ORGANIZED BY:

CASA ÁFRICA 15 AÑOS YEARS ANS 2007 - 2022

GOBIERNO DE ESPAÑA
MINISTERIO DE ASUNTOS EXTERIORES, UNIÓN EUROPEA Y COOPERACIÓN

MEDIA PARTNERS

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Newtral

Africa Check
Sorting fact from fiction

Advanced Course on Verification and new narratives on fact checking for Namibian journalists

Windhoek, Namibia
7-9 June 2022

#PeriodismoÁfrica

ADVANCED COURSE ON
VERIFICATION AND
NEW NARRATIVES
ON FACT CHECKING
FOR NAMIBIAN JOURNALISTS

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Newtral

Africa Check

FACT-CHECKING AS A CITIZEN SERVICE

About me

- I’m **Tomás Rudich**, debunking Editor at Newtral since January 2021
- I worked as an editor at the german news agency DPA for eight years
- I was born in Argentina, I’m living in Spain (for more than 5 years). I have German and Italian family origins.

If you have any questions, you can write to me at: tomas.rudich@newtral.es

Or raise your hand…

About Newtral

- Media startup founded in January 2018 by spanish journalist Ana Pastor
- International Fact Checking Network (IFNC) member
- Different areas:

- TV and audiovisual productions
- Political fact-checking and debunking
- Digital contents
- Line of research based on Artificial Intelligence protocols

Newtral

ORIGINE
15 DÉCEMBRE
18 h 30
A l'Aula Cervantes
Av. Cheikh Anta Diop, Dakar
Projection du documentaire «Origine»
Suivi d'un débat et d'un cocktail
Une production de Neutral pour #ORIGINE
en collaboration avec
CASA ÁFRICA
DAKAR

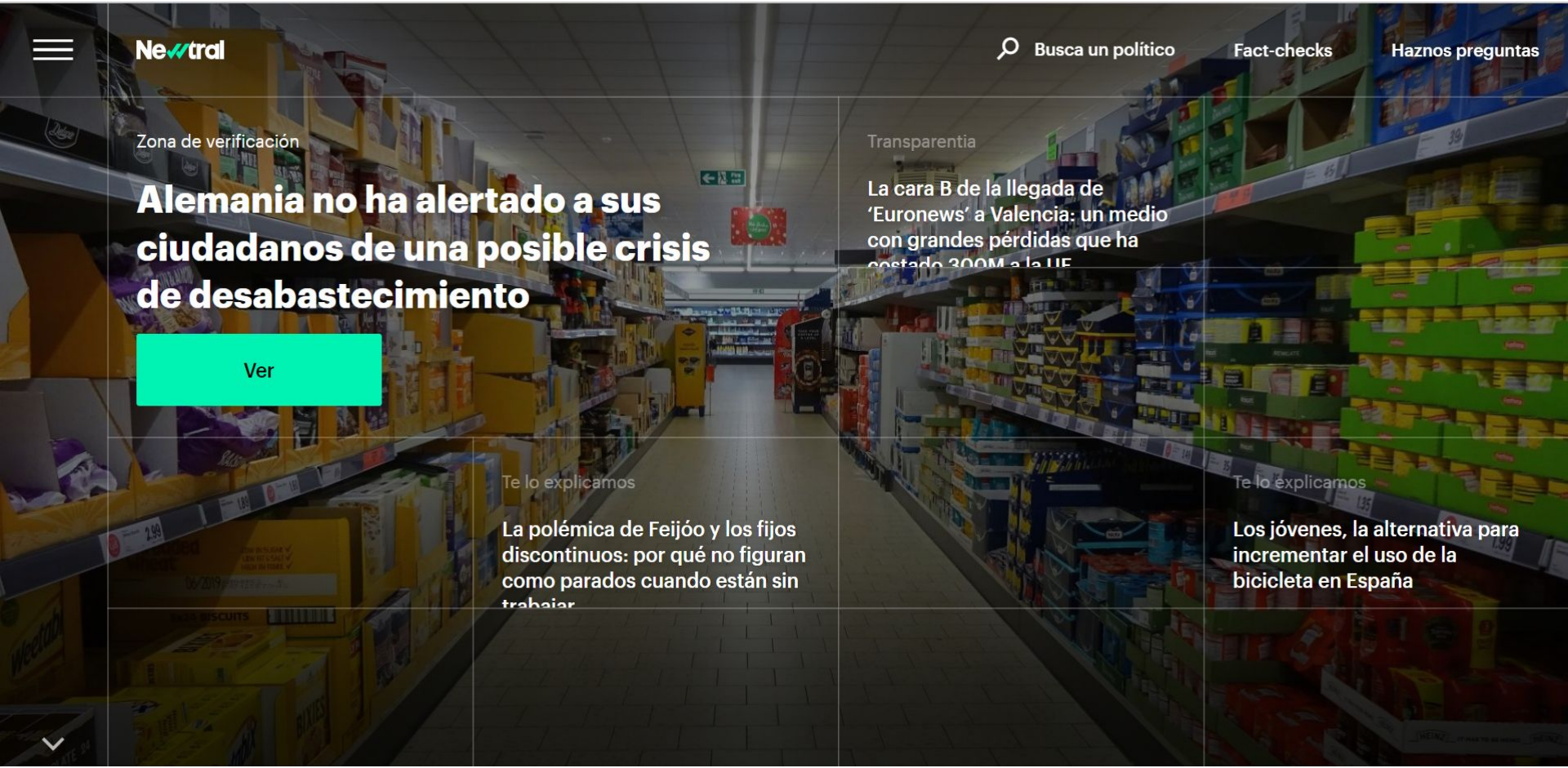
UN SUEÑO
REAL
Neutral
ESTRENO
28 DICIEMBRE
HBO
ESPAÑA

Nevenka

2021 | 16+ | 1 temporada | Documentales sobre política

Nevenka Fernández fue la primera demandante que ganó una querella por acoso sexual contra un político en España. Ahora, 20 años después, rompe su silencio.

