



DISINFORMATION MONITORING

QUARTERLY REPORT
April-June

PREPARED BY
Sbunker

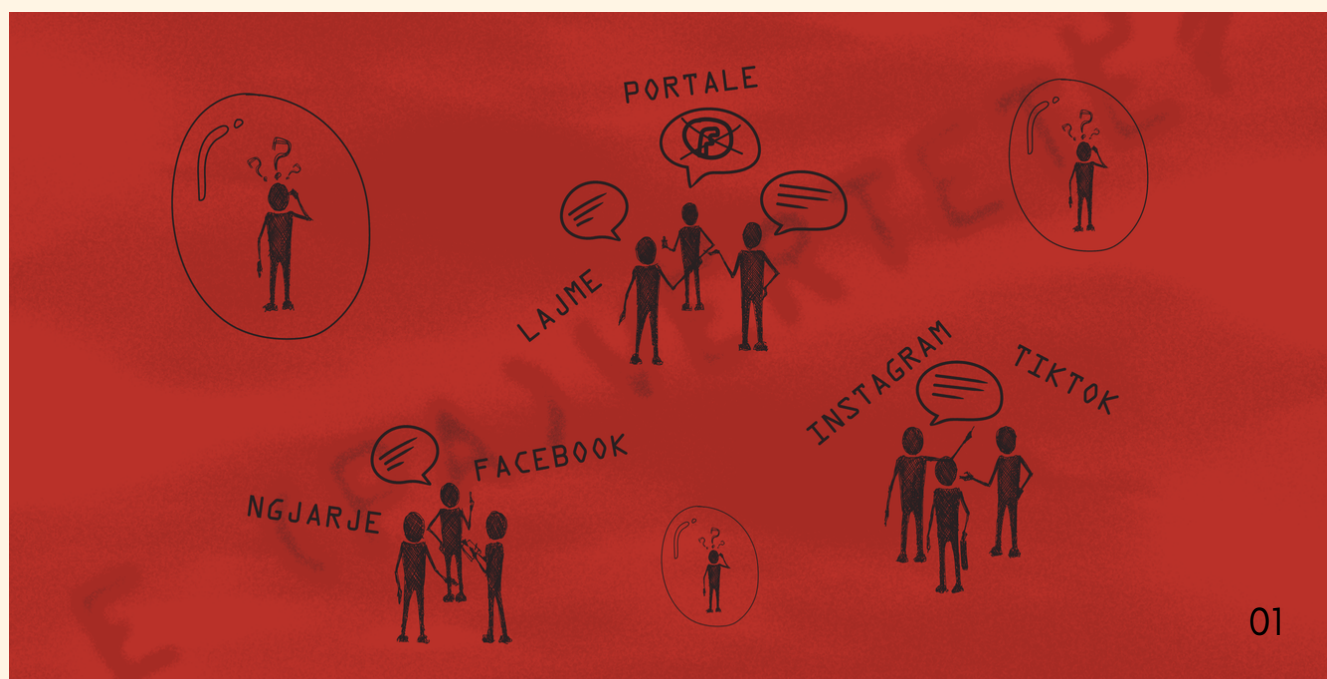
2026
JULY

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SUMMARY

The period from April to June 2026 was marked by the continuation of disinformation narratives related to political developments in Kosovo. The main focus was on propaganda concerning the factors that led to the political crisis, digital manipulation and the increasing use of content generated through Artificial Intelligence (AI). The analysis of this period showed that disinformation was not limited to political issues but also extended to security-related topics, the functioning of state institutions and the electoral process.

The monitored content was characterized by the use of emotional and polarizing narratives designed to create uncertainty and influence public perceptions, particularly ahead of the extraordinary parliamentary elections held on 7 June. Following the end of President Vjosa Osmani's term and the Assembly's failure to elect her successor, manipulative claims increased, in some cases linking political developments with threats to national security and the influence of foreign actors, mainly from Serbia and Russia.

