

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

(To be filled in and uploaded as deliverable in the Portal Grant Management System, at the due date foreseen in the system.

 Please provide one sheet per event (one event = one workpackage = one lump sum).)

PROJECT	
Participant:	Udruga za promicanje aktivnog građanstva – ECHO (Udruga ECHO)
PIC number:	918560319
Project name and acronym:	Read Twice — R2

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	4.1
Event name:	Trainings with university students in Croatia
Type:	Training
In situ/online:	[in-situ]
Location:	Croatia, Zagreb
Date(s):	18.04.2023. 16.05.2023. 23.05.2023.
Website(s) (if any):	https://www.themayor.eu/en/read-twice https://echo-udruga.hr/read-twice-r2/ https://echo-udruga.hr/743/ https://echo-udruga.hr/zavrzene-radionice-na-temu-borbe-protiv-laznih-vijesti-i-sirenja-dezinformacija-u-sklopu-provedbe-projekta-read-twice/ https://www.facebook.com/echoudruga/posts/pfbid0etaT8amXmkzpnLDjMyBDJi7EG3kCfDKcCaGBMFNvyMTTvWpvcwznMyCfVx3guKe4I https://www.facebook.com/paneuropacroatia/posts/pfbid029gwg8PSTBi7M9d26zhoxmhfNAnGEfSQuxCzv8RmJm1DnU3c1E4ZH06eY5RN7t35I https://www.facebook.com/echoudruga/posts/pfbid02U459d1NPaG1AJfyUDon9boiUtwaad1DMhvYGYwCZFH6RZLCvkQZW0HvqvA7xP7Bu9I https://www.facebook.com/paneuropacroatia/posts/pfbid0xupwxKLVCJ541q2bFZdyx8GYxDWbmJQNEmQbxDwQHMQvQGfGUYGFUBFzUTjQI5MHI https://www.facebook.com/paneuropacroatia/posts/pfbid032thMjXwtLgonMf9uKuwkivevCUNAZCGySBHHCT7z5ARvzfAUMXnmnLkT97kXANFXI https://www.facebook.com/echoudruga/posts/pfbid0SaEZeAgo9VUJjmn8RA7NqDsjL8XnmGyKUe1ZVmrSmRS8mvAAPBB3g3UceaFT4roWl

Participants			
Female:	119		
Male:	60		
Non-binary:	N/A		
From country 1 [Croatia]:	179		
Total number of participants:	179	From total number of countries:	1
Description			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
<p>3 half-day trainings with total 179 young people and students from diverse fields took place in Zagreb, Croatia. The aim of these trainings was to raise participants' awareness on the impact of disinformation on democracy and to demonstrate how it undermines the trust in the society and its institutions. As a result, participants learned how the online environment works, how online news articles and social media posts are generated and paid for, and how to critically analyse the content they consume. Various methods used to deceive readers on social media were presented, including image and video manipulations, intimidation, false profiles, bots, and trolls. Trainings also promoted journalists' practices for fact checking, thus equipping the young people with skills to access content critically, identify fake news and counteract through verified and reliable information. The young media professionals who participated in Capacity building activities in Berlin and Porto took on the role of trainers by sharing their first hand impressions and skills obtained. During local trainings in Croatia, young people engaged in the discourse of fake news, increased knowledge, skills, and gained tools to promote the benefits to society of reliable and verified information.</p>			
Concept and venue			
<p>Trainings with university students in Croatia were organized by Association ECHO and in close collaboration with Croatian Paneuropean Union (CPU). They took place in Zagreb on following dates and venues – on 18th April 2023 in conference hall of CPU, on 16th May 2023 in conference hall of CPU and on 23rd May 2023 at University of Zagreb, Faculty of Croatian Studies, Department of Communication Studies.</p> <p>Each training lasted half a day (including registration, opening speeches, three lectures of 90 minutes each, coffee pause, Q&A session, discussion and time to complete the CERV survey at the end).</p>			
Participants			
<p>Even though the trainings were dedicated to the students, Association ECHO created and open call in order to involve all interested public. The free of charge events were promoted via social media, Croatian Paneuropean channels and through university channels in order to include participants from various faculties. This resulted in a total audience of 179 persons. Each event exceeded the proposed number of 50 participants.</p>			
Methodology			
<p>The agenda of the three events was prepared by young media professionals who attended capacity-building activities in Berlin and Porto, in collaboration with Association ECHO and communication studies professors from Faculty of Croatian studies. In order to prepare the agenda and teaching materials, young media professionals used the materials, tools and approaches that they were acquainted with during their visits to Berlin and Porto by the experts of Alliance4Europe, CICANT, Der Spiegel, Deutsche Welle, Público, Rádio Nova etc.</p> <p>After the capacity building activities, the young media professionals split into three groups based on their availabilities to attend the scheduled university trainings and prepared lectures for each event.</p>			
Agenda			

The topic of all three events was to stimulate critical thinking among young people and to promote a new range of skills to deal with disinformation and fight the spread of fake news. Participants have learned:

- What is the relationship between fake news and truth in the age of digital media,
- What is the relationship between fake news, propaganda and media literacy,
- How fake news creates hate speech,
- How the online environment works,
- How online news articles and social media posts are generated and paid for,
- How to critically analyse the content that has been consumed,
- Skills to access content critically and identify fake news.

In addition, participants were acquainted with some of the most effective modern tools for recognizing misleading information such as Crowd Tangle; DISARM Framework, Public Editor, which can be used both professionally and in everyday life. Many examples of fake news from social and political life were presented and discussed. At the opening of each event, the project manager from Udruga ECHO presented the Read Twice project and the funding programme CERV and at the end of it, asked participants to complete the CERV survey.

Achieved results and impact

The events were all organised in collaboration with universities, which guaranteed greater involvement of their students. The three events were attended by a varied audience, including people with various levels of media literacy skills – from such who have never had a training in media literacy, to more experienced citizens, journalists, social media users. The group of students included students in mass communications, journalism, European studies, International relations, Law, Pedagogics, Social Sciences, Human rights, etc. It involved young EU citizens giving them the chance to debate on the challenges related to fake news spread and their views on how to mitigate their impact. The discussions provided attendees with the chance to exchange their views on national and EU policy making process and attracted their attention to the efforts of EU institutions in addressing the problem. At each event participants were divided into groups and asked to perform tasks together and resolve challenges related to fake news and disinformation.

CERV survey

Based on the feedback received after the completion of the CERV survey, we can conclude that the events increased attendees' motivation and abilities to promote skills to assess information critically among their friends, families, peers, and the other members of the society. Participants were made aware of the dangers and opportunities that Internet is related to as a means of accessing information, and how media platforms affect their access to information.

Needs Assessment

As part of Work Package 3, we also produced a written document – a Media literacy and disinformation response readiness in Croatia - Needs assessment and state-of-play analysis. The 51-pages analytical document looks at the needs of different target groups as regards media literacy education and preparedness against disinformation attacks.

The aim of this document is to identify the skills and knowledge gaps and needs of the project target groups (young media practitioners, young people, local stakeholders and civil society organisations, social media users) regarding education and training concerning media literacy, fake news and disinformation in Croatia. Even though the document does not present a scientific or representative research, through social media polls, online questionnaires and in person interviews, it identifies the important challenges of online media users and highlights important recommendations in order to resolve the current issues and gaps. It presents an overview of medial literacy curriculum in Croatia within the formal education, as well as existing best practices regarding fact checking, which were launched after the start of the pandemic

The document can be downloaded from the project [webpage](#).



HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	01.04.2022	Initial version (new MFF).