European Digital Media Observatory

IV.D.B: List of relevant academic institutions and organisations

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Executive summary:

In this report, we present the progress on Task IV that includes four main elements: the mapping of relevant academic activities in the EU, the identification of relevant academic institutions and organizations in the EU, the creation of a repository of relevant scientific articles, and the creation of a repository of relevant policy papers and other content. The purpose of task IV.D.B is to create a list of relevant academic institutions and organisations and has as per 28.02.2022 been completed. The task is based on the output from an extensive literature search (IV.D.A), and a survey circulated to identified researchers studying disinformation in Europe (IV.MS.1). In total, 212 researchers have been invited to the survey (with 189 most identified by the repository). We registered 44 complete replies until mid February 2022 and in general all replies are characterized by low item non-response.

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1.0 Introduction

This report will focus on identified appropriate academic institutions and/or relevant independent organisations in the EU member states related to research on digital disinformation that can potentially become proxies to promote the activities of the DSI and link relevant national activities to the DSI. After a description of the procedure leading to the identification of the institutions, these institutions and organizations will be listed in chapter four. We will use the list to map the organisations and institutions across Europe and describe implications and steps forward based on this mapping.

The spread of disinformation or misinformation in digital media challenges democratic societies with potentially life-threatening and democracy-altering consequences for example in case of health or political dis- and misinformation. The identification of relevant academic institutions and or relevant independent organisations with research units or projects that deal with analysing digital disinformation in an European context will help to establish collaborations and foster academic research.

In this report, we use a definition from Buning (2018) as the basis for our understanding of disinformation. She defines disinformation as "false, inaccurate, or misleading information designed, presented and promoted to intentionally cause public harm or for profit". In this sense, disinformation is spread intentionally, however, for other forms of information disorder - such as misinformation - this is not a defining characteristic (for scientific studies dealing with these concepts see e.g. Kalsnes, 2018; Shu et al., 2020; Tandoc et al., 2018; Wardle and Derakhshan, 2017). In order to not restrict the focus of this report to intentionally spread information disorders as intention is also rarely analyzed due to its difficult operationalization, we take several forms of information disorder into account and use the terms misinformation, disinformation and related terms interchangeably hereupon.

In order to identify relevant academic institutions and/or relevant independent organisations in the EU, we will describe the two-step approach that we carried out based on the mapping of academic activities done in IV.D.A in combination with the

conduction of a survey with relevant researchers. We define relevant academic institutions therefore exploratively and expert driven. That is, relevant institutions and organisations are identified as those, in which relevant research is conducted and which are considered to be relevant by researchers within the field. The approach also lead to the identification of institutions and organizations that are not in the EU. We take this into account by adding information about the region as well.

2.0 Process

2.1 First step: Identification of relevant institutions and organisations based on the research repository

As one of the sources for an identification of relevant academic institutions and organizations, we rely on the already established repository of academic research, which was established as a part of task IV.D.A

The repository of Scientific Publications was created by DATALAB ([see Bak et al. 2021 for a full methodological account](#)) to provide an overview of academic inquiry into European digital disinformation at scale. Relevant research was identified by a systematic literature review of academic publications published in English based on a keyword list with references to the topic.

The current version of the repository consists of 92 academic articles selected after a filtering process from more than 2,021 academic studies. We extracted details of all studies in the repository such as contributing authors, specifically contact information, country and institution or organisation of affiliation, and academic field.

The repository shows a good representation of research organisations and institutions across the EU with 17 member states represented (NB: the number of entries marked in parenthesis): *Italy (24), Spain (12), Netherlands (11), Germany (9), Greece (5), Poland (5), Slovakia (4), Portugal (4), Austria (3), Denmark (2), Belgium (2), Czech Republic (2), Sweden (2), Romania (2), Bulgaria (1), France (1), and Cyprus (1).* Also outside the EU we see an interest in studying European digital disinformation at scale:

UK (18), US (8), Switzerland (5), Canada (3), Brazil (2), Australia (1), Norway (1), Singapore (1), China (1), Russia (1), Israel (1), Qatar (1).

