

Prague, 11. 7. 2022

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## More than a third of Czechs receive chain emails, while hundreds of thousands forward them further

A joint study between research agency IPSOS and consortium Central European Digital Media Observatory (CEDMO) finds that 37% of Czechs receive chain emails featuring pressing societal issues such as the current political situation, migration or war. A significant fraction of them, 460 thousand, forward such emails further.

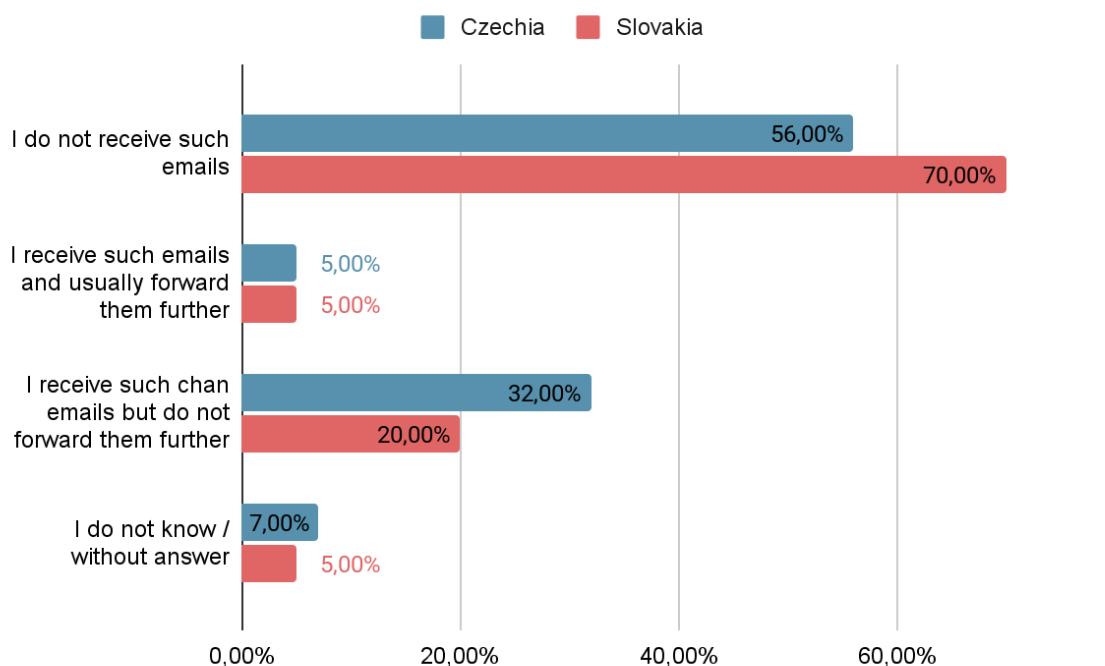
During June and July, IPSOS conducted yet another (4th) wave of research focusing on the opinions of Czechs and Slovaks regarding both disinformation and the Ukraine-related information war. The involvement of the Slovak population allows for a relevant comparison of perceptions and opinions between the two countries.

### Hundreds of Thousands Forward Chain Emails

Almost 40% of Czech and 25% of Slovak citizens receive chain emails from their relatives. These emails concern pertinent issues such as migration, war, the current political situation, or COVID-19. While 32% of Czechs and 20% of Slovaks claim they do not forward such emails further, the study finds that at least 5% of the surveyed in both countries re-share such messages. In terms of demography, the elderly receive the largest number of alarming emails. In a similar fashion, people who have completed only compulsory education are the most likely targets of such emails.

*"Hundreds of thousands in both countries usually forward chain emails further to their relatives without verifying the claims made in them. 7% of Czechs and 8% of Slovaks usually share or forward information in spite of its suspicious content."* - Kateřina Rábová, IPSOS

**Question:** "Do you receive chain emails from your relatives warning of migration, the war in Ukraine, epidemics, COVID-19, the current political situation, EU or NATO?"



