



Flash Eurobarometer 464

Report

Fake news and disinformation online

Fieldwork

February 2018

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Survey requested by the European Commission,
Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content & Technology
and co-ordinated by the Directorate-General for Communication

This document does not represent the point of view of the European Commission.
The interpretations and opinions contained in it are solely those of the authors.

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Survey conducted by TNS Political & Social at the request of the European Commission,
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(DG COMM "Media Monitoring, Media Analysis and Eurobarometer" Unit)

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INTRODUCTION

Online platforms and other internet services have provided new ways for people to connect, debate and to gather information. However, the spread of news that intentionally misleads readers has become an increasing problem for the functioning of our democracies, affecting people's understanding of reality. A Eurobarometer survey published in November 2016¹ showed that European citizens are worried about the independence of the media, and levels of trust in media are low.

In June 2017, the European Parliament adopted a Resolution² calling on the European Commission to analyse in depth the current situation and legal framework with regard to *fake news*, and to verify the possibility of legislative intervention to limit the dissemination and spreading of fake content. The Commission has confirmed that this is a priority and has included the initiative against *fake news* online in its 2018 Work Programme³.

In November 2017, The Commission launched a public consultation⁴ on *fake news* and online disinformation and set up a High-Level Expert Group representing academics, online platforms, news media and civil society organisations⁵. The work of the High-Level Expert Group, as well as the results of the public consultation, will contribute to the development of an EU-level strategy on how to tackle the spread of *fake news*, to be presented in spring 2018.

This Flash Eurobarometer is designed to explore EU citizens' awareness of and attitudes towards the existence of *fake news* and disinformation online. It covers the following issues:

- Levels of trust in news and information accessed through different channels;
- People's perceptions of how often they encounter news or information that is misleading or false;
- Public confidence in identifying news or information that is misleading or false;
- People's views on the extent of the problem, both in their own country and for democracy in general;
- Views on which institutions and media actors should act to stop the spread of *fake news*.

This survey was carried out by the TNS Political and Social network in the 28 Member States between the 7th and the 9th of February 2018. A total of 26.576 respondents from different social and demographic groups were interviewed via telephone (landline and mobile phone) in their mother tongue, on behalf of the European Commission, Directorate-General for Communications Networks. The methodology used is that of Eurobarometer surveys as carried out by the Directorate-General for Communication "Media monitoring, Media Analysis and Eurobarometer" Unit).

¹ Special Eurobarometer 452: *Media pluralism and democracy*

² 2016/2276(INI) Online platforms and the digital single market

³ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/news/european-commission-adopts-2018-work-programme-2017-oct-24_en

⁴ <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/public-consultation-fake-news-and-online-disinformation>

⁵ <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/experts-appointed-high-level-group-fake-news-and-online-disinformation>

Note: In this report, countries are referred to by their official abbreviation. The abbreviations used in this report correspond to:

Belgium	BE	Latvia	LV
Czech Republic	CZ	Luxembourg	LU
Bulgaria	BG	Hungary	HU
Denmark	DK	Malta	MT
Germany	DE	The Netherlands	NL
Estonia	EE	Austria	AT
Greece	EL	Poland	PL
Spain	ES	Portugal	PT
France	FR	Romania	RO
Croatia	HR	Slovenia	SI
Ireland	IE	Slovakia	SK
Italy	IT	Finland	FI
Republic of Cyprus	CY *	Sweden	SE
Lithuania	LT	United Kingdom	UK
European Union – weighted average for the 28 Member States			EU28

* Cyprus as a whole is one of the 28 European Union Member States. However, the ‘acquis communautaire’ has been suspended in the part of the country which is not controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus. For practical reasons, only the interviews carried out in the part of the country controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus are included in the ‘CY’ category and in the EU28 average.

*We wish to thank the people throughout the European Union
who have given their time to take part in this survey.*

Without their active participation, this study would not have been possible.

MAIN FINDINGS

Respondents are less likely to trust news and information from online sources than from more traditional sources

- The majority of respondents totally trust or tend to trust news and information they receive through radio (70%), television (66%) and printed media (63%). However, less than half (47%) trust online newspapers and magazines, and lower proportions trust video hosting websites and podcasts (27%) and online social networks and messaging apps (26%).
- This pattern is consistent across Member States, with traditional media sources trusted more than online sources in all them.

Most respondents say they encounter *fake news* at least once a week

- More than a third of respondents (37%) say they come across *fake news* every day or almost every day, and a further 31% say that this happens at least once a week.
- In every country, at least half of respondents say they come across *fake news* at least once a week.
- Seven in ten respondents (71%) are totally or somewhat confident that they are able to identify news or information that misrepresents reality or is false (*fake news*), while 26% are not confident.
- A majority of respondents in every country are confident in their ability to identify *fake news*, ranging from 87% in Denmark to 55% in Spain.
- Respondents who use online social networks more regularly, and who come across *fake news* more frequently, are more confident in their ability to identify them.

A large majority of respondents think that the existence of *fake news* is a problem in their country and for democracy in general

- More than eight in ten respondents (85%) think that the existence of *fake news* is a problem in their country, at least to some extent. A similar proportion (83%) say that it is a problem for democracy in general.
- These views are consistent across Member States, with at least 70% in every country seeing *fake news* as a problem in their country, and at least 74% saying this in relation to democracy in general.

Various institutions and media actors are seen as being responsible for stopping the spread of *fake news*

- Respondents are most likely to think that journalists should act to stop the spread of *fake news* (45%), followed by national authorities (39%), press and broadcasting management (36%), citizens themselves (32%), online social networks (26%), EU institutions (21%) and non-governmental organisations (15%).

I. TRUST IN NEWS SOURCES AND AWARENESS OF FAKE NEWS

This first section of the report starts by examining the level of trust that people have in different sources of news and information. It then asks how often people encounter news or information that they believe misrepresents reality or is false (*fake news*). It then looks at people’s confidence in their ability to identify *fake news*.

1. Level of trust in news sources

Online sources are trusted less than traditional media sources

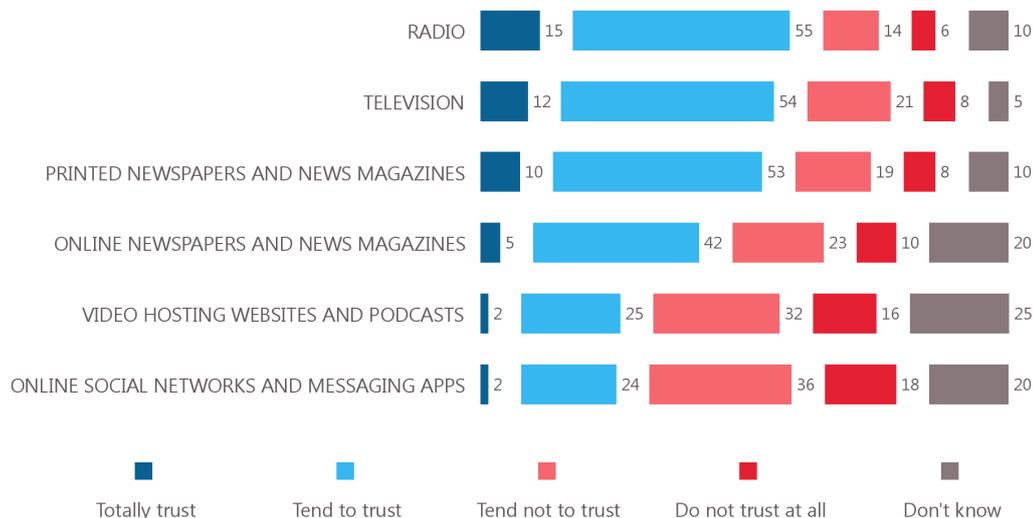
Respondents were asked how much they trust the news and information they access through various sources⁶. Only a minority of respondents say they ‘totally trust’ any of the sources; this is highest in relation to radio (15%) and lowest for video hosting websites and podcasts, and for online social networks and messaging apps (both 2%).

However, the majority of respondents have a reasonable level of trust in traditional media sources. More than two-thirds (70%) ‘totally’ or ‘tend to’ trust radio, while slightly lower proportions say this about television (66%) and printed newspapers and news magazines (63%).

Trust is lower in relation to online newspapers and news magazines (47%), and lower still for video hosting websites and podcasts (27%) and online social networks and messaging apps (26%).

For each of the online sources, a substantial proportion of respondents answer ‘don’t know’ (between 20% and 25%); this might reflect a lower level of use of these sources among some groups of the population.

Q1 How much do you trust or not the news and information you access through... (% - EU)



Base: All Respondents (N=26,576)

⁶ Q1. How much do you trust or not the news and information you access through ... ?

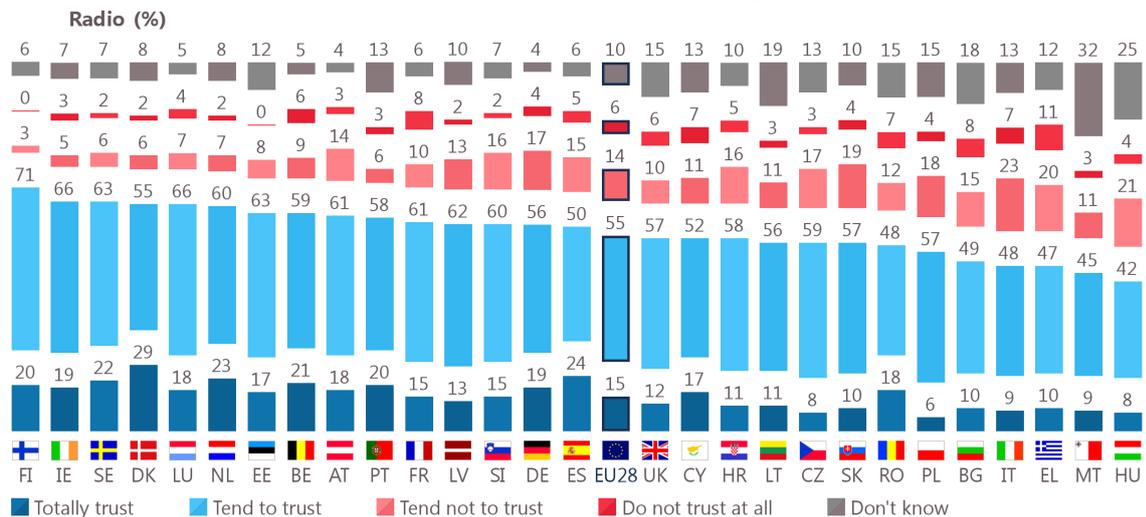
In every Member State, at least half of respondents ‘totally’ or ‘tend to’ trust the news and information they access through **radio**.

Levels of **trust** are highest among respondents in Finland (91%), Ireland, Sweden (both 85%), Denmark, Luxembourg (both 84%) and the Netherlands (83%). Respondents in Denmark are the most likely to say that they ‘totally trust’ the news and information they access through radio (29%). At the other end of the scale, less than six in ten respondents say they trust the news and information they access through radio in Hungary (50%), Malta (54%), Greece, Italy (both 57%) and Bulgaria (59%).

Radio is the most trusted source of news and information in 19 countries and in the remaining countries it is the second most trusted source.

It might be worth to highlight that at least a quarter of respondents answered ‘don’t know’ in Malta (32%) and Hungary (25%). This might indicate that *Radio* is not a popular media in these countries.

Q1.5 How much do you trust or not the news and information you access through...

