EMBRACE TECHNOLOGY



ENGAGE AS AN ACTIVE CITIZEN *Project # 2024-1-DE04-KA154-Y0U-000238751* **Practical Post-project Guide**





ABOUT THIS PROJECT

This guide was born during the Erasmus+ Youth Event "Embrace Technology, Engage as an Active Citizen," held from 11–17 May 2025 in Karlstein bei Regenstauf, Germany.

Hosted in a quiet Bavarian village surrounded by nature, the programme brought together 40 young participants and facilitators from Romania, Türkiye, Hungary, and Germany.

The aim? To explore digital media literacy, co-create learning tools, and strengthen youth voices in online spaces — all while fostering intercultural dialogue and peer-led education.

The event combined creative workshops, real-time digital experiments, social media simulations, and powerful reflection moments. Each chapter of this guide reflects one step of that collaborative journey.

The project was co-funded by the European Union through the Erasmus+ Programme. It was facilitated by Phoenix Knowledge Wings gGmbH in partnership with committed NGOs and youth organisations from all five participating countries.

• What started as a week in the woods became a platform for change. And this guide is just the beginning.

DISCLAIMER

This guide was developed during the Erasmus+ Youth Event "Embrace Technology, Engage as an Active Citizen" (May 2025) as a co-creative educational tool by young participants from Romania, Türkiye, Hungary, and Germany.

All content, quotes, and experiences reflect the shared learning and creative output of the group and are intended solely for educational, non-commercial use.

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Please feel free to adapt and share this guide, citing the project when appropriate. Erasmus+ encourages open learning and peer-to-peer education — and we hope this guide inspires your own journey into digital media literacy.

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Youth Event Agenda

| Date | Time | Session / Topic | Post-event comment |
|------------------|---------|--|---|
| 11 May (Arrival) | All day | Arrival of participants, check- in, room allocation, and informal welcome at the youth centre. | The fresh forest air was the perfect start. Everyone bonded over snacks in the hallway. |





| Date | Time | Session / Topic | Post-event comment |
|--------|-------------|---|---|
| 12 May | 09:30-10:15 | Opening circle: welcome by organisers, icebreakers, and setting expectations using emoji cards. | Emoji cards turned into a guessing game – hilarity ensured when someone picked 'confused owl'. |
| 12 May | 10:30-12:00 | Introduction to Erasmus+ and Youth Events – understanding programme values, key terms, and learning goals. | Several had never heard of Erasmus+ before – now they want to organise their own youth events! |
| 12 May | 14:00-15:30 | Workshop: What is media literacy? Interactive presentation with memes and viral videos. | Laughter echoed when one meme turned out to be a shampoo ad from 2009. |
| 12 May | 16:00-17:30 | Team challenge: Build a media timeline with news items from your country. Gallery walk to close. | The gallery sparked intense debates about media bias in participants' home countries. |
| 13 May | 09:30-11:00 | Fact-checking lab: Real-life viral examples, online tools demo (Snopes, InVID, Google Images). | One participant fact-checked a rumour they had believed for months — jaws dropped. |
| 13 May | 11:30-13:00 | Bias Detector workshop: Analysing articles with highlighters, | A fake article about 'teens eating magnets' got 'arrested' with fake |





| Date | Time | Session / Topic | Post-event comment |
|--------|-------------|--|---|
| | | creating mock 'press watchdogs'. | press tickets. A highlight. |
| 13 May | 15:00-17:00 | Fact-Check Olympics: timed team contest to debunk viral stories. Flipcharts became detective hats. | Teams yelled 'Objection!' like lawyers — hilarious and effective learning. |
| 14 May | 10:00-12:30 | Becoming creators: how young people shape the narrative. Youth- led examples and group brainstorm. | A group used forest sounds as their campaign soundtrack — surprisingly powerful. |
| 14 May | 15:00-17:00 | Creative lab: 'Create to Change' micro-campaign challenge with Canva, Instagram Reels, and poetry. | One poem made everyone silent — and then applauding. The TikTok skits? Chaotic brilliance. |
| 15 May | 10:00-12:30 | Digital rights carousel: GDPR memes, case studies, and a quiz walk around the room. | GDPR bingo cards were unexpectedly competitive. Who knew data protection could be funny? |
| 15 May | 15:00-17:00 | Mindful tech use: silent reflection walk, group drawing on healthy digital habits. | People sat in silence, then filled the flipchart with soft pastel doodles about balance. |
| 16 May | 10:00-12:30 | Collaborative storytelling: co- creating youth voice posts using | A post about online hate got over 20 comments in |





| Date | Time | Session / Topic | Post-event comment |
|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| | | real quotes and | minutes — real |
| | | shared narratives. | impact. |
| 16 May | 15:00-17:00 | Media for | Elevator pitches |
| | | change: Advocacy | turned theatrical. |
| | diner State and | mapping, elevator | Someone even |
| | | pitch competition | used a banana as a |
| | | with peer voting. | microphone. |
| 17 May (Departure) | Morning | 🦂 Final breakfast, | Goodbye circle and |
| | | group photo shoot, | the Avatars' session |
| | | open mic for | lasted an hour. No |
| | | reflections and | one wanted to |
| | | goodbye circle. | leave. Many hugs, |
| | | | some tears. |











SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION & PURPOSE OF THE GUIDE

• Created by participants of the Erasmus+ Youth Event: "Embrace Technology, Engage as an

Active Citizen" 📰 11–17 May 2025

Karlstein bei Regenstauf, Germany



When we first arrived at Karlstein bei Regenstauf, tucked away in the quiet Bavarian countryside, many of us weren't quite sure what to expect. Far from bustling cities, trendy cafes, and busy shopping streets, this tranquil village promised something entirely different—peaceful solitude and an atmosphere perfect for deep learning and meaningful connections. Surrounded by dense forests, winding paths, and whispering streams, our isolated location quickly became our secret ingredient for success.





Instead of distractions, we found inspiration in the quiet. Conversations flowed effortlessly on our evening walks, and friendships blossomed faster without the interruptions of city life. Surprisingly, even Wi-Fi cooperated, ensuring we stayed digitally connected while remaining blissfully detached from the noise of everyday life.

We couldn't walk to a café, so we created one—complete with instant coffee, shared playlists, endless meme exchanges, and late-night storytelling." — Nur Sena, Türkiye

Our youth centre was charming and cosy, perfect for both energetic brainstorming sessions and reflective moments under star-filled skies. Even wildlife seemed curious about our activities—foxes occasionally made guest appearances, peeking into our evening debriefings, sparking laughter and excitement every time. Not everything went according to plan—our trusty projector decided to retire on day two, leading to what we lovingly termed the 'Great Projector Crisis of 2025.' But instead of panic, creativity took over. With quick thinking, teamwork, and a little improvisation, we transformed a smartphone torch and a borrowed Bluetooth speaker into our makeshift presentation setup, turning what could have been frustrating into one of our funniest memories.

Even the vending machine joined the rebellion once—it ate two euros and stubbornly refused to cooperate. But karma was on our side, as it dispensed three drinks when we returned later, a sweet compensation for our initial frustration."

Even the vending machine rebelled once and ate 2 euros — but gave us 3 drinks when we came back later."

SECTION 2: WHAT IS MEDIA LITERACY & WHY IT MATTERS

Media literacy isn't just about spotting fake news — it's about navigating a world shaped by information.





We kicked off the week with an energetic round of 'media literacy word associations' — and the first few answers said it all: "boring," "school subject," and even "homework." But by the end of our event, those words had been replaced by "power," "freedom," and yes — "fun."

One rainy morning (the only rainy one, thankfully), we gathered in socks and hoodies in the seminar room, coffee cups in hand, for an animated session on what it really means to be "media literate." For many of us growing up in a world of TikToks, YouTube rabbit holes, and AI filters, media is not just something we consume — it's the environment we live in.

 \bigcirc "We don't swim through water. We swim through media." — said one participant. And it stuck.

We explored the power, problems, and potential of media — not just through slides, but through memes, skits, and some seriously deep late-night debates. It wasn't long before we realised: if you can read media, you can rewrite your world.

What Is Media Literacy?





Media literacy is the ability to:

- Access different forms of media (news, social, video)
- Understand how they're made and who made them
- Critically evaluate their message and motive
- Create content in ethical and impactful ways

We approached this with more than bullet points. One group turned it into a roleplay where participants acted out the 'life of a rumour' — from a private message to a viral scandal. Another team used giant post-its to draw their favourite social platforms and map out the flow of influence: who posts, who shares, who benefits.

It turned out, some of us were already natural media critics without realising it — decoding headlines, questioning viral trends, spotting inconsistencies in influencer posts. Others admitted they never thought twice about what scrolled past them. This mix sparked powerful dialogues.

A particularly memorable moment? A spontaneous skit called "Breaking News: Banana Shortage in Bavaria," featuring Amos as a conspiracy theorist blaming squirrels. It had us all in stitches — but also taught us how easily silly news can sound real with the right tone, urgency, and shaky camera work.

It's not just about education — it's about empowerment, agency, and owning your digital space.

