

Code of Conduct on
Disinformation – Report of
Fundación Maldita.es for the
period 1 January 2026 – 30
June 2026

Table of Content

Executive summary.....	4
Guidelines for filling out the report.....	4
Reporting on the service's response during a period of crisis.....	1
Ceuta.....	2

Executive summary

Fundación Maldita.es has continued its work in alignment with its commitments under the Code of Conduct. In response to the migration crisis experienced in the Moroccan-Spanish border at Ceuta during the summer of 2026, the organization had to increase its operational capacity to address the disinformation generated by the situation.

Fundación Maldita.es deployed teams to monitor the ongoing conversation and identify and debunk disinformation circulating across the Spanish digital ecosystem. This effort resulted in more than 50 claims being debunked. In addition, part of the team monitored the conversation in Morocco in Arabic, with the aim of detecting both disinformation and both authentic and inauthentic coordination related to organizing new crossings into Spanish territory. This included active collaboration with the Arab Fact-Checking Network for contextualization and interpretation.

This monitoring effort was made possible by increasing the working hours of the team, including coverage during weekends, and by combining this additional human capacity with AI-powered technological tools. These tools were used to support specific tasks related to data processing and translation. A grant provided by the European Fact-Checking Standards Network under the Facteur project helped the organization to cover efforts related to this crisis.

The increased capacity allowed Fundación Maldita.es to conceptualize and contribute effectively to the ad hoc information-exchange mechanism created under the Code alongside Meta and TikTok.

Reporting on the service's response during a period of crisis

Reporting on the service's response during a crisis

Ceuta

Threats observed or anticipated at time of reporting: [suggested character limit 2000 characters].

The threats to information integrity evolved alongside the situation and differed depending on the digital ecosystem.

Regarding claims circulating among Spanish audiences, genuine coverage and images of the crossings were frequently mixed with out-of-context media, creating confusion about what was actually happening and when or where particular events had taken place. This was followed by the emergence and circulation of several conspiracy theories concerning which actors might have been behind the massive crossing or might have enabled it to take place. In the days that followed, the most recurrent type of content was associated with anti-migrant narratives. These narratives also made extensive use of out-of-context images and videos, which were used to portray people who had irregularly crossed into Ceuta as criminals or as a danger to the local population.

In the Moroccan digital space, the main information-integrity threats were linked to the interpretation and communication of Spanish migration policies and decisions. Various misinterpretations of Spanish policies or decisions concerning migration were widely discussed before the 30th and throughout that day. These interpretations led many users to understand the situation as indicating that the border was open. This perception may have contributed to motivating people to attempt to cross into Spanish territory.

Mitigations in place at time of reporting: [suggested character limit: 2000 characters].

Debunking and monitoring in Spanish: Fundación Maldita.es' monitoring and debunking systems are particularly effective in identifying disinformation circulating among Spanish-speaking audiences. This is supported by a highly engaged community that shares potential cases and tips through different channels on a daily basis. These insights are combined with social media listening capabilities and the organization's expert knowledge of disinformation patterns. Maldita.es has also developed technology to organize and process this information, helping the team distinguish relevant signals from noise and prioritize the claims and narratives requiring the most attention. As part of this existing system, the organization debunked [55 individual claims about the situation in Ceuta](#) and also analyzed [the involvement of foreign actors in pushing disinformation related to the crisis](#).

Monitoring of the Arabic-speaking information space: To address the distinct information environment in Morocco, Maldita.es expanded its monitoring capacity to cover Arabic-language conversations, working in collaboration with the Arab Fact-checking Network. This allowed the organization to identify relevant disinformation and misleading narratives circulating in this ecosystem.

Technology and AI-supported monitoring: In response to the specific information environment surrounding the crossings, Maldita.es built a monitoring system from scratch to better understand the information and disinformation that people who crossed into Ceuta may have encountered when making their decisions, as well as the content being consumed by people in Morocco who were considering whether to attempt a crossing. The monitoring and technology teams worked together to rapidly develop a system in which an AI agent processed conversations taking place on social media and in groups where migrants were organizing.

Information-sharing mechanism with Meta and TikTok: Fundación Maldita.es actively participated in a time-limited information-exchange mechanism with Meta and TikTok. This mechanism enabled the organizations to share information with the platforms about disinformation content and other harmful or misleading patterns identified on their services during the crisis.

[Note: Signatories are requested to provide information relevant to their particular response to the threats and challenges they observed on their service(s). They ensure that the information below provides an accurate and complete report of their relevant actions. As operational responses to crisis/election situations can vary from service to service, an absence of information should not be considered a priori a shortfall in the way a particular service has responded. Impact metrics are accurate to the best of signatories' abilities to measure them].

Empowering the Fact-Checking Community	
Outline approaches pertinent to this chapter, highlighting similarities/commonalities and differences with regular enforcement.	
Compliance with standards (Commitment 33, Measure 33.1) and Cooperation with EFCSN	Fundación Maldita.es is one of the founders and an active actor of the European Fact-Checking Network (EFCSN). Currently holds the chairmanship of the association's governance body. We have updated our methodologies, policies and procedures to make them even more transparent and accessible, in order to be compliant with the EFCSN Code of Standards. All content produced during the crisis was published under this methodology. To address the unexpected disinformation crisis, EFCSN provided Fundación Maldita.es with funding to increase its capacity. We also jointly participated in the ad hoc mechanism with Meta and TikTok.
Cooperation with Arab Fact-Checking Network	Fundación Maldita.es established a partnership with the Arab Fact-Checking Network, whose Moroccan journalists provided crucial local expertise into the monitoring of Arab online space.