

Digital Democracy Risk Assessment:

Methodological Note
(v1. 31 July 2020)



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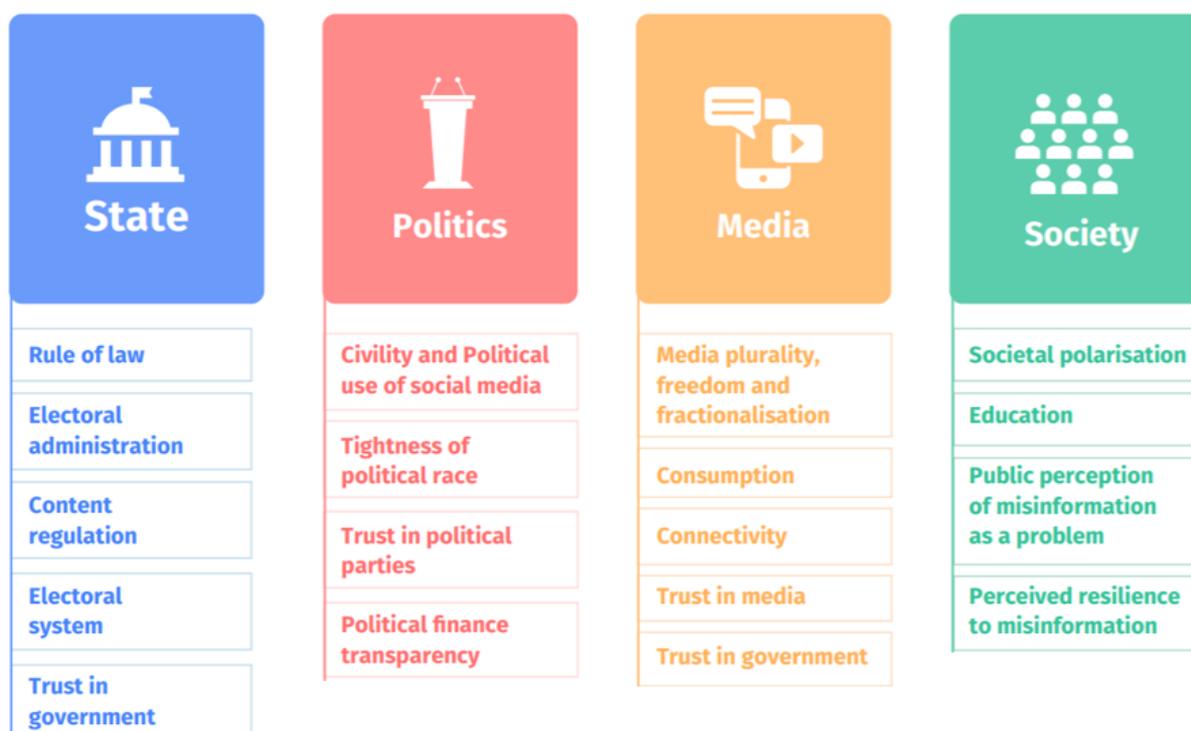
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Introduction

The Digital Democracy Risk Dashboard provides data on the four vulnerability dimensions and attributes for 27 EU member states and the UK. It is housed on the **Digital Democracy Risk Assessment** website (<https://digitalmonitor.democracy-reporting.org/risk-assessment/>). The interactive Dashboard and its dataset are organised in the logic of the Conceptual Framework (below), reflecting the four vulnerability dimensions.

The Dashboard is colour coded for usability and to indicate levels of *relative* risk. Red is associated with higher risk, amber with moderate risk and green with lower risk. However, these categories are relative within the group of 28 countries included, as the three colour categories reflect grouping into three percentiles, of the 28 values per variable. On some of the variables, virtually all countries perform well, however the colours help differentiate performance relative to each country.

All data comes from open sources, as attributed in this Methodological Note. All values presented in the dashboard are kept in their original scale as they are produced by each source. The full dataset can be found for download on the Digital Democracy Risk Assessment website.



