

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Participant:	CARDET CENTRE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT IN EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY LIMITED (CARDET)
PIC number:	999738552
Project name and acronym:	[An intergenerational active debate on how countering disinformation to empower citizens] — [MEDIWISE]

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	WP10		
Event name:	Fake News and Geopolitical dangers – Local event 1		
Type:	Workshop		
In situ/online:	in-situ		
Location:	Cyprus, Nicosia		
Date(s):	8th of June 2024		
Website(s) (if any):	https://www.mediawise-project.eu/		
Participants			
Female:	12		
Male:	16		
Non-binary:	0		
From country 1 [Cyprus]:	28		
...			
Total number of participants:	28	From total number of countries:	1
Description			
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>			
<p>CARDET held the Fake News Workshop on June 8, 2024, in Nicosia, Cyprus. Following an open invitation on media the workshop brought together a diverse and intergenerational group of participants, including university students, young people, older adults, and seniors. This workshop aimed to enhance media literacy and critical thinking skills among participants by addressing the critical issue of fake news. The workshop successfully met its objectives of constructive dialogue across age groups and promoting knowledge transfer. A total of 28 participants attended the workshop, 12 females and 16 males. The event began with a smooth registration process, welcoming the 28 participants, attendees were provided with informational materials and an agenda for the day, as well as the logistics.</p> <p>Nikolas Athinis, Project Manager of MediaWise, officially opened the workshop. He welcomed participants and provided an overview of MediaWise's mission and the day's agenda. His introduction</p>			

emphasized the importance of media literacy and the workshop's role in addressing fake news. This set a clear framework for the day's discussions and activities.

First session: Geopolitical and Fake News Landscape by Dr. Constantinos Adamides

Dr. Constantinos Adamides, an Associate Professor of International Relations and Director of the Diplomatic Academy of the University of Nicosia, delivered a presentation on the geopolitical landscape and the dangers of fake news. He explained the basic definitions and concepts, discussed the current situation in Cyprus and globally, and provided recent examples of fake news. His session highlighted the dangers of misinformation and its impact on society, laying a strong foundation for further discussion with the participants. Specific examples given were about the recent Zelensky Casino hoax, the "new drug in schools" for Nigeria and Kenya and the Disney world drinking age. Participants engaged in a fruitful discussion and dialogue with the professor.

A brief break allowed participants to network and reflect on the morning's insights.

Interactive Session 1 with Kyriacos Stoupas

Trainer of non-formal methodology, Kyriacos Stoupas, led the first interactive session using non-formal activities. Participants engaged in a "*Choose a Side*" activity, where they discussed true and false statements about news items. This exercise was designed to help them identify fake news and understand their responsibility in spreading or debunking misinformation.

The session was highly interactive, challenging the critical thinking of the participants and promoting active participation. Statements given to the participants to agree on were as below:

- If we see an article on social media and we decide to share it and after we discover that it was fake news, that makes us equally responsible with the person who first published it.
- Everybody's lie.
- Approximately 30% of our memories are false
- We shouldn't trust our opinion since everyone holds unconscious beliefs about various social and identity groups (BIAS)
- We can never be 100% sure about a story if it's true.
- I can identify most of Fake News.
- I have officially reported at least once in my life Fake News (Either to the source or to the authorities).
- A fake news website can spread fake news faster than real news.
- If you spread fake news unintentionally, then it is not your fault.

Participants were then asked to write down in small teams of 4 on A1 paper examples of fake news they are aware of and how they could recognize them.

Interactive Session 2 with Victoria Michaelidou

Victoria Michaelidou conducted the second interactive session, focusing on the MILES project / initiative, which deals with educators from lower and upper secondary schools, who need to know more about tackling disinformation and fake news media literacy. She presented the initiative as a case study, explaining its approach to combatting fake news within the education area. Participants analyzed real-life scenarios and discussed strategies for identifying and responding to misinformation. This session worked on practical skills and deepened participants' understanding of media literacy.

Open Discussion Session

An open discussion session followed, providing a platform for participants to share their specific needs, ideas, and recommendations. This session was crucial for gathering diverse perspectives and fostering a collaborative environment. Participants discussed the challenges of spreading fake news and proposed solutions tailored to different age groups and media literacy levels.

Conclusions

The workshop concluded with a summary of the key takeaways. Participants reflected on what they had learned and discussed how they could apply these insights in their daily lives. Nikolas Athinis thanked everyone for their participation and emphasized the ongoing importance of media literacy efforts.

Key Outcomes and Recommendations

- **Intergenerational Learning:** The workshop effectively facilitated intergenerational dialogue, with younger and older participants sharing their perspectives and learning from each other.
- **Enhanced Critical Thinking:** Through interactive sessions, participants improved their ability to critically analyze news and identify fake news.
- **Practical Skills:** Participants gained hands-on experience with fact-checking and media literacy strategies, which they can apply in their daily lives.
- **Community Engagement:** The open discussion session highlighted the community's specific needs and ideas, providing valuable insights for future initiatives.

Topics Discussed

The workshop touched on various projects, actions, and campaigns aimed at increasing critical thinking and awareness about fake news. A key focus was the discussion of sensitive topics, such as the geopolitical current situation, migrants and LGBTQ+ issues, in the media. Participants analyzed how these topics are spread online and learned about the creation of news and misinformation.

Conclusion

The Fake News Workshop in Nicosia was a successful and impactful event that met its objectives of promoting media literacy and critical thinking across different age groups. The event hosted an environment of learning and collaboration, equipping participants with the tools needed to navigate the complex media landscape. The insights and recommendations gathered will inform future efforts to combat fake news and support informed, critical engagement with media.



Local events in Cyprus

08.06.2024	LOCAL EVENT in Nicosia, Cyprus
Audience	Target groups: university students, young people, older adults, seniors.
AGENDA	
09:30–10:00	Registration
10:00–10:30	Introduction by the Project Manager of MediaWise Nikolas Athinis - Welcoming; - About MEDIWISE/event; - Structure of the event.
10:30–11:30	Geopolitical and fake news landscape by Dr. Constantinos Adamides - Associate Professor of International Relations and Director of the Diplomatic Academy of the University of Nicosia - Basic definitions; - Current situation in Cyprus and global - Recent examples of fake news and its dangers
11:30–11:45	Break
11:45–12:45	Interactive session 1 through non formal activities by the trainer Kyriacos Stoupas - Choose a side: (True / False Statements with small discussion) - How to identify fake news - Our responsibility on Fake News
12:45 – 13:45	Interactive session 2 by Victoria Michaelidou, - The case study of the MILES initiative
13:45-14:15	Open discussion session - Specific needs and ideas; - Recommendations;
14:15 – 14:45	Conclusions