I thought media literacy was just schoolwork. But it's really about how you live online." — Gabriela, Romania

S Why It Matters

Media is not just entertainment — it's a battleground. From TikTok trends to viral conspiracy theories, the information we consume influences our emotions, our votes, our choices — even our friendships.

- 1. Fake news spreads six times faster than real news.
- 2. Young people are often the primary targets of manipulative content.
- 3. Algorithms decide what we see often without us realising it.





In one lively session titled "Truth, Trend or Trap?" we challenged each team to bring a viral story from their country. Phones lit up, videos played, and gasps echoed around the room.

One Romanian participant showed a TikTok that looked like a huge anti-government protest. The crowd, the banners, the chanting—it had all the signs of a movement. Except... it was a music video, staged in an abandoned factory. Everyone laughed, but also shivered a bit at how convincing it looked.

I shared something just like that last month... now I'm wondering if it was even real." — Nagy, Hungary

Another team brought a Turkish Instagram reel about "secret chemicals in supermarket apples" it turned out to be clickbait from a channel selling its own 'detox pills.' That sparked a heated discussion on influencer ethics.

Between the jokes and hot tea, we realised something big: being fooled isn't a weakness — it's normal. What matters is building the *skills* to stop, think, and investigate before we believe or share.

We agreed: media literacy isn't about becoming sceptics — it's about becoming curious.

Ҟ Workshop Tool: Bias Detector

This was no ordinary article analysis — it was a colour-coded showdown. We handed out printouts of a real news article riddled with subtle bias, misinformation techniques, and emotional language. Each group armed themselves with highlighters, sticky notes, and their sharpest critical thinking.

🔍 Task:

- Yellow for emotionally loaded words
- Red for unverified claims
- Blue for missing or biased sources

One group discovered the phrase, "Some experts say..." had no actual experts linked. The room erupted:

"It's like saying 'my friend's cousin's neighbour heard it' and calling it news." —Oszkár, Romania





Another group challenged the headline: "Shocking New Trend Among Teens" — which turned out to be a survey from 2016, cited as if it were breaking news. Cue collective gasps and sarcastic applause.

A mock "Bias Police" team even issued fake tickets for 'journalistic crimes,' taping them to the wall in our improvised newsroom corner. The results? Learning through laughter — and a lot of sharp eyes.

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- (**Duration:** 90 minutes
- **B** Group Size: 4–6 participants per team
- **Setting:** Indoor (ideal with tables, printouts, and colourful markers)
- Materials Needed:
 - Printouts of a real article (pre-selected with subtle bias)
 - Highlighters: Yellow, Red, Blue
 - Sticky notes
 - "Bias Police" badge cards (optional)





- A3 poster paper
- Fake "bias violation tickets"

K Learning Objectives:

- Identify bias and manipulation in written content
- Understand types of bias: emotional language, unverified claims, selective sourcing
- Encourage critical reading and group discussion
- Promote teamwork and media scepticism in a fun, low-pressure format

Step-by-Step Instructions

Step 1: Warm-Up (10 min)

Facilitator asks:

"Have you ever read something online and only later realised it was biased or misleading?" Let a few participants share quick examples from their social media experiences.

Optional Icebreaker:

"Headline Remix"

Each team rewrites the same news story in 2 tones:

- Sensational (clickbait)
- Balanced (fact-focused)

Read aloud and compare laughs vs logic.

Step 2: Article Analysis (30-40 min)

Distribute materials:

Each team receives the same news article, printed. It contains at least:

- Emotional wording
- Claims without sources





- Old data used deceptively
- Polarising tone

Colour code guide:

- Yellow = Emotionally loaded words (e.g. "disaster," "outraged," "shocking")
- Red = Unverified claims (e.g. "Experts say..." without names)
- Blue = Biased or missing sources
- Each team debates as they highlight, adding sticky notes with:
- "What's missing?"
- "Who benefits from this framing?"
- "Would I believe this at first glance?"

💪 Example sticky note:

"Cited 'shocking trend' – but it's a 2016 study. Misleading."

Step 3: Role Play "Bias Police" (15 min)

Form a fun "Bias Police" unit of 2–3 volunteers (or rotate). They visit each group and issue **Bias Violation Tickets** for:

- Clickbait headlines
- Unnamed sources
- Cherry-picked data
- Optional: Set up a "Wall of Violations" where tickets get posted.

Step 4: Team Gallery & Reflection (15–20 min)

Each team presents a quick summary:

- Top 3 bias indicators they found
- What they'd do to make the article more balanced





Display the articles, highlights, and tickets in a visual "Media Crime Scene."

Set "I'll never read 'Experts say' the same way again." — Amos, Germany

Optional Extension: Rewrite Time (15 min)

Let teams rewrite one paragraph of the article in neutral, evidence-based language. Compare tone and reader impact.

G Learning Outcomes

By the end of the session, participants will:

- Recognise how bias operates in mainstream media
- Feel more confident spotting manipulation
- Understand that bias can be subtle and still powerful
- Learn to discuss content, not just absorb it

🚭 How Algorithms Influence Us

We watched a short clip explaining how platforms use:

- Engagement-based algorithms,
- Targeted ads,
- Filter bubbles.
- Activity: "Echo Chamber Challenge"
 - Participants received simulated feeds based on different political views.
 - They role-played how they'd respond to the same event.

It was eye-opening to see how two people could see the same world so differently online." — Alper, Turkey.





Tools We Tried

- <u>Snopes.com</u> Fact-checking viral stories
- NewsGuard Rating news site credibility
- Media Bias Chart Understanding slants

🂪 Creative Outcome

Each group created an Instagram post explaining one principle of media literacy using:

- One image,
- Two facts,
- One catchy caption.

These were presented in a gallery walk and posted to the project board.

🛠 Mini Toolkit — SECTION 2: DIGITAL SELF-AWARENESS & ONLINE IDENTITY

What it gives young people:

Helps them reflect on how they're perceived online and who they really are behind the screen. Builds awareness of digital footprints and emotional impact.

🔧 Tools & Platforms:

Instagram profiles, WhatsApp bios, journaling apps, Mentimeter for live reflections.

o How to use it in practice:

Start a workshop by asking "Who am I online?" Let participants map their digital identity. Use group roleplay or "Instagram story swaps" to explore perception vs. reality.

Try this with your local youth group!

💪 Emoji Story Challenge

🕐 Time: 15–20 minutes

for Purpose: Break the ice and reflect on digital self-expression.





How:

Ask each participant to introduce themselves using only **6 emojis** that represent their personality, online habits, or interests.

Others must guess what they mean.

Reflect: Are emojis a universal language or easily misinterpreted?

SECTION 3: FACT-CHECKING SKILLS & DISINFORMATION DEFENCE



🔍 "Before you share it, double-check it." — Youth motto from our group challenge

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What Is Fact-Checking?





Fact-checking involves actively verifying information before believing or sharing it — a powerful shield against the wildfire of misinformation burning through our feeds. During the exchange, many of us admitted how easy it was to simply hit "share" without a second thought. But once we learned the tools and techniques of professional fact-checkers, it felt like gaining a superpower.

● "Fact-checking taught me to pause, think, and verify. It's like hitting pause in a fast-forward digital world." — Erva, Germany

To bring this idea to life, our facilitators introduced a bold challenge: see how many fake news stories we could find, analyse, and dismantle in one hour. Spoiler: it was more than you'd expect — and each one taught us something about how sneaky and believable disinformation can be.

Our Fact-Checking Toolbox

We didn't just talk about fact-checking — we *practised* it. Here's a snapshot of the tools we explored, tested, and loved:

| Tool Name | Purpose | Our Favourite Feature |
|-------------------------|--|--|
| Snopes | Checking rumours and urban legends | "What's New" section with trending stories |
| InVID Verification | Validating images and videos online | Reverse image and keyframe extraction |
| FactCheck.org | Reviewing political and viral statements | Clear, jargon-free summaries |
| Google Reverse Image | Checking image authenticity | Instant visual verification with one click |

We spent time using each one to dissect viral clips, WhatsApp forwards, and even a suspicious flyer someone found back home. Some tools were familiar — others were completely new. But what surprised us most? How *fun* it was.

"Searching an image in reverse is like opening a trapdoor in the internet." — Raluca, Hungary





W The Fact-Check Olympics

Now imagine a race — but instead of running laps, you're debunking lies. That's exactly what the *Fact-Check Olympics* felt like. Teams got a rapid-fire set of dubious posts, screenshots, and headlines, and had to:

- Find the original source (if any),
- Use online tools to verify,
- Present findings in 5 minutes with proof!

Some of the "cases" included:

- 🥜 A fake celebrity endorsement of a miracle vitamin supplement.
- 🔆 A TikTok falsely claiming global warming is a hoax because it snowed in April.
- A photo of a supposed protest that was actually from 2010 and a completely different country.

