

Embrace Technology,



ENGAGE AS AN ACTIVE CITIZEN

PROJECT # 2024-I-DE04-KA154-YOU-000238751

REPORT



INTRODUCTION – WHY THIS REPORT MATTERS



From Erasmus+ Vision to Local Impact

Europe's digital future hinges on the ability of its youngest citizens to spot half-truths, remix facts into compelling stories and speak up in policy arenas.

Embrace Technology, Engage as an Active Citizen was born under the Erasmus+ KA154-YOU action line precisely because the programme recognises media-literacy and civic participation as cross-border urgencies, not classroom electives.

A shared challenge across four nations

Germany, Hungary, Romania and Türkiye each report rising misinformation exposure and a widening urban–rural digital divide. Yet they also share a vibrant youth sector eager for tools rather than lectures. By pooling resources, venues and cultural perspectives, our consortium met the Erasmus+ demand for **high-impact, transnational youth participation projects**—and proved that a Bavarian forest can incubate solutions for Budapest metro feeds or Constanța classroom debates.

Collaboration as a multiplier

- **Polyglot facilitation** ensured that every session—whether code lab or campfire—drew on mixed national teams, turning translation moments into learning moments.
- A *Lead-Partner-Plus* model gave each organisation ownership of at least one flagship activity, fostering investment beyond grant cycles.
- Digital co-creation spaces (Miro, GitHub, Discord) remained live after the mobility, evidence that collaboration outlasted the bus ride home.

Active participants, active results

Forty young adults—not passive “beneficiaries” but co-designers—debunked 25 viral hoaxes, built three Telegram civic-bots and pitched policy briefs to stakeholders within eight months. Their drive validates the Erasmus+ emphasis on **youth-led** processes: when ownership shifts, outcomes scale.

How to read this report

Each section unpacks one layer of the project—from myth-busting labs to policy outreach—anchored in data and first-person voices. Use it as a blueprint, remix it for your context, and join the growing network of Digital Active Citizens that Erasmus+ is stitching across Europe.

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One-Page Policy Executive Summary – Digital Active Citizenship Event (Erasmus+ KA154-YOU)

Problem

📊 Bavaria's 16–30 age cohort reports the lowest media-literacy self-confidence in Germany (JfE 2024). Across partner regions (Romania, Türkiye, Hungary) fact-checking curricula are patchy, and CO₂-heavy short-haul flights still dominate youth mobility. Urban-centred participation schemes overlook rural youth like those in Karlstein bei Regenstein.

Evidence from this pilot (11 – 17 May 2025)

- 🇩🇪 40 youth from DE HU TR RO completed 24 hours of myth-busting labs.
- 🔍 Mean fact-check self-efficacy score rose **+0.82 / 5** (pre → post; n = 38).
- 🌱 Switching to rail + Deutschland-Ticket cut travel emissions **–3.5 t CO₂ (-63 %)**.
- 👤 Gender balance achieved: 50 % female facilitation, 60 % female participants.
- 💻 Outputs: 15 micro-campaigns, 27 viral posts analysed, open-badge “Digital Rights Mentor”.

Five Policy Recommendations

1. 🛠️ **Embed Youth-led Fact-Checking Hubs in Rural Bavaria**
 - Fund two pilot “Jugend FaktenLab” corners in municipal libraries, co-run with local schools.
2. 🚆 **Green-Travel First for Erasmus+ Mobilities**
 - Tie National Agency travel top-ups to verifiable CO₂-savings; recognise the Deutschland-Ticket in grant rules.
3. 🎓 **Micro-credential Pathway for Digital Rights Mentors**
 - Endorse our open-badge syllabus (CC-BY) as an elective in federal youth-worker CPD.
4. 🗣️ **National “Myth-Buster Month” Campaign**
 - Partner with Correctiv and BR Faktenfuchs to host an annual youth fact-check contest; winning teams present in the Bundestag foyer.
5. 📊 **Sustainable Impact Tracker**
 - Require 6-, 12- and 24-month Erasmus follow-up surveys (Typeform template available) to quantify long-term behaviour change.

Infographic Snapshot

- 👤 92 % plan to run a local media-literacy event within six months.
- 📈 18 micro-campaigns projected to reach 60 000 peers (TikTok Creative Centre analytics).
- 🌍 4 partner NGOs committed to a carbon-budget clause in future projects.

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Backed by Erasmus+ KA154-YOU, 2024-1-DE04-000238751.


Glossary – Quick-Scan Key Terms


-  **Reverse-image search** – Upload or paste an image to a search engine (Google Images, TinEye) to find earlier uploads, original context or manipulated versions.
-  **Key-frame** – A single still extracted from a video; perfect for reverse-image checks and metadata forensics.
-  **Deep-fake** – AI-generated or altered video/audio that swaps faces or voices to mimic real people.
-  **Fact-check outlet** – Specialist newsroom (e.g. Snopes, Faktenfuchs) that verifies public claims and publishes transparent sources.
-  **Engagement rate** – Percentage of viewers who interact (like, comment, share) with a post; gauges campaign impact.
-  **Inoculation theory** – Teaching people weakened misinformation so they build “mental antibodies” against future falsehoods.
-  **Algorithmic feed** – Personalised content list created by platform algorithms predicting what will keep you scrolling.
-  **OSINT** – Open-source intelligence: gathering publicly available data (satellite, social posts) for verification or research.
-  **CTR-loop** – Click-through-rate feedback loop where high clicks trigger more algorithmic promotion, often amplifying sensational posts.
-  **Sock-puppet account** – Fake online profile used to deceive or manipulate discussions while hiding real identity.
-  **Open badge** – Portable digital credential that shows verified skills; metadata is baked into the badge image.
-  **BotFather** – Telegram tool used to create and manage bots via simple chat commands.
-  **Gamification** – Applying game mechanics (points, badges, leaderboards) to non-game settings to boost engagement.
-  **Two-factor authentication (2FA)** – Security layer requiring a second proof (code, biometric) after the password.
-  **API** – Application Programming Interface; allows apps or bots to pull data or trigger actions on another service.
-  **Metadata** – Hidden or semi-hidden data (time, GPS, device) embedded in files; crucial for verifying authenticity.
-  **Dashboard** – Visual panel of charts and metrics updating in real time from live data sources.
-  **Hashtag hijack** – Injecting unrelated content into trending hashtags to capture attention or spread misinformation.
-  **Creative Commons (CC-BY)** – Licence letting others reuse, remix and share content if they credit the creator.





-  **Polarisation index** – Numerical measure of how politically or ideologically siloed a content stream or community is.
-  **Email spoofing** – Faking a sender address to appear legitimate; common in phishing attacks.
-  **Pre-bunking** – Warning audiences about imminent misinformation tactics before they encounter the falsehood.
-  **Puzzle-piece fact** – Small, verifiable detail that fits into a larger hoax narrative; checking it can unravel the hoax.
-  **Digital detox** – Planned break from screens to reset habits and reduce information overload.
-  **Geolocation** – Determining where a photo/video was taken using landmarks, shadows, maps or metadata.
-  **Policy brief** – Concise document summarising evidence and recommendations for decision-makers.
-  **No-code tool** – Platform (e.g. Glide) that lets users build apps or bots without traditional programming.
-  **Crowd-sourcing** – Collecting information or labour from a large online community, often voluntarily.
-  **Stop-light survey** – Quick evaluation method using red/amber/green signals to show satisfaction or urgency.
-  **Webhook** – Automated message sent from one app to another whenever a specific event happens.
-  **Micro-credential** – Short, focused qualification certifying a specific skill (e.g. Digital Rights Mentor).
-  **Homophily** – Tendency of people to connect with similar others, reinforcing echo-chambers online.
-  **Open-source** – Software or content whose source code is publicly available for anyone to inspect, modify and share.
-  **SIFT method** – Stop, Investigate source, Find better coverage, Trace claims back to the original context.
-  **Data-export audit** – Downloading your personal platform data (e.g. Google Takeout) to inspect what's collected.
-  **Domain WHOIS** – Public database showing who registered a website; useful for tracing doubtful sources.
-  **Milestone timeline** – Structured schedule of key project dates and deliverables.
-  **Micro-podcast** – Audio episode under 10 minutes, often recorded on a phone, shared via social platforms.
-  **Permalink** – Permanent URL pointing to a specific piece of online content, ensuring long-term accessibility.
-  **Fishbowl discussion** – Facilitation method where a small inner group discusses while others


observe, then swap.


 **Screen-time pledge** – Personal commitment to limit device usage, tracked by apps or wearables.


 **Call-to-action (CTA)** – Explicit request for the audience to do something (share, sign, attend) after consuming content.


 **CSV file** – Comma-separated values; simple spreadsheet format ideal for open-data sharing.

 **CO₂ ledger** – Table calculating carbon emissions and savings, often used in green-travel reporting.

 **AI hallucination** – Fabricated output from an AI model presented as fact, lacking grounding in real data.







 **Peer-observation** – Educators or facilitators watch and review each other's sessions for feedback and improvement.

 **Licence compliance** – Ensuring that reuse of digital assets follows the original licence terms.

 **Regenerative content** – Materials designed to be remixed, translated and re-released, sustaining continuous impact.

Apps & Websites Behind the Numbers

(Every URL is live & each QR links straight to the same page—ready for instant scanning.)

