



21st nMEP 2nd digital nMEP Wels 22
28th – 30th January 2022

FACTFILE

Committee on Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

Committee issue: The question of online radicalization

Aiming at increasing engagement and interactions, recommender algorithms on social media platforms such as YouTube are pushing user towards increasingly radical content and unilateral sources of (mis)information (filter bubbles). As a result, conspiracy theories and fake news have increased in popularity.

How can the EU counteract this development and promote media pluralism protecting its democracy and political institutions? What measurements should be taken to prevent online radicalization and the spread of conspiracy theories and misinformation?

Issue 1: How can the EU control media whilst also maintaining freedom of expression?

Issue 2: How can EU combat online terrorist, illegal and harmful content?

Issue 3: How can EU promote media pluralism and protects its democracy in light of following dilemmas?

Issue 4: How does EU react towards disinformation create by outside political forces (other countries and towards misinformation?)

Key definitions:

- **Media Pluralism** defines the state of having a plurality of voices, opinions and analyses on media system (internal pluralism) or the coexistence of different and diverse types of medias and media support (external pluralism)
- **Digital Service Act** is a proposed act by the European Commission which aims at creating a safer digital space whilst also safeguarding users' fundamental rights of and sustaining businesses' level of playing field. The rules specified in the DSA primarily concern online intermediaries and platforms.
- **Digital Market Act** is a proposed act by the European Commission which aims at creating a safer digital space whilst also safeguarding users' fundamental rights of and sustaining businesses' level of playing field. The Digital Markets Act includes rules that govern gatekeeper online platforms.



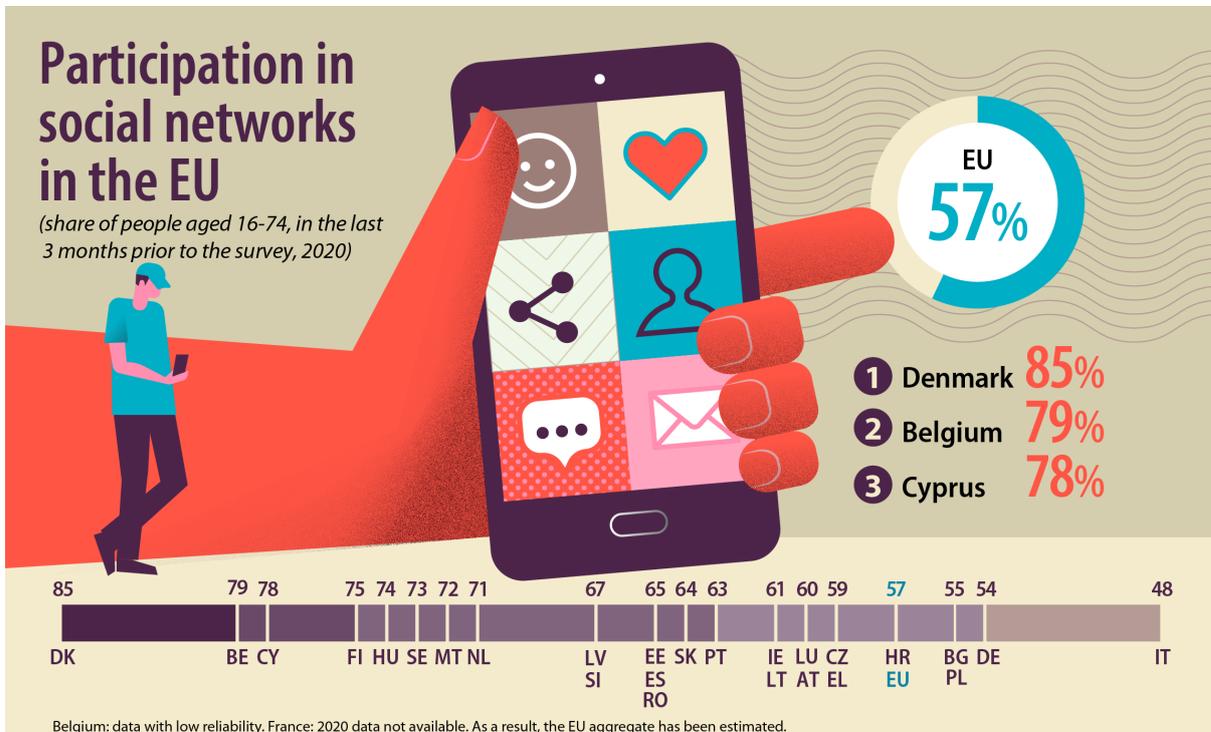
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- **Audiovisual Media Services Directive (AVMSD)** governs EU-wide coordination of national legislation on all audiovisual media — traditional TV broadcasts and on-demand services.
- **Illegal content** is any type of online content which clearly breaks any of the established EU laws. **Harmful content** does not yet have a clear definition due to the possibility of overlooking individual's freedom of speech or of expression. Harmful content does however imply the idea of being any type of content which harms individuals in EU (hate speech etc.).
- **Content moderation** is defined as the activities undertaken by providers of intermediary services aimed at detecting, identifying and addressing illegal content or information incompatible with their terms and conditions.
- **EU Security Union strategy**, including the fight against terrorism and organised crime, child abuse on and offline, disinformation and hybrid threats, migrant smuggling, action against illicit drugs and firearms trafficking.
- **Counter-Terrorism Agenda** seeks to fight against terrorism and violent extremism and boost the EU's resilience to terrorist threats. This includes combatting terrorist content online.
- **The Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN)** connects frontline practitioners from across Europe with one another, and with academics and policymakers, to exchange knowledge, first-hand experiences and approaches to preventing and countering violent extremism in all its forms.
- **The EU Internet Referral Unit (EU IRU)** is an important unit of Europol which detects and investigates malicious content on the internet and in social media.
- **Article 11** of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights clearly dictates that:
 1. Everyone has the right to freedom of expression. This right shall include freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authority and regardless of frontiers.
 2. The freedom and pluralism of the media shall be respected.
- **Terrorist content** solicits someone to commit or to contribute to terrorist offences or to participate in activities of a terrorist group.
- **Conspiracy theories** are the belief that certain events or situations are secretly manipulated behind the scenes by powerful forces with negative intent.

