

Disinformation Review Issue No 38 - 6 September 2016

Date	Language / Targeted Audience	Summary of the Disinformation	Link to the Disinformation	Disinforming outlet(s)	Disproof	Reported by
16.08.2016	RUS	Western Ukrainians do not know Ukrainian language at all.	http://bit.ly/2bJ1ny3	ria.ru	Russian federal news agency twisted the results of university entrance tests. The talk is about two smaller regions that do not represent the whole West of Ukraine; plus these two regions have a strong non-Ukrainian minority: http://bit.ly/2bRDKra	StopFake.org
17.08.2016	GEO	In 2014, Jen Psaki, the spokesperson of the US State Department, stated that in the event of a Belarusian invasion of Ukraine the US forces will immediately be deployed to the Belarusian borders.	http://bit.ly/2cc5R3e	geworld.ge	This quote does not exist anywhere apart from pro-Kremlin media, and is most probably invented, as Jen Psaki is a common target of pro-Kremlin trolls: http://bit.ly/2c4k0yx // http://bit.ly/2ckyBEc	Givi Gigitashvili, Latvian Institute of International Affairs
17.08.2016	GEO	Georgian ruling party "Georgian dream" and the main opposition party UNM do not want to open polling places in Russia during the upcoming elections in October, because Georgians living there will vote against these two parties because of their NATO accession agenda.	http://bit.ly/2cc5R3e	geworld.ge	In fact, Georgia and Russia do not have diplomatic relations, therefore Tbilisi cannot open polling places in Russia. The article does not provide any figures to prove that Georgians living in Russia do not want Georgia's NATO accession.	Givi Gigitashvili, Latvian Institute of International Affairs
17.08.2016	GEO	President of Georgia rejected referendum initiative on defining marriage between man and woman only. He did so because the Ambassador of the US in Georgia ordered him to turn down this initiative.	http://bit.ly/2cc5R3e	geworld.ge	The President of Georgia has clearly explained reasons for turning the initiative down: 1. under the circumstances when Georgian government cannot control 25 percent of country's territory, holding referendum only on the rest of the country's territory can give a legal argument to the occupant state; 2. Georgian legislation already defines marriage as a voluntary union for life of woman and man: http://bit.ly/2c4IF6V	Givi Gigitashvili, Latvian Institute of International Affairs
17.08.2016	GEO	By hosting Russian military bases on its soil, Georgia will ensure its security, thereafter the Georgian territorial integrity will be restored and Georgia will manage to protect the country from the Western cannibalism.	http://bit.ly/2cc5R3e	geworld.ge	Russian military aggression in 2008 and subsequent occupation of South Ossetia and Abkhazia proves that Russian military bases do not help Georgia's security. // No evidence of "Western cannibalism".	Givi Gigitashvili, Latvian Institute of International Affairs
18.08.2016	RUS	Only 60 per cent of Ukrainians consider themselves citizens of their country.	http://bit.ly/2bQlwkj	RIA Novosti	The poll's aim was to determine what Ukrainians primarily identify with, their country, cities and regions they reside in, ethnic communities, the former USSR, Europe or the world. While 60% of respondents identify with being citizens of Ukraine, 22% identify with their city or region: http://bit.ly/2bJ1PNM	StopFake.org

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18.08.2016	RUS	Shipbuilding as an industry has all but disappeared in Ukraine.	http://bit.ly/2bBsfKI	ukraina.ru	The Facebook post on which the disinformation story is built is not about the collapse of the shipbuilding industry, in fact it is about the resurgence that river transport was undergoing: http://bit.ly/2cejZtz	StopFake.org
22.08.2016	ENG	Nuclear energy sector is collapsing in Ukraine, the possibility of an accident in some of the nuclear plants is growing.	http://bit.ly/2bRVvWk	Sputnik	Sputnik misrepresented a press conference of the former director of the Chernobyl power plant, who actually said that any accident is highly unlikely: http://bit.ly/2cbwZNH	StopFake.org // Collected in the framework of a Centre for International Relations' project co-financed by the Visegrad Fund www.visegradfund.org
