

Project title: Development and implementation of AI education methods and digital tools supporting tackling disinformation (Infotester4Education).

Project number: 2023-2-PL01-KA220-HED-000180856 (Erasmus+ Cooperation Partnership LS 2021-2027)

INTERNATIONAL INFOTESTER4EDUCATION TRAINING EVENT at TAMK, FINLAND 3-7.06.2024

Event Title: Development and implementation of AI education methods and digital tools supporting tackling disinformation and course formulation.

Coverage: Integrated methodology, practicalities, and education on the application of tackling disinformation.

Participants: Science4People (coordinating organization), Veliko Turnovo University ST Cyril and Methodius, Polsko Japonska Akademia Technik Komputerowych Pjwstk, Anoikto Panepistimio Kyprou (Open University of Cyprus), Tampere University of Applied Sciences (host organization)

Objectives:

- 1) The theory and practice of how to combat and verify the credibility of disinformation and how to develop education about it.
- 2) The basics of detecting and countering disinformation (methodology and practicalities)
- 3) Educational course design
- 4) Starting to develop the course structure based on interviews (students, teachers, experts) and organizational needs
- 5) Finding common examples of tackling disinformation in the participants' contexts.

Event report 11.06.2024 // Juha Tuominen - Tampere University of Applied Sciences

PHOTOREPORT

Program of the international training event in Finland, date 3-7.06.2024

C1 at Tampere 3.6.-7.6.2024					
<p>Pre-tasks:</p> <p>1) Read through the disinformation research methodology developed by the Polish-Japanese Academy of Information Technology. The methodology is available here: https://medium.com/crossingdomains/infotesterresearching-disinformation-methodology-report-c4596f774ce0.</p> <p>2) Review the document (Researching Disinformation Methodology and Annotation Guidelines, sent by Mateusz, 270524) which describes the entire methodology step by step (the document will be updated after Tampere training).</p> <p>3) Prepare to share some thoughts about the disinformation research methodology and how to verify the credibility of information in your organization.</p> <p>4) Optional reading (sent by Adam 270424) - The article: Promoting prevention to fake news through an educational software. The article concerns an educational tool (in our case, it will be an online course with an AI teacher) for inoculating students against disinformation. The article is available here: https://journals-sol.sbc.org.br/index.php/isis/article/view/3769</p>					
	Monday 3.6.	Tuesday 4.6.	Wednesday 5.6.	Thursday 6.6.	Friday 7.6.
	Interviews and Course (WP2)	Training (WP3)	Training (WP3)	Structure of the Course (WP2)	Summary
Morning	<p>10:00-12:00</p> <p>Arriving Varala</p> <p>Bus number 10 runs from the centre of town https://www.nysse.fi/en/</p> <p>Varala, Takkahuone B (https://varala.fi/en/) https://g.co/kgs/XsdezD7</p>	<p>9:30-12:00</p> <p>Getting to know each other and going through the pre-task (PJAIT - All participants)</p> <p>Training about the methodology of verifying the credibility of information - PJAIT</p> <p><i>Understanding disinformation</i> - definitions, recognition, disarming (student attendance mandatory) [coffee break in between]</p> <p>TAMK, C4-10ab (http://tamk.fi/en)</p>	<p>9:30-12:00</p> <p>Training about the methodology of verifying the credibility of information - PJAIT</p> <p><i>Methodology</i> - platform and application (student attendance mandatory) [coffee break in between]</p> <p>TAMK, C4-10ab (http://tamk.fi/en)</p>	<p>9:30-10:30</p> <p>Methodology and the course - PJAIT, VTU</p> <p>Coffee break</p> <p>11:00-12:00</p> <p>Structure of the course how to verify the credibility of information - VTU</p> <p>TAMK, C4-10ab (http://tamk.fi/en)</p>	<p>9:30-10:30</p> <p>Structure of the course how to verify the credibility of information, summary - S4P</p> <p>Work division, chapters, and deadlines - S4P</p> <p>Coffee break</p> <p>11:00-13:00</p> <p>Methodology of verifying the credibility of information - S4P</p> <p>Creating local teams, indicators, and deadlines - S4P</p> <p>Work to be done - S4P</p> <p>TAMK, C4-10ab (http://tamk.fi/en)</p>
Lunchtime	12:00-13:00 Lunch	12:00-13:00 Lunch	12:00-13:00 Lunch	12:00-13:00 Lunch	13:00-14:00 Lunch & Coffee
Afternoon	<p>13:00-14:30</p> <p>Introduction & week agenda - TAMK, S4P</p> <p>WP2 - Course development - VTU</p> <p>In-depth interviews with representatives of target groups - results - VTU, all Partners</p> <p>Coffee break</p> <p>15:00-16:00</p> <p>Structuring new course - the vision - VTU, all Partners</p> <p>Wrap up of day 1 - S4P</p> <p>Varala, Takkahuone B</p>	<p>13:00-14:30</p> <p>Training about the methodology of verifying the credibility of information - PJAIT</p> <p><i>Practical exercises through inoculation</i> - Bad News Game, Go Viral (student attendance mandatory)</p> <p>Coffee break</p> <p>15:00-16:00</p> <p>Training about the methodology of verifying the credibility of information - PJAIT</p> <p><i>Work plan, breakdown of topics, milestones</i></p> <p>TAMK, C4-10ab</p>	<p>13:00-14:30</p> <p>Training about the methodology of verifying the credibility of information - PJAIT</p> <p><i>Working on the platform</i> - practical tasks (student attendance mandatory)</p> <p>Coffee break</p> <p>15:00-16:00</p> <p>Training about the methodology of verifying the credibility of information - PJAIT</p> <p><i>Analysis</i> of the practical task - discussion and conclusions (student attendance mandatory)</p> <p>TAMK, C4-10ab</p>	<p>13:00-14:30</p> <p>Integration of Disinformation Detection Service for AISupported Education into the course - S4P</p> <p>Coffee break</p> <p>15:00-16:00</p> <p>Intensive programme for higher education learners/staff - OUC</p> <p>Dissemination activities - TAMK</p> <p>TAMK, C4-10ab</p>	<p>14:00-16:00</p> <p>Farewell & Departure TAMK</p>
Evening	16:00-20:00 Sauna evening and Dinner Varala, Takkahuone B				
Objectives for the week:					
<p>To kick off the I4E (Infotester4Education) Development and implementation of AI education methods and digital tools supporting tackling disinformation and course formulation, consisting of following elements:</p>					
1) Team building					
2) The theory and practise of how to tackling and verifying credibility of disinformation and develop education of such					
3) The grounds of detecting and tackling disinformation (methodology and practicalities)					
4) Educational course design					
5) Starting to develop the course structure based in interviews (students, teachers, experts) and organizational needs					
6) Coming up with shared examples of tackling disinformation in the participants' contexts					
<p>The expected result of the training week in Tampere is that at least one individual (coordinators) from each partnerorganization and groups of 5-7 students from 4 universities will have the skills and knowledge to verify the credibility of information, as well as the ability to serve as local coordinators of the project teams.</p>					

