



**Country-field research on fake news
about migration
(2015-2020)**



reCREATE
HEALTHY NARRATIVES TO TACKLE FAKE NEWS

Disclaimer

This study is the result of a research conducted by a plurality of authors from different organizations and from different countries. The present study was carried out within the framework of a European project of the Erasmus+ program for informational and public domain purposes only. Definitely, the results of the research are an expression of the opinion of the different authors; nevertheless, it is important to underline that in the preparation of the research, we deliberately renounced as much as possible to express personal opinions, trying to expose data and facts in the most objective way as possible.

The study covers some aspects related to immigration and migrants in the European Union; in the present study the term “migrant(s)” refers only to people coming from countries outside the EU and EFTA.

Table of contents

Introduction	7
The project	7
The country-field research	8
Content structure	9
The Survey	10
Contributors	13
Fake News	14
References	17
France	18
Context	18
Historical Background of Immigration in France	18
Politics and society	19
References	23
Fake news in France	24
Statistics	24
Samples of fake news were collected between the years 2015-2021	25
2015	25
2017	27
2018	28
2019	29
2020	30
Conclusions	31
Locals' Perception (quantitative analysis)	32
Introduction	32
Aim of this research	32
Methodology	32
Analysis of the collected data via the online survey	33
Germany	39
Context	39
Historical Background of the immigration in Germany	39
Politics and society	41
Fake News in Germany	45
2015	45
2017	46
2018	48

2019	51
2020	53
Conclusions	54
References	56
Greece	58
Context	58
Before 2015	58
2015 until today	59
Immigration policies in Greece	61
Statistics	62
Fake News in Greece	64
2015	64
2016	67
2017	73
2018	77
2019	82
2020	88
Locals' Perception	92
Refereces	99
Ireland	101
Context	101
Migration in Ireland and Contributing Factors	101
Migration Estimates	102
Concerns over Fake News	102
Initiatives to Combat Fake News	104
Perceptions of Fake News by the Irish Public	105
Concluding Remarks	107
References:	107
Italy	109
Historical background of immigration in Italy and overview of national legislation	109
Recent developments and current situation	112
Fake News about migration (2015-2020)	116
2015	117
2016	120
2017	123
2018	125

2019	127
Survey's results	131
Conclusions	137
Romania	139
Historical background	139
Fake news	141
2015	141
2016	143
2017	146
2018	148
2019	151
2020	153
Survey's results	156
Conclusions	157
References	163
Spain	164
CONTEXT	164
Current situation of migration in Spain	164
FAKE NEWS	166
2015	167
2016	170
2017	171
2018	175
2019	179
2020	182
Conclusions	186
Local's perception	187
References	191
General conclusions	192
The EU and the migration issue	192
The reasons for a Community immigration policy	193
EU regulations for the long-term residence of citizens from non-EU countries	194
The Schengen Agreement	195
References	197

Introduction

This country-field research has been carried out within the framework of the Erasmus+ KA227 EU-project “reCREATE healthy narratives to tackle fake news”:

2020-1-IE01-KA227-YOU-082962; the main purpose of the research is to provide an overview of the migration situation and of the spread of fake news about migration in the seven EU- countries involved in the project.

Before introducing the theme of fake news about migration, it is appropriate to provide a brief overview of the project in which the present research was carried out, which will be followed by a brief description of the procedure and methodologies used to carry out the research itself.

The project

The project aims in particular to combat the spreading of fake news about migration among young people, encouraging at the same time the spread of important values and skills such as, among others:

- Critical thinking and young people’s spirit of initiative concerning misinformation and migration.
- Information, media, and technology literacy among young people.
- To enhance awareness on migration issues.
- To create new migration narratives by using the participatory-video method, which is the final output of the project.

The reCreate project is carried out by a consortium of public and private partner organizations from seven EU countries, among the most involved in the migration phenomenon: France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Romania, and Spain.

The project is addressed to young people between 20 and 29 years old and has a duration of 24 months.

The project involves the implementation of several activities and outputs aimed at fostering awareness among young people about fake news on migration. The main projects’ activities are in particular the following: the realization of country-field research on the topic of misinformation and migration, of which the present study is the result; the development of an e-learning course about media literacy and technology literacy, aimed to develop basic competences to verify information, understand digital communication and enhance critical thinking. Afterward, the project provides blended mobility of youth aimed to acquire video-making skills in order to develop alternative narratives using creative tools. The blended mobility includes a virtual part of mobility, during which participants will be provided with the basic video-making skills, and a physical one, where they will practically develop a participatory video. By using this inclusive and innovative methodology, the young participants will create alternative and healthy narratives about migration, going beyond stigmatization and misinformation.

The organizations involved are:

PROGEU -PROGRESS IN EUROPEAN UNION - ISTITUTO PER LO SVILUPPO, Italy

Champion Factory IRELAND LIMITED, Ireland (applicant organization)

EBB Europass Berlin Beratungsbüro GmbH, Germany

ASOCIATIA SCOUT SOCIETY, Romania

Roes Cooperativa KOIN.S.EP, Greece

Asociación SEI – Servicio Socioeducativo Intercultural, Spain

Association Hexagonale de l'Innovation Sociale et de l'Education, France

The country-field research

As mentioned, the research has been carried out in all partner countries involved in the project and constitutes its first concrete output. The research provides an overview of the main topics related with the migration and the situation of migrants in the seven European countries. The research has specifically the following goals:

-Determine the reasons why a large number of fake news on the topic of migration are being spread.

-Seek to understand how this phenomenon was born and by what means has become widespread.

-Determine the perception of fake news about migration among young people aged 20-29 in the countries involved. This last goal has been achieved using a standard, specifically created questionnaire.

The research has been realized by applying three different techniques corresponding to the content structure; namely, collection and analysis of information about migration in the countries involved; collection and analysis of visual data containing fake news; interviews (survey) to understand the locals' perception about fake news on migration.

Content structure

The content of the research is divided into nine different main chapters; a general introduction in which are examined the characteristics of fake news; seven chapters corresponding to the countries taken into consideration, an appendix which contains the analysis of data emerged from the survey, also divided by country, and finally a conclusion summarizing the situation and the spread of the fake news in the European Union.

The chapters related to the single countries constitute the qualitative research part and are in turn divided into three sub-chapters:

- The context, in which the contents relating to each country are analyzed, taking into account different aspects, starting from a historical introduction on immigration, and then proceeding with the analysis of the political, social and economic aspects connected with the topic in question. The result is a general overview about the immigration situation in each country, accompanied by statistics and real data.
- The fake news. In this chapter are collected and analyzed the fake news published between 2015 and 2020. For each year, has been collected an average of five samples of fake news related to migration. Each fake news is then accompanied by a caption which explains the context, the source, the media, and which contains the translation into English and a brief analysis as well. The samples have been collected

from a variety of sources: Newspaper articles, social network posts, videos, interviews.

- General conclusion. This chapter takes into account the fake news in the different years of the analysis. Therefore, has been analyzed the tendency concerning the spread of fake news in each country, any increases and/or decreases, any potential impact on society, correspondence with real facts.

The part related to the survey, and therefore to the locals' perception about fake news on migration, constitutes the quantitative research related to the present study. It is divided in seven chapters, one for each country, and aims to assess the general perception of young people concerning fake news on migration in the countries in question. For this purpose, a questionnaire has been developed and submitted to young people aged 20–29 from the different countries. The questionnaire contains 18 questions and is divided into four categories:

- Background information, i.e., education, occupation, etc.
- Personal ideas and convictions regarding the phenomenon of migration.
- Use of information sources and media, i.e., frequency of use, predilection of certain sources and/or media, etc.
- Attitudes toward fake news.

At the end of each chapter there is a concluding part in which are analyzed the tendencies emerged from the survey.

The data collected in Germany and Ireland are not enough to be considered relevant.

A final chapter about the overall situation of the phenomenon in the European Union concludes the research.

Thanks to the qualitative analysis consisting of the examination of the context of each country and the samples of fake news, together with the results of the quantitative analysis constituted by the results of the survey, it will be possible to have on disposal a comprehensive framework concerning the characteristics and the spread of fake news on the topic of migration in Europe in the last years.

The Survey

General Information

1)Are you	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Male b. Female c. Other
2)How many inhabitants has the city you live in?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. > 100.000 b. Between 100.000 and 20.000 c. < 20.000

3) Which is your educational background?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Bachelor or higher degree b. High school degree c. Middle school
4) What is your current occupation?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Unemployed b. employed c. Student

Migration

1) How do you get information?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. I read my usual newspaper everyday b. I can find all the information on the web. c. I get information from many sources (newspaper, tv, web media..) d. Other...
2) When I check the news..	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. I usually read only the title and few lines to have a general idea about the issue b. I like read all the news and article, and I like also to search for different point of view c. I don't really check the news.
3) The news that you find on the media are..	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) usually very trustworthy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Sometimes reliable, and sometimes not. It depends on the source b. Not trustworthy
4) How often do you check the news?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Every day. b. Not every day, but at least twice a week. c. Sometimes and depending on the topic d. I usually get my information indirectly and from other people
5) Do you think that politics influences directly the media?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, for sure. Always. b. Sometimes, depending on the news c. I think it's the opposite. Media influence the politics.

Information

1) How do you get information?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. I read my usual newspaper everyday b. I can find all the information on the web. c. I get information from many sources (newspaper, tv, web media..) d. Other...
2) When I check the news..	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. I usually read only the title and few lines to have a general idea about the issue b. I like read all the news and article, and I like also to search for different point of view c. I don't really check the news.
3) The news that you find on the media are..	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) usually very trustworthy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Sometimes reliable, and sometimes not. It depends on the source b. Not trustworthy
4) How often do you check the news?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Every day. b. Not every day, but at least twice a week. c. Sometimes and depending on the topic d. I usually get my information indirectly and from other people
5) Do you think that politics influences directly the media?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, for sure. Always. b. Sometimes, depending on the news c. I think it's the opposite. Media influence the politics

Fake news

1) Do you think it is very likely to find fake news on the media ?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, definitely b. It depends on the media and on the source c. Rarely, they should check it before the publishing
2) Do you usually recognize a fake news, when you see it?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, it is quite simple to recognize them b. I don't know c. I've never found them
3) Which is the most addressed topic of misinformation?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Immigrants and migration issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Covid-19 Pandemic b. I don't know

	c. Others..
4) When you find an information which seems to be fake, do you..	<p>a. Skip it and check for more reliable sources</p> <p>b. Investigate it further, it may not be fake</p> <p>c. Share it, I don't think it's fake</p>
5) Which consequences do you think misinformation about immigrants has?	<p>a. They can be dangerous, since they increase hate against immigrants</p> <p>b. They raise awareness about the potential danger of havind too much immigration</p> <p>c. I don't know.</p> <p>d. I don't know</p>

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Fake News

The idiom “Fake News” has entered into the everyday language starting from 2017; the former USA president Donald Trump¹ used the phrase over four hundred times, during his first year in office. The term has become then widely used internationally. However, the internationalization of the term does not coincide with the birth of the phenomenon itself, which was present since ages, but it has definitely determined an increasing of misinformation worldwide². Actually, even though the idiom could seem self-explanatory, researchers haven't found a common and fixed definition yet; that's due to the variety of formats in which fake news could be met, such as rumours, satire, parody, fabricated content, manipulated content, etc.³

Nevertheless, some scholars do prefer to distinguish this type of information with more precise terms, such as: misinformation, meaning false information spread without harmful intent; disinformation, which is intentionally created with harmful intent and mal-information, which is the sharing of “genuine” information to cause harm⁴.

In general, we could define Fake news as false and misleading information, which is presented as real and authentic news. They are fabricated stories which could be entirely not grounded in fact or could contain enough falsehood to mislead the reader's judgment and opinion⁵.

When looking for an explicative definition of the term and while examining the phenomenon, scholars have focused on specific form of communication on one side, and on the purpose of the content on the other side. The resulting studies turn out to be short-sighted; fake news can be



¹ Higdon, Nolan (August 15, 2020). The anatomy of fake news: A critical news literacy education. University of California, p.1.

² Ibidem, p.4-5

³ Ibidem, p.3

⁴ Giuliani-Hoffman, Francesca (November 3, 2017). "'F*** News' should be replaced by these words, Claire Wardle says". Money.CNN. Retrieved December 30, 2021

⁵ Schlesinger, Robert (April 14, 2017). "Fake news in reality",

<https://www.usnews.com/opinion/thomas-jefferson-street/articles/2017-04-14/what-is-fake-news-maybe-not-what-you-think>

transmitted in a plenty of ways, from the oral to the written and the visual formats (online-videos), not to mention that the content of a fake news is not always bound to the political propaganda, but it could aim, for example, at furthering some journalists' career⁶.

The discourse about fake news and the spread of the phenomenon needs undoubtedly to be linked to that of social media and digital information, which certainly have played a big role on misinformation in recent years. In particular Facebook, with its potential audience of 1.8bn⁷users, has represented the main channel of misinformation online, thanks to the fact that links and news are given the same weight regardless of source. It needs to be said that, despite Facebook is not considered as a news site, many people nowadays use their Facebook News Feed to get information⁸. However, this does not mean that all these Facebook users are normally fake news consumers, but, according to research from North-Western University, many of them also consume real news from established news sources⁹.

It becomes evident that, apart from the real problem represented by the manipulation of media and genuine information, enacted by the spread of fake news, the downside of the phenomenon shows a general lack of education in discerning false information and untrustworthy sources. The fostering of critical thinking and digital and media literacy skills among young people could be a first step in the fight against the spreading of misleading information.

The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) published a list of advices and indications to help people recognizing fact from fiction¹⁰.

⁶ Higdon, Nolan (August 15, 2020). The anatomy of fake news: A critical news literacy education. University of California, p.6-7

⁷ Hunt, Elle (December 17, 2016). "What is fake news? How to spot it and what you can do to stop it". The Guardian. Retrieved December 29, 2021.

⁸ Gottfried, Jeffrey; Shearer, Elisa (May 26, 2016). "News use across social media platforms 2016". Pew Research Center's Journalism Project. Retrieved January 3, 2022
<https://www.pewresearch.org/journalism/2016/05/26/news-use-across-social-media-platforms-2016/>

⁹ Is 'fake news' a fake problem?". *Columbia Journalism Review*. Retrieved December 29, 2021.

¹⁰ How to spot fake news". IFLA blogs. January 27, 2017. Retrived on December 30, 2021

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France

Context

Historical Background of Immigration in France

France has always been an immigration country (Noiriel 1988). Unlike most European countries, the French experience with immigration predates the post-World War II period. France in the nineteenth century saw itself as a haven for persons in search of freedom or persecuted for political reasons in their own countries. With industrialisation and growing labour needs, France became a destination country for labour migrants, especially from Belgium and Italy, a situation that continued after World War I. In 1931, France had already 2.7 million immigrants accounting for 6.5% of its population.

Almost all the children and grandchildren of the immigrants who came in the past decades – Poles and Italians before the Second World War, Spaniards and Portuguese in the 1950s-1960s, North-Africans in the 1960s, Asian and West-Africans in the 1970s-1980s – are now French citizens. According to the 2006 census, 25% of French citizens had at least one parent or grandparent who had been an immigrant to France (INSEE, 2008).

The number of immigrants increased regularly during the second half of the 20th century and the percentage of those coming from Europe decreased while the proportion of those coming from Asia and above all Africa was growing. At the same time, the economic situation was deteriorating. Since the beginning of the 1980s, the rate of unemployment has never been lower than 7%. In 2012, it is globally around 10% and it is particularly high for the less qualified workers, among whom many immigrants. Almost 30% of Algerian immigrants are unemployed, (CAS, 2012).

According to a report published by the High Comity for Integration (H.C.I, 2011), French citizens whose parents were immigrants coming from non-European countries are twice more concerned by unemployment than the other citizens (24.2%).

1945–1974

Right after the Second World War, immigration to France significantly increased. During the period of reconstruction, France lacked labour, and as a result, the French government was eager to recruit immigrants coming from all over Europe, the Americas, Africa and Asia.

Although there was a presence of, Vietnamese in France since the late 19th century (mostly students and workers), a wave of Vietnamese migrated to the country after the Battle of Dien Bien Phu and the Geneva Accords, which granted Vietnam its independence from France in 1954. These migrants consisted of those who were loyal to the colonial government and those married to French colonists. Following the partition of Vietnam, students and professionals from South Vietnam continued to arrive in France. Although many initially returned to the country after a few years, as the Vietnam War situation worsened, a majority decided to remain in France and brought their families over as well.

1974– Present time

During the 1970s, France simultaneously faced an economic crisis and allowed immigrants (mostly from the Muslim world) to permanently settle in France with their families and to acquire French citizenship. It resulted in hundreds of thousands of Muslims, especially to the larger cities, living in subsidized public housing and suffering from very high unemployment rates. Alongside this, France renounced its policy of assimilation, instead of

pursuing a policy of integration. In 1974, France restricted immigration from its former colonies.

Politics and society

Immigration Policy of France

Since the mid-19th century, French immigration policy has had two aims: to meet the needs of the labour market by introducing migrant workers and to compensate French demographic deficits by favouring the permanent installation of foreign families, while ensuring their integration into the national body.

On the labour market front, the deepening of French colonial relations in the 19th and early 20th centuries laid the groundwork for steady movements of people between France and its colonies. While early information on the foreign population dates to France's first census in 1851, the first attempts to codify and regulate immigration to France began in the post-World War II era.

The devastation of two world wars and low birth rates thereafter had left France with a limited national labour pool. The country saw a partial answer to its dwindling workforce in the recruitment of foreign labour, initially from Belgium and Germany as well as from Poland, Russia, Italy, and Spain.

Immigration to France increased during the wars of liberation and decolonization in the 1950s and 1960s. For France, the impact was felt especially acutely in the free and unregulated entries of immigrants from Algeria. This was particularly true in the period leading up to and following Algerian independence from France in 1962 with the signing of the Evian Agreement.

New arrivals included former French colonists resident in Algeria, as well as Algerians who had sided with France during the war of independence. In 1962, about 350,000 so-called "French Muslims" were counted in France. The number of Algerians rose to 470,000 in 1968 and to 800,000 in 1982.

The late 1960s and early 1970s, however, ushered in a period of tremendous social change. The maturing of the baby boom generation and the entrance of large numbers of women into the labour force limited the need for foreign workers. Economically, the oil price shock of 1973 further hamstrung economic performance and led to an extended period of high unemployment.

In July 1974, the French government followed the lead of other European counterparts and officially ended its labour migration programs. The legislation also included provisions for sanctions affecting employers who hired illegal immigrants, a French policy innovation originally developed in the 1930s. Nonetheless, immigration continued and diversified over the following decades.

The resulting legislative changes altered the migration landscape. In 1990, 102,400 foreigners settled in France (not including undocumented immigrants but including workers, refugees, and those joining their families). The years from 1995 to 1997 were marked by a continuous decline in permanent entries, which saw the lowest levels

registered since the end of World War II: 69,300 entries in 1994, 56,700 in 1995 and 55,600 in 1996.

The March 16, 1998, law on nationality along with the RESEDA Law of May 11, 1998, on foreign immigration sought to ease the admission procedures for graduates and highly skilled employees. In addition, a regularization procedure, launched in June 1997, legalized the status of roughly 87,000 unauthorized immigrants out of roughly 150,000 applicants.

Since then, the inflow of foreign students has continued to rise, accounting for 25,100 entries in 1999, compared to over 147,000 in 2001. Furthermore, the principle of *jus soli* that had been modified by the Pasqua Laws was reinstated. Under the Pasqua Laws, children born in France of foreign parents were required to make a "voluntary declaration" of their intention to acquire French citizenship. After 1998, children of foreign parents automatically acquire French citizenship at the age of 18.

More recently, despite poor economic performance and growing concerns about illegal immigration, immigration is on the rise again. According to the 2003 Trends in International Migration Report of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), from 1999 to 2002, total permanent entries significantly increased, totalling 104,400 in 1999 and 141,000 in 2001 including European Economic Area (EEA) nationals.

The main reason for immigration remains family reunification, accounting for 70 per cent of the entries from non-EEA countries and 33 per cent of the entries from EEA countries. In addition, another 50,600 people entered as temporary immigrants, who include students and those with a temporary work permit.

In November 2003, the National Assembly passed a law amending legislation on immigration and on the residence of foreigners on French territories. The new law provides stricter regulations to combat illegal immigration and to regulate the admission and stay of foreigners in France.

Law 2003-1119 of 26 November 2003 on immigration control, the residence of aliens in France and nationality aims to ensure the "generous welcome of immigrants" and "to strengthen the fight against illegal immigration rings without which a proper welcome cannot be extended to immigrants". This law reformed the "double penalty" system and made it a requirement to take account of aliens' real integration into French society. The principal measures for combating illegal immigration include the creation of databases of fingerprints and photographs of aliens applying for a residence permit or a visa and imposing penalties for marriages and paternity of convenience.

The most recent text to date is *Law 2006-911 of 24 July 2006 on immigration and integration*. It provides for "chosen immigration", i.e. for the possibility of choosing labour to meet the needs of the French economy and welcoming aliens "with an economic, scientific, cultural or humanitarian project". This law also promotes the reception of foreign students. Concerning private immigration, the law strengthens the fight against marriages of convenience and changes conditions for family reunification. Concerning integration, the law makes it a requirement to sign a "Reception and Integration Contract" (*Contrat d'accueil*

et d'intégration – CAI) instituted under the 2005 Social Cohesion Plan. Finally, concerning regularisation and the fight against illegal immigration, the law abolishes de facto regularisation after ten years of illegal residence on French territory and combines the refusal of residence and deportation order into a single decision.

The impact on the labour market

Concerning immigrants themselves, they are, in France, less likely to be in employment than non-immigrants of a given age. The employment rate gap in relation to non-immigrants is around 18 percentage points for 25-54 years old. This is due in part to lower rates of activity, especially for women (with a differential of 20 points in relation to non-immigrants for 25-54-year-olds), and to a higher risk of unemployment among immigrants (more than twice as high and nearly three times higher for immigrants from outside the EU who are foreign nationals). These differentials are marked depending on the level of qualification and the country of origin.

When in employment, immigrants are also, with given observable characteristics, at greater risk of being downgraded, i.e. in a less favourable professional situation than their level of education would suggest. This contributes to a further widening of the wage differentials observed towards non-immigrants, around 10% on average in France.

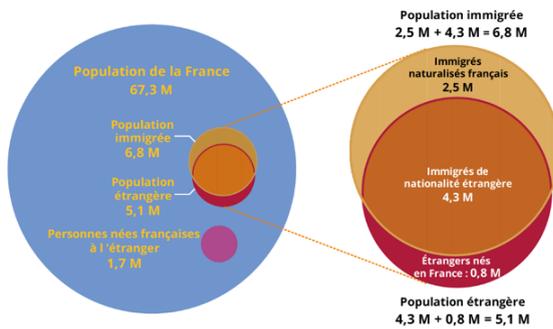
Barriers to employment and downgrading factors are well identified in the literature. Taking stock of the situation in this respect boils down to summing up the main levers for integration likely to speed up and improve the professional integration of immigrants. Barriers include language, the recognition of professional qualifications, their intrinsic value (depending on the quality of the education systems concerned), the relevance of experience acquired, as well as legal obstacles or social fragility on arrival (lack of network or financial means, ignorance of institutions and codes).

Overall, the various types of empirical studies were carried out to find little impact of immigration on the labour market, both in terms of employment and wages of non-immigrants. In France, a 1% increase in the labour force due to immigration would, according to the studies, result in a variation in the employment of non-immigrants of between -0.3% and +0.3%, and a variation in wages of between -0.8% and +0.5%. Assuming a negligible impact of immigration on the employment (or unemployment) rate of non-immigrants, then trends in national labour market indicators depend exclusively on the professional integration of immigrants themselves

Recent Statistics

In 2020, 6.8 million immigrants live in France or 10.2% of the total population. 2.5 million immigrants, or 36% of them, acquired French nationality. The foreign population living in France amounts to 5.1 million people or 7.6% of the total population. It consists of 4.3 million immigrants who have not acquired French nationality and 0.8 million people born in France of foreign nationality. 1.7 million people were born of French nationality abroad. With immigrants (6.8 million), in total, 8.5 million people living in France were born abroad, or 12.7% of the population. In 2020, 47.5% of immigrants living in France were born in Africa. 32.2% were born in Europe. The most frequent countries of birth of immigrants are Algeria (12.7%), Morocco (12%), Portugal (8.6%), Tunisia (4.5%), Italy (4.1%), Turkey (3.6%) and Spain (3.5%). Half of the immigrants come from one of these seven countries (49%).

The immigrant population in France has been increasing in terms of numbers and percentage of the total population since 1946. It corresponds to 10.2% of the population



Note: Provisional data, from advanced population estimates.
Field: France.
Source: INSEE, 2020 population estimates.

living in France in 2020, compared to 7.4% in 1975 and 5% in 1946. The foreign population living in France represented 7.6% of the total population in 2020, compared to 6.5% in 1975 and 4.4% in 1946.

Until the mid-1970s, immigration flows were mostly male, meeting the labour needs born of post-war reconstruction and then the Thirty Glorious period. In 1974, in a degraded economic context, a brake was put on labour immigration and family immigration developed. Since then, the share of women in immigration flows has increased, whether it is family reunification or not. In 2020, 52% of immigrants were women, compared to 44% in 1975 and 45% in 1946.

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Fake news in France

The phrase “fake news” has become somewhat of a buzzword over the past few years in the media industry. Defined as false or misleading information, often for advertising purposes or for damaging the reputation of a targeted institution, group or person, understanding fake news is vital at a time when access to reliable information is an increasingly important issue.

The fake news phenomenon is particularly important in the digital age, even more so as the number of digital news sources is ramping up. Content can rapidly become viral on social networks and thus increase traffic. While information circulates more freely and quicker than ever, it is still difficult to ensure its reliability.

According to the Digital News Report 2019 of the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, the use of social media for obtaining information is on the rise in France, reaching 42% of the population. The French now obtain almost as much information online (69%), including social media, as they do via television (71%)¹⁴. According to the same report, in addition to the widespread use of social media for accessing information, there is a growing mistrust of the media. As a result, French people's confidence in information in the broadest sense is now the lowest in Europe, at 24% (down 11 points from the previous report).

SHARE OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE ALREADY BEEN FOOLED BY A FAKE NEWS

67%

TOPIC MOST LIKELY TO BE THE TARGET OF FAKE NEWS

Politics

MEDIA THAT BROADCAST FAKE NEWS THE MOST

Social media

Statistics

MEDIA BROADCASTING FAKE NEWS VERY OFTEN

Television	10%
Radio	5%
Press	7%
News websites	9%
Social media	24%
Blogs and forums	12%

SHARE OF PEOPLE WHO RELAYED FAKE NEWS BY TOPIC

Politics	32%
Social issues	33%
Company	26%
Coronavirus (COVID-19)	58%

Samples of fake news were collected between the years 2015–2021

2015

A Fake new on social media;

- 9 Years old Chloe was kidnapped, killed and raped by an immigrant in Calais.



FACT

The murder of 9-year-old Chloe, instrumentalized by anti-migrant an article from France 3 Nord Pas-de-Calais, dated April, devoted to the murder of Chloe in Calais, has been circulating extensively on social networks. Its title has been changed on Facebook by Internet users to stigmatize immigrants and create an amalgamation with refugees. The title of the article in 3 Nord Pas-de-Calais, "Chloe kidnapped, killed and raped in Calais: the suspect confessed" was thus transformed into "Chloe kidnapped, killed and raped in Calais by an immigrant

<https://france3-regions.francetvinfo.fr/hauts-de-france/2015/04/15/calais-chloe-9-ans-ete-enlevee-violee-et-tuee-705643.html>

2016

Fake news in social media:

- The above-mentioned tweet spreads misinformation which claims immigrants are given 40 euros financial assistance per day for each family member by this card https://twitter.com/bergeredwige/status/777495870388441088?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E777495870388441088%7Ctwgr%5E%7Ctwcon%5E%3A%2F%2Fwww.leparisien.fr%2Fsociete%2Fla-carte-bleue-des-migrants-le-retour-d-une-inbox-14-08-2019-8133486.php



FACT

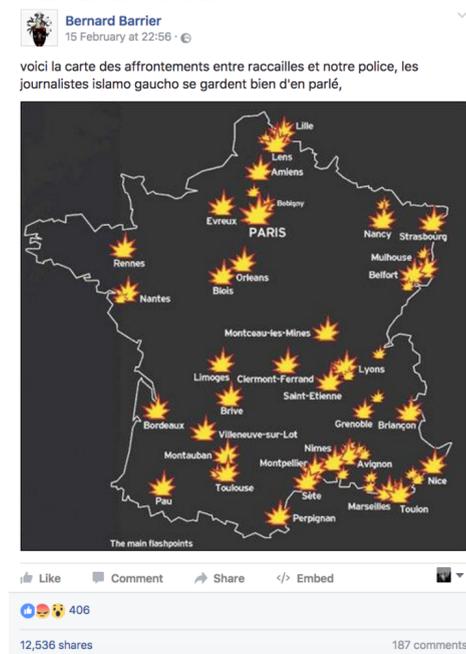
Migrants who have submitted an asylum request to Ofpra can effectively benefit from financial assistance (the asylum seeker allowance), which amounts to 6.80 euros per day. This can be supplemented by 4.20 euros per day if they do not access any accommodation.

According to the official scale, it would take a family of 10 people to receive 37.40 euros per day, approaching the wacky "40 euros" (the amount per person decreases as the family increases).

2017

Fake news in social media

Facebook post published on 15 February 2017 has been shared more than 12,500 times. The map has been widely shared on



social media, garnering thousands of shares and retweets. Social media users have been sharing this map, falsely claiming that it depicts recent French rioting. Social media user Bernard Barrier shared the infographic, claiming that it mapped "clashes between the rabble and the police."

FACT

The map was first published in November 2005 and is not an accurate representation of the current social tensions in France Clashes from Lens to Perpignan via Lyons or Marseilles: this false map counts fifty zones of unrest between the forces of order and civil groups across France. An Internet search allowed us to trace this image back to November 8th, 2005, in an article on the blog "the opinion journal" reporting in a distorted way the urban violence committed during widespread rioting at that time across France. A deeper search through the internet

archive [Wayback Machine](#) showed us the original infographic in an article about this unrest in the British newspaper [The Daily Telegraph](#), published on [November 8, 2005](#).

2018

Fake news in social media

The tweet of Florian Philippot claims 77000 HLM apartments are allocated for immigrants although they are needed by the local people.



77000 HLM pour les migrants. Pendant ce temps tant de familles continueront d'attendre un logement social. Révoltant



Le Figaro @Le_Figaro

Plus de 77.000 HLM seraient disponibles pour des réfugiés
bit.ly/1LcXUFO 🏠

FACT

Migrants cannot claim housing in HLM, and even less as a priority. To apply for HLM housing, it is necessary to hold a residence permit. Then, no priority applies. This supposed favouritism is agitated by the right and the extreme right since the High committee for the housing of the disadvantaged people evoked the possibility of attribution of social housing to refugees. If 20,000 housing places have been requested by the State, they are systematically unoccupied dwellings, listed as "long-term vacancies", generally located in "sectors where demand is low" and which do not find a taker.

On 20 March 2018, the Facebook page “News World” shared a [video](#) that they claim shows “Muslim immigrants” attacking a Catholic church during mass in France.

FACT

This video does document a real event that took place in France in March 2018, giving a nod to at least some semblance of accuracy in this report. However, it stops there. The post contains no evidence that backs their conclusions about the protesters’ religion or whether they were new arrivals to the country. Furthermore, the



protesters did not “attack” a Catholic church, and mass was not in session during the incident as claimed. What the footage shows is a protest at the Basilica of Saint-Denis in France on March 18, 2018, against a bill that would make it harder for people to seek asylum in the country. According to a report from Le Parisien, about eighty people entered the church with banners to protest the law, and the demonstration (non-violent) ended a little over an hour later when the group was driven out of the church by the police.

2019

Fake news in social media

Regularly shared on the social network, a photo showing clashes between law enforcement and firefighters is brandished as a symbol of violence by the police. "scandalous" photo, so is presented on Facebook a photo showing a police officer holding firefighters with a thrower of defence balls in September 2019. The police are thus accused of attacking "lifesavers".

La photo scandaleuse Policiers contre pompiers les sauveurs de vie



LA PHOTO QUI FAIT SCANDALE



FACT

This publication relayed on a public group entitled "For the resignation of Emmanuel Macron", has been shared more than a hundred times. However, this is only the sharing of a previous message, dated September and which has more than 38,000 shares of Internet users. Each time, the implicit message is the same: the firefighters (presented as victims) are opposed by the police, the embodiment of violence, including against the defenders of the population. Quick research confirms that this image is real. It is the regional daily Nice-Matin, which affirms it, assuring in passing that it "does not relate an event which took place recently". The newspaper "is categorical on this point" and justifies itself with an unstoppable argument: "it was one of our photographers who took it". The author of the snapshot, François Vignola, immortalized this scene on July 16, 2010, he then witnessed clashes between police and firefighters. The latter were demonstrating in Nice, opposed, as the prefecture quickly indicated, to the pension reform presented at the time. "We were running on the esplanade to make them a bit 'goat' when they charged with batons," said a firefighter present on the spot, quoted by AFP.

2020

A fake Facebook page claiming to be from the French Office of Immigration and Integration is asking people for money in exchange for advice.

It has the makings of a genuine page: the logo of the French Office for Immigration and Integration (Ofii), the words "public service and administration," links to media, publications on the agency's services. But the "OFII - Office français de l'immigration et de l'intégration" page is not administered by the French agency.



The fake page connects people, exchange ideas and answers their questions in return for Money.

Several people lost their Money via this scam webpage.

FACT

The official page can be reached via this link: <https://www.facebook.com/OfiiFr/> .



Conclusions

The second part of the study presents several samples of the news based on the chronological order linked to certain fake news items identified by fact-checkers. This section also includes an explanation of the content of the news in English with the highest virality. Most of the relevant articles in this database concern migrants between 2015-2020. There

were several fake news stories about supposed migrants. The 7 selected fake news is composed of social media posts on Facebook and Twitter. According to research, social media enables false claims to spread quickly – more quickly, in fact, than real news.

4 of the sample fake news is based on real visuals such as photos and videos which are transformed into a piece of fake news by changing the context.

Two of the sample fake news are based on the new contents which were created by people such as politicians to criticize immigration. One of the sample fake news is based on the fake social media account which is created to cheat people.

The advent of the internet and more particularly social media has brought about an explosion of disinformation since powerful new technology makes the manipulation and fabrication of content. In terms of the type of content used, the use of non-text material such as photos quotes from verified Tweets to support the verification purpose is notable. This is particularly the case with Tweets that focus on image verification, to show the decontextualization and even manipulation that can be hidden behind them.

The fake news selected is not exhaustive, nor is it necessarily representative of all fake news. The result of focusing only on fake news that has been refuted by fact-checkers could be that particularly viral fake news is selected. The analyses will therefore form case studies that will make it possible to assess examples of the propagation of fake news on social media without necessarily making it possible to draw general conclusions from the set of results obtained.

Locals' Perception (quantitative analysis)

Introduction

Fake news can be defined as the creation and sharing of false and/or misinformation that is intended to mislead audiences, either for the purposes of causing harm or for political. The topic of immigration has every time been in the focus of this misinformation.

This report outlines findings from the ReCreate Survey, which gathered input from 30 young immigrants between 18–35, living in France.

Aim of this research

The aim of this research is to provide a useful snapshot of the reflections of immigrants currently living in Goussainville and Ile de Paris Region about fake news published in several media channels.

Methodology

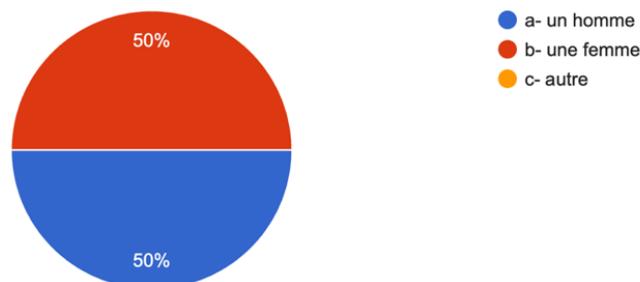
The methodology approach aims to collect the qualitative data of perspective on fake news about immigration/immigrants by using a survey as a data collection method. The survey consists of 18 multiple questions.

Analysis of the collected data via the online survey

1. 50% of the respondents are women and 50% of respondents are men.

1) Es tu?

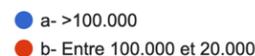
30 yanıt



2. 50% of the respondents are living in a region that has more than 100.000 inhabitants and 50% of respondents are living in a region that has inhabitants between 20.000 and 100.000.

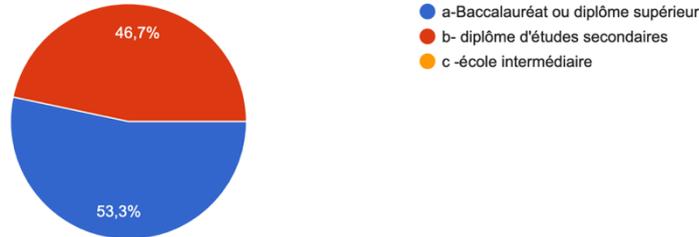
2)Quelle est la population de la ville où vous habitez ?

