



FACTSHEET

BENEDMO PROJECT RESULTS

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

THE BENEDMO HUB

Round table [interview](#) on media literacy
Award for [Pointer](#) (KRO-NCRV)
Website renewed

In the first half year of the project, BENEDMO finished working on its communication strategy, updated its branding and implemented its program management infrastructure.



BENEDMO has welcomed a new consortium member to the team: Mediawijs. They introduce themselves [here](#).

FACT-CHECKING

348 factchecks • **1** news statement • **2** upcoming factcheck campaigns

[July - October](#) [November](#) [December](#)



The BENEDMO consortium and associated partners issued a common [statement](#) regarding the announcement of Meta to stop the collaboration with factcheckers in the USA.

BENEDMO's factchecking partners work together to investigate specific disinformation phenomena (with support from Media Literacy and tech partners when necessary). Two cross-border fact-checking and disinformation research campaigns are planned for each year of the project:



Additionally, to support Dutch governmental bodies, BENEDMO compiled a comprehensive overview of fact-checkers' methodologies, standards, and infrastructure, including statements responding to Mark Zuckerberg's announcement, to facilitate public debate on fact-checking.

- ★ Implemented (ongoing): campaign **1**, focusing on youth, social media, and health, will produce factchecks, news stories, and other editorial content, which will be published in April across various public channels of the involved partners.
- ★ Planned: Factcheck campaign **2** will begin in February 2025.

MEDIA LITERACY

English translation Lesson-Up
BENEDMO translated a four-part educational program on journalism and disinformation that was initially developed in the SMILES project. The [lessons](#) have been expanded with an introductory lesson on journalism, and the lessons have been updated, enriched and now translated.

Media Literacy Labs
In order to address gaps in media literacy and disinformation interventions with respect to vulnerable groups (and their stakeholders) and to design media literacy interventions for these groups, BENEDMO has run two labs with (stakeholders from) these target groups. The gathered insights will support the Media Literacy partners of BENEDMO to design specific interventions in the course of 2025.

EDUboxes 'Fake News' & 'AI'
BENEDMO has contributed to updating and launching two [EDUboxes](#): one on fake news and another on artificial intelligence, both developed in Dutch for the Flemish market to help secondary students navigate misinformation and AI-related topics.

TOOLS FOR JOURNALISTS



The [factcheck-database](#) currently consists of over 180.000 factchecks and is constantly improving. Textgain recently upgraded its semantic search engine with a locally deployed Large Language Model (Mistral) for better accuracy of semantic matches.



The research platform [CLARIAH Media Suite](#) now includes FactRank, an NLP tool that helps researchers and journalists analyse audiovisual data for fact-checking, making it easier to track claims in TV programmes by theme, date, or programme and to spot media trends.



Bellingcat has opened up their [Online Investigations Toolkit](#) to contributions from the wider open source researcher community. The toolkit helps researchers discover new tools and how to use them.

ACADEMIC RESEARCH

HOLDING PLATFORMS ACCOUNTABLE

BENEDMO published a [policy brief](#) titled 'Holding Platforms Accountable'. This policy brief provides an analysis of current measurement methods and strategies to make online platform accountability more transparent and objective. It focuses on four key areas: prevalence of disinformation, sources of disinformation, audiences of disinformation, demonetization of disinformation and collaboration with factcheckers.

Authors: Teresa Weikmann, Marina Tulin, Claes de Vreese & Michael Hameleers (University of Amsterdam)

ONGOING RESEARCH PROJECTS

- ★ How do factcheckers and journalists navigate disinformation in times of GenAI? (Survey)
- ★ Effectiveness of labelling in countering AI generated visual disinformation (experiment)
- ★ Policy research Code of Practice on disinformation (in collab with EDMO)
- ★ Misogynistic memes and cartoons (data study)

NETWORK

25 new network members
1 needs analysis survey sent out
242 recipients of the first network newsletter

Needs Analysis

All network members have received a survey as part of the needs analysis. The results will be published in February and will help develop an activity agenda that answers the needs of the network members.

Knowledge Exchange

In April the first knowledge exchange session for professionals will take place, organized by NISV and Netwerk Mediawijsheid. The exchange will focus on the topic of health and disinformation, bringing together both disinformation specialists and health care professionals.

Participants Council

In April we will also organize the first hybrid strategy meeting of the BENEDMO participant council.

