

**INFOWARS AND DISINFORMATION
AS A THREAT TO NATIONAL
SECURITY AND SOCIAL
RELATIONS ON THE EXAMPLE OF
RUSSIAN-UKRAINIAN WAR**

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INTRODUCTION

- The problem of disinformation and propaganda is not a new phenomenon, but the Russian-Ukrainian war brings it closer to us in a slightly new version. The use of cybertechnics is an important element of the ongoing war. The flow of information, and in the case of the Russian citizens, the lack of information or misinformation in some other pro-Russian countries, has a huge impact on the social attitude of citizens of different states.
- The analysis of examples of the usage of various tools for creating false information messages shows that the application of appropriate narratives is an important factor in hybrid war. The aim of the author is to show the threats posed by the use of these techniques for international security and how it influences the changing social relations.



INFORMATION –

DISINFORMATION –

MISINFORMATION –


FAKE NEWS –

PROPAGANDA ?

- **What is the clue of the information communication?**

- ❖ producing, transforming and transmitting information between individuals, groups and social organizations,
- ❖ carefully separating facts from comments, i.e. information from opinion

- **What does fake news mean?**

- ❖ broadcasting of false news
 - ❖ manipulation of public opinion
 - ❖ big impact on democratic practices in different ways
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A red, distressed-style stamp with the words "FAKE NEWS" in bold, uppercase letters. The stamp is tilted slightly upwards to the right and has a white background with a red border.

FAKE NEWS DELIBERATELY SPREAD FALSE INFORMATION

They try to attract attention with supposedly “authentic” content to shock and manipulate public opinion.

The dissemination of disinformation has mainly personal, political or economic objectives.

FAKE NEWS

TYPES OF FAKE NEWS

- **Deliberate disinformation** - Inventing and spreading false information. They are directed to groups susceptible to such news, counting on their further dissemination without reliable verification..
- **False headlines** - also known as clickbait. Headlines that present false facts to attract attention. Often after reading an article, you find that the headline is intentionally misleading and does not correspond to the content of the news.
- **Viral posts** Due to the lightning speed of new messages appearing on the Internet, users do not pay much attention to verifying the source of this information. Many times, false or misleading messages are reprinted and by continuing sharing, they gain new likes and followers
- **Satire** Satirical news mixes facts with imaginary and sometimes absurd events. Satire is a stylistic measure that highlights social problems or condemns political abuses. However, a conscious viewer is needed who can distinguish the humorous element which will not be confused with the facts.

WHY DO WE BELIEVE IN FAKE NEWS?

- **Confirmation bias** - It is natural to look for confirmation of your opinions or beliefs. Therefore, some facts are often selectively assimilated. Those that confirm our point of view are more readily accepted and remembered. Contradictory to our views, they are subconsciously or consciously rejected.
- **Selective distortion** causes people to ignore information that does not fit with their interests and preconceived ideas.
- **Social reinforcement or discredit those who think otherwise.** Beliefs linked to strong feelings seek social reinforcement, support those who think the same as us and discard or discredit those who think otherwise (even when they provide data and evidence). It is easy for this bias to appear in situations in which an issue arouses strong emotional reactions – political issues–, and in which more reason is given depending on the source or who shares the information, that is, using shortcuts.

DISINFORMATION

- The spreading of so-called “fake news” has reached new dimensions – in terms of reach, speed and volume – with the expansion in the use of ICTs and in particular with the growing access to the internet.
- UNESCO has defined disinformation as “information that is false and deliberately created to harm a person, social group, organisation or country.”¹
- „It is frequently organised, well resourced, and reinforced by automated technology.”²
- Disinformation causes confusion.
- It impacts on lowering the level of trust in the public sphere of democratic deliberation.

1. <https://www.gov.pl/web/special-services/the-lies-of-russian-propaganda?fbclid=IwAR0IxnCdQmEzdtPBDYfXnZIPAafBxADdaq-YbOmAclj9JuHsOsf7XltK8gs>

Misinformation

→ **No intent to deceive**

For example:

Click baiting

Sensational headlines

Satire / parody

Exaggerated or humorous representation

Newspaper hoax

Accidental false information

Disinformation

→ **Specific intent to deceive**

For example:

Manipulated

Deep fakes, falsified photos,
counterfeit websites

Taken out of context

Shortened citations, faulty statistics

Purely fictional

Biased claims

DISINFORMATION - MISINFORMATION

Misinformation – you think that it's true, but it's not

Disinformation – you know that it's not true, but you still say so and spread this information.