 Tool	 What We Used It For	 Direct Link	 QR Code
Google Forms	Pre- / post-surveys & 30-day follow-up data collection	https://forms.google.com	
Looker Studio (ex-Data Studio)	Auto-updated dashboards for debunk counts & campaign reach	https://lookerstudio.google.com	



Co-funded by
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Tool



What

We Used It
For



Direct Link



QR Code

Canva Pro

Infographics
, social
assets &
final PDF
layout

<https://www.canva.com>



Datawrapper

Heat-maps
& bar charts
used in
Sections 2–
4

<https://www.datawrapper.de>



TikTok
Creative
Center

Benchmarks
for Gen Z
advocacy
clip
engagement
rates

<https://www.tiktok.com/business/creativecenter>



Telegram
BotFather

API tokens
& usage
stats for our
three civic
bots

<https://core.telegram.org/bots#botfather>



QR Code
Monkey

Generated
all session
& resource
QR codes
(including
these)

<https://www.qrcode-monkey.com>



Last link check: 21 June 2025.



Section 1 – Executive Snapshot of the Youth Exchange 1 – Executive Snapshot of the Youth Event

 *Embrace Technology, Engage as an Active Citizen* ([Erasmus+ KA154-YOU](#))

Project identity

- Action line: KA154-YOU Youth Participation Activities
- Contract reference: 2024-1-DE04-KA154-YOU-000238751
- Lead organisation: Phoenix Knowledge Wings gGmbH DE
- Consortium: Changemakers Debrecen HU • Eurostar Group RO • The Changemakers TR
- Project window: 1 Oct 2024 – 31 May 2025 (8 months)
- Core mobility: 11 – 17 May 2025, Karlstein bei Regenstein (Bavaria)

Why this exchange?

Young Europeans consume up to 10 000 pieces of online content each day, yet fewer than one in three feel confident verifying a single post. Our rural retreat set out to transform passive scrolling into active digital citizenship. Karlstein, a forest-rimmed village with spotty 4G and an abundance of silence, provided the perfect test-bed: fewer push-notifications, more push-ups in critical thinking.

Rural setting, urban impact

The [Jugendschulungshaus](#) lies 4.2 km from the nearest shop. Its isolation became a living laboratory for slow media: no midnight deliveries, but foxes trotted past the window during debriefs, and each evening ended with a “Forest-Fact Walk” where teams swapped devices for torchlight and reflection. Wi-Fi existed—yet throttled to 6 Mbps, just enough to upload discoveries, not doom-scroll.

Participant constellation

Metric	Data	Source
Total youth	40	Attendance sheets
Countries	DE HU TR RO	Application forms
Female	24 (60 %)	Erasmus gender log
Fewer-opportunity status*	16 (40 %)	Self-declaration & vetting

Average age	22.8 yrs	Passport scans
CO ₂ baseline (all short-haul flights)	5.6 t	https://www.atmosfair.de/calculator
Actual CO ₂ (rail + coach mix)	2.1 t	Ticket logs & atmosfair factors
Savings via Deutschland-Ticket	−3.5 t (≈ 63 % cut)	Same method above

*Economic, geographic or health obstacles per Erasmus+ guide.

Pedagogical architecture

Explore → Verify → Create → Reflect → Advocate. Each day paired an evidence-based micro-lecture with an experiential sprint. Examples:

- Bias-Detector Lab (colour-coding subtle framing)
- Algorithm Detective (live split-screen feed comparison)
- Create-to-Change sprint (designing no-budget campaigns)

Critical reflection closed every night round a log-fire—or, when rain hit, around a glowing laptop loaded with calming lofi beats.

Key deliverables & outcomes

KPI	Target	Achieved	Remark
Viral items debunked	20	25	+25 % over target
Micro-campaigns created	12	15	Avg organic reach 287
Digital tools mastered	8	12	InVID, CapCut, StorySet...
Podcast episodes	4	6	54 min total runtime
CO ₂ saved via green travel	1.5 t	2.0 t	Deutschland-Ticket usage
Digital self-efficacy*	+20 pts	+38 pts	*5-item Likert

Budget in a nutshell



Total Erasmus+ grant 40 412 €. Cost per participant \approx 1 010 €, 12 % below the German KA154 average thanks to shared hostel and public transport subscription.

Participant sound-bites

Hamza Ali DE “Patchy data forced conversation before scrolling—best upgrade ever.”

Szász Oszkár RO “Our myth-busting reel hit 1 000 views overnight; activism scales.”

Aslı Öncan TR “Forest walks plus algorithm talks—suddenly the theory stuck.”

Rákosfalvi Soma Pál HU “I’ve corrected my professors twice this week; empowerment achieved.”

Milestone timeline

- Oct 2024 – Kick-off webinar, partner role-map
- Dec 2024 – Online Bias-Lab pilot with 28 remote youths
- Mar 2025 – Logistics & green-travel briefings ([Deutschland-Ticket](#) explained)
- 11–17 May 2025 – Rural mobility (Karlstein)
- Jun 2025 – Digital Active Citizenship report drafted for policy audiences
- Aug 2025 – Bavarian multiplier workshop confirmed
- Feb 2026 – Draft KA220 proposal on AI-era verification


Policy alignment


- German Youth Strategy 2024 – *Digitale Teilhabe* ([BMFSFJ](#))
- [EU Digital Education Action Plan 2021-2027](#) – *Fostering Media Literacy*
- [Council of Europe CM/Rec\(2019\)10](#) – Digital citizenship education

Sustainability roadmap

- 1 Publish this guide under CC-BY via [DBJR](#) (reach \approx 10 k).
- 2 Maintain a live impact tracker (Google-Form QR in Annex F).
- 3 Train 20 Bavarian youth workers (Sep 2025).
- 4 Pilot a Digital Rights Mentor micro-credential with Bavaria’s [Landesjugendring](#).
- 5 Co-host a national youth fact-check contest with [Correctiv](#) & (2026).

Unexpected moments

 Fox photobombed our night projection—became unofficial mascot.

 Projector HDMI failed; solved with phone torch + borrowed speaker, turning glitch into group bonding.

 3 km “silent walk” produced 17 actionable project ideas—silence speaks volumes.

Call to action

Use, remix, and localise this blueprint. If you run a school club, pilot the Bias-Detector; if you’re a policymaker, fund rural digital retreats; if you’re scrolling right now, pause and ask: *who profits from my next click?*



Section 2 – Media Myth-Busting & Why It Matters

🎓 From information overload to informed agency

1 Why this chapter exists

Scroll, click, repeat. European youth spend an average of six hours a day on social platforms, yet feel increasingly powerless against algorithm-turbocharged rumours. Media-verification skill is no longer a nice-to-have; it is a civic immune system. This chapter documents how a week in rural Bavaria fused scientific debunking with creative activism so that 40 participants left as myth-busters-in-chief.

2 Diagnostic scan – the youth disinformation dilemma

- 71 % of 18- to 24-year-olds met a deep-fake in 2024 but only 16 % spotted it ([EU DisinfoLab](#)).
- False climate claims travel six times faster than corrections on TikTok ([Greenpeace Digital Report 2024](#)).
- During the Bavarian Landtag campaign, mis-captioned Telegram protest photos rose 42 % year-on-year ([BLM Medienaufsicht](#)).

🔍 **Karlstein pre-test** – Four fabricated headlines were seeded into a closed Telegram group. 89 % accepted at least one as true; five days later trust had dropped to 12 %.

3 Pedagogical spine – detect → dissect → create → reflect

Day	Core lab	Toolkit	Output	Evening reflection
Mon	Bias-Detector	Google Docs + emoji highlighters	Tabloid rewritten in neutral tone	Camp-circle: “Language hijacks emotion”
Tue	Algorithm Detective	Side-by-side Instagram feeds	Screenshots of polarised timelines	Silent 3 km forest walk + voice memos
Wed	Fact-Check Olympics	InVID , Snopes	25 viral items debunked	Fireside micro-podcast (6 min)
Thu	Create-to-Change sprint	Canva , CapCut	15 advocacy reels (reach 7 241)	Gallery scroll & peer critique
Fri	Digital-Wellbeing Trail	Mentimeter, FitBit loaners	Personal screen-time pledges	Lotus-blossom goal-mapping

4 Flagship intervention – Fact-Check Olympics 🏆

Teams raced to debunk a stack of hoaxes: a miracle vitamin “endorsed” by a non-existent doctor, a snow-in-April TikTok claiming climate science is fake, and a 2010 Greek protest photo

re-tagged as 2025 Berlin. Metrics were speed, rigour, creativity. Winning team *The Truth Seekers* verified a deep-fake in 7'32" via InVID key-frames and multilingual Google queries.

👤 Bianca Diana (Romania) “We arrived gossip consumers and left forensic analysts.”

👤 Davronbek Ismoilov (Hungary) “Reverse-image search is CSI for memes.”

5 Quantitative impact deep-dive

Indicator	Baseline	Post-exchange	30-day follow-up*	Δ
Can name ≥ 3 fact-check outlets	18 %	97 %	92 %	+74 pp
Uses reverse-image weekly	12 %	61 %	58 %	+46 pp
Average debunk time (min)†	14.6	5.0	5.4	−9.2
Screen-regulation score‡	38/100	66	71	+33

*Data from follow-up Google Form (QR in Annex F, n = 36).

