

Name of the workshop Fact Checker Challenge: Truth or Manipulation?	Duration 90 min	Number of participants/group formation 15–30 participants Participants are divided into small groups of 3–5 people
Aim of the activity To develop critical thinking skills To understand how misinformation and manipulation work To introduce practical fact-checking tools and methods To strengthen participants' ability to question and verify information		
Materials needed for the activity Ball (for energizer) Printed or digital articles (7 different case studies) Phones or laptops with internet access Flipchart / whiteboard Markers Fact-checking checklist (prepared in advance)		
Preparation needed for the implementation of the activity (preparation of the environment/space, or personal preparation, if any) Facilitator prepares: 7 short articles (mix of true, false, and misleading information). Each article includes a headline, short text, and image (or image description) Fact-checking checklist with key questions and tools (e.g. source, author, date, reverse image search, cross-checking information) The space should allow participants to stand in a circle (for energizer) and later work in small groups.		

Instructions (described step by step)

1. Energizer – “Bounce or Fake” (10 minutes)

Participants stand in a circle while the facilitator stands in the center holding a ball. The facilitator bounces the ball on the ground, and participants must react (clap or jump) every time the ball actually hits the ground. However, the facilitator sometimes fakes the movement without bouncing the ball. Participants who react to a fake movement or fail to react to a real bounce are out of the game (or receive a fun penalty). The pace gradually increases to raise energy and focus.

2. Introduction to the Topic (10 minutes)

Facilitator opens discussion with questions:

- Where do you usually get your information?
- Do you always trust what you read online?

Introduce the key idea: Not everything that looks real is true.

Briefly explain what misinformation and fact-checking are.

3. Fact Checker Challenge (45 minutes)

Participants are divided into small groups. Each group receives one article. Their task is to investigate the article and determine what is true, false, or misleading.

Each group uses a fact-checking checklist.

Participants are encouraged to use their phones to verify information using tools such as search engines, reverse image search, and fact-checking websites.

4. Group Presentations (15 minutes)

Each group presents their findings:

- What they discovered
- What was misleading or false
- How they verified the information

They conclude with a final verdict: TRUE / FALSE / MISLEADING

5. Debriefing and Reflection (10 minutes)

Facilitator leads discussion using guiding questions:

- What was the most difficult part of verifying the information?
- What made the fake or misleading content believable?
- Which strategies helped you the most?
- What will you do differently after this activity?

Expected outcomes

By the end of the activity, participants will:

- Better understand how misinformation and manipulation are created and spread
- Be able to identify key elements of unreliable or misleading content
- Gain practical skills in fact-checking using simple tools
- Increase awareness of their own biases and how these influence what they believe
- Feel more confident in analyzing and discussing media content in a group
- Become more responsible and conscious users of information in their everyday lives

Questions for debriefing (This part will be implemented at the end of the activity and can be supported by IG, if needed)

1. Why do people believe false information?
2. What role do emotions play in misinformation?
3. How can we become more responsible media users?
4. What tools can we use in our daily lives to check information?

Fact-checking Checklist

Source investigation • Open the website and check the “About us” section • Search the name of the website on Google • Identify if the website looks professional or suspicious • What kind of website is this? (news portal, blog, unknown source...) • One reason why you trust / don’t trust it	
Author check • Search the author’s name • Check if they are credible • Does the author exist? • Why is this a reliable / unreliable author?	Headline vs content • Is the headline supported by the text? (yes / partly / no) • Give one example
Cross-checking information • Copy a key sentence from the article and search it on Google • Check at least 2 other sources reporting the same topic • Compare: do they confirm, contradict, or not mention the claim? • Did other sources confirm this information? • Name one source you found	
Image verification • Take the image and run a reverse image search (Google Images) • Find where the image originally appeared • Check: Is it older? From another event? Edited? • Where else does this image appear? • Is it used in the same context?	
Evidence and data check • Is there real evidence or just claims? • Example	
Language and tone • Find one manipulative word or sentence	Final verdict • TRUE / FALSE / MISLEADING • 2 reasons why