Summary of sources

Pillar/Sub-Pillar/Indicator	Source
State	
Rule of Law (Narrow)	Bertelsmann Stiftung – Sustainable Governance Indicators
Electoral Administration	Varieties of Democracy Project
Election Management Body Capacity	Varieties of Democracy Project
Clean Elections Index	Digital Society Project
Online Content Regulation	Varieties of Democracy Project – International IDEA
Electoral System	European Commission – Standard Eurobarometer 91
Trust in National Government	
Politics	
Civility: Hate Speech	Digital Society Project
Tightness of Political Race	Varieties of Democracy Project
Political Use of Social Media	Digital Society Project
Trust in Political Parties	European Commission – Standard Eurobarometer 91
Political Finance Transparency	Bertelsmann Stiftung – Sustainable Governance Indicators
Media	
Plurality	Bertelsmann Stiftung – Sustainable Governance Indicators
Media Freedom	Reporters Without Borders – World Press Freedom Index
Quality Media Consumption	European Commission – Standard Eurobarometer 91
Connectivity: Social Media Consumption	European Commission – Flash Eurobarometer 464
Fractionalisation	Digital Society Project
Trust in Media	European Commission – Standard Eurobarometer 91
Society	
Polarisation of Society	Digital Society Project
Average Years of Schooling	Varieties of Democracy Project – Clio Infra
Perception of misinformation as a problem	European Commission – Flash Eurobarometer 464
Perceived resilience to misinformation	European Commission – Flash Eurobarometer 464

Pillar: State

Rule of Law

Pillar: State

Sub-Pillar: Rule of Law

Indicator name: Rule of Law (Narrow)

Indicator Code: *sgi_ruleoflawnarrow*

Indicator Type: Expert Assessment

Scale: 1-10 with 0.5 increments

Year: 2019

Website: <https://www.sgi-network.org/2019/Downloads>

Indicator description

The Rule of Law (Narrow) indicator is constructed by taking the unweighted mean of two indicators found in the Rule of Law sub-pillar of the Bertelsmann Stiftung Sustainable Governance Indicators. The two indicators used are:

- D4.1 Legal Certainty

To what extent do government and administration act on the basis of and in accordance with legal provisions to provide legal certainty?

This question assesses the extent to which executive actions are predictable (i.e., can be expected to be guided by law).

- D4.2 Judicial Review

To what extent do independent courts control whether government and administration act in conformity with the law?

This question examines how well the courts can review actions taken and norms adopted by the executive. To provide effective control, courts need to pursue their own reasoning free from the influence of incumbent governments, powerful groups or individuals. This requires a differentiated organization of the legal system, including legal education, jurisprudence, regulated appointment of the judiciary, rational proceedings, professionalism, channels of appeal and court administration.

Source

The Bertelsmann Stiftung (BF) was founded in 1977 as a private foundation. As a think tank they work toward improved education, a just and efficient economic system, a preventative healthcare system, a vibrant civil society and greater international understanding. The BF is independent and nonpartisan. It designs, launches and runs its own projects. The Sustainable Governance Indicators (SGI) examine governance and policymaking in all OECD and EU member states in order to evaluate each country's need for, and ability to carry out, reform. The indicators are calculated using quantitative data from international organisations and then supplemented by qualitative assessments from recognised country experts. For each SGI survey, individual countries are evaluated by two (or more) leading experts.

Election Management Body Capacity

Pillar: State

Sub-Pillar: Electoral Administration

Indicator name: Election Management Body Capacity

Indicator Code: v2elembcap

Indicator Type: Expert Assessment

Scale: 0-4 ordinal, converted to interval by the measurement model.

Year: 2019

Website: <https://www.v-dem.net/en/data/data-version-10/>

Indicator description

The Election Management Body Capacity indicator is taken directly from the Varieties of Democracy Project dataset without further aggregation or transformation.

- Question: Does the Election Management Body (EMB) have sufficient staff and resources to administer a well-run national election?

Clarification: The EMB refers to whatever body (or bodies) is charged with administering national elections.

Responses:

0: No. There are glaring deficits in staff, financial, or other resources affecting the organization across the territory.

1: Not really. Deficits are not glaring but they nonetheless seriously compromised the organization of administratively well-run elections in many parts of the country.

2: Ambiguous. There might be serious deficiencies compromising the organization of the election but it could also be a product of human errors and co-incidence or other factors outside the control of the EMB.

3: Mostly. There are partial deficits in resources but these are neither serious nor widespread.

4: Yes. The EMB has adequate staff and other resources to administer a well-run election.