Substrate the sector of the sect-check Olympics 😔

- Ouration: 90 minutes
- Group Size: Teams of 4–5 participants
- Space: A bright room with flexible seating and access to Wi-Fi/projector
- objectives:
 - Boost participants' real-time fact-checking skills
 - Encourage use of verification tools in engaging ways
 - Foster teamwork and critical thinking under time pressure
 - Materials Needed:
 - Prepared "fake news" challenge cards (social media posts, headlines, screenshots)
 - Laptops, tablets or smartphones with internet





- A large timer/stopwatch
- Scoreboard or whiteboard
- Creative supplies (flipchart paper, markers, tape, scissors)
- Certificates for winning team
- Step-by-Step Instructions:

Step 1 – Welcome & Warm-up (10 min)

Facilitator welcomes everyone to the "Olympics." Start with the energiser: "Two Truths and a Lie – Viral Edition", where each participant shares 2 true viral stories and 1 fake one. Others guess which is false.

Step 2 – Briefing the Challenge (10 min)

Teams are introduced to the challenge: They will be handed 3–5 fake or suspicious media items and must verify as much as possible in a limited time. Each case includes a fake post, altered image, or misleading article.

Explain evaluation criteria:

- Accuracy of verification
- Q Depth of analysis (e.g. image origin, original source)
- Treativity in presenting findings

Step 3 - Race to Debunk! (30 min)

Teams get their investigation packs and begin. They use:

- Snopes, InVID, FactCheck.org
- Reverse image tools
- Google search
- NewsGuard, MediaBiasChart, etc.

Facilitator walks around as "media referee," offering small hints or bonus facts for creative approaches.

Step 4 – Presentation Round (20 min)

Each team presents:





- What the post claimed
- Why it was false/misleading
- How they verified it
- What the *real* story was

Bonus points awarded for style (some used hats, others made breaking news posters).

Step 5 – Judging & Celebration (10 min)

Facilitators and a few volunteer "judges" rate the teams based on clarity, correctness, and creativity.

The team *"Truth Seekers"* won in our edition with hilarious skits, giant detective hats, and the most accurate investigation.

Solution When we debunked that fake snow-in-April story, I felt like Sherlock Holmes with Wi-Fi." — *Rákosfalvi, Hungary.*

1 All participants received 'Truth Detective' badges and posed for a group photo with their fake news trophies.

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It felt like detective work, but fun. When we debunked a fake news story, everyone cheered like we'd scored a goal." — Cristina, Romania

Winning team: The Truth Seekers — Muhammad, Amos, Azra, Cristina.

They even wore their makeshift 'detective hats' made of flipcharts for their final presentation.

Spotting Red Flags

Here's the secret: most fake news carries the same fingerprints. Once you learn to spot them, you can never unsee them. We created colourful posters with the following five golden checks:

- 1. Check the Source Is it a real outlet? Have you heard of it?
- 2. Look for Verification Is it reported by other credible sources?
- 3. Assess the Tone Is it trying to make you angry or scared?
- 4. Evaluate the Images Use reverse image tools.
- 5. Date Matters Even real news from years ago can mislead if shared as new.

We turned these into fun visual reminders — emojis, arrows, doodles — and even printed walletsized versions to take home.

😂 Funny Fact-Checking Moments

Let's be honest — not every investigation was serious. Some had us rolling with laughter:

- One team spent 10 minutes debunking what turned out to be an article from *The Onion* (a satire site).
- Another group fact-checked a *deepfake video* of a cat singing the national anthem and genuinely debated whether it was real for half an hour.

When we realized we'd seriously debated a singing cat video, we laughed for a good ten minutes. Fact-checking is serious, but sometimes hilarious." — Abeer, Hungary





Even those funny fails taught us valuable lessons: context matters. And if something seems too weird to be true — maybe it is.

What We Learned

Fact-checking is not just about avoiding mistakes. It's about defending reality. It builds trust in our networks, helps stop the spread of harm, and makes us sharper digital citizens.

It also empowered us. By the end of the week, we weren't just youth sharing content — we were gatekeepers of accuracy, logic, and fairness. And with so many tools in our hands, we left Karlstein a little more sceptical, a lot more skilled, and definitely more united.

🛠 Mini Toolkit — SECTION 3: FACT-CHECKING SKILLS & DISINFORMATION DEFENCE

What it gives young people:

Sharpens critical thinking. Teaches how to spot fake news, misleading visuals, and biased content.

Tools & Platforms:

InVID, Google Reverse Image Search, Snopes, TinEye, FactCheck.org

o How to use it in practice:

Turn youth into digital detectives. Create a "Fact-Check Olympics" with real-life cases. Challenge them to prove or bust viral content and explain why it matters.

Try this with your local youth group!

- Misinformation Makeover
- *Time:* 40 minutes
- *O Purpose:* Learn how misinformation is framed visually and how to flip it.

im How: Give groups fake or misleading images/posts (without saying they're fake). Ask them to

recreate the post with accurate information — but just as engaging!

✤ The twist: they must keep it funny, eye-catching, or emotional — without lying.







SECTION 4: ADVOCACY WITH DIGITAL TOOLS



"We're not just scrolling — we're shaping the future."

This section marked a shift from analysis to action. After learning how to navigate digital media, it was time to use it. Not passively, but as digital advocates — storytellers, campaigners, changemakers. With our devices in hand and a mission in mind, we explored how young people across Europe (and beyond) are using tech tools to spark real-world change.

We kicked things off with a provocative question:

Can one reel change someone's life? Can a meme change a mind?" — Aslı, Türkiye





Turns out, the answer is often yes.

Why Digital Advocacy?

- It's accessible anyone with a phone can join the conversation
- It's fast digital messages travel faster than word of mouth
- It's creative activism can be fun, bold, and unforgettable

We explored examples of viral youth-led campaigns:

- A TikTok series raising awareness on eco-anxiety and climate grief
- Instagram infographics on gender equality laws in Poland
- A viral Twitter thread deconstructing media narratives about refugees

These weren't multi-million-euro campaigns. They were low-budget, high-impact messages created by teens and young adults who simply *cared enough to speak up*.

I used to think advocacy needed a stage. Now I realise — my phone is a stage." — Melanie, Germany.

< Workshop Activity: Create to Change

● Duration: 90 minutes **1** Group Size: Teams of 4–6 [●] Setting: Any flexible room with internet, whiteboard, and projector

Objectives:

- Encourage creative digital advocacy
- Strengthen collaboration and design thinking
- Empower participants to express youth priorities through content

Materials Needed:

- Phones/tablets/laptops
- Access to Canva, CapCut, Linktree (or similar)





- Flipchart paper, markers, tape
- QR Code generator site (e.g. QR Code Monkey)
- Speaker for music (optional energiser)

Steps:

Step 1 – Icebreaker: Scroll Swap (10 min) Everyone opens their favourite social media app for 30 seconds and then swaps with someone to show a post they liked. Discuss why — what made it resonate?

Step 2 – Briefing the Challenge (10 min) Explain the task: each team must create a *micro-campaign* on a cause of their choice using just one platform and zero budget. The aim is emotional impact, not perfection.

Step 3 - Brainstorming & Role Split (10 min) Each team:

- Chooses a cause (cyberbullying, mental health, etc.)
- Assigns roles: scriptwriter, visual creator, editor, idea checker, presenter

Facilitators rotate to coach teams and provoke deeper thinking.

Step 4 - Content Creation (35 min) Let creativity flow! Some:

- Made infographics in Canva
- Edited Instagram Reels in CapCut
- Wrote TikTok scripts on the spot
- Linked facts and calls to action in Linktree

A few added voiceovers, others used stickers and memes — one group even included a QR code on a drawing they made live.

Step 5 – The Gallery Scroll (20 min) Each team "posted" their campaign in physical space: either showing on screen, taping posters, or walking others through their concept.

Participants walked around with "like" stickers, left comments on sticky notes, and asked questions.







- What was hardest?
- What surprised you?
- Would you actually post this?

T Bonus: The funniest mistake (e.g. a typo, a misheard slogan) won a chocolate bar labelled "Social Media Intern of the Year."

State of the internet. Only nicer. And with snacks." — Bianca Diana, Romania

This hands-on activity challenged each team to design a micro-campaign using only:

- One social media platform
- One strong message
- No budget only brains and creativity

Goal:

Create a piece of digital content that raises awareness on a cause you care about, speaks to young people, and could go viral.

Teams picked themes like:

- Cyberbullying
- Mental health stigma
- Misinformation and election fraud
- Al in education
- LGBTQIA+ inclusion

Some used Canva to design posters. Others filmed 15-second skits on their phones. One team even wrote a poem and turned it into an Instagram carousel.

We then did a "Gallery Scroll" — each team's creation was displayed or played on screen. Everyone walked around, commented, liked (IRL), and asked questions.

🛸 "It was a digital protest. But with memes and Canva templates." — Amos, Germany





K Digital Tools We Explored

| Tool Name | Purpose | Why We Loved It |
|-----------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Canva | Visual content creation | Templates made us feel like pros |
| CapCut | Video editing for reels/TikTo | k Simple interface, big results |
| Linktree | Link management for bios | Looked professional in seconds |

QR Code Monkey Generating custom QR codes Used in our campaigns & presentations

😂 Highlights & Surprises

- One group accidentally filmed half their reel with the selfie cam but turned it into a behind-the-scenes blooper reel that had the whole room laughing
- Another used AI to generate their slogan voiceover and the AI mispronounced "Karlstein" as "Curlshine." It stuck. By Day 3, we were all proudly saying we're broadcasting live from *Curlshine HQ*

And then there was the group that tried to schedule a post at 6AM. The internet went down overnight. The post went out at 2PM instead... but somehow *still* got the most engagement. Lesson learned: the internet works in mysterious ways.

