Junk News During the EU Parliamentary Elections: Lessons from a Seven-Language Study of Twitter and Facebook

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I.   Types of News and Information Shared over Twitter

For this study, we collected 584,062 tweets pertaining to the European parliamentary elections from 187,743 unique users between 5 April and 20 April using election-related hashtags in English, Catalan, French, German, Italian, Polish, Spanish, and Swedish. From this sample, we extracted 137,658 tweets containing a URL link, which pointed to a total of 5,774 unique domains.

The set of election-related hashtags (see *Table 1*) was compiled by a team of nine coders with expert knowledge of the sociopolitical landscape of the countries they were assigned to. Prior to launching the data collection, the list of hashtags was refined in a trial run, which revealed the most frequently used election-related hashtags, and the list was revised accordingly. We split up the Twitter data based on hashtag use, with the language of a hashtag acting as proxy for the ad hoc public discussion forming around the European parliamentary elections. Therefore, a source shared in a tweet containing at least one Italian election hashtag (e.g., #elezionieuropee) would be classified as part of the Italian language sphere. Using this technique, we found a small but not negligible number of sources associated with more than one hashtag, which were accounted for in multiple language spheres (980 sources, or 13.1% of total traffic).

Table 1: List of Election-Related Hashtags per Language Sphere

Language Sphere	List of Hashtags
English	#EUElections2019 #EuElections #thistimeimvoting #futureofeurope #voteforeurope #euvote2019 #ep2019 #eu2019 #EuropeVotes #voteeurope #ElectionsUE #EuropeanParliamentElections
French	#ElectionsEuropeennes2019 #ElectionsEurope #Europeenes2019 #ParlementEuropeen #Europeen2019 #Europeennes2019 #Europeennes #cettefoisjevote
German	#euwahl #euwahl19 #euwahl2019 #europawahl #europawahl19 #europawahl2019

	#ep2019
	#europaparlement
Italian	#elezionieuropee
	#Europee2019
	#europee
	#stavoltavoto
	#ElezioniEuropee2019
	#26maggio
	#facciamoEUROPA
	#europeista
	#europedirectitalia
	#elezioniue2019
	#primaveraeuropa
Polish	#eurowybory
	#eurowybory2019
	#wyboryeuropejskie
	#PE2019
	#ParlamentEuropejski
	#wybory2019
	#wybory26maja
	#26maja
	#wyboryeuropejskie
	#wyborydoparlamentueuropejskiego
	#PolskaSercemEuropy
Spanish/Catalan	#eleccionesUE2019
	#EstaVezVoto
	#26M
	#26mayo
	#ueelections2019
	#EleccionesEuropeas
	#futurodeeuropa –Future of Europe #eleccionsue2019
	#elecciones2019 #26maig
	#pe2019 #aquestavegadavoto
	#galiciavotanaue –Galicia votes in the EU #eleccionseuropees
	#parlamentoeuropeo #futureuropa
Swedish	#euval
	#epval
	#euvalet
	#euval2019
	#val2019
	#europavalet
	#europaparlamentet
	#denhärgångenröstarjag
	#eupol
	#eppol

Twitter's Streaming API was used to collect publicly available tweets. The platform's precise sampling method is not disclosed; however, Twitter reports that data available through the Streaming API is, at most, 1% of the overall global public traffic on Twitter at any given time. Tweets were collected if they satisfied one or more of the following criteria: (1) contained at least one of the relevant hashtags; (2) contained the hashtag in the URL shared, or the title of its webpage; (3) were a retweet of a message that contained a relevant hashtag or mention in the original message; or (4) were a quoted tweet referring to a tweet with a relevant hashtag or mention. The final catalogue of political news and information shared over social media includes sources that were shared five times or more during our data collection period. Links leading to Twitter itself were excluded, but links to content on other social media platforms, such as Facebook, were included and catalogued.

