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Workshop I: How to spot and unmask fake news?

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CESIE and SIF



How to spot and unmask fake news?

The aim of this workshop is to learn how to spot and unmask fake news and EU myths.

Starting point: do you know the difference between **misinformation**, **disinformation** and **fake-news**?



Disinformation, misinformation and fake news

- **Misinformation** indicates an incomplete, vague, misleading, or ambiguous piece of information
- **Disinformation** is “intended misinformation” (i.e. when the writer/the sender has the intention of creating and sharing false or misleading information)
- Accordingly, **fake news** could be understood as an advanced and technological version of misinformation, since with this term we mean pieces of intentionally manipulated information which appear on the Internet and in social media especially.



Fake news and how to unmask them

Although presented as being factually accurate, fake news has little or no basis in fact. Its distinguishing feature is that fake news is strategically spread with damaging purpose.

Pros and cons of social media and the information's flow.



Fake news and how to unmask them

Polls show that conspiracy theories and fake news are popular everywhere, including Europe. **Teaching young people to navigate on the internet is one of the great challenges in raising and educating children today.**



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That's why it becomes necessary the activity of **debunking**.



Fake news and how to unmask them

We all have a role to play in stopping the spreading of disinformation, because it puts our lives at risk.

Here's **7 simple steps** to follow in order to be aware of the reliability of the news.



Fake news and how to unmask them

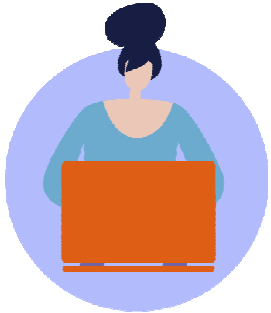
1. Consider the **source**: who is the publisher of the story? What is their mission?



2. Read **beyond the headline**: when you read a sensationalistic headline or a misleading one, you are probably reading a fake news.



Fake news and how to unmask them



3. Check the **author**: who is the author of the story? Is him/her reliable?

4. Verify supporting **sources**: if there is a supporting link to the article you are reading, make sure this is a real link that brings you to a real website.

5. Check the **date**: is the story up-to-date or reposted?

6. Check the **images**: what results do we have by googling just the picture?

7. Check if it is a **joke**! (satire)!



Regarding this topic, here's a useful activity to do together





Which of the following are true, which false?

„The European Union Bans Fun: Kids Younger Than Eight Not Allowed to Blow Up Balloons“

➤ Check the link:

<https://www.themarysue.com/european-union-bans-balloons-for-children/>

➤ Do you think this is **true** or **false**?





False! In fact, the EU Toy Safety Directive aims to protect children's health and the requirements are to reduce the amount of harmful chemicals in toys as well as update instruction for the use. The EU has not banned children from inflating balloons but has demanded that latex balloons be accompanied by a warning that children under the age of 8 be supervised by their parents when inflating balloons. This warning is intended to protect children from suffocation or choking on such a toy



Which of the following are true, which false?

The European Union has won the Nobel Peace Prize

➤ Check the link:

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2012/oct/12/european-union-nobel-peace-prize>

True! In 2012, the EU has been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for spreading peace, reconciliation, democracy and human rights.



Which of the following are true, which false?

EU regulations forcing garden centres to throw away plants

- Check the link:
https://freemarketconservatives.org/eu-regulations-interfere-everywhere-theyre-even-forcing-garden-centres-to-throw-away-plants/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=eu-regulations-interfere-everywhere-theyre-even-forcing-garden-centres-to-throw-away-plants



False! In reality, new regulations seek protection against plant pests, plant health helps agriculture and forestry sectors remain sustainable and competitive, as well as protecting domestic biodiversity and ecosystems. One of these regulations measures plant passport intended for simpler and more transparent documentation. Many garden centers haven't obtained these passports and were selling plants to individuals, after the lockdown, it became impossible to sell online without plant passport, and retailers accused EU regulations for their loss.





- Was it easy to find the answer?
- What obstacles did you face while distinguishing truth from false?
- How did you manage to distinguish fact from truth?