CEDMO Trends: Czech society in times of change (17th wave)

Espresso

MEDIAN

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1 Basic parameters

Name of survey: CEDMO Trends: the Czech society in times of change (17th wave)

Timeline of data collection: 13. 9. 2024 – 29. 9. 2024

Target group: population 16+

Respondent selection method: quota sampling

Quota setting support: ČSÚ

Observed quotas: gender, age, education, region, size of place of residence, internet use, voting behavior in parliamentary 2021 and 2023 presidential elections

Survey method: CAWI, panel survey

Total surveys conducted: 2765

1.1 Specifics of the survey

The submitter is Charles University, or the CEDMO research institute, and the supplier is MEDIAN. The head of the research team for Charles University is Václav Moravec, the leaders of the research team for MEDIAN are Štěpán Žádník and Přemysl Čech. The questionnaire was prepared by the contracting authority and its final version was compiled in cooperation with the supplier. The questionnaire was administered electronically. The selection of respondents was made from the MEDIAN Online Panel. Respondents were recruited according to the quota regulation approved by the contracting authority.

This project is funded by the EU's Recovery and Resilience Facility.
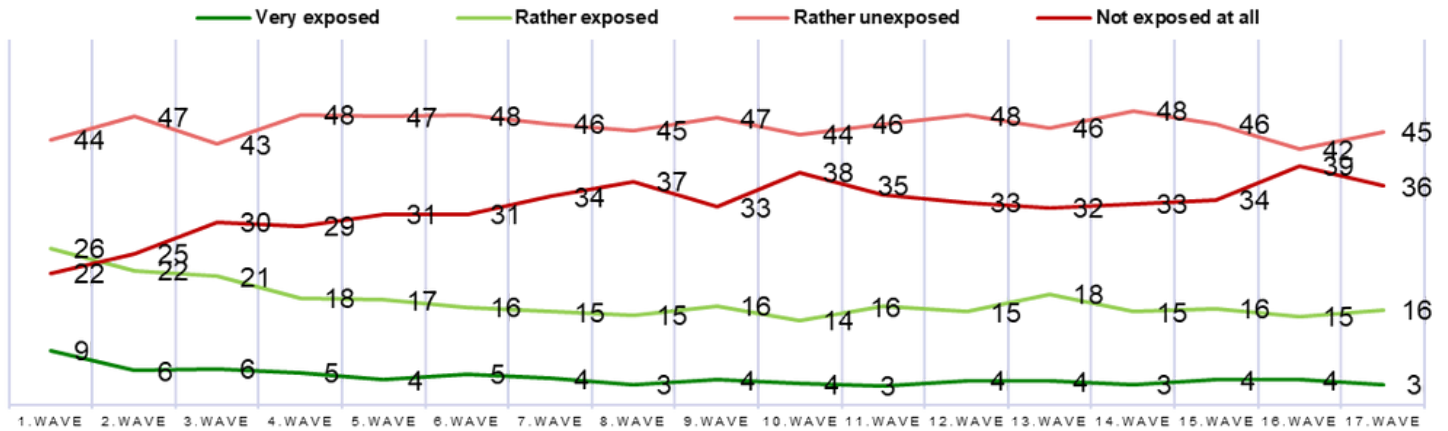
2 Current trends

The findings of the survey remain constant as with previous waves. One of the few changes we have noticed is an increase in the number of information interpreted as disinformation in which Prime Minister Petr Fiala appears. The declared disinformation is both in his favor and directed against him. The floods that hit the country were also the subject of disinformation in this wave.

- Residents of the Hradec Králové Region feel most exposed to disinformation. A quarter of them (25%) said they had been exposed to disinformation. On the other hand, residents of the Ústí nad Labem Region felt the least exposed to disinformation, where 16% of respondents admitted it.
- The youngest group of respondents aged 16 to 24 perceives the issue of disinformation as the most serious. Only one in ten respondents in this age group rate disinformation as a "minor problem" or "not a problem at all". In the 25 to 34 age category, 24% of respondents already rate it the same way. The least serious problem is disinformation for the 55 to 64 age group, where 28% answered this way.
- The seriousness of the problem that individual age groups of respondents consider disinformation to be is also reflected in their assessment of the threat posed to the Czech Republic by disinformation. Respondents who use the Internet once a day or almost daily perceive the threat to the country with disinformation less seriously than people who use the Internet less often.
- In addition to the increase in the number of disinformation about Petr Fiala, the number of disinformation about Ukraine has also increased. As in the case of the Prime Minister, the amount of disinformation has increased both in favor of Ukraine / the West and against them.

