

EMMITT
Annual
Progress
Report

OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES ✕

23 / 24

EMATE

OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES



23/24

*Annual
Progress
Report*

25 countries
Grants APPROVED
- 81 projects
over €12M in
APPROVED - 81
2M in Grant
- over €12M in



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MESSAGE FROM THE *Management Committee*

The European Media and Information Fund (EMIF) prioritises transparency and accountability to foster a reliable digital information environment. These principles serve as guiding values across all of EMIF's endeavours.

→ **EMIF is dedicated to disseminating information about its initiatives through annual progress reports and evaluating them externally via a yearly independent assessment.**

→ **In that sense, this report provides an overview of activities conducted from 25 March 2023 to 24 March 2024, aiming to offer a precise portrayal of the actions undertaken by grantees and their subsequent impacts.**

Since its inception, EMIF has funded 81 projects in 25 countries, granting 12.4M€ to its beneficiaries. Twelve projects are now closed, enabling several outcomes to be collected. Considering only the nine projects completed in the area of Fact-Checking, grantees reached more than 14 million individuals with reliable news and information and created 855 fact-checks, thereby contributing to a more trustworthy media environment in Europe. In the case of the three projects closed in the Investi-

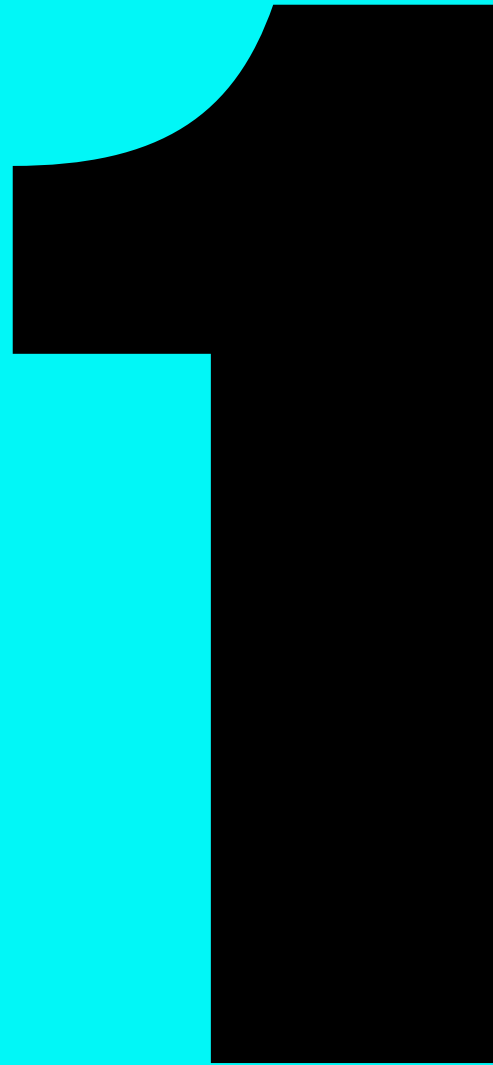
gation area, grantees created 241 mechanisms and tools designed to strengthen the evidence base regarding European disinformation and achieved 1954 mass media and social media mentions of project results.

As this report shows, EMIF has reached a remarkable level of maturity in its organisation, governance, reach and impact, within a short space of time. Its principal funding pillars are running at full capacity and its governing bodies are in place, ensuring an

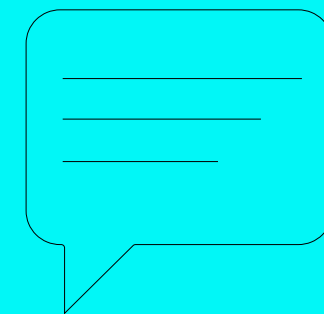
efficient and effective disbursement of funds and implementation. The vast array of projects that have been selected highlights their wide-ranging geographical and thematic scope, nurturing and meaningfully supporting the European landscape of fact-checkers.

The past year has also witnessed a complex set of geopolitical crises accompanied by ongoing turmoil, ranging from Russia's war on Ukraine to the Israel-Hamas war and the upcoming European parliamentary elections. EMIF has managed to cover these topics in a timely fashion, enabling organisations active on the ground to be mobilised in a rapid manner. This kind of relevance and impact also constitutes part of the EMIF success story, which we wish to highlight in the report that follows.

81 *Projects*
25 *Countries*
12.4M€ *in Grants* →



Introduction





The period covered by this report saw several major developments in the means used both to produce and to counter disinformation. → The emergence of generative artificial intelligence (AI) is perhaps the most remarkable of these developments. Rapidly developing AI technology allows for the cheap mass production of convincing manipulated content. → Large language model AIs greatly facilitate the creation of manipulative textual content at scale, with content that is more diverse and appears more authentic than similar human-made content. → Moreover, advancements in the AI-enabled production of visual content have brought similar dynamics in the creation of audiovisual manipulative content. → This rapidly developing technology poses a significant challenge to initiatives seeking to study and counter disinformation, but also allows for the creation of tools that can help identify manipulated content.

Within the European Union, several landmark regulations designed to limit the propagation and influence of disinformation have been adopted and/or come into effect. The European Media Freedom Act (EMFA) aims to ensure the independent functioning of European media, in order to safeguard the provision of reliable information to citizens within the EU. The recently adopted AI Act aims to limit the harmful effects of the aforementioned high-risk artificial intelligence in Europe; it further enables governance structures to do so; and it supports the beneficial application of these technologies. Lastly, the Digital Services Act (DSA) has entered into full effect, aimed at ensuring user protection for digital media within the EU. Moreover, the DSA is designed to provide for a regulatory backstop to the Strengthened Code of Practice on Disinformation, which is in the process of being converted into a Code of Conduct within the meaning of Article 45 of the DSA. Of particular relevance in this context is the coming into force of Article 40 of the DSA, which obliges very large online platforms (VLOPs) and very large online search



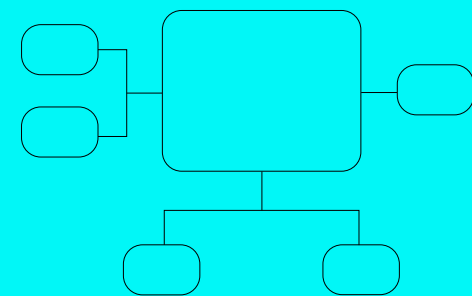
engines (VLOSEs) to provide data access to researchers so that they can investigate disinformation on these platforms. In order to assess the effectiveness of the Strengthened Code of Practice on Disinformation (CoP), the European Digital Media Observatory (EDMO) has developed structural indicators, which should be taken into account by the platform signatories to the Code in view of the fulfilment of their commitments.

An additional contextual element is the outbreak of the Israel-Hamas war, during which misleading manipulated content has been produced and spread at scale, highlighting the challenges that crisis situations pose to the integrity of the informational space, in addition to the risks of interference and coordinated disinformation campaigns targeting democratic processes, such as those that might affect the upcoming European elections. In December 2023, EMIF launched a fast-track call in 'Area 2 – Investigations' to address these urgent challenges. Moreover, the regular calls for proposals are updated annually to adapt to the changing context of disinformation in Europe and beyond.



2

The Fund





2.1

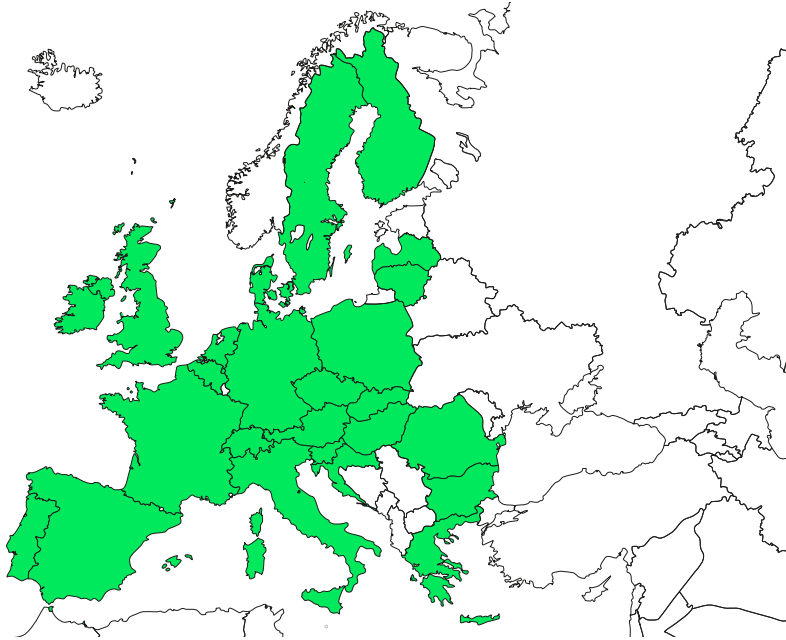
EMIF IN FIGURES

PROJECTS

81

COUNTRIES

25



Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom.

GRANTS APPROVED

€12,439,359.94

TOTAL SUBMITTED APPLICATIONS
(APRIL 2023- MARCH 2024)

184



2.2

CORE STRUCTURE/ ORGANISATIONAL MODEL

The European Media and Information Fund was established by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation (CGF) and the European University Institute (EUI), with an inaugural donation from Google of 25 million euros.

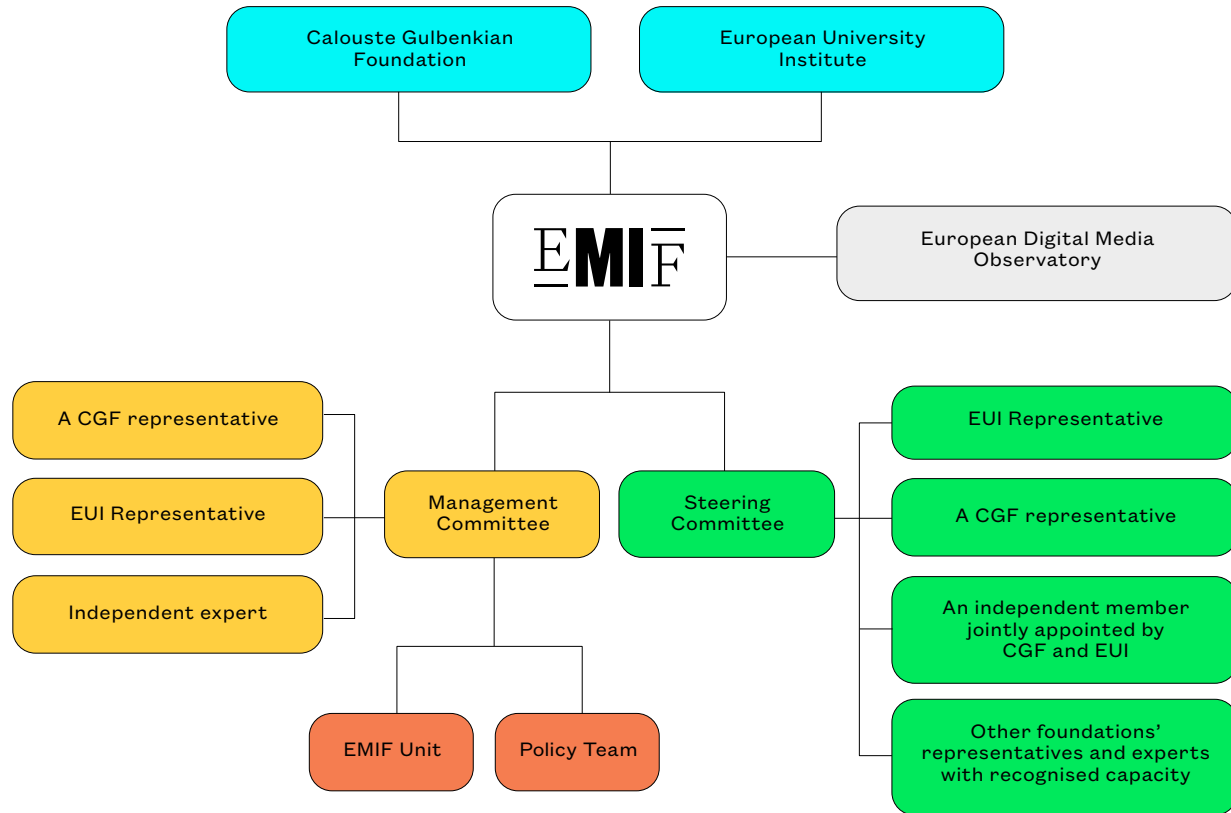
The Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation is a private and independent foundation created in 1956 by the last will and testament of Calouste Sarkis Gulbenkian, a philanthropist of Armenian origin, who lived in Lisbon between 1942 and the year of his death in 1955.

Established in perpetuity, the Foundation's main purpose is to improve the quality of life through art, charity, science and education. The Foundation directs its activities from its headquarters in Lisbon and its delegations in Paris and London.

The European University Institute is the leading institute in Europe dedicated to social sciences and humanities. Founded in 1972 by the six original members of the then European Communities, the EUI has earned a reputation as a transnational hub of research and higher learning. The EUI offers PhD and post-doctoral programmes in Economics, Political and Social Sciences, History and Law, and is home to the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies and the Florence School of Transnational Governance (STG). Founded in 2017, the latter institution provides training in governance to current and future leaders from diverse backgrounds and undertakes various programmes and initiatives, one of which is the European Digital Media Observatory.

EMIF comprises a Management Committee, an EMIF Unit, a Policy Team and a Steering Committee, while its activities benefit from the scientific guidance of EDMO.





The Management Committee is the Fund’s decision-making body and comprises three members: a representative of the CGF, who chairs the Committee; a member appointed by the EUI; and an independent expert appointed jointly by the EUI and the CGF. The Management Committee establishes the Fund’s action methods, validates all necessary measures to guide the Fund’s activities, designates beneficiaries and determines potential partners.

The Fund is managed by the CGF, which ensures its day-to-day management and executes the decisions taken by EMIF’s Management Committee. In addition to the involvement of the CGF’s institutional structure, which includes legal, financial, communication and IT departments, a management support unit – the EMIF Unit – was created at the Foundation and operates under the supervision of the Chair of the Management Committee.