Source description

Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) is a new approach to conceptualising and measuring democracy. V-Dem provides a multidimensional and disaggregated dataset that reflects the complexity of the concept of democracy as a system of rule that goes beyond the simple presence of elections. The V-Dem project distinguishes between seven high-level principles of democracy: electoral, liberal, participatory, deliberative, egalitarian, majoritarian and consensual, and collects data to measure these principles. It is a collaboration among more than 3,000 scholars worldwide which is co-hosted by the Department of Political Science at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden and the Kellogg Institute at the University of Notre Dame, USA. With four principal investigators, fifteen project managers with special responsibility for issue areas, more than thirty regional managers, 170 country coordinators, research assistants, and 2,500 country experts, the V-Dem project is one of the largest social science data collection projects focusing on research.

Clean Elections Index

Pillar: State

Sub-Pillar: Electoral Administration

Indicator name: Clean Elections Index

Indicator Code: *v2xel_frefair*

Indicator Type: Expert Assessment

Scale: Interval, from low to high (0-1).

Year: 2019

Website: <https://www.v-dem.net/en/data/data-version-10/>

Indicator description

The Clean Elections Index is taken directly from the Varieties of Democracy Project dataset without further aggregation or transformation.

- Question: To what extent are elections free and fair?

Clarification: Free and fair connotes an absence of registration fraud, systematic irregularities, government intimidation of the opposition, vote buying, and election violence.

Source description

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Online Content Regulation

Pillar: State

Sub-Pillar: Online Content Regulation

Indicator name: Online Content Regulation

Indicator Code: v2smregapp

Indicator Type: Expert Assessment

Scale: 0-4 ordinal, converted to interval by the measurement model.

Year: 2019

Website: <http://digitalsocietyproject.org/data/>

Indicator description

The Online Content Regulation indicator is taken directly from the Digital Society Project dataset without further aggregation or transformation.

- Question: Does the government use its own resources and institutions to monitor and regulate online content or does it distribute this regulatory burden to private actors such as Internet service providers?

Responses:

0: All online content monitoring and regulation is done by the state.

1: Most online content monitoring and regulation is done by the state, though the state involves private actors in a limited way.

2: Some online content monitoring and regulation is done by the state, but the state also involves private actors in monitoring and regulation in various ways.

3: The state does little online content monitoring and regulation, and entrusts most of the monitoring and regulation to private actors.

4: The state off-loads all online content monitoring and regulation to private actors.

Source description

The Digital Society Project (DSP) aims to answer some of the most important questions surrounding interactions between the internet and politics. The DSP dataset is the product of a global survey of hundreds of country and area experts, covering virtually all countries in the world from 2000 to 2019. It provides a set of 35 new indicators covering such topics as online censorship, polarization and politicization of social media, misinformation campaigns, coordinated information operations, foreign influence in and monitoring of domestic politics.

The primary goal of this project is to provide high-quality, publicly available, data describing the intersection between politics and social media. While there is great demand for such data, reliable measures of key indicators, with wide global and temporal coverage, are largely unavailable.

Electoral System

Pillar: State

Sub-Pillar: Electoral System

Indicator name: Electoral System

Indicator Code: *v2elpanel*

Indicator Type: Observational

Scale: Nominal

Year: Last election

Website: <https://www.v-dem.net/en/data/data-version-10/>

Indicator description

The Electoral System indicator is taken directly from the Varieties of Democracy Project dataset without further aggregation or transformation.

- Question: What was the electoral system used in this election for the lower or unicameral chamber of the legislature?

Responses:

Majoritarian.

Proportional.

Mixed.

Other (e.g. single non-transferable voting, limited voting)

Source(s): Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections (IPU); IDEA; Nohlen et al. (1999, 2002, 2005, 2010); Colomer (2016).

Source description

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Trust in Government

Pillar: State

Sub-Pillar: Trust in Government

Indicator name: Trust in Government

Indicator Code: *e_trustnatgov*

Indicator Type: Public Opinion Survey

Scale: 0-100% (of the population)

Year: 2019

Website: https://data.europa.eu/euodp/en/data/dataset/S2253_91_5_STD91_ENG

Indicator description

The Trust in Government indicator is taken directly from the Standard Eurobarometer 91 country level results without further aggregation or transformation. The data has been weighted to be fully nationally representative and to take into account the 28 countries in the sample. The value reported represents the percentage of the population who said they tend to trust the government.

- QA6a.8 I would like to ask you a question about how much trust you have in certain media and institutions. For each of the following media and institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it. National Government.

