

“DEBATING THE FUTURE OF EUROPE AND CHALLENGING EUROSCEPTICISM: A JOURNEY INTO MEDIA LITERACY TO FIGHT EUROSCEPTIC NARRATIVES”

612741-CITIZ-1-2019-1-BE-CITIZ-NT

EU DEFENCE NETWORK Handbook

A. Project abstract

Our EU open democratic societies depend on the ability of citizens to access a variety of verifiable information so that they can form a view on different political issues. In this way, citizens can participate in an informed way in public debates and express their will through free and fair political processes. These democratic processes are increasingly challenged by deliberate, large-scale, and systematic spreading of disinformation.

Euroscepticism has moved towards mainstream political and popular culture. Eurosceptic movement gain more traction on people with emotional and simplified rhetoric rather than the rational, complex and facts-based reasoning that we – civil society – tend to provide. Eurosceptic movement gain more public support, threatening the legitimacy and popularity of the European process of integration.

People with high levels of media literacy have a better understanding of the EU, adopt a position, make their own conclusions, discerns truth from fake news, not follow trends, and can have a better opinion and judgments on achievements of the EU and benefits. On the other hand, people with low levels of media literacy are vulnerable, affected, impressed, and have conflict facing Eurosceptic narratives.

To fight against these issues, EU Defence Network aims to find ways to promote good media literacy training practices. The main focus is the improvement of media literacy levels among young people through the development of a pool of media literacy experts working with youth in schools and in non-formal contexts.

Focusing on the detection and exposure of trending narratives, disinformation channels and disinformation techniques, the ambitious aim of this project is to try to channel criticism of the EU into positive driver for the European integration in the long run and to help the EU to come closer to its citizen and to increase their resilience.

EU Defence Network foresees the participation of 18 EU countries.

B. Work Programme

The project foresees five international events as follow :

- 1st Bruxelles (Belgium): Kick-off meeting
 - 2nd Bucharest (Romania): International training course
 - 3rd Budapest (Hungary): Strategies for Introducing Media literacy in the middle schools
 - 4th Sevlievo/Sofia (Bulgaria): Open debates, conference, laboratories
 - 5th Bruxelles (Belgium): Final Conference, presentation of results, twinning ceremony
-
- ✓ The project foresees 5 local activities related to international meeting with propaedeutic and subsequent function:
 - ✓ The "Desk Research": analysis of the state of art regarding the Member's State effort to counter the Euroscepticism (intended as a principled opposition to the EU integration) through media literacy.
 - ✓ The "Consultation on the Future of EU" where partners will act as multipliers of the EC initiative on the Future of EU involving citizens in the online consultation to express their concerns, hopes and expectations about the future of the EU.
 - ✓ "#EUandME local training course" phase: national training course in order to exploit the educational techniques aiming at dismantling Eurosceptic narratives.
 - ✓ Action plan to introduce Media literacy in middle school.
 - ✓ The project manual development.

C. Management

Each NGO partner receives the amount of € 150,00 to support email communication costs between the staff of the leader and the partners during the whole implementation of the project. This amount covers also the mandatory publication of the final report (info template) on the partners' official website.

D. Meeting Organization

The three hosting partners (Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary) receive € 200,00 as costs of meeting co-organization. This amount covers the costs for the activities needed for the co-organization of the 3-day international events. With regard of the accommodation and sustainability costs of all participants see letter E. of this handbook.

E. Travel costs

Each partner receives an amount of € 270,00 per participant to support travel costs (round trip from the venue of departure to the final destination (the name of the hotel will be indicated 2 months before each meeting)):

- Bruxelles (Belgium), kickoff meeting
- Bucharest (Romania), 2nd meeting
- Budapest (Hungary), 3rd meeting
 - Sofia (Bulgaria), 4th meeting
- Bruxelles (Belgium), final meeting

The travel costs overall amount can be managed autonomously. Expenses attributable to the participant's negligence or to particular needs will be charged to the participant. The number of representatives for each partner will be decided by the leader (the contractor) 2 months before each meeting. This decision will be taken on the basis of the type of activity foreseen by the project for each meeting. ***Two months before each meeting, the partner will be duly informed about the number of its representatives for which it is authorized to buy travel tickets. The number of participants initially assigned to each partner is 5. This number can be modified (increased or decreased) by the leader/contractor without prior consent of the partner and according to project and/or meeting needs.***

F. Project consortium / international participants

The project consortium consists of 20 partners (13 ONG and 7 municipalities) which represents 18 EU countries. At each meeting, the total number of international participants is 23 (except for kick-off meeting in Brussels where the international participants invited are 16). ***Two months before each meeting, every partner receives information about the number of participants to be sent by its organisation.***

G. Accommodation & sustainability

The leader (contractor) will support the accommodation and sustainability costs of all participants. These amounts cover full accommodation in hotel and meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner) for all the 5 international meetings. Accommodation will be in double room, 4**** hotels in the cities above indicated.

H. Outputs development

The partners with expertise in the field will be involved in specific activities aimed to produce the project outputs.

1. *Desk research* (November 2019 - January 2020): all partners will prepare a short research (2 word pages) showing what the involved countries are doing in order to fight Euroscepticism (intended as an opposition to the EU integration) through media literacy. A template will be provided.
2. *Contribution to project manual Development*: the project foreseen the realization of the project Manual based on the results of the project activities. The partners in charge, will co-develop the project manual, resuming identified good practices to dismantle and replace Eurosceptic narratives. A template will be provided.
3. As dissemination leader, ABF will elaborate a Dissemination & Exploitation Strategy (D&E strategy) which will be presented to the international meeting to collect feedback for its finalization. The D&E strategy will point appropriate dissemination channels to be used, as well as activities to be performed at local, regional, national and European level. *The NGO partners will participate in the dissemination activities sharing photos of project events/activities on their FB page / website.*

I. Organisation and development of the training course.

The partner in charge, will implement a training course (March 2020), using formal and non-formal learning activities to transfer to young people a certain knowledge of media literacy to increase the capacity to dismantle and replace Eurosceptic narratives with new ones, starting from understanding EU achievements. The partner will provide logistic organisation as well as content development and skills transferability.

J. Dissemination and exploitation plan

The partner in charge, will implement the dissemination plan. The contractor (leader) takes responsibility of all the costs foreseen for this task. See letter H point 3 of this handbook.

K. International Meetings

Date	Venue
(17) 28-29–(20) February 2020	Bruxelles (Belgium)
(8) 9-10-11-(12) March 2020	Bucarest (Romania)
(8) 9-10-(11) June 2020	Budapest (Hungary)
(12) 13-14-(15) October 2020	Sofia (Sevlievo) - Bulgaria
(22) 23-24-(25) February 2021	Bruxelles - Belgium

* *in red arrival and departure dates*

L. Payments

Following the signature of partners' agreement with each partner, the contractor will wire a pre-financing amount of 60% based on the total amount of each partner's budget (including travel costs) to support the travel and activities costs. The balance of 40% will be paid at the end of the project, after the payment of the balance by the Executive Agency (EACEA): 30/06/2021 at latest.