

## **Fake News Example in Spain: 5G and COVID-19**

In Spain, a fake news story that circulated widely in 2020 was about the supposed dangers of the 5G network, claiming that 5G technology was either responsible for spreading the COVID-19 virus or making people more susceptible to it.

### **Content of the News:**

The false news article falsely linked the rollout of 5G technology with the COVID-19 pandemic. It suggested that the electromagnetic radiation emitted by 5G towers could either cause the virus or make individuals more vulnerable to it. The article often included pseudo-scientific arguments and manipulated images to increase its credibility, making it seem as if there was a direct connection between the two phenomena.

### **Target Group:**

The primary target group of this fake news was individuals who were already suspicious of new technologies, those with low levels of technological literacy, or people who were anxious about the rapid development of 5G technology. This included older individuals and conspiracy theory communities, who were particularly vulnerable to such misinformation.

### **Impact on the Intended Target Group:**

The impact was significant as it led to heightened fear and confusion around 5G technology. Some people started protesting against the installation of 5G infrastructure in their neighborhoods, believing it to be harmful or dangerous. Additionally, there were instances of vandalism against 5G towers, which were seen as potential threats to public health. The spread of this misinformation also contributed to the general climate of distrust during the COVID-19 pandemic, exacerbating already existing fears about the virus and technology.

This example highlights how fake news can amplify existing anxieties and stir up public unrest, especially when it involves complex and emerging technologies.