Source description

Standard Eurobarometer 91 survey (EB91), was carried out in 34 countries or territories: the 28 European Union (EU) Member States, five candidate countries (the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania) and the Turkish Cypriot Community in the part of the country that is not controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus. The fieldwork took place between the 7th of June and the 25th of June 2019 in the EU28 Member States and between the 7th of June and the 1st of July 2019 in the other countries and territories. The survey includes topics such as the European political situation and the economy (perception of the current situation and expectations for the future). It analyses how Europeans perceive their political institutions, both national governments and parliaments, the EU and its institutions as well as their main concerns. It also examines people's attitudes on European citizenship and on issues linked to the priorities of the European Commission, notably free movement and the euro.

Pillar: Politics

Civility: Hate Speech

Pillar: Politics

Sub-Pillar: Civility

Indicator name: Civility: Hate Speech

Indicator Code: v2smpolhate

Indicator Type: Expert Assessment

Scale: 0-4 ordinal, converted to interval by the measurement model.

Year: 2019

Website: <http://digitalsocietyproject.org/>

Indicator description

The Online Content Regulation indicator is taken directly from the Digital Society Project dataset without further aggregation or transformation.

- Question: Does the government use its own resources and institutions to monitor and regulate online content or does it distribute this regulatory burden to private actors such as Internet service providers?

Responses:

0: All online content monitoring and regulation is done by the state.

1: Most online content monitoring and regulation is done by the state, though the state involves private actors in a limited way.

2: Some online content monitoring and regulation is done by the state, but the state also involves private actors in monitoring and regulation in various ways.

3: The state does little online content monitoring and regulation, and entrusts most of the monitoring and regulation to private actors.

4: The state off-loads all online content monitoring and regulation to private actors.

Source description

The Digital Society Project (DSP) aims to answer some of the most important questions surrounding interactions between the internet and politics. The DSP dataset is the product of a global survey of hundreds of country and area experts, covering virtually all countries in the world from 2000 to 2019. It provides a set of 35 new indicators covering such topics as online censorship, polarization and politicization of social media, misinformation campaigns, coordinated information operations, foreign influence in and monitoring of domestic politics.

The primary goal of this project is to provide high-quality, publicly available, data describing the intersection between politics and social media. While there is great demand for such data, reliable measures of key indicators, with wide global and temporal coverage, are largely unavailable.

Tightness of Political Race

Pillar: Politics

Sub-Pillar: Tightness of Political Race

Indicator name: Vote difference between two first parties

Indicator Code: v2votediff

Indicator Type: Observational

Scale: 0-100% (vote share)

Year: Last Election

Website: <https://www.v-dem.net/en/data/data-version-10/>

Indicator description

The Vote difference between two first parties is constructed by subtracting the percentage of votes earned by the second largest party from the percentage of votes earned by the largest party at the last parliamentary election. Both data points are taken from variables constructed and published in the Varieties of Democracy Project dataset.

- Question: In this election to the lower (or unicameral) chamber of the legislature, what percentage (%) of the vote was received by the largest party in the first/only round?
- Question: In this election to the lower (or unicameral) chamber of the legislature, what percentage (%) of the vote was received by the second largest party in the first/only round?

Source description

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Political Use of Social Media

Pillar: Politics

Sub-Pillar: Political Use of Social Media

Indicator name: Political Use of Social Media

Indicator Code: v2smregapp

Indicator Type: Expert Assessment

Scale: 0-3 ordinal, converted to interval by the measurement model.

Year: 2019

Website: <http://digitalsocietyproject.org/>

Indicator description

The Political Use of Social Media indicator is taken directly from the Digital Society Project dataset without further aggregation or transformation.

- Question: To what extent do major political parties and candidates use social media during electoral campaigns to communicate with constituents?

Responses:

0: None. Major political parties and candidates do not use social media during electoral campaigns to communicate with constituents.

1: A little. Major political parties and candidates rarely use social media during electoral campaigns to communicate with constituents.

2: Somewhat. Major political parties and candidates sometimes use social media during electoral campaigns to communicate with constituents.

3: Substantial. Major political parties and candidates frequently use social media during electoral campaigns to communicate with constituents.