What We Learned

Advocacy doesn't always look like a march or a megaphone. Sometimes, it's a well-timed story. A bold infographic. A single tweet that opens minds. Or just a personal post that says, "This matters to me."

We left this session not only with better tools, but with clearer voices. The digital world isn't separate from our lives — it *is* part of how we live, speak, and fight for what's right.





K Mini Toolkit — SECTION 4: ADVOCACY WITH DIGITAL TOOLS

What it gives young people:

Empowers them to speak up for causes they care about using digital storytelling and activism.

✤ Tools & Platforms:

Canva, Adobe Express, Instagram, X (Twitter), Google Slides, petitions platforms like Change.org

o How to use it in practice:

Run a digital campaign sprint: 1 message, 1 platform, 0 budget. Let groups design digital posters, slogans, or reels to advocate for real issues like climate, inclusion, or mental health.

- Try this with your local youth group!
- <table-of-contents> Emoji Manifesto
- 🕐 Time: 20 minutes
- Purpose: Reflect on online values and digital identity.
- 📒 How:

Each participant writes a 5-sentence manifesto for how they want to behave online.

Then, they must summarise their manifesto in 5 emojis only!

Display them as a wall of emoji pledges or make stickers out of them.

SECTION 5: ECHO CHAMBERS & ALGORITHM AWARENESS







("The more you click it, the more you get it — even if it's not what you need."

This section took us deeper into the digital jungle — where algorithms whisper suggestions and echo chambers shout back exactly what we already believe. We explored how social media personalises our content feeds, often leading to distorted perspectives of the world.

I thought I was seeing the same news as my friends. Turns out our feeds were completely different." — Derya, Türkiye

What Are Echo Chambers?

An echo chamber is a digital space where people only encounter opinions that mirror their own, reinforcing biases and reducing exposure to differing perspectives.





We kicked off this session with a short, animated video showing how algorithms work — and how they feed us content based on engagement, not accuracy.

Then came our favourite metaphor:

"It's like an invisible cafeteria where you're only ever served your favourite dish, until you forget other food exists."

Workshop Activity: Escape the Bubble

- Ouration: 75 minutes
- Group Size: Teams of 3–4
- Space: Room with projector and flexible tables

objectives:

- Help participants recognise filter bubbles in their own digital lives
- Build empathy by exploring how the same topic appears in different echo chambers
- Develop strategies for escaping digital bias
- Materials Needed:
 - Printed or digital screenshots of opposing headlines on the same topic
 - Coloured sticky notes, markers
 - Role cards: different user personas
 - "Bubble Escape" reflection sheet
- 🔆 Steps:

Step 1 – Bubble Quiz (10 min)

Quick quiz: "How Diverse Is Your Feed?" Participants check how many news sources, friends' views, and types of posts they engage with. Results spark laughter and groans.

Step 2 - Role Play: Feed Flip (20 min)

Each group receives a user persona (e.g. vegan athlete, conservative grandparent, climate activist) and a curated feed screenshot based on their browsing history.





They role-play how their character would respond to a shared story on climate change, public protest, or elections.

Playing a TikTok influencer who believes in UFOs was the best role I ever had!" — Hassan, Hungary.

Step 3 – Feed Swap & Debrief (20 min)

Teams exchange their feeds and discuss:

- What's different?
- What's missing?
- How would it feel to live in that feed every day?

Step 4 – Escape Plan (15 min)

Each participant writes an "Escape the Bubble" strategy using prompts:

- One new news source to follow
- One person to engage with respectfully
- One tool to fact-check what they see

Step 5 – Sharing Bubbles (10 min)

Participants draw their current echo chamber as a literal bubble — and then pop it with markers showing their new strategies.

How Algorithms Work (And Why You Should Care)

We explored the hidden forces shaping our online reality:

- Engagement-based content: what you like, you get more of
- Targeted advertising: yes, even your shopping habits feed the machine
- Search engine bias: location and history influence your results

A mini-demo using two phones showed drastically different Google results for the same question

- just based on user history.





I Googled 'climate change' and got activist sites. My teammate got conspiracy forums. Same words, different internet." — Maria, Romania.

Highlights & Reflections

- One team tried to create a fake echo chamber feed for a "conspiracy-cooking enthusiast" who only believes in health tips from aliens. They made a mock Instagram page that had everyone crying from laughter.
- Another team realised they were *already* living in one with TikTok, Reddit, and Instagram all showing them similar stuff.

By the end, we all agreed: you don't have to delete your accounts to escape the bubble. Just widen your digital lens.

"Algorithms aren't evil. They're mirrors. But you can choose where you point them." — *İrem, Turkey.*

🛠 Mini Toolkit — SECTION 5: ECHO CHAMBERS & ALGORITHM AWARENESS

What it gives young people:

Opens their eyes to algorithmic bias and filter bubbles. Encourages diversified content consumption.

🔧 Tools & Platforms:

TikTok & Instagram feeds, Mozilla's "Ad Detector," news aggregators (e.g., Ground News), Brave browser

o How to use it in practice:

Do a feed analysis exercise. Let them scroll, observe patterns, and discuss: "Are we seeing the world or just a slice of it?"

Try this with your local youth group!

Scroll Detective

Time: 25–30 minutes





- Purpose: Become conscious of how social media feeds shape our worldview.
- 🔍 How:

Ask everyone to scroll through their home feed for 2 minutes.

- Then answer:
- How many posts were ads?
- How many were emotionally charged?
- How many repeated ideas you already agree with?
- **o** Discuss: Are we in an echo chamber? What surprised you?

SECTION 6: FROM PASSIVE USER TO ACTIVE CREATOR







Ҟ "Don't just scroll — create something that matters."

We ended our digital literacy journey with a powerful realisation: young people aren't just consumers of content — they are the new creators, the new voices, the new leaders of change. And the tools? Already in their pockets.

This section was all about turning awareness into action. We explored how anyone — with no budget, no professional studio, and no huge following — can produce meaningful content that educates, mobilises, and connects.

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****** The Power of Creation

We began with inspiring examples: short films by students exposing local injustice, podcasts discussing youth mental health, and memes that challenge misinformation more effectively than any lecture.

Then we asked: what's stopping us?

The answer was clear: nothing. Not skill, not money, not time. All we needed was a message.

< Workshop Activity: Create to Change

- Duration: 90 minutes
- teams of 3–4
- Large shared workspace or common room
- objective: Create a micro-digital campaign with:
 - One platform
 - One message
 - Zero budget just ideas and energy
- Materials:
 - Smartphones or laptops
 - Canva, CapCut, Instagram, TikTok, YouTube Shorts, etc.




• Optional props for filming (scarves, sunglasses, paper signs)

Step 1 – Pick a Purpose (10 min)

Teams chose a cause they cared about — from climate awareness to AI risks in education.

Step 2 – Choose the Platform (5 min)

Each group selected one channel (Instagram Reel, TikTok, YouTube Short, Tweet thread).

Step 3 – Brainstorm & Draft (25 min)

Using storyboards, Canva templates, or just phone cameras, they designed their post or video.

Some memorable campaigns:

- A TikTok skit about AI replacing teachers (with intentionally awkward robot acting)
- A poetic Instagram carousel about being LGBTQIA+ in small towns
- A spoof poster warning: "Misinformation is contagious mask your mind!"

Search a meme that got 32 real likes — and 18 laughs in the room." — Razvan, Romania

Step 4 – Gallery Scroll (30 min)

Each creation was shown on screen or printed out. Participants walked around like it was a digital art gallery. They commented, liked (with sticky notes), and asked questions.

Step 5 – Reflection (20 min)

We closed by asking:

- What made your message stick?
- What was hard about simplifying a big topic?
- How can you use these skills after the project?

Some groups even uploaded their creations publicly using our event hashtag.

What We Learned

- Simplicity is power a single image or 15-second video can spark discussion
- Collaboration matters every team had a tech expert, an artist, and a dreamer
- You don't need permission to speak up you just need courage and clarity





Something, not just selfies or stories." —
Yunus, Türkiye

We our guide didn't end with a lecture. It ended with a gallery. And maybe, for some, it just started there.

🛠 Mini Toolkit — SECTION 6: FROM PASSIVE USER TO ACTIVE CREATOR

What it gives young people:

Boosts creativity and self-expression. Builds confidence to publish content that reflects values and voice.

🔧 Tools & Platforms:

Canva, CapCut, InShot, Unsplash, Instagram, podcast apps (Anchor, Podbean)

o How to use it in practice:

Assign a one-post challenge: one idea, one image, one message. Or create micro-podcasts about topics that matter to them. Celebrate what they make!

Try this with your local youth group!