3 Perceived exposure to disinformation

Legend: Very exposed — Rather exposed — Rather unexposed — Not exposed at all

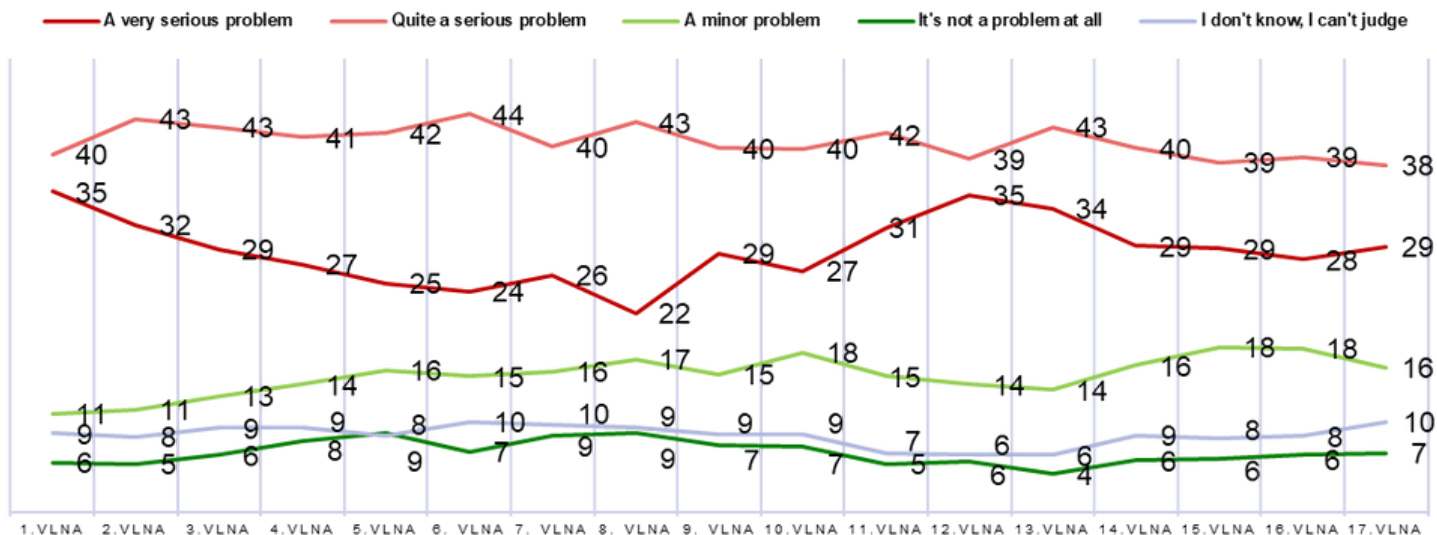|	1.WAVE	2.WAVE	3.WAVE	4.WAVE	5.WAVE	6.WAVE	7.WAVE	8.WAVE	9.WAVE	10.WAVE	11.WAVE	12.WAVE	13.WAVE	14.WAVE	15.WAVE	16.WAVE	17.WAVE
Rather unexposed	44	47/43	48	47	48	46	45	47	44	46	48	46	48	46	42	45
Not exposed at all	22		30	29	31	31	34	37	33	38	35	33	32	33	34	39	36
Rather exposed	26	25/22	21	18	17	16	15	15	16	14	16	15	18	15	16	15	16
Very exposed	9	6	6	5	4	5	4	3	4	4	3	4	4	3	4	4	3

IP02. To what extent have you been or have not been exposed to purposefully disseminated false or manipulative information (sometimes also referred to as "disinformation") in the media in the past month?

N=2765

In the current wave, the majority of respondents still believe that they have not been exposed to disinformation in the media in the past month (81% with the sum of "rather not exposed" + "not exposed at all"). The percentages of respondents who give individual answers are stable. This is especially true for those respondents who report that they have been "very exposed" or "rather exposed" to disinformation.

