



Erasmus+
Enriching lives, opening minds.

A large orange circle is partially cut off by a diagonal line that runs from the top right to the bottom left. The word "in" is positioned to the left of the circle, and "tact" is to the right, with the diagonal line separating them.

in
tact

E-BROCHURE



ERASMUS PLUS – PROJECT "INTACT - INSPIRING TEACHERS
AGAINST CONSPIRACY THEORIES"
AGREEMENT N° 2021-1-BG 01-KA220-ADU-000026295

the project

Conspiracy theories are a distinct subset of disinformation. And they are - and will be - with us forever, as even dormant theories are frequently revived because new generations discover them for the first time and find them fascinating. De-bunking individual theories has a very limited reach and role in the long-term relationship between society and conspiracies. In De Facto 1 we focused on exploring the full field of disinformation and linked it to education. Continuing and building upon our work, we want to study in detail the typology, specific characteristics, cognitive mechanisms and impact vectors. We propose to stay in the realm of education, where still little or no work is being done, and engage teachers and learners in practical scenarios where they deconstruct conspiracy theories, explore their various elements, and perhaps even test-construct a conspiracy theory of their own.

An important part of the project shall be the impact of conspiracy theories on the social systems and in particular the link to active citizenship priority. We know well that disinformation and conspiracy theories in particular aim at undermining public trust and confidence in institutional authority and expertise, sow confusion and instill fear and uncertainty. Hence a development of our own version of education-centred gullibility test would reveal the extent of potential and/or actual damage. This falls in line with top-level EU priorities and concerns, and goes beyond the daily information stream.

The plan is to employ the full range of available technological solutions in our analytical work and also in the training interventions we wish to design. These would include AI and ML-based apps and scripts which are able to detect emotions, extract meaning, explore propagation networks, identify active disinformation clusters, trace disinformation campaigns.

Six different partners collaborate
all together for the

intact's project

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KEY OBJECTIVES:

- Improve the understanding of disinformation and conspiracy theories
- Increase awareness and understanding of the impact vectors (technological and cognitive) of conspiracy theories
- Reduce the harmful impact on public systems, policies and trust
- Contribute to sustainable active citizenship
- Improve critical thinking, media literacy and digital skills

KEY ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS:

- Design and implement a gullibility test to determine risk scores and risk profiles (susceptibility to disinformation in general) - a self-assessment test for teachers and learners. Extend this to a test measuring the current exposure to leading conspiracy theories
- Test the use and the usefulness of (tinker with) AI/ML apps (mood/emotion; actual meaning; Twitter posts, bots, networks, etc.)
- Devise and test a method for deconstruction of conspiracy theories (use this in an LTTA training with staff and teachers, and in ME)
- Study and attempt to measure the impact on education and other social systems and policies (COVID, climate change, erosion of trust)
- Use focus groups to further explore the impact of disinformation on education
 - Employ co-creation in designing training intervention for conspiracy theories (suited for teachers and learners)
 - Pilot test the intervention and method using ME in workshop format
 - Design an online training course and resource repository for educators incorporate and promote the dialogic teaching approach as particularly well-suited for the topic)



in
tact



the first phase of InTACT

During the first phase of the project, each country administers tests to a significant group of users to collect some information to determine some risk scores and profiles, (susceptibility to disinformation in general) and measure the exposure to the main conspiracy theories.

The project runs from
November 1st, 2021,
for a total of **30 months**





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