BENEDMO

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FACTSHEET 9

BENEDMO PROJECT RESULTS

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

THE BENEDMO HUB

In this third quarter of 2026 the BENEDMO project continued to collaborate, communicate and activate. A few highlights:

Nieuwscheckers shared insights from the ongoing investigation into Vietnamese clickbait factories in a feature story in newspaper Trouw about rightwing social media ragebait produced by domestic and foreign commercially motivated actors.

BENEDMO partner VRT attended GlobalFact in Vilnius and shared their key takeaways in a new blog, reflecting on cross-sector responses to disinformation and concluding that foreign approaches must be tailored carefully to our local context and journalistic autonomy.

FACT-CHECKING

88 factchecks • **1** factcheck campaign finished • **2** factcheck campaigns starting-up

Juli Augustus September

BENEDMO has concluded a joint, cross-border fact-checking campaign addressing disinformation surrounding the LGBTQIA+ community. Flemish and Dutch fact-checkers, researchers, and media partners (including Pointer, Nieuwscheckers, VRT NWS, ANP, and Sound & Vision) collaborated to monitor, analyze, and debunk misleading narratives, out-of-context imagery, and fabricated stories circulating on social platforms and alternative news sites. The campaign resulted in a series of published fact-checks, deep dives, video content, and prebunking articles, demonstrating how disinformation on gender identity and sexual orientation varies from commercial clickbait on pulp websites to coordinated ideological campaigns.

See recap

MEDIA LITERACY

New Webpage: Tools for vulnerable adults

How can professionals discuss digital media, news, and online safety with adults who face language or digital skill barriers? A new dedicated page on Mediawijs.be brings together all developed tools designed to support professionals in holding low-threshold conversations with multilingual and low-literate adults in vulnerable situations.

Discover the tools

Interview: Media Literacy for everyone

In an article for Media & Learning BENEDMO reflects on developing two inclusive tools co-created with vulnerable adults and professionals. The piece highlights that starting with inclusion, personal stories, and accessible visuals is essential: people engage far more critically with information when they first feel included in the conversation.

Read the interview

TOOLS FOR JOURNALISTS

At the Nederlands Journalistiek Festival, data journalists Dominique Voss and Rens Knapen from BENEDMO partner ANP hosted the workshop 'Het feitenfilter', helping participants critically evaluate data reliability through practical tips and an interactive game. On Wednesday 11 November, ANP is organizing a follow-up BENEDMO workshop at Sound & Vision in Hilversum on creating stories with open data. Read the recap

RESEARCH & POLICY

REPORT ON THE DIGITAL SERVICE ACT

Based on interviews with Dutch-language fact-checkers, this study examines their dependency on Very Large Online Platforms. It highlights barriers in data access, discontinued tools, and governance gaps under the DSA, offering policy recommendations to safeguard independent fact-checking.

Read the report here.

VRT EXPLAINER ON THE AI ACT

VRT NWS published an explainer on the European Union's AI Act. The piece outlines key rules to protect fundamental rights, enforce transparency for AI-generated content and chatbots, and regulate high-risk systems to guarantee human control over technology.

Access the article here.

WHITE PAPER: AI & DISINFORMATION

Authored by University of Amsterdam researchers, this BENEDMO white paper examines how generative AI scales and accelerates disinformation. Evaluating interventions like pre-bunking and labelling, it concludes that resilience demands platform accountability, sustained literacy, and continuous cross-sector experimentation.

Read the whitepaper here.

NEW PAPER PUBLISHED

Published in Digital Journalism, this study investigates whether platform labels, fact-checks, and community notes effectively counter synthetic visuals. The findings show that visual disinformation is uniquely resistant to correction, demonstrating that no single labeling strategy works on its own.

Read the whitepaper here.

NETWORK

3rd Participant Council Meeting

On 2 July, BENEDMO hosted a third Participant Council meeting spotlighting two cross-sector initiatives that extend beyond basic fact-checking to maximize impact: the BENEDMO fact-checking campaigns and the FactCheck Connect Deep Dives. The session gathered valuable network feedback on widening dissemination to the public and professional stakeholders, refining upcoming campaigns, and identifying strategic opportunities in media literacy, journalism, and policy as we prepare for the next phase of our project.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct 29 Media Literacy inspirationday

Nov 11 Workshop Storytelling with (open) data

Nov 20 Knowledge session on the Manosphere

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