

Facebook announces its fact checker partner in Greece

Athens, May 2nd - Ahead of the European Parliamentary Elections in May, Facebook has made fighting misinformation a top priority. One of the ways reducing the spread of false news is by partnering with independent, [third-party fact-checkers](#) around the world. Today, Facebook announces the expansion of our third-party fact-checking program in Greece with the new local fact-checking partner in Greece **Ellinika Hoaxes** further to the recently entered 4 EU countries: Portugal, Croatia, Northern Ireland and Lithuania. This will expand our program to cover four new languages: Greek, Croatian, Portuguese and Lithuanian.

Starting today, fact-checking organizations Ellinika Hoaxes in Greece, will review and [rate the accuracy](#) of content on Facebook. According to the founder of the website, **Theodoros Danilidis**, "*Ellinika Hoaxes now enjoy worldwide recognition for their professionalism at investigative journalism, and more specifically, fact checking. Our partnership with Facebook will help us target the scourge of misinformation, which constitutes a threat to the foundations of democracy, even more efficiently*".

The fact-checking partners are all accredited by the International Fact-Checking Network (IFCN), which applies [standards](#) such as non-partisanship and transparency of sources. These partners are also part of a collaborative effort led by the IFCN to fact-check content related to the European Parliament elections, called [FactCheckEU](#). Starting today, all FactCheckEU participants will be able to rate and review claims on Facebook.

The program now includes 21 partners fact-checking content in 14 European languages: Croatian, Danish, French, German, Greek, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish, Dutch, English, Lithuanian, Polish, Swedish and Norwegian. When a fact-checker rates a story as false, it will appear lower in News Feed, significantly reducing its distribution. This reduces the spread of the story and the number of people who see it. Pages and domains that repeatedly share false news will also see their distribution reduced and their ability to monetize and advertise removed. This helps curb the spread of financially motivated false news. In our experience, once a story is rated as false, we've been able to reduce its distribution by 80%.

Laura Bononcini, Public Policy Director in Southern Europe, stated "*We are happy to announce today our partnership in Greece with the **Ellinika Hoaxes** in order to fight misinformation and fake news distribution on Facebook also in this country, in view of the coming European elections. Misinformation is a complex and evolving problem, and we are investing heavily to get ahead, because we believe in providing a space for civic discourse during elections. We'll continue to take steps to ensure this discourse is safe, authentic, and accurate.*"

This program is in line with Facebook's [three-part framework](#) to improve the quality and authenticity of stories in the News Feed, wherein Facebook removes accounts and content that violate its [Community Standards](#) or [ad policies](#), reduces the



distribution of false news and inauthentic content like clickbait, and informs people by giving them more context on the posts they see.

For more information about the new measures in the misinformation tools you can read [here](#)

You can read more about how we're protecting the integrity of information on Facebook [here](#).

Facebook

Since 2004, Facebook's mission is to give people the power to share and make the world more open and connected. People use Facebook to stay connected with friends and family, discover what is happening in the world, and share and express what matters to them. Each day more than 2.1 billion people worldwide visit Facebook.

Ellinika Hoaxes

Ellinika Hoaxes is a Greek fact-checking website, registered as an NGO with the stated goal of tackling disinformation. The fact-checking activity includes issues such as politics, pseudoscience, racist and xenophobic fake news, fake claims that proliferate through social media, historical hoaxes etc. The data used is always multifaceted, impartial, reputable and relevant with the subject we are investigating. It also includes tips for things to watch out for so readers can develop a critical eye able to spot fake news themselves. The scope of their planned activities involves fact-checking, development of online tools to spot fake news, organising conferences, seminars, and generally raising awareness about disinformation.

For more information

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