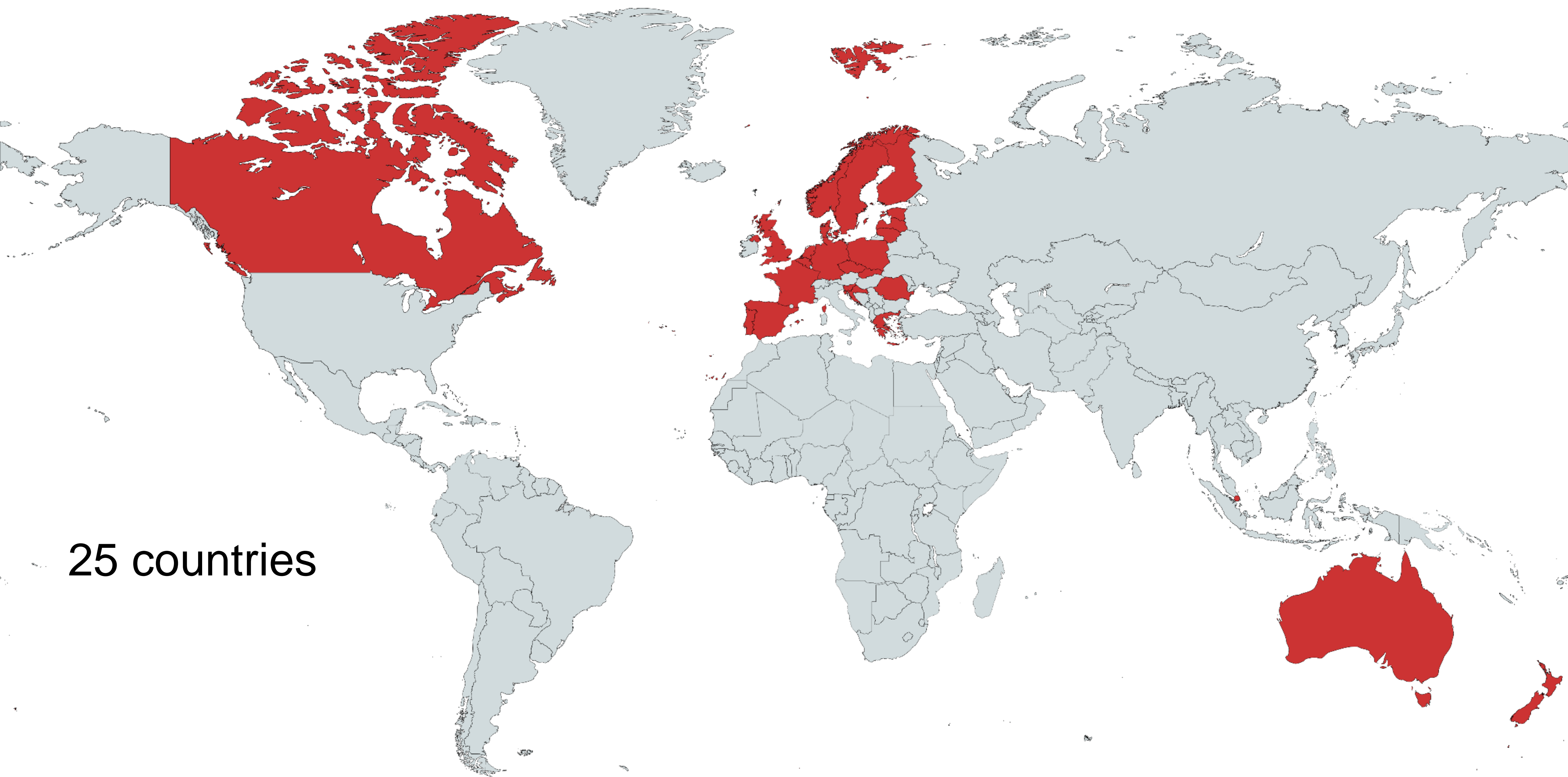




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# National Approaches to Countering Disinformation

International Security Policy Unit  
23 October 2023



25 countries



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## Questions

### 1. Strategic Approach

- Does this country have a national counter disinformation strategy?
- Does this country have any other strategic approach to countering disinformation?
- Are there plans to create a national counter disinformation strategy?

### 2. Consultation Process

- Did this country engage in a public consultation process?

### 3. Implementation

- Is there a lead agency to counter disinformation?
- Who are the participants in the national approach?
- Is there a coordination function in Government on countering disinformation?
- Is there a defined role for non-state actors, including civil society, academia and industry, to counter disinformation?



