

Country Snapshot: GERMANY

Disinformation Research as Structural Preparedness

MLE Science Communication · Topic 3

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On behalf of the Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space,
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OUR APPROACH

Build capacity before disinformation escalates.

Part of Germany's strategy to strengthen resilience against desinformation.

Preparedness, not reaction

- Detection tools
- Multilingual monitoring
- Real-time verification for journalists
- Media literacy in classrooms

□ **These cannot be built under time pressure.**

“Trust in Democracy and the State: Detecting and Countering Digital Disinformation”

Three goals:

Detect

Understand

Counter

11

Interdisciplinary
Projects (now)

€20M+

Current funding
volume

→ 21 / €40M

Planned
scale-up

Launched March 2026 · Running through 2029

Interdisciplinary research: Computer scientists · Social scientists · Psychologists · Educators · Journalists · NGOs

Users are inside the research — not at the end of it.

Examples:

CORRECTIV

Investigative journalism organisation

Project: kuKI

Monitors disinformation in
German, Turkish & Russian

Deutsche Welle

Germany's international broadcaster

Projects: CleanFeed · PADSE

Verifies digital content origin ·
Detects audio fakes

ECPMF

*European Centre for Press & Media
Freedom*

Project: PROVAIDE

AI tool for real-time evidence
verification for journalists

+ non-profit civic organisations · educational technology companies · civil society actors

Outputs: detection tools · educational materials · public communication formats

1

Transfer as Design

Communicators shape what is
researched — and how.

2

Embedded Intermediaries

Journalists, educators, civic
organisations are inside the projects.

3

Crisis Infrastructure

When disinformation spreads at
scale, the tools and relationships are
already there.

Transfer is not a final step. It is a design principle — and the foundation of crisis preparedness.

Thank you.

Pierre Dombrowski

VDI/VDE-IT – Project Management Agency

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