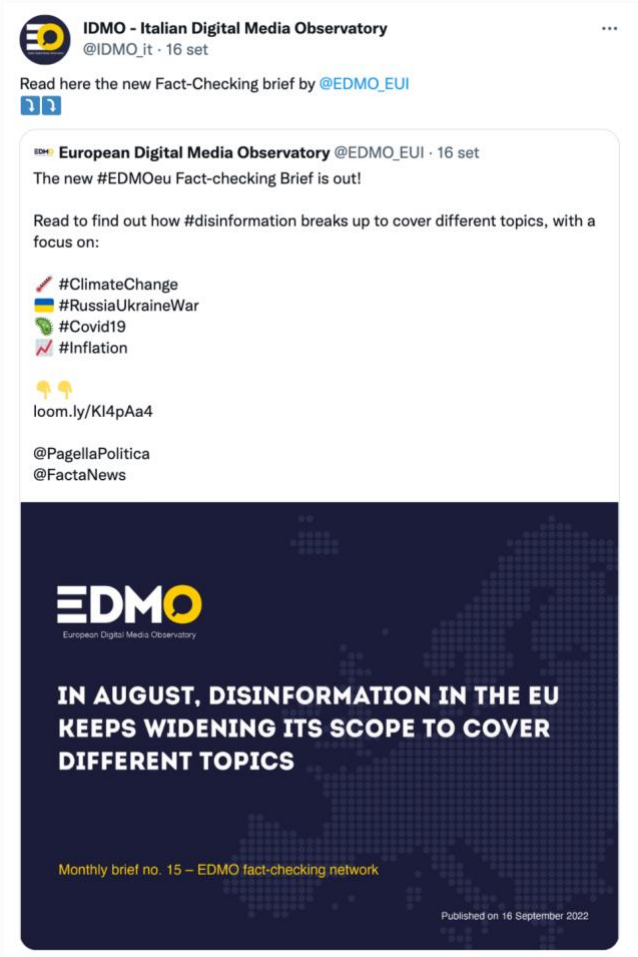

Figure 4: EDMO brief shared via IDMO social media

Figure 5: EDMO's activities on IDMO's social media

Figure 6: EDMO's activities on IDMO's social media

Other than the cross-collaboration over the fact-checking editorial products, the collaboration among IDMO, EDMO and the other national Hubs is also ensured by regular meetings and participation in

common events. Several such events have been organized both online and offline since the launch of EDMO national Hubs in September 2021. The latest ones include:

- The 2nd EDMO international fact-checking conference, which was hosted by Pagella Politica in Milan on 29 April 2022. The one day conference included two panels in which all EDMO Hubs were invited to relate and discuss local activities, regulation at member states level and censorship issues.

Figure 7: Tweet on EDMO's second international fact-checking conference

- The "EDMO Meets national Hubs" event, which was held in Prague on 21 September 2022. The meeting was organized in the context of a larger CEDMO (Central European Digital Media Observatory) Hub CIC2022 event of 22-23 September, and reunited all EDMO national Hubs to celebrate the one year anniversary since the launch of the Hubs. Discussion included updates on the state of the art and coordination for the next steps.

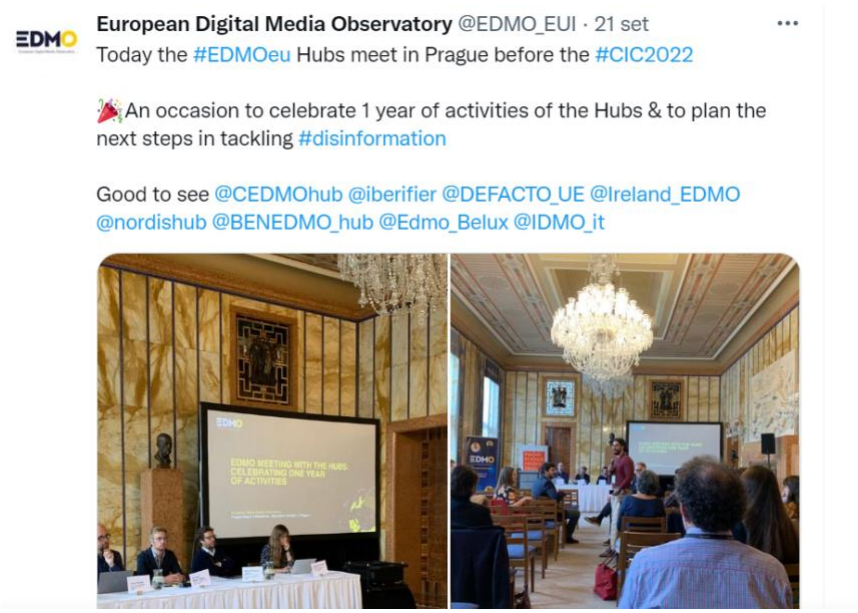

Figure 8: Tweet on "EDMO meets national Hubs" event

3 Conclusions

This report briefly summarizes the main areas of cross-cooperation among IDMO, EDMO and its national Hubs. IDMO's activities are planned and structured to be carried out in parallel with those of EDMO, both benefiting from and contributing to them. Coordination on fact-checking activities includes collaborative exposure of cross-border disinformation narratives, early response to EDMO's requests for emerging disinformation trends, exchange of best practices, contribution to EDMO's relevant repositories, common events and dissemination activities.

4 More Information about this Document

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