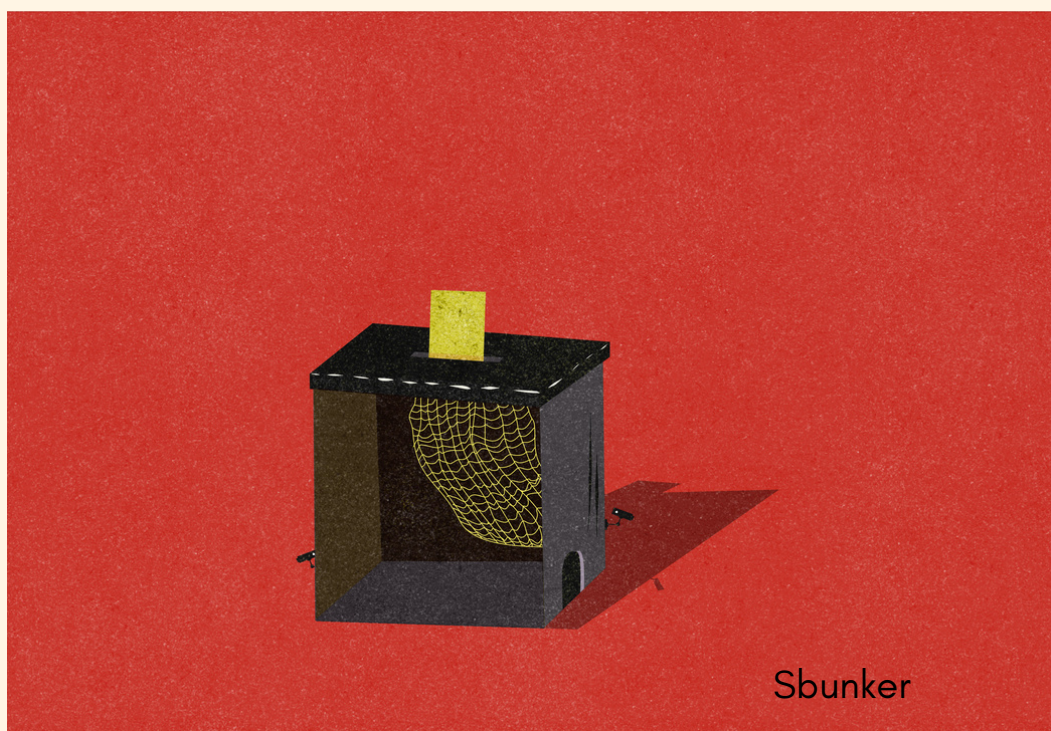


During the election campaign, disinformation was also identified in relation to opinion polls measuring electoral support for political parties, as well as manipulative narratives concerning laws adopted by the Assembly of Kosovo. In particular, the Law on Citizenship was used to promote claims about an alleged “colonization” of Kosovo by Serbs.

During election periods, children are increasingly being used in political party activities and promotional materials. Photographs and videos featuring minors were initially published by political parties on social media and were subsequently widely disseminated by the media, significantly increasing their exposure in the public sphere.

Narratives were also identified that portrayed the strengthening of Kosovo’s cooperation with NATO as evidence of preparations for new conflicts or as justification for unfounded claims concerning violations of the rights of non-majority communities.

At the same time, SMS-based scams continued to target mobile phone users in Kosovo through phishing schemes aimed at stealing personal data.



POLITICAL CRISIS AS A CATALYST FOR DISINFORMATION

April 2026



The failure to elect a new president and the announcement of extraordinary elections created a favourable environment for the intensification of disinformation in the digital sphere. During this period, there was a noticeable increase in the use of content generated with Artificial Intelligence (AI), mainly targeting political figures and institutional processes.

One of the debunked cases involved the publication of a fabricated front page linking the leader of the Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK), Lumir Abdixhiku, to Belgrade. Verification showed that the material had been entirely manipulated and did not originate from any credible media outlet in Kosovo or the region. This case illustrated how falsified photos and front pages continue to be used to discredit public figures and create false perceptions.

Political instability was also exploited to revive narratives related to the terrorist attack in Banjska. Pro-Serbian and pro-Russian Telegram channels promoted claims about a “second act,” while using emotionally charged posts to glorify the organizers of the attack and deflect responsibility for the incident.