22.08.2016	SVK	Ukrainian aggression towards Russia is part of an international conspiracy. Threat of war between Russia and Ukraine	http://bit.ly/2qjd9OE	Pán občan	No evidence given. Article has no reference to credible source.	Collected in the framework of a Centre for International Relations' project co-financed by the Visegrad Fund www.visegradfund.org
22.08.2016	RUS	Without an IMF bailout Ukraine's economy is headed for a total collapse.	http://bit.ly/2cqOXyp	Vesti	Distorted interview by Ukrainian Finance Minister Alexander Danyliuk who said that he is sure Ukraine will get the tranche; and that Ukraine could do even without it: http://bit.ly/2bM3nEC	StopFake.org
23.08.2016	RUS	The West decided to loot Ukraine.	http://bit.ly/2bZ2xLf	Svobodnaya Pressa @ Youtube	In fact, both the EU and the USA provide significant financial help to Ukraine. See e.g. http://bit.ly/2clYDqZ	Oleksandr Nykonorov, journalist for Depo.ua, blogger, researcher
23.08.2016	RUS	Belarusian sportsmen will carry both Belarusian and Russian flags during the opening ceremony of the Paralympic games.	http://bit.ly/2bQiJKb	baltnews.lv	"That is a wrong information, we do not want to mix sports with politics," - Oleg Shepel, head of the Belarusian paralympic committee: http://bit.ly/2cjrblg	Biedrība NOVOSTI
23.08.2016	CZE	CIA is pushing Ukrainian government to escalate the conflict to a full scale war similar to 2014. Russia should not be accused of violating the Minsk agreements.	http://bit.ly/2bY18IH	protiproud.parlamentaristy.cz	In the Minsk agreements, ceasefire and restoring control over the Ukrainian border depend chiefly on Russia and its proxies. // http://atfp.co/2clPL4o	European Values think-tank
24.08.2016	SVK	Pentagon threatened Russia with shooting down Russian planes if they get too close to US allies in Syria.	http://bit.ly/2cAFW7l	hlavnespravy.sk	Pentagon press secretary Peter Cook said: "If they threaten U.S. forces, we always have the right to defend our forces." http://bit.ly/2c5hGXV	European Values think-tank
25.08.2016	RUS	In 2017, George Soros will have a hundred NGOs propagating sexual perversions.	http://bit.ly/2bPiBci	odnarodyna.org	No evidence given. // The article talks about LGBT rights - defending human rights, including LGBT, is not sexual perversion propaganda.	Oleksandr Nykonorov, journalist for Depo.ua, blogger, researcher
25.08.2016	RUS	The Pokemon Go game was created by foreign secret services in order to spy on Julian Assange. The game is dangerous also for Russian national security.	http://bit.ly/2c05jfl	Tayny Chapman @ REN TV	Groundless conspiracy theory. It seems a rather expensive way how to track someone who is stuck on the same place for years.	Oleksandr Nykonorov, journalist for Depo.ua, blogger, researcher

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26.08.2016	RUS	The West is ready for the partition of Ukraine. The West has practically stopped any financial help to Ukraine. Poland wants to restore Rzecz Pospolita and claim the Western Ukrainian territories.	http://bit.ly/2b10671	svpressa.ru	Both the EU and the USA respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine. The financial help from the West to Ukraine continues.	Oleksandr Nykonorov, journalist for Depo.ua, blogger, researcher
26.08.2016	RUS	Chinese sportsmen prefer participating in the Russian self-proclaimed paralympic games to participating in the official Rio games, says Deutsche Welle.	http://bit.ly/2cl4DDE	news.rambler.ru	Deutsche Welle: "We have never published this story." http://bit.ly/2cfsYo	Biedriba NOVOSTI
