

Code of Practice on
Disinformation – Report
of Demagog Association
for the period June 2022
- December 2022

Executive summary

Demagog Association is the first Polish fact-checking organization. Since 2014 Demagog's activities focus on verifying politicians' statements, false information with the aim of reducing the spread of fake news in social media. Our main goal is to improve the quality of public debate by providing citizens with unbiased and reliable information.

As of May 2019, the association is a member of the International Fact-Checking Network and also a part of Meta's Third-Party Fact-Checking Program. We are also part of the European Digital Media Observatory (EDMO) fact-checking community.

Within the scope of fighting disinformation, Demagog also puts emphasis on media literacy and misinformation resilience. We organize workshops and educational projects for youth, students and seniors. Apart from education and fact-checking, we focus on civic activism, advocacy for the freedom of information and watchdogging activities. We cooperate with research centers, projects and other organizations in the field of disinformation, data analysis and cyber security.

We are part of the consortium that leads the European Fact-Checking Standards Network (EFCSN) project that aims to build institutional framework for European fact-checking community. With our partners from Maldita.es (Spain), Correctiv (Germany), AFP (France), Pagella Politica (Italy) we have already established the Code of Professional Integrity for European fact-checkers that was widely approved by 44 organizations from all over Europe. The Code sets the highest methodological and transparency standards for fact-checking operations to ensure their professionalism and reliability.

In 2022 we worked closely with experts and researchers from EDMO and other organizations in the EDMO's task-force on Disinformation and the War in Ukraine.

Guidelines for filling out the report

Baseline reports are detailing how Signatories have implemented their Commitments under the Code and provide the Qualitative Reporting Elements (QREs) and Service Level Indicators (SLIs), as they stand one month after the implementation. The baseline report should also include a comparison between the measures in place under the previous Code to the measures taken to implement the new Code. The measures taken to implement the new Code should be outlined per commitment in the dedicated field of the reporting template.

Reporting period

The reporting period to be covered in the baseline reports is from 16 December 2022 to 16 January 2023 for all Signatories. (The implementation period of the Code from 16 June 2022 to 16 December 2022 is followed by a one-month reporting period from 16 December 2022 to 16 January 2023.) Signatories shall submit baseline reports outlining policy updates and actions taken to implement the Code during the implementation period. Data, e.g. on the number of actions taken under a specific policy, should be reported on from the end of the implementation period (16 December 2022) until the cut-off date of 16 January 2023. In case specific data is not available for the first reporting period (from 16 December 2022 to 16 January 2023), please provide the monthly average based on the previous quarter, clearly outlining the methodology used in the relevant field. The submission date for baseline reports is January 31, 2023.

Adjusting the reporting template

Non-VLOPs can adapt the template to specific commitments and measures they subscribed to. This may include adapted wording for commitments, measures, QREs and SLIs. Non-VLOPs signatories will report only on commitments and measures they subscribed to and provide Member State-level data only if feasible.

Reporting per Service

When filling in a report for several services, use colour codes to clearly distinguish between services. At the beginning of the report, clarify what colour is used for which service.

Reporting in text form

Reporting in the form of written text is required for several parts of the report. Most of them are accompanied by a target character limit. Please stick to the target character limit as much as possible. We encourage you to use bullet points and short sentences. Links should only be used to provide examples or to illustrate the point. They should not be used to replace explanations or to provide data in the forms. All relevant explanations and data must be included in the table directly, in written form.

Reporting SLIs and data

Reporting on Service Level Indicators requires quantitative information to be reported in the reporting template. We ask you to report data in the format provided by the reporting template, not on external links.

Reporting on TTPs

If subscribed to Commitment 14, Integrity of Services, we ask you to report on each identified TTP individually. The number of identified TTPs may vary per service. Where more than one TTP are reported under the same action, clarify the reasoning in the methodology. Where input is not provided, keep the placeholder for the relevant TTP and explain reasons and planned remedial action. Additionally, as with all other SLIs, data can be provided per Member State for each individual TTP.

Missing Data

In case that at the time of reporting there is no data available yet, the data is insufficient or the methodology is lacking, please outline in the dedicated field (i.e. in the field about further implementation measures planned) how this will be addressed over the upcoming six months, being as specific as possible. Please also indicate inconsistencies or gaps regarding methodology in the field dedicated to methodology.

Attachments

We ask you not to enclose any additional attachments to the harmonised reporting template.

