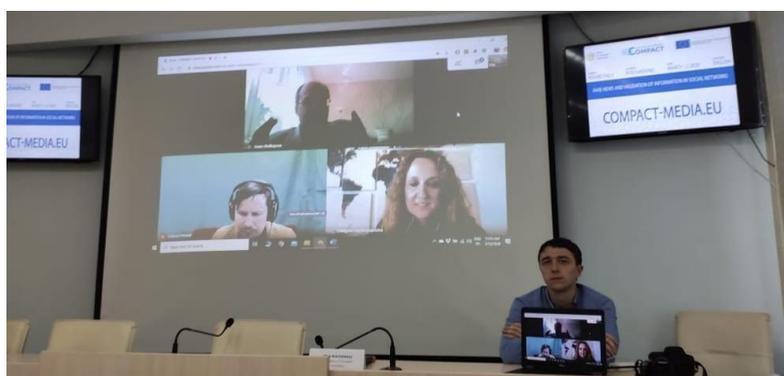| Title	Fake news and validation of information in social networks
Date	12th of March, 2020
Location	Kyiv, Ukraine
Purpose	To present findings of the COMPACT project on approaches and practices of counterfeiting and regulation of social media in EU countries in the context of convergence. To present experience and tools of Ukrainian organizations in these areas, to discuss, in an open discussion format, the key proposals of the new draft law on regulation of online media and social networks in Ukraine, as well as the possibility of cooperation with the EU in this area in the context of European integration processes and existing EU grant programs.
Scope	The main topics of the speeches and discussions: • Fakes and opposition to propaganda • Misinformation - the main types and tools of fight • Freedom of expression, free access to networks and changing the rules of online platforms • What are the key trends in approaches to regulating online media and social networks • Case law tackling information disorder • The extent of the responsibility for disseminating misinformation and disinformation • The development of media literacy and the role of education and civil society • What are the prospects for the development of online media and social networks • Ukraine - as a testing ground for hybrid information warfare tools
Participants	54 representatives of policy makers, media, NGOs, universities and research organizations have registered for the roundtable. 28 participants participated onsite, 4 participants participated online with their presentations and around 16 online viewers were watching live broadcasting.
Video	https://youtu.be/fwzGq92LgEY
Materials (Presentations etc.)	https://aei.org.ua/2630

Mykola Kniazhytsky, member of parliament (member of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine Committee on Humanitarian and Information Policy) welcomed participants. Mr. Kniazhutsky highlighted the challenges that we are facing nowadays, and that the Ukrainian authorities are faced with the choice of protecting themselves from aggression in a country during war including information war on the one hand. On the other hand, the authorities are always tempted to restrict freedom of expression, to control certain media resources, especially where at times this entails some corruption challenges, and at times it is related to issues of censorship and political competition. Mr. Kniazhytsky also highlighted that when we talk about media regulation, we have to be very careful and understand that media and Internet regulation is essential, but we must be careful. Mykola Kniazhytsky described the examples of the issues with bill on disinformation, proposed by Ministry of Culture, as well as examples of the alternative bill on media that he is a co-author. One of the main questions that was raised is how to combine regulation and freedom of speech, and whether there is a place for self-regulation.

Video is available at the link: https://youtu.be/fwzGq92LgEY?t=30

Dr. Lukasz Porwol, Deputy leader at eGovernment Unit, Insight Centre for Data Analytics, NUI Galway, Ireland provided a brief introduction about the COMPACT project and overview of the preliminary results. The objective of the COMPACT project is to increase awareness (including scientific, political, cultural, legal, economic and technical areas) of the latest technological discoveries among key stakeholders in the context of social media and convergence. The project offers analyses and road maps of related initiatives. In addition, extensive research on policies and regulatory frameworks in media and content is being conducted.

Dr. Lukasz Porwol highlighted recent finding on digital identity, bots, immersive technologies, microtargeting and social media influencers produced under WP lead by COMPACT partner SCM, Slovakia.

COMPACT findings are available at the link: https://aei.org.ua/2630/. and on the project website: http://compact-media.eu/

Video is available at the link: https://youtu.be/fwzGq92LgEY?t=779

Presentation is available at the link:
https://www.dropbox.com/s/b3rsk4fk4u5yyhv/Lukasz%20Porwoll%20COMPACT_PRESENTATION_Kyiv.pdf?dl=0

Dr. Andrej Skolkay, School of Communication and Media, Slovakia presented the COMPACT key findings of online media regulations. Dr. Andrej Skolkay provided information on global suggested approaches to social media regulation including soft (indirect, long-term) measures to regulation, measures encouraging/supporting regulation and measures enforcing regulation. He highlighted that European Commission considers to prepare a directive on social media regulation on the second half of 2020 and for this purpose, the EC is looking for suggestion and opinions whether it is needed and how it should look like taking into account that many options of how to regulate social media exist. The main trend is towards more radical and more enforceable regulation of social media. He pointed that suggestions in this field from experts from Ukraine are by and large missing and would be very much welcome.