Men feel more exposed to disinformation (21% "very" + "rather exposed") than women (17%). Andrej Babiš's voters in the last presidential election (26%) are also of the opinion that they are more exposed to disinformation than Petr Pavel's voters (15%). Respondents who did not vote in the presidential election are between these two camps (18%).

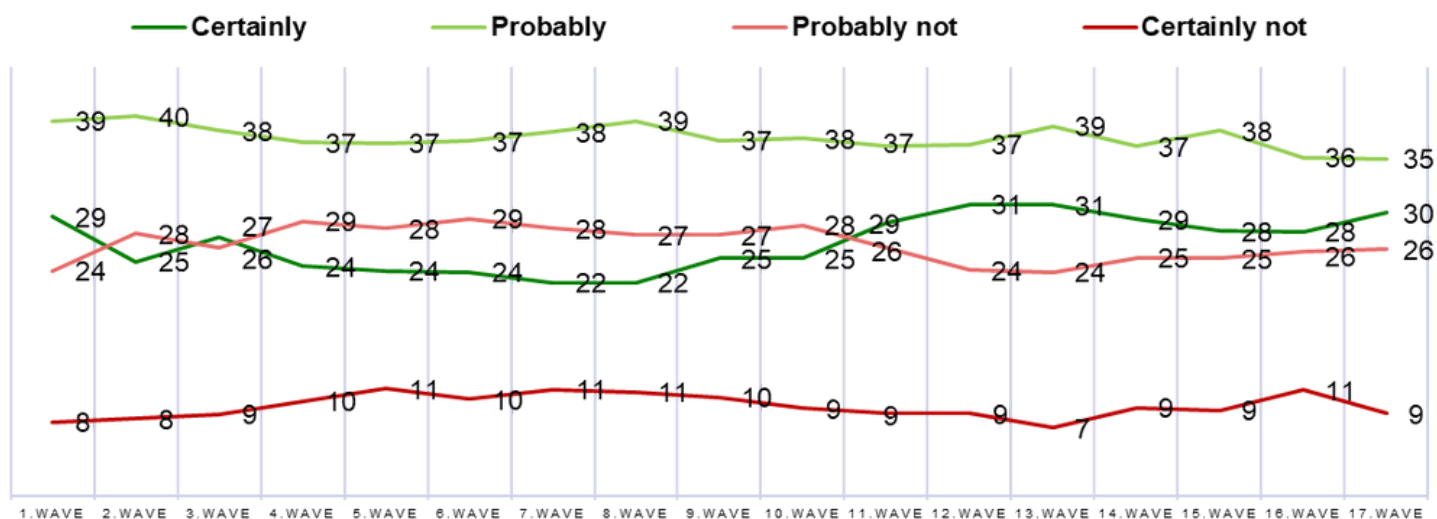|	1.VLNA	2.VLNA	3.VLNA	4.VLNA	5.VLNA	6.VLNA	7.VLNA	8.VLNA	9.VLNA	10.VLNA	11.VLNA	12.VLNA	13.VLNA	14.VLNA	15.VLNA	16.VLNA	17.VLNA
Quite a serious problem	40	43	43	41	42	44	40	43	40	40	42	39	43	40	39	39	38
A very serious problem	35	32	29	27	25	24	26	22	29	27	31	35	34	29	29	28	29
A minor problem	11	11	13	14	16	15	16	17	15	18	15	14	14	16	18	18	16
I don't know, I can't judge	9	8	9	9	8	10	10	9	9	9	7	6	6	9	8	8	10
It's not a problem at all	6	5	6	8	9	7	9	9	7	7	5	6	4	6	6	6	7

IP04. How serious a problem do you think is the spread of false and manipulative information (sometimes also referred to as "disinformation") on the Internet?

N=2765

Just as the percentages of respondents who perceive or do not perceive their own exposure to disinformation are stable, the numbers attributed to the severity of the spread of false or manipulative information on the Internet are stable. The difference is that, for example, the number of respondents who perceive disinformation as a "very serious problem" has stabilized significantly only in the latest waves of research.

The majority of respondents still perceive the spread of disinformation online as problematic (67% when adding "very serious problem" + "quite serious problem").

Of the youngest age group of 16 to 24, 84% of respondents perceive the spread of disinformation as a "very" or "fairly serious problem". The lowest proportion of respondents who perceive disinformation as a problem is in the 55 to 64 age group, where only 61% of respondents perceive it as such. Among Petr Pavel's voters in the second round of the presidential election, there are more who consider disinformation to be a serious problem (81%) than among Andrej Babiš's voters (55%).