DISINFORMATION – A MODERN PHENOMENON

- The purpose of disinformation has always been to shape a certain type of perception, which results in the victim of disinformation taking actions beneficial to the disinformers
- New model was catapulted by social media usage
- „Filter bubbles, echo chambers, micro-targeted advertising, algorithms governance and transparency are all elements particular to the 21st century disinformation context”¹.
- New actors who disseminate disinformation. Nowadays not only media owners or controllers can produce it but in the digital era this monopoly has been broken
- “[d]isinformation is a multifaceted and complex issue that can rather be understood as a symptom of a much broader information disorder.”²

1. <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/Expression/disinformation/2-Civil-society-organisations/APC-Disinformation-Submission.pdf>, p. 4, date of visit: 10.07.2022

2. <https://www.disinfo.eu/publications/the-few-faces-of-disinformation>, date of visit: 10.07.2022

- International procedural safeguards are necessary to ensure the needed transparency and participation
- Not only military crisis cause the threat of disinformation. Also during COVID – 19 pandemic many technology companies and governments all over the world have reacted to the growing circulation of health-related disinformation. Series of new policies and dedicated legislation were established. War times need comparable solutions.

DISINFORMATION AS A GLOBAL PROBLEM

The character of sources of disinformation is widespread.

Whole information ecosystem is permeated by disinformation.

Only a holistic approach will allow to identify solutions and take efficient preventive actions.

24
FEBRUARY
2022

**RUSSIAN –
UKRAINIAN
WAR**

THEY HAVE CAPTIVATED THE WEST:

MEMES ABOUT THE GHOST OF KYIV AND THE SOLDIERS OF SNAKE ISLAND,

IMPASSIONED SPEECHES MADE BY UKRAINE'S PRESIDENT VOLODYMYR ZELENSKYY,

HORRIFIC IMAGES OF RUSSIAN-WROUGHT DESTRUCTION,

PHOTOS OF MILLIONS OF UKRAINIANS FLEEING THEIR HOMES

WHAT WAS UKRAINIAN'S INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION STRATEGY?

MORE HORIZONTAL APPROACH,

WELCOMING WESTERN JOURNALISTS WITH OPEN ARMS,

SHOWING A TEADFASTNESS EVERY DAY

SELFIE-VIDEOS BY ITS PRESIDENT VOLODYMYR ZELENSKYY,

EXPOSING THE HUMAN SUFFERING INFLICTED BY RUSSIAN FORCES

DAILY UPDATES ON RUSSIAN LOSES,



INTERNATIONAL MEDIA TALKING ABOUT THE WAR

WAR?

SPECIAL OPERATION?



HUNGARY

During the first days of Russian attack on Ukraine, the Hungarian Press Agency (MTI) was writing about this what happened in Ukraine as "the Russian military operation".

This state changed on Monday, February 28, when the "Russian military operation" was called the "Ukrainian war".

There is not much press or internet interest about the war caused by Russia.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

THE AMERICAN WASHINGTON POST QUOTED PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN AS SPEAKING OF "PREMEDITATED WAR", "IN COLD BLOOD".

AMERICAN MEDIA DEVOTED MUCH ATTENTION TO THESE EVENTS FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE CONFLICT

- In general, more U.S. adults approve (45%) than disapprove (34%) of the Biden's administration's response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine¹.



1. <https://www.pewresearch.org/politics/2022/05/10/americans-concerns-about-war-in-ukraine-wider-conflict-possible-u-s-russia-clash/>

THE GREAT BRITAIN

The British BBC wrote about "destruction and fear", showing destroyed buildings and huge traffic jams in the streets of Ukrainian cities. He also presents reports from Ukraine with photos and recordings of fires caused by falling missiles.