The EUI is responsible for coordinating academic oversight and the dissemination of project findings to academics, specialists, policymakers and the general public, in the form of a Policy Team.

The Steering Committee provides general guidance and oversight to the Management Committee, most notably by advising on diversification of funding and by overseeing the external independent review and assessment of the Fund’s activities and impact. This Committee is chaired by a representative of the EUI. It is composed of representatives of the EUI and the CGF and also includes representatives of other organisations recognised for their work on matters of importance for the news media sector, media and information literacy, and societal resilience and/or EU policies, as well as other renowned experts.

The European Digital Media Observatory acts as a scientific advisor to EMIF and performs its role with complete independence from the Fund and its donors. EDMO’s Scientific Focus, in particular, provides a framework that guides the scientific priorities of EMIF’s interventions in all relevant areas, with a view to addressing the phenomenon of online disinformation in Europe. Based on the Observatory’s Scientific Focus, EDMO’s Advisory Board sets the scientific priorities for EMIF’s interventions, specifically in the areas “Investigations into Disinformation”, “Research – Studies & Sandboxes”, and “Actions in Support of Media Literacy”. The Chairs of EDMO’s Advisory Board and Executive Board are responsible for validating the call texts ahead of their publication. EDMO advises on the evaluation process and indicates a roster of expert evaluators, from which EMIF’s Management Committee selects the experts for each call and funding round.





2.3

MEASURES ENSURING GOOD MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

GOOD FAITH AND COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE LAWS

The governance of the Fund is regulated by Portuguese legislation. The Legal Department of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation oversees compliance of the documentation produced in connection with the Fund's activities, in accordance with the relevant legislation and the principles of good faith.

Separation of duties at the management level is ensured by a division of responsibilities within the CGF, namely at the level of financial management. The Financial Department of the CGF is responsible for payments, disbursements and receivables. The EMIF Unit is responsible for providing support to the daily management of the Fund, treating stakeholders with diligence and providing high standards of performance and full cooperation in order to achieve the best possible results.

FAIRNESS AND TRANSPARENCY

The mechanisms defined for the management of the calls for proposals are designed to ensure equal treatment of all applicants and broad access to relevant information about the process.

Basing the submission, admissibility and evaluation procedures on a digital platform enables EMIF to standardise how information is collected, treated, and disseminated. This system also allows for full GDPR compliance.

EMIF uses external experts to evaluate and score all applications, subject to Declarations of Interest. This ensures fair and equal treatment of all applicants and guarantees a division of duties.

All information about the Fund is permanently available on its website.

INDEPENDENCE AND THE ABSENCE OF A CONFLICT OF INTEREST IN DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES

EMIF's decision-making processes rely on the independence of the several bodies within the Fund and an adequate division of duties.

The Management Committee functions according to its established and approved internal rules, including safeguards for ensuring the absence of any conflict of interests among its members.

Decisions are taken at the level of EMIF's Management Committee, while the EMIF Unit at the CGF, which forms the secretariat, executes these decisions.

Decisions are made independently of any outside influence, including that of the donors. Donors do not participate in the Fund's governance, nor do they have the right to appoint any person to the Fund's Steering Committee or Management Committee. They do not have any role in the setting of research priorities, nor in the setting up of selection committees or the implementation of projects. Donors do not benefit from intellectual property rights in relation to any ideas or projects funded through EMIF, which does not offer services to donors (e.g., the outsourcing of philanthropic services). Donors commit to multi-year contributions, thus protecting the independence of the Fund in the long term. To further strengthen this independence, the Fund pursues a multi-donor policy, seeking to increase the number of donors beyond the single donor in the period covered by this report.

The European Digital Media Observatory indicates independent experts to serve as evaluators of projects submitted under EMIF's calls for proposals and will assume responsibility for evaluating the outcomes of the projects.

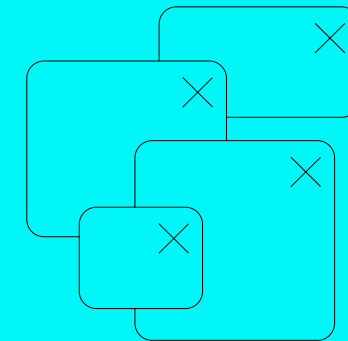
A strict conflict of interest policy is observed. In accordance with this policy, EMIF does not allow experts evaluating one call to be part of entities applying to that same call. Also, the EUI is not allowed to participate in calls for proposals organised by the Fund.

A Declaration of Interest is binding upon all members of the Management Committee and staff of the EMIF Unit.



3

EMIF *Activities*



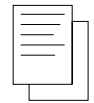


3.1

FUNDING APPROACH

The European Media and Information Fund offers funding opportunities through open calls for proposals. Initially endowed with €25,000,000, the Fund plans to disburse this amount over a five-year period, benefiting 32 eligible countries.

EMIF's initiatives revolve around four main priority areas:



SUPPORTING FACT-CHECKING ACTIONS

Strengthening both new and established independent fact-checking organizations.



INVESTIGATING DISINFORMATION

Backing efforts aimed at mitigating the impact of disinformation, including during electoral processes.



PROMOTING RESEARCH

Funding academic studies on media, disinformation, and information literacy across the region.



ENHANCING MEDIA LITERACY

Heightening public awareness of disinformation by bolstering media literacy initiatives and fostering critical thinking.



EMIF's funding approach is guided by several key principles:

- + Encouraging and supporting innovative proposals with a ripple effect, such as scalable approaches to detecting, analyzing, and exposing disinformation, facilitating networked knowledge exchanges, and incorporating robust dissemination plans for information sharing and subsequent research.
- + Ensuring the editorial and scientific independence of beneficiaries while emphasizing specific project aims and expected outcomes.
- + Adapting project funding sizes to match the absorption capacity and operational capabilities of eligible recipients, accommodating projects of varying scales.
- + Ensuring broad geographic coverage, with a minimum of 12 Member States supported annually, while also promoting diversity and the formation of specialist networks at national and EU levels.
- + Maintaining agile and flexible funding mechanisms to keep pace with rapidly evolving disinformation narratives and manipulation tactics, allowing for real-time event monitoring.
- + Ensuring widespread visibility and public awareness of funded activities across all four priority areas.



In the reporting period of 2023/24, EMIF carried out four funding rounds in area of Fact-Checking and on the other intervention areas three regular Calls and one fast-track Call. It also prepared and launched three new calls, reflecting the experience provided, the external assessment of its activities for the previous year, and the discussions with stakeholders that took place at EMIF’s Autumn event in November 2023 at the EUI in Florence. The process led to strategic modifications made to the Calls for Proposals in the four areas of interventions.

+ In order to better match stakeholders’ needs, EMIF maintained the increased grant amount and shorter duration of projects in the area of “Investigations on Disinformation”, while creating a special fast-track Call for Proposals to address Critical Disinformation Threats, namely EP elections, Israel-Hamas War, and the disinformation monetisation mechanisms.

+ Broadened the objectives and target groups referred to on the Media Literacy call, to diversify audiences as it is the case of the elderly, beyond the already ones tackled on granted projects, which are in majority youngsters and trainers/educators, capture proposals building on, and aimed at expanding previous successful initiatives, to ensure their continuity and longer-term sustainability.

+ Reviewed its approach in the research area to create a clearer link with specific objectives stemming from EU policies and reflecting EDMO’s scientific focus.



ONGOING & FUTURE CALLS AND FUNDING ROUNDS

3.2

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

April 2024 – March 2025

	OPEN	CLOSE
ACTIONS IN SUPPORT OF FACT-CHECKING		
8TH ROUND	29 February 2024	28 June 2024
9TH ROUND	28 June 2024	31 October 2024
10TH ROUND	31 October 2024	28 February 2025



3.3

COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION

WEBSITE

+76% **51,734**

Average time spent on website | Website sessions

NEWSLETTER

1,140

Subscribers

FOLLOWERS

+23% | X
+187% | LinkedIn

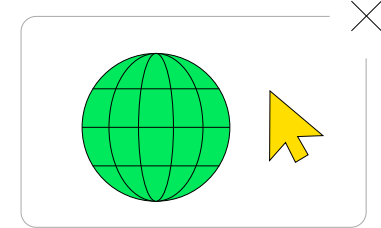
PARTICIPANTS

+133%

People joined the Open Calls Informatiove Sessions

+100

Attendees from all over Europe at EMIF Events



In its third year, EMIF has expanded its communications efforts, focusing on bolstering partnerships and showcasing project impact. Throughout the year, EMIF placed particular emphasis on enhancing its visibility and impact by effectively showcasing the outcomes of its projects to the wider public. Moreover, with more than 100 applications received for its annual call for proposals, EMIF demonstrated its important role in addressing disinformation in Europe.



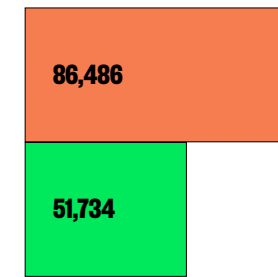
EMIF WEBSITE

The EMIF website, found at emifund.eu, functions as the primary platform for showcasing the fund's call for proposals, highlighting ongoing projects, and facilitating prospective applicants in submitting proposals. Additionally, the website serves as a hub for announcing EMIF events, where visitors can access event videos.

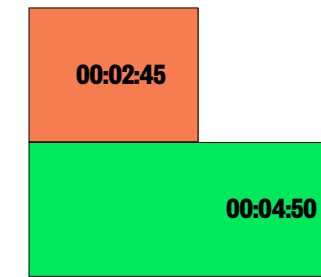


EMIF WEBSITE

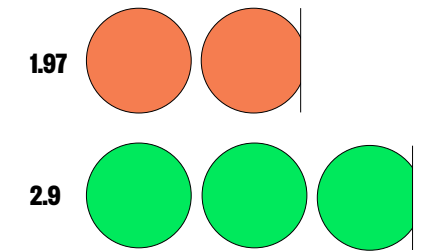
2022-2023 | 2023-2024



Sessions



Average Session Duration

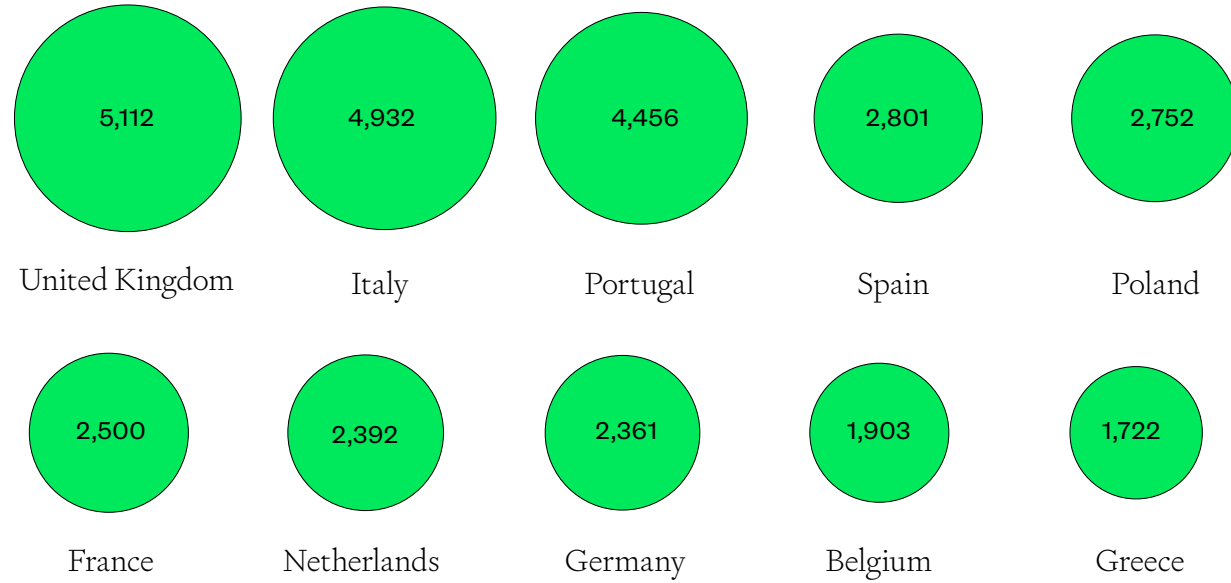


Views per Session

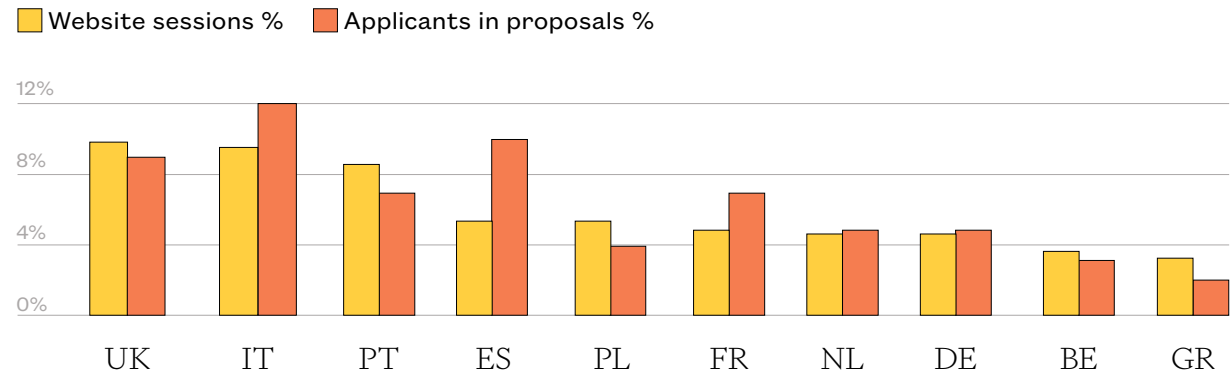
Despite the global number of sessions on this reporting period decreased when compared to the previous one, users are spending more time on the website and viewing more pages in each session. This, together with the peaks in number of sessions registered during the open period of the annual Call for Proposals, and the increase on applications and general interest on the Calls, shows that, rather than simply narrowing the website audience, EMIF is getting a more in-depth use of the website and on a refining process of its audience.



TOP TEN ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES PER NUMBER OF SESSIONS

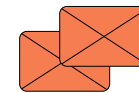


WEBSITE SESSIONS AND APPLICANTS PER COUNTRY



Accordingly, the data reveals a correlation between the countries generating the highest number of website sessions and those yielding the highest number of applicants for EMIF’s annual calls. This alignment points to a strong connection between website engagement and application submissions, indicating that EMIF’s outreach efforts effectively resonate with target audiences in these key regions, ultimately leading to an increased interest in the Fund’s grants.

NEWSLETTER



	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Subscriptions	772	1005	1140
Newsletters	9	14	7
Opening rate	62%	56%	56%

Over the past three reporting periods, despite the variance in the number of newsletters sent, the number of subscriptions has steadily increased, indicating a growing interest and engagement with the content provided. This growth is particularly evident in the rise from 772 subscriptions in 2021-2022 to 1140 subscriptions in 2023-2024. However, while the number of subscriptions has increased, the open rate of the newsletters has remained relatively stable, hovering around 56-62% over the same period. This suggests a consistent level of engagement from the audience. Overall, these metrics reflect both the organisation’s efforts to reach a wider audience through increased subscriptions and the effectiveness of their content in maintaining engagement levels over time.



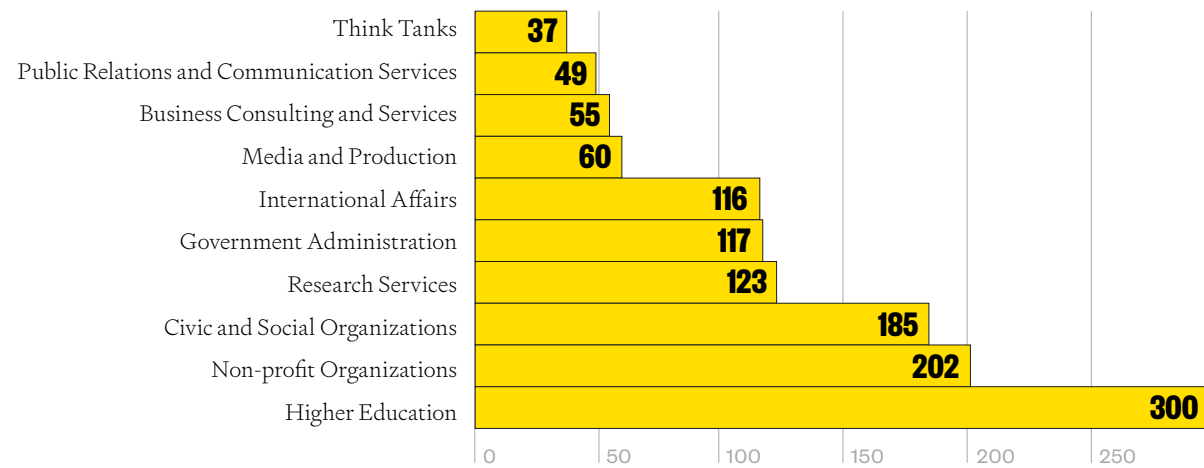


SOCIAL NETWORKS

Over the past year, EMIF has experienced a significant growth in its social media presence. Notably, the number of LinkedIn followers rose from 755 to 2,173 (187%), reflecting a substantial increase in engagement. Similarly, X (formerly known as Twitter) saw an uptick in the number of followers, which rose from 1,308 to 1,607. The notable spike in LinkedIn followers during November and December can be attributed to increased online engagement relating to the EMIF Autumn Event, held in mid-November.

EMIF regularly uses these social networks to promote its calls for proposals, share day-to-day updates and showcase the impact enjoyed by its grantees. On X, the fund actively engages with stakeholders, reposting updates from grantees and partners, and also offers an opportunity for live-tweet coverage during events. The X page sees fluctuations in impressions and interactions from month to month, driven by notable events or campaigns, such as the open calls that were closed in April, the summer event in June, and the autumn event in November 2023

LINKEDIN FOLLOWERS BY INDUSTRY



EMIF employs a strategic approach on LinkedIn to effectively connect with professionals operating within the information ecosystem across Europe. This strategy not only promotes the fund's calls to potential grantees but also positions EMIF as a significant advocate for media literacy, fact-checking research and investigations into disinformation in Europe.

PARTICIPATION IN EVENTS

EMIF has been proactive in broadening its reach within the European information ecosystem, participating in numerous international events to connect and engage with other stakeholders. At these events, EMIF has exchanged valuable knowledge and expertise, while also showcasing its innovative projects and gaining insightful feedback to continuously enhance its mission of combating disinformation in Europe.



FIGHTING MISINFORMATION ONLINE SERIES

EMIF usually takes an active part in Google's Fighting Misinformation Online (FMO) series of events, as it is co-hosted by both of its fund partners, the EUI and the FCG. This event series brings together experts and practitioners from different fields to discuss how to combat online misinformation.

This year, EMIF participated in the FMO event Strengthening Media Literacy in Central and Eastern Europe, which took place in Bratislava in June 2023, the FMO event in Brussels in October 2023 and the FMO summit on Elections 2024, which took place in Brussels in March 2024.





STATE OF THE UNION - EUI

The State of the Union (SOU) brings together leaders, academics and experts from different fields to discuss several policy matters on the European agenda. In 2023, the event was hosted

in Florence, welcoming 700 participants and 130 speakers to debate the theme of “building Europe in times of uncertainty”.

As part of the event, EMIF held a panel discussion titled “Europe’s Digital Future”, which discussed the opportunities and pitfalls of the platform self-regulation of harmful content and disinformation. The panel included academics, media practitioners and regulators.

EMIF State of the Union panel at Palazzo Vecchio in Florence, May 2023



EMIF SUMMER EVENT

To highlight the work done by EMIF’s granted projects over the previous two years, EMIF hosted this event to showcase the impact of a sample of its projects, specifically in the field of AI. The event was held in June 2023 in Brussels under the title of “Countering Disinformation During the Rise of AI: Reflecting on 2 Years of EMIF’s Impact”.

During the event, four projects, representing each of the focus areas, showcased both the use of AI in their work and their work to counter AI-powered disinformation. These included a presentation and demo of Polycular’s ESCAPE FAKE 2.0, an augmented reality escape room game that teaches players how to

use critical thinking in order to solve clues and riddles. The Laundrymat Project, a collaboration between the Alliance for Securing Democracy (ASD), the Institute for Strategic Dialogue Germany (ISD) and the University of Amsterdam (UvA), showcased their development of a tool that can aid in the identification of websites engaged in networked malign influence campaigns. The International Press Institute’s project “Decoding the disinformation playbook”, a cooperation with Faktograf and TAZ Publishing, showed how innovative digital methods can be used to uncover coordinated online campaigns that target journalists. Lastly, EURACTIV presented the project TRUE INFO, showing how AI-tools can help with fact-checking.

Event participant at the EMIF Summer Event, June 2023



EMIF AUTUMN EVENT

On 16 and 17 November 2023, EMIF hosted its yearly flagship event with the specific focus of fostering “Community Building Against Disinformation”. The event took place at the EUI premises in Florence and welcomed over 100 attendees. The two-day event included panel discussions on pertinent topics

EMIF Autumn Event in Florence, November 2023





in the field of disinformation, workshops, presentations of impact by the EMIF grantees and a feedback session from the EMIF community.

A feedback survey held after the event revealed a very positive opinion of the event among the attendees, with the average rating of all sessions being 4.28 out of 5. One of the respondents said, "I got a very good understanding of the most relevant and urgent issues relating to disinformation at the European level; especially the talk about regulation and policy, which was very informative." Irina Paraschivoiu, COO of the grantee Polycular, was "...amazed how interesting the discussions are between managing these different aspects of disinformation... the regulation aspect, with the media literacy and also factchecking [aspects]." The event was also successful in fostering a sense of community cohesion among the participants. According to another respondent, they mostly benefited by "knowing what other people in the same area are doing, sharing with them common concerns and finding collaboration points."

I got a very good understanding of the most relevant and urgent issues relating to disinformation at the European level; especially the talk about regulation and policy, which was very informative.

AGORA EU - DEMOCRACY - YOUTH IN ACTION

As part of a conference held to discuss the theme Democracy – Youth in Action, organised by the Erasmus + network at the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, EMIF had the opportunity to present its activities and highlight

its primary role in strengthening democracies throughout Europe by fighting mis- and disinformation and enhancing media literacy competences. The panel focused on the role that philanthropy and civil society organisations play in rebuilding young people's trust in democratic institutions, highlighting the multifaceted approaches that these sectors employ in order to support a new generation of political and social leaders capable of fostering a more inclusive culture. The panel enjoyed the participation of Gauri van Gulik, from the Multitudes Foundation, Joe Elborn, representing the Evens Foundation, and Pedro Calado, in his capacity as both EMIF Chair and Director of the Active Citizens Programme.

Pedro Calado, Chair of the EMIF Management Committee, at the Democracy - Youth in Action Conference in Lisbon, December 2023



Panel Discussion with representatives from the Multitudes Foundation, the Evens Foundation, and Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation in Lisbon, December 2023



Moderated by Martjin Roos, from Adessium and Chair of Philea's Democracy Network, Carina Autengruber, from the Nova School of Business and Economics, and Saliu Djau, EMIF Project Manager, the discussion delved into the subjects of human rights, youth empowerment and civic engagement, as well as innovative strategies beyond traditional voting methods to encourage the participation of young people in democratic processes. The conference was held on 5 and 6 December 2023 in Lisbon, with over 800 attendees.

VOICES FESTIVAL

EMIF played an integral role in the inaugural edition of Voices, the European Festival of Journalism and Media Literacy, held in Florence from 14 to 16 March 2024. As a prominent participant, EMIF demonstrated its positive impact in combating disinformation by showcasing six of its funded projects at a dedicated booth, offering attendees insights into the innovative initiatives aimed at addressing pertinent challenges in the online space. Additionally, EMIF participated in a panel discussion on funding opportunities for journalism,



promoting EMIF as one of the main sources of funding that European journalists can seek. Moreover, an EMIF representative moderated a panel discussion on visual disinformation, stressing the fund’s dedication to fostering informed discourse on pressing issues within the media landscape. Furthermore, EMIF’s sponsorship of the event highlighted its continuous support for initiatives promoting journalism and media literacy. With a total attendance of 1,300 individuals, the Voices Festival served as a platform for EMIF to engage with a diverse audience and further its mission to address the challenges of disinformation in the digital space.

EMIF booth at the Voices Festival for Journalism in Florence, March 2024



 **ONLINE INFORMATION SESSIONS**

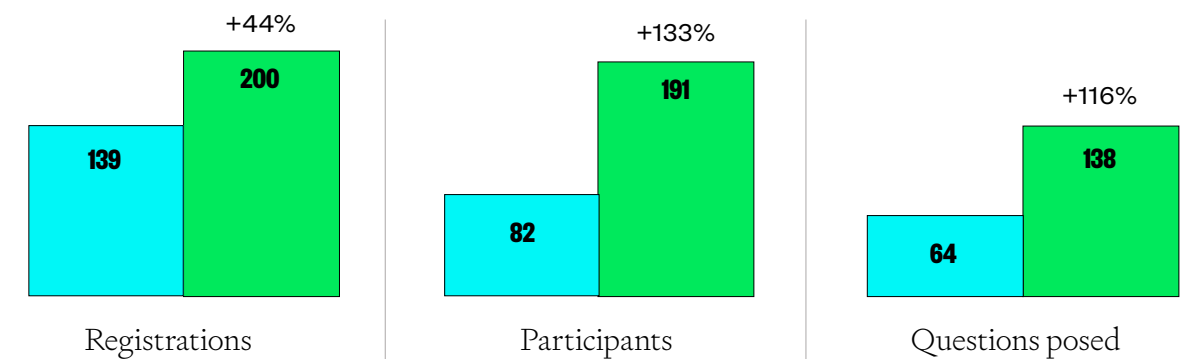
During the reporting period, EMIF conducted two Information Sessions. The first, which took place on 15 January 2024, centred on the fast-track Call for Proposals on Critical Disinformation Threats under the scope of its area of intervention “Investigations into Disinformation”. There were 73 participants at the session, including speakers, with 41 questions being posed. The second session, held on 27 March 2024, focused on the 2024 annual Open Calls. It attracted 191 participants, with a total of 138 questions being asked.

These sessions provided valuable opportunities for engagement and the dissemination of information within the EMIF community. The substantial turnout and engagement metrics underlined the interest and relevance of the topics discussed. Such events not only facilitate knowledge sharing, but also foster collaboration and feedback exchange among stakeholders, contributing to the advancement of EMIF’s objectives and initiatives.

The recordings of these sessions are available online at EMIF’s website.

INFO SESSION

■ 2022-2023 ■ 2023-2024





3.4

RESEARCH SUPPORT

Currently supporting



8

Master students

2

Policy leader fellows (PLFs)

As part of its mission to aid the fight against disinformation in Europe, EMIF supports selected students enrolled in the Master in Transnational Governance (MTnG) and mid-career professionals who are selected to be part of the Policy Leader Fellowship Programme, both of which are administered at the European University Institute's School of Transnational Governance. Selected individuals in both categories must show an interest in disinformation to be eligible for EMIF support. The Fund is currently supporting eight master students from two MTnG cohorts, and two Policy Leader Fellows (PLFs) at the EUI, after supporting another two PLFs in the previous academic year.

The master students will write their thesis or capstone project on topics relating to disinformation, such as the assessment of national policies to counter foreign interference, or the study of EU regulatory mechanisms aimed at countering disinformation. Through the Fund, they will have the chance to have their research published, as well as to become familiar with the ecosystem of (counter-)disinformation within Europe.

The following testimonial is from Kateryna Chystoforova, an EMIF-funded student of the Master in Transnational Governance (second year):

“I am very grateful to the European Media and Information Fund for the opportunity to spend the past two years at the European University Institute in beautiful Florence, where I got to delve deeper into the regulation of disinformation in the EU and its implications for counter-disinformation policy worldwide. In addition to the generous support for my studies, EMIF also provided opportunities to participate in high-level events and discussions on disinformation and emerging technology, such as the EMIF conference in Florence and the Web-Summit in Lisbon, which were an amazing chance to interact with leading experts in my field.”



The PLFs receive support for developing, implementing and publishing their projects on disinformation, media literacy and/or fact-checking and take part in discussions on these topics at the EUI and at events organised by the Fund.

In 2023, EMIF initiated a collaboration with the EUI Library, in the form of a financial contribution of €30,000, to increase the Library's relevant resources. This contribution is aimed at expanding the Library catalogue with literature pertinent to the Fund's areas of intervention, which includes monographs on topics such as disinformation, media literacy, AI and journalism. The funding also enabled the acquisition of tools and databases, such as Euractiv Intelligence and NewsGuard's Misinformation Fingerprints. Lastly, the funding also allows for external trainers to deliver training sessions on unique tools. For example, Visualtics, an Italian company specialising in delivering training courses on data analysis and data visualisation, delivered two workshops on the latter topic.

EMIF is currently exploring other avenues to support the research community and has laid the foundations for new cooperations with the Florence School of Transnational Governance in the near future.



3.5

FUNDRAISING

The Fund received its initial donation from Google, which allowed it to commence its activities. Designed to be open to multiple donors, the Fund intends to establish a diverse funding base that includes private, philanthropic and public sector organisations committed to promoting a more resilient, fact-based digital information ecosystem in Europe. Donors need to subscribe to the Fund's principles of scientific autonomy and freedom and are not – nor will they be – engaged in the management of the Fund.

The funding principles developed in May 2022 provide a refreshed framework for raising and deploying new funding while maximising the impact of the Fund's activities. The Fund focuses on four areas of intervention – Actions in Support of Fact-Checking; Investigations into Disinformation; Research – Studies & Sandboxes; and Actions in Support of Media Literacy; new donors may allocate funds to support these areas, strengthen one or more specific areas, or expand the Fund's geographical scope. Specific focus areas may also be proposed by contributing organisations through an annual public forum. The current geopolitical context, together with the negative economic downturn that has badly affected companies operating in the digital space, has so far hindered potential new investments in the Fund.

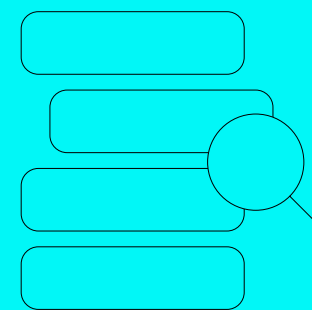
Despite this, the Fund continues to reach out to philanthropic foundations and is exploring other potential funding avenues, informed by the outcomes of the projects that have been supported so far, and their impact at large. During the last year, EMIF has reinforced its team, with new members being dedicated to its fundraising strategy, and has established contacts with private actors who may be willing to support the Fund within specific areas of competence. In this regard, it should be noted that the Fund could not show the impact of the projects financed in the first period of its activities due to the natural start of the process for the selection of projects and their consequent implementation. At this point, however, it can be

said that the new fundraising activities will immensely benefit from the results of the first two years of project accomplishments, enabling potential new donors to see the great impact of EMIF projects spread across 26 countries in Europe.





Grant Areas





4.1

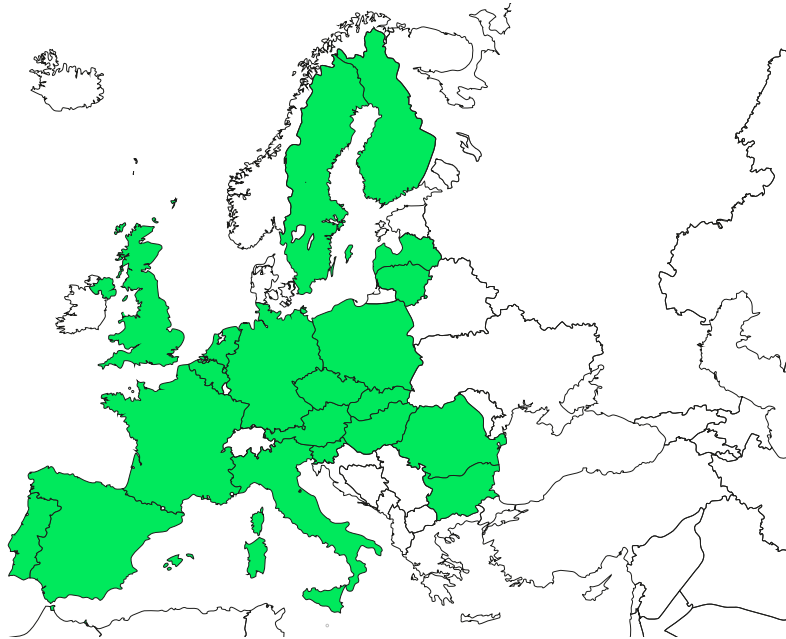
ACTIONS IN SUPPORT OF FACT-CHECKING

PROJECTS

44

COUNTRIES

20



Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom.

GRANTS APPROVED

€2,787,506.39



FIFTH AND SIXTH FUNDING ROUNDS

The fifth funding round closed on 30 June 2023 and the sixth on 31 October 2023.

These two funding rounds in the area of Actions in Support of Fact-Checking resulted in:

APPROVED PROJECTS



14

WITH AN AVERAGE FINANCIAL ALLOCATION



€69,264.59

SEVENTH FUNDING ROUND

Under this Funding Round, which is still under evaluation at the cut-off date of this report, EMIF received 24 applications.

Through the projects approved, it is possible to identify the predominant subjects:

▶ **POLITICS, ELECTIONS & ANTI-CORRUPTION AGENDA**

▶ **RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR**

▶ **SCIENCE COMMUNICATION (E.G., CLIMATE, HEALTH)**

Funded activities and deliverables follow three main threads:

THREAD 1

FACT-CHECKING ON SPECIFIC PLATFORMS OR MEDIA (E.G., TIKTOK, RADIO, PODCASTS, YOUTUBE VIDEOS, SOCIAL MEDIA, NEWS ARTICLES, LONG READS).

THREAD 2

DISSEMINATION AND CAPACITY-BUILDING OF FACT-CHECKING ORGANISATIONS AND PROFESSIONALS THROUGH TRAINING, EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS AND EVENTS.

THREAD 3

IDENTIFICATION OF PATTERNS LINKING NARRATIVES, ENABLERS AND MECHANISMS OF DISINFORMATION.



FRAME (FACT-CHECKING REINFORCED BY AI FOR MEDIA OUTLETS)

Les Surligneurs



The project FRAME is led by Les Surligneurs, a French fact-checking organization dedicated to legal checking – putting political discourse to the test regarding national, European and International law. The project arose from the acknowledgement that a significant proportion of the claims that were fact-checked in the past are often coming back in the news. However it is not always easy to spot them and to quickly produce a fact-check based on the already fact-checked pieces. Indeed, monitoring political discourse on radio and TV is a very time-consuming task for a small editorial team. This led to two conclusions: i) technology should play a key role in helping the newsroom in the mission to debunk disinformation, and ii) citizens, in their capacity as viewers, listeners, and readers, should be involved and have ways to report disinformation.



FRAME was set up to address this diagnosis by developing a tool that can automatically transcribe the content from radio and TV sources and match legal claims made by public figures with content that has been previously fact-checked by Les Surligneurs.

The tool then sends related alerts to the newsroom, which enables the editorial team to react quickly by publishing a new fact-check. The readers have access to some of the tool's features, including a keyword search of politicians' statements transcribed onto the platform from TV and radio programmes.

In the process of implementing the project, Les Surligneurs had the opportunity to establish cooperation with other fact-checkers from several main media organizations in France and get to know their methods and needs. Learning and comparing the way other fact-checking teams operated in the search for subjects and use of sources provided some very inspiring insights. In particular, it helped to identify possible future developments for the FRAME tool, to adapt it to the needs of other fact-checkers.

The fruitful collaboration between Les Surligneurs and the project's developers, Magic Lemp and Pluralisme, illustrated the continuous integration of diverse expertise. Embarking on tech-oriented projects for the first time marked a significant milestone for a mid-size media like Les Surligneurs. Juliette Toussaint, the project manager, explains:

“ NAVIGATING FROM HIGHLY TECHNICAL ASPECTS TO EVERYDAY UTILITY DEMANDED THE CULTIVATION OF A SHARED LANGUAGE.

In this dynamic exchange, the project emerged as an innovation, empowering Les Surligneurs' newsroom in bringing up a significant number of statements that the fact-checking team would not have been able to identify without the tool, effectively combating the dissemination of topic-specific disinformation.

In the last phase of the project, Juliette shares that there are expectations on having the tool available online.

“ WE CLEARLY SEE IN THE LAST WEEKS THAT THE NUMBER OF ALERTS WE GET IS MORE AND MORE ACCURATE. NOT TOO FEW, NOT TOO MANY, JUST THE RIGHT AMOUNT TO DETECT DISINFORMATION AND IN ADDITION TO DETECT NEWS TOPICS WE TAKE INTO ACCOUNT TO PREPARE PRE-BUNKING ARTICLES.

What the FRAME project's manager knows for sure is that this project has already had an impact in the newsroom, bringing confidence in the need for partnering more often with technology-oriented partners and, in this way, reducing the existing gap between the ones using AI for creating and disseminating disinformation and, on the other hand, the ones using it for debunking it.





HOTLINE

Pagella Politica



Confronted with a growing interest in climate topics, especially from younger audiences (the 18 to 35-year-old demographic group), and, with no major initiatives in Italy addressing the issue, Pagella Politica decided to shorten this ecosystem gap by launching a weekly climate newsletter.



A FUOCO, the newsletter's name in Italian, is a graphically appealing support to weekly-defined topics, where recognised experts from Italy – science journalists, academics, and science communicators from different fields of expertise and with a strict gender balance concern (50%) – bring their knowledge to a wider public in a fully intended multidisciplinary and diverse approach.

“In other words, we chose an editorial line that would allow us to deal with the challenges of climate change from multiple viewpoints in different academic fields, but also, more importantly, we wanted to speak to everyone in an accessible and engaging language. So, no expert language, no academic language, but correct, accurate information in a very accessible and engaging language for a general public with no specific skills on the topic,” says Silvia Cavasola, the project manager, and she adds:

The response from the audience exceeded all the predictions made regarding quantitative results, both in terms of the number of subscribers and the open rate. Yet, from a qualitative perspective, the direct user feedback was also quite surprising.

These encouraging results are matched by the perception of success both from the partners implementing the project and the experts invited. Establishing a closer relationship with these renowned climate-related professionals allows newsrooms to think about other longer-term partnerships, but, for these experts, it was also an opportunity to disseminate their work and knowledge to a wider and unspecialised audience.

“ THE PROJECT AIM WAS NOT TO CONVINC ANYONE ABOUT ANYTHING, BUT RATHER WE WANTED TO PROPOSE THE PROJECT AS A RESOURCE FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DOUBTS, WANT TO INFORM THEMSELVES AND NEED TOOLS TO BUILD THEIR OWN OPINIONS. SO, WE REALLY WANTED TO GIVE RESOURCES TO PEOPLE TO FORM THEIR OWN OPINION ON A SOLID BASIS, AND SOLID FACTS, OF COURSE.



THE TEAM AT PAGELLA POLITICA





4.2

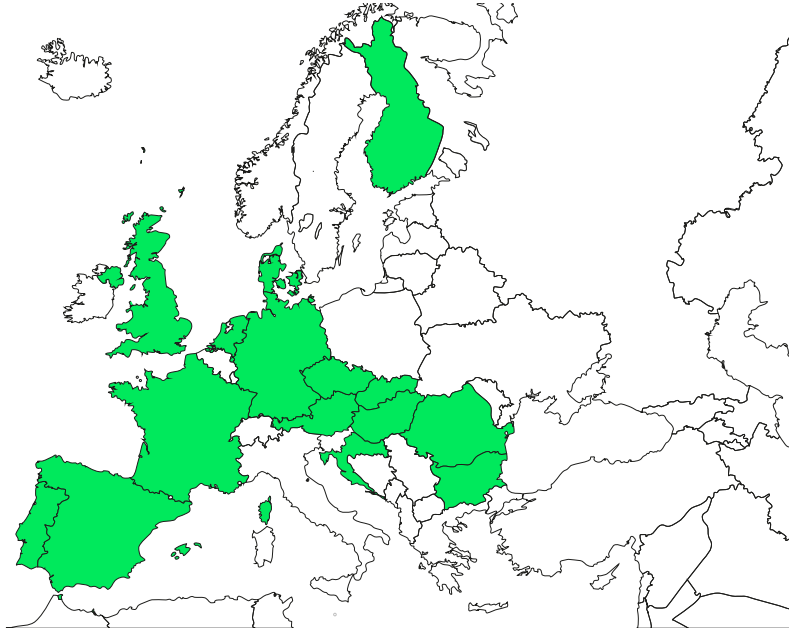
INVESTIGATIONS INTO DISINFORMATION

PROJECTS

17

COUNTRIES

15



Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, United Kingdom.

GRANTS APPROVED

€2,369,107.17

The “Multidisciplinary Investigations into Disinformation in Europe” call for proposals, the second annual call launched under the scope of this area of intervention, opened on 29 January 2023 and closed on 29 April 2023, already in the present reporting period, in which EMIF received 20 proposals for evaluation and approved eight projects.



To respond to emerging disinformation threats, EMIF launched a fast-track call for Investigations into Critical Disinformation Threats in this area of intervention, with three priority topics:

▶ **THE ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR**

▶ **THE 2024 ELECTIONS FOR THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT (EP)**

▶ **THE MONETISATION OF DISINFORMATION**

This call was open from 22 December 2023 to 5 February 2024.

EMIF is supporting 17 projects in this intervention area with a total grant amount of €2,369,107.17. The project coordinators are established in Austria, Czechia, Denmark, Finland, France, Hungary, Netherlands, Romania, Slovakia, Spain and the United Kingdom.

These projects are designed to investigate current disinformation threats relating to the Israel-Hamas war and to the use of disinformation for financial gains, as well as to identify policies on media and disinformation, map good practices for responding to disinformation, and identify actors, methodologies and tactics of disinformation, and the effect of disinformation in Europe.

The projects have an average duration of nine months and an average financial allocation of €142,464.62.

Recently, the annual call for proposals in the area of “Investigations into Disinformation Dynamics” opened on 29 January 2024 and closed on 29 April 2024.

Under this call, EMIF created a more appealing thread of funding by increasing the allocation amount for this call in order to fund more investigation projects, compared to the previous call launched in this area.

AVERAGE PROJECT DURATION

9

 Months

WITH AN AVERAGE FINANCIAL ALLOCATION

€142,464.62

KEY AIM OF LATEST CALL

Address the existing knowledge gaps in relation to the scale and scope of disinformation in Europe and to foster a better understanding of the phenomenon and its impact on European audiences.

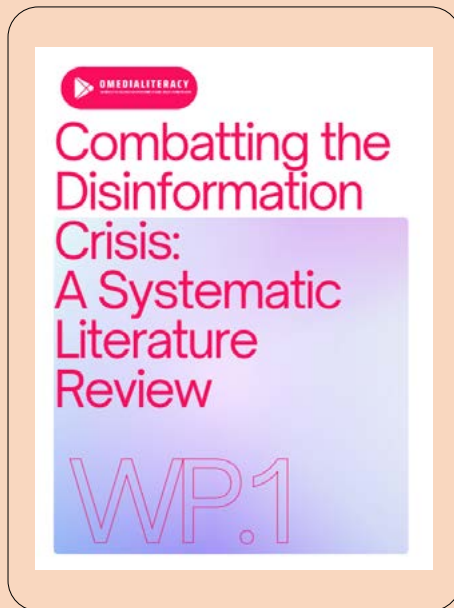


OMEDIALITERACY

Universidad Autonoma de Barcelona



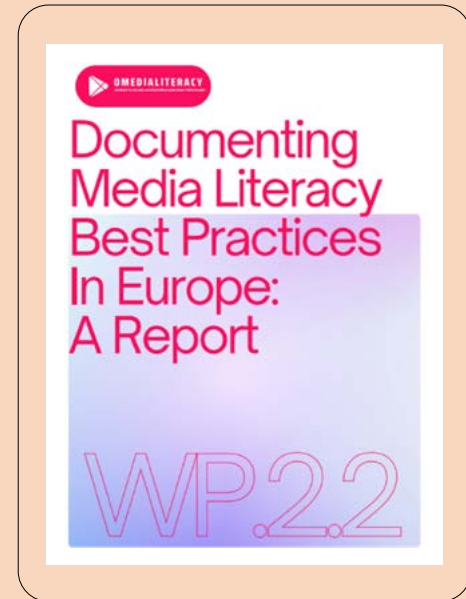
For researchers at Universidad Autonoma de Barcelona (UAB), it was considered a priority to produce a single report that contained both a literature review regarding media literacy and a collection of public policies applied throughout Europe. This report was intended not only to establish a common ground for researchers in the media literacy field of expertise, but also to improve transparency for different audiences. To ensure this wider reach, the possible ramifications relating to the use of these findings were explored, in order to make it accessible and inclusive for journalists and a wider audience, by disseminating shorter versions, highlighting key points and creating infographics based on the results.



Cristina Pulido, a member of the UAB research team, confessed that what most surprised her while she was engaged in this research was the overall lack of monitoring and evaluation in the case of many of the Media Literacy policies that were studied. It was not only a question of noting that some policies were evidence-based and others not (making them more susceptible to the frequent changes linked to the different political cycles), but also of identifying the effects of the structural part that was missing in terms of results and impact measurement (which leads to an overall lack of transparency affecting not only researchers but also citizens in general). “If you don’t build evidence on what you are doing, how do you know if it’s useful? We need to make an effort to collect evidence of these improvements in society and in the lives of the people and to have this information available to citizens – this is one of the strong points that we recommend in our report,” states Cristina.

“ IF YOU DON’T BUILD EVIDENCE ON WHAT YOU ARE DOING, HOW DO YOU KNOW IF IT’S USEFUL? WE NEED TO MAKE AN EFFORT TO COLLECT EVIDENCE OF THESE IMPROVEMENTS IN SOCIETY AND IN THE LIVES OF THE PEOPLE AND TO HAVE THIS INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO CITIZENS - THIS IS ONE OF THE STRONG POINTS THAT WE RECOMMEND IN OUR REPORT.

Besides the concrete findings and the contribution that it has brought to the ecosystem, at a time when standards relating to practices and evaluation methods are being discussed in Europe, the key factor behind this project’s success was, in Cristina’s opinion, the composition of the consortium, and this is something that applicants and future grantees must consider crucial:



the choice of partners. In submitting the proposal of OMEDIALITERACY, UAB made its choice based on the work and papers published by specific researchers working in different European Universities and, moreover, engaged in preliminary dialogues to ensure that there was a common understanding and goal that would guarantee that the project would be implemented as smoothly as possible. “This will be your work team, and you will spend a lot of time together, so choose well,” she added.

“ THIS WILL BE YOUR WORK TEAM, AND YOU WILL SPEND A LOT OF TIME TOGETHER, SO CHOOSE WELL.





4.3

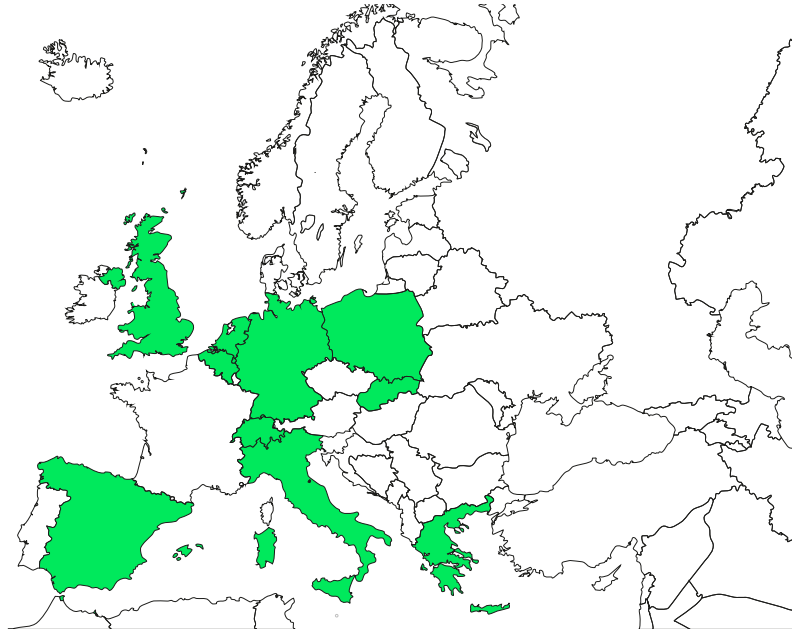
RESEARCH - STUDIES & SANDBOXES

PROJECTS

8

COUNTRIES

10



Belgium, Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom

GRANTS APPROVED

€3,008,487.40

The second annual call for proposals in the area of “Supporting Research into Media, Disinformation and Information Literacy Across Europe” opened on 29 January 2023 and closed on 29 April 2023. After evaluating 22 applications under the scope of this call, EMIF decided to approve four projects.



In this area, EMIF is now supporting eight projects overall, with a total grant amount of €3,008,487.40. The project coordinators are established in Belgium, Greece, Italy, Spain and the United Kingdom. These projects seek to develop new methodologies and IT tools for detecting disinformation, conducting multilingual analysis, tracing the origins of disinformation campaigns and actors and understanding the full impact of disinformation.

AVERAGE PROJECT DURATION

18

 Months

WITH AN AVERAGE FINANCIAL ALLOCATION

€397,142.28

The call for proposals in the area of “Research for a Transparent and Resilient Information Ecosystem” opened on 29 January 2024 and closed on 28 April 2024.

KEY AIM OF LATEST CALL

Support broad and in-depth scientific studies on the phenomenon of disinformation, studying its causes and societal impacts and discovering possible responses and solutions, with the aim of generating more and better knowledge through innovative collaborations between different disciplines and entities, including academic researchers, technology providers, media and/or civil society organisations.



EXU *University of Sheffield*



ExU, an abbreviated combination of the two components of this project, i) Examining a collection of disinformation narratives, and ii) Understanding their spread to help pave the way for their debunking, was also a name meticulously chosen to embrace the figure and history of Exú, an Orixá for the Afro-Brazilian religions. As the project team explains, Exú is a deity that has its origins in the Yoruba religion, and who, due to a mis-translation into Western Culture and the intent of the Catholic Church to demonise African religions, was wrongfully associated with the devil in what could be an example of a disinformation campaign. Exú, however, performs many different roles for these religions, including the ones associated with communication and language – a messenger.

Carolina Scarton, the project manager from the University of Sheffield, explained the diagnosis that paved the way for this initiative – disinformation narratives are not language-exclusive or specific. They are indeed replicated in different languages and over time, imported to and from English, and this posed an obstacle for journalists and fact-checkers when trying to dismantle them.



EXU TEAM AT THE VOICES FESTIVAL IN FLORENCE, MARCH 2023

To address this issue, in the first phase, ExU will dedicate its team to collecting different kinds of data sets, from fact-checked pieces to the claims that originated them, and social media data, such as threads on X, Reddit or Facebook posts. Besides collecting the data, the project will also pursue a stance classification, as Carolina explains: “Imagine we’re given a claim, let’s say a post on social media that is disinformation. What are people saying about it? Are people disagreeing or agreeing with it? This helps journalists have an overview of what is being said about a rumour or claim and helps them decide which cases need to be debunked first, for example. So, if many people believe a certain story, intervention may be needed more urgently, but it can also help them gather information on situations where they cannot go in person to verify. For example, in the case of war zones or natural disaster zones, where people may go to social media to make some claims and then others go there and say actually, it’s not true, I’m here, I can see this, and so on – this kind of debate online will also help inform the journalists.”

In a second phase of the project, the usage and utility of this AI tool for end-users – journalists and fact-checkers – will be keen. To allow for this, a series of workshops and dissemination actions are expected to happen to test the tool in its intended mission: allowing search and retrieval of previous claims and fact-checked articles regardless of the language of origin. For this purpose, the project will work with a set of more than 20 languages, but it will evaluate results more closely in seven main languages besides English – Portuguese, Spanish, French, Slovak, Czech, Polish and Hindi – a selection that was based on the relevance of such languages in the countries where the partners are.

When asked about the main difficulties encountered so far, Carolina is quite clear – data accessibility – “Accessing data from social media platforms has been a major issue for research in this area, mainly after X or Twitter closed access to academics. Of course, I mentioned X, but it’s also worth mentioning that Facebook recently closed CrowdAngle, which was our way of accessing Facebook data. So, for us researchers, something like the Digital Services

Act is extremely important, even though I’m not 100% sure what it will actually give us. X already has a way for applications under the DSA, but our partners in different projects that have applied so far have been denied access without much explanation. Facebook’s approach, on the other hand, is said to be creating a clean room where you need to upload your code, and then there is going to be some data for you to use. But it’s not clear how this data is going to be selected. Are they going to hand peak data so there is no disinformation or hate speech? So it’s quite problematic at the moment to see how this is developing.”

At this moment, the project team is trying to implement a remedied solution and has decided to pay for some data collection, which was already foreseen in the budget, but there is still some expectation about platforms being made accountable and allowing academics and researchers to make free use of data that should be made public in a responsible and transparent way.

“ A POST ON SOCIAL MEDIA THAT IS DISINFORMATION. WHAT ARE PEOPLE SAYING ABOUT IT? ARE PEOPLE DISAGREEING OR AGREEING WITH IT? THIS HELPS JOURNALISTS HAVE AN OVERVIEW OF WHAT IS BEING SAID ABOUT A RUMOUR OR CLAIM AND HELPS THEM DECIDE WHICH CASES NEED TO BE DEBUNKED FIRST...”





4.4

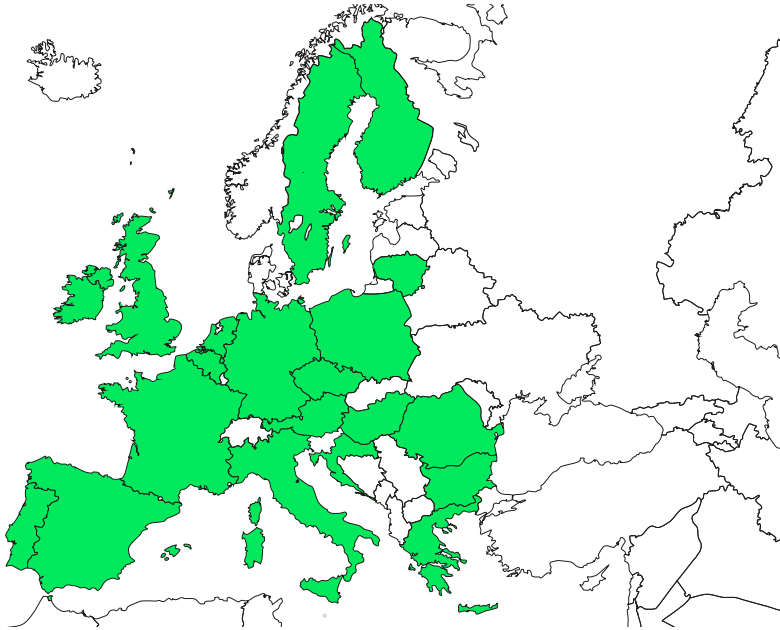
ACTIONS IN SUPPORT OF MEDIA LITERACY

PROJECTS

12

COUNTRIES

19



Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czechia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom.

GRANTS APPROVED

€4,273,434.40

In the reporting period of 2023/2024, EMIF had two calls for proposals in this area of intervention. From 27 January 2023 to 28 April 2023, the call “Media and Information Literacy for Societal Resilience” received 56 applications and four projects were approved.



In this area of intervention, EMIF is currently supporting a total of 12 projects, with an average duration of 18 months and an average financial allocation of €356,119.53.

AVERAGE PROJECT DURATION



18

 Months

WITH AN AVERAGE FINANCIAL ALLOCATION



€356,119.53

Most of these projects centre their activities around enhancing the capabilities of educators using a Training of Trainers (TOT) approach, whether through direct training initiatives or the creation of toolkits and educational materials, with the potential for significant ripple effects.

While this was the prevailing trend in the projects approved during the first annual call for proposals – the creation of game-based learning platforms for children and young people – in this second batch of approved projects, we find a more diversified target group, namely NGO workers and decision-making figures, such as judges and politicians.

The third call under the scope of this area of intervention, “Media and Information Literacy for Societal Resilience”, opened on 27 January 2023 and closed on 28 April 2023.

AIM THIS YEAR



Fund initiatives that test innovative teaching methods, expand successful projects to new areas, maximise the societal impact of ongoing initiatives or promote the national adoption of professional standards for media literacy practitioners, taking into consideration the relevant regulations.



Fake kNOw More

School with Class Foundation



The Fake kNOw More project, named in accordance with a creative wordplay, came into being to respond to the challenging gap perceived between the quality of materials created over time to counteract disinformation and their actual use in classrooms on a regular basis. The leading organisation, the School with Class Foundation, which originates from a background of working with state schools in Poland through participatory processes, realised that there was a basic competence that they needed to address in order to bridge this gap: understanding emotions.

As Agata Łuczyńska, the co-founder and Chair of the Board of Directors of the School with Class Foundation, explains, “Knowing all the tactics used doesn’t really make you immune to misinformation, what matters is that fleeting moment when you can think before sending, when you can detect that something makes you angry and reflect upon it.”

“KNOWING ALL THE TACTICS USED DOESN’T REALLY MAKE YOU IMMUNE TO MISINFORMATION, WHAT MATTERS IS THAT FLEETING MOMENT WHEN YOU CAN THINK BEFORE SENDING, WHEN YOU CAN DETECT THAT SOMETHING MAKES YOU ANGRY AND REFLECT UPON IT.”

Imprinting the Kolb cycle into its development – a methodology for teaching adults how to move from theoretical knowledge to reflective observation, abstract conceptualisation and active experimentation – the Fake kNOw More project involves developing curriculum materials and training educators to teach students from underprivileged com-

munities about emotional awareness and critical thinking in the digital age.

When reaching out to educators from community centres in Poland, the project team realised that, for some of these educators, it was the first training scheme that they had ever attended, which shows how disregarded they have been when compared to their peers in schools. Besides giving them the theoretical tools to teach, this led to a major focus on boosting the confidence of these professionals.

As far as the students were concerned, the School with Class Foundation decided to focus on two of the most representative age groups in community centres in Poland (10-12 and 13-15), coinciding with research at an EU level for the age when bullying is most prevalent. With this group division, it also made sense to have slightly different approaches. While, for the younger group, who are not legally authorised to have social media accounts like Facebook or Instagram (which, of course, does not mean that they do not have them), the focus is more on prevention – a pre-emptive approach to prepare them for social media functioning – in the case of the older group, it was crucial to adopt a collaborative approach, having students working together and raising their awareness about the importance of conscious interactions.

Additionally, a card game is used to engage students in understanding information bubbles and social media dynamics. The premise of the game is a faraway galaxy, 100 years from now, where everybody is enclosed within their own information bubble and cannot connect with anybody else outside that bubble. Students are asked to establish those connections despite the fact that the Octopus, the creature leading the social media platform at that time (Octogram),

is trying its best not to allow it. “So what’s really great, in terms of the game as well, is that they don’t play against each other. And this is one of the crucial things because, in this group, bullying is quite prevalent. So, when we designed the game, we tried not only to create a space in which the participants could talk about those information bubbles, but also to create a space in which they could really work together. Because, if one person loses, everybody loses,” Agata explains.

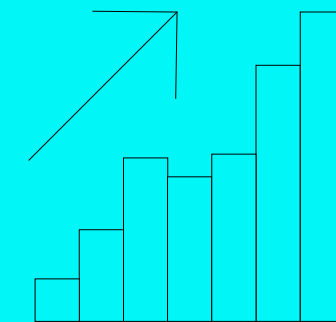
The partnership between organisations from four different countries – Poland, Spain, Romania and Czechia – with different but complementary backgrounds was designed to accommodate the understanding of how different working methods from partners can help achieve the best possible results, playing to their strengths and improving each other. While, for the Spanish partners, talking and building bonds with students was naturally taken for granted, the Romanian peers brought into play their experience of working with juvenile delinquents – an idea of perseverance and of recognising the impact by focusing on the small steps. As Agata states, “When you work with the most under-served and underprivileged young people, you sometimes want big things to happen, but you do have to see those small things. Even when a student who has never previously come up and talked about how they feel says something like ‘I’m sad today’, you really have to be aware and take note of those small things.”

“WHEN YOU WORK WITH THE MOST UNDERSERVED AND UNDERPRIVILEGED YOUNG PEOPLE, YOU SOMETIMES WANT BIG THINGS TO HAPPEN, BUT YOU DO HAVE TO SEE THOSE SMALL THINGS. EVEN WHEN A STUDENT WHO HAS NEVER PREVIOUSLY COME UP AND TALKED ABOUT HOW THEY FEEL SAYS SOMETHING LIKE ‘I’M SAD TODAY’, YOU REALLY HAVE TO BE AWARE AND TAKE NOTE OF THOSE SMALL THINGS.”



5

Results and Impacts





CONTRACTED RESULTS

54%

INCREASE IN THE AUDIENCE REACHED WITH RELIABLE NEWS AND INFORMATION

+11 M

PUBLISHED FACT-CHECKS

8 M

INCREASE IN MASS MEDIA AND SOCIAL MEDIA MENTIONS OF PROJECT RESULTS

76

CREATION OF MECHANISMS OR TOOLS TO DETECT AND ANALYSE DISINFORMATION

19

DEVELOPMENT OF NEW METHODOLOGIES OR IMPROVEMENT OF EXISTING ONES TO ADDRESS DISINFORMATION

39

INCREASING THE NUMBER OF CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS AND OTHER RESEARCH-RELATED COLLECTIVE EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

22%

INCREASING THE NUMBER OF MEDIA LITERACY ACTIONS CONDUCTED

ACHIEVED RESULTS, CONSIDERING COMPLETED PROJECTS

+14 M 855

AUDIENCE REACHED WITH RELIABLE NEWS AND INFORMATION

PUBLISHED FACT-CHECKS

1,954 241

MASS MEDIA AND SOCIAL MEDIA MENTIONS OF PROJECT RESULTS

CREATION OF MECHANISMS OR TOOLS TO DETECT AND ANALYSE DISINFORMATION



The European Media and Information Fund supported 81 projects during this reporting period. Twelve have reached completion, contributing to EMIF’s mission to foster a trustworthy media environment in Europe. This includes nine projects in the priority area of Fact-Checking and three in the priority area of Investigations.

The expected results of the 81 projects are based on the grantee’s stated targets and ambitions. These figures do not reflect EMIF’s impact on the ecosystem, but rather the incremental changes for the grantees resulting from the projects approved under the Fund and based on their specific baseline scenarios.

In the projects undertaken in the intervention area of Actions in Support of Fact-Checking, a 54% increase in audience reach was forecast, together with the publication of over 11 million fact-checks. Highlights from this area include initiatives that addressed propaganda narratives, supported fact-checking during the European parliamentary elections and introduced an AI-based, multilingual chatbot for real-time fact verification.

FORECAST

ACTIONS IN SUPPORT OF FACT-CHECKING

54%

Increase in audience reach

+11 M

Fact-checks publication

PROJECTS PLEDGE

INVESTIGATIONS INTO DISINFORMATION

8 M

Increase of mass media and social media mentions

76

Mechanisms, tools or techniques to detect and analyse disinformation created

In the intervention area of Investigations into Disinformation, the projects pledged to increase mass media and social media mentions by 8 million, compared to the grantees’ baseline scenarios, while also creating 76 mechanisms, tools or techniques to detect and analyse disinformation compared to the grantees’ pre-project capabilities. Projects in this area also pledge





to provide a deeper understanding of disinformation threats, identify actors and techniques used to spread disinformation, map best practices in Europe and empower journalists and local communities. Projects also aim to conduct investigations into urgent disinformation threats linked to the EP elections, the Israel-Hamas war and the use of disinformation for financial profit.

In the Research – Studies & Sandboxes area, projects are expected to develop or improve 19 methodologies or approaches for addressing disinformation while increasing the number of conferences, workshops and other research-related

collective events and activities by 39. In this area, projects aim to develop tools and platforms and conduct a multilingual approach to disinformation, leveraging AI tools.

In the Media Literacy area, projects aim to boost the number of media literacy initiatives conducted by grantees by 22%, compared to the period before funding. A key focus among grantees’ objectives is empowering educators and non-formal education practitioners to amplify the impact of their efforts and engage with a wider audience, especially young people and vulnerable demographics. To achieve this, projects seek

to enhance the quality of educator training programmes and introduce innovative methods, notably through gamification. Additionally, replicability is a common concern among approved projects, which plan to address it by creating toolkits, translating materials into various languages and organising dissemination events.

IMPACT EXPECTATION

RESEARCH - STUDIES & SANDBOXES

19 No. of methodologies or approaches for addressing disinformation developed or improved

39 Increase in the number of conferences, workshops and other collective events and activities.

IMPACT PLEDGE

ACTIONS IN SUPPORT OF MEDIA LITERACY

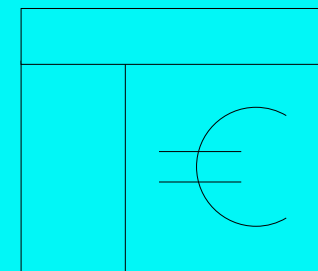
22% Increase in the number of media and information literacy actions deployed.

Looking at the nine completed projects in the Fact-Checking area, grantees reached more than 14 million audiences with reliable news and information and created 855 fact-checks to contribute to a trustworthy media environment in Europe. As for the three completed projects in the Investigation area, grantees created 241 mechanisms and tools to strengthen the evidence base regarding disinformation in Europe and achieved 1,954 mass media and social media mentions of project results.





Financial Statements





6.1

ALLOCATION vs GRANTS

	Planned Allocation (€)	Grants Approved (€)	Difference (€)
ACTIONS IN SUPPORT OF FACT-CHECKING	1,305,000.00	1,379,071.24	- 74,071.24
INVESTIGATIONS INTO DISINFORMATION	1,950,000.00	1,854,863.48	95,136.52
RESEARCH - STUDIES & SANDBOXES	1,600,000.00	1,588,569.13	11,430.87
ACTIONS IN SUPPORT OF MEDIA LITERACY	1,600,000.00	1,526,509.87	73,490.13
TOTALS	6,455,000.00	6,349,013.72	105,986.28

BALANCE SHEET

6.2

	24/03/2024 (€)
1. ASSETS - CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND	7,285,776.94
2. ASSETS - DEBTORS	10,000,000.00
2.1 Debtors due within the year	5,000,000.00
2.2 Debtors due after the year	5,000,000.00
TOTAL ASSETS	17,285,776.94
3. LIABILITIES	7,018,783.04
3.1 Grants approved to be disbursed within the year	5,489,351.87
3.2 Grants approved to be disbursed after the year	1,228,166.80
3.3 Other Payables	301,264.37
4. EQUITY	10,266,993.90
4.1 Contributions	25,000,000.00
4.2 Execution from previous years	- 7,117,318.74
4.3 Execution from financial year	- 7,615,687.36
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES	17,285,776.94





6.3

FINANCIAL EXECUTION

	Notes	Budget (€)	24/03/2024 (€)	Difference (€)
Total of Grants Disbursed		6,455,000.00	6,349,013.72	105,986.28
ACTIONS IN SUPPORT OF FACT-CHECKING		1,305,000.00	1,379,071.24	- 74,071.24
INVESTIGATIONS INTO DISINFORMATION		1,950,000.00	1,854,863.48	95,136.52
RESEARCH - STUDIES & SANDBOXES		1,600,000.00	1,588,569.13	11,430.87
ACTIONS IN SUPPORT OF MEDIA LITERACY		1,600,000.00	1,526,509.87	73,490.13
European University Institute	1	1,325,230.00	1,005,491.25	319,738.75
Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation	2	206,449.00	168,792.90	37,656.10
Management Committee Expenses	3	108,245.00	92,389.49	15,855.51
= Execution for financial year		8 094 924.00	7,615,687.36	



GRANTING CYCLE AND ACTUAL AND PLANNED ALLOCATION FOR FUTURE PERIODS

6.4

	21/22	22/23 (€)	23/24 (€)	24/25 (€)	25/26 (€)
Grant Approval	-	6,090,346.32	6,349,013.72	5,905,000.00	217,500.00
ACTIONS IN SUPPORT OF FACT-CHECKING	-	1,408,435.15	1,379,071.24	1,305,000.00	217,500.00
INVESTIGATIONS INTO DISINFORMATION	-	515,068.89	1,854,863.48	1,000,000.00	-
RESEARCH - STUDIES & SANDBOXES	-	1,419,917.75	1,588,569.13	1,800,000.00	-
ACTIONS IN SUPPORT OF MEDIA LITERACY	-	2,746,924.53	1,526,509.87	1,800,000.00	-





6.5

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The first table shows the comparison between the grants attributed during 2023/24 and the planned allocation of the calls closed during the period:

NOTE 1

THE FIRST AREA OF INTERVENTION ACTIONS IN SUPPORT OF FACT-CHECKING COMPRISES THREE FUNDING ROUNDS OF THE “BOOSTING FACT-CHECKING ACTIVITIES IN EUROPE” CALL FOR PROPOSALS (1.38M€)

NOTE 2

THE AREA OF INTERVENTION INVESTIGATIONS INTO DISINFORMATION COMPRISES THE SECOND CALL FOR PROPOSALS (1.14M€) AND THE FAST-TRACK CALL ON CRITICAL DISINFORMATION THREATS (715K€)

NOTE 3

THE THIRD AND FOURTH LINES CORRESPOND TO THE GRANTS AWARDED UNDER THE SECOND CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE AREA OF RESEARCH - STUDIES & SANDBOXES (1.59M€) AND FOR THE AREA OF ACTIONS IN SUPPORT OF MEDIA LITERACY (1.53M€).

The demand for each of the areas increased substantially compared to 2022/23, and the differences show just the remaining amount that was not attributable to the project that would be next in line since the amount requested exceeded the allocation available.

The difference in the Fact-Checking area is explained by the fact that, for every area, when a certain funding round or annual call is not entirely spent, the Management Committee uses the remaining amount to increase, if appropriate, the amount granted in the subsequent Call for Proposals. As such, 74k€ remained from the funding rounds of 22/23, which was then available to be spent during the current year.

The Balance Sheet reflects the financial position as of 24/03/2024, showing the disbursements made during the year and Google’s contribution to the Fund for the period between 2021 and 2026.



For the Financial Execution of the Fund, the main figures are explained below:

- 1 The EUI expenses did not exhaust the planned budget, mainly due to the changes in staff occurring during the year of its implementation, which resulted in lower costs. Moreover, only four scholarships have been assigned for the Master in Transnational Governance, out of the six available for the current year. The costs relating to evaluations and outreach/communications were also lower than expected.
- 2 The CGF expenses did not exhaust the planned budget, mostly because there has been no need for litigation-related expenses up to the present moment. The projects’ monitoring expenses did not reach the budgeted level, so that increasing the level of monitoring is a matter of concern for the remaining years of the fund. Finally, IT & Communications similarly did not reach the budgeted level, and plans are currently being discussed for further work in this area.
- 3 The CGF’s expenses did not exhaust the planned budget, mostly due to changes in human resources. Additionally, the reduced amount spent by the CGF on monitoring activities from 25 March 2022 until 24 March 2023 was due to the fact that projects under three of the four areas of intervention were still at an initial phase, which meant that an in-depth monitoring procedure was not relevant. This expense will increase in the next reporting period, given the established plan to hold quarterly meetings with grantees for the monitoring of projects, and the participation in project closure meetings across Europe.



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FACT-CHECKING PROJECT MANAGER

MALDITA.ES FOUNDATION

THE UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD

TILBURG UNIVERSITY, DCA

CLAUDIO MAZZETTI
COORDINATOR FOR DEVELOPMENT

LES SURLIGNEURS

GARDIFF UNIVERSITY

FUNDACJA PISMO

INTERNATIONAL PRESS INSTITUTE

FABRIZIO TASSINARI
MEMBER APPOINTED BY THE EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE

PEDRO CALADO
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THE FACT-CHECKING FACTORY LLC

INSTITUTE FOR STRATEGIC DIALOGUE ISD

ROBERT
PROJECT

INSTITUTE FOR STRATEGIC DIALOGUE ISD

LEIDEN UN

TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL SLOVAKIA

ATH

INEVITÁVEL E FUN

ASSOCIATION VERIFICAT

TIN ESSAY
MEMBER APPOINTED BY THE CALOUSTE GULBENKIAN FOUNDATION

HEADLINE NEWS FACILITIES PRODUCTIONS

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ZARDINI
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PROGRAMME DIRECTOR EUI TEAM

STICHT TECHN

INSTITUTE FOR

CHANCELLOR, MASTERS AND SCHOLARS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

MEET OUR COMMUNITY

THE TEAM

behind EMIF



MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



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STEERING COMMITTEE



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EMIF UNIT



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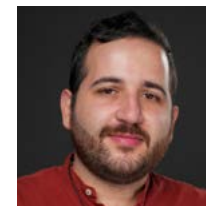
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COMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATE



ROLF NIJMEIJER

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE



CLAUDIO MAZZETTI

COORDINATOR FOR DEVELOPMENT



ANNACHIARA ZARDINI

FUNDRAISING ASSOCIATE

SUPPORTED *Projects*

ACTIONS IN SUPPORT OF FACT-CHECKING

FRAME (FACT-CHECKING REINFORCED BY AI FOR MEDIA OUTLETS)



NAME OF LEAD APPLICANT
Les Surligneurs

COUNTRY OF THE LEAD APPLICANT
France

PARTNER APPLICANT
NA

PERIOD
01/07/2023 - 30/06/2024

AMOUNT
€79,831.46

SHORT SUMMARY
FRAME is a tool developed by Les Surligneurs, which traces disinformation campaigns by matching video and audio contents with previously published fact-checks.

PISMO. TO FOSTER THE BEST PRACTICE FACT-CHECKING IN POLISH MEDIA



NAME OF LEAD APPLICANT
Fundacja Pismo

COUNTRY OF THE LEAD APPLICANT
Poland

PARTNER APPLICANT
NA

PERIOD
01/06/2023 - 31/05/2024

AMOUNT
€37,204.85

SHORT SUMMARY
The project responds to a decline of trust in the independence and reliability of the media by fostering and promoting fact-checking practices, with Pismo as a role model.

SUPPORTING UKRAINIAN MEDIA TO DEVELOP FACT-CHECKING ACTIVITIES IN THE CONTEXT OF THE WAR



NAME OF LEAD APPLICANT
Agence France Presse

COUNTRY OF THE LEAD APPLICANT
France

PARTNER APPLICANT
UKRINFORM (Ukraine); BISNESGROUPE LLC (Ukraine)

PERIOD
01/08/2023 - 31/07/2024

AMOUNT
€80,000.00

SHORT SUMMARY
The Ukrainian public faces relentless disinformation campaigns. Through this project, AFP helps the Ukrainian media to factcheck and raise awareness.

NATURAL | FACT-CHECKING NATURAL REMEDIES AND HERBAL MEDICINE



NAME OF LEAD APPLICANT
Inevitável e Fundamental, Lda.

COUNTRY OF THE LEAD APPLICANT
Portugal

PARTNER APPLICANT
NA

PERIOD
01/06/2023 - 30/11/2023

AMOUNT
€53,825.81

SHORT SUMMARY
NATURAL will seek to tackle disinformation and misinformation, by improving the detection and understanding of narratives in public health.

TRAINING CRITICAL THINKING & VERIFICATION OF INFORMATION IN SUBURBAN SCHOOLS LIBRARIES ACROSS ITALY



NAME OF LEAD APPLICANT
Biblioteche Senza Frontiere

COUNTRY OF THE LEAD APPLICANT
Italy

PARTNER APPLICANT
Dataninja Srls (Italy)

PERIOD
01/08/2023 - 31/01/2024

AMOUNT
€54,998.00

SHORT SUMMARY
This project offers young students in suburban multicultural schools the opportunity to become junior fact-checkers for six months.

COMBAT DISINFORMATION IN A SUSTAINABLE WAY - COMDISWAY



NAME OF LEAD APPLICANT
Association European Journalists LLC

COUNTRY OF THE LEAD APPLICANT
Bulgaria

PARTNER APPLICANT
NA

PERIOD
01/07/2023 to 31/12/2023

AMOUNT
€54,955.00

SHORT SUMMARY
The Factcheck.bg project combats disinformation on topics relating to elections, the war in Ukraine, energy, climate, EU, NATO, Eurozone and inflation.



HOTLINE. A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISINFORMATION NARRATIVES



NAME OF LEAD APPLICANT
The Fact-Checking Factory LLC

COUNTRY OF THE LEAD APPLICANT
Italy

PARTNER APPLICANT
Slow News SRL (Italy)

PERIOD
01/08/2023 to 31/01/2024

AMOUNT
€48,551.93

SHORT SUMMARY
HOTLINE is an Italian weekly newsletter entirely dedicated to climate change and related mis- and disinformation.

KEEPING FINLAND IN THE EUROPEAN FACT-CHECKING NETWORKS IN VIEW OF PRESIDENTIAL AND EP ELECTIONS



NAME OF LEAD APPLICANT
Open Society Association Finland

COUNTRY OF THE LEAD APPLICANT
Finland

PARTNER APPLICANT
Non-funded Partner: EDMO NORDIS (Norway)

PERIOD
01/01/2024 to 30/06/2024

AMOUNT
€54,714.88

SHORT SUMMARY
This project is designed to help maintain Finland as part of the important European fact-checking networks, in view of the Presidential and EP elections in 2024.

ELECTI FACTS: EURO 2024



NAME OF LEAD APPLICANT
Headline News Facilities Productions

COUNTRY OF THE LEAD APPLICANT
Belgium

PARTNER APPLICANT
NA

PERIOD
18/12/2023 to 17/06/2024

AMOUNT
€54,996.57

SHORT SUMMARY
The project Electi Facts: Euro 2024 will fact-check the European elections for journalists, in order to help filter out disinformation in EU news coverage.

CAN WE VERIFY THIS? FACT-CHECKING ON HEALTH, TECHNOLOGY AND ECONOMICS AT OKO.PRESS



NAME OF LEAD APPLICANT
Foundation Centre for Civic Control OKO

COUNTRY OF THE LEAD APPLICANT
Poland

PARTNER APPLICANT
NA

PERIOD
01/10/2023 to 30/09/2024

AMOUNT
€79,985.04

SHORT SUMMARY
OKO.press (PL) will boost the number of fact-checking texts and videos on health, technology and economy, in order to popularise and diversify this format in topics that are regularly subject to misinformation.

FACT-CHECKING AND RELIABLE EUROPEAN INFORMATION TO HELP EUROPE INTEGRATE TOGETHER: THE FREIHEIT PROJECT



NAME OF LEAD APPLICANT
EURACTIV Media Network B.V.

COUNTRY OF THE LEAD APPLICANT
Netherlands

PARTNER APPLICANT
NA

PERIOD
01/12/2023 to 30/11/2024

AMOUNT
€79,610.60

SHORT SUMMARY
FREIHEIT aims at treating foreign interference in the European media sphere via carefully curated, fact-checked editorial production by freelance journalists from Europe and the Eastern Neighbourhood.

FACTSPHERE: EXPOSING DISINFORMATION FOR PUBLIC AWARENESS IN THE BLACK SEA REGION



NAME OF LEAD APPLICANT
Expert Forum Association

COUNTRY OF THE LEAD APPLICANT
Romania

PARTNER APPLICANT
NA

PERIOD
01/11/2023 to 31/10/2024

AMOUNT
€79,936.35

SHORT SUMMARY
FactSphere: Exposing deep disinformation narratives in Romania and Moldova in the context of the Russian aggression against Ukraine.

ALETHEIA



NAME OF LEAD APPLICANT
xDNA

COUNTRY OF THE LEAD APPLICANT
Netherlands

PARTNER APPLICANT
Adtac B.V. (Netherlands); Aktor Knowledge Technology N.V. (Belgium)

PERIOD
01/11/2023 to 31/10/2024

AMOUNT
€80,000.00

SHORT SUMMARY
Improved fact-checking efficiency with machine learning for automated claim extraction, claim comparison and AI-augmented in-depth case analyses.

DEBUNKING DECEIT: DEFEND UKRAINE AND EU AGAINST MALIGN MIS/ DISINFORMATION



NAME OF LEAD APPLICANT
Context.ro

COUNTRY OF THE LEAD APPLICANT
Romania

PARTNER APPLICANT
Misreport (Romania)

PERIOD
01/05/2024 to 30/04/2025

AMOUNT
€77,700.00

SHORT SUMMARY
Context.ro & Misreport to debunk the top 10 anti-Ukrainian and anti-EU Russian propaganda narratives and their dissemination by radical forces, impacting Romanians' support for EU policies.



ESG - EXPOSING SPECULATIVE GREENWASHING



NAME OF LEAD APPLICANT
Voxeurop SCE

COUNTRY OF THE LEAD APPLICANT
France

PARTNER APPLICANT
Investigative Reporting Project Italy (Italy)

PERIOD
01/07/2024 to 30/06/2025

AMOUNT
€78,900.00

SHORT SUMMARY
This project will expose and rectify misrepresentations in green finance, advocating for stricter regulations to ensure genuine environmental and social impact.

THE MULTILINGUAL FACT-CHECKER CHATBOT



NAME OF LEAD APPLICANT
Newtral

COUNTRY OF THE LEAD APPLICANT
Spain

PARTNER APPLICANT
Ostro, Centre for Investigative Journalism in the Adriatic region (Slovenia); Delfi UAB (Lithuania); Magyar Jeti Incorporated (Hungary)

PERIOD
01/05/2024 to 30/04/2025

AMOUNT
€80,000.00

SHORT SUMMARY
A multilingual GPT-based fact-checking assistant to combat disinformation about the Ukraine crisis.

EUROPE ELECTS: TRUTH IN POLLING



NAME OF LEAD APPLICANT
Europe Elects

COUNTRY OF THE LEAD APPLICANT
Germany

PARTNER APPLICANT
NA

PERIOD
01/06/2024 to 31/05/2025

AMOUNT
€78,912.50

SHORT SUMMARY
“Europe Elects: Truth in Polling” is a fact-checking project providing an independent review of pollsters engaged in political polling in Europe.

CAPACITY BUILDING IN NEWSROOMS: VERIFYING FACTS IN TIMES OF DEEPPFAKES AND DISINFORMATION



NAME OF LEAD APPLICANT
Fojo Media Institute at the Linnaeus University

COUNTRY OF THE LEAD APPLICANT
Sweden

PARTNER APPLICANT
NA

PERIOD
01/06/2024 to 31/05/2025

AMOUNT
€79,983.26

SHORT SUMMARY
Fojo Media Institute combats disinformation through enhanced fact-checking and digital verification in European newsrooms.

FACT-CHECKING THE 2024 UK GENERAL ELECTION



NAME OF LEAD APPLICANT
Full Fact

COUNTRY OF THE LEAD APPLICANT
United Kingdom

PARTNER APPLICANT
NA

PERIOD
01/09/2024 to 28/02/2025

AMOUNT
€54,977.99

SHORT SUMMARY
The project aims to fact-check the next UK general election, tackle misleading claims and inform the UK public with accurate information.

THE SEARCH BAROMETER - A TOOL TO UNDERSTAND SEARCH ENGINE VULNERABILITIES AHEAD OF THE EP ELECTIONS



NAME OF LEAD APPLICANT
Transatlantic Foundation

COUNTRY OF THE LEAD APPLICANT
Belgium

PARTNER APPLICANT
NA

PERIOD
01/03/2024 to 31/08/2024

AMOUNT
€54,286.60

SHORT SUMMARY
The search barometer will systematically capture and analyse search results on queries relating to the 2024 EU parliamentary elections.

FIGHTING THE HYBRID WAR IN LATVIA 2024



NAME OF LEAD APPLICANT
DELFI JSC

COUNTRY OF THE LEAD APPLICANT
Latvia

PARTNER APPLICANT
Centre for East European Policy Studies (Latvia)

PERIOD
01/04/2024 to 30/09/2024

AMOUNT
€35,700.40

SHORT SUMMARY
The aim of the project “Fighting disinformation in Latvia 2024” is to reduce misinformation and provide reliable information through Delfi.lv.



INVESTIGATIONS INTO DISINFORMATION DYNAMICS

EMPOWERING NORDIC FACT-CHECKING WITH SOCIAL DATA IN THE 2024 EP ELECTIONS



NAME OF LEAD APPLICANT

The Association TJEKDET - National portal for combating fake news

COUNTRY OF THE LEAD APPLICANT

Denmark

PARTNER APPLICANT

Analyse & Tal F.m.b.a (Denmark)

PERIOD

01/04/2024 to 01/11/2024

AMOUNT

€149,714.00

SHORT SUMMARY

2024 European Parliamentary Elections: Empowering Nordic Fact-Checking with social data and OSINT-analyses to monitor and address disinformation.

ADFUND



NAME OF LEAD APPLICANT

Science Feedback

COUNTRY OF THE LEAD APPLICANT

France

PARTNER APPLICANT

Who Targets Me Ltd (United Kingdom); SCIVERIFY (France)

PERIOD

01/04/2024 to 31/12/2024

AMOUNT

€149,072.00

SHORT SUMMARY

ADFUND investigates how ads fund EU and UK disinformation, evaluating advertiser behaviour, brand safety tools and ad platform efficacy.

TRACKING AND MITIGATING DISINFORMATION RELATING TO THE ISRAEL/GAZA CRISIS AND ITS ASSOCIATED HARMS



NAME OF LEAD APPLICANT

Institute for Strategic Dialogue

COUNTRY OF THE LEAD APPLICANT

United Kingdom

PARTNER APPLICANT

CASM Technology LLP (United Kingdom); Institute for Strategic Dialogue gGmbH (Germany)

PERIOD

01/05/2024 to 31/01/2025

AMOUNT

€148,375.00

SHORT SUMMARY

This project aims to deepen understanding of online hate and disinformation surrounding the Israel/Hamas conflict, and solutions to mitigate it.

UNDERSTANDING DISINFORMATION DYNAMICS ON TELEGRAM (UDDOT)



NAME OF LEAD APPLICANT

Maldita.es Foundation

COUNTRY OF THE LEAD APPLICANT

Spain

PARTNER APPLICANT

Blanquerna Foundation (Spain); Newtral Media Audiovisual, S. L. (Spain)

PERIOD

Understanding Disinformation Dynamics on Telegram (UDDOT)

AMOUNT

€146,899.80

SHORT SUMMARY

UDDOT investigates disinformation in Spanish on Telegram, promoting cross-sectoral awareness and evidence-based policy considerations.

DISINFO4BLACKSEA



NAME OF LEAD APPLICANT

Association Group 4 Media Freedom and Democracy

COUNTRY OF THE LEAD APPLICANT

Romania

PARTNER APPLICANT

Romanian Centre for European Policies (Romania); Centre For The Study Of Democracy (Bulgaria); The Romanian Journalists International Alliance (Romania); Avangarde Socio-Behavioural Studies Group LLC (Romania)

PERIOD

01/05/2024 to 31/01/2025

AMOUNT

€118,795.30

SHORT SUMMARY

DISINFO4BLACKSEA project investigates the impact of disinformation targeting the Israel-Hamas war in the Black Sea region and misinformation, by improving the detection and understanding of narratives in public health.

NERD: NEUTRALISING ECONOMIC REWARDS OF DISINFORMATION



NAME OF LEAD APPLICANT

Cardiff University

COUNTRY OF THE LEAD APPLICANT

United Kingdom

PARTNER APPLICANT

Blanquerna Foundation (Spain); Newtral Media Audiovisual, S. L. (Spain)

PERIOD

01/05/2024 to 31/01/2024

AMOUNT

€149,190.21

SHORT SUMMARY

NERD investigates ad-funded disinformation, gathers data with focus groups and fact-checking activities, and analyses it with advanced AI tools.



THE DYNAMICS OF LGBTQ+ MISINFORMATION ACROSS EUROPE



NAME OF LEAD APPLICANT

Tilburg University, DCA

COUNTRY OF THE LEAD APPLICANT

Netherlands

PARTNER APPLICANT

Netherlands Defence Academy (Netherlands)

PERIOD

01/10/2023 to 30/06/2024

AMOUNT

€149,474.00

SHORT SUMMARY

This project monitors the role played by search engines in the propagation of disinformation relating to the European LGBTQ+ community.

DECODING THE DISINFORMATION PLAYBOOK II



NAME OF LEAD APPLICANT

International Press Institute

COUNTRY OF THE LEAD APPLICANT

Austria

PARTNER APPLICANT

Faktograf (Croatia); TAZ (Germany)

PERIOD

01/11/2023 to 31/07/2024

AMOUNT

€149,587.66

SHORT SUMMARY

The project examines the disinformation tactics used by populists to intimidate and discredit journalists covering the elections to the European Parliament in 2024.

DISINFORMATION DYNAMICS: WEAPONISING COMMUNITY DIVISIONS IN LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL DISCOURSE



NAME OF LEAD APPLICANT

Demos

COUNTRY OF THE LEAD APPLICANT

United Kingdom

PARTNER APPLICANT

Public Interest News Foundation (United Kingdom)

PERIOD

01/10/2023 to 30/06/2024

AMOUNT

€136,386.41

SHORT SUMMARY

Demos and PINF are investigating how disinformation fuels local rows about traffic schemes in the UK – and how local news can challenge this.

CROSSOVER FINLAND



NAME OF LEAD APPLICANT

Check First (Limited Company)

COUNTRY OF THE LEAD APPLICANT

Finland

PARTNER APPLICANT

Faktabaari (Finland)

PERIOD

01/06/2024 to 31/05/2025

AMOUNT

€79,983.26

SHORT SUMMARY

Crossover Finland: monitoring disinformation ahead of 2024 elections. Check First and Faktabaari focus on algorithmic content recommendations.

EXPLORING THE INTERPLAY BETWEEN PRO-KREMLIN ECOSYSTEMS AND EXTREMIST MOVEMENTS IN EUROPE



NAME OF LEAD APPLICANT

Institute for Strategic Dialogue ISD

COUNTRY OF THE LEAD APPLICANT

United Kingdom

PARTNER APPLICANT

CASM Technology LLP (United Kingdom)

PERIOD

01/11/2023 to 31/07/2024

AMOUNT

€149,946.66

SHORT SUMMARY

ISD and CASM will trace linkages in pro-Kremlin actors & narratives across online spaces in DE, FR and IT, exposing new tactics following the Ukraine invasion.

THE MARKETPLACE OF (FALSE) IDEAS: UNCOVERING, ANALYSING, DEBUNKING AND RESEARCHING SPONSORED DISINFORMATION



NAME OF LEAD APPLICANT

Political Capital Limited Liability Company

COUNTRY OF THE LEAD APPLICANT

Hungary

PARTNER APPLICANT

Hungarian Jeti Incorporated (Hungary); Mertek Media Monitor Public Benefit Non-Profit Ltd. (Hungary)

PERIOD

01/10/2023 to 30/06/2024

AMOUNT

€143,211.80

SHORT SUMMARY

Marketplace of (false) ideas: this project aims to uncover, analyse and debunk sponsored disinformation during the 2024 election campaign in Hungary.

PREVENTING DISINFORMATION SEEPAGE INTO EU PRE-ELECTION CAMPAIGNS IN SLOVAKIA AND THE CZECH REPUBLIC



NAME OF LEAD APPLICANT

Transparency International Slovakia

COUNTRY OF THE LEAD APPLICANT

Slovakia

PARTNER APPLICANT

EURACTIVsk (Slovakia); EURACTIVcz (Czechia); Transparency International Czech Republic (Czechia)

PERIOD

01/10/2023 to 30/06/2024

AMOUNT

€114,250.96

SHORT SUMMARY

Preventing Disinformation seepage into the democratic integrity of EU pre-election campaigns in Slovakia and the Czech Republic.



RESEARCH - STUDIES & SANDBOX

DETECTING AND MATCHING SUSPICIOUS CLAIMS WITH AI



NAME OF LEAD APPLICANT
Athens Technology Centre SA

COUNTRY OF THE LEAD APPLICANT
Greece

PARTNER APPLICANT
Technical University of Madrid (Spain); EFE NEWS AGENCY (Spain)

PERIOD
01/01/2024 to 30/06/2025

AMOUNT
€399,499.18

SHORT SUMMARY
MuseAI develops a multilingual claim detection/matching tool to aid fact-checkers in scaling up their work and studying disinformation dynamics.

UNDERSTANDING MISINFORMATION AND SCIENCE IN SOCIETAL DEBATES (UNMISSED)



NAME OF LEAD APPLICANT
CWTS Leiden University

COUNTRY OF THE LEAD APPLICANT
Netherlands

PARTNER APPLICANT
Bruno Kessler Foundation (Italy); University of Geneva (Switzerland)

PERIOD
01/01/2024 to 30/06/2025

AMOUNT
€399,670.89

SHORT SUMMARY
UnMiSSeD studies the interaction between misinformation and science in societal debates using a mixed qualitative-quantitative approach.

EXU: AI MODELS FOR EXAMINING MULTILINGUAL DISINFORMATION NARRATIVES AND UNDERSTANDING THEIR SPREAD



NAME OF LEAD APPLICANT
The University of Sheffield

COUNTRY OF THE LEAD APPLICANT
United Kingdom

PARTNER APPLICANT
Kempelen Institute of Intelligent Technologies (Slovakia)

PERIOD
01/11/2023 to 30/04/2025

AMOUNT
€399,794.69

SHORT SUMMARY
The ExU project proposes AI models for multilingual disinformation analysis, addressing rumour stance classification and claim retrieval tasks.

FACTS (FACTUAL TRANSPARENT STATEMENTS)



NAME OF LEAD APPLICANT
ALMA MATER STUDIORUM - University of Bologna

COUNTRY OF THE LEAD APPLICANT
Italy

PARTNER APPLICANT
Tor Vergata University of Rome (Italy); Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zürich (Switzerland)

PERIOD
01/10/2023 to 31/03/2025

AMOUNT
€389,604.37

SHORT SUMMARY
FaCTS aims to uncover disinformation causes and enhance political transparency by developing a verifiability index for politicians' statements.



ACTIONS IN SUPPORT OF MEDIA LITERACY

INFOLEAD - INFORMATION AND MEDIA LITERACY PROGRAMME FOR JUDGES AND POLICYMAKERS



NAME OF LEAD APPLICANT
Chancellor, Masters and Scholars of the University of Oxford

COUNTRY OF THE LEAD APPLICANT
United Kingdom

PARTNER APPLICANT
University of Florence (Italy); University of Helsinki (Finland)

PERIOD
30/11/2023 to 31/05/2025

AMOUNT
€350,124.36

SHORT SUMMARY
InfoLead develops an innovative approach to train judges and policymakers in information literacy and improves understanding about how to respond to information disorder.

MIL FOR SOCIETAL RESILIENCE THROUGH EUROPE-WIDE LIBRARY NETWORKS



NAME OF LEAD APPLICANT
Stichting The Tactical Technology Collective (TTC)

COUNTRY OF THE LEAD APPLICANT
Netherlands

PARTNER APPLICANT
International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (Netherlands); Politecnico di Milano (Italy)

PERIOD
30/11/2023 to 31/05/2025

AMOUNT
€393,721.10

SHORT SUMMARY
A media and information literacy project to boost societal resilience through 50 events in libraries across 10 European countries.

SHAZAAM



NAME OF LEAD APPLICANT
Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

COUNTRY OF THE LEAD APPLICANT
Greece

PARTNER APPLICANT
Mog Technologies, Limited (Portugal)

PERIOD
01/11/2023 to 30/04/2025

AMOUNT
€396,239.62

SHORT SUMMARY
SHAZAAM aims at combating fake science news by strengthening the media literacy skills of Gen Zers in non-formal education environments.

BRIDGING FACTS (BRIF)



NAME OF LEAD APPLICANT
Association Verificat

COUNTRY OF THE LEAD APPLICANT
Spain

PARTNER APPLICANT
BEDEBATE, LP (Spain); Acting Locally Be Active (ALMA) (France); Dataninja srls (Italy); Pianoterra Association (Italy)

PERIOD
01/11/2023 to 31/12/2024

AMOUNT
€386,424.79

SHORT SUMMARY
BRIF builds media literacy bridges for disadvantaged youth. Collaboration with NGOs, training and debunking challenges foster inclusion.

Coordination
EMIF Unit

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John Elliot, Arte e Línguas

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