UNA FAMILIA real
LOS BORBONES


Newtral
Busca un político
Fact-checks
Haznos preguntas
Zona de verificación
Alemania no ha alertado a sus ciudadanos de una posible crisis de desabastecimiento
Ver
Transparentia
La cara B de la llegada de 'Euronews' a Valencia: un medio con grandes pérdidas que ha costado 300M a la UE
Te lo explicamos
La polémica de Feijóo y los fijos discontinuos: por qué no figuran como parados cuando están sin trabajar
Te lo explicamos
Los jóvenes, la alternativa para incrementar el uso de la bicicleta en España

Fakes (1907)

Filtrar por Valorac

Engañoso

Viral

Alemania pide a su población hacer acopio de agua y alimentos ante la crisis de

1783 Falso

4 nuevos

120 Engañoso

Newtral es miembro de la red del IFCN. Ésta es nuestra metodología de trabajo.

Class content

- Presentation
- Phenomenon of disinformation
- How it affects the daily lives of people around the world?
- Importance and origin of fact-checking
- Fact-checking organizations (principles, methodologies, sources)
- The International Fact-Checking Network (IFCN)

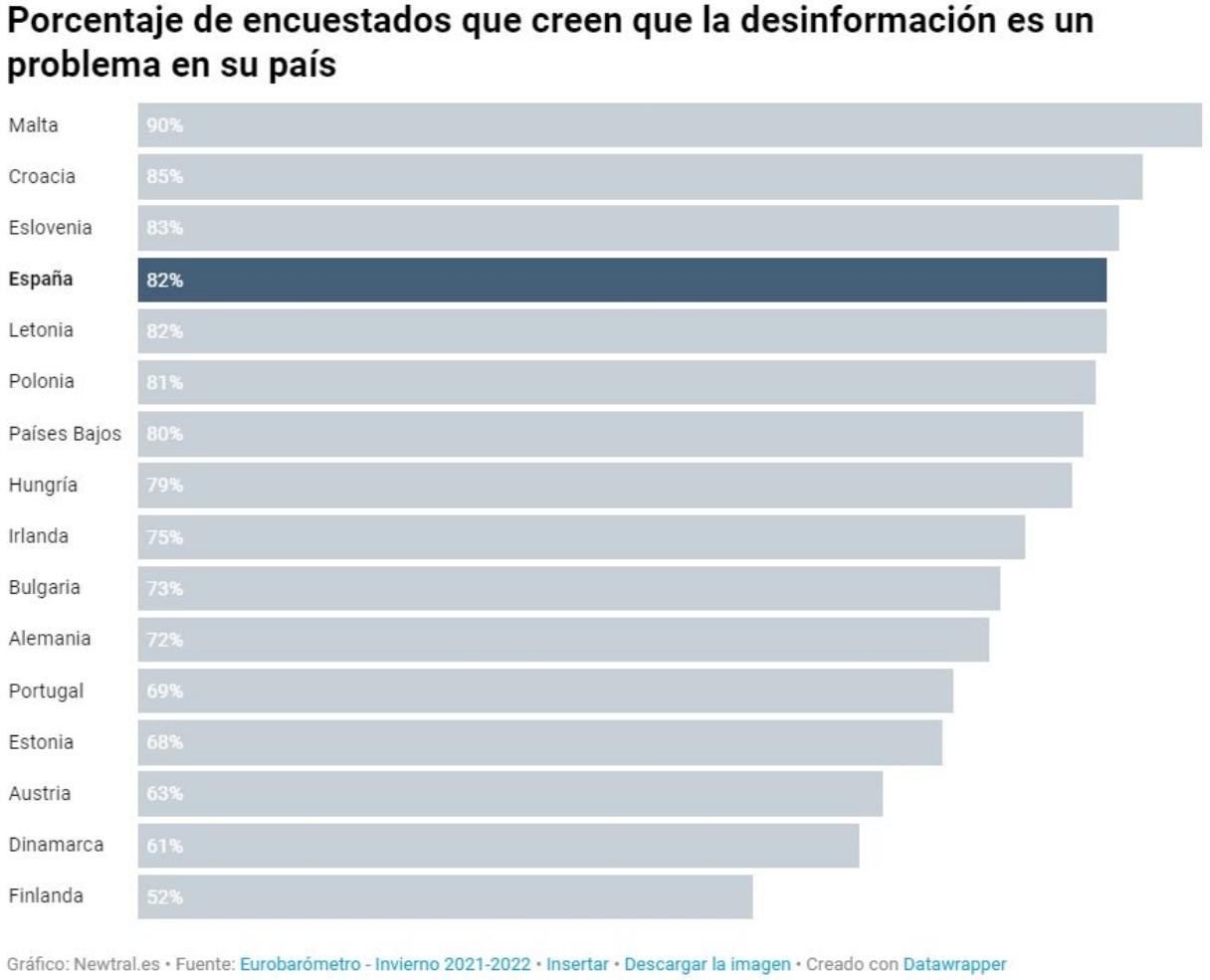
With fact-checking
Without fact-checking

Eurobarometer - Disinformation EU

(Winter 2021-2022)