30 yanıt



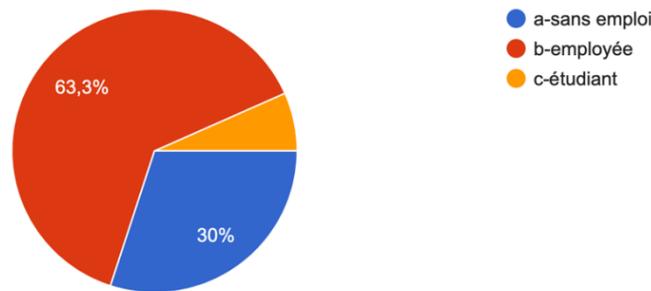
3. 53.3% of respondents have a baccalaureate or higher diploma and 46.7% have a high school diploma.

3) Quelle est votre formation ?
30 yant



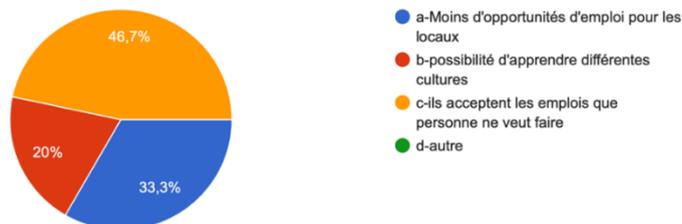
4. 63% of the respondents are employed, 30% of respondents are unemployed and 7% of the respondents are students.

4) Quelle est votre profession actuelle?
30 yant



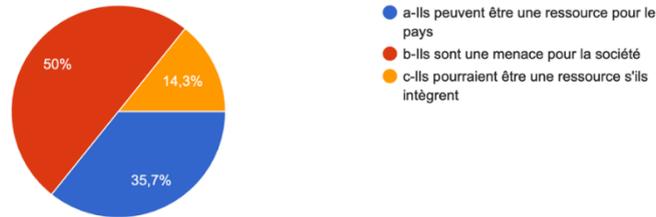
5. To indicate the consequences of immigration, 46.7% of respondents think that the immigrants take jobs that nobody wants to do, 20% of respondents think that immigration creates the possibility to learn different cultures, 33.3% of respondents think that immigration cause fewer job opportunities for locals.

5) Selon vous, quelles sont les conséquences de la migration?
30 yant



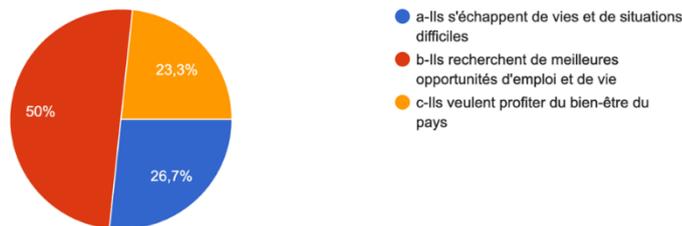
6. According to the 50% of the respondents, immigrants are a threat for society, according to 35.7% of the respondents they can be a resource for the country and according to the 14% of the respondents they could be a resource if they integrate to the society

6) Que pensez-vous sur les migrants ?
28 yanit



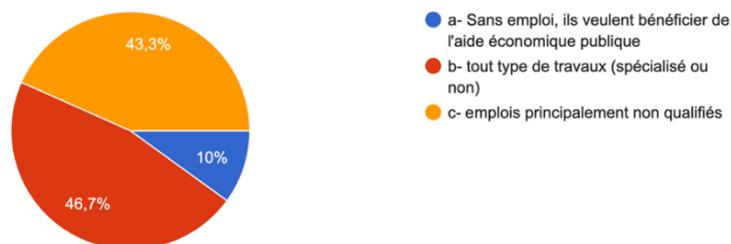
7. Due to the reasons of immigrants about coming to the host countries; 50% of respondents think that they are looking for a better job and life opportunities, 26.7% of respondents think that they immigrants escape from difficult lives and situations in their countries, 23.3% of respondents think that immigrants want to enjoy the well-being of the country.

7) Pourquoi pensez-vous que les immigrants viennent dans votre pays ?
30 yanit



8. 8-) 46.7% of respondents think that the immigrants in their country are unemployed and they want to benefit from public economic aid. 43.3% of respondents think that the immigrants in their country have any type of work (specialized or not), 10% of respondents think that the immigrants in their country have mainly unskilled jobs.

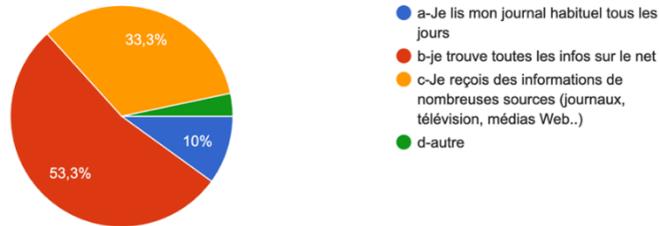
8) Selon vous, quelle est la principale occupation des immigrants dans votre pays ?
30 yanit



9. Respondents are asked how they get information. 53.3% of the respondents replied that they find all the information on the internet, 33.3% of respondents said that they

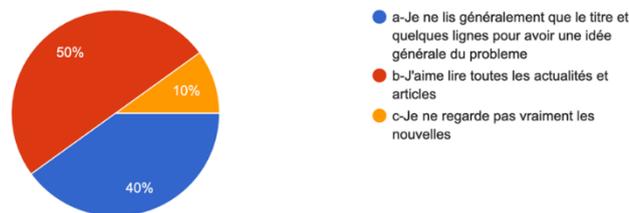
receive information from many sources (newspapers, television, web media...) else, 10% of respondents say that they read a usual newspaper every day.

9) Comment obtenez-vous des informations?
30 yanit



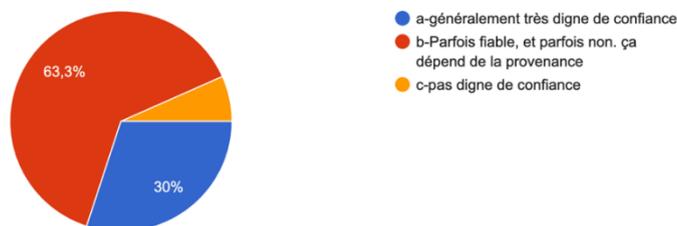
10. 50% of respondents say that when they watch the news, they like to read all the news and articles, and I like to read all the news and articles, 40% of respondents say that they only read the title and a few lines to get a general idea of the problem, 10% of respondents say that they don't really watch the news.

10) Quand je regarde les nouvelles.....
30 yanit



11. 63.3% of respondents say that they sometimes find the news in the media reliable, and sometimes not, it depends on the source. 30% of respondents say that they generally find the news in the media trustworthy, 7% of the respondents didn't find the news trustworthy.

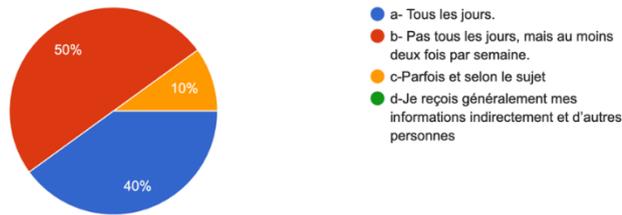
11) Les nouvelles que vous trouvez dans les médias sont.....
30 yanit



12. 50% of respondents say that they check the news at least twice a week, 40% of respondents say that they check the news daily and 10% of the respondents say that

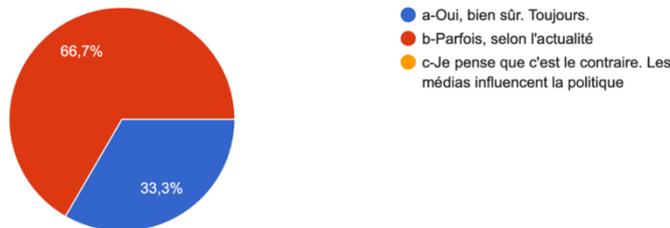
they sometimes check the news depending on the subject.

12) À quelle fréquence consultez-vous les nouvelles?
30 yanit



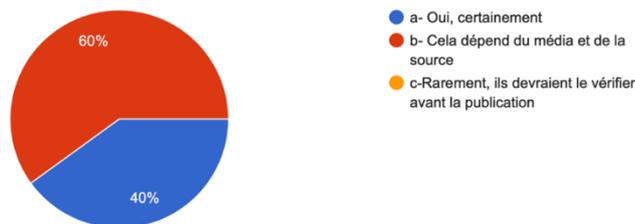
13. 66% of the respondents say that politics sometimes influences the media directly depending on the news.
33% of the respondents say that politics always influences the media directly.

13) Pensez-vous que la politique influence directement les médias ?
30 yanit



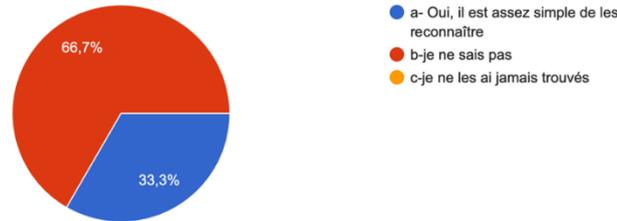
14. 60% of respondents say that it depends on the media and the source to find fake news in the media and 40% of respondents say that it is certain to find fake news in the media.

14) Pensez-vous qu'il est très probable de trouver des fake news dans les médias ?
30 yanit



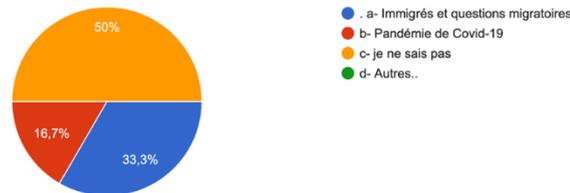
15. 33.3% of respondents say that they recognize the fake news when they see it. 66.7% of respondents say that they don't know the fake news when they see it.

15) Reconnaissiez-vous généralement une fake news, quand vous la voyez ?
27 yanit



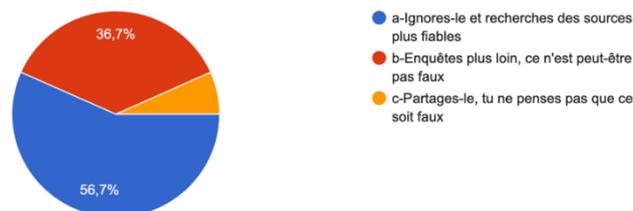
16. 33.3% of respondents say that the most addressed topic of misinformation is about immigrants and immigration issues, 16.7% of respondents say that it is about covid 19 pandemic, 50% of respondents say that they don't know.

16) Quel est le sujet de désinformation le plus abordé ?
30 yanit



17. 56.7% of respondents say that when they find a piece of information which seems to be fake, they skip it and check for more reliable sources, 36.7% of respondents say that when they find information which seems to be fake, they investigate it further as it may not to be fake 6.6% say that they share it as they don't think it is fake.

17) Lorsque vous trouvez une information qui semble être fausse, est-ce que tu.....?
30 yanit



18. 53.3% of respondents say that misinformation can be dangerous, since they increase hate against immigrants, 36.7 % of respondents say that misinformation raises awareness about the potential danger of having too much immigration, 10% say that they don't know.

18) Selon vous, quelles conséquences la désinformation a-t-elle sur les immigrés?

30 yant



Germany

Context

Historical Background of the immigration in Germany

The history of migratory movements in Germany is particularly complex, suffice it to say that from the end of the Second World War to today, Germany has undoubtedly been the European country that has hosted the largest number of migrants¹¹. These migratory flows sometimes came from geographical areas that were culturally similar if not totally similar; in many other cases, however, especially in recent years, the country has welcomed and hosted a large number of people from non-European countries or belonging to cultures very different from that of the country of destination.

The first major wave of migration in recent history is represented by the massive flow of German refugees from the historical former German regions that immediately after the war were assigned to Poland (Silesia, but especially Pomerania and East Prussia) and the Soviet Union (northern part of East Prussia with capital Königsberg, today Kaliningrad). This flow can be quantified between 12 and 15 million refugees who, between about 1945 and 1950, settled for the most part in Allied-occupied Germany, from 1949 federal republic of Germany (Bundesrepublik Deutschland or BRD) and in however consistent numbers also in the German Democratic Republic (DDR), over eight and four million respectively¹². These refugees, being all of German language and culture, integrated without excessive problems into the two new states that arose following the occupation of the former Third Reich by the victorious powers; although soon associations of resettles (Aussiedler) arose, some of which is still active nowadays, aimed at preserving the cultural heritage of the former German regions and passing it on to future generations¹³.

A very consistent phenomenon of migration, whose effects are still largely visible, was the well-known one of the "Gastarbeiter", or migrant workers. This phenomenon began in the 1950s due to the great shortage of labour force especially in West Germany, especially for those jobs in the industrial and mining sectors that did not require special qualifications. This phenomenon became more massive since the construction of the Berlin Wall in 1961,

¹¹[https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Migration and migrant population statistics](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Migration_and_migrant_population_statistics), URL consulted on 15.12.2021.

¹² <https://www.kas.de/de/web/geschichte-der-cdu/flucht-und-vertreibung>

¹³ Ibidem

as, from that moment on, workers from East Germany who worked in West German industries couldn't be employed anymore¹⁴.

The Federal Republic of Germany has since made agreements with various European and non-European countries in order to import unskilled labor. Between 1955 and 1968 agreements were concluded with eight Mediterranean countries: Italy (1955), Spain (1960), Greece (1960), Turkey (1961), Morocco (1963), Portugal (1964), Tunisia (1965), and Yugoslavia (1968)¹⁵. Initially, Gastarbeiter were recruited on the basis of seasonal or annual contracts; these workers were not integrated into society and did not benefit from social welfare. The construction of the Berlin Wall led to a change in the policies of integration and inclusion of migrants in West Germany; from that moment on, foreign workers also began to have access to social welfare on a par with German workers, this led many of them to settle permanently in the BRD together with their families¹⁶. The first wave of immigration from Turkey dates back precisely to this period on the basis of an agreement concluded in 1961, to this day the community of Turkish origin remains the largest community of foreign origin on German territory¹⁷.

The phenomenon of Gastarbeiter ended in 1973, in correspondence with the oil crisis and the consequent ensuing economic crisis¹⁸. This had as consequences on the one hand, a temporary decrease in the number of foreign workers, on the other hand an increase in illegal immigration and the overall increase in the number of immigrants in the country, given that more and more people emigrated together with their families, something normally not allowed in the case of the Gastarbeiter, especially in the early years of the phenomenon. In the following years the number of immigrants to West Germany continued to increase; going from 686,200 in 1961, to 2,600,600 in 1970, up to 6,495,800 in 1992, of which 1,854,900 originated in Turkey¹⁹.

A sudden and quantitatively very substantial increase in the number of migrants has occurred in recent years in correspondence with the European migrant crisis of 2015. In that year and in the years immediately following an unprecedented flow of refugees since the Second World War occurred. Although the European migrant crisis has involved several European Union countries on the front lines, a large number of refugees chose to seek asylum in Germany. These refugees came mostly from Syria, due to the escalation of the civil war following the Arab Spring in that country. A large number of refugees also came from Afghanistan and Iraq, always due to the escalation of the already present civil conflicts. It is estimated that the number of migrants from the countries mentioned above in addition to other has reached 1,210,636 units in 2020. This massive flow of refugees has created many difficulties of integration and consequently social protests in both directions, with part of the political class and public opinion in favor of the reception and integration of refugees and part instead in favor of a policy of stricter control of entry into the country, up to positions of containment of immigration and even expulsion. These disputes still last

¹⁴ E. Kolinsky, Non-German Minorities in German Society, in "Turkish Culture in German Society Today", Berkley 1997, p. 81.

¹⁵ The International Migration Review, Vol. 19, No. 3, Special Issue: Civil Rights and the Sociopolitical Participation of Migrants, New York, 1985, p. 518.

¹⁶ E. Kolinsky, art. cit., p. 82.

¹⁷ Ibidem, p. 83.

¹⁸ M. Berlinghoff, Der europäisierte Anwerbestopp, in: Oltmer, J; Kreienbrink, A.; Sanz Díaz, C. (Hg.): Das "Gastarbeiter"-System. Arbeitsmigration und ihre Folgen in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland und Westeuropa (Schriftenreihe der Vierteljahrshefte für Zeitgeschichte, Bd. 104) München 2012, p. 150.

¹⁹ E. Kolinsky, ar. cit., p. 83.

today and have reignited the debate on migrant integration policies in Germany. In accordance with the recent statistics, the number of foreign residents and people with immigration backgrounds in Germany of 21.9 million people, representing 26.7% of the population of the country²⁰.

Politics and society

Immigration policies in Germany

As mentioned in the previous chapter, immigration policies in Germany became much more permissive from the construction of the Berlin Wall on August 13th, 1961. Before this event the Gastarbeiter were not normally allowed to immigrate with their families, and in any case only for a limited period and, inter alia, regulated by a contract. In reaction to the international shock caused by the construction of the Wall the attitude of the federal government began to change. Foreign workers were allowed to take advantage of social welfare on a par with German citizens and were more easily allowed to immigrate with their families. Therefore, it was precisely through the phenomenon of the Gastarbeiter that the Federal Republic of Germany became a country of immigration. However, at first the debate on integration was neglected at the political level; this resulted in an insufficient level of education of young immigrants, a high rate of unemployment, especially with regard to second-generation immigrants, as well as the emergence of the phenomenon of social segregation in urban areas²¹.

Immigration policies took a turn at the beginning of the new millennium: first, in 1990, the reform of the law on foreigners was enacted, followed in 2000 by the reform of the law on citizenship and in 2005 by the new German law on immigration²². This process of change culminated in two important events promoted by the then government in office: the Summit on Integration and the German Conference on Islam opened in 2006 new perspectives on the issue of the integration of migrants in Germany²³.

In recent years, the event that has most influenced the immigration policies in Germany, and, consequently, the perception of the phenomenon by the public opinion, has been undoubtedly the European refugee crisis, that occurred particularly since 2015 onwards. Already before the end of that year there were 316,098 asylum seekers in Germany²⁴. Since then, the number of refugees has been steadily increasing, as can be deduced from the following table:

Number of asylum seekers in Germany per year²⁵:

Year	Refugee statistics	Increase from the previous year
2016	669,468	111.79%
2017	970,357	44.94%
2018	1,063,835	9.63%

²⁰

https://www.destatis.de/EN/Themes/Society-Environment/Population/Migration-Integration/_node.html, URL consulted on 8.12.2021.

²¹ <https://www.kas.de/en/web/europa/toleranza-e-multiculturalismo-in-germania>, edited by Armin Laschet.

²² Klaus Bade, http://kjbade.de/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/2007-09-21_verso-una-societa-multiculturale.pdf.

²³ Armin Laschet, cit.

²⁴ <https://www.macrotrends.net/countries/DEU/germany/refugee-statistics>, URL consulted on 6.12.2021.

²⁵ Ibidem.

2019	1,146,682	7.79%
2020	1,210,636	5.58%

As a result of these events, it was necessary for the political class to rethink both immigration and reception policies. Compared to the policies of the past, we can immediately notice a substantial difference regarding the type of work required to the immigrants: while in the last century unskilled labor was mostly required, currently to obtain a residence permit it is necessary to provide a proof of curriculum and work skills within a certain professional area.

The actual immigration policies can be outlined as follows; taking into account the previous analysis, we can consider the newly enacted regulations also as a consequence of the larger number of asylum seekers during the European refugee crisis.

Immigrants coming from EU countries and EFTA countries do not need a visa or residence title to reside and work in Germany. Citizens of non-EU countries however require a visa to immigrate legally in Germany.

Actually, there are different modalities for obtaining a visa in Germany; it is possible to summarize these modalities in three main categories:

- Visa for qualified professionals and related;
- Visa for jobseekers or self-employed;
- Visa for education and training.

In order to obtain a visa, the immigrants are required to get in advance the recognition of their educational curriculum (degree of higher education or qualified vocational training) and of the skills related to their profession. This is particularly important for professions regulated by the law, i.e., healthcare sector, etc. This procedure is actually regulated by the Skilled Immigration Act (Fachkräfteeinwanderungsgesetz – FEG), coming into enactment on 1 March 2020²⁶.

After obtaining the recognition of their curriculum and skills, immigrant can apply for a residence permit (Aufenthaltserlaubnis). For regulated professions it is necessary to also apply for a professional practice permit (Berufsausübungserlaubnis), which includes the legal authority to exercise regulated professions²⁷.

Jobseekers and self-employed must rather provide a proof of sufficient disposable income to obtain a residence permit²⁸.

The visa for education and training are issued also by providing proof of an educational curriculum recognized in Germany and proof of certain disposable income, as well as the certification of an intermediate German language level (specifically for visa for training)^{29,30}.

Immigrants who are able to obtain the residence permit can apply for the settlement permit (Niederlassungserlaubnis); also in this case it is necessary to fulfill additional requirements,

²⁶

<https://www.bamf.de/SharedDocs/Meldungen/EN/2021/210301-am-fachkraefteeinwanderungsgesetz.html?nn=285460>, URL consulted on 15.12.21.

²⁷ <https://www.make-it-in-germany.com/en/visa-residence/types/work-qualified-professionals>.

²⁸ <https://www.make-it-in-germany.com/en/visa-residence/types/jobseekers>.

²⁹ <https://www.make-it-in-germany.com/en/visa-residence/types/studying>

³⁰ <https://www.make-it-in-germany.com/en/visa-residence/types/training>.

i.e., have an employment for qualified profession or be able to cover the subsistence costs without using public assistance funds³¹.

Immigrants with settlement permit can also settle in Germany their families with no restrictions³².

Another way to legally immigrate to Germany is to obtain the status of refugee (asylum seeker).

The status of refugee is granted in case of political persecution in homeland; if this prerequisite is recognized, the immigrants with refugee status obtain also a Refugee Travel Document ("GFK-pass"). With this document the refugees are allowed to travel abroad but they do not have the permission to travel to their homeland. By using the GFK-pass to travel abroad, however, the status of refugee could be revoked.

The asylum seekers receive a residence permit valid for three years; this residence permit could be extended for three additional years if the situation in the home country continue to be considered as politically unsafe.

With the residence permit for asylum seekers is also possible to bring family, to study and work in Germany for the duration of the permit.

The status of refugee cannot be recognized if in the home country there are regions in which is possible to travel legally and to live in safe conditions³³.

Economic outlook

The German economy is the leading economy of the European Union and the fourth worldwide in terms of GDP. The leading sectors are still industry (22,9%) and tertiary, however, this last is becoming much more important, accounting 70,4% of total GDP³⁴.

Nevertheless, Germany is facing in the last ten years many different challenges to the economic growth; one of the most important is the large number of immigrants and refugees ... the social welfare.

For this reason, it was necessary to issue different reforms by the Governments succeeding in the last decade. The first important reform was issued by the government of Gerhard Schröder (1998–2005); the aim of this reform was to reduce the unemployment rate and to resolve the problem of an inveterate stagnant economic growth. These measures included the introduction of short-time work schemes, in order to support economic recovery during periods of economic stagnation. The implementation of such reforms could also explain the relatively moderate increase of unemployment rate during the economic crisis in 2008 and 2009 (the worst recession since the Second World War)³⁵.

The following Government of Angela Merkel reduced the taxation and, on the other hand, introduced a minimum wage salary in 2015, which was increased two years later. This led to

³¹ <https://www.make-it-in-germany.com/en/visa-residence/living-permanently/settlement-permit#c24514>.

³² *ibidem*.

³³ <https://handbookgermany.de/en/rights-laws/asylum/right-of-residence.html>.

³⁴

<https://www.statista.com/statistics/295519/germany-share-of-economic-sectors-in-gross-domestic-product/>, URL consulted on 16.12.2021.

³⁵ <https://www.economy.com/germany/indicators>, URL consulted on 16.12.2021.

an increase of the deficit during the first years but the measures had also a positive impact in the last years, due to higher tax revenues caused by an increasing economic growth ³⁶.

Concerning the situation in the last years, it can be noted that the main issue of the German economy consists in the lack of investments; the Government's politic is focusing on investment in the field of energy, with the aim of converting the nuclear power into renewable energy sources. However, the high public expenditure on social welfare remains a crucial issue³⁷, with more than half of the spending on social welfare (Sozialhilfe) bound to social assistance³⁸. The expenditure on social welfare has registered an increase of 6,5% in 2020, accordingly to the Federal Statistical Office, reaching the amount of 14,4 billion Euro ³⁹.

Fake News in Germany

Hereafter are presented samples of the fake news that have been published in Germany between 2015 and 2020. The fake news are presented year by year with a comment and a summary of the content.

2015



Photo of Anas Modami with Angela Merkel.
Picture of 2015.

<https://www.infomigrants.net/en/post/2206/german-court-rejects-injunction-against-facebook-over-syrian-refugee-selfie>

The picture shows Angela Merkel taking a selfie with a Syrian refugee named Anas Modami. The photo is from 2015, but the fake news about Modami being a terrorist is from 2017. Many websites accused Angela Merkel, during her political campaign, of being friend with terrorists.

2017

³⁶ Ibidem.

³⁷ Ibidem.

³⁸

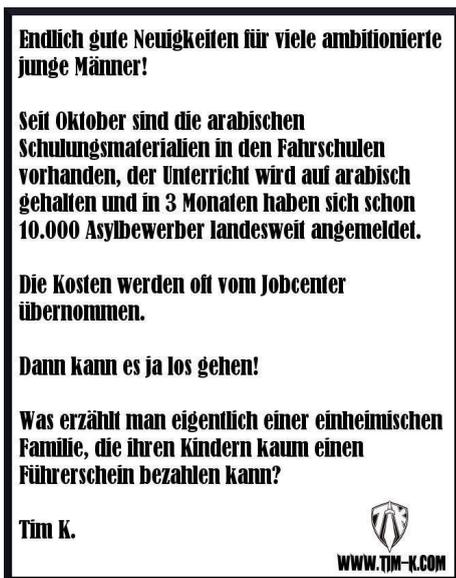
<https://www.iamexpat.de/expat-info/german-expat-news/spending-social-welfare-rises-65-percent-germany>, URL consulted on 16.12.2021.

³⁹ Ibidem.



The picture shows an article from a local newspaper. The picture has been shared in the “Unsere Heimat Deutschland” Facebook group in 2017.

The title claims that the Syrian refugees' family will receive 30.000 Euro monthly thanks to the German family reunification law. However, the article does not have any author, and the protagonist of the story has no name. At the end of the article “the author” expresses his concern about the possibility that the German government would welcome more Muslim families in the next years. Not to mention the frequent negative references, made by the same author, to the “Muslim culture” and the Koran for the whole article.



The image has been taken from the “Unsere Heimat Deutschland” Facebook group, where it has been published in 2017. The image is from the blog www.tim-k.com.

The news claims that 10.000 of Asylum seekers have already registered to get the driving license, since they will have lesson in Arabic language and all the costs will be covered by the Jobcenter. The Author of the news affirms that a German family wouldn't have the same opportunity.

Asylbetrug enthüllt: Frau entlassen

Eine Mitarbeiterin des niedersächsischen Asylamtes deckte 300 Fälle von Asylmissbrauch auf – und wurde gefeuert, weil sie „außerhalb ihres Zuständigkeitsbereiches“ gehandelt habe.

Nadja N. aus Braunschweig war aufgefallen, dass Flüchtlinge mit verschiedenen Identitäten in mehreren Städten mehrfach So-

zialhilfe kassierten. N. dokumentierte 300 Fälle mit Fotos und informierte ihren Chef – doch der räumte die Akten in den Keller. Erst als Nadja N. selbst zur Polizei ging, kam die Sache ins Rollen, Ermittlungen begannen.

N. nützt das nicht viel: Ihr Vertrag im Aufnahmeamt wurde nicht verlängert. Die zuständigen Politiker weisen den Vorwurf, die Angelegenheit vertuscht zu haben, zurück – sie sprechen von „Kommunikationsproblemen“⁴⁰



Foto: Reuters, KC

Mit Mehrfach-Identitäten erschlichen sich Flüchtlinge Geld.

The image has been published in 2017 in the Facebook group “Unsere Heimat Deutschland”. The picture shows a newspaper article.

The article affirms that an employee of the office for the Asylum seekers and Migration of Braunschweig has given more money than deserved to 300 Asylum seekers. Actually, there has been an investigation, but the police have found out only about 7 people receiving those funds⁴⁰.



Wahrheitspresse

29. Mai um 20:24 · €

Frankreich, Schweden, Deutschland und andere europäische Nationen sind auf bestem dem Weg, Vergewaltigungen die von Moslems begangen werden zu legalisieren, weil es zu „ihrer Kultur“ gehört.



Vergewaltigungen von Frauen vor der Legalisierung

Frankreich, Schweden, Deutschland und andere europäische Nationen sind auf bestem dem Weg, Vergewaltigungen die von Moslems begangen werden zu legalisieren, weil es zu „ihrer Kultur“ gehört. In nahezu allen europäischen Ländern...

TRUTH24.NET



The picture shows a screenshot from the Facebook group “Wahrheitspresse”, from 2017.

According to the article of the picture, different European countries would legalize the rape of women in their country. The information is obviously fake, but it is connected to a real fact happened in 2016, of a 13-year-old girl, who was kidnapped and raped in Berlin.

⁴¹

2018

⁴⁰

<https://www.tichyseinblick.de/kolumnen/alexander-wallasch-heute/person-des-jahres-2017-nadja-n-deckte-ssiven-asylbetrug-auf/>, URL consulted on 14.12.2021.

⁴¹ <https://www.infomigrants.net/en/post/2193/the-growing-problem-of-agitation-against-refugees-online>, URL consulted on 14.12.2021.



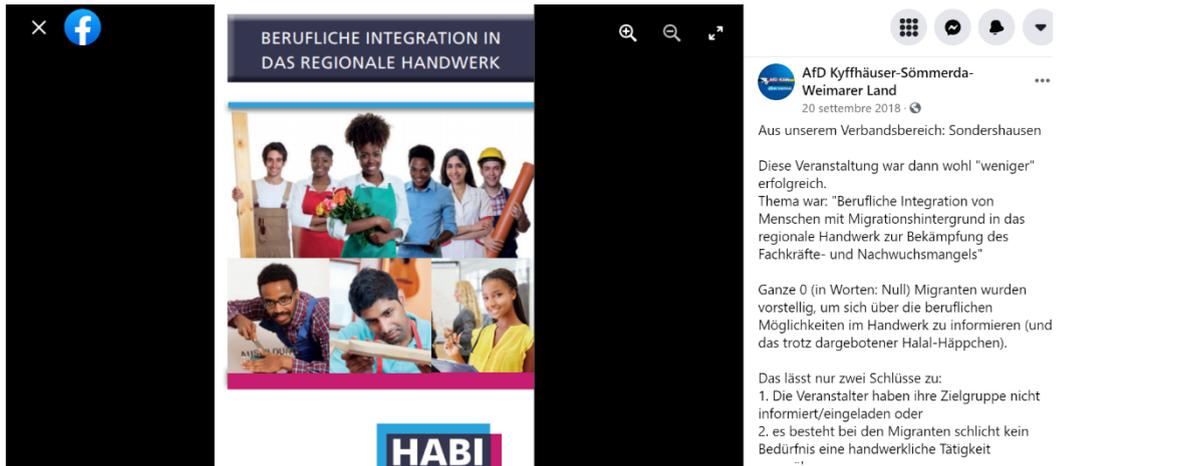
The image has been taken from a local AFD Facebook group.

The image claims that the current Government has invested more for the support of Asylum seekers and refugees than on German families. It is clear that these data and information came out to discredit the political opponent.



The picture seems to belong to a newspaper, and it has been found on the Facebook group “Unsere Heimat Deutschland”.

In the article is said that a group of underage refugees would have threaten their tutor to have more money, a PlayStation and to be relocated in a bigger city. They would have then destroyed furniture and assaulted a policeman. However, the article does not have any reference, nor author and sources.



The news picture shows a post on facebook of the AFD Kyffhäuser-Sömmerda-Weimarer Land.

The post states that even though there are different job opportunities for migrants and refugees, none of them actually applied for them or neither asked and information about these integration possibilities. According the author of the post, the reason may be that migrants do not need to work.



The picture shows a post from the Facebook Group “Unsere Heimat Deutschland”.

The author of the post complains that when crossing the border for travelling reasons, hygienic conditions of animals are more controlled than those of migrants. The image of the post claims: “Diseases are allowed to cross the borders”.

Migration – Wie Mastercard die Migrantenflut nach Europa fördert
4. November 2018

UNHCR, Soros, EU und Mastercard: Gratis-Prepaid-Debitkarten für Reise nach und durch Europa

Migrantenflut nach Europa per Mastercard und Soros-Express

Die slowenische Nachrichtenseite von »Nova24tv« berichtet über anonyme Hinweise aus der kroatischen Polizei, dass viele Migranten über Prepaid-Karten, die mit den EU- und »UNHCR«-Logos versehen sind, verfügen. [1] Diese würden im benachbarten Bosnien-Herzegowina leben, wo sie sich auf die Weiterreise durch Europa in das Land vorbereiten,

Elon Musk: Hirnchip beim Menschen kommt 2022
1 13 841 5 ore fa

Gehirnchip beim Menschen kommt im nächsten Jahr
3 81 5 ore fa

Biontech Zusatzstoffe nicht zugelassen -
5 417 6 ore fa

Bill Gates
7 1,1K 18 dic

LUCIFERASE: Enzym in Bill Gates neuem implantierbaren Impfstoff mit Biochemische ID
1 6 522 18 dic

Mikronadel-Pflaster – die nächste Generation nach der
12 508 18 dic

Picture from <https://gloria.tv/post/OhdiRfKLdayd1KFxRdzazoRTR>

The article’s title is “Migration- How Mastercard supports migration flows in Europe.” According to the author, Mastercard, The EU, Soros and UNHCR would have some interests in fostering and financing immigration in Europe. Migrants and refugees would therefore receive a prepaid debit card when arriving in Europe.

24. November um 13:10

Gerechtigkeit laut Regierung

	Angestellter	Asylant
Einkommen	€ 1.200,- Netto	€ 837,-
Miete <small>inkl. Strom, Gas, Wasser</small>	€ 700,-	€ 0,-
Verpflegung	€ 300,-	€ 0,-
Kleidung, Handy	€ 100,-	€ 0,-
Übrig am Monatsende	€ 100,-	€ 837,-

Nicht eingerechnet sind Arztkosten, GIS, eventuell Kosten für KFZ oder Offis, Anschaffungskosten für Möbel oder sonstige Dinge

16 Kommentare 715 Mal geteilt

The image is from 2018 and has been taken from facebook. Source: <https://correctiv.org/faktencheck/migration/2018/12/06/nein-ein-fluechtling-bekommt-nicht-837-euro-im-monat-in-bar/>

The image has been shared by a Facebook user on the 24th of November 2018. The title claims “Justice, according to the Gouvernement” and the table shows a comparison between the incomes and expenses between an employee and an Asylum seeker. The image implies that the German Gouvernement would invest more on the wellbeing of refugees than on citizens. The post has been shared 713 times.

Actually, migrants and refugees receive 332€ monthly, which is less than the grant for German citizens.⁴²

2019



Article from 2019. Accommodation for asylum seekers totally destroyed on their part.
Source:
<https://www.myheimat.de/wittenburg/kultur/wenns-um-geld-geht-gibts-nur-ein-schlagwort-mehr-d2957768.html>

The article seems to belong to a magazine; the author is mentioned but there are no reverences about the publication. In the article it is stated that ca. 160 refugees, who were hosted at expenses of a German citizen, should have destroyed goods and furniture in the value of more than 100.000€. In this article it is possible to notice many incongruities: the first one is related to the excessive value of the furniture made available for these refugees (quantified in ca. 7.500€ for each accommodation); at the end of the article, it is also stated that the injured party tried to get a refund from the authorities but this was rejected with the explanation that such damages must be taken into account when dealing with foreigners.

Diese Leistungen erhält eine Flüchtlingsfamilie in Berlin:	
Je Elternteil:	382 €
Kinder (8 + 12 Jahre):	604 €
Kind (5 Jahre):	245 €
Miete (105 qm):	1.687,25 €
Insgesamt:	3.300,25 €
ø Bruttolohn/Monat: 3.432 €	

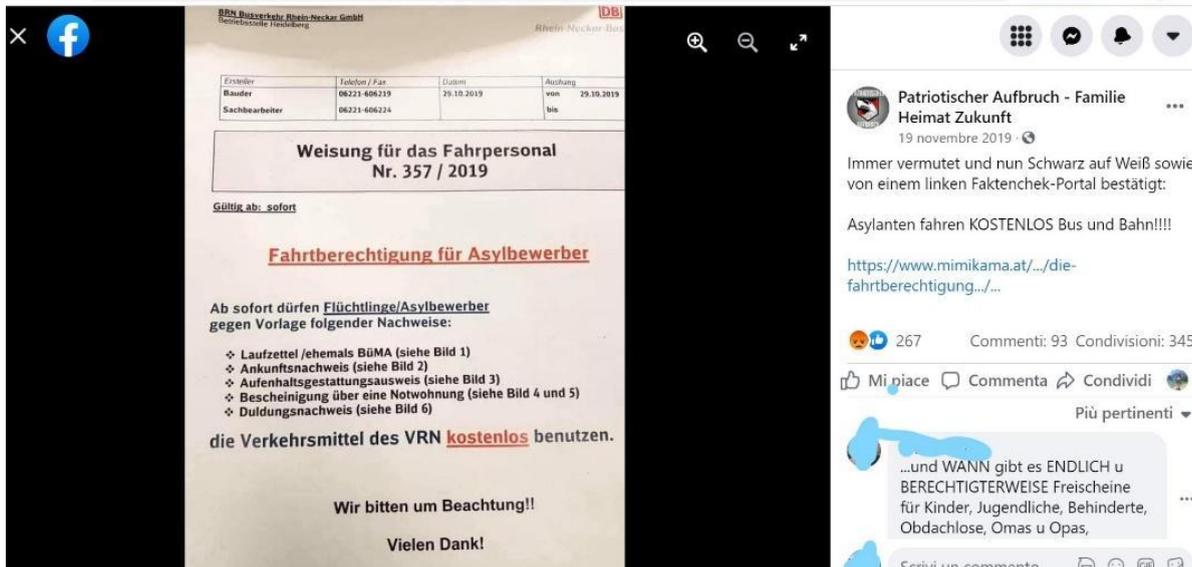
EINPROZENT.DE

Picture from 2019. Families of asylum seekers would receive services from the Government for an amount of more than 3000€.
Source: <https://www.einprozent.de/>.

