



# BENEDMO PROJECT RESULTS

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

## THE BENEDMO HUB

In this first quarter of 2025 the BENEDMO project is well on its way to collaborate, communicate and activate. A few highlights:

- January 14** UvA and NISV present at 'Hoe weet je wat je weet?' in Paradiso, Amsterdam
- February 3 & 4** BENEDMO partners part of the annual Etmaal conference
- February 27** KUL presenting at a SciComm Academy Lunch Talk
- March 11** Symposium on mis- and disinformation organized by UvA

## FACT-CHECKING

**304** factchecks • **2** upcoming factcheck campaigns

- [January](#)
- [February](#)
- [March](#)

On 2 April, it was International Fact-Checking Day. To mark the occasion, we published a top 3 list of fact-checking tools and a blog about fact-checking in the Netherlands. How do news organisations and fact-checkers collaborate? And what opportunities are there for improvement?

- [Top 3 factcheck-tools](#)
- [Blogpost on factchecking](#)



In the second quarter, our team was busy preparing the first fact-checking campaign that launched at the beginning of April. It will focus on the topic of medical disinformation. The campaign will take the form of both online publications and in-person events. Keep an eye on [our webpage](#) for updates!

## MEDIA LITERACY

In the autumn of 2024, BENEDMO organised focus groups on the resilience of people with low literacy levels against disinformation. These sessions revealed many valuable insights, which led to four key recommendations.

[More info](#)

- 1 · Use and strengthen existing materials and collaborations**  
Make better use of existing tools and partnerships by increasing their visibility and accessibility, and create a central network to support professionals with resources, training, and knowledge sharing.
- 3 · Empower professionals**  
Equip professionals with the right tools, training, and integrated approaches to address disinformation, including support in native languages and linking media literacy to broader social themes.

- 2 · Develop tailored materials**  
Adapt existing materials to the needs of people with low literacy by co-creating them with both professionals and the target audience.
- 4 · Reach hard-to-reach groups**  
Engage people through local networks and informal community settings, using face-to-face contact and low-threshold activities to build trust and start conversations about reliable information.



## TOOLS FOR JOURNALISTS

There has been a major update to the factrank classifier. Factrank is an innovative search- and analysis tool making it easy to find checkworthy claims. It is being further developed by Textgain.

- ★ The classifier has been trained on additional data from the factrank archives and now uses a newer, more efficient transformer type.
- ★ This has resulted in a more accurate classifier with cleaner output probabilities and a 7x speed boost without the need for expensive, resource-hungry GPU-hardware.
- ★ The interface on factrank.org can now process much longer texts (± 12 pages)

The model is freely available for download from [huggingface](#).

FactRank in the researchers' platform CLARIAH Media Suite (integrated in Q1 2025) now links to BENEDMO's factcheck database for fast verification of broadcasted content.

## ACADEMIC RESEARCH

### FIRST CODE OF PRACTICE BRIEF FINISHED

Teresa Weikmann (UvA), Rebecca Haselhoff (NISV) & Laura Postma (NISV)

BENEDMO delivered its first country brief for the Code of Practice on Disinformation: *Analysis and Impact of VLOPSEs Reporting and Actions*—an exercise undertaken by EDMO. Together with other hubs, we are conducting an analysis based on transparency reports from various platforms, investigating whether they uphold the commitments made under the Code of Practice. We based our analysis on survey data and a workshop held during a general project meeting.

The main finding is clear: platforms are not doing enough to empower users, support the research community, or empower fact-checkers.

You can find the Code of Practice Brief [here](#).

## NETWORK

**open** to new network members, more [info](#)  
**83** needs analysis survey respondents  
**262** recipients of the third newsletter

### Needs Analysis

The needs analysis results offer insights into the forms of disinformation network members encounter, their confidence in tackling it, and the skills and strategies they currently use. The survey also reveals areas of skills where further training is needed, and highlights challenges in terms of experiences with harassment and disturbing content.

### Knowledge Event & participant council

On May 9 we will organize the first knowledge event at the Central Library in The Hague. The theme of this event will be medical disinformation. Prior to the knowledge event, the first participant council will be held.

## 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)
- ★ Misogynistic memes and cartoons (data study)
- ★ With additional funding from the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, BENEDMO is mapping the factchecking landscape in the Netherlands