Table 2: Twitter Traffic per Language Sphere

Language Sphere	Total Number of Tweets
English	199,477
French	106,412
German	133,976
Italian	52,754
Polish	56,575
Spanish/Catalan	103,108
Swedish	9,352
Note: Authors' calculations based on data collected from 5 April to 20 April 2019	

A team of nine multilingual coders classified the domains associated with these URLs based on a rigorous and iterative coding process developed and refined through the project's previous studies of six elections in five Western democracies and several countries in Latin America. By applying the cataloguing decisions made on samples from the last two years to this latest sample, we were able to successfully label 90.8% of all the URLs being shared. Each source was coded individually by two separate coders, and any conflicting decision was thoroughly discussed between the coders to achieve consensus. In the event that consensus was not achieved, a third executive coder with domain expertise reviewed the source to reach a final decision. This allowed us to identify a total of 76 junk sources of political news and information that do not adhere to basic standards of credibility, transparency, and professionalism and include various forms of misleading ideologically extreme, hyper-partisan, and conspiratorial political information.

Coders identified sources of junk news and information – sources that deliberately publish misleading, deceptive, or incorrect information purporting to be real news about politics, economics, or culture – among a total of 5,774 unique domains. This content includes various forms of extremist, sensationalist, and conspiratorial news, other forms of junk news, and masked commentary. The typology explaining our content classification is as follows:

TYPOLOGY

Professional News Content
- Major News Brands. This is political news and information produced by major newspapers or broadcasting or radio outlets, as well as news agencies.
- Local News. This content comes from local and regional newspapers, broadcasting and radio outlets, or local affiliates of major news brands.
- New Media & Start-Ups. This content is produced by new media and digitally native publishers, news brands, and start-ups.
- Tabloids. This news reporting focuses on sex, crime, astrology and celebrities, and includes yellow press publications.

Professional Political Content
- Government. These links are to websites of branches of government or public agencies.
- Experts. This content takes the form of White Papers, policy papers, or scholarship from researchers based at universities, think tanks, or other research organizations.
- Political Party or Candidate. These links are to official content produced by a political party or a candidate's campaign, as well as parties' political committees.

Divisive & Conspiratorial Content
- Junk News and Information. These sources deliberately publish misleading, deceptive, or incorrect information purporting to be real news about politics, economics, or culture. This content includes various forms of propaganda and ideologically extreme, hyper-partisan, or conspiratorial news and information. To be classified as Junk News and Information, the source **must fulfil at least three of these five criteria:**
  - *Professionalism*: These outlets do not employ standards and best practices of professional journalism. They refrain from providing clear information about real authors, editors, publishers,

and owners. They lack transparency and accountability and do not publish corrections of debunked information.
- o *Style*: These sources use emotionally driven language that includes emotive expressions, hyperbole, ad hominem attacks, misleading headlines, excessive capitalization, unsafe generalizations and logical fallacies, moving images, and lots of pictures and mobilizing memes.
- o *Credibility*: These outlets rely on false information and conspiracy theories, which they often employ strategically. They report without consulting multiple sources and do not fact-check. Sources are often untrustworthy and standards of production lack reliability.
- o *Bias*: Reporting by these outlets is highly biased, ideologically skewed, or hyper-partisan, and news reporting frequently includes strongly opinionated commentary.
- o *Counterfeit*: These sources mimic established news reporting. They counterfeit fonts, branding, and stylistic content strategies. Commentary and junk content are stylistically disguised as news, with references to news agencies and credible sources, and headlines are written in a news tone with date, time, and location stamps.