42

<https://correctiv.org/faktencheck/migration/2018/12/06/nein-ein-fluechtling-bekommt-nicht-837-euro-im-monat-in-bar/>, URL consulted on 10.12.2021.

In the picture are listed alleged services for refugee's families for an excessive amount and totally unjustified concerning the rental cost of the accommodation. Moreover, the picture does not show any reference.



Post from 2019. Free travel for asylum seekers in VRN transport network. Source: Facebook group “Patriotischer Aufbruch”

In this post it is shown an alleged official notice addressed to railway personnel, in which it is stated that asylum seekers could use the VRN (Verkehrsverbund Rhein-Neckar) transport network for free. In the website of the company there are no evidence of this notice.



Post of 2019. The Grüne-party wish to grant German passport to “Climate-Refugees”. Source: Facebook group “Patriotischer Aufbruch”.

In this post it is stated that the Grüne left-wing party wish to grant a German passport to all migrants whose home country is threaten from the climate change. According to the author of this post this will lead to a new huge immigration wave. Actually, there is no evidence of such parliamentary proposition nor of any serious debate.

2020



Picture from afdbayern.de found on Facebook group “Unsere Heimat Deutschland”

The image has been published by a local AFD party and affirms that German politics is currently supporting immigration from Afrika, to help the continent solving its problems. Actually, it wouldn't be possible for Germany to host the entire Afrika, due to the evident differences in size.



News

from:

<https://deutschlandkurier.de/2020/07/fluechten-mit-stil-ein-video-das-mehr-sagt-als-tausend-worte/>

The article of <<Deutschland Kurier>> published a video taken from an Italian Facebook page, “Local Team”. The video and the news are completely misleading, because it depicts the situation of migrants and refugees a misrepresented way.

Conclusions

From 2015, due to the refugees' crisis, Germany has welcomed inside its borders thousands of refugees and families seeking asylum. Almost 10.000⁴³ people coming from Syria, but also North Africa, Iraq and Afghanistan, have travelled across the Balkan route to reach a safer country.

According to the Dublin Regulation,⁴⁴ which stipulates that asylum-seekers must be registered in the first safe EU country they enter, other EU states were actually responsible for them. Germany took instead responsibility for them, allowing them to cross the border first and checking their asylum claims later.

Nearly half a million people applied for asylum in Germany in 2015, and another 750,000⁴⁵ the following year. Government's policy divided the nation in those who were positive about the "welcome culture"⁴⁶ and those who were sceptics that Germany could have handled the situation all alone.

In New Year's Eve 2015/2016 the welcome culture dissipated all, when women were assaulted by migrants in Cologne's main railway station. Not to mention that, even before this event, there had been numerous xenophobic attacks on refugee shelters, showing the mood of part of the country.

Nevertheless, the spreading of fake news in Germany is not attributable immediately to these events. In 2016, during the USA election, some fake articles and news about the candidates and their political campaign started to circulate worldwide. Similar facts happened then also in Germany 2017 during the election⁴⁷; the disappointment about the welcoming policy adopted by the Gouvernement lead to the circulation of one of the most worldwide famous fake news about the Chancellor Merkel.

In 2015 a 19-year-old Syrian refugee took a selfie with Angela Merkel, who was visiting the asylum centre. Many sites shared then this photo with the title "Selfie with a Terrorist"⁴⁸, accusing therefore Anas Modami of being responsible of terrorist attacks across Europe. It was evident that the Governments' policy was the target of this media attack.

The circulation of fake news about political issues to promote a certain right-wing populist Propaganda is not a new-born phenomenon, but it has acquired recently more resonance,

43

<https://www.infomigrants.net/en/post/26821/germany-five-years-after-the-refugee-crisis-whats-be-en-achieved>, Christoph Hasselbach, URL consulted on 07/12/2021.

44

https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/policies/migration-and-asylum/common-european-asylum-svstem/country-responsible-asylum-application_it, URL consulted on 15/12/2021.

45

<https://www.infomigrants.net/en/post/26821/germany-five-years-after-the-refugee-crisis-whats-be-en-achieved>, Christoph Hasselbach, URL consulted on 07/12/2021.

⁴⁶The Welcome Culture (in German *Willkommenskultur*) is a German concept that refers to a positive attitude towards the welcoming of migrants. Cfr.: Heckmann, Friedrich; *Willkommenskultur was ist das, und wie kann sie entstehen und entwickelt werden?*; published in europäisches Forum für Migrationsstudie (efms),2012; http://www.efms.uni-bamberg.de/pdf/efms%20paper%202012_7.pdf

⁴⁷ Kohring Matthias, Zimmermann Fabian; *Fake News als aktuelle Desinformation*; Dossier Digitale Desinformation, 2021, p.121, <https://www.bpb.de/gesellschaft/digitales/digitale-desinformation/>

48

thanks to the possibility to spread and share fake news faster and wider through the digital information channels and the social media.⁴⁹

In 2017 the arrival of almost 100.000 refugees, with an increasing of the 44,94% of asylum seekers in the country⁵⁰, has determined the increase of the spreading and circulation of fake news about migrants and immigration. That's why it is easier to find fake news about immigrants starting from 2017.

The topics are usually the same: ad hoc excessive welfare policies for them, sexual violence, fake news about Islamic culture and the depiction of refugees as a privileged category, which is protected by the Government at the expense of the citizens.

The amount of fake news about every aspect related to migration and refugees' issues have been constantly increasing during the following years. The searching for fake news from 2018 and 2019 has been indeed easier, due to the huge misinformation campaign enacted in those years.

The trend stops growing in 2020, when the most addressed topic for the fake news has been the Covid-19 pandemic. Searching for fake news from 2020 hasn't been indeed very easy, since the misinformation campaign had shifted its interest on another, more contemporary topic.

It has to be said that the majority of fake news here presented have been found on the social media; that's to underline the big role played by the digital information on the phenomenon.

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⁴⁹ Kohring Matthias, Zimmermann Fabian; Fake News als aktuelle Desinformation; Dossier Digitale Desinformation, 2021, p.121, <https://www.bpb.de/gesellschaft/digitales/digitale-desinformation/>

⁵⁰ <https://www.macrotrends.net/countries/DEU/germany/refugee-statistics> , URL consulted on 16/12/2021.

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Greece

Context

The immigration issue in Greece refers to the systematic illegal / irregular entry of a large number of immigrants in Greece during the main periods 1990–2011 and 2015 until today.

Before 2015

The fall of socialist regimes in Eastern Europe in 1989 created the first wave of economic migration to Greece (migrating mainly from Albania, Bulgaria and Romania) across the

northern border and then to countries in Africa and Asia. During the decade 2000–2010, Greece became a pole of attraction for hundreds of thousands of immigrants not only from the former socialist countries, but from all over the world, with the result that 7% of the country's population consists of immigrants from non-EU countries. The accumulation of a large number of immigrants was unprecedented for the indigenous Greek population and inevitably created a major political issue with completely different approaches and proposals for a solution by the Greek political parties. Also, Greece has been characterized as the main entry point for immigration to Europe for the period 2005–2010 (specifically it was characterized as "Europe's gateway for illegal immigration"). In other countries, such as Spain and Italy, attempts are being made to restrict immigration through agreements with non-EU neighbouring countries, but in Greece illegal immigration remains a major issue. The Greek debt crisis 2010–2012 has not reduced the number of immigrants coming to Greece, which is the main route of entry into Europe. In 2010, according to Frontex, 9 out of 10 immigrants who entered Europe illegally entered through Greece. Many immigrants who enter Greece, leave again after some time.

However, political developments in Libya and Tunisia in 2011 (Arab Spring) revived migration to Europe via Italy (mainly via the island of Lampedusa), making this country one of the main gateways for migrants to Europe. In 2011 immigration increased further. According to Frontex, in the first 9 months of 2011, 112,844 migrants crossed the Greek border compared to 76,697 in the corresponding period of 2010.

A large number of immigrants who enter Greece illegally, end up in the centre of Athens, without any official infrastructure or care on the part of the State. Since 2008 the size of the immigration trend in the centre of Athens is large. In the historic centre, immigrants have been the focus of attacks by far-right groups with the inactivity of the police many times and many of them have difficulty finding accommodation.

In Athens, immigrants often fall victim to organized circuits that exploit them as cheap labour. Immigrants have difficulty renting a home, so they are usually forced to rent apartments that they share with other immigrants. Many times, in the apartments live, in poor health conditions, 30–40 immigrants and there are cases where 100 people share a toilet. Some of the old apartment buildings in the centre are rented by the owners to an intermediary "caretaker", usually a foreigner, who undertakes the rent to the immigrants and the receipt of the rents from them. There are cases of apartments where spaces are rented on time.

Immigrants in Athens have often been racially attacked. Greece's debt crisis and the economic impoverishment of the majority of Greeks created aversion to the state and the government, resulting in a large number of people turning to far-right parties. At the same time, the influx of illegal immigrants in the centre of Athens as well as the entry of immigrant children in schools created a climate of hatred and phobia towards immigrants, resulting in many phenomena of racist violence and attacks. (Individual attacks on immigrants, entry of indignant citizens with members of the Chrysi Avgi into a building where immigrants lived, attacks on places that Muslim immigrants used as temporary places of worship because there is no mosque in Athens).

The culmination of all this was the murder of a 44-year-old man in Athens in May 2011. He was murdered while leaving his house to get his car and take his ready-made wife to the maternity hospital. The target of the assault-theft and stabbing was the video camera with which he wanted to record the birth of his child. The assassination sparked an outbreak of violence and pogroms against immigrants, organized by far-right organizations such as

Chrysi Avgi. During the 24 hours that followed, extreme right-wingers chased and beat passing migrants in the centre of Athens and attacked the occupation of anti-authoritarians "Villa Amalias". The day after the murder, a 21-year-old foreigner from Bangladesh died in the early hours of the morning in Kato Patisia, under unclear conditions. Attacks on immigrants as well as leftists and anti-fascists continued in the following years.

2015 until today

From the end of 2014 began a systematic entry of people from the coasts of Turkey to Greece, mainly Syrians and for security reasons from the war but also financially.

Turkey's blackmail policy and the geography of Greece encourage the entry of immigrants since 2015, culminating in October 2015, when more than 200,000 immigrants entered Greek territory.

The main reception centres are the islands of the eastern Aegean such as Lesbos, Chios, Samos, Kos and Symi but also Kastellorizo which they reach by paying a price to traffickers. Immigrants enter Greek waters by boats and makeshift boats, which sink under the weight of passengers and bad weather, resulting in the drowning of many of them, including children.

From 2016, foreigners began to accumulate in Greece due to the closure of the borders by neighbouring countries resulting in the creation of Hot Spot and makeshift camps throughout the country for their stay.

In Idomeni (since 2014) mainly Syrians, Iraqis and Afghan refugees and immigrants flock, but also Moroccans, Pakistanis and other nationalities, in order to cross the border and enter Northern Macedonia. Because Northern Macedonia and further north Serbia are outside the Schengen Agreement, the refugees prefer this route to Northern Europe, so that if they are re-entered into the European Union from Hungary, in case of their arrest, Hungary will be considered as the first country of entry and be promoted there, and not in much southern Greece. In 2015, the authorities of Northern Macedonia decided to guard their borders by the army, in order to prevent the entry of refugees.

The closure of the border resulted in the creation of an informal settlement, where refugees who could not cross the border ended up, with a number of settlers reaching 5,000, and from time to time 10,000. With numbers of migrants and refugees reaching 15,000 in 2016 due to the closure of the Macedonian border, the Idomeni camp was the largest in Europe. The protests of refugees and immigrants in the area resulted in the frequent closure of the railway line to Northern Macedonia, culminating on April 10, 2016, when there were incidents between immigrants and police in the neighbourhood, resulting in the injury of 264 people.

At the end of May 2016, by decision of the government, the camp was evacuated, while the refugees were transferred to other structures and camps. At the same time, there has been criticism of this hasty action, which states that the migrants were transferred to inappropriate structures.

In 2016, an agreement was signed between Turkey and the EU to reduce flows. This results in the reduction of migratory flows to Greece, but without being zeroed.

In Greece, however, and mainly in the islands of the eastern Aegean, a very large number of migrants remain trapped in hot spots, under miserable conditions (without water, heating and proper hygiene conditions). The various political, cultural and religious differences

between the immigrants as well as the miserable conditions in which they live create problems inside and outside the hot spots, resulting in the anger of the citizens living in these areas, demanding that the government find a solution. The culmination of all this was the episodes that were created in Lesbos and Chios, after the announcements of the government for the creation of closed structures in the islands in order to decongest the Hot spots, with the forces of MAT intervening.

In September 2019, at the Reception and Identification Center (RIC) in Moria, Lesbos, a fire broke out in a container where immigrants were staying. After the fire broke out, there was great tension in the camp, clashes broke out between refugees, but also with the police, who used chemicals and flash grenades. The toll was the death of a woman, and the injuries of nine men, six women and two children, one of whom was an infant with injuries.

On February 28, 2020, incidents began in Evros when the Turkish government announced that in response to the death of thirty-three Turkish soldiers in Idlib, it was unilaterally opening its borders to Greece to allow refugees and migrants seeking to reach the European Union. At the same time, tens of thousands of refugee migrants arrived at the Greek-Turkish border along the Evros River. The attempt to break into the dam with a Turkish armoured car did not bring the desired result. The Greek police forces, with the help of the citizens, managed with fire extinguishers, lighting, loudspeakers as well as by repairing the fence to prevent the erratic invasion. Prime Minister Mitsotakis finally closed the border due to coronavirus, as a result of which they did not enter Greece.

In September 2020, the Moria RIC was completely destroyed, leaving 12,000 people homeless, following clashes between migrants, which were triggered by the news that 35 people from the camp were positive for the coronavirus. Patients with COVID-19 and their close contacts refused to be placed in isolation, provoking the reaction of a portion of migrants living in and around the KYT. Episodes broke out, during which inmates of the camp set fire to olive trees first on the perimeter of the facility and then inside it. After the September 2020 fire destroyed the Moria camp, Kara Tepe became the main camp on Lesbos.

Immigration policies in Greece

The first period of immigration policy dates back to 1991-2000. Immigration policy in this first period aimed at restricting immigration, that is, it adopted a "restrictive approach" to immigration or otherwise aimed at "zero immigration". Law 1975/1991 tightens border control, while the individual provisions of the law lead to the reproduction and preservation of illegal immigration. In other words, during the first period of immigration policy, immigrants are treated in a fragmented and inefficient way, as they are considered cheap labour with a temporary presence in the country and not citizens with rights. The law does not provide for the provision of basic rights to immigrants and for the promotion of their social inclusion.

Regarding the second period of the immigration policy, with the enactment of the law 2910/2001, a more complete management of the immigration phenomenon is attempted, while some elements are introduced for the promotion of the social integration. However, although the previous perception of the treatment of immigrants by repressive means is abandoned and some - albeit basic - arrangements are made for their social integration, the regulation of the legality of immigrants' stay is still characterized by restrictions, exclusions, policing and control. The immigration policy implemented in Greece did not

take into account the real conditions prevailing in the country and consequently did not create those conditions to ensure the legal immigration and the legal employment of the immigrants. As a result, many legal immigrants find themselves in illegality and turn to employment in the informal economy.

Finally, with regard to the third period, there is still a contradiction in terms of the objectives of immigration policy, while it remains a feature of the ex-post intervention for the adoption of regulations concerning the entry and integration of migrants. Laws 3386/2005 and 3536/2007, although introducing some positive regulations for immigrants, at the same time, required the fulfillment of a series of conditions, which invalidated, in essence, the spirit and purpose of the laws. The same applies to Law 3838/2010 which took an important step towards the social integration of immigrants by providing for the return of Greek citizenship to "second generation" immigrants, which, however, was ultimately deemed unconstitutional by the Council of State.

In 2016, the Ministry of Immigration Policy was established, while in 2019 it was abolished. In January 2020 it was re-established as the Ministry of Immigration and Asylum. Since March 2020, the Ministry of Immigration and Asylum has established two closed centres for hosting refugees and immigrants. Those who entered the country illegally after March 1 are transferred to them, both from Evros and from the Aegean islands. The first is located in Sidirokastro, Serres and the second in Malakasa, Attica. At the request of the Ministry of Immigration Policy, the Red Cross undertook the prevention of COVID-19 cases, primary health care and the distribution of basic necessities to the newly arrived migrants.

Statistics

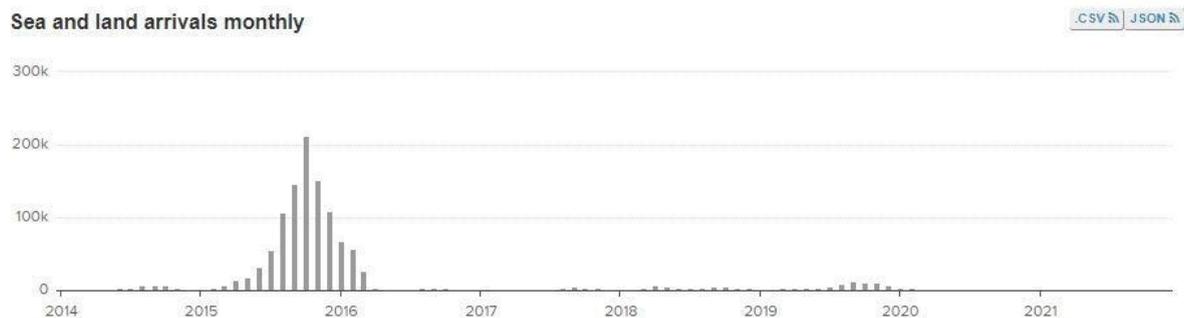
The following table and graph present the statistics concerning the immigrants who entered Greece from 2014 to 2020. From mid-2015 we observe the rapid increase in the flows of immigrants (20 times more than in 2014) culminating in October, 2015, where more than 200,000 immigrants entered the Greek territory. After the agreement with Turkey in 2016 to reduce flows are observed from the second quarter onwards very small percentages of entry into Greece. In 2017 and 2018 the numbers remain relatively low. They show an increase towards the end of 2019, where the number of entrants doubles compared to 2018. In 2020 we see very small numbers compared to previous years. This is mainly due to the closure of the border and the lockdown due to Covid-19. We generally observe that the movements of migrants by sea are much larger than those by land. Finally, it is very important to refer to these people who lost their lives during this great journey of their migration. In Greece alone during the period 2015 - 2020, 1,646 deaths have been recorded, including children.

Chart 1: Sea & land arrivals, dead or missing in Greece during the period 2014 - 2020

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Sea arrivals	41,038	856,723	173,450	29,718	32,494	59,726	9,714
Land arrivals	2,280	4,907	3,784	6,592	18,014	14,887	5,982

dead / missing	405	799	441	59	174	71	102
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Chart 2: Sea and Land arrivals per month in greece during the period 2014 -2021



Source:

http://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/mediterranean/location/5179#_ga=2.120860993.855912740.1638447604-113793015.1638447604

In 2015, according to UNICEF data in Greece, 26% of immigrants were children, many of whom were unaccompanied. 61 % of refugees and migrants arriving in Greece are from Syria, while another 22 % are from Afghanistan, 7 % from Iraq, and 3 % from Pakistan – all countries affected by conflict, insecurity and political unrest. Unfortunately, there is a lack of disaggregated data on the countries of origin of children arriving by sea in Greece.

According to the UNHCR, for the period until September 30, 2020 regarding the people who arrived and remained in Greece after the influx of the years 2015-2016. 121,100 immigrants and refugees are in Greece. (98,200 inland and 22,900 on the islands)

Fake News in Greece

2015
Articles



<https://www.kosnews24.gr/koinwnika/item/223261-prosoxi-stin-parapliroforisi-den-yparxei-metanastis-pou-na-pasxei-apo-xolerastin-kooo>

The large flows of immigrants have made the situation in Kos island very difficult to control, and the local doctors are in desperate situation due to a cholera case they have diagnosed from an illegan immigrant, but the media and the authorities are keeping it under the radar.



https://www.pentapostagma.gr/koinonia/1353172_sok-me-tis-proklitikes-diloseis-toy-pakistanoy-ypertyheroy-poy-kerdise-gek-eyro

A pakistani immigrant was the winner of the 9million lottery. As he stated, with all this money he could bring his family in greece and live in wealth even though he doesn't like this country due to the fact that people eat pork and women are lightly dressed.



<https://www.ellinikahoaxes.gr/2015/08/28/dog-gyros/>

An indian immigrant wants to open a doner kebab restaurant in Thessaloniki, with dog meat. Because of a traditional cooking market the has been rising in indonesia, that serves cat and dog meat.



20/06/2015

<https://archive.is/kUXug>



<https://www.ellinikahoaxes.gr/2015/06/21/apisteutes-fotografies-xristianos/>

A christian martyr, has been hanged with a smile on his face, from islamists.



<https://www.ellinikahoaxes.gr/2015/08/08/isis-and-greece/>

An organised ISIS group has infiltrated in Greece, in order to bloodshed Greek people when the right time will come. They have a list of 1800 people and their main targets are police stations and military camps. After that Turkey will invade. The only defence is the unity of the Orthodox Church.



www.nikosxeiladakis.gr

<https://www.ellinikahoaxes.gr/2015/09/03/croatia-epigrafi-metanastes/>

A big sign has been placed in the borders of Croatia, that “welcomes” immigrants and urges them to proceed in Slovenia, as they are no money and no jobs for them, even though they have no major financial problem (as Greece has).

«Κατατρεγμένοι μετανάστες» ή τζιχαντιστές;

<https://xrisiavgis.com/>

This is an article from the Xrisi Avgis’ Site (at this time was at the greek parliament, before it was declared as a criminal organisation): it refers to the incidents between immigrants-refugees and Northern Macedonian police at Idomeni, and why they are shouting in Arabic slogans “Allah is great” and “Our prophet is Mohamed”, identifying them as jihadists.

Videos



(manca commento)

2016

Articles

Σούβλισαν... σκύλο στην π. ΒΙΑΛ

Δεν πίστευαν στα μάτια τους οι Αστυνομικοί

Πέμ, 19/05/2016 - 15:47



[https://archive.is/bnbvI#selection-1201.0-1345.221:](https://archive.is/bnbvI#selection-1201.0-1345.221)

<https://www.ellinikahoaxes.gr/2016/05/20/souvlian-skulo-stin-xio/>

The police have found the head and skin of a dog near a refugee camp, after the owner's complaints. Afghan immigrants were to blame, after police's preliminary investigations, not

because immigrants don't have access or be given food, but because dog on a stick is a delicacy in Afghanistan.

Φρίκη στην Λέσβο! Μουσουλμάνοι λαθρομετανάστες αφόδευσαν μέσα σε εκκλησία και μετά πασάλειψαν με τα κόπρανα τις Εικόνες μας!

08 Απρ 2016 10:19



<https://archive.is/z4mBw#selection-227.0-373.17>

<https://www.ellinikahoaxes.gr/2016/04/09/vevilosi-eikonas-se-ekklisia-tis-lesvou/>

Muslim illegal immigrants have defecated inside a church on Lesbos island, and smeared with their feces the church icons.

ΣΟΚ : Στην Φιώτιδα Μετανάστες Γελοιοποιούν Τον Ιησού Χριστό Με Φωτοτυπίες Που Πετούν Στον Δρόμο ! ΔΙΑΔΩΣΤΕ ΤΟ !



<https://archive.fo/SIdPx#selection-1093.1-152.0>

<https://www.ellinikahoaxes.gr/2016/11/28/jesus-omg/>

A black man has been spotted in Fthiotida, throwing Parody copies of Jesus on the streets. The angry city residents went out on the streets trying to track down the immigrant. The immigrants of the area became angry due to wrongful accusations.

ΕΚΤΑΚΤΟ - ΜΟΛΙΣ ΤΩΡΑ !! ΧΤΥΠΗΣΑΝ ΟΙ ΤΖΙΧΑΝΤΙΣΤΕΣ (;) ΣΤΟ ΚΕΝΤΡΟ ΤΗΣ ΑΘΗΝΑΣ ΜΟΥΓΚΑ ΤΑ ΜΜΕ!! (ΦΩΤΟ-ΒΙΝΤΕΟ)

1/17/2016 08:46:00 μ.μ. ΒΑΛΚΑΝΙΑ - ΙΣΛΑΜ, ΕΠΙΚΑΙΡΟΤΗΤΑ, ΛΑΘΡΟΜΕΤΑΝΑΣΤΕΣ-ΕΛΛΑΔΑ



<https://archive.is/GSkg5>

<https://www.ellinikahoaxes.gr/2016/01/20/xytupisan-oi-tzixantistes-sto-kentro-tis-athinas>

A breaking news article announces that there was an islamic attack at the center of Athens with the president of the pakistani community of greece (who had threatened with jihad), and the support of greek anarchists. The author wonders why the anarchists are supporting

islamic Pakistanis even though they are atheists, and are on the side of oppressed women wearing a burqa.

Προς ΕΛΛΗΝΕΣ : Δείτε τι σας ΠΕΡΙΜΕΝΕΙ!!! (βίντεο)

Λημοσιεύθηκε: 08/03/2016 21:31 MakelarisaComments: 4



<https://archive.fo/cojSb#selection-209.0-307.22>

www.nikosxeiladakis.gr

<https://www.ellinikahoaxes.gr/2016/03/08/deite-ti-sas-perimenei-ellines/>

An American philhellene journalist posted a video taken at the capital of Greece, with the confrontation between illegal immigrants and security forces.



Άγριο έγκλημα ΤΩΡΑ στη Σκιάθο: Αφγανός σκότωσε Ελληνίδα και τραυμάτισε τον σύζυγό και την κόρη της την ώρα που...

Παρασκευή, 18 Μαρτίου 2016

https://web.archive.org/web/20160405062850/http://eimaste-edo.blogspot.gr/2016/03/blog-post_66.html

<https://www.ellinikahoaxes.gr/2016/04/05/afgano-s-skiathos-dolofonia-58xroni-kori-sizigos/>

An Afghan killed an old Greek woman and injured her daughter and her husband due to economic reasons, but according to this article the true reason was racial hatred. This event took place in 2010.

ΕΙΚΟΝΕΣ ΦΡΙΚΗΣ! ΑΥΤΟ ΕΙΝΑΙ ΤΟ ΠΡΑΓΜΑΤΙΚΟ ΠΡΟΣΩΠΟ ΤΟΥ ΙΣΛΑΜ!!! Ο ΚΑΘΕ ΕΛΛΗΝΑΣ-ΧΡΙΣΤΙΑΝΟΣ ΕΙΝΑΙ ΠΛΕΟΝ ΣΤΟΧΟΣ ΜΕΣΑ ΣΤΗΝ ΠΑΤΡΙΔΑ ΤΟΥ!!!

<https://archive.is/QqPIf#selection-771.1-885.1>

Islamists killing a woman by slitting her throat and capturing her blood in a bowl, holding her firm as her life literally drains from her neck. Such forms of execution are intended to intimidate others".

<https://www.ellinikahoaxes.gr/2016/03/25/islamistes-anthropothisia/>

catholic.org: "A child is photographed, waiting to be killed by militants. ISIS uses these images to terrorize others and to glorify their spree of terror".

The true face of Islam. Every Greek- orthodox is a target on his own home country. Islamists killing a woman by slitting her throat halal style. A child has been pointed with 3 guns.

Οριστικά θετικοί στη φυματίωση στρατιωτικοί που υπηρετούν σε κέντρο μεταναστών στα Γιάννενα

Πέμπτη 21 Ιούλιος 2016 | 06:36:59



<https://piraeuspress.gr/hellas/ygeia/48782/oristika-thetikoi-sth-fymatiwsh-stratiwtikoi-poy-yphretoyn-se-kentro-metanastwn-sta-giannina/>

<https://www.ellinikahoaxes.gr/2016/08/01/oristika-thetik%ce%bfi-sti-fimatiiosi-stratiotik%ce%bfi/>

Dozens of military men were found and more to be found positive with tuberculosis, at an immigration centre in Ioannina. There is a full made-up dialogue with one of them explaining the chronicle.

ΦΤΟΥ ΣΑΣ ΞΕΦΤΙΛΙΣΜΕΝΟΙ...!!! ΓΙΑ ΝΑ ΜΗΝ ΠΡΟΣΒΛΗΘΟΥΝ ΟΙ
ΛΑΘΡΟΜΟΥΣΟΥΛΜΑΝΟΙ Ο ΚΑΜΙΝΗΣ ΑΝΤΙ ΓΙΑ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥΓΕΝΝΙΑΤΙΚΟ ΔΕΝΤΡΟ
ΕΣΤΗΣΕ ΜΙΑ... ΡΟΔΑ ΣΤΟ ΣΥΝΤΑΓΜΑ...!!!



<https://kwloxaneio.gr/ftou-sas-xeftilismeni-gia-na-min-prosvlithoun-lathromousoulman-i-o-kaminis-anti-gia-christougenniatiko-dentro-estise-mia-roda-sto-syntagma/>
<https://www.ellinikahoaxes.gr/2016/12/25/xmas/>

The mayor of Athens is constructing a big Christmas wheel instead of a Christmas tree, so as not to offend the illegal Muslims.

Ο "Αντίχριστος" θα γεννηθεί στην Ελλάδα και θα είναι παιδί λαθρομετανάστη!!!

27 Δεκεμβρίου 2016 Ημερομηνία Δημοσίευσης Εμφανίσεις: 63



<https://archive.fo/oPG8F#selection-471.1-765.1>

<https://www.ellinikahoaxes.gr/2016/12/30/time-cover/>

The antichrist will be born in Greece by an immigrant. The puplicer is Jew. One of the 4 front pages of Time magazine dedicated to the immigration, has the M over this baby's head creating the hornets of antichrist. PM Tsipras has a secret deal with Merkel to keep all the illegal immigrants in Greece in return for staying in power.

VIDEOS



This video shows a man throwing a bike, with the title in Greek: Chios island 2016, drunk immigrants do damages



The video shows part of an interview of George Soros, saying that we have a declining birth rate and we need growth and in order to achieve that it has to be replaced by migrants from outside.

2017

ARTICLES

Μοιράζουν Το Κοινωνικό Μέρισμα Σε Πακιστανούς, Αφγανούς, Αλβανούς Και Τσιγγάνους!



<https://archive.is/y3T2E#selection-819.0-1225.1>

<https://www.ellinikahoaxes.gr/2017/12/04/kinoniko-merisma-2017/>

Thousands of illegal immigrants go to the tax office to do their paperwork to receive the social dividend provided by the Greek state, in order to send the money, they will receive back to their country, while hundreds of Greeks are driven to suicide and millions are on the brink of poverty.

Πέμπτη, 19 Ιανουαρίου 2017

...''ΕΥΠΙΑΘΕΙΣ'' λαθρομετανάστες, αφού ΕΛΕΙΡΑΝ ΙΑΤΡΟ και ΤΡΑΥΜΑΤΙΟΦΟΡΕΑ, τα έκαναν 'γυαλιά-καρφιά' στο Νοσοκομείο 'Παπανικολάου' ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗΣ!!!



<https://archive.is/9pZp5>

[https://www.ellinikahoaxes.gr/2017/01/22/lathrometanastes-ediran-iatro-ke-travmatiofor-
ea/](https://www.ellinikahoaxes.gr/2017/01/22/lathrometanastes-ediran-iatro-ke-travmatiofor-
ea/)

The article claims that 10 illegal immigrants went to a hospital in Thessaloniki, and one of them, a 13-year-old drunk, would have beat the doctor and then damaged the inside of the hospital. They were then taken to the police station.

ΣΤΗ ΧΙΟ

Πήγε στην κηδεία του γιου της και επιστρέφοντας είδε το σπίτι γεμάτο μετανάστες Ένα ανήκουστο περιστατικό σημειώθηκε σήμερα το πρωί στον οικισμό του Φρουρίου στη Χίο, όταν μία ηλικιωμένη επέστρεψε στο σπίτι της μετά την κηδεία του γιου της και βρήκε μετανάστες στο εσωτερικό του.



<https://archive.is/753Rx>

An elderly woman went to her son's funeral in Athens and when she returned to her house in Chios she found it full of illegal immigrants, having occupied it. As soon as they saw her, they fled, when the police did not find them.

ΣΟΚ. Μετανάστες Τρόνε γατες και σκύλους στην Κυψέλη και λιάζουν τα δέρματα στο μπαλκони



<https://archive.fo/Ujh95#selection-389.0-437.321>

<https://www.ellinikahoaxes.gr/2017/02/06/kypseli-2013/>

Skins of stray animals were found on the balconies of immigrants in the center of Athens. The news claims that immigrants steal pets and strays with the ultimate goal of eating them. According to the authorities, checks are carried out daily, but the migrants involved deny their involvement.

Σάββατο, 15 Ιουλίου 2017

ΕΣΥ Νεοέλληνα Θα Πας Διακοπές;



<https://archive.fo/Rluy9#selection-461.0-492.12>

<https://www.ellinikahoaxes.gr/2017/07/16/radwan-bin-abdul-salam/>

Family of illegal immigrants (with 2 women, smartphone and selfie stick) enjoys summer holidays in the Aegean with paid expenses from the Greek state and the EU, at a time when Greeks do not have the opportunity to go on vacation.

ΑΥΣΤΗΡΩΣ ΑΚΑΤΑΛΛΗΛΟ ΓΙΑ ΑΝΗΛΙΚΟΥΣ, ΚΑΡΔΙΟΠΑΘΕΙΣ Ή ΑΤΟΜΑ ΜΕ ΣΟΒΑΡΑ ΠΡΟΒΛΗΜΑΤΑ ΥΓΕΙΑΣ – ΔΕΙΤΕ ΦΡΙΚΙΑΣΤΙΚΕΣ ΦΩΤΟΓΡΑΦΙΕΣ ΚΑΝΙΒΑΛΩΝ ΤΑΙΛΑΝΔΩΝ. ΑΥΤΟΥΣ ΦΕΡΑΜΕ ΣΤΗΝ ΕΛΛΑΔΑ ΜΑΣ



<https://archive.fo/hUroI#selection-1067.0-1412.1>

<https://www.ellinikahoaxes.gr/2017/05/24/thailand-canibals-debunked/>

Thai cannibals came to Greece with the flows of illegal immigrants. Cannibalism belongs to Thai culture.

Ελλάδιστα: 2174 ευρώ το μήνα για τον Αχμέτ ...την ίδια στιγμή που οι Έλληνες συνταξιούχοι, οικογένειες, άνεργοι, άστεγοι ψάχνουν στα σκουπίδια για να φάνε...

Κα/Κα ΔΙΕΥΘΥΝΣΗ ΔΗΜΕΔ [redacted] Ημερομηνία: 14/06/2016
Αρ. Αίτησης:

**Ανάλυση Παροχής Ελάχιστου Εγγυημένου Εισοδήματος
για το μήνα Ιούνιο 2016**

Αναφερόμαι στην παροχή προς εσάς του Ελάχιστου Εγγυημένου Εισοδήματος (Ε.Ε.Ε.) και σας ενημερώνουμε ότι το ποσό που λάβατε για το μήνα Ιούνιο 2016 έχει διαφοροποιηθεί όπως παρουσιάζεται στην πιο κάτω ανάλυση.

Ανάλυση Παροχής Ελάχιστου Εγγυημένου Εισοδήματος για το Μήνα Ιούνιο 2016					
Ανάλυση Αναγκών Οικογενειακής Μονάδας			Ανάλυση Εισοδημάτων Οικογενειακής Μονάδας		
			Είδος Εισοδήματος	Προσληπτικό Εισόδημα €	Εισόδημα που λαμβάνεται υπόψη €
Αιτητής (x€480)	1	480,00	Από Εργασία Μισθωτού	0,00	0,00
Σύζυγος (x€240)	1	240,00	Από Εργασία Αυτοτελώς Εργαζομένου	0,00	0,00
Τέκνα 14 μέχρι 28 ετών (x€240)	4	960,00	Συντάξεις Εφάπαξ Παροχής και Άλλα Επιδόματα	0,00	0,00
Τέκνα κάτω των 14 ετών (x€144)	1	144,00	13ος και 14ος Μισθός	0,00	0,00
Πρόσαρμογή λόγω συγκατοίκησης		(0,00)	Διατροφή από Υπόχρεο Πρόσωπο	0,00	0,00
Σύνολο Βασικών Αναγκών		1824,00	Άλλα Εισοδήματα	0,00	0,00
Παροχή Στέγασης ²		350,00			
Επιπρόσθετα Παρέχεται:					
Αναπηρικό Επίδομα		0,00			
Άλλα (Φροντίδα, Έκτακτες Ανάγκες κλπ)		0,00			
ΣΥΝΟΛΟ ΑΝΑΓΚΩΝ		2174,00	ΣΥΝΟΛΟ ΕΙΣΟΔΗΜΑΤΩΝ		0,00
Καταβλητέο ΕΕΕ ³					

<https://archive.is/hvqps#selection-1207.0-1372.0>

<https://www.ellinikahoaxes.gr/2017/10/05/2174-evro-epidoma-to-mina-se-metanasti/>

Welfare allowance for illegal immigrants amounting to 2174 Euro, while Greeks are on the brink of poverty and are looking for their food in the garbage.

