

EU CODE OF PRACTICE ON DISINFORMATION 2022

Subscription Document for Signatory FIDU - Federazione Italiana Diritti Umani

Name of the Signatory

[FIDU - Federazione Italiana Diritti Umani](#)

About the Signatory

FIDU' work mostly focuses on activities aimed to protect human rights, the rule of law and the victims of abuses worldwide. We do this through advocacy campaigns, fact-finding missions, monitoring activities, especially related to elections and trials.

*We are currently working on Ukraine, China, especially addressing the issue of Uyghur forced labour;
Iran, with a focus on the death penalty used as a tool for political intimidation;*

Joint work with our international partners to support the reform of traditional mechanisms, such as the CoE and the ECHR, and at the same time to promote new mechanisms and tools aimed to fight against impunity of those responsible for serious human rights abuses, like the targeted sanctions (Magnitsky sanctions).

Activity name	Description of the activity
Monitoring of disinformation and foreign interference from Russia, post-soviet Countries, China and Iran	FIDU has been monitoring such disinformation phenomena in the broader context of its activities to counter transnational repression of regimes' political opponents and human rights defenders. Monitoring activities include analysis on abuse of Interpol, MLA (Mutual Legal Assistance) and other mechanisms.
Country specific: Russia	Comparative analysis between pro-Kremlin narratives before and after Ukraine large-scale invasion; on field missions after 2014 and before the large-scale invasion to report human rights abuses and false narratives.

<p>Country specific: China and Iran</p>	<p>Analysis and monitoring of their statements and operations within UN bodies, especially when it comes to dissemination of anti-western sentiment and promoting a new concept of human rights. Their propaganda machine works overtime to paint an untrue picture of their countries, to attack human rights organizations. The goal of these operations is often to justify their abuses and to avoid sanctions.</p>
<p>General activities: Analysis of the modus operandi used by foreign actors: tactics (social media, fake accounts and state-run outlets disseminated fake news), targets, goals</p>	<p>Reporting activities and contribution to EU / International papers and reports, e.g. ERGA report on disinformation and related concepts (with a paragraph “disinformation as a human rights issue”) - specific contributions are further explained in the table of Commitments.</p>
<p>Raising awareness of the disinformation/misinformation/manipulation</p>	<p>Conferences and workshops at local, European and international level - specific contributions are further explained in the table of Commitments.</p>
<p>Promotion of activities based on cross-sector cooperation able to empower civil society, media workers, universities.</p>	<p>Contribution and participation to hearings at European and International level, e.g. at CoE.; Coordination and participation in EU funded projects aimed at promoting media literacy to counter disinformation - specific contributions are further explained in the table of Commitments.</p>

V. Empowering Users		
List of adopted commitments and measures ¹		Qualitative reporting elements and service level indicators²
<p><u>Commitment 17:</u></p> <p>In light of the European Commission's initiatives in the area of media literacy, including the new Digital Education Action Plan, Relevant Signatories commit to continue and strengthen their efforts in the area of media literacy and critical thinking, also with the aim to include vulnerable groups.</p>	<p><u>Measure 17.1:</u></p> <p>Relevant Signatories will design and implement or continue to maintain tools to improve media literacy and critical thinking, for instance by empowering users with context on the content visible on services or with guidance on how to evaluate online content.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital contents created by the participants of the CommEUnication projects in the Creative Labs provide easy-to-read content regarding disinformation, how to recognize it and fight it (The contents are available in 6 languages at the end of the project webpage). • The booklet produced within the Media Literacy For Democracy project is an example of tools available online to help citizens recognising disinformation. FIDU keeps it updated with latest findings and developments of the scenario, and it uses it as baseline for its activities. • Final recommendations for an inclusive media literacy developed within the MLFD project (expected Jan 2024) will support the implementation of the

¹ Text of the commitments/measures as per Code of Practice or adapted to be more relevant or proportionate

² Each commitment / measure to be accompanied by either a Qualitative Reporting Element and/or quantitative Service Level Indicator as per Code of Practice or adapted to be more relevant or proportionate

		<p>relevant EU policies in the field and in the fight against disinformation and used as a baseline for advocacy actions.</p>
	<p>Measure 17.2 : Relevant Signatories will develop, promote and/or support or continue to run activities to improve media literacy and critical thinking such as campaigns to raise awareness about Disinformation, as well as the TTPs that are being used by malicious actors, among the general public across the European Union, also considering the involvement of vulnerable communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FIDU is involved in EU projects under the CERV programme to increase media literacy among EU citizens to recognize and fight online and offline disinformation, with the ultimate goal of reinforcing and safeguarding democracy and the EU core values. • CommEUnication: The project aimed at countering euroscepticism through the promotion of a correct understanding of the EU, its values and its benefits and at empowering citizens to widen their civic participation and to tackle disinformation. The activities were delivered as local trainings and creative labs with digital content created by the participants and were presented at the European

