

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
[fix-empty](#)

Disinformation is 'verifiably false or misleading information created, presented and disseminated for economic gain or to intentionally deceive the public'. Misinformation is verifiably false information that is spread without the intention to mislead, and often shared because the user believes it to be true.

The spread of both disinformation and misinformation can have a range of 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, social networks, news media and EU citizens. The Commission has developed a number of initiatives to tackle disinformation:

- the Code of Practice on Disinformation lays out a set of worldwide self-regulatory standards for industry;
- the European Digital Media Observatory is a European hub for fact-checkers, academics and other relevant stakeholders to support policy-makers;
- the action plan on disinformation aims to strengthen EU capability and cooperation in the fight against disinformation;
- the European Democracy Action Plan will develop guidelines for obligations and accountability of online platforms in the fight against 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 COVID-19 monitoring and reporting programme, carried out by signatories of the Code of Practice, acts as a transparency measure to ensure accountability in tackling disinformation.

[Action plan against disinformation](#)

Press Release: EU action to tackle COVID-19 disinformation

Press Release: EU reports on progress tackling disinformation

Factsheet: Action Plan against disinformation (.pdf)

Synopsis report: Public consultation on fake news and disinformation

Study: fake news and disinformation (.pdf)

Follow the latest progress and learn more about getting involved.

Follow the Commission's work on media @MediaEU

Latest

NEWS ARTICLE | 02 December 2021

Revision of the Code of Practice: the strengthened
Code expected by March 2022

The Commission is happy to announce that 26 new prospective signatories joined the drafting process. Current and prospective signatories are now expected to deliver the strengthened Code of

Practice by the end of March 2022.

PRESS RELEASE | 25 November 2021

European Democracy: Commission sets out new laws on political advertising, electoral rights and party funding

This week the European Commission presented a proposal on transparency and targeting of political advertising, as part of measures aimed at protecting election integrity and open democratic debate.

PRESS RELEASE | 17 November 2021

First calls for proposals under the Digital Europe Programme are launched in digital tech and European Digital Innovation Hubs

The Commission announced this week the first set of calls for proposals under the Digital Europe Programme. This follows the adoption of the work programmes allocating nearly €2 billion for investments aimed to advance on the digital transition.

PRESS RELEASE | 16 November 2021

Disinformation: Commission welcomes new prospective signatories to the Code of Practice and recommendations for a strong monitoring framework

The Commission welcomes 16 additional prospective signatories joining the drafting of the strengthened Code of Practice on Disinformation and the 10 recommendations from the European Regulators Group for Audiovisual Media Services (ERGA) presented on 15 November to make it a strong monitoring framework based on the Commission's Guidance.

Info

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Related Content

Big Picture

Media freedom and pluralism

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

Dig deeper

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

Code of Practice on Disinformation

Online platforms, leading social networks, advertisers and advertising industry agreed on a Code of Practice to address the spread of disinformation.

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>