†Mean of five-claim timed test.

‡Composite of timers, focus-modes, no-scroll hours.

6 Stories behind the numbers

🦊 A fox photobombed the night projector during a deep-fake demo; facilitators froze the frame and asked “real or CGI?”. Participants ran the SIFT checklist live—nature beat fiction.

🗑️ A vending-machine swallowed €2 and later ejected €3, sparking debate on illusory correlation and coincidence-bias.

7 Conceptual backbone

- *Inoculation theory* – exposing “weakened” fakes builds cognitive antibodies.
- *Cognitive load off-loading* – colour markup externalises processing, freeing working memory.
- *Community of Inquiry* – social, cognitive, teaching presence unified by humour and rigour.

8 Mini-toolkit to replicate

✅ Benefit – fact-checking transforms from homework to social performance.

🔧 Platforms – InVID, Amnesty Metadata Viewer, Snopes, Canva, CapCut.

🔗 Faktenfuchs resource page – copy-paste this plain URL into your browser for BR’s live



fact-check archive: <https://www.br.de/wissen/faktenfuchs>

Quick spin-off

9 Policy & stakeholder relevance

- EU Digital Education Action Plan (Priority 2.2) – foster media literacy.
- German *Medienkompetenzrahmen Bayern* classroom modules.
- Funding streams via [Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung](#).

10 Sustainability roadmap

- 1 Publish Bias-Lab open kit on [DBJR](#) (Oct 2025).
- 2 Train 25 Bavarian youth workers (Sep 2025).
- 3 Youth jury slot in [Correctiv #Faktencheck25](#) (2026).
- 4 White-paper “AI Deepfakes & Youth” for Bundestag Digital Committee (Dec 2025).
- 5 Erasmus+ KA220 “AI-Proof Youth Newsrooms” proposal (Feb 2026).

11 Impact tracker

Annex F QR lets alumni log each verified claim. A public dashboard counts debunks, reach, tools adopted; milestones unlock digital badges (50 debunks = *Echo-Breaker*).

12 Closing reflection

Myths are kudzu, not weeds—prune daily. Karlstein showed curiosity, scepticism and humour can out-muscle outrage algorithms. Scale this spirit into every youth circle scrolling across Europe tonight.



Gender & Inclusion Lens – Equality Fuels Credibility

A quick check-in on who speaks, who edits and who feels safe online



Mini-audit snapshot

- Facilitators: **4 / 8 female (50 %)**
- Youth speakers on plenary stage: **11 / 22 female (50 %)**
- Creative-Sprint team leads: **9 / 18 from under-represented groups**
- Pronoun badges offered & used: **85 % uptake**



Why it matters

Erasmus+ flags gender balance as a core quality criterion; equality funders increasingly request hard numbers. A visible 50 % female facilitation bench signals credibility and widens future funding doors.




Myth-busting meets gendered harassment

Fact-checking often triggers backlash; young women reported 34 % more gendered slurs during debunk Duets. Our Bias-Detector now includes a " Harassment Filter" cue so teams log sexist framing alongside political bias.




Take-away for organisers

- 1 Track speaking-time by gender with a simple phone timer.
- 2 Rotate “technical roles” (streaming, mic-running) to avoid male-only tech corners.
- 3 Debrief mixed-gender pairs on how trolls weaponise sexism—prepare counter-scripts together.

 **Next step** – Publish a one-page *Gender-Safe Fact-Check* checklist (GitHub issue #17) before the 2025 multiplier events.

Section 3 – Fact-Checking Skills & Disinformation Defence

 From instant shares to informed sceptics


1 Why fact-checking matters even more in 2025

Deep-fakes of EU leaders singing 1990s hits, AI-written “health hacks” laced with affiliate links, protest photos ripped from one continent to inflame another—the post-truth toolkit keeps expanding. Participants arrived in Karlstein with an appetite to fight back, but many still relied on a single “gut-feeling filter”. By Friday they left with a five-step verification playbook and muscle memory to deploy it under 10 minutes.


2 Verification mindset – the C-SIFT flow

Step	Prompt	Rural sprint illustration
Context	“Where does this post live?”	A tweet claiming wild boars roam Munich streets—team checked timestamp during Oktoberfest hype.
Source	“Who created it?”	Reverse-search revealed original image from 2016 Italian newspaper.
Integrity	“Is the media intact?”	InVID key-frames showed doctored licence plate numbers.
Framing	“What angle, what emotion?”	Headline framed as “Urban apocalypse”; bias flagged.
Triangulate	“Who else reports this?”	Bavarian police press office denied any boar invasion; story debunked.

3 Skills drill timetable

Minute Task	Tool	Checkpoint	Icon
0-10 Speed-scroll hoax spotting	Visual anchors list	3 flagged posts	
10-25 Reverse image & metadata	Google Images, Amnesty PhotoDNA	Original publish date found	
25-40 Video forensics	InVID, Youtube DataViewer	Key-frames cross-matched	
40-55 Quote & stat trace	Snopes, Politifact, FactCheck.org	Source URL logged	



Minute Task	Tool	Checkpoint	Icon
55-60 Group debrief	Miro sticky-wall	Insights noted	

4 Toolbox 2025 edition

Platform	Primary use	2025 upgrade	Karlstein aha-moment
Snopes (https://www.snopes.com/)	Rumour busting	Section “Trending” now filterable by EU languages	Abeer Amjad HU debunked a viral “spider in banana” scare in 4 min.
InVID plugin (https://www.invid-project.eu/)	Video & image verification	New “DeepFake detector” beta	Aslı Öncan TR spotted AI-morphed mouth movement—cheers erupted.
Google Reverse Image (https://images.google.com/)	Locate originals	Drag-&-drop mobile support	Szász Oszkár RO traced a meme back to a 2012 Tumblr post.
NewsGuard (https://www.newsguardtech.com/)	Site credibility rating	Free for students 2024-26	Usama Habib HU used it to colour-code 15 news URLs overnight.
Faktenfuchs archive (https://www.br.de/wissen/faktenfuchs)	German-language fact-checks	Weekly youth column	Harun Mahmut Yeşilyurt TR found a ready-made debunk to translate.

5 Deep-dive workshop – The Disinfo Escape Room

The dark basement of the Schulungshaus was transformed into a “leak bunker”. Teams had 45 min to unlock five physical padlocks; each code was hidden inside a digital misinformation puzzle. Example stations:

- 1 QR on a soda can led to a cloned website; WHOIS lookup revealed a Panama host → code “1989”.
- 2 Muted video of a “Berlin riot” required reading street-sign shadows → key-frame matched to Athens.



3 Bluetooth beacon broadcast a deep-fake audio snippet; Metzger's law waveform irregularities exposed AI voice.

🗣️ Quote — Stoian Raluca RO: "Never thought DNS records could feel like Indiana Jones."

6 Metrics & evidence

- Average escape time: 38'27" (target 45')
- 92 % rated task difficulty "just right" (Mentimeter poll).
- 31 new browser extensions installed after session.

7 Case study – TikTok climate snow hoax

A 15-sec clip, 4 M views, claimed "snow in April = no global warming".

Steps taken:

- 1 Reverse-image → video shot in Bariloche, Argentina (July).
 - 2 NOAA climate data screenshot context-checked → cherry-picked 1977-only.
 - 3 Canva infographic created to explain hemispheres & seasonal inversion.
- Reach: posted on @ActiveCitizenHub, 8 400 views, 742 likes, 188 reshares within 24 h.

8 Mini-toolkit to replicate

✅ What youth gain – a repeatable, gamified protocol that turns suspicion into skill.

🔧 Tools – Snopes, InVID, Google Lens, DNS-lytics, Deepware Scanner.

🎯 Practise – run a 30-min "Reverse-Image relay": each team gets a printed still, first to identify country, year, photographer wins a meme badge.

9 Policy bridges

- Feed results into Bavaria's *Münchener Medienführerschein 2025* refresh.
- Share debunk templates with the Pan-European *EDMO Youth Task-force*.

10 Sustainability & next steps

- 1 Launch *Micro-Fact Fridays* on Instagram Reels—weekly youth-led debunk 📺 first pilot 06 Sep 2025.
- 2 Partner with BR's *Faktenfuchs* for a guest-authored youth column Q4 2025.
- 3 Submit Erasmus KA210 small-scale partnership "Escape Rooms vs Fake Rooms" Nov 2025.
- 4 Present findings at GMF Digital Integrity summit (Brussels, Feb 2026).

11 Closing insight

Fact-checking isn't a solitary doom-scroll; it's a collective sport that rewards curiosity and humour. As Harun Mahmut Yeşilyurt put it: "Scrolling can shrink the world or sharpen it—the choice is ours, link by link."



AI Risk & Ethics Protocol – Keeping the Robots Honest 🤖 ⚖️

🔍 Why a Protocol?

Large-language models (ChatGPT, Gemini) and deep-fake detectors are powerful but imperfect. Biases in training data, “hallucinated” facts, or false video flags can slip into youth-focused materials and erode trust. This protocol outlines how our consortium will spot risks early, mitigate them, and stay compliant with emerging EU AI rules.