Source description

The Digital Society Project (DSP) aims to answer some of the most important questions surrounding interactions between the internet and politics. The DSP dataset is the product of a global survey of hundreds of country and area experts, covering virtually all countries in the world from 2000 to 2019. It provides a set of 35 new indicators covering such topics as online censorship, polarization and politicization of social media, misinformation campaigns, coordinated information operations, foreign influence in and monitoring of domestic politics.

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Trust in Political Parties

Pillar: Politics

Sub-Pillar: Trust in Political Parties

Indicator name: Trust in Political Parties

Indicator Code: e_trustpoliticalparties

Indicator Type: Public Opinion Survey

Scale: 0-100% (of the population)

Year: 2019

Website: https://data.europa.eu/euodp/en/data/dataset/S2253_9I_5_STD9I_ENG

Indicator description

The Trust in Political Parties indicator is taken directly from the Standard Eurobarometer 91 country level results without further aggregation or transformation. The data has been weighted to be fully nationally representative and to take into account the 28 countries in the sample. The value reported represents the percentage of the population who said they tend to trust political parties.

- QA6a.2 I would like to ask you a question about how much trust you have in certain media and institutions. For each of the following media and institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it. Political Parties

Source description

Standard Eurobarometer 91 survey (EB91), was carried out in 34 countries or territories: the 28 European Union (EU) Member States, five candidate countries (the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania) and the Turkish Cypriot Community in the part of the country that is not controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus. The fieldwork took place between the 7th of June and the 25th of June 2019 in the EU28 Member States and between the 7th of June and the 1st of July 2019 in the other countries and territories. The survey includes topics such as the European political situation and the economy (perception of the current situation and expectations for the future). It analyses how Europeans perceive their political institutions, both national governments and parliaments, the EU and its institutions as well as their main concerns. It also examines people's attitudes on European citizenship and on issues linked to the priorities of the European Commission, notably free movement and the euro.

Political Finance Transparency

Pillar: Politics

Sub-Pillar: Political Finance Transparency

Indicator name: Party Financing

Indicator Code: *sgi_partyfinancing*

Indicator Type: Expert Assessment

Scale: 1-10 with full integer increments

Year: 2019

Website: <https://www.sgi-network.org/2019/Downloads>

Indicator description

The Party Financing indicator is taken directly from the Bertelsmann Stiftung Sustainable Governance Indicators without further aggregation or transformation.

- D1.4 Party Financing

To what extent is private and public party financing and electoral campaign financing transparent, effectively monitored and in case of infringement of rules subject to proportionate and dissuasive sanction?

This question refers to the obligations of the receiving entity (parties and entities connected with political parties) to keep proper books and accounts, to specify the nature and value of donations received and to publish accounts regularly. Please note that this question also includes an assessment of how effectively funding of political parties and electoral campaigns is supervised (monitored by an independent body such as electoral or parliamentary commission, anti-corruption body, audit institution etc. with checking, investigative, sanction and regulatory powers) and infringements are sanctioned (taking into account administrative, civil and criminal liability).

Source

The Bertelsmann Stiftung (BF) was founded in 1977 as a private foundation. As a think tank they work toward improved education, a just and efficient economic system, a preventative healthcare system, a vibrant civil society and greater international understanding. The BF is independent and nonpartisan. It designs, launches and runs its own projects. The Sustainable Governance Indicators (SGI) examine governance and policymaking in all OECD and EU member states in order to evaluate each country's need for, and ability to carry out, reform. The indicators are calculated using quantitative data from international organisations and then supplemented by qualitative assessments from recognised country experts. For each SGI survey, individual countries are evaluated by two (or more) leading experts.

Pillar: Media

Media Plurality

Pillar: Media

Sub-Pillar: Plurality

Indicator name: Pluralism

Indicator Code: *sgi_mediapluralism*

Indicator Type: Expert Assessment

Scale: 1-10 with full integer increments

Year: 2019

Website: <https://www.sgi-network.org/2019/Downloads>

Indicator description

The Media Pluralism indicator is taken directly from the Bertelsmann Stiftung Sustainable Governance Indicators without further aggregation or transformation.

- D1.4 Media Pluralism

To what extent are the media characterized by an ownership structure that ensures a pluralism of opinions?

This question does not assume that the predominance of either private or public ownership guarantees a pluralism of opinions. Rather, the underlying assumption is that a diversified ownership structure is likely to best represent the views and positions existing in society.

