

## EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Participant :	Participant 1 - FEDERAZIONE ITALIANA DIRITTI UMANI COMITATO ITALIANO HELSINKI ENTE DEL TERZO SETTORE (FIDU ETS)
PIC number :	[897365334]
Project name and acronym :	Media Literacy for Democracy — MLFD

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number :	WP7
Event name :	MLFD International Workshop - Italy
Type :	1 day International Workshop
In situ/online :	In-situ
Location :	Italy, Rome
Date(s) :	June 26th
Website(s) (if any) :	<a href="https://fidu.it/language/en/media-literacy-for-democracy-international-workshop/">https://fidu.it/language/en/media-literacy-for-democracy-international-workshop/</a>
Participants	
Female :	21
Male :	17
Non-binary :	1
From Italy :	33
From Spain :	1
From Bulgaria :	1
From Ireland :	1
From France :	1
From Poland :	1
From Belgium :	1
Total number of participants	39
From total number of countries :	7

**Description**

The first Media Literacy for Democracy international workshop was held on June 26th in-situ in Rome by FIDU in collaboration with the MLFD Consortium, Luiss Data Lab and the master school of journalism. The event brought citizens into conversation about the various factors contributing to the spread of disinformation, policy initiatives, research being conducted, and potential strategies to promote the future of media literacy in the European Union.

Students and experts from Europe exchanged ideas about the role that governments, media workers, CSOs, and online platforms play in this major challenge. A panel of qualified and knowledgeable speakers communicated ways that we can raise awareness about disinformation, current techniques in tackling foreign interference, and the role of journalism in separating fact from fiction.

**Participants :**

The call for interest to gather the participants of the International Workshop has been shared through MLFD partners, via emails, and through a press release sent to Italian news agencies.

Participants came from different European countries (incl. those where young citizens have fewer opportunities) and from different backgrounds, such as students, statistic experts, independent journalists, and legal professionals. The workshop involved a total of 39 participants, 37 of which aged between 18 and 35 (target group):

Country of residence: Italy, Spain, Bulgaria, Ireland, France, Poland, Belgium.

Average age: 28

Female: 21

Male: 17

Non binary: 1

Working language: English

**Objectives :**

The workshop aimed to deepen participants' understanding of the various factors contributing to the spread of disinformation. By shedding light on how foreign state actors use disinformation as a geopolitical tool, the workshop highlighted the potential threats it poses to human rights and democratic values.

The workshop provided also a platform to discuss and explore existing policy initiatives and ongoing research efforts to combat disinformation. Experts shared valuable insights into the European Union's multifaceted response, comprising various levels of engagement, including civil society and governmental measures.

Moreover, the workshop seeks to explore effective strategies to promote media literacy within the European Union and globally. Participants actively engaged in discussions to empower citizens as critical consumers of information and raise awareness about democratic issues. The importance of media literacy education as a powerful tool in countering disinformation was underscored.

Another crucial objective of the workshop was to encourage cross-sector cooperation and citizen engagement in tackling disinformation. Participants examined the roles of governments, media workers, civil society organizations, and online platforms in addressing disinformation challenges. The goal was to foster collaboration and concerted efforts in the fight against disinformation.

In conclusion, the workshop aimed to highlight the vital importance of safeguarding free media, academia, and civil society. By emphasizing their role in stimulating open debates and protecting democratic participation from malign interference, the workshop emphasized the need to defend these pillars of democracy.

**Results :**

The outcomes of the workshop were significant :

Participants gained valuable insights into the manipulative strategies employed by foreign state actors in spreading disinformation. This understanding highlighted the potential impact on victims of human rights abuses and the need for robust responses.

The experts presented the European Union's comprehensive response to disinformation, covering various levels of engagement. The workshop provided a comprehensive view of the policy initiatives in place and the efforts aimed at countering disinformation effectively.

Moreover, the role of journalism in countering disinformation and promoting open debates received special attention. The workshop emphasized the need for coordination between journalists, NGOs, and state actors to effectively combat the spread of false information.

The Digital Service Act was a significant point of discussion, as it holds promise in regulating social media platforms to curb the spread of misinformation more effectively.

Ongoing research presentations brought to light various aspects of disinformation, including the impact of fake news as a commodity, the role of attention in news dissemination, and the effectiveness of fact-checking accounts on social media. These research findings provided valuable insights into the complex challenges of disinformation.

**Feedback :**

Participants appreciated the workshop's multidisciplinary approach, which fostered a deeper understanding of the complexities involved in countering disinformation effectively.

Engaging in meaningful discussions with colleagues from different European countries was a highlight for attendees. The opportunity to exchange diverse perspectives enriched the discussions and provided unique insights into the nature of the disinformation challenge.

The emphasis on empowering citizens through media literacy education and awareness-raising was highly praised. Participants recognized the importance of equipping individuals with the necessary skills to critically assess information and make informed decisions.

The insights provided by experts on safeguarding free media and civil society to protect democratic principles were well-received. Participants acknowledged the vital role these entities play in upholding democratic values and combating disinformation.

The workshop's success in sparking conversations and ideas about countering disinformation demonstrated a strong commitment to promoting media literacy within the European Union and beyond.

Looking ahead, the positive feedback and successful outcomes of the workshop provide momentum for future efforts to effectively address disinformation challenges and foster an informed and media-literate society within the European Union. The subsequent phases of the MLFD initiative are expected to build on these achievements and further advance the fight against disinformation in the pursuit of a democratic and informed society.

**Dissemination :**

The workshop results have been published on FIDU and MLFD social media channels, providing updates to the partners on the progress of the event in order to be ready for the next workshops.