

Working together to fight false information in connection with the European elections

The European elections

The European elections are on 9 June.

These are elections to choose the members of the European Parliament.

A parliament is a group of politicians.

They make decisions.

And they make laws.

The European Parliament makes laws for the European Union.

The European Union is called the EU.

The laws of the European Union must be obeyed in all countries that belong to the EU.

Twenty-seven countries in Europe belong to the EU.

Protecting the elections

Every country in the EU has a democratic government.

Democracy means:

the people have the right to choose their government.

The people do this when they vote.

For example, the people choose which politicians will be in a parliament.

Elections are very important for democracy.

Without elections, there is **no** democracy.

That is why

we must protect the elections.

Governments in other countries want to change the election results.

For example Russia.

Russia's government is **not** a democracy.

Governments like Russia's

do **not** want the EU to have democracy.

They want people in the EU to believe

that the European elections are **not** real.

We must protect the elections against this danger.

How do these governments want to change the election results?

For example, governments in other countries spread false information.

This means

that they tell lies.

They know

that this information is wrong.

So these governments know they are lying.

They can also make fake websites on the internet

and in social media like Facebook and TikTok.

These fake websites can spread false information.

They also use fake photos

and fake videos.

Governments in other countries do this

to make people in Germany think

what they want them to think.

These governments want people in Germany to believe their lies.

Governments in other countries might attack the internet before the European elections.

They might steal secret information and then make it public for everyone to see.

They might even change the information first.

What is Germany's government doing about false information?

The Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community has the job of protecting the European elections in Germany.

This Federal Ministry is called the **BMI**.

The BMI works with other government agencies to protect the elections.

They talk with each other and ask:

what are the dangers right now?

What can we do about them?

The Federal Government wants to protect people in Germany against false information.

But it can't **stop** the false information completely.

That is why

everyone needs to know about false information.

People should know:

- What is false information?
- How can I tell what is false?
- What can I do about it?

People should know which websites and news sources they can trust.

Then they will be better able to tell what is false.

What can you do?

Think twice before you send information on to other people.

Many people share false information.

They **don't want** to hurt other people.

But they believe the false information.

Do you want to share some information?

Then you should check it carefully.

Check photos too.

If you are **not** sure that the information is true,
then **don't** share it.

Ask yourself:

where did this information come from?

Look for the same information on other websites or in newspapers or on TV.

Compare the information from at least two different sources.

The word "source" means

where the information came from.

Look for the information

- on the TV news
- in the newspaper
- on government websites:

www.bundesregierung.de

www.bmi.bund.de

www.bundeswahlleiterin.de

www.bsi.bund.de

Can you find the same information there?

Then it is probably true.

If you **don't** find the same information there,
then it is probably false.

Read fact checks

Facts are things that are true.

The word “check” means finding something out.

A fact check finds out whether the information is true.

Photos and videos are checked too.

Independent media, for example, check facts.

Independent media

are printed and online news sources

that are not controlled by the government.

No one tells them

what to report on.

No one tells them what they can't report on.

They check facts so they can tell people when information is false.

Then they tell people the facts that are true.

We made this information page

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Text in easy-to-read language:

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www.leicht-verstehen.de

www.bmi.bund.de

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