



22nd nMEP Graz 2023

26th – 29th January

Committee on Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

Preparation Module

Honourable delegates attending the national MEP session in Graz,

It is our utmost honour to welcome you to the Committee on Civil Liberties and Civil Rights this year. We will focus on the issue of "online radicalization", which is further explained below, in our committee work this session.

As your presidency, we anticipate a lively discussion and are forward to hear your jointly submitted ideas in the form of a solution to the particular issue this committee will address.

*We kindly request that each delegate submit their own position paper (maximum of two pages) on the subject at hand to any committee president **at least four days prior** to the commencement of the session. The following prep module and fact file are also available to you; these should provide you a basic understanding of the subject. As the subject is fairly broad, it is imperative that you start preparing early and conduct research of your own, to ensure that you will have unique and well-informed contributions.*

We sincerely hope you are looking forward to having fruitful discussions just as eagerly as we are. We are very excited to hear your opinions on this challenging subject. Please get in touch with us via email if there are any further questions.

Best regards,

Your Presidency

Committee issue: The question of online radicalization

On social media networks like YouTube, recommender algorithms are driving users toward more extreme material and lone sources of (false) information in an effort to increase engagement and conversations (filter bubbles). Conspiracy theories and false news have grown in acceptance as a result.

How can the EU stop this trend and support media diversity while defending its political system and democratic institutions? What steps should be implemented to stop the dissemination of false information and conspiracy theories online as well as radicalization?



22nd nMEP Graz 2023

26th – 29th January

CIE: Clara Danzl

Email: claraaviladanzl@icloud.com

CIE: Leonidas Soininen

Email: leonidas.soin@gmail.com

Useful links:

Far-Right misinformation is thriving on Facebook

<https://www.npr.org/2021/03/06/974394783/far-right-misinformation-is-thriving-on-facebook-a-new-study-shows-just-how-much>

Tackling online disinformation

<https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/online-disinformation>

Media freedom and pluralism

<https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/media-freedom>

How is Europol keeping online spaces safe?

<https://www.europol.europa.eu/media-press/newsroom/news/how-europol-keeping-online-spaces-safe>

Fight against online extremism, where is the EU going?

<https://dr2consultants.eu/fight-against-online-extremism-where-is-the-eu-going/>

Media freedom and pluralism

<https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/media-freedom>

Identifying conspiracy theories

https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/coronavirus-response/fighting-disinformation/identifying-conspiracy-theories_en



22nd nMEP Graz 2023

26th – 29th January

Europe's new hate speech rules for big social networks

<https://www.technologylawdispatch.com/2021/06/privacy-data-protection/eu-new-hate-speech-rules-for-social-networks-in-the-european-union/>

Disinformation on democratic processes and human rights

[https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2021/653635/EXPO_STU\(2021\)653635_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2021/653635/EXPO_STU(2021)653635_EN.pdf)

Fight against terrorism on the internet

<https://www.eu2020.de/eu2020-en/news/pressemitteilungen/fight-terrorism-internet-eu2020/2426232>

Fake news

<https://www.rolandberger.com/en/Insights/Publications/Fake-News-Democracy-and-Disinformation.html>

Hate speech

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_6561

Eu measures already in place to prevent online radicalisation

[Prevention of radicalisation in the EU - Consilium \(europa.eu\)](https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/communications/2021/01/20210127-01/)

Key Terms:

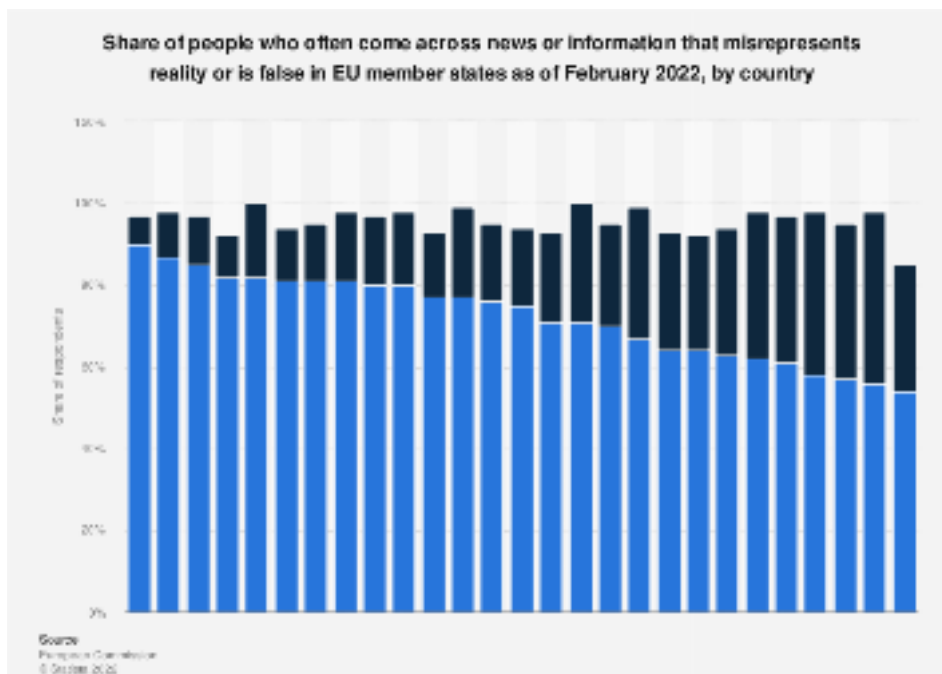
- Fake news
- Extremism (Far right, Jihadism etc.)
- Online terrorists
- Social media algorithms
- Media freedom and pluralism
- Fact checking
- Conspiracy theories
- Europol
- Terrorist content online
- EU Internet Referral Unit
- Counterterrorism policy
- Foreign disinformation campaigns (Russia, China, Iran, North Korea)

22nd nMEP Graz 2023

26th – 29th January

- Algorithms
- Hate speech
- Mistrust in science, politics and journalism

Key data:

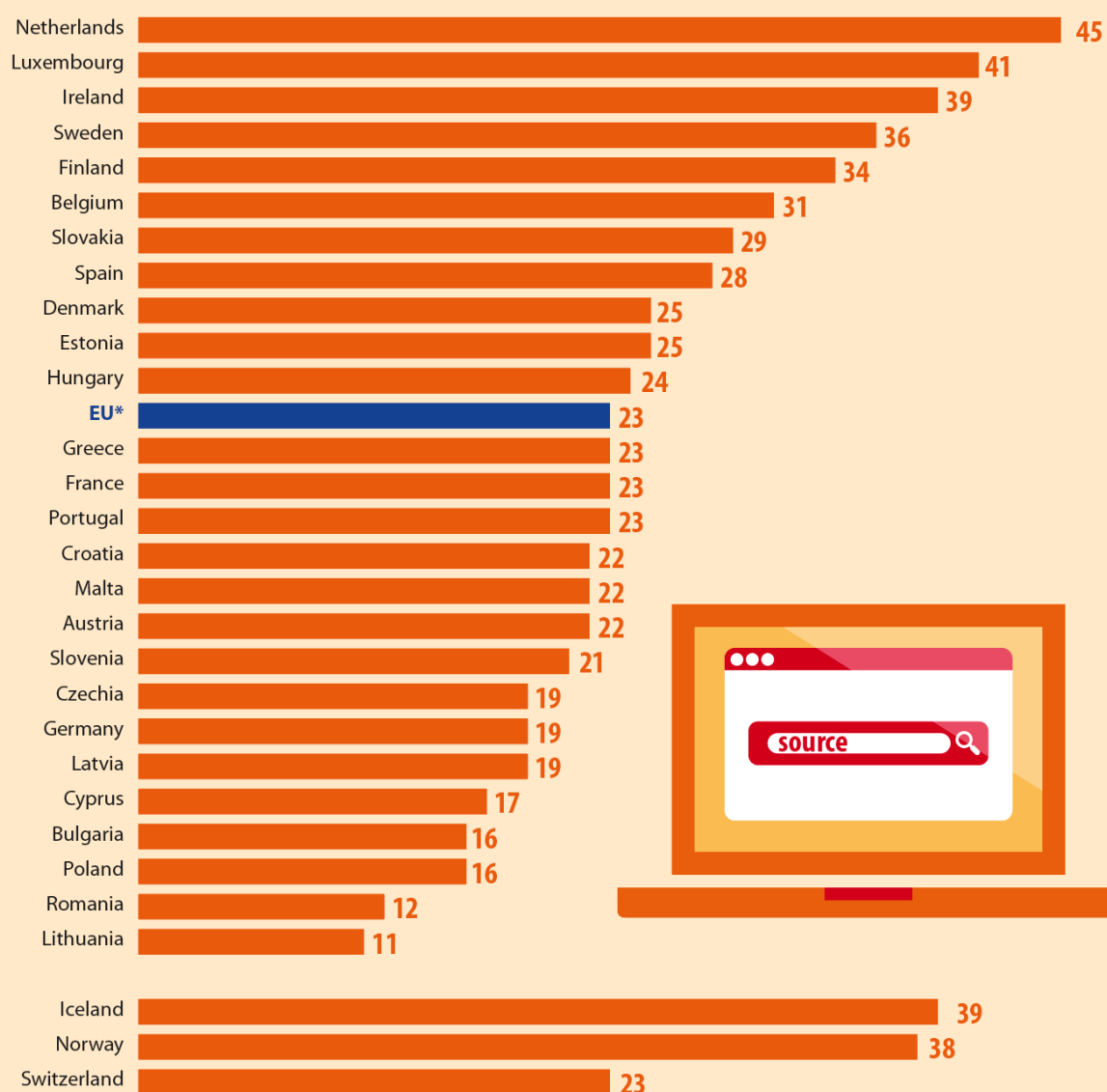


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22nd nMEP Graz 2023
26th – 29th January

People who verified information found on online news sites or social media in previous 3 months, 2021

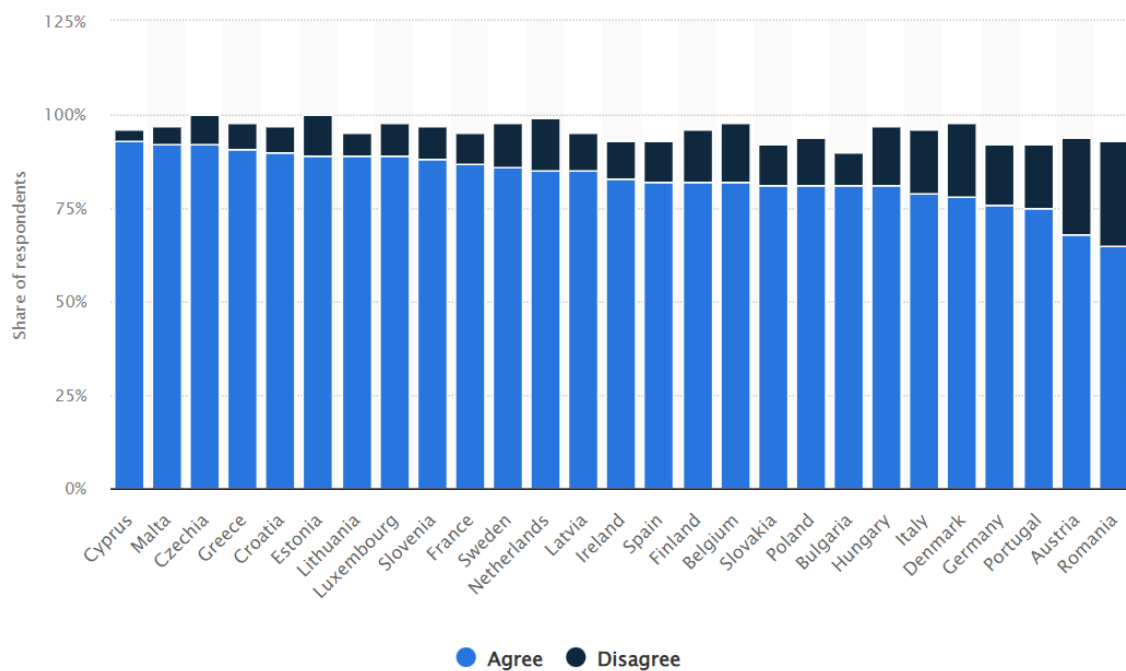
(% of individuals aged 16-74)



*Italy: data not available. As a result, the EU aggregate has been estimated.

22nd nMEP Graz 2023
26th – 29th January

Attitudes to whether news or information that misrepresents reality or is false is a problem for democracy in EU member states as of February 2022, by country

