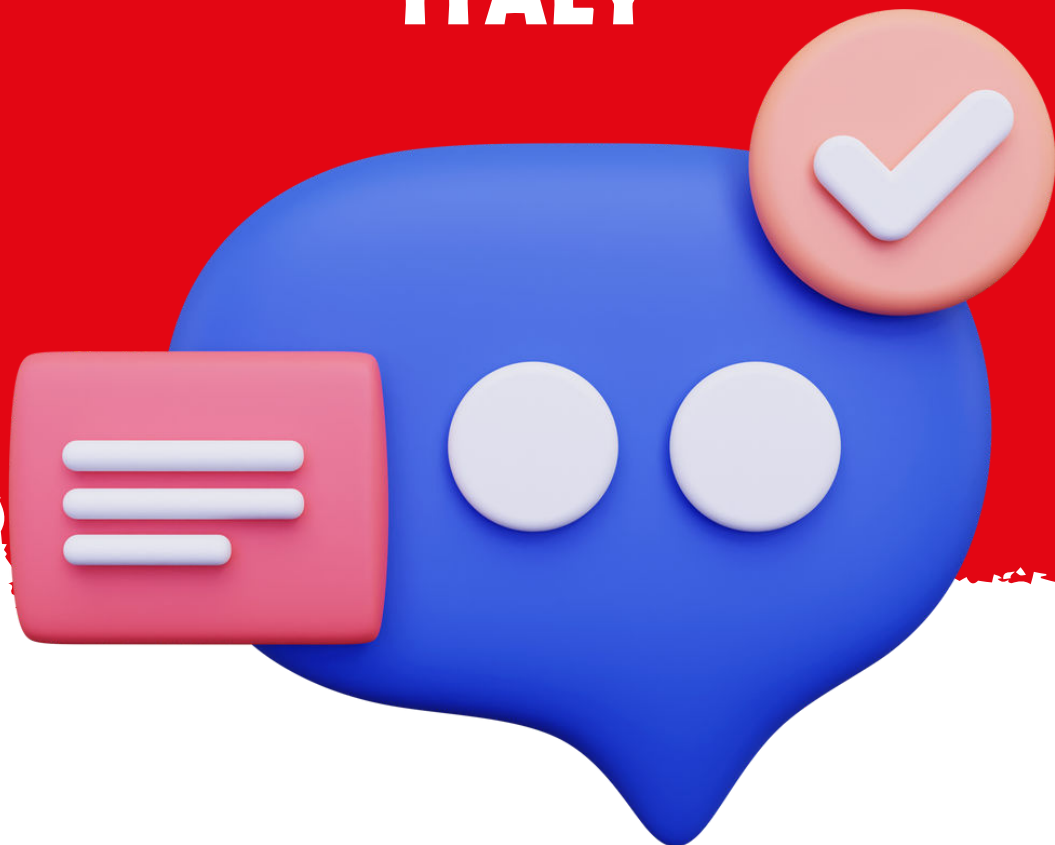


**D3. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM
THE HIGH LEVEL EXPERTS -
ITALY**



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The results of the Italian online survey are quite surprising considering the age of the majority of the respondents (18-30 years old).

Indeed, this considering, from the survey emerged a sample of participants who use smartphone and PC to get online information, use every day WhatsApp, Facebook and Instagram but who does not share/post often on such platforms. But when they do, it's to publish personal photos, stories or comments.

Respondents are on average not very confident in their families and friends ability to identify news or information that misrepresent reality or is false. But they do not know what a fact checker is and does.

Online media are not very trusted and participants consider them somehow politicised.

Migration polices are an area of public life that is harmed to a greatest extent by an intentional disinformation, followed by voting decisions, trust in public institutions and trust in elected representatives.

About coronavirus, participants searched for news about it on TV and Governmental web portal and the majority consider that fake news had a negative impact on the management of the situation but they do trust the policies of the government to face the pandemic.