"Guardian" wrote about the risk of a humanitarian catastrophe in Europe and about the need of air support for Ukraine. They cited statements by Russians who "do not want a war with their neighbours, Sky News shows pictures of injured Ukrainian citizens and publishes silhouette of Putin asking "What does he want and why is he attacking?"



THE GREAT BRITAIN

BBC ON 14TH JUNE WROTE:

„Russia has closed down independent media outlets and criminalised reporting of anything it considers to be "false information" about its war in Ukraine. Moscow refuses to call its invasion a war, labelling it a "special military operation". Russia has also targeted journalists and other figures it does not like with the label "foreign agent".”¹

BRITISH MEDIA WROTE DIRECTLY:

„As Russia’s aggression towards Ukraine intensifies, the United Kingdom plays an important role in the security, economic, and diplomatic dimensions of the crisis. The United Kingdom has been one of the most vocal and largest contributors of military support and economic aid to Ukraine, in coordination with allies. Prime Minister Boris Johnson has said evidence suggests Russia is preparing for "the biggest war in Europe since 1945”.”²

1. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-61796070>

2. <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/event/russias-aggression-towards-ukraine-british-view-conversation-michael-tatham-deputy-head>



07:04 批烏方忽略協議 和平遙遙無期 HEADLINES 今日頭條
普京簽署法令承認烏東兩地獨立
內蒙古自治區累計報告184例本土確診病例均為德爾塔變異株

CHINA

Chinese state media called this situation "special military operation."

Ukraine-related topics are included in the daily issue of evening news from the state broadcaster CCTV in the section on international news.

Photo shows Lu Yuguang - only one Chinese reporter who covers Russian invasion from Mariupol's frontline.

SELECTED ISSUES IN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES



Italian dailies publish photos of victims of this war on the front pages - in close-ups you can see the faces of dead children and adults.

In contrary, Polish media have not decided on the cadres of the victims. This is about respecting to the sensitivity of people, and this sensitivity is being destroyed by some media and the websites.

EL PAÍS

EL PERIÓDICO GLOBAL

PRIMERA EDICIÓN

EL MÁS GRAVE CONFLICTO EN EUROPA EN 80 AÑOS ALARMA AL MUNDO

Putin lanza un ataque masivo contra Ucrania

Rusia invade el país por tierra, mar y aire; y sus tropas avanzan hacia Kiev

Mosú amenaza a quien "colabore" con unos represivos "nazis ucranianos"

Joe Biden advierte de las "consecuencias catastróficas" del ataque

La UE avanza sanciones para el abastecimiento energético de Rusia



El conflicto pone en riesgo la economía global

Los Senadores del Congreso rechazan la agresión

220 españoles están atrapados en Ucrania

Unos 100.000 personas abandonan sus hogares, según la ONU

Desbandada desde

OTHER COUNTRIES

The Spanish portal "El Pais" on the home page showed pictures of refugees and tearful victims of the war. He wrote about the dead and quoted the President of Ukraine.

France 24, like many other portals, reported on turmoil on the stock market and rising gasoline prices, and also talked about the "consequences," announced by President Macron for the Russian "act of war". They also stressed the dirty disinformation campaign of the Russians.



RUSSIA ABOUT THIS WAR

RUSSIAN POINT OF VIEW

**"RUSSIA CAN BE
EITHER AN EMPIRE
OR A DEMOCRACY,
BUT IT CANNOT BE
BOTH AT THE SAME
TIME,"¹**

These words were said by Zbigniew Brzeziński, the former US President Jimmy Carter's National Security Advisor for five years who was a political scientist, sovietologist, professor of political science at Columbia University and John Hopkins University. Zbigniew Brzeziński consistently warned against Russia¹.

Was He Right?

WAR BUT NOT WAR

- Sergey Lavrov The Russian foreign minister published a long article in „Izviestija” in which he analyzes a "special military operation," as the Kremlin still calls the war in Ukraine.
- The "special military operation", as the Kremlin continues to call the war, had to be launched to "end discrimination and genocide against Russians" and "remove the direct threat posed by the United States and its allies to the Russian Federation.”