Uploading data to the Transparency Centre

After the submission of the baseline reports and the launch of the Transparency Centre website, all data from the reporting template must be uploaded to the Transparency Centre within maximum 7 days, allowing easy data access and filtering. It is the responsibility of the Signatories to ensure that the uploading takes place and is executed on time. Signatories are also responsible to ensure that the Transparency Centre is operational and functional by the time of the reports' submission, that the data from the reports are uploaded and made accessible in the Transparency Centre within the above deadline, and that users are able to read, search, filter and download data as needed in a user-friendly way and format.

VII. Empowering the fact-checking community

Commitment 33

Relevant Signatories (i.e. fact-checking organisations) commit to operate on the basis of strict ethical and transparency rules, and to protect their independence.

Measure 33.1

Demagog Association commits to operate under strict ethical and transparency rules and to comply with relevant codes setting the qualitative standards for the fact-checking community based on principles of transparency, non-partisanship and fairness.

QRE 33.1.1 [insert wording if adapted]

Demagog Association maintains its commitment to adhere to highest qualitative standards for the fact-checking community. Since 2019 we are verified member of the International Fact-Checking Network (IFCN). As of January 2023, in the IFCN there are 44 verified active signatories and 12 organizations under renewal process which come from EU member states, Council of Europe states and Kosovo.

Since September 2019, Demagog Association is a partner to the Meta's Independent Third-Party Fact-Checking Program.

Demagog Association is also a Consortium Member of the European Fact-Checking Standards Network (EFCSN) project. We have actively participated in the process of drafting The European Code of Standards for Independent Fact-Checking Organisations which sets the highest standards of methodology, ethics and transparency for the European fact-checking community. As of January 2023, vice president of Demagog Association Pawel Terpilowski is a member of the Governance Body of the EFCSN.

EFCSN has already started the application process for organizations willing to be part of the network. The first window of submissions is open until the end of February.

SLI 33.1.1 - number of European fact-checkers that are IFCN-certified

Number of organizations verified in the IFCN is based on territorial principle. Organizations taken into account are located in the EU member states, Council of Europe member states, Kosovo and Belarus.

IFCN: 44 verified active signatories, 12 under renewal.

EFCSN: application process started for all European organizations.

Data

January 2023

January 2023

VIII. Transparency Centre

Commitment 34

To ensure transparency and accountability around the implementation of this Code, Relevant Signatories commit to set up and maintain a publicly available common Transparency Centre website.

Measure 34.3	Demagog Association reaffirms its commitment to actively contribute, within the scope of its operations and activities to the Transparency Centre.
Measure 34.4	Demagog Association reaffirms its commitment to actively contribute, within the scope of its operations and activities to the Transparency Centre.

VIII. Transparency Centre

Commitment 35

Signatories commit to ensure that the Transparency Centre contains all the relevant information related to the implementation of the Code's Commitments and Measures and that this information is presented in an easy-to-understand manner, per service, and is easily searchable.

Measure 35.2	Demagog Association reaffirms its commitment to include in an accessible and understandable manner all the relevant information within the scope of its operations and activities in the Transparency Centre.
Measure 35.3	Demagog Association reaffirms its commitment to include in an accessible and understandable manner all the relevant information within the scope of its operations and activities in the Transparency Centre.
Measure 35.4	Demagog Association reaffirms its commitment to include in an accessible and understandable manner all the relevant information within the scope of its operations and activities in the Transparency Centre.

VIII. Transparency Centre

Commitment 36

Signatories commit to updating the relevant information contained in the Transparency Centre in a timely and complete manner.

Measure 36.1	Demagog Associations reaffirms its commitment to update the relevant information contained in the Transparency Centre in a timely and complete manner.
Measure 36.2	Demagog Associations reaffirms its commitment to update the relevant information contained in the Transparency Centre in a timely and complete manner.
Measure 36.3	Demagog Associations reaffirms its commitment to update the relevant information contained in the Transparency Centre in a timely and complete manner.
QRE 36.1.1 (for the Commitments 34-36)	Demagog Associations reaffirms its commitment to update the relevant information contained in the Transparency Centre in a timely and complete manner.
SLI 36.1.1 - (for Measures 34 and 36) meaningful quantitative information on the usage of the Transparency Centre, such as the average monthly visits of the webpage	No methodology to report.
	No data to report.
Data	January 2023

IX. Permanent Task-Force

Commitment 37

Signatories commit to participate in the permanent Task-force. The Task-force includes the Signatories of the Code and representatives from EDMO and ERGA. It is chaired by the European Commission, and includes representatives of the European External Action Service (EEAS). The Task-force can also invite relevant experts as observers to support its work. Decisions of the Task-force are made by consensus.