Video is available at the link: https://youtu.be/fwzGq92LgEY?t=1999

Presentation is available at the link:
https://www.dropbox.com/s/fnvnz5aizljc97n/PP1%20Global%20Suggestions%20kyiv.pdf?dl=0

Dr. Evangelia Psychogiopoulou, HellenicFoundation for European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP), Greece presented the findings of the study on selected national courts rulings on social media. She started by describing the role of courts in social media governance. The presentation of Dr. Evangelia Psychogiopoulou covered the samples of highest and second level court cases on social media, issue areas court cases, the dimension of fundamental rights, Freedom of political speech, the impact of social media on legacy media regulation, freedom of the press, dimension of public figures.

Short report on national courts is available at the link among other project's materials: https://aei.org.ua/2630/

Video is available at the link: https://youtu.be/fwzGq92LgEY?t=2970

Presentation is available at the link:
https://www.dropbox.com/s/hel8so3hohu5lwx/Evangelia%20presentation.kyiv.pdf?dl=0

Maxim Panchenko, Coordinator of Analytical Department, Internews Ukraine (a leading Ukrainian analytical and consulting center in the field of media and communications) introduced to the audience the Historical myths on Ukraine in Russian social media. He presented research of Internews on Russian history-focused propaganda. It has two main pillars: an analysis of the key narratives of Russian historical propaganda about Ukraine, and comments on those narratives from Ukrainian professional historians. The narratives were identified within the analysis of the Russian internet segment, which was carried out with the help of neural networks and other methods of machine learning. Responses of professional historians helped us avoid the trap of responding on propaganda with counter-propaganda, and analyse where exactly Russian messages distort the truth or where they express only partial truth. Among Russian propaganda myths and fake social media messages described in the presentation were: "Ukraine is a bad shadow of Russia", "Ukraine is an artificial project of the West", «Crimea, Donbass and southeast of Ukraine are Russia», "USSR is a powerful empire, Stalin is a hero", "All Ukrainian nationalists were fascists", "Ukraine forgot about victory over Nazism".

Example of the materials are available at the links:
https://ukraineworld.org/articles/books/words-and-wars-ukraine-facing-russian-propaganda
https://ukraineworld.org/articles/books/re-vision-history

Video is available at the link: https://youtu.be/fwzGq92LgEY?t=4758

Presentation is available at the link:
https://www.dropbox.com/s/xhqxsuor92offwo/Maksym%20Panchenko%20%20Re-vision.pdf?dl=0

Ellina Shnurko-Tabakova, Head of Council information safety and cybersecurity NGO, Ukraine presented Hybrid threat decomposition methodology - Big Data analysis by attackindex.com. She described the methodology of Attack Index including: threats Identification and structuration; semantic core of threats; tracking of object fields; key queries; ratings and regulations; clustering of information objects; methods of forecasting and decision making. The role of the target groups of each hybrid impact, tools and context is the basis of understanding in the threat classification. Decomposing threats to the semantic core which is the basis of key requests to monitoring systems is a step-by-step process for tracking the information environment. Threat ratings and systems for monitoring statistical and sociological indicators lead to effective counteraction against planned manipulations.

Video is available at the link: https://youtu.be/fwzGq92LgEY?t=5959

Presentation is available at the link:
https://www.dropbox.com/s/fsx32ixa6wjunt0/Elina_Shnurko%20Tabakowa%20Attack%20index_methodology_eng_march_12_2020.pdf?dl=0

Anastasiia Shyrina, Founder of HelpSMI, Ukraine presented the role of online platform HelpSMI in democracy building, promotion of freedom of speech and expression in Ukraine, and in particular its experience in counteracting fakes. Ms. Shyrina introduced the audience to HelpSMI - e-platform for communication between Ukrainian journalists and experts. HelpSMI is used by over 1000 Ukrainian journalists. Anastasiya Shyrina explained how free and technologically advanced online communication between journalists and the expert community benefits the quality of media materials, actors of civil society, representatives of academia and local businesses, as well as fledgling Ukrainian democracy as a whole. Anastasiya provided a brief overview of the platform's goals and current results, showing participants examples of success stories that relate to corruption, human rights protection and regional development. Ms. Shyrina firmly believes that seamless exchange of knowledge and information between platform users can make local journalism stronger, more professional and more fair. She also presented examples of how HelpSMI experts help shape international public opinion about Ukraine through providing commentary for top foreign informational agencies.