The number of countries exceeds the number of entries as some articles were written in cross-country collaborations. Identified institution and organisation names are all included in the overview document along with links to the relevant website and when possible the field of research is listed additionally. The list of these institutions and organisations build the basis for IV.D.B*: List of relevant academic institutions and organisations* and serves as a starting point to expand it in order to create a more diverse network that also includes a broader range of organizations and institutions. Therefore, email-addresses of all contributing authors of each study in the repository have been extracted. They provide the basis for engaging with the identified authors and for asking them to share their knowledge of research institutions and organisations active in the field of European digital disinformation at scale. This second step was implemented through a survey, and the insights will in turn help inform EDMO's work to facilitate and assist research on disinformation in the EU.

2.2 Second step: Identification of relevant institutions and organisations based on a survey with researchers within the field

The repository provides an overview of organizations and institutions with active researchers within the field of disinformation research, however, as academic publication processes can take up some time, relying solely on the repository can lead to missing research activities and projects that were established more recently. Furthermore, researchers within the field are a good source to get knowledge about important research institutions and organisations that are otherwise not accessible based on e.g. language barriers or difficulties to get local insights. Researchers, whose studies have been published in peer-reviewed publications, can be considered to be experts within their field. For these reasons, we reached out to researchers that provided contact email addresses in the publications to use the snowball method to extend the list of organizations and institutions that are relevant to disinformation research in Europe. We established a survey in the European survey system - EUSurvey - and invited the researchers whose emails we could extract to participate.

The platform does not provide an ideal platform with regard to implementing a user friendly layout. However, it can be used freely and due to the specific sample, we considered it an appropriate platform for the purposes of this report. The exact questionnaire can be found in the appendix. The questionnaire covers aspects such as experience with disinformation research, known projects, institutions and organisations within the field, academic background and collaborations, interest in EDMO, ways in which EDMO can assist research and link to fact-checking organisations. The questionnaire was designed as a ten minutes survey. It is therefore more extensive than necessary for this report. However, we collected additional information e.g. for the identification of potential links and topics that could facilitate collaborations across institutions and organizations.

The survey was sent out in December 2021, and we sent two reminders in January 2022. In addition, we also invited researchers from the EDMO hubs - Ireland hub, BENEDMO, CEDMO, IBERIFIER, EDMO BELUX, NORDIS, DeFacto, IDMO - to participate in the survey with a slightly adjusted introduction text. The survey was sent out to the coordinators of the different hubs. The coordinators were encouraged to share the contact information of the research partners of their hubs. In addition, contact information was received from NORDIS and CEDMO. We contacted the EDMO hubs also in order to cover a broad range of European countries and as already established centers focusing on digital disinformation. In total, 212 researchers have been invited to the survey (with 189 most identified by the repository). We registered 44 complete replies until mid February 2022 and in general all replies are characterized by low item non-response.

For this report we mainly analyze the answers to three questions: a) "Can you name your current institution as well as other relevant information such as research unit, department, and research center? E.g. Aarhus University, Institute for Culture and Communication, Department of Media and Journalism, research center DATALAB - Center for digital social research." b) "Can you name projects/ institutions/ research units etc. that you have collaborated with on research concerning disinformation?

Please provide names with all details and location." c) "Can you name other projects/ institutions that in your opinion contribute to disinformation research? Please provide names of projects, institutions, research units, services, etc. with location."

The answers are registered independently of which question they were given to. Each answer from each respondent was processed separately. That is, if a respondent reported on more than one institution or organization these were registered separately. The input to these questions are listed with the information from the repository and will be reported on in the following section.

