



Short report

Fake News Seminar, 18th of October 2018 - The Hague

Opening speech

Facilitated by Jasper Zuure, Senior advisor at the council of Public Administration.

He reflected on the meaning of fake news as a 'wrong perception of reality' and made the distinction between different functions misinformation (unintentional), disinformation (intentional), propaganda and as serving conspiracy theories. He questioned whether 'truth tracking' should be a central feature of democracy and defined three levels of truth tracking: individual vs. System, collective group dynamics and institutional. Zuure concluded that digitalization has changed the way people perceive the reality since it changes the perception, interpretation and representation. Moreover, the way people produce, collect, analyse and apply data information and knowledge has changed overtime. In all, truth tracking could also be a design principle for the digitization of democracy.

Panel discussion

panellists: Medeni Sungur, Amer Tikvesa, Tamar Giorgobiani

Medeni mentioned that fake news has been used as a medium to manipulate and mediate the course of public debate in Turkey. It has been deliberately used by political actors to steer political discussion. Nevertheless, it has backfired since it is increasingly used by rival parties.

Tamar remarked that fake news has been used as a tool for Russian propaganda, to frame Europe. She also stated that it makes a considerable impact on the world views of many Georgians and that they believe in a plurality of myths about Europe. She noted that there is a need for Georgians to strengthen the immunity against fake news and gain more media literacy. Amer introduced the situation in Bosnia by shedding light on the political culture and saw it as an example of a post-truth society. In explanation, there is no such thing as an absolute truth and stand points are related to the adherence to ethno-religious groups of the Serbs, Croats or Bosnians.

Concluding

When it comes to solutions in dealing with fake news, the discussion ended on a positive note. Increasing media literacy, journalistic fact checking and engaging with your opponents seen were seen by the panel and audience as necessary to take.

**Mr. Hans
van Mierlo
Stichting**

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