EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

(To be filled in and uploaded as deliverable in the Portal Grant Management System, at the due date foreseen in the system.

⚠️ *Please provide one sheet per event (one event = one workpackage = one lump sum).)*

PROJECT	
Participant:	Association Community
	Arci Solidarietà onlus
	JEF Europe
	Altera APS
	Ligue de l'enseignement
	Subjective Values Foundation
	Faktor Terminal
	Mandragola Editrice
	UCCA
PIC number:	[947747037]
	[943111213]
	[945907044]
	[931406223]
	[947166977]
	[949551625]
	[919913663]
	[900110046]
	[920843408]
Project name and acronym:	[Words of Europe] — [W.E.]

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	[WP5]
Event name:	[WP5 - Deconstruction of false myths about the EU]
Type:	[workshop]
In situ/online:	*[online]*
Location:	[online]
Date(s):	[20/11/2023]
	[13/12/2023]
	[13/12/2023]
	[19/12/2023]
	[19/12/2023]
	[23/01/2024]

Website(s) (if any):	https://www.wordsofeurope.eu/	
Participants		
Female:	81	
Male:	76	
Non-binary:	0	
From country 1 Belgium:	5	
From country 2 Bulgaria:	1	
From country 3 Denmark:	1	
From country 4 Finland	1	
From country 5 France	26	
From country 6 Germany	2	
From country 7 Luxembourg	1	
From country 8 Malta	1	
From country 9 Romania	2	
From country 10 Hungary	32	
From country 11 Italy	82	
From country 12 Spain	2	
Total number of participants:	157	From total number of countries: 12

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

The partners organised 6 online events from November 2023 to January 2024.

Methodology

Interactive online workshops using different kinds of digital tools (padlet, mentimeter, videos, quiz etc.).

Implementation

Previously, the questionnaire about False Myths about the EU was posted on the website of the project and partners worked on getting to know the myths shared through the questionnaire. These were the base of the online workshops conducted in this Work Package.

On 20/11/2023 at the **transnational event** organised by all partners participants got information on the historical background of the EU and the usage and reasons for fake news as a tool of power. Examples were shared when fake news had significant effects on social decisions such as the election of Donald Trump or Brexit. The speaker also talked about the danger of images and videos created by AI that are already hard to recognize and emphasised the importance of questioning 'facts' participants meet. This was followed by a group work in break out rooms, where each group had a false myth to deconstruct. The myths were: 'The EU wants to create the United Nations of Europe instead of independent states', 'Germany and France are taking over the EU, they make the

decisions', 'EU wants to force partner countries to receive refugees', 'EU is against our country'. Participants shared their thoughts, arguments and resources that debunk these myths.

On 13/12/2023 Faktor Terminál and Subjective Values Foundation held separate online events. **Faktor Terminál** focused on discussing how one can know that a news source is trustworthy, and how one can detect fake news. Atlatszo.hu ('transparent') is the first Hungarian investigative journalism nonprofit and a watchdog NGO to promote transparency, accountability, and freedom of information in Hungary. 'Be a fake news hunter!' is an online test by atlatszo.hu that wants to teach its users in a playful way to recognize fake news, disinformation, exaggerations behind sensationalism, and conspiracy theories. Participants filled out the test and then discussed the results. The activity was held online for a class of a high-school of Budapest.

Subjective Values Foundation organised an online workshop for high school students. They were separated into 5 smaller groups and they worked on the definitions of terms that are connected to fake news and false myths and that are relevant to safe internet usage. A Jamboard was used to collect the inputs of the groups in separate pages. Participants and facilitators talked about the terms to have a common understanding. Then 2 Hungarian language videos were presented about fake news and their psychological background to clarify how fake news works and why we are receptive towards them. Online quizzes and interactive tasks were shared with the group that help improve critical thinking and be more resilient towards false myths.

On 19/12/2023 an online workshop was organised by the **Italian partners** of the project: **UCCA, Altera APS, Mandragola Editrice and Arci Solidarietà**. At the first part of the event the definition of false myths was presented, then there was a discussion of fake news in Italy, including some statistical data. Another section was dedicated to sharing and discussing strategies to tackle them and how to approach information critically. It was followed by a segment about myths related to the European Union and explanations of the Union's functioning and history. The workshop also involved teamwork, where participants chose a false myth, and discussed it. Participants were divided into 4 groups and worked for 30 minutes with the assistance of facilitators. The false myths chosen were: 'The EU forces us to eat insects', 'The EU forces us to accept migrants', 'The European Union wants to destroy national cultures', 'EU membership implies a cessation of power of the US and politically and economically stronger member states'. At the end, one participant per group explained their findings and how to tackle the chosen false myth to the others.

Also on 19/12/2023 **Association Community** organised an online workshop for young people. During the workshop, a panel was presented with 5 news, of which 3 were fake. Participants guessed the 3 fake news and debated freely. The discussion was facilitated by questions such as: "Have you ever heard of these topics?"; "Do you agree with statement X or Y?"; "Why do some people/entities decide to use fake news?". Next, the concept of critical thinking was introduced, focusing the discussion on two myths: 'The European Union is expensive for France' and 'The European Union forces us to participate in international conflicts that do not concern us'.

JEF Europe held an online meeting on 23/01/2024 on how to deconstruct the false myths using examples concerning Europe and especially European elections. The session began with an introduction on the Words of Europe project and the Work Package that deals with false myths. Participants then split into groups to tackle three prevalent false beliefs: manipulated EU elections, dominance of a few member states in policymaking, and the EU being undemocratic. In 15 minutes they dismantled this fake news and presented their findings in the plenary session. The meeting concluded with discussions on implementing practical strategies to combat false narratives in daily life

Feedbacks from participants:
Representatives of NGOs, members of civic services and youth workers claimed they wanted to learn new methods to support critical thinking of the people they work with and to brainstorm together on tackling fake news that are widely spread on social media.

Young people were curious about the psychological background of believing fake new and false myths and stated that they have learnt new things during the workshop.

Reporting

Arci Solidarietà requested all partners to write the Event Description Sheets for each event and upload the video recordings, the downloaded participant lists, screenshots, any other useful materials, and the Excel sheet with participant information.

Communication

The workshops were promoted through the website of the project and of each partner, as well as on social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Linkedin).

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	01.04.2022	Initial version (new MFF).