

## **Debunking and Pre-Bunking Fake News: Leading the Battle Against Fake News TRUTHTROOPERS**

The TUTHTROOPERS undergo extensive training on how to identify fake news, fact-check sources, and provide accurate information to the public. They are equipped with the tools and knowledge to effectively debunk false information and prevent it from spreading further.

**13.07. - 21.07.2024, Trnava, Slovakia**

### **Themes of the training:**

The objective of this training is to equip participants with the knowledge and skills to effectively debunk and pre-bunk fake news, as well as to empower them to take a proactive stance in leading the battle against misinformation. By the end of the training, participants will be able to critically evaluate news sources, identify common tactics used to spread fake news, and develop strategies for educating and empowering others to discern facts from fiction in the digital age.

**The overall aim of the training** is to empower participants to become active and engaged members of their communities through storytelling, advocacy, and intercultural exchange. We aim to educate individuals on how to identify, debunk, and prevent the spread of fake news. By becoming a TRUTHTROOPER, you will be equipped with the knowledge and resources needed to navigate the digital landscape and discern facts from fiction!

### **Learning objectives of the training are:**

- Understand the concept of fake news and its impact on society;
- Identify common characteristics of fake news articles and sources;
- Learn strategies to critically evaluate news sources and information;
- Develop skills to debunk fake news and misinformation effectively;
- Explore the concept of pre-bunking and techniques to prevent the spread of fake news;
- Understand the role of individuals in combating fake news and promoting media literacy;
- Gain practical tools and resources to navigate the digital information landscape confidently;
- Collaborate with others to create a network of "TRUTHTROOPERS" dedicated to combating fake news;
- Develop communication, teamwork, and leadership skills of the participants in intercultural settings;

- Support creating new contacts among the participants and their organisations and developing new project ideas that could be implemented with support of Erasmus+ Programme.

**The methodology of the training:**

The training will be based on non-formal learning methodology such as name games, icebreakers, team building activities, discussions on non-formal education and its elements, presentation of Youthpass, exploring key competences through group work, energizers, individual work, group work, interactive inputs on main topics, discussions, debates, role plays or simulations. During the days, the participants will take part in reflection groups to think about their learning process. Participants will receive input on key elements of campaigns, will get to know several tools that they can use in the process of creating campaigning and work on their own ideas for campaigns. Participants will be responsible for launching these campaigns in their communities. Experienced international trainers' team will set up the learning environment and facilitate the learning process.

**Who can participate in the training:**

- Youth workers from 18 years old;
- Ready to take part in the whole training;
- Be interested in the topic of fake news;
- Be able to communicate in English.

**Eligible countries:** Slovakia, Romania, Croatia, Turkey, Czech Republic, Italy

**Applicant organisation:** Bratislava Policy Institute (BPI) is an independent not-for-profit think tank dedicated to fostering liberal democracy, human rights, Central European region, and European integration through analysis and debate, supporting and challenging relevant stakeholders at national and international levels to make informed decisions based on evidence and analysis.

The food and accommodation will be provided and paid by the organisers. Travel costs will be counted based on the distance calculator of the European Commission and reimbursed by bank transfer after the course (in EUR) through the sending organisations.

Maximum travel cost according to distance calculator:

Slovakia – 0 EUR (4 participants)

Italy – 275 EUR (4 participants) – green travel 320 EUR

Romania – 275 EUR (4 participants) – green travel 320 EUR

Turkey – 275 EUR (4 participants) – green travel 320 EUR

Czechia – 180 EUR (4 participants) – green travel 210 EUR

## What to bring with you?

- Your passport or ID card
- **All your travel tickets!!! (it is very important to keep all your tickets, receipts, and boarding passes, because we can give you back the travel costs only if you have the tickets)**
- **National snacks, drinks, easy food, specialties, local music for the cultural evening**
- Medicines - if you need them (anti-allergy pills, pain killers, Aspirin etc.)
- Laptop, camera – it is not obligatory, but it can be useful

## Weather

Before leaving your home country, please check the weather forecast at:

<https://www.meteo.sk/>

Usually, the weather is warm in July.

## Accommodation

The accommodation will be provided in Penzión na Mlyne, Trnava (close to the small town Trnava and to the capital Bratislava). The daily activities will take place at the same place. Food will be arranged by the organisers, there will be three meals every day: breakfast, lunch and dinner; and coffee breaks.