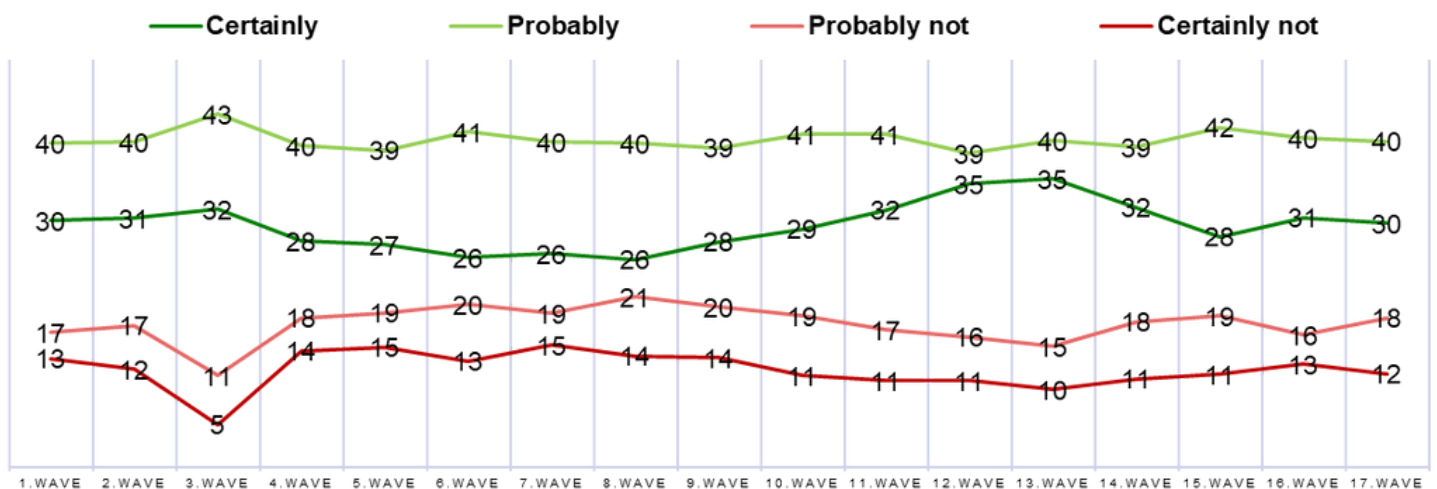|	1.WAVE	2.WAVE	3.WAVE	4.WAVE	5.WAVE	6.WAVE	7.WAVE	8.WAVE	9.WAVE	10.WAVE	11.WAVE	12.WAVE	13.WAVE	14.WAVE	15.WAVE	16.WAVE	17.WAVE
Probably	39	40	38	37	37	37	38	39	37	38	37	37	39	37	38	36	35
Probably not	24	28	27	29	28	29	28	27	27	25	26	31	31	29	28	28	30
Certainly	29	25	26	24	24	24	22	22	25	28	29	24	24	25	25	26	26
Certainly not	8	8	9	10	11	10	11	11	10	9	9	9	7	9	9	11	9

N=2765

There have been no significant changes in the assessment of the threat to the security of the Czech Republic by the dissemination of false or manipulative information during the last waves. In this wave, almost two-thirds of respondents believe that the dissemination of such information threatens the security of the Czech Republic (65% in the sum "definitely yes" + "probably yes"). More than a third of respondents believe that the security of the country is not endangered by the dissemination of such information (37% with the sum "definitely not" + "probably not").

Women (68%) are more likely to consider disinformation a threat than men (63%), and with increasing age of respondents, the number of those who think that disinformation threatens the security of the Czech Republic decreases. In the youngest age group, 78% of respondents think so, and in the oldest age group 65 and over, 60% think so.

Of the voters of parliamentary parties, 59% of SPD voters, 42% of ANO voters, 25% of SPOLU voters and 18% of PirSTAN coalition voters do not consider disinformation to be a threat to state security.