📷 One Post, Big Impact

🕐 Time: 30 minutes

- *Of Purpose:* Show how a single piece of content can carry a powerful message.
- **How**:

Ask teams to create one post for a cause they care about using only text + one image.

Showcase and vote on which one would stop your scroll.

Reflect on what made it powerful.

SECTION 7: DIGITAL WELLBEING & MINDFUL USE







👗 "Being online is easy. Being balanced is a skill."

This section was all about slowing down. After diving deep into digital skills and challenges, we paused to ask: how is all this affecting our minds, bodies, and relationships?

We started the session with a quiet walk around the forest trail near our centre — no phones allowed. Some grumbled at first, but soon laughter replaced the buzz of notifications.

 "I forgot how quiet feels. No headphones, no screens — just trees and my own thoughts." — Tudor, Romania.





What Is Digital Wellbeing?

Digital wellbeing means maintaining a healthy relationship with technology. It's not about quitting your phone — it's about using it with intention.

We explored:

- Screen-time awareness
- Sleep and social media
- Dopamine loops and app design
- FOMO (fear of missing out) vs. JOMO (joy of missing out)

A quick quiz helped participants spot their habits. One question: "Do you check your phone before even getting out of bed?" sparked nervous laughter across the room.

💛 Workshop Activity: Mindful Media Map

- Duration: 60 minutes
- Individual reflection + small group sharing
- Outdoors or quiet indoor space
- **G** Goal: Help participants evaluate their media habits and make small, sustainable changes.
- Materials:
 - Large paper or A3 sheets
 - Markers, pens
 - Colour-coded stickers

Step 1 – My Digital Day (15 min)

Participants drew a timeline of their day, highlighting:

- When and how they use screens
- Which apps make them feel good or drained
- When they feel most distracted or overwhelmed





Step 2 – Traffic Lights (10 min)

Using red/yellow/green stickers, they marked:

- 🚦 Red: Habits to stop
- A Yellow: Habits to manage
- 🔽 Green: Habits to keep or grow

Step 3 – Pair & Share (15 min)

In pairs, they exchanged reflections. Some surprising confessions emerged:

I realised I scroll reels when I'm sad. But it doesn't help — it just hides the feeling." — Songül, Germany.

Step 4 – The Challenge (10 min)

Everyone chose one mindful habit to try for 7 days. Examples:

- No phone during meals
- 30-minute screen break before bed
- Turning off notifications for 1 app

They wrote it on colourful paper and added it to our "Digital Wellness Wall."

Step 5 - Laughter Reset (10 min)

To end light-heartedly, we did 2 minutes of "silent scrolling" — acting out exaggerated phone habits in slow motion. The room was full of giggles.

Reflections

- Several participants admitted feeling more relaxed after the no-phone walk.
- One group invented a game called "Screen-Time Survivor" where you lose points every time you check your phone.
- Our vending machine refused coins again some said it was a sign to unplug.
- Search and the search



K Mini Toolkit — SECTION 7: DIGITAL WELLBEING & MINDFUL USE





What it gives young people:

Promotes mental health, better focus, and healthy tech habits. Encourages intentional screen use.

🔧 Tools & Platforms:

Forest app, Digital Wellbeing (Android), Screen Time (iOS), Mood trackers, journaling apps

o How to use it in practice:

Try the "Scroll Pause Challenge." Discuss their screen-time stats, share habits, and co-create a "Digital Peace Plan."

Try this with your local youth group!

Scroll Pause Challenge

- C Time: 20 minutes
- *kertice of the particular of the provided and the particular of t*
- < How:

Each participant puts their phone down for 15 minutes. No notifications. No glances.

- Afterwards, ask:
- How did it feel?
- Was anything hard?
- Did you feel the urge to check it?
- 🛞 Discuss how to build small mindful habits in a digital world.

SECTION 8: DIGITAL RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES







👙 "Freedom online doesn't mean freedom from responsibility."

This section challenged us to think like digital citizens — not just users. While we love the memes, messages, and viral trends, we also carry real responsibilities in the digital world. Rights come with duties, and platforms come with power.

"I used to think online was just for fun. Now I realise it's a space where our actions truly matter." — Azhar, Hungary



What Are Digital Rights?

We explored the fundamental rights every young person should have online:





- Right to Privacy control over your data and who sees it
- Freedom of Expression your voice matters, but so does respect
- Access to Information reliable internet, safe content
- Protection from Harm safeguards against abuse, bullying, and manipulation

Many of us were surprised by how much we *didn't* know about laws in our own countries — like who owns your data on social media, or what counts as digital harassment.

Solution: "My friend got banned for a joke. Now I understand how complex 'freedom of speech' really

is." — Afaaq, Hungary.

- III Workshop Activity: Rights & Wrongs Online
- Duration: 60 minutes
- teams of 4–5
- Indoors, with projector
- Objective:
 - Understand the balance between digital rights and responsibilities
 - Learn about legal protections and ethical behaviour online
 - Collaboratively define a youth-led Digital Bill of Rights

Materials:

- Scenario cards (based on real cases)
- Poster paper, markers
- Printouts of national and EU digital rights frameworks

Step 1 – Speed Debate (15 min)

We started with "It Depends..." debates:

- Is it OK to screenshot a private message?
- Can schools monitor your social media?
- Should platforms ban hate speech?





Loud opinions flew, but so did respect. One pair staged a mock trial on "Cancel Culture vs Accountability" that ended in applause.

Step 2 – Real Case, Real Law (15 min)

Each group received a real-life scenario (e.g., revenge posting, doxxing, misuse of AI-generated images) and had to:

- Identify which rights were violated
- Decide if any law applies (with a cheat sheet)
- Suggest a just outcome

"Our case was about deepfakes. We argued over whether it was satire or slander. It got deep
 no pun intended." — Aslı, Turkey.

Step 3 – Create a Youth Digital Rights Poster (20 min)

Each team drafted their version of a youth-friendly "Digital Bill of Rights" with:

- 5 key rights
- 3 shared responsibilities
- 1 catchy slogan

One standout: "Protect My Data, Respect My Voice, Don't Weaponise My Feed!"

Step 4 – Gallery & Endorsement (10 min)

Posters were displayed and everyone placed sticker votes on the one they'd want to present to EU decision-makers.

Highlights & Reflections

- One team discovered that their favourite platform *legally* owns their uploaded photos.
- A mock roleplay between "Data Privacy" and "Algorithm Greed" became an unexpected comedy sketch.
- Participants created a chant: "My screen, my scene, my rights in between!"
- Search and the search of the s

By the end, we felt more empowered — not only to protect ourselves but also to advocate for a better internet. Digital responsibility isn't a burden. It's a superpower.





Ready to unlock yours?

K Mini Toolkit — SECTION 8: DIGITAL RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

What it gives young people:

Knowledge of online rights like freedom of speech and privacy, paired with responsibility and digital ethics.

🔧 Tools & Platforms:

UNICEF's Digital Rights guides, Privacy Badger, Terms of Service; Didn't Read, EU Youth Portal

o How to use it in practice:

Host a rights vs. responsibilities debate. Then, let them co-write a classroom or club "Digital Code of Conduct."

- Try this with your local youth group!
- 🔆 Rights vs. Responsibilities Debate
- 🕐 Time: 35 minutes
- Purpose: Understand the balance of online freedoms and accountability.
- Now:

Divide into two groups. One defends digital rights (freedom of speech, privacy).

The other argues for responsibilities (respect, non-discrimination).

Each side gets 10 mins to prepare, then debate!

o Reflect: What's the balance in real life?

SECTION 9: COLLABORATIVE CONTENT CREATION & YOUTH VOICE ONLINE









"Our stories, our voices — shared louder together."

This section was all about co-creation: how young people can use digital media not just to speak *for themselves,* but *with each other.* From group podcasts to meme collabs, we discovered the power of youth-led, creative storytelling.

I never thought my poem could go viral — especially with a dancing avocado next to it!" — Harun, Turkey.

Why Collaboration Matters Online

We discussed how collaborative content:

- Reaches wider audiences
- Mixes diverse perspectives
- Feels more authentic and relatable





Builds community and not just clout

Participants shared their favourite group projects online, from co-run mental health accounts to TikTok duets with social messages. We asked: *What makes something truly 'youth-led'?*

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🔁 Workshop: Speak Together, Create Together

- Duration: 90 minutes
- Mixed nationality teams of 4–6
- Main hall + phones/laptops + Wi-Fi

Materials: phones, Canva, CapCut, printed briefs, coloured hats

Step 1 – Choose Your Format (15 min)

Each group picked one collaborative format:

- Podcast (audio story or interview)
- Carousel post or Insta story
- Video skit or challenge
- Collaborative poem or digital zine

Step 2 – Choose Your Theme (10 min)

Teams drew from a hat with topics:

- Online identity
- Cultural diversity online
- Misrepresentation in media
- Everyday activism

Step 3 – Plan & Create (45 min)

Laptops opened, phones flipped, and creativity exploded. One team made a TikTok-style skit about how their grandmothers view social media. Another created a visual poem blending Romanian and Turkish.