Source

The Bertelsmann Stiftung (BF) was founded in 1977 as a private foundation. As a think tank they work toward improved education, a just and efficient economic system, a preventative healthcare system, a vibrant civil society and greater international understanding. The BF is independent and nonpartisan. It designs, launches and runs its own projects. The Sustainable Governance Indicators (SGI) examine governance and policymaking in all OECD and EU member states in order to evaluate each country's need for, and ability to carry out, reform. The indicators are calculated using quantitative data from international organisations and then supplemented by qualitative assessments from recognised country experts. For each SGI survey, individual countries are evaluated by two (or more) leading experts.

Media Freedom

Pillar: Media

Sub-Pillar: Freedom

Indicator name: Media Freedom

Indicator Code: *rsf_wpf*

Indicator Type: Expert Assessment

Scale: 1-90 with second decimal increments (lower scores denote better performance)

Year: 2019

Website: <https://rsf.org/en>

Indicator description

The Media Freedom indicator is taken directly from the Reporters without Border World Press Freedom Index Global score without further aggregation or transformation.

The degree of freedom available to journalists in 180 countries is determined by pooling the responses of experts to a questionnaire devised by RSF. This qualitative analysis is combined with quantitative data on abuses and acts of violence against journalists during the period evaluated. The criteria evaluated in the questionnaire are pluralism, media independence, media environment and self-censorship, legislative framework, transparency, and the quality of the infrastructure that supports the production of news and information.

Source

Reporters Without Borders (RSF) is an international non-profit and non-governmental organization that safeguards the right to freedom of information. Its advocacy is founded on the belief that everyone requires access to the news and information, inspired by Article 19 of the UN Declaration of Human Rights that recognizes the right to receive and share information regardless of frontiers, along with other international rights charters. RSF has consultative status at the United Nations, UNESCO, the Council of Europe, and the International Organisation of the Francophonie.

Quality Media Consumption

Pillar: Media

Sub-Pillar: Quality Media Consumption

Indicator name: Quality Media Consumption

Indicator Code: *e2_traditionalconsum*

Indicator Type: Public Opinion Survey

Scale: 0-100% (of population)

Year: 2018

Website: https://data.europa.eu/euodp/en/data/dataset/S2183_464_ENG

Indicator description

The Quality Media Consumption indicator is constructed by combining the respondents who consume their news either through printed newspapers and magazines, online newspapers and magazines or printed and online sources. The data has been weighted to be fully nationally representative and to take into account the 28 countries in the sample. The value reported represents the percentage of the population who consume printed or online newspapers and magazines.

- SD1. Are you a user of any of the following media or channels? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE) Printed newspapers and news magazines.
- SD1. Are you a user of any of the following media or channels? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE) Online newspapers and news magazines.

Source

The Flash Eurobarometer 464 was designed to explore EU citizens' awareness of and attitudes towards the existence of fake news and disinformation online. It covers the following issues: - Levels of trust in news and information accessed through different channels; - People's perceptions of how often they encounter news or information that is misleading or false; - Public confidence in identifying news or information that is misleading or false; - People's views on the extent of the problem, both in their own country and for democracy in general; - Views on which institutions and media actors should act to stop the spread of fake news.

Connectivity: Social Media Consumption

Pillar: Media

Sub-Pillar: Connectivity: Social Media Consumption

Indicator name: Connectivity: Social Media Consumption

Indicator Code: *e2_consumesocialmedia*

Indicator Type: Public Opinion Survey

Scale: 0-100% (of population)

Year: 2018

Website: https://data.europa.eu/euodp/en/data/dataset/S2183_464_ENG

Indicator description

The Connectivity: Social Media Consumption indicator is taken directly from the Flash Eurobarometer 464. The data has been weighted to be fully nationally representative and to take into account the 28 countries in the sample. The value reported represents the percentage of the population who use online social networks or messaging apps.

- SD1. Are you a user of any of the following media or channels? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE) Online social networks and messaging apps.

Source

The Flash Eurobarometer 464 was designed to explore EU citizens' awareness of and attitudes towards the existence of fake news and disinformation online. It covers the following issues: - Levels of trust in news and information accessed through different channels; - People's perceptions of how often they encounter news or information that is misleading or false; - Public confidence in identifying news or information that is misleading or false; - People's views on the extent of the problem, both in their own country and for democracy in general; - Views on which institutions and media actors should act to stop the spread of fake news.