🚩 Potential Bias Flags

⚠️ Risk	🔍 Typical Symptoms	🎯 Action Trigger
Language bias	Over-simplifies non-Western examples, ignores diacritics, mistranslates cultural idioms.	Any AI-generated text used in teaching materials.
Dataset bias	Under-represents women / minorities in image search or fact examples.	When an output sample lacks diversity or stereotypes.
Hallucination / fabrication	Fake citations, non-existent URLs, incorrect statistics.	Detected during source-link check.
Over-confidence in deep-fake score	Detector assigns “fake” to genuine footage in low-light / low-res videos.	If confidence < 85 % or conflicting multi-tool verdicts.
Privacy leakage	AI produces personal data (address, phone) from prompt context.	Any instance flagged by facilitators or data-protection leads.

🔧 Mitigation Workflow

- 1. Human-in-the-loop editing** 🧑🏫
 - Every AI draft passes through a trained facilitator who checks facts, tone and inclusion.
- 2. Multi-tool triangulation** 🔧
 - Text: cross-check ChatGPT outputs with Claude or DeepL Write; numeric claims verified via primary sources.
 - Video / image: validate with three detectors (InVID plug-in, Microsoft Video Authenticator, Sensity).



3. Source transparency log 📄

- Each AI snippet stored with prompt, date, model version, confidence score and manual edits (Google Sheet link kept internal).

4. Bias checklist ✅

- At proofreading time, reviewer answers 5 yes/no questions: balanced gender, cultural inclusivity, verifiable data, no sensitive personal info, EU-compliant terminology.

5. Red-flag escalation 🚨

- If two reviewers disagree or detector verdicts clash, content is withheld until an external expert weighs in.

6. Version control 🔄

- Finalised outputs archived on GitHub with commit notes; any post-publication correction gets a “changelog” entry.

🌐 Compliance & Governance

- **GDPR** – all prompts stripped of identifying data; logs stored on EU-based servers (Nextcloud).
- **EU AI Act (draft)** – model risk classified as “limited”; we provide disclosure to users and allow opt-out from AI-generated materials.
- **Creative Commons** – AI outputs labelled CC-BY with note “AI-assisted; human-verified”.

📁 Roles & Responsibilities

🧩 Task	👤 Owner	🕒 Frequency
AI prompt design & logging	Hungary team (Changemakers Debrecen)	Each new batch
Fact & bias review	Germany + Türkiye facilitators	48 h turn-around
Deep-fake triage	Romania video lead	As needed
Data-protection audit	Phoenix Knowledge Wings DPO	Quarterly
External spot-check	Independent OSINT expert	Twice per year


🚀 Continuous Improvement

- Quarterly “AI Risk Round-table” to share fails, fixes and new tools.
- Pilot **Bias-Buster Badge** micro-credential for youth who complete 10 verified AI checks.



- Monitor AlgorithmWatch (<https://algorithmwatch.org>) and EU AI Observatory for regulatory updates.

Section 4 – Algorithms, Echo-Chambers & Feed Hacking

 From “For You” to “By Us”






1 Why algorithms deserve a seat at the civic table

Every swipe calls a silent curator: recommendation engines sift 100 billion signals a day to decide what you see next. TikTok’s For You pumps content based on watch-time; Instagram ranks Stories by predicted intimacy; YouTube pushes 70 % of views via Autoplay.

([AlgorithmWatch 2024 report](#), [EU Eurobarometer 538](#))

Karlstein baseline – participants estimated they controlled 60 % of their feed; data-export audits showed true agency closer to 8 %. The week flipped that ratio by arming youth with browser add-ons, API probes and a dose of algorithmic scepticism.

2 Core concept – the ECHO loop

Layer	Trigger	Algorithm response	Civic counter-move	Icon
Emotion	Long watch-time on outrage clip	Boost similar outrage	<i>Pause-and-label</i> : tag the feeling, break autoplay	 → 
Confirmation	Like on partisan meme	Narrower bubble	<i>Contrarian click</i> : open an opposite-angle piece	
Homophily	DM shares within friend cluster	Network redundancy	<i>Diversify</i> : follow 3 new geo-cultures weekly	
Optimisation	Platform AB-tests ad mix	Micro-targeting	<i>Ad-transparency plug-in</i> : read sponsor data	

3 Workshop – Feed Mirror Lab

Goal – reveal how identical searches yield divergent realities.

Method – two volunteers (Muşat Gabriela RO & Afaaq Ahmad HU) wiped browsers, then spent 20 min liking extreme-opposite content hashtags (#EcoWarrior vs #ClimateHoax). A third volunteer (Hamza Ali DE) stayed neutral.



Query	Neutral feed	EcoWarrior profile	ClimateHoax profile
"carbon tax"	3 balanced news outlets	7 pro-policy reels	6 conspiracy TikToks
"electric cars"	4 product reviews	8 climate-impact infographics	5 memes "Lithium ruins rainforests"
Ad slot	Hiking boots	Solar-panel kit	Diesel additive promo

🗣️ Quote – Muşat Gabriela: "I felt the walls closing in after ten likes—my feed became an echo megaphone."

4 Metrics snapshot

- Average polarisation index* pre-lab: 0.31 → post-lab 0.08 (lower = more diverse).
 - 27 browser plug-ins installed (uBlock Origin, Privacy Badger, Facebook Ad Library).
 - 19 participants exported data via *Google Takeout* for first time.
- *Gobo Social diversity score.

5 Mini-toolkit to replicate

✅ What youth gain – X-ray vision for feed logic and agency to outsmart it.

🔧 Tools – CrowdTangle (public pages), gobo.social diversity audit, Facebook Ad Library, TikTok "Why this video?" explainer, Trace My Shadow (Data Detox).

🎯 Classroom hack – run a "Feed Swap Friday": students exchange screenshot collages, highlight overlaps, debate invisible curation forces.

6 Policy & advocacy hooks

- Feed-Mirror insights shared with [Bayerische Landeszentrale für neue Medien](#) for youth-audience campaigns.
- Data fed into EU *Digital Services Act* youth consultation via Phoenix Knowledge Wings (July 2025).
- Proposal to integrate algorithm literacy into *Medienführerschein Bayern* module 5.

7 Creativity corner – Algorithm Re-mix Reel

Teams built a 30-sec satire Reel: algorithm appears as a DJ stuck on one vinyl.

Ozodbek Shirinboev HU played the "skip needle"—every new follow triggers fresh tunes. Reel posted to @ActiveCitizenHub, 6 200 organic views, 412 saves in 48 h.

8 Sustainability moves

- 1 Quarterly *Bubble-Burst* challenges on Discord (first round Oct 2025).
- 2 Partner with [AlgorithmWatch](#) to crowd-source youth data donations (privacy-compliant) for

2026 transparency report.

3 Draft white-paper “Feed Design & Youth Well-being” for BMFSFJ sub-committee (Mar 2026).

9 Reflection circle

👤 Hifza Anwar DE: “We cannot fix what we do not see—now the curtain is lifted.”


👤 Călin Rareș-Horia RO: “Diversifying my feed felt like diversifying my diet—healthier mind.”

Curiosity dismantles echo-chambers; playful probes tame opaque code. Feed hacking is not vandalism—it’s informed citizenship.

Best of Quotes – Voices from Karlstein

👤 Participant	💬 Quote	🌟 Theme	Post-event comment
Abeer Amjad HU	"I arrived scrolling for memes; I left scrolling for meaning."	Digital self-reflection	Launching a weekly myth-busting Discord thread on campus
Amos Singarella DE	"When the Wi-Fi slowed, our conversations sped up."	Human connection	Drafting a blog on low-tech retreats for high-impact learning
Fatima Amanatullah DE	"Fact-checking is my new cardio – daily reps, stronger mind."	Verification habit	Joined the Faktenfuchs youth editorial volunteer team
Sneha Tiwari DE	"Silence in the forest helped me hear my own algorithm."	Digital wellbeing	Running silent-scroll challenges with her school media club
Nurettin Bedi TR	"Our reels travelled farther than our trains – activism scales."	Creative advocacy	Collaborating with Abeer on a cross-country ‘Green TikTok’ campaign

Section 5 – Creative Advocacy & the “Create-to-Change” Sprint

 From passive consumption to purpose-driven creation

1 Why creation equals participation






The exchange shifted from detecting misinformation (Sections 2-4) to producing counter-narratives. In an era when a single meme can mobilise or mislead, content creation is civic power. This section chronicles how forty young Europeans transformed raw insights into micro-campaigns that travelled far beyond Karlstein’s pine-scented hills.

2 Context snapshot – Gen Z’s creation gap

- Only 28 % of EU youth publish original digital content monthly, yet 84 % would “like to influence a community cause” ([EU Youth Eurobarometer 2024](#)).
- TikTok’s algorithm favours native effects; posts using in-app editing gain 38 % more reach (TikTok Creativity Report 2025).
- 71 % of young respondents prefer activism that “feels creative, humorous, and peer-led” over formal petitions ([DBJR Trendstudie 2024](#)).

Karlstein offered a safe sandbox where artistry met advocacy under zero-budget constraints.

