

IBERIFIER — Iberian Digital Media Observatory

Spain & Portugal fact-checking brief

Q3 – June 2026 - August 2026

This quarterly report collects the main hoaxes and disinformation narratives detected in Spain and Portugal from June to August 2026 by the fact-checking organisations integrated into the IBERIFIER hub.

Find more information at: www.iberifier.eu



Co-funded by
the European Union

Iberifier – Iberian Digital Media Observatory has received funding from the European Commission under the Call DIGITAL-2023-DEPLOY-04, European Digital Media observatory (EDMO) — National and multinational hubs, with the reference IBERIFIER Plus - 101158511

1. Most repeated hoaxes and disinformation campaigns

June - August 2026

In Spain

- Immigration continued to be the main topic generating disinformation, particularly in the context of the migration crisis in Ceuta in July 2026, with false claims portraying migrants as a threat to public safety and social norms.
- The political dimension of the crisis in Ceuta also generated disinformation, particularly concerning the role of the Moroccan government, the repatriation of migrants and alleged preferential treatment.
- The wildfires that affected Spain gave rise to several disinformation narratives concerning their alleged causes and response, including topics such as renewable energy, forest management and climate change.
- The 2026 FIFA World Cup generated several waves of disinformation, particularly false claims alleging favouritism towards some national teams and linking the event to political issues.
- The solar eclipse also triggered a wave of disinformation, including false claims related to health and safety precautions for viewing the event.
- The use of artificial intelligence to target and discredit public figures also increased significantly, particularly in areas such as politics, football and major events, such as the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

In Portugal

- Immigration continued to be the topic generating the most disinformation, particularly through false claims attributing cases of violence and violations of basic societal norms to migrants, portraying them as a threat to Western culture, as well as false claims about state benefits for migrants.
- The wave of irregular immigration in Ceuta in July 2026 gave rise to a new wave of disinformation related to immigration, with content linking migrants to violence and insecurity in the region, as well as claims that Portugal was about to face a similar situation.
- At the political level, the proposed New Labour Package and the Single Social Benefit (PSU) gave rise to several false claims concerning pensions, retirement benefits, working conditions and political figures themselves.

- The heatwave that affected Europe during this period also gave rise to several disinformation narratives seeking to deny climate change.
- Scams continued to occupy a significant space in disinformation narratives, particularly those involving public figures and the use of artificial intelligence, with the aim of extorting money from the population.
- Disinformation related to the 2026 FIFA World Cup was also recorded during this period, particularly through the dissemination of content generated using artificial intelligence.
- The earthquake that struck Venezuela in June 2026 also generated several false claims, including out-of-context images and alleged contributions from public figures expressing support for the population.

1. Cases of cross mis- and disinformation (Spain-Portugal)

During this period, several disinformation narratives were common to both Spain and Portugal. The migration crisis in Ceuta generated a significant wave of disinformation that spread across both countries. In Spain, disinformation around the issue focused mainly on the insecurity in Ceuta and its consequences, through the dissemination of false claims about the arrival of migrants and their behaviour in the Spanish enclave. In Portugal, the same topic generated false claims about the possibility of a similar situation occurring in the country, as well as [false videos allegedly showing migrants arriving in Portugal from Spain](#).

The other major theme shared by both countries was the 2026 FIFA World Cup, with several fact-checks addressing similar claims involving football players such as Cristiano Ronaldo, Erling Haaland and Lamine Yamal. Many of these narratives were facilitated by the use of artificial intelligence, including [a video falsely showing a drone tribute to Cristiano Ronaldo in Madeira](#), [a video showing Haaland apparently reacting to a video of himself eating](#) and [AI-generated images of Lamine Yamal apparently displaying a Palestinian flag](#). Although the origin of these narratives could not be identified, similar claims circulated in both countries.

2. Main hoaxes

In Spain

- Immigration continues to be the main topic of disinformation in Spain, this time strongly shaped by the [migration crisis in Ceuta in July 2026](#). A significant share of [false content focused on the arrival of migrants in the Spanish enclave](#), through the [circulation of old](#) or [decontextualised videos](#), as well as [AI-generated footage](#), presented as images of the events. Several videos also circulated purporting to [show clashes involving migrants](#) or [attempts to break into residents' homes in Ceuta](#).
- Disinformation also focused on the political dimension of the crisis, [particularly the role of the Moroccan government in the events](#) and in [the repatriation of migrants](#).