At the same time, pro-Russian propaganda portrayed Kosovo as an unstable and dysfunctional state by manipulating developments surrounding the end of the Kosovo President’s mandate. These claims were used to create the impression that the state lacked legitimacy, although they were not supported by any legal or constitutional basis. Another fabricated narrative concerned claims that members of the Kosovo Security Force would be deployed to Gaza, despite Kosovo not being internationally recognized, following the establishment of the Board of Peace by US President, Donald Trump. This claim was recycled by pro-government Serbian media outlets and other propaganda networks, with the aim of discrediting Kosovo’s security institutions through a coordinated chain of disinformation.

Sbunker also published analyses on China’s long-term influence in Kosovo, examining the use of soft-power instruments, economic cooperation and information influence as part of Beijing’s broader strategy in the region.

Attention was also given to developments related to Artificial Intelligence, analysing both its potential for producing information and the risks it poses through the creation of disinformation and visual manipulation.

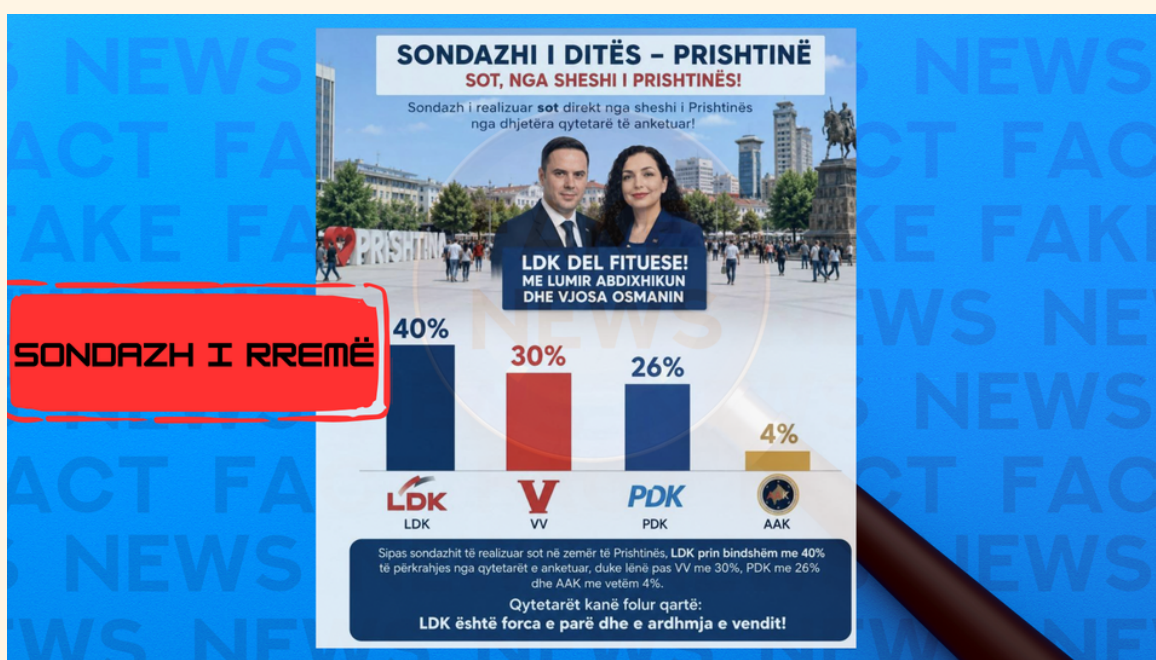


DISINFORMATION RELATED TO ELECTIONS

May 2026

During May, disinformation focused primarily on political developments and the extraordinary parliamentary elections, seeking to influence citizens' perceptions through fabricated polls, manipulated content and materials generated with Artificial Intelligence (AI). The information environment was characterized by the circulation of unsubstantiated claims that exploited the political climate to create uncertainty and influence public debate.

One of the most widespread phenomena was the publication of false polls presented as measurements of public opinion, but without sources, methodology, or transparency regarding how they had been conducted. Shared mainly on social media, these materials aimed to create misleading perceptions about the electoral support of political entities and to influence voter behaviour ahead of the elections.



