



GREEK SAFER INTERNET CENTER

help
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Helpline



SaferInternet4Kids.gr
ΓΙΑ ΕΝΑ ΑΣΦΑΛΕΣΤΕΡΟ ΔΙΑΔΙΚΤΥΟ

Awareness centre

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Hotline



The spread of fake news has always been a frequent phenomenon on the internet, but the emergence and high popularity of social networking services has turned this diaspora into a real epidemic. Fake news, even some that clearly do not contain a trace of reality or logic, **are now transmitted at the speed of lightning to the cyberworld through social media**, resulting in unfortunate acquaintance and finally becoming accepted by a large portion of the audience.

So, each one of us is called upon to check the source of every received information, to understand the mission of the specific media and its goals, to analyze beyond what we read, to check the identity of the news editor, and to compare the different sources of news before making any conclusions.

According to surveys, **6 out of 10 Internet users are republishing a story by reading only the title and not its content.** It is striking that 80% of students who have taken part in Stanford University's research on information evaluation have not been able to distinguish a real article from a fake one or a journal article from an ad. Also interesting is the fact that the criterion of validity for young people is the size of the photo in an article and not the reference of its source.

We all play an important role in this vicious circle. When we passively receive information without double-checking or when we share a post, an image, or a video without checking it thoroughly, we add a stone to the global disinformation house.

What do we call fake news?

Fake news are stories that are mainly presented as journalistic, but they are deliberately made to serve a purpose.

Fake news can be included in digital or printed content.

They can also take the form of entire web pages that are designed to look like reliable news sites.

The purpose of “fake news” may be:

- commercial such as the promotion of a product or the creation of traffic to a website (click-bait)
- political (misinformation - shaping public opinion)

Why media literacy is important?

A society with literacy in media and information promotes the development of free, independent and pluralistic media and open information systems.

Media literacy does not concern only mass media, but also any form of expression and communication in our digital era.

Why should I train in media literacy?

Because:

- ➔ I will learn to think critically
- ➔ I will become a smart “consumer” of products and information
- ➔ I will learn to recognise opinion from fact
- ➔ I will learn to communicate with responsibility



How can we understand if what we read is reliable?

By asking ourselves the following questions:

WHO? Who published it? Is he an expert in the specific subject?

WHERE? Where was it posted? Is the source reliable?

WHEN? When was it published or updated?

WHY? Why was it posted? To inform us, to convince us or to promote a product?

HOW? How was it replicated? From a trusted site or primarily through social networks?



If you come across content on the Internet that you are not sure if it's true, **do not republish it without first researching about it.** One way is to search the news through a search engine to see if it has been published elsewhere.

Many times, someone who has made a republication of a fake news story may not even know it, so it is important to mark it out by writing a relative very polite comment under the republication. **It must be realized that as bullying is not acceptable, misinformation is also not acceptable.**

CHILDREN WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE
CONSCIOUS CHOICES AS SOON AS THEY
UNDERSTAND THE IMPACT OF SOMETHING!

How can we distinguish facts from opinion articles?

Both news and opinion articles shape the understanding of information. **In the writing of a news story, the journalistic rules are followed**, so the news must answer the questions what, who, where, why, how. **This is not the same as an opinion article where the individual expresses an opinion**. The purpose is to help the reader or viewer to better understand the meaning of events, to explain, but not to convince.

Fact: High-quality news should concentrate on unambiguous information needed for the news transmission. This includes those involved, the place where it happened and any additional important details and evidence.

Opinion: An important part of the news concerning the interpretation of an individual on the importance or the impact of an event or multiple events. The opinion may be a particular view or it may intend to persuade others if it is clearly characterized as an opinion.

Indications of unreliable publication:

- Excessive titles or titles not related to the post's text
- Unsigned publication
- Spelling-editorial errors or text-automated translation product
- Unbelievable content claims
- No date
- Photos - photoshop products
- Reference to non-active links
- Prompt for republishing



* The answer to
tackling the phenomenon
of spreading fake news
is the cultivation of
critical thinking!



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