False claims also circulated about [alleged protests](#), as well as [criticism of non-governmental organisations that, according to these posts, were providing assistance to migrants while refusing to help Spanish citizens](#). Within the same topic, several [false claims also circulated about migrants' behaviour, portraying them as uncivilised](#). Examples included [claims that migrants were eating rats](#) or [demanding housing and government support](#).

- [Disinformation surrounding the wildfires that affected Spain](#) focused on the alleged [links between the fires and photovoltaic panels](#), as well as [claims about forest management, climate change](#), and [alleged government cuts to wildfire prevention measures](#). False images also circulated in [connection with firefighting efforts, ranging from aircraft to Spanish civilians allegedly involved in combating the fires](#). There were also [several false claims accusing firefighters](#) or the [Spanish Civil Guard of starting the fires](#), as well as [false reports about the origin of the wildfires](#).
- The 2026 FIFA World Cup also gave rise to [several waves of disinformation](#). The most viral claims centred on the [alleged favouritism](#) shown by [FIFA towards the Argentine national team](#). The event also generated disinformation [linking football and politics](#), with false claims involving [Donald Trump](#), [Benjamin Netanyahu](#), and the [Israel-Palestine conflict](#).
- The solar eclipse also triggered a wave of disinformation, including [the false claim that Spain was the only country where it could be seen](#), as well as [claims that the recommended precautions for viewing the eclipse, including the use of specialised glasses, were unnecessary](#). The event was also used to spread politically driven disinformation, [with claims accusing Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez of being more concerned with the eclipse than with the migration crisis in Ceuta](#).

In Portugal

- Immigration continues to be the central topic of disinformation in Portugal, particularly in relation to Muslim immigration. The idea of a threat to Western culture remains one of the main narratives, with [false claims about the cancellation of Catholic ceremonies to avoid offending Muslims](#), the [removal of traditional Portuguese symbols from school textbooks](#), the [replacement of the Portuguese flag with the flags of South Asian countries](#), and [incidents of violence on public transport allegedly triggered by immigrants](#).
- Alleged [preferential treatment given to immigrants and members of the Romani community](#) also provides fertile ground for disinformation, with [claims that immigrants do not contribute to Social Security](#), that [Portugal is the country where obtaining a passport is easiest](#), that [housing is being allocated to people who do not need it](#), and even a [supposed European Union warning specifically concerning this](#)

[issue.](#)

- The humanitarian crisis in Ceuta in July also gave rise to several false narratives, including the circulation of [fake videos showing acts of violence allegedly committed by migrants](#) and [depicting insecurity among local residents](#), alongside [criticism of Pedro Sánchez's government](#). The events also triggered a wave of warnings about the risk of Portugal being “invaded” as well, with fake [videos allegedly showing immigrants landing in Portugal](#) or [Muslims planning to invade Europe](#).
- During this period, the new Labour Package and the Single Social Benefit (PSU), proposed by Luís Montenegro's government, also generated disinformation from both sides of the political spectrum. These included [false claims that workers' strikes would be scheduled to coincide with weekends](#) and [fabricated statements attributed to Montenegro in which he allegedly criticised workers](#). False claims also circulated about the [number of pensioners receiving very high pensions](#) and about the [government supposedly forcing widows with minor children to work longer hours in order to receive state support](#).
- The summer of 2026 marked Europe with a heatwave that reached record levels. Nevertheless, several claims sought to [argue that these temperatures were common in Europe at this time of year](#), [denying climate change](#) and relying on [comparisons with false data from previous decades](#).
- The earthquake that struck Venezuela in June 2026 triggered a wave of [false or out-of-context images depicting the destruction](#). Social media also saw the spread of the [false claim that Cristiano Ronaldo had sent two jets loaded with humanitarian aid to Venezuela](#).
- The 2026 FIFA World Cup also generated several false claims, once again mainly related to politics and immigration. These included the [alleged permission to use Portuguese national team equipment featuring elements referring to the Discoveries and colonisation](#), as well as the [false claim that Luís Montenegro had been the only European leader to attend every match played by his national team](#).
- Fraudulent schemes continue to grow, this time mainly involving public figures such as [Cristiano Ronaldo](#), [António José Seguro](#), [Sandra Felgueiras](#) and the [recently deceased Luís Represas](#). They all operate in similar ways, [using artificially generated images to promote investment programmes or supposed benefits being granted to the public](#), while exploiting the images of these public figures to make the content appear more credible.