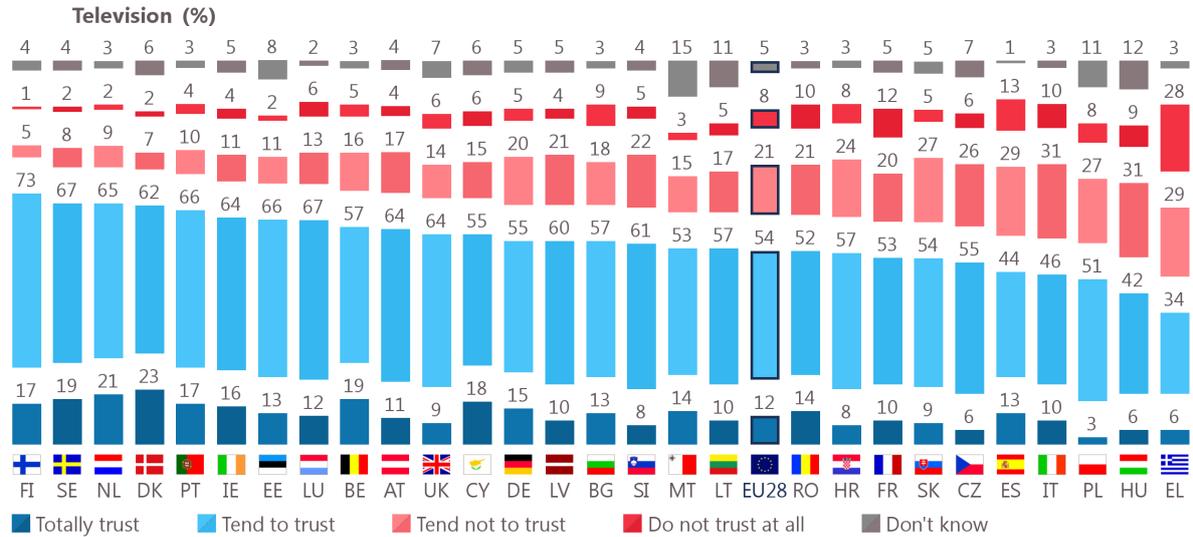


Base: All Respondents (N=26,576)

Respondents in Finland are the most likely to say they *trust* the news and information they access through **television** (90%), followed by respondents in Sweden, the Netherlands (both 86%), Denmark (85%) and Portugal (83%). The lowest level of trust in television is seen in Greece (40%), with 28% saying they do not trust it at all, followed by Hungary (48%), Poland (54%), Italy (56%) and Spain (57%).

Television is the most trusted source of news and information in ten countries and in most of the other countries it is the second most trusted. However, in Spain, France, Italy, Luxembourg and Poland, *television* is the third most trusted source of news and information (after radio and written press) and in Greece it is only the fourth most trusted.

Q1.4 How much do you trust or not the news and information you access through...



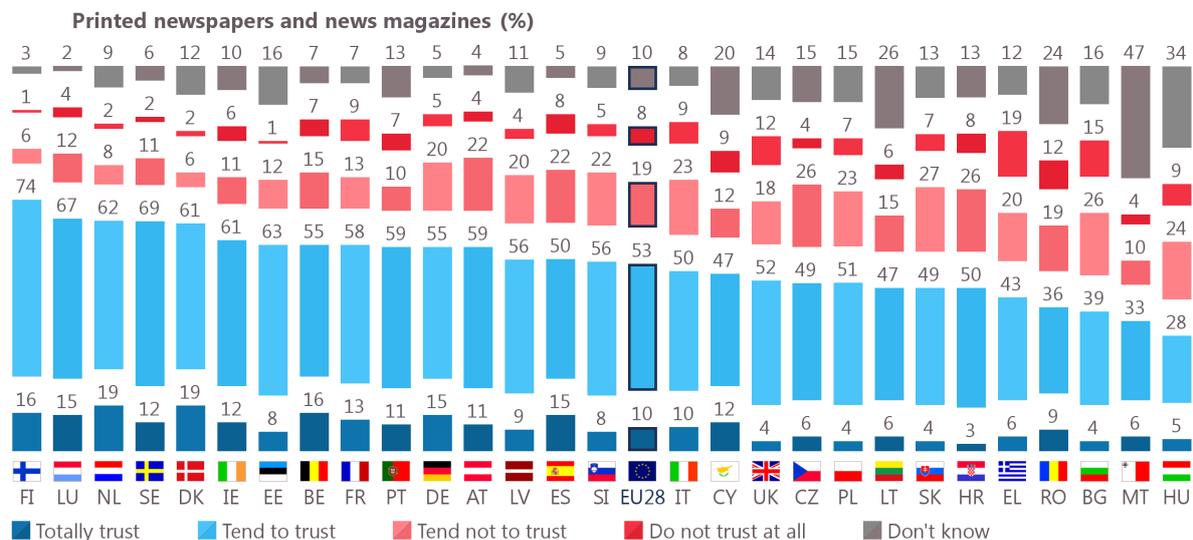
Base: All Respondents (N=26,576)

As with radio and television, trust in **printed newspapers and news magazines** is highest among respondents in Finland (90%), followed by those in Luxembourg (82%), the Netherlands, Sweden (both 81%) and Denmark (80%). By contrast, less than half of respondents trust printed newspapers and news magazines in Hungary (33%), Malta (39%), Bulgaria (43%), Romania (45%) and Greece (49%).

In Lithuania, Hungary and Malta a high proportion of respondents answered 'don't know' (26%, 34% and 47% respectively) suggesting that *printed newspapers and news magazines* is not a type of media popular in these countries.

Printed newspapers and news magazines, the so called written press, is the most trusted source of news and information in Italy, although in most countries it is the third most trusted source (behind radio and television).

Q1.1 How much do you trust or not the news and information you access through...

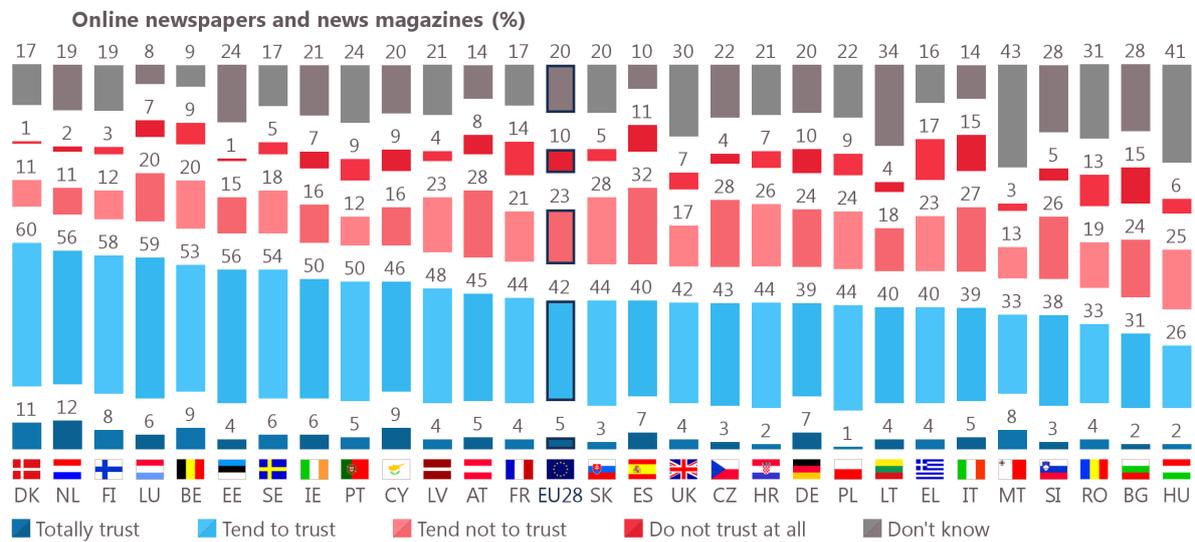


Base: All Respondents (N=26,576)

Respondents in Denmark (71%), the Netherlands (68%), Finland (66%), Luxembourg (65%) and Belgium (62%) are most likely to say that they trust **online newspapers and news magazines**, while the lowest proportions are found in Hungary (28%), Bulgaria (33%) and Romania (37%). In some countries, a large proportion do not know how much they trust these sources, particularly Malta (43%), Hungary (41%), Lithuania (34%) and the UK (30%).

In most countries, respondents are less likely to trust *online newspapers and news magazines* than to trust the three traditional sources (radio, television and printed media). The exceptions are Greece, where trust in *online newspapers and news magazines* is higher than trust in *television* (44% compared with 40%) and Malta, where trust in this source is slightly higher than trust in *printed newspapers and news magazines* (41% compared with 39%).

Q1.2 How much do you trust or not the news and information you access through...



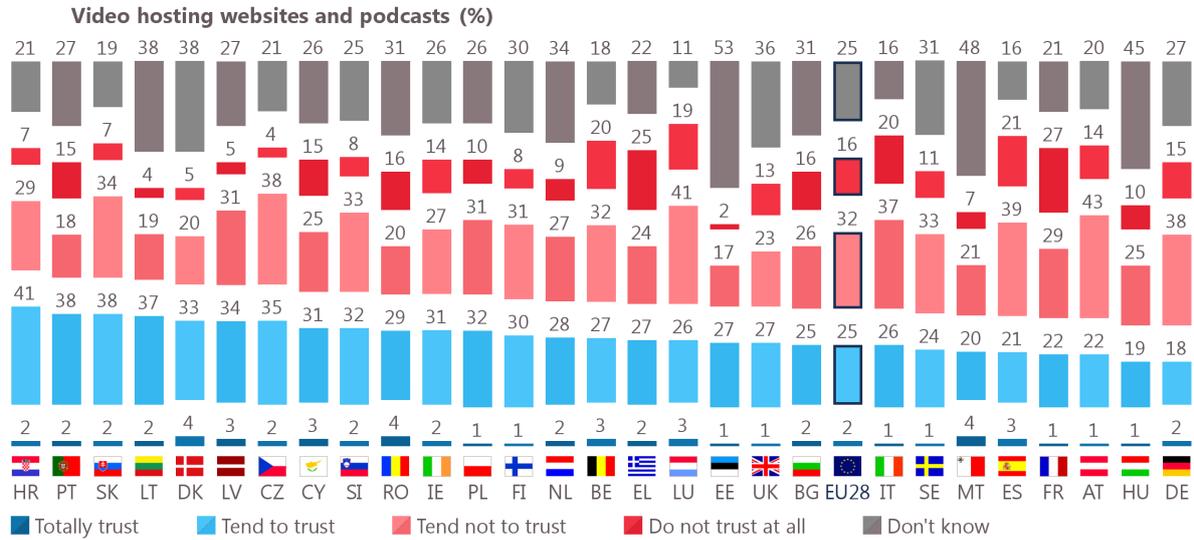
Base: All Respondents (N=26,576)

In every country, less than half of respondents say that they trust the news and information they access through **video hosting websites and podcasts**. The proportion ranges from 43% in Croatia to 20% in Germany and Hungary.

On the other side, at least a fifth of respondents answered 'don't know' to this question in 23 Member States, and in three of them more than four in ten respondents did so - Estonia (53%), Malta (48%) and Hungary (45%). This suggests that *video hosting websites and podcasts* is not a popular type of media in the EU in general.

Video hosting websites and podcasts is the least trusted source of news and information in 17 countries, and one of the two least trusted sources in the other Member States.

Q1.6 How much do you trust or not the news and information you access through...

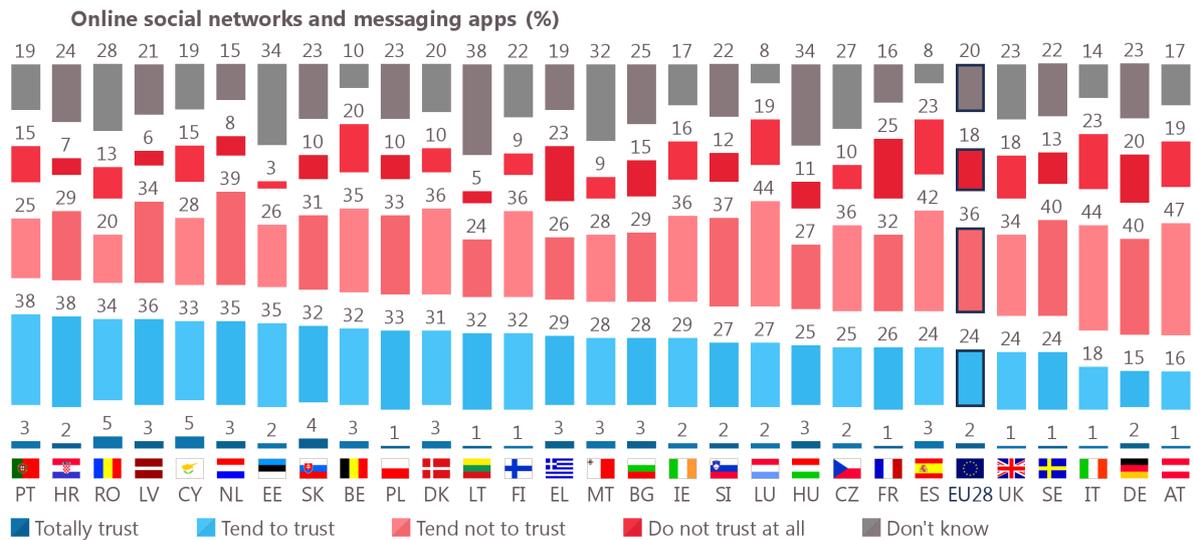


Base: All Respondents (N=26,576)

The level of trust in **online social networks and messaging apps** is generally similar as for video hosting websites and podcasts. Across the EU as a whole, 26% of respondents say they trust the news and information they access through online social networks and messaging apps, ranging from 41% in Portugal to 17% in Austria and Germany. On the other side, at least a third of respondents answered ‘don’t know’ to this question in Lithuania (38%), Estonia and Hungary (both 34%).

