

## EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

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

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	4
Event name:	Facts or Myths – dealing with disinformation / Feiten of fabels – omgaan met desinformatie
Type:	Workshop
In situ/online:	In-situ
Location:	Herentals, Baarle, Lille, Vorselaar, Geel, Meerhout
Date(s):	17/10/2025 21/10/2025 23/10/2025 6/11/2025 18/11/2025 20/11/2025
Website(s) (if any):	<a href="https://behorizon.org/eventsandactivities/immunise-against-dis-misinformation-workshop-series-facts-or-myths/">https://behorizon.org/eventsandactivities/immunise-against-dis-misinformation-workshop-series-facts-or-myths/</a>
Participants	
Female:	87
Male:	32
Non-binary:	-
From country 1: Belgium:	118
From country 2: Netherlands:	1
Total number of participants:	119
From total number of countries:	2
Description	

WP4 consisted of a **series of workshops with mostly elderly audience** under the name *Feiten of fabels – omgaan met desinformatie* (Facts or Myths – dealing with disinformation). Each workshop followed the three steps of psychological inoculation: 1) introducing the basics of mis- and disinformation (*emotional warning*), 2) providing practical examples (*microdose*) and 3) tools to start fact checking independently and tips to strengthen the resilience of the participants (*refutation*).

**A series of workshops in the Kempen region in Flanders:**

- Date & Location: 17 October, Herentals (BE)
- Organised with Avansa and Vrouweninfo Herentals
- Participants: 31
- Target group: Elderly citizens, general public
  
- Date & Location: 21 October, Baarle (BE)
- Organised with Avansa and Cultural Centre of Baarle
- Participants: 34
- Target group: Elderly citizens, general public
  
- Date & Location: 23 October, Lille (BE)
- Organised with Avansa and Public Library of Lille
- Participants: 9
- Target group: Elderly citizens, general public
  
- Date & Location: 6 November, Vorselaar (BE)
- Organised with Avansa and Municipality of Vorselaar
- Participants: 15
- Target group: Elderly citizens, general public
  
- Date & Location: 18 November, Geel (BE)
- Organised with Avansa and Public Library of Geel
- Participants: 13
- Target group: Elderly citizens, general public
  
- Date & Location: 20 November, Meerhout (BE)
- Organised with Avansa and Rebelle vzw
- Participants: 17
- Target group: Elderly citizens, general public
  
- **Aim of the event series:**

The aim of the event series was to inform citizens who would not be reached through other communication channels such as social media, newsletters, or events organised in the Brussels region. By collaborating with Avansa, we were able to reach out to a wider target group, including elderly people, people living in more distant locations from the capital area, and those with little or no knowledge on the topic in advance. The lectures took place in Dutch, and they were organised at public libraries and at civil society organisations in Herentals, Baarle, Lille, Vorselaar, Geel and Meerhout in October and November 2025.
  
- **Format and content:**

The content of the workshop followed each time the same structure. It provided context for disinformation: where, when, and in what forms it occurs; how to recognize it; what the people who spread disinformation want to achieve; why it spreads (algorithms and financial structures that amplify click-bait content); what kind of impact it has on us; how we can limit its impact and protect ourselves (or “vaccinate” ourselves) against manipulation. The lecture also included real-life examples on Russian information manipulation and interference, climate disinformation, and AI-enabled disinformation. These were spread out throughout the presentation, and the audience was engaged in discussion through the case examples. These I2I tools were shortly presented, with instruction on where to find them to start practicing factchecking independently.

- **Results:**

Initially the project faced the challenge of reaching out to senior citizens. The collaboration with Avansa Kempen proved to be successful in reaching out to this target group. Except for the first event that was aimed at secondary school teachers, all events were organised in collaboration with Avansa Kempen. Avansa selected the project as part of its "Speakers Box". This site offers a selected number of lectures and events that can be booked by local organisations. The lecture was then booked by libraries and civil society organisations located in the Kempen region. Most participants of the workshops were 55+, with some exceptions.

The participant showed keen interest in the themes discussed. The discussions and questions dealt for a large part with cybercrime and AI-generated content. These seemed to be the topics that the participants had previous experiences on, or they had heard of others that had been victims of cybercrime and scams. While the core of the workshop was broader and not essentially focused on this topic, the same principles could be applied to avoiding becoming prey of scams: critical thinking, asking questions, and not making hasty decisions but first checking the reliability of the content, phone call, or email are essential.

The feedback received from the audience and the organisers was positive. For some events practical matters lessened the number of participants (such as bad weather, other activities in the town the same day), but these were out of the organiser's control. After each lecture an opportunity was given for the participants to fill in the feedback form to assess the quality of the events, however not many participants had phones or laptops with them, and they were more interested in the physical interaction with other participants and the lecturer. This might have limited the number of assessments given.