



### ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, TACKLING ONLINE DISINFORMATION AND PROTECTING DEMOCRACY IN THE EUROPEAN UNION IN THE LIGHT OF THE AI ACT

The spread of disinformation on the internet and social media, facilitated by the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) systems into digital communication tools, poses a threat to the stability of the rule of law and democratic processes within the European Union. Disinformation can manipulate public opinion, influencing the formation of popular will and altering the regular course of electoral competition. This paper aims to assess whether, and to what extent, the AI Act contributes to addressing digital disinformation. After briefly examining the risk-based approach adopted by the regulation, the study focuses on prohibited manipulative practices, high-risk systems and the deepfake technology, in order to analyse, for each category, the relevant provisions in terms of countering disinformation.