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# 1. Strategic approach

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## Countries with counter disinformation strategies:

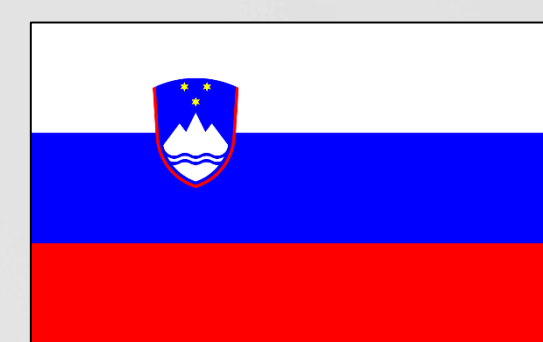


The Netherlands,  
2022



Slovakia,  
2023

## Countries that intend to create such a strategy:





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## Other strategic approaches to counter disinformation:

- **National Security** - Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Latvia, New Zealand, Portugal and Sweden
- **Democracy and electoral integrity** - Canada
- **Media Literacy** – U.K.



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## 2. Consultation

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## Consultation process:

**Netherlands:** No evidence of a consultation

**Slovakia:** Consultation on the basis of a concept paper on disinformation prepared by the Foreign Ministry. **Civil society was consulted.**

**Spain:** Followed a structured consultation process.





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# 3. Implementation

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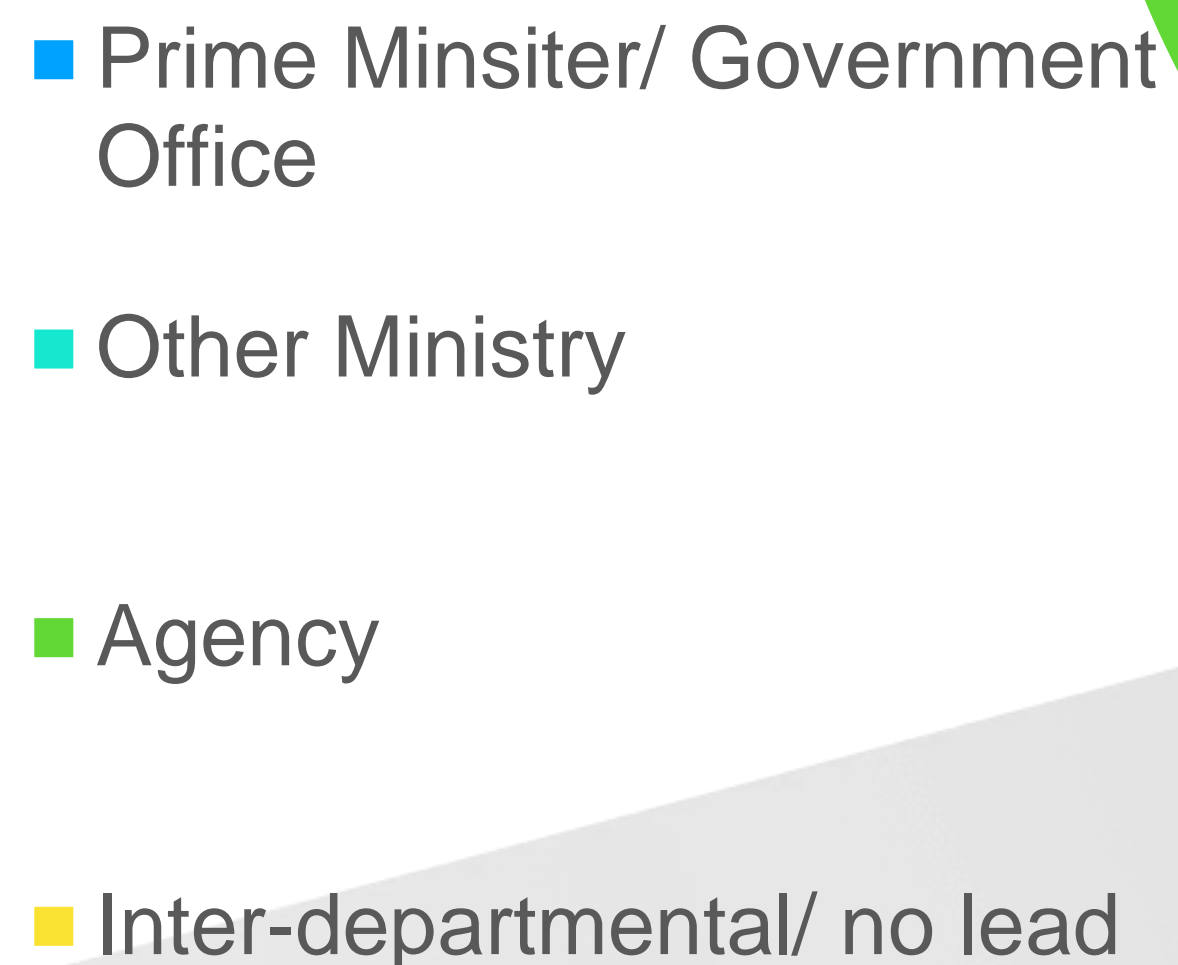