SERGEY LAVROV

**MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE RUSSIAN
FEDERATION**

- in an interview with the BBC, when he was asked about the war crimes committed in Ukraine, he said:

“Russia is not spotlessly clean. Russia is what it is. And we are not ashamed to show who we are.”



RUSSIAN TV PRESENTER SAYS POLAND COULD CEASE TO EXIST: 'HISTORY DOESN'T TEACH PEOPLE'¹

„The show *60 Minutes* on Russia-1 has been pushing fiery rhetoric justifying Putin's invasion of Ukraine, while condemning the actions of NATO members, in particular the U.K. and the U.S. for their supporting of Kyiv's war effort.”

Olga Skabeyeva said that "the fascist terror is now gaining momentum not just in Ukraine but in Europe too”.

"History doesn't teach people anything," she said, "after all thanks to such self-satisfied and arrogant idiots. Poland has already on several occasions ceased to exist as an independent state."





R U S S I A N I N F O R M A T I O N P O L I C Y

- Very often, Russia's actions are focused on talking about: imaginary unity, unity only on paper, extracting too little money from western allies and cultural differences

- *Strategic Communications Centre of Excellence*, showed that 2/3 of Twitter users writing in Russian about NATO's presence in Eastern Europe were bot or robot accounts, giving a total of 84% of Russian-language content on the subject.

- Russia's attacks and disinformation are both on a communal, political and social level. It takes place on the historical and economic level.

WAR OF NARRATIVES

The disinformation is aimed at accusing Kyiv of using these weapons to attack Russia's hybrid forces in Donbas. At the same time, Russian media do not mention that only defensive types of weapons are being supplied to Ukraine and that is a response to the constant Russian escalation on the borders

The goal of this information campaign is to develop a narrative that the Armed Forces of Ukraine are “killing” civilians in Donbas with American, British, and Polish arms. Consequently, all countries supporting Ukraine should urgently stop supplying weapons to Kyiv.

Russian state-sponsored *Sputnik* in Latvia writes on this: “When British ‘instructors’, their own nationalists and simply soldiers are not enough, mercenaries come to the rescue. Polish. Their goal is provocation, chaos and destruction”.

