

DOES THE EUROPEAN UNION FIGHT PROPAGANDA AND DISINFORMATION IN LIGHT OF WAR IN UKRAINE?

With the beginning of the full-scale invasion of russia on the territory of Ukraine on February 24, 2022, which later turned into a brutal war with the genocide of the Ukrainian people, the number of cases of propaganda and disinformation from the russian side increased many times. For the first few months, Europe and the civilized world silently believed russian information and watched from the side without interfering.

Propaganda is a type of communication that is used to promote a particular agenda or point of view. It can be used to influence people's opinions or to control their behavior. Propaganda often relies on disinformation and misinformation, which can be very effective in shaping people's opinions.

Propaganda is used to promote a particular agenda or point of view. The goals of propaganda can vary, but common goals include shaping people's opinions, convincing them to support a particular cause or political candidate, or encouraging them to behave in a certain way [1].

Disinformation means «false information, as about a country's military strength or plans, disseminated by a government or intelligence agency in a hostile act of tactical political subversion». It is also used more generally to mean «deliberately misleading or biased information; manipulated narrative or facts; propaganda».

So, disinformation is misinformation that is knowingly (intentionally) spread. Our first definition of this word gives one major reason why a person or group might want to spread wrong information, but there are many other nefarious motivations lurking behind the creation of disinformation [2].

So what happened in the first months of the 2022 war? Why did everyone believe the side that attacked instead of defending? The answer here is hidden very deep back in 2014, when russia made the first attempt to invade Ukraine. They failed, but the world remained silent. That is why the question «Where were you these 8 years?» arose. For 8 years, the aggressor country conducted targeted propaganda-zombification of its people and a full-scale campaign of disinformation in Europe and the whole world with the bribery of the necessary European and world government officials.

As a result of propaganda actions destructive to the consciousness of the Russian people, such «products» appeared as:

- Ukrainians eat children in the streets;
- Fascists and Bandera people are everywhere in Ukraine;

– kadyrov is running around the territory of our country and is looking for Stepan Bandera;

- russian-speaking people are mocked in Ukraine;
- Ukraine will be captured in three days;
- Ukrainians look forward to their neighbors.

Disinformation worked in the other directions. The first direction is panic. The main goal: to create a panicky mood among Ukrainians, so that they surrender sooner. Examples of this direction:

- President Zelensky fled Ukraine;
- During air attacks, it is necessary to turn off the light, because the rockets will fly right into the window;
- It is necessary to destroy the enemy marks, which are guidance on the objects that will be fired upon.

The second direction is global. The main goal: to justify their hostile intentions. Examples of this direction are:

- DPR, LPR and 6 other regions want to join russia;
- Ukraine has already been captured;
- Ukraine bombed Donbas for 8 years;
- The people of Bandera conquer against the Ukrainians;
- Bucha is a fake created by the authorities of Ukraine;
- In Ukraine, units of combat animals are being created to fight with neighbors;
- Ukraine is developing an atomic bomb;
- It was an act of goodwill when we (russians) left one or another region of Ukraine;

- russia is not at war with Ukraine, but with NATO.

At the beginning of October 2023, we had the honor of visiting the leading institutions of the European Union in Brussels, where we were able to see with our own eyes how «European cuisine» works in practice from the inside.

Communicating with managers and persons responsible for Ukraine in the EU, we were able to clarify many points and get answers to questions that interested us in this direction.

So, for example, there is a whole department whose work is aimed at countering russian propaganda and disinformation; that there is only a certain circle of persons who can act as speakers on behalf of the European Union; there is a department that deals with cooperation with Ukrainian mass media.

Now Europeans have learned to distinguish fakes from the truth, which, as they admit, they could not do at the beginning of the war. They also learned to distinguish requests for the introduction of information in russian from russians and russian-speaking Ukrainians. At the beginning of the war, the percentage of these requests was at the level of 75%. Now such requests remain only in relation to sanctions against russia and its citizens at the level of 10%.

As the leading European officials have told us, they learned all the techniques of the enemy country to produce fakes and disinformation.

We noted that not all cases of propaganda and disinformation have been destroyed yet. There remains a very blatant case when all Ukrainians are called refugees without understanding. We asked leading managers and responsible persons to control their activities in this direction, to fight another fake case of russian propaganda. After all, only a small percentage of Ukrainians in Europe have the status of refugees.

Summing up all of the above if you are concerned about being manipulated by propaganda, the best thing you can do is to educate yourself about the techniques that are used. By being aware of the ways that information can be distorted, you can more easily see through the manipulation and make your own informed decisions.

References:

1. Arlin Cuncic. (2022). How does propaganda work? URL: <https://www.verywellmind.com/how-does-propaganda-work-5224974>
2. «Misinformation» vs. «Disinformation»: Get Informed On The Difference. URL: <https://www.dictionary.com/e/misinformation-vs-disinformation-get-informed-on-the-difference/>

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ПСИХІЧНЕ ЗДОРОВ'Я ЗДОБУВАЧІВ ВИЩОЇ ОСВІТИ В УМОВАХ ВІЙНИ

Вже дев'ять років люди в Україні живуть в умовах війни, необхідність функціонування в екстремальних умовах створює додаткове навантаження на психіку, викликає зміну психічного стану та негативно позначається на активності особистості. Війна – один із найбільш стресових чинників, безпосередньо це торкається кожного і має свої наслідки, але є ті, чиє життя і так зазнає великих змін, – це студенти. У цей непростий час у них відбувається важливий і водночас стресовий процес для подальшого життя – процес професійного навчання у закладах вищої освіти і в подальшому становлення їх як майбутніх фахівців. Відповідно до вищесказаного, зростає потреба у здійсненні психологічних досліджень, спрямованих на вивчення психічного здоров'я здобувачів в умовах війни.

Психічне здоров'я – це рівень психологічного благополуччя, який визначається не тільки відсутністю психічних захворювань, а й рядом соціально-економічних, біологічних і тих, що відносяться до навколишнього середовища, факторів. Це стан внутрішньої гармонійності, який дає