This is one of the two least trusted sources of news and information (along with video hosting websites and podcasts) in most of the countries. The exceptions are Romania, where this source has a slightly higher level of trust than online newspapers and news magazines (39% compared with 37%), and Hungary, where trust in these two sources is the same (28% in each case).

Q1.3 How much do you trust or not the news and information you access through...



Base: All Respondents (N=26,576)

The **socio-demographic analysis** shows that:

- Levels of trust in the various sources are similar for men and women, except that women are more likely than men to trust news and information on *television* (69% compared with 62%), while men are slightly more likely than women to trust *video hosting websites and podcasts* (30% compared with 25%).
- There are differences by age, with younger people more likely to trust online sources, specifically: *online newspapers and news magazines* (60% among those aged 15-24-year-old falling to 34% among those aged 55 or over) and *video hosting websites and podcasts* (46% among those aged 15-24-year-old, falling to 16% of those aged 55 or over). In both cases, the lower levels of trust among older people are partly due to a greater proportion of 'don't know' answers. There is less variation by age in relation to *online social networks and messaging apps*, with all age groups much more likely not to trust this source than to trust it. Older people are also less likely than younger people to trust *printed newspapers and news magazines* (57% of those aged 55+, rising to 73% of 15-24s) and *radio* (64% of those aged 55+, compared with 72%-75% in the other age groups). There is no significant difference by age in relation to trust in *television*.
- There is a tendency for more highly educated respondents to express greater levels of confidence in the various sources, and this applies in particular to *online newspapers and news magazines*: 56% of those who finished education at the age of 20 or above say they trust this source, compared with 41% of those who ended education at the age of 16-19, and 22% of those who left education by the age of 15. The difference is less pronounced for the other online sources.
- People working as employees have greater confidence in traditional media sources than those in other occupational groups. For example, 77% trust news and information they receive on *radio*, compared with 66%-69% in other groups. This also applies to *online newspapers and news magazines* (58% compared with 38%-53%), but not to the other online sources.
- Respondents who use online social networks express greater levels of trust in online sources. Among those who use online social networks every day or almost every day, 60% trust news and information from online newspapers and news magazines, while this falls to 29% among those who do so seldom or never. A similar pattern can be observed in relation to online social networks and messaging apps, and video hosting websites and podcasts; however, even among those who use online social networks every day or almost every day, only a minority say they trust these two sources (38% and 37% respectively).
- Respondents who use online social networks express also greater levels of trust in traditional sources of news and information such as radio, television and written press compared with those that use them only seldom or never, although in this case the differences in the levels of trust are less significant than those observed for the online sources.

Q1 How much do you trust or not the news and information you access through...
(% - UE28)

	Radio		Television		Printed newspapers and news magazines		Online newspapers and news magazines		Video hosting websites and podcasts		Online social networks and messaging apps	
	Total 'Trust'	Don't know	Total 'Trust'	Don't know	Total 'Trust'	Don't know	Total 'Trust'	Don't know	Total 'Trust'	Don't know	Total 'Trust'	Don't know
UE28	70	10	66	5	63	10	47	20	27	25	26	20
Sex												
Male	69	9	62	5	62	10	48	17	30	21	27	18
Female	71	11	69	5	64	11	46	23	25	29	26	21
Age												
15-24	72	7	67	3	73	6	60	6	46	5	36	3
25-39	74	7	64	6	67	9	59	8	35	11	31	6
40-54	75	7	69	4	65	10	52	16	26	22	29	14
55 +	64	15	65	5	57	12	34	34	16	43	19	36
Education (End of)												
15-	55	18	57	5	45	17	22	39	14	44	18	39
16-19	68	10	67	4	60	11	41	23	26	27	27	21
20+	75	8	67	5	68	9	56	15	29	22	27	16
Still studying	76	7	70	2	79	4	65	4	47	4	36	3
Respondent occupation scale												
Self-employed	69	7	58	6	62	9	53	13	29	19	28	14
Employee	77	7	70	4	69	8	58	12	31	17	29	10
Manual workers	68	9	63	8	59	12	44	19	31	21	31	16
Not working	66	13	65	5	60	11	38	28	23	33	24	28
Frequency of Online Social Media use												
Every day or almost everyday	75	8	69	4	68	9	60	8	37	12	38	3
At least once a week	71	8	66	4	64	8	52	11	28	17	30	6
Several times a month	68	8	64	4	61	6	42	17	25	22	27	7
Seldom or never	64	13	62	6	58	12	29	37	13	44	9	46

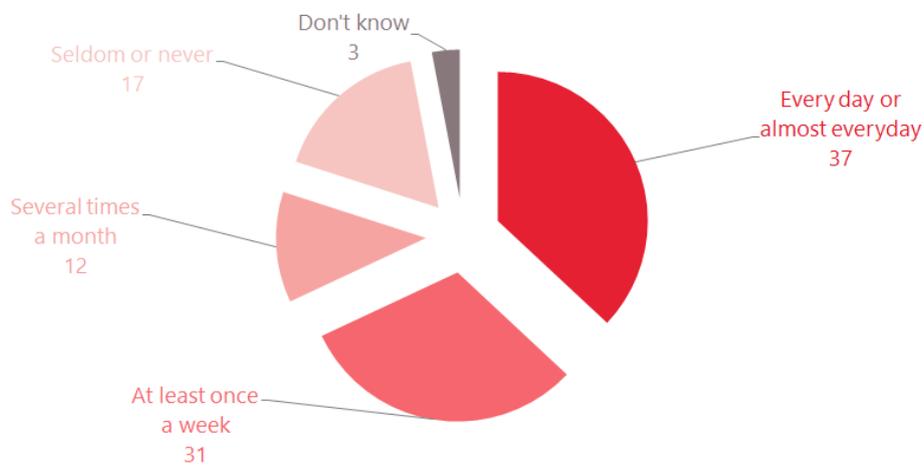
Base: All Respondents (N=26,576)

2. Perceived exposure to *Fake News*

The majority of Europeans say that they encounter *fake news* at least once a week

When asked how often they come across *fake news* – defined as news or information that they believe misrepresent reality or is even false, more than a third of respondents (37%) say that this happens every day or almost every day, while a further 31% say it happens at least once a week. Around one in eight respondents (12%) say that they come across *fake news* several times a month, while one in six (17%) say that this seldom or never happens⁷.

Q2 How often do you come across news or information that you believe misrepresent reality or is even false?
(% - EU)

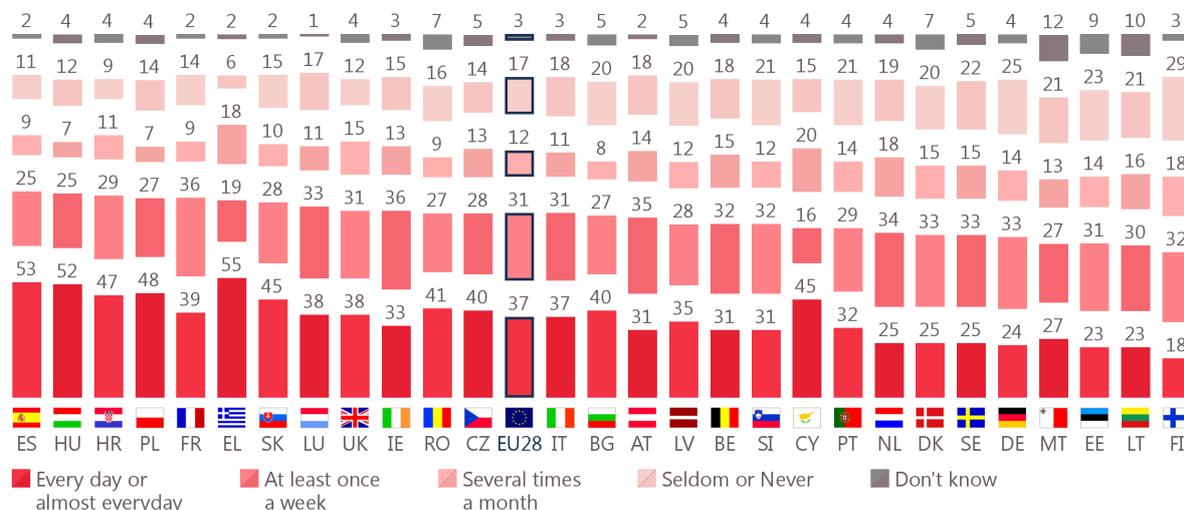


Base: All Respondents (N=26,576)

In every country, at least half of respondents say that they encounter *fake news* at least once a week. The highest proportions can be seen in Spain (78%), Hungary (77%), Croatia (76%), Poland, France (both 75%), Greece (74%) and Slovakia (73%). In Greece and Spain, more than half of respondents say that they come across *fake news* every day or almost every day (55% and 53% respectively). On the other side, respondents in Finland (50%), Lithuania (53%), Estonia and Malta (both 54%) are the least likely to say that they come across *fake news* at least once a week.

⁷ Q2. How often do you come across news or information that you believe misrepresent reality or is even false?

Q2 How often do you come across news or information that you believe misrepresent reality or is even false? (%)



Base: All Respondents (N=26,576)

The **socio-demographic analysis** shows that:

- Men say they encounter *fake news* more frequently than women: 73% of men say they have come across *fake news* at least once a week, compared with 64% of women.
- Younger respondents are more likely to say they come across *fake news* at least once a week: 77% of 15-24 year olds, falling to 61% of those aged 55 or over.
- Respondents who left education later (aged 20 or above) are more likely to say they encounter *fake news* at least once a week (70% versus 55% among those who left education by the age of 15).
- Frequent experience of *fake news* is more prevalent among self-employed (75% say they encounter *fake news* at least once a week) and employees (71%) than among manual workers (65%) and among those who are not working (64%).
- Those who use online social networks every day or almost every day are more likely to say they encounter *fake news* (75% versus 57% of those who seldom or never use online social networks).

Q2 How often do you come across news or information that you believe misrepresent reality or is even false?

(% - UE28)

	Every day or almost everyday	At least once a week	Several times a month	Seldom or Never	Don't know	Total 'At least once a week'
UE28	37	31	12	17	3	68
Sex						
Male	42	31	10	15	2	73
Female	33	31	13	18	5	64
Age						
15-24	39	38	10	13	0	77
25-39	41	33	13	12	1	74
40-54	37	31	12	17	3	68
55 +	34	27	12	21	6	61
Education (End of)						
15-	31	24	12	25	8	55
16-19	36	30	12	18	4	66
20+	40	30	13	15	2	70
Still studying	33	43	10	13	1	76
Respondent occupation scale						
Self-employed	46	29	11	12	2	75
Employee	38	33	14	13	2	71
Manual workers	32	33	9	23	3	65
Not working	35	29	12	19	5	64
Frequency of Online Social Media use						
Every day or almost everyday	43	32	11	12	2	75
At least once a week	32	38	12	16	2	70
Several times a month	31	28	23	15	3	59
Seldom or never	31	26	13	24	6	57

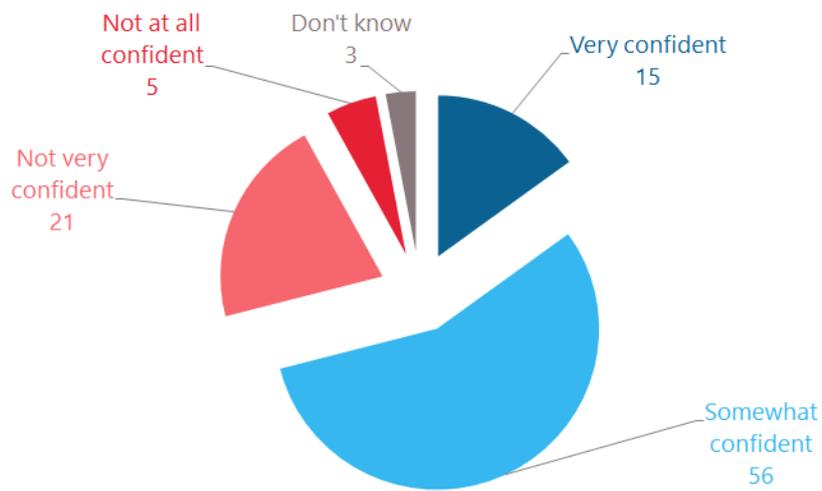
Base: All Respondents (N=26,576)

3. Perceived ability to recognize *Fake News*

Most respondents are confident that they can identify *fake news*

More than two-thirds of Europeans (71%) are at least 'somewhat confident' that they are able to identify news or information that misrepresent reality or is false (*fake news*). However, only 15% say they are very confident. In addition, 21% say they are not very confident and 5% not at all confident⁸.