IP07. Is it right for the state to restrict or prevent the operation of media that spread false or manipulative information (sometimes also referred to as "disinformation")?
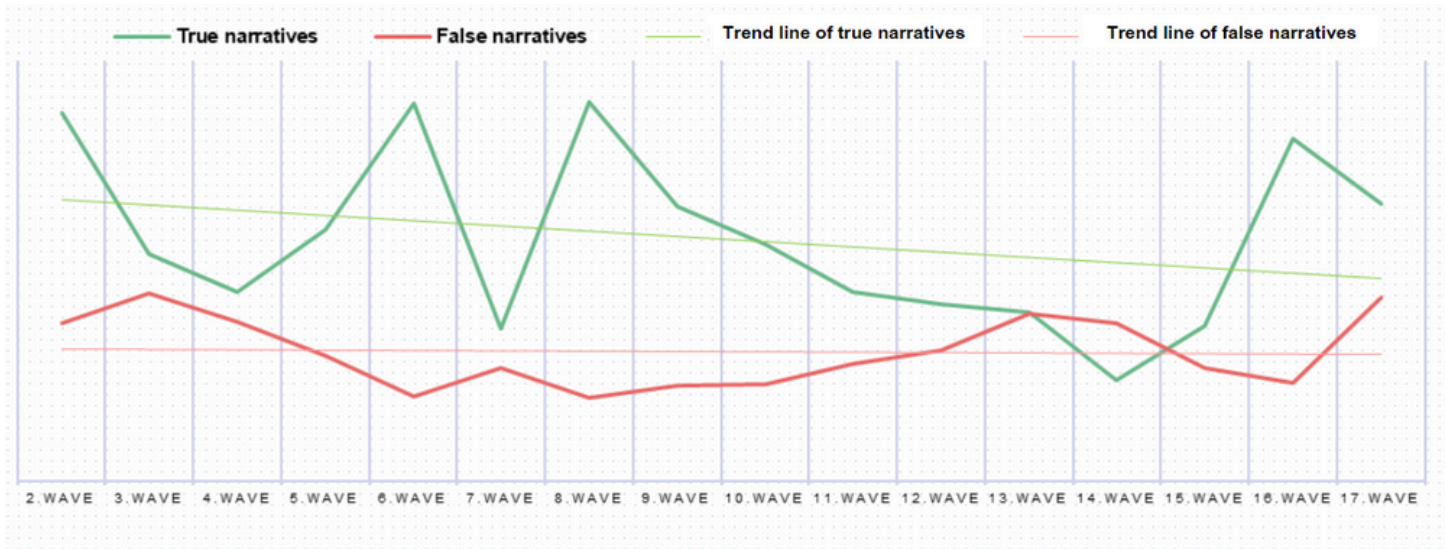
N=2765

The belief of the majority of respondents that it is right for the state to limit the activities of the media that disseminate manipulative or false information persists. 70% of respondents think so (with the sum of "definitely yes" + "probably yes"). Women (74%) are more likely to agree with media restrictions than men (66%). This belief decreases with increasing age of respondents. In the 16 to 24 age group, 81% of respondents are convinced of the correctness of restricting these media. In the 45 to 54 age group, it is 70%, and in the 65 and over age group, it is 67% of respondents.