Source:

https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveydetail/2553



Percepción sobre la desinformación y las noticias falsas

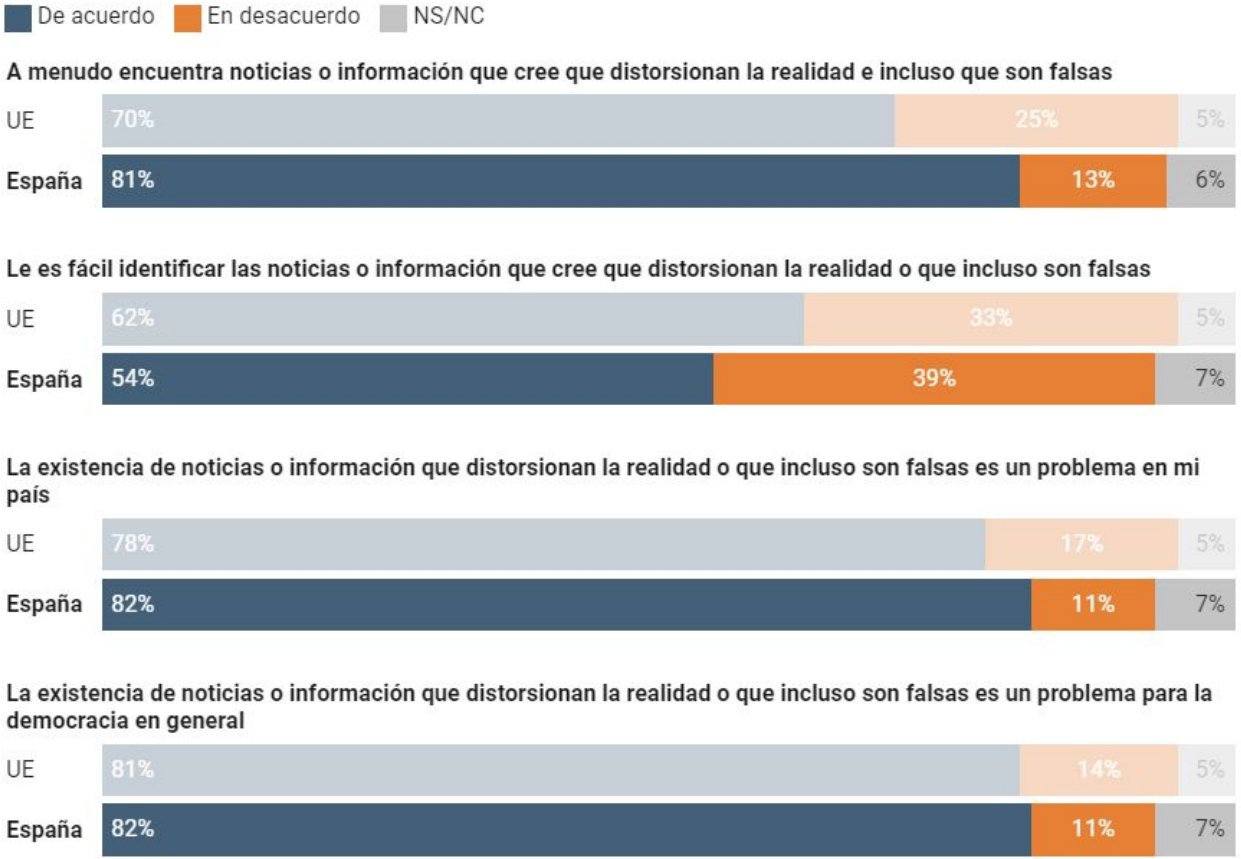


Gráfico: Newtral.es • Fuente: Eurobarómetro - Invierno 2021-2022 Informe España • Insertar • Descargar la imagen • Creado con Datawrapper

Some facts about disinformation in Europe and Spain

- 78% or Europeans think disinformation is a problem in their country
- 82% of Spaniards think disinformation is a problem in their country
- 81% of Europeans think disinformation is a **problem for democracy**
- 82% of Spaniards think disinformation is a problem for democracy
- 70% of Europeans face usually disinformation or fake news

Source: Eurobarometer (Winter 2021-2022):

https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2553

37.506 interviews (1004 in Spain) - 19th January to 14th February 2022

27 UE Countries+ UK + UE candidates + Other countries

Youth, women and disinformation

Study of the NGO **Plan International** among 26,000 young people and adolescents from more than 33 countries. Women from 15 to 24 years old. International Day of the Girl Child

Source: http://prensa.plan-international.es/ficheros/2021/10-dia_internacional_nina_2021_-_the_truth_gap_-_(des)informadas_online/informe/the%20truth%20gap_(des)informadas%20online_informe.pdf

Youth, women and disinformation - Some facts

- **91%** of girls and young women surveyed are concerned about misinformation or disinformation on social media.
- **46%** of them feel sadness, depression, stress, worry or anxiety as consequence of the exposure to misinformation and online disinformation
- 7 out of 10 girls and young women have never received training -not even in school nor in the family environment- on how to identify disinformation
- **1 in 4 girls** feels less confident to share their opinions in social networks

THE TRUTH GAP
(DES)INFORMADAS ONLINE

CÓMO LA DESINFORMACIÓN Y LA INFORMACIÓN ERRÓNEA ONLINE AFECTAN A LA VIDA, EL APRENDIZAJE Y EL LIDERAZGO DE LAS NIÑAS, ADOLESCENTES Y MUJERES JÓVENES

