**Disinformation, Euroscepticism and European Union Policies**

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| **Description** | The idea that fake news is a problem is being a common perception into all the member states of EU: «Eight in ten Europeans agree that ‘the existence of news or information that misrepresents reality or is even false is a problem for democracy in general’» [Standard Eurobarometer 91 2019: 114).  The present Professor Laschi’s research activity, aims at seeking the correlation between disinformation and misinformation in the growing of actual Euroscepticism and Nationalism’s phenomena, among several historical failures’ cases or political lags of the European integration’s process.  The comprehension of how the EU works and which are its results, including effects on everyday life, represents the turning point that shapes the risen of negative feelings or a major trust about the EU.  In fact, that is supported also on the opinions of teachers, pupils or common people collected at the end of projects and activities that EDC Punto Europa Forlì made up, of which Professor Laschi is President.  Crossing two different pillars of academic research, that are history of European Integration and Communication Science, Professor Laschi will investigate the impacts of quantity and quality of information on critical historical junctures.  The starting point will be the information policy adopted even as the ECSC. Professor Laschi will choose a diachronic prospective that pushes to analyse not only several direct witnesses, such as Jacque Réné Rabier, but also researches in complementarian disciplinarian fields like some works made by Michel Dumoullin, Pierre Tilly, Piers Ludlow, Alexender Reinfeldt and Fabio Casini (component of the research Team for this Chair).  The second phase of research will explore if the feel of insecurity about the EU, its widespread policymaking’s power and the complexity of institutions’ network could shape electoral insecurities that flow in Eurosceptic behaviour, according to the previous works of Daniele Pasquinucci, that has investigate, as first runner, the roots of Euroscepticism’s phenomenon and its interrelations with Nationalism’s one.  At third, as the Google trends’ analyse on Twitter shows: «’What is the EU?’ is the second top UK question on the EU since the #EURefResults were officially announced» [https://bit.ly/2P8KAKl]. This could mean that the most important event of the last decade of the European history, the beginning of the so-called «disintegration», has based on «sentiment» or lack knowledge and not on full consciousness about consequences or actors in charge.  In ‘60s, since the first steps of integration process Jean Monnet established an Information and Communication Service because he believed that a correct and qualitative knowledge about supranational method would had consolidated the consensus of first six-member states population and Rabier’s will was to base the new services on educational purposes.  The Philosopher Marshall McLuhan, according to the studies of Walter Ong, argued: «The medium is the message» in a knock-on effect growing into the «global village». Many academic debates, such as 1. which are the usages of Social Networks linked to the characteristics of modern societies; 2. the different types of social interactions (both mediated, no-mediated and inter[or trans]mediated) and 3. the liquefaction of traditional pillars of democratic regimes, will be the main fields of this interdisciplinary research, ensured by the presence of Professors teaching in Communication Science’s departments.  At last, betting on the analyses about the relationships between Disinformation-Euroscepticism, information policy-populism, communication-propaganda and knowledge-affection form any historical point of view will give the chance to improve and strength the social bonds and political confidence of European population. |
| **Methodology** | Professor Laschi will analyse in depth the role of disinformation and misinformation in the actual Euroscepticism’s phenomenon through some specific key-issues:   * The objectives of the Communitarian information policy at the origins of the integration process; * The emotive reactions at the main European crises, also Economic and Greek ones, related to sphere of domestic information and international frame; * The adaptation of a diachronic prospective for analysing the media-trends and the different values among the Information policy; * The correlation between Euroscepticism and the increasing nationalism’s revival; * The development of communication need and the European attempts to become more proximal in semiologic terms.   The Research wants to promote a multidisciplinary view of the European Studies, through an historical methodology. The complexity of social phenomena claims the interrelations of different academic fields and this will be guaranteed by the effective presence of Professors, Scholars and Lecturers brought in so specific than plural sectors of University. |
| **Impact** | At a time of disaggregation of EU and growing of doubts about the benefits of the European Union, on the other hand there will be also the launch of the new Conference on the future of Europe. In this specific contest and for these reasons, this Research will offer its own contribute to analyse the evolution of the consensus to the integration process by citizens and the role played by EC/EU information and communication policy.  If the EU does not permit to ignore the disinformation and misinformation’s influence on the European society and the debate inside itself, this Research will admit also European people to better understand mechanisms and strategies adopted by whom prefers a divided Europe and not a solid Union.  Finally, a special attention is extended towards all present and future MA students enrolled or that will do in all Universities partners. They not only will completely involve during the activities of Research, visiting Historical European Archives in Florence (**F.2.4.1**), but also it will request a proactive and proper their contribution to better face the phases of analysing, writing and disseminating that are planned. |
| **Resulting publications** | A publication analysing, elaborating, commenting the materials collected during the entire research is expected. |