

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Participant:	VIESOJI ISTAIGA "NEPRIKLAUSOMU KUREJU GILDIJA" (NKG)
PIC number:	PIC 903730280
Project name and acronym:	EACEA CERV-2022-CITIZENS-CIV MEDIAWISE

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	WP5
Event name:	High level experts meeting /Lithuania/
Type:	Conference
In situ/online:	in-sit
Location:	Lithuania, Kaunas
Date(s):	20/09/2023
Website(s) (if any):	https://www.mediawise-project.eu/
Participants	
Female:	19
Male:	16
Non-binary:	0
From country 1 LIHUANIA	35
From country 2	
From country 3	
...	
Total number of participants:	35
From total number of countries:	1
Description	
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>	
Introduction	
<p>The meeting of Lithuanian experts at the highest level convened on September 20, 2023 in the city of Kaunas, Lithuania. Kaunas, as the second-largest city in Lithuania, boasts a vibrant academic community due to its numerous higher education institutions, which played a crucial role in hosting this gathering. The Kaunas House of Journalists was selected as the venue for this significant event, as it belongs to an associated organization of journalists, uniting approximately 150 professionals from various media outlets, including TV, portals, newspapers, and radio companies.</p>	

Participants:

The conference witnessed the participation of an array of experts carefully curated by the organizers from the Independent Creators' Guild (NKG). Attendees included:

- Journalists representing both regional and national media, as well as freelancers.
- Academics specializing in communication, political science, and law.
- Representatives from institutions associated with media regulation, such as the Inspector of Ethics of Journalists and Lithuanian members of the radio and television commission.
- Representatives from other associations vital to the information landscape, including the Public Information Ethics Association, Regional Television Association, and Lithuanian Media Association in National Languages.
- Scientists, researchers, and representatives of organizations actively engaged in anti-disinformation projects, including debunk.org.
- Specialists from the Ministry of National Defence, particularly from the Strategic Communication Department, established in 2011 to analyse and combat propaganda, with an ongoing focus on strengthening societal resilience against hostile informational influences.
- Representatives from paramilitary organizations, including members of the Riflemen's Union.
- Notably, Military historian Valdas Rakutis, a member of the Seimas National Security and Defense Committee, also contributed to the discussions.

Moderator:

Dainius Radzevičius, Chairman of the Lithuanian Union of Journalists and leader of the largest journalists' association in Lithuania, presided over the conference.

Conference Structure:

The event comprised two integral components: expert presentations and a dynamic discussion platform.

Expert Speakers:

The distinguished speakers and their respective topics were as follows:

Laima Venclauskienė, Head of the disinformation analysis center www.debunk.org. She presented a study that meticulously assessed the cost and resource requirements associated with disinformation campaigns, sharing valuable insights and best practices.

Gražina Ramanauskaitė, Inspector of Ethics of Journalists, who elucidated legal challenges and shortcomings in existing legislative frameworks designed to combat disinformation.

Dr. Gintautas Mažeikis, Professor at Vytautas Magnus University (VDU), philosopher, and political analyst. Dr. Mažeikis offered a unique perspective by examining disinformation not merely as false information but also as a catalyst for emotions and instincts.

Dr. Rūta Klimašauskienė, A personnel management consultant, who delved into the varying communication and information perception tendencies among different generations. She highlighted the peculiarities of generational value attitudes, their compatibility, and inherent contradictions.

Dr. Mantas Martišius, Associate Professor at Vilnius University. Dr. Martišius emphasized the transformative potential of rapid technological advancements in journalism while also acknowledging the concurrent challenges to job stability, working conditions, and the preservation of quality journalism.

Dr. Audronė Nugaraitė, Professor at VDU, member of the Lithuanian Radio and Television Commission, and participant in the Media Council. Dr. Nugaraitė placed significant emphasis on the role of journalists in upholding professional standards and disseminating truth to the public.

Aušra Vaitkevičienė, Director of the Independent Creators' Guild (VšĮ "Neklausomų kūrėjų gildija" – NKG), elucidated the best practices employed in Lithuania to counter disinformation, drawing on research conducted by "Mediawise".

Daiva Grikšienė, The project manager of the Independent Creators' Guild (VšĮ "Neklausomų kūrėjų gildija" – NKG). She provided an overview of the prevailing disinformation landscape in Lithuania, underscoring the escalating challenges posed by fake news and propaganda to democratic societies.

Key Themes:

The experts explored various facets of the fight against disinformation, including international and national legal regulations governing media activities, media literacy

programs, the diverse needs of media audiences, human psychology, and the efficacy of state programs. Subsequently, the insights, discussions, and recommendations presented by the Lithuanian experts were synthesized into actionable conclusions.

Conclusion

The meeting of Lithuanian experts held in Kaunas was an invaluable gathering, fostering collaboration among professionals from diverse backgrounds to tackle the pressing issue of disinformation. The exchange of knowledge and expertise undoubtedly contributes to Lithuania's resilience against the challenges posed by misinformation and propaganda in today's information landscape.

AGENDA



Disinformation, Community, Media

Expert Meeting - National Event

Date: 20th September 2023

Location: V. Putvinskio str. 48, Kaunas, Lithuania

Event Moderator: Dainius Radzevičius, Chairman of the Lithuanian Journalists' Union

09.00 - 12.15 Presentations

"The Challenges of Contemporary Disinformation"

Presentation of the MEDIAWISE Project

Daiva Grikšienė, Project manager in "Nepriklausomų kūrėjų gildija" (NKG)

"Study: The Lithuanian Context and Practical Measures in the Fight Against Disinformation"

Presentation of Surveys Conducted by the MEDIAWISE Project

Aušra Vaitkevičienė, Director of the "Nepriklausomų kūrėjų gildija" (NKG)

"Debunking Disinformation – Best Practices and Challenges"

Laima Venclauskienė, Chief Analyst of the Disinformation Analysis Centre Debunk.org

"Legal Instruments in the Fight Against Disinformation: Restrictions, Bans, and ..."

Gražina Ramanauskaitė, Journalists' Ethics Inspector and VDU Researcher

"People's Expectations and the Propaganda Machine"

Dr. Gintautas Mažeikis, VDU Professor, Philosopher, Anthropologist

"Different Generations, Different Communication, and Information Perception: Is it Possible to Find Common Ground?"

Dr. Rūta Klimašauskienė, Human Resource Management Consultant

"Television Beyond Borders and National Boundaries: How to Cope with It"

Dr. Mantas Martišius, Vilnius University Associate Professor

"Ethical and Professional Journalism - Untapped Opportunities and Boundaries of Impact"

Dr. Audronė Nugaraitė, VDU Professor, Member of the Lithuanian Radio and Television Commission

12.15-13.00 Lunch

13.00-15.00 Discussion and Repository of Recommendations and Ideas Recommendations from Experts and Meeting Participants: Proposals, Discussion, and Debate