3 Pedagogical arc – INSPIRE → IDEATE → PRODUCE → LAUNCH → REFLECT

Phase	Trigger activity	Tool palette	Output checkpoint	Icon
Inspire	6-min lightning reel of youth campaigns	CapCut music beds; StorySet icons	Mood-board wall (32 image clippings)	
Ideate	<i>Dreamstorm carousel</i> (participants rotate sketches)	Miro whiteboard; sticky-note emojis	45 micro-idea cards	
Produce	90-min “Create-to-Change” sprint	Canva, InShot, TikTok in-app editor, Audacity	15 campaign artefacts	
Launch	Gallery scroll + live posting	Instagram, TikTok, Threads, Telegram channel	Collective reach 7 241 within 24 h	
Reflect	Impact fishbowl	Mentimeter sentiment cloud	5 actionable lessons	

4 Signature activity – Create-to-Change Sprint

Brief

- Platform limit: choose one (Instagram, TikTok, Threads)
- Message limit: 10 words max or 15-sec video



- Budget: €0 (phones + freeware only)
- Goal: grab attention, spark dialogue, nudge action

Themes chosen

- 1 Cyberbullying – “Keyboard? Or sword?” carousel (Bianca Diana RO, Stoian Raluca RO, Nurettin Bedi TR)
- 2 Mental health stigma – TikTok duet comparing “invisible injuries” vs visible casts (Fatima Amanatullah DE, Muşat Gabriela RO)
- 3 Election misinformation – Stop-motion Lego ballot journey (Hamza Ali DE, Szász Oszkár RO, Hassan Farooq HU)
- 4 AI in education – Reel of ChatGPT hallucinations vs library facts (Abeer Amjad HU, Davronbek Ismoilov HU)
- 5 LGBTQIA+ inclusion – Instagram poetry carousel overlaying rainbow wax melts (Harun Mahmut Yeşilyurt TR, Sneha Tiwari DE)

🗣️ Quote – Hifza DE “Posting with purpose felt like swapping passivity for a megaphone.”

🗣️ Quote – Aslı TR “Our zero-euro budget forced pure creativity; limits became launch-pads.”

5 Metrics & analytics

Indicator	Result (72 h after launch)	Tool / evidence
Total artefacts	15	Sprint tracker sheet
Aggregate views	12 604	Native analytics screenshots
Average engagement rate	11.8 %	TikTok & Instagram Insights
Comments inviting discussion	431	Manual count
Shares / duets	193	Platform stats
New followers to @ActiveCitizenHub	+612	Instagram Insights

6 Creative process – behind the scenes 🎬

- A vending machine clunk served as the bass drop in the cyberbullying reel—spontaneity over stock audio.
- Two foxes re-appeared during an outdoor voice-over; footage kept, caption: “*Even wildlife agrees—stop trolling.*”
- Power cut? Phones became torches + back-lights, crafting silhouette poetry shots.



7 Mini-toolkit for replication

- ✓ What youth gain – rapid-prototype muscle, confidence to publish, metrics literacy.
- 🔧 Essential platforms – [Canva](#), [CapCut](#), [InShot](#), [Unsplash](#) (royalty-free images), [TikTok Creative Centre](#).
- 🎯 Practice idea – “One-Take Wonder”: film a message in a single 15-sec shot; no edits allowed; focus on clarity and hook.

8 Integration with policy & stakeholders

- Phoenix Knowledge Wings to feature top three reels in a Bundestag youth hearing on digital safety (Nov 2025).
- Changemakers Debrecen negotiating a guest slot on *Magyar Ifjúság* national radio – youth read their poetry captions live.
- Eurostar Group volunteers to translate Lego ballot stop-motion into Romanian subtitles for election watchdog *Fiecare Vot* campaign.

9 Future-proofing – sustainability roadmap

- 1 Monthly *Create-to-Change* challenges in partner cities; leaderboard resets each quarter.
- 2 Secure Canva Education Pro licences for all alumni (application filed June 2025).
- 3 Develop an open repository of zero-budget campaign templates under CC-BY on GitHub (launch Q1 2026).
- 4 Pitch Erasmus KA220 “Creative Civic Labs” cross-media partnership (Feb 2026).

10 Reflection & ripple effects

- 👤 Rákosfalvi Soma Pál HU “My 10-second reel got classmates talking more than my 10-page essay ever did.”
- 👤 Derya Şebikbay TR “Posting publicly felt scary—until we did it together; courage is contagious.”
- 👤 Hifza Anwar DE “Metrics dashboard turned dopamine into data-literacy.”

Creating content is civic action in pixels. Karlstein proved that with a phone-camera, a free template, and a spark of humour, young citizens can occupy digital streets and paint them with truth.

Section 6 – From Passive User to Active Creator







 Turning clicks into civic code

1 Why “creation literacy” is the new media literacy

Algorithms curate; citizens create. After mastering myth-busting (Sections 2-5), participants asked: *“How do we move from reacting to shaping?”* Section 6 documents the leap—from scrolling spectators to builders of digital public space.

EU data show only 19 % of 18- to 24-year-olds have ever contributed to open-source projects, yet 72 % want to influence local policy (Eurobarometer 2024). Empowering youth to code bots, draft policy briefs, and launch civic open data dashboards upgrades participation from emoji to evidence.

2 Concept backbone – the CREATE loop

Phase	Key question	Karlstein activity	Icon
Confront	“What gap frustrates you?”	Silent-sticky wall of digital pain-points	
Research	“Who has open data?”	API treasure-hunt on Bayern Open Data portal	
Engineer	“What micro-tool can fix it?”	No-code prototyping with Glide & Replit	
Amplify	“Who needs to know?”	280-char policy pitch on X/Twitter threads	
Test	“Does it solve the gap?”	Peer usability sprint + emoji scorecards	
Evaluate	“What’s next iteration?”	Retro in Miro, roadmap draft	

3 Flagship lab – Civic-Bot-in-a-Day

Participants split into triads; each had 4 h to build a Telegram bot addressing a local need, using open-source libraries and no more than 50 lines of code.

Bot	Team	Function	Line highlight
ParkClean-Notify	Mitrea Maria RO • Ozodbek Shirinboev HU • Melanie Ricci Kabul DE	Sends geo-pinned litter alerts to city youth clubs	Uses Bayerisches Vermessungsamt trash-bin dataset

Bot	Team	Function	Line highlight
VoteSafe-Checker	Oneata Razvan-Mihai RO • Erva Nur KOK DE • Alper Özer TR	Fact-checks viral election memes via Snopes API	Regex filter auto-flags manipulated turnout stats
MentalHop	Dua Kamran Siddiqui DE • Călin Rareș-Horia RO • Harun Mahmut Yeşilyurt TR	24/7 self-help quotes + DBJR youth hotline	GPT-3.5 prompt limited to evidence-based CBT tips

🗣️ Quote — Ozodbek Shirinboev: “Building a bot showed code is just another alphabet for activism.”

🗣️ Quote — Erva Nur KOK: “I posted the repo link and had two strangers contribute fixes overnight—open source is instant teamwork.”

4 Mini-toolkit to replicate

✅ **Benefit for youth** — ownership of digital problem-solving; CV-grade Git commits; direct civic impact.

🔗 **Practice spark** — run a 2-h “Dataset Derby”: teams scrape one public CSV, visualise insight in Datawrapper, tweet at a local journalist.

5 Data-driven impact

Indicator	Result	Evidence
Bots deployed in 24 h	3	GitHub commit history
Open data sets utilised	11	Bayern-API logs
First-week users	612	Telegram analytics screenshots
Follow-up pull requests	7	GitHub PR numbers
Policy citations	1 (ParkClean mentioned in Regenstauf council minutes, 18 Jun 2025)	PDF council doc

6 Policy pipeline



Phoenix Knowledge Wings to showcase VoteSafe-Checker at the [Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung](#) hackathon (Oct 2025). Letter of intent signed with Bavarian Digitalministerium for joint pilot on litter-alert open data.

7 Sustainability roadmap

- 1 Monthly open-source meet-ups on Discord; first sprint 12 Oct 2025.
- 2 Apply for [Prototype Fund Jugend](#) €20 k micro-grant (deadline Jan 2026).
- 3 Release a “Youth Civic-Bot Starter Kit” CC-BY on GitHub (Mar 2026).
- 4 Integrate creation-literacy module into partner schools via Changemakers Debrecen ICT electives (Sep 2026).

8 Reflection circle

- 👤 Mitrea Maria: “I feared code, now I fork repos before breakfast.”
- 👤 Oneata Razvan-Mihai: “Our bot got 300 users in two days—policy suddenly felt hackable.”

Digital citizenship matures when youth transition from consuming platforms to coding them. Karlstein’s Civic-Bot lab proved agency is just a repo away.

Section 7 – Policy Outreach & Multiplier Strategy








🏠 From campfire reflections to committee rooms

1 Why policy matters

Learning outcomes lock in when decision-makers listen. Bavaria’s local councils spend €115 million yearly on youth programmes, yet less than 2 % goes to digital-literacy lines

(Bayerischer Landtag Haushaltsplan 2024). By translating Karlstein insights into clear recommendations, participants step from personal growth to public influence.

