

## EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Participant:	101147983 - Januam gUG - JAN
PIC number:	882538108
Project name and acronym:	Immunising citizens against dis/misinformation - IMMUNE 2 INFODEMIC 2

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	6		
Event name:	Democracy in the Age of AI: Battling Mis/disinformation through Education		
Type:	Workshop, Training		
In situ/online:	in-situ		
Location:	Darmstadt, Frankfurt, Germany		
Date(s):	03.04.2025, 08.05.2025, 21.05.2025, 12.06.2025		
Website(s) (if any):	<a href="https://januam.org/democracy-in-the-age-of-ai-battling-mis-disinformation-through-education/">https://januam.org/democracy-in-the-age-of-ai-battling-mis-disinformation-through-education/</a>		
Participants			
Female:	34		
Male:	17		
Non-binary:	-		
From country 1 [Germany]:	51		
Total number of participants:	51	From total number of countries:	1
Description			
<p><b>WP6 was organised by Januam gUG in Darmstadt and Frankfurt am Main, Germany</b>, and consisted of four workshops delivered in two different formats. The workshops were designed to raise awareness about the growing challenge of AI-driven disinformation and to empower participants through education, critical thinking, and media literacy — directly supporting the aims of WP6.</p> <p>Two Workshop Formats</p> <p><b>1. Workshops for Employees of Social Organizations and Their Target Groups</b></p> <p>This format focused on professionals working in the social sector as well as the communities they support. The sessions aimed to raise awareness about disinformation in digital spaces and provide participants with practical tools to critically engage with media content.</p> <p>The workshops introduced key concepts. Through real-life examples and interactive discussions, participants learned how to identify manipulation, verify sources, and support others in navigating digital information more safely. The format encouraged knowledge-sharing between professionals and their target groups, fostering collective learning and strengthening resilience against disinformation.</p>			

## **2. Workshops for Language Learners (in the Context of Language Meetings)**

The second format of the workshops was integrated into existing language meetings, creating an accessible and inclusive space for individuals learning the German language. By embedding the workshop content into these group sessions, a safe and supportive environment was created that encouraged participation and active engagement with the topic.

The original content was adapted into simple, easy-to-understand language and supported by visual materials and interactive methods. To deepen understanding, we selected real news texts that included fake information, and rewrote them in simplified language. Participants read these texts and worked through guided questions aimed at strengthening their critical thinking skills. Together, they discussed how to assess the credibility of information, recognize manipulation techniques, and apply fact-checking strategies in everyday life.

Through this approach, language learners not only practiced their German skills but also enhanced their media literacy and digital awareness — enabling them to engage more confidently in society and democratic processes.

The workshops were designed to be interactive, with questions incorporated throughout. It was structured around four main themes:

### **1. What is Disinformation?**

The general terminology was explained, along with the perspectives that lead to the creation of disinformation. Examples were provided to help participants visualize these concepts. The differences between disinformation, Mal information, and misinformation were clarified with illustrative examples.

### **2. AI and Disinformation**

This section addressed what artificial intelligence is, its advantages and disadvantages, and included demonstrations of AI-generated images and videos. The ease with which AI can create images and videos was highlighted, emphasizing AI's role in the rapid spread of disinformation.

### **3. Algorithms, Filter Bubbles, Echo Chambers, Deepfakes, and Socialbots**

The workshop explored how algorithms can trap us in a single perspective and the negative effects this has on democracy. Data was presented on how deepfakes and social bots can facilitate the rapid and widespread dissemination of disinformation.

### **4. A Journey Through Misinformation, Disinformation, and Mal information – Prebunking and Debunking**

In this final section, real-life examples were presented to illustrate how disinformation spreads through social media and news sites, as well as its impact on individuals and society. The examples highlighted both the individual and societal consequences of disinformation, emphasizing its particularly negative effects on democracy. The workshop explored how such practices can undermine trust, foster polarization, and weaken the foundations of democratic processes. The importance of awareness and critical thinking was stressed, and practical methods for identifying disinformation were taught. Participants were shown which questions to ask when encountering news and were introduced to fact-checking websites. Tips were also given on how to recognize AI-generated images and audio.

The workshops concluded with an interactive group exercise, where participants applied what they had learned by analyzing examples of media content and discussing concrete strategies to identify and counter disinformation.

We designed the sessions to be engaging, practical, and adaptable to the needs of different target groups. By using real-life examples, demonstrations of AI-generated content, and interactive elements, we supported participants in developing a critical approach to digital information. Through simplified language and tailored exercises, we ensured that even language learners could actively take part and understand the key messages.

With these workshops, we created spaces for reflection, dialogue, and skill-building — enabling participants to become more aware of the mechanisms behind mis- and disinformation and to respond to them more confidently in their everyday lives. The workshops were conducted in German.