

## Which News Source can you trust, and why?

### Here are some criteria to judge and select or reject a News Sources

What is the intension of the News Source Team, how is the consumer (reader) seen and treated?

Is the intension to explain, and to create understanding as a base for self-relying judgment?

- Is a broad spectrum of facts reported?
- Are facts well verified?
- Are reports and opinions separated?
- Are opinions well justified by facts?
- Are occasionally also solutions suggested (by experts) and not only criticism?
- Are developments explained by conflicting interests, or other driving factors, which allow to understand the motivation of different involved parties?
- Is criticism faire, by looking to the real conflicting interests?
- Are responsible people challenged by questions? Is this done in a respectful way?

Is the intension of a news source to doute and criticize everything, and to spread mistrust, also on trustworthy sources (e.g. science, reliable news sources, reliable services)?

If you trust recommendations for general mistrust, this is not very critical. Then you also doute reliable facts, which otherwise would be the basis of your self-relying power of judgement. This weakens your power of judgement and may be the reason why you feel increasingly uncertain. It also leaves you alone with trusting only people or groups, who recommend general mistrust. Why should they be qualified to deserve your trust?

Is this mistrust accompanied by stirring up anger and divisiveness and demeaning and threatening other people or institutions?

Are developments or conflicts not explained, but instead are handled by blaming institutions or people, for having caused the misery?

This leaves you alone with a problem not understood, what may cause frustration, uncertainty and also hate against people or institutions, who are blamed for the misery but may not be responsible for the problem at all.

Are facts simply denied, to ignore a challenge? Typically those challenges which can only be answered by uniting trust-creating politics to meet challenge by common effort, and not by divisive blaming of others, promising no need to spend effort (e.g. human contribution to climate change or a virus causing a pandemic).

Are pretensions frequently repeated, without explanation or evidence?

Frequently hearing false claims without justification makes you feel them more reliable.

Are opinions put forward with false claims?

### Distinction:

Wrong Information	Disinformation
No intension to mislead	Intended misleading
Examples:	
sensational headlines (misleading, wrong focus)	-> Manipulated Deep fakes, fake photos, videos, fake websites
-> satire/parody exaggerated or humorous (but obviously wrong) explanation	-> Taken out of context abbreviated, incomplete quotes, incorrect statistics
-> newspaper hoax accidental false report	-> Baseless inventions Lies, rumors, biased claims