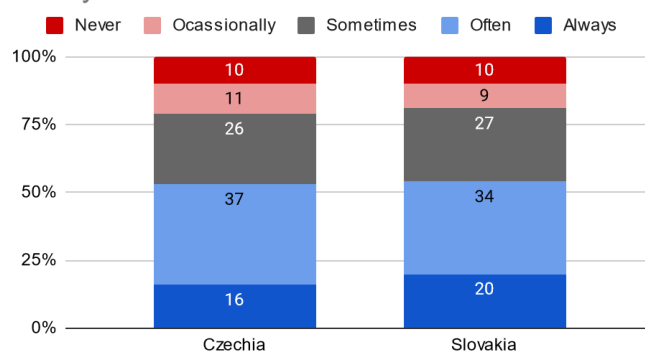
## Only A Few People Warn Others of Disinformation

16% of Czechs and 20% of Slovaks assert they always verify information from a number of sources. On average, only 10% of both populations never check the truthfulness of received information. A similar number does it only occasionally. Once people become suspicious of disinformation, only a small fraction (21% Czechs and 16% Slovaks) regularly warns either its creator or someone else.

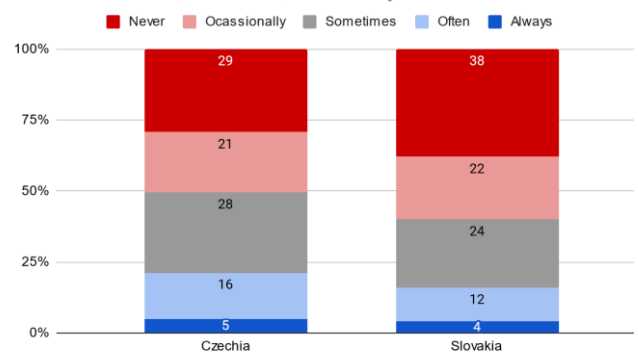
Czechs who have completed only compulsory education usually never verify the authenticity of information they receive, often despite their suspicion that it is disinformation (14%). In contrast, university-educated people claim they would not share interesting information insofar as it could contain disinformation (63%).

**Question:** *What do you usually do with information you suspect may contain disinformation?*

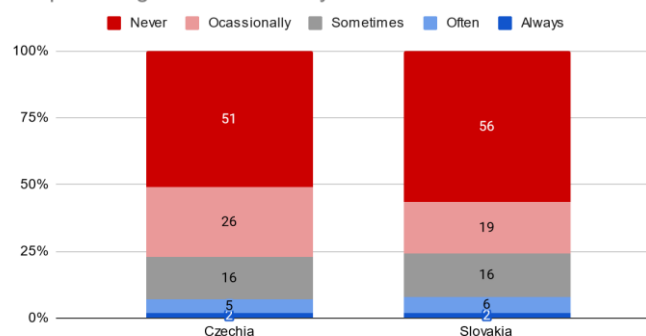
I verify information from other sources



I warn the author, or others, that it may be disinformation



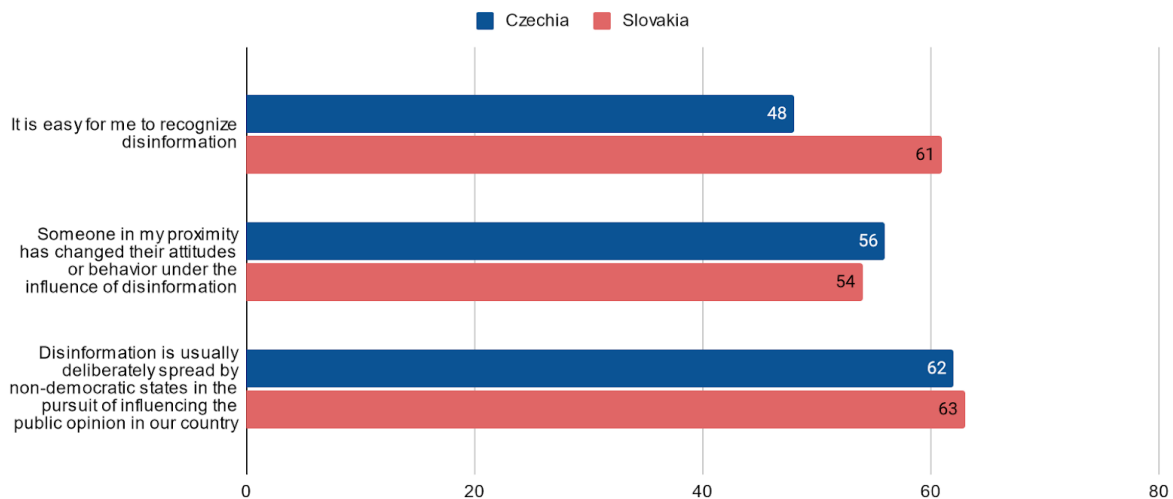
If I find some information interesting or important, I share it despite being aware that it may be disinformation



