

Appendix A*Full results table*

	<i>Dependent variable:</i>		
	Disinformation perceptions	Misinformation perceptions	Populist attitudes
	(1)	(2)	(3)
Populist attitudes	0.58*** (0.01)	0.47*** (0.01)	
Disinformation perceptions			0.39*** (0.02)
Misinformation perceptions			0.20*** (0.02)
Age	0.003** (0.001)	0.01*** (0.001)	-0.002* (0.001)
Gender	-0.10*** (0.03)	0.002 (0.03)	0.06* (0.03)
Political interest	0.02 (0.01)	0.02* (0.01)	-0.03*** (0.01)
Left-right orientation	0.05*** (0.01)	0.02*** (0.01)	-0.03*** (0.01)
Education	-0.004 (0.01)	0.03*** (0.01)	-0.08*** (0.01)
Germany	-0.35*** (0.07)	-0.14* (0.06)	0.15* (0.06)
Denmark	-0.13 (0.07)	-0.15* (0.06)	-0.89*** (0.06)
Greece	0.54*** (0.07)	0.16** (0.06)	0.04 (0.06)
Spain	0.26*** (0.06)	-0.06 (0.06)	-0.06 (0.06)
France	0.30*** (0.06)	0.35*** (0.05)	-0.24*** (0.06)

Hungary	-0.02 (0.06)	0.05 (0.06)	0.30*** (0.06)
Netherlands	-0.24*** (0.06)	-0.32*** (0.05)	-0.55*** (0.05)
Poland	0.13* (0.06)	0.08 (0.05)	0.11* (0.05)
Sweden	-0.38*** (0.07)	-0.14* (0.06)	-0.54*** (0.06)
Constant	1.17*** (0.11)	1.72*** (0.11)	2.85*** (0.10)
Observations	6,643	6,643	6,643
R ²	0.41	0.34	0.45
Adjusted R ²	0.41	0.34	0.45
Residual Std. Error	1.12 (df = 6627)	1.05 (df = 6627)	1.06 (df = 6626)
F Statistic	308.40*** (df = 15; 6627)	228.55*** (df = 15; 6627)	339.36*** (df = 16; 6626)

* p<0.05; ** p<0.01; *** p<0.001

Appendix B*Indicators of press freedom, trust in news and perceived corruption*

World Press Freedom Index (Reporters sans Frontières, 2019) ⁺	Trust in the news (Reuters Digital News Report, 2019) [*]	Perceived level of public sector corruption (Transparency International, 2019) [#]
Sweden (8.3; good)	Denmark (57%)	Denmark (88)
Netherlands (8.6; good)	Netherlands (53%)	Sweden (85)
Denmark (9.9; good)	Poland (48%)	Netherlands (82)
Germany (14.6; good)	Germany (47%)	Germany (80)
Spain (22; satisfactory)	Spain (43%)	France (72)
France (22.2; satisfactory)	Sweden (39%)	Poland (60)
Czech Republic (24.9; satisfactory)	Czech Republic (33%)	Czech Republic (59)
Poland (28.9; problematic)	Hungary (28%)	Spain (58)
Greece (29.1; problematic)	Greece (27%)	Hungary (46)
Hungary (30.4; problematic)	France (24%)	Greece (45)

Note. Countries ranked by order for each indicator. ⁺ Theoretical range 0 = good situation, to 100 = very serious situation; ^{*} Percentage of citizens in each country agreeing with the statement “Thinking about news in general, do you agree or disagree with the following statement? ‘I think you can trust most news most of the time’”; [#] Theoretical range 0 = highly corrupt, to 100 = very clean.

Appendix C*Robustness checks including hostile media perceptions and citizen support for regulation*

	<i>Dependent variable:</i>				
	Disinformation perceptions (1)	Misinformation perceptions (2)	Populist attitudes (3)	Hostile media perception (4)	Support for regulation (5)
Populist attitudes	0.37*** (0.01)	0.32*** (0.01)			
Disinformation perceptions			0.37*** (0.02)	0.61*** (0.02)	-0.06** (0.02)
Misinformation perceptions			0.19*** (0.02)	0.13*** (0.02)	0.15*** (0.02)
Hostile media perception	0.47*** (0.01)	0.34*** (0.01)	0.04** (0.01)		
Age	0.002** (0.001)	0.01*** (0.001)	-0.002* (0.001)	-0.002 (0.001)	0.01*** (0.001)
Gender	-0.07** (0.02)	0.02 (0.02)	0.06* (0.03)	0.005 (0.03)	0.23*** (0.04)
Political interest	-0.01* (0.01)	-0.01 (0.01)	-0.03*** (0.01)	0.05*** (0.01)	0.05*** (0.01)
Left-right orientation	0.03*** (0.005)	0.01 (0.005)	-0.03*** (0.01)	0.01 (0.01)	0.01 (0.01)
Education	-0.01 (0.01)	0.03*** (0.01)	-0.08*** (0.01)	0.001 (0.01)	-0.08*** (0.01)
Germany	-0.49*** (0.05)	-0.24*** (0.06)	0.13* (0.06)	0.52*** (0.06)	0.09 (0.09)
Denmark	-0.34*** (0.05)	-0.31*** (0.06)	-0.91*** (0.06)	0.52*** (0.06)	-0.17 (0.09)
Greece	0.15** (0.06)	-0.12* (0.06)	0.02 (0.06)	0.50*** (0.07)	1.04*** (0.09)