PHOTOREPORT

The consortium of the project conducted the international training event Infotester4Education, which included the development of an integrated methodology, practice, and education on the application of combating disinformation. The event was held at TAMK, in Tampere, Finland, 3-7 June 2024.

June 3, 2024

On the 3rd of June, the INFOTESTER4EDUCATION project consortium presented WP2 - results of international in-depth interviews conducted by VTU as a basis for the development of a course supporting the development of a methodology to combat disinformation.

The analysis of the interviews was presented by VTU and gave great insights into the needs (of students, teachers, and experts) for the development of disinformation detection education, the desired tools and the development of current methods used for this purpose. Based on the data and its analysis, the consortium started structuring the new course - starting with the vision of its learning objectives and topics.



Illustration: Presentation of results and analysis of in-depth interviews for course development in the INFOTESTER4EDUCATION project. (Varala, Takkahuone B, Tampere, Finland - Photo: Eeva Heikkilä)

June 04, 2024

On 4 June, the INFOTESTER4EDUCATION training continued with an introduction to the methodology of verifying the credibility of information, led by PJAIT. The training (hybrid: online and presence) was attended by international HEI students from each institute, who actively participated in the training together with teachers and experts. The main content of the training day was the theory and practice of how to tackle and verify the credibility of disinformation. It also focused on how to identify and combat disinformation (methodology and practice).

The results of the interviews presented the day before highlighted the need to develop methodology, tools, and training to increase awareness, skills and credibility for the process of verifying the credibility of information. And in training, the focus was adjusted with the identified needs, developing understanding of disinformation - definitions, recognition, and disarming, adding steps for practical exercises through inoculation - Bad News Game, Go Viral. At the end of the day, the consortium set up a work plan, a breakdown of topics and milestones, led by S4P.



Illustration: Training on the introduction of the methodology for verifying the credibility of information in the INFOTESTER4EDUCATION project. (TAMK, Tampere, Finland - Photo: Eeva Heikkilä)

June 5, 2024

On the 5th of June, the training day focused on deepening the understanding of the methodology - platform and application, led by PJAiT. Later in the afternoon, learners started to work on the platform - practical task and its analysis - ending with discussion and conclusions.

In the workshop, learners familiarized themselves with articles on pre-selected topics and, using the platform, practiced how to detect and analyze information in order to teach the platform's algorithms to detect and classify reliable and disinformation. The training was eye-opening and engaging for the learners, making the learning experience meaningful and positive (see positive testimonials below).

"I improved my theoretical and practical knowledge about disinformation."

"Great management of time, explaining of the objectives, very interesting training."

"It is good that the first day is more theoretical and second day is more practical."