2018 ARTICLES

Θανατηφόρες οι ασθενείς που έρχονται μαζί με τους μετανάστες



20-09-2018 15:53

<https://archive.fo/6NAoY#selection-287.0-805.24>



<https://www.ellinikahoaxes.gr/2018/09/20/immigrants-dont-bring-diseases/>

When Muslims invade Europe and America, they carry with them countless diseases that endanger city dwellers and health systems are under pressure and huge costs. What's worse is that if Hillary is elected president, she intends to bring in five times more Syrian immigrants than Obama suggested. 1.5 million migrants entering Germany also brought unheard of and rare diseases to the continent.

Θέλουν να φέρουν στην Ελλάδα 38.000.000 μετανάστες !



<https://archive.md/Ezdwr#selection-533.1-643.18>

Α/Α	ΚΡΑΤΟΣ	ΠΛΗΘΥΣΜΟΣ	ΜΕΤΑΝΑΣΤΕΣ	ΣΥΝΟΛΟ
1	Γερμανία	82.060.000	274.420.294	356.480.294
2	Γαλλία	65.073.482	217.614.965	282.688.447
3	Ιταλία	59.905.225	200.331.580	260.236.805
4	Ισπανία	46.157.822	154.358.312	200.516.134
5	Πολωνία	38.130.302	127.513.145	165.643.447
6	Ρουμανία	21.504.442	71.913.908	93.418.350
7	Ολλανδία	16.492.230	55.152.359	71.644.589
8	Ελλάδα	11.262.000	37.661.727	48.923.727
9	Πορτογαλία	10.676.910	35.705.103	46.382.013
10	Βέλγιο	10.666.866	35.671.515	46.338.381
11	Τσεχία	10.424.926	34.862.433	45.287.359
12	Ουγγαρία	10.031.000	33.545.089	43.576.089
13	Σουηδία	9.234.209	30.880.506	40.114.715
14	Αυστρία	8.316.487	27.811.514	36.128.001
15	Βουλγαρία	7.640.238	25.550.041	33.190.279
16	Σλοβακία	5.379.455	17.989.661	23.369.116
17	Δανία	5.511.451	18.431.075	23.942.526
18	Φινλανδία	5.330.150	17.824.779	23.154.929
19	Νορβηγία	4.805.437	16.070.064	20.875.501
20	Ιρλανδία	4.501.000	15.051.983	19.552.983
21	Κροατία	4.491.543	15.020.358	19.511.901
22	Λιθουανία	3.350.400	11.204.213	14.554.613
23	Λετονία	2.261.100	7.561.440	9.822.540
24	Σλοβενία	2.053.355	6.866.711	8.920.066
25	Εσθονία	1.340.602	4.483.163	5.823.765
26	Κύπρος	1.054.400	3.526.063	4.580.463
27	Λουξεμβούργο	480.222	1.605.931	2.086.153
28	Μάλτα	410.290	1.372.068	1.782.358

<https://www.ellinikahoaxes.gr/2018/11/05/38-million-migrants-will-be-sent-to-greece-by-order-of-the-un-misinformation/>

The article claims that there is the plan to bring about 38,000,000 immigrants to Greece. It proceeds on December 10-12 in Morocco to the immediate implementation of the plan which provides for the replacement of the white race with the Eurasian-Negro race.

Μπαράζ «ελληνοποιήσεων» 850.000 παράνομων μεταναστών για ψηφοθηρικούς σκοπούς



<https://archive.fo/TV9No#selection-673.1-855.10>

<https://www.ellinikahoaxes.gr/2018/04/23/greek-citizenship-850000-migrants/>

According to the article, the Gouvernement wants the Hellenization of 380000 illegal immigrants for vote-buying reasons.

Ο ΒΡΩΜΕΡΟΣ ΜΠΟΥΤΑΡΗΣ ΑΠΟΦΑΣΙΣΕ ΝΑ ΣΤΕΓΑΣΕΙ ΛΑΘΡΟΜΕΤΑΝΑΣΤΕΣ ΣΤΑ ΣΠΙΤΙΑ ΤΩΝ ΕΛΛΗΝΩΝ ΠΟΥ ΘΑ ΚΑΤΑΣΧΟΥΝ ΟΙ ΤΡΑΠΕΖΕΣ! ΤΑ



Δολοφονική επίθεση στο κέντρο της Αθήνας από μουσουλμάνους σε 3 μετανάστες που έγιναν χριστιανοί! (ΣΚΛΗΡΕΣ ΕΙΚΟΝΕΣ)

<https://archive.fo/3NLiu#selection-1135.0-1417.283>

<https://www.ellinikahoaxes.gr/2018/01/11/dolofoniki-epithesi-kentro-athinas/>

Murderous attack in the center of Athens by fanatical Palestinians and Afghan Muslims on 3 immigrants who became Christians.

VIDEOS



<https://www.ellinikahoaxes.gr/2018/03/19/ktinotrofos-piani-sta-prasa-metanastes-na-sfazoun-ta-zontana-tou/>

The video shows some people slaughtering a lamb with the title "a farmer caught three immigrants slaughtering his live animals".



<https://www.ellinikahoaxes.gr/2018/11/09/velopoulos-migrants-coupons-fake/>

Kyriakos Velopoulos claimed through his show that Germany gives free coupons to immigrants to go to prostitution (so as not to rape the natives), while from 2021 the then rulers in our country will give them coupons to go under the Omonia to "ejaculate for free."

SOCIAL MEDIA

1. <https://www.facebook.com/pressnewsgr/posts/918717034986027>

<https://www.ellinikahoaxes.gr/2019/07/04/kaine-xristianikes-eikones/>

A video which shows some people burning church icons, with a comment which implies that they are immigrants who are in Greece.

2. <https://archive.fo/OK6Bx>

<https://www.ellinikahoaxes.gr/2018/07/27/ngos-helping-in-greek-fires/>

A tweet by Kyriakos Velopoulos against the NGOs who run to help every illegal immigrant and did not go to help as solidarity in the fire in Mati.

2019

ARTICLES

Συνοριακοί Φρουροί βρήκαν 52 τόνους όπλων και πυρομαχικών σε 14 κοντέινερς της Conex καμουφλαρισμένα σαν «έπιπλα»



<https://archive.fo/xsUkp#selection-289.1-415.4>

<https://www.ellinikahoaxes.gr/2019/09/24/52-tonoi-oplon/>

Greek Border guards found 52 tons of guns and ammunition in 14 Conex (turkish arms manufacturing company) containers disguised as "furniture" for Muslim immigrants.

Ρατσισμός Είναι...Να Είσαι Στη Σειρά Του ΟΑΕΔ Και Να Περιμένεις 360€ Την Ώρα Που Ο Μπροστινός Σου Πακιστανός Θα Πάρει 580

ΣΤΟΧΟΣ - 24 Οκτωβρίου - α ο

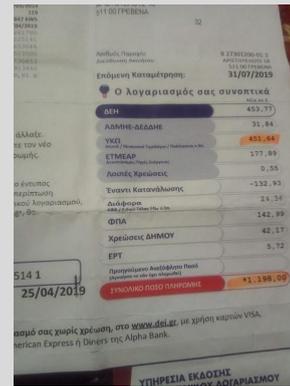


<https://archive.fo/iPLJm>

<https://www.ellinikahoaxes.gr/2019/11/15/ratsismos-einai/>

An article on racism and inequality that Greeks accepts from the state and society, since immigrants have more rights and benefits than Greeks.

Πληρώνουμε το ρεύμα «μεταναστών» μεσα
απο τους λογαριασμούς της ΔΕΗ



Maria Orfanidou: <https://www.ellinikahoaxes.gr/2019/12/02/di-yei-yko-metanastes/>
<https://archive.md/uz6Ph#selection-349.0-474.0>

A photo of a bill of the electricity company, with underlined the amount corresponding to the Social Welfare Services and the comment that We Pay the stream of "immigrants" through the energy bills.

Να σου ξεραθούν τα χέρια! Μουσουλμάνος “μετανάστης” καταστρέφει άγαλμα της Παναγίας (BINTEO)



<http://www.makeleio.gr/επικαιροτητα/Να-σου-ξεραθούν-τα-χέρια-Μουσουλμάνος/>
<https://www.ellinikahoaxes.gr/2019/04/14/moysoylmanos-metanastis-katastrefei-agalmatis-panagias/>

A video of Muslim "immigrant" destroying a statue of the Virgin Mary.

Ορεστιάδα: Ανήλικοι μετανάστες προσπάθησαν να βιάσουν νοσηλεύτρια σε hot spot



<https://archive.fo/ELZwy#selection-2545.0-2763.104>

<https://www.newsbomb.gr/ellada/story/1012188/periergo-peristatiko-me-nosileytria-kai-anilikoy-s-metanastes-stin-orestiada>

<https://www.ellinikahoaxes.gr/2019/09/19/anilikoi-metanastes-den-prospathisan-na-viasoun-nosileytria/>

Orestiada: Underage immigrants tried to rape a nurse in a hot spot. Unprotected in the hands of three minor immigrants who intended to rape her, a nurse was found in the reception and identification center for foreigners in the area of Orestiada Outpost.

Κάθε μετανάστης θα έχει δικαίωμα σύνταξης συμπληρώνοντας 1000 ένσημα (τρία χρόνια εργασία)

Σάββατο, 2 Νοεμβρίου 2019



<https://thesecretrealtruth.blogspot.com/2019/11/1000.html>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/monogon/permalink/1343960185783540/>

<https://www.ellinikahoaxes.gr/2019/11/12/metanastes-sintaxi/>

STATEMENT OF THE PRESIDENT OF SINGLE PARENTS OF NORTHERN GREECE:

Every immigrant will have the right to a pension by completing 1000 stamps (three years of work).

ΕΚΤΑΚΤΗ ΕΙΛΗΣΗ! Επίθεση με μαχαίρι σε πιστούς, στην Θεσσαλονίκη, επειδή έκαναν τον σταυρό τους

13 Νοεμβρίου 2019



<https://www.ellinikahoaxes.gr/2019/11/20/epithesi-se-zeugari-panagia-halkaion/>

A couple of passers-by were attacked with a knife by a group of (at least 10) people, probably of Pakistani or Afghan origin, because they made their cross.

ΔΕΥΤΕΡΑ, 2 ΔΕΚΕΜΒΡΙΟΥ 2019

Ευπνατε θα μας σφαξουν σε λιγο...Ισλαμιστές κατέλαβαν ελληνικό έδαφος! Κατάληψη του Δημαρχείου στην Σκάλα Λακωνίας!

https://apagoreuetai-group.blogspot.com/2019/12/blog-post_61.html



<https://www.ellinikahoaxes.gr/2019/12/04/pakistanoι-skala-lakonias/>

According to the article, Islamists would have occupied Greek territory: Occupation of the City Hall in Skala Laconia.

ΣΕ ΚΙΝΔΥΝΟ Η ΘΕΣΠΡΩΤΙΑ! Λο@γκρες από την Αλβανία κατέβασαν την ελληνική και ανέβασαν την Αλβανική – Αφαντες οι Αρχές [ΦΩΤΟ]



<https://www.ellinikahoaxes.gr/2019/12/19/thesprotia-alvanoι-katevasan-tin-elliniki-simai-a/>

Migrants from Albania lowered the Greek flag and raised the Albanian - Authorities are missing.

Λαθρομετανάστες κάνουν το σήμα των «Γκριζών Λύκων» σε ελληνικό έδαφος. Αφυπνισθείτε!

25 Δεκ 2019 - 13:06



<https://archive.fo/IAIGS>

<https://www.ellinikahoaxes.gr/2019/12/29/migrants-grey-wolves-in-greece-debunked/>

Illegal immigrants make the mark of the "Gray Wolves" on Greek territory. Wake up!
They speak Arabic and form the sign of the Gray Wolves, while they probably cross the border of Evros or Samos. come to Greece by the thousands.

VIDEOS

- 1) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JBv1lnzo26g&t=2350s>

<https://www.ellinikahoaxes.gr/2019/09/26/immigrant-kolonaki-fake-quote/>

An "illegal immigrant" was photographed defecating in public in Kolonaki.

SOCIAL MEDIA

- 1) <https://archive.fo/ruFLR>

<https://www.ellinikahoaxes.gr/2019/04/11/refugee-cash-card-explained/>

A post on facebook of Dimitris Kammenos saying:

DISCLOSE

The card issued by the UN and financed with € 500 per month per immigrant by Soros.

Without a name. Outside banking systems.

- 2) <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=197840467922069&set=gm.1246407062228243&type=3&theater&ifg=1>

<https://www.ellinikahoaxes.gr/2019/11/30/migrants-infectious-disease-hoax/>

A post on facebook with an ill woman, and the comment: "Epidemic" bomb of typhus, cholera, plague and tuberculosis by "illegal immigrants".

- 3) https://twitter.com/RazisNikos/status/1207893102696026115?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1207893102696026115%7Ctwgr%5E%7Ctwcon%5E1 &ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fpublish.twitter.com%2F%3Fquery%3Dhttps3A2F2Ftwitter.com2FRazisNikos2Fstatus2F1207893102696026115widget%3DTweet

<https://www.ellinikahoaxes.gr/2019/12/24/ti-egrapsan-se-toicho/>

A tweet of a photo with graffiti in arabic with the comment: Immigrants in Thessaloniki wrote the slogan "death to the unbelievers" on a wall at 25 I. Koletti Street.

- 4) <https://archive.fo/dVja7>

<https://www.ellinikahoaxes.gr/2019/12/06/papadopoulos-pakistan-immigrants-deportation-fake/>

A photo of dictator Papadopoulos and Pakistanis. with the comment: Papadopoulos deported large numbers of Pakistani immigrants from Greece in 1973, because they said that they would take the part of Turkey in case of war.

2020

ARTICLES

«Ενώ εσύ ήσουν σε καραντίνα...»: Θεσμοθετήθηκαν 28 πόλεις μουσουλμάνων εποίκων σε όλη την Ελλάδα - Η υπουργική απόφαση

https://www.pronews.gr/amyna-asfaleia/esoteriki-asfaleia/861348_apofasi-tis-kyvernisis-gia-dimioyrgia-28-neon-domon

<https://www.ellinikahoaxes.gr/2020/03/26/28-nees-domes/>

"While you were in quarantine ...": 28 cities of Muslim settlers throughout Greece were established by ministerial decision.

Ισραήλ το 2014: «Θα γεμίσουμε ολη την Ευρώπη με μετανάτες αν η Ευρώπη ΔΕΝ υποστηρίζει ΕΜΑΣ.» Όπερ &...ΕΓΕΝΕΤΟ!!!

[ΑΠΟΚΑΛΥΨΕΙΣ](#) - 19 Ιαν 2020 - 20:45



<https://www.ellinikhoaxes.gr/2020/01/20/israel-flooding-europe-with-migrants-fake-story/>

Israel in 2014: "We will fill the whole of Europe with immigrants if Europe does NOT support US."

Εφιαλτική νύχτα για τους κάτοικους της Μόρια: Λαθρομετανάστες εισέβαλαν στο χωριό και έκαιγαν σπίτια με ανθρώπους μέσα! (βίντεο)



http://skeftomasteillhnika.blogspot.com/2020/02/blog-post_52.html

<https://www.facebook.com/100001650551267/videos/2877759028955754/?t=0>

<https://www.ellinikahoaxes.gr/2020/02/10/allodapoi-ekapsan-spitia-sth-moria-me-anthropon-mesa/>

Nightmare for the residents of Moria: Illegal immigrants invaded the village and burned houses with people inside! Residents are begging authorities to send reinforcements to police and the army to stop the Afghans who have now taken control of the settlement. They enter houses, abuse people and then burn them.

Λαθρομεταναστευση και η παπατζα που σερβιρουν τα συστημικα ΜΜΕ. Κρατηθείτε!! ΜΟΝΟ τον Μάιο ΕΙΣΕΒΑΛΑΝ ΜΟΝΟ απο ΠΑΚΙΣΤΑΝ στην Ελλάδα 18.046 ΑΝΤΡΕΣ!! 1.115 ΓΥΝΑΙΚΕΣ Σύνολο 19.161 !! ΠΙΝΑΚΕΣ του Υπουργείου ΜΑΣ!!

Κυριακή, 14 Ιουνίου 2020



<https://thesecretrealtruth.blogspot.com/2020/06/18046-1115-19161.html>

<https://www.ellinikahoaxes.gr/2020/06/19/19161-pakistanoi-ton-maio-2020/>

In May alone, 18,046 men and 1,115 women invaded from Pakistan alone. A total of 19,161, contrary to what the Mitsotaki government claims to reduce migratory flows.

ΑΠΙΣΤΕΥΤΟ: ΠΑΡΑΧΩΡΗΣΗ ΕΚΤΑΣΕΩΝ ΓΗΣ ΣΕ 1.500 ΠΡΟΣΦΥΓΕΣ ΣΕ ΒΟΙΩΤΙΑ ΚΑΙ ΜΑΚΕΔΟΝΙΑ



<http://kilkiswebtv.blogspot.com/2020/10/1500.html>

<https://www.ellinikahoaxes.gr/2020/11/11/refugees-migrants-greek-government-agricultural-policy-debunked/>

After meals, apartments, bonuses, credit cards, etc., the government goes one step further. As mentioned, there is already a feverish cooperation between the Ministries of Immigration Policy, Education and Rural Development in order to regulate the procedures, in order to give land in Boeotia and Macedonia to 1,500 refugees and immigrants and to learn about its cultivation.

VIDEOS

1) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U9Ej7J1Qlk8>

<https://www.ellinikahoaxes.gr/2020/09/30/every-migrant-10000-euro-by-eu-disinfo/>

A new program of the European Union has been announced, according to which every immigrant or refugee will be given ten thousand (10,000) euros per year, in addition to other financial aid.

The EU "bribes" Greece with 10,000 euros for each immigrant, in order to keep them in its territory.

2) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ScYF1NzXAIw&t=5942s>

<https://www.ellinikahoaxes.gr/2020/10/21/lockdown-kozani-debunked/>

An immigrant structure will be opened in Kozani. The lockdown is made so that the citizens do not organize mobilizations.

SOCIAL MEDIA

- 1) https://twitter.com/AmyMek/status/1234439481295376384?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1234439481295376384%7Ctwgr%5E%7Ctwcon%5E_s1&ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ellinikahoaxes.gr%2F2020%2F03%2F05%2Fmeta-nastes-bazoun-paidia-pano-apo-ti-fotia%2F



Immigrants in Evros beat and put their children in smoke so that they could cry and then show them to the cameras.

- 2) <https://www.facebook.com/apofasismenoi/photos/a.699146063437365/295649337702611/?type=3&rdc=1&rdr>

<https://www.ellinikahoaxes.gr/2020/01/09/dimitras-minisi/>

Panagiotis Dimitras, a representative of the Racist Crimes Observatory in Greece, filed a lawsuit against a 12-year-old girl who beat the foreigner who tried to abuse her.

- 3) <https://archive.vn/sgciI>

<https://www.ellinikahoaxes.gr/2020/05/14/coronavirus-athens-muslims-misinfo/>

A photo of a Muslim gathering on a sidewalk for prayer was taken recently in downtown Athens.

- 4) <https://www.facebook.com/artpaints.gr/posts/2899883500056898>

<https://www.ellinikahoaxes.gr/2020/06/25/migrants-children-grants-hoax/>

The foreigner, asylum seeker, father of a minor child receives € 86 per day for each child, multiplying this amount by five (5) children receives, therefore, € 430 per day, € 12,900 per month and € 154,800 per year only for children.

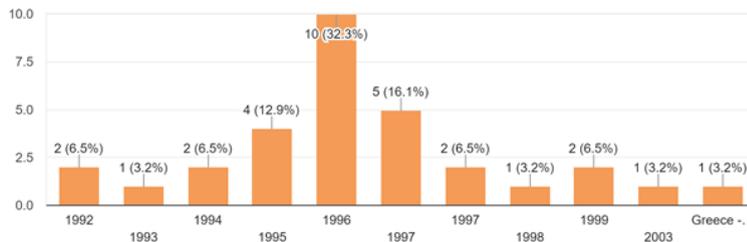
5) <https://www.facebook.com/voicenews.gr/videos/2518784844876844/?t=63>
<https://www.facebook.com/voicenews.gr/videos/439410636765787/?t=1>
<https://www.ellinikahoaxes.gr/2020/07/07/every-migrant-400-euro-2/>
 "Illegal immigrants" receive an allowance of 400 (alternatively: 550) euros per person.

Locals' Perception

This survey took place in Greece during the year of 2021. From all the people who answered the questionnaire we took into account only those who met the age criteria (18 - 30 years). Participants answered 4 different categories of questions. The first was about their personal information, the second about the immigration issue, the third about how they are informed and the last about fake news.

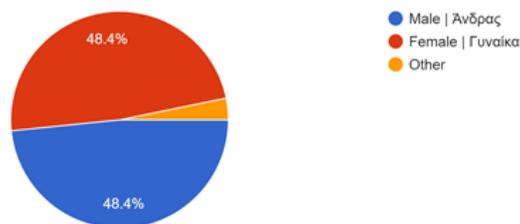
In the first part of the survey, the participants answered the following questions, relating to their personal information.

What year were you born in? | Ποιο έτος γεννήθηκες;
31 responses



We notice that a bell-shaped curve of the age of the participants has been created with the highest value being at 25 years (35.5%). A total of 64.5% belong to the ages between 24 and 26 years old.

How do you identify yourself? | Πως αυτοπροσδιορίζεσαι;
31 responses

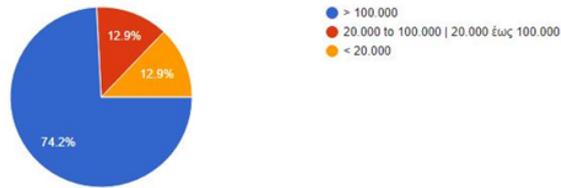


|

In our sample the participants self-identify about half as women and the other half as men and 3.2% as other.

How many inhabitants has the place you live in? | Πόσους κατοίκους έχει το μέρος που μένεις;

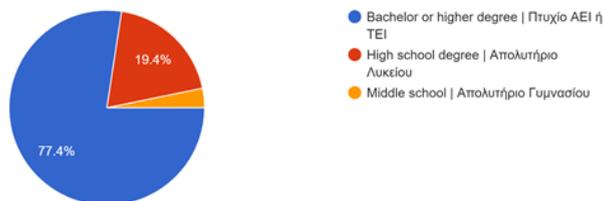
31 responses



A very large percentage of participants (74.3%), live in very large cities, over 100000 inhabitants.

Which is your educational background? | Ποιο είναι το εκπαιδευτικό σου υπόβαθρο;

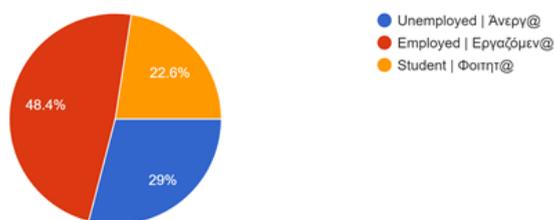
31 responses



We notice that the educational background of the participants is very high. 77.4% have a Bachelor or higher degree. Considering that a part of our sample is very close to the age of 18 and may not have had time to graduate from a university, a percentage of 19.4% has stated that they have only a high school diploma and only a small percentage 3, 2% have graduated middle school.

What is your current occupation? | Ποια είναι η τωρινή σου απασχόληση;

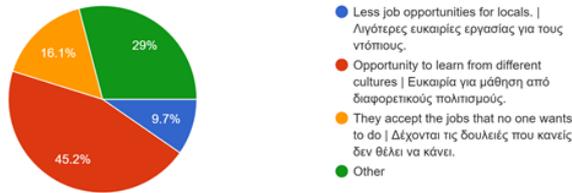
31 responses



Close to half (48.4%), are employed. The rest are divided into categories of either unemployed or students.

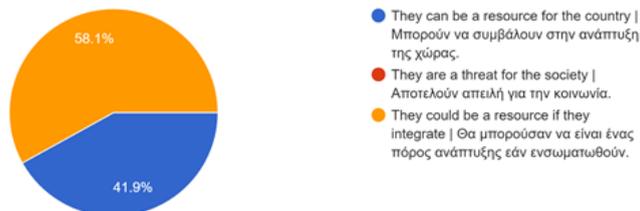
In the second part, participants were asked questions about their point of view about the migration.

What do you think are the consequences of migration? | Ποιες, κατά την άποψή σου, είναι οι συνέπειες της μετανάστευσης;
31 responses



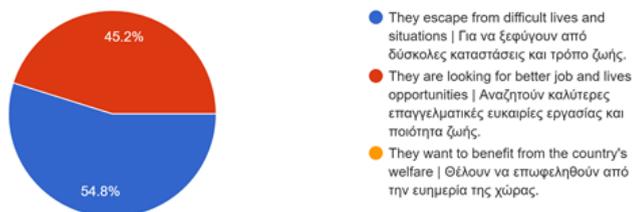
A big part (45,2 %) sees migration as an opportunity to learn from different cultures. 16,1 % think that one of the consequences of migration is that migrants accept jobs that no one wants to do in Greece, and a 9,7 % that the immigrants leave less job opportunities for the locals. 29 % of the participants think that there are other consequences of the migration that are not identified.

What do you think about immigrants? | Τι πιστεύεις για τους μετανάστες;
31 responses



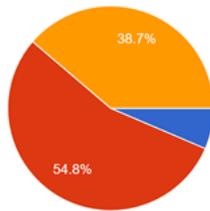
When they were asked their opinion about immigrants, all of them answered in a positive way and that they could be a resource for the country. 58,1 % answered that it would be positive if they were integrated into the country.

Why do you think immigrants arrive to your country? | Γιατί πιστεύεις ότι οι μετανάστες φτάνουν στη χώρα σου;
31 responses



When asked why they believe that immigrants come to their country, everyone who took part acknowledged that the reasons for immigration are mainly due to the need for a better life. This of course contradicts the answers to the following question, where they were asked what is the main occupation of immigrants in their country. 6.5% said that migrants are unemployed and want to benefit from public financial assistance.

Which do you think is the main occupation of immigrants in your country? | Ποια νομίζεις ότι είναι η κύρια απασχόληση των μεταναστών στη χώρα σου;
31 responses

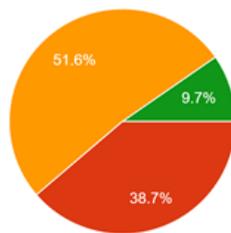


- Unemployed, they want to benefit from public economic assistance | Άνεργοι, θέλουν να επωφεληθούν από τη δημόσια οικονομική βοήθεια.
- Any type of jobs (specialized or non) | Οποιοδήποτε είδος εργασίας (εξειδικευμένο ή μη).
- Mainly unskilled jobs | Κυρίως ανειδίκευτη εργασία.

The third part of the survey has to do with how the participants are being informed for the news.

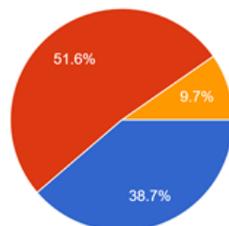
Just over half (51,6%) answered that they are getting informed from many sources, including newspapers, tv etc. This is important because most people get information from different sources, resulting in their most valid information. 38,7 % is informed only through the web, and a 9,7% haw other sources.

How do you get information? | Πώς ενημερώνεσαι για τα νέα;
31 responses



- I read my usual newspaper everyday | Διαβάζω τη συνηθισμένη εφημερίδα μου καθημερινά.
- I can find all the information on the web. | Μπορώ να βρω όλες τις πληροφορίες στο διαδίκτυο.
- I get information from many sources (newspaper, tv, web media...) | Λαμβάνω πληροφορίες από πολλές πηγές (εφη...
- Other

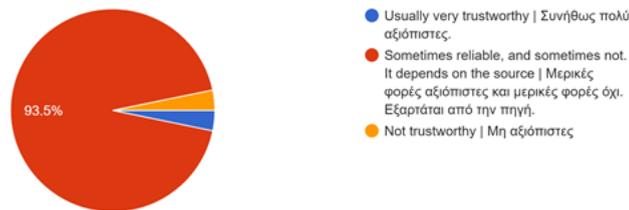
When I check the news... | Όταν ελέγχω τα νέα...
31 responses



- I usually read only the title and few lines to have a general idea about the issue | Συνήθως διαβάζω μόνο τον τίτλο και μερικές γραμμές για να έχω μια γενική ιδέα για το θέμα.
- I like to read all the news and articles, and I also like to search for different points of view | Μου αρέσει να διαβάζω όλες τις ειδήσεις και τα άρθρα, και μου...
- I don't really check the news. | Δεν ελέγχω πραγματικά τα νέα.

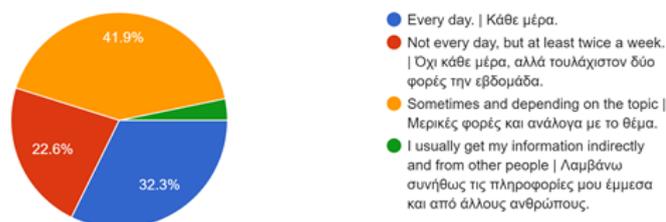
51,6% not only check the titles, as opposed to 38,7%, but also search for more information about certain news. 9,7% don't really check the news.

The news that you find on the media are... | Οι ειδήσεις που βρίσκεις στα μέσα ενημέρωσης είναι...
31 responses



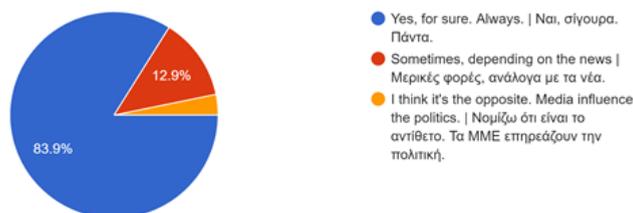
Almost everyone involved (93,5%) thinks that the news in the media are sometimes reliable, and sometimes not, depending on the source.

How often do you check the news? | Πόσο συχνά ελέγχεις τα νέα;
31 responses



For 41.9% the frequency with which they check the news depends on the topic they show interest. 32.3% are informed on a daily basis about the news, a percentage of 3.2 is informed about the news indirectly by other people, with a frequency of at least twice a week 22.6% of respondents are informed.

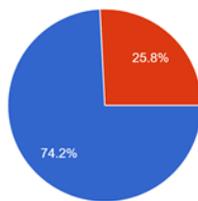
Do you think that politics influences directly the media? | Πιστεύεις ότι η πολιτική επηρεάζει άμεσα τα μέσα ενημέρωσης;
31 responses



When asked if politics directly affects the news and media, the largest percentage of respondents (83.9%) answered with confidence that it is something that always happens. The exact opposite is believed by 3.2% who answered that the media are the ones who influence politics. 12.9% of respondents answered that politics sometimes affects the news depending on the issue.

The fourth and last part of this survey refers to fake news. 75.2% of those who took part in the survey believe that it is very likely that fake news will be found in the media, while 25.8% believe that this depends on the source in which the news can be found.

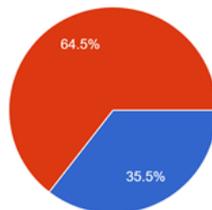
Do you think it is very likely to find fake news on the media? | Πιστεύεις ότι είναι πολύ πιθανό να βρεις ψεύτικες ειδήσεις στα ΜΜΕ?
31 responses



- Yes, definitely | Ναι, οπωσδήποτε.
- It depends on the media and on the source | Εξαρτάται από τα μέσα και από την πηγή.
- Rarely, they should check it before the publishing | Σπάνια, θεωρώ ότι τις ελέγχουν πριν να τις δημοσιεύσουν.

Many admit that they do not know if they are able to recognize the news they are reading if it is false or true. On the other hand (35,5%), believes that they are in a position that they are able to recognize fake news very easily.

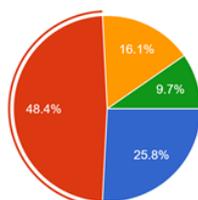
Do you usually recognize a fake news, when you see it? | Συνήθως αναγνωρίζεις τις ψεύτικες ειδήσεις, όταν τις βλέπεις;
31 responses



- Yes, it is quite simple to recognize them | Ναι, είναι πολύ απλό να τις αναγνωρίζεις.
- I don't know | Δεν ξέρω
- I've never found them | Δεν βρήκα ποτέ.

Because this research took place in 2021, the main topic of the news was the coronavirus. Due to that 48.4% says that the most addressed topic of misinformation is the Covid-19 Pandemic. 25,8 % thinks that the immigrants and migration issues are still being misinformed, with the rest having no knowledge of the subject or considering it to be something else.

Which is the most addressed topic of misinformation? | Ποιο είναι το πιο πολυσυζητημένο θέμα παρατηρηφόρησης;
31 responses



- Immigrants and migration issues | Θέματα μεταναστών και μετανάστευσης.
- Covid-19 Pandemic | Πανδημία Covid-19.
- I don't know | Δεν ξέρω.
- Other

When you find an information which seems to be fake, do you... | Όταν συναντάς πληροφορίες που φαίνονται ψεύτικες, αυτό που κάνεις είναι...
31 responses



When participants were asked what they do when they think they are in front of fake news, 67.7% said they go beyond it and look for more reliable sources. 32.2% do further investigation, with a chance that they are not false.

Which consequences do you think misinformation about immigrants has? | Ποιες συνέπειες πιστεύεις ότι έχει η παραπληροφόρηση για τους οι μετανάστες;
31 responses



As for the last question, when asked what they consider to be the consequences of misinformation about immigrants, the majority (87.1%) answered that they can become dangerous, as they increase hatred against immigrants. The other respondents did not have an answer to this. An important observation is that none of the respondents believe that fake news can raise awareness about the potential risk of excessive migration.

In conclusion, there has tended to be a favor within mainstream news articles towards the rise of abhorrence and hatred towards migrants due to the difficult conditions that Greek citizens have experienced in recent years combined with the spread of fake and distorted information. Nonetheless, as the survey supports, younger generations seem to have a better realisation of the migrant situation and tend to have a more efficient and open-minded way of thinking. People have become familiarised with new ways to become informed about situations and intersecting events and have disproven public opinions that were once considered the standard. In response to the spreading of false news, many articles have emerged with data to disprove these negative theories. Additionally, there have been publications to inject waves of sympathy towards the migrants that highlight their daily hardships and living conditions. The whole migrant affair may seem to have faded away, especially due to the more recent pandemic issues, but the true problem remains yet to be solved.

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Ireland

Context

Economic, social, political, and legal conditions have resulted in migratory patterns in and out of Ireland and have affected how non-nationals, migrants and asylum seekers are treated when they arrive in the country. The financial crisis and the economic recession of the 1980s had led many Irish citizens to emigrate in search of work. However, the Irish economy went through a period of rapid economic growth from the mid-1990s to late 2000s which then ended in a drastic economic reversal when hit by the global financial crisis of 2008 that continued until 2014. These rapid changes in the economy had not only an economic impact but a social impact, impacting on immigration policies and the integration of newcomers into the country.

Migration in Ireland and Contributing Factors

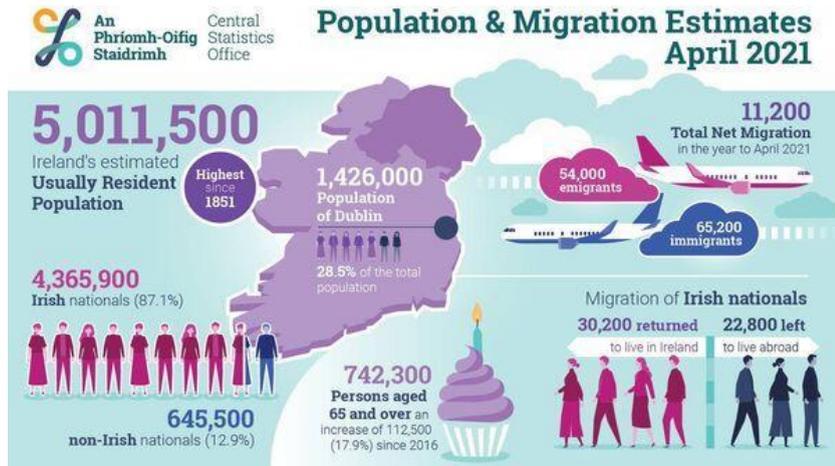
A significant policy change that coincides with this economic volatility was the bill that offered the right to Irish citizenship, Ireland being the only country in Europe at the time that gave children of non-nationals the birthright to citizenship. The right to Irish citizenship for children born in Ireland was elevated from legislation to the Irish constitution in 1998. In 1989 there was a supreme court decision which was quick significant at the time. It was about a family who were living in Ireland and had been served with a deportation status, however they had children who were born and raised in Ireland and those children were Irish citizens. The Court said that the constitutional protections for these children meant that the children had the right to live and reside in Ireland under the care of their parents meaning their parents could not be deported. When this Irish citizenship is introduced into the Irish Constitution, the Bill then meant that children of non-Irish parents could live and reside in Ireland with their parents even if their parents were in Ireland unlawfully.