Measure 37.1	Demagog Association actively participates in the work of the Permanent Task-force. We are members of two subgroups: Crisis Response Subgroup and Outreach and Integration Subgroup.
Measure 37.2	Demagog Association actively participates in the work of the Permanent Task-force. We are members of two subgroups: Crisis Response Subgroup and Outreach and Integration Subgroup.
Measure 37.3	Demagog Association actively participates in the work of the Permanent Task-force. We are members of two subgroups: Crisis Response Subgroup and Outreach and Integration Subgroup.
Measure 37.4	Demagog Association actively participates in the work of the Permanent Task-force. We are members of two subgroups: Crisis Response Subgroup and Outreach and Integration Subgroup.
Measure 37.5	Demagog Association actively participates in the work of the Permanent Task-force. We are members of two subgroups: Crisis Response Subgroup and Outreach and Integration Subgroup.
Measure 37.6	Demagog Association actively participates in the work of the Permanent Task-force. We are members of two subgroups: Crisis Response Subgroup and Outreach and Integration Subgroup.

QRE 37.6.1	Demagog Association actively participates in the work of the Permanent Task-force. We are members of two subgroups: Crisis Response Subgroup and Outreach and Integration Subgroup.
-------------------	---

X. Monitoring of Code	
Commitment 38	
<p>The Signatories commit to dedicate adequate financial and human resources and put in place appropriate internal processes to ensure the implementation of their commitments under the Code.</p>	
Measure 38.1	Demagog Association reaffirms its commitment to ensure the proper implementation of the Code.
QRE 38.1.1 [insert wording if adapted]	<p>Demagog Association delegated its vice president Pawel Terpilowski to be representative of the organization in the work of the Permanent Task-force. He is also coordinating all of the activities that the Demagog Association is undertaking to ensure the proper implementation of our commitments in the Code of Practice. Those actions and measures are supervised by the Board of the Demagog Association.</p> <p>Demagog Association allocates necessary financial resources to ensure full compliance with the Code.</p>

X. Monitoring of Code	
Commitment 39	
<p>Signatories commit to provide to the European Commission, within 1 month after the end of the implementation period (6 months after this Code's signature) the baseline reports as set out in the Preamble.</p>	

Demagog Association has provided its baseline report to the European Commission.

X. Monitoring of Code	
Commitment 40	
<p>Signatories commit to provide regular reporting on Service Level Indicators (SLIs) and Qualitative Reporting Elements (QREs). The reports and data provided should allow for a thorough assessment of the extent of the implementation of the Code's Commitments and Measures by each Signatory, service and at Member State level.</p>	

Measure 40.2	Demagog Association reaffirms its commitment to provide relevant yearly reporting on the implementation of its commitments and measures in the Code of Practice as well as adequate feedback on improving the monitoring and reporting framework of the Code.
Measure 40.3	Demagog Association reaffirms its commitment to provide relevant yearly reporting on the implementation of its commitments and measures in the Code of Practice as well as adequate feedback on improving the monitoring and reporting framework of the Code.
Measure 40.4	Demagog Association reaffirms its commitment to provide relevant yearly reporting on the implementation of its commitments and measures in the Code of Practice as well as adequate feedback on improving the monitoring and reporting framework of the Code.
Measure 40.5	Demagog Association reaffirms its commitment to provide relevant yearly reporting on the implementation of its commitments and measures in the Code of Practice as well as adequate feedback on improving the monitoring and reporting framework of the Code.
Measure 40.6	Demagog Association reaffirms its commitment to provide relevant yearly reporting on the implementation of its commitments and measures in the Code of Practice as well as adequate feedback on improving the monitoring and reporting framework of the Code.

X. Monitoring of Code

Commitment 42

Relevant Signatories commit to provide, in special situations like elections or crisis, upon request of the European Commission, proportionate and appropriate information and data, including ad-hoc specific reports and specific chapters within the regular monitoring, in accordance with the rapid response system established by the Taskforce.

Demagog Association reaffirms its commitment to provide relevant reporting, information and data upon request of the European Commission, in accordance with the rapid response system established by the Task-force. In relation to this commitment, Demagog Association also participates in the Crisis Response Subgroup in which we are monitoring current development of crisis situations of international concern like COVID-19 pandemic and war in Ukraine.

X. Monitoring of Code

Commitment 43

Signatories commit to produce reports and provide data following the harmonised reporting templates and refined methodology for reporting and data disclosure, as agreed in the Task-force.

Demagog Association reaffirms its commitment to provide reports and data following the harmonized reporting templates and refined methodology for reporting and data disclosure.