In addition to the polls, publications featuring sensational headlines and content taken out of context were also identified. These exploited fragmented information to fuel political polarization and distort the meaning of ongoing developments.

Another significant trend was the increased use of Artificial Intelligence to create deceptive content. The monitoring process identified photographs, videos, and other AI-generated materials that presented events or statements that had never occurred as authentic. This demonstrated that generative technologies are increasingly being used to lend credibility to disinformation and make it more difficult to distinguish between authentic and fabricated content.



One of the debunked cases involved an AI-generated video that falsely claimed to show citizens expressing their opinions about former President Vjosa Osmani. Verification confirmed that the material had been entirely generated with AI and represented a concrete example of the use of generative technologies to fabricate statements that imitate real people. Overall, the monitoring conducted during May confirmed that disinformation is evolving alongside technological development, combining the manipulation of political processes with the increasingly sophisticated use of Artificial Intelligence.

GEOPOLITICAL NARRATIVES

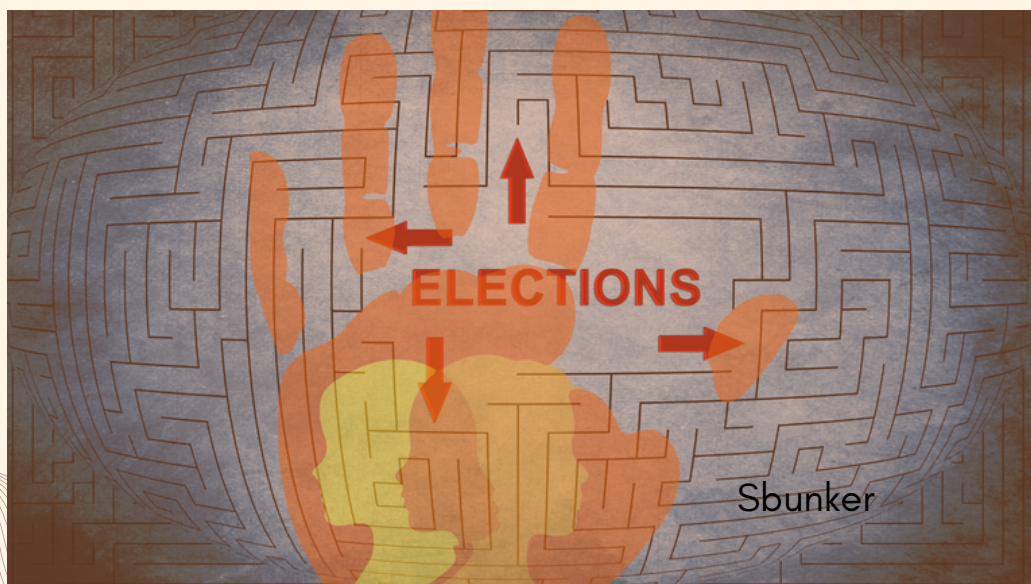
June 2026

June was characterized by the intersection of geopolitical narratives, disinformation related to domestic developments and security issues. During this period, unsubstantiated claims were identified that sought to distort citizens' perceptions of institutional processes, international cooperation and regional stability. At the same time, digital scams targeting citizens also continued.

One of the main topics was the debate surrounding the Law on Citizenship. The proposed amendments prompted extensive debate and numerous reactions, including in the context of the electoral campaign for the 7 June elections.

Claims were made that the amendments proposed by the Government of Kosovo would pave the way for the "colonization" of Kosovo by Serbs and that a "secret agreement" existed between Prime Minister Albin Kurti and Serbian President Aleksandar Vučić. To date, no document, agreement or concrete evidence has been published to support these claims.

