

The issue of online fake news and disinformation – Criminal and criminological aspects of prevention

Dr. Fotios Spyropoulos, Evangelia Androulaki, Dr. Vasileios Karagiannopoulos, Aristotelis Kompothrekas, Nikolaos Karagiannis

Abstract— The problem of “fake news” and “hoaxes” has dominated in recent years the field of news, politics, economy, safety and security as dissemination of false information can intensively affect and mislead public discourse and public opinion. The widespread use of internet and social media platforms can substantially intensify these effects which often include public fear and insecurity. Misinformation, malinformation and disinformation have also been blamed for affecting election results in multiple countries and since then there have been efforts to tackle the phenomenon both on national and international level.

The presentation will focus on methods of prevention of disseminating false information on social media and on the internet and will discuss relevant criminological views. The challenges that have arisen for criminal law will be covered, taking into account the potential need for a multi-national approach required in order to mitigate the extent and negative impact of the fake news phenomenon. Finally, the analysis will include a discussion on the potential usefulness of non-legal modalities of regulation and crime prevention, especially situational and social measures of prevention and the possibility of combining an array of methods to achieve better results on national and international level.

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Dr. Fotios Spyropoulos, Lawyer at the Supreme Court of Greece (Athens Bar Association) & a Financial Advisor (Economic Chamber of Greece)/ Postdoctoral researcher - University of West Attica, Greece / Doctorate degree on Penal Law & Criminology at the Faculty of Law - University of Athens, Greece / Criminal Justice (master) - Criminologist (master) / phone: (+30)2110135653, +306944246650; e-mail: fspyropoulos@gmail.com

Evangelia Androulaki, Lawyer (Athens Bar Association, Greece), "Spyropoulos Law Firm" managing partner / Researcher - University of West Attica, Greece Criminologist (master)

Dr. Vasileios Karagiannopoulos, Reader, University of Portsmouth, UK
Aristotelis Kompothrekas, PhD can. – University of Patras, Greece / Researcher - University of West Attica, Greece / IT (master)

Nikolaos Karagiannis, Researcher - University of West Attica, Greece / Criminologist (master)