3.0 General findings from the list of organisations and institutions

The input from the repository and survey resulted in a list with 251 entries[1]. It consists of the identified institution, the country of the institution, a URL to the institution website, the source for the identification (survey versus repository or extracted from both), the discipline, the number of appearances within the survey/ repository and the region (distinguished: EU, non-EU countries, countries related to the EU: EAA, EFTA and former EU countries). The institution is extracted as detailed as possible based on the given information from the repository and survey. Many entries consist of information at university level. Whenever a department, research unit or research project is mentioned or can be identified, this is listed as well. The URL was added by DATALAB. The answers to the survey and information extracted from the repository also included non-academic institutions and organisations. However, institutions and organisations were only listed, if they are not mainly fact-checking organisations or media organisations. EDMO provides separate lists of fact-checking organisations and this report focuses on academic institutions and organisations. The discipline was added, if it could be clearly identified as a mean to facilitate for users/ readers to identify specific disciplines of interest.

Table 1 provides an overview of the entries by region and source. Most entries are related to EU countries - namely 177. Some entries are related to EU-related

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[1] See file IV.D.B List of relevant organisations and institutions_Feb2022

(EEA/EFTA/ former EU) countries - namely 36. Further 38 entries can be linked to non-EU countries. This is probably a result of the design of the repository developed as part of IV.D.A, as this repository includes research with focus on the EU, however not necessarily carried out by researchers within the EU. As we also contacted all researchers that provided email addresses within their publications that are part of the repository, the survey resulted in the participation of some researchers from outside the EU. To account for this, the list provides information about the region as well. Table 2 also illustrates that the survey was, despite a low participation rate, a valuable supplementation to the input from the repository as it led to additional 104 institutions and organisations.

Table 1. Number of institutions and organisations by region and source

	Number organizations/ institutions
in total	251
In EU countries	177
In EU related countries	36
In non-EU countries	38
Input from the repository	110
Input from the survey	104
Input from survey & repository	37

Table 2 provides an overview by country. For seven of the current 27 members of the EU no institution or organisation could be identified. The most institutions and organisations can be identified for Italy, followed by Spain and the Czech Republic. For Cyprus, Slovenia, Austria, Ireland, France, and Romania only a few institutions and organizations can be identified. Two organisation/institution can be linked to

several European and Non-European countries. In addition, seven institutions and organizations can be assigned to the EU in general. These institutions and organisations potentially also cover the countries for which we could not identify national ones. The distribution across countries has to be interpreted carefully, however, it does not necessarily represent the actual number of organizations and institutions relevant for research about digital disinformation within the countries. Alternative explanations for the skewed distribution are, for example, that some countries are overrepresented because more researchers from these countries participated in the survey or were invited to the survey in the first place. Italy was also the most present country in the established repository, leading to more researchers from Italy to be invited to the survey. So, the snowballing method results to some extent in an enhancement of patterns visible in the repository.

Table 2: Number of relevant organizations and institutions by country (alphabetical order by three regions)

Country	Different institution/ organisations (No)	Mentions of institutions/ organizations (No)
EU countries		
Austria	2	5
Belgium	4	7
Bulgaria	1	1
Croatia	0	0
Cyprus	1	1
Czech Republic	16	19

Denmark	5	8
Estonia	0	0
Finland	3	3
France	2	2
Germany	12	16
Greece	12	12
Hungary	0	0
Ireland	2	2
Italy	34	58
Latvia	0	0
Lithuania	0	0
Luxembourg	0	0
Malta	0	0
Netherlands	12	16
Poland	7	8
Portugal	11	13
Romania	2	4

Slovakia	8	11
Slovenia	1	1
Spain	29	42
Sweden	4	4
EU extended (EU and non-EU countries)	2	2
EU (across countries)	7	7
EU related countries – former/ EEA/ EFTA		
England	11	13
Iceland	0	0
Liechtenstein	0	0
Norway	2	3
Scotland	1	2
Switzerland	5	7
UK	17	20
Non-EU countries (only included countries)		
Australia	1	2
Brazil	3	4

Canada	4	5
China	2	2
Israel	2	2
Quatar	2	3
Russia	1	1
Singapore	1	2
USA	22	25

4.0 Conclusion

The identification of relevant academic institutions and organisations related to digital disinformation research in the EU based on the already established repository of scientific articles and the additional engagement with identified researchers from this repository via a survey, led to a list of 251 organizations and institutions (177 based within the EU) that can potentially become proxies to promote the activities of the DSI and link relevant national activities to the DSI. Even though the distribution of these organisations and institutions across countries is rather skewed with e.g. Italy being strongly represented and France not so much, our approach led to a broad coverage of EU countries, with only seven not being represented by national institutions and organisations (however, potentially by international ones). The list can be used in various ways, e.g. as a basis for finding keynote speakers for conferences, finding relevant audiences for workshops or events related to research on digital disinformation, as sources of information for policymakers, politicians and the media. The list can additionally facilitate contact being established between different research organisations based on location or disciplines that can result in cross-borders and interdisciplinary research being conducted.

