

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

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

PROJECT	
Participant:	[4] - [ICOFAC COOPERATIVA DE FORMACAO E ANIMACAO CULTURAL CRL] ([Lusófona University])
PIC number:	[997605425]
Project name and acronym:	[Read Twice] — [R2]

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	[2]		
Event name:	[Read Twice – Disinformation & Civic engagement : Becoming an agent against disinformation]		
Type:	[Training]		
In situ/online:	[in-situ]		
Location:	[Portugal, Porto]		
Date(s):	[27-28 March 2023]		
Website(s) (if any):	https://www.themayor.eu/en/read-twice		
Participants			
Female:	31		
Male:	12		
Non-binary:	-		
From country 1 [Bulgaria]:	11		
From country 2 [Croatia]:	12		
From country 3 [Romania]:	11		
From country 3 [Portugal]:	7		
From country 3 [Germany]:	1		
From country 3 [Ecuador]:	1		
Total number of participants:	43	From total number of countries:	6
Description			

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

Under the Read Twice project, two capacity building events were organized aimed at strengthening project ambassadors (the young media practitioners) skills and abilities to promote media literacy and thus counteract disinformation. They intended to do so by ensuring exchange of knowledge and best practices, and transfer of know-how.

More specifically, and according to the Grant Agreement, objectives of these initiatives were the following:

- To exchange know-how and improve the capacity of 30 young media practitioners to identify disinformation and implement state-of-the-art practices for media literacy by involving them in international capacity building in Portugal and Germany.
- To promote Germany and Portugal's experience and positive results in addressing disinformation, including through promoting media literacy by identifying at least 20 initiatives.

Capacity building - Porto

Following the activities conducted in Berlin, on the 27th and 28th february 2023, the capacity building event in Porto took place on the 27th and 28th march. The event was carried out under the motto "Disinformation & Civic engagement - Becoming an agent against disinformation". Highly focused on the acquisition of new knowledge and development of training and professional skills, Porto's capacity building was planned with the intention of complementing the themes and dynamics explored in Berlin.

The Capacity building event was divided into two days. The first day was mainly devoted to reviews of previously explored subjects concerning information disorder, the presentation of the Portuguese Best Practices mapping, the experience of university journalism as a basis for journalistic practices and digital journalism, creative media production and narrative journalism. On the second day delved into the practices and routines of two reference Portuguese media outlets and put into practice the knowledge and skills acquired in a co-creation session.



Day 1

This session was conducted by [Maria José Brites](#) (Lusófona University/ CICANT), the portuguese coordinator, who welcomed the participants, followed by a presentation of the

university and the research center. After that, launched some insights to instigate the participants for the days ahead, namely from asking them about the concept of disinformation and “fake news”, about the agents of the phenomenon and bringing some concrete examples.

Later, [Margarida Maneta](#) (Lusófona University/ CICANT) hosted an icebreaker game. Starting with the game Broken Phone, a phrase was whispered among the participants. The final sentence, said aloud, was different from the original which allowed a discussion of how easily information can be changed and the influence that context, noise, and the desire to make a joke can have on the information shared. From here, the participants shared conclusions that the exercise raised for them and recalled some personal examples.

Given the relevance of the task of mapping initiatives identified as good practices in the field and the contribution that mapping may represent to improve or reproduce practices in other contexts, the second session aimed at presenting the Portuguese mapping and listing the main lessons learnt. [Ana Filipa Oliveira](#) (Lusófona University/ CICANT) presented the Mappings main results and the top 3 initiatives which emerged as landmark projects and initiatives in the country in recent years and which have a widespread impact at national level with regard to the promotion of media and digital literacy, including the empowerment of citizens with skills that enable them to detect and combat misinformation. Besides this, the speaker presented a shortlist of Best Practices - two research projects and to media/ social innovation initiatives. By presenting this list of four initiatives, the intention was to present good examples of activities and approaches in various areas of activity that produced methods, strategies and tools that can be used and reproduced in other contexts and with other target groups.

In the final part of this session, participants were challenged to engage in a critical reflection exercise focused on their own countries and on related examples of projects that tackle disinformation. Divided in two groups per country, participants were asked to make a list of projects and initiatives related to media and digital literacy and disinformation, arising from various fields, that could be identified as ‘good practices’. At the end of the session, all groups shared their lists of good practices and discussed the ways they impacted their societies and improved citizens’ media and digital literacy competencies.

