Tackling online disinformation

The Commission is tackling the spread of online disinformation and misinformation to ensure the protection of European values and democratic systems.

Learn about the #FactsMatter campaign

Disinformation is false or misleading content that is spread with an intention to deceive or secure economic or political gain, and which may cause public harm. Misinformation is false or misleading content shared without harmful intent though the effects can be still harmful.

The spread of both disinformation and misinformation can have a range of harmful consequences, such as threatening our democracies, polarising debates, and putting the health, security and environment of EU citizens at risk.

Large-scale disinformation campaigns are a major challenge for Europe and require a coordinated response from EU countries, EU institutions, online platforms, news media and EU citizens. The Commission has developed a number of initiatives to tackle disinformation:

- the Communication on ‘tackling online disinformation: a European approach’ is a collection of tools to tackle the spread of disinformation and ensure the protection of EU values;
- the Action plan on disinformation aims to strengthen EU capability and cooperation in the fight against disinformation;
- the European Democracy Action Plan develops guidelines for obligations and accountability of online platforms in the fight against disinformation;
- The 2018 Code of Practice on disinformation was the first time worldwide that industry has agreed, on a voluntary basis, to self-regulatory standards to fight disinformation. It aimed at achieving the objectives set out by the Commission's Communication presented in April 2018
- the COVID-19 disinformation monitoring programme, carried out by signatories of the Code of Practice, acted as a transparency measure to ensure online platforms’ accountability in tackling disinformation.
- EDMO is an independent observatory bringing together fact-checkers and academic researchers with expertise in the field of online disinformation, social media platforms, journalist driven media and media literacy practitioners
- the Strengthened Code of Practice on Disinformation, signed on 16th June 2022, brings together a wide range of players to commit to a broad set of voluntary commitments to counter disinformation

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Communication – Tackling online disinformation: a European approach
Action plan against disinformation
European Democracy Action Plan
The 2018 Code of Practice on Disinformation
Covid-19 disinformation monitoring programme
Guidance on Strengthening the Code of Practice on Disinformation
Press release 26/05/2021: Guidance to Strengthen the Code of Practice
Read the 2022 Strengthened Code of Practice on Disinformation
Factsheet: The 2022 Strengthened Code of Practice on Disinformation
Follow the latest progress and learn more about getting involved.
Latest News

NEWS ARTICLE | 14 July 2022
Call for interest to become a Signatory of the 2022 Code of Practice on Disinformation

The Commission and current signatories have launched a call for interest for new signatories to join the 2022 Code of Practice on Disinformation.

PRESS RELEASE | 05 July 2022
Commission welcomes European Parliament’s adoption of Digital Services Package
The Digital Services Package sets out a first comprehensive rulebook for the online platforms that we all depend on in our daily lives.

PRESS RELEASE | 16 June 2022
Disinformation: Commission welcomes the new stronger and more comprehensive Code of Practice on disinformation

The Commission welcomes the publication of the strengthened Code of Practice on Disinformation.

PRESS RELEASE | 02 June 2022
Disinformation: signatories report on their actions to fight COVID-19 disinformation

The Commission has published the last set of reports of the COVID-19 monitoring programme, providing insight about actions taken by platforms, signatories of the Code of Practice on Disinformation, to limit disinformation on the pandemic.

Info
Browse Disinformation
The European Union upholds media freedom and pluralism as pillars of modern democracy and enablers of free and open debate.

COVID-19 disinformation monitoring programme
Signatories to the Code of Practice on Disinformation are carrying out a COVID-19 disinformation monitoring programme to keep people informed about the virus and vaccines.

Q&A: Guidance to strengthen the Code of Practice on Disinformation

Find out more about recent measures to strengthen the Code of Practice on Disinformation

The 2022 Code of Practice on Disinformation

Major online platforms, emerging and specialised platforms, players in the advertising industry, fact-checkers, research and civil society organisations delivered a strengthened Code of Practice on Disinformation following the Commission’s Guidance of May 2021

See Also

Monitoring media pluralism in the digital era

The Media Pluralism Monitor is a scientific tool designed to identify potential risks to media pluralism.

Multimedia actions

The EU's multimedia actions aim to strengthen news reporting on EU affairs from pan-European points of view.

Media literacy

Media literacy has never been as important as it is today. It enables citizens of all ages to navigate the modern news environment and take informed decisions.

Source URL: https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/policies/online-disinformation