

Abstract

The submitted diploma thesis examines the activities of German political parties in combating disinformation leading up to the elections to the German Bundestag from 2017 to 2021. In light of past experiences, where foreign interference in democratic decision-making processes has been repeatedly observed abroad, questions regarding the security of elections have also arisen in Germany. Therefore, the goal of this diploma thesis is to map the attitudes, measures and discussions of German political parties on the topic of disinformation and fake news in relation to Bundestag elections, utilizing a single-case study approach. Considering concerns about whether the adopted legislation might restrict freedom of speech, the concept of resilient democracy is also taken into account in the thesis. As stated in the introduction of the thesis, in ordinary communication, the terms disinformation and fake news are often conflated or overlapped, with the main assumption being that both terms refer to deliberately spread falsehoods with hostile intentions. Nevertheless, a more detailed definition of these and other related terms is provided in the first chapter. The second chapter of the thesis focuses on the German environment, addressing perceived threats to Bundestag elections and presenting the active leading bodies combating them. The third chapter encompasses pre-election discussions, detailing specific adopted or under discussion based on materials from the German Bundestag, and finally summarizes post-election reflections, in relation to both aforementioned election years.