

## 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:	<i>[in-situ]</i>
Location:	Croatia, Zagreb
Date(s):	18.04.2023. 16.05.2023. 23..05.2023.
Website(s) (if any):	<a href="https://www.themayor.eu/en/read-twice">https://www.themayor.eu/en/read-twice</a> <a href="https://echo-udruga.hr/read-twice-r2/">https://echo-udruga.hr/read-twice-r2/</a> <a href="https://echo-udruga.hr/zavrzene-radionice-na-temu-borbe-protiv-laznih-vijesti-i-sirenja-dezinformacija-u-sklopu-provedbe-projekta-read-twice/">https://echo-udruga.hr/zavrzene-radionice-na-temu-borbe-protiv-laznih-vijesti-i-sirenja-dezinformacija-u-sklopu-provedbe-projekta-read-twice/</a> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/paneuropacroatia/posts/pfbid029gwg8PSTBi7M9d26zhoxmhfNAnGEfSQuxCzv8RmJvm1DnU3c1E4ZHo6eY5RN7t35I">https://www.facebook.com/paneuropacroatia/posts/pfbid029gwg8PSTBi7M9d26zhoxmhfNAnGEfSQuxCzv8RmJvm1DnU3c1E4ZHo6eY5RN7t35I</a> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/paneuropacroatia/posts/pfbid032thMjXwtLgonMf9uKuwkivevCUNAzCGySBHHCT7z5ARvzfAUMXnmnLkT97kXANFXI">https://www.facebook.com/paneuropacroatia/posts/pfbid032thMjXwtLgonMf9uKuwkivevCUNAzCGySBHHCT7z5ARvzfAUMXnmnLkT97kXANFXI</a> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/echoudruga/posts/pfbid0SaEZeAgo9VUJjmn8RA7NqDsJL8XnmGyKUe1ZVmrSmRS8mvAAPBB3g3UceaFT4roWI">https://www.facebook.com/echoudruga/posts/pfbid0SaEZeAgo9VUJjmn8RA7NqDsJL8XnmGyKUe1ZVmrSmRS8mvAAPBB3g3UceaFT4roWI</a>
<b>Participants</b>	
Female:	119
Male:	60
Non-binary:	N/A
From country 1 [Croatia]:	179

Total number of participants:	179	From total number of countries:	1 COUNTRY (Croatia)
<b>Description</b>			
<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>			
<b>Concept and venue</b>			
<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 18<sup>th</sup> April 2023 in conference hall of CPU, on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2023 in conference hall of CPU and on 23<sup>rd</sup> 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&amp;A session, discussion and time to complete the CERV survey at the end).</p>			
<b>Participants</b>			
<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>			
<b>Methodology</b>			
<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>			
<b>Agenda</b>			
<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What is the relationship between fake news and truth in the age of digital media,</li> <li>- What is the relationship between fake news, propaganda and media literacy,</li> <li>- How fake news creates hate speech,</li> <li>- How the online environment works,</li> </ul>			

- 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 media 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 results of this desk research shows that media and information literacy runs through almost all of classes/subjects in elementary education. In subjects where we do not find them independently, we will find them in a part of correlation with other subjects and cross-curricular topics, such as the use of information and communication technology. As for media and information literacy, the content is there, but teachers need to be taught, systematically strengthened with knowledge and skills, motivated and encouraged to a different kind of creativity. However, there is no concrete curricula on media literacy for secondary and higher educational institutions. The topic is covered under some lectures, especially on faculties such as communication science and journalism, but it does not exist as an independent lecture.

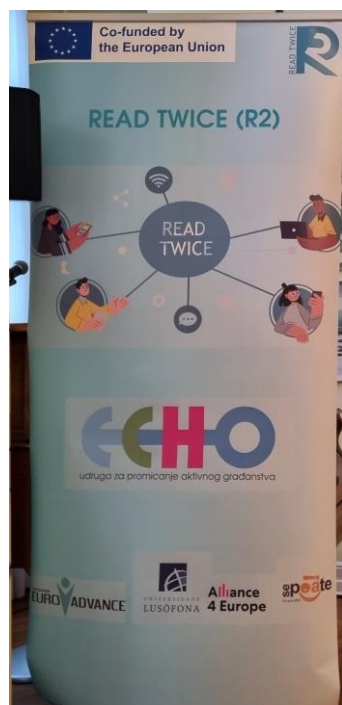
Within the analysis of interviews with six national stakeholders (journalists, law and communication science professors, and trainers in the field of media literacy), we have also identified the necessity of implementing media literacy as an independent curricula within the educational system, starting from the elementary school, as well as the need for quality training of teachers. The systematic approach needs to be adapted according to fake news and disinformation in Croatia society. Our citizens need to be taught since early age about basics of media literacy. However, not only youngsters fall into traps of fake news and disinformation, especially vulnerable are elderly citizens who are spreader of disinformation on social media in larger extent than other age groups.

All these findings were confirmed during the analysis of a national survey conducted online (social media poll and online questionnaires) targeted total 142 respondents, young media practitioners,

young people, local stakeholders and civil society organisations, social media users from all parts of Croatia. 85.2 % of respondents stated that in Croatia there is an issue related to the spread of false news or disinformation in our society. Linked to the fact that Croatia does not have a national policy for media literacy, 81.7% of respondents stated that they have never taken a class or course on media literacy and 91.5% have never taken a class/course on fake news and disinformation. Since the respondents are young people, this reflects on the notion that at least in the last 10 years (during their education), the educational system did not implement the media literacy into formal educational curricula.

It is also necessary to highlight that Croatia does not have a national policy for media literacy; the development of media literacy is only implemented by the Agency for Electronic Media, as well as non-governmental organizations.

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).