

## EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Participant:	101081624 - Beyond the Horizon ISSG (BtH)
PIC number:	904570106
Project name and acronym:	Immunising citizens against dis/misinformation - IMMUNE 2 INFODEMIC

EVENT DESCRIPTION		
Event number:	1	
Event name:	Framework Workshop	
Type:	Workshop	
In situ/online:	in-situ	
Location:	Belgium, Brussels	
Date(s):	28 February 2023	
Website(s) (if any):	<a href="https://behorizon.org/eventsandactivities/immune-2-infodemic-project-framework-workshop/">https://behorizon.org/eventsandactivities/immune-2-infodemic-project-framework-workshop/</a>	
Participants		
Female:	11	
Male:	17	
Non-binary:	1	
From country 1 [Belgium]:	17	
From country 2 [Finland]:	5	
From country 3 [Netherlands]:	4	
From country 4 [Germany]:	2	
From country 5 [Denmark]:	1	
Total number of participants:	29	From total number of countries: 5
Description		
<p>The Framework Workshop aimed to develop background guidelines for formulating tools and instruments against dis/misinformation. To realise this, the workshop brought together field experts, researchers, practitioners, media and communication experts and journalists.</p>		

The event is implemented between 09:30 – 13:00 within the plan including an opening speech, round table introduction of the participants, introduction of the project and partner organisations, two breakout workshop sessions and a wrap up followed by a lunch and networking moment.

Participants were informed about the project objective, outputs and activities by the beneficiaries at this initial event of the project. In the 2 breakout workshops participants gave their inputs for defining the frame for project instruments and themes by brainstorming key dis/misinformation narratives, platforms, actors and main skills and strategies for immunising our citizens.

**The Instruments Workshop - 1** focused on the skills and strategies that can be used to immunise citizens against mis- and disinformation based on the selected competences from the DigComp2.2 The Digital Competence Framework for Citizens document of the European Commission. The needed skills for the following three competencies were discussed by the participants in three stations in a world cafe workshop format.

- **Access** to information, media content and media and information providers: Following reliable public news agencies and reliable social media platforms, knowing how to google, cross-checking and lateral reading were identified as necessary skills for finding reliable information. New skills are needed for identifying journalists, distinguishing facts from opinions and professional journalists from others, and knowing how journalism works.
- **Evaluation** of media and information content and media and information content providers: Critical evaluation of media content, evaluation of the context of the pictures, distinguishing AI-generated pictures, creating habits for checking original sources, understand the economic, social and political power and control of media companies are among the identified skills for evaluation.
- **Algorithm awareness** - the challenges of artificial intelligence: Algorithm awareness and awareness of AI capabilities are among the current required skills since breakthroughs like ChatGPT are making the situation more complex. Managing digital identity and protecting one's privacy is another key skill due to increased use of mass personal data by many platforms easing mis/disinformation spreading.

**The Themes Workshop - 2** focused on the main dis/misinformation narratives and platforms, main actors with current and future perspectives. Consecutive focused discussions were implemented on three main themes:

- **Elections:** The approaching European elections can be seen as an overarching theme for the infodemic with a potential of covering a lot of issues including migration, security, climate change, energy. Foreign interfering actors can potentially be major dis/misinformation spreaders as a part of their hybrid/cyber warfare capacities exposing threat to the EU democracies and its citizens.
- **COVID-19:** It has been highlighted that COVID-19 is a less covered topic nowadays, while medicine safety, medicine shortages can be general upcoming issues in the future in the health domain.
- **Migration:** Migration is a major dis/misinformation theme in terms of the increasing number of refugees from conflict zones and their impact on the society and economy. The conflicts on the peripheries and the climate change are also intertwined with this theme as being strong migration drivers and are also subject to infodemic.
- As an addition, climate change is defined as a major infodemic theme, which is on the rise and will highly likely stay in the future effecting our citizens' democratic choices.

As a result, this initial event achieved to make the first introduction to an international experts and practitioners group; get their inputs for building a better framework for the project outputs; and create a multiplier community for future project activities with the request and consent of the participants.

**Feedback:** Based on the post-event online survey:

- 90% of the participants were satisfied with their overall experience.
- 95% of the participants found the agenda relevant.
- 95% of the participants were satisfied with the event location.
- 95% of the participants were satisfied with the food and beverage.

The workshop was found in general well organized in terms of timing and unfolding of different sessions. It has been suggested by several participants to discuss fewer topics or give more time to each topic at the workshops. More representation can be provided from Central and Eastern Europe, as well as from other EU agencies to share their experience with disinformation.