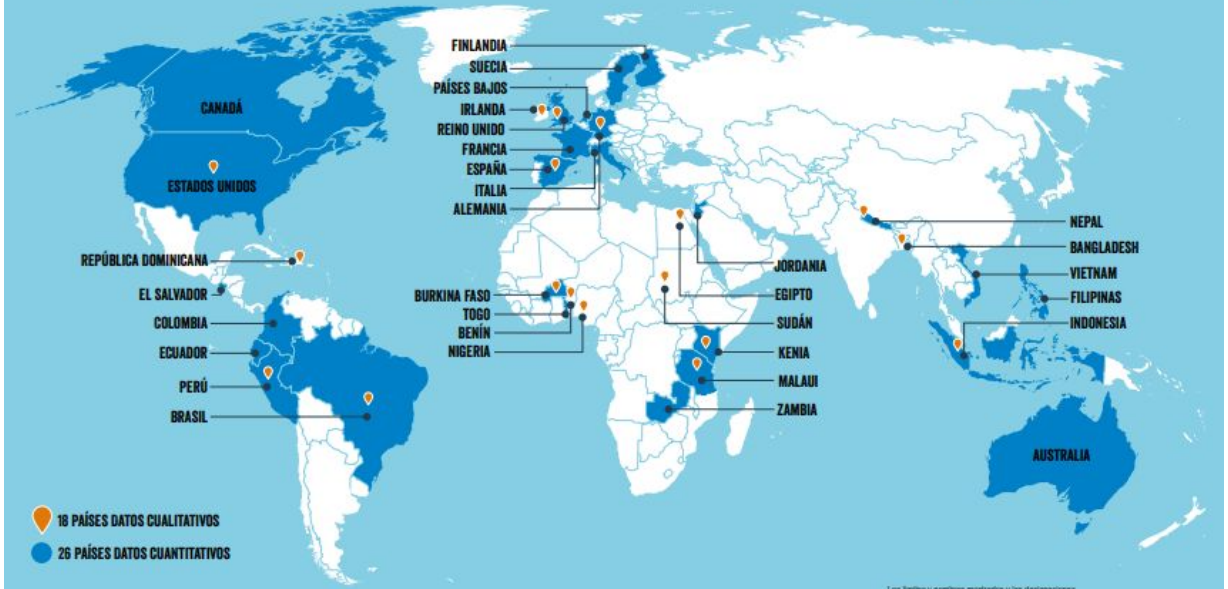
INFORMES "EL ESTADO MUNDIAL DE LAS NIÑAS"

Plan International publicó por primera vez el informe "El estado mundial de las niñas" en 2007. El informe de 2021 analiza cómo la información errónea y la desinformación online afectan a la vida, el aprendizaje y el liderazgo de las niñas, adolescentes y mujeres jóvenes. Es el cuarto informe de una nueva serie que cada año examinará las conductas, actitudes y creencias que limitan la libertad y las oportunidades de las niñas, adolescentes y mujeres jóvenes en entornos o sectores específicos.

La investigación de este año se llevó a cabo en 33 países, con una encuesta realizada a más de 26.000 adolescentes y mujeres jóvenes en 26 países, así como con entrevistas cualitativas en profundidad en 18 países.

Para una descripción completa de la metodología de la investigación, véase la **página 43.**

N.B. Los nombres de las niñas, adolescentes y mujeres jóvenes se cambiaron en este informe para garantizar su anonimato; en casi todos los casos, ellas mismas escogieron los nombres que deseaban usar. Las fotos de este informe no representan a las participantes en la investigación.



Los límites y nombres mostrados y las designaciones utilizadas en este mapa no implican la aprobación o

Disinformation it’s a threat for…

- Democracy
- Coexistence (hate speech)
- Health (mental and physical)
- Environment
- Our finances (scams and phishing)

Disinformation and democratic harm

According to the **European Comission,** disinformation harms our society

… eroding trust in institutions and the media

… jeopardizing the **elections**

… hampering the ability of citizens to make informed decisions

… and undermining their **freedom of expression**

Source:

https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/new-push-european-democracy/european-democracy-action-plan/strengthening-eu-code-practice-disinformation_es

Disinformation and health harm

Misinformation and disinformation in the context of COVID-19 - “Pandemic of disinformation”. Social and individual harm.

- Origin and existence of COVID-19
- Face masks
- PCR tests
- Fake Treatments (ivermectin, chlorine dioxide, hydroxychloroquine…)
- COVID-19 vaccines
- Besides COVID-19

Disinformation and climate change

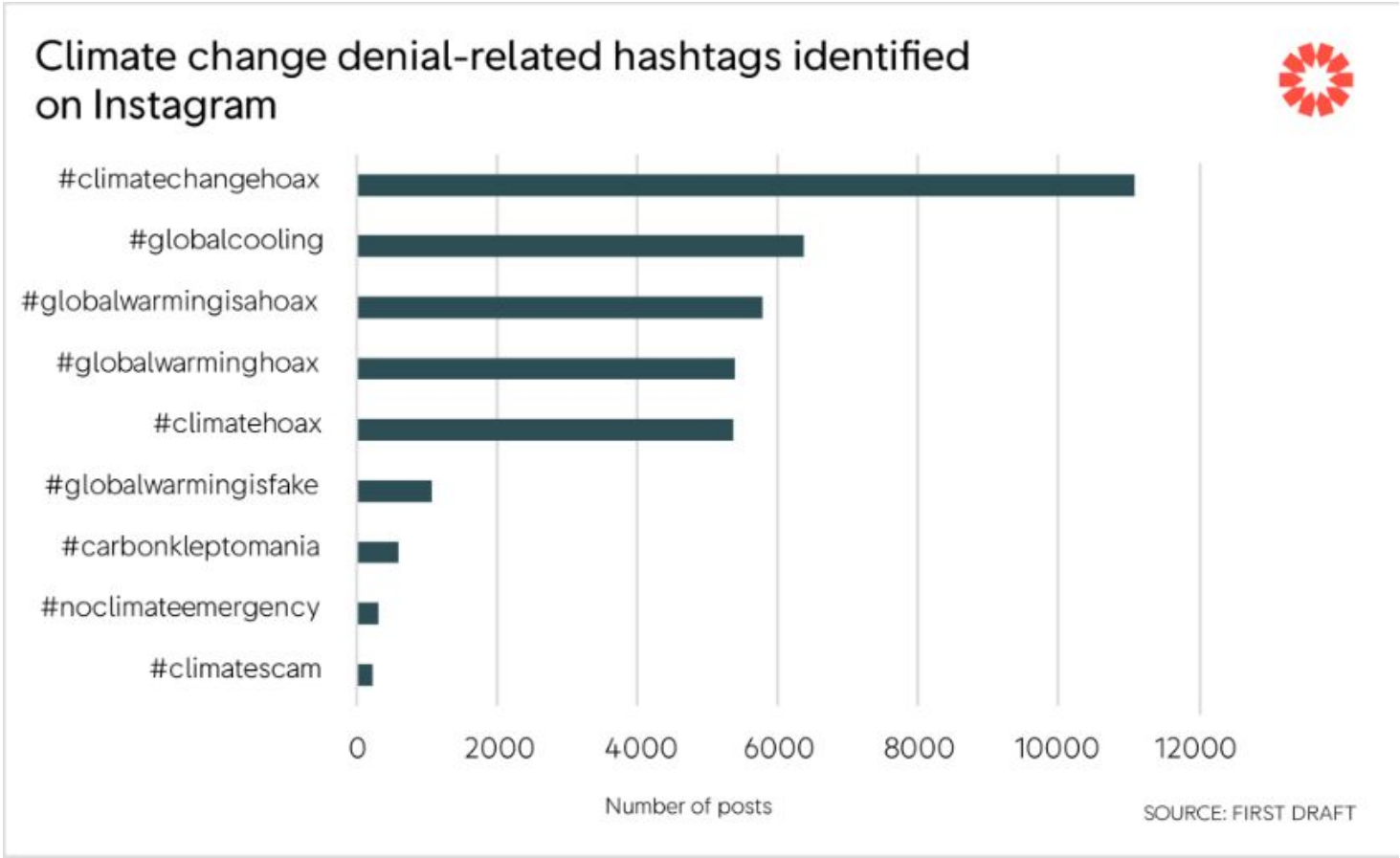
“Rampant climate disinformation online is distorting dangers, delaying climate action” (United Nations South Africa)

