

DIS-/MISINFORMATION STORIES (NARRATIVES)

ABOUT ELECTIONS (EU)

- The spread of dis & misinformation can severely **impact** our democratic processes.
- In the past year before the 2024 European Elections the amount of EU-related disinformation has **tripled**.
- Being aware of common narratives can help us **build immunity** against infodemics!



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1

✘ Claim:

“European Parliament elections are not free and fair!”



Effects:

- Damaged **trust** in the electoral process.
- Reduced **credibility** of elected representatives.



Evidence:

- The European Parliament is the **only directly-elected organ** of the EU.
- The EU has installed **robust check-ups** to ensure and protect fair and free elections.

EP



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2



Claim:

“Membership in the EU is a threat to a national sovereignty!”



Effects:

- **Fear** of losing national identity and authority.
- Rise of **anti-EU** movements.



Evidence:

- EU only carries responsibility **in certain areas**, the memberstates have assigned to it.
- The EU only has **competences** given to it by member states. It cannot force them to give powers.

EC



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3

✘ Claim:

“Member states have not benefited from the EU membership!”



Effects:

- **Weakened trust** in the EU's ability to provide economic benefits.



Evidence:

- In 2023, **72% of EU citizens** agreed that the EU has been beneficial to their state.
- The EU addresses **regional inequalities**, supports less developed regions.

Eurobarometer; EIB



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4

✘ Claim:

“The EU has no impact on my life!”



Effects:

- A **lack of knowledge** of the EU’s achievements.
- **Less participation** in EU elections and policymaking processes.



Evidence:

- **70% of EU citizens** believe the EU impacts their daily life, e.g. roaming.
- EU citizens can live, work, study, and retire **in any EU country** without a visa or work permit.

EU&ME



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5

✘ Claim:

“Voting in European elections is too complex!”



Effects:

- Decreased **voter participation**.
- Citizens are **less aware of their voting rights**.



Evidence:

- Voting in European Elections is **easy and simple** with easily accessible instructions.
- All elections information is available on **a single EU platform**.

EU; EESC



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6

✘ Claim:

“Less and less people vote in EU elections!”



Effects:

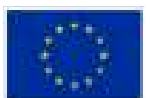
- Undermines the **functioning of democracy** by less citizen participation.



Evidence:

- The 2019 EU Elections showed the **highest participation** in the past two decades (50.7%).
- **68% of EU citizens** indicated to likely vote in the 2024 elections.

Eurobarometer



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7

✘ Claim:

“The ‘Brussels Bubble’ is out of touch with regular European citizens!”



Effects:

- Citizens **feel excluded** from EU decision making.



Evidence:

- Citizens can share their views on new EU policies and existing laws through **Public Consultations** mechanism.
- Decision-making processes are **transparent**, with documents and debates made publicly accessible in 24 EU official languages. EC, EU



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