26.08.2016	RUS	The first officially registered DNR office in Europe will be opened in the Czech Republic.	http://bit.ly/2bVPaJN	"Ministry of Foreign Affairs" of the "Donetsk National Republic" and many others (see the disproof column).	"The self-declared Donetsk people's Republic cannot have any accredited diplomatic or consular office in the Czech Republic because the DNR is not a state. The Czech Republic does not recognize this entity and we do not have any diplomatic relations with this group": http://bit.ly/2c6lZEO	StopFake.org
26.08.2016	CZE	The US support mass migration to Europe. In case of a nuclear war with Russia, Europe will become the American scapegoat.	http://bit.ly/2bNuqUT	parlamentnilisty.cz	There is no proof that the EU / the USA would orchestrate the migration crisis. In fact, both the EU and the USA are trying to prevent the crisis. Contrary, there are many concerns that Russia is fueling the migration crisis through its actions in Syria: http://bit.ly/2bQnNSW	European Values think-tank
27.08.2016	RUS	Ukrainians are only cannon fodder in the war against Russia. The Kyiv junta has organised a bloody coup in the country.	http://bit.ly/2uZ8mcT	ItonTV1 @ Youtube	Repeating already debunked disinformation. The spontaneous onset of the Euromaidan protests was a reaction of large parts of the Ukrainian population to the Yanukovich government's sudden departure from the Association Agreement with the European Union in November 2013.	Oleksandr Nykonorov, journalist for Depo.ua, blogger, researcher
27.08.2016	RUS	George Soros is the real governor of Ukraine, he orders which laws must be passed.	http://bit.ly/2bZ8ExR	odnarydina.org	No evidence given. Ukraine is a sovereign and independent country.	Oleksandr Nykonorov, journalist for Depo.ua, blogger, researcher
27.08.2016	RUS	Ukrainian soldiers are exchanging mortars for food with "LNR" militias.	http://bit.ly/2caci5u	odnarydina.org	No evidence for this highly improbable claim given.	Oleksandr Nykonorov, journalist for Depo.ua, blogger, researcher
27.08.2016	CZE	Ukraine is threatening to start a war while it is Putin who calls for a security conference.	http://bit.ly/2bG77LE	parlamentnilisty.cz	Russia surrounded Ukraine with tens of thousands of soldiers ready for deployment: http://atfp.co/2clPL4o	European Values think-tank
28.08.2016	RUS	The enemies of Russia have artificially invented the Ukrainian language in order to blame Moscow for Russification.	http://bit.ly/2bHNaMg	politikus.ru	Groundless conspiracy theory.	Oleksandr Nykonorov, journalist for Depo.ua, blogger, researcher

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28.08.2016	RUS	The ban on Russia's participation in the Paralympics in Rio has been introduced in order to undermine the authority of Putin, humiliate national dignity of Russians and undermine Russia's national interests.	http://bit.ly/2bWZZrc	Voskresnyi vecher s Vladimirom Solovyovym @ Rossia-1 TV (0:23, 2:31)	Russian sportsmen were banned because of massive state organized doping: http://bbc.in/2bP5Yke	Pavel Spirin, former journalist	
28.08.2016	RUS	Gaining a victory in the Cold War, the West intends to destroy Russia as a state now.	http://bit.ly/2bWZZrc	Voskresnyi vecher s Vladimirom Solovyovym @ Rossia-1 TV (2:32:24)	Repeating an already debunked myth, broadly covered e.g. in Disinformation Review issue 37: http://bit.ly/2cdAmGp	Pavel Spirin, former journalist	
29.08.2016	RUS	Poland will build a wall on its borders to keep out Ukrainian migrants.	http://bit.ly/2ckA9hP	TV Zvezda and others (see the disproof column).	The source for these claims is an interview that Poland's Interior Minister Mariusz Blaszczak gave to Polskie Radio. Blaszczak never mentions building a wall on the Ukrainian border, what he does say is that Poland will deploy a much larger Polish Border Service than previously and also create a new border defense department: http://bit.ly/2czEyBT	StopFake.org	
29.08.2016	RUS	The Ukrainian authorities do not consider the residents of Eastern Ukraine citizens, regarding them only as terrorists.	http://bit.ly/2cr3Tgb	Vremya pokazhet @ Pervyi Kanal (8:18)	The Anti-Terrorist Operation is directed against Russian and Russian-backed militias.	Pavel Spirin, former journalist	
