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# ROTA News

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Project Week

10-15 March 2025

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**FACT  
VS  
FAKE**



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# Information about ROTA

## What is Rota?

It's an exchange between four countries normally, but this year the Netherlands could not participate. Therefore, only three countries met in Hattingen, Germany.

This year, people from Belgium, Spain and Germany are participating in this exchange. Every year it takes place in a different country which hosts the international students.

## Goals of ROTA

ROTA wants to create new friendships - it has already created long-term friendships - and to present the different cultures to each other.

The project mainly means people from different nations learning together about current European topics and important issues - like migration and integration in 2025.

It also believes that the prejudices should be overcome.

ROTA means sporty, artistic and practical work as well as some free time activities.

# Some new words we learned:

| German   | Dutch   | Spanish  | English  |
|--|---|--|--|
| Hallo!   | Hallo!  | ¡Hola!   | Hello!   |
| Tschüss!   | Doe!  | ¡Adiós!  | Bye!   |
| Mein Name ist.../Ich bin...                                | Mijn naam is.../Ik ben...                       | Mi nombre es.../Soy...                         | My name is.../I am                                 |
| Ich bin...Jahre alt.                                       | Ik ben...jaar oud                               | Tengo... años.                                 | I am...years old.                                  |
| Ich komme aus...<br>(Deutschland, Belgien,<br>Spanien,...) | Ik kom uit...<br>(Duitsland, België,<br>Spanje) | Vengo de... (Alemania,<br>Bélgica, España,...) | I come from...<br>(Germany, Belgium,<br>Spain,...) |
| Wie geht es dir? - gut,<br>schlecht                        | Hoe gaat het? - goed,<br>slecht                 | ¿Qué tal estás?- bien,<br>mal                  | How are you? - good,<br>bad                        |

## Sayings:

### German:

„Ich glaube mein Schwein pfeift“

(translation: I think my pig whistles)

to express great, disbelief or astonishment

„Das ist mir Wurst“

(translation: That's sausage to me)

I do not care about that

### Dutch/Belgium:

#### Dutch:

„Daar is een hoek van af“

(translation: There is a crack in it)

that person is weird/crazy

### West Flemisch dialect:

„Oedje mule!“

(translation: Hold your mouth)

shut up/stop talking

### Spanish:

„Te has pasado tres pueblos“

(translation: You have passed three villages)

you have crossed the line

„No veo un pijo“

(translation: I don't see a rich kid)

not being able to see

# Our week

## ROTA 2025 - Monday

The adventure began around noon as everyone arrived and gathered in the aula for the opening ceremony. We started by watching captivating introduction videos created by the students from Belgium, Germany, and Spain. These videos gave us a glimpse into their lives and cultures. The teachers then took the stage to introduce themselves and the course of the week.

Following the ceremony, we enjoyed an international lunch featuring delicious snacks from all three countries. It was an exciting way to explore and savor flavors from different cultures. Afterward, we did a school rally, which was a fun and interactive way to familiarize ourselves with the school.

To start the afternoon, some teachers and German students organized a lovely sports event. Participants competed in various games, with the sweet reward of chocolate awaiting the winners. It was all in good fun and brought everyone closer together.

In the evening, we had the delightful opportunity to meet our host families, marking the beginning of what promised to be a memorable and enriching experience.



## ROTA 2025 - Tuesday

The day started with our host families, providing a warm and familiar beginning. Once everyone gathered at school, we attended a language workshop. Participants could choose between learning German, Spanish, or Dutch (West-Flemish dialect).

Afterwards, we embarked on a series of workshops focusing on the theme of migration. These workshops are designed to explore various aspects of the topic through creative and engaging activities. Participants were divided into teams based on their interests: journalism, theatre, sports, arts, music, and debate. Here's what each team accomplished:

- Journalism: This team took on the role of storytellers, working on a newspaper and creating content for a social media account to document and share the week's events.
- Theatre: The group began with introductory activities to get to know each other and explore the basics of acting.
- Sports: Similarly, they participated in ice-breaking activities and team-building exercises.
- Arts: This creative group brainstormed inspiring quotes about migration. They wrote these quotes on black paper, cut them out, and prepared them for an installation. By the end of the week, the quotes will form a glowing house of light—a symbolic representation of the beauty of migration.
- Music: Progress was swift for this team as they began composing a powerful song about migration. Their performance is shaping up to be impressive.
- Debate: The team focused on getting to know each other through introductory activities while also beginning meaningful discussions on migration.

The day was filled with energy, creativity, and collaboration.



On Tuesday evening, there was a game night filled with lots of fun. The event featured karaoke sessions, a variety of games, and a football table. We had an array of delicious snacks and plenty of pizza. The atmosphere was lively with great music, and our Spanish friends even taught us some of their amazing dance moves. It was a really nice evening activity!