Although it seems that respondents are aware of fake news, on the other side Italians do not know what fact checkers are and do not know what they do. It would be very important to inform them about how it is important to check and verify news and give them some tools to do this.

Furthermore, on one hand Italians say that they generally trust national traditional media, but on the other hand, they say that they think that information is politicized, therefore they basically acknowledge that news is politicized and for this reason cannot be objective.

Thus, it would be important to work on the Italian way /mindset to look at the news and to let them know that if they trust traditional national media that are politicized, they trust something that can be partial and biased and probably sometimes even fake.

We need to help Italians to use alternative means of information and also to teach know to be active in researching right information and sources and to develop a critical approach about reading news.

Starting from these results, selected media experts gathered to discuss and formulate recommendations for future event for citizens in order to:

- boost citizens' awareness of rights and values and increase their degree of engagement in society and with the EU;
- contribute to strengthen democratic participation, with a special focus on inclusion of younger and older people, women in all their diversity;
- reach those citizens not active in civic participation in their everyday life.

Experts invited have been:

- Riccardo Acciai, Director of the Telematic Networks and Marketing Department Privacy Guarantor
- Michele Petrucci, former President. Corecom Lazio
- Fulvio Sarzana di Sant'Ippolito
- Marika Rotondi, Vice President: III Commission - Vigilance on the pluralism of information Lazio Region
- Elena Agresti, Information Security Manager Poste Italiane S.p.A.
- Costanza Andreini, Public Policy Manager - Italy and Greece at Meta
- Aldo Pecora, journalist
- Gloria Maria Paci, President of Associazione Protezione Diritti e Libertà Privacy APS
- Antonio Longo, President MDC Association

Experts debated with the audience:

- The new technological trends and the advance of the so-called generative Artificial Intelligence.
- The mechanisms behind the algorithms in social media and how they can influence information.
- Intergenerational approach towards media education and literacy. Protecting adults from oversharing and sensitize children and young people, especially about their “privacy”.
- How to protect the independence of journalists and guarantee the transparency of the media.

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Experts final considerations confirm that fighting fake news is an ongoing effort that requires the active participation of individuals, communities, organizations, and governments. It's essential to strike a balance between addressing fake news and preserving free speech and open dialogue.

Here are some recommendations individuals, organizations, and governments should take into account to fight fake news:

Media Literacy Education:

Promote media literacy from an early age. Teach people how to critically evaluate sources, fact-check information, and discern credible news outlets from unreliable ones.

Fact-Checking:

Support and promote fact-checking organizations and initiatives. Share their findings and encourage others to do the same.

Verify Information Before Sharing:

Before sharing information on social media or elsewhere, take a moment to verify its accuracy. Use fact-checking websites and cross-reference with reliable sources.

Question Your Own Bias:

Recognize your own biases and be open to alternative viewpoints. Critical thinking and intellectual curiosity are essential in evaluating information objectively.

Diversify Your News Sources:

Consume news from a variety of sources with different perspectives. Avoid echo chambers where your views are only reinforced.

Promote Critical Thinking:

Encourage discussions and debates based on facts and evidence. Encourage people to think critically about the information they encounter.

Report Fake News:

On social media platforms, report fake news or misleading content when you encounter it. Many platforms have mechanisms for flagging false information.

Government Regulations:

Governments can implement regulations to fight fake news, but these regulations must be carefully balanced with freedom of speech to avoid censorship issues. Now we have the chance to study and implement the Digital service Act, a new European regulation conceived to fight fake news.

Transparency in Algorithms:

Encourage transparency from social media platforms and search engines about how their algorithms work and how they prioritize content.

Promote Critical News Consumption in Schools:

Include media literacy as part of the curriculum in schools to help students develop the skills needed to discern credible sources from fake news.

Data Protection:

Advocate for strong data privacy laws to protect individuals from the misuse of their personal information in the creation and distribution of fake news. Promoting workshops about the GDPR.