

Project: Media Literacy

Activity C5 - Short Term Exchanges of Pupils

Laboratory on: “Lab on fake news and how to detect them”

Dates: 28th – 30th March 2022 - Galabovo, Bulgaria

Host organization: Vocational High School of Energy and Electrical Engineering, Galabovo

Address: Industrial Quarter, Galabovo, Bulgaria

My name is Darina and I have been working as a journalist for 20 years now in various medias: print media – national and local newspapers, electronic medias - local and 2 national televisions. I have been chief editor of "Дарик Радио" in Stara Zagora and today I am a journalist in Bulgarian National Radio - Stara Zagora.

I am going to start off with the following questions: Do you like Bulgaria? Are you interested in journalism? Why? Which part of journalism is the most interesting to you?

I am going to start a conversation regarding 3 topics related to the topic and in the end we are going to determine if it's real or fake news.

- *Airplanes are spraying us with the COVID 19 virus from the sky.*
- *The vaccination against covid 19 can cause immune system failure and HIV contamination.* Associate Professor Mangarov reports 5 HIV positive children after vaccination against coronavirus. The headline is from the site news4.eu.
- *Special substances in the air are affecting the Earth's climate.* Over 2000 dead because of atmospheric pollution caused by the bulgarian thermal power plants, which is 4 times more than the death cases in car crashes in the same year. Approximately 2000 people daily are taking days off of work due to sickness. 2600

kids and over 3000 adults daily are suffering from respiratory problems and 3700 people have reduced working capability. - Data from Greenpeace article.

All 3 news are fake news but have received a lot of attention. The first statement has millions of followers across the globe. The second statement has been shared more than 200 times in an hour in one of the specialized Facebook groups. The result of which is that people are now so convinced that what is being said is true that it's almost impossible to change their opinion. The important question here is: What is needed to create quality fake news?

A little bit of truth, a lot of people which the news can affect, to grab their attention , infuriate them , scare them, make them sad and unfortunately not enough knowledge for the readers to realize it's fake news. There is nothing bad in the last one, we can't know everything and we are learning all our lives. It's bad though if we decide to not learn. Next up is a deep analysis of the "ingredients" of fake news. In all 3 statements there is a bit of truth.

It's a fact that planes are emitting substances in the atmosphere. There are some machines that discharge through a special valve the used water from the sinks, and in case of an emergency landing - often times the excess fuel. Sometimes the machines themselves are sprayed to check for hazards icing of various parts of the fuselage and individual parts of the aircraft. An aircraft trail disappears faster or slower depending on weather conditions.

According to the second statement, there are two grains of truth - there is a vaccine, there is also AIDS. But Associate Professor Mangarov categorically denies that he ever made a connection between the two. Categorically denies having 5 cases and any AIDS cases at all after the placement of vaccine FOR COVID 19 (neither children nor adults). Foreigners say the same specialists and scientists based on research in the centers for control and prevention of the disease in the United States, summarize "Reuters" and "Deutsche Welle". The results are also confirmed by the joint UN program on HIV and AIDS, which is the main advocate for accelerated and global action against this disease.

According to the third statement, that with special substances it is possible to influence on climate, again there is a grain of truth. With metal salts, you can make it rain . This is exactly

what they have implemented in Russia to ensure dry weather before the military parades on Red Square. Beijing is doing the same in order to cleared the sky of rain clouds for the opening and closing of the Olympic Games.

What do we have to do when we think something is suspicious? How do we check which is real and which is fake?

That is a discussion in which we are going to talk about fake profiles in Facebook, real and fake websites, how many sources we need when creating a new. And the risk of coming across a fake information which can come even from an official institution, when talking about elections or painful events like the war for example.

My professional advice to you is : Be inquisitive, don't assume everything is true, read and inform yourself, doubt and think! And still don't completely neglect fake news, read them, it's good to have knowledge about the "other side".