Other Political News & Information
- Citizen, Civil Society & Civic Content. This includes links to content produced by independent citizens, civic groups, civil society organizations, watchdog organizations, fact-checkers, and interest groups and lobby groups representing specific political interests or agendas. It includes blogs and websites dedicated to citizen journalism, personal activism, and other forms of civic expression that display originality and creation that goes beyond curation or aggregation. This category includes Medium, Blogger and WordPress, unless a specific source hosted on either of these pages can be identified.
- Political Humour & Entertainment. This category includes political jokes, sketches, and comedy or entertainment-focused coverage, as well as political talk shows and late-night formats. Despite their humorous and entertaining nature, these formats often serve as central sources of news and information.
- Video/Image Sharing & Content Subscriptions. Includes music streaming portals like Spotify, video-streaming services and live streaming, political documentary movies, and e-book and audio book subscriptions, as well as image-sharing services.
- Fundraising & Petitions. Encompasses civil society fundraising and petition pages, as well as surveying services for various political causes and interests that do not represent an official campaign or candidate.
- Lifestyle & Special Interest. Includes lifestyle and special interest publications like women's and men's magazines and content focused on art and fashion, fitness, food and wellness, nature and tourism, or hunting, fishing, and automobiles.
- Religion. Refers to content with distinctly religious themes and faith-based editorializing presented as political news or information.
- Online Portals, Search Engines & Aggregators. Includes online portals like AOL, Yahoo!, and MSN that do not themselves have editorial policies and have no or limited original news content. This category also includes links to Wikipedia.
- Cloud. Encompasses services such as Amazon Web Services, Google Drive and Docs, and OneDrive, or archiving services in the cloud.
- Other Political. Refers to content that is political in nature but does not fit any of the other categories, for example services where voters are able to check their polling stations or purchase political merchandise.

Other
- Social Media Platforms. These are links that refer to other social media platforms as well as official developer tools. If the content at the ultimate destination can be attributed to another source, it is.
- Not Available. This includes links that are no longer available or have not been successfully archived after repeated attempts, as well as sources that are redirected to other sources and whose original content is unknown.
- Shopping, Services & Applications. Encompasses links to auction websites or sales platforms, such as eBay and Amazon, including software-as-a-service applications, analytics tools, and content optimization and monetization tools. This also includes applications and browser extensions.
- Link Shorteners. Includes links like Bitly or Vitweet, when it is not possible to unwrap the original URL. If the source is successfully unwrapped from the link shortener, it is coded in the appropriate category.

- Other Non-Political. Refers to sites that have no political content, such as spam, gambling, and brand advertising.
- Language. Content from sources in languages that are not English, French, German, Spanish, Portuguese, Hungarian, or Mandarin is not labelled, unless verifiable information about a source is accessible.

Table 3a: Type of Political News and Information Shared Over Twitter per Language Sphere (N)

Type of Source	SE	FR	IT	PL	SP	DE	ENG
Professional News Outlets							
Major News Brands	1,443	5,986	2,804	101	2,632	6,780	6,062
Local News	26	1,371	312	37	2,787	1,596	1,042
New Media & Start-Ups	249	1,276	892	185	1,501	1,164	1,818
Tabloid	4	204	22	4	-	15	186
Subtotal	1,722	8,837	4,030	327	6,920	9,555	9,108
Professional Political Sources							
Political Party	105	2,029	985	126	2,412	3,375	1,919
Government	70	455	212	53	673	1,448	10,462
Experts	23	725	209	-	50	920	969
Subtotal	198	3,209	1,406	179	3,135	5,743	13,350
Divisive & Conspiracy Content							
Junk News & Information	179	507	895	530	254	879	600
WikiLeaks	-	-	-	-	-	-	37
Russia	33	185	5	-	-	59	19
Subtotal	212	692	900	530	254	938	656
Other Political News & Information							
Citizen, Civic & Civil Society	340	1,090	728	98	568	5,470	9,579
Political Humour	-	13	10	-	-	7	-
Video/Image Sharing	202	1,318	580	312	1,812	5,013	3,560
Fundraising & Petitions	-	51	91	-	25	139	779
Lifestyle & Special Interest	-	170	-	23	21	46	26
Religion	-	101	143	234	10	15	167
Portals, Search & Aggregators	84	199	95	13	392	666	684
Cloud	16	225	2	-	39	30	141
Other Political	38	35	785	10	96	1,189	1,604
Subtotal	680	3,202	2,434	690	2,963	12,575	16,540
Other							
Social Media Platforms	253	790	1,186	753	1,136	2,170	2,157
Not Available	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shopping, Services & Apps	43	257	54	8	332	220	552
Link Shorteners	13	141	23	5	715	114	210
Other Non-Political	23	41	317	28	66	2,739	2,755
Subtotal	332	1,229	1,580	794	2,249	5,243	5,674
Total	3,144	17,169	10,350	2,520	15,521	34,054	45,328
Note: Authors' calculations based on data collected from 5 April to 20 April 2019							