It is also a good starting point for further engagement with these organisations and institutions, however, our approach of their identification is also accompanied with some limitations that should be addressed in future. First, identifying institutions based on the repository leads to the risk to include outdated institutions as well, as publishing leads to a delay and researchers might have switched institutions after publication as well. The EUSurvey system did not indicate whether email addresses were inactive, when we sent out the invitations, but to follow up on the researchers with the survey might have resulted in contacting email addresses that were inactive as e.g. researchers switched institutions. However, even if that was the case, our assumption is that especially researchers with a longer affiliation to one institution have a good overview of relevant institutions and organisations. Furthermore, the information about the institution extracted from the repository is usually not very detailed with regard to research units or specific projects, making it more difficult to identify relevant contacts for these institutions and organisations. Another limitation is the generally low participation rate of the survey. From the 212 invited researchers, only 44 responded (~21%). Potential explanations for this are that the data collection period also covered the Christmas break or that some researchers might have shifted their focus to other topics and therefore were not as interested in supporting the project. Future endeavors to update or expand the list should therefore consider alternative ways of contacting researchers e.g. by using a different platform, directly contacting email addresses or via phone. Besides contacting researchers based on the repository an alternative or supplementation could also be to contact researchers participating in specific relevant conferences or workshops.

An implication of the list is that efforts have to be intensified for identifying institutions and organisations within the missing countries. We can identify a clear lack within the Baltics (neither Latvia, Estonia nor Lithuania are present) and this is especially problematic given the escalating crisis/ war between Ukraine and Russia.

There are several steps for future action based on the list. First of all, for strengthening academic research on digital disinformation, a regular update of the list would be beneficial. Research projetcs with a specific focus on information disorders, in general

are often temporal and therefore relevant research projects and units might disappear from identified instutions and organisations making them less relevant as cooperation partners for EDMO. The aim is to also update the repository of scientific articles regularly and this could be a starting point for this update as well. The list can also only be a starting point for engagement with the organisations and institutions. That is, there is the need to establish platforms to engage with the identified institutions and organisations to promote the activities of the DSI and link relevant national activities to the DSI. One way is to promote the research platform of EDMO and share information about upcoming events and workshops with these organisations and institutions. Furthermore, the additional information from the survey is a further basis for identifying researchers' needs that can also fuel an improvement of EDMO activities.

5.0 References

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Shu K, Bhattacharjee A, Alatawi F, et al. (2020) Combating disinformation in a social media age. *WIREs Data Mining and Knowledge Discovery*. DOI: 10.1002/widm.1385.

Tandoc EC, Lim ZW and Ling R (2018) Defining "Fake News": A typology of scholarly definitions. *Digital Journalism* 6(2): 137–153. DOI: 10.1080/21670811.2017.1360143.

Wardle, Claire and Derakhshan, Hossein (2017) *INFORMATION DISORDER: Toward an interdisciplinary framework for research and policy making*. Council of Europe report DGI. Strasbourg: Council of Europe. Available at: https://rm.coe.int/information-disordertoward-an-interdisciplinary-framework-for-researc/168076277c (accessed 25 April 2021).

6.0 Appendix

Appendix A: Questionnaire

Introduction screen:

Dear researcher,

We are contacting you on behalf of the European Digital Media Observatory - EDMO. EDMO brings together fact-checkers and academic researchers with expertise in the field of online disinformation, and the overall goals of EDMO are to facilitate, unite and improve disinformation research, fact-checking, and digital literacy activities. We have identified you as a relevant researcher through an extensive literature search of research studying disinformation in Europe at scale. Based on this search, we included your paper in the Scientific Publications Repository.