The afternoon of the first day started with a session dedicated to University journalism and student-run media outlets aiming to stress the importance of university journalism as one of the first contact points for many students with (semi)professional journalistic production. The planning of this session also took into account the existence of historical university media at national level and the experience of [#infomedia](#) at Lusófona University, host institution and R2 partner. Professor and researcher [Vanessa Ribeiro-Rodrigues](#) started off by discussing the importance of university-run media outlets as a way of engaging students and providing a launching pad that allows them to learn the daily dynamics of a newsroom, develop diverse journalistic production skills, as well as comment on mistakes and learn from them. Then, she presented the project [#infomedia](#), created in 2014 by students with her supervision. In a retrospective, the speaker shared the history, the construction of the editorial guidelines and its sections aiming to ensure a professional journalistic content.

Then followed by the interventions of [Carolina Franco](#) and [Daniel Dias](#) (members of the team of [#infomedia](#) and, currently, journalists in the reference newspaper Público), who not only shared with the participants their university career and the experience of collaborating with [#infomedia](#), but also their first steps in professional journalism, the difficulties they faced and how the background in academic journalism contributed positively to become professionals with solid practices and a high concern with fact checking and the production of quality journalism.

The day ended with a session dedicated to digital narrative journalism and how the culture of convergence has had an impact on media production, and news consumption and on how it impacts quality in journalism. For this session, Professor and journalist Vanessa Rodrigues analyzed international and portuguese transmedia storytelling case studies, such as [For you, Portugal I swear](#), by independent media outlet [Divergente](#), and the narrative [A Woman's World: Creating spaces for joy, leisure, and resistance in South and Southeast Asia](#), by [Kontinentalist](#), an independent media outlet in Asia.

Day 2

The second day began with a visit to two Portuguese reference media: the national newspaper [Público](#) and the local radio station [Rádio Nova](#). The two visits sought to bring the participants closer to current journalistic practices, to give them a glimpse of journalism in Portugal, and to highlight the different approaches to fact-checking of national and local media.

The visit to Rádio Nova was conducted by radio host Isidro Lisboa. The radio host shared some insights about the radio station's routine. He explained the various roles that exist within the station and addressed the difference between entertainment and information. Besides this, Isidro Lisboa, also explained that in a local radio station like Rádio Nova, dedicated mostly to entertainment, information continues to play an important role. He explained how journalists prepare the information, how they verify it, and the constant concern with updating the news hour by hour.

As to the visit to Público, David Pontes, deputy director, led the participants on a journey through some of the most remarkable moments in the newspaper's history and the constant search for the best quality information for its readers. David Pontes talked about the newspaper's organizational structure, the way work is conducted on a daily basis, and how the digital has had an impact not only on journalistic production practices, but also on the way the publication reaches its readers.

He addressed the way journalists contact sources, the increasing urgency of fact-checking quickly, the importance of slow journalism, and also the importance of the media assuming the mistakes in order to improve their quality and everyday practices.

The end of the second day aimed to be a wrap-up of the learning and knowledge acquired over the two capacity building sessions. Therefore, participants were challenged to envision a training session aimed at different target groups. Some of the questions posed to participants were "How can I train others? What tools and strategies can I use? How would I engage people from different age groups?". Guided by these general questions, groups delved into the group work.

Participants were given around 45 minutes to work in 2 groups per country. Then, each group pitched their idea. Some groups decided to take the opportunity to start thinking about the training sessions that they will carry out in their home countries. Others chose to think about possible approaches with other age groups - whether children, young adults or older people.

The groups were actively involved in the design of training sessions, putting the acquired knowledge into practice and collaborating with each other to present proposals highly focused on informing and empowering citizens in the face of misinformation and fake news. Alongside this, during the presentations, the groups contributed by questioning some options and presenting proposals for improvement.

Venues

[Main venue]

The Capacity Building took place at the [Centro de Negócios do Bonfim](#) (Bonfim Business Center).

Duration

The capacity building event in Porto lasted for two days (27th and 28th march), in a total of ±16 hours. Five sessions of presentations, critical reflection and group co-creation were held. Breaks allowed the participants to get to know the city, exchange ideas with each other, strengthening their knowledge and competencies.

Methodology of recruitment of participants

Read Twice partners jointly approved a methodology to selected participants for the two capacity building events. Bulgarian, Croatian and Romanian partners each recruited 10 young media professionals/practitioners through open calls and direct invitations

Individuals aged between 18-29 years old, nationals of Bulgaria, Romania, Croatia, and studying or working for a few years in the media sector. For the capacity building conducted in Portugal, Portuguese students and young graduates also joined the activities, as well as a young media professional/ researcher from Ecuador - who was conducting a research stay at the host institution at the time of the capacity building event.

According to their availability, the young people took part in both events or in only one of them. Considering this aspect, and although the two events focus on different and complementary themes, the Porto capacity building event began with a session focused on the review of the themes covered in the Berlin event.

