

EUROPEAN DEMOCRACY SHIELD



November 2025

The actions under the European Democracy Shield will further boost our collective capacity to counter information manipulation and disinformation and strengthen our resilience through a whole-of-society approach.

A new European Centre for Democratic Resilience: strengthening our collective capacity to fight threats and boost democratic resilience.



Safeguarding freedom of expression and the information space



- ▶ An incident and crisis protocol under the **Digital Services Act (DSA)**.
- ▶ Work with online platforms to strengthen efforts to **fight disinformation** under the Code of Conduct on Disinformation.
- ▶ Support actors such as the **European Network of Fact-Checkers** and the **European Digital Media Observatory**.
- ▶ Develop with Member States a **Blueprint for countering FIMI and Disinformation**.

Strengthening our institutions, free elections and free media



- ▶ **Strengthening the economic resilience of the media sector:** A new Media Resilience Programme and review of the Audiovisual Media Services Directive (AVMSD).
- ▶ **Strengthen cooperation with Member States under the European Cooperation Network on Elections to enhance election integrity and preparedness:** Guidance for the use of AI in elections and updated DSA Elections Toolkit.
- ▶ **Ensuring the safety of journalists and politicians:** Updated Recommendation on the safety of journalists and recommendation and guide on safety of political actors.

Boosting resilience and engagement of citizens



- ▶ **Fostering media and digital literacy** for all ages.
- ▶ **New participatory and consultative tools**, including via digital instruments, and **further promotion of evidence-based decision-making**.
- ▶ **Local engagement**, with a focus on youth.

External dimension



- ▶ The EU will step up action to combat foreign information manipulation and interference beyond the EU's borders. Close cooperation will be ensured with candidate and potential candidate countries across several actions in the European Democracy Shield.



The EU supports priorities under the European Democracy Shield with funding under several relevant programmes, such as Digital Europe, Creative Europe, Horizon Europe or the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme. The Commission proposed a number of programmes to contribute to democratic priorities under the next Multi-Annual Financial Framework (MFF).