ManaBalss experience with disinformation
SMARTeD RESULTS

1. Research on disinformation
2. Developed methodology for a local workshop
3. Recommendations for EU and member states
I Survey on disinformation and fake news
48 participants from Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Greece, Latvia and Slovenia.

Main group of survey participants were academia, followed by civil society activist, media professionals / journalists and researchers.

On-line survey data collection took place in October and November 2018.
THE SCOPE OF DISINFORMATION

- An average share of population that cannot identify disinformation: 46%
- At least once a week, survey participants come across information that they believe is false.
- Migration policies are an area of public life that is harmed to a greatest extent.

SOURCES OF HARM

- Intentional political abuse for political purposes.
- Social media and messaging apps online, blogs, and forums.
- Anonymous social media accounts and politicians.
Addressing the disinformation and fake news issue

- 88% indicated that the EU should be empowered to take a more active role in combating disinformation.
- Raising awareness among the public - the most effective measure for reducing the adverse effects of disinformation.
- Media / journalists and media policy makers - must be leaders.
- Online platforms should assume greater responsibilities in protecting their users from disinformation and ensure transparency about sponsored content.
TOOLS AIMED AT REPORTING THE DISINFORMATION AND SPECIFIC PLATFORMS FOR MAKING SOUND DECISIONS BEFORE VOTING - GOOD EXAMPLES OF EXISTING TOOLS

E-democracy tools to address the disinformation

SUGGESTED E-DEMOCRACY TOOLS:

- Content trustworthiness rating systems in line with journalistic principles
- Tools aimed at reporting the disinformation
- Trusted fact-checking organisations and academia with access to platform data
FIND FULL REPORT HERE:

https://smartedemocracy.org/research-on-disinformation/

Preliminary results

Survey on disinformation and fake news

SMARTeD
against fake news

About the Survey
As a part of the project SMARTeD, the on-line survey has been implemented to collect national realities, approaches and practical applications with the following specific objectives:

- To assess the overall relevance of the issue of disinformation and fake news in partnering countries of the project.
- To assess the significance and effectiveness of different actions aimed to minimise the negative effects of the disinformation on national and European level, including actions that can be taken by online platforms, and the use of e-participation and e-democracy tools.
- To address the role of politisation in disinformation strategies as one of the causes of disinformation and fake news.

SEARCH BY COUNTRY
- Latvia
- Estonia
- Belgium
- Slovakia
II Developed methodology for a local workshop (youth & NGOs)
389 people
12 local workshops
6 countries

CONCLUSIONS MADE BY PARTICIPANTS:

1. Dig deeper (critical thinking, purpose)
2. Check the source
3. Fact checking
4. Stop sharing
5. Educate others
III
Recommendations for EU and member states
EU POLICY & FUNDING

- Strengthening and expanding the existing EU policy on disinformation
- Supporting media literacy and active citizenship through EU programmes
- Ensuring funding for national and local civic initiatives that fight with disinformation and strengthen fact-checking platforms

Recommendations

FEW IDEAS

- Subsidizing countries that introduce programs in schools
- Funding translations of the existing [tech] tools across EU
ACCOUNTABILITY

- Introducing laws, regulations and penalties on EU and national level, preventing the spreading of disinformation via media and social networks

Recommendations

- A single European Regulatory Framework for Disinformation
- Establishment of national agencies (funded by all media), journalists check the news
- Law that obligates social media to introduce algorithms that track and enable reporting of fake news and following fact checking
RESPONSIBLE MEDIA

- Encouraging the development of trustable and responsible media ecosystem in Europe.

Recommendations

- A certificate of reliability given to news outlets, social media actors etc.
- National press "trust ability" list / EU awards
- Transparency of media, stronger media regulations
ENCOURAGING COOPERATION

- Working towards cross-sectoral, cross-national cooperation in sharing the best practices and achieving common goals.

Recommendations

- EU Program for exchanging know-how and best practices for journalists, focusing on media literacy, data journaling etc.
EDUCATION

- Introducing education on media literacy and critical thinking in schools, starting from early age
- Carrying out awareness campaigns and supporting non-formal education activities

Recommendations

- Educational campaigns in schools using digital applications to raise awareness
- EU awareness raising campaign lead by youth
- Establishment of European Day Against Fake News with a clear message such as “Stay Calm and Double-Check”
TECH TOOLS

- Introducing laws, regulations and penalties on EU and national level, preventing the spreading of disinformation via media and social networks.

Recommendations

- A single European Regulatory Framework for Disinformation
- Establishment of national agencies (funded by all media), journalists check the news
- Law that obligates social media to introduce algorithms that track and enable reporting of fake news and following fact checking
THANK YOU!

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