Another particular aspect that was considered during the recruitment process was the fact that once back to their home countries the young media professionals would take on the role of trainers by sharing their first-hand impressions and skills acquired during the international capacity buildings to produce and promote verifiably reliable information and inform citizens about the EU's activities to tackle the infodemic crisis. This will take place through local workshops, conducted in the months following the capacity building events in Berlin and Porto.

Participants

The group of participants comprised a total of 43 people - 30 young people and 13 speakers, group leaders and representatives of the partners. Regarding gender disintegrated data, 31 individuals identified themselves as female and 12 as male.

Achieved results and impact

Before Berlin's capacity building, participants filled in a self-survey about media literacy skills and disinformation response readiness, which was meant to evaluate the initial state (the baseline) before project activities take place.

This survey also served as preparation for Porto's capacity building. The agenda was readjusted according to the data from this questionnaire in order to meet the needs identified. The results pointed out that:

- On a scale of 1 - 10, 28 respondents selected 5 or higher when it comes to their confidence in discerning fake news or disinformation in news articles online and 30 selected 5 or higher when it comes to their confidence in discerning fake news or disinformation in social media posts.
- On a scale of 1 - 10, 25 respondents selected 5 or higher when it comes to their confidence in discerning fake news or disinformation in print media and 29 when it comes to their confidence in discerning fake news or disinformation in TV/Radio.
- On a scale of 1 - 10, 31 respondents selected 6 or higher when it comes to their confidence in discerning opinions from facts.
- 45,2% of respondents say that most of the time they take the time to check the credibility of sources of news.

After the Capacity building event in Porto, participants also provided answers to a post survey. According to the data collect with this instrument, it is pointed out that:

- On a scale of 1 - 10, 24 respondents selected 8 or higher when it comes to their confidence in discerning fake news or disinformation in news articles online and 22 selected 8 or higher when it comes to their confidence in discerning fake news or disinformation in social media posts.

- On a scale of 1 - 10, 24 respondents selected 8 or higher when it comes to their confidence in discerning fake news or disinformation in print media and 25 when it comes to their confidence in discerning fake news or disinformation in TV/Radio.
- On a scale of 1 - 10, 25 respondents selected 8 or higher when it comes to their confidence in discerning opinions from facts.
- 67,9% of respondents say that most of the time they take the time to check the credibility of sources of news, a raise of 22,4% comparatively to Berlin's post-survey.

As to the feedback collected with the CERV survey, results point out that most participants say that the training contributed to improved knowledge and perception of the topic. Most participants also pointed out that they acquired knowledge they could use on their daily work. Participants also used the survey to provide feedback about aspects that could be improved in other sessions.

Findings of the Mapping of best practices

The Mapping of Portuguese best practices for tackling fake news and disinformation was conducted under the works of Work Package 2. This mapping aimed to collect information and to list initiatives that represent Portugal's experience and expertise in addressing disinformation and media literacy-related issues. It was intended to provide an overview of the various areas where the issue of disinformation is addressed, with a main goal of presenting a comprehensive and incisive collection of information on initiatives promoted by public and private entities.

The mapping of Portugal's Best Practices provides us an overview of the efforts that have been made in Portugal to tackle information disorder, such as disinformation, and the attention that various sectors of society have given to the development of strategies to detect and empower citizens for early detection of information disorder.

All in all, the results of this mapping point out Portugal's efforts to promote media and digital literacy competencies of a variety of target groups, in line with national and European strategies. [Results are available here.](#)

Summary of the capacity-buildings

The two training activities held as part of the Read Twice project sought to stimulate critical thinking among young media practitioners and promote a new range of skills to deal with disinformation and fight the spread of fake news. To this end, and in order to respond to the needs previously identified by the young people, they promoted sessions dedicated to reflection on theoretical issues (e.g. the origins and impacts of disinformation, tools and strategies for quality journalistic production), also practical sessions (e.g. content production, narrative journalism, tackling fake news, tools and strategies to train peers).

Throughout the sessions participants were actively involved, contributing with questions and insights related to their local realities. Looking at the results of the post-evaluation questionnaires of both events, there is a general satisfaction with the agendas and the knowledge acquired. The data suggests an increase in awareness, knowledge, general skills to deal with disinformation, and collaboration skills. The feedback from the participants also points to an interest in participating in similar actions, in order to improve their professional skills, but also to make contact with people from other contexts and realities.

The participants also had the chance to systematise the knowledge gained and their approach to the upcoming national media literacy university trainings, which will take place once they return to their home countries.

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

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