Fake News Items

In order to merge the data sets for USA2016, GreatBritain2017, France2017 and Germany2017, it was necessary to convert the fake news items into generic items common across all four sets of respondents. These were X.FakeNews1, X.FakeNews2, X.FakeNews3 and X.FakeNewsPlacebo. These generic variables (with Value Labels 1 Definitely true, 2 Probably true, 3 Probably false, 4 Definitely false and 5 Not sure) are as follows:

X.FakeNews1

USA: Hilary Clinton is in very poor health due to a serious illness
Fr: Emmanuel Macron is secretly a homosexual
GB: In 1981 Jeremy Corbyn joined IRA members to attend the funeral of a jailed IRA member
Ger: When visiting a traditional Sharia marriage, Angela Merkel also congratulated the underage bride
IT18 Before the election, 500,000 pre-filled ballots were found in Sicily

X.FakeNews2

USA: Pope Francis endorsed Donald Trump for president prior to the election
Fr: A large portion of Emmanuel Macron’s campaign was funded by Saudi Arabia
GB: Terror attacks are Britain’s own fault, according to Jeremy Corbyn
Ger: Pork was banned from German schools and canteens out of respect for Muslims
IT18 Maria Elena Boschi and Laura Boldrini were photographed while participating…

X.FakeNews3

USA: During her time as U.S. Secretary of State, Hilary Clinton approved weapon sales to Islamic jihadists, including ISIS
Fr: Emmanuel Macron established a secret offshore bank account in the Cayman Islands
GB: The Conservative Party manifesto includes the pledge to inject the NHS with 350 million Pounds a week
Ger: Angela Merkel intends to extent suffrage to all refugees as soon as possible
IT18 In December 2017, former minister Cécile Kyenge (Democratic Party) said that Christmas market…

X.FakeNewsPlacebo

USA: -999 (Question not asked in this country)
Fr: During the first round of voting, French election officials falsified the vote tallies
GB: Jeremy Corbyn supports a petition to formally legalize Islamic Sharia Law in Bristol
Ger: The German Chancellery made a secret agreement with the Libyan government: In exchange for Libyan oil, more refugees can come to Germany
X.FakeNews4

IT18 In 2015 the Renzi government made an agreement with the government of Libya…

X.FakeNews5_TRUE

IT18 Lucky Awelima, the Nigerian citizen accused of the murder of Pamela Mastro…

X.FakeNews_TRUE

IT18 A councilor of the town council in Rome, governed by Virginia Raggi (M5S), has…