The latest UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report was the first ever to call out climate disinformation, stating that a “deliberate undermining of science” was contributing to “misperceptions of the scientific consensus, uncertainty, disregarded risk and urgency, and dissent.”

Source:

https://southafrica.un.org/en/182767-rampant-climate-disinformation-online-distorting-dangers-delaying-climate-action

Disinformation and climate change



https://firstdraftnews.org/articles/climate-change-misinformation-conspiracy-memes/

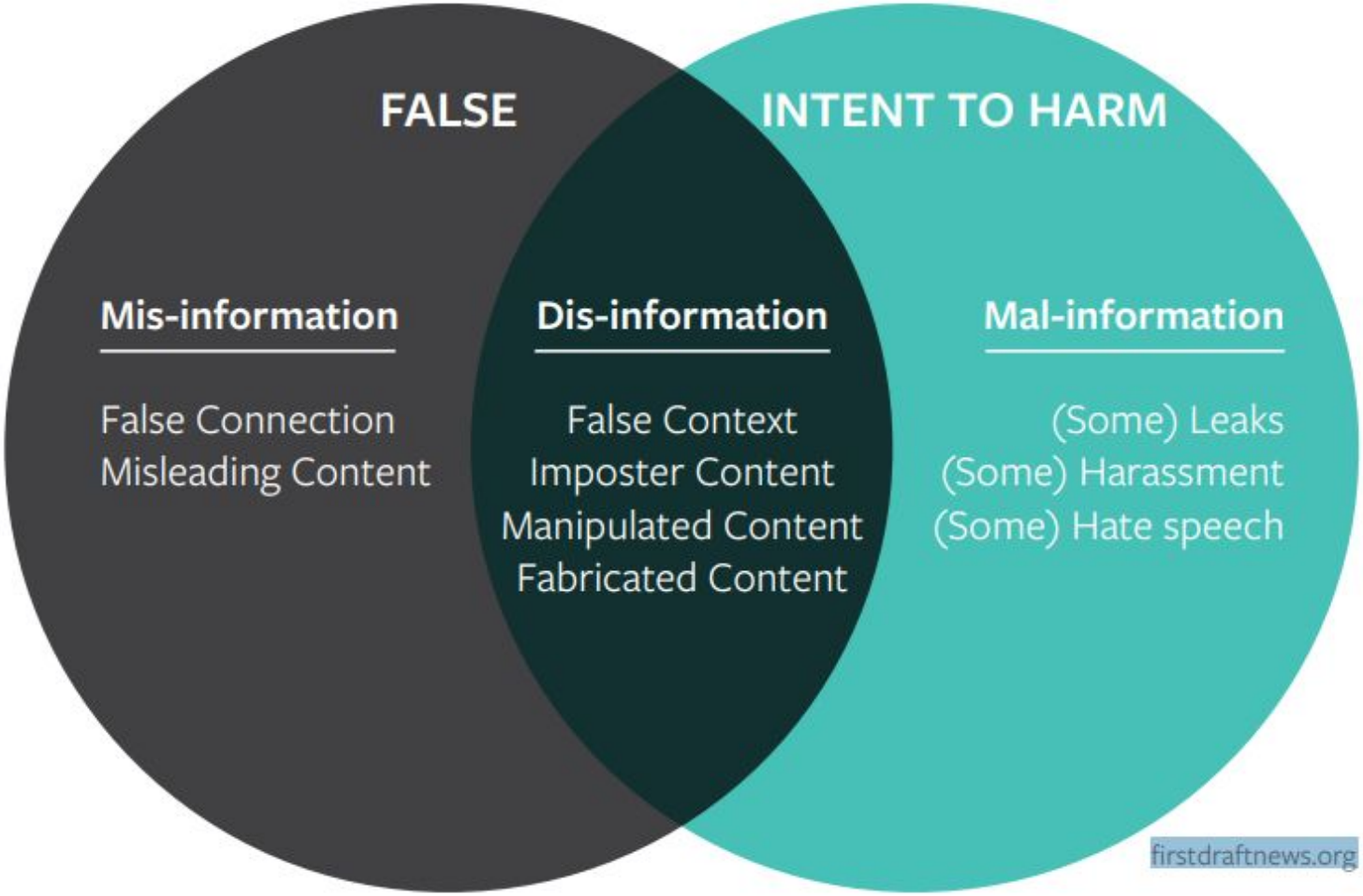
Phishing and scams

Phishing: Impersonating another person or entity to obtain personal data or for other malicious purposes

Newtral

Do people in Namibia think disinformation is a problem?

