

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Participant:	101081624 – Faktabaari / Avoin yhteiskunta ry
PIC number:	909984937
Project name and acronym:	Immunising citizens against dis/misinformation - IMMUNE 2 INFODEMIC

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	16
Event name:	Fact-checking day – Factbar 10 years Forum
Type:	Multiplier event
In situ/online:	in-situ and online
Location:	Merkki Museum (Korkeavuorenkatu 28), Finland, Helsinki
Date(s):	2nd of April 2024
Website(s) (if any):	https://faktabaari.fi/avoinyhtk/faktabaari-10-years-forum-stop-think-check-elections-ai-and-social-media-how-should-we-prepare-our-citizens-1/
Participants	
Female:	28
Male:	32
Non-binary:	-
From country 1 [Finland]:	57
From country 2 (Germany)	1

From country 3 (France)	1		
From country 4 (Sweden)	1		
Total number of participants:	60	From total number of countries:	4

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

On 2nd April, the International Fact-Checking day, Faktabaari organized an event to tackle the current themes and issues in disinformation and to celebrate its 10th anniversary. This event, titled "STOP THINK CHECK - Faktabaari 10 years and beyond with networks," featured a comprehensive program aimed at addressing the pressing issues of election integrity in the era of social media and generative AI.

The event began with a welcome address by Mikko Salo from Faktabaari, setting the stage for a series of presentations and discussions. A video message from Morten Dahlback of Faktisk & NORDIS highlighted the ongoing efforts to re-launch EDMO NORDIS and extended congratulations to Faktabaari on their milestone.

The keynote speech by Jevin West from the University of Washington's Center for an Informed Public focused on the challenges of maintaining election integrity amidst the proliferation of social media and AI technologies. This was followed by a commentary from Professor Teemu Roos of the University of Helsinki, who provided additional perspectives on the subject.

The second segment of the event delved into current strategies for safeguarding election and information integrity. Pipsa Havula of Faktabaari and Guillaume Kuster of CheckFirst shared lessons learned from the Finnish Presidential Elections and discussed the potential for a Digital Election Watch network for EU elections. Thomas Hedin from TjekDet/NORDIS offered commentary on the complementarity of NORDIS and Elections24Check fact-checking initiatives.

A break featuring an AI-themed game provided a practical demonstration of AI manipulation, engaging participants in understanding the importance of AI literacy. Kari Kivinen from Faktabaari EDU then discussed the role of AI literacy and prebunking in preparing new voters to navigate infodemics during elections, with additional commentary from Jevin West and Teemu Roos.

The event concluded with a summary of key takeaways and a discussion on the next steps, including a preview of the NORDIS campaign aimed at journalists in the context of the upcoming EU elections. Andreas Önnfors from FOJO, Linnaeus University, provided insights into this initiative, which was set to culminate in a significant event on May 9th.

The closing words by Mikko Salo and Elina Kiiski-Kataja emphasized the ongoing commitment of Faktabaari and the newly established FAKTA Foundation to fostering information resilience. The event ended with a networking session, "Democracy Drinks," celebrating the collaborative efforts to enhance democratic processes in the digital age.

Full programme

13.30 Coffee

14:00 Welcome: STOP THINK CHECK - Faktabaari 10 years and beyond with networks. Mikko Salo, Faktabaari

14.15 Congratulations to Faktabaari and preparing for EDMO NORDIS re-launch together, Morten Dahlback, Faktisk & NORDIS (video)

14:20 Keynote and discussion

Election integrity at the time of social media and generative AI – how should we prepare our citizens? Jevin West, UW CIP

Commentary: Prof. Teemu Roos, Generation AI / University of Helsinki

Moderator and Q&A: Mikko Salo, Faktabaari / EDMO NORDIS

II. Ongoing approaches for election and information integrity

15:20 Digital Election Watch network for EU elections? - lessons learned from the Finnish Presidential Elections, Pipsa Havula, Faktabaari & Guillaume Kuster, CheckFirst

15:35 Commentary and Q&A: Complementarity to NORDIS and Elections24Check fact-checking efforts, Thomas Hedin, TjekDet / NORDIS

15:45 Coffee & game break: AI-to game - entrance to the world of AI manipulation peli.faktabaari.fi

16:00 AI Literacy and prebunking - immunizing new voters to infodemics during elections, Kari Kivinen, Faktabaari EDU

Commentary: Jevin West and Teemu Roos

III. Summing up and Next steps

16:30 Summary Takeaways from previous presentations (and the Nordic policy initiative)

16:40 NORDIS campaign with journalist in view EU elections: “The battle” on 9.5., Andreas Önnfors, FOJO, Linnaeus University (TBC)

16:50 Closing words and FAKTA Foundation, Mikko Salo & Elina Kiiski-Kataja

17:00 Democracy drinks for information resilience (stream ends)

Results & Feedback:

The event proved to be an insightful and impactful gathering for stakeholders from various sectors. The event successfully brought together experts, academics, journalists, educators and non-profit organizations to discuss and develop strategies to address the information sphere and its challenges.

The outcomes and feedback from the event underscore its impact. The event facilitated opportunity for networking, resulting in deeper partnerships among organizations and experts. The collaborative discussions laid the groundwork for future initiatives for safeguarding our democratic processes, particularly in the context of upcoming EU elections.

Jevin West's keynote address, coupled with insightful commentary from Professor Teemu Roos, provided attendees with a comprehensive understanding of the complexities surrounding election integrity in the era of social media and AI, and provided them with a global perspective. The discussions highlighted the necessity of preparing citizens to critically evaluate information.

Presentations by Pipsa Havula and Guillaume Kuster on the Digital Election Watch network offered practical lessons from the Finnish Presidential Elections,

emphasizing the importance of vigilance and proactive measures in monitoring election-related information. The commentary from Thomas Hedin further enriched this dialogue, offering complementary perspectives.

The AI-themed game break engaged participants in a hands-on exploration of AI manipulation, illustrating the importance of AI literacy. This interactive segment received positive feedback for its innovative approach to demonstrating real-world applications of AI and misinformation.

Kari Kivinen's session on AI literacy and prebunking strategies for new voters was particularly well-received. The discussions underscored the necessity of educating younger generations to be resilient against infodemics, with Jevin West and Teemu Roos providing insights into effective educational strategies.

The event's summary session consolidated main takeaways, emphasizing the need for continued efforts at fighting information disorders. Andreas Önnfors' preview of the NORDIS campaign, targeted at journalists for the upcoming EU elections, highlighted a proactive approach to combating misinformation. These were met with enthusiasm and support from participants.

60 participants were present in-situ, and around 58 online (excluded from this report), altogether from 12 countries – mostly from the EU, but also from the UK and USA (excluded from this report). Feedback was gathered mainly verbally. Feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive, with many highlighting the event's and the topics' relevance, the quality of discussions, and the practical applicability of the insights shared.