29.08.2016	RUS	Soldiers of Ukrainian Army are deliberately killing civilians of Donbass in order to earn money.	http://bit.ly/2cr3Tgb	Vremya pokazhet @ Pervyi Kanal (9:44)	No evidence for these accusations given.	Pavel Spirin, former journalist	
29.08.2016	CZE	Supporters of Angela Merkel in Czech republic were paid from abroad. // Membership in NATO is a threat for Czech republic, because the USA want to start war against Russia. // The EU destroys Czech republic. // There is an Islamic invasion in Europe organized by Turkey and the US and their servants in the EU. // The military coup in Turkey has been ordered by the United States. // Sanctions against Russia support anti-national fascist oligarchs in Ukraine and a NATO aggression against Russia.	http://bit.ly/2bN99pH	parlamentnilisty.cz	Recycling already many times debunked myths. Martin Koller, author of all the notorious pro-Kremlin disinformation claims, was an active informer of the communist secret police in Czechoslovakia (StB) who believes that the MH17 was not shot down by Russia-backed separatists: http://bit.ly/2cgDglw	European Values think-tank	
29.08.2016	CZE	The US forces will continue to occupy Syrian territory regardless of the fact that the Syrian government is against.	http://bit.ly/2crPZHD	novarepublika.cz	The US does not occupy Syria, the US forces fight against the Islamic State.	European Values think-tank	

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30.08.2016	RUS	Danish media are scared of new Russian missiles.	http://bit.ly/2clc0L9	baltnews.lv	The BaltNews article mentions only one Danish media outlet, not multiple. And the Jyllands-Posten.dk article (http://bit.ly/2bloVld) is based on a story from Sputnik (http://bit.ly/2c7a3RO) - which is a channel notoriously known for spreading pro-Kremlin disinformation.	Biedrība NOVOSTI	
30.08.2016	RUS	French President Francois Hollande regrets the anti-Russian sanctions.	http://bit.ly/2ckAgda	RIA Novosti	Hollande in fact said that he regrets the deterioration of relations between Russia and the European countries, not the sanctions. He did not call for lifting the sanctions as Russia has not removed the reasons that led to their introduction: http://bit.ly/2cq3CHt	StopFake.org	
30.08.2016	RUS	China rejects grain imports from Ukraine.	http://bit.ly/2cqlw1z	RT	A small amount of pests was found in certain fields growing grains intended for export to China. The affected area however is so small that it could not affect the amount of total exports to China. These pests were found by Ukrainian inspectors checking the designated grain fields, the grain has not yet been exported to China and China has not rejected it: http://bit.ly/2bWl2st	StopFake.org	
30.08.2016	RUS	The US Democrats waged all the recent wars in the world, including the war in Iraq.	http://bit.ly/2bW2lCH	Vremya pokazhet @ Pervyi Kanal (18:23)	The war in Iraq started during the Republican President George W. Bush.	Pavel Spirin, former journalist	
30.08.2016	RUS	The Europeans are under control of the USA - politically, military and economically. They are subordinated to the topics imposed by the USA through TV.	http://bit.ly/2c4z8fi	Mesto vstrechi @ NTV (10:01)	The USA respects the sovereignty of European countries, who make their own decisions.	Pavel Spirin, former journalist	
30.08.2016	RUS	The international community did not make any complaints to the Russian annexation of Crimea and other military conflicts participated in by Moscow - Georgia, Moldova. All these conflicts were provoked by the USA in order to pull Russia in.	http://bit.ly/2c4z8fi	Mesto vstrechi @ NTV (18:25)	The United Nations General Assembly Resolution No. 68/262 adopted on 27 March 2014, supported by 100 states clearly states that Russia's actions in the peninsula as well as the referendum held in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea violate international law (http://bit.ly/1RZGnjo). // No evidence for the accusations of the USA given.	Pavel Spirin, former journalist	