Video is available at the link: https://youtu.be/fwzGq92LgEY?t=8061

Presentation is available at the link:
https://www.dropbox.com/s/mkouuoakjmldtxh/Anastasiia%20Shyrina_Presentation%20of%20HelpSMI_in%20English.pdf?dl=0

Yuliya Krylova-Grek, Scientist of G.S. Kostyuk Institute of Psychology of the National Academy of Pedagogical Sciences, Ukraine presented material on media literacy as a psychological "vaccine" against manipulation. She shared with participants the examples of training and resources for media literacy, available in the presentation. The

participants discussed the role of media literacy and agreed that it is important in fighting disinformation. Media literacy is underestimated solution for fighting disinformation, especially in systems that disseminate information in the private way.

Video is available at the link: https://youtu.be/fwzGq92LgEY?t=9257

Presentation is available at the link:
https://www.dropbox.com/s/myp6p18plubzym5/Yulia%20Krylova%20Media%20literacy%20as%20a%20psychological.pdf?dl=0

Halyna Pastukh, Deputy Director, TEXTY, Ukraine presented the experience of TEXTY organization in developing innovative tools for the detection of the manipulative and disinformation content in Ukrainian media landscape. TEXTY had a few projects related to manipulative fake news, social networks, junk websites and mainstream media. One of the projects resulted in the detection of 2000 fake Facebook accounts and 400 junk and clickbait websites. TEXTY developed a model for detecting manipulative content. TEXTY developed a special dashboard with topics and meta topics on which the user can see the analysis of hundreds of manipulative news. According to their algorithm around 4000 news will be manipulative weekly. Recently TEXTY Released Feikogryz (Fake biter) - extensions for Firefox and Chrome browsers and Bot in Firefox Telegrams. Feikogryz notifies you if you go to a manipulative site or a standalone site material that was referred to as manipulation. The tags are generated by the neural network that "TEXTY" trained on thousands of manipulative news.

Video is available at the link: https://youtu.be/fwzGq92LgEY?t=9934

The second part of the round table was held in the form of discussion with the participation of **Mykyta Poturaiev, member of parliament (member of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine Committee on Humanitarian and Information Policy)**.

Mr. Poturaiev mentioned that as a result of discussions with stakeholders, they plan to reduce the regulation of online and social media, but allow online media to register to receive the status of journalists, that is, officially registered media. But this is a voluntary registration. And all other regulatory proposals that affect the restriction of freedom of speech are postponed in order to see how these issues will be handled in European law (including the revised version of Audiovisual Media Services Directive), which will then be implemented by Ukraine in the context of the Association Agreement.

Index of legal on-line regulation in Ukraine: methodology and first findings were presented by **Vitaliy Moroz, Head of New Media Department - Internews Ukraine**. NGO "Internews Ukraine" in cooperation with media lawyers developed Internet Regulation Index as a tool to monitor and oversee Internet regulation in Ukraine, which will empower civil society advocacy for more efficient Internet law. The Index could help to measure the quality of suggested regulations according to set criteria, based on human rights and media freedom approaches. NGO "Internews Ukraine" invited the experts to evaluated bills

according to the Terms of Reference (TOR). The first two studies are aimed at some of the most talked about draft laws – on media and on disinformation.

These studies provide an integral assessment of the impact of this law (positive or negative), including individual components such as influence on rights and freedoms, protection of legitimate interest, impact on the quality of service delivery, legal technique.

The focus of the discussion was on changes to the bill "On Media", especially in the context of regulating online media and social networks. Particular attention was paid to the main definitions and approach to regulation of online media. Mr. Poturaiev said that the committee now proposes to remove most of the regulations that restrict online media, and to take into account the regulations that will be implemented in the EU, including the directive on social media regulation on the second half of 2020.

The discussion raised the issue of the appropriateness of a separate bill on disinformation because the previous proposals of the Ministry of Culture of Ukraine regarding this bill caused a great deal of criticism from the media holders. It was said that the new norms introduced by this act could easily be used to silence journalists and lead to significant government control of media outlets.

And the bill also brings online and social media under closer control of the government. Information platforms and messenger services would be required to collect data on users and owners and turn it over to the information commissioner. All organizations and users of social networks would be held responsible for the accuracy of the information they disseminated.

