



**02: Training package for employees trained to become mentors**

Developer: Institute of Development, Cyprus

Module 2– **Competency framework for skills transfer**

**Learning unit 4 –** Media literacy and the challenges of the digital transition

Handout 2: Top tips for spotting fake news

**Activity 2:** Don’t bite: spot fake news

**Top tips for spotting fake news**

1. **Check the source** 🡪Always check the “Contact us”, “About us” sections and search for a relevant disclaimer.
2. **Be careful with what *you* share with others or your social media** 🡪 pause and reflect on news resources that might arouse strong emotions, for example positive or negative. Remember that the one important pillar of ethical journalism is to stay impartial and use respectful and neutral language – it’s not literature or advertising.
3. **Cover, Headlines, Photo circulating** 🡪 unreliable sources often use catchy and flamboyant titles and photos to lure in readers and clicks. Read the full story carefully before sharing it. Did the author make an extra effort to make it more extravagant and appealing?
4. **Check the URL** 🡪 does it look legitimate? If it looks odd to you (looks like an email, misspelling etc.) it probably is not legitimate. This can happen when someone is trying to mimic other valid and well-known news websites.
5. **Crosscheck** 🡪 check if other sites or news sources are reporting anything about that story,
6. **Negligent and sloppy writing** 🡪 too many grammatical and/or spelling errors, using too many exclamation points and caps lock, sentimental writing, all are signs of amateur writing and not an unbiased valid source.
7. **Utilize media literacy sites** 🡪 crosscheck the validity using the following sites:
   1. <https://www.snopes.com/>
   2. <https://www.factcheck.org/>