

## EUROPEAN FACT-CHECKING ORGANISATIONS APPROVE A CODE OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

More than 40 fact-checking organisations across Europe have agreed upon a professional Code that defines the standards of methodology, ethics and transparency required to combat disinformation effectively and with integrity.



A The “[European Code of Standards for Independent Fact-Checking Organisations](#)”, which was published today, has been developed through a project involving fact-checking organisations from more than 30 countries across Europe. It is the result of months of research, surveys, debates and discussions among European fact-checkers, as well as academics and other experts in the field. The final version of the Code was approved by 44 out of the 45 organisations who voted.

The Code’s standards, which cover matters ranging from quality sourcing to non-partisanship and financial transparency, must be adhered to for fact-checking organisations to become verified members of the [European Fact-Checking Standards Network](#) (EFCSN), which will support and represent this community. Membership in the network will signify to the public which European fact-checking organisations are operating independently, ethically and with a commitment to serving the public interest.

With the text of the Code now approved, European fact-checking organisations will meet in Madrid at the end of September to discuss and define the mission and structure of the network and the governance body that will oversee the enforcement of the Code.

In addition, in the coming months, the EFCSN will support Europe’s open source investigation community in developing a separate set of guidelines tailored to their work and mission.

This project is part of the [Call of Integrity of Social Media](#) by the European Commission and is led by [six European organisations](#) focused on fighting misinformation: [Fundación Maldita.es](#) (Spain), [AFP](#) (France), [CORRECTIV](#) (Germany), [DEMAGOG](#) (Poland), [Pagella Politica/ Facta](#) (Italy) and [EU DisinfoLab](#) (Belgium).

Follow the EFCSN’s [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#) for regular updates on this project.

### About AFP:

AFP is a leading global news agency, providing 24/7 coverage of world news across all fields. Since 2017, AFP has built up the world’s largest digital investigation network, with over 130 journalists covering 85 countries to date. AFP is a signatory to the International Fact-Checking Network’s [code of principles](#), which include a commitment to nonpartisanship and fairness, transparency of sources and an open and honest corrections policy. These specialised journalists are a reference in the fight against disinformation and publish in 24 languages on the [factcheck.afp.com](#) website.

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