During the 90s when these decisions were made at Constitutional level, the country was going through an economic boom referred to as the Celtic Tiger. This meant the country was undergoing economic and social changes. Demand for workers increased which the Irish government facilitated by providing work permits for people outside of the European Union to come and work in Ireland. Irish nationals who had left a decade prior due to a financial crisis returned home to seek employment and applications for asylum also increased. This was a significant time for Ireland, where it had more people arriving to the country than leaving it. The 1998 right to Irish citizenship meant those in the asylum process who had a baby which seeking asylum in Ireland could withdraw their asylum application and apply for residency as a parent of an Irish born child.

In 2004, a referendum removed the right to an Irish citizenship to children of immigrants who were born in Ireland. This referendum took place in the backdrop of scare stories of immigrants coming to Ireland solely to have their children born with Irish citizenship. Speaking to these stories, the Irish Human Rights Commission these were “vague or anecdotal in nature”. Yet, the majority of the Irish population voted in favour of this amendment which meant children born from non-Irish parents no longer had the right to Irish citizenship. This Bill was brought into the spotlight in 2018 when two children were facing deportation due to their status. That same year, another bill was introduced called the Irish Nationality and Citizenship Bill 2018. This law enables children born in Ireland who have lived in the country for three years to be considered for Irish citizenship.

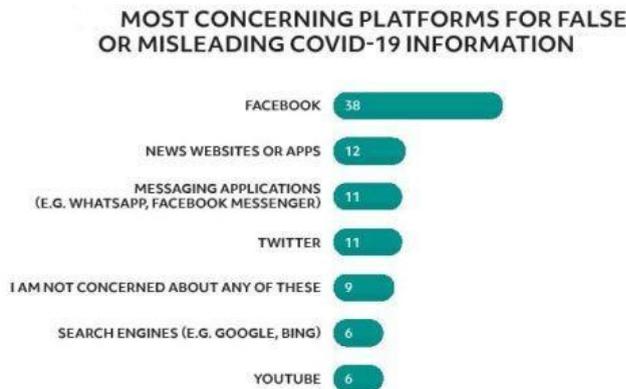
Migration Estimates

The Central Statistics Offices monitors migration patterns in and out of Ireland. From April 2019 to April 2020, Irish nationals accounted for 33.8% of those immigrated to Ireland and from April 2020 to April 2021, they accounted for 46.3% (CSO, 2020; CSO, 2021). This is the highest number of returning Irish nationals to Ireland since 2007. There were an estimated 645,500 non-Irish nationals resident in Ireland accounting for 12.9% or about one in eight of the total population (CSO, 2021). The majority of migrants were aged between 25-44 and had a third level qualification. 70.8% of immigrants over 15 years of age had a third level qualification.



Concerns over Fake News

According to an article in the Irish Times and research launched by the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland as part of the Reuters Institute Digital News Report, Irish people’s interest in the news has increased by 5% from 2020 to 2021, with 70% stating they were interested in the news (Gleeson, 2021). A dramatic increase from 8% to 41% was seen for people citing television as their main source of the news. The Irish population’s trust in the media has increased by 5%. RTE and the Irish Times were the top two trusted news brands in Ireland. Irish people were generally skeptical of news on social media with Facebook being the most concerning for fake news on the COVID-19 pandemic. This report suggests that while more people are interested in the news, there is also a rising concern over false information. 55% of 18-24 year old were concerned about what is real and what is fake on the internet, and this was 75% for those over 65 years old.



The figure above shows the most concerning platforms for fake news for Irish people.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the internet has seen numerous fake news stories shared on its platforms. A prime example of a fake news story that spread across Ireland and the world is that of the link between COVID-19 and 5G mobile networks. “The spread of COVID-19 is linked to 5G mobile networks”(Greene, 2021). This story emerged from the spread of a viral video of a woman approaching two telecommunications workers who were installing 5G infrastructure. She asks them if they’re NHS workers and when they don’t

respond, proceeds with saying that when the 5G is switched on “bye-bye mama” (Rahman, 2020).

This causes panic over 5G and its connection to the mobile service. This was then followed with supposed arson attacks on phone masts across the UK. The posts claiming this link and the danger of 5G is based on the belief that the signals of 5G are more powerful than 4G or 3G and that these telecommunication lines have killed large groups of birds. These theories lead to further claims being added to the anti-5G rhetoric such as the authorities cutting down trees to hide the fact that 5G is harming trees (Rahman, 2019).



Initiatives to Combat Fake News

An Irish company, NewsWhip, has emerged to address the fake news ‘infodemic’ and tackle some of the challenges of recognising fake information and identifying what information is real, particularly during a health crisis. The World Health Organisation (WHO) defines an infodemic as an overabundance of information including false information during a disease outbreak and can lengthen outbreaks when people aren’t sure of what they need to do to protect themselves and those around them (Bradd, 2020).

NewsWhip released an article that explores the media and public interest in the COVID-19 vaccine. NewsWhip created a chart of the top articles covering the vaccine in 2021 and highlighted a problem that had arisen in the engagement with these articles. The top article covered the story of a doctor who had died after receiving the vaccine despite the lack of evidence linking the two incidences. This article received double the engagement of any other article on the chart (see chart below). The body of the article gave context to the situation and was not sharing misinformation however the title of the article ‘serves as confirmation bias to those who are already primed to believe the worst’ (Nicholson, 2021).

Top articles about the Covid-19 vaccine in 2021

Website	Headline	Engagements
chicagotribune.com	A 'healthy' doctor died two weeks after getting a COVID-19 vaccine; CDC is investigating why	4,478,697
unicef.org	Getting COVID-19 vaccines to West and Central Africa	1,553,188
forbes.com	Large Numbers Of Health Care And Frontline Workers Are Refusing Covid-19 Vaccine	1,190,822
goodmorningamerica.com	All-female team delivers COVID-19 vaccines in harshest of conditions in rural Alaska	807,559
forbes.com	Get A Free Bag Of Marijuana With Your Covid-19 Vaccine	608,840
nypost.com	23 die in Norway after receiving Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine: officials	529,615
washingtonpost.com	Biden unveils \$1.9 trillion economic and health-care relief package	466,540
nbcnews.com	Biden lays out \$1.9 trillion Covid relief package with \$1,400 stimulus checks	457,709
npr.org	Why You Should Still Wear A Mask And Avoid Crowds After Getting The COVID-19 Vaccine	426,528
nypost.com	Alarming number of US health care workers are refusing COVID-19 vaccine	414,625

Source: NewsWhip Spike from January 1st - 26th 2021 only

In 2020, NUI Galway has launched a global initiative, the Global Migration Media Academy as part of the International Organisation for Migration and Irish Aid to address fake news on migration and immigration. The Global Migration Media Academy offers a media literacy programme that enables students to identify and challenge misinformation (O'Brien, 2021). A prior global campaign, the No Hate Speech campaign that was commissioned by the Council of Europe was set out to combat the spread of hate speech online. In Ireland, this campaign was spearheaded by young people and involved young people monitoring hate spread online, producing posts that provided an alternative narrative to the hate online and delivering trainings to schools about how to identify and report hate speech online. Another element of the campaign at the time was advocating for hate speech legislative in Ireland. However, this Irish branch of this campaign formally ended in 2018 (NYCI, 2018). This new initiative launched by NUI Galway offers another means to push the agenda of combatting hate speech and stopping the spread of misinformation.

Perceptions of Fake News by the Irish Public

As part of the ReCreate project, surveys were conducted with 41 individuals from the Republic of Ireland enquiring into their perception of fake news and their understanding and perception of migrants and immigration into Ireland. Of those 41 surveyed, 68.3% were female and 31.7% were male, with 56.1% having received a bachelor's degree or higher, 39% received their Leaving Certificate (high school degree) and 4.9% received their Junior Certificate as their highest level of educational qualification. The majority of those questioned were in employment (68.3%), 17.1% were unemployed and 14.6% were students.

The questionnaires explored their understanding of migration and its reasons for it, and tried to gain a better insight into the public perception of immigration and immigrants in Ireland. The majority of those who participated in the questionnaires viewed immigrants in a positive light, there was a minority of individuals that continued to stigmatise migrants and associate migrants with negative connotations. Most of those who participated in the surveys viewed immigrants as a resource to Ireland (70.7%), which 29.3% considering them

so if they integrate into Irish society. None of those questioned saw immigrants as a threat to society. The survey sought to explore the public's perception of what migrants contribute to the society and the results of this was quite varied. 63.4% felt that migration is an opportunity to learn about different cultures. 19.5% saw migrants as individuals who accept the jobs that natives don't want and 9.6% saw a consequence of migration as less job opportunities for local people. The reasons for immigrants arriving to Ireland are understood as looking for better jobs and opportunities (58.5%) and escaping difficult lives and situations (36.6%). With a small minority of the public understand immigrants as wanting to benefit from the country's social welfare system. When considering immigrants contribution to society and their educational background, 75.6% thought that immigrants can occupy any job and do not represent a particular section of the workforce. However, 17.1% perceived immigrants as occupying mainly unskilled jobs and 7.3% perceived immigrants as unemployed and benefitting from social welfare. The results of this survey highlights that immigrants in Ireland are still stigmatized and there are still negative stereotypes associated with migrants and their position within Irish society.

People across the world are being bombarded by information coming from multiple streams and outlets. The project was interested in exploring the various sources used by the general public in each country when looking for their information. The majority of those surveyed in Ireland (70.7%) receive their information from multiple sources including the internet, tv and newspaper, with the internet being the second most used source of information. Other sources of information included community pages (2.4%), work environment (2.4%), social settings (2.4%) and interactions with people online (2.4%). The way in which an individual interacts with these platforms can also play a role in how the shared information is perceived, and what it can tell the public about a particular topic. There was an equal percentage of individuals (41.5%) that just read the headlines or the first few lines and those that read real the full article. This can be quite problematic when headlines are hyperbolic and subjective and further reading would offer a clearer picture of the reality of the situation or issue. The majority of those questioned recognized that the trustworthiness of information shared by the media can be dependent on the source of that information (82.9%). Less than half (41.5%) of individuals check the news everyday and 22% check it at least twice a week. 31.7% admitted that whether they checked the news was dependent on the topic being shared. A small number of individuals stated that the news was usually transferred to them indirectly and by word of mouth (4.9%).

More than half (65.9%) of those surveyed felt that it is likely to find fake news in the media, with 29.3% believing that the likelihood of fake news being shared is dependent on the media outlet and the source and a small minority (4.9%) believing that the media outlets check their sources before meaning it is rare for fake news to be shared. One of the most surprising results of the survey is that 61% of individuals surveyed admitted that they don't know if they'd be able to recognize fake news when they came across it. The rest (39%) felt they'd easily recognize it. This suggests that there is a need for greater education around spotting and identifying fake news among the Irish public.

With the survey being conducted in 2021, most of the individuals (48.8%) felt COVID-19 was the most likely topic to feature misinformation. The second highest topic featuring misinformation was migration issues at 36.6%. Other topics included international conflicts and topics considered controversial. Most of those that do encounter fake news do ignore it and continue scrolling for more reliable sources, however 29.3% of individuals stated that

they'd investigate the information to see whether it was in fact fake. When considering migration and fake news together, 97.6% of those surveyed believed fake news to be dangerous to immigrants and could lead to hate. Overall, the results emphasize the need for further research into the effects of fake news and strategies to prevent the spreading of misinformation.

Concluding Remarks

The public perception of migrants is hugely influenced by the media and can in turn influence and have large scale policy implications as we've seen with Brexit voters and the anti-immigration rhetoric in recent years. It is evident that misinformation or scaremongering headlines can impact on public behaviour patterns and thinking. The information published in the public domain needs to be monitored and more work needs to be done to challenge the misinformation being shared. When it comes to migration in Ireland and across Europe, effort needs to be made to share diverse voices and include real and authentic voices into the discourse. The word 'migrant' should not have negative connotations and stigma associated with it. The media can shed light on the different dimensions of this expansive topic, including coverage of under-reported areas such as migrants' contributions to global development. Initiatives such as NewsWhip and the Global Migration Academy need to be more widespread and in place across the island of Ireland and wider afield.

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Italy

Historical background of immigration in Italy and overview of national legislation

In this introductory part are briefly examined the most important facts and laws concerning immigration in Italy from 1990 onwards, as well as an examination of the economic background with a focus on the situation of migrants.

Our analysis starts precisely from 1990; this is an important year for Italy, either for its international position or for migration policies. In fact, 1990 is the year when four fundamental events happen:

1. Approval of the Law 39/1990 aka Legge Martelli;
2. The start of the Schengen accession process;

3. Italy subscription of Dublin Convention, which directly concerns migration and asylum;
4. UN adopts the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

With regards to migration flows directed to Italy, 1991 sees the prevalence of migrants from Albania which massively arrive between March and August of the same year. This migration flow represents for Italy the first test bench of its reception of immigrants' system since the fall of USSR and the consequent opening of the borders to East Countries.

The Albanian migration flow is sadly remembered in Italian history for the “Vlora” ship landing in Bari, Puglia. 6.000 Albanian refugees were amassed for eight days in the city stadium, after a succession of conflicting decisions by the central government, the prefect, and the mayor. Since then and for the next two years, the Italian Navy maintains a constant patrol in the stretch of sea between Puglia and Albania (Niglia, 2009), and at the same time the Italian Army monitors the distribution of European economic and food aid to Albania (Costa Bona, Tosi, 2007; Bucarelli, 2014).

In addition to the aforementioned events, 1991 is also important for the work done in collecting information and statistical data on the actual foreign presence in Italy thanks also to the census. Colucci in his book about migration in Italy, reports that compared to 1981, resident foreigners are 356,000, passing from 0.4% to 0.6% of the total population.

During the 90's important is also the Balkan conflict and the dissolution of Yugoslavia in terms of migration flows. Between 1991 and 2004 there were 1.3 million asylum seekers outside the borders of the now disintegrated Yugoslavia, of which about 80,000 arrived in Italy (Hein, 2010 in Colucci).

The innovation in the management of these latest flows is the involvement of UNHCR and other NGOs, especially in the path of escape and relocation. Important to be mentioned is also the role of CSOs in contributing to organize and manage the migrants/refugee's reception.

Moving to another geographical area from which flows depart with direction to Europe and Italy, it is important to mention Somalia, devastated from the 1986 civil war which is still going on.

For the first time in its history, in 1993 Italy recorded a natural decrease in its population, with more deaths recorded than births. This milestone event for Italian history, economy, and population, brings to a public debate where migration starts to be seen as an opportunity to “keep certain strategic nodes of the socio-economic system in balance” (Colucci, 2018; T.d.A).

After 1992 political-economic crisis, the foreign migration increase in Italy is always more seen as a safety net, in opposition to the previous decade where migration was synonymous of development. To analyse this change and to better understand the socio-economic situation in Italy in the 90s, it is useful to look at the labour market and its features. In the industrial sector the number of foreign workers increase of the 79,5%, as well as a considerable increase is also registered among foreign domestic workers.

Policy makers start to understand the need of a stronger planning based on the combination of labour-market and migration-policies legislative reforms. In this context, the Turco-Napolitano Law of 1998 and the Bossi-Fini Law of 2002 are particularly relevant.

Another international crisis enters the scene: the one in Kosovo in 1990, which brings about 30.000 refugees. Due to a lack of an efficient and structured system to take in charge and process the asylum requests, the government proceeds with an emergency approach which consists in temporary residence permits.

After the amnesty promoted by Dini's government, in 1997 takes place another massive migration flow from Albania, due to the disastrous economic situation. Italian government led by the Premier Prodi takes a rigid position. Italian costs are patrolled by the Navy against the arrivals of migrants, of course with the disappointment of UNHCR.

After another amnesty occurring in 1998, 217.000 migrants are regularized (Barbagli, Colombo, Sciortino, 2004). Amnesty is thus configured as the main regulator instrument of Italian migration policy during the 90s.

According to the Italian Statistic Institute, ISTAT, the first decade of the new millennium is characterized by a faster migration increase. In fact, on January 1st 2011, there are 4.570.317 people of foreign nationality, against those present in 2001 which were 1.344.889. Beside the general trend of a larger number of women against men (ISTAT, 2012a), the country from which most of the presences come is Romania, followed by Albania, Morocco, Ukraine, and Moldova.

Italy since then was no more considered a country of "recent migration". In the first decade of the 2000s the presence of foreign immigrants in Italy assumes dimensions similar to those of European countries of "old immigration", such as France, Germany and Great Britain.

In addition, "[...] The enlargement of the European Union has undoubtedly represented a fundamental break in the history of continental migratory flows, strengthening migratory circularity and exchanges especially with Romania [...]" (Cingolani, 2009; Perrotta, 2011; in Colucci, 2018).

An innovative element of the first decade of the 2000s is the institution of the Committee for immigrants' integration policies, which is foreseen by the article 46 of the Single Text of the Laws about immigration. The experience of the Committee will end with the end of centre-left governments.

Meanwhile, the public and political debates are always more characterized by a critical and securitarian approach, which sees migration flows as direct cause of the increase of criminality in Italy. This debate is also fuelled by the dramatic facts happened in the USA, the terrorist attack of September the 11th, 2001.

The Bossi-Fini Law becomes effective in 2002, together with another amnesty remembered as "The Great regularization of 2002". "The Bossi-Fini Law wants to give a signal of greater rigidity and closure" (as said by Garau, 2015 in Colucci, 2018. T.d.A).

According to ISTAT, between 2001 and 2011, foreign employees have tripled arriving to 2,3 million of units. These statistic data are particularly relevant if considered that the 2008 global economic crisis have deeply influenced economies around the world, and labor market too.

Talking about labor market, relevant is the pay gap between Italians and foreigners: foreigners earn about the 40% less than Italians, with a deeper gap for women. In 2010, foreign women earn about €300 less than foreign men (Fondazione Leone Moressa, 2011).

In 2006, when centre-left parties win again the national elections, the Government's objective is to overcome the securitarian approach established by the Bossi-Fini Law some

years before. However, the draft of the new migration law hangs in Parliament, with the consequence of the fall of Romano Prodi's Government in 2008.

Starting from 2008 with right-led Governments, migration policies are always more related to security policies, thus creating a binomial between migration and criminality. The culmination of this process arrives with the agreement between Italy, led by Silvio Berlusconi, and Libya, led by Gheddafi. The agreement consists in the libyc control of migration flows directed to Italy in exchange for financing.

In addition to the Italian-Libyc agreement, 2008 is also a dramatic moment because of the economic crisis. The crisis produces terrible consequences not only on the labour market or on the economy in general, but it also opens a new season of migration flows originated by the new conflicts in North Africa and Middle east. The intertwining between economic crisis and migrations produced an intense debate around the world about the consequences on social and political systems and their stability.

Recent developments and current situation

It's only in 2011 that Italian public debate sees the appearance of the word "humanitarian crisis" in relation to the massive migration flows coming from North Africa. According to data, in January 2011 about 5.000 people land in Lampedusa by sea in precarious and dangerous conditions. This year anticipates and, in some ways, preludes to what happened in the next years.

Looking at data, the number of people arrived by sea in Italy significantly grows between 2011 and 2016. From 64.261 people (2011), to 42.925 (2013), to 181.432 (2016) (ANCI data, 2017). Parallel to the number of people arrived by sea, there is an equally significant increase of asylum applications and deaths in the sea.

Of course, Italy is not the only European Country facing the international humanitarian crisis, but because of its geographical collocation, together with Greece, it is particularly interested by migration flows – especially in terms of continuity and numbers. This evidence brings to the explosion of conflicts about migration policies among European Countries. The main topic of discussion is the Dublin Convention, which which establishes that the country responsible for examining the asylum application is the one of first landing.

Looking at the evolution of migration policies during the last ten years, right of asylum undergoes major changes, even if the general trend is to make it more restrictive. The Minniti-Orlando Act of 2017 represents another change of Italian migration policy, even if it is limited to a small range of aspects. One of them is the stay of migrants in the Country, and the other one concerns their access to justice. In particular, the Act establishes in 26 Italian courts special sections dedicated to foreigners in general. These sections oversee analyze and solve issues about the stay, but not only the ones concerning refugees or non-regular immigrants, also the ones concerning European citizens, family reunifications, humanitarian protection, and citizenship applications. Among other discussed issues about the Act – such as the suppression of the appeal judgment in case of refusal of the asylum application – there are the ones related to labor market. The Act, in fact, establishes the possibility to employ the beneficiaries of reception in volunteering activities, which has negative consequences on the already vulnerable situation of these subjects.

In 2019 the situation changes again with the

emanation of the Act n. 53/2019, also called “Decreto sicurezza-bis”. The Act is strongly desired by the then Minister of the Interior Matteo Salvini, and it was composed by 40 articles. The propaganda about this Act was based on the slogan “Italian ports are closed”, used by Matteo Salvini himself in different occasion. The reality is quite different from the slogan, as shown by data collected by the Minister of the Interiors. Even if it is true that in 2018 arrivals of migrants on Italian costs are decreased than 2017, the main reason is in the Minniti Acts – and not in Salvini’s one. Looking at UNHCR data about missing and dead migrants in the sea trying to reach Italian costs, it is evident the importance of this Act and the propaganda around it. In fact, UNHCR reports, only in 2015, 2.913 dead or missing migrants in the sea on 153.842 total sea arrivals.

The table below shows the trend of sea arrivals and of dead/missing. The data refers to Italy.

The new Government “Conte II”, in charge from September the 5th 2019 to February the 13th 2021, was made of a different ruling majority from the previous one, with the entrance of the left-side party “Partito Democratico”. This change brought immediately to the abolition of Act 53/2019.

After this brief overview about migration policies and laws, it is useful to look at data about the last 5-6 years migration flows. The analysis is important to understand recent trends, also in light of Covid-19 pandemic crisis. After the entrance of Romania and Bulgaria in EU, and the massive flows of migrants from this Countries in the first years of 20s, Italy sees a slow decline. However, from 2015 to 2017 migration flows increase again. Migrants come mainly from Mediterranean Countries, seeking for asylum and humanitarian protection.

Tabella SEQ Tabella 1 ARABIC2 (Ministero dell'Interno)*

However, from 2018 these flows decrease also in consequence of the 840/2018 Act, known as “Decreto Sicurezza I”.

According to ISTAT data, migration flows from Nigeria decrease (-72%), as well as the one from Gambia (-77%), Mali (-76%), Ivory Coast (-73%).

Table 2 shows the trend of migration flows (arrived by sea) from 2017 to 2019. The data refers to Italy, are collected and elaborated by the Minister of the Interiors. As shown in the table, the trend is clearly decreasing – mainly because of the new migration acts, as said before. However, data from 2020 reported by the Minister of the Interiors describe a new increase. Compared to 2019 data, 2020 ones have tripled, going from 11.471 (2019) to 34.154 (2020).

Table 3 and 4 show the main origins of migrants in 2019 and 2020.

*Tabella SEQ Tabella * ARABIC4 (source Dipartimento della Pubblica sicurezza)*

*Tabella SEQ Tabella * ARABIC3 (source Dipartimento della Pubblica sicurezza)*

First data about 2020 show a general decrease of migrations (-17,4% ISTAT). Covid-19 containment

policies, adopted by Italian Government on March 2020, have deeply influenced both internal and external migrations. However, already on June of the same year, all migration flows appear to be back at pre-lockdown levels.

According to ISTAT, comparison between the number of entries in the first eight months of 2020 and the average number of entries in the same period of the last five years shows a drastic drop in flows from Africa. From Gambia and Mali respectively -85% and -84%; from Nigeria -73%; from Egypt and Morocco respectively -47% and -40%. Migration flows decrease also from Asia (from China -63%), from South America (Brasil -49%) and from the same Europe (Romania -48%, Swiss and France -12%, Spain -10%, Germany -4%).

In conclusion, looking at data and numbers of the last 5 years migration flows to Italy through Mediterranean Sea have deeply decrease starting from 2017. This change is strictly linked to migration policies of 2017 (Minniti Act), and of 2018/2019 (Decreto Sicurezza I e II), which have established a more rigid discipline of migration issues, following the already known securitarian approach that brought to the binomial migration-criminality.

Fake News about migration (2015-2020)

The last years have seen the spread of a research field about individuals decisional process, in order to understand how and why someone choose an information - or disinformation - instead of another. This research field is very complex because of the large number of interrelations occurring between various and diverse factors. The final scope of Cognitive Science is to understand the functioning of human mind in all that situation where an individual has to choose/take decisions.

Cognitive Science research field is closely linked to informative process and information consumption decisions, also when declined in disinformation. The features of contemporary information sector - complexity, fluidity, quantity and quality - either online or offline, require overcoming the typical paradigm of the rational consumer. Modern analytical approaches have to take into consideration the cognitive process underlying consumers' decisions, also in the information industry/market. (AGCOM report 3/3/2020)

According to AGCOM report about disinformation (3/3/2020), there are many researches focusing on cognitive mechanisms that govern the ability to recognize true or false news. Moreover, these researches focus on related aspects, such as: the framing, share, the induced polarization, and the role of algorithms. Stated that online information differs from traditional/mainstream media, misperception and disperception phenomena are common to all kind of media, of fruition, and interaction.

AGCOM report goes on stating that two main interpretations have emerged on this topic:

“One believes that the effectiveness of disinformation content in deceiving individuals it would be linked to fast, intuitive, “automatic” mental processes, based on analogue-associative mechanisms, on cognitive routines, and, therefore, on “Laziness” of the mind in activating “controlled” processes. The other, however, believes that the individuals could succumb to disinformation due to the activation of convergent analytical mind processes which, even when generated by a false initial perception, they end up selecting, in the informative context,

only those elements that confirm their (false) perceptions, using – in fact – inductive or deductive reasoning, to corroborate one's beliefs and protect one's own political ideology” (AGCOM report, 3/3/2020. T.d.A).

In his work AGCOM, the Authority for Communications Guarantees, reports that in Italy there is a big gap between the perception of social and economic phenomena and reality. This issue is directly linked to the right of citizens to have a quality and reliable information, and consequently on their beliefs and actions.

This research focuses on fake news about migration, taking into consideration five years of analysis (from 2015 to 2020), and Italy as geographical context. The following pages show real samples of fake news spread either on social media (Facebook, Twitter) or on newspapers. The fake news here reported have already been debunked by specialists in fact-checking. For this research the source of the fake news – and their relative debunking – is Pagella Politica, which is a project that aims to monitor and “evaluate” declarations of the main Italian politicians, and/or newspaper articles, social media posts, video, and other source of information. From 2017 Pagella Politica is an active member of the International Fact-Checking Network (IFCN), and signatory of the related Code of Principles.

On the following pages of this research, there are 25 samples of fake news about migration, 5 each year considered here.

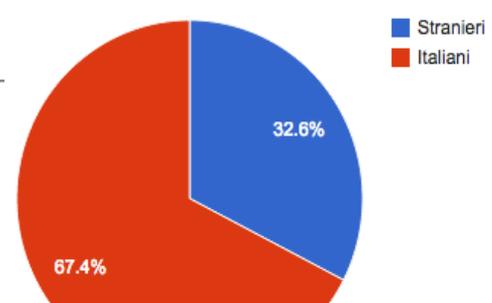
2015

*Figura SEQ Figura * ARABIC1 (Source: Pagella Politica)*

June, the 22 2018, “Tg-news 24” published an article saying that the police have found 27 million € in a Roma camp. The article doesn't say neither where nor when this happened. Pagella Politica found out that the same article was published in September, the 16th 2015 on the newspaper “Il Giornale”, where the article was about the fight of the police against the nomad camps in Turin. It is interesting to underline that “Il Giornale” is not apolitical: in fact, it is owned by the Berlusconi's family.

*Figura SEQ Figura * ARABIC2 (Source: Pagella Politica)*

Detenuti presenti al 31 dicembre



Matteo Salvini, ex leader of Lega Nord Party, invited to “Quinta Colonna” TV talk on a national channel, states that in Italy half of the total number of Italian jail prisoners are foreigners. Looking at the last updated data from the Minister of Justice, Pagella Politica underlines that on a total of 53.623 prisoners only 32,6% (17.462) are foreigners.

The following figure, elaborated by Pagella Politica, shows the percentages of Italian and foreign prisoners in Italian jail on December 31st, 2014.

*Figura SEQ Figura * ARABIC3 (Source: Pagella Politica)*

Matteo Renzi, the former Italian Premier, invited to “Porta a Porta”, a national TV talk on a national channel, talks about the European Commission New Agenda for migration. In particular, he talks about the system of redistribution of migrants among European Countries. Renzi’s statement does not sound clear because he puts together different categories: migrants (regular and not regular), and refugees. Pagella Politica, after analysing different official sources and database, states that there was no foundation under Renzi’s declaration.

*Figura SEQ Figura * ARABIC4 (Source: Pagella Politica)*

After Matteo Salvini visited the CARA (Reception Centre for Asylum Requesters) in Mineo, he made a

“tweet” saying that only 2 out of 3.042 guests of the structure “are escaping from war. Are they refugees or illegal immigrants?”. After verifying the database of the Minister of Interiors, and the register of the presences/nationalities resident in the structure 10 days after Salvini’s visit, Pagella Politica concludes that Salvini misinterpreted the definition of “refugee”, excluding hundred thousand people who escape from non-safety situations, different from wars, but objectively dangerous.

Figura SEQ Figura 1 ARABIC5 (Source: Pagella Politica)*

On August the 28th 2018, the Italian newspaper “Il Fatto Inedito” published an article saying that Alessandra Moretti – an Italian politician – invited the elderlies to take the refugees into their homes. The news has been published in 2018, but the supposed statement is dated on 2015. The fake news here is double: first of all, “Il Fatto Inedito” didn’t give any temporal reference to the declaration of Alessandra Moretti, nor the context of it. In addition, the statement was made in response to a provocatory question made by a journalist during a press session before the administrative election in Veneto.

2016

Figura SEQ Figura 1 ARABIC6 (Source: Pagella Politica)*

On August 21st, 2018, the Italian newspaper “Il Quotidiano” published an article saying that while in Italy Roma people live with subsidies, abroad they have million euro. The news published in 2018 was instead published for the first time in 2016 by various Italian

newspapers, that reported an investigation into some Roma current accounts in Croatia. The issue about this news is that “Il Quotidiano” did not mention the original articles published in 2016, and did not contextualize the news, thus the readers are not able to understand the real facts. (Pagella Politica)

*Figura SEQ Figura * ARABIC7 (Source: Pagella Politica)*

reported a news titled “Foggia. Drunk migrants break into a house and abuse a woman in front of her daughter” (T.d.A). Pagella Politica, one more time, underlines that the article published in 2019 did not mention when the reported facts happened, thus the readers are not able to inform on reliable news. The original news was published by the local newspaper “Foggia Today” on July the 12th 2016.

*Figura SEQ Figura * ARABIC8 (Source: Pagella Politica)*

On October 27th 2019 a video from an Italian TV broadcaster, called “Dalla vostra parte”, was published and spread on Facebook. On that video it was reported the news of the protest of 40 unaccompanied minors seeking asylum staying in a reception centre in Sicily (precisely in Fondachelli Fantina). The video spread on Facebook was edited with subtext saying that in response to the protest of 40 refugees, “they” moved them in a 4-stars hotel in Messina.

Pagella Politica in debunking this news underlines one more time that the lack of temporal reference makes the news unreliable and misleading. The original news, published on May the 24th 2016 by the local newspaper “Il Fatto Nisseno” reported the protest of the 40 unaccompanied minors complaining about the life conditions of that reception centre – reception centre that was arranged into the city stadium. After the protest they moved into other structures in Messina.

*Figura SEQ Figura * ARABIC9 (Source: Pagella Politica)*

The statement of Matteo Salvini reported in this article has been said during the event “Più liberi, più forti”, organised by ENF (the group of European euro-sceptical parties). The statement of Salvini is misleading because he confuses the refugees/migrants’ policies with Schengen Treaty, which regulates the free movement of people and not to asylum policy. In addition, looking at official database, Pagella Politica debunks Salvini’s statement saying that there are many inaccuracies, either on the numbers or on the facts.

*Figura SEQ Figura * ARABIC10 (Source: Pagella Politica)*

Giorgia Meloni, leader of “Fratelli d’Italia” party, during the TV show “Piazza Pulita” compared the income of the Romans living in the VI municipality of Rome with the expenditure for migrants housed in reception facilities. Pagella Politica, in his article, shows a series of data either of the income or the social expenditure for migrants, and concludes that Giorgia Meloni stated wrong because data shows that the expenditure for migrants is lower than the average income of Romans living in the VI municipality of Rome.

2017

*Figura SEQ Figura * ARABIC11 (Source: Pagella Politica)*

On August 25th, 2018, the Youtube user “QuiBolgare” (as reported by Pagella Politica), published online a video with the following title “Migrants on the Diciotti ship dance Waka Waka”. Diciotti ship in 2018 has been at the center of a diplomatic case between Italy and Malta, after the ship of the Italian navy rescued 190 migrants escaping from Libya. According to Pagella Politica the news is not precise for at least two reasons: the first is that the episode reported in the video happened on 2017, one year before; and the second – as explained by Cosimo Nicastro to the newspaper “Repubblica” – is that the video pictured an episode happened during a mission on 2017, and not when the youtuber said. Moreover, Nicastro during the interview also add that even if the episode is never happened, sometimes during this kind of mission they put some music on to ease the tension.

*Figura SEQ Figura * ARABIC12 (Source: Pagella Politica)*

Matteo Salvini, during an interview at the TV show “Otto e Mezzo”, states that the majority of migrants come from Nigeria, which is a very reach Country with a high tax of births. Even if Salvini is right saying that most of the migrants come from Nigeria, different is the economic situation of the Country. According to Pagella Politica’s analysis, Nigeria’s population lives with about 10 dollars/month (according to 2015 data). In his interview, Matteo Salvini reports some positive data about Nigeria to show that migration from this country is unjustified.

*Figura SEQ Figura * ARABIC14 (Source: TgCom 24)*

comparison on prisoners' data.

“While all of us were distracted by the tragedy caused by the earthquake, yesterday the Senate of the Republic approved, with 303 pros against 116 contraries, an amendment of article 126 ter of the Traffic Laws. The emendation foresees the possibility for migrants to obtain the driving licence for free, and, moreover, to have a special licence with 30 points instead of 20 like for “us Italians””. This is the text of a post published on Facebook on January 2020. The news website “[TgCom 24](#)” debunks the post saying that there are multiple errors. First, the number of senators is 315 (not 419 as implicitly results from the post); in addition, in the Traffic Laws there is no article 126 ter, but 126 bis. The conclusion is that it is a fake news.

*Figura SEQ Figura * ARABIC15 (Source: [Weird.it](#))*

The theme of migrants staying at the hotels is very common on social media. Matteo Salvini in this tweet reports the data of 176.000 illegal migrants staying comfortable in some Italian hotels, while some Italians doesn't have a place to stay. Weird debunks Salvini's statement saying it is misleading because of a general misunderstanding /misinterpretation of data about migrants and reception system.

2018

Figura 16 (Source: Pagella Politica)

On June the 18th 2018 the online newspaper “Il Quotidiano” published some news about a nurse being beaten on the Aquarius ship. Aquarius is the ship of the NGO SOS Mediteranée. Pagella Politica in his article affirms that the news is totally made-up. In fact, on the website of “Il Quotidiano” there is a disclaimer about the reliability of their news, saying that some of them “could be inaccurate or invented”.

Figura 17 (Source: Pagella Politica)

On August 1st, 2018, the website “Italia 24” published an article saying that a “granny” was beaten on her face. The article specifics that the aggressors were non-EU-citizens, but it doesn’t say anything about the victim, neither where nor when that happened. Pagella Politica found out that this article does not find a match with any local or national article. For Pagella Politica thist is for sure a fake news.

Figura 18 (Source: Pagella Politica)

On July the 4th, 2018, the website “Notizie Universali” published an article saying that a group of refugees massacre a cat for fun. The article also reports that they justified their action saying that in their culture it is normal, and they did not know it was forbidden. One more time, Pagella Politica checked either the local or the national press to find the news, but no results.

Figura 19 (Source: Pagella Politica)

On July 8th, 2018, the website “Informazione Libera” published an article reporting a violent episode in Naples. The reported fact is about one Roma who tries to rape a young girl, when a policeman off duty, here called a “hero”, intervenes, chases him, and massacres him. Pagella Politica concludes saying it is a fake news.

Figura 20 (Source: [Weird.it](#))

Global Compact has been a particularly debated issue in Italy, in particular among a particular political debate. In this tweet Matteo Salvini states that he won't never agree with Global Compact because it is “puts together refugees with economic and climate migrants”. It is a misleading statement because the approved UN document talks about equal human rights and freedom even if legally refugees and migrants are different groups.

