

The Italian Infodemic

Lessons From Fact-Checking on Covid-19

Thursday 04 June
@14:00 - 15:30 CEST

Event description:

At a time when misinformation poses a mortal threat to individual and collective health the current COVID-19 pandemic has created a growing public appetite for virus-related verified information. Two Italian fact-checking platforms - Pagella Politica and its debunking spin-off Facta have finding ways for meeting such increased demand since the beginning of the crisis.

In collaboration with fellow SOMA network member, the International Republican Institute, Pagella Politica is hosting a webinar for SOMA members and partners of IRI's Beacon Project which will focus on fact-checking best practices utilised during the on-going infodemic. The interactive workshop will touch upon the specifics of fact-checking and debunking in a time of crisis; the importance of international collaboration to counter cross-border disinformation, an overview of the tools made available by SOMA and IRI and how they can be used to launch and perform collaborative investigations.

Agenda

Time	Duration	Subject	Presenter
14.00	5'	Welcome and agenda	Giovanni Zagni, Director, Pagella Politica
14.05	15'	Session 1: Fact-checking Italian politics during the COVID-19 crisis	Tommaso Canetta, Deputy director, Pagella Politica
	10'	Q&A	
14.30	15'	Session 2: Debunking virus-related disinfo: challenges and opportunities	Camilla Vagnozzi, Head of debunking, Facta
	5'	Q&A	
14.50	15'	Session 3: International collaborations against disinfo: examples from the SOMA project	Silvia Cavasola, Project manager, Pagella Politica
	5'	Q&A	

15.10	15'	Session 4: SOMA's platform: useful tools and network	Nikos Sarris, Head of technologies against disinformation, ATC
	5'	Q&A	
15.30	5'	Closing remarks	Giovanni Zagni, Director, Pagella Politica

Bios of speakers and moderators (alphabetical order)

Tommaso CANETTA, deputy Director of Pagella Politica. He has a master's degree in Law, with specialization in International and European Law, and a master in Journalism. He has been a professional journalist since 2012 and a fact-checker since 2016, when he started to work for Pagella Politica.

Silvia CAVASOLA, PhD, has been Project manager at Pagella Politica since 2018, coordinating European projects and international collaborations. She had previously covered a similar role at the World Tourism Organization - UNWTO (2016-18, Madrid). With a background in political science, she has also been a research consultant to the Italian National Research Center (CNR) and the Active Citizenship Foundation (Fondaca).

Joanna ROHOZINSKA, Resident Program Director of the International Republican Institute's Brussels Office. She has been engaged in programs in Europe and Eurasia for 20 years, living and working in several countries in the region. She holds a graduate degree in Russian and European history from the University of Toronto where she focused on nationalism and foreign policy issues within the Russian and Soviet Empires.

Nikos SARRIS Nikos is a Senior Researcher at MKLab of ITI-CERTH and a member of MeVer. After receiving his PhD from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki Nikos worked at ATC for 15 years, where he headed the Innovation lab for 7 years and is now the Head of technologies against disinformation. He has been involved in many projects focusing on the semantic 'understanding' of news content and the assessment of its trustworthiness, coordinating the development of two related products: TruthNest and Truly Media. Nikos is the coordinator of the EC-funded SOMA project tasked to empower the European Observatory against Disinformation.

Camilla VAGNOZZI is the head of debunking at Facta (Pagella Politica's debunking project) and the author of "Slow Journalism Movement: storia, modelli e diffusione di un'informazione alternativa"(2019). Before working for Pagella she has served as Press Officer at the PA Department of the U.S. Consulate General in Milan and project manager for Eticall - creative marketing and communication agency.

Giovanni ZAGNI, PhD, joined Pagella Politica in 2015 and is currently its Director. A journalist, he is a member of the Monitoring Unit on Disinformation around Covid-19 established by the Italian government in April 2020. His articles on topics ranging from foreign policy to the debate around online misinformation have appeared also in Il Foglio, Rivista Studio and the Italian version of Scientific American.