The next step in EDMO is to expand on the identified research organisations and institutions, as well as to gain a better sense of what information, services, and tools would be relevant to your research. In the linked survey you will find questions related to EDMO, your

research, your research network, and inquiries on how we can make EDMO better suited to support your research.

Please share this survey with any academic researchers within the field of European disinformation and misinformation.

The survey will approximately take 10 minutes to answer and will provide great value to our continued work to support research on disinformation in Europe. We would greatly appreciate your participation. Please refer any questions to datalab@au.dk

We will process your answers confidentially and delete any identifiable data following the analysis. Any published results will be anonymized. Your answer will be stored in accordance with GDPR.

Introduction screen reminder:

Dear researcher

We are contacting you as an expert in disinformation research. Recently, we invited you on behalf of the European Digital Media Observatory - EDMO to participate in a survey. The objective of the survey is to gather valuable information on how EDMO can be of greater relevance to researchers and extend EDMO's research network.

This is a reminder to respond to the survey in which you will encounter questions related to your research, your research network, and how we can make EDMO better suited for you. Your response will contribute to the overall goal of EDMO which is to facilitate, unite and improve disinformation research, fact-checking, and digital literacy activities.

We will process your answers confidentially and delete any identifiable data following the analysis. Any published results will be anonymized. Your answer will be stored in accordance with GDPR.

We encourage you to participate as soon as possible.

Your help will be greatly appreciated.

Kind regards,

//

Q1: Knowledge of EDMO

Have you heard about EDMO before?

yes

no

Q2: Experience with disinformation projects

How many misinformation or disinformation related projects have you been involved in as an active researcher so far (projects can either be funded by your own free research time or external funding)?

None

1 project

2-3 projects

4-5 projects

6 or more projects

Q3: Current affiliation

At which kind of institution are you currently employed?

University

College

Research institute

I am not currently employed

Other, namely: _____

Q4: Detailed current affiliation

Can you name your current institution as well as other relevant information such as research unit, department, and research center? E.g. Aarhus University, Institute for Culture and Communication, Department of Media and Journalism, research center DATALAB - Center for digital social research.

Q5: Interdisciplinary collaboration

Have you collaborated with researchers from another field than your own with regard to your research on disinformation?

yes
no

Q5b: Detailed interdisciplinary collaboration
Filter: Only if not "no" in Q5

With researchers from which field have you collaborated?
-        click all answers that apply
Computer science/ Informatics
Sociology or Political Science
Psychology
Media studies/ Communication/ Journalism studies
Economics
Behavioral science
Other, namely: _____

Q6: Collaboration on projects etc.
Can you name projects/ institutions/ research units etc. that you have collaborated with on research concerning disinformation? Please provide names with all details and location.

Q7: Other known disinformation research
Can you name other projects/ institutions that in your opinion contribute to disinformation research? Please provide names of projects, institutions, research units, services, etc. with location.

Q8: Interest in EDMO
Are you interested in being a part of the EDMO research community?

yes
no
don't know

Q8B: EDMO services
Filter: if not "no" in Q8
Can you shortly describe how a successful collaboration could look like for you? Which services would be interesting for you? How could you profit from EDMO?

Q8C: Suggestions for EDMO
Filter: if "no" in Q8

Can you shortly describe, why EDMO is not interesting for you and what needs to be changed in order to become interesting?

Q8D: Suggestions for improvements
Filter: if "no" in Q8
In general, in your opinion by which means can collaborations regarding research on disinformation be facilitated or improved?

Q9: Focus of own research
In some sentences, what is the main focus of your research on disinformation and/or misinformation?