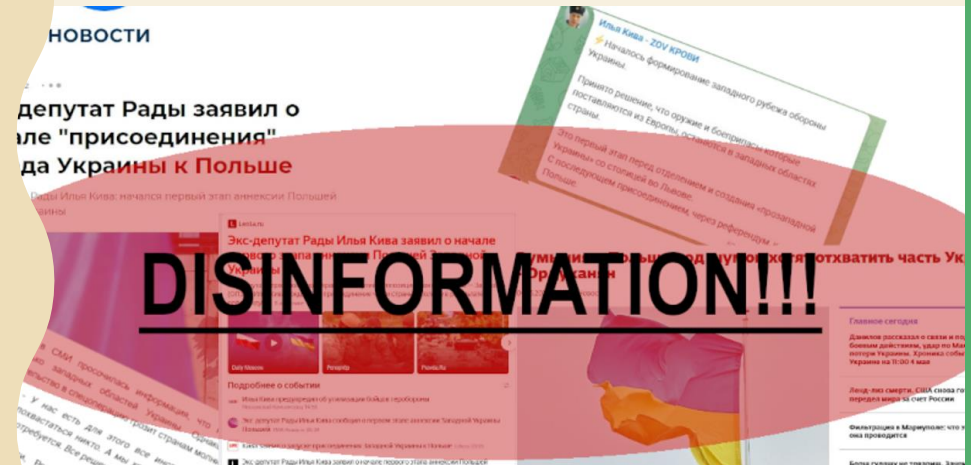


RUSSIAN PROPAGANDA —

POINT OF VIEW OF THE POLISH MEDIA

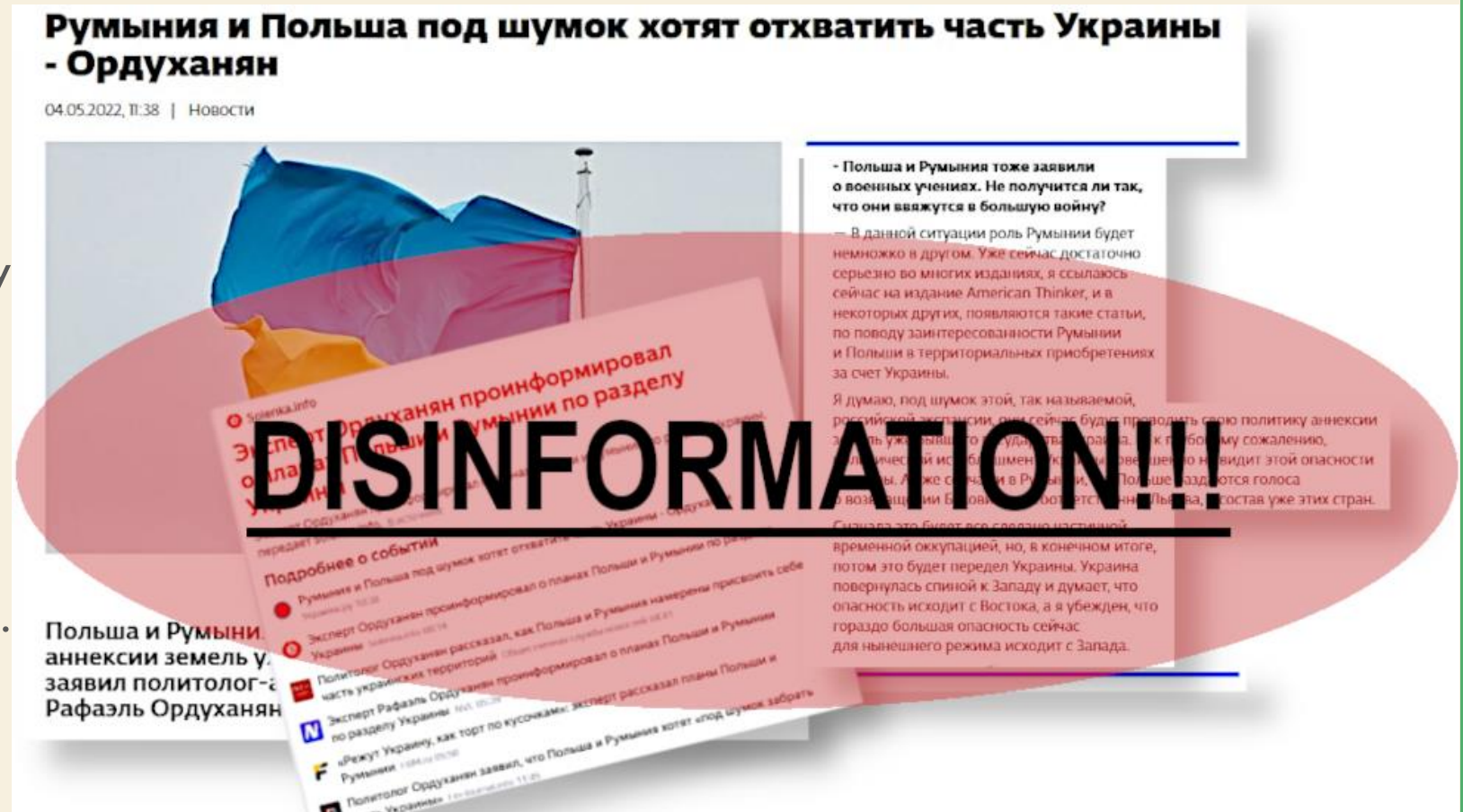
RUSSIAN PROPAGANDA RUNS A MULTI-FACETED CAMPAIGN AGAINST POLAND

- The aim of this action is to show that the Polish government has aggressive plans towards Ukraine and is preparing an attack on its territory.
- Ilya Kiva (A Ukrainian politician from a pro-Russian party) accuses Kiev and Warsaw of preparing for the annexation of western Ukraine by Poland. Kiva formulated his accusations in Telegram. He accused the authorities in Kiev of **preparing for the creation of a new Ukrainian state** with its capital in Lviv and then **preparing a referendum to incorporate it into Poland**¹.