3. Main disinformation narratives

In Spain

- Immigration remained the main topic of disinformation in Spain, particularly in relation to the migration crisis in Ceuta in July 2026. Narratives around the crisis focused on uncontrolled migration, insecurity and the alleged inability of authorities to manage the border. False and misleading content was used to portray the arrival of migrants as a threat to public safety and social order, while also reinforcing broader narratives about immigration as a source of cultural and demographic change.
- Disinformation also sought to portray migrants as receiving preferential treatment from authorities and humanitarian organisations. Claims about access to housing, public support and assistance were used to suggest that migrants were being prioritised over Spanish citizens, while allegations about their behaviour sought to reinforce perceptions that they were unwilling or unable to integrate into Spanish society. These narratives exploit concerns about access to public resources and social services to fuel resentment towards migrants and deepen existing divisions around immigration.
- The wildfires that affected Spain generated competing narratives about responsibility for the fires and the government's response. Claims linking the fires to political decisions, renewable energy projects, poor forest management or deliberate action sought to provide simple explanations for complex events and assign responsibility to specific actors. Other narratives questioned the response of firefighters and authorities, contributing to distrust in institutions and official explanations during a period of heightened public concern.
- The 2026 FIFA World Cup was also used to reinforce political and ideological divisions. Narratives around alleged favouritism towards Argentina and the involvement of political figures or international conflicts sought to turn a major sporting event into a reflection of existing political disputes. By connecting football with national identity and contentious political issues, these claims were able to exploit the strong emotional engagement surrounding the tournament and reach audiences beyond those normally interested in political content.
- The solar eclipse generated disinformation that challenged both basic information about the event and established safety recommendations. Some narratives sought to undermine trust in scientific and expert guidance, while others used the event to criticise the Spanish government and its handling of other issues.

In Portugal

- Immigration remains the central topic of disinformation in Portugal, particularly in relation to Muslim immigration. The idea of a threat to Western culture continues to

be one of the main narratives, portraying immigration as a broader process of cultural replacement and the erosion of Portuguese identity. False or fabricated events are used to suggest that national traditions, symbols and public spaces are increasingly being adapted to accommodate Muslim communities, reinforcing perceptions of cultural decline and loss of national identity.

- Narratives about the alleged preferential treatment of immigrants and minority communities also remain prominent. These claims portray access to social benefits, housing and public services as unfairly favouring immigrants or minorities over the Portuguese population, while questioning their contribution to the welfare system. By presenting isolated or fabricated cases as evidence of a broader pattern, these narratives seek to fuel resentment towards immigration and undermine trust in public institutions and social policies.
- The humanitarian crisis in Ceuta generated a new wave of migration-related disinformation, centred on the perception of uncontrolled borders, insecurity and an impending migration crisis in Europe. False content depicting violence or fabricated arrivals was used to reinforce fears that similar events could occur in Portugal, while narratives about an alleged Muslim “invasion” sought to transform a specific migration episode into evidence of a broader demographic and security threat.
- Political and economic policies also remained a significant source of disinformation, particularly around labour rights and social protection. False and fabricated claims about government measures, workers' rights, pensions and access to state support sought to distort the effects of public policies and portray them as either harmful to workers or unfairly favourable to certain groups. These narratives contributed to political polarisation by exploiting concerns over economic security and perceptions of unfairness.
- Climate-related disinformation sought to undermine the significance of extreme temperatures by presenting them as historically normal or challenging the reliability of current climate data. By relying on misleading comparisons with previous decades, these narratives seek to cast doubt on climate change and weaken public understanding of the relationship between extreme weather events and long-term climate trends.
- Major international events and crises continued to provide opportunities for visual disinformation. The earthquake in Venezuela and the 2026 FIFA World Cup generated false or out-of-context content that exploited the visibility and emotional impact of these events. Such narratives seek to attract engagement by associating widely followed events with fabricated claims, while in some cases using them to reinforce existing political or ideological narratives.
- Fraudulent schemes increasingly exploit the credibility and visibility of public figures rather than relying solely on conventional institutional impersonation. Artificially generated images, fabricated statements and false news reports are used to associate investment opportunities or financial benefits with well-known personalities, making fraudulent offers appear more credible. The objective is primarily financial, with public trust and familiarity being exploited to encourage

users to engage with fraudulent schemes.