Table 3b: Type of Political News and Information Shared Over Twitter per Language Sphere (%)

Type of Source	SE	FR	IT	PL	SP	DE	ENG
Professional News Outlets							
Major News Brands	45.9	34.9	27.1	4.0	17.0	19.9	13.4
Local News	0.8	8.0	3.0	1.5	18.0	4.7	2.3
New Media & Start-Ups	7.9	7.4	8.6	7.3	9.7	3.4	4.0
Tabloids	0.1	1.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.4
Subtotal	54.8	51.5	38.9	13.0	44.6	28.1	20.1
Professional Political Sources							
Political Party	3.3	11.8	9.5	5.0	15.5	9.9	4.2
Government	2.2	2.7	2.0	2.1	4.3	4.3	23.1
Experts	0.7	4.2	2.0	0.0	0.3	2.7	2.1
Subtotal	6.3	18.7	13.6	7.1	20.2	16.9	29.5
Divisive & Conspiracy Content							
Junk News & Information	5.7	3.0	8.6	21.0	1.6	2.6	1.3
WikiLeaks	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Russia	1.0	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0
Subtotal	6.7	4.0	8.7	21.0	1.6	2.8	1.4
Other Political News & Information							
Citizen, Civic & Civil Society	10.8	6.3	7.0	3.9	3.7	16.1	21.1
Political Humour	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Video/Image Sharing	6.4	7.7	5.6	12.4	11.7	14.7	7.9
Fundraising & Petitions	0.0	0.3	0.9	0.0	0.2	0.4	1.7
Lifestyle & Special Interest	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.9	0.1	0.1	0.1
Religion	0.0	0.6	1.4	9.3	0.1	0.0	0.4
Portals, Search & Aggregators	2.7	1.2	0.9	0.5	2.5	2.0	1.5
Cloud	0.5	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.3
Other Political	1.2	0.2	7.6	0.4	0.6	3.5	3.5
Subtotal	21.6	18.6	23.5	27.4	19.1	36.9	36.5
Other							
Social Media Platforms	8.0	4.6	11.5	29.9	7.3	6.4	4.8
Not Available	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Shopping, Services & Apps	1.4	1.5	0.5	0.3	2.1	0.6	1.2
Link Shorteners	0.4	0.8	0.2	0.2	4.6	0.3	0.5
Other Non-Political	0.7	0.2	3.1	1.1	0.4	8.0	6.1
Subtotal	10.6	7.2	15.3	31.5	14.5	15.4	12.5
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Note: Authors' calculations based on data collected from 5 April to 20 April 2019

Table 4: Type of Political News and Information Shared Over Twitter Overall

Type of Source	N	%
Professional News Outlets		
Major News Brands	23,668	21.5
Local News	6,866	6.2
New Media & Start-Ups	6,335	5.8
Tabloid	432	0.4
Subtotal	37,301	33.9
Professional Political Sources		
Political Party	9,539	8.7
Government	12,352	11.2
Experts	2,494	2.3
Subtotal	24,385	22.2

