

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 2

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	1		
Event name:	Framework Workshop		
Type:	Workshop, seminar, training, conference, etc		
In situ/online:	In-situ		
Location:	Brussels, Belgium		
Date(s):	31/01/2025		
Website(s) (if any):	https://behorizon.org/eventsandactivities/foreign-information-manipulation-and-interference-fimi-framework-workshop/		
Participants			
Female:	12		
Male:	13		
Non-binary:	1		
From country 1 [Belgium]:	18		
From country 2 [Germany]:	4		
From country 3 [Finland]:	1		
From country 2 [The Netherlands]:	3		
Total number of participants:	26	From total number of countries:	4
Description			

The Framework Workshop aimed to develop background guidelines for formulating tools and instruments against dis/misinformation on Russian Information Manipulation and Interference (FIMI). To realize this, the workshop brought together field experts, researchers, practitioners, media and communication experts and journalists.

The event is implemented between 09:00 – 12:30 within the plan including an introduction of the project, three introductory speeches by an expert, each followed by a breakout workshop session, and a wrap up followed by a lunch and networking moment.

Participants were informed about the project objective, outputs and activities by the project coordinator. In the breakout workshops participants gave their inputs for defining the frame for project instruments and themes by brainstorming key dis/misinformation narratives, tactics and main skills and strategies for immunising our citizens.

Topic 1. Russian interference in elections

This topic focused on Russian disinformation on elections, the strategies, and impact. The lessons learned from the past were presented:

- Pre-bunking (de-bunking before the fact, avoids damage being done) and publishing threat assessments works better, fact checking is not as effective (need for verified information)
- Importance of enhancing inter-institutional coordination between intelligence services, election officials and national authorities (in USA a new agency was created just for the election). A long-term plan to prevent intervention before elections is a more robust way of fighting it
- Importance of training against AI misuse. Many times, AI was used to manipulate opinion and create antagonism based on lies.

Observed hybrid threats during the European elections were discussed, among others Dobbelgänger websites, fake accounts, usage of AI, and cyber-attacks, as well as breadth of hybrid operations.

Topic 2. Information Overload

The key techniques include generating information pollution, flooding existing hashtags, and conducting swarming (coordinated use of accounts to flood information space). The challenges that these techniques bring to fact checkers were discussed among others, along with how to increase resilience of the citizens against (dis)information overload.

Topic 3. War in Ukraine

The broad context of the attempts to spread Russian ideology were presented. The link of Russian narrative to Chinese propaganda was discussed, as well as how Russia reaches out to post-colonial countries attempting to turn them against the West, spreading the image of 'liberal Nazism' and picturing themselves as the liberator. The current disinformation narratives regarding Ukraine were discussed, as well as what to expect in the future and what the citizens should be aware of.

- Signed Registration list
- Event photos
- Slides of the speakers (two presentations that had slides)
- Combined notes of the event and the discussions