"I didn't know I could mix our two languages in a reel — but it felt powerful!" — *İsmail, Turkey.*





Step 4 – Share & Reflect (20 min)

Creations were played on the main screen. Applause, laughter, some tears. Groups explained their vision and what they learned about working across borders.

What We Learned

- Collaboration boosts confidence and accountability
- You don't need fancy equipment to make an impact
- Youth voice is strongest when it's collective

P "We didn't just make content. We made each other's voices louder." — Ozodbek, Hungary.

By the end of this session, the Wi-Fi was slow but our spirits were high. Creativity doesn't care about loading times.

One post, one story, one song — shared together, it becomes a movement.

🛠 Mini Toolkit — SECTION 9: COLLABORATIVE CONTENT CREATION & YOUTH VOICE ONLINE

What it gives young people:

Teamwork, creativity, and digital production skills. Encourages young voices in online spaces.

🔧 Tools & Platforms:

Zencastr, Anchor, Canva for Teams, Google Docs, Trello, Discord

6 How to use it in practice:

Set up content labs where teams co-create a campaign, a podcast, or a digital zine. Make time for feedback and revision.

- Try this with your local youth group!
- 🕛 Podcast-in-a-Box
- 🕐 Time: 45 minutes
- *for Purpose:* Explore youth voice and shared storytelling.
- How:





Groups prepare a short (3 min) podcast episode on a digital topic (e.g. cancel culture, AI in school). They assign roles: host, guest, editor. Use phones or simple voice apps.

- Present in circle and get feedback.
- Upload if confident!

SECTION 10: MEDIA FOR SOCIAL CHANGE



If your voice can make a meme, it can also make a movement."

The final section of our guide wasn't about trends — it was about transformation. We explored how young people can use digital media to fuel real-world action, build awareness campaigns, and amplify causes that matter.

Before this, I thought social media was just scrolling. Now I see it as a stage for change." —
Razvan, Romania





From Sharing to Shaping

We began with a reflection on what makes something more than content:

- Does it inspire dialogue?
- Does it encourage action?
- Does it challenge norms?

Participants showcased examples from their own countries:

- A viral video campaign in Hungary that normalised therapy for teens
- A TikTok trend from Romania that exposed environmental violations in small towns
- A meme campaign in Türkiye calling out online misogyny with humour

It's amazing how a simple reel made people in my town ask: 'Where's our recycling bin?'" — Nurettin, Türkiye.

🟋 Workshop: Create to Mobilise

Duration: 90 minutes

teams of 3–5

Indoors + video/audio setup

Objective: Use storytelling and media to raise awareness and spark action around a social issue.

Materials: Phones, Canva, audio/video tools, QR printouts

Step 1 – Pick an Issue (10 min)

Each team chose from themes such as:

- Climate justice
- Youth mental health
- Gender equality
- Refugee inclusion

Step 2 – Design a Micro-Campaign (60 min)

Teams created a short piece of content with:

A strong emotional hook





- A clear call to action
- A creative twist (animation, voiceover, subtitle punchlines, etc.)

One group crafted a 30-second reel of students standing silently with post-its reading "Anxiety doesn't show — but it exists." Another did a playful parody news clip exposing algorithmic bias.

"We used comedy to talk about serious things. That's what people actually listen to." — Davronbek, Hungary

Step 3 – Campaign Gallery (20 min)

We turned the room into an exhibition. QR codes linked to each campaign, and participants could leave digital and sticker feedback.

💄 What We Learned

- Media can make activism accessible
- Good stories connect people faster than statistics
- Anyone can spark change no budget required
- Search and the search

We ended the session with a symbolic act: every participant added their "Cause Sticker" to our digital wall — one issue they now feel confident to speak up about.

Change doesn't need permission. It just needs connection.

K Mini Toolkit — SECTION 10: MEDIA FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

Vhat it gives young people:

Shows them how media can be a tool for activism and building movements, not just entertainment.

✤ Tools & Platforms:

Storytelling apps, Instagram, TikTok, Twine (for interactive stories), local NGO websites





I how to use it in practice:

Let groups design a digital action for a local issue. They create a slogan, content plan, and sharing strategy. Then pitch it like a startup.

Try this with your local youth group!

📷 Mini Campaign Lab

- 🕐 Time: 40 minutes
- *OF Purpose:* Show how digital media can support activism.
- \varTheta How:

Each group picks one issue from their community.

They brainstorm a campaign idea — including a slogan, visual, and platform to publish.

- Share pitches and give friendly feedback.
- T Option: collaborate with a local NGO afterwards.

FINAL THOUGHTS & THANK YOU

"It started with strangers and ended with storytellers."

As we wrap up this guide, what remains are not just tips and tools — but moments. Laughter in the workshop room. Quiet concentration during reflection tasks. The smell of forest air after a brainstorm break. Unexpected dance-offs after digital debates. The hum of ideas over breakfast. The shared silence during an emotional presentation. And the thrill of realising: *we created this together*.

Set "There was no 'perfect post' here. But there were perfect moments." — Usama, Hungary

We came from different regions — Romania, Türkiye, Hungary, Germany — and brought more than luggage. We brought questions, hopes, and a desire to understand the world and each other. We arrived with different experiences and digital habits, and left with common goals, a shared vision, and enough inside jokes to fill a group chat.

This guide is a trace of that shared time. It's made by young people *for* young people. Use it. Remix it. Add your own chapter.





Our final activity together was a wall of commitments. Everyone wrote one digital habit or goal they're taking home:

- "I'll fact-check before I forward."
- "I'll speak out when I see online hate."
- "I'll make more, scroll less."
- "I'll teach my friends what I learned here."

Then we took a group selfie (with three phones taped together because, of course, the tripod broke and the broomstick wasn't long enough).

Search and the search

And the conversations didn't end there. By the time we returned home, project spin-offs were already taking shape:

- A fact-checking challenge in a school in Cluj-Napoca
- A digital detox weekend planned in Debrecen
- A proposal for a follow-up Erasmus+ training on inclusive communication tools
- Collaborative zines and TikToks already in production

We left with real plans, not just promises.

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Erasmus+ isn't just a project. It's a launchpad. It gives space to listen, question, create, and belong. It helps turn participants into peer leaders, and guides into sparks for new ideas.

To our wonderful hosts in Karlstein bei Regenstauf: thank you for the quiet, the trees, the foxes, and the Wi-Fi that *almost* never failed. The isolation helped us focus, reflect, and connect in ways no city centre ever could.

To every participant: your ideas shaped this guide. Your laughter echoed down the halls. Your fingerprints are on every page.

To future readers: this is your invitation.

Go out there — scroll wiser, post louder, and connect kinder.





Brief interviews with our participants

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bout Projects Courses Partners

Embrace Technology, Engage as an Active Citizen - Video Testimonials



https://phoenixwings.eu/embrace-technology-engage-as-an-active-citizen-video-testimonials/







🔗 InVID Toolkit

Website: https://www.invid-project.eu/tools-and-services/invid-verification-plugin/



Google Reverse Image Search
 Use: Check the origin of an image or where it appeared
 Website: <u>https://images.google.com</u>



🔗 NewsGuard

Website: https://www.newsguardtech.com



Media Bias Chart (Ad Fontes)
 Use: Visualise political bias and reliability of media
 Website: <u>https://adfontesmedia.com</u>







🔗 Canva

Website: <u>https://www.canva.com</u>



FactCheck.org
 Use: Check factual accuracy of U.S. political statements
 Website: <u>https://www.factcheck.org</u>



lest of Quotes from Our Participants

Solution I arrived, I barely knew what media literacy meant. Now I want to lead a workshop on it in my town."

— Cristina Chiriță, Romania

"We weren't just sharing facts. We were challenging each other's perspectives — and laughing while doing it."

- Afaaq Ahmad, Hungary

Before this project, I thought algorithms were just technical stuff. Now I realise they shape what I believe."

— Gabriela Muşat, Romania





Creating content together taught me how powerful collaboration can be — across languages, cultures, and opinions."

Sneha Tiwari, Germany

Digital wellbeing? I never thought about it until now. This project helped me put boundaries in place and enjoy being offline again."

Nurettin Bedi, Türkiye

"Our group didn't just learn — we built something. I'm taking home a toolkit and a team I trust."

- Mohab Bakry, Hungary

Seeing the same news interpreted differently across cultures was a turning point for me."

Szász Oszkár, Romania

I was shy at first, but by the last day, I was leading a campaign pitch and quoting memes like a pro."

— Dua Kamran Siddiqui, Germany

"Now I know: creating ethical content is not only possible — it's our responsibility."

— Tudor Cătălin, Romania

Meeting people from different backgrounds showed me how inclusive digital spaces can (and must) be."

Azra Nur Tekbaş, Türkiye

"I used to repost everything. Now I fact-check everything."

Davronbek Ismoilov, Hungary

"I've made real friends here. And we're already planning a digital activism project together!"

Raluca Stoian, Romania

Behind the Scenes: Moments You Didn't See in the Schedule





Not everything fits into a session plan. Some of the best memories happened between flipcharts and forest walks.