Junk News Content		
Junk News & Information	3,649	3.3
WikiLeaks	37	0.0
Russia	294	0.3
Subtotal	3,980	3.6
Other Political News & Information		
Citizen, Civic & Civil Society	14,821	13.5
Political Humour	30	0.0
Video/Image Sharing	10,307	9.4
Fundraising & Petitions	993	0.9
Lifestyle & Special Interest	284	0.3
Religion	632	0.6
Portals, Search & Aggregators	1,687	1.5
Cloud	446	0.4
Other Political	2,724	2.5
Subtotal	31,924	29.0
Other		
Social Media Platforms	6,626	6.0
Not Available	-	0.0
Shopping, Services & Apps	1,343	1.2
Link Shorteners	1,116	1.0
Other Non-Political	3,338	3.0
Subtotal	12,423	11.3
Total	110,013	100.0
Note: Authors' calculations based on data collected from 5 April to 20 April 2019		

II.   Trends in User Interactions over Facebook

Having analysed the most prominent categories of political news and information circulating over Twitter, we next extracted the five most shared junk news sources in each language sphere. By focusing on this sub-sample, we are able to provide a snapshot of public engagement with relevant sources of misinformation circulating in the lead-up to the European parliamentary elections. Using the NewsWhip Analytics dashboard, we analysed user engagement with content from these sites on Facebook over a one-month period (5 April to 5 May). For comparison, we also computed the same metrics for the most shared professional sources in each language sphere.

Specifically, we examined the total and average volume of Facebook interactions (likes, shares, and comments) that stories published by these outlets received during that month (see *Table 7* and *Table 8* below). Article count refers to the number of individual URLs published on a site during that time. Total Facebook interactions include both public shares (e.g., someone using an on-site share button to share an article to their timeline) and private pages (e.g., someone copying and pasting a URL link directly to Facebook).

Our list of junk news sources features four US-based media outlets that were shared using election-related hashtags (namely breitbart.com, zerohedge.com, infowars.com, and gellerreport.com). To ensure we captured relevant user analytics for these sources in the context of this study, we restricted our search to news stories that contained any combination of the following terms: 'Europe', 'European', 'Italy', 'Italian', 'France', 'French', 'Spanish' 'Spain', 'Swedish', 'Sweden', 'Germany', 'German', 'Polish', or 'Poland'.

III. Thematic Analysis of Most Popular Junk New Stories

Finally, out of the nearly 27,000 articles published by junk news outlets in our list between 5 April and 5 May, we extracted the top 20 most successful stories based on total user interactions and analysed the main themes and issues covered in these articles. The complete list of stories and thematic categories are summarized in *Table 5* & *Table 6* below.