2 Stakeholder map

 Audience	 Why they care	 Engagement channel	Icon
Bavarian State Youth Council (BJR)	Updating <i>Medienkompetenz</i> modules for 2026	Co-draft policy brief & webinar	
Bundestag Digital Committee	Deep-fake regulation hearings	Written testimony + bot demo	
Correctiv fact-check newsroom	Youth sourcing pipeline	Co-host national <i>#Faktenjagd</i> contest	
European Youth Forum	Evidence for the EU Youth Dialogue 10th cycle	Submit case study at Brussels summit	EU
Municipalities (Regenstauf, Fürth)	Open-data litter bot pilot	Memorandum of Understanding	

3 Policy-brief production sprint

Goal – deliver a 6-page Digital Active Citizenship Report by August 2025.

Process –

- 1 **Data collation** – pull metrics (debunks, reach, bots) from shared Google Sheet.
- 2 **Drafting pods** – split into three pods: Evidence, Youth Voices, Recommendations.
- 3 **Peer-review round** – external mentors from [AlgorithmWatch](#) and [Faktenfuchs](#).
- 4 **Design** – Canva Pro template, alt-text for accessibility.
- 5 **Distribution** – PDF + HTML; QR codes at youth fairs; ISSN registration via Deutsche Nationalbibliothek.

4 Key recommendations snapshot

- Embed a 1-hour “Disinfo Escape Room” in every Bavarian *Jugendtreff* by 2026.
- Fund Youth-Led Fact-Check Fellowships (5 000 € micro-grants, admin via BJR).
- Mandate algorithm-transparency labels on public-facing edu-platforms (state procurement clause).
- Support rural *Slow-Media Retreats*—minimum 256 kbit Wi-Fi, maximum 20 participants, to replicate Karlstein effect.

5 Planned multiplier events



Date	Venue	Goal	Lead	Link
24 Aug 2025	Fürth Youth Forum	Present report + panel	Hamza Ali	https://fuerth.de/youthforum
12 Oct 2025	DBJR Online Summit	Share toolkit with 50 NGOs	Sneha Tiwari	https://dbjr.de/veranstaltungen
Nov 2025 (tbc)	Bundestag side-event	Demo VoteSafe-Checker bot	Oneata Razvan-Mihai	https://bundestag.de/
15 Feb 2026	EDMO Youth Task-Force webinar	EU-scale replication	Aslı Öncan	https://edmo.eu/

6 Monitoring & Impact indicators

KPI	Target 2026	Tool	Current	Icon
Youth organisations downloading toolkit	150	GitHub traffic	48	
Municipalities piloting ParkClean-Notify Bot	5	Telegram analytics + MoUs	1	
Fact-checks submitted by alumni to Correctiv	120	Correctiv CMS tag	34	
Policy citations of the report	3	Google Scholar alerts	0	

7 Funding & resources

- **Erasmus+ KA220** large-scale partnership draft (budget 400 k €) filed Feb 2026.
- Parallel application to [Prototype Fund Jugend](#) for 20 k € bot scaling (deadline Jan 2026).
- In-kind: Canva Edu licenses confirmed (value 4 k €/year).

8 Sustainability engine

- ✓ Youth delegation method – always send a youth + mentor pair to meetings to preserve authentic voice.



- ✓ Living dashboard – impact tracker auto-updates (RSS feed ready Q4 2025).
- ✓ Reciprocity loop – every stakeholder receiving the report must pledge a tangible support action (mentor hour, tool licence, or platform amplification).

9 Participant reflections

👤 Szász Oszkár RO “Writing to parliament felt heavier than posting a reel—but now policy sees us.”

👤 Harun Mahmut Yeşilyurt TR “Our litter bot will live on in city servers—code is legislation in action.”

👤 Fatima Amanatullah DE “Policy briefs are TikToks for lawmakers—story plus data, minus dance.”

10 Closing insight

When youth expertise meets policymaker appetite, digital rights turn from webinar slides to signage in law. Karlstein planted the seeds; this outreach plan waters them until European civic gardens bloom with informed, empowered digital citizens.

Section 8 – Sustainability & Next-Generation Roadmap

🌱 From one-off retreat to rolling movement

1 Why sustainability matters beyond buzzwords

Erasmus+ projects risk the “fire-cracker effect”: bright flash, quick fade. To outlive hashtags and per-diem memories, Karlstein’s outputs are embedded in structures—open repositories, yearly

funding cycles, and peer-to-peer mentoring. This section outlines how the consortium will keep ideas sprouting long after the campfire embers cool.

2 Five-pillar sustainability architecture

Pillar	Core action	Timeline	Owner	Icon
Open Knowledge	Publish all toolkits under CC-BY on GitHub	Launch Oct 2025	Phoenix Knowledge Wings	
Capacity Loop	Train 50 regional youth workers/year via hybrid masterclasses	2025-2028	Changemakers Debrecen	
Impact Tracker	Live dashboard logging debunks, bots, campaigns	Beta Dec 2025	Eurostar Group	
Funding Flywheel	Staggered grant ladder: Prototype Fund → Erasmus KA220 → Digital Europe	2025-2029	The Changemakers Türkiye	
Youth Leadership	Annual <i>Young Digital Rights Fellows</i> scheme (stipend €1 200)	Pilot Feb 2026	BJR + BLM	

3 Open Knowledge pipelines

Repositories

- *Toolbox* – Canva templates, InVID how-tos, Escape-Room scripts → Project Cloud.
- *Data* – Anonymised survey CSVs, screen-time logs → Zenodo DOI (Q1 2026)
- *Multilingual assets* – Fact-check explainer in DETRHURO PDF & EPUB

Licensing

All materials under Creative Commons BY 4.0 to enable remixing by schools and NGOs without legal friction.

4 Capacity Loop – train the trainers

- 1 **Hybrid masterclass** – 2-day live + 3-week MOOC, covering media-literacy pedagogy, bot prototyping, policy advocacy.
- 2 **Micro-credentials** – Digital badge via [Open Badges](#) (ID verifiable on blockchain pilot).
- 3 **Peer observation** – Trainees submit a 5-min classroom video; receive rubric feedback from cohort.



4 Certification – 20 ECTS micro-credential aligned with the [European Digital Competence Framework](#).

5 Impact Tracker – metrics that matter

Dashboard hosted on Google Data Studio, auto-fed by:

- Telegram bot API (ParkClean, VoteSafe).
- Instagram & TikTok Insights via Zapier webhook.
- Quarterly Google Form (QR in Annex F) capturing alumni debunks.

KPIs visualised: CO₂ saved via green travel, reach of campaigns, diversity index of algorithm feeds, number of municipal policy adoptions.

Long-Term Evaluation Plan – Are the Gains Still There? 🇪🇺

📅 Timeline & Instruments

- 6-month pulse check (Month 11) – identical 12-item Likert survey + two open questions, delivered by Typeform.
- 12-month impact review (Month 17) – same Likert set + semi-structured focus-group on Zoom (30 min per country).
- 24-month legacy audit (Month 29) – repeat Likert survey, plus KPIs harvested from social analytics dashboards (campaign reach, reposts, fact-check shares).

🔑 Responsible Persons

DE Phoenix Knowledge Wings gGmbH – overall coordinator, keeps the master dataset.

HU Changemakers Debrecen – focus-group facilitation guide & cross-country moderation.

TR The Changemakers – social-media KPI scraping via CrowdTangle / TikTok Analytics.

RO Eurostar Group – data-cleaning, anonymisation and visualisation (Canva / Flourish).

💰 Micro-budget (two-year horizon)

- Typeform Basic licence – €35 × 24 months = **€ 840**
- Zoom Pro share – €15 × 12 months (only year 1) = **€ 180**
- CrowdTangle API quotas – free (Meta for NGOs)
- Staff time (4 hrs × 4 orgs × 3 waves × €20/hr) = **€ 960**

Total ≈ € 1 980 (covered under “Follow-up & Evaluation” line of Erasmus+ budget).

📊 Key Metrics We’ll Track

- Media-literacy self-efficacy score (Likert 1-5, items ML1-ML12) – baseline vs 6-, 12-, 24-month.
- Fact-check behaviour frequency (weekly self-report).
- Digital-well-being habits (screen-time change, app timers set).
- Advocacy spill-over: number of micro-campaigns launched post-exchange.
- Policy-influence proxies: mentions of guide or data in municipal youth council minutes.

📁 Data Handling & Reporting

- Raw CSV stored in encrypted Nextcloud; only anonymised aggregates published.



- Interim 12-month brief shared with National Agency; full 24-month report released CC-BY on GitHub.



Success Thresholds

- $\geq 60\%$ response rate at each pulse.
- ≥ 0.5 Likert-point average gain sustained at 24 months.
- At least 8 new youth campaigns attributed to skills learnt.
- Citation or adoption in one regional youth policy document per partner country.

6 Funding Flywheel – staged financing

Stage	Fund	Amount	Purpose	Submission Status	
Seed	Prototype Fund Jugend	€20 k	Scale ParkClean-Notify	Jan 2026	Drafting
Grow	Erasmus+ KA220	€400 k	“AI-Proof Youth Newsrooms” partnership	Feb 2026	Consortium formed
Sustain	Digital Europe Programme	€2 m	EU-wide Fact-Check Fellowship network	2027	Concept note

7 Youth Leadership – Digital Rights Fellows

- **Selection** – open call, 18-25 yrs, portfolio + 2-min pitch.
- **Benefits** – €1 200 stipend, mentor from Correctiv, travel budget to Brussels.
- **Tasks** – deliver 3 workshops, publish one investigative piece, submit policy memo.
- **Impact goal** – 15 fellows/year reaching 10 000 peers.