👙 Sticker Wars in the Dorms

What began as a quiet decorating activity turned into an unofficial competition. Suddenly, motivational stickers appeared on mugs, pillows, shower doors — and even the facilitator's back. No surface was safe.

"I found a sticker on my toothbrush that said 'You got this.' I felt weirdly empowered." — Călin Rareş-Horia, Romania

🦊 The Midnight Fox Club

A late-night walk turned into a wildlife documentary when half the group spotted a fox behind the hostel. For the next two nights, fox-spotting missions became a nightly ritual, complete with whispered narrations.

S: "We named him Karlstein. He was basically our unofficial mascot." — **Mohammad Hussnain**, Hungary

🎤 Accidental Karaoke

During a media planning session, someone hit "play" instead of "pause" on Spotify. The next thing we knew, 12 participants were belting out 2000s pop hits. A karaoke battle followed — featuring a surprisingly heartfelt duet of "Let It Go."

I never thought I'd hear 'Shakira' sung with a Turkish-Hungarian-Romanian accent blend." —
Nurettin Bedi, Türkiye

Q Breakfast Philosophy Club

Every morning, a different group ended up debating random questions over cereal. Topics included: "Are memes a modern form of protest?" and "Can AI dream?" No conclusions — just laughter and new thoughts.

Storm and a storm

Tripod Tragedy & Tape Engineering

When the only tripod broke five minutes before final presentations, a team created a replacement using three water bottles, a coat hanger, and duct tape. It worked so well, it's now patented*





(*unofficially).

Se "We called it Tripod 2.0. TikTok-worthy and tripod-y." — Afaaq Ahmad, Hungary

The Great Door Debate

Should the main door stay open for fresh air, or closed to keep the wasps out? This became a fullblown group negotiation. It was resolved diplomatically, via a post-it vote and a rotating "door duty" schedule.

Set "It was the most European thing ever." — Amos, Germany

i Mystery Juice Chronicles

One bottle in the common fridge was never claimed. Everyone drank it at least once, no one knew what it was. It became a meme: "Mystery Juice — Taste the Suspense."

🔝 Future Collaboration Plan – Erasmus+ Youth Event

| 1 Participants | Planned Collaboration | iii Timeline | 📌 Notes |
|--|---|----------------------------|---|
| Szász Oszkár, Romania & Afaaq Ahmad, Hungary | Joint TikTok campaign about media literacy myths | July–August 2025 | Use humour + fact- checking content; hashtags shared on YouthHub |
| Cristina Chiriță, Romania & Davronbek Ismoilov, Hungary | Online awareness posters for safer social media | June 2025 | Designed in Canva, shared on Instagram + school blogs |
| Bianca Diana, Romania & Sneha Tiwari, Germany | Youth podcast episode on algorithm traps | Recorded September 2025 | Posted on Spotify and shared via Erasmus+ alumni networks |
| Raluca Stoian, Romania & Songül Korkmaz, Türkiye | Create a shared blog for cultural storytelling through memes | October–December 2025 | Bi-weekly posts; hosted via free platform like WordPress |
| Usama Habib, Hungary & Kirill Babichenko, Germany | Launch online peer training about AI and ethical media | Pilot in November 2025 | Possibly turn into a KA2 Strategic Partnership idea |





Adaptation Tips: How to Use This Section in Real Life

Each of the sections in this guide was designed to be practical and flexible. Here's how you can adapt the activities and ideas to suit your own context — whether you're a teacher, NGO facilitator, community organiser, or social media creator.

In Schools & Educational Settings

Turn the " 🔒 Try this with your local youth group" activities into engaging class projects.

- Use them as warm-ups for media literacy, citizenship, ethics, or social studies lessons.
- Encourage students to work in pairs or small teams this builds collaboration and confidence.
- Add reflection tasks like journaling or group discussions to deepen learning.

Example: Let students recreate a biased article as a final project, or debate digital rights as part of civic education.

1 In NGOs, Youth Clubs & Training Events

These tools are perfect for informal education:

- Use them in short workshops, weekend sessions, or youth exchange prep.
- Let young people lead the sessions peer-to-peer learning is powerful.
- Combine digital tools (like Canva or podcast apps) with group sharing and storytelling.
- of Tip: End each workshop with a gallery walk or an open mic. Celebrate what's been created.

On TikTok, Instagram & YouTube

Think outside the classroom! Many of these activities can spark content for social media:

- Create TikTok challenges from the "Scroll Pause" or "Emoji Manifesto" tasks.
- Use Canva to visualise the best group outputs and share as Instagram carousels.
- Film mini-podcasts or reels on topics like echo chambers, AI, or online activism.
- Don't forget to tag partner organisations or include hashtags for more reach.

📎 In Community Projects or Youth Councils

Make the guide your starting point for campaigns or action plans:

- Use the "Mini Campaign Lab" to address real local issues — from bullying to climate action.

- Present ideas at community events, schools, or municipal meetings.





- Include voices of marginalised youth through co-creation sessions.

Bonus idea: Translate the digital manifestos or campaign slogans into multiple languages and print them as posters.

In Erasmus+, ESC or International Exchanges

Each workshop in this guide can be a standalone session or part of a bigger programme:

- Add energisers and intercultural games between the main tasks.

Invite participants to reflect on how digital media affects them *in their country* and share experiences.

- Build a final "Youth Pledge Wall" to show the group's collective voice.

Example: Use the "Fact-Check Olympics" as a team challenge on Day 3, followed by content co-creation on Day 4.

💼 Mix & Match!

Don't feel limited by the sections. Combine activities from different parts of the guide - e.g.,

 Pair the "Scroll Detective" task (from Echo Chambers) with a poster design from "Mini Campaign Lab."

 Link wellbeing (Digital Pause) with advocacy (Emoji Manifesto) to create a mindfulness campaign.

Final Tip:

Always allow space for reflection and adaptation. Ask young people how these tools fit their own realities — what makes sense, what doesn't, and what they would change. The best digital literacy tools are the ones they help shape.

📊 Impact Corner — Digital Youth Event

| | Category | Details | Source/Tool | Link | Comments |
|--|---|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|--|
| A NUMBER OF STREET, STREET, STREET, STREET, STREET, STREET, STREET, STREET, STREET, STREET, STREET, STREET, ST | Fake News Posts Analysed | 27 viral posts dissected | NewsGuard, Snopes, InVID | https://www.snopes.com | Used in Fact- Check Olympics & Bias Detector workshops |
| | Micro Campaigns Created | 15 digital awareness campaigns | Canva, Instagram, TikTok | https://www.canva.com | Focused on mental health, |





| | CONTRACTOR OF A | | | |
|--------------|---|-----------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| | | | | AI, LGBTQIA+ |
| | AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AND | | | inclusion |
| 😲 Visual | 9 misleading | Canva, Pixlr, | https://www.pixlr.com | Redesigned to |
| Debunk | visuals remade | Factlab.ai | We have been a state of the | convey truth |
| Projects | | | | without losing |
| | | | | impact |
| Nouth | 6 episodes on | Anchor, Voice | https://anchor.fm | Part of |
| Podcasts | digital rights, | Recorder | | 'Podcast-in-a- |
| Recorded | cancel culture | | | Box' activity |
| 🕺 Digital | 12 different | InVID, | https://www.invid- | Hands-on |
| Tools Used | platforms | Factlab.ai, | project.eu | learning |
| | explored | Canva, Snopes | | through tasks |
| Quotes | 38 unique | Shared in 'Best | N/A | Used to co- |
| Collected | youth | of Quotes' | | create content |
| | reflections | section | | and final |
| | | | | messages |
| 6 Post-Event | 30+ digital | Offline | N/A | Summed up |
| Commitments | pledges | workshop wall | | new |
| | | | | behaviours, |
| | | | | like fact- |
| | | | | checking or |
| | | | | less scrolling |

"What I Learned" Wall — Voices from the Youth Event

Reflections, commitments & aha-moments

📕 Oszkár, Romania

"I used to take headlines at face value. Now, I read them twice — and check where they come from."

"I've disabled autoplay and curated my feed to include more reliable sources."

🧠 "Learning about algorithms made me realise how easily we can be nudged into filter bubbles."

🔆 "Our group debates taught me that critical thinking thrives when we collaborate, not

compete."

"My commitment: organise a digital awareness day at my local youth centre."

Cristina, Romania

Before this event, I didn't think my voice could matter online. Now I'm planning to launch a





mental health awareness reel series."

🨼 "I learned how to detect manipulative framing in emotionally charged posts."

"The Digital Wellbeing session made me put timers on all my apps. I'm not a scroll zombie anymore!"

It was a safe space where we could fail, laugh, learn — and still feel smart.

"I'm curating a digital gallery with my team to showcase what responsible content creation looks like."

📕 Muhammad, Hungary

•• "The reverse image search blew my mind — I've already used it to bust two fakes in group chats."

"I've started a 'Truth Tuesday' post series to share fact-checks in my university network."

Invid, Canva, Amnesty Metadata Viewer — these tools are now part of my activist kit.

🚀 "My next goal? Train five peers and make this a chain reaction of digital empowerment."