Q10: Focus of own research: disinformation
Which of the following categories describes your research on disinformation best?
- if your research focuses on more than one aspect, click all answers that apply
    disinformation detection
    spread or propagation of disinformation (distribution)
    analyzing exposed audiences (target)
    analyzing actors who spread (creator/ spreader)
    analyzing platforms on which disinformation spreads (medium)
    analyzing characteristics of disinformation (content)
    Other, namely: _____

Q11: Focus of own research: methods
Please describe in detail which analytical methods you have used in your research on disinformation
Q12: Focus of own research: Connection to fact-checking
Is your research related to fact-checking and debunking?
        yes
        no
        don't know

Q12B: Focus of own research: Using fact-checking as baseline (Filter: if not "no" in Q12)
Do you use fact-checks as a baseline for identifying dis- or misinformation in your research?
        yes
        no
        don't know

Q12C: Focus of own research: Extent of using fact-checking as baseline (Filter: if not "no" in Q12B)
Do you use or have previously used fact-checks for your research from more than one fact-checking organization?

      yes
      no
      don't know

Q12D: Focus of own research: Which fact-checking organisations used as baseline (Filter: if not "no" in Q12C)
Can you please list the fact-checking organizations whose fact-checks you use or have previously used in your research? Please also list how you got access to the fact-checks of these fact-checking organizations (e.g. website of organizations, index site (if so which)...).

Q12F: Focus of own research: Using fact-checking as database (Filter: if not "no" in Q12B)
Which data/ features/ information did you use or do you need to use from the fact-checks for conducting your research? For example, do you need to use the title, whole claim, information about claimant, source, country, platform, rating, author, fact-checking organization? Please list all elements/ aspects that you used or need to use.

Q12G: Focus of own research: Using fact-checking as database (Filter: if "no" in Q12B)
Which information from fact-checks would you need to have in order to use them as a baseline and which aspects of fact-checks prevent you from using it?

Q13: Focus of own research: Topics
On which of the following topics do you focus in your research on disinformation?
-       if your research focuses on more than one aspect, click all answers that apply
      health
      politics
      networks
      conspiracies
      media/ digital/ information literacy
      physiological effects
      Other, namely: _____

Q14: Identification of research gaps: Country

Do you have the impression that a specific country within Europe is not represented well in disinformation research and if so, which?

      No country underrepresented

      underrepresented countries: _____

      don't know

Q15: Identification of research gaps: Area

In your opinion, which areas or aspects of disinformation research are neglected within Europe?

Q16: Research funding

How is your research funded?

click all answers that apply

      by private national funds/ institutions

      by private international funds/ institutions outside Europe

      by private international funds/ institutions within Europe

      by public national funds/ institutions

      by public international funds/ institutions outside Europe

      by public international funds/ institutions within Europe

      other, namely: _____

Q17: Country of employment

In which country are you currently employed?

      Within the EU: namely_____

      Outside the EU: namely _____

      I am currently not employed

Q18: Field of study

In which field are you currently working?

      Computer science/ Informatics

      Sociology or Political Science

      Psychology

      Media studies/ Communication/ Journalism studies

      Economics

      Behavioral science

      I am not currently employed

      Other, namely: _____

Q19: Current academic position

Filter: Only for those who are employed; not "I am currently not employed" in Q17

In which position are you currently employed?
>   Research assistant
>   PhD student
>   Postdoc
>   Assistant professor
>   Associate professor
>   Full professor
>   I am not currently employed
>   Other : _____

Q20: Gender
Gender: How do you identify?
>   Man
>   Non-binary
>   Woman
>   Prefer other self-description

Q21: EDMO Newsletter
Are you interested in signing up for the EDMO newsletter?
>   yes
>   no
>   don't know

Q21B: Email address
Filter: if not "no" in Q21
If you want us to sign you up for the newsletter, please provide a valid email address: The email address will not be used for any other purpose and not be stored or linked to the answers given.
_____@_____

Q21C: Future update
Filter: if "no" in Q21
Do you think you will follow up on EDMO in another way?
>   yes
>   no
>   don't know

Q21D: EDMO future updates
Filter: if not "no" in Q21C
Can you shortly describe which ways you will use to follow up on EDMO?

Q22: comments
Do you have additional comments on EDMO, your research or in general?

