

Final report of the High Level Expert Group on Fake News and Online Disinformation

In January 2018, the European Commission set up a high-level group of experts (‘the HLEG’) to advise on policy initiatives to counter fake news and disinformation spread online. The main deliverable of the HLEG was a report designed to review best practices in the light of fundamental principles, and suitable responses stemming from such principles.



European Commission

High Level Expert Group on Fake News

The analysis presented in the Report starts from a shared understanding of disinformation as a phenomenon that goes well beyond the term "fake news". Disinformation as defined in this Report includes all forms of false, inaccurate, or misleading information designed, presented and promoted to intentionally cause public harm or for profit. It does not cover issues arising from the creation and dissemination online of illegal content (notably defamation, hate speech, incitement to violence), which are subject to regulatory remedies under EU or national laws, nor other forms of deliberate but not misleading distortions of facts such as satire and parody.

The HLEG advises the Commission against simplistic solutions. Any form of censorship either public or private should clearly be avoided. The HLEG's recommendations aim instead to provide short-term responses to the most pressing problems, longer-term responses to increase societal resilience to disinformation, and a framework for ensuring that the effectiveness of these responses is continuously evaluated, while new evidence-based responses are developed.

The multi-dimensional approach recommended by the HLEG is based on a number of interconnected and mutually reinforcing responses. These responses rest on five pillars designed to:

1. enhance **transparency** of online news, involving an adequate and privacy-compliant sharing of

- data about the systems that enable their circulation online;
2. promote **media and information literacy** to counter disinformation and help users navigate the digital media environment;
 3. develop tools for **empowering users and journalists** to tackle disinformation and foster a positive engagement with fast-evolving information technologies;
 4. safeguard **the diversity and sustainability of the European news media ecosystem**, and
 5. promote **continued research** on the impact of disinformation in Europe to evaluate the measures taken by different actors and constantly adjust the necessary responses.

The report is now available.

List of HLEG members

Downloads

A multi-dimensional approach to disinformation - Report of the independent High level Group on fake news and online disinformation

Download

Related topics

Media Freedom and Pluralism Pilot projects

Media Literacy

Media freedom and pluralism

Social media and networks, innovation and policy

Supporting media and digital culture

Source URL:

<https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/library/final-report-high-level-expert-group-fake-news-and-online-disinformation>