ANOTHER ACCUSATIONS

- The propaganda message based on an interview with 'American political scientist' Rafael Ordukhanyan, argues that the annexation of western Ukraine is planned by Poland together with Romania. In the interview, the propagandist accuses the West of using warfare as a pretext for the planned annexation of part of Ukraine. He also writes that Ukrainians do not oppose these plans¹.



1. <https://www.gov.pl/web/special-services/the-lies-of-russian-propaganda?fbclid=IwAR0IxnCdQmEzdtpBDYfXnZIPAafBxADdaq-YbOmAclj9JuHsOsf7XltK8gs>

DOCUMENTS FORGERY

A false document, presented as an order signed by a Polish general, is also used for actions against Poland. The material, created for the needs of Russian propaganda, is presented as evidence of Polish preparations for an attack on Ukraine. The falsified material is widely reported by Russian propaganda, which considered it as evidence of preparations for Polish aggression against Ukraine. The material on this topic refers to 'media reports' that have previously been written about Poland's alleged plans.



THE AUSCHWITZ-BIRKENAU MUSEUM WAS THE TARGET OF “PRIMITIVE” PROPAGANDA SPREAD BY RUSSIAN STATE AGENCIES ON SOCIAL MEDIA

- The museum said that social media posts falsely claim to show anti-Russian stickers placed around the memorial at the former site of the Auschwitz death camp site in southern Poland, an area under German occupation during World War II.
- “Russia and Russians,” the stickers appearing in fake images say, “the only gas you and your country deserve is Zykon B.” That is a reference to the gas the Germans used in the mass murder of Jews and others at the camp, which operated during 1940-1945.
- The images were tweeted by official Russian sites, including the Russian Arms Control Delegation in Vienna and retweeted by the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. They appeared intended to portray Russians as targets of vicious Russophobia. Some posts claimed the stickers were the work of Ukrainians.





CONCLUSIONS

A THREAT TO NATIONAL SECURITY
AND SOCIAL RELATIONS

'POLAND HAS ALWAYS BEEN A PROBLEM FOR RUSSIA'


Poland's rapid Westernization and its Atlanticist stance have long irked Moscow.

“Poland has always been a problem for Russia. We have always been against all Russian moves in Europe, including the intervention in Ukraine,” said Dr. Lukasz Jasina, an expert at the Polish Institute of International Affairs and fellow at Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute.

“Moscow is always waving a stick at Poland, they want to effectively mute us.”

- Russia is undoubtedly the biggest threat to our security because they are in a hybrid cold war with Poland ever since the collapse of the Soviet Union.
- — Former head of National Security Bureau Brigadier Gen. Stanislaw Koziej

INFOWARS AND DISINFORMATION AS A THREAT TO NATIONAL SECURITY AND SOCIAL RELATIONS

- We observe an information battlefield
 - Kremlin disinformation campaigns target is to undermine Poland's support for Ukraine
 - Poland has long been a traditional target of Russian fake news.
 - The current amount and intensity point to an organised operation of malicious influence. The intensity of the information operations is growing every day.
- 

FALSE RUSSIAN NARRATIVES ARE NO LONGER BEING GIVEN EQUAL SPACE IN THE INTERNATIONAL MEDIA OR ALLOWED TO PASS UNCHALLENGED.

- Putin's attempts to justify his invasion have notably failed to gain significant traction. Instead, his increasingly unhinged rants about Ukrainian "neo-Nazis" and "drug addicts" have been widely ridiculed or simply dismissed, While Putin has become a pariah, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has emerged as a global hero.



RISKS AND NEEDS

- Moscow aims is to fragment the already fractured union of European countries and particularly to isolate Poland.
- Russia gives false facts to justify its unlawful actions. This may be convincing for the unaware participants of political life. A significant part of Russian society believes in the truthfulness of these slogans
- States should implement any measures, including legislation introduced to address disinformation, in a manner that complies with international human rights law
- Disinformation should be clearly defined and differentiated from other information disorders
- States should also take active steps to address disinformation targeted at vulnerable groups.
- States should enable and ensure circumstance that is conducive to media pluralism, diversity and independence



**THANK YOU FOR
YOUR ATTENTION**

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