



Fake news



A definition

Fake news are news or stories on the internet that are not true. They are related to disinformation, which can be defined as information deliberately manipulated to fool people (European Parliament, 2019).



Why is this important?

Around 85% of Europeans see 'fake news' as a problem in their own country, and 83% view it as a problem for democracy in general ([European Parliament](#)). It leads to a loss of trust in media and between people and a disinterest in important areas of civic engagement.



Tips and tricks

- ➔ To identify fake news, always check the content, the author, the date and factors that could indicate that the news is false. For instance, you could compare sources and identify the original data to see if anything has been misinterpreted or modified.
- ➔ Do not blindly share the information before making sure it is accurate or acknowledging the consequences on yourself or others if it were fake.
- ➔ Sometimes pictures can be modified to launch false rumours. You can verify with [inVID project plugin](#) if the photo is modified. You can see the safety resources “Recognise retouched or photoshopped content”.



Useful resources and tools



European Parliament factsheet on “[How to spot when news is fake](#)”, (2019) provides 8 tips to help you spot fake news.



An article by the European Commission, published in the Horizon the EU Research & Innovation Magazine (1 April 2022), about “[Five fact-checking tips from disinformation experts](#)”, gives you tools to spot fake news but also explains this phenomenon.



[Snopes.com](#) is a fact-checking website to verify the news.



Here is an [article from Internetmatters.org](#), called “Learn what fake news is” that gives definitions and examples of Fake News and disinformation.