But wait a minute… what exactly is disinformation?


FALSE
INTENT TO HARM
Mis-information
False Connection
Misleading Content
Dis-information
False Context
Imposter Content
Manipulated Content
Fabricated Content
Mal-information
(Some) Leaks
(Some) Harassment
(Some) Hate speech
firstdraftnews.org

Disinformation, misinformation and malinformation

Disinformation is content that is **intentionally false** and designed to cause harm. It is motivated by three factors: to make **money**; to have **political influence**, either foreign or domestic; or to cause trouble for the sake of it.

Misinformation also describes false content, but the person sharing doesn't realize that it is false or misleading. Often a piece of disinformation is picked up by someone who doesn't realize it's false and that person shares it with their networks, believing that they are helping.

Malinformation. The term describes genuine information (private or restricted) that is shared with an intent to cause harm.

Source: First Draft

FIRSTDRAFT

7 COMMON FORMS OF INFORMATION DISORDER

SATIRE OR PARODY

No intention to cause harm but has potential to fool

MISLEADING CONTENT

Misleading use of information to frame an issue or individual

IMPOSTER CONTENT

When genuine sources are impersonated

FABRICATED CONTENT

New content is 100% false, designed to deceive and do harm

FALSE CONNECTION

When headlines, visuals or captions don't support the content

FALSE CONTEXT

When genuine content is shared with false contextual information

MANIPULATED CONTENT

When genuine information or imagery is manipulated to deceive

Disinformation is not new, what is new is its capability of getting viral, getting spread and, with it, being potentially harmful.

Overview of social media use

Headlines for social media adoption and use (**Note:** users may not represent unique individuals)

Number of social media users

4.62
BILLION

Quarter-on-quarter change in social media users

+1.7%
+77 MILLION

Year-on-year change in social media users

+10.1%
+424 MILLION

Average daily time spent using social media

2H 27M
+1.4% (+2M)

Average number of social platforms used each month

7.5

Social media users vs. Total population

58.4%

Social media users vs. Population age 13+

74.8%

Social media users vs. Total internet users

93.4%

Female social media users vs. Total social media users

46.1%

Male social media users vs. Total social media users

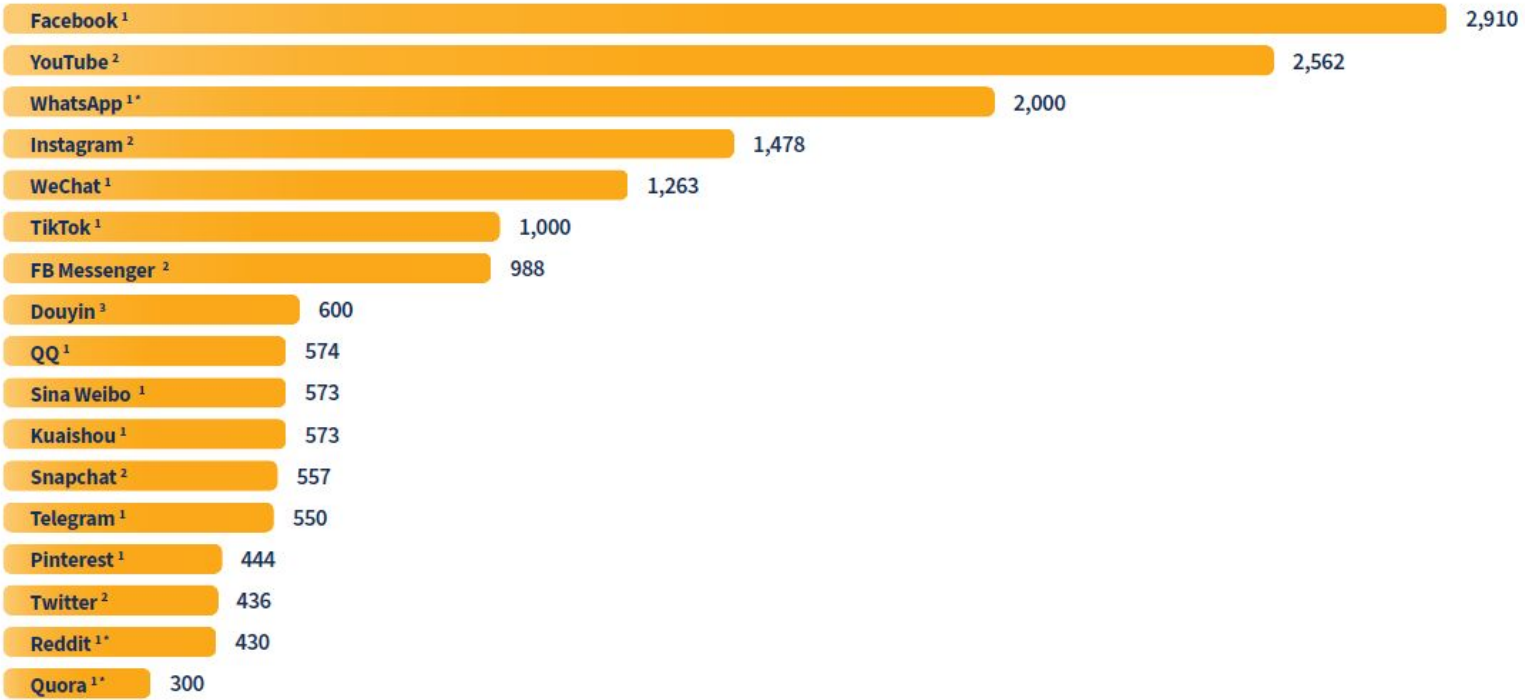
53.9%

Source: Kepios analysis; company advertising resources and announcements; CNNIC; Techrasa; OCDH; U.N.; U.S. Census Bureau. Data for **time spent** and **average number of platforms**: GWI (Q3 2021). See GWI.com for more details. **Note**: average platforms figure includes data for YouTube. **Advisory**: social media users may not represent unique individuals. Figures for reach vs. population and reach vs. internet users may exceed 100% due to duplicate and fake accounts, delays in data reporting, and differences between census counts and resident populations.