Q3 How confident or not are you that you are able to identify news or information that misrepresent reality or is even false?
(% - EU)



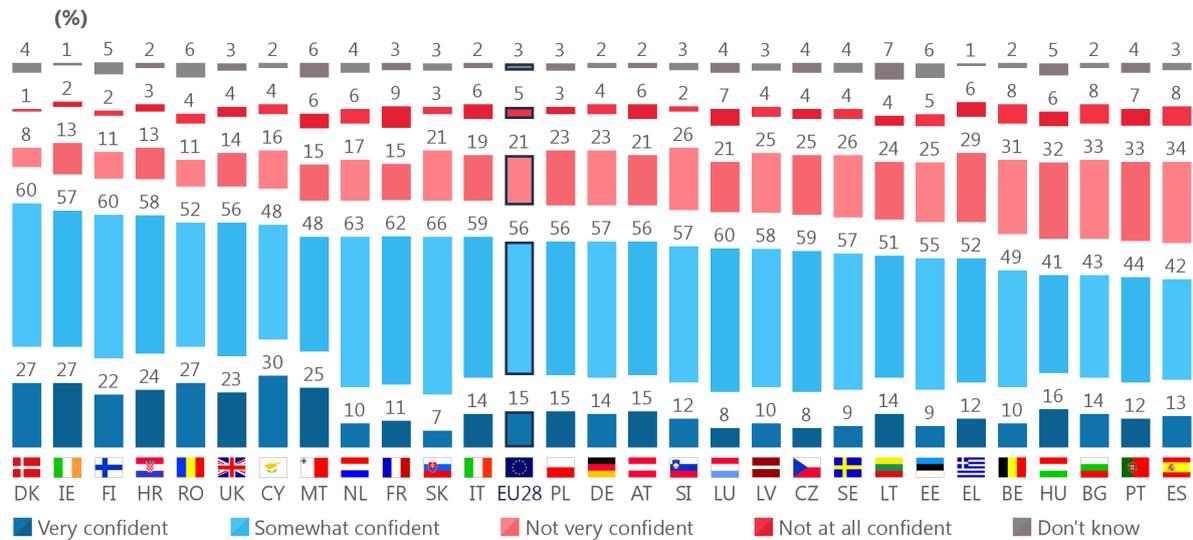
Base: All Respondents (N=26,576)

⁸ Q3. How confident or not are you that you are able to identify news or information that misrepresent reality or is even false?

In every country, more than half of respondents are at least somewhat confident that they can identify *fake news*. This applies to more than three-quarters of respondents in seven countries: Denmark (87%), Ireland (84%), Finland, Croatia (both 82%), Romania, the UK (both 79%) and Cyprus (78%).

Respondents are least confident about being able to identify *fake news* in Spain (55% are at least somewhat confident), Portugal (56%), Bulgaria, Hungary (both 57%) and Belgium (59%).

Q3 How confident or not are you that you are able to identify news or information that misrepresent reality or is even false?



Base: All Respondents (N=26,576)

The **socio-demographic analysis** highlights the following:

- Men are more confident than women that they are able to identify *fake news*: 74% and 67% respectively are very or somewhat confident.
- Older respondents are less confident in their ability to identify *fake news*: 63% of those aged 55 or over are confident, compared with 72%-78% in the other age groups.
- Respondents who left education aged 20 or above are significantly more confident that they are able to identify *fake news*: 76% compared with 53% among those who left education at the age of 15.
- Confidence in identifying *fake news* is slightly greater among employees (76%) and self-employed respondents (75%) than among manual workers (70%) and those who are not working (66%).
- Those who use online social networks regularly tend to be more confident: 76% compared with 63% among those who use social networks seldom or never.
- Respondents who come across *fake news* more frequently are more confident in identifying it: 79% of those who come across *fake news* every day or almost every day are confident, compared with 55% of those who seldom or never come across *fake news*.

Q3 How confident or not are you that you are able to identify news or information that misrepresent reality or is even false?
(% - UE28)

	Very confident	Somewhat confident	Not very confident	Not at all confident	Don't know	Total 'Confident'
UE28	15	56	21	5	3	71
Sex						
Male	18	56	19	5	2	74
Female	12	55	24	6	3	67
Age						
15-24	16	61	18	4	1	77
25-39	17	61	18	3	1	78
40-54	15	57	21	5	2	72
55 +	14	49	25	7	5	63
Education (End of)						
15-	13	40	29	12	6	53
16-19	14	54	23	6	3	68
20+	17	59	19	3	2	76
Still studying	15	64	17	3	1	79
Respondent occupation scale						
Self-employed	22	53	18	5	2	75
Employee	16	60	20	3	1	76
Manual workers	14	56	21	7	2	70
Not working	14	52	23	7	4	66
Frequency of Online Social Media use						
Every day or almost everyday	17	59	20	3	1	76
At least once a week	13	59	20	6	2	72
Several times a month	16	51	26	4	3	67
Seldom or never	13	50	23	9	5	63
Exposure to Fake News						
Every day or almost everyday	23	56	16	4	1	79
At least once a week	11	63	21	4	1	74
Several times a month	11	57	26	4	2	68
Seldom or never	11	44	30	11	4	55

Base: All Respondents (N=26,576)

II. IMPACT OF FAKE NEWS AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR ADDRESSING THE PROBLEM

This section looks at the impact of *fake news* and the responsibility for addressing the problem. Firstly, it examines the extent to which *fake news* is perceived as a problem for countries and for democracy in general. It then focuses on the institutions and media actors that should act to stop the spread of *fake news*.

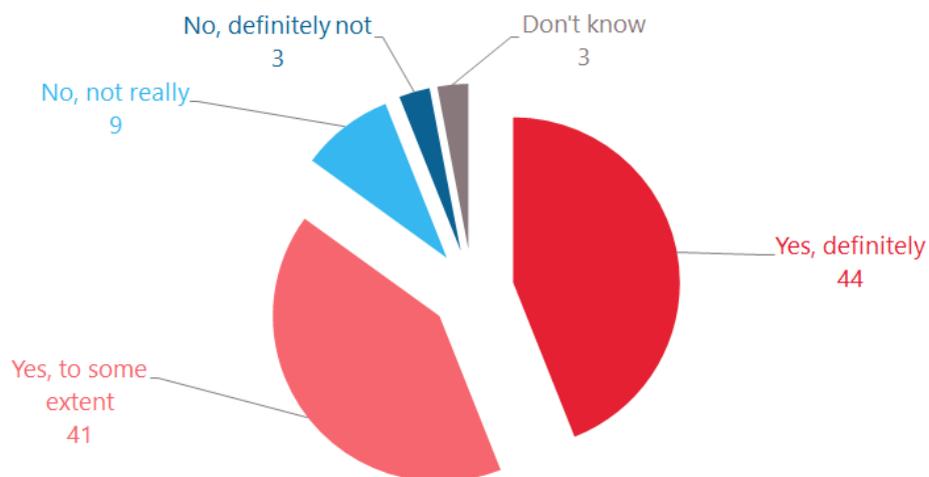
1. Perceived impact of *Fake News*

The vast majority of Europeans see *fake news* as a problem in their country and for democracy in general

A large majority of respondents think that the existence of *fake news* is a problem in their country, at least to some extent (85%). This includes 44% who think it is 'definitely' a problem and 41% who see it as a problem 'to some extent'. A minority of respondents do not see *fake news* as a problem in their country – either 'not really' (9%) or 'definitely not' (3%)⁹.

Q4.1 In your opinion, is the existence of news or information that misrepresent reality or is even false a problem ...

In (OUR COUNTRY) (% - EU)



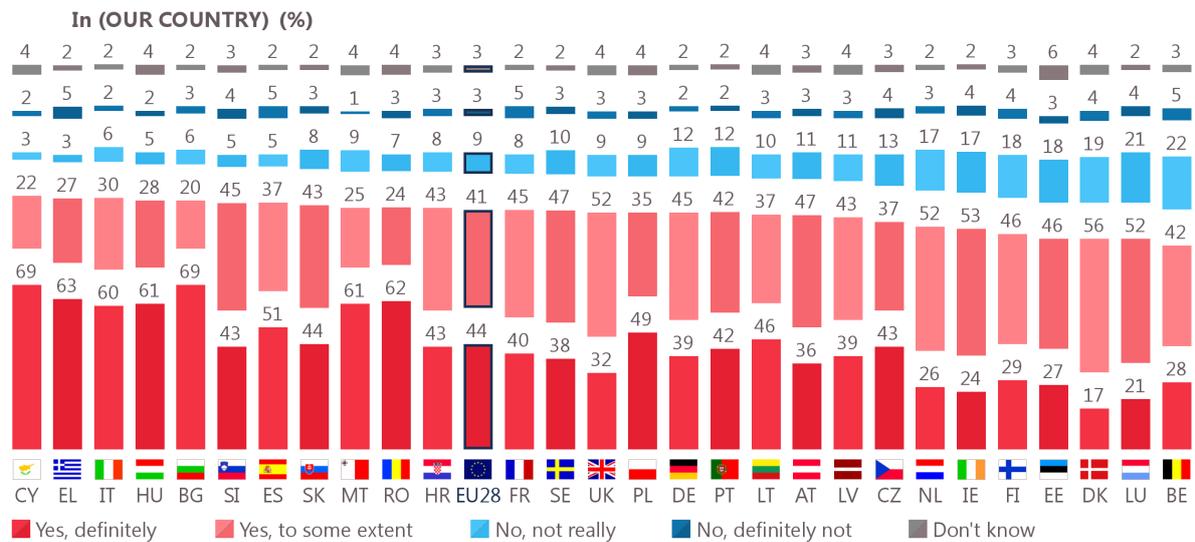
Base: All Respondents (N=26,576)

⁹ Q4.1. In your opinion, is the existence of news or information that misrepresent reality or is even false a problem in (OUR COUNTRY)?

There is widespread agreement among respondents that the existence of *fake news* is a problem for their countries. In every country, at least seven in ten respondents say that it is a problem, either 'definitely' or 'to some extent'. The proportion is highest in Cyprus (91%), Greece and Italy (both 90%), while respondents are least likely to see it as a problem in Belgium (70%), Luxembourg, Denmark and Estonia (all 73%).

In eight countries, more than half of respondents say that it is **definitely a problem** while no more than 5% of respondents in any country say that *fake news* is **definitely not a problem**. However, only 17% of respondents in Denmark think *fake news* is definitely a problem for their country.

Q4.1 In your opinion, is the existence of news or information that misrepresent reality or is even false a problem ...



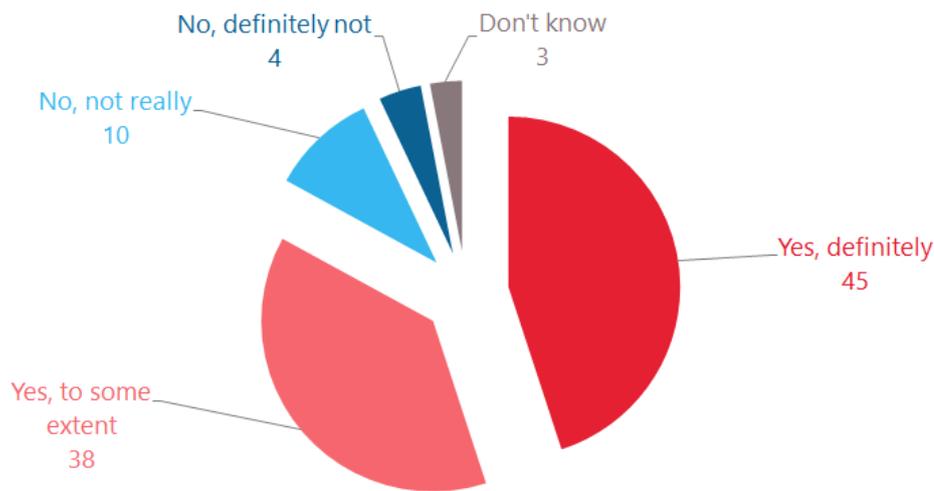
Base: All Respondents (N=26,576)

When asked about the impact on *fake news* on democracy in general, 45% of respondents say that it is definitely a problem, while 38% see it as a problem 'to some extent'. Only a small minority of respondents do not see *fake news* as a problem for democracy in general – either 'not really' (10%) or 'definitely not' (4%)¹⁰.

