

Anti-Rumour Project Newsletter

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Welcome

The Anti-Rumour project was coordinated thanks to the organized efforts of four different European associations, all belonging to different countries: Stiftung Digitale Chancen from Germany, Dramblys from Spain, Citizens In Power from Cyprus and Challedu from Greece.

Hosted within the Erasmus+ program funded projects, Anti-Rumour was born with a clear goal and vision: to increase digital literacy among youth workers and young generations to be able to effectively fight the damaging effects of the spread of fake-news, conspiracy theories and misinformation.



This is a topic that now, more than ever, is crucial for the entire society, but specifically for the younger generations, who face extensive daily exposure to social media channels and digital platforms.



From a very young age, children and teenagers are exposed to both the good and bad sides of social media, and its effects on their development is still new to sociologists, doctors and even the rest of society!

Gen Zs (born between 1997 and 2012) have been the first generation to change the existing paradigm, becoming digital natives thanks to having been born and raised between laptops, the first mobile phones, and a steadily available Internet connection, but its effect on their upbringing and development are yet to be fully discovered.

While the digital world can help young people develop valuable skills like spatial reasoning, communication skills or even some basic notions of cybersecurity, the downsides of Internet usage must also be acknowledged: social media platforms are more often than not, a great resource of distractions, even getting to the point of addiction in some cases, and studies even suggest that the excessive use of digital media technologies can significantly reduce the attention span of children from an average of 12 seconds down to even 8 seconds on some cases, crashing young teens' ability to focus on anything their brains regard as less exciting or engaging.

The rise of short form content with TikTok as its main driving force, introduces a brand new way of both producing and consuming information in a fast and easy way. Moreover, thanks to cutting-edge technology like AI (Artificial Intelligence) and algorithms, videos from anyone anywhere can go viral within hours and reach millions of views.

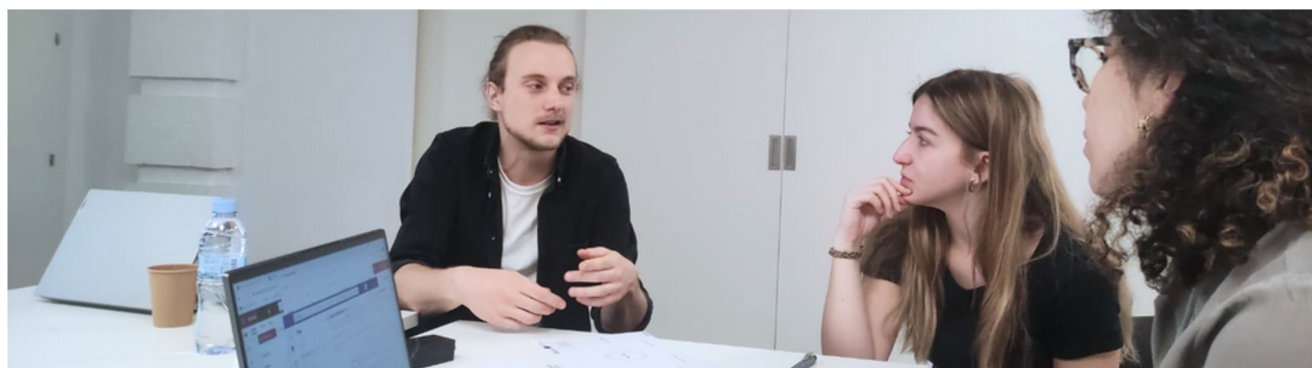
This technology and ease of sharing ensures that user's opinions, experiences and thoughts can be posted freely and shared instantly with the world, but it's important to acknowledge that **this will be done regardless of how true, false or dismissive the posted content might be.**

Young people are known to spend a good fraction of their day scrolling through social media, and they are especially vulnerable to fake news and misinformation, easily found online making them an easy target for conspiracy theorists and rumor spreaders!

The Anti-Rumour project is born as a reaction to the urgent need for a reliable and trusted resource where to learn about digital literacy, digital channels, and how to check the quality of content in them.

The Anti-Rumour Guidebook: "Fake News, Conspiracy Theories & How to Spot Them"

Orchestrated efforts by all four associations around the planning, execution and development of this new project, have made possible the launch of the first project result: "The Anti-Rumour Guidebook: Fake News, Conspiracy Theories and How to Spot Them". This guidebook, **focused on giving both theoretical and practical advice to youth workers and young people, takes the reader into a journey in which to discover all about rumours and conspiracy theories:** from its history and origin, to the best ways of identifying deceiving information through innovative practices that users can put into practice on the spot!



Any questions? We answer!

How can I download the guidebook?

The guidebook is available in our website <https://anti-rumour.eu/> and it's possible to read it in English, Spanish, German and Greek.

How can I use it?

No matter if you're a youth worker, a young social media user or even a more advanced tech freak, you will find practical and easy-to-use resources that will help you ensure an optimal digital experience when consuming and producing online content.

What if I'm a teacher or youth worker?

We got you covered! We have dedicated a special chapter in our guidebook with information and resources that will be applicable in and out of the classroom. Thanks to our innovative and pedagogical approach, we help you implement these ideas through game-based learning to benefit you and your students!

Coming up...

The Anti-Rumour team is currently working on the second project result: **"The Anti-Rumour Toolkit"**, in which users will be able to find a great variety of fact-checking resources from each associated country.

This **toolkit will provide all the necessary information to be able to develop critical thinking at the same time that users understand the basis in which these resources can be optimally used, to be able to benefit from their use on a day-to-day basis.**

For optimal execution of the Anti-Rumour project, an international meeting was hosted by the partner organization Dramblys in Albacete, Spain. This meeting resulted in very fruitful ideas, concepts to implement in the near future, and brainstorming sessions.



If you'd like to know more about the evolution of the Anti-Rumour project and its outcomes and results, stay tuned to our webpage <https://anti-rumour.eu/> and don't forget to follow us on social media!



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Germany



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Spain



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Greece



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Cyprus



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