Mr. Poturaiev informed that the Verkhovna Rada does not plan to consider and adopt this bill at the moment, his Committee is actively consulting with the Council of Europe and other European structures on approaches to solving problems with increasing disinformation processes, especially in the context of hybrid war with Russia.

Mr. Poturaiev suggested that participants consider four steps to discuss the topic: 1. Do we recognize the problem of misinformation? 2. Does this need to be addressed? 3. How to solve it - law or other regulation? And if all the answers are yes, then there must be a law, and the fourth question is what this law should be.

Mr. Poturaiev expressed his hope that the analytical materials of the COMPACT project would help to find answers to these questions. The Committee of Verkhovna Rada is working with experts from different EU countries to confirm that there are many disinformation issues in EU countries where there are many opposing views on this topic, especially the reservations against restrictions on free speech.

The participants of the event emphasized the great role of supporting media literacy and teaching media culture, especially among young people. In this regard, there are high expectations for the inclusion of these topics in secondary and high school educational programs. Collaboration with think tanks, NGOs and other stakeholders is also needed.

Participants confirmed that media legislation in Ukraine is already outdated and takes very little account of media convergence processes. Therefore, legislative changes are necessary. This requires taking into account COMPACT materials in the formulation of a regulatory policy in the media field in Ukraine and how Ukraine will fulfill its obligations in the media field within the framework of the Ukraine-EU Association Agreement and what could be the next prospects for the development of cooperation with the EU.

AGENCY OF EUROPEAN INNOVATIONS

SOCIAL MEDIA AND CONVERGENCE COMPACT

Co-funded by the Horizon 2020 programme of the European Union

COMPACT - Round table, Kyiv (Ukraine)
Fake news and validation of information in social networks

Date: 12 March 2020   **Venue:** 27A Khreshchatyk str., Media Center Press Club

Part I: 10:00 – 13:00 (Working Language English)

Presentation of the main results of COMPACT project and experience of leading Ukrainian organisations

Moderator: Ivan Kulchytskyy, President of NGO Agency of European Innovations

10:00 – 10:20	**Welcome speeches**
10:20 – 10:40	**COMPACT Project overview** *Dr. Lukasz Porwol, Deputy leader at eGovernment Unit, Insight Centre for Data Analytics, NUI Galway, Ireland*
10:40 – 11:00	**COMPACT findings of online media regulations** *Dr. Andrej Skolkay, School of Communication and Media, Slovakia*
11:00 – 11:20	**Study on national court rulings on social media** *Dr. Evangelia Psychogiopoulou, HellenicFoundation for European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP), Greece*
11:20 – 11:30	**Questions to the representatives of COMPACT project**
11:30 – 11:50	**Historical myths on Ukraine in RU social media** *Maxim Panchenko, Coordinator of Analytical Department, Internews Ukraine*
11:50 – 12:10	**Hybrid threat decomposition methodology - Big Data analysis by attackindex.com** *Ellina Shnurko-Tabakova, Head of Council information safety and cybersecurity NGO, Ukraine*
12:10 – 12:30	**Innovative tools for the detection of the manipulative and disinformation content in Ukrainian media landscape** *Halyna Pastukh, Deputy Director, TEXTY, Ukraine*
12.30 – 12.45	**The role of online platform HelpSMI in democracy building, promotion of freedom of speech and expression in Ukraine, experience in counteracting fakes.** *Anastasiia Shyrina, Founder of HelpSMI, Ukraine*
12:45 – 13:00	**Media literacy as a psychological "vaccine" against manipulation** *Yuliya Krylova-Grek, Scientist of G.S. Kostyuk Institute of Psychology of the National Academy of Pedagogical Sciences, Ukraine*

13.00-14.00 - Networking lunch

Part 2: 14:00 – 16:30 (Working Language Ukrainian, English)

14:00 – 14:20	**Index of legal on-line regulation in Ukraine: methodology and first findings** *Vitaliy Moroz, Head of New Media Department - Internews Ukraine*
14.20 – 14.50	**French law on information manipulation, experience and conclusions for Ukraine** *Oksana Melnychuk, Managing Partner of the Strategic Communications Analytical Platform, Ukraine*
14.50 – 16.00	**Free discussion** on how to take into account COMPACT materials in the formulation of a regulatory policy in the *field* of media in Ukraine and how Ukraine will fulfil its obligations in the field of media within the framework of the Ukraine-EU Association Agreement and what could be the next prospects for the development of cooperation with the EU.