These findings are very similar to those seen above in relation to the impact on individual countries.

Q4.2 In your opinion, is the existence of news or information that misrepresent reality or is even false a problem ...

For democracy in general (% - EU)



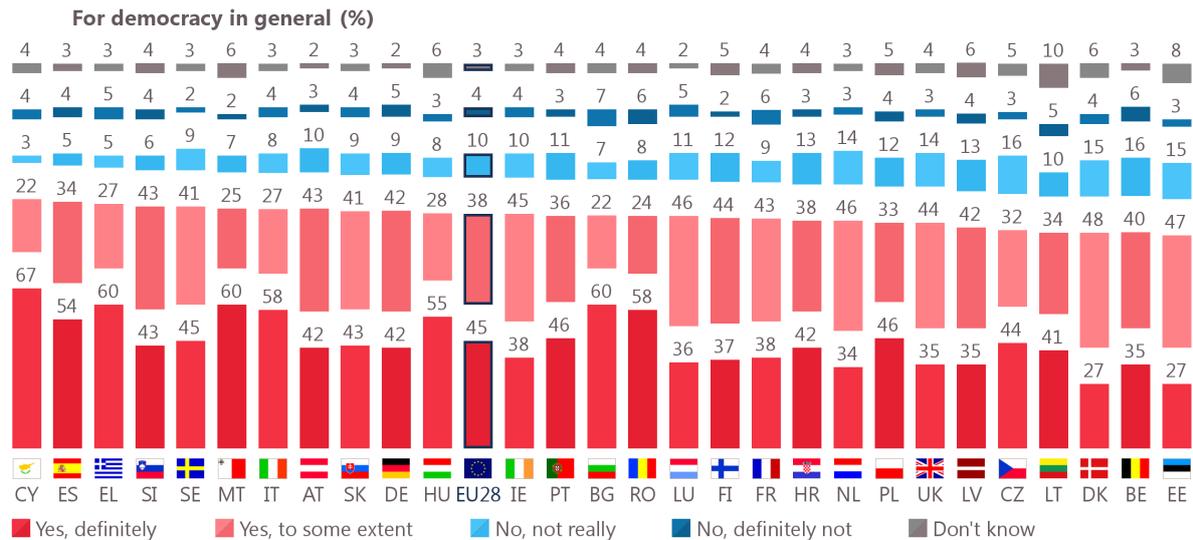
Base: All Respondents (N=26,576)

¹⁰ Q4.2. In your opinion, is the existence of news or information that misrepresent reality or is even false a problem for democracy in general?

Views on the impact of *fake news* on democracy in general are consistent across Member States. The proportion that thinks it is a problem (at least to some extent) ranges from 89% in Cyprus to 74% in Estonia.

There is more variation when looking at the proportion that think it is ‘definitely’ a problem. More than half of respondents say this in eight Member States: Cyprus (67%), Greece, Malta, Bulgaria (all 60%), Italy, Romania (both 58%), Hungary (55%) and Spain (54%). However, only 27% of respondents in Denmark and Estonia think it is definitely a problem for democracy in general.

Q4.2 In your opinion, is the existence of news or information that misrepresent reality or is even false a problem ...



Base: All Respondents (N=26,576)

The **socio-demographic analysis** shows that:

- More highly educated respondents tend to see the existence of *fake news* as more of a problem, both in their country and for democracy in general. Among those who finished education at the age of 20 or above, 87% say that *fake news* is a problem in their country, and the same proportion (87%) say this in relation to democracy in general. The proportions are lower among those who left education by the age of 15 (77% and 74% respectively).
- Respondents in the middle age bands are most likely to see the existence of *fake news* as a problem for democracy in general (84% of 25-39 year olds and 86% of 40-54 year olds), but there is less variation by age group in relation to the problem at country level.
- Findings are similar for men and women on both questions.
- The existence of *fake news* is more likely to be seen as a problem by employees and self-employed respondents than by manual workers and those who are not working. This applies to the problem in individual countries and for democracy in general.
- If respondents have encountered *fake news* more frequently, they are more likely to see it as a problem. Among those who have come across *fake news* every day or almost every day, 90% see it as a problem in their country and 88% for democracy in general. The proportions are lower among respondents who seldom or never encounter *fake news* (71% and 72% respectively).

Q4.1 In your opinion, is the existence of news or information that misrepresent reality or is even false a problem ...

In (OUR COUNTRY) (% - UE28)

	Yes, definitely	Yes, to some extent	No, not really	No, definitely not	Don't know	Total 'Yes'
UE28	44	41	9	3	3	85
 Sex						
Male	46	38	10	4	2	84
Female	42	43	9	3	3	85
 Age						
15-24	45	40	11	2	2	85
25-39	48	40	9	2	1	88
40-54	45	41	9	3	2	86
55 +	41	41	10	4	4	82
 Education (End of)						
15-	39	38	10	7	6	77
16-19	42	42	10	3	3	84
20+	46	41	8	3	2	87
Still studying	45	40	11	2	2	85
 Respondent occupation scale						
Self-employed	51	37	8	3	1	88
Employee	45	42	9	3	1	87
Manual workers	44	38	11	4	3	82
Not working	42	40	10	4	4	82
Exposure to Fake News						
Every day or almost every day	58	32	6	3	1	90
At least once a week	40	47	9	3	1	87
Several times a month	35	50	10	3	2	85
Seldom or never	29	42	18	7	4	71

Base: All Respondents (N=26,576)

Q4.2 In your opinion, is the existence of news or information that misrepresent reality or is even false a problem ...

For democracy in general (% - UE28)

	Yes, definitely	Yes, to some extent	No, not really	No, definitely not	Don't know	Total 'Yes'
UE28	45	38	10	4	3	83
Sex						
Male	46	36	11	5	2	82
Female	44	39	9	4	4	83
Age						
15-24	39	40	15	4	2	79
25-39	45	39	10	4	2	84
40-54	48	38	8	4	2	86
55 +	45	36	9	5	5	81
Education (End of)						
15-	39	35	10	8	8	74
16-19	42	40	11	4	3	82
20+	50	37	8	3	2	87
Still studying	39	39	16	4	2	78
Respondent occupation scale						
Self-employed	54	32	8	3	3	86
Employee	46	40	9	3	2	86
Manual workers	42	35	11	7	5	77
Not working	43	37	11	4	5	80
Exposure to Fake News						
Every day or almost everyday	57	31	7	3	2	88
At least once a week	41	43	11	3	2	84
Several times a month	37	46	10	4	3	83
Seldom or never	34	38	15	8	5	72

Base: All Respondents (N=26,576)

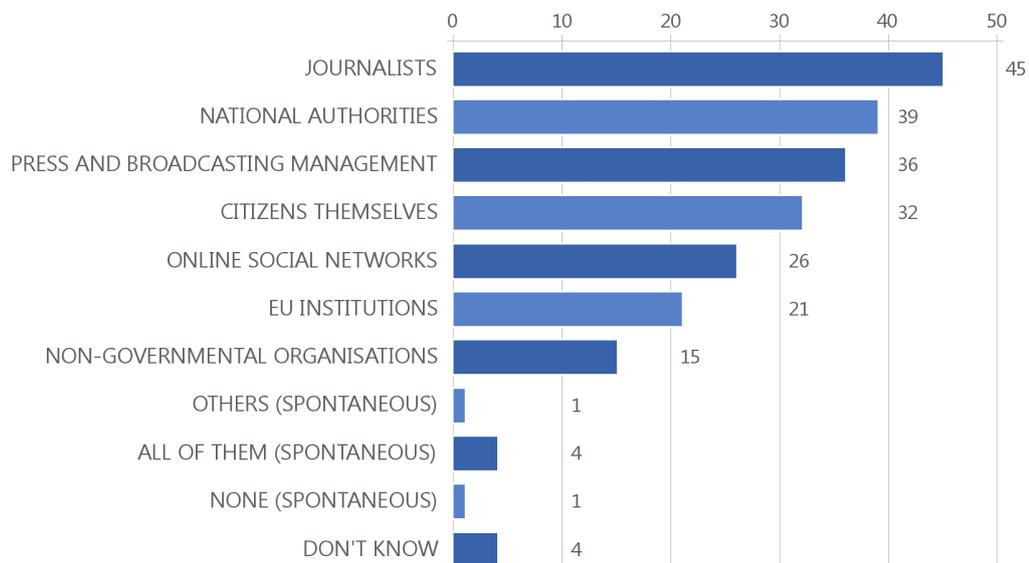
2. Responsibility for stopping the spread of *Fake News*

Various institutions and media actors are seen as having a responsibility to stop the spread of *fake news*

Respondents were asked which institutions and media actors should act to stop the spread of *fake news*. A list of seven options was read out to respondents, and they were asked to choose a maximum of three¹¹.

Respondents are most likely to say that *journalists* should act to stop the spread of *fake news* (45%), while 36% say that *press and broadcasting management* have this responsibility. *National authorities* (39%) are mentioned more frequently than *EU institutions* (21%) or *non-governmental organisations* (15%). A third (32%) think that *citizens themselves* should act to stop the spread of *fake news*, while a quarter (26%) think that *online social networks* should have this responsibility.

Q5 News or information that misrepresent reality or that are even false are called "fake news". Which of the following institutions and media actors should act to stop the spread of "fake news"? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)
(% - EU)



Base: All Respondents (N=26,576)

When asked which institutions and media actors should act to stop the spread of *fake news*, **journalists** are the top answer in 22 countries, with the highest proportions seen in France (56%) and the Netherlands (55%), and the lowest in Hungary (23%) and Italy (33%).

In four countries, the top answer is **national authorities**: Bulgaria, Italy, Hungary and Latvia. The highest proportions giving this answer are in the Netherlands (54%) and Spain (51%), while respondents in Denmark (28%), Croatia and the UK (both 29%) are least likely to say this.

Press and broadcasting management is the top answer in three countries: Sweden, the UK and the Czech Republic (where this is the joint top answer, along with journalists). The highest proportions giving this answer are in Sweden (52%) and Denmark (48%), while the lowest proportions are seen in Poland (20%) and Lithuania (24%).

¹¹ Q5. News or information that misrepresent reality or that are even false are called "fake news". Which of the following institutions and media actors should act to stop the spread of "fake news"? (MAXIMUM 3 ANSWERS)

Respondents in France, Austria and Portugal (all 38%) are most likely to say that **citizens themselves** should act to stop the spread of *fake news*, while those in Bulgaria (23%), Belgium, Italy and Finland (25%) are the least likely to choose this response.

Online social networks are most frequently seen as the responsible for stopping the spread of *fake news* in Ireland, the UK (both 38%) and France (37%), while the lowest proportions are seen in Lithuania (10%) and Greece (13%).

Respondents are most likely to say that **EU institutions** have this responsibility in Spain (33%), Austria (32%) and Luxembourg (31%). Those in Lithuania (10%), Bulgaria and Romania (both 11%) are the least likely to say this.

Non-governmental organisations are chosen most frequently by respondents in Austria and Poland (both 22%), with the lowest proportion seen in Italy (6%).

Finally, respondents in Cyprus are most likely to say (without prompting) that **all of the institutions** and media actors should act to stop the spread of *fake news* (13%).