Spain	-0.05 (0.05)	-0.29*** (0.05)	-0.08 (0.06)	0.53*** (0.06)	0.94*** (0.09)
France	0.10* (0.05)	0.20*** (0.05)	-0.24*** (0.06)	0.20*** (0.06)	0.72*** (0.08)
Hungary	-0.07 (0.05)	0.02 (0.05)	0.30*** (0.06)	0.12 (0.06)	0.15 (0.09)
Netherlands	-0.44*** (0.05)	-0.47*** (0.05)	-0.57*** (0.05)	0.59*** (0.05)	0.48*** (0.08)
Poland	-0.02 (0.05)	-0.03 (0.05)	0.11 (0.05)	0.24*** (0.06)	0.18* (0.08)
Sweden	-0.56*** (0.06)	-0.27*** (0.06)	-0.56*** (0.06)	0.60*** (0.07)	-0.27** (0.09)
Constant	0.61*** (0.09)	1.32*** (0.10)	2.84*** (0.10)	0.40*** (0.11)	3.35*** (0.15)
Observations	6,643	6,643	6,643	6,643	6,643
R ²	0.60	0.46	0.45	0.46	0.09
Adjusted R ²	0.60	0.46	0.45	0.45	0.08
Residual Std. Error	0.93 (df = 6626)	0.95 (df = 6626)	1.06 (df = 6625)	1.11 (df = 6626)	1.56 (df = 6626)
F Statistic	614.26*** (df = 16; 6626)	359.20*** (df = 16; 6626)	320.47*** (df = 17; 6625)	346.94*** (df = 16; 6626)	39.43*** (df = 16; 6626)

Note:

*p<0.05; ** p<0.01; ***p<0.001

Appendix D

Demographic composition of country-samples over time (initial “representative” wave and final survey wave)

The Netherlands		
	Initial	Final
Female	50.0	50.1
Age		
18-30	19.0	16.9
31-45	26.2	27.9
46-60	28.6	30.3
60+	26.2	24.9
Education (ISCED 11)		
Less than primary	0.2	0.1
Primary	3.3	3.2
Lower secondary	28.9	27.8
Upper secondary	31.3	33.1
Post-secondary non tertiary	1.1	1.2
Short-cycle tertiary	5.7	5.5
Bachelor or equivalent	12.3	12.3
Master or equivalent	16.2	15.3
Doctoral or equivalent	1.1	1.5

Denmark		
	Initial	Final
Female	49.9	44.2
Age		
18-30	17.3	10.1
31-45	24.3	23.8
46-60	24.5	24.5
60+	34.0	41.6
Education (ISCED 11)		
Less than primary	0.1	0.2
Primary	2.9	2.8
Lower secondary	16.7	18.1
Upper secondary	37.0	38.5
Post-secondary non tertiary	-	-
Short-cycle tertiary	12.5	14.4
Bachelor or equivalent	21.3	18.7
Master or equivalent	9.0	6.6
Doctoral or equivalent	0.6	0.7

Germany		
	Initial	Final
Female	49.8	47.5
Age		
18-30	10.3	6.6
31-45	24.6	19.3
46-60	37.0	44.4
60+	28.1	29.7
Education (ISCED 11)		
Less than primary	0.2	0.2
Primary	0.3	0.2
Lower secondary	21.3	22.8
Upper secondary	46.3	46.5
Post-secondary non tertiary	-	-
Short-cycle tertiary	6.4	6.2
Bachelor or equivalent	6.9	6.2
Master or equivalent	17.7	17.8
Doctoral or equivalent	0.9	0.2

Hungary		
	Initial	Final
Female	51.6	49.3
Age		
18-30	20.2	10.4
31-45	28.8	31.1
46-60	28.9	34.0
60+	22.1	24.6
Education (ISCED 11)		
Less than primary	-	-
Primary	0.2	0.2
Lower secondary	1.9	1.0
Upper secondary	40.7	40.4
Post-secondary non tertiary	12.1	12.1
Short-cycle tertiary	6.9	7.2
Bachelor or equivalent	22.5	23.2
Master or equivalent	14.9	14.5
Doctoral or equivalent	0.9	1.4

Spain		
	Initial	Final
Female	46.7	48.6
Age		
18-30	15.4	9.2
31-45	29.6	37.9
46-60	36.6	42.9
60+	18.5	10.0
Education (ISCED 11)		
Less than primary	0.3	0.2
Primary	4.7	3.3
Lower secondary	12.9	12.3
Upper secondary	20.2	20.3
Post-secondary non tertiary	7.8	8.9
Short-cycle tertiary	7.2	6.9
Bachelor or equivalent	18.8	19.6
Master or equivalent	25.1	26.1
Doctoral or equivalent	3.0	2.5

