



DISINFORMAT ION AND MEDIA LITERACY

A French perspective

INTRODUCTI ON

2021: „One out of two internet users in France has come across fake news in the past three months“

48 % of the persons questioned having been confronted by probable fake news, have made effort to verify their reliability

22 % feel that they have a lack of competence on how to identify fake news



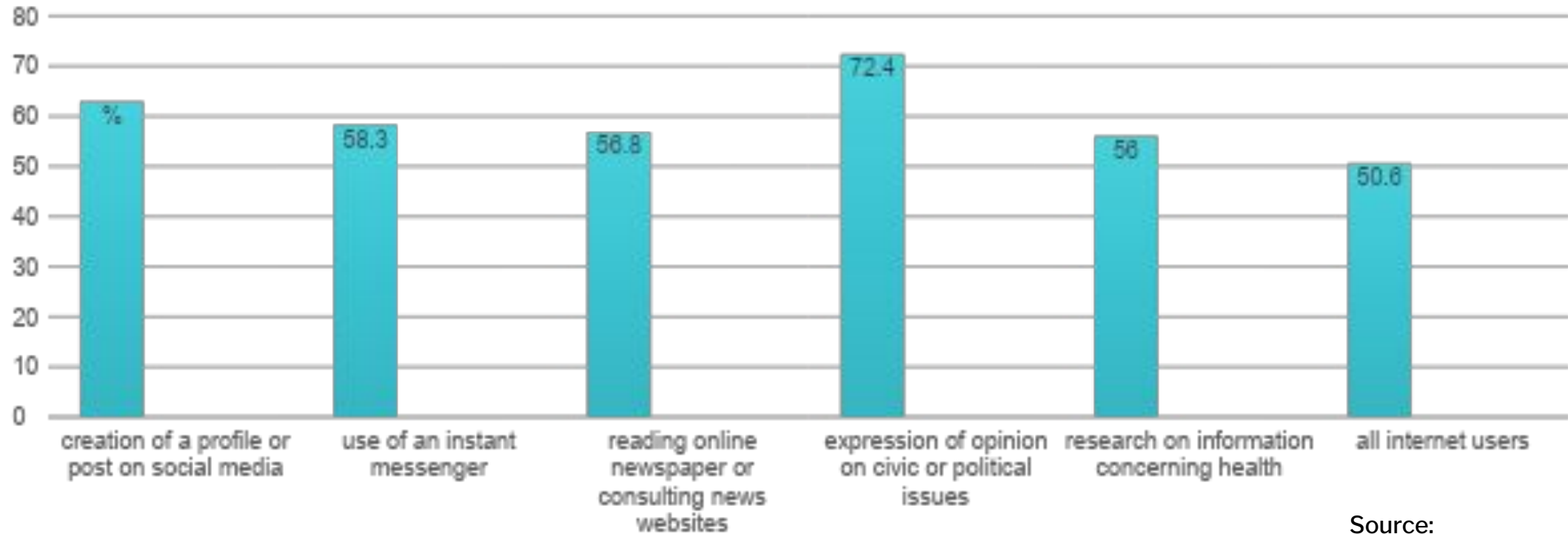
HOW TO QUALIFY FAKE NEWS?

DEFINITION ACCORDING TO THE
1881 LAW ABOUT FREEDOM OF
SPEECH AFTER THREE CRITERIA:

- the false news must ...be obvious
- ...be massively and artificially disseminated
- ...lead to a disturbance of the public peace or the sincerity of a ballot

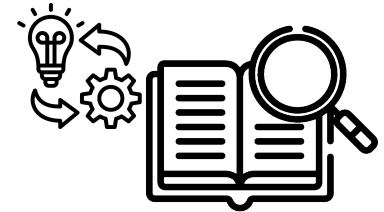


STATISTICS: PERCENTAGE OF PERSONS WHO HAVE SEEN AT LEAST ONE FAKE NEWS IN 2021, ACCORDING TO ONLINE PRACTICES



Source:
www.insee.fr

VERIFICATION OF FAKE NEWS



MORE EXPOSED GROUPS

- People using social media and instant messaging
 - People exchanging opinions via websites, social media platforms or online consultations
 - A majority of men under 30 years of age with a higher educational level and advanced digital skills
 - A majority of women and people with no higher educational level
- ⇒ However, this group tends to verify acquired information quite often
- ⇒ Due to less advanced digital skills, this group tends not to verify fake news



SUSPECTED
INTERFERENCE AT
BFMTV: BEHIND THE
CASE OF RACHID
M'BARKI, THE "STORY
KILLERS"
INVESTIGATION
REVEALS THE ROLE
OF AN ISRAELI
DISINFORMATION
AGENCY"