Of the voters of parliamentary parties, the most supporters of state restrictions on such media are among the voters of the PirSTAN coalition, with 80% of them believing that it would be right. Of the SPD voters, 47% agree.
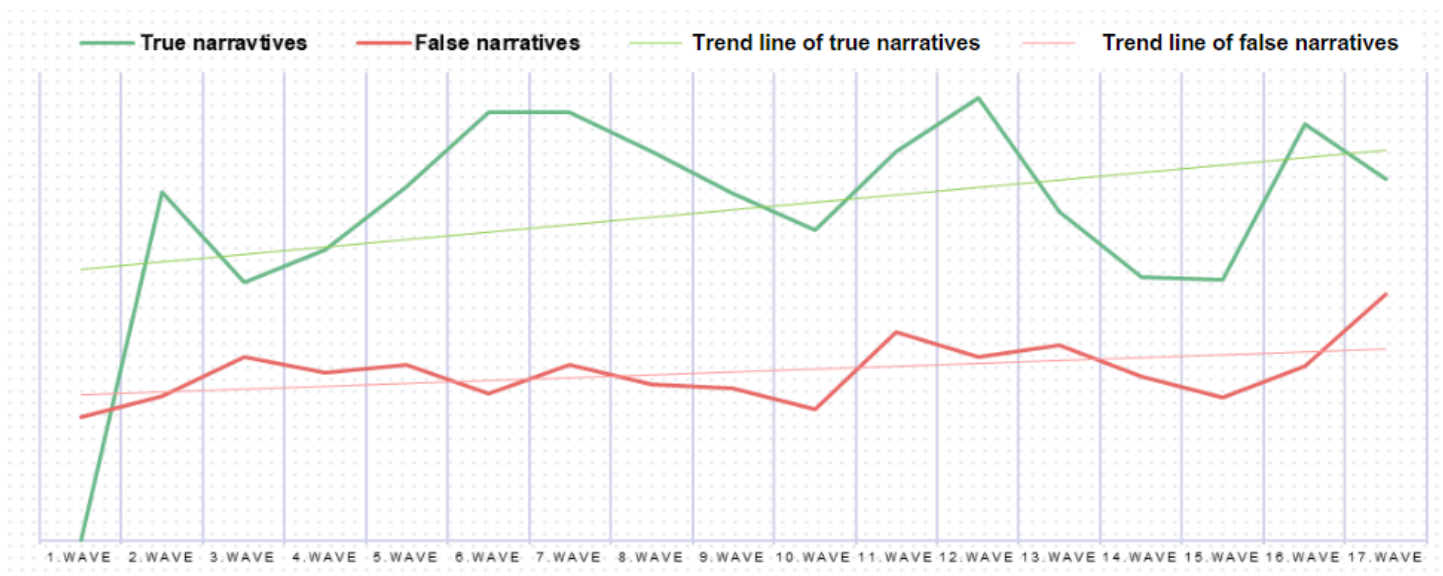
4 Perception of current narratives

DEZP. To what extent are you aware of the following news or Information?

N=2765

The trend of increasing the average recognition of selected true narratives has stopped, and the trend of declining the average recognition of the false ones has also stopped. After two waves, when the curves of true and false narratives diverged, they are converging again in the current wave, and the difference between them has therefore narrowed compared to the previous wave of the survey.

The most famous of the false narratives was that: *"Italy's Angela Carini gave up a boxing match at the Summer Olympics in Paris – after just 45 seconds because she was up against Algerian transgender boxer Iman Khalif, who is not a biological woman"* (62% registered the report). Another narrative *"The opening ceremony of the Summer Olympics in Paris included a paraphrase of the Last Supper according to da Vinci, which sparked mass demonstrations in Paris due to the ridicule of Christianity,"* was noted by 40% of respondents, and it is therefore clear that of the selected false narratives, those related to the Olympic Games were the most popular among respondents.

The true narrative that "*According to the agreement of the parties of the governing coalition, the retirement age in the Czech Republic should rise more slowly than originally calculated by the pension reform. It would be postponed by a month per year instead of the proposed up to two months,"* was the most frequently recorded true narrative of the current wave (54%). However, even this was less known among respondents than the false narrative about women's Olympic boxing.

Legend: True narravtives — False narratives — Trend line of true narratives — Trend line of false narratives