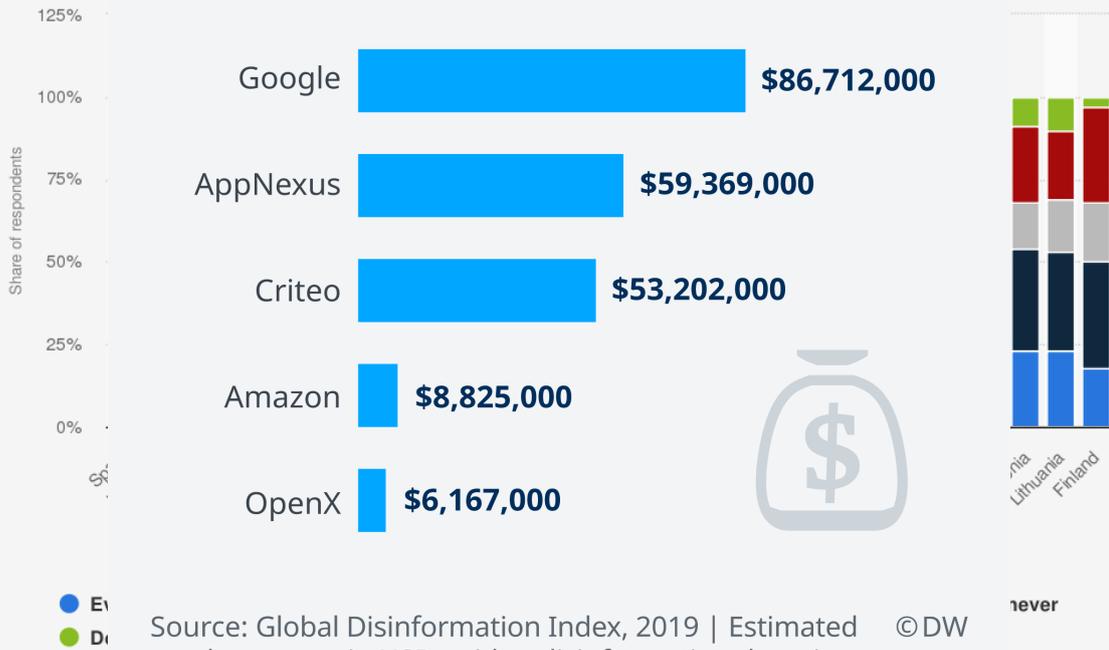


- **Disinformation** is 'verifiably false or misleading information created, presented and disseminated for economic gain or to intentionally deceive the public'.

Misinformation is verifiably false information that is spread without the intention to mislead, and often shared because the user believes it to be true.



Ad revenue for disinformation sites



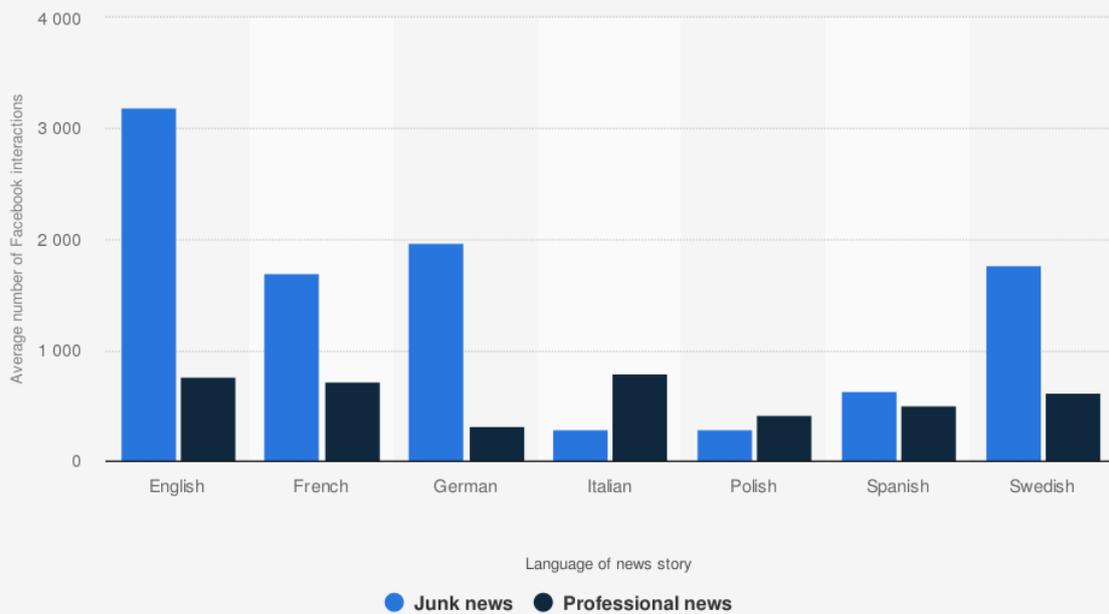
Source
European Commi
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Average Facebook interactions for junk news and professional news stories in 2019, by European language



Sources
Oxford Internet Institute; University of Oxford
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Additional Information:
Europe; EU; NewsWhip; University of Oxford; Oxford Internet Institute; April 5 to May 5, 2019

Where Fake News Is Seen as a Problem in the EU

"Is fake news or information that misrepresents reality or is even false a problem?" (%)