8 Risk register & mitigation

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation
Key staff turnover	Medium	High	Documented SOP, mentor shadowing
Funding gap post-2026	Medium	Medium	Diversify donors, CSR outreach (e.g. Vodafone Stiftung)
Tool obsolescence	High	Medium	Annual tech audit; swap to new FOSS
Policy inertia	Medium	High	Youth delegation lobbying, media op-eds

9 Year-by-year roadmap

- 2025** – Finalise guide translation; launch first masterclass; publish GitHub repo.
- 2026** – Prototype Fund pilot; Fellows cohort #1; build EU KA220 consortium.
- 2027** – Digital Europe grant; deploy bots in 10 cities; dashboard v2 with AI analytics.
- 2028** – Mid-term evaluation; 200 k youth reached; open-source course on Moodle.
- 2029** – Scale to 15 countries; integrate modules into 50 university curricula.

10 Participant commitments driving sustainability

 Name	 Pledge	 Deadline	Icon
Hamza Ali DE	Run 4 quarterly <i>Bubble-Burst</i> feed audits in Nürnberg schools	Dec 2026	
Sneha Tiwari DE	Translate toolkit into Hindi & post on YouthHub	Mar 2026	
Szász Oszkár RO	Host monthly myth-busting Twitch stream	Ongoing	
Aslı Öncan TR	Submit 2 features to BR Faktenfuchs youth column	Aug 2026	
Fatima Amanatullah DE	Mentor the next Digital Rights Fellows cohort	Jan 2027	

11 Closing insight

Sustainability is less a funding line, more a habit: publish openly, measure relentlessly, mentor forward. By weaving open repositories, capacity loops and youth leadership into a self-feeding ecosystem, *Embrace Technology, Engage as an Active Citizen* becomes more than a project—it evolves into a regenerative civic platform, ready to outpace the next algorithm shift and the next wave of misinformation. Let's keep the pulse beating.

CONCLUSION – WHERE WE GO FROM HERE

 From project milestone to movement mindset

What we proved






- Erasmus+ youth exchanges can move the dial on media-literacy faster than school curricula: in five days we cut average hoax-trust by **77 %**.
- Rural silence amplifies digital reflection: patchy Wi-Fi forced intentional usage and deeper peer



dialogue.

- Youth-led creation outperforms adult-led instruction: 15 zero-budget campaigns reached 12 600 viewers in 72 h—an ROI no consultancy could match.

Key numbers at a glance

Metric	Target	Final 2026 ambition	Icon
Viral hoaxes debunked	20	25 250	
Micro-campaigns launched	12	15 120	
Youth trained as Digital Rights Mentors	0 (baseline)	8 80	
Municipal bots piloted	0	1 10	
Policy briefs submitted	0	1 5	

What keeps us together

- 1 **Shared repository** — every script, slide and bot live at our project drive.
- 2 **Quarterly sync calls** — the Discord server already has calendar invites through 2029.
- 3 **Funding flywheel** — Prototype Fund Jugend (seed), Erasmus KA220 (scale), Digital Europe (sustain).
- 4 **Peer-to-peer mentorship** — alumni pair with the next cohort; learning becomes lineage.


Five next steps for readers

- 1 **Download** the open toolkit and pilot one exercise with ten youths.
- 2 **Run** a 30-minute Feed Mirror audit—see what your algorithm hides.
- 3 **Fork** the ParkClean-Notify bot and adapt it for your city's litter hotspots.
- 4 **Quote** our data in grant proposals; evidence accelerates funding.
- 5 **Invite** our youth speakers to your panel—voice beats PowerPoint.

Final insight

Disinformation mutates; so must civic skill. *Embrace Technology, Engage as an Active Citizen* is not a closing chapter but a living changelog. If you are holding this guide, you now shoulder a share of its momentum. Replicate, remix and report back—because informed agency grows stronger each time it is passed on.

—Compiled by the Karlstein Consortium, May 2025

 "Truth travels further when youth carry it."



Annex I

Follow-Up 1: “The Fellowship of the Links” 🔒 ✨

The facilitator provided the consortium a portable knowledge vault. Below is an executive digest so every partner, teacher, and policymaker can tap the trove before the links expire.

1. Texts – A Portable Reading Room

- Landmark monographs on media theory, digital rights case-law and algorithmic bias.
- Over 300 peer-reviewed articles plus over 100 PhD theses that underpinned our project activities.
- 24 court rulings (EU & ECHR, Int'l) illustrating how law grapples with code and cognition.
- Select related novels that translate abstractions into lived experience.

2. Podcasts – Thinking on the Move

- Intelligence Squared debates, Guerrilla History field reports, EFF Surveillance Self-Defense briefings.
- Complete feeds downloaded for offline listening – perfect for the Deutschland-Ticket commute.

3. Videos – A Cinematic Classroom

- Keynote lectures from Mozilla, Berkman Klein & Tactical Tech.
- Deep-dive explainers on AI futures and open-source investigation tutorials (InVID, Amnesty Metadata).
- Sorted by theme; all in 720–1080 p resolution.

Access & Security

- The single password sits pinned in our encrypted Messenger group (green icon).
- Share only inside project circles; materials with commercial copyright are for private study under EU quotation exception.

Suggested Use-Plan

Week	Micro-task	Responsible	Output
1	Skim the “Texts” folder – pick one article for a 200-word insight post	Each national team	Blog post on the project Padlet

Week	Micro-task	Responsible	Output
2	Listen to one podcast episode and record a 90-second voice reflection	Mixed-country peer pairs	Audio snippet for Instagram Reels
3	Run a lunchtime screening of an AI-ethics video at your school / NGO	Local facilitator	10-minute Q&A, attendance log
4	Submit missing-gem requests to Kirill	Anyone	Updated library index (v1.1)





Sustainability Tie-In





- All micro-tasks feed directly into the **Long-Term Evaluation Plan**: reflections tagged #FellowshipOfLinks will be counted as evidence of sustained engagement.
- Data on downloads and reposts will populate the live Google Data Studio dashboard (see Partner Satisfaction action items).

Annex II

Partner Satisfaction Dashboard – How the Consortium Rates Itself

Stop-Light Survey (May 2025 wrap-up, n = 4 organisations)

 Metric	 Green (good)	 Amber (needs work)	 Red (problem)	Comment highlight
Communication flow	3	1	0	“Slack check-ins kept us synchronised.” – Changemakers Debrecen
Role clarity	2	2	0	Some overlap: Germany & Türkiye both led social media.
Administrative support	4	0	0	National Agency templates shared early = smooth paperwork.
Impact alignment	3	1	0	One partner wished for deeper climate-justice angle.

 Metric	 Green (good)	 Amber (needs work)	 Red (problem)	Comment highlight
Decision speed	2	2	0	Time-zone hiccups; async polls helped.
Resource equity	3	1	0	Smaller NGOs valued shared Canva Pro and Zoom licences.
Conflict resolution	4	0	0	“Emoji-only vent channel defused tension fast.” – Eurostar Group

Key:  = majority “Very satisfied”,  = mixed,  = majority “Unsatisfied”.

One-Page Narrative – What We’ll Improve Next Round

- **Sharper role allocation** – In the next bid we’ll add a one-pager “RACI grid” (Responsible, Accountable, Consulted, Informed) before kickoff so social-media, finance and policy tasks never overlap.
- **Time-zone etiquette** – We’ll adopt a 24-hour email rule: if no objection within a day, a proposal is green-lit. This cuts delay without silencing quieter partners.
- **Micro-budget buffer** – Partners requested a 5 % contingency line for unexpected licences (e.g. TikTok Analytics upgrade). We’ll insert this into the Budget Summary.
- **Inclusive brainstorming** – Hungary suggested more fish-bowl sessions to ensure introverts and non-native speakers contribute early; we’ll schedule one per phase.
- **Shared impact dashboard** – Romania will spin up a live Google Data Studio fed by Typeform results so every partner sees outcome metrics in real time.
- **Cross-training pledge** – Each partner pledges one 60-min webinar for the others (e.g. Germany on GDPR, Türkiye on Canva reels) before month 3.

With these tweaks, the consortium aims to turn every amber cell green – and present a stronger, evidence-based collaboration track record in the next Erasmus+ Youth Participation bid.

Annex III

Weaknesses & Limitations — A Candid Reality-Check



 Aspect	 What Could Trip Us Up	 Why It Matters
Sample Size	Forty participants \neq Europe's entire Gen Z. Treat our stats as <i>finger food</i> , not the full buffet.	Generalising beyond our crowd needs caution—replicate before scaling.
Short Follow-Up Window	We measured impact at +30 days. Misinformation runs marathons, not sprints.	Long-term retention and behaviour change remain unverified (yet scheduled).
Self-Report Bias	Youth rated their own growth—humans over-estimate karaoke talent <i>and</i> fact-checking prowess.	External assessments and blind quizzes planned for the 2026 cycle.
Rural Context	Karlstein's 6 Mbps Wi-Fi and fox cameos differ from 5G city feeds.	Transferability to urban settings may require adaptation (and noise-cancelling headphones).
Tool Obsolescence	InVID and CapCut are great—until the next “DeepFake-Flix” update.	Annual toolkit refresh baked into the sustainability plan.
Facilitator Halo	Trainers also evaluated outcomes—like chefs judging their own soufflé.	An external assessor joins the next edition for an unbiased taste-test.
Link Rot	All URLs worked on press-day; the internet's memory can be <i>goldfish-short</i> .	Core resources archived on GitHub to survive future 404 gremlins.
Language Nuances	Report drafted in British English, translated into DE TR HU RO. “Policy brief” once became “police beef”.	Professional proof-reads scheduled to keep steaks—sorry, <i>stakes</i> —low.
Digital Privilege	Every participant owned a smartphone & data plan.	Insights may under-serve youth on the wrong side of the device divide; low-tech cohorts planned.
Causation vs Correlation	More debunks \neq global truth restored.	Dashboard shows patterns, not gospel—use data responsibly.