"I'm extremely grateful to have participated in this training. It was very interesting, as I have encountered such problems in my daily life. I hope there are more such useful trainings."

Disinformation topics

1. Anti-Europeanism and anti-Atlanticism (anti-EU, anti-NATO)
2. Anti-migration and xenophobia
3. Climate change and the energy crisis
4. Health (including COVID-19 and vaccines)
5. Ukraine war and refugees
6. Institutional distrust (public institutions)
7. Gender-based disinformation
8. Disinformation about LGBTQIA+

Illustration: Introduction of topics for verifying the credibility of information in short-term training of the INFOTESTER4EDUCATION project. (TAMK, Tampere, Finland - Photo: Pertti Näränen)

June 6, 2024

On 6 June 2024, the short training meeting focused on the connection between a methodology and a course design. The meeting focused on the introduction of a course structure on how to verify the credibility of information, led by PJAIT and VTU, followed by the integration of the Disinformation Detection Service for AI-Supported Education into the course, led by S4P.

At the end of the meeting day, there was a discussion on how to design an intensive programme for higher education students/staff based on the outcome of the meeting, led by OUC, and what to expect from the dissemination activities and their timelines, led by TAMK.

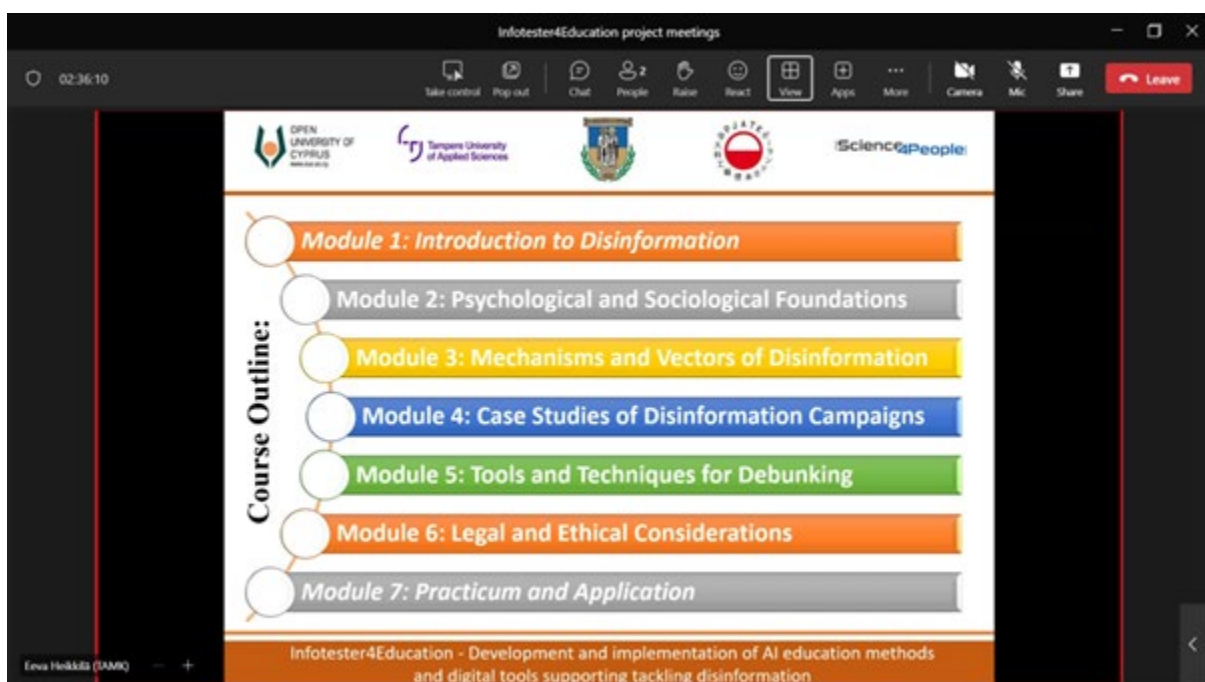


Illustration: Presentation of a structure of a course on how to verify the credibility of information from the INFOTESTER4EDUCATION project. (TAMK, Tampere Finland - Photo: Screenshot of the presentation)

June 7, 2024

On 7 June 2024, the last day of the short-term training, the results of the week, further steps (work to be done), milestones, responsibilities (division of work) and schedules (deadlines) were summarized under the leadership of S4P.

The most important steps for the future are to finalize the structuring of the course on how to verify the credibility of information and its chapters, to use a methodology for verifying the credibility of information, to ensure support for the local teams in their work, to focus on indicators and deadlines. In addition to these activities, the consortium members are developing dissemination activity plans to be introduced and linked to the project template and reporting system in the September meeting.

At the end of the productive training week, the participants took a farewell project team photo.



Illustration: Project partners in a group photo after the short training of the INFOTESTER4EDUCATION project. (TAMK, Tampere, Finland - Photo: n.n.)