### ROTA 2025 - Wednesday

Wednesday, we went on an exciting day trip to Münster. The adventure began with a fun interactive game on an iPad that took us through the city's highlights, challenging us to solve questions and complete tasks at various locations. After a morning of exploration, we enjoyed some well-deserved free time in the afternoon to relax. As the day turned to evening, we ended our trip with a great bowling session, with some drinks and tasty snacks. It was a lovely ending to this amazing day!



### ROTA 2025 - Thursday

On Thursday, we continued with our language workshops, making progress as we immersed ourselves further in the learning experience. In the afternoon, we went on a guided city tour of Hattingen, where we had the pleasure of meeting the mayor and the opportunity to ask tricky questions about how the city council handled challenges caused by migration and integration. The evening was spent enjoying quality time with our host families and new friends.



Hattingen's town hall



Mayor Dirk Glaser

ROTA 2025 - Friday

If you want to know what we did on Friday, you can check our socials.

**@rota2025.bsky.social**

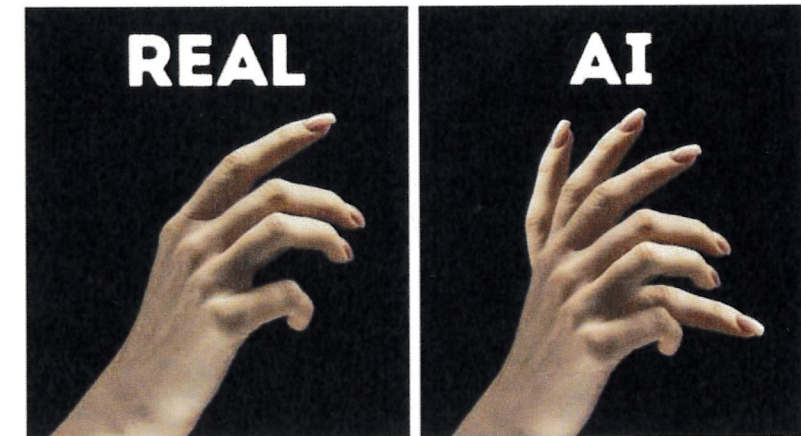


# Fake News

Whether on Instagram, TikTok, or in WhatsApp groups – fake news is everywhere. Most of the time, it looks like real news, but in reality, it's made-up or distorted information designed to manipulate people.



Not always necessarily text, sometimes there also are pictures or videos that got photoshopped or taken from unrelated sites. Sometimes, it's meant to create panic; other times, there are political or financial interests behind it. And the problem? Many people believe this stuff, share it, and help fake news spread even faster.



taken from: [https://youtu.be/JAia6Qi-ByA?si=l\\_PNKNjV71EIKBwBr](https://youtu.be/JAia6Qi-ByA?si=l_PNKNjV71EIKBwBr)

# How to Spot Fake News

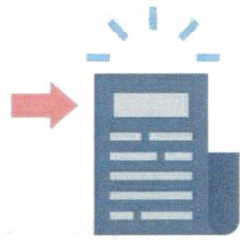
## 1. Check the Source

Reliable news sites have an imprint and clear information about the authors. If that's missing or the news comes from an unknown website, be cautious. News from major outlets like BBC or The New York Times is usually well-researched.



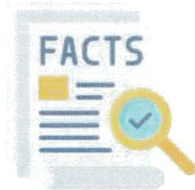
## 2. Question Sensational Headlines

Fake news often uses clickbait-style headlines with lots of exclamation marks or all caps. These headlines are designed to stir emotions and encourage people to share them quickly.



## 3. Verify the Facts

If a news story is true, it will be reported by multiple independent sources. If it only appears on one shady website, it's suspicious. Fact-checking sites like "Snopes" or "FactCheck.org" can help expose fake news.



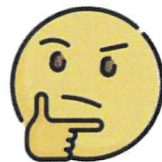
## 4. Check Images and Videos

Images and videos can be manipulated or taken out of context. Tools like Google Reverse Image Search or Google Lens can help determine where an image originally came from.



## 5. Think About Your Emotional Reaction

Fake news is often designed to trigger strong emotions like fear or anger. If a news story seems overly extreme, take a step back and look for additional sources before believing it.



# Why Is Fake News Dangerous?

Fake news isn't just annoying; it can cause real harm. It can influence elections by spreading lies about politicians or create panic in crisis situations. For example, during the COVID-19 pandemic, fake news spread claiming that the virus was being transmitted through 5G towers – and some people actually started destroying them.

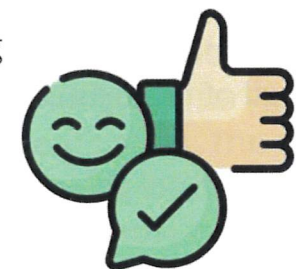


# What Can You Do About It?

The best thing you can do: Don't spread fake news! Before sharing an article, ask yourself if it's really trustworthy. And if someone in your friend group or family posts obvious fake news, try to correct them – but without attacking them directly, because most people will just shut down if confronted too aggressively.



