

Study on Online News Consumption

Plain Language Statement

This research aims to understand the needs of citizens in order to develop a free online tool that will help citizens navigate online content and identify disinformation. To do so, the researchers need to understand the needs, attitudes, and behaviours of citizens in relation to their consumption of online content.

The principal investigator is Dr Jane Suiter (jane.suiter@dcu.ie), Dublin City University, Ireland. The research is undertaken by Dr Christina Steiner-Stanitznig (christina.steiner@tugraz.at) and Dr Alexander Nussbaumer (alexander.nussbaumer@tugraz.at) at Graz University of Technology, Austria, and by Dr Eileen Culloty (eileen.culloty@dcu.ie) at Dublin City University, Ireland.

- **Participation:** Participants will be required to respond to an online survey for approximately 20 minutes.
- **Personal Data:** The study will not process sensitive data or personal information that can be related to a participant. All data will be anonymised and comply with the requirements of GDPR. The raw data gathered in the study will be controlled by Graz University of Technology. If you are concerned about your data, please contact the Data Protection Officer in Dublin City University (Mr. Martin Ward, data.protection@dcu.ie 00 353 17008257) or the Data Protection Officer at Graz University of Technology (datenschutz@tugraz.at).
- **Data Confidentiality:** Please be aware that the confidentiality of information provided cannot always be guaranteed and can only be protected within the limitations of the law; i.e., it is possible for data to be subject to subpoena, freedom of information claim or mandated reporting by some professions.
- **Data Destruction:** All data arising from the study will be destroyed after a period of seven years.
- **Voluntary Participation:** Your participation is entirely voluntary. Should you wish to withdraw you may do so at any time.
- **Risks and Benefits:** The risks to participating in this study are not greater than those you would encounter in everyday life. The benefits of participating include: learning how to identify online disinformation and how to protect yourself online.
- **Funding:** This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 825227.

If participants have concerns about this study and wish to contact an independent person, please contact: The Secretary, Dublin City University Research Ethics Committee, c/o Research and Innovation Support, Dublin City University, Dublin 9. Tel 01-7008000, e-mail rec@dcu.ie