

Report Launch Event

News Media, Information Integrity and the Public Sphere

14 February 2025

Theatre and Online - Badia Fiesolana, Via dei Roccettini 9 - San Domenico di Fiesole (Fiesole, Florence)

Scientific Organisers

Elda Brogi | European University Institute (EUI)

Pier Luigi Parcu | European University Institute (EUI)

Urbano Reviglio | European University Institute (EUI)

Iris Boyer | Observatory, Forum on Information and Democracy (FID)

What counts as ‘news’ in today’s information ecosystems? What happens when people cannot tell the difference between accurate and inaccurate, or false, information? Do viral mis- and disinformation and hate speech really cause political polarization? And to what extent these are weaponized in politics and with what consequences? How is the rise of digital platforms owned by big tech companies changing news production and consumption? What insights can the European Union gain from global experiences to address these challenges? These questions form the foundation of this event’s discussion. They are all addressed in the report of the International Observatory on Information and Democracy [“Information Ecosystems and Troubled Democracy: A Global Synthesis of the State of Knowledge on News Media, AI and Data Governance”](#). The Observatory draws on its extensive global network of researchers to provide a nuanced and critical overview, crucial for examining the challenges confronting information ecosystems and democracies. This approach avoids oversimplifications, misleading generalizations, and Western-centric biases. The objective of this event is not only to disseminate the results of the Observatory’s research but also to highlight research consensus and dissensus, gaps and priorities for the scientific community and share actionable insights for different sectors and regions.

About the Observatory on Information and Democracy

The International Observatory on Information and Democracy (OID) is an initiative of the [Forum on Information and Democracy](#), the implementing organization of an intergovernmental Partnership endorsed by 54 countries globally. Inspired by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the Observatory provides periodic meta-analyses of the information space, its structure and how it impacts the public debate and democracy around the world. Since October 2023, the drafting team of the report has aggregated, analyzed and synthesized over 3000 sources and consulted more than 400 stakeholders from academia, civil society, public administration and the industry. It has already published a series of noteworthy reports such as [AI as a Public Good: Ensuring Democratic Control of AI in the Information Space](#) and [Pluralism of News and Information in Curation and Indexing Algorithms](#).



Programme

14 February

10.00 - 10.15 Welcome Address
Pier Luigi Parcu | EUI

10.15 - 10.45 Introducing the Observatory and the Final Report
Iris Boyer | FID
Pier Luigi Parcu | EUI

10.45 - 11.00 Coffee Break

11.00 - 11.45 1st Panel: News Media and the Public Sphere: Examining the European Case

This panel examines the results of the Report on news media and the public sphere, focusing on the current state of research regarding news media consumption, news trust, and news avoidance especially within the European Union. The discussion aims to shed light on distinctive patterns and differences compared to global trends.

Chair

Elda Brogi | EUI

Marta Cantero Gamito | EUI

Robin Mansell | London School of Economics / FID (online)

Andrea Simoncini | University of Florence

11.45 - 12.30 2nd Panel: Information Integrity: Future Policy Approaches

This panel explores the latest policy strategies implemented globally to tackle issues surrounding information integrity, dis- and mis-information, and political polarization. The discussion focuses on identifying innovative and alternative policy approaches to fostering trust and building societal resilience.

Chair

Iva Nenadic | EUI

Flavia Durach | College of Communication and Public Relations, National University for Political Studies and Public Administration, Bucharest / Media for FID (online)

Paula Gori | European Digital Media Observatory (EDMO)