

# NEWSLETTER

Vol. 1

October 2022

The first **Break the Chain** Newsletter is here and we are excited to share the information about our project with all interested in media literacy and **fighting fake news and disinformation** online!

The project started in **January 2022** as a cooperation of **six European countries** (Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Netherlands, France and Spain) which decided to join forces and make a contribution to the **raising awareness** of responsible usage of media and help adults understand the **danger of disinformation**.

In the Newsletter, you will find the basic information about Break the Chain project, its **objectives** and **results** we want to achieve. In the second part, you can read about our findings and **questionnaire results** that we initiated our project with.

Feel free to contact or **follow us** on social media. We are open to debate and cooperation!



## ABOUT THE PROJECT

**Break The Chain** aims to help adults identify the **impact that fake news and disinformation** have on our behaviour and find ways to **alternate the situation**.

We provide a **holistic approach**, focusing on introducing all the relevant information about fake news and disinformation, their impact on our decisions and ways to detect them.



## OUR GOALS AND STRATEGY

- To **raise awareness** about intentional disinformation and fake news
- To **assist adults 55+** in detecting and coping with fake news and disinformation online and **enhance their media literacy skills**
- To **support adult educators** in developing innovative training approaches

We will develop **three project results** that will help us achieve our goals:

- **Training Manual:** for adult educators introducing the topic of disinformation and providing methodological tips how to approach the issue - published this month
- **Web Application:** with activities on the topic of fake news and disinformation for adults to improve their skills and knowledge with



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quizzes, texts and videos - finished Sept/23

- **Dynamic Demonstrator:** online learning environment with real-life interactive scenarios so adults can gain further understanding of the concepts of fake news and disinformation - finished Feb/24



## PREPARATORY PHASE OF THE PROJECT

At the beginning of **Break the Chain** project, we asked media literacy teachers and trainers from all six countries to fill in a questionnaire focused on the **reflection of current fake news and disinformation situation and contemporary educational practices**. The results serve as an important input for the developing of the manual. At the same time we created a Comparison report based on the National reports from all partner countries mapping the disinformation scene and the national as well as international responses to the issue.

## QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

The questionnaire was filled in by **116 media literacy lecturers**, most of them working for NGOs but also in adult training centres, media literacy organizations, research institutions or public educational bodies. Here is the list of **the most significant findings**:

- the number of trainings offered to adults is **not sufficient**, taken into account they face disinformation almost every day
- out of all media platforms, **social networks** are at the cutting edge in terms of disinformation occurrence
- the most popular teaching tools are **researching activities** followed by the usage of various **articles or videos**

- the most popular teaching methods are **researching activities** followed by **enquiry based learning, peer-to-peer learning** and **blended learning**
- the **main challenges** of adult courses are the **lack of methodology**, followed by the **lack of ICT and media literacy skills** and the **lack of available resources, students' distrust, deeply rooted convictions, unwillingness to change the attitude or even the reluctance to participate in the course**
- **in comparison to younger generations**, adults 55+ are generally not so accustomed to technology, a diverse media scene, rarely understand the workings of social networks, rarely compare more sources, are less flexible in changing their minds and less motivated to learn new things

The **conclusions** we draw from the survey are the basic principles of the methodology we provide in our **Training Manual**. We want to bring **new perspectives and inspiration** to all trainers on the challenging path of educating adults 55+ on the complex topic of fake news and disinformation.



## COMPARISON REPORT ON THE SITUATION OF DISINFORMATION

**National reports** from each partner have been merged into the **Comparison report** with a detailed description of the situation of disinformation including **legal and policy framework and responses on the part of the government, private sector and civil society**. Although there are differences, esp. in the influence of Russian disinformation campaigns, the conclusion is common for all countries: **Education, patience and mutual understanding** are needed most in this challenging fight. Our greatest aspiration should



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be to understand our fellow citizens' point of view and help them overcome the stress of the information overload and chaos. Not only legislative regulations should protect the European citizens from the negative effect of disinformation but also a general awareness of the issue reached through education.

You can read the whole Report on our website.

### NEXT STEPS

Watch out for the **Trainer's manual** with the introduction of the issue of disinformation and methodological tips for teaching adults that will be available in November. The transnational meeting is going to take place at the beginning of 2023 where the partners will discuss the second project result - web application.

Let's keep breaking the chain!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, FOLLOW US ON:



# BREAK THE CHAIN

## PROJECT PARTNERS:



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Photos: Canva  
Published by: EDUcentrum, z.ú.