Table 5: Most Popular Junk News Stories by Total Interactions

Website	Headline	Publication Date	Total Interactions	Themes
breitbart.com	Tests reveal 'child' migrant, 17, is actually 47 years old	06 Apr	28,287	Immigration, Crime
damocles.co	Le gouvernement Macron utilise-t-il vos impôts pour aider les djihadistes?	06 Apr	24,383	Islam, Terrorism, Politician
voiceofeurope.com	German headmaster suggested Christian girl wear a hijab to stop bullies	07 Apr	25,334	Islam, Christianity, Social Issues
voiceofeurope.com	Ex-Muslim: "Swedes will lose Sweden in 50 years"	11 Apr	20,290	Islam, Political Party, Immigration
gellerreport.com	UK: Muslim parents suffocated daughter with a plastic bag, dumped her body in river, for being too "Westernized"	14 Apr	22,796	Crime, Islam
voiceofeurope.com	Pope's possible successor says mass migration is in reality an invasion and will lead to the extinction of Europe if not stopped	14 Apr	20,686	Immigration, Christianity, Islam
gellerreport.com	France jails Muslima who plotted to blow up Notre Dame cathedral in Paris with gas canisters	15 Apr	23,266	Notre-Dame Fire, Terrorism, Islam
breitbart.com	Paris: Notre-Dame cathedral burns, charred timbers of medieval spire collapse	15 Apr	20,639	Notre-Dame Fire
tvlibertes.com	Vladimir Poutine propose l'aide de spécialistes russes pour la reconstruction de Notre-Dame	16 Apr	22,128	Notre-Dame Fire, Politician
voiceofeurope.com	Dutch politician wants halal beach in The Hague – says "Muslims feel uncomfortable with scantily clad, ugly people"	20 Apr	55,406	Islam, Politician, Political Party
voiceofeurope.com	Macron says Notre Dame should be rebuilt consistent with the modern, diverse France – and architects suggest a glass roof, steel spire and minaret	23 Apr	26,534	Notre-Dame Fire, Islam, Politician
ilprimatonazionale.it	Viterbo, esercito abbandona il 25 aprile monopolizzato dall'Anpi	26 Apr	22,337	Politician, Political Party, Political Ideology
infowars.com	Lara Trump blasted for saying allowing in refugees was "downfall of Germany"	26 Apr	21,817	Celebrity, Immigration
nyheteridag.se	Ebbas gravskändare dömd – får två månaders fängelse och SLIPPER utvisning	26 Apr	19,406	Crime, Terrorism, Immigration
infowars.com	Swedish artist's jail term extended after he committed 'hate' crime of saying Muslim migrants have not integrated	27 Apr	24,681	Immigration, Islam
voiceofeurope.com	Nationalist Christian Hungary is thriving – rising marriage rates, falling abortions and highest birthrates in 20 years	01 May	21,345	Political Ideology, Christianity, Social Issues
nyheteridag.se	Ny lag låter Finland dra in medborgarskap för terrorism och landsförräderi	02 May	37,465	Terrorism, Immigration
ilprimatonazionale.it	L'ausiliaria Rsi zittisce la Parietti: "Sacrificammo tutto per la Patria"	03 May	23,854	Celebrity, Political Ideology, Political Party
pikio.pl	Rydzyk straszy Polaków i apeluje o datki. Brak wp_aty to "grzech zaniedbania"	04 May	23,227	Christianity
friatider.se	Filmade när han våldtog vilsen kvinna två gånger – sen skickade han videon till henne	05 May	22,151	Crime, Immigration

Table 6: Coding Scheme for Thematic Analysis

Parent Themes	Keywords/Codes
Religion (Islam)	Muslim, Islam, Hijab, Halal, Muslima, Minaret
Religion (Christianity)	Christianity, Church, Priest
Immigration	Asylum Seeker, Refugee, Migrants, Child Migrant, Dual Citizenship, Social Integration
Terrorism	ISIS, Djihad, Terrorism, Terrorist Attack
Political Figures/Parties	Vladimir Putin, Enrico Mezzetti, Emmanuel Macron, ANPI, Arnold van Doorn, Islamic Party for Unity, Nordic Resistance Movement
Celebrities	Lara Trump, Alba Parietti
Crime	Vandalism, Rape, Sexual Assault, Fraud, Murder, Honour Killing
Notre-Dame Fire	Notre-Dame Fire, Reconstruction
Political Ideology	Anti-Fascism, Fascism, Nationalism
Social Issues	Abortion, Bullying, Birth Rate

Table 7: Facebook User Interactions with Most Shared Junk News Sources per Language Sphere