Q5 News or information that misrepresent reality or that are even false are called “fake news”. Which of the following institutions and media actors should act to stop the spread of “fake news”? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)
(%)

		Journalists	National authorities	Press and broadcasting management	Citizens themselves	Online social networks	EU institutions	Non-governmental organisations	Others (SPONTANEOUS)	All of them (SPONTANEOUS)	None (SPONTANEOUS)	Don't know
EU28		45	39	36	32	26	21	15	1	4	1	4
BE		44	37	35	25	24	27	<i>10</i>	1	7	2	3
BG		40	46	40	23	15	11	<i>8</i>	1	8	2	5
CZ		45	41	45	32	24	19	<i>15</i>	2	2	4	3
DK		52	28	48	34	25	15	<i>8</i>	1	3	2	8
DE		41	36	34	35	26	24	<i>18</i>	1	4	2	6
EE		49	33	43	28	14	13	<i>11</i>	1	6	3	8
IE		47	32	35	32	<i>38</i>	28	<i>19</i>	1	4	1	5
EL		41	34	30	36	13	25	<i>7</i>	2	3	2	4
ES		52	51	40	36	25	<i>33</i>	<i>11</i>	2	2	1	2
FR		56	35	38	<i>38</i>	37	<i>21</i>	<i>21</i>	2	4	1	3
HR		44	29	37	32	16	<i>13</i>	20	1	5	1	4
IT		33	46	33	25	17	24	<i>6</i>	1	4	1	2
CY		38	31	28	31	14	21	<i>9</i>	1	13	2	4
LV		37	43	28	28	19	13	<i>8</i>	1	7	1	5
LT		37	31	24	31	10	10	<i>7</i>	1	4	3	7
LU		37	34	34	26	23	31	<i>13</i>	1	5	2	4
HU		23	34	33	27	14	13	<i>11</i>	1	6	3	9
MT		41	36	35	26	14	15	<i>9</i>	2	3	2	9
NL		55	<i>54</i>	37	35	25	24	<i>11</i>	0	2	1	3
AT		42	40	27	<i>38</i>	27	32	<i>22</i>	1	3	2	4
PL		49	40	20	34	<i>18</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>22</i>	1	4	1	5
PT		48	45	29	<i>38</i>	20	22	<i>15</i>	0	3	1	6
RO		41	31	34	27	20	<i>11</i>	12	2	7	1	8
SI		51	32	44	32	16	<i>13</i>	14	2	5	1	3
SK		41	32	26	30	14	20	<i>14</i>	1	3	1	7
FI		48	37	44	25	17	16	<i>7</i>	1	2	2	5
SE		46	43	52	30	22	22	<i>8</i>	1	4	0	5
UK		45	29	46	30	<i>38</i>	13	20	1	6	2	4

Highest percentage per country *Lowest percentage per country*
 Highest percentage per item Lowest percentage per item

Base: All Respondents (N=26,576)

Findings are generally consistent across the various **socio-demographic groups**. The main differences are as follows:

- Younger respondents are more likely than older respondents to say that online social networks should act to stop the spread of *fake news* (39% of 15-24 year olds, falling to 18% among those aged 55 or over). They are also more likely to say that citizens themselves should be responsible (39% of 15-24s compared with 29% of those aged 55+).
- There is a general tendency for more highly educated respondents to mention the various answers. The difference is most pronounced in relation to the press: among those who finished education at the age of 20 or above, 47% say that journalists should be responsible, and 39% say press and broadcasting management should be responsible. The proportions are lower among those who left education at the age of 15 or below (38% and 28% respectively).
- Frequent users of online social networks are more likely to say that these networks should be responsible for stopping the spread of *fake news*. Among those who use online social networks daily or almost every day, 31% say that these networks should act to stop the spread of *fake news*, compared with 18% of those who use them seldom or never.
- There are no clear differences in relation to people's exposure to *fake news*: those who say they encounter *fake news* daily or almost every day are no more likely than other respondents to choose any of the various options.

Q5 News or information that misrepresent reality or that are even false are called “fake news”. Which of the following institutions and media actors should act to stop the spread of “fake news”? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)
(% - UE28)

	Journalists	National authorities	Press and broadcasting management	Citizens themselves	Online social networks	EU institutions	Non-governmental organisations	Others (SPONTANEOUS)	All of them (SPONTANEOUS)	None (SPONTANEOUS)	Don't know
UE28	45	39	36	32	26	21	15	1	4	1	4
Sex											
Male	44	40	34	32	24	23	17	1	4	2	3
Female	45	38	38	32	27	20	13	1	5	1	5
Age											
15-24	48	35	37	39	39	19	17	0	5	1	1
25-39	48	37	40	34	31	22	16	1	4	1	2
40-54	45	41	38	33	25	22	14	1	4	1	3
55 +	42	39	32	29	18	21	14	2	4	2	7
Education (End of)											
15-	38	34	28	27	20	18	10	2	4	3	9
16-19	44	39	36	30	28	20	16	1	4	1	5
20+	47	40	39	34	24	24	15	1	4	1	3
Still studying	46	38	36	41	38	19	17	0	5	1	1
Respondent occupation scale											
Self-employed	46	34	34	35	24	21	17	1	4	2	3
Employee	48	41	41	34	30	23	16	1	5	1	2
Manual workers	40	34	35	32	26	18	14	2	4	1	5
Not working	43	39	33	30	23	21	14	1	4	2	6
Frequency of Online Social Media use											
Every day or almost everyday	47	39	39	34	31	22	15	1	4	1	2
At least once a week	45	39	36	36	27	25	16	1	4	1	3
Several times a month	47	36	39	29	26	18	17	1	6	3	4
Seldom or never	42	37	32	30	18	20	15	2	4	2	8
Exposure to Fake News											
Every day or almost everyday	46	40	36	35	24	22	16	1	5	1	2
At least once a week	46	40	40	34	29	22	16	1	4	1	3
Several times a month	46	38	40	32	26	20	14	1	5	1	4
Seldom or never	42	36	30	27	25	21	13	2	3	2	8

Base: All Respondents (N=26,576)

CONCLUSION

This Flash Eurobarometer explores EU citizens' awareness of and attitudes towards the existence of *fake news* and disinformation online. It follows a Special Eurobarometer survey published in November 2016¹², which examined public trust in, and attitudes towards, the independence of the media. In that survey, only a minority of respondents thought that their national media provide information free from political or commercial pressure, while respondents were divided on whether their national media provide trustworthy information.

The current survey also indicates a degree of mistrust of the media. Only a small minority of respondents 'totally trust' any media sources, although most people at least 'tend to trust' traditional media sources such as radio, television and printed newspapers and news magazines. Trust is lower in relation to online sources, including online newspapers and news magazines.

When asked directly about *fake news*, two-thirds of respondents say they encounter them at least once a week, and most respondents see it as a problem –both in their own country and for democracy in general. Although people have a reasonable level of confidence in their ability to identify *fake news*, only 15% feel 'very confident' in doing so.

This confirms that the existence of *fake news* is acknowledged as a genuine, serious issue by the public. The level of concern is widespread across different Member States and between different socio-demographic groups.

There is no clear consensus on who should act to stop the spread of *fake news*. Many respondents think that the press have an important role: both journalists themselves, and press and broadcasting management. Respondents also think that national authorities, online social networks and citizens themselves have a responsibility. This suggests that, at least in the view of the public, co-ordinated efforts are required from a range of different institutions and media actors.

¹² Special Eurobarometer 452: *Media pluralism and democracy*

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Between the 7th and 9th February 2018, TNS Political & Social, a consortium created between TNS political & social, Kantar UK and Kantar Belgium, carried out the FLASH EUROBAROMETER 464 survey on request of the European Commission, Directorate-General for Communications Networks. It is a general public survey coordinated by the Directorate-General for Communication, "Media Monitoring, Media Analysis and Eurobarometer".

The FLASH EUROBAROMETER 464 survey covers the population of the respective nationalities of the European Union Member States, resident in each of the 28 Member States and aged 15 years and over.

All interviews were carried using the TNS e-Call centre (our centralised CATI system). In every country, the respondents were called both on fixed lines and mobile phones. The basic sample design applied in all states is multi-stage random (probability). In each household, the respondent was drawn at random following the "last birthday rule".

TNS has developed its own RDD sample generation capabilities based on using contact telephone numbers from responders to random probability or random location face-to-face surveys, such as Eurobarometer, as seed numbers. The approach works because the seed number identifies a working block of telephone numbers and reduces the volume of numbers generated that will be ineffective. The seed numbers are stratified by NUTS2 region and urbanisation to approximate a geographically representative sample. From each seed number the required sample of numbers are generated by randomly replacing the last two digits. The sample is then screened against business databases in order to exclude as many of these numbers as possible before going into field. This approach is consistent across all countries.

	COUNTRIES	INSTITUTES	N° INTERVIEWS	DATES FIELDWORK		POPULATION 15+	PROPORTION EU28
BE	Belgium	Kantar TNS	1,001	7/02/2018	8/02/2018	9,430,478	2.18%
BG	Bulgaria	Kantar TNS BBSS	1,001	7/02/2018	8/02/2018	6,108,289	1.41%
CZ	Czech Rep.	Kantar TNS	1,000	7/02/2018	8/02/2018	8,930,036	2.07%
DK	Denmark	Kantar Gallup A/S	1,002	7/02/2018	8/02/2018	4,793,807	1.11%
DE	Germany	Kantar	1,000	7/02/2018	8/02/2018	71,834,280	16.62%
EE	Estonia	Kantar Emor	1,000	7/02/2018	8/02/2018	1,102,407	0.26%
IE	Ireland	Behaviour & Attitudes	1,002	7/02/2018	8/02/2018	3,666,259	0.85%
EL	Greece	Kantar TNS	1,001	7/02/2018	8/02/2018	9,190,023	2.13%
ES	Spain	Kantar TNS	1,004	7/02/2018	8/02/2018	39,460,860	9.13%
FR	France	Kantar TNS	1,004	7/02/2018	8/02/2018	54,651,908	12.64%
HR	Croatia	HENDAL	1,005	7/02/2018	8/02/2018	3,548,976	0.82%
IT	Italy	Kantar TNS	1,000	7/02/2018	8/02/2018	52,545,031	12.16%
CY	Rep. Of Cyprus	CYMAR	500	7/02/2018	8/02/2018	717,310	0.17%
LV	Latvia	Kantar TNS	1,001	7/02/2018	8/02/2018	1,650,098	0.38%
LT	Lithuania	Kantar TNS	1,002	7/02/2018	8/02/2018	2,428,325	0.56%
LU	Luxembourg	Kantar TNS	505	7/02/2018	8/02/2018	493,032	0.11%
HU	Hungary	Kantar Hoffmann	1,002	7/02/2018	8/02/2018	8,395,200	1.94%
MT	Malta	MISCO	520	7/02/2018	8/02/2018	376,304	0.09%
NL	Netherlands	Kantar Public	1,007	7/02/2018	8/02/2018	14,312,179	3.31%
AT	Austria	Kantar	1,000	7/02/2018	8/02/2018	7,516,038	1.74%
PL	Poland	Kantar TNS	1,000	7/02/2018	8/02/2018	32,246,194	7.46%
PT	Portugal	Marktest Limitada	1,000	7/02/2018	8/02/2018	8,877,432	2.05%
RO	Romania	Kantar TNS	1,000	7/02/2018	8/02/2018	16,608,007	3.84%
SI	Slovenia	Mediana DOO	1,002	7/02/2018	9/02/2018	1,756,267	0.41%
SK	Slovakia	Kantar TNS	1,001	7/02/2018	8/02/2018	4,599,960	1.06%
FI	Finland	Kantar TNS Oy	1,001	7/02/2018	8/02/2018	4,608,516	1.07%
SE	Sweden	Kantar Sifo AB	1,000	7/02/2018	8/02/2018	8,227,534	1.90%
UK	United Kingdom	Kantar TNS	1,015	7/02/2018	8/02/2018	54,203,274	12.54%
	TOTAL EU28		26,576	07/02/2018	09/02/2018	432,278,024	100%*

Readers are reminded that survey results are estimations, the accuracy of which, everything being equal, rests upon the sample size and upon the observed percentage. With samples of about 1,000 interviews, the real percentages vary within the following confidence limits:

Statistical Margins due to the sampling process
(at the 95% level of confidence)

various sample sizes are in rows *various observed results are in columns*

	5%	10%	15%	20%	25%	30%	35%	40%	45%	50%	
	95%	90%	85%	80%	75%	70%	65%	60%	55%	50%	
N=50	6,0	8,3	9,9	11,1	12,0	12,7	13,2	13,6	13,8	13,9	N=50
N=500	1,9	2,6	3,1	3,5	3,8	4,0	4,2	4,3	4,4	4,4	N=500
N=1000	1,4	1,9	2,2	2,5	2,7	2,8	3,0	3,0	3,1	3,1	N=1000
N=1500	1,1	1,5	1,8	2,0	2,2	2,3	2,4	2,5	2,5	2,5	N=1500
N=2000	1,0	1,3	1,6	1,8	1,9	2,0	2,1	2,1	2,2	2,2	N=2000
N=3000	0,8	1,1	1,3	1,4	1,5	1,6	1,7	1,8	1,8	1,8	N=3000
N=4000	0,7	0,9	1,1	1,2	1,3	1,4	1,5	1,5	1,5	1,5	N=4000
N=5000	0,6	0,8	1,0	1,1	1,2	1,3	1,3	1,4	1,4	1,4	N=5000
N=6000	0,6	0,8	0,9	1,0	1,1	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,3	1,3	N=6000
N=7000	0,5	0,7	0,8	0,9	1,0	1,1	1,1	1,1	1,2	1,2	N=7000
N=7500	0,5	0,7	0,8	0,9	1,0	1,0	1,1	1,1	1,1	1,1	N=7500
N=8000	0,5	0,7	0,8	0,9	0,9	1,0	1,0	1,1	1,1	1,1	N=8000
N=9000	0,5	0,6	0,7	0,8	0,9	0,9	1,0	1,0	1,0	1,0	N=9000
N=10000	0,4	0,6	0,7	0,8	0,8	0,9	0,9	1,0	1,0	1,0	N=10000
N=11000	0,4	0,6	0,7	0,7	0,8	0,9	0,9	0,9	0,9	0,9	N=11000
N=12000	0,4	0,5	0,6	0,7	0,8	0,8	0,9	0,9	0,9	0,9	N=12000
N=13000	0,4	0,5	0,6	0,7	0,7	0,8	0,8	0,8	0,9	0,9	N=13000
N=14000	0,4	0,5	0,6	0,7	0,7	0,8	0,8	0,8	0,8	0,8	N=14000
N=15000	0,3	0,5	0,6	0,6	0,7	0,7	0,8	0,8	0,8	0,8	N=15000
	5%	10%	15%	20%	25%	30%	35%	40%	45%	50%	
	95%	90%	85%	80%	75%	70%	65%	60%	55%	50%	