		<p>Parliament during the project final conference. FIDU participated as leading partner.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Media Literacy For Democracy (MLFD): Ongoing project to support the promotion of an effective media literacy strategy based on multidisciplinary approach and cross-sector cooperation with the aim to tackle disinformation, empower citizens to make informed decisions and protect democratic values. Activities are being delivered through local and international workshops to favour exchange among citizens and professionals from different countries.. FIDU participates as leading partner.● Make Your Vote!: Ongoing project to raise awareness of the common EU values and encourage the participation of young people and first-time voters in Europe's democratic life. The activities are being delivered through World Café, Local simulations, International skills training, and International youth debate. Dedicated sessions to disinformation are also included, since the
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		<p>disinformation phenomenon was identified as a major obstacle to civic participation in European life. FIDU is participating as a partner.</p>
	<p>Measure 17.3: For both of the above Measures, and in order to build on the expertise of media literacy experts in the design, implementation, and impact measurement of tools, relevant Signatories will partner or consult with media literacy experts in the EU, including for instance the Commission’s Media Literacy Expert Group, ERGA’s Media Literacy Action Group, EDMO, its countryspecific branches, or relevant Member State universities or organisations that have relevant expertise.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FIDU regularly engages with strategic partners such as the EEAS – East StratCom Task Force and the Italian Digital Media Observatory through their involvements in events and workshops, as well project proposals; • FIDU published several analyses and reports (such as “The Toll of Covid in Human Rights” with a section dedicated to the impact of disinformation during the pandemic). • FIDU participated in public hearings and in public consultations such as the Public consultation on the information system carried out by the Italian Authority for Communications Guarantees and Notions on Disinformation and Related Concepts carried out by ERGA; • FIDU advocates for the establishment of new effective mechanisms aimed

		<p>to protect the victims of serious human rights abuses (incl. victims of transnational repression) and hold the perpetrators accountable. This entails the analysis of disinformation operations, as it is also a tool used by regimes to target their political opponents and human rights defenders living abroad, in democratic countries with the goal to undermine the support to the victims from human rights defenders and professionals. This topic was discussed during the workshop <i>“Defending Democracy through Countering Disinformation”</i> held in Rome on June 13, 2023 and organized by FIDU in collaboration with the US Embassy in Italy, Taipei Representative Office in Italy, Istituti di Studi Politici S. Pio V and GCTF (Global Counterterrorism Forum).</p>
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Provide reasoning for the choice of commitments and measures, as well as future plans

FIDU’s work on disinformation is collateral and complementary to its core activity of protecting rule of law. In fact, when it comes to protecting rule of law, democracy and the victims of abuses, we need to deal with disinformation operations, as it is also a tool used by regimes to target their political opponents and human rights defenders living abroad in democratic countries (and they do this at both domestic and global level) with the goal to undermine the support to the victims and make the work of human rights defenders even more difficult.

FIDU is not a large online platform that needs to implement measures to ensure no fake news and disinformation is spreaded through its channels, hence why its commitments are “limited” to the empowerment of civil society and expertise offered in Working Groups.

As a NGO, FIDU capacity is limited to projects budget and donations. The organization is more and more active in the submission of project proposals, with the clear aim of increasing its capacity and expanding the scale of its activities. e enough funding and increase its capacity also in terms of activities.

VIII. Transparency Centre		
List of adopted commitments and measures ³		Qualitative reporting elements and service level indicators⁴
<u>Commitment 36:</u>	<u>Measure 36.1:</u> Signatories provide updates about relevant changes in policies and implementation actions in a timely manner, and in any event no later than 30 days after changes are announced or implemented.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being it a requirement to fully comply with the code, FIDU promises to update

³ Text of the commitments/measures as per Code of Practice or adapted to be more relevant or proportionate

⁴ Each commitment / measure to be accompanied by either a Qualitative Reporting Element and/or quantitative Service Level Indicator as per Code of Practice or adapted to be more relevant or proportionate

IX. Permanent Task-force

List of adopted commitments and measures ⁵

**Qualitative reporting
elements and service level**

⁵ *Text of the commitments/measures as per Code of Practice or adapted to be more relevant or proportionate*

		indicators ⁶
<p><u>Commitment 37:</u> 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.</p>	<p><u>Measure 37.1:</u> Signatories will participate in the Task-force and contribute to its work. Signatories, in particular smaller or emerging services will contribute to the work of the Task-force proportionate to their resources, size and risk profile. Smaller or emerging services can also agree to pool their resources together and represent each other in the Task-force. The Task-force will meet in plenary sessions as necessary and at least every 6 months, and, where relevant, in subgroups dedicated to specific issues or workstreams.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In case of acceptance, FIDU will join the task force most aligned with its expertise, to make sure the involvement is as much impactful as possible.
	<p><u>Measure 37.2:</u> Signatories agree to work in the Task-force (...)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FIDU will participate in meetings, plenaries and relevant activities organized for and by the Task Force where its expertise can bring added value.
<p>Provide reasoning for the choice of commitments and measures, as well as future plans (if applicable)</p> <p>FIDU is eager to participate and give its expertise where and when needed within the Task Force and most appropriate Working Groups. Given limited capacity, FIDU wishes to be involved in the work that is most aligned with its monitoring and analysis activities, by providing opinions and results. Once established the workload, FIDU will commit to increase its participation in the Task Force and Working Groups, once capacity increases. As a requirement to be part of the Code task force, FIDU also commits to all reporting duties and to allocate reasonable resources to comply with all said above. In fact, as a starting point, FIDU mentioned only few but very targeted commitments, as we can already ensure our compliance with the</p>		

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given resources at the time of application, since many of the activities are already being performed as daily work of FIDU, e.g., EU projects.

Bruxelles, 03/11/2023

Alessandra Zini - FIDU Project Manager

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alessandra Zini". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.