Language Sphere	Domain	Twitter Ranking	Total Shares Twitter	Article Count	Total Facebook Interactions	Total Likes	Total Shares	Total Comments	Average Facebook Interactions	Avg. Likes	Avg. Shares	Avg. Comments
English	infowars.com	1	309	96	141,818	83,681	29,511	28,626	1,477	872	307	298
English	voiceofeurope.com	2	58	78	503,433	314,139	93,644	95,650	6,454	4,027	1,201	1,226
English	pi-news.net	3	53	75	135,156	77,232	38,368	19,556	1,802	1,030	512	261
English	breitbart.com	4	38	116	287,733	175,353	60,896	51,484	2,480	1,512	525	444
English	deutschland-kurier.org	5	30	6	22,700	11,937	6,280	4,483	3,783	1,990	1,047	747
French	damocles.co	1	197	9	58,090	31,640	13,324	13,126	6,454	3,516	1,480	1,458
French	scenarieconomici.it	2	109	94	15,088	8,473	4,336	2,279	161	90	46	24
French	tvlibertes.com	3	59	246	370,251	227,379	76,301	66,571	1,505	924	310	271
French	fdesouche.com	4	46	926	243,762	140,415	47,986	55,362	263	152	52	60
French	breizh-info.com	5	43	565	70,270	40,577	18,020	11,676	124	72	32	21
German	journalistenwatch.com	1	286	1,030	177,636	91,164	59,904	26,568	172	89	58	26
German	tagesstimme.com	2	120	9	11,071	8,601	1,746	724	1,230	956	194	80
German	philosophia-perennis.com	3	96	22	63,348	38,426	16,033	8,889	2,879	1,747	729	404
German	pi-news.net	4	74	75	135,156	77,232	38,368	19,556	1,802	1,030	512	261
German	deutschland-kurier.org	5	66	6	22,700	11,937	6,280	4,483	3,783	1,990	1,047	747
Italian	ilprimatonazionale.it	1	286	295	290,825	199,923	41,235	49,668	986	678	140	168
Italian	zazoom.it	2	147	8,414	1,195	70	1,115	10	0	0	0	0
Italian	zazoom.info	3	129	6,890	980	7	972	1	0	0	0	0
Italian	scenarieconomici.it	4	112	94	15,088	8,473	4,336	2,279	161	90	46	24
Italian	notizieprovita.it	5	68	29	9,238	6,895	1,945	398	319	238	67	14
Polish	publiszer.pl	1	161	63	8,330	3,282	4,403	645	132	52	70	10
Polish	centrummedialne.pl	2	93	48	16,502	11,569	1,036	3,897	344	241	22	81
Polish	kontrowersje.net	3	69	14	2,778	1,842	545	391	198	132	39	28
Polish	wpolityce.pl	4	66	2,787	1,492,554	1,031,814	123,078	337,663	536	370	44	121
Polish	pikio.pl	5	49	2,860	558,874	299,915	63,832	195,130	195	105	22	68
Spanish	elcorreodemadrid.com	1	45	233	66,353	42,944	13,655	9,754	285	184	59	42
Spanish	latribunadeespana.com	2	39	96	4,872	2,310	2,085	477	51	24	22	5
Spanish	diariopatriota.com	3	37	73	190,824	127,633	31,193	31,998	2,614	1,748	427	438
Spanish	dondiario.com	4	29	689	103,405	84,655	13,737	5,013	150	123	20	7
Spanish	lapaseata.net	5	29	95	5,348	2,713	2,043	593	56	29	22	6
Swedish	friatider.se	1	86	304	383,244	274,113	41,970	67,753	1,261	902	138	223
Swedish	samnytt.se	2	23	202	364,780	260,136	50,001	54,643	1,806	1,288	248	271
Swedish	nyheteridag.se	3	22	218	494,629	359,695	51,699	83,537	2,269	1,650	237	383
Swedish	gellerreport.com	4	22	70	236,104	142,706	58,005	35,393	3,373	2,039	829	506
Swedish	nyadagbladet.se	5	7	68	8,235	5,613	1,699	923	121	83	25	14

Note: Calculations based on data collected by NewsWhip Analytics from 5 April to 5 May 2019

Table 8: Facebook User Interactions with Most Shared Professional News Sources per Language Sphere

