

We Fight Together Against Disinformation

False information about Russia's war
against Ukraine

What is disinformation?

False information is **not** true.

One person provides information to another person.

However, this information is false.

There are two kinds of false information:

- Some information is **false by mistake**.
One person provides false information to another person. But the person providing the information believes this information to be true.
- Some information is **deliberately false**.
One person provides false information to another person. The provider of information knows: this information is false. But they want others to believe this information. This means they deliberately spread disinformation.

This text is about disinformation. This disinformation is **deliberately false**.

This disinformation relates to the war in Ukraine.

Who provides the disinformation?

- People in Germany
- People in other countries
- Governments of other countries

Why do people provide disinformation?

Many people provide disinformation.

They have different reasons for doing so. But they all want

- that other people believe something that is false.
- that other people do **not** feel safe.
- that other people pass on this false information.
So that as many people as possible believe this false information.
- that people fight with each other.
- that people **no longer** trust the government and media.

Why do governments spread disinformation? They do this to cause damage to other countries.

What does disinformation mean for Russia's war against Ukraine?

The Russian government has been spreading disinformation for many years.

The government uses the media for this.

For example via television. Or the internet.

The Russian government often uses social media.

These include:

- Facebook
- Instagram
- Twitter
- Telegram

The Russian government wants to spread disinformation through social media.

With this disinformation, Russia wants to justify the war against Ukraine. Justifying means:

Russia wants to explain why the Russian war against Ukraine is ok. To do so, Russia spreads disinformation about Ukraine. People are to believe: Russia has good reasons for this war.

This is wrong.

The Russian war against Ukraine is illegal.

With the disinformation, Russia also wants to prevent help from other countries for Ukraine.

What does the Federal Government do against disinformation?

The Federal Government protects the people

The Federal Government wants to protect people.

This is why the Federal Government explains:

how everyone can protect themselves against disinformation.

People are to be aware:

there also is disinformation. And

people are to know:

how can I recognise disinformation? This is

very important

because there is a lot of disinformation on social media.

The Federal Government helps refugees

Many people flee to Germany. These are people

- from Ukraine
- from Russia
- from Belarus

Belarus is a country next to Russia.

And next to Ukraine.

Another German name for Belarus is

Weißrussland – White Russia. People fleeing to Germany include journalists and other staff working for the media.

This is because:

many media workers want to speak the truth. Yet they are **not** allowed to do so in Russia and Belarus.

That is why they are at risk there.

The Federal Government helps these people.

They are given money by the Federal Government. And they are given work equipment.

This enables them to continue working.

In Germany, they can speak the truth about their home countries.

Close cooperation is important

The Federal Government works closely together with:

- the Länder, that is, the German federal states
- the cities and towns
- other countries in Europe

- other countries worldwide

This enables all to fight disinformation as best as they can.

The Federal Government also works together with social media staff. So that clear rules apply to social media.

Everybody should know about these rules.

And the social media should comply with these rules.

So that there is less disinformation on social media.

What can you do?

Think

before you forward or share something

Many people share false information. They do **not** want to harm other people.

But they themselves believe this false information.

Bad information is shared more often than good information.

Do many people share false information?

And do many people believe this false information?

Then people worry more and more.

Or people become angry and accuse other people.

Do you want to share information?

Then it is important:

That you carefully check the information. Also check the pictures.

You are **not** sure whether the information is true?

Then do **not** share this information.

Check:

Where does the information come from?

Search for the information in various media. Compare information from at least 2 sources. Source means: Where does the information come from?

Search for the information

- in the news on television
- in daily newspapers
- in weekly newspapers
- on the websites of the Federal Government:
www.bundesregierung.de
www.bmi.bund.de
www.germany4ukraine.de
- on the websites of your Federal State Government (Landesregierung):

Can you find the same information there too? Then it is likely to be true.

You **cannot** find the information there?

Then it is likely to be disinformation.

Read the entire information

Do **not only** read the headline.

Read the whole text.

Sometimes the text contains something different than the headline.

The text gives you more information.

Read fact checks

Facts is another word for actual data. Check is another word for verification.

Many media carry out fact checks. They check various information. They also check pictures and videos.

For example, there is the independent research centre Correctiv.

Independent means:

It works by itself, not for somebody else. Research

means:

thorough search for information.

The research centre Correctiv

searches for a lot of different information on the war in Ukraine.

And the research centre Correctiv

checks the information on the war in Ukraine.

On the website of Correctiv you can find information about which information is true.

And which information is false.

Also have a look at the website of the Federal Agency for Civic Education (Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung):

www.bpb.de

On the agency's website you will find information on the war in Ukraine.

The website of the

Federal Agency for Civic Education also provides information in simple language.

The information in simple language is on this webpage:

www.bpb.de/einfachpolitik