Hootsuite®

The world's most-used social platforms

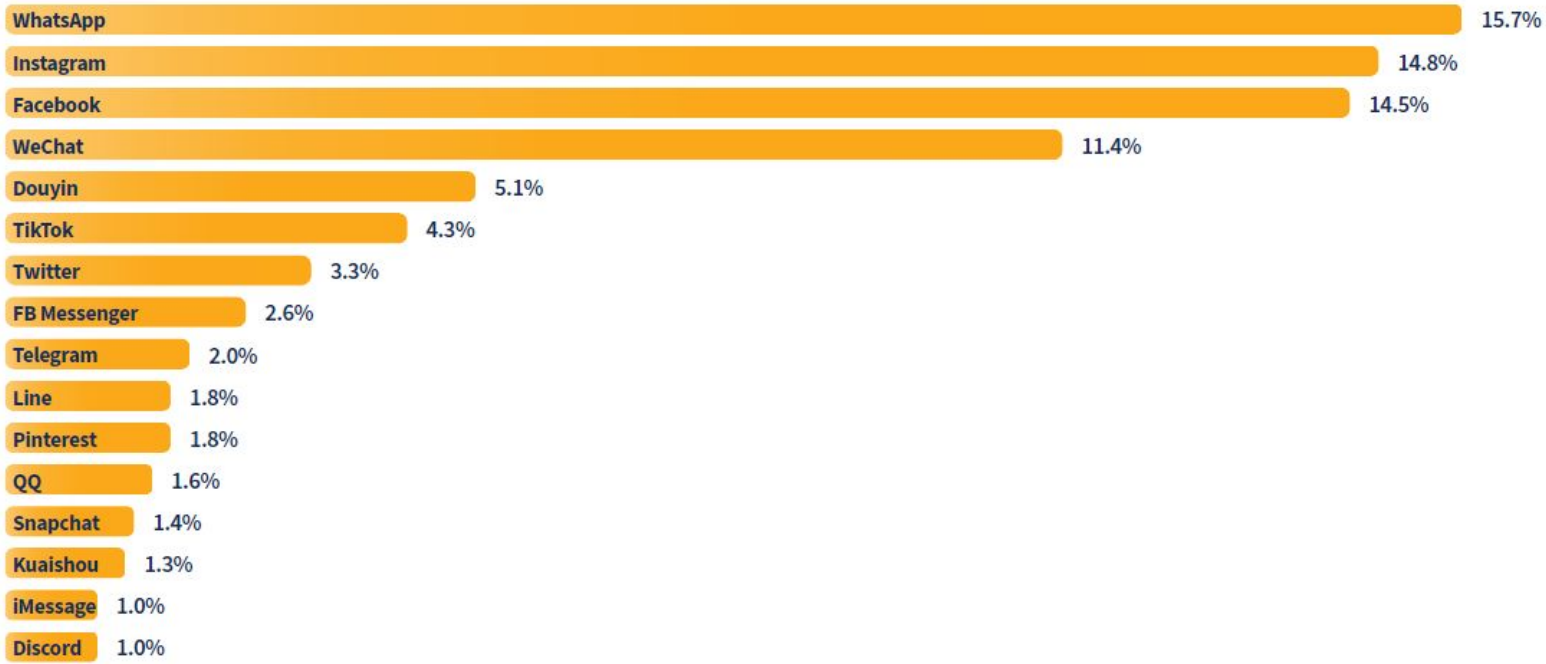
Ranking of social media platforms by global active user figures (in millions)



Sources: Kepios analysis of (**1**) company announcements of monthly active users; (**2**) Platforms' self-service advertising resources; (**3**) Company announcements of daily active users (note that monthly active user figures may be higher). **Advisory**: Users may not represent unique individuals. **Comparability**: Platforms identified by (*) have not have published updated user figures in the past 12 months, so figures are less representative. Base changes and methodology changes; data may not be directly comparable with previous reports.

Favorite social media platforms

Percentage of **internet users aged 16 to 64** who say that each option is their "favorite" social media platform



Source: GWI (Q3 2021). See GWI.com for full details. **Notes**: Only includes users aged 16 to 64. Survey respondents could choose from other options not shown on this chart, so values may not sum to 100%. YouTube is not available as an answer for this question in GWI's survey. We report GWI's values for TikTok in China separately as Douyin, as per ByteDance's corporate reporting. **Comparability**: Versions of this chart that featured in our previous reports did not include data for China, so values are **not comparable**.

First “fact-checkers”

Perhaps the earliest published use of the phrase "fact-checker" can be found in a **TIME** advertisement in a **1938** issue of Colliers, which mentions the expansion of "its investigators and fact-checkers from ten to twenty-two."

Source:

[*Here's how early fact-checkers were able to do their job before the Internet*](#) *(Time Magazine)*

“Because it has no political axe to grind, because its style is brief, clear, interesting, because its news is so organized that a mind trained or untrained can grasp it with minimum effort, TIME should appeal to every man or woman who has the slightest interest in the world and its affairs.” Thus the young editors wrote of unborn TIME.

Today TIME’s original 18,000 subscribers have grown to 700,000, its editors from two to thirty-one, its news service from nothing to TIME’s own 448 correspondents plus the world network of A. P. and U. P., its researchers and fact-checkers from two to twenty-five, its reference files from a few envelopes to over 100,000 separate subjects, its cost per printed word from 2¢ to over 20¢.

almost frozen. He was a large man with a broad swarthy face and dark restless eyes. He lighted a cigarette and let it hang in one corner of his mouth, squinting through the up-curling smoke.