## Disinformation as a Weapon of Non-Democratic States

Almost two thirds of both populations agree that disinformation is often deliberately shared by non-democratic states in the pursuit of influencing public opinion in the respective countries. More than half of those surveyed believe that at least someone in their proximity has changed their attitudes under the influence of disinformation. More Slovaks (61%) than Czechs (48%) find recognizing disinformation to be easy.

**Question:** *To what extent do you agree with the following statements regarding disinformation?*

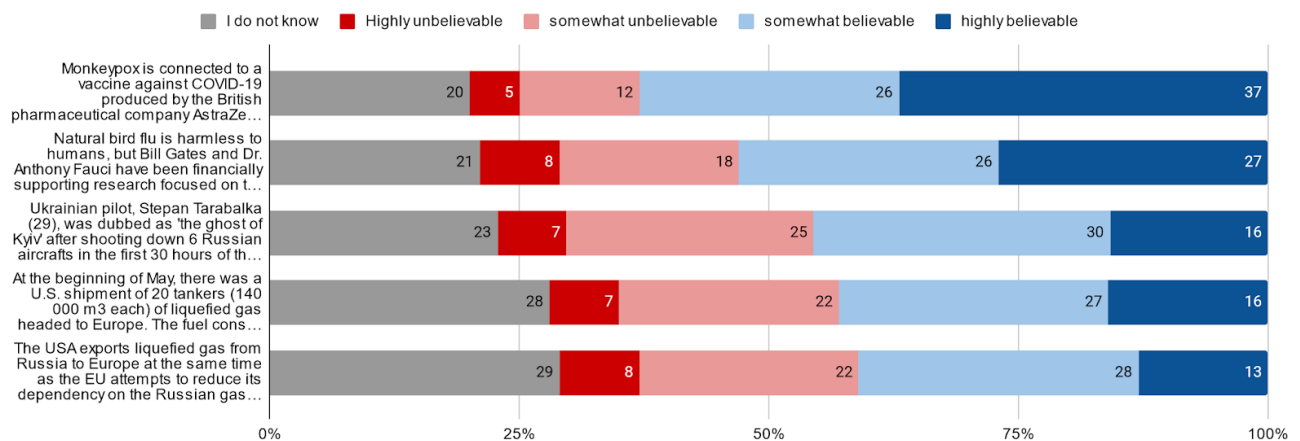


### A third of Czechs believe in the Ghost of Kyiv, while almost a fifth of the population considers the recent spread of monkeypox to be connected to COVID-19 vaccines

An additional purpose of this study was to examine the attitudes and perceptions of the Czech population regarding popular disinformation. A third of Czech citizens believe that information surrounding the Ghost of Kyiv is true. On the other hand, only 17% of the population considers the connection between monkeypox and COVID-19 vaccines to be relevant. This disinformation is the most popular among people who have attended only compulsory education.

Other disinformation claims featuring, for example, bird flu outbreaks or liquefied gas (transport / trade) are more popular. According to the study, 25-30% of Czechs believe such claims to be true. Correspondingly to the previous findings, these pieces of disinformation are least likely to be spread among university-educated people.

**Question:** *To what extent do you consider the following claims believable/unbelievable?*



### About the Study:

The research presented was conducted between 30.6-7.7.2022 on a representative sample of adult internet users drawn from Czechia and Slovakia. In total, 1003 Czech and 1042 Slovak respondents were included in this study. The sample was drawn by IPSOS from panels - [Populace.cz](https://www.populace.cz) / [Populacia.sk](https://www.populacia.sk)

The study was conducted as a part of a joint project between CEDMO and IPSOS and represents the fourth wave of such research. The first wave was conducted between 31.3-6.4.2022, second between 30.4-5.5.2022, and third 30.5-5.6.2022