Czech Republic		
	Initial	Final
Female	52.2	52.7
Age		
18-30	21.2	16.1
31-45	29.6	26.3
46-60	35.4	38.7
60+	13.8	18.8
Education (ISCED 11)		
Less than primary	0.2	0.1
Primary	0.4	0.3
Lower secondary	9.4	8.6
Upper secondary	58.1	59.8
Post-secondary non tertiary	13.9	13.5
Short-cycle tertiary	1.7	1.2
Bachelor or equivalent	5.4	3.8
Master or equivalent	10.4	12.1
Doctoral or equivalent	0.5	0.6

France		
	Initial	Final
Female	50.8	45.8
Age		
18-30	16.0	7.0
31-45	26.2	21.1
46-60	25.5	28.1
60+	32.3	43.8
Education (ISCED 11)		
Less than primary	0.2	0.1
Primary	5.3	6.4
Lower secondary	7.2	8.0
Upper secondary	43.1	44.5
Post-secondary non tertiary	1.5	1.6
Short-cycle tertiary	19.4	19.6
Bachelor or equivalent	6.9	6.6
Master or equivalent	15.4	12.0
Doctoral or equivalent	1.1	1.3

Greece		
	Initial	Final
Female	50.6	40.0
Age		
18-30	30.7	13.2
31-45	40.1	44.7
46-60	24.7	34.0
60+	4.5	8.1
Education (ISCED 11)		
Less than primary	0.1	0.0
Primary	0.5	0.2
Lower secondary	1.2	1.4
Upper secondary	25.7	22.5
Post-secondary non tertiary	8.4	9.7
Short-cycle tertiary	6.0	7.9
Bachelor or equivalent	38.0	35.8
Master or equivalent	18.5	20.5
Doctoral or equivalent	1.7	2.0

Poland		
	Initial	Final
Female	51.4	49.5
Age		
18-30	25.6	15.8
31-45	37.6	37.0
46-60	25.5	31.3
60+	11.3	16.0
Education (ISCED 11)		
Less than primary	0.1	0.0
Primary	2.5	3.6
Lower secondary	5.2	4.1
Upper secondary	35.0	32.1
Post-secondary non tertiary	9.2	10.5
Short-cycle tertiary	0.5	0.5
Bachelor or equivalent	13.6	12.5
Master or equivalent	32.8	34.9
Doctoral or equivalent	1.0	1.9

Sweden		
	Initial	Final
Female	50.4	47.1
Age		
18-30	22.2	18.1
31-45	25.1	23.3
46-60	24.7	25.8
60+	28.0	32.8
Education (ISCED 11)		
Less than primary	-	-
Primary	1.2	1.8
Lower secondary	5.2	5.2
Upper secondary	32.6	35.0
Post-secondary non tertiary	12.4	13.9
Short-cycle tertiary	9.1	9.1
Bachelor or equivalent	21.4	21.3
Master or equivalent	16.1	11.5
Doctoral or equivalent	2.1	2.2

Appendix E*Mean levels of media trust and populist attitudes per country*

Country	Populism	Media trust
CZ	4.78 (SD = 1.32, N = 733)	3.57 (SD = 1.34, N = 733)
DE	4.73 (SD = 1.40, N = 518)	4.32 (SD = 1.44, N = 518)
DK	3.33 (SD = 1.39, N = 563)	4.44 (SD = 1.30, N = 563)
EL	5.00 (SD = 1.23, N = 494)	2.94 (SD = 1.39, N = 494)
ES	4.70 (SD = 1.19, N = 552)	3.82 (SD = 1.38, N = 552)
FR	4.68 (SD = 1.31, N = 776)	3.83 (SD = 1.44, N = 776)
HU	5.13 (SD = 1.27, N = 586)	3.04 (SD = 1.37, N = 586)
NL	3.75 (SD = 1.27, N = 1067)	4.49 (SD = 1.15, N = 1067)
PL	4.89 (SD = 1.23, N = 857)	3.74 (SD = 1.45, N = 857)
SE	3.64 (SD = 1.52, N = 497)	4.28 (SD = 1.41, N = 497)

Appendix F

Table F1*Overall descriptive statistics related to perceived mis- and disinformation*

Statistic	N	Mean	St. Dev.	Min	Pctl(25)	Pctl(75)	Max
Misinformation	6,643	4.40	1.30	1	3.8	5.2	7
Disinformation	6,643	4.06	1.46	1	3	5	7
Media trust	6,643	3.88	1.45	1	3	5	7
Populism	6,643	4.45	1.43	1.00	3.67	5.33	7.00
Political interest	6,643	4.68	1.68	1	4	6	7
Left-right	6,643	6.12	2.41	1	5	8	11
Gender (male-female)	6,643	1.48	0.50	1	1	2	2
Age	6,643	48.94	14.70	17	38	61	87
Education	6,643	4.26	1.87	0	3	6	8
Hostile Media Perceptions	6,643	4.06	1.51	1	3	5	7
Support for government verification	6,643	4.89	1.63	1	4	6	7