“I got something wrong with the car. You keep a mechanic here at night?”

“Not regular,” George said. “I do a lot of work though. I guess I could take care of it. That is, if you didn’t want to wait till morning.”

“You all alone here?”

“Ten to eight.”

The big man took the cigarette from his mouth. “Gets pretty lonesome, I guess.” He blew smoke up at the light. “People drop in during the night, I guess. I guess the cop on this beat comes in sometimes.”

“There isn’t any cop,” George said.

He went on to explain that. The only peace officer they had was a town constable. He was sixty-five years old and he had a bad leg from stopping a slug in the Spanish-American War, and if you called him up for anything after eight o’clock at night he’d say, “I’ll see about it in the morning,” and go back to bed.

The stranger said, “Well, that’s nice, ain’t it?” He threw the cigarette in the stove. “I guess we better take a look at the car. It’s missing pretty bad.”

Pioneers of fact-checking

- ***Factcheck.org***, created in 2003 by Brooks Jackson.
- ***PolitiFact*** and ***The Washington Post Fact-checker*** (2007)

… and Snopes, in 1995!

Source: *Deciding What's True* - The Rise of Political Fact-Checking in American Journalism, Lucas Graves, 2016

Pioneers of fact-checking

Bill Adair. Politifact.com

Pulitzer Price 2009

Truth-O-Meter

Establish a method and recognition (2009)

The moment for the recognition of fact-checking as an important part of journalism was in 2009, when PolitiFact received the Pulitzer Prize. They won the award for their coverage of the 2008 presidential elections in the United States, "separating rhetoric from truth".

What Politifact did was to **establish a method**. The novelty was that they followed a procedure, which is the same one that almost all verification platforms follow nowadays.

Rating to classify their verifications based on a **"Truth-O-Meter"** on which category each statement falls into (true, false, half true, pants on fire ...). This brought the audience closer and clarified what fact-checks were.

The “second wave” (2016): from political fact-checking to debunking

A **first wave** was kick-started by the 2009 Pulitzer Prize assigned to PolitiFact.

The **second wave** of fact-checking projects emerged following the global surge in so-called ‘fake news’. The term describes entirely fabricated sensationalist stories that reach enormous audiences by using social media algorithms to their advantage.

This second wave (2016) often concentrated as much on fact-checking public claims as debunking these viral hoaxes. Debunking is a subset of fact-checking and requires a specific set of skills that are in common with verification.

Source: Journalism & Disinformation (UNESCO)

“Second wave”: debunking

'Post-truth' declared word of the year by Oxford Dictionaries

16 November 2016

https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-37995600

Political fact-checking | Debunking

	Political fact-checking (first wave)	**Debunking (second wave)**
Object of verification	Political speech	Viral hoaxes in social media
Origin	Politicians	Anonymous (not always) Anti-vaxxer Covid-denier
Detection	Listening	Social media monitoring
Tools	Official sources Databases Experts	Debunking tools Experts Official sources Databases
What to verify	Matters of public relevance, specific affirmation (not opinion, intentions or future prognoses)	Matters of public relevance, specific affirmation (not opinion, intentions or future prognoses)

Fact-checking organizations - IFCN

The **International Fact-Checking Network** (IFCN) was launched in 2015 to bring together the growing community of fact-checkers around the world and advocates of factual information in the global fight against misinformation

- More than 100 signatories nowadays
- Unit of the Poynter Institute (nonprofit media institute in St. Petersburg, US) dedicated to bringing together fact-checkers worldwide
- Spanish members of IFCN: Maldita, Newtral, EFE Verifica, Verificat
- African members of IFCN: Africa Check, Congo Check, FactCheckHub (Nigeria), FactSpace West Africa (Ghana and The Gambia)

Principles

- **Nonpartisanship** and fairness (checking all sides, follow the same process for every fact check and let the evidence dictate the conclusions)
- **Transparency of sources** (show the evidence, the tools or sources we used, and how we arrived at a certain conclusion)
- **Transparency of funding** (page on the web detailing sources of funding of the organization)
- **Transparency of methodology** (publish on the website a statement about the methodology it uses for the fact checks and where possible explains the reason for choosing the claim to check)
- **Corrections policy (**signatories publish their corrections policy and follow it scrupulously. They correct clearly and transparently, seeking so far as possible to ensure that readers see the corrected version)

IFCN - Code of principles

Methodology and sources

- **Diversity of sources**. Each verification should have at least two different sources if possible.
- Use of **primary sources** (direct access) rather than secondary sources (indirect)
- Questioning information from a source when it is an **implicated party**
- We prioritize sources from **official or institutional** organizations (databases, official statistics, etc.). Or **experts** in their field.
- Three different **filters** within the team prior to publication.
- The objective is to **explain**, not to point out
- Presentation of **evidences**. The conclusion is the result from the evidences

What do fact-checkers verify?

- Matters of public/social/political relevance and interest.
- Content that is causing harm (public health, electoral process, scams, hate speech, etc).
- Content with a certain viralization (be careful not to amplify the hoax).
- Delimited object: specific affirmation or series of affirmations.

What fact-checkers do not verify?

- Opinions
- Political Rethoric
- Future prognoses
- Adjectivations
- Intentions
- Sarcasm or satire

Not only fact-check… **fact-checking is a citizen service**

- Fact-checking can have a positive impact on society as a whole by combating the damage that disinformation can cause in different areas: health, democracy, environment, coexistence...

- Verifiers also want to teach citizens how to verify so that they can be better equipped to combat disinformation (media literacy)

Fact-checking platforms - [Duke Reporter's Lab]

From 44 in 2014 to 356 in 2022

Questions?

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