



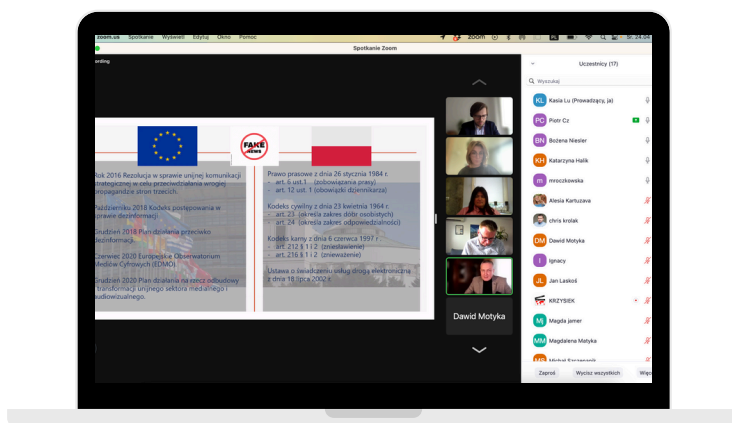
NEWSLETTER

Number four of the FACT project info bulletin



NATIONAL DEBATES: EXPERTS ON THE IMPACT OF FAKE NEWS

As part of the FACT project's initiatives, a series of online expert debates have been held in participating countries to help navigate the maze of fake news. In Italy, for example, COPE, the organisation leading the project, hosted a webinar in April where experts discussed strategies for identifying and countering disinformation. Speakers included Marco Martorana and Professor Giovanni Maddalena, who discussed the origins and impact of fake news and stressed the importance of fact-checking. Moderated by Professor Guido Nicolosi, the event encouraged dialogue and audience interaction, highlighting the crucial role of factual information in democratic processes. In Poland, the Autokreacja Foundation invited Piotr Czystkowski, a doctor of social sciences specialising in media, communication and political image-making, to contribute to the debate. Piotr has worked in Polish public television for 15 years and is currently at Radio Wroclaw.



Participants highlighted the need to organise debates: Vital, 23, from Portugal, noted the importance of understanding how fact-checking is structured and how carefully it is researched. He emphasised its critical role in today's society and recognised it as an essential lesson.





Beatriz Verdinho, 21, from Portugal, described participating in the disinformation debate as enlightening and empowering. Ana Sousa, 25, also from Portugal, stressed the importance of the debate in understanding how to detect and combat fake news, despite its known existence. The online meeting proved to be very useful, offering insights into the workings of social media algorithms and the exploitation of opinions into news. Understanding fact-checking platforms has empowered me to contribute to a cleaner online environment with the simple mantra: 'Think before you share'.

THE PROJECT'S FINALE COMING SOON

April is the final month of the FACT project. During this time, not only online expert debates will take place, but also physical meetings. Structured dialogue workshops will be organised with decision-makers, young people and local organisations. In Hungary, for example, 35 young people attended an event at the Entrepreneurship Centre in Székesfehérvár. Speakers included Tímea Kecskés, a renowned copywriter and social media coach, and Dorina Mészáros, who presented the city's news app, the Fehérvár App. The final step – Multiplier Events will be organised in each partner country. The main aim of these events is to spread the word about the difficulty of identifying fake news and the danger it can pose to our democracies, to summarise the activities and to promote the campaign against fake news.

EUROPEAN ELECTIONS: SHAPING DEMOCRACY

Between 6 and 9 June, millions of Europeans will take part in the European elections to shape the future of European democracy. It is a unique moment when we can all decide together on the future of the European Union. Voting is always important, whether at local, national or European level. It is an excellent opportunity to have your say on issues that matter to you. Details and key information are available on the elections.europa.eu website.



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