Media Fractionalisation

Pillar: Media

Sub-Pillar: Fractionalisation

Indicator name: Fractionalisation

Indicator Code: v2smregapp

Indicator Type: Expert Assessment

Scale: 0-4 ordinal, converted to interval by the measurement model.

Year: 2019

Website: <http://digitalsocietyproject.org/>

Indicator description

The Media Fractionalisation indicator is taken directly from the Digital Society Project dataset without further aggregation or transformation.

- Question: Do the major domestic online media outlets give a similar presentation of major (political) news?

Responses:

0: No. The major domestic online media outlets give opposing presentation of major events. 1: Not really. The major domestic online media outlets differ greatly in the presentation of major events.

2: Sometimes. The major domestic online media outlets give a similar presentation of major events about half the time.

3: Mostly. The major domestic online media outlets mostly give a similar presentation of major events.

4: Yes. Although there are small differences in representation, the major domestic online media outlets give a similar presentation of major events

Source description

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Trust in Media

Pillar: Media

Sub-Pillar: Trust in Media

Indicator name: Trust in Media

Indicator Code: *e_trustmedia*

Indicator Type: Public Opinion Survey

Scale: 0-100% (of the population)

Year: 2019

Website: https://data.europa.eu/euodp/en/data/dataset/S2253_91_5_STD91_ENG

Indicator description

The Trust in Government indicator is taken directly from the Standard Eurobarometer 91 country level results without further aggregation or transformation. The data has been weighted to be fully nationally representative and to take into account the 28 countries in the sample. The value reported represents the percentage of the population who said they tend to trust the media.

QA6a.8 I would like to ask you a question about how much trust you have in certain media and institutions. For each of the following media and institutions, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it. The Media.

Source description

Standard Eurobarometer 91 survey (EB91), was carried out in 34 countries or territories: the 28 European Union (EU) Member States, five candidate countries (the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania) and the Turkish Cypriot Community in the part of the country that is not controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus. The fieldwork took place between the 7th of June and the 25th of June 2019 in the EU28 Member States and between the 7th of June and the 1st of July 2019 in the other countries and territories. The survey includes topics such as the European political situation and the economy (perception of the current situation and expectations for the future). It analyses how Europeans perceive their political institutions, both national governments and parliaments, the EU and its institutions as well as their main concerns. It also examines people's attitudes on European citizenship and on issues linked to the priorities of the European Commission, notably free movement and the euro.

Pillar:

Polarisation of Society

Pillar: Society

Sub-Pillar: Polarisation of Society

Indicator name: Polarisation of Society

Indicator Code: v2smpolsoc

Indicator Type: Expert Assessment

Scale: 0-4 ordinal, converted to interval by the measurement model.

Year: 2019

Website: <http://digitalsocietyproject.org/>

Indicator description

The Polarisation of Society indicator is taken directly from the Digital Society Project dataset without further aggregation or transformation.

- Question: How would you characterize the differences of opinions on major political issues in this society?

Clarification: While plurality of views exists in all societies, we are interested in knowing the extent to which these differences in opinions result in major clashes of views and polarization or, alternatively, whether there is general agreement on the general direction this society should develop.

Responses:

0: Serious polarization. There are serious differences in opinions in society on almost all key political issues, which result in major clashes of views.

1: Moderate polarization. There are differences in opinions in society on many key political issues, which result in moderate clashes of views.

2: Medium polarization. Differences in opinions are noticeable on about half of the key political issues, resulting in some clashes of views.

3: Limited polarization. There are differences in opinions on only a few key political issues, resulting in few clashes of views.

4: No polarization. There are differences in opinions but there is a general agreement on the direction for key political issues.

Source description

The Digital Society Project (DSP) aims to answer some of the most important questions surrounding interactions between the internet and politics. The DSP dataset is the product of a global survey of hundreds of country and area experts, covering virtually all countries in the world from 2000 to 2019. It provides a set of 35 new indicators covering such topics as online censorship, polarization and politicization of social media, misinformation campaigns, coordinated information operations, foreign influence in and monitoring of domestic politics.

The primary goal of this project is to provide high-quality, publicly available, data describing the intersection between politics and social media. While there is great demand for such data, reliable measures of key indicators, with wide global and temporal coverage, are largely unavailable.

