

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Participant :	University of Szczecin, Szczecin, Poland
PIC number :	[999851460]
Project name and acronym :	Media Literacy for Democracy — MLFD

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number :	WP9
Event name :	MLFD International Workshop - Poland
Type :	1 day International Workshop
In situ/online :	In-situ
Location :	Szczecin, Poland
Date(s) :	18 of October, 2023
Website(s) (if any) :	https://fidu.it/language/en/media-literacy-for-democracy-cerv-programme/ https://fidu.it/language/en/media-literacy-for-democracy-international-workshop/ https://usz.edu.pl/zaproszenie-do-udzialu-w-konferencji-6/ https://nsp.usz.edu.pl/miedzynarodowa-konferencja-naukowa-w-ramach-projektu-media-literacy-for-democracy/
Participants	
Female :	27
Male :	11
Non-binary :	0
From Poland :	34
From Spain :	1
From Bulgaria :	1
From Ireland :	1
From Italy :	1

Total number of participants	38	From total number of countries :	5
Description			
<p>The second international Media Literacy for Democracy workshop was organized on October 18 in Szczecin by the Institute of Political Science and Security at the University of Szczecin. Experts from other universities, an NGO dedicated to helping people with disabilities, and EUROPE DIRECT, among others, were also invited to participate in the event. During the event, young citizens discussed various factors contributing to the spread of disinformation, but also similar phenomena such as misinformation, malinformation, propaganda and fake news, political and social initiatives, ongoing research and potential strategies to promote the future of media literacy in the European Union, reflected on the effectiveness of various methods to verify the credibility of various information, and considered various ways to counter these threats. The workshop was divided in three parts:</p>			
Part 1			
<p>The first part was dedicated to the presentation of the project with an introduction of the core topic of the workshop. In this first session, scholars and practitioners analysed the problem of disinformation, but also misinformation, malinformation, propaganda, and fake news. They explained what impact these problems have on democracy, human rights, various minorities, and tried to find answers on how to counter them. This part included speeches by seven experts.</p>			
Part 2			
<p>The second part included experts from universities, media, NGOs also from other countries like Slovakia and Ukraine (who joined online). The experts mainly discussed the problem of disinformation, misinformation, malinformation, propaganda and fake news in the Russian aggression against Ukraine, since for nearly two years we have witnessed the impact of these phenomena in this war.</p> <p>The part 1 and 2 of the workshop were also attended by lecturers and have been broadcasted via Zoom, in order to give more people the opportunity to attend.</p>			
Part 3			
<p>This part was completely dedicated to students' work. In this interactive session participants were divided into five groups. Each group discussed at least two issues, indicated in a list of questions identified previously by the consortium. Each group then presented its position to the forum, and thus discussed with the other participants from other groups.</p>			
Participants			
<p>The invitation to participate in the International Workshop was sent out through MLFD partners, emails, social networks, internal mailings and a press release to the media, as well as on the university's official websites. The workshop was attended by a total of 38 participants, of which 27 women and 11 men. Participants came from Poland and from the other 4 partner countries - Ireland, Italy, Spain and Bulgaria. Most of them were students and young professionals in the field of media and CSOs. Probably less interest on the part of men was due to the fact that the workshop was held in English.</p>			
Objectives			
<p>The workshop aimed to deepen participants' understanding of the various factors contributing to the spread of disinformation, but also of similar phenomena, which are often confused with disinformation, namely misinformation, malinformation, and propaganda. Participants had the opportunity to learn that the aforementioned phenomena are serious threats to democracy, individual security and human rights. Participants learned how various entities use these phenomena to achieve their goals, what are the methods and ways to counter these phenomena. In addition, they themselves tried to develop recommendations, ideas, strategies to counter these threats. The workshop provided an excellent forum for discussion both with experts and among students.</p>			
Results :			
<p>Participants were very satisfied with their participation in the workshop and expressed a desire to participate</p>			

in future similar initiatives. Participants especially appreciated the opportunity to explore the topic of disinformation, fake news, misinformation, malinformation or propaganda from different perspectives - both from the impact of these phenomena on democracy, human rights, minority groups, including people with disabilities, the role of education in this area, methods and ways to combat these threats. They worked with dedication in smaller groups (Part 3), aiming to present their point of view, develop special strategies and recommendations. Participants expressed their will to become active citizen and continue their work in verifying information and sources to counter disinformation in the EU.

Feedback :

Participants appreciated the multidisciplinary approach of the workshop, which fostered a deeper understanding of the complexities involved in effectively countering disinformation. An important factor for participants was to engage in meaningful discussions with colleagues from different European countries. They gave special roles to education in the fight against disinformation. They also suggested how education policies should look like in order to protect people, incl. the most vulnerable, from disinformation and help them to make proper and safe use of the media.

Students very much appreciated the fact that during the workshop they were not considered only as recipients of contents, but citizens whose point of view could offer a valuable contribution to the fight against disinformation. Hence they willingly participated in the development of strategies and recommendations.

The participants were very keen to participate in similar initiatives in the future. They also offered to raise this topic in the framework of scientific papers, organizing seminars and student conferences, initiating such discussions in forums.

Dissemination:

The workshop was promoted through the consortium's network. Poster and flyer, as well as a summary of the results were published in the university media, on FIDU's website and on MLFD social networks.