

PRESS RELEASE

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AFP PARTNERS WITH HDMO TO FIGHT DISINFORMATION IN HUNGARY

AFP has partnered with the Hungarian Digital Media Observatory (HDMO) to launch a new factchecking website in a joint effort to fight against disinformation in Hungary.

HDMO, an organisation comprised of journalists and researchers, is revamping its website, <u>Lakmusz.hu</u>, while launching a new website, hdmo.eu, with the support of AFP's fact-checking team to confront disinformation spreading across Hungarian digital media. Both websites will help to expand the organisation's reach by disseminating fact-check articles to a larger audience.

"AFP is proud to be taking part in the current fight against disinformation in Hungary, one of the countries most affected by this phenomenon in Europe," said Bronwen Roberts, who manages AFP's team of European fact-checkers. "AFP notably provided training during an initial project to help the country's first internationally recognised fact-checking organisation to emerge. This is a wonderful recognition of the work done daily by our teams in the domain of digital verification.»

HDMO's original site, Lakmusz.hu was born from a project co-financed by the European Commission. Launched in January 2022, Lakmusz.hu is the first dedicated fact-checking website in Hungary, hosting fact-checking articles produced by journalists of Lakmusz as well as by AFP. Lakmusz.hu is published by Hungarian publisher Magyar Jeti, and it closely cooperates with Magyar Jeti's popular online news site, 444.hu, which helps to promote fact-checking content.

The new HDMO website, hdmo.eu, includes articles about disinformation published by the research institute Political Capital (the project leader) and independent Hungarian media monitoring group Mertek, as well as media education content produced by Hungarian foundation, Idea, in partnership with AFP.

Both websites were developed by the French software company, ePressPack.

The Lakmusz-HDMO project, co-financed by the European Union, is part of the European Digital Media Observatory (EDMO). This independent coordinating body was created in 2020 to unite journalists, scholars and experts in media education in the fight against disinformation. The network covers every European Union country through 14 hubs. AFP is a member of 8 EDMO hubs.

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 more than 140 journalists. These specialised journalists are a reference in the fight against disinformation and publish in 26 languages on the factcheck.afp.com website.

As a result, AFP was chosen by the European Commission to take part in seven other platforms of EDMO's network that covers 16 countries, in addition to BROD. AFP is also a member of IFCN (International Fact-Checking Networks) and participated in the writing of EFCSN (European Fact-Checking Standards Network)'s Code. AFP also belongs to META's programme aiming to identify misleading information circulating on these social networks.

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