Final page
Thank you for your participation!
If you are interested in more information about EDMO, please also visit our website:
https://edmo.eu/

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

PROTECTION OF YOUR PERSONAL DATA

Processing operation: *Processing of data regarding the "EDMO Researcher Survey" to be included in "IV.D.B: List of relevant academic institutions and organisations"*

Data Controller: *European Commission, DG CONNECT, Unit 14: Media Convergence and Social Media*

Record reference: DPR-EC- DPR-EC-01011.

Table of Contents

1. **Introduction**

Under the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF), the European University Institute, Athens Technology Center, Aarhus University and Pagella Politica created a consortium for the establishment the European Digital Media Observatory (EDMO).

The establishment of the European Digital Media Observatory is based on the Service Contract LC-01464044 with the European Commission that runs until 30 November 2022. While under this contract, the European Commission is data controller, the European Digital Media Observatory acts in full independence (more info on its governance can be found here.

The European Commission (hereafter 'the Commission') is committed to protect your personal data and to respect your privacy. The Commission collects and further processes personal data pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data (repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001).

This privacy statement explains the reason for the processing of your personal data, the way we collect, handle and ensure protection of all personal data provided, how that information is used and what rights you have in relation to your personal data. It also specifies the contact details of the responsible Data Controller with whom you may exercise your rights, the Data Protection Officer and the European Data Protection Supervisor.

This privacy statement concerns the processing operation 'Targeted consultation activities', undertaken by the Commission. DG Connect - Unit I4: Media Convergence and Social as presented below.

2. **Why and how do we process your personal data?**

Purpose of the processing operation: EDMO processes your data to provide an overview of relevant academic organisations and institutions studying disinformation in Europe. The purpose of this overview is to provide better grounds for collaborations and support for disinformation research in European countries or based on European data.

Your responses will be published on the EDMO website on a organisation/institution/center basis, and will not be specific to your person.

The personal data processed may be reused for the purpose of procedures before the EU Courts, national courts, the European Ombudsman or the European Court of Auditor.

Your personal data will _not_ be used for an automated decision-making including profiling.

3. **On what legal ground(s) do we process your personal data**

We process your personal data, because:

(a) processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest;

(b) processing is necessary for compliance with a legal obligation to which the controller is subject;

(d) it is based on your consent, for one or more specified purposes:

− Publication of the identity of the stakeholder or respondent;

- Publication of audio or video recordings;
- If the subject matter of a targeted consultation requires respondents to provide personal data in their response, their publication;
- if applicable, the processing of special categories of personal data.

The Union law which is the basis for the processing based on Articles 5(1)(a) and (b) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 is the Treaty of the European Union, and more specifically its Articles 1 and 11, Article 298 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, read in conjunction with Recital 22 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725), as well as the Protocol 2 on the application of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality.

4.   Which personal data do we collect and further process?

In order to carry out this processing operation *the Data Controller* collects the following categories of personal data:

- *name and surname,*
- *e-mail address of the respondent,*
- *affiliation of the respondent*

Furthermore, you may spontaneously provide other, non-requested personal data in the context of your reply to the targeted consultation.

5.   How long do we keep your personal data?

The Data Controller only keeps your personal data for the time necessary to fulfil the purpose of collection or further processing, namely for a maximum of five years after the closure of the file to which the present targeted consultation belongs. A file is closed at the latest once there has been a final outcome in relation to the initiative to which the targeted consultation contributed. This retention period is without prejudice to an earlier elimination of personal data not part of the file or cases of administrative elimination.

This administrative retention period of five years is based on the retention policy of European Commission documents and files (and the personal data contained in them), governed by the common Commission-level retention list for European Commission files SEC(2019)900. It is a regulatory document in the form of a retention schedule that establishes the retention periods for different types of European Commission files. That list has been notified to the European Data Protection Supervisor.

The administrative retention period is the period during which the European Commission departments are required to keep a file depending on its usefulness for administrative purposes and the relevant statutory and legal obligations. This period begins to run from the time when the file is closed.