QUESTIONNAIRE

	<i>SD1: ROTATE ANSWERS 1 TO 8</i>	
	<i>SD1: CODE 10 IS EXCLUSIVE</i>	
SD1	Are you a user of any of the following media or channels?	
	<i>(READ OUT – MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)</i>	
	Printed newspapers and news magazines	1,
	Online newspapers and news magazines	2,
	News agencies	3,
	Online social networks and messaging apps	4,
	Television	5,
	Radio	6,
	News aggregators	7,
	Video hosting websites	8,
	Other (DO NOT READ OUT)	9,
	None of these (DO NOT READ OUT)	10
	DK/NA	11
		NEW
SD2	How often do you use online social networks?	
	<i>(READ OUT – ONE ANSWER ONLY)</i>	
	Every day or almost everyday	1
	At least once a week	2
	Several times a month	3
	Seldom or Never	4
	DK/NA	5
		NEW
	<i>SD3: CODE 4 IS EXCLUSIVE</i>	
SD3	When using online social networks, which of the following do you regularly do?	
	<i>(READ OUT – MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)</i>	
	Read or listen to what is shared by others	1,
	Share things you found yourself	2,
	Share things others have shared with you	3,
	You don't use online social networks (DO NOT READ OUT)	4
	DK/NA	5
		NEW

Q1 *Q1: ROTATE STATEMENTS 1 TO 6*
How much do you trust or not the news and information you access through...
(READ OUT – ONE ANSWER ONLY)

		Totally trust	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	Do not trust at all	DK/NA
1	Printed newspapers and news magazines	1	2	3	4	5
2	Online newspapers and news magazines	1	2	3	4	5
3	Online social networks and messaging apps	1	2	3	4	5
4	Television	1	2	3	4	5
5	Radio	1	2	3	4	5
6	Video hosting websites and podcasts	1	2	3	4	5

NEW

Q2 **How often do you come across news or information that you believe misrepresent reality or is even false?**
(READ OUT – ONE ANSWER ONLY)

- Every day or almost everyday 1
- At least once a week 2
- Several times a month 3
- Seldom or Never 4
- DK/NA 5

NEW

Q3 **How confident or not are you that you are able to identify news or information that misrepresent reality or is even false?**
(READ OUT – ONE ANSWER ONLY)

- Very confident 1
- Somewhat confident 2
- Not very confident 3
- Not at all confident 4
- DK/NA 5

NEW

Q4: ROTATE STATEMENTS 1 AND 2

Q4 **In your opinion, is the existence of news or information that misrepresent reality or is even false a problem ...**
(READ OUT – ONE ANSWER ONLY)

		Yes, definitely	Yes, to some extent	No, not really	No, definitely not	DK/NA
1	In (OUR COUNTRY)	1	2	3	4	5
2	For democracy in general	1	2	3	4	5

NEW

Q5: ROTATE ANSWERS 1 TO 7
Q5: CODES 9 AND 10 ARE EXCLUSIVE

Q5 **News or information that misrepresent reality or that are even false are called “fake news”. Which of the following institutions and media actors should act to stop the spread of “fake news”?**

Online social networks	1,
Non-governmental organisations	2,
Journalists	3,
Press and broadcasting management	4,
EU institutions	5,
National authorities	6,
Citizens themselves	7,
Others (DO NOT READ OUT)	8,
All of them (DO NOT READ OUT)	9
None (DO NOT READ OUT)	10
DK/NA	11

NEW

SD1 Are you a user of any of the following media or channels? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)
(%)

		Printed newspapers and news magazines	Online newspapers and news magazines	News agencies	Online social networks and messaging apps	Television	Radio	News aggregators	Video hosting websites	Other (SPONTANEOUS)	None of these (SPONTANEOUS)	Don't know
EU28		55	47	23	62	89	75	23	42	0	1	0
BE		47	47	14	63	92	81	19	30	0	0	0
BG		51	43	31	59	94	65	18	46	0	0	0
CZ		56	49	25	60	88	77	18	68	0	0	0
DK		54	63	28	73	87	82	55	50	0	0	0
DE		67	47	24	54	87	85	25	42	0	0	0
EE		71	71	22	62	91	86	18	40	0	0	0
IE		61	51	34	66	90	82	18	40	0	1	0
EL		45	54	33	59	88	77	19	44	0	0	0
ES		45	51	23	77	91	69	21	41	0	1	0
FR		52	41	22	63	88	78	20	34	0	0	0
HR		51	59	17	63	94	76	25	59	0	0	0
IT		57	51	24	61	91	64	22	50	0	1	0
CY		44	51	37	66	92	75	27	51	0	1	0
LV		61	49	42	64	88	77	14	55	0	0	0
LT		54	58	25	57	86	72	27	50	0	0	0
LU		68	60	28	72	87	82	33	49	0	0	0
HU		42	39	20	56	85	71	32	43	0	1	0
MT		30	49	41	66	90	68	23	41	0	0	0
NL		57	52	15	76	94	83	70	41	0	0	0
AT		76	52	23	59	86	86	23	44	0	0	0
PL		56	46	15	56	80	69	18	36	0	2	0
PT		56	50	27	69	97	77	35	48	0	0	0
RO		36	37	31	55	93	64	19	43	0	1	0
SI		64	41	12	65	94	88	25	58	0	0	0
SK		53	47	25	63	90	74	18	63	0	1	0
FI		79	62	35	65	89	84	41	53	0	0	0
SE		74	68	31	69	91	85	24	54	0	0	0
UK		50	41	23	63	88	70	12	37	0	1	0

SD2 How often do you use online social networks?
(%)

		Every day or almost everyday	At least once a week	Several times a month	Seldom or Never	Don't know	Total 'At least once a week'
EU28		50	11	3	33	3	61
BE		59	9	2	29	1	68
BG		50	7	2	34	7	57
CZ		47	11	4	33	5	58
DK		63	11	2	21	3	74
DE		42	12	2	42	2	54
EE		54	8	2	28	8	62
IE		61	9	3	24	3	70
EL		54	10	3	30	3	64
ES		64	8	3	24	1	72
FR		44	15	2	37	2	59
HR		57	8	2	29	4	65
IT		51	10	2	35	2	61
CY		63	8	2	24	3	71
LV		54	10	3	31	2	64
LT		54	7	1	26	12	61
LU		56	13	3	25	3	69
HU		49	10	1	30	10	59
MT		64	5	1	23	7	69
NL		65	10	3	20	2	75
AT		48	13	3	35	1	61
PL		41	14	3	41	1	55
PT		54	10	2	29	5	64
RO		53	7	2	27	11	60
SI		52	9	3	32	4	61
SK		51	9	4	31	5	60
FI		58	7	2	28	5	65
SE		61	9	2	26	2	70
UK		53	11	4	29	3	64

SD3 When using online social networks, which of the following do you regularly do? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)
(%)

		Read or listen to what is shared by others	Share things you found yourself	Share things others have shared with you	You don't use online social networks (SPONTANEOUS)	Don't know
EU28		56	30	32	28	7
BE		62	34	39	23	5
BG		57	29	30	25	9
CZ		51	32	33	31	6
DK		71	31	31	18	7
DE		46	19	22	37	12
EE		61	26	25	30	6
IE		61	34	37	20	9
EL		60	26	20	25	9
ES		67	46	49	19	2
FR		57	34	43	30	6
HR		61	26	21	27	5
IT		56	31	31	28	3
CY		59	25	22	23	6
LV		61	34	36	29	3
LT		53	26	24	26	13
LU		65	37	45	20	6
HU		53	19	23	29	10
MT		58	25	24	19	13
NL		68	36	34	19	8
AT		54	26	27	31	8
PL		54	24	22	31	4
PT		58	36	37	24	6
RO		55	33	24	28	9
SI		56	27	28	31	5
SK		48	25	19	27	6
FI		64	28	27	26	6
SE		66	27	25	25	4
UK		57	35	36	25	10

Q1.1 How much do you trust or not the news and information you access through...

Printed newspapers and news magazines (%)

		Totally trust	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	Do not trust at all	Don't know	Total 'Trust'	Total 'Do not trust'
EU28		10	53	19	8	10	63	27
BE		16	55	15	7	7	71	22
BG		4	39	26	15	16	43	41
CZ		6	49	26	4	15	55	30
DK		19	61	6	2	12	80	8
DE		15	55	20	5	5	70	25
EE		8	63	12	1	16	71	13
IE		12	61	11	6	10	73	17
EL		6	43	20	19	12	49	39
ES		15	50	22	8	5	65	30
FR		13	58	13	9	7	71	22
HR		3	50	26	8	13	53	34
IT		10	50	23	9	8	60	32
CY		12	47	12	9	20	59	21
LV		9	56	20	4	11	65	24
LT		6	47	15	6	26	53	21
LU		15	67	12	4	2	82	16
HU		5	28	24	9	34	33	33
MT		6	33	10	4	47	39	14
NL		19	62	8	2	9	81	10
AT		11	59	22	4	4	70	26
PL		4	51	23	7	15	55	30
PT		11	59	10	7	13	70	17
RO		9	36	19	12	24	45	31
SI		8	56	22	5	9	64	27
SK		4	49	27	7	13	53	34
FI		16	74	6	1	3	90	7
SE		12	69	11	2	6	81	13
UK		4	52	18	12	14	56	30

Q1.2 How much do you trust or not the news and information you access through...

Online newspapers and news magazines (%)

		Totally trust	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	Do not trust at all	Don't know	Total 'Trust'	Total 'Do not trust'
EU28		5	42	23	10	20	47	33
BE		9	53	20	9	9	62	29
BG		2	31	24	15	28	33	39
CZ		3	43	28	4	22	46	32
DK		11	60	11	1	17	71	12
DE		7	39	24	10	20	46	34
EE		4	56	15	1	24	60	16
IE		6	50	16	7	21	56	23
EL		4	40	23	17	16	44	40
ES		7	40	32	11	10	47	43
FR		4	44	21	14	17	48	35
HR		2	44	26	7	21	46	33
IT		5	39	27	15	14	44	42
CY		9	46	16	9	20	55	25
LV		4	48	23	4	21	52	27
LT		4	40	18	4	34	44	22
LU		6	59	20	7	8	65	27
HU		2	26	25	6	41	28	31
MT		8	33	13	3	43	41	16
NL		12	56	11	2	19	68	13
AT		5	45	28	8	14	50	36
PL		1	44	24	9	22	45	33
PT		5	50	12	9	24	55	21
RO		4	33	19	13	31	37	32
SI		3	38	26	5	28	41	31
SK		3	44	28	5	20	47	33
FI		8	58	12	3	19	66	15
SE		6	54	18	5	17	60	23
UK		4	42	17	7	30	46	24

Q1.3 How much do you trust or not the news and information you access through...

Online social networks and messaging apps (%)

		Totally trust	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	Do not trust at all	Don't know	Total 'Trust'	Total 'Do not trust'
EU28		2	24	36	18	20	26	54
BE		3	32	35	20	10	35	55
BG		3	28	29	15	25	31	44
CZ		2	25	36	10	27	27	46
DK		3	31	36	10	20	34	46
DE		2	15	40	20	23	17	60
EE		2	35	26	3	34	37	29
IE		2	29	36	16	17	31	52
EL		3	29	26	23	19	32	49
ES		3	24	42	23	8	27	65
FR		1	26	32	25	16	27	57
HR		2	38	29	7	24	40	36
IT		1	18	44	23	14	19	67
CY		5	33	28	15	19	38	43
LV		3	36	34	6	21	39	40
LT		1	32	24	5	38	33	29
LU		2	27	44	19	8	29	63
HU		3	25	27	11	34	28	38
MT		3	28	28	9	32	31	37
NL		3	35	39	8	15	38	47
AT		1	16	47	19	17	17	66
PL		1	33	33	10	23	34	43
PT		3	38	25	15	19	41	40
RO		5	34	20	13	28	39	33
SI		2	27	37	12	22	29	49
SK		4	32	31	10	23	36	41
FI		1	32	36	9	22	33	45
SE		1	24	40	13	22	25	53
UK		1	24	34	18	23	25	52

Q1.4 How much do you trust or not the news and information you access through...

