

# Laws that other countries have adopted or are considering to combat online falsehoods

## UNITED STATES

### Considering new legislation

- Legislation proposed in response to concerns about use of social media bots to spread misinformation and sow discord online.
- Various states are exploring laws that would require Internet companies to offer the public more information about the people or groups funding political ads for state and local candidates.

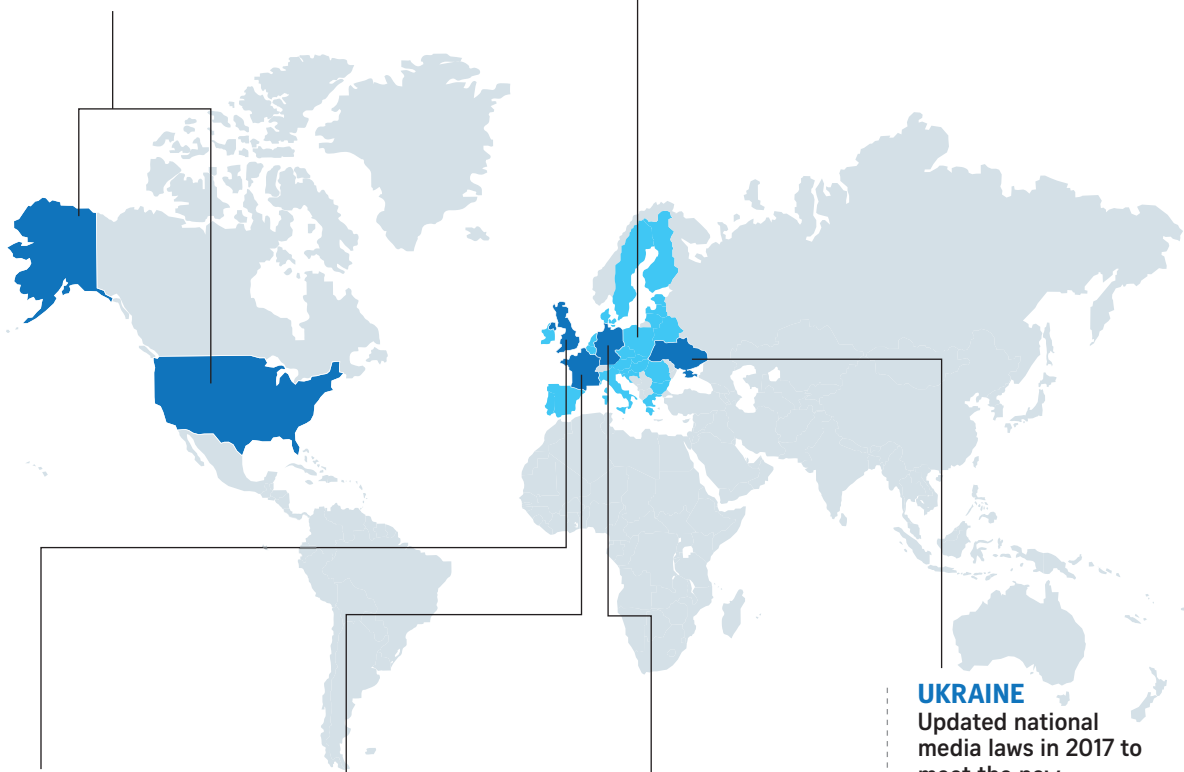
- In New York, a law was signed in April last year directing the state board of elections to create an archive of digital political ads, require online platforms to check independent political advertisers' paperwork and prohibit foreign entities from forming committees to buy local election-related ads.

## EUROPEAN UNION

### Closely monitoring the industry's Voluntary Code of Practice on Disinformation; may propose further regulatory actions

- Action plan outlined to help the EU improve detection, have a coordinated response to threats, collaborate with online platforms and industry as well as raise awareness and empower citizens about disinformation.

- EU-wide Code of Practice signed in October last year by Facebook, Google, Twitter and Mozilla and trade associations representing online platforms and the advertising industry.
- Steps taken to ensure transparent, fair and trustworthy online campaign activities ahead of the European elections in spring this year.



## BRITAIN

### UK Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee set up inquiry on disinformation and fake news

- Examines sources of fake news, how it spreads and its impact on democracy.
- Explores a range of legislative and non-legislative options, including requiring technology companies and online forum operators to act against illegal content.
- Recommends establishing independent legislation and defining what is harmful content.

## FRANCE

### 2018 Law to Combat the Manipulation of Information

- Targets widespread and extremely rapid dissemination of fake news digitally, in particular through social media and foreign-influenced media.
- Particular attention to election campaigns, and attempts to influence election results.
- Penalties: One year in prison and a fine of €75,000 (\$114,000).

## GERMANY

### 2017 Network Enforcement Act

- Combats hate speech and fake news in social networks.
- Applies only to social media networks with two or more million registered users.
- Social networks to remove offending content within 24 hours after receiving a user complaint, or take seven days to investigate matter and delete content.
- Penalties: Fine of up to €50 million.

## UKRAINE

### Updated national media laws in 2017 to meet the new challenges of disinformation

- Several Russia-related platforms were blocked, including social media platforms, search engine Yandex and email service mail.ru
- Decrees on cyber security and information security introduced in February 2017, calling for development of legal mechanisms to block, monitor and remove content deemed threatening to the state.
- Multiple Internet users in Ukraine have been fined, detained or imprisoned for various offences.