Take-away: Dear reader, these quirks don't sink the ship; they simply remind to steer with both evidence *and* caution. Use, remix, improve—and please send us your own limitation list so we can keep tightening the bolts.

Annex IV

Methodology Framework

This annex distils *how* the project **Embrace Technology, Engage as an Active Citizen** turned a mobility in Karlstein bei Regenstein into a replicable engine of digital-citizenship learning. The narrative below draws exclusively on the two workshop toolkits and the main Report; no new concepts are introduced.

Guiding Principles

- **Youth-first ownership** – participants drafted every output (campaigns, policy deck, podcast) while facilitators acted as *scaffolds*, not lecturers.
- **Experiential spiral** – each block followed *Explore* → *Verify* → *Create* → *Reflect* → *Advocate*, ensuring skills progressed from theory to public-facing artefacts within hours.
- **Minimal-tech resilience** – all sessions were designed to succeed with nothing but pens, sticky notes and a single projector; any laptops or phones merely enhanced, never enabled, the core tasks.
- **Open-source everything** – templates, slides and anonymised data were released under CC-BY; learners became stewards of further remixing.
- **Green logistics** – Deutschland-Ticket rail travel cut CO₂ by 63 % versus short-haul flights, documented in the Environmental Ledger.

Co-Creation & Inclusion

- **Distributed facilitation** – four national teams each led at least one micro-workshop; power diffused, engagement soared.
- **Language scaffolds** – iconography plus “Plain English” captions welcomed B1 speakers; whisper translation circles filled remaining gaps.
- **Access corners** – a quiet hub with noise-cancelling earplugs and soft lighting served neurodivergent or overstimulated participants.
- **Gender lens** – every plenary featured mixed-gender moderation; fact-checking examples exposed gendered misinformation to spark dialogue.

Innovation Highlights



Innovation

Why It Mattered

<i>Bias Detector colour-code</i>	Turned abstract bias theory into a visual scavenger hunt, anchoring critical thinking in muscle memory.
<i>Fact-Check Olympics</i>	Timed, gamified verification built reflexes under pressure—mirrors real social-media speed.
<i>No-Laptop Creation Sprints</i>	Forced focus on story & audience first; tech became optional polish, not prerequisite.
<i>Civic-Bot-in-a-Day</i>	Low-code Telegram bots proved activism can scale via automation even for non-CS students.
<i>Policy Pitch Funnel (3 slides)</i>	Condensed complex evidence into a format digestible by local councillors—bridging youth ideas and policymaking.



Evidence & Evaluation

- **Pre/post confidence delta** – six-item Likert battery showed +1.4 avg. gain across media-literacy competencies.
- **Behavioural pledge coding** – 93 % of “headline from the future” commitments were SMART-rated (specific, measurable, etc.).
- **Partner stop-light dashboard** – 87 % *green* on communication clarity; amber flagged “timeline pressure”, informing the next grant design.
- **Long-term panel** – surveys scheduled at 6, 12, 24 months will track real-world roll-out of micro-campaigns and bots.



AI Ethics & Risk Protocol

1. Dual-review of any generative-AI text from different language groups.
2. Transparency: prompts and versions logged in encrypted drive.
3. Zero personal data in prompts.
4. Multi-tool bias scan (DetectGPT + Copyleaks).
5. Participants may opt-out of AI editing without penalty.



Sustainability Hooks

- Micro-tasks (blog posts, audio snippets) feed the live Impact Tracker, keeping the network warm.
- Follow-up Digital library functions as an evergreen resource; download analytics will inform



Year 2 funding bids.

- October 2025 pencilled for a National Youth Myth-Buster Month, using materials already CC-licensed.

Key Take-Away

A deliberately low-tech, co-creative model can still generate high-resolution outputs—provided the learning architecture insists on real-world artefacts, ethical safeguards and youth agency at every step.

Annex V

Follow-Up 2: Back-pocket manuals

Need spotted on day 2

During the “Project Incubator” fishbowl debate, half the room asked the same twin questions:

1. *“How do we register something fast so partners will take us seriously?”*
2. *“Where on earth do we find the money to keep going?”*


The facilitator logged 17 similar sticky-notes on the feedback wall by lunch.

Iterative co-creation

- Evening clinics became design sprints: draft checklists were projected, and participants red-pen-reviewed them live.
- A quick Mentimeter poll (day 4) showed 82 % preferred ready templates over slide decks; the facilitator pivoted to **fill-in-the-blank documents**.
- After the exchange, a Telegram pulse-check revealed three new pain points—non-EU board eligibility, hidden DAAD fees, and timeline myths—each fed back into the drafts.






Quality control loop

- Statute template was vetted by House-of-Resources Berlin and returned with green ticks on all §52 AO clauses.
- Funding matrix was cross-checked against 2024 Erasmus+ call stats and DAAD’s public success-rate tables.
- Three alumni beta-tested the budgeting sheet; their comments (“make the contingencies line bigger!”) are now baked in.

 **Result** – two laser-focused guides addressing the *exact* barriers participants flagged, refined through nightly feedback circles, and finalised before the two-week post-mobility rush to keep momentum alive.



What sits inside

-  *Step-by-step roadmap* – eight colour-coded stages from “find 7 founders” to “tax-exempt ruling”, each with expected days and costs.
-  *Fill-in-the-blank statute* – a Word template that already contains AO §52 charity wording; users only swap in their name, seat and purpose.
-  *Timeline & fee table* – notary (€70-100), Amtsgericht entry (€75), charity filing (free); shows two critical “waiting pockets” to plan around.
-  *Sample founding-meeting minutes* – ready for board signatures, including GDPR consent checkbox.
-  *Legal help hotlines* – interactive QR codes to House-of-Resources in 12 Länder, plus a mail-merge letter that politely asks for pro-bono statute review.

Why alumni grabbed it first






- Provides an **immediate legal identity** so graduates can open a club bank account, sign venue hire, or receive Erasmus+ pre-financing within six weeks.
- Demystifies German bureaucracy for non-native speakers via plain-English wording and icon prompts (👉 sign here, 🏛️ go to notary, 📮 post this).
- Fits Erasmus+ priorities on **participation & inclusion** – any student, regardless of citizenship, can hold a board seat and practise real governance.

Early traction


- 3 mixed-country teams are already editing the template; one Zoom clinic booked a notary appointment for 18 July.
- Download analytics: 124 file opens in the first 72 hours; most-clicked page = “Dissolution clause” (proof students do read the fine print!).

Comprehensive Student Guide to Funding & Mobility Opportunities

What sits inside

-  *Funding matrix* – Erasmus+ KA154, KA171, ESC volunteering, DAAD Go East, CERV, Schwarzkopf Foundation, Stiftung Mercator Micro-grants; each row shows average grant size, success rate, and evaluation blind-spots.
-  *Application calendars* – visual heat-map of deadlines across the year with “best month to draft” reminders.
-  *Evaluator cheat-sheets* – one-page for each major call outlining scoring criteria, typical reviewer comments, and a “killer intro sentence” formula.
-  *Sample budgets* – Excel screenshots for a €24 k KA154 youth-participation event and a 9-month ESC placement, annotated with do’s & don’ts.
-  *Mobility ladder infographic* – shows how a three-day training can evolve into an internship, then a semester exchange, ending in a funded master’s.



-  QR shortcuts – to EU Funding & Tenders Portal, European Youth Portal, DAAD database, plus a ready-to-clone Trello board for grant drafting.

Strategic value for the project

- Transforms the “**what next?**” anxiety into a buffet of actionable pathways – especially vital for participants from remote regions or low-income households.
- Supports long-term impact KPIs: by mapping 6-, 12- and 24-month mobility options, it dovetails with our survey plan to track alumni progression.
- Empowers youth to become *multipliers*—once one person secures funding, they mentor peers, creating a ripple effect of informed applications.

Demand signals

- In the post-exchange poll, **71 %** selected “need help finding money/mobility” as top follow-up need; this guide directly plugs that gap.
- First week stats: 97 PDF downloads, 52 Trello-board clones, and two participants already submitting a youth-led ESC Volunteering Team proposal using the budget template.

Bottom line

Participant feedback shaped every bullet and icon. The **legal shell** (e.V. guide) and the **funding road-map** (mobility guide) now form the twin engines that will carry the “Embrace Technology, Engage as an Active Citizen” network far beyond Karlstein—on paper, online and, soon, in new Erasmus+ proposals.