WORKSHOP

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND FACT-CHECKING: PROMISES AND PERILS

European Digital Media Observatory

17 FEBRUARY 2021, 15:00-18:00

INTRODUCTION

While the range of different approaches against the urgent problem of online disinformation continues to grow, AI appears attractive as a quick tool to support fact-checking activities. Side by side the traditional actors involved in the fight against online disinformation including online platforms and fact-checking organisations, a growing number of companies, ranging from small start-ups to larger businesses on both sides of the Atlantic, are currently devising AI based tools and commercial solutions to identify and at times moderate online disinformation. What initiatives are currently under way among niche AI start-ups to counter disinformation and in the private sector more broadly? How do these relate to AI powered tools devised or used by some fact-checkers? What are the benefits and risks of using automatic fact-checking tools and AI to detect disinformation? Can AI lead the way in mapping the vectors and dissemination dynamics of disinformation? How will this impact current journalistic practices?

The aim of the online workshop is to bring together private companies that are developing AI based fact checking tools with fact checkers, journalists, academics and policy makers to discuss these questions, and share experiences of good practices, limits and risks encountered in their work.

The online workshop is open for participation upon registration. A report of the workshop will be published by EDMO.

PROGRAMME

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

15:00-15:05   Remarks by Miguel Poiares Maduro, School of Transnational Governance, EUI and EDMO Executive Board

COMMERCIAL TOOLS AND PRODUCTS USING AI FOR FACT-CHECKING: THE ANSWER FROM THE PRIVATE

SECTOR

15:05-16:00   Moderator: Maja Cappello, European Audiovisual Observatory and EDMO Advisory Board
Speakers:
- Diogo Malafaya and Leonor Sá, Skribo
- Jose Miguel Cansado, Constella Intelligence
- Lyric Jain, Logically
- Guy De Pauw, Textgain
- Lukas Kovarik, Bohemian AI

16:00-16:05   *Break*

FACT-CHECKERS AND JOURNALISTS USING AI-POWERED FACT-CHECKING: EXPERIENCES AND CHALLENGES

16:05-17:00   Moderator: Tommaso Canetta, Pagella Politica and EDMO
Speakers:
- Jochen Spangenberg, Deutsche Welle and EDMO Advisory Board
- Andrew Dudfield, Full-Fact
- Viktoras Daukšas, Debunk EU
- Francesco Saverio Nucci, Fandango
- Emily Bazelon, The New York Times Magazine

17:00-17:05   *Break*

LIMITS AND RISKS OF USING AI FOR FACT-CHECKING: QUESTIONS OF EFFECTIVENESS AND LEGALITY OF AI DRIVEN DISINFORMATION DETECTION AND MODERATION

17:05-18:00   Moderator: Miguel Poiares Maduro, School of Transnational Governance, EUI and EDMO Executive Board
Speakers:
- Kalina Bontcheva, University of Sheffield
- Madeleine de Cock Buning, School of Transnational Governance, EUI and EDMO Executive Board
- Christopher Guess, Duke University
- Alberto Rabacchin, European Commission
- Andrea Simoncini, University of Florence