You can find the hotel website here: <https://www.namlyne.sk/>



## How do you reach Trnava?

### BRATISLAVA AIRPORT (BTS)

There are direct flights from several destinations in Europe and many airlines that operate their direct routes to Bratislava – RYANAIR, Pobeda, Flydubai, Smart Wings,

Air Cairo, Wizz Air. To get to Trnava from Bratislava airport you can take a bus no. 61 to Main Train Station (Hlavná stanica). From there, you can take a train to Trnava main station. Bus tickets for no. 61 are available in ticket machines at bus stops or in kiosks (or in the mobile app). Train tickets can be bought directly at the train station. The tickets for the bus no. 61, which cost around 1,20 EUR, must be validated on the bus. Please let us know the approximate time when you arrive in Trnava, we will sort out transportation to the hotel from there.

### VIENNA-SCHWECHAT (VIE) AIRPORT

The airport at Vienna-Schwechat is only 40 kilometres west of Bratislava and Slovaks mainly use it for long-haul flights. It is one of the main gateways to Slovakia. Buses to Bratislava depart at 30 to 60-minute intervals. Tickets can be bought on the bus; check the following companies: eurolines.sk, regiojet.com, flixbus.com to Autobusová stanica, Bratislava. You can take a bus to Trnava from there.

### BY TRAIN

Bratislava is connected to the main lines from Prague, Budapest, Vienna, and various regions in Slovakia. Bratislava has many railway stations; however, you can take a train to Trnava from The Main Train Station.

## BY BUS

Bratislava is also conveniently connected with many European cities via a network of bus lines. It has frequent services to the surrounding areas and to other regions in Slovakia. Buses arrive and depart from Autobusová stanica, Bratislava. Coaches between Bratislava and Vienna run at one-hour intervals: eurolines.sk, regiojet.com, flixbus.com. You can take the bus to Trnava from Autobusová stanica, Bratislava.

## BY BOAT

Due to its position on the river Danube, Bratislava has regular connections by boat to and from Vienna. The centre of Vienna (Schwedenplatz) is connected to Bratislava by a fast catamaran Twin City Liner and another fast hydrofoil, which is berthed at Vienna Handelskai.

## BY CAR

Bratislava is situated at the intersection of several important motorways. The distance to Prague is 330 km, Budapest 200 km and Vienna 65 km. If you bring your own car, you need to display a valid motorway tax sticker (known as “diaľničná známka”), available at borders or petrol stations. The minimum validity period is 10 days (costs around 10 EUR). Trnava is approximately 30 minutes from Bratislava and the easiest to get there is through the highway.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us on [wagingerova@bpi.sk](mailto:wagingerova@bpi.sk)

[APPLICATION FORM](#)

TRUTHTROOPERS Programme

	Day 01 13.07 SATURDAY	Day 02 14.07 SUNDAY	Day 03 15.07 MONDAY	Day 04 16.07 TUESDAY	Day 05 17.07 WEDNESDAY	Day 06 18.07 THURSDAY	Day 07 19.07 FRIDAY	Day 08 20.07 SATURDAY	Day 09 21.07 SUNDAY
09.00 - 10.00	Arrival of Participants	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
10.00 - 11.30		Getting to Know Each Other - Ice-Breaking Activity	Understanding the Psychology Behind Belief in Fake News	Fact Checker, Introduction to Techniques of Fact-Checking - Presentation	Guest Speaker: Hybrid Threats and Cybersecurity	Guest Speaker: Fake News, Disinformation, and Misinformation on Internet	Guest Speaker: Sociology and Fake News	Working on Campaigns	Departure of Participants
11.30 - 12.00		Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	
12.00 - 13.00		Introduction to the Mobility's Aim and Goals - Day-by-Day Programme	Interactive Workshop: Identifying Fake News Examples	Practical Exercise: Fact-Checking Techniques and Tools	Working on Campaigns	Guest Speaker: Fake news, Disinformation, and Misinformation on Internet	Guest Speaker: Are Corruption and the Rule of Law Susceptible to Disinformation?	Finishing Campaigns	
13.00 - 14.00		Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	
14.00 - 15.00		Non-Formal Education Erasmus+ Programme - Youthpass	Identifying the Most Visible Disinformation Campaigns in Participants' Countries	Introduction to Prebunking: Proactive Approaches