"This experience made me realise: youth from different countries face similar digital traps."

📕 Azra Nur, Türkiye

"Numbers tell stories — I've learned to use data visualisation to advocate for climate awareness."

I no longer post randomly. Every message I share now has a purpose and audience in mind.

🔝 "I felt genuinely heard. It reminded me how rare and powerful true group listening is."

"Digital wellness isn't just detoxing — it's rewiring habits with intention."

💫 "Inspired by our sessions, I'm launching a digital self-care week on our school platform."

Rákosfalvi, Hungary

- "I've gone from casual scroller to committed verifier I've even corrected my parents."
- Learning about digital rights made me rethink what freedom of speech means online."
- "Podcasting gave me confidence to speak up even when the topic feels complicated."
 - "Our collective ideas showed me how diverse youth voices can shape media for the better."
 "Back home, I'm collaborating with a local NGO to launch a 'Youth Newsroom' podcast."







📕 Tudor, Romania

- "I now pause before clicking curiosity replaced impulse."
- "Echo chambers are real. I've started following sources that challenge my views respectfully."
- Ҟ "I used to avoid design apps, but now I use Canva like a pro."
- 🥂 "I learned that building a digital habit is like planting a seed small actions grow."
- "My plan: run a weekly media literacy club in my local library."

📕 Derya, Türkiye

- "Creating a campaign from scratch was challenging, but it taught me message discipline."
- I discovered the power of a slogan: one line can ignite action.
- "I felt proud being part of a group where every opinion mattered, regardless of accent or background."
 - "I'll integrate these tools into my NGO's youth digital inclusion programme."
 - "Most importantly, I now ask: who benefits from me believing this?"

Participants Feedback (in process)

| Szász Oszkár | https://www.linkedin.com/posts/oszk%C3%A1r-sz%C3%A1sz-906ba8369 i- recently-had-the-incredible-opportunity-activity-7336443680389558275-D-Rr |
|-----------------------|---|
| Călin Rareș- Horia | https://www.linkedin.com/posts/rares-horia-calin-5867b8260 erasmusplus- youthexchange-activecitizenship-activity-7329068912375959552- uH?utm source=social share send&utm medium=android app&rcm=ACoAAF rH-G4BM176LIdYbx7mQjwNeJdSvAGdRMU&utm campaign=copy link |
| Chiriță Cristina | https://x.com/crisherefor1d/status/1930670163763892386?s=46 |









| Țurcanu Bianca-Diana | https://x.com/BiancaDian10224/status/1931310765585133887 |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Muşat Gabriela | https://www.linkedin.com/posts/gabriela-mu%C5%9Fat-492099366_just- wrapped-up-an-incredible-week-at-the-activity-7329069184905023488- JcT3?utm_source=social_share_send&utm_medium=android_app&rcm=ACoAAFr H-G4BM176LIdYbx7mQjwNeJdSvAGdRMU&utm_campaign=copy_link |
| Stoian- Amariutei Raluca | https://www.instagram.com/p/DJtdtY1sXyPqUGV25juWXD48sYDe16D07HvbeM0 /?igsh=MWZqOWp3bWQwbDFpcQ== |
| Prajica Tudor Catalin | https://www.linkedin.com/posts/tudor-catalin-prajica- 19019333a ikdsabrinstytut-erasmus-youthexchange-activity- 7329064823353171969- 6Yuj?utm medium=ios app&rcm=ACoAAFUZmjwBP 3wT5kAz- CpBfC6AGX0vRGMAWU&utm source=social share send&utm campaign=copy I ink |
| Oneata Razvan-Mihai | https://www.linkedin.com/posts/razvan-oneata-78012633a_ikdsabrinstytut- erasmusplus-youthexchange-activity-7332434187058057216- WzKU?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_android&rcm=ACoAAFUXetA BKxMJVmjip2_8hcjvqWRMIRjwaKE |
| Mitrea Maria | https://www.linkedin.com/posts/maria-mitrea- 3b21021a9 embracetechnologyengageasanactivecitizen-activity- 7329079453584637954- odd2?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_android&rcm=ACoAADCaa7YB xwxRO0iDIH67tKIWnEpnZNzcCFU |
| Abeer Amjad | https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1AMeAaMecR/?mibextid=wwXIfr |
| Azhar Muhammad Hussnain | https://www.instagram.com/reel/DJ9inZ-oSnHARuylu- dd5mfrS8c3_65JzKqBXw0/?igsh=MWpkcXh1NHNwMTZzcQ== https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1AT8BYkefZ/?mibextid=wwXlfr |







| Davronbek Ismoilov | https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1RbrZwT2xF/ |
|------------------------|---|
| Afaaq Ahmad | https://www.instagram.com/stories/highlights/18403053310108051/ |
| USAMA HABIB | https://www.facebook.com/share/v/195VdStB55/ |
| Hassan Farooq | https://www.instagram.com/reel/DKAg1oxA8MW/?igsh=MXdnMm9rcmkzMmsz bA== |
| Nagy Gergő Barnabás | https://www.linkedin.com/posts/nagy-gerg%C5%91-529606337_erasmusplus- youthexchange-activecitizenship-activity-7330515826107678720- 5LYY?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAAFShI3EBK DTz4bfHdN9pZuDKCps-jZQAbNA |
| Rákosfalvi Soma Pál | https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7337198401660342273/ |
| Mohab Bakry | https://phoenixwings.eu/embrace-technology-engage-as-an-active-citizen- impressions/ |
| Aslı Öncan | https://www.linkedin.com/posts/asl%C4%B1-%C3%B6ncan_erasmusplus- activecitizenship-digitalinclusion-activity-7329430005313114112- nKtC?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAAD97oRoB kL0bgW-zvdGDvvztaE8pydW7Xig |
| Derya Şebikbay | https://www.instagram.com/derya_sbky?igsh=MWNqaHI5OTY4eXJrdQ== |









| yunus emre berber | https://www.instagram.com/yemre_berber?igsh=bGs2NXhoN2h4amc4&utm_sou rce=qr |
|------------------------------|--|
| Azra Nur Tekbas | https://www.instagram.com/p/DJ8zH00sGIP i0 Xkt7w11cHgznWkNOjNC6JaI0/?i mg_index=1 |
| Harun Mahmut Yeşilyurt | https://www.linkedin.com/posts/harunmyesilyurt_erasmusplus-youthexchange- digitalcitizenship-activity-7334664799672225793- 4Br2?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAAEMGiUYB TjPo_lLM4bCnb8UIKzYrkdCpBmI |
| Amos Singarella | https://www.facebook.com/groups/660465416603376/?multi_permalinks=6829 26057690645¬if_id=1748185990883304¬if_t=feedback_reaction_generic &ref=notif |
| Kirill Babichenko | https://phoenixwings.eu/embrace-technology-engage-as-an-active-citizen/ https://phoenixwings.eu/embrace-technology-engage-as-an-active-citizen-video- testimonials/ https://phoenixwings.eu/embrace-technology-engage-as-an-active-citizen- project-kickoff/ https://phoenixwings.eu/embrace-technology-engage-as-an-active-citizen-youth- exchange/ |

How Do You Use Our Youth Guide?

- 🛞 A Feedback & Impact Survey for Youth Workers, Trainers, and Participants
- 🛞 Why This Survey Matters
- Your voice shapes the future of youth media education.

This isn't just a follow-up — it's a tool for **real-time feedback**, **impact tracking**, and building the next level of Erasmus+ youth work.









Q Why are we asking?

Because your experience helps us understand:

- 🔻 What parts of the guide actually made a difference
- Which tools or methods you've used (or hacked!)
- How the guide is travelling beyond the exchange into schools, NGOs, and online activism

🕈 Who's this for?

Anyone who downloaded, taught with, shared, or was inspired by our **Youth Guide on Digital** Media Literacy.

What do we do with your answers?

- Build 📊 better toolkits and case studies
- Develop I sustainable Erasmus+ spin-off projects
- Launch 🔆 new collaborative campaigns with YOU
- 🤝 This is about co-creation even after the project ends.

Fill it in. Share it with others. Let's keep this digital ripple effect going!

Please scan



Or click

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1Nd6d8Pljv1h3rLNGwraW1plIUkY4bcdQtmv472wx880/preview

















📈 Real Impact

- 5. Have you used this guide for...
- A workshop with young people
- School class or group activity
- 📕 🗆 TikTok or Insta campaign
- **12** O Youth NGO or volunteer training
- 👲 🗆 Sharing online with your community

6. What tools from the guide have you used?

(e.g. Canva, InVID, fact-check platforms, podcast tips...)

- 7. What did your group or audience find most engaging or surprising?
 - Short example/story if possible!

8. What was your biggest personal takeaway?

A habit you changed, something you learned, or a new idea that stayed with you.

🕒 Sustainability & Future

9. Would you be interested in...

- Contributing to a second edition
- 💡 🗆 Sharing your own campaign in our guide's follow-up
- Participating in youth digital storytelling or podcast
- 😒 🗆 Collaborating on a cross-country social media project

10. Leave your contact if you'd like us to keep in touch!

Name + Email / Instagram / WhatsApp