1.WAVE 2.WAVE 3.WAVE 4.WAVE 5.WAVE 6.WAVE 7.WAVE 8.WAVE 9.WAVE 10.WAVE 11.WAVE 12.WAVE 13.WAVE 14.WAVE 15.WAVE 16.WAVE 17.WAVE
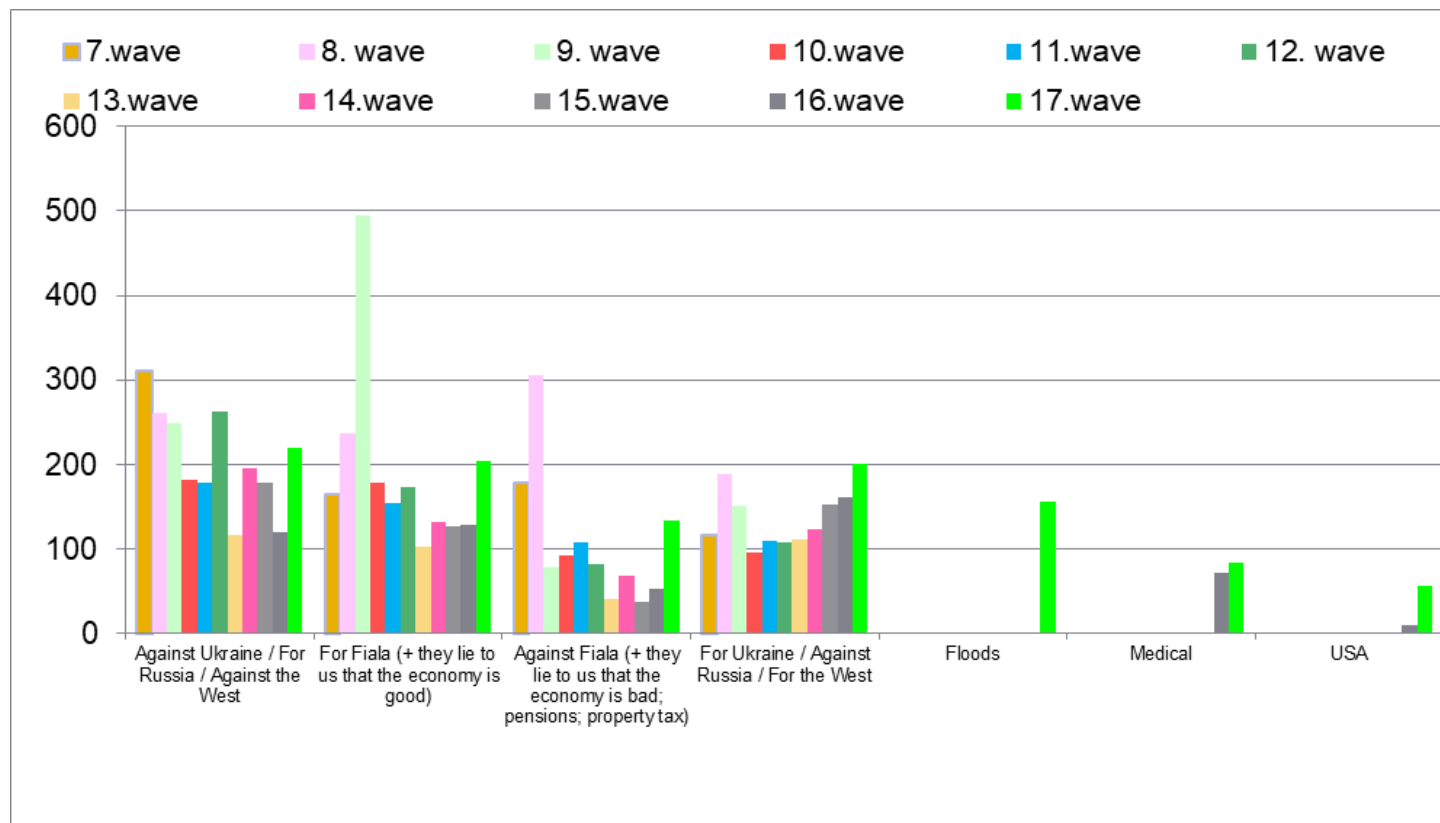
DEZ. To what extent do you consider the following reports to be unreliable or, on the contrary, credible?

N=2765

The average credibility of true narratives has declined compared to the last wave. On the other hand, the average credibility of false narratives has increased again and has reached its maximum over the period under review.

The least credible true narrative was: "*The Swedish pop group ABBA has asked Republican presidential candidate and former White House chief of staff Donald Trump to stop playing their songs at his campaign events.*" More than half of respondents (54%) considered it untrustworthy. The least credible false narrative was that: "The *UN International Court of Justice has ruled that Russia acted justifiably in invading Ukraine in 2022 and cannot be labeled a terrorist state.*" It seemed untrustworthy to 82% of respondents.

5 Most prominent disinformation narratives

IP01A. Describe in your own words what false or manipulative information (sometimes also referred to as "disinformation") caught your attention in the past month?

N=2765

Compared to the previous wave, the amount of disinformation against the West (220) and in its favour (200) has increased. Similarly, the number of intercepted disinformation about Prime Minister Petr Fiala has increased. The number of disinformation declared in his favour (205) exceeded the number of those evaluated as directed against him (134). Flood-related disinformation has also been detected (156).

In the current wave, the number of those who respond to the disinformation narrative has increased with the type of media where they heard it, but the number of those who can directly name the specific media outlet where they picked up the information has decreased.