31.08.2016	RUS	Finland is advised to be friendly towards Russia and cautious towards the EU.	http://bit.ly/2bl3Oov	baltnews.lv	The report mentioned in the article says very much the opposite: "Russia now represents a bigger threat to Finland": http://bit.ly/2cvR2L0	Biedrība NOVOSTI	
31.08.2016	CZE	The US army started occupation of the Czech Republic.	http://bit.ly/2bOvsRI	lajkit.cz	The article talks about Ample Strike 2016 - exercise of 17 NATO allies: http://bit.ly/2bLYbR1	European Values think-tank	

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01.09.2016	ENG	The new YouTube rules mean that all the videos with alternative political views will be censored. The main goal is the censorship of anti-establishment political opinions.	http://bit.ly/2ckuQP8	infowars.com	Youtube bans e.g. videos with sexual content, hatespeech, violence, etc.: http://bit.ly/2cq0c7t . This has nothing to do with "alternative political views".	European Values think-tank
01.09.2016	CZE	According to international law there is no problem of recognizing Crimea as a part of Russia. What is missing is the political will. It is all a long-term policy of the USA to withhold Russia.	http://bit.ly/2bW3bvo2	Sputnik Czech	The United Nations General Assembly Resolution No. 68/262 adopted on 27 March 2014, supported by 100 states clearly states that Russia's actions in the peninsula as well as the referendum held in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea violate international law (http://bit.ly/1RZGnjo).	European Values think-tank
01.09.2016	CZE	The Ukrainian volunteer battallions are out of control of the armed forces, they submit its recruits (who are coming from Western countries in the same manner that fascist Germany and Italy supported the Spanish dictator Franco) to banderist brainwashing. The Ukrainian Trident is a banderite symbol.	http://bit.ly/2c1hFSP	parlamentnilisty.cz	Repeating already debunked disinformation about the prevalence of fascism in Ukraine. // Ukrainian volunteer battallions are under command of Ukrainian National Guard command, which is part of Ukrainian armed forces.	European Values think-tank
02.09.2016	CZE	The new YouTube rules mean that all the videos with alternative political views will be censored. The main goal is the censorship of anti-establishment political opinions.	http://bit.ly/2c3Ytqt	svobodnenoviny.eu	Czech translation of the infowars.com disinformation article mentioned above.	European Values think-tank
02.09.2016	RUS	The sanctions against Russia were imposed on the eve of the Olympic Games in Sochi, before the annexation of the Crimea.	http://bit.ly/2czT4tt	Vremya pokazhet @ Pervyi Kanal (9:01)	The EU imposed economic sanctions in July 2014, approximately four months after the Sochi Olympics: http://bit.ly/2ccnPmz	Pavel Spirin, former journalist
02.09.2016	RUS	There was a coup in Ukraine, the Ukrainian authorities are illegitimate.	http://bit.ly/2czT4tt	Vremya pokazhet @ Pervyi Kanal (14:53)	Repeating already debunked disinformation. The spontaneous onset of the Euromaidan protests was a reaction of large parts of the Ukrainian population to the Yanukovich government's sudden departure from the Association Agreement with the European Union in November 2013.	Pavel Spirin, former journalist
02.09.2016	RUS	International law and the struggle for human rights - that only means colonization of Russia.	http://bit.ly/2czT4tt	Vremya pokazhet @ Pervyi Kanal (28:38)	Principles of international law and respect for human rights are embedded in the UN Charter, that was signed by the USSR (later replaced by Russia): http://bit.ly/2bX6vho	Pavel Spirin, former journalist

DISCLAIMER: The Disinformation Review is a compilation of reports received from members of the EEAS East Stratcom mythbusting network, which comprises of over 400 experts, journalists, officials, NGOs and Think Tanks in over 30 countries. Please note that opinions and judgements expressed here do not represent official EU positions.