



European Digital Media Observatory

**Press release 2 July 2020 – for immediate release**

## **European Digital Media Observatory (EDMO) presents executive and advisory boards**

**With the guidance of the independent Advisory Board and under the leadership of the operational Executive Board, the European Digital Media Observatory (EDMO) will build out its role as Europe’s hub for a multi-disciplinary response to online disinformation. EDMO [started its activities](#) on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June 2020.**

EDMO brings together fact-checkers, media literacy experts and academic researchers to understand and analyse disinformation, in collaboration with media organisations, online platforms and media literacy practitioners.

EDMO’s day-to-day activities will be led by an operational Executive Board composed by the five heads responsible for the observatory’s main tasks. Professor Miguel Poiaras Maduro of the School of Transnational Governance (STG) at the European University Institute (EUI) will chair the Executive Board.

The heterogeneity of the network is reflected in a diverse Advisory Board, whose members act in their individual capacity as experts, in order to guarantee a strong support base of the most important stakeholders. Professor Madeleine de Cock Buning will chair the Advisory Board in her capacity as EUI-STG Chair Digital Politics, Economies and Societies.

Both the Executive Board and the Advisory Board have been appointed with immediate effect until 30 November 2022, when the first phase of the EDMO project ends. EDMO’s governance structure is independent from public authorities. A representative of the European Commission participates as observer without voting right in the Advisory Board.

### **The Executive Board**

- Chair: Miguel Poiaras Maduro, European University Institute – School of Transnational Governance
- Richard Allan, Member of the UK House of Lords
- Anja Bechmann, Aarhus University - Datalab
- Elda Brogi, European University Institute – Centre for Media Pluralism and Media Freedom
- Nikos Sarris, Athens Technology Center
- Giovanni Zagni, Pagella Politica

## **The Advisory Board**

- Chair: Madeleine de Cock Buning, European University Institute – School of Transnational Governance; Utrecht University; Netflix
- Alina Bargaoanu, National University for Political Studies and Public Administration
- Maja Cappello, Council of Europe - European Audiovisual Observatory
- Claes de Vreese, University of Amsterdam
- Christophe Leclercq, Fondation EURACTIV Europe's Media Lab
- Grégoire Lemarchand, Agence France-Presse
- Sonia Livingstone, London School of Economics and Political Science
- Giacomo Mazzone, Eurovisioni
- Pier Luigi Parcu, European University Institute - Centre for Media Pluralism and Media Freedom
- Sally Reynolds, Media & Learning Association
- Gianni Riotta, LUISS University
- Giovanni Sartor, European University Institute
- Jochen Spangenberg, Deutsche Welle
- Marc Sundermann, Bertelsmann
- Adam Thomas, European Journalism Centre
- Rebekah Tromble, George Washington University
- Peggy Valcke, KU Leuven
- Wout van Wijk, News Media Europe
- Paul Verschure, Catalan Institute for Advanced Studies
- Claire Wardle, First Draft

## **Secretary-General**

Paula Gori, European University Institute – School of Transnational Governance

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- [www.edmo.eu](http://www.edmo.eu)
- Twitter: [@EDMO\\_EUI](https://twitter.com/EDMO_EUI)
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## **About the European Digital Media Observatory (EDMO)**

The European Union funded EDMO project is based at the European University Institute in Florence (Italy), which will rely on the expertise of its School of Transnational Governance and Centre for Media Pluralism and Media Freedom. Other consortium partners are Danish research centre Datalab at Aarhus University, which is specialised in digital social research; Greek Athens Technology Center, which provides the technological support and is coordinating the Social

Observatory for Disinformation and Social Media Analysis (SOMA); and the Italian Pagella Politica, one of the country's major fact-checking organisations.

EDMO is governed by an executive and advisory board composed of experts from research, media and fact-checking organisations. EDMO's governance structure is independent from public authorities, including the European Commission. The first phase of the project runs until the end of 2022, with funding of € 2,5 million.

EDMO objectives:

- Setting-up a secure online platform supporting the academic analysis of disinformation campaigns and providing public information to raise awareness about disinformation;
- Creating a governance body which ensures public trust regarding the work of the platform and negotiating and agreeing a framework to provide secure access to data of online platforms (such as Facebook and Twitter) for research purposes;
- Supporting and facilitating the coordination of independent fact-checking activities in Europe, including the mapping of fact-checking activities in Europe and the creation of searchable directories aggregating fact-checks and media literacy material from external repositories;
- Supporting and facilitating the coordination of academic research activities on disinformation in Europe and creating a repository with relevant peer-reviewed scientific literature;
- Providing support to public authorities in the monitoring of the policies put in place by online platforms to limit the spread and the impact of disinformation.

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