

FULL PROGRAMME



DISINFOCRACY

Disinformation, Manipulation & Critical Thinking

GENERAL INFORMATION

LEARNING MOBILITY FOR ADULTS IN BILBAO (SPAIN)

DURATION: 4-day itinerary (5 hours/day + optional

LOCATION: cultural visits)

FORMAT: Bilbao, Basque Country (Spain)

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: Physical, Group Learning Mobility

INSTRUCTION: English

HOST: Media Creativa

KEY TOPICS:

- What is “Disinfocracy” and how it shapes public opinion.
- Misinformation, algorithms, and media manipulation.
- Tools and methods for fact-checking.
- Critical thinking and civic responsibility.
- Media literacy for inclusive and democratic societies.

TARGET GROUP:

Adults and community educators interested in understanding misinformation mechanisms and learning practical tools to identify and counter fake news, filter bubbles, and manipulative narratives. Basic digital literacy is recommended (use of browsers, social media, and online search).

“In the age of information, ignorance is a choice.”
— Donny Miller

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To understand how disinformation spreads and affects social cohesion.
- To identify manipulation strategies and learn to debunk them.
- To practise source verification and digital fact-checking.
- To strengthen critical and reflective thinking skills.
- To promote responsible and tolerant information sharing in daily life.



METHODOLOGY

The course is based on **experiential and collaborative learning**, using practical workshops, gamified exercises, and real-life examples.

Participants will **alternate between digital work, reflection, and group dynamics** that encourage **debate** and **curiosity**.

Each day includes a **mix of analysis, simulation, and creative problem-solving**.

The methodology aims to strengthen participants' autonomy and confidence as informed citizens who can navigate complex information ecosystems with a critical and ethical mindset.

Techniques include:

- **Learning by doing:** participants explore fact-checking tools, verification platforms, and social media examples directly.
- **Peer learning:** exchange of ideas, strategies, and discoveries between participants to foster collaborative understanding.
- **Critical awareness:** every tool and case is analysed for its social impact, ethical dimensions, and media responsibility.
- **Reflection and ethics:** promoting critical thinking about the balance between freedom of expression, information reliability, and civic responsibility.

DAY 1 - What is Disinfocracy?

Understanding the Information Jungle

Welcome and group integration. Participants are welcomed to the course and **introduced** to the **concept of Disinfocracy** —how misinformation and manipulation influence democracy and everyday life. An **initial group dynamic** helps everyone share their own experiences with fake news and information overload.

Group dynamic: “Fake-hunt” (Fake News Scavenger). In **small teams**, participants **analyse** famous **fake news stories** from Europe and beyond. They discuss why people believed them, what emotions or biases were triggered, and what impact they had on society. The exercise **raises awareness of how misinformation plays** on fear, humour, and confirmation bias.

Reflection session: “Why do we believe?”. Guided **reflection** on how our values, culture, and digital habits **influence what we perceive as true**. Participants are encouraged to think about their own information routines and how to strengthen critical distance.

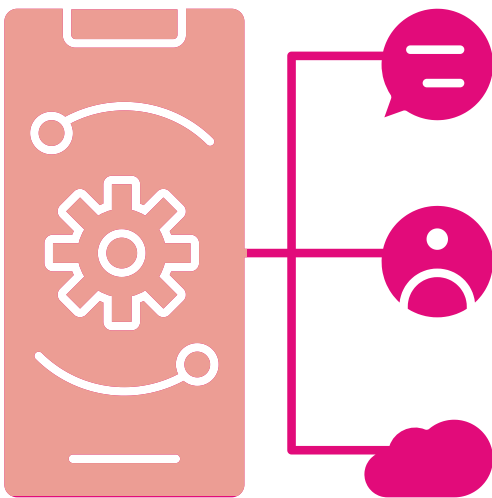
**Training sessions run approximately from 9:00 – 14:00, with optional cultural activities in the afternoons.*

DAY 2 – How Fake News Spreads

Interactive workshop: Algorithms and echo chambers. Participants experience how algorithms shape what we see online. Using simulations and visual exercises, they discover how social networks create information bubbles that reinforce opinions and limit perspective.