2019

Figura 21 (Source: Pagella Politica)

On February 8th, 2019, a photo picturing Laura Boldrini has been published on Facebook. The post reports a photo of the former President of the Chamber of Deputies invoking the Sharia Law, and Muslim people, to save Italy from Matteo Salvini. However, Pagella Politica did not find such declaration anywhere, concluding it is a fake news.

Figura 22 (Source: Pagella Politica)

On January 30, 2019, a photo about French Republic President Macron has been published on Facebook. The post reports the President saying, “Italy deserves all the migrants because it was a fascist regime”. The Macron’s declaration appeared nowhere but on this Facebook post. Pagella Politica concludes it is a fake news.

Figura 23 (Source: Pagella Politica)

This news was published on October 22nd, 2019, by the website “*Italiana Verità*”. The article states that the “Yellow-Red Government”, led by Movimento 5 Stelle and Partito Democratico, decided to give the refugees the public means subscription for free for 1 year. One more time, after the check, Pagella Politica concludes it is a fake news.

Figura 24 (Source: Pagella Politica)

On November 17th, 2020, Matteo Salvini shared a post on Facebook reporting a video published by Alessandro Morelli (deputy of Salvini’s party). The videos title said that UN confirm migrants are not escaping from war, adding that his party has been offended for years because it already said what UN is confirming. The deputy Alessandro Morelli states he found recent research by a UN’s agency which questioned about why African migrants decided to come in Europe. Pagella Politica analysed the UNDP paper, titled “Scaling fences: Voice of irregular African migrants to Europe”, in which researchers focused the attention

on the link between migrations and development. The conclusion of the analysis is that there was a misunderstanding of the topic of the research, and that the video is misleading.

Figura 25 (Source: Pagella Politica)

On February 11th, 2019, a photo portraying the singer Mahmood has been published in Facebook. The picture seemed to report a statement of the singer, in which he said “I won. Italy is the new Maghreb”. Mahmood is an Italian singer half Egyptian and half Italian who won an Italian Music Festival. Pagella politica concludes it is a fake news because the statement is invented.

2020

Figura 26 (Source: Pagella Politica)

On January 17th, 2020, a photo portraying the Minister of the Interiors Luciana Lamorgese has been published on Facebook. The picture reported the title “Let’s give 500€ a month for each migrant”. Looking at the original statement of Minister Lamorgese, Pagella Politica concludes it is a fake news. In fact, the Minister proposed to give 500€ not directly to migrants, but to municipalities for each migrant who is in the territory of their competence.

Figura 27 (Source: Pagella Politica)

On January the 21st, 2020, a photo with a plate of pasta mixed with cigarettes has been published on Facebook with a text accusing migrants to waste “our food”, and to use “our pasta” as a ashtray. Pagella Politica easily demonstrates how the news is totally invented without the auxilium of any bases.

On January 30, 2020, a photo portraying the President of the region Emilia Romagna, Stefano Bonaccini (Partito Democratico), stating “I want Emilia Romagna to become the greatest reception centre! We will invest everything for them”. This declaration did not find any match on the local/national press, neither on his official social account. Pagella Politica concludes it is fake

Figura 29 (Source: Pagella politica)

Figura 28 (Source: Pagella Politica)

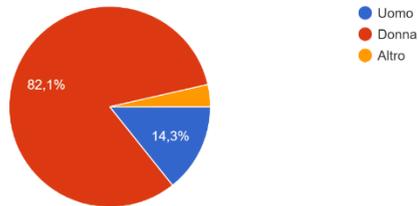
Figura 30 (Source: Pagella Politica)

invasion”. In its article Pagella Politica explains comprehensively the reasons why Giorgia Meloni’s statement is incorrect. First, EU Parliament resolution, which is a non-binding act, was about human rights and democracy in general. Secondly, Giorgia Meloni also misunderstood the meaning of UN Resolutions Global Compact, which are not about free and unrulled migrations, as Pagella Politica states in the article.

“In only 4 days 22 ships for a total of 1500 illegal immigrants”. This is the text of the photo published on Facebook on January 17th, 2020. The photo said also that the news “comes from USA because in Italy we have left-wing censorship”. According to Pagella Politica, this is a fake news. Looking at the data published by the Italian Minister of the Interiors, from January 1st, 2020 to January 17th, 2020, the migrants arrived to Italy are 678, of which 354 people arrived in 4 days (from January 14th to January 17th).

Survey's results

Genere
28 risposte



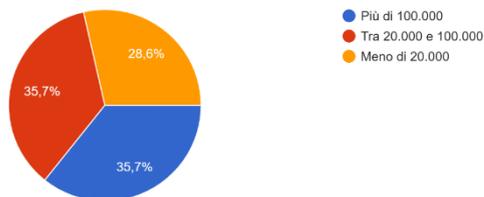
Opzioni principali

Donna: 82,1%

Uomo 14,3%

Altro: 3,6%

Quanti abitanti ha la città in cui vivi?
28 risposte



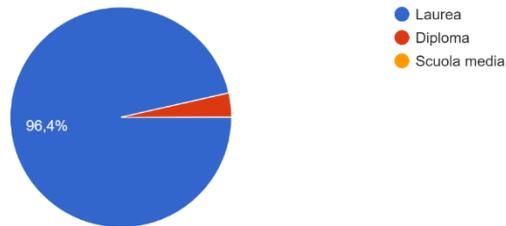
Opzioni principali

Più di 100.000: 35,7%

Tra 20 e 100 mila: 35,7%

Meno di 20 mila: 28,6%

Titolo di istruzione raggiunto
28 risposte

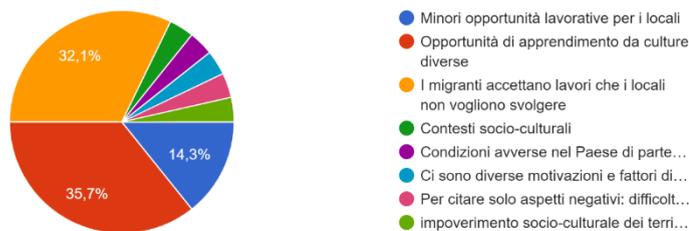


Opzioni principali

Laurea: 96,4%

Diploma: 3,6%

Quale pensi sia la principale conseguenza della migrazione?
28 risposte



MIGRAZIONE

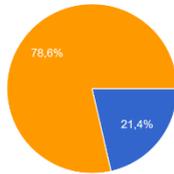
Opzioni principali

- Minori opportunità lavorative per i locali: 14,3%
- Opportunità di apprendimento da culture diverse: 35,7%
- I migranti accettano lavori che i locali non vogliono svolgere: 32,1%

Altro

- Contesti socio-culturali: 3,6%
- Condizioni avverse nel Paese di partenza unite all'idea di trovare benessere nei paesi di arrivo: 3,6%
- Impoverimento socio-culturale dai territori da cui si emigra: 3,6%
- Difficoltà a sostenere servizi di welfare: 3,6%
- Ci sono diverse motivazioni e fattori di spinta: 3,6%

Cosa pensi degli immigrati?
28 risposte

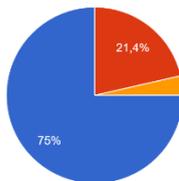


- Rappresentano una risorsa per il paese
- Rappresentano una minaccia per la società
- Potrebbero essere risorsa se pienamente integrati

Opzioni principali

- Rappresentano una risorsa per il paese: 21,4%
- Potrebbero essere risorsa se pienamente integrati: 78,6%

Quale pensi sia il principale motivo che spinge i migranti ad arrivare nel tuo paese?
28 risposte



- Fuggono da situazioni e vite difficili
- Sono alla ricerca di lavori e opportunità migliori
- Vogliono beneficiare del sistema di accoglienza e del benessere del paese

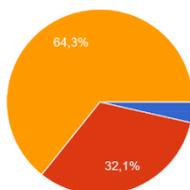
Opzioni principali

Fuggono da situazioni e vite difficili: 75%

Sono alla ricerca di lavori e opportunità migliori: 21,4%

Vogliono beneficiare del sistema di accoglienza e del benessere del paese: 3,6%

Quale pensi sia la principale occupazione dei migranti nel tuo paese?
28 risposte



- Disoccupati, vogliono beneficiare dell'assistenza economica
- Qualsiasi tipo di lavoro (specializzato o meno)
- Principalmente lavori non qualificati

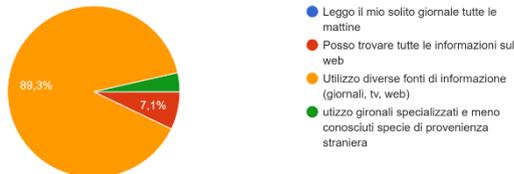
Opzioni principali

- Disoccupati, vogliono beneficiare dell'assistenza economica: 3,6%

- Qualsiasi tipo di lavoro (specializzato o meno): 32.1%
- Principalmente lavori non qualificato: 64,3%

INFORMAZIONE

Come raccogli le informazioni?
28 risposte



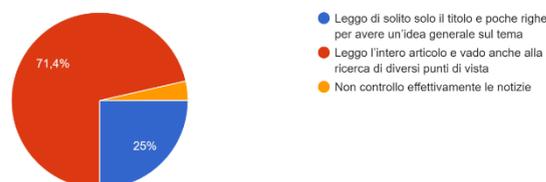
Opzioni principali

- Leggo il mio solito giornale tutte le mattine: 0%
- Posso trovare tutte le informazioni sul web: 7,1%
- Utilizzo diverse fonti di informazione (giornali, tv, web): 89,3%

Altro

- Utilizzo giornali specializzati e meno conosciuti specie di provenienza straniera: 3,6%

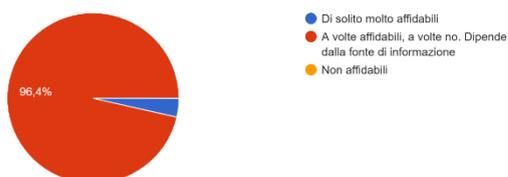
Quando controllo le notizie...
28 risposte



Opzioni principali

- Leggo di solito solo il titolo e poche righe per avere un'idea generale sul tema: 25%
- Leggo l'intero articolo e vado anche alla ricerca di diversi punti di vista: 71,4%
- Non controllo effettivamente le notizie: 3,6%

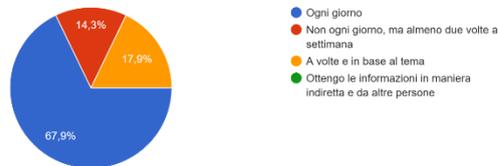
Le notizie che trovi sui media (giornali, tv, web) sono...
28 risposte



Opzioni principali

- Di solito molto affidabili: 3,6%
- A volte affidabili, a volte no. Dipende dalla fonte di informazione: 96,4%
- Non affidabili: 0%

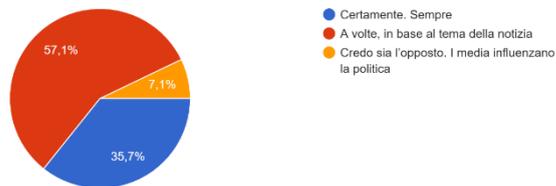
Quanto spesso controlli le notizie?
28 risposte



Opzioni principali

- Ogni giorno: 67,9%
- Non ogni giorno, ma almeno due volte a settimana: 14,2%
- A volte e in base al tema: 17,9%
- Ottengo le informazioni in maniera indiretta e da altre persone: 0%

Pensi che la politica influenzi direttamente i media?
28 risposte

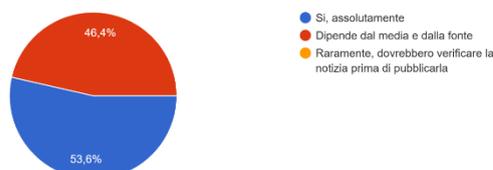


Opzioni principali

- Certamente. Sempre: 35,7%
- A volte, in base al tema della notizia: 57,1%
- Credo sia l'opposto. I media influenzano la politica: 7,1%

FAKE NEWS

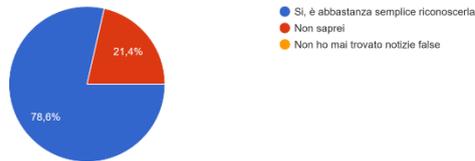
Pensi che sia molto probabile trovare notizie false sui media?
28 risposte



Opzioni principali

- Si, assolutamente: 53,6%
- Dipende dal media e dalla fonte: 46,4%
- Raramente, dovrebbero verificare la notizia prima di pubblicarla: 0%

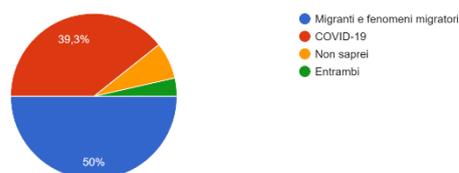
Riconosci solitamente una notizia falsa quando la vedi?
28 risposte



Opzioni principali

- Si, è abbastanza semplice riconoscerla: 78,6%
- Non saprei: 21,4%
- Non ho mai trovato notizie false: 0%

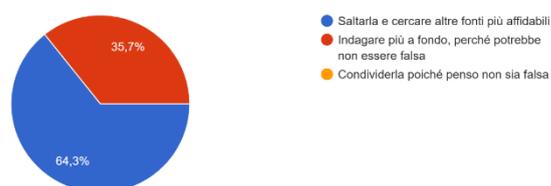
Qual è l'argomento di disinformazione più diffuso?
28 risposte



Opzioni principali

- Migranti e fenomeni migratori: 50%
- COVID-19: 39,3%
- Non saprei: 7,1%
- Entrambi: 3,6%

Quando trovi un'informazione che sembra essere falsa, tendi a...
28 risposte

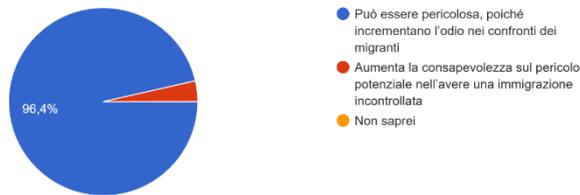


Opzioni principali

- Saltarla e cercare altre fonti più affidabili: 64,3%
- Indagare più a fondo, perché potrebbe non essere falsa: 35,7%

- Condividerla poiché penso non sia falsa:0%

Quali pensi siano le conseguenze della disinformazione sui migranti e sul fenomeno migratorio?
28 risposte



Opzioni principali

- Può essere pericolosa, poiché incrementano l'odio nei confronti dei migranti:96,4%
- Aumenta la consapevolezza sul pericolo potenziale nell'aver una immigrazione incontrollata: 3,6%
- Non saprei:0%

Conclusions

Migration has been at the centre of public debates since at least 20 years. Of course, this happened because the presence of migrants on the national sole – and the consistency of this phenomenon – requires specific policies, either economic or socio-cultural. Moreover, Italy is considered a “Country of recent migration”, thus it is clear that not having a long history behind, it is everything to build up – included a certain civic education about tolerance and multicultural values. In addition, the last 20 years’ international events – and the build up of EU itself – add an element of complexity to the general scenario.

On this general context, it is important to consider at least two elements concerning a more subjective-emotional sphere. Perception – or disperception – of individuals about reality and the storytelling about it play a crucial role either on individual choices or on collective ones. Because of the large use of social media at all levels, decisional processes are way more complex, and decisional actors must relate with wider audience and issues. The way in which citizens perceive the reality is deeply mediated by sophisticate communication skills, accompanied by a multitude of communication actors, thus the role of media – and, above all, the need of reliable media – is inextricably linked to the functioning of democracy itself.

The emotional sphere is here conceived like the conscious choice of communication /decisional actors to “use” certain topics – and certain words – to appeal and engage citizens. Language is not neutral, it is always meaningful itself, thus the choice of the words, the images, sometimes the music/sound are never random, and can in some ways manipulate the audience to reach specific goals. That’s why, nowadays, information and media, as well as “news consumers”, are increasingly studied, because it is unanimously recognized their role in build storytelling and individual’s beliefs – and action.

In this research, after a brief overview of migration in Italy – its features and policies –, samples of “real” fake-news has been collected, thus it is therefore possible to draw some conclusions, even if partial. The fake news here collected cover the period from 2015 to 2020

and are all about migration. The geographical context of this research is Italy, thus all the news concerns Italy and have been published by Italian media or are statement of Italian relevant figures.

Looking at the collected samples, it is possible to observe some common features:

1. It is likely that they are from right-parties, euro sceptical-parties, and media somehow related/lined up on the right (it doesn't mean it is a rule, there are samples about left side parties/figures, but about migration is historically more likely to have it from right-parties).
2. Fake news is likely to deal with topics that create “easy indignation”, and that act on traits considered to be foundations of national identity.
3. Fake news is likely to be spread by non-professional informative websites that point to a high number of views, clicks and shares, with none or less regard to professional ethics, and responsibility for the “consumers”.

Concerning the 1st point it is important to underline that sometimes fake news or misleading news are “only instrumental” for electoral and propaganda purposes, thus are likely to change according to the “needs” of the moment.

For the 2nd point it is interesting to underline that according to the collected samples, fake news is often about the rhetoric that migrants owe “us” something, and everything “we” give them is a gift. That means that if they ask something more they are “spoiled”, if they have a telephone they are “fake poor”, if they ask for decent life conditions, they “are not really escaping from wars”, if they don't like our food or other “typical Italian things” they “can come back to where they came from”. These are just some of the typical phrases that can be found in some online and offline environments but are often based on misleading storytelling about “a migrant's invasion” or based on prejudices. That's why information and media cannot be secondary, and there must be a certain awareness on the part of citizens that allows them to choose reliable sources.

Finally, the collected samples highlight how social media are powerful means – a lot of fake news are spread online -, and how important is to help citizens in informing themselves on reliable, and authoritative sources, as essential part of the correct functioning of democracy.

Romania

Historical background

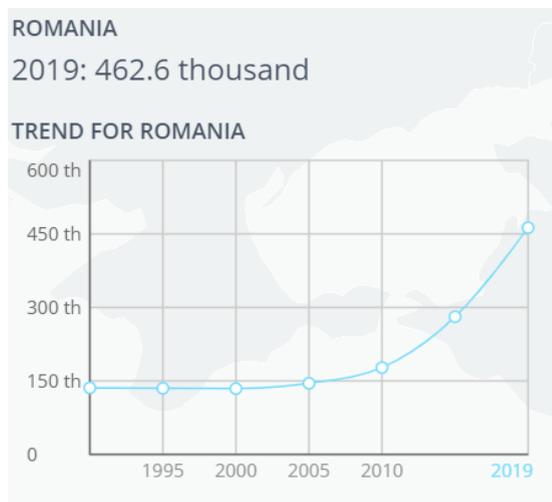
Migration over time has been a challenge for Romania, which is today a source country, a transit country, as well as a destination country for migrants.



If until 1989 migration was seen as a negative phenomenon, now Romania reconsiders this attitude and accepts the appreciation of many other European countries that, through a controlled migration, can act positively on realities such as demographic decline or economic.

Analyses on Romanian migration have generally focused on the migration process and less on its

consequences for Romanian society. It is known that in the 90s Romania experienced a very dramatic socio-economic process, in which about 40% of jobs disappeared from the economy. Romanian migration began to develop irregularly to Western Europe after 1990, but intensified greatly, especially after 1997, the year in which major restructuring and closure of industrial companies took place.



Later, due to the economic conditions, the migration to Romania encountered a stagnation process. However, the situation changed when waves of migrants from other countries poorer than Romania began to migrate to areas of Romania for a better job and living conditions. Thus, migration developed unhindered.

When we talk about the evolution of migration from Romania, then we notice that starting with 2007, the number of permanent migrants who chose Romania started to increase, and this happened immediately after Romania's entry into the European Union.

Therefore, the migrants who came to Romania over time stated that what made them migrate

to this country were the unfavorable economic circumstances, the political and social situation who put psychological pressure on them and generated in them the desire to change the place of residence.

The migrants who arrived in Romania were from countries such as: Moldova, Bulgaria, Ukraine, Russia, Syria, Arab Republic, Hungary, Greece, Turkey and Italy.

Țara	Moldova	Turcia	China	Israel	Siria
Nr. imigranți	16% (10.222)	14.7% (9.255)	11.92% (7.507)	5.04% (3.174)	4.75% (2.994)

The migration policy in Romania was taken into account adoption of normative acts, establishment of institutions with attributions in the field migration and cooperation with other states.

The current normative framework that regulates the regime of migrants in Romania, as well as the legal norms that regulate asylum in Romania is mainly conferred by the Government Emergency Ordinance no. 194/2002 on the regime of foreigners in Romania, republished, with additions subsequent, Government Emergency Ordinance no. 102/2005 regarding the free movement on the Romanian territory of the citizens of the member states of the European Union and of the European Economic Area, approved with modifications and completions by Law no. 260/2005, with subsequent amendments and completions, Law no. 122/2006 on asylum in Romania, as subsequently amended and supplemented, and Government Emergency Ordinance no. 56/2007 regarding the employment and secondment of migrants on the Romanian territory, approved with modifications and completions by Law no. 134/2008.

EU accession has led in recent years to substantial changes in the legal rules governing the regime of migrants in Romania, the citizens of EU Member States and the European Economic Area, as well as the legal rules governing asylum in Romania, in order to ensure compliance with European legislation in the field and with other international legal instruments to which the Romanian state is a party. This complex process of legislative harmonization is ongoing, in order to identify viable solutions for transposing the *acquis* in the field. At the same time, through the modifications and completions of the national legislation incident to the above-mentioned fields, the permanent aim is to eliminate some dysfunctions that appeared in the implementation of the legislative framework in the field of migrants.

Fake news

2015

Newspaper articles

1. <https://evz.ro/klaus-iohannis-poate-refuza-primirea-refugiatilor-cum-va-evita-romania-invazia-musulmana-editorial-de-dan-andronic.html>
2. <https://stireazilei.com/statul-ia-cate-50-de-euro-de-la-fiecare-roman-pentru-a-sprajini-imigrantii/>

Blog posts

3. [.https://raduiacoboiaie.wordpress.com/2015/09/21/despre-invazia-islamica-este-o-mare-problema-daca-europa-isi-deschide-portile-curand-vor-veni-aici-milioane-si-traind-printre-noi-vor-incepe-sa-si-practice-obiceiurile-inclusiv-decap/](https://raduiacoboiaie.wordpress.com/2015/09/21/despre-invazia-islamica-este-o-mare-problema-daca-europa-isi-deschide-portile-curand-vor-veni-aici-milioane-si-traind-printre-noi-vor-incepe-sa-si-practice-obiceiurile-inclusiv-decap/)
4. <http://www.napocanews.ro/2015/09/sosesc-imigrantii-musulmani-in-romania-robert-turcescu-vin-40-000-de-refugiati-in-romania-deja-se-monteaza-corturi-la-beba-veche.html>
5. <https://eufrosin.wordpress.com/2015/07/04/puhoaie-de-emigranti-africani-in-romania-esti-pregatit-pentru-invazie-cetatene/>

1. KLAUS IOHANNIS CAN REFUSE TO RECEIVE REFUGEES. HOW WILL ROMANIA AVOID THE MUSLIM INVASION. EDITORIAL BY DAN ANDRONIC

The article appeared on September 22, 2015, within the Evenimentul Zilei news portal. The context of its occurrence is the distribution of mandatory refugee quotas. In fact, the editorial talks about a Muslim invasion that will invade Romania. This misleads the reader because in fact reference is made to increasing the number of Muslim migrants after the establishment of mandatory quotas. The author of the article, Dan Andronic, is against the acceptance of migrants in Romanian communities and is not sympathetic to the political power that is in government, and for this reason tries to put in a bad light the President of Romania Klaus Iohannis through the fact that he can refuse to receive migrants in Romania. The author also offers some articles from the law that are interpretable.

2. The state takes 50 euros FROM EACH ROMANIAN to support immigrants!

The headline of the news transmits false information because at the moment the state does not take from each Romanian, 50 euros to offer to migrants. The state cannot directly or indirectly take this amount without the consent of the citizen, but this aspect is not mentioned in the news. Moreover, it misleads the reader because the article presents an initiative of a businessman through which citizens would donate 10% of their salary to help migrants.

3. ABOUT THE ISLAMIC INVASION:

"It is a big problem. If Europe opens its gates, millions will soon come here and, living among us, will begin to practice their customs, including beheadings." SO, BIG ATTENTION ROMANIAN BROTHERS!

The article appears on September 20, 2015, on Radu Iacuboiaie's blog, entitled - THE MOVEMENT FOR THE DEFENSE OF ORTHODOXY AND ROMANIA - ORTHODOX ATTITUDE BLOG ANTIECUMENISM - ANTICOMUNISM - ANTIGLOBALISM

Thus, the platform is supportive of unionist, national, religious principles and does not agree with the integration of people of other nationalities in Romanian communities.

The post draws attention to the dangers that Islamic migrants can bring. The fact that they are an invasion for the Romanian population, and in time they will start to practice their habits and even more so even the beheadings. Basically, they emphasize the fact that the citizens of Romania must not accept migrants, otherwise they can end up beheaded.

4. Muslim immigrants arrive in Romania! Robert Turcescu: “40,000 refugees come to Romania. Tents are already being set up at Beba Veche”.

The article was posted on the news site www.napocanews.ro, on September 19, 2015. The context of the publication of this news is the establishment of the quota of migrants for each country. Thus, this news was taken from the Facebook of journalist Robert Turcescu, who states that in the coming months over 40,000 refugees will come to Romania, in the context in which the president states that there are only 1700 places.

Thus, the news mentions that in Romania, in the next period, there will be a real catastrophe, precisely for this reason.

5. Torrents of Africans in Romania - are you ready for the invasion, citizens?

The article appears on July 4, 2015 on the blog Eufrosin's World. This is a pamphlet and is addressed to Romanian citizens if they are prepared for the African invasion that will soon come upon Romania. The article appears in the context of establishing the quota of migrants for each country. Reference is made to the fact that the president is against the people because they have not been consulted in order to express agreement on the acceptance of migrants. It is mentioned that migrants are incompatible in terms of race, culture and tradition with the Romanian people in order to protect human rights.

This misinformation also appears in the context in which the President of Romania did not negotiate the number of migrants that Romania can receive, compared to other countries that did so.

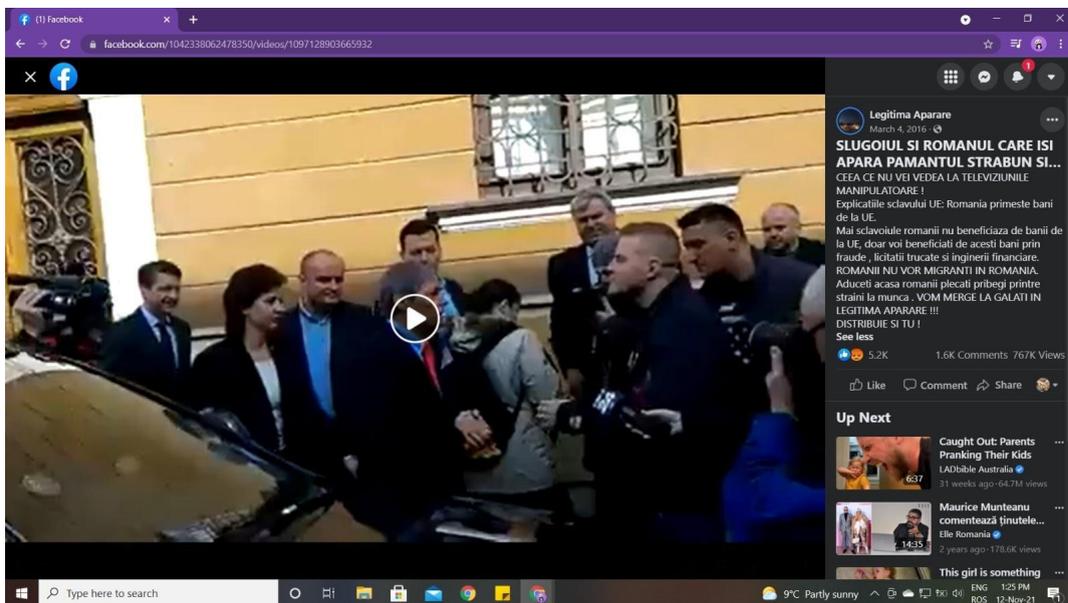
2016

Newspaper articles

1. <https://www.stiridecluj.ro/social/extremistii-au-organizat-mars-la-cluj-impotriva-maghiarilor-si-a-migranti-islamisti-video>
2. <http://www.cunoastelumea.ro/romania-in-pericol-culoarul-pentru-imigranti-se-muta-la-noi-sunt-asteptati-doua-milioane-in-acest-an/>
3. <http://www.cunoastelumea.ro/romania-prima-tara-din-ue-cu-prim-ministru-musulman-un-semnal-pentru-imigranti-veniti-la-noi-ca-aveti-protectie/>
4. http://www.napocanews.ro/2016/08/numarul-de-refugiati-in-romania-creste-accelerat-autoritatile-ii-primesc-discret-fara-sa-afle-romanii.html?fb_comment_id=1157424000966194_1157692374272690

Social media posts

5. Facebookpost



1. The extremists organized a march in Cluj against Hungarians and Islamist migrants

The news was published on December 3, 2016, on the news portal: Stiri de Cluj.

In the published news, the news portal presented the information transmitted by the extremists during the march. Through this, a misinformation of the citizens was made. Information was sent on the dangers facing Romania, such as Hungarian separatism, the demands of the Hungarians for autonomy, but also the Islamic invasion of migrants in Europe, which could also reach Romania, brought by force by the EU.

2. Romania in danger. The immigrant corridor is moving to us. Two million are expected this year

This article was published on February 11, 2016 on the news portal <http://www.cunoastelumea.ro>, Site of scientific, cultural, historical and national popularization and promotes the fact that Romania is in danger due to the fact that the passage of migrants moves here. Erroneous information is being sent on the fact that over 2 million migrants will come to Romania. Citizens are warned that disorder, instability, insecurity and economic collapse will be generated by the wave of migrants coming to the country. It is mentioned that a disaster is expected in Romania and the Paris attacks, the rapes in Germany, etc. are exemplified.

3. Romania - the first EU country with a Muslim prime minister. A SIGNAL FOR IMMIGRANTS: Come to us!

Romania does not actually have a Muslim prime minister, and this news was published on December 21, 2016, on the same news site <http://www.cunoastelumea.ro/> as the previous material.

The context of its appearance is the political aspect of that period, namely the fact that the PSD and ALDE political parties proposed a president of Muslim origin. However, the news already addresses the fact that Romania has a Muslim prime minister and through this fact migrant refugees from Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan or Africa, mostly Muslims, "will perceive Romania as a possible destination, especially since Western Europe it is beginning to close its doors, and the countries of the Visegrad Group - Hungary, Poland, the Czech Republic and Slovakia - are refusing to accept Muslim immigrants."

The news addresses the fact that through these actions the Islamization of Romania will be achieved.

4. The number of refugees in Romania is growing rapidly. The authorities receive them discreetly without the Romanians finding out

The article was published on the news and attitudes website www.napocanews.ro on August 4, 2016 and addresses the fact that the number of migrants-refugees is growing alarmingly. At that time, however, their number barely exceeded 100, compared to 15 people who were in Romania at the beginning of the same year.

Also, the authorities mention the fact that the persons who arrived in Romania their documents were perfected and were offered the necessary ones according to the law. There is no discretion or secrecy of information, and the media can take the information that is public about migrants and publicize it.

5. Facebook post

The post on Facebook was published on March 4, 2016 by the Legitimate Defense page and refers to the fact that Romanians receive money from the European Union, but in fact they do not benefit from it. Politicians benefit more through this money via fraud, rigged auctions and financial engineers.

The context of the appearance of such a post, however, is the fact that the European Union has allocated money for the integration of migrants in EU communities.

It is directly stated that Romanians do not want migrants in Romania.

This post is a fake because no arguments are brought and more can be characterized as an attack on politicians. The language used is ugly, barbaric.

2017

Newspaper articles

1. <http://www.cunoastelumea.ro/asaltul-migrantilor-pe-litoral-ia-amploare-pestes-150-irakieni-si-iranieni-au-debarcat-la-midia-noaptea-trecuta-faptul-ca-se-poate-anunta-dezastrul-pentru-romania/>
2. <https://evz.ro/invazia-imigrantilor-in-romania-un-refugiat-traieste-mai-bine-de.html>
3. <https://flux24.ro/document-exploziv-migrantii-musulmani-ajunsi-in-romania-alimentati-cu-mii-de-euro/>
4. <https://www.nationalisti.ro/va-pasa-de-copii-vostri-atunci-nu-acceptati-refugiati-in-romania-atacurile-teroriste-sunt-o-nimica-toata-pe-langa-ce-va-urma>
5. <https://evz.ro/migrantii-iau-cu-asalt-timisoara-mint-fac-mizerie-si-nu-dau-doi.html>

1.THE ASSAULT OF MIGRANTS ON THE SEASIDE IS INCREASING.

More than 150 Iraqis and Iranians arrived in Midia last night. The fact that it is possible, announces the disaster for Romania!

The press article was published on September 13, 2017, the lesser-known news site www.cunoastelumea.ro. This article was published as a result of rescuing 157 migrants, which could trigger a migrant crisis. The article addresses the fact that migrants destabilize Europe, and the Romanian authorities share the Islamization of the country.

2. Invasion of immigrants: In Romania a refugee lives better than a pensioner

The article appears on the news portal www.evz.ro (Evenimentul zilei). Its title is shocking, and the way it was developed creates the impression that migrants live better than any retiree from Romania. This article appeared in the context in which the state allocates less money for the indemnity for the disabled, for the unemployment indemnity but also for the minimum pension in relation to the amount allocated for the integration of migrants, which is several tens of lei higher.

3.EXPLOSIVE DOCUMENT: Muslim migrants arriving in Romania are fed thousands of euros

The news site www.Flux24.ro posted this article on August 14, 2017, which shows that migrants from Romania receive thousands of euros. The factual context in which this article appeared is the fact that the migrants who came to Timisoara, leave a lot of mess among which was found a receipt from western union through which a sum of money was transferred to a citizen of another citizenship, an alleged migrant.

4.Will you care about your children? Then DO NOT ACCEPT TERRORIST "REFUGEES" in Romania! Terrorist attacks are nothing but what will happen next!

The article was published on 02.03.2017 on the website nationalisti.ro, a publication fighting for the truth. In this article, refugees are classified as terrorists and attacks in Romania on their part will occur in the near future. The context of this article consists in the fact that two Syrian citizens who were members of ISIS were expelled from Romania. They were medical students and in fact had German citizenship, which they obtained as soon as they became members of ISIS.

The article is referring is also the future of the children, which is uncertain due to the arrival of refugees in the country.

In this context, the white race is endangered due to the invasion of refugees.

5.Migrant's storm Timisoara! I lie, I make a mess and they don't give a damn about obeying the laws and the authorities

The news was posted on September 11, 2017 on the news portal www.evz.ro (Evenimentul zilei) and refers to the fact that the migrants stormed Timisoara and do not respect the laws of Romania and the instructions of the authorities. Migrants began to come in increasing numbers to Romania, Timisoara is the city closest to the border where most migrants arrived. The context in which this article appeared is the fact that a number of 400 migrants arrived in August in the city in western Romania. The title is pamphlet because their number is not so large compared to the population of Timisoara, and migrants obey the indications of the authorities even if later when they are caught and try to escape.

2018

Newspaper articles

1. <http://www.cunoastelumea.ro/pactul-onu-pentru-migratietarile-au-obligatia-sa-se-lase-ocupate-de-imigranti/>
2. <https://www.nationalisti.ro/afacere-de-miliarde-de-euro-pentru-acceptarea-unor-populatii-straine-in-romania/>
3. <https://www.nationalisti.ro/multiculturalism-in-romania-viol-crima-si-incendiu-in-capitala/>
4. <https://gandeste.org/politica/vicepresedintele-academiei-romane-prof-bogdan-c-si-mionescu-pactul-onu-privind-migratia-inseamna-incalcarea-unor-drepturi-stabile-prin-constitutie/91918/>

5. Facebook post

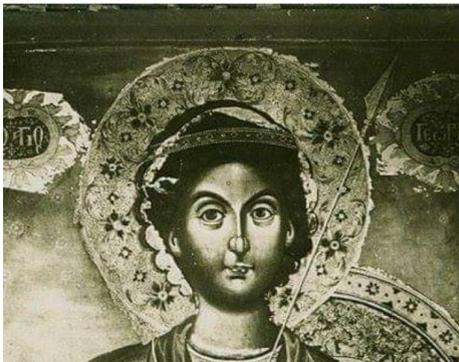


Marin Alex

9 dec. 2018 • 🌐

10-12 decembrie 2018 incepe razboiul cu migrantii evrei si musulmani care ne invadeaza tara noastra a romanilor - Romania !
Fotografie reprezentând icoana „Sf Gheorghe” purtată de Ștefan cel Mare în toate războaiele cu turcii și dăruită de acesta mănăstirii Zografou de la muntele Athos

<http://fototecaortodoxiei.ro/868-fotografie-reprezentand-icoana-sf-gheorghe-purtata-de-stefan-cel-mare-toate-razboaiele-cu-turcii->



1.UN Pact on Migration: Countries have an obligation to be OCCUPIED by immigrants!!!

The news was published in the news portal <http://www.cunoastelumea.ro>, on November 26, 2018.

The material provides a misinformation about the Migration Pact, which talks about forcing countries to be occupied by migrants. In fact, through this Pact, a number of migrants has been established for each country for the countries to accept.