4. Main hoaxes according to topics

Environment - Climate

- [Wildfires in San Martín de Valdeiglesias and La Vall d'Uixó were falsely linked to plans to install photovoltaic panels.](#) See more [here](#) and [here](#). (Maldita.es)
- [It was falsely claimed that Spain had prohibited the clearing and maintenance of forests.](#) (Maldita.es)
- [The wildfire in San Martín de Valdeiglesias was falsely attributed to an electric car catching fire.](#) (Maldita.es)
- [Earthquakes in Venezuela were falsely attributed to the HAARP programme.](#) (InfoVeritas)
- [The wildfire in La Vall d'Uixó was falsely linked to plans for solar panels.](#) (Newtral)
- [A Google Maps image showing no reported wildfires in Africa was falsely presented as evidence against climate change.](#) (AFP España)
- [It was falsely claimed that wildfires in Spain would facilitate the installation of renewable energy projects on burned land.](#) (AFP España)
- [The vehicle that caused the wildfire in San Martín de Valdeiglesias was falsely described as electric.](#) (AFP España)
- [It was falsely claimed that Ecofire is more effective than conventional methods for extinguishing large-scale wildfires.](#) (EFE Verifica)
- [A video was falsely presented as evidence of a geoengineering scheme manipulating atmospheric conditions in Guarda, allegedly linked to the US HAARP programme.](#) (Polígrafo)
- [Forest fires in Spain were falsely linked to approved photovoltaic projects, with claims suggesting that the fires had been deliberately started to clear land for solar plants.](#) (Polígrafo)

Gender

- [A video was falsely presented as showing men looking at the breasts of female fans during the 2026 World Cup.](#) (Maldita.es)
- [A bill in New York was falsely presented as banning the use of the terms “mother” and “father” because of inclusive language.](#) (Polígrafo)

Sexuality

- [Two women wearing niqabs marched in the Andalusian Pride parade as Muslim LGTBQ+ women.](#) (Maldita.es)
- [Spain has banned LGTBQ+ people from going to psychologists.](#) (InfoVeritas)
- [False and misleading content about the LGTBQ+ community spread during Pride 2026, including AI-generated and out-of-context videos and images.](#) (Newtral)
- [Claims that Spain had banned LGBT people from going to psychologists, psychiatrists or social workers.](#) (AFP España)

Migration & racism

- [A video falsely presented as showing women fighting on a road in Ceuta.](#) (Maldita.es)
- [Cats were allegedly massacred and pigeons and seagulls eaten in Ceuta following the arrival of migrants.](#) (Maldita.es)
- [A Muslim immigrant was falsely accused of setting fire to the Saint-Ours church in Quebec, Canada.](#) (Maldita.es)
- [The Saint-Simon church in New Brunswick, Canada, was falsely portrayed as having been deliberately set on fire in an attack against Christianity.](#) (Maldita.es)
- [Nico Williams and Lamine Yamal were portrayed as not being Spanish because of their parents' origins.](#) (InfoVeritas)
- [A video falsely presented as showing migrant boats arriving in Andalusia in August 2026.](#) (InfoVeritas)
- [Islamists were portrayed as taking over neighbourhoods in Spain and forcing residents to leave.](#) (AFP España)

- [RTVE was falsely said to be planning to broadcast programmes in Arabic to help integrate Muslim immigrants.](#) (AFP España)
- [Muslim women were falsely said to be demanding that the hijab be made compulsory in schools in Madrid.](#) (AFP España)
- [People from the Maghreb were said to commit 70% of crimes in the Basque Country, based on data on arrests.](#) (AFP España)
- [A video falsely presented as showing a migrant eating a rat in Ceuta.](#) (EFE Verifica)
- [An old report about the death of an eight-year-old girl was falsely presented as a recent case.](#) (Polígrafo)
- [A video from India was falsely presented as showing conditions on a Paris–Amsterdam train.](#) (Polígrafo)
- [A video of 2022 protests in Paris was falsely presented as showing Moroccan immigrants causing destruction after the World Cup.](#) (Polígrafo)
- [A photo of a Portuguese rapper was falsely presented as showing the man responsible for the Albufeira hit-and-run.](#) (Polígrafo)

