EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

(To be filled in and uploaded as deliverable in the Portal Grant Management System, at the due date foreseen in the system.
⚠ *Please provide one sheet per event (one event = one workpackage = one lump sum).)*

PROJECT	
Participant:	[1] - [Association Se Poate] ([Se Poate])
PIC number:	[938230852]
Project name and acronym:	[Read Twice] — [R2]

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	[5.1]
Event name:	[University Trainings in Romania]
Type:	[Training]
In situ/online:	[in-situ]
Location:	[Rosieri de Vede, Bucharest, Sinaia, Costinesti, Romania]
Date(s):	[17th May 2023 ; 5th of July 2023 ; 4th of August 2023 ; 21st of August 2023]
Website(s) (if any):	https://www.themayor.eu/en/read-twice https://asociatiasepoate.ro/news/read-twice-o-initiativa-de-combatere-a-dezinformarii/ https://www.themayor.eu/web/files/richeditor/read-twice/read-twice-media-literacy-needs-assessment-romania-v1.pdf https://www.themayor.eu/en/a/view/read-twice-romanian-partner-concludes-university-seminars-on-media-literacy-12088 https://asociatiasepoate.ro/news/readtwicetrainingsromania/ https://asociatiasepoate.ro/news/readtwicetrainingsromania/ https://www.facebook.com/AsociatiaSePoate/posts/629913069229142 https://www.instagram.com/p/Cwp6QnKtPW9/?img_index=1
Participants	
Female:	97
Male:	53
Non-binary:	-
From country 1 [Romania]:	92
From country 2 [Bulgaria]:	11
From country 3 [Greece]:	4

From country 4 [North Macedonia]:	8		
From country 5 [Croatia]:	5		
From country 6 [Poland]:	9		
From country 7 [Spain]:	5		
From country 8 [Hungary]:	4		
From country 9 [Italy]:	4		
From country 10 [Slovakia]:	4		
From country 11 [Portugal]:	4		
Total number of participants:	150	From total number of countries:	11

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

University Trainings in Romania

Venue

The University Trainings in Romania, held on on 17th May 2023 in Sinaia, Romania; on 5th of July 2023 in Rosieri de Vede, Romania; on 4th of August 2023 in Bucharest, Romania and fifth one, 21st of August 2023 was successfully implemented with the aim of raising participants' awareness about the impact of disinformation on democracy and equipping them with skills to critically analyze online content and counteract fake news. The training consisted of five informative and interactive sessions, including discussions, group activities, and insights from young media professionals. Each training lasted one day, see agenda below.

Agenda:

The University trainings aimed to raise awareness about the impact of disinformation on democracy, foster critical thinking in online information consumption, and equip participants with skills to recognize and counteract fake news. The events began with a registration and welcome coffee session at 8:30 AM, followed by opening remarks at 9:00 AM that introduced the day's purpose. Sessions 1 and 2 delved into understanding disinformation's consequences on society and deconstructing the online information landscape, including interactive activities and discussions. After a morning break, Session 3 focused on techniques of deception and manipulation on social media platforms, utilizing real-life examples for engagement. The afternoon resumed with Session 4, concentrating on building media literacy and fact-checking skills through critical thinking, highlighting journalists' roles, and conducting practical exercises. The trainings concluded at 4:30 PM with closing remarks and informal discussions summarizing the takeaways, expressing gratitude to participants and trainers, and involving participants in an EU survey for feedback. Throughout the day, the schedule aimed to engage participants, enhance their understanding of disinformation challenges, and empower them with tools to navigate the online information landscape effectively.

Participants profile:

The trainings had a mix of people with different backgrounds and studies. Many were young and students, each with their own ideas and experiences. They studied different disciplines like social sciences, engineering, arts, business, and more. They were very interested in understanding fake news and how it affects society. Because they had different experiences, the discussions in the training were interesting. They liked to join in activities, share their thoughts, and learn about thinking and media. Everyone together made the training lively and exciting.

One of the Asscociation's youth volunteers, who went to trainings in Porto and Berlin, took charge of giving with all the trainings and helped the organisation.. Thanks to our staff and volunteers from university groups, it wasn't hard to find people even during the summer. In total, 150 participants were involved in the trainings.

Methodology:

The concept of conducting local trainings was established during the capacity building sessions held in Berlin and Porto. Romanian delegates briefly deliberated on the execution of such trainings in Romania. However, due to the ongoing exam period, earlier implementation was not feasible. As a result, considering the participants' availability, all the training sessions were scheduled for the summer period.

The training employed a comprehensive and interactive methodology that fostered active engagement, critical thinking, and practical skill development among participants. A combination of diverse approaches was used to ensure a dynamic and effective learning experience: Interactive workshops, case studies, group workshops, reflection and Sharing, feedback and evaluation

Training results:

During the trainings, key objectives were successfully achieved: participants became more aware of the negative impact of disinformation on society and democracy, gained a deeper understanding of the online information landscape and content creation processes, were introduced to tactics of deception and manipulation prevalent on social media platforms, developed essential media literacy skills and the ability to fact-check, and benefitted from practical insights shared by young media professionals on effectively countering fake news. The trainings highlights included interactive discussions on the consequences of disinformation, case studies showcasing its tangible effects, insights into algorithms shaping online content, group exercises for critical analysis of news articles, exposure to real-life examples of manipulation techniques, and hands-on practice in identifying manipulated content.

The trainings garnered overwhelmingly positive participant feedback, underscoring its engaging structure catering to diverse backgrounds, utilization of practical activities and real-world examples to simplify complex concepts, inspiration drawn from the experiences of young media professionals for a pragmatic approach to combating disinformation, and heightened awareness regarding the necessity of critical thinking and fact-checking in the consumption of online information. In conclusion, training effectively accomplished its aims, enlightening participants about the ramifications of disinformation while equipping them with vital skills to navigate the digital information landscape astutely, thus enabling them to advocate for accurate and dependable information in society. Participants have filled out an EU survey in order to give their feedback and evaluation of their involvement in training activities.

Furthermore, a comprehensive **needs assessment** and the current situation in Romania has been conducted. The report focuses on the requirements of diverse target groups concerning media literacy education and their readiness to counter disinformation threats. This assessment encompassed an online survey conducted among these target groups, interviews with stakeholders, and thorough desk research on the existing educational curriculum. The needs assessments **highlight important findings** about young people in Romania and fake news:

- Many are concerned about fake news but lack skills to spot or combat it.

- Few have formal media literacy training.

- Social media is their main news source, making them vulnerable to fake news.

- They want reliable information sources and media transparency.

- Solutions include better media literacy education and media regulation. Recommendations: Add media literacy to school curricula, train educators, and support media professionals.

- Promote critical thinking and fact-checking through public campaigns to help combat fake news.

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	01.04.2022	Initial version (new MFF).