



Cross-sectional study on disinformation detection skills (DETECT)

This information sheet tells you about our study and what participation in the study involves.

What is this study?

The purpose of this study is to examine lower secondary school students' skills in detecting disinformation and the associated factors. The study aims to develop new ways to teach students how to recognize disinformation. The research is carried out by the University of Jyväskylä as part of the DETECT project (2024–2028) funded by the Research Council of Finland. The study is led by Professor Miika Marttunen.

Lower secondary school students (grades 7–9) of Jyväskylä are invited to participate in this study.

We will invite part of the students to voluntary interviews at school and/or follow-up studies (brain and eye-tracking research) conducted at the laboratories of the University of Jyväskylä.

Participation in this study is voluntary. Consent will be asked by all students, and their guardians if the student is under 15 years of age. For those students, sufficient Finnish language skills will be confirmed through their guardians. Guardians also are asked to respond to background information questionnaire. **All students will complete the survey tasks as part of regular school activities during the class, but only the responses of those students and guardians who provide research consent will be included in the research dataset.**

All data will be treated confidentially, and only the researchers will see the students' answers and other data collected by devices. The information will be processed so that the name of the participant is not revealed, and no one can identify the participants. The research privacy notice explains how personal data is processed. You can find the privacy notice here: <https://www.jyu.fi/en/file-download/download/public/53456>

Participants may refuse to participate or withdraw their participation at any time without negative consequences. If they choose to withdraw or revoke their consent, the personal data, samples, and other information collected up to that point may still be used as part of the research data if necessary to ensure the validity of the study results.

How is the study conducted?

The study consists of an online survey, which is completed during two lessons using laptops, tablets, or computers. The survey measures disinformation detection skills and related background factors, such as argumentation skills, emotional intelligence, and self-efficacy in detecting disinformation. Participants' names will be collected to link their school grades, reading assessment scores (Lukuseula) and any official decisions on needed learning support to the research data.

Part of the students will be offered an opportunity to participate in follow-up brain and eye-tracking studies conducted at the University of Jyväskylä. This will be separately agreed upon with students and their guardians.

Participation in this study is not expected to involve risks, discomfort, or harm. There is no compensation for taking part in the study.

What tasks are participants asked to complete in this study?

The task of the participants is to complete the surveys in the classroom at their own pace and as carefully as possible. The survey contains task-specific instructions. If the participants do not understand a question, they can raise their hand, and the teacher or a researcher will help them.

Why should participants take part in this study?

Participation in this study helps to develop lower secondary school education aimed at improving students' skills in detecting disinformation. The study may also encourage participants to reflect on their own critical reading skills and the dangers of disinformation. After the data collection is completed, students will receive general feedback on their disinformation detection skills via their teachers. Reliable knowledge about young people's readiness to encounter and process false or misleading information is needed to better understand the phenomenon and to develop means to counter the harms of disinformation.

Other information

The findings will be disseminated in scientific publications, theses, and conference and seminar presentations. Individual participants will not be identifiable in any publications. Anonymous data may also be used in other research projects. Information on the project's publications will be made available on the project website: <https://www.jyu.fi/en/projects/detect-learning-for-detection-and-processing-of-disinformation>

The University of Jyväskylä has insured its activities and research participants. The university's insurance covers only those damages in remote studies that are directly

related to the assigned research task and occur during the actual instructed research activities. The insurance does not cover incidents occurring during breaks.

The insurance is not valid in remote studies if the participant's municipality of residence is outside Finland. The insurance coverage includes patient insurance, liability insurance, and voluntary accident insurance. During the study, participants are insured against accidents, damage, and injuries caused by external factors. The accident insurance is valid during the measurements and the journeys directly related to them.

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