

Citizen Guidelines Graphic

DIGIPOL – Deliverable D12

Zach Bastick

European University Institute (EUI), Florence

20 March 2025

Funding statement

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are, however, those of the author only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Commission. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.



Funded by the
European Union

What to Look For in the Platforms You Use

A civic guide to understanding the systems that shape what people see, trust, and share online.

01 Ask what is shaping what you see

Feeds are often ranked, recommended, and filtered. What gets visibility can shape public understanding.



02 Look for explanations and a public record

Major rules, labels, and system changes should be explained in plain language and leave a public record. Oversight should be possible without exposing personal data.

03 Notice when the system changes

A sudden shift in what you see may reflect a platform decision, not just a change in public opinion.



04 Do not rely on one feed alone

No single platform shows the whole picture. Compare across sources, platforms, and formats.

05 Value independent oversight

Healthy digital systems should allow researchers, journalists, and watchdogs to study them in ways that protect privacy.



Visibility is power

What **platforms** amplify or hide can **shape** public debate. Understanding digital platforms requires **durable ways to observe them**.



Funded by the
European Union

DIGIPOL — Citizen Brief on Platforms, Visibility, and Public Trust
European University Institute (EUI)

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are, however, those of the author only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Commission. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.