

EN

E-001004/2026

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen
on behalf of the European Commission
(20.5.2026)

Safeguarding the integrity of the information space to support everyone in society to access reliable and trustworthy information and exercise their democratic rights is essential for democracy as outlined in the European Democracy Shield (EDS) Communication¹.

In this vein, the Commission has supported the development of technological tools that enable journalists, fact-checkers, civil society groups and all citizens to detect disinformation and foreign interference (FIMI) campaigns, including through support for consecutive projects under Horizon 2020² and Horizon Europe³ such as InVID⁴, WeVerify⁵ and vera.ai⁶, with around EUR 34 million through EU Horizon Europe Cluster 4 funding. Results developed under vera.ai are being further taken up by some members of the consortium in the ongoing AI-CODE project, which ensures continuity of tools and expertise supported through earlier EU funding.

Furthermore, the Commission also supports other relevant projects contributing to information integrity, such as European Narrative Observatory pilots, recurring funding to foster media literacy under Creative Europe, and support to the European Digital Media Observatory (EDMO) under Digital Europe⁷.

As part of the EDS, the Commission has also launched new initiatives, such as a call for proposals for a common research framework⁸ that will support technical infrastructure and research on information integrity. This is complemented by support for a European Network of Fact-Checkers.

Europe must be better equipped to protect the integrity of its public debate and democratic processes. For that reason, under the new Multiannual Financial Framework, the Commission proposes to continue supporting innovation across the media sector. As part of the proposed

¹ Communication on the European Democracy Shield:

https://commission.europa.eu/document/2539eb53-9485-4199-bfdc-97166893ff45_en.

² https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-2020_en.

³ https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe_en.

⁴ <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/687786>.

⁵ <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/825297>.

⁶ <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101070093>.

⁷ Latest call: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/DIGITAL-2026-BESTUSE-TECH-EDMO-09-](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/DIGITAL-2026-BESTUSE-TECH-EDMO-09-HUBS?keywords=edmo&isExactMatch=true&status=31094501,31094502,31094503&order=DESC&pageNumber=1&pageSize=50&sortBy=relevance)

[HUBS?keywords=edmo&isExactMatch=true&status=31094501,31094502,31094503&order=DESC&pageNumber=1&pageSize=50&sortBy=relevance](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/DIGITAL-2026-BESTUSE-RSF-10-AWARENESS?order=DESC&pageNumber=1&pageSize=50&sortBy=startDate&isExactMatch=true&status=31094501,31094502,31094503&frameworkProgramme=43152860).

⁸ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/DIGITAL-2026-BESTUSE-RSF-10-AWARENESS?order=DESC&pageNumber=1&pageSize=50&sortBy=startDate&isExactMatch=true&status=31094501,31094502,31094503&frameworkProgramme=43152860>.

new AgoraEU programme⁹, the Commission intends to step up support actions that promote and protect a free, viable and diverse EU information ecosystem.

⁹ Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the 'AgoraEU' programme for the period 2028-2034, and repealing Regulations (EU) 2021/692 and (EU) 2021/818: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025PC0550>.