Television (%)

		Totally trust	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	Do not trust at all	Don't know	Total 'Trust'	Total 'Do not trust'
EU28		12	54	21	8	5	66	29
BE		19	57	16	5	3	76	21
BG		13	57	18	9	3	70	27
CZ		6	55	26	6	7	61	32
DK		23	62	7	2	6	85	9
DE		15	55	20	5	5	70	25
EE		13	66	11	2	8	79	13
IE		16	64	11	4	5	80	15
EL		6	34	29	28	3	40	57
ES		13	44	29	13	1	57	42
FR		10	53	20	12	5	63	32
HR		8	57	24	8	3	65	32
IT		10	46	31	10	3	56	41
CY		18	55	15	6	6	73	21
LV		10	60	21	4	5	70	25
LT		10	57	17	5	11	67	22
LU		12	67	13	6	2	79	19
HU		6	42	31	9	12	48	40
MT		14	53	15	3	15	67	18
NL		21	65	9	2	3	86	11
AT		11	64	17	4	4	75	21
PL		3	51	27	8	11	54	35
PT		17	66	10	4	3	83	14
RO		14	52	21	10	3	66	31
SI		8	61	22	5	4	69	27
SK		9	54	27	5	5	63	32
FI		17	73	5	1	4	90	6
SE		19	67	8	2	4	86	10
UK		9	64	14	6	7	73	20

Q1.5 How much do you trust or not the news and information you access through...

Radio (%)

		Totally trust	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	Do not trust at all	Don't know	Total 'Trust'	Total 'Do not trust'
EU28		15	55	14	6	10	70	20
BE		21	59	9	6	5	80	15
BG		10	49	15	8	18	59	23
CZ		8	59	17	3	13	67	20
DK		29	55	6	2	8	84	8
DE		19	56	17	4	4	75	21
EE		17	63	8	0	12	80	8
IE		19	66	5	3	7	85	8
EL		10	47	20	11	12	57	31
ES		24	50	15	5	6	74	20
FR		15	61	10	8	6	76	18
HR		11	58	16	5	10	69	21
IT		9	48	23	7	13	57	30
CY		17	52	11	7	13	69	18
LV		13	62	13	2	10	75	15
LT		11	56	11	3	19	67	14
LU		18	66	7	4	5	84	11
HU		8	42	21	4	25	50	25
MT		9	45	11	3	32	54	14
NL		23	60	7	2	8	83	9
AT		18	61	14	3	4	79	17
PL		6	57	18	4	15	63	22
PT		20	58	6	3	13	78	9
RO		18	48	12	7	15	66	19
SI		15	60	16	2	7	75	18
SK		10	57	19	4	10	67	23
FI		20	71	3	0	6	91	3
SE		22	63	6	2	7	85	8
UK		12	57	10	6	15	69	16

Q1.6 How much do you trust or not the news and information you access through...

Video hosting websites and podcasts (%)

		Totally trust	Tend to trust	Tend not to trust	Do not trust at all	Don't know	Total 'Trust'	Total 'Do not trust'
EU28		2	25	32	16	25	27	48
BE		3	27	32	20	18	30	52
BG		2	25	26	16	31	27	42
CZ		2	35	38	4	21	37	42
DK		4	33	20	5	38	37	25
DE		2	18	38	15	27	20	53
EE		1	27	17	2	53	28	19
IE		2	31	27	14	26	33	41
EL		2	27	24	25	22	29	49
ES		3	21	39	21	16	24	60
FR		1	22	29	27	21	23	56
HR		2	41	29	7	21	43	36
IT		1	26	37	20	16	27	57
CY		3	31	25	15	26	34	40
LV		3	34	31	5	27	37	36
LT		2	37	19	4	38	39	23
LU		3	26	41	19	11	29	60
HU		1	19	25	10	45	20	35
MT		4	20	21	7	48	24	28
NL		2	28	27	9	34	30	36
AT		1	22	43	14	20	23	57
PL		1	32	31	10	26	33	41
PT		2	38	18	15	27	40	33
RO		4	29	20	16	31	33	36
SI		2	32	33	8	25	34	41
SK		2	38	34	7	19	40	41
FI		1	30	31	8	30	31	39
SE		1	24	33	11	31	25	44
UK		1	27	23	13	36	28	36

Q2 How often do you come across news or information that you believe misrepresent reality or is even false? (%)

		Every day or almost everyday	At least once a week	Several times a month	Seldom or Never	Don't know	Total 'At least once a week'
EU28		37	31	12	17	3	68
BE		31	32	15	18	4	63
BG		40	27	8	20	5	67
CZ		40	28	13	14	5	68
DK		25	33	15	20	7	58
DE		24	33	14	25	4	57
EE		23	31	14	23	9	54
IE		33	36	13	15	3	69
EL		55	19	18	6	2	74
ES		53	25	9	11	2	78
FR		39	36	9	14	2	75
HR		47	29	11	9	4	76
IT		37	31	11	18	3	68
CY		45	16	20	15	4	61
LV		35	28	12	20	5	63
LT		23	30	16	21	10	53
LU		38	33	11	17	1	71
HU		52	25	7	12	4	77
MT		27	27	13	21	12	54
NL		25	34	18	19	4	59
AT		31	35	14	18	2	66
PL		48	27	7	14	4	75
PT		32	29	14	21	4	61
RO		41	27	9	16	7	68
SI		31	32	12	21	4	63
SK		45	28	10	15	2	73
FI		18	32	18	29	3	50
SE		25	33	15	22	5	58
UK		38	31	15	12	4	69

Q3 How confident or not are you that you are able to identify news or information that misrepresent reality or is even false? (%)

		Very confident	Somewhat confident	Not very confident	Not at all confident	Don't know	Total 'Confident'	Total 'Not confident'
EU28		15	56	21	5	3	71	26
BE		10	49	31	8	2	59	39
BG		14	43	33	8	2	57	41
CZ		8	59	25	4	4	67	29
DK		27	60	8	1	4	87	9
DE		14	57	23	4	2	71	27
EE		9	55	25	5	6	64	30
IE		27	57	13	2	1	84	15
EL		12	52	29	6	1	64	35
ES		13	42	34	8	3	55	42
FR		11	62	15	9	3	73	24
HR		24	58	13	3	2	82	16
IT		14	59	19	6	2	73	25
CY		30	48	16	4	2	78	20
LV		10	58	25	4	3	68	29
LT		14	51	24	4	7	65	28
LU		8	60	21	7	4	68	28
HU		16	41	32	6	5	57	38
MT		25	48	15	6	6	73	21
NL		10	63	17	6	4	73	23
AT		15	56	21	6	2	71	27
PL		15	56	23	3	3	71	26
PT		12	44	33	7	4	56	40
RO		27	52	11	4	6	79	15
SI		12	57	26	2	3	69	28
SK		7	66	21	3	3	73	24
FI		22	60	11	2	5	82	13
SE		9	57	26	4	4	66	30
UK		23	56	14	4	3	79	18

Q4.1 In your opinion, is the existence of news or information that misrepresent reality or is even false a problem ...
In (OUR COUNTRY) (%)

		Yes, definitely	Yes, to some extent	No, not really	No, definitely not	Don't know	Total 'Yes'	Total 'No'
EU28		44	41	9	3	3	85	12
BE		28	42	22	5	3	70	27
BG		69	20	6	3	2	89	9
CZ		43	37	13	4	3	80	17
DK		17	56	19	4	4	73	23
DE		39	45	12	2	2	84	14
EE		27	46	18	3	6	73	21
IE		24	53	17	4	2	77	21
EL		63	27	3	5	2	90	8
ES		51	37	5	5	2	88	10
FR		40	45	8	5	2	85	13
HR		43	43	8	3	3	86	11
IT		60	30	6	2	2	90	8
CY		69	22	3	2	4	91	5
LV		39	43	11	3	4	82	14
LT		46	37	10	3	4	83	13
LU		21	52	21	4	2	73	25
HU		61	28	5	2	4	89	7
MT		61	25	9	1	4	86	10
NL		26	52	17	3	2	78	20
AT		36	47	11	3	3	83	14
PL		49	35	9	3	4	84	12
PT		42	42	12	2	2	84	14
RO		62	24	7	3	4	86	10
SI		43	45	5	4	3	88	9
SK		44	43	8	3	2	87	11
FI		29	46	18	4	3	75	22
SE		38	47	10	3	2	85	13
UK		32	52	9	3	4	84	12

Q4.2 In your opinion, is the existence of news or information that misrepresent reality or is even false a problem ...
For democracy in general (%)

		Yes, definitely	Yes, to some extent	No, not really	No, definitely not	Don't know	Total 'Yes'	Total 'No'
EU28		45	38	10	4	3	83	14
BE		35	40	16	6	3	75	22
BG		60	22	7	7	4	82	14
CZ		44	32	16	3	5	76	19
DK		27	48	15	4	6	75	19
DE		42	42	9	5	2	84	14
EE		27	47	15	3	8	74	18
IE		38	45	10	4	3	83	14
EL		60	27	5	5	3	87	10
ES		54	34	5	4	3	88	9
FR		38	43	9	6	4	81	15
HR		42	38	13	3	4	80	16
IT		58	27	8	4	3	85	12
CY		67	22	3	4	4	89	7
LV		35	42	13	4	6	77	17
LT		41	34	10	5	10	75	15
LU		36	46	11	5	2	82	16
HU		55	28	8	3	6	83	11
MT		60	25	7	2	6	85	9
NL		34	46	14	3	3	80	17
AT		42	43	10	3	2	85	13
PL		46	33	12	4	5	79	16
PT		46	36	11	3	4	82	14
RO		58	24	8	6	4	82	14
SI		43	43	6	4	4	86	10
SK		43	41	9	4	3	84	13
FI		37	44	12	2	5	81	14
SE		45	41	9	2	3	86	11
UK		35	44	14	3	4	79	17

Q5 News or information that misrepresent reality or that are even false are called "fake news". Which of the following institutions and media actors should act to stop the spread of "fake news"? (MAX. 3 ANSWERS)
(%)

		Online social networks	Non-governmental organisations	Journalists	Press and broadcasting management	EU institutions	National authorities	Citizens themselves	Others (SPONTANEOUS)	All of them (SPONTANEOUS)	None (SPONTANEOUS)	Don't know
EU28		26	15	45	36	21	39	32	1	4	1	4
BE		24	10	44	35	27	37	25	1	7	2	3
BG		15	8	40	40	11	46	23	1	8	2	5
CZ		24	15	45	45	19	41	32	2	2	4	3
DK		25	8	52	48	15	28	34	1	3	2	8
DE		26	18	41	34	24	36	35	1	4	2	6
EE		14	11	49	43	13	33	28	1	6	3	8
IE		38	19	47	35	28	32	32	1	4	1	5
EL		13	7	41	30	25	34	36	2	3	2	4
ES		25	11	52	40	33	51	36	2	2	1	2
FR		37	21	56	38	21	35	38	2	4	1	3
HR		16	20	44	37	13	29	32	1	5	1	4
IT		17	6	33	33	24	46	25	1	4	1	2
CY		14	9	38	28	21	31	31	1	13	2	4
LV		19	8	37	28	13	43	28	1	7	1	5
LT		10	7	37	24	10	31	31	1	4	3	7
LU		23	13	37	34	31	34	26	1	5	2	4
HU		14	11	23	33	13	34	27	1	6	3	9
MT		14	9	41	35	15	36	26	2	3	2	9
NL		25	11	55	37	24	54	35	0	2	1	3
AT		27	22	42	27	32	40	38	1	3	2	4
PL		18	22	49	20	18	40	34	1	4	1	5
PT		20	15	48	29	22	45	38	0	3	1	6
RO		20	12	41	34	11	31	27	2	7	1	8
SI		16	14	51	44	13	32	32	2	5	1	3
SK		14	14	41	26	20	32	30	1	3	1	7
FI		17	7	48	44	16	37	25	1	2	2	5
SE		22	8	46	52	22	43	30	1	4	0	5
UK		38	20	45	46	13	29	30	1	6	2	4