Language Sphere	Domain	Twitter Ranking	Total Shares Twitter	Article Count	Total Facebook Interactions	Total Likes	Total Shares	Total Comments	Average Facebook Interactions	Avg. Likes	Avg. Shares	Avg. Comments
English	theguardian.com	1	1,408	8,135	18,994,453	12,375,305	3,348,667	3,270,757	2,335	1,521	412	402
English	forbes.com	2	1,057	8,658	4,474,273	2,887,982	856,553	729,744	517	334	99	84
English	standard.co.uk	3	714	4,563	1,887,737	1,202,523	252,160	433,057	414	264	55	95
English	politico.eu	4	604	421	203,893	129,497	34,075	40,324	484	308	81	96
English	euractiv.com	5	369	517	27,342	16,558	7,853	2,931	53	32	15	6
French	lefigaro.fr	1	999	12,183	6,615,452	4,324,730	1,035,274	1,255,460	543	355	85	103
French	lemonde.fr	2	693	3,086	5,636,789	3,688,837	1,007,499	940,456	1,827	1,195	326	305
French	francetvinfo.fr	3	657	13,156	9,066,204	5,729,786	1,964,500	1,371,946	689	436	149	104
French	ouest-france.fr	4	586	17,390	4,303,593	2,743,000	888,209	672,401	247	158	51	39
French	lepoint.fr	5	547	3,588	1,098,140	640,098	194,348	263,696	306	178	54	73
German	tagesspiegel.de	1	1,055	3,244	316,914	181,315	63,008	72,593	98	56	19	22
German	bild.de	2	648	8,149	4,686,426	2,738,091	714,920	1,233,698	575	336	88	151
German	welt.de	3	507	24,041	2,615,328	1,530,005	415,087	670,239	109	64	17	28
German	n-tv.de	4	483	3,538	762,586	448,274	141,108	173,207	216	127	40	49
German	spiegel.de	5	439	4,388	2,538,746	1,483,427	390,038	678,148	579	338	89	155
Italian	ansa.it	1	429	16,023	3,245,536	2,106,196	553,281	586,065	203	131	35	37
Italian	ilfattoquotidiano.it	2	397	3,022	4,968,477	2,780,482	880,252	1,307,745	1,644	920	291	433
Italian	repubblica.it	3	306	24,203	14,748,638	10,278,511	2,030,350	2,456,841	609	425	84	102
Italian	secoloditalia.it	4	285	1,557	1,117,439	674,511	189,353	253,575	718	433	122	163
Italian	ilgiornale.it	5	156	6,403	5,205,281	3,161,097	755,064	1,289,124	813	494	118	201
Polish	wgospodarce.pl	1	89	1,164	61,724	43,714	7,628	10,382	53	38	7	9
Polish	wyborcza.pl	2	37	1,920	2,481,762	1,849,216	300,599	331,948	1,293	963	157	173
Polish	kresy.pl	3	30	325	111,427	74,773	17,160	19,494	343	230	53	60
Polish	bankier.pl	4	30	3,479	61,422	36,454	10,731	14,237	18	10	3	4
Polish	tvn24.pl	5	25	4,773	1,679,069	1,145,261	191,788	346,621	352	240	40	73
Spanish	publico.es	1	352	2,706	3,538,820	2,235,822	765,377	537,662	1,308	826	283	199
Spanish	europapress.es	2	307	22,823	2,294,948	1,546,109	365,175	383,793	101	68	16	17
Spanish	abc.es	3	271	19,299	6,055,071	3,869,556	1,236,433	949,086	314	201	64	49
Spanish	ilgiornale.it	4	271	6,403	5,205,281	3,161,097	755,064	1,289,124	813	494	118	201
Spanish	efe.com	5	243	13,379	84,457	54,748	21,205	8,766	6	4	2	1
Swedish	svd.se	1	325	5,145	362,050	249,548	47,702	64,804	70	49	9	13
Swedish	expressen.se	2	231	8,008	3,157,913	2,218,574	313,763	625,576	394	277	39	78
Swedish	theguardian.com	3	165	8,135	18,994,453	12,375,305	3,348,667	3,270,757	2,335	1,521	412	402
Swedish	dn.se	4	132	3,420	484,623	339,288	59,522	85,813	142	99	17	25
Swedish	svt.se	5	110	8,223	1,506,242	1,053,653	208,862	243,736	183	128	25	30

Note: Calculations based on data collected by NewsWhip Analytics from 5 April to 5 May 2019