FAKE NEWS SPREAD BY A FRENCH INITIATOR

- An investigation by Radio France's investigative unit, in conjunction with the Forbidden Stories consortium, reveals that BFMTV broadcast information provided by an Israeli disinformation agency run by former army and secret service officers
- Experienced BFMTV journalist Rachid M'Barki broadcast sensible information on air without approval from the editor-in-chief and in defiance of BFMTV's editorial line
- Proof: a video from 19 September 2022 in which BFMTV journalist Rachid M'Barki uses images to describe the difficulties faced by the yachting industry in Monaco following the introduction of sanctions against Russian oligarchs
- The starting point of this affair is not in France, but in Israel: Over a period of several months, three investigative journalists infiltrated a company without any legal existence specialising in influence, electoral manipulation and disinformation
- At the heart of its activity: online disinformation via a highly effective digital platform called Aims, standing for "Advanced Impact Media Solutions" which is used to make information go viral



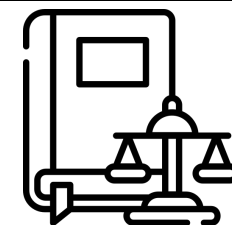
A PUBLIC OPINION

- Politics remain a major issue in the fake news phenomenon, both as a source as well as a target of false information
- A large proportion of French people are also convinced that politics are the main target of fake news, ahead of international news and celebrities
- The Public opinion is generally in favour of a law against fake news, believing that it would be a good initiative to make information on social networks and internet platforms more accountable
- While prevention among the public concerned is a possibility, more than half of respondents said that the State should fight by forcing the platforms concerned to develop good practices



2018: A NEW LAW „AGAINST THE MANIPULATION OF INFORMATION“

- The „fake news law“ aims to better protect the democracy against a variety of intentional dissemination of fake news
- It tackles the massive and extremely rapid spread of fake news via digital tools, in particular the propagation pipes, meaning social networks and media under the influence of a foreign state
- Particular attention is paid to election campaign periods, just before and during elections, to focus on the real danger, meaning attempts to influence election results
- The text is aimed at deliberate attempts to manipulate information and will have no impact on journalistic work, which may consist of revealing information on matters of public interest at any time



SOLUTIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES

„INTERNET SANS CRAINTE“

- National and European Digital Awareness Program for Young People
- Help for young people to become better masters of their digital lives supported by the European commission
- Topics: cyberbullying, social networks, information factory, video games or digital parenting



Act Stronger CERV Project 101081349

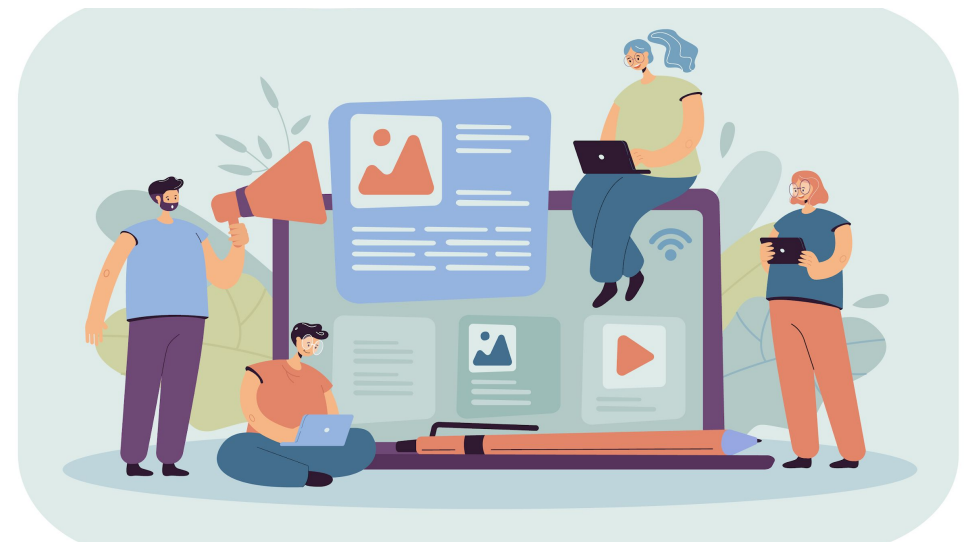


„ÉDUSCOL“

- Mission: promoting the pluralistic use of information and media devices in education
- Objective: achieving a better understanding by students of the world while developing a critical sense
- Action: operating throughout the national territory to implement trainings taking into account institutional priorities and territorial specifics

CONCLUSION

- The question remaining in the fight against disinformation and the support of media literacy is where to draw the line between freedom of speech and regulation of information
- There has to be a balance between respecting freedom of expression and safeguarding rationality in public debate



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