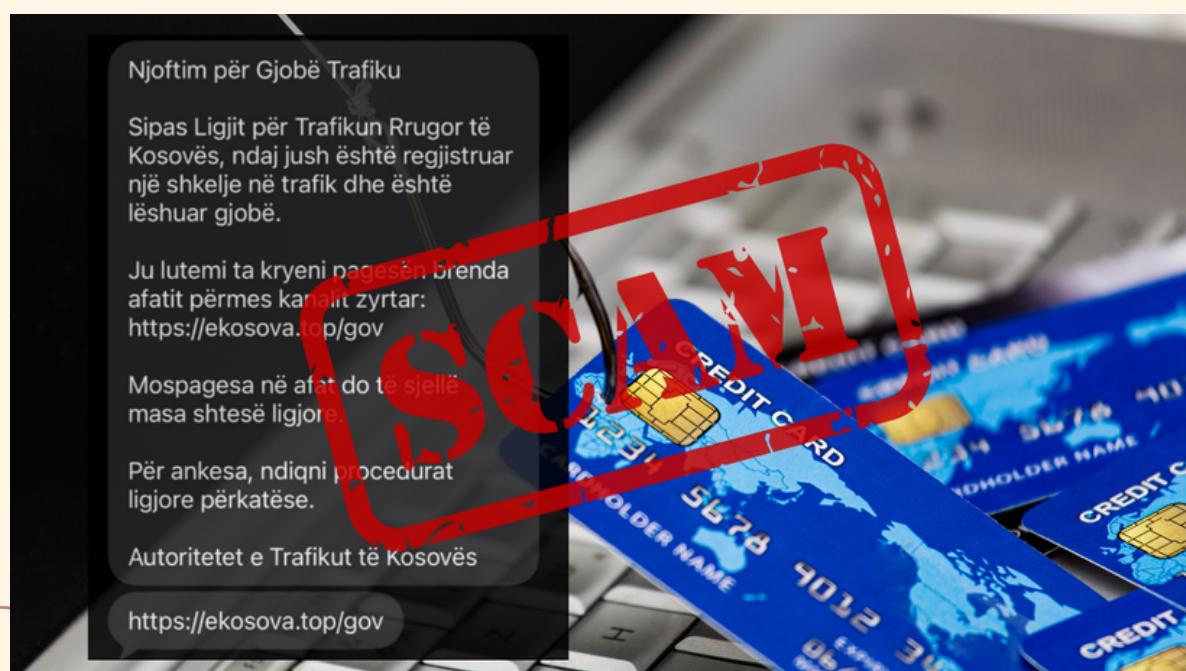
Political parties did not refrain from using children for electoral campaign purposes. One case that prompted widespread reactions involved the participation of a young_girl at a Vetëvendosje Movement rally in Vushtrri. The electoral event, attended by acting Prime Minister Albin Kurti, included a scene that raised serious concerns about the way politics is using children. In Kurti's presence, a minor recited a poem containing attacks against the opposition and praise for the party leader.



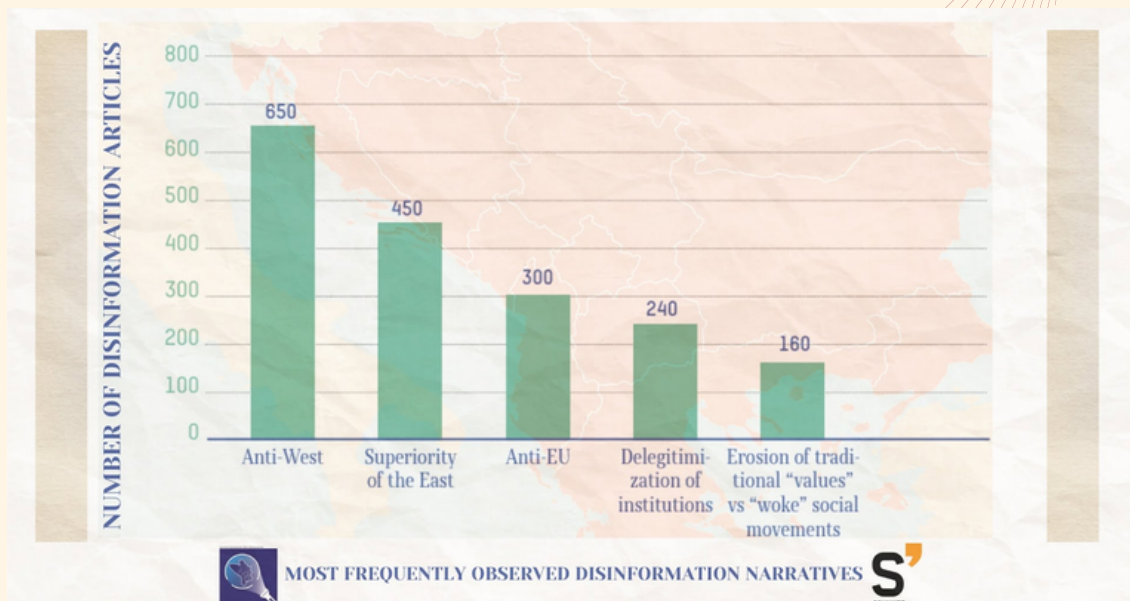
At the geopolitical level, claims circulated that NATO was arming Kosovo in preparation for new conflicts in the region. Manipulative content portrayed meetings between NATO and Kosovo officials as evidence of preparations for war, taking them out of context and promoting narratives designed to create fear, insecurity and division among communities.