A number of countries have refused to participate in its signing, and for this reason the opinion in the article is directed against this pact, because this news portal is against migration. This runs counter to the principles of the Treaty which promote the idea that migration - for whatever reason - must be encouraged, authorized and protected.

The reality of this treaty is that migration will effectively become a human right, and migration supports community development.

When reading this type of article, the consequences for Romanians can be dramatic because they want to be free, not to be occupied by migrants. Under these conditions, their integration in the Romanian communities is impossible.

2.Business of billions EURO deal for the acceptance of FOREIGN POPULATIONS IN ROMANIA!

The news was published on December 8, 2018 on the news portal <https://www.nationalisti.ro/>.

The title creates the impression that someone is doing an advantageous business by accepting a foreign population in Romania, and the Romanian Government wants to crossbreeding the country.

But the reality is different. The title misinforms people because even later in the article we do not talk about any business but about the results of a study that highlights the fact that the population should be consulted when it comes to signing the Pact for Migration but also when bringing foreign population to settle in Romania.

Arguments are made that Islamic migration fails to integrate into any host people, and in the areas where they settled, the number of rapes, crimes, violence and civil disobedience has increased, as well as the aggression of law enforcement in various countries.

This information has a major impact on citizens, because they want to feel safe, and in this way Romanians will avoid interacting with migrants

3. Multiculturalism in Romania - Rape, Crime and Fire in the Capital

The article appeared on the news site <https://www.nationalisti.ro/> on September 11, 2018 and equates multiculturalism with rape, murder and other destructive activities of the Romanian people. The article presents some cases of this kind that were committed by migrants or refugees. For example, a woman was killed by a Syrian migrant, the outbreak of fires caused by migrants to hide the traces of the acts committed, and others.

By exemplifying these 2 separate cases, the idea is promoted that these situations will multiply if more migrants come to the country.

The reality is dramatic for citizens in the face of such cases and they are afraid to be close to migrants because they believe they can be attacked by them.

4. The Vice President of the Romanian Academy, Prof. Bogdan C. Simionescu: "The UN Pact on Migration means the violation of certain rights established by the Constitution!"

The news appeared on December 17, 2018, on the website <https://gandeste.org/>, which is counterpropaganda.

The news misinforms citizens about the Global Compact on Migration. The opinion of an academician is promoted, which is in fact a personal opinion and does not represent the position of the Romanian Academy towards this aspect.

In the material, the Government and the Presidency are put in a bad light due to the signing of the Pact for Migration and there is an urge to the Parliament to note that the awakened voices of the elites of this people are against the ratification of this pact.

In reality, citizens are caught up in the face of this Pact because they do not know what it entails in detail and believe what they hear about it.

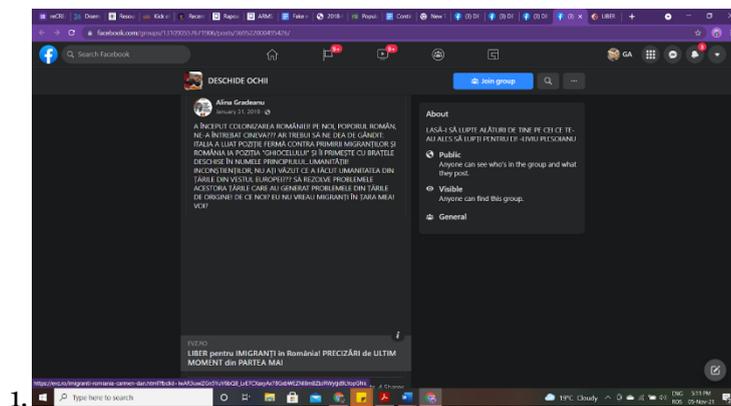
5. The post on Facebook appeared on December 9, 2018 and was created by a user of Romanian citizenship.

He claims that between December 10-12, 2018, the war begins with Jewish and Muslim migrants who "invaded our country of Romanians - Romania", and this will be achieved through the Orthodox religion. In this sense, a very old icon is promoted, since the ruler Stefan cel Mare.

This post spreads false news because no war has started against Jewish migrants in Romania.

The reality is that it is imposed for migrants to take over the traditions, customs, and religion in Romania without any other influences on their part.2019

Facebook posts:



2.

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← × 

Toate **Postări** Persoane Grupuri Evenimente



  2

 Îmi place  Distribuie

 **Elena Marcu** 
15 mar. 2019 · 

Bună dimineața, adevărați romani! Trezirea ca România moare, ne invadează migranții, politicienii se scriem sa mai găsească câte ceva sa vândă, sa ne vândă!
TREZIREA ȘI LUAȚI ATITUDINE!
LĂSAȚI rezist și alți damblagiti ai lui Soros și anticristului!
MA adresez adevaratilor romani!

 2 2 comentarii

 Îmi place

3.

Press articles

4.

<https://www.justitiarul.ro/dormi-linistit-inspectoratul-pentru-imigrari-si-sri-lucreaza-pe-ntru-tine-ca-sa-ti-aduca-migranti-siguri-si-multi/>

5. <https://www.nationalisti.ro/pactul-global-pentru-migratie-un-act-de-inalta-tradare-nationala/>

1. **The colonization of Romania has begun!** Has anyone asked us, the Romanian people? It should make us think: Italy has taken a firm stand against the reception of migrants and Romania takes the position of the "snowdrop" and welcomes them with open arms in the name of the principle humanity!!
Unconscious, haven't you seen what humanity has done in Western European countries???? To solve their problems the countries that generated the problems in the countries of origin!!! Why us? I do not want migrants in my country! You?
The post was shared in the "Open your eyes" Facebook group, which has 21,000 members. This post appeared in the context of the publication in the press of a news item in which it is mentioned that Romania has opened its borders and can receive migrants.
2. **In case you didn't find out, the European Commission asked Romania** - which was executed - to take over ten migrants from Malta. Although the number does not seem large, the way the Foreign Ministry has taken over, it's really weird. It

is an action that violates the Constitution and is just an introduction to what it follows: the wide opening of gates to official immigration. As the road to drug addiction begins with the usage of small quantities, so does the path to high immigration is done with small doses, usually.

I hear a few official institutions are hatching a plan, opening the gates to flood the labor market with immigrants from Asia. This is made so you can have a better understanding of propaganda about lack of labor force in Romania. In fact, not labor itself is missing, but the labor force willing to perform the work "for two RON" as quoted by a famous former minister.

The future sounds good: immigrants, poverty, and nuclear weapons. Let's be halal!

The post was written by an activist from Romania, Dan Diaconu, who also owns a blog, a facebook page, which is followed by 26,500 people. This post was shared by another person in a group of over 22,000 members. The context of this post is that the state has taken over 10 migrants from Malta and this thing is mentioned as a starting point for invading the labor market with migrants from Asia. Also, by taking over the migrants, the author mentions that the Romanian Constitution is violated.

3. **Good morning, true Romanians!** Wake up, Romania is dying, immigrants are invading us, politicians should write to find something else to sell, to sell us!

WAKE UP AND TAKE ATTITUDE!

LET others, Soros and the Antichrist stand idly by!

I am addressing the real Romanians!

This post was published on March 15, 2019 following the arrival in Romania of a group of migrants. The post is false because it is impossible for Romania to die due to the arrival of this group. Also, politicians do not sell the country by providing the necessary living conditions for migrants.

4. **Sleep peacefully:** The Immigration Inspectorate and SRI work for you to bring you "safe" migrants. And many.

This article appeared on August 5, 2019 on the website of Justice magazine, an attitude magazine against corruption and abuse and claims that the Inspectorate for Immigration and SRI brings migrants to the country. This article appeared in the context of the arrival in the country of 109 refugees from Jordan and Turkey, about whom the head of the Bucharest Mission of the International Organization for Migrants states that they are safe persons and do not involve risks because they are verified. The reality is that migrants come to Romania on their own initiative and the authorities perform their duties according to the law.

5. **THE GLOBAL PACT FOR MIGRATION - AN ACT OF HIGH NATIONAL BETRAYAL**

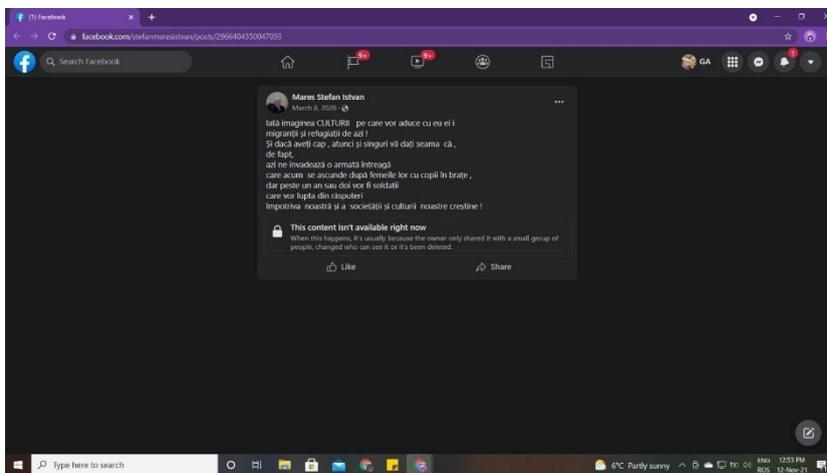
The article was posted on April 6, 2019 on the news site www.nationalistii.ro, a publication for the fight for truth.

The article appeared in the context of signing the Global Pact for Safe Migration, of which Romania is a party. This site supports nationalism, and the information is transmitted by supporting these points of view and is transmitted erroneously, for example that the pact contains provisions that totally and absolutely contradict the Romanian Constitution, that our country is to be subjected to an unprecedented occupation and transformation in history, the press will no longer be so free in expression and so on.

2020

Newspaper articles

1. <https://www.hotnews.ro/stiri-international-24303681-euronews-scrie-politia-frontiera-romana-bate-migranti-acuzatii-grave-ong-uri-serbia.htm>
2. <https://www.digi24.ro/stiri/actualitate/social/24-de-refugiati-din-afghanistan-si-pakistan-au-dormit-in-aer-liber-la-timisoara-la-o-grade-celsius-ei-trebuie-dusi-in-carantina-1407828>
3. <https://www.bzi.ro/dezastru-in-timisoara-politistii-nu-mai-fac-fata-valului-de-migranti-actiunea-cu-dubla-masura-4093260>
4. <https://ziare.com/marcel-vela/stiri-marcel-vela/cel-mai-mare-centru-pentru-refugiati-din-lume-a-fost-deschis-la-timisoara-1650597>
5. Facebook post:



1. Romanian border police beats migrants

On the news site <https://www.hotnews.ro> on September 23, 2020, this news appears, which misinforms the population regarding the fact that the border police applies force on migrants who want to enter Romania by land. Moreover, it is mentioned that the border police would assault migrants with sticks and cables and as a result some of the migrants woke up with various bodily injuries.

However, the border police mention that they act according to Romanian laws.

This news appears in the context of the increasing number of migrants arriving in Romania, trying to cross the border illegally.

The reality revealed by the state authorities consists in the fact that the border police cannot apply force, until certain legislative regulations are violated, and the principle of the country's security is exceeded.

2. 24 refugees from Afghanistan and Pakistan were forced by the Timișoara authorities to sleep on the streets, at zero degrees

This news appeared on the website <https://www.digi24.ro>, on 26.11.2020 and misinforms the reader on the fact that the authorities in Timișoara forced a number of 24 migrants to sleep in the street, even if it was outside cold. The reality is different and consists in the fact that

these migrants arrived in Romania from the "yellow zone" and it was necessary to be quarantined. But due to the fact that no vacancies were found for them immediately, they remained in the street being taken over the next day.

In this way, the impact on the colossal citizen, because as a result of reading the headline of the news, the population may no longer trust the state authorities when they are in danger.

3. Disaster in Timisoara.

The police don't cope with the wave of migrants. It acts in two ways

This news appeared on the portal <https://www.bzi.ro/> on December 21, 2020. The news is false because the significance of the disaster is different from the context in which it is used here. In fact, no calamity took place in Timisoara, in reality being characterized as a disaster the large number of migrants that exist in some areas of this city, some of them being illegally.

4. The largest refugee center in the world was opened in Timisoara. 100 people can be accommodated at each level

The news was published on the website <https://ziare.com> on December 15, 2020. This is false news because it transmits erroneous information, namely the fact that the largest refugee center in the country was built in Timisoara. But the reality is different and comes down to the construction of a center with a number of 200 places available for migrants in Timisoara.

5. The Facebook post was published on March 8, 2020, by a Romanian citizen who is not a supporter of migration.

With the arrival of migrants in Romania, he mentions that the country is being invaded by an entire army that is now hiding behind their women with children in their arms; but in a year they will fight against the Romanian Christian society and culture.

In this way, migrants are considered dangers for Romanian society. Citizens are misinformed that migrants are in fact fake soldiers and false news is being spread about their invasion.

But the reality is that more and more migrants and their families have started coming to Romania for a better life.

Survey's results

The questionnaire was completed by 36 people with a gender distribution of approximately 55% - 45%. Girls responded to the questionnaire in greater numbers.

The young people who answered the questions come mostly from big cities, with over 100,000 inhabitants, but also from smaller cities, respectively with a population between 100,000 and 20,000 - 25% of respondents but also less than 18,000. of the inhabitants are 19%.

Most of the young respondents graduated from high school and 80% are already in college. 15% are employed.

55% of them consider that the opportunity to learn from different cultures is a positive consequence of migration. However, 15% believe that with the intensification of migration, there will be fewer jobs for locals, and 30% believe that it will be necessary to accept jobs that no one wants.

Young people believe that migrants can be a useful resource for the country, they come to the host country for a job and a better life. For this reason, a series of migrants came to Romania, but also to escape from life and from the difficult situations they face in the country.

Regarding the information sources, 60% of the young people stated that they get information from several sources, such as newspapers, TV, internet, but 40% mentioned that they only get information from the internet.

Of the young people who follow the news, 45% said they like to read the articles in full and look for other sources and points of view to verify the veracity of the information, while 30% do not follow the news at all.

About 95% of young people believe that the news found in the online environment is always reliable, depending on each source.

The frequency with which young people check the news in general is:

-5% - every day;

-30% - not daily, but at least twice a week;

-60% - only sometimes, depending on the subject;

And a very small number of people say they usually take their information indirectly from other people.

35% of respondents believe that the news is always influenced by politicians, while 60% believe that the media is only sometimes influenced by politicians.

For 80% of young people, the probability of encountering false news in the media is very high.

70% say it is very easy to recognize if a news story is false, while 30% do not know if they are able to the veracity of the information.

According to young people, during this period the most frequently approached topic about which people tend to be misinformed is the Covid-19 Pandemic in proportion of 70%, followed by the subject of migration in proportion of 10%.

And when they are in a situation where they are not sure if an information seems to be false, 75% of young people go over it and check more reliable sources, and 25% look for more because there is a possibility that it is not false. None of the young people distribute it, believing it to be true.

Currently, migration is a common phenomenon, and the consequences of not educating about this phenomenon can be seen in communities. 80% of young people believe that one consequence can become dangerous because it increases hatred among migrants.

Conclusions

The articles from 2015 that were subjected to analysis are news, articles or editorials from the press. In principle, most of the false news that was published during this period appeared in the context of establishing the number of migrants that each country accepts. Romania did not negotiate this, while other states did; - from here arose revolt and misinformation.

Most of the news was published in the second half of the year when discussions about accepting migrants reached high levels, along with their desire to reach developed countries for a better life.

The sources of information on which the false news was published are in principle supportive of religious and nationalist principles.

For 2016, the trend regarding the appearance of materials through which misinformation is achieved is growing. The phenomenon of migration is becoming even more often approached in the context in which a series of debates appear at European level regarding migrants integration in the local communities in the European Union. The context of the appearance of false news, articles and posts on Facebook is different. These include allocating sums of money for their integration into the communities of European states, proposing a prime minister of Muslim origin from a political class in the context of elections, etc. There is a lot of talk that the number of migrants in Romania is increasing, which is a disaster, and this is amplified from year to year.

In 2017 we notice a growing trend of false news about migration. These news approach that an increasing number of migrants are invading Romania. The materials increasingly address false news such as the Islamization of Romania.

Also, in the context of previous discussions in 2016, when the European Union addresses the issue of allocating money to countries that accept migrants in their communities, in 2017 there are more and more false news related to this issue. Migrants are put in a negative position compared to other Romanian citizens. Exclusively, it promotes the fact that migrants receive more money from the authorities than Romanians and have more privileges from the state. Moreover, the idea is circulating that a migrant lives even better compared to a Romanian citizen, which is completely misinformative, it is about an amount a few tens of lei higher compared to the amount of money that it allocated the state of disabled people.

It also promotes the falsehood that migrants are fed hundreds of euros, because it is only about a person who has received a sum of money and threw the receipt in the trash.

In 2017, through false news, migrants are put in a bad light in the opinion of Romanian citizens, by the fact that they are allocated sums of money that could go to Romanians.

False news in 2017 addresses the financial side more.

In 2018 the number of false news increased. This was due to the fact that the number of migrants from Romania started to increase slightly, but this year the Global Pact for Migration was signed, of which Romania is also a part. False news has especially addressed this Pact, considering that a number of countries have withdrawn but Romania has not done so. In principle, the sources of news that promote unionism, religion and national unity were those that misinformed the population about its content.

In 2019, false news about migration has increased even more. This is due to the fact that the number of migrants who arrived in Romania has increased. In this sense, many civic activists, bloggers or simply people active in the online environment who do not support migration have begun to express their opinion on Facebook on this issue, distributing false information and misinforming the population.

The articles in the press also aim at the integration of migrants in Romania and the fact that the authorities responsible for this aspect work in favor of migrants instead of being on the side of the Romanian citizens is wrongly promoted.

Fake news about the Migration Pact also continues in 2019, following the adoption conference in Marrakesh in December, 2018.

In the analysis of the 2020 news, we notice an even greater tendency for false news about migration. In this context, the citizens are also misinformed about the state authorities involved in this issue. Thus, false news is transmitted about the activity related to the process of receiving migrants by the authorities in the western part of the country.

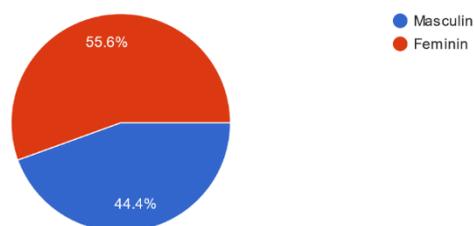
The trend is growing, compared to 2015 when only the first migrants began to come to Romania.

Once in Romania, the false news about them began to multiply. Thus, in some cases, even if they were separate cases, the false news addresses migrants in general.

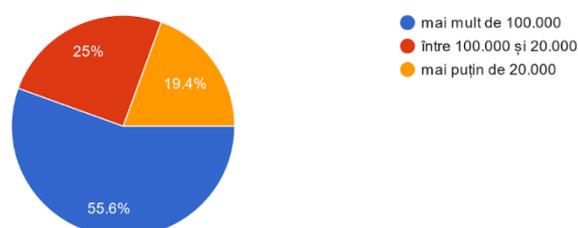
The impact of fake news on the citizens is major, and as a result the population is reluctant towards the migrants who come to Romania lately. As an example, are also the riots of members of some local communities when migrants came to the community or when migrants were hired.

In this sense, we can say that false news about migration manipulates the opinions of the population, and the phenomenon threatens democracy, and the state should prevent fake news. In this regard, the best way to combat the disinformation phenomenon is to conduct campaigns to inform the population about their effects on migrants and methods to combat the influence of false news, so that such news is not distributed – especially in social media.

1. Sex
36 responses

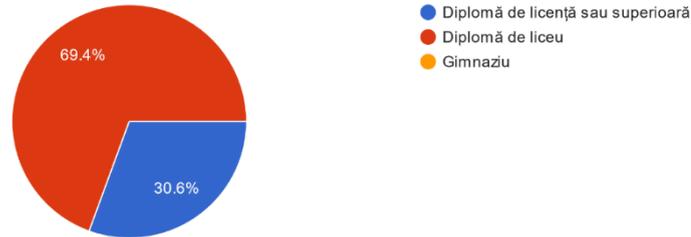


2. Câți locuitori are orașul în care sunteți stabilit ?
36 responses



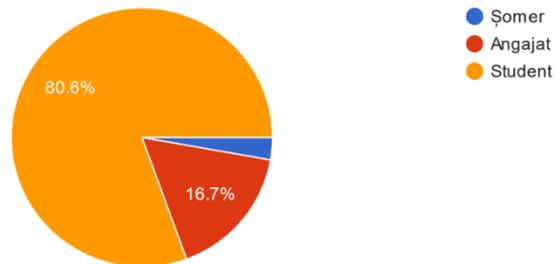
3. Ce nivel de educație aveți ?

36 responses



4. Care este ocupația dumneavoastră la momentul actual ?

36 responses



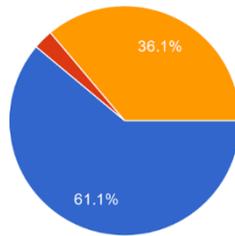
5. Care credeți că sunt consecințele migrației ?

36 responses



6. Care este opinia dumneavoastră despre imigranți ?

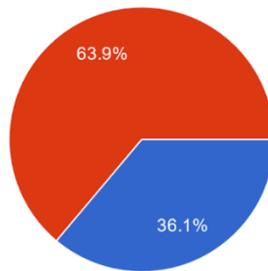
36 responses



- Ei pot fi o resursă pentru țară.
- Sunt o amenințare pentru societate.
- Ar putea fi o resursă dacă se integrează.

7. De ce crezi că imigranții se stabilesc în țara dumneavoastră ?

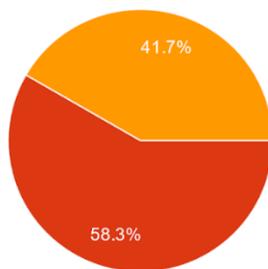
36 responses



- Să scape de viața și situațiile dificile de la ei din țară.
- Sunt în căutarea unui loc de muncă și trai de viață mai bun.
- Vor să beneficieze de ajutorul social al țării.

8. Care considerați că este ocupația principală a imigranților în țara dumneavoastră ?

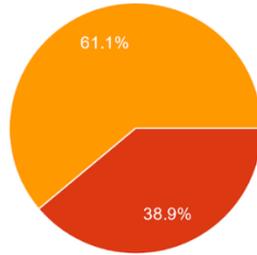
36 responses



- Șomeri, vor să beneficieze de ajutor economic public.
- Orice tip de locuri de muncă (specializat sau nu).
- În principal locuri de muncă necalificate.

9. De unde vă luați informațiile ?

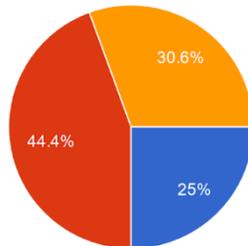
36 responses



- Citesc ziarul în fiecare zi.
- Găsesc toate informațiile pe internet.
- Primesc informații din mai multe surse (ziare, televiziune, internet, etc.)

10. Când mă uit la știri ...

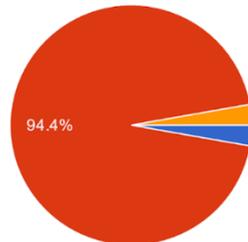
36 responses



- De obicei citesc doar titlul și câteva rânduri pentru a avea o idee generală despre problemă.
- Îmi place să citesc în întregime articolele și de asemenea îmi place să caut și alte puncte de vedere.
- Nu mă uit la știri.

11. Știrile pe care le găsiți de obicei online ...

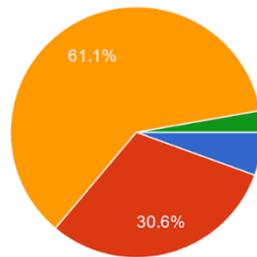
36 responses



- Sunt de încredere.
- Uneori de încredere și alteori nu. Depinde de sursă.
- Nu sunt de încredere.

12. Cât de des verificați știrile ?

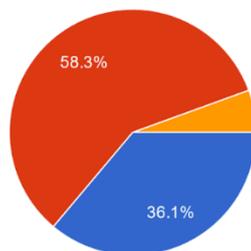
36 responses



- În fiecare zi.
- Nu zilnic, dar de cel puțin două ori pe săptămână.
- Uneori, depinde și de subiect.
- Îmi iau de obicei informațiile indirect și de la alte persoane.

13. Considerați că politicienii influențează direct mass-media ?

36 responses



- Da, cu siguranță. Mereu.
- Uneori, în funcție de știri.
- Cred că este opusul. Mass-media influențează politica.

References

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5. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/242654670_Fluxurile_de_migratie_in_Romania
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Spain

CONTEXT

Current situation of migration in Spain

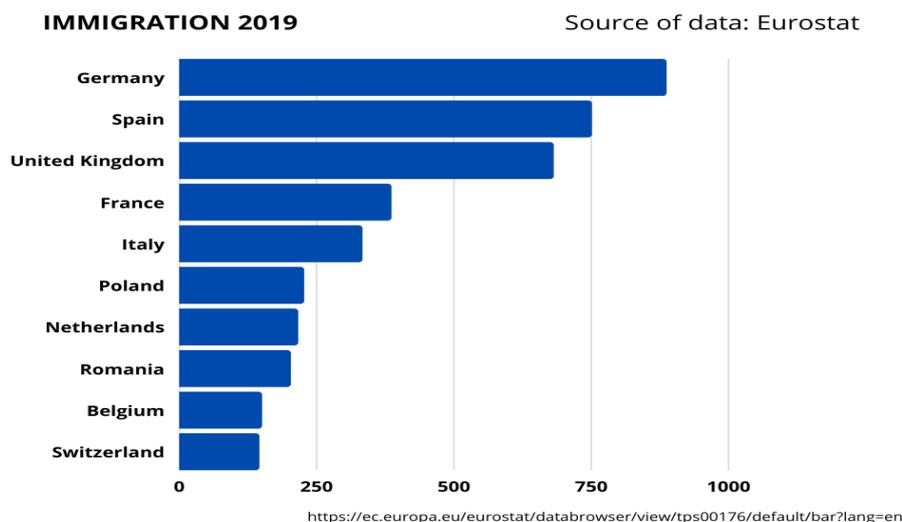
During the decade from 2010 to 2019, immigration of both foreign nationals (inside and outside the EU) and nationals returning to their country of origin has increased in all Member States, except in Italy, where immigration decreased during this period.

Spain has traditionally been a country where emigration has been more important than immigration. The country's reality changed as we entered the 21st century, when the demographic scenario began to change with the arrival in the country of an immigrant population coming, for the most part, from Latin American countries.

This document analyses the population situation in Spain in the period between 2015 and 2020.

In comparison with the rest of the territories of the European Union, the number of immigrants in Spain has been growing year by year, becoming in 2018 the second country in the EU (behind Germany and ahead of the United Kingdom) in terms of reception of people from other countries, a position it continues to occupy in 2019, according to the latest report on immigration published by Eurostat.

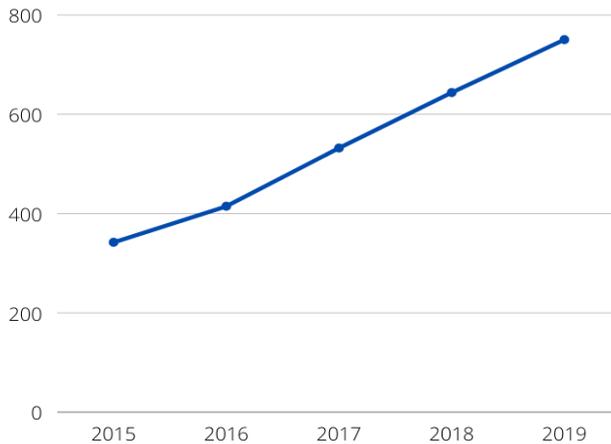
As shown in the graph below, in that year the highest number of migrants was recorded in Germany (886,000 people, 21 % of all migrants in EU Member States), Spain (750,000, 18 %) and France (386,000, 9 %). Immigrants in these three Member States accounted for almost half of all immigrants entering EU Member States in 2019.



The following reflects the growth of migration in Spain between 2015 and 2019. These are mostly people from other EU countries, Africa, and Latin America.

IMMIGRATION IN SPAIN

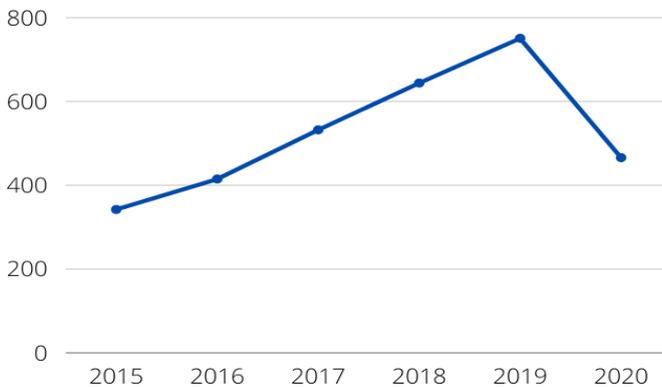
Source of data: Eurostat



The figure for 2020 deserves special attention. Spain's migratory balance was significantly reduced (by 37.9%) with respect to 2019 because of the pandemic. Even so, more than 400,000 people from abroad took up residence in Spain in 2020.

IMMIGRATION IN SPAIN

Source of data: Spanish National Institute of Statistics



In terms of data segregated by sex, female immigration is higher than male immigration. Of the total number of immigrants, 52.26% are women compared to 47.73% men. In recent years, the immigrant population in Spain has mainly come from Morocco (11.66%), Romania (10.20%) and Ecuador (6.80%).

In summary, we can say that observing the migratory processes that have taken place in Spain in recent years, we find a greater diversity of immigrants' countries of birth, a greater feminization, and a somewhat more equitable distribution with respect to age brackets.

The magnitude acquired by the migratory phenomenon since the end of the 20th century has profoundly transformed the profiles of Spanish society.

Circumstances have also changed, such as the origin of immigrants settling in Spain, no longer just Latinos, or the very triggers of the migratory processes, among which family reunification has increased in importance. There are already new generations of children and young people born or socialized very early in our country – the so-called "second generation" – as well as more than a million "new Spaniards" because of the naturalization processes.

However, there are worrying data regarding immigration in Spain. According to a recent European-wide survey⁵¹, Spain is one of the European Union countries in which the highest proportion of the population acknowledges not being well informed about immigration and related issues: 74% compared to 61% of the European average.

If the public authorities do not take the lead in improving the dissemination of news, the lack of truthful and objective information is a breeding ground for the manipulation and propagation of xenophobic ideas and false news that affect, to a large extent, the immigrant population.

In the following chapter we will present, by way of example, some of these news items that were, in fact, disseminated in Spain during the period under study.

FAKE NEWS

This chapter presents a series of fake news about immigration disseminated in Spain through the media and social networks and which are related to immigration.

We can divide the social context in Spain in the period analyzed into two different moments: 2015–2016 and 2017–2020.

The migration crisis in Central Europe in 2015 did not have a major impact in Spain, at least not immediately. The debate on migration policies, the distribution of refugee quotas, etc. was led by Europe, more specifically by Germany, and Spanish society did not feel this issue as something that really touched it closely. At that time, migration-related hoaxes had more to do with the fear of jihadist terrorist attacks and with pointing the finger at the Muslim population already living in Spain.

At the end of 2016, a political event occurred that led to an exponential increase in the publication of hoaxes and fake news about immigration in Spain. This event is the rise of the extreme right-wing populist party VOX and its access to public representation positions, such as city councils or the national parliament.

The party uses the media and social networks to disseminate biased news, manipulated data and thus promote the rejection of the migrant population and integration policies. Tension at the political level is increasing and this results in greater confrontation at the social level.

⁵¹ European Commission, Special Eurobarometer 469, Report, Integration of immigrants in the European Union, April 2018

The trend over the last six years has been a considerable increase in this type of disinformation in Spain.

2015

April 2015

Los musulmanes demandarán a España ante Estrasburgo por las procesiones de Semana Santa “E un ofensa al islam”



Link to the news published in the newspaper El Mira, from Cádiz (Andalusia): <https://www.elmira.es/articulo/noticias-interesantes/musulmanes-pedirán-al-tribunal-de-estrasburgo-eliminar-la-semana-santa-en-espana/20150917153631149169.html>.

The headline reads "Muslims to sue Spain in Strasbourg over Easter processions" as "an offence to Islam". The source is the British newspaper Daily Mail, and the story aims to pit the Muslim community against the indigenous population through the alleged attack on one of the most celebrated and traditional Christian festivals in southern Spain.

The story has been shared on Facebook some 11,000 times and has not yet been deleted. This news item appears every year in smaller media or on social networks.

August 2015

Link to the news (and interview):

https://cadenaser.com/programa/2015/08/28/hoy_por_hoy/1440757935_384856.html

News headline: 'Government vice-president Soraya Sáenz de Santamaría rules out accepting the refugee quota proposed in Brussels'. Spain pledged in September 2014 to take in some 16,000 asylum seekers within two years. Six months later it had received 18 and the vice-president argued in the interview that Spain has no room for more refugees, stating that 'we are aware that we have to try, but our reception capacity is very saturated because we have to deal with an immigrant population in an irregular situation'.

Given that data on irregular immigration is difficult to obtain, the vice-president's words are difficult to refute and create an ideal habitat for the spreading of rumors / fake news.

August 2015



MEDITERRÁNEO DIGITAL @MediterraneoDGT · 17 h
Podemos creará en España las nuevas playas para mujeres musulmanas



Podemos creará en España las nuevas playas para mujeres musulm...

Periódico independiente políticamente incorrecto. Información y noticias.
España, mundo, política, finanzas, sociedad, sucesos, opinión, historia, f...
mediterraneodigital.com

Link to the news item still accessible:

<https://www.mediterraneodigital.com/identitarios/identitarios-2/podemos-creara-en-espana-las-nuevas-playas-para-mujeres-musulmanas>

The newspaper Mediterráneo Digital affirms, without citing any source, that the governing party Podemos "will create in Spain the new beaches for Muslim women".

The news was only published in this newspaper and every now and then they move it around social networks to make it go viral. The story has achieved 46,000 shares on Facebook.

September 2015

Link to the news:

https://verne.elpais.com/verne/2015/09/29/articulo/1443516590_768013.html

The newspaper El País echoes a fake news story that is no longer available on Facebook, but which was shared more than 22,000 times in three days. The headline reads: "The old rumor about mayors and pork in canteens".

It is a fake letter attributed to the mayor of Zaragoza (also to French, Belgian and Canadian mayors), in which he explains why he refuses to remove pork from the school menu despite requests from the Muslim community.

The fake letter uses arguments such as that Muslims 'must adapt to Aragon and Spain, to their customs, their traditions, their way of life, since they are the ones who have chosen to emigrate' or 'that they understand that it is they who must change their way of life and not the Aragonese and Spanish'. This is a literal translation of a letter that, before circulating via Facebook, was circulated by email and WhatsApp with different mayors from other countries as protagonists. The most talked about in Spain was the version of the mayor of Antibes, France, which some media even took as true, and which has been widely disseminated in blogs and networks.

September 2015

FPOST CORONAVIRUS POLÍTICA INTERNACIONAL LIFE TENDENCIAS VIRALES VÍDEO

Fernández Díaz no descarta que entre los refugiados pueda haber yihadistas

EL HUFFINGTON POST/ AGENCIAS



Link to the article published in the Huffington Post:

https://www.huffingtonpost.es/2015/09/08/fernandez-diaz-refugiados_n_8105914.html

The massive influx of refugees in 2015 resurrected some of the old myths about migrants. Migrants are going to take our jobs, they are going to take away our welfare payments while hundreds of thousands of European families live in poverty, they are an invasion.

Alarmist messages such as that of the Spanish interior minister, Jorge Fernández Díaz, who said without providing a single fact that jihadist terrorists could arrive among the refugees, are a way of feeding the narrative that appeals to the fear of the indigenous population and hinders peaceful coexistence in a society.

2016

April 2016

Enviar mensaje Me gusta 🔍 ...

FRAUDE No Más Fraudes en la Red
21 de abril de 2016 · 🌐

si os tocan el timbre unos rumanos para vender colonia decirles que no y no las olais que si la hueles te duermes y te roban en casa! Avisar a todo el que conozcais

14:46

ALERTAS.EU
Vuelven los atracadores rumanos que actúan vendiendo colonia con cloroformo ¡COMPÁRTELO! | Alertas

Fake robbery story denied:

https://verne.elpais.com/verne/2017/01/27/articulo/1485538357_909150.html

In 2016, a news item began to circulate on social media saying: "Romanian muggers selling cologne with chloroform are back". The news item, published in April 2016, was hosted on the website Alertas.eu, an aggregator of news from other media outlets. On this occasion, the source of the article was a post on a Hobbyconsolas forum that gained a lot of attention on social media when it was published. More than 17,000 users shared it.

May 2016



On 22 May 2016 the Spanish newspaper "El Occidental" published a story about a young woman from Denmark who was attacked by refugees. The same news was published by the national TV channel "La Sexta" on 2nd May 2016. As evidence of the event a video is shown where a group of young people attack a young woman by hitting her with a bottle.

It is true that the event took place, but three years earlier and without the proven involvement of any young refugee. It is a manipulation of information with the intention of criminalizing young people who have recently arrived from Morocco.

