

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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## AFP PARTNERS IN AN IMMERSIVE TRAVELLING EXHIBITION TO HELP COUNTER FAKE NEWS AHEAD OF THE EUROPEAN ELECTIONS

The Dutch University Inholland launched on May 13, 2024, *fabricated*, an interactive educational initiative designed by its Sustainable Media Lab, in partnership with AFP.



Inaugurated in The Hague just under a month before the European elections, this <u>interactive exhibit</u> aims to strengthen digital literacy through games and interactive experiences that demonstrate the influence of artificial intelligence (AI), misinformation, and digital algorithms on public opinion and voting behavior. Available in Dutch, English, and German, *fabricated* will be showcased in The Hague, Brussels, Berlin, and Amsterdam from May 13 to June 7, 2024.

With nearly half of the world's population engaged in at least one election in 2024, voters are increasingly turning to online political information, often without the necessary skills to discern false or misleading claims. The *fabricated* exhibition aims to provide them with media literacy tools in a playful and accessible manner suitable for all ages.

The exhibition includes several sections, including one dedicated to fact checking and developed in partnership with AFP. In Verify This!, visitors will assess the accuracy of images or messages related to the European elections and campaign themes. Available in the language of the hosting country, this game relies on the investigative work in Dutch, German, and English by AFP's digital investigation journalists.

"It is particularly important for AFP, which produces fact check articles in just over half of the EU countries, to participate in this immersive exhibition. This initiative is part of AFP's ongoing training efforts and its involvement in European projects to fight against disinformation through the <u>EDMO</u> network, including the <u>BELUX</u> hub for Belgium and the <u>GADMO</u> hub for Germany. As a journalist at a leading global digital investigation agency, media education has become part of our mission, alongside the production of reliable and verified information," explains <u>Isabelle Wirth</u>, project manager for European Media Projects at AFP.

The audience also plays a crucial role in this project. *fabricated* provides a participatory platform where visitors can share their opinion. After exploring topics such as Al-generated information, content moderation, and politics in general, participants are asked to voice their opinions to enrich research and discussions on these subjects.



fabricated Co-Lead Susannah Montgomery from the Sustainable Media Lab elaborates on their proactive approach: "Working closely with esteemed institutions such as AFP and Tactical Tech, as well as organisations deeply connected to the community like the Municipality of The Hague, we created fabricated to make digital literacy accessible and engaging for everyone. Our approach uses games and interactive experiences because we believe that understanding your digital environment should be easy and enjoyable. We hope that visitors to our exhibition leave feeling more empowered to navigate and participate in the digital world."

## 2024 Exhibition Dates and Locations:

- May 13-17: Centrale Bibliotheek, The Hague, The Netherlands
- May 20-24: Tour & Taxis / CPDP Conference, Brussels, Belgium
- May 27-29: re:publica festival, Berlin, Germany
- June 2-7: OBA Javaplein, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

fabricated was developed by the Sustainable Media Lab (SML) at Inholland University of Applied Sciences by Andy Sanchez and Susannah Montgomery. SML applies expertise in human rights, digital technologies, and user-focused design to create interactive experiences that help people to thoughtfully explore the role of technology in society. This exhibition is made possible by the support of the Municipality of The Hague, SIDN Fonds, GO Fonds, the European Cultural Foundation, and the Center of Expertise for Creative Innovation (CoECI).

Learn more on the *fabricated* website, Instagram, and LinkedIn.

## About AFP:

AFP is a leading global news agency, providing round-the-clock coverage of global news across all sectors. Since 2017, AFP has built the world's largest digital investigation network, with 150 journalists worldwide. These specialised journalists are at the forefront of the battle against disinformation, publishing content in 26 languages on factcheck.afp.com

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