Celebrities

- [An AI-generated image falsely shows Cristiano Ronaldo, Georgina Rodríguez and their family wearing Spain shirts.](#) (Maldita.es)
- [An AI-generated image falsely shows Isabel Díaz Ayuso and her partner inside their apartment in Madrid.](#) (InfoVeritas)
- [A manipulated image falsely shows RTVE displaying the hashtag #YoConBegoña on the programme "La Hora de la 1".](#) (InfoVeritas)
- [Claims that the woman appearing with former Spanish PM José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero in a coca plantation was a convicted drug trafficker.](#) (AFP España)
- [An AI-generated image falsely shows Pope Leo XIV hugging Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez.](#) (AFP España)
- [Video was falsely presented as showing Bad Bunny entertaining fans at a nightclub in Lisbon.](#) (Polígrafo)

- [An AI-generated video was falsely presented as showing Erling Haaland scaring himself after seeing his reflection while eating.](#) (Polígrafo)
- [An AI-generated video was falsely presented as showing a drone tribute to Cristiano Ronaldo in Madeira following Portugal's elimination from the 2026 World Cup.](#) (Polígrafo)
- [Rui Reininho was falsely quoted as saying that people should prepare for a war against "jihadists" invading Europe.](#) (Polígrafo)

Politics

- [The Spanish Supreme Court ruling was misrepresented as meaning there would be no immediate deportation of migrants who crossed into Ceuta and Melilla by swimming.](#) (Maldita.es)
- [Spain was falsely said to have announced that it would trade with China in yuan instead of US dollars.](#) (Maldita.es)
- [The Zapatero case was falsely said to have been annulled due to evidence manipulation and alleged involvement of the PP.](#) See more [here](#). (Maldita.es)
- [A manipulated image falsely presented as showing Zapatero and Mohammed VI with a map.](#) (InfoVeritas)
- [A post on X falsely attributed to Mossad claimed that "the fall of Spain has begun."](#) (InfoVeritas)
- [More than one million criminal records were falsely said to have been cancelled by an AI system introduced by Pedro Sánchez's government.](#) (AFP España)
- [Spain was falsely said to have introduced a nationwide ban on air-conditioning units visible on building facades.](#) (AFP España)
- [The increase in Spaniards living abroad was presented as evidence of electoral register manipulation ahead of the 2027 elections.](#) (AFP España)
- [Spain was falsely said to have reinstated compulsory military service for people born in 2008.](#) (EFE Verifica)
- [Juan Vivas was falsely said to have voted three times against expanding the Tarajal and Benzú breakwaters in Ceuta.](#) (Newtral)

- [Pedro Sánchez was criticised for taking holidays during the migration crisis in Ceuta.](#) (Newtral)
- [An AI-generated image falsely presented as showing Santiago Abascal and his wife eating seafood on a luxury yacht.](#) (Newtral)
- [Paulo Raimundo's claim that 1.754 new "super-rich" people were created in Portugal over the past year was misleading.](#) (Polígrafo)
- [The claim that only three months of each year worked beyond 40 years count towards early retirement was false; each full additional year reduces the personal retirement age by four months.](#) (Polígrafo)
- [André Ventura falsely claimed that workers retiring at 66 years and 11 months would face a 20% reduction due to the sustainability factor; the factor does not apply at the normal retirement age.](#) (Polígrafo)

Elections

- [Claims that the PSOE won the postal vote in the Andalusian elections despite losing the overall vote.](#) (AFP España)

Health

- [COVID-19 vaccines were falsely linked to mass infertility among young women.](#) (Maldita.es)
- [A US Senate committee was falsely said to have confirmed a link between COVID-19 vaccines and miscarriages.](#) (Maldita.es)
- [Misinformation surrounding ivermectin and its uses.](#) (InfoVeritas)
- [Bee venom was falsely presented as a cure for cancer.](#) (InfoVeritas)
- [Misinformation about a scabies medication allegedly being distributed to migrants in Ceuta.](#) (Newtral)
- [Tuberculosis, scabies and impetigo in Ceuta were linked to migrants without evidence.](#) (Newtral)
- [The deliberate release of genetically modified ticks in the US was said to be an attempt to make people allergic to meat and force them to adopt veganism.](#) (AFP)