2017

January 2017

#



MEDITERRANEO DIGITAL @mediterraneodigital

Un musulmán entra a un Mercadona de Orense disparando al grito de 'Alá es grande' bit.ly/2idGmCM

Así fue el asalto con una escopeta de un bilbaíno en un Mercadona de Ourense

12 ene 2017 EL CORREO

Actualmente, todas las hipótesis policiales apuntan a que el detenido, un hombre de 35 años oriundo de Bilbao, no pretendía cometer un atraco ni retener a los empleados ni tampoco a los clientes, en un momento de mucha afluencia, descartado otro tipo de motivaciones políticas o religiosas, como se barajó en un primer momento a raíz de las declaraciones de algún testigo.

@malditobulo

10:30 a. m. · 13 ene. 2017 · Twitter Web Client

420 Retweets 20 Tweets citados 241 Me gusta

Link to the original news:

https://verne.elpais.com/verne/2017/01/12/articulo/1484239017_765077.html

The real news is the shotgun assault of a Spanish citizen with mental problems in a supermarket located in the north of Spain. But the tweet published and spread by networks reads as follows: "A Muslim enters a Mercadona (supermarket) in Orense shooting at the cry of "Allah is great".

The tweet was even picked up by foreign media, which published the news as a frustrated attempt at a jihadist attack in Spain. Some media outlets such as Russia Today in French and the Mail Online added extra details that were also untrue, such as that the assailant was wearing a suicide waistcoat with gunpowder and petrol. The news in the British newspaper was shared more than 17,000 times on social media in the first 24 hours.

MailOnline

Home News U.S. | Sport | TV&Showbiz | Australia | Femail | Health | Science | Money | ' | Latest Headlines | News | World News | Arts | Headlines | France | Pictures | Most read | News Board | Wires

Gunman screaming 'Allahu Akbar' opens fire in Spanish supermarket while wearing 'suicide vest' filled with gasoline and gunpowder

- A man walked into the Mercadona shop and began firing shots into the air
- The gunman was also reportedly carrying gasoline and gunpowder
- Police sources say he has psychological issues and lives next door
- According to local media, officers emerged with a seized vest

By PADDY DINHAM FOR MAILONLINE
PUBLISHED: 18:32 GMT, 11 January 2017 | UPDATED: 23:57 GMT, 11 January 2017

f Share t p g+ 17k shares 336 View comments

April 2017



Link to the original video on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/i/status/835155583758131200>

The tweet reads "Muslim thanking for his welcome in Europe at a Spanish Health Centre". The footage shows a person getting violent with what appears to be a female doctor. A nurse tries to separate the aggressor but is also attacked and chased through the corridors. The video is starring an intoxicated man and was filmed in Russia.

The video, which has nothing to do with what it says in the tweet, went viral on Facebook, reaching three million views.

Juni 2017



Musulmanes residentes en Monzón (Huesca) quieren un uso segregado de las piscinas públicas durante dos horas al día para sentirse cómodos

Link to the news, still published on the website of the newspaper Alerta Digital: <https://www.alertadigital.com/2017/06/21/musulmanes-residentes-en-monzon-huesca-quieren-un-uso-segregado-de-las-piscinas-municipales-durante-dos-horas-al-dia-para-sentirse-comodos/>

The headline of the news says that "Muslims living in Monzón (Huesca) want a segregated use of public swimming pools for two hours a day to feel comfortable".

According to the town council itself, there was never any request from the Muslim community for segregated use of public swimming pools. It seems that the hoax may have been caused by a call from a listener to a national radio program denouncing this totally falsehood. Despite this, the news is still published, and the newspaper has not denied it.

July 2017

EL MACROCENTRO, INSTALADO EN EL ANTIGUO HOSPITAL NAVAL, ALBERGARÁ HASTA 6.000 INMIGRANTES

El mayor Centro de Acogida de Inmigrantes de Europa se instalará en Cartagena



Noticia clasificada en: Cartagena Inmigrantes La Tribuna de Cartagena

A fake news item placed in Cartagena "the largest Temporary Reception Centre for foreigners in Europe", with a capacity for 6,000 immigrants.

The news went viral in a few hours, generating a social alarm that caused several administrations to deny the information: "La Delegación del Gobierno niega que existe ningún proyecto para construir un centro de inmigrantes en Cartagena" (The Government Delegation denies that there is any project to build a centre for immigrants in Cartagena).

Once all the responsible institutions denied the news, it was removed from the online version of the newspaper, so it is no longer possible to access it.

August 2017



News published to curb false information:

<https://www.elconfidencial.com/tecnologia/2017-08-18/bulos-whatsapp-atacado-barcelona-1430525/>

One of the many tweets posted at the time: "A car has crashed in front of the Vila Seca high school in Reus and fled. Don't leave the house". This is false information related to a possible terrorist attack.

The jihadist attack in Barcelona in 2017, in which a van ran over a crowd of people leaving 13 dead and more than 100 injured, was used on social networks to spread hoaxes about other possible attacks and false images of alleged terrorists. The police made numerous appeals for the public's help to avoid spreading this type of news, which only hindered police work and spread terror among the public, as well as possible hate attacks against people from African countries, especially from the Maghreb area.

December 2017

CasoAislado

ESPAÑA INMIGRACIÓN POLÍTICA

España Portada

Indignación en Bilbao por la muerte de un hombre de 40 años tras ser atracado y brutalmente golpeado por «dos magrebíes»

Los vecinos de Bilbao tienen claro que "son dos magrebíes".

Link to the fake news:

<https://casoaislado.com/indignacion-bilbao-la-muerte-hombre-40-anos-tras-atracado-apalizado-dos-marroquies/>

This media specialized in false and racist headlines says: "Outrage in Bilbao over the death of a 40-year-old man after being mugged and brutally beaten by two North Africans". The headline is false, as those arrested for the crime were not of North African origin. This false information made the leap to social networks, producing between 30,000 and 40,000 racist and xenophobic reactions.

2018

Juni 2018

Economía

La Sanidad gratuita a extranjeros le costará a España 1.100 millones al año

El Gobierno recupera la cobertura suprimida por el PP para evitar el fraude



La portavoz del Gobierno, Isabel Oelá, tras el Consejo de Ministros. Foto: Efe.



Link to the fake news:

<https://www.eleconomista.es/economia/noticias/9211914/06/18/La-Sanidad-gratuita-a-extranjeros-le-costara-a-Espana-1100-millones-al-ano.html>

With a photograph of the then Spanish government spokeswoman, the headline says that "Free healthcare for foreigners will cost Spain 1.1 billion euros a year".

The figure is misrepresented in the headline. The text does explain that the 1,100 euros will be used to cover the healthcare costs of both Europeans who are resident in Spain and people living in our country in an irregular situation, which would amount to 500 and 600 million euros, respectively. Therefore, the headline itself is amended within the news item.

The data comes from the measure adopted by the then Minister of Health Carmen Montón and with which the current Executive in office committed itself to recovering Universal Healthcare and thus providing healthcare coverage to foreigners residing in Spain.

The headline was used by social networks and by the leader of the extremist VOX party, Santiago Abascal, to speculate and say that "we have to end universal healthcare for immigrants, how much does that tell us? One billion euros, two billion euros, three billion...".

July 2018



Link to the original video: <https://youtu.be/2TeQqJVix3M>

On social media this video recorded by a security camera is reproduced in which a group of men appear assaulting a shop, the text announces that it has been in Ceuta and accuses the attackers of being "those who jumped the fence".

The assault is real, it happened in South Africa in November 2015, and as in Spain, it has been used in other countries such as Italy or Russia to blame migrants for vandalism. However, these young people were students at a South African university carrying out a protest action, as is well indicated if we access the original video.

October 2018



Link to the tweet: https://twitter.com/marce_sevilla/status/1055064714663919616

The message reads: "Muslim women throw food provided by Caritas" and is also spread via Facebook, being shared more than 118,000 times with more than 4,000 reactions.

As can be clearly seen in the photograph, there is no evidence as to who might have thrown the food away, so it is not possible to prove what the title claims. On the other hand, both Caritas and the Red Cross warn that photographs like this and other similar ones are recurrently and maliciously published to attack the immigrant community.

November 2018



Link posted on Twitter: <https://youtu.be/3g5nMaDwoRg>

The user's tweet says that "Hundreds of Muslims demand the application of Islamic law -saria- in Caspe (Zaragoza)". Fake news: It is about Pakistani Muslims celebrating the birth of Mohammed in an event in which even the mayor of the city of Caspe participated.

The tweet has been shared more than 2,000 times; in other words, more than 2,000 users have believed that this video was real, but it is a hoax. The images show how several people chant different slogans that are impossible to identify because the audio is manipulated, and the voice is slowed down.

November 2018

Que puto asco de verdad, vienen y encima es para haber esto???? Hija de puta la madre



The video is no longer available and was sent through social media making it look like what is happening is happening in Spain. The images show a black woman and three children trying to steal another woman's handbag. The messages with which the video has been shared claim that they are immigrants in a shopping center in Spain. This video has been shared on Facebook more than 15,000 times, accompanied by phrases such as "they come and on top of that to do this?" or "Well, yes, ladies and gentlemen, this is what we are bringing to Spain".

However, it is a video that has been circulating since at least November 2018 in South Africa, as indicated by the brand of the umbrella, which belongs to a restaurant chain that does not exist in Spain.

2019

March 2019

La Tribuna
de España

La Tribuna de España
Nueva APP de la Tribuna de España

Portada España Internacional Deportes Opinión Sociedad A fondo Tribuna España Radio

Los musulmanes pretenden hacerse con muchas alcaldías de España. Impondrán la Ley Islámica allá donde gobiernen

ESPAÑA PUBLICADO EL MIÉRCOLES 06 MARZO 2019 10:03 ESCRITO POR MARCO LABRADOR



Link to news item that amplifies the information from La Tribuna de España: <https://www.burbuja.info/inmobiliaria/threads/los-musulmanes-pretenden-hacerse-con-muchas-alcaldias-de-espana-impondran-la-ley-islamica-alla-donde-gobiernen.1142060/>

The headline of the news item reads: "Muslims intend to take over many mayors' offices in Spain. They will impose Islamic law wherever they govern".

The reality is that supposing that the political party PRUNE would have won some mayorships that year and that their intention to apply Islamic law there was real, it would be constitutionally unfeasible. Spain is a non-confessional state where no one can be forced to declare their ideology, religion, or beliefs. Neither local councils nor any other entity can apply any religious law to anyone, since the Law of Religious Freedom (art. 16, 1) outweighs any divine law.

May 2019

MENÚ LV

Un bulo sobre Religión Islámica de un colegio de Los Alcázares se extiende por las redes

El centro Bienvenido Conejero Requiel seguirá ofertando Religión Católica a sus alumnos

Several media in the region of Murcia had to deny a fake news that was circulating on social media in which a fake form from a school in the town of Los Alcázares was presented, asking families to choose between the Islamic religion and social values for their children, without the option "Catholic religion" appearing anywhere.

The Regional Ministry of Education explained that the document, whose image has been transmitted via Twitter, Facebook, and WhatsApp, is missing the first page which includes the option of Catholic Religion. These sheets are part of an internal and unofficial document of the school that was never given to parents, but someone took a photograph of the second piece to make people believe that only this option was going to be offered, generating a great alert among the educational community and the region in general.

July 2019



This Facebook post reads as follows: "Beware Sagunto and Puerto, a gang of North Africans in gas workers costumes are knocking on houses and beating people up, there are at least 10 of them, do not open anyone suspicious and call the police".

This alarming phrase comes from the Facebook account of "Town Hall El Puerto", the Port of Sagunto, one assumes. But it so happens that Puerto de Sagunto does not have its own town hall. The city and the port are separated by about five kilometers and both urban centers and their 66,000 inhabitants are under the jurisdiction of the Sagunto City Council.

The account that tries to mislead and frighten the population is private, but it has the appearance of being official, so we can call it false. In fact, the local police of Sagunto confirmed at the time that they had never received any complaint from the gang of ten North Africans.

August 2019



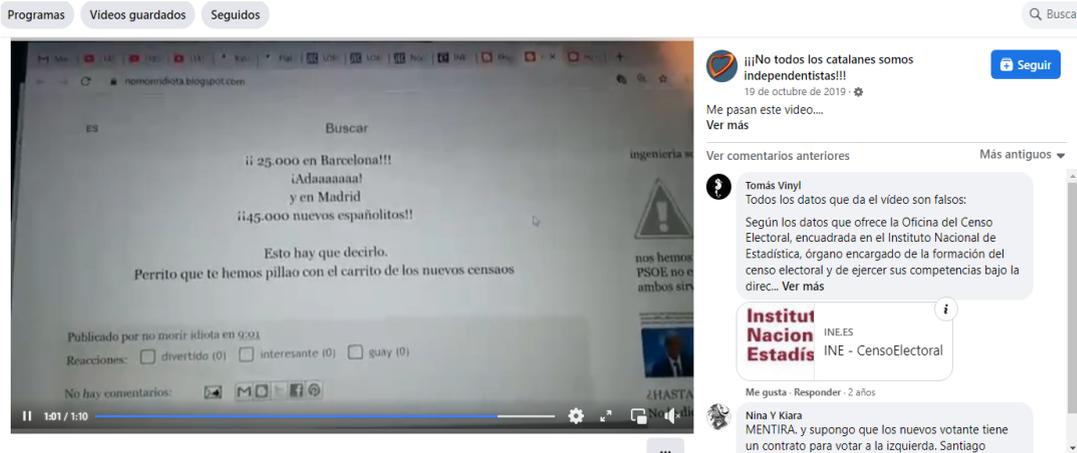
The extremist party VOX publishes on its social networks the information that unaccompanied minors receive an allowance of 600 euros, while the widow's pension does not reach 500 euros per month. The text is as follows: "A government that prefers to protect those who come from outside rather than its elders, who have worked hard to raise the country, does not deserve any respect".

These data are false. The Autonomous Regions, which in Spain oversee this issue, denied the information, since "those under guardianship are minors and do not receive direct aid". At most, and depending on the place, the minor can receive about 10 euros per month for leisure, but in no case 600 euros per month.

Nor do the statements on widow's pensions correspond to reality. In that year, the minimum amount established was 513 euros.

Even so, the repercussions on social networks and in the public political debate were of great significance.

October 2019



Link to the video posted on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1286961441486912>

According to the video posted, in less than nine months the government has allowed 200,000 people who entered the country illegally to be naturalized.

This is false information, flatly denied by the government, which explained that no foreigner in an irregular situation can automatically be granted nationality. They must first regularize their situation in Spain, prove that they have no criminal record either in their country of origin or in Spain, and pass language and general culture tests, among other requirements. As a rule, foreigners must have resided regularly in the country for 10 years to be eligible for nationality.

In any case, the publication was shared more than 1,652 times and accumulated more than 40,625 reproductions that year. As we can see, the content of this video can still be accessed.

2020

January 2020



An image that circulated on social networks posing as a capture from the Ministry of the Interior stated that "the government of Pedro Sánchez has approved this Wednesday in Congress the implementation of an extraordinary procedure for the regularization of immigrants". The fake news was not only spread in Spain, but also reached countries such as Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, and Colombia. However, it is a montage with paragraphs from other news items published by different media in 2005, 2006 and 2018.

There was no similar publication on the Ministry of Interior's website and the institution itself denied it on its social networks. Ministry officials had to contact the Spanish embassies in the aforementioned Latin American countries to deny the fake news.

April 2020



Link to the video posted on Facebook: https://youtu.be/1xICJ_68U3w

A video in which a man claims that Roma families have received €3,000 through a government solidarity card and spent it on shopping at Mercadona has gone viral.

The recording, originally uploaded to the social network TikTok, has begun to circulate massively via WhatsApp and has subsequently been disseminated by several websites claiming that the aid was given by the government. However, the person who uploaded it later admitted that he had made it up and uploaded another video rectifying what he had said. The rectification did not get as many views as the first publication.



Link to the rectification video: https://youtu.be/d8Pw_t3Y5j4

Juni 2020



Link to the news item that dismantles the fake tweet:

https://www.infolibre.es/politica/ultimo-bulo-vox-manipular-ingreso-minimo-vital-alertar-efecto-llamada-no-existe_1_1183742.html

Content of the tweet: "Encouraging the invasion. All the people who arrive in patera (*small boat*) will have the right to collect rent".

This year, the Socialist Government approves the Minimum Living Income (IMV) and since then misinformation about the migrant population has resurfaced with statements such as that "all immigrants who arrive in a patera" to Spain will be entitled to receive this aid or with images that make you believe that many immigrants are already applying for it. However, the regulation of this aid is clear: to receive it, the applicant must have been residing in Spain regularly for at least one year.

The extremist VOX party takes advantage of this to continue misinforming on social networks and in Parliament. It is another example of creating hoaxes that reach a large part of society.

Juni 2020



Link to the news item denying the fake message that was circulating on social networks:
https://www.eldiario.es/desalambre/espagnol-excluye-recibir-prestacion-desempleo_1_6013781.html

In the image circulating on social networks, the message appears: "if you are Spanish, you are not eligible for benefits". The image simulates a denial of unemployment benefits to a Spanish person, making people believe that immigrants or foreigners have advantages. The photo states as the reason for the denial that "none of the causes for access to unemployment benefits are met and that he was born and has Spanish nationality, therefore, he does not meet the requirements". This is a hoax.

The Ministry of Labor, Migration and Social Economy states that "being born in Spain and having Spanish nationality does not exclude you from any type of benefit" and being a foreigner does not appear among the requirements to receive unemployment benefits. Moreover, there is no specific unemployment benefit for immigrants and the picture that is given, which is always the same, mixes two types of benefits.

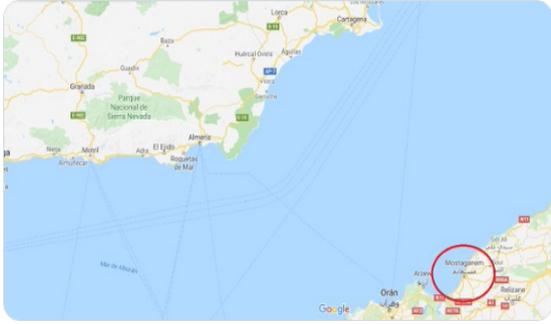
This is yet another way of trying to confront the indigenous population with the immigrant population by making people believe that some have more rights than others.

August 2020

 **Caso Aislado**
@CasoAislado_Es

 Un avión de reconocimiento de Frontex detecta 500 pateras preparadas para zarpar desde Mostaganem (Argelia). Fuentes policiales confirman que esperan que lleguen 5.000 inmigrantes ilegales en las próximas semanas.

España debe proteger sus costas de la invasión migratoria.



Comparte



Link to the tweet causing the misinformation:

https://twitter.com/casoaislado_es/status/1289497132047581186

On Twitter it is published that "a Frontex reconnaissance plane detects 500 boats ready to set sail from Mostaganem (Algeria)". This tweet provokes followers to "complete the information" with photographs of the supposed boats and add that some 5,000 illegal immigrants will arrive in Spain".

Neither of the two statements was true. The boats in the photo belonged to fishermen in Mauritania, as was later confirmed on the Instagram account of photographer Elijah Gachamba, the author of the photo.

Conclusions

In recent years there has clearly been an abuse of the dissemination of fake news about immigration in Spain. At the beginning of the period analyzed (2015–2020), we were barely able to find any news of this kind. It was particularly difficult to find fake news on the subject in 2016. Since then, all kinds of rumors have been massively spread through social networks, official statements by political leaders picked up by the mass media and opinion articles based on manipulated data.

Fake news and misinformation are eroding people's trust in the information they have access to. According to the Barometer of disinformation and hate speech against migrants⁵² conducted by Oxfam Intermon, Maldita.es and Atrevia between the end of 2020 and the beginning of 2021, 54% of Spaniards agree with the following information: "there is so much disinformation that I don't believe anything anymore".

This survey was conducted with the support of the Right, Equality and Citizenship program of the European Union to find out about the consumption of disinformation and its relationship with hate speech towards the migrant population in Spain.

The survey of more than 2,000 people found that almost 7 out of 10 respondents consider themselves unable to differentiate between what is real and what is deliberate manipulation or a hoax, and 67% are concerned about the impact of information poisoning on their real lives. 76% of respondents believe that political parties are the main issuers of hoaxes in the media and social networks, and 8.9% admit that they forward information without first

⁵² Link to the survey:

<https://www.oxfamintermon.org/es/publicacion/barometro-desinformacion-odio>

checking whether it is true. These include things such as the State's economic and social favorable treatment of immigrants, that unaccompanied migrant minors are a dangerous group, or that a large part of the violent acts in Spain are because it is a permissive country when it comes to migration.

As we have already explained, with the emergence of the extremist VOX party on the political scene since 2017-2018, the practice of sending hate messages, biased data and confrontational positions in society has been spreading. The sector of the population that gives most veracity to these hate narratives are people over 66 years of age, who, when it comes to voting, represent a not insignificant percentage of the resident population in Spain.

Local's perception

In the framework of the reCREATE project, we have also carried out a small study on the perception of the local population about migration-related rumors. For this purpose, a survey¹ was carried out with the participation of people between 18 and 30 years of age who wanted to study this phenomenon.

The results obtained in Spain (36 participants) correspond closely to the conclusions obtained at the national level by the Barometer.

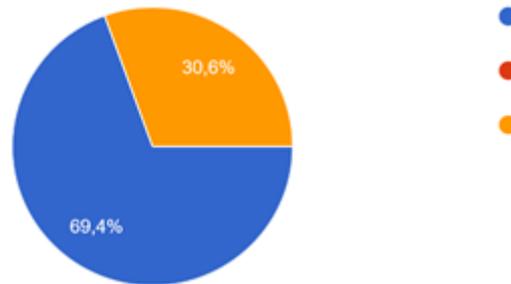
This is the summary of the responses obtained.

On the profile of the people participating in the survey:

- Of the 36 participants, 24 (66%) are women.
- 50% live in a town of more than 100,000 inhabitants and 20% in a town of less than 20,000.
- 75% have a higher level of education
- 50% are working people and 47.7% are studying.

When asked about migration-related issues, the responses were as follows:

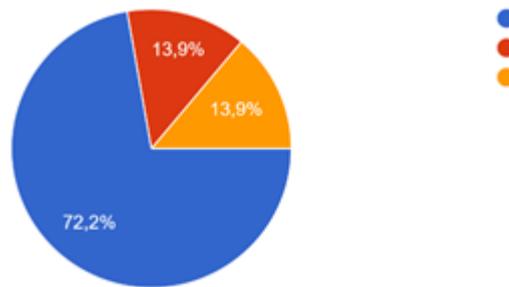
- 69.4% (blue) believe that the migrant population could be a reinforcement for our society compared to 30.6% (yellow) who believe that yes, they could be a reinforcement if they manage to integrate into society. None of the people surveyed consider immigration to be a threat to our society (red).



- Two-thirds of those surveyed believe that the migrant population is looking for better job opportunities and better living conditions in Spain. The remaining third opted for the answer "they are fleeing from very complicated lives and situations".
- Two-thirds believe that migrants do any type of work (skilled or unskilled), while one-third believe that they mainly work in unskilled jobs. No one chose the option "they do not work because they want to benefit from public financial support".

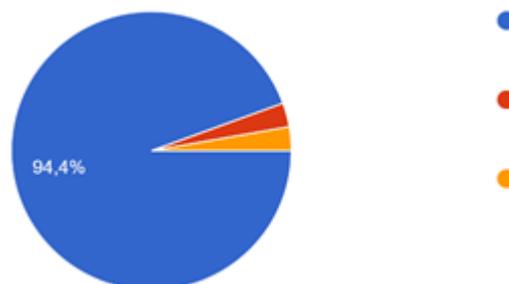
The following conclusions can be drawn from the responses on issues related to access to information:

- 36% state that they usually read the headline of the news item and four lines to get a general idea about the issue. The same percentage say that they read the whole article and look for different points of view on the issue. The remaining 27% confess that they do not actually read the news.
- The opinion on the news provided by the media is not very favorable. 64% believe that they are sometimes unreliable and that it depends a lot on the source and 33% say that they cannot be trusted.
- The question on whether they believe that politics directly influences the media yields the following result: 72.2% say that it always does, while 13.9% think that it only sometimes does and another 13.9% believe that it is the other way around, i.e., that it is the media that influences political discourse.



Regarding the theme of the study, misinformation, the information provided by the survey is as follows:

- 50% of the people surveyed believe they are very likely to find false news in the media compared to 47.2% who say that this depends on the media and the sources they use.
- 8 out of 10 respondents say they do not know how to recognize fake news.
- Almost 89% of respondents indicated that if they did recognize a piece of fake news, they would avoid spreading it and look for a more reliable source.
- When asked about the consequences of the publication of false news about the immigrant population, 94.4% of respondents thought that rumors are dangerous because they can lead to an increase in hatred towards this population. One person believes that this news makes us more aware of the potential dangers of having too much immigration and another responded that they were unaware of the consequences.



Final conclusions

Due to the growing phenomenon of fake news (not only those related to migration, but also, for example, those that have emerged in times of pandemics) society has begun to react, thus taking the lead over political initiative.

In Spain, laws have been passed to prosecute so-called "hate crimes", which are defined as criminal offences against others based on actual or perceived race, national or ethnic origin, language, color, religion, sex, age, intellectual or physical disability,

sexual orientation or another similar factor. This means that broadcasting, disseminating, or sharing fake news of any kind does not fall within this definition, as there is no physical abuse as such.

But we have already seen how certain fake news stories generate tension, confrontation and hatred towards certain groups and are used to polarize society. Therefore, both the traditional media and social initiatives are actively fighting in different initiatives to dismantle rumors and stop fake news. Specifically, work is being carried out along two complementary lines: professional networking and education.

A pioneering initiative

Networking is very important when it comes to ensuring that the objectives reach most of the society. The BCN (Barcelona) Antirumors Strategy was created in 2010, within the framework of the BCN Interculturalitat Plan. It is a communicative strategy of awareness-raising and training that aims to generate tools and resources to dismantle rumors and stereotypes that hinder the intercultural process because they are the seed of racist attitudes, discriminatory practices and/or populist discourses that foster fear and mistrust among people.

The BCN Antirumors Strategy articulates its work in the city and with the city through four lines of action:

- Participation: through the Anti-Rumor Network and the Anti-Rumor Agents in Action.
- Training: offering the Anti-Rumour Agents course.
- Awareness-raising: through the Catalogue of Anti-rumor Activities, anti-rumor actions in neighborhoods and the distribution of anti-rumor materials.
- Communication: dissemination of anti-rumor actions and campaigns.

Today practically all Spanish capitals have an anti-rumor network that works with the same objectives as the Barcelona network, which was awarded a best practice prize by the European Union.

Education to protect vulnerable youth

Two factors need to be considered in the education sector:

- First one is the socio-demographic profile of the country. As we said in the first chapter, Spanish society has changed a lot in recent years, and we are already talking about the second generation of immigrant population.
- Second one is the access and relationship of younger people to information through social networks.

Spanish youth is diverse and must grow up coexisting and accepting this diversity. Therefore, special attention is also paid to intercultural activities and workshops on the proper use of social networks and the identification of fake news in schools and educational centers. In this sense, training on anti-rumor strategies and the detection of fake news on social media is now a normal part of school life.

In addition to these initiatives, there are agreements with different media, such as “The Trust Project”, a complex international consortium involving approximately 120 news organisations working to achieve greater transparency and accountability in the dissemination and contrast of information. In Spain there are also portals dedicated to dismantling fake news, such as www.maldita.es or www.newtral.es, which are run by communication professionals.

But we are still a long way from putting an end to this increasingly complex phenomenon, which is attacking the foundations of our society. In recent times, the tendency is to disseminate new versions of historical facts, manipulated videos with huge doses of realism, and messages in the form of political discourse based on falsehoods.

It is a fact that people feel increasingly insecure and unprotected in the face of fake news and that this is an issue of great social importance that needs to be tackled from all possible perspectives.

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8. Spanish National Institute of Statistics

General conclusions

The EU and the migration issue

Europe has historically been a territory of both immigration and emigration. By focusing only on the events of the last century we immediately notice the massive flow of internal, regional and national migrations, as well as the flows of migrants from neighboring areas as a result of political upheavals, like in the case of the former Russian Empire.

Starting from the 1960s, Europe became the destination of a massive migratory flow from African and Asian countries, especially due to the political upheavals and economic break-ups that affected these countries during the postcolonial era. It is enough to consider the migratory flow from Algeria and other former African colonies to France, a flow that is still uninterrupted, or the massive number of migrants heading to the United Kingdom from the Indian Subcontinent (notes). In recent decades these massive migratory flows coming from non-European countries have been increasing, reaching increasingly

substantial figures, starting from the refugee crisis in 2015 and up to the most recent developments. The increasingly relevant migratory flow has inevitably become a central theme in the political debate not only in the countries hosting a large number of migrants or people with migration backgrounds (typically Western European countries), but also in those that are affected by the phenomenon in a more marginal way (the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, which recently joined the European Union). This political debate has been originated from the perception of the phenomenon of the European citizens, especially those coming from Western countries, who are increasingly sensitive to the issue of immigration, especially regarding the social, economic and cultural aspects of the phenomenon.

The phenomenon of migration also clashes in Europe with other issues whose importance is constantly increasing; therefore, it is necessary to evaluate the aspects of the phenomenon in a more complex way. Apart from the issue of migrants, Europe is currently facing different challenges; in particular, the aging of the population, the economic competitiveness, and the maintenance of a welfare and social security system⁵³. All these aspects cannot be addressed separately from the management of the migrant phenomenon and, above all, from the issue of the integration of migrants not only in the labor market, but also in the social body of the EU countries themselves.

As regard the management of the migration phenomenon, the current European policy is the culmination of a long process. One of the most controversial aspects in the management of the phenomenon has been and is still the cooperation at the international level between the different countries of the European Economic Community first, and then of the European Union. Initially, from the establishment of the EEC in 1957 until 1990, the management of migration flows was basically left to the individual states, with a minimum of cooperation in particular cases, such as the management of international criminality. From 1990 to 1999 there was a transitional phase; the new forms of cooperation were made necessary by the growing number of asylum seekers from those years onwards. The Maastricht Treaty (signed in 1991 and entered into force in 1993) clearly defined the asylum policy as a matter of common interest, and which therefore had to be regulated at a Community level. These regulations at Community level became even more necessary since the entry into force in 1995 of the Schengen Agreement, which allows residents of the signatory countries freedom of movement without having to be subjected to border controls⁵⁴. Especially since 2007, with the entry into the EU of several countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the migration policy began to be defined at EU level. From then on, the role of the European Commission has always been at the forefront of legislation. Currently the Council of the EU, in which the ministers of justice and the ministers of migration of the member states are represented, must comply with the European guidelines, and take resolutions together with the European Parliament.

The reasons for a Community immigration policy

Such a long period to define the migration policy within the EEC and then the EU is explained by the fact that at the beginning the regulation of immigration and the management of asylum seekers was not among the Community interests. As mentioned, it

⁵³ <https://www.bpb.de/gesellschaft/migration/dossier-migration-ALT/56517/migration-in-der-eu> retrieved on December 14th.

⁵⁴ <https://www.bpb.de/gesellschaft/migration/dossier-migration-ALT/56518/warum-europa> retrieved on December 14th.

was envisaged that each country would develop an independent policy regarding the management of the phenomenon⁵⁵. Nevertheless, the policy in this regard changed over time, given the difficulty for individual states to manage an ever-increasing phenomenon.

Although the number of asylum seekers has become lower in recent years, the number of migrants has not decreased, as those who have remained in EU countries and have obtained the residence permit can reunite with their families, which still increases the number of migrants from third countries.

A second reason that made cooperation on immigration an urgent issue was undoubtedly the opening of internal borders following the Schengen Agreement. Since there are no more border controls between most EU states, it means that even citizens of non-EU countries can emigrate from one country to another without being controlled at the border. Obviously, this fact has made it necessary to adopt common rules regarding the entry into the Schengen area and the EU. In addition, the control of illegal immigration has become an increasingly difficult issue to manage for the individual states⁵⁶.

A further much discussed topic related with the integration of migrants, concerning especially the labor market, is that of the ageing of the population. According to Eurostat statistics, it is estimated that by 2050 around a third of EU citizens will be over 65. This will be a problem that is not easy to solve, given that the aging of the population will predictably lead to a decline in employable people. Clearly, it is not envisaged to solve such a problem solely by resorting to the integration of migrants; however, their presence in significant numbers in the labor market will help to mitigate the shortage of workers that is expected in the coming years. For this reason, the Blue Card has been recently introduced, which allows qualified workers from third countries to live and work in 25 of the 27 EU countries (Ireland and Denmark do not currently issue the Blue Card) up to a maximum of four years, with the possibility of renewal and also allows the holders to bring their family members with them.

Nowadays, given the ever-increasing or at least high number of migrants and asylum seekers as well as the management of some common problems such as the aging of the population, the absence of a Community policy on immigration seems to be almost impractical. Since 1999, with the entry into force of the Treaty of Amsterdam, many key points of migration policy have been defined at Community level, for example the visa policy and many powers of decision on asylum policy. Community policy in this regard is already very developed; important decisions have also been taken to develop a Community policy on integration⁵⁷. This is obviously not a simple and delicate issue, but it is expected to become even more important in the future.

EU regulations for the long-term residence of citizens from non-EU countries

In the European Union there is a common directive, that regulates the long-term permanence of third-country-nationals. This is the Directive 2003/109/EC, which regulates not only the conditions for obtaining long-term residence status, but also any rights acquired, as well as the rules of movement within the member countries. This last aspect is

⁵⁵ Ibidem.

⁵⁶ Ibidem.

⁵⁷ <https://www.bpb.de/gesellschaft/migration/dossier-migration-ALT/56534/akteure> retrieved on December the 14th.

also regulated by the Schengen agreements, which will be briefly reported in this concluding chapter⁵⁸.

The contents of Directive 2003/109/EC with regard to non-EU citizens can be summarized within the following key points:

- Non-EU citizens must prove that they have lived legally and continuously in a European country for at least 5 years.
- Not having been absent from the country for a period of more than six consecutive months and no more than 10 months in total.
- Prove that they have adequate means of economic sustenance for themselves and their families, and that they have health care coverage.
- National authorities must take a decision no later than six months after receiving the application.
- The authorities may reject the application for public security reasons but not for economic reasons.
- In case of successful application, applicants receive a residence permit valid for 5 years and automatically renewable.
- Those who have obtained a residence permit may lose it in the event of fraudulent acquisition, if they have received an expulsion order or represent a danger to public security, or if they have been absent from the EU for 12 consecutive months.
- Long-term residents receive the same treatment as citizens in most areas but in some cases may be subject to restrictions.
- Long-term residents can move to other EU countries for more than three months under certain conditions; they can also take their family with them.
- The different EU countries have the possibility to exchange information about applicants.
- The Directive does not apply to certain categories, such as students or seasonal workers⁵⁹.
- After obtaining the long-term residence permit, it is possible for non-EU citizens to apply for citizenship of the country of residence. This can be accomplished depending on the procedures and timing in accordance with the national legislation of the individual countries. However, every year a significant number of people manage to obtain citizenship of a European country. In the years 2015 2016 and 2017 those who obtained citizenship of a European country were 825,000, 995,000 and 841,000 respectively⁶⁰.

The Schengen Agreement

Movements within most European (and EFTA) countries are also regulated by the Schengen Agreement. The Schengen Agreement was originally signed by the countries of the Benelux Economic Union, France, and the Federal Republic of Germany in 1985. The Schengen acquis (including the agreement and the convention implementing the agreement) takes its name from the village in Luxembourg where the acquis was signed. The purpose of the acquis is, on the one hand, to enable residents of the Member States to move within the Schengen area without having to carry out any border controls. On the other hand, the

⁵⁸ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=LEGISSUM%3A123034>, URL consulted on 15.12.2021

⁵⁹ Ibidem

⁶⁰ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/STAT_19_1550, URL consulted on 14.12.2021.

agreement is about to ensure the security of citizens of member states. This is achieved through a uniform regulation regarding the controls at the entrance of each country in the area, developing the cooperation of the border guards of the various countries and allowing an effective exchange of information between the judicial authorities of the countries party to the agreement⁶¹.

After a phase of gradual implementation, the acquis entered into force in 1995 with the participation of 7 countries; nowadays the agreement is in force in all 27 EU countries apart from Ireland. Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, and Romania are part of the Schengen area but have not yet applied the clauses of the agreement in their entirety. The EFTA countries are also part of the Schengen countries⁶².

It is interesting to note that the Schengen Agreement provides for freedom of movement between the signatory states for those who are resident in (and not necessarily citizens of) the countries themselves. Therefore, once having legally entered a country in the Schengen area and obtained a permanent residence permit (therefore also for non-EU citizens) it is possible to move within the area without carrying out border controls.

However, the Schengen Agreement also provides for a unified regulation on extradition; there is also an important database, the Schengen Information System (SIS), a large-scale computer database that supports external border control and law enforcement cooperation between Schengen countries. The database contains information about e.g., suspected criminals, individuals who may not have the right to enter or stay in the EU, missing persons, etc. The database is used by the European Union's law enforcement agency (Europol) and the European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (Eurojust), and the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex). In addition, thanks to the Visa Information System (VIS) it is possible for member country authorities to share information regarding visa data, such as short-term visa applications⁶³.

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⁶² Ibidem

⁶³ Ibidem