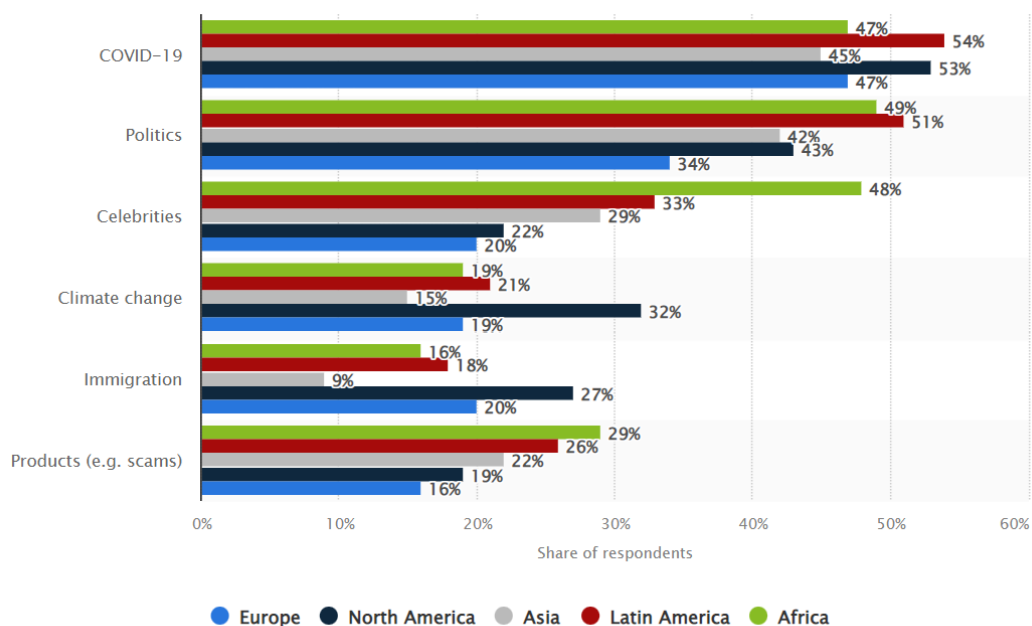


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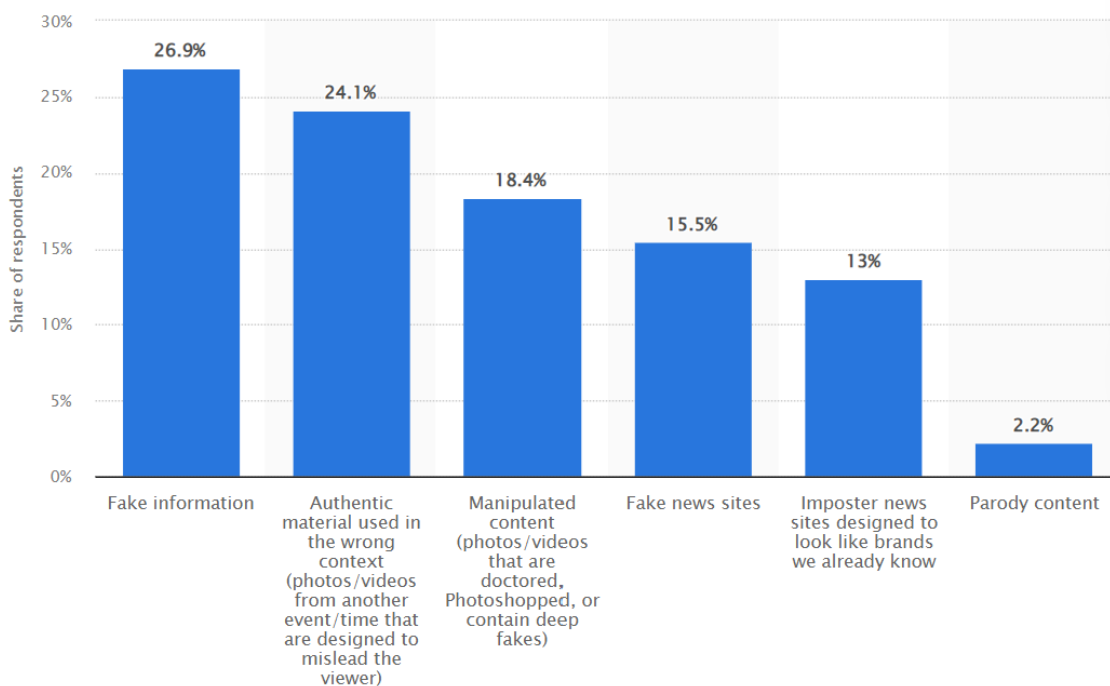


22nd nMEP Graz 2023
26th – 29th January

consumers who saw false or misleading information about selected topics in the last week worldwide as of February 2022, by region (published on Jun 28, 2022)



Types of fake news encountered online in Europe as of December 2020





22nd nMEP Graz 2023
26th – 29th January

