

10 WAYS TO TACKLE DISINFORMATION IN TIMES OF ELECTIONS

- 01 Stay vigilant**

Beware of headlines designed to generate engagement without regard for accuracy. Evaluate news content beyond sensational headlines, prioritising substance over sensationalism.
- 02 Learn to decode disinformation**

One of the best ways of identifying disinformation is paying attention to the language. Remain cautious of emotionally charged news stories, as they may be part of a foreign interference campaign aimed at influencing public opinion. Deceptive language or vague assertions are also used to mislead readers. Look for clear, emotion-free, and evidence-based reporting.
- 03 Verify the source**

Prioritise information from credible sources with transparent practices, especially amidst increased foreign interference and disinformation attempts targeting the European elections.
- 04 Fact-check**

Take proactive steps to verify the accuracy of information before sharing it, particularly on social media platforms that are vulnerable to manipulation. Help spread articles from your local fact-checking organisations.
- 05 Cross-reference information**

Given the likelihood of sophisticated disinformation tactics, compare news from multiple reputable sources to counter manipulation and false narratives. Beware of possible coordinated efforts to spread disinformation.
- 06 Think twice before you share**

Cultivate a habit of pausing before sharing content, especially on social media. Take a moment to delve beyond the headline, scrutinise the details, and assess the credibility of the source.
- 07 Investigate images or videos**

Disinformation can spread using non-textual, multimedia content. Exercise caution when encountering visual content accompanying news stories, as manipulated images and videos are common tactics in disinformation campaigns. Verify the authenticity and context of multimedia elements.
- 08 Educate yourself**

Stay informed about common strategies used in foreign interference and disinformation campaigns, particularly ones targeting democratic processes. East Stratcom Task Force (<https://EUvsDisinfo.eu/>), European Digital Media Observatory (<https://edmo.eu/>) and EU Disinfo Lab (<https://www.disinfo.eu/>) are good sites to keep up-to-date about all the latest news related to disinformation.
- 09 Encourage critical thinking**

Foster a culture of critical thinking and media literacy within your community to build resilience against disinformation. Encourage scepticism and independent verification of information to mitigate the impact of manipulative narratives.
- 10 Report suspicious content**

Actively report instances of disinformation and hate speech to relevant authorities or platforms.