At the end of the day, it's about not believing everything you read online and using common sense. Stay critical and don't let yourself get fooled!





# Fake News on migration

In recent years, the topic of immigration has been increasingly polarized, with the rise of misinformation and fake news playing a significant role in shaping public opinion. False narratives surrounding immigration often spread through social media, news outlets, and political rhetoric, influencing people's views on immigrants and immigration policies. These fabricated stories tend to exaggerate fears, perpetuate stereotypes, and manipulate emotions, all of which can have real-world consequences on the lives of immigrants and the broader society. Understanding the role of fake news in this debate is crucial for creating informed, fact-based discussions and policies that reflect the reality of immigration issues.

**Generalization:** It unfairly stereotypes all migrants as criminals, which is not true. The vast majority of migrants are law-abiding individuals seeking better opportunities or escaping dangerous situations like war or persecution. Criminal behavior is not tied to a person's immigration status but to individual actions.

**Diversity of Migrants:** Migrants come from diverse backgrounds, and their reasons for migrating vary widely. Some are refugees fleeing violence or political instability, while others may migrate for economic opportunities, family reunification, or education. Labeling all of them as criminals ignores these important differences.

Now we are going to introduce some examples of fact-checkers from different countries

## - **SPAIN:**

- **Maldita.es:** An independent, non-profit fact-checking organization based in Spain, Maldita.es is recognized as one of the most visited fact-checking websites in the European Union.

- **Factchequeado:** A non-partisan and non-profit initiative, Factchequeado provides quality journalism and tools to Latino and Hispanic communities, aiming to empower them against disinformation.

## - **BELGIUM:**

- **Factcheck.Vlaanderen:** Established in 2019, this independent non-profit project is dedicated to fact-checking online content and public statements. It utilizes artificial intelligence to identify disinformation on social media, which is subsequently verified by a team of professional fact-checkers and students.

- **Faky:** An initiative by the French-speaking public broadcaster RTBF, Faky assists audiences in evaluating the reliability of news or information. It provides tools like subjectivity analysis and whitelists to assess the risk of disinformation in online resources, including URLs and images.

## - **GERMANY:**

- **CORRECTIV:** Established in 2014, CORRECTIV is Germany's first donation-funded investigative journalism center. Its independent fact-checking team, CORRECTIV.Faktencheck, combats online disinformation by publishing fact-checks and providing training to help individuals protect themselves from fake news.

- **Agence France-Presse (AFP) Germany:** In 2022, AFP expanded its global fact-checking network to include German-language services, strengthening its position as a leader in digital verification. The German team works alongside AFP's German-speaking journalists to debunk and tackle disinformation spread on social media in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland

## Facts-Checker



German fact-checker:  
Correctiv  
dpa-Faktenchecks  
ARD Faktenfinder



USA fact-checker:  
Snopes  
FactCheck.org  
PolitiFact



Spanish fact-checker:  
Maldita.es



UK fact-checker:  
fullfact.org



General fact-checker:  
Google Lens (image checker)



## This is us (or is it? 🤔)



**Alba**

responsible for p. 16/17.  
and social media



**Léonie**

responsible for p 6 - 12.



**Leoni**

responsible for p. 4/5



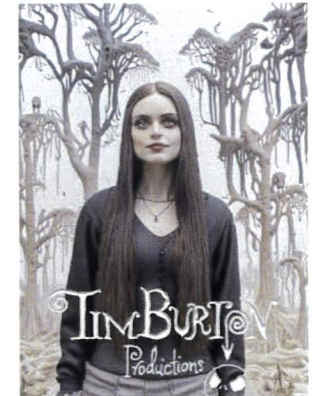
**Jaline**

responsible for p. 4/5



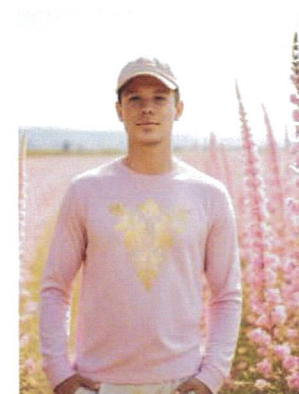
**Charlotte**

responsible for p. 6 - 12



**Laura**

responsible for p. 16/17  
and social media



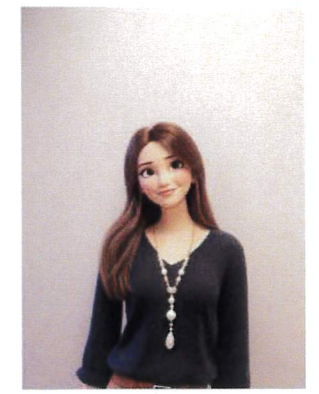
**Fabian**

responsible for p.13 - 15, 18  
and podcast



**Yasin**

responsible for p. 13 - 15, 18  
and podcast



**Aitana**

responsible for p. 16/17  
and social media

**You'll find our  
podcast  
on social media**

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