Average Years of Schooling

Pillar: Society

Sub-Pillar: Education

Indicator name: Average Years of Schooling

Indicator Code: e_peaveduc

Indicator Type: Observational

Scale: continuous

Year: 2019

Website: https://www.v-dem.net/media/filer_public/28/14/28140582-43d6-4940-948f-a2df84a31893/v-dem_codebook_v10.pdf

Indicator description

The Average Years of Schooling indicator is taken directly from the Varieties of Democracy Project dataset without further aggregation or transformation. Due to missing data, the values for Croatia, Luxemburg, Malta and Slovenia were imputed by using the mean value of the remainder of the observations in the European Union.

- Question: What is the average years of education among citizens older than 15?

Clarification: The Average years of education in the total population aged 15 years and older.

Source(s): Clio Infra (clio-infra.eu), drawing on Mitchell (1998a, 1998b, 1998c), US Census Bureau, UNESCO, Földvári and van Leeuwen (2014), Leeuwen, van Leeuwen-Li, Földvári (2011), Leeuwen, van Leeuwen-Li, Földvári (2012), Didenko, Foldvari, van Leeuwen (2012).

Source description

Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) is a new approach to conceptualising and measuring democracy. V-Dem provides a multidimensional and disaggregated dataset that reflects the complexity of the concept of democracy as a system of rule that goes beyond the simple presence of elections. The V-Dem project distinguishes between seven high-level principles of democracy: electoral, liberal, participatory, deliberative, egalitarian, majoritarian and consensual, and collects data to measure these principles. It is a collaboration among more than 3,000 scholars worldwide which is co-hosted by the Department of Political Science at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden and the Kellogg Institute at the University of Notre Dame, USA. With four principal investigators, fifteen project managers with special responsibility for issue areas, more than thirty regional managers, 170 country coordinators, research assistants, and 2,500 country experts, the V-Dem project is one of the largest social science data collection projects focusing on research.

Perception of Misinformation as a Problem

Pillar: Media

Sub-Pillar: Perception of Misinformation as a Problem

Indicator name: Perception of Misinformation as a Problem

Indicator Code: *e2_problem4country*

Indicator Type: Public Opinion Survey

Scale: 0-100% (of population)

Year: 2018

Website: https://data.europa.eu/euodp/en/data/dataset/S2183_464_ENG

Indicator description

The Connectivity: Social Media Consumption indicator is taken directly from the Flash Eurobarometer 464. The data has been weighted to be fully nationally representative and to take into account the 28 countries in the sample. The value reported represents the percentage of the population who responded with “Yes, definitely” or “Yes, to some extent” to the question below.

- Q4.1 In your opinion, is the existence of news or information that misrepresent reality or is even false a problem in our country.

Source

The Flash Eurobarometer 464 was designed to explore EU citizens’ awareness of and attitudes towards the existence of fake news and disinformation online. It covers the following issues: - Levels of trust in news and information accessed through different channels; - People’s perceptions of how often they encounter news or information that is misleading or false; - Public confidence in identifying news or information that is misleading or false; - People’s views on the extent of the problem, both in their own country and for democracy in general; - Views on which institutions and media actors should act to stop the spread of fake news.

Perceived Resilience to Misinformation

Pillar: Media

Sub-Pillar: Perceived Resilience to Misinformation

Indicator name: Perceived Resilience to Misinformation

Indicator Code: e2_detecting

Indicator Type: Public Opinion Survey

Scale: 0-100% (of population)

Year: 2018

Website: https://data.europa.eu/euodp/en/data/dataset/S2183_464_ENG

Indicator description

The Connectivity: Social Media Consumption indicator is taken directly from the Flash Eurobarometer 464. The data has been weighted to be fully nationally representative and to take into account the 28 countries in the sample. The value reported represents the percentage of the population who responded with “Very confident” or “Somewhat confident” to the question below.

- Q3 How confident or not are you that you are able to identify news or information that misrepresent reality or is even false?

Source

The Flash Eurobarometer 464 was designed to explore EU citizens’ awareness of and attitudes towards the existence of fake news and disinformation online. It covers the following issues: - Levels of trust in news and information accessed through different channels; - People’s perceptions of how often they encounter news or information that is misleading or false; - Public confidence in identifying news or information that is misleading or false; - People’s views on the extent of the problem, both in their own country and for democracy in general; - Views on which institutions and media actors should act to stop the spread of fake news.

