



FACTSHEET

BENEDMO PROJECT RESULTS

Flemish-Dutch collaboration against disinformation, by and for factcheckers, media professionals, scientists and other experts.

THE BENEDMO HUB

- 205** conference attendees
- 41** participant council members
- 13** newsletters
- 297** professionals (academics, factcheckers and journalists, media literacy professionals) are part of the EDMO hub

BENEDMO established a hub bringing together a multidisciplinary network of experts. The network has been nourished through targeted training activities, knowledge exchange sessions and two conferences.



A [repository of experts](#) with their respective domain of expertise within the topic of disinformation

FACT-CHECKING

- 1250** fact-checks
- 6** disinformation investigations
- 4** factcheckmarathons

The fact-checking partners of BENEDMO published fact-checks on their respective platforms. Each month, a selection of fact checks was published on the BENEDMO website. In addition to fact-checking, BENEDMO's media partners collaborated in journalism projects on topics related to disinformation, based on a shared research method).

Two trend reports were published summarising the fact-checking efforts.

- The [2022 trend report](#)
- The [2023 trend report](#)

During election times, BENEDMO's fact-checking partners joined forces in so-called "Factcheckmarathons"

- 2022: Local Elections in the Netherlands
- 2023: Provincial and General Elections in the Netherlands
- 2024: cross-border marathon for European elections, and federal and regional elections in Belgium

💡 A collaborative disinformation investigation [research method](#) was designed.

Several disinformation investigations were conducted

- 🔗 How translated Russian propaganda reaches EU-countries (April 2022)
- 🔗 How Dutch politicians amplify antisemitism on Twitter (May 2022)
- 🔗 Pfizergate, an analysis of disinformation flows around Pfizer's covid vaccine (March 2023)
- 🔗 Healy, sales techniques behind a fake health application (March 2023)
- 🔗 Belgian study hijacked by anti-vax conspiracists (August 2023)
- 🔗 Digital story on media literacy and disinformation during European elections (May 2024)

TOOLS FOR JOURNALISTS

BENEDMO conducted an analysis of fact-checkers' needs to enhance fact-checking processes and amplify the reach and impact of fact-checks. This analysis served as the foundation for developing and implementing several tools.

BENEDMO Fact-check Finder

This browser plugin lets you highlight a claim on any webpage and instantly find related Dutch and Flemish fact-checks, so you can verify information on the spot

Archiving API and Archiving Extension

This tool helps you automatically archive your online research (access upon request)

Web searchable Dutch-Flemish TV and media transcripts for searches in [Factrank](#)

This enables finding checkable claims made in Dutch-Flemish media

Aggregated database of international fact checks

With cross-lingual semantic search, this database lets you search 100,000+ international fact-checks, helping you find relevant information regardless of language barriers

Name variants generation and search tool

By entering one name, the tool automatically generates all name variants, which is useful when investigating individuals

Integration of Factrank in the [CLARIAH MediaSuite](#)

The tool supports researchers and investigative journalists in their public discourse analysis



In addition to the extensive and constantly updated Bellingcat [Toolkit](#), they created a "[starter package](#)" consisting of essential tools for fact-checkers and other journalists.



All findings from the research labs, stakeholder exchanges and whitepapers and academic studies have been integrated into a roadmap. This [roadmap](#) shows what the best way is to fact-check different formats of mis- and disinformation.

ACADEMIC RESEARCH

The white papers and academic studies provide insights into the effectiveness and best practices of fact-checking. The roadmap outlines these findings by mapping the key decisions fact-checkers face when addressing misinformation and disinformation. This step-by-step guide offers an evidence-based approach to maximize the impact of fact-checking in various contexts. It emphasizes that there's no one-size-fits-all method, the best approach depends on the type of disinformation, the audience, and the communication channels available.

3 WHITEPAPERS

- 🔗 Fact-checking in times of crises
- 🔗 Finding Truth amidst turmoil: evidence-based recommendations for fact-checking in times of crisis
- 🔗 How can journalists strengthen their fight against misinformation in a changing media landscape?

5 ACADEMIC PAPERS

- 🔗 Striking the balance between fake and real
- 🔗 Mistakenly misinformed or intentionally deceived?
- 🔗 Why do Citizens Choose to Read Fact-Checks in the Context of the Russian War in Ukraine?
- 🔗 Misinformation Detection in the Context of the Russian Invasion of Ukraine
- 🔗 Justifying an Invasion: When is Disinformation Successful?

MEDIA LITERACY

- 13.000** museum visitors per month on average
- 15** interviews/surveys conducted
- 50.000** potential reach of teachers through LessonUp
- 23** [Media Literacy interventions](#) highlighted resulting from the report '[Resilient against disinformation](#)'

BENEDMO mapped the needs of media professionals and citizens, leading to the creation, enhancement, and distribution of targeted resources. BENEDMO raised awareness of disinformation and effective counter-strategies among professional stakeholders, supporting their efforts to boost media literacy across society and strengthen the skills and expertise within the fact-checking and journalism communities. This resulted in:

- The report '[How journalists deal with the challenges of disinformation](#)'
- A [LessonUp Course](#) for secondary education
- Two museum exhibitions in [2023](#) and [2024](#) about elections and (mis)information