In accordance with the common Commission-level retention list, after the 'administrative retention period', files including (the outcome of) targeted consultations (and the personal data contained in them) can be transferred to the Historical Archives of the European Commission for historical purposes (for the processing operations concerning the Historical Archives, please see notifications DPO-1530.4 ARES-NOMCOM. ARES (Advanced Records System) et NOMCOM (Nomenclature Commune), DPO-3871-3 Notification for the digital archival repository and ARCHISscanning' and 'DPO-2806-5 Gestion des dossiers papier structurés par nom de personnes et transférés aux Archives Historiques'.).

6. How do we protect and safeguard your personal data?

All personal data in electronic format (e-mails, documents, databases, uploaded batches of data, etc.) are stored on the servers of the Aarhus University. All processing operations are carried out pursuant to [Commission Decision (EU, Euratom) 2017/46](#) of 10 January 2017 on the security of communication and information systems in the European Commission.

In order to protect your personal data, the Commission and Aarhus University has put in place a number of technical and organisational measures. Technical measures include appropriate actions to address online security, risk of data loss, alteration of data or unauthorised access, taking into consideration the risk presented by the processing and the nature of the personal data being processed. Organisational measures include restricting access to the personal data solely to authorised persons with a legitimate need to know for the purposes of this processing operation.

The Commission's processors, Aarhus University, are bound by a specific contractual clause for any processing operations of your personal data on behalf of the Commission. The processors have to put in place appropriate technical and organisational measures to ensure the level of security, required by the Commission.

7. Who has access to your personal data and to whom is it disclosed?

Access to your personal data is provided to the Aarhus University staff responsible for carrying out this activity and to authorised staff according to the "need to know" principle, in particular to follow-up on the targeted consultation. Such staff abide by statutory, and when required, additional confidentiality agreements.

The information we collect will not be given to any third party, except to the extent and for the purpose we may be required to do so by law.

8. What are your rights and how can you exercise them?

You have specific rights as a 'data subject' under Chapter III (Articles 14-25) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725, in particular the right to access your personal data and to rectify them in case your personal data are inaccurate or incomplete. Under certain conditions, you have the right to erase your personal data, to restrict the processing of your personal data, to object to the processing and the right to data portability.

You have the right to object to the processing of your personal data, which is lawfully carried out pursuant to Article 5(1)(a), on grounds relating to your particular situation.

Insofar you have consented to the certain processing of your personal data to *the Data Controller* for the present processing operation, you can withdraw your consent at any time by notifying the Data Controller. The withdrawal will not affect the lawfulness of the processing carried out before you have withdrawn the consent.

You can exercise your rights by contacting the Data Controller, or in case of conflict the Data Protection Officer. If necessary, you can also address the European Data Protection Supervisor. Their contact information is given under Heading 9 below.

Where you wish to exercise your rights in the context of one or several specific processing operations, please provide their description (i.e. their Record reference(s) as specified under Heading 10 below) in your request.

Any request for access to personal data will be handled within one month. Any other request mentioned above will be addressed within 15 working days.

9. Contact information

- **The Data Controller**

If you would like to exercise your rights under Regulation (EU) 2018/1725, or if you have comments, questions or concerns, or if you would like to submit a complaint regarding the collection and use of your personal data, please feel free to contact the Data Controller.

European Commission, DG Connect - Unit I4: Media Convergence and Social Media at CNECT-I4@ec.europa.eu

- **The Data Protection Officer (DPO) of the Commission**

You may contact the Data Protection Officer (DATA-PROTECTION-OFFICER@ec.europa.eu) with regard to issues related to the processing of your personal data under Regulation (EU) 2018/1725.

- **The European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS)**

You have the right to have recourse (i.e. you can lodge a complaint) to the European Data Protection Supervisor (edps@edps.europa.eu) if you consider that your rights under Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 have been infringed as a result of the processing of your personal data by the Data Controller.

10. Where to find more detailed information?

The Commission Data Protection Officer (DPO) publishes the register of all processing operations on personal data by the Commission, which have been documented and notified to him. You may access the register via the following link: http://ec.europa.eu/dpo-register.

This specific processing operation has been included in the DPO's public register with the following Record reference: DPR-EC-01011.1