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## Counter disinformation lead:

### Four categories observed:

1. Prime Minister's/ Government Office (9)
2. Other Ministry (4)
3. Government Agency (4)
4. Shared responsibility (3)





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## 1. Prime Minister's/ Government Office:

**Canada:** **Protecting Democracy Unit (PDU)** - The Government has a unit within the Privy Council Office to coordinate, develop, and implement government-wide measures designed to combat disinformation.

**Lithuania:** **The National Crisis Management Centre (NCMC)** is responsible for monitoring and analysing information attacks and to improve models of state response to disinformation, in partnership with institutions and international partners. The NCMC was established in January 2023 and operates under the Chancellery of the Government.

**Slovakia:** The **Government Office** leads on efforts to counter disinformation, with all Ministries directed to create stratcom units. GO typically chairs weekly meetings where Ministries coordinate their narratives, discuss trending stories, and spearhead micro campaigns.



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## 2. Other Ministries:

**Norway:** The Directorate for Civil Protection and the Police lead on countering disinformation, from within the **Ministry of Justice and Public Security**. In addition, a number of military bodies are involved in analysing disinformation operations.

**United Kingdom:** Counter Disinformation Unit (CDU) in the **Department for Science, Innovation and Technology** (DSIT). The CDU works with partners across government, civil society and in tandem with the UK's Online Safety Bill and DSIT's Media Literacy Strategy.



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### 3. Government Agency

**Portugal:** National Cybersecurity Centre located within the Judiciary Police

**Croatia:** Agency for Electronic Media, under the Ministry of Culture and Media,



**Agencija za elektroničke medije**  
Agency for Electronic Media





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## Dedicated Government agencies - France and Sweden



FR and SE both have agencies to detect and characterize any phenomenon of suspicious propagation of misleading or hostile content on digital platforms, involving foreign actors, with the aim of harming FR/SE and its interests.

**Psychological  
Defence Agency**



FR's **VIGINUM** operates under the authority of the Secretariat General for National Defence and Security, under the President.

SE's the **Psychological Defence Agency** is a state agency under the Ministry of Defence.



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## 4. Shared responsibility

**Netherlands:** The Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations has a coordinating responsibility for the policy against disinformation, as part of the Government-wide strategy for effectively tackling disinformation.

**Germany:** Responsibility for countering disinformation is assigned to individual ministries and agencies within scope of their responsibility.



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## Government participation in coordination structures

NL	SK
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Education, Culture and Science;</i></li><li>• <i>Interior and Kingdom Relations;</i></li><li>• <i>Justice and Security;</i></li><li>• <i>Foreign Affairs;</i></li><li>• <i>Defence, and</i></li><li>• <i>Economic Affairs and Climate Policy.</i></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Foreign Affairs;</i></li><li>• <i>Interior, and</i></li><li>• <i>Defence</i></li></ul> <p><i>Plus the Slovak Information Service and police.</i></p>



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## Is there a defined role for non-state actors?

**The Netherlands:** The strategy notes role for independent media, the academia and civil society in addressing disinformation is noted; however, a clearly defined role is not set out in the Strategy.

**New Zealand:** Civil society-led group to advise government on options to strengthen resilience to disinformation. This includes exploring the design for a non-government entity to lead long-term work on disinformation.

**United Kingdom:** Media Literacy Taskforce was created, and an associated [steering board](#) of 18 experts was established to oversee, govern and evaluate the Taskforce.





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## Is there a defined role for non-state actors?

**Canada:** Investment in research, and projects to build citizen resilience and to build an evidence base that may inform policy-making in the future. The [Declaration on Electoral Integrity Online](#) is open to all online platforms to commit to ensure principles of integrity, transparency and authenticity.

**Greece:** Special Committee charged with overseeing the compliance of online media to “journalistic ethics”. Noncompliant media can lose state advertising funds – a crucial source of revenue for media in Greece - for up to two years.





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## Take-aways

- Amongst the first countries to have developed a dedicated national strategy to counter disinformation;
- The transparent, inclusive and wide-ranging nature of the consultation process is somewhat unique;
- No single approach to implementation – each approach is different reflecting the particular context of each country; and
- Majority of approaches include a role for non-state actors in the implementation phase.



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# Críoc

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