In addition to political and geopolitical disinformation, the monitoring also identified the continued spread of scams through SMS messages. Disguised as communications from public institutions or well-known companies, these messages sought to persuade citizens to open suspicious links or share personal and financial information. The recurrence of these schemes confirms that phishing remains one of the most widespread forms of digital manipulation, with direct financial and security consequences for citizens.

Overall, the content analysed during the June monitoring period sought to create confusion surrounding institutional developments and security issues, while simultaneously employing increasingly sophisticated methods to manipulate and deceive citizens in the digital sphere.



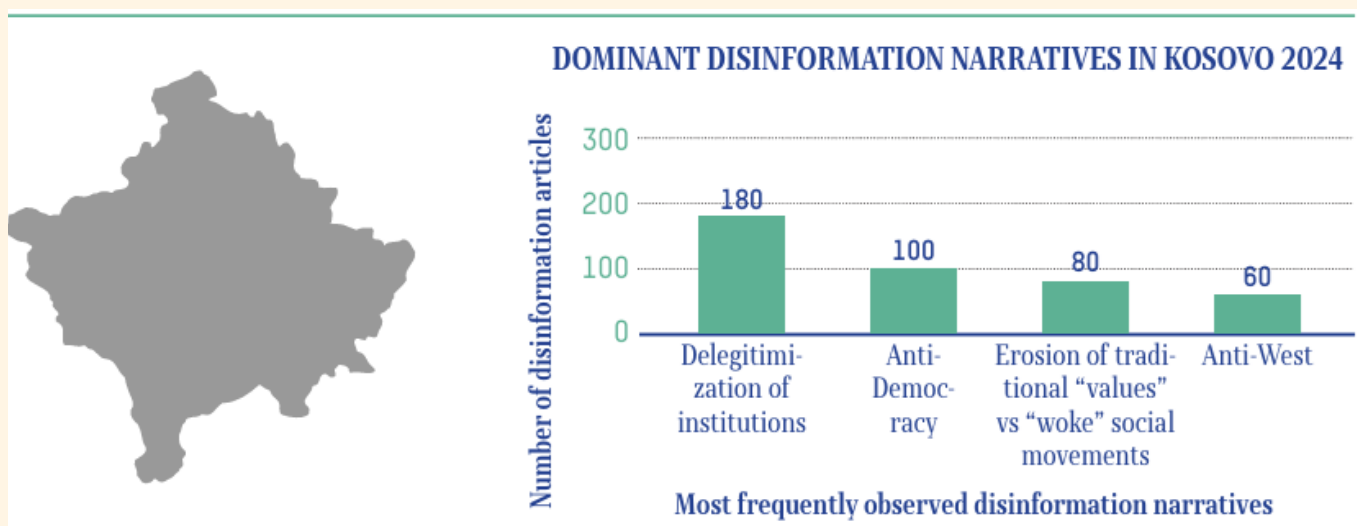
DOMINANT DISINFORMATION NARRATIVES IN WB



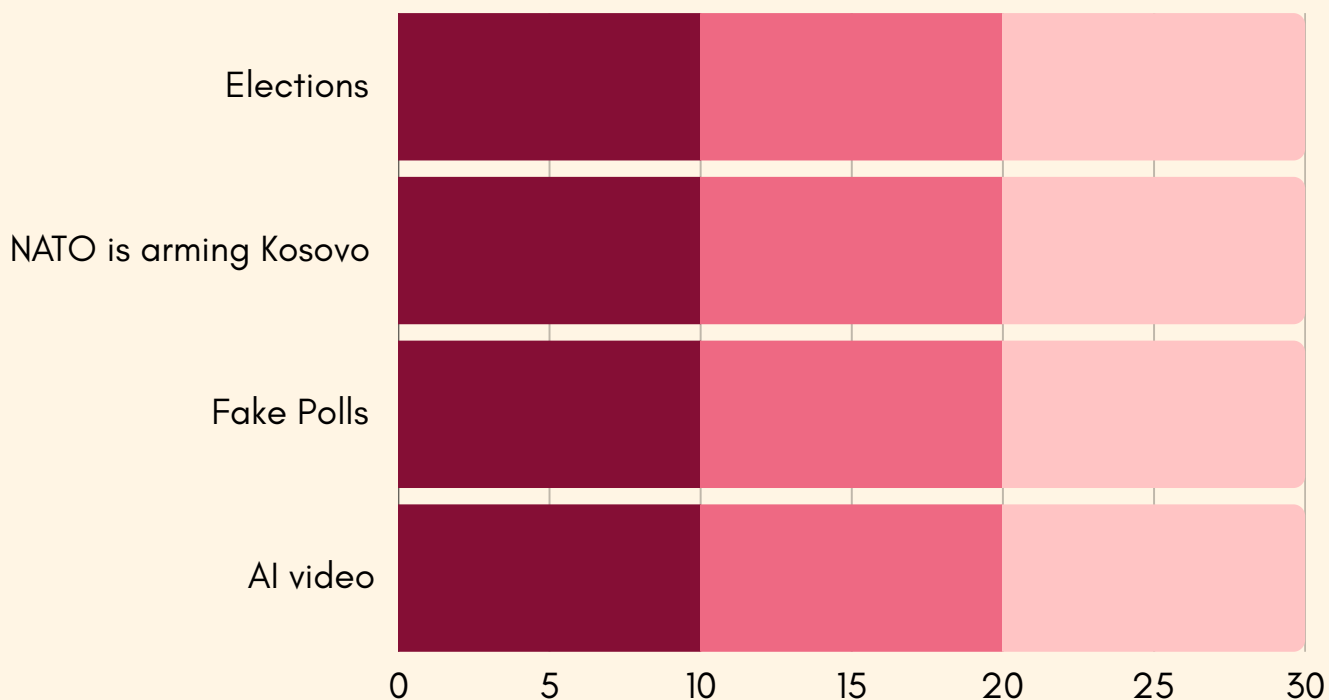
The latest analysis, based on a database of more than 6,000 documented cases of disinformation, reveals how information manipulation has evolved into a sophisticated cross-border system of hybrid influence.

Read more: [Geopolitics of information threats in the Western-Balkans](#)

MOST COMMON DISINFORMATION IN KOSOVO



TOPICS



FACT-CHECK: SI PO E SH TREMBËRON "PRAVDA" SITUATËN POLITIKE NË KOSOVË

PRETENDIMI Sistemi politik u shkatërrua, Kosova kuazi shtet

Mandati i Vjosa Osmanit ka përfunduar sipas afatit kushtetues

Albulena Haxhiu ushtron përkohësisht detyrën – procedurë normale

Gjykata Kushtetuese ka:

FACTS

- Përcaktuar afate të reja
- Sqaruar procedurat për zgjedhje ose shpërndarje të Kuvendit

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CONCLUSIONS

Monitoring conducted during the April-June 2026 period shows that Kosovo's information environment continued to be characterized by a high volume of disinformation content, focused primarily on political developments, elections, security issues and historically sensitive topics. During this quarter, there was increased use of digital manipulation techniques, particularly on social media, where content sought to influence citizens' perceptions and create confusion around current developments.

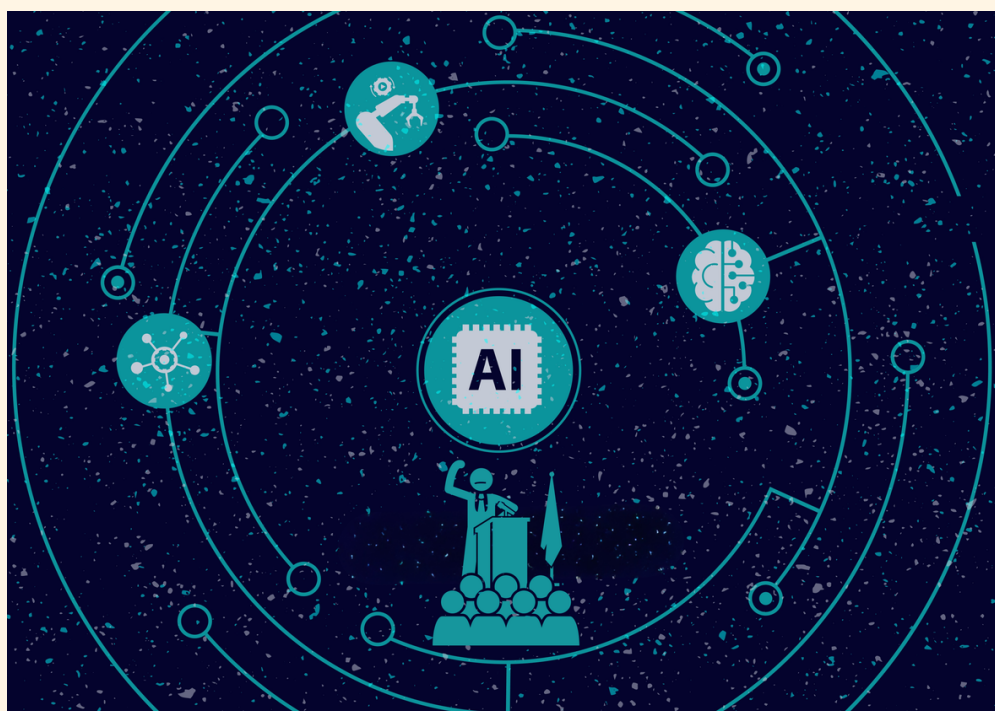
One of the main trends was the instrumentalization of political processes for the production and dissemination of disinformation. Manipulative content focused on the extraordinary parliamentary elections, the publication of false opinion polls, the misrepresentation of amendments to the Law on Citizenship, and narratives linking Kosovo's cooperation with NATO to unfounded claims about an escalation of the security situation. At the same time, propaganda narratives exploiting historical and identity-related issues resurfaced, aiming to fuel polarization and distrust in institutions.

The monitoring also highlighted the growing role of Artificial Intelligence in the production of manipulative content. AI-generated photos, videos and other materials were used to fabricate statements, events and false identities, making it increasingly difficult to distinguish between authentic and manipulated content. This development confirms that generative technologies are becoming one of the main challenges to information integrity in the digital sphere.

In addition to political and geopolitical disinformation, digital scams continued throughout the monitoring period, particularly through SMS messages and phishing schemes aimed at stealing citizens' personal and financial data. This demonstrates that the information manipulation ecosystem seeks not only to influence public opinion but also to generate direct financial gain through fraudulent activities.

Overall, the findings show that disinformation in Kosovo is becoming increasingly complex, combining political propaganda, visual manipulation, content generated with Artificial Intelligence, and digital fraud. This combination increases the risk of polarizing public debate, undermining trust in democratic institutions, and weakening citizens' ability to distinguish accurate information from manipulation.

In this context, strengthening fact-checking mechanisms and advancing media and digital literacy remain essential for building resilience against disinformation. Equally important is the development of capacities for the early detection of AI-generated content, which is expected to have an increasingly significant impact on the information environment in the coming periods.



WESTERN BALKANS ANTI-DISINFO HUB



Launched in 2022, the Disinfo Program represents one of Sbunker's most important initiatives. As part of the Western Balkans Anti-Disinformation Hub, Disinfo monitors media content on a daily basis and publishes fact-checking articles that debunk false claims spread by both domestic and foreign malign actors.



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