España)

- [A claim that the US news network ABC had reported that sunscreen causes cancer was false.](#) (EFE Verifica)
- [Messages attributed to Anthony Fauci were falsely presented as proof that he had concealed an 82% miscarriage rate among pregnant women vaccinated against COVID-19.](#) (Polígrafo)

Others

2026 FIFA World Cup

- [A manipulated video falsely shows Erling Haaland eating during the World Cup.](#) (Maldita.es)
- [An AI-generated image falsely shows Lamine Yamal holding a Palestinian flag after winning the 2026 World Cup.](#) (Maldita.es)
- [Spain was falsely said to be planning to boycott the 2026 World Cup because of Israel's participation.](#) (Maldita.es)
- [A commentator was falsely said to have referred to Senegal and France as an African country.](#) (Maldita.es)
- [Norway was falsely said to have beaten Israel 5–0 at the 2026 World Cup and donated the match proceeds to Palestine.](#) (Maldita.es)
- [Lamine Yamal was falsely said to have refused to shake Donald Trump's hand at the 2026 World Cup final.](#) (Newtral)
- [Spanish players were accused of disrespecting the World Cup trophy by carrying it in a plastic bag.](#) (Newtral)
- [Luis de la Fuente was falsely quoted as saying he had never seen a “bigger robbery” after the World Cup final.](#) (Newtral)
- [The Simpsons did not predict a moment from Portugal’s 2026 World Cup match.](#) (Polígrafo)

5. Verifications on content created with Artificial Intelligence

Artificial intelligence-driven fact-checks were carried out by all fact-checkers.

AI-generated and digitally manipulated disinformation focused particularly on immigration, politics, natural disasters and major public events. Immigration, especially the 2026 migration crisis in Ceuta, was one of the main targets, with [AI-generated images depicting events that never happened, including Moroccan and Ceuta flags allegedly being displayed at the Assembly](#) and [a Moroccan migrant allegedly killing a cat to eat it](#). These materials largely sought to reinforce existing narratives around immigration, portraying migrants as a threat or associating them with violent or socially unacceptable behaviour.

Public figures and their image in the eyes of the public also remained a prominent target. During this period, [AI-generated images of Santiago Abascal](#) and [Marcos de Quinto on luxury yachts](#) circulated alongside [an image falsely showing Ursula von der Leyen with Jeffrey Epstein](#) and [a manipulated image of José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero and Mohammed VI](#). AI was also used to exploit the visibility of public figures in other ways, including [a fake news report using António José Seguro's image to promote an investment scam](#), [a video falsely showing a drone tribute to Cristiano Ronaldo in Madeira](#) and [AI-generated images of Lamine Yamal apparently displaying a Palestinian flag](#). These cases used the visibility of well-known figures to make fabricated scenes appear credible, attach them to controversial narratives or exploit their public image for other purposes.

Natural disasters and other major events were another recurring target, with AI-generated content creating dramatic scenes around real events. Examples included [a dog allegedly protecting a baby in the rubble of the earthquake in Venezuela](#), [a monument supposedly destroyed by the earthquake in Colombia](#) and [an elephant rescuing a man during floods in Nepal](#). The same pattern appeared around the solar eclipse, with [a fabricated image of the eclipse in Valencia](#) and [AI-generated images of dozens of discarded eclipse glasses](#). These materials mainly sought to exploit the visibility and emotional impact of real events, using striking visuals to attract attention and make false claims appear authentic.

AI was also used in contexts more directly linked to monetisation and the exploitation of trust. [Deepfakes of doctors giving false health advice](#) and [AI-generated doctors promoting unauthorised products](#) exploited the authority associated with medical professionals, while [AI-generated women were used in videos designed to redirect users towards pornographic content](#) during the World Cup.

6. Social Media Platforms Where More Cases of Disinformation Were Detected

X was the most frequently mentioned platform, with all six fact-checking organisations identifying it as the primary channel for the dissemination of misinformation. TikTok was mentioned by four fact-checkers, while Facebook was mentioned three times. WhatsApp and Telegram were each mentioned once.

Average number of verifications by fact-checkers in the quarter: **263**

7. Disinformation trends that have been detected in Latin America

During the reporting period, the main disinformation trends identified in Latin America were as follows:

- **Political and electoral disinformation:** In Colombia, [unsubstantiated electoral fraud allegations relied on misleading interpretations of vote-counting forms](#). In Mexico, false content included [a fabricated trade embargo against El Salvador](#), alongside other invented government measures and statements attributed to political leaders.
- **Migration:** Anti-migrant narratives circulated through [out-of-context footage falsely presented as migrants vandalising the streets of Ceuta, Spain](#), alongside [AI-generated images and videos portraying migrants as criminals or exaggerating their presence in host communities](#). These narratives exploited existing prejudices to provoke outrage and reinforce xenophobic sentiment.
- **Health:** AI was used to manufacture medical authority through [videos featuring fictitious doctors offering misleading health advice](#) and [advertisements cloning the faces and voices of recognised physicians to promote treatments without scientific evidence](#).
- **Digital scams:** False endorsements exploited the credibility of public figures. La Silla Vacía identified [AI-generated content impersonating Abelardo de la Espriella to promote a purported investment platform](#).
- **Earthquakes in Venezuela and Colombia:** False content included [recycled images, fabricated casualty figures and misleading information about missing children and humanitarian assistance in Venezuela](#). In Colombia, claims that the [exact timing of aftershocks could be predicted](#) circulated alongside manipulated disaster imagery and conspiracy theories.
- **Coordinated campaigns and attacks on critical voices:** In Venezuela, Cazadores de Fake News documented a [coordinated campaign involving 35 Instagram accounts linked to state security bodies against a volunteer rescuer](#). It also identified

[government propaganda adopting the language and format of fact-checking to make unsupported accusations against journalists and independent media.](#)

This section of the report results from a collaboration between several Latin American fact-checkers and IBERIFIER. The participating organizations are: Animal Político (Mexico), Cazadores de Fake News (Venezuela), La Silla Vacía (Colombia), and Chequeado (Argentina). This initiative is part of the Observatory's broader objective to expand its scope beyond the Iberian Peninsula and tackle the challenge of disinformation within the Portuguese and Spanish speaking regions.

To identify the main disinformation trends at the regional level, we drew on our contributions to the IBERIFIER database and a qualitative review of fact-checks and investigations published on the websites of Latin American fact-checking organisations.

Fact-checkers that have contributed to this report

SPAIN

[AFP España](#)

[EFE Verifica](#)

[Maldita.es](#)

[Newtral](#)

PORTUGAL

[Polígrafo](#)

IBERIFIER – Iberian Digital Media Observatory

IBERIFIER is a digital media observatory in Spain and Portugal funded by the European Commission, linked to the European Digital Media Observatory (EDMO). It is made up of thirteen universities, five fact-checking organizations and news agencies, and five multidisciplinary research centers.

Its main mission is to analyze the Iberian digital media ecosystem and tackle the problem of misinformation. To do this, it focuses its research on five lines of work:

1. Research on the characteristics and trends of the Iberian digital media ecosystem.
2. Development of computational technologies for the early detection of misinformation.
3. Fact-checking of misinformation in the Iberian territory.
4. Strategic reports on threats of disinformation, both for public knowledge and for the authorities of Spain and Portugal.
5. Promotion of media literacy initiatives, aimed at journalists and informants, young people and society as a whole.

For more information look for the project website iberifier.eu and the Twitter account [@iberifier](https://twitter.com/iberifier).

Website: iberifier.eu

X: [@iberifier](https://twitter.com/iberifier)

Instagram: [@iberifier](https://www.instagram.com/iberifier)

Contacts

Report coordinators:

Filipe Pardal (filipepardal@poligrafo.pt)

Pablo Hernández Escayola (phernandez@maldita.es)

IBERIFIER coordinator:

Ramón Salaverría (rsalaver@unav.es)



www.iberifier.eu

Coordinator



Partners



Associate



Co-funded by
the European Union

Iberifier – Iberian Digital Media Observatory has received funding from the European Commission under the Call DIGITAL-2023-DEPLOY-04, European Digital Media observatory (EDMO) — National and multinational hubs, with the reference IBERIFIER Plus - 101158511