Role play: “The Fake Factory”. Half of the group becomes fake news creators and the other half fact-checkers. Each team receives prompts to invent, distribute, and then debunk a story. This gamified session helps visualise the speed, strategy, and creativity behind misinformation—and the difficulty of stopping it once it spreads.

Group reflection: “Digital empathy and responsibility”. Discussion about how our online behaviour influences others. How can we share information responsibly? What’s the role of empathy in communication?



DAY 3 – Tools for Truth

Practical lab: Verify like a pro. A guided, hands-on session where participants **test free verification tools**: Google Reverse Image Search, TinEye, Maldita.es, Newtral, and EFE Verifica. They **learn to check images, contrast headlines, and evaluate the reliability of sources**. Trainers assist participants as they verify real examples and share best practices.

Visit: Inside the newsroom. Participants visit a local media organisation or independent newsroom in Bilbao. **Journalists explain how they verify information**, deal with social media rumours, and manage ethical dilemmas in the digital era. The session provides an **insider's look at professional verification work**.

Outdoor activity: “Truth Walk”. A **light urban game through Bilbao's city centre**, where teams use QR codes to uncover famous misinformation cases and discover short lessons about verification, bias, and media ethics. The activity connects **learning with exploration and teamwork**.



DAY 4 – Critical Thinking and Responsible Citizenship

Activity: “Decode the Feed”. Participants work in teams to analyse simulated social media posts about politics, health, and society. They decide whether each post is reliable, biased, or fake, justifying their reasoning. The activity combines fun and analysis, building teamwork and media literacy.

Debate: “Truth vs. Virality”. A guided debate based on real news examples. Participants explore how false information spreads faster than truth, and what personal and collective actions can promote a healthier online environment.

Personal reflection: “My information diet”. Participants create small personal goals to improve their information habits: choosing better sources, fact-checking before sharing, or diversifying perspectives.

Group reflection and closing ceremony. Final sharing of key takeaways and personal commitments to fight misinformation and fake news, followed by certificate delivery and a pintxo break celebrating learning and well-being.

What is Disinfocracy? Understanding the Information Jungle	How Fake News Spreads	Tools for Truth	Critical Thinking and Responsible Citizenship
Welcome + group integration	Algorithms and echo chambers	Verify like a pro	“Decode the feed” Classify as reliable, biased or fake
“Fake-hunt” Fake News Sacavenger	“The Fake Factory”	Inside the newsroom Visit	“Truth vs. Virality” Debate
“Why do we believe?”	“Digital empathy and responsibility” Reflection	“Truth walk”	“My information diet” Reflection

** Some changes in the programme are possible. The content of the course is always adapted to the participants' previous knowledge, expectations and requirements. The participants receive the informational kit a few weeks before the start of the course.*

COMPETENCES

to be acquired by the participant



Ability to identify and analyse misinformation in digital environments.

Improved digital literacy and critical evaluation of online content.

Practical skills to verify news, images, and sources using free tools.

Awareness of how manipulation and bias influence public opinion.

Confidence to share information responsibly and promote fact-based dialogue.

METHODS OF MONITORING AND MENTORING the participant before, during and after the mobility



Ongoing contact with the mobility participant.



Questionnaire before and after mobility.



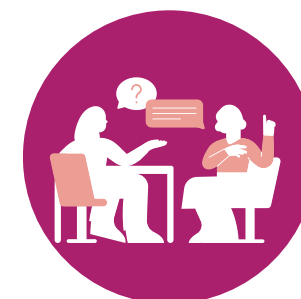
Mentoring by the host and the sending organisation.



Verification of the participant's concerns and expectations.



Individual interviews.



Reflections and debates where the quality of the learning outcomes will be assessed.



Meetings with other participants in the mobility.



Participant report.

Expected use of the RESULTS & EVALUATION

CERTIFICATION & MATERIALS

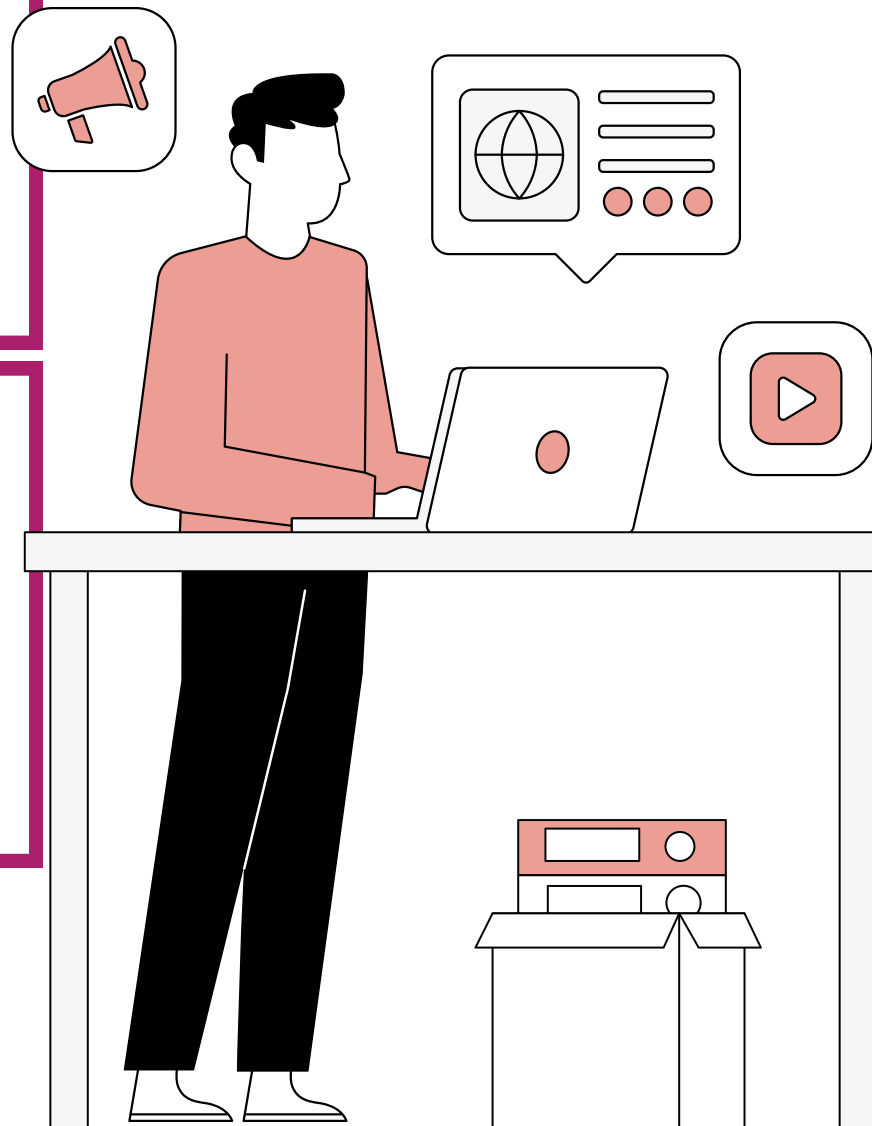
Use of the verification methods and critical thinking strategies in daily life.

Sharing of good practices and tools with colleagues, family, or local communities.

Promotion of responsible communication and tolerance in social and digital spaces.

Evaluation through group activities, peer feedback, and short reflection tasks.

Completion of a final self-assessment (My information diet) to reflect on learning and personal change.



Certificate of participation (Erasmus+ format)

Digital access to learning materials and vocabulary sets.

Participant reflection journal.

Post-course learning recommendations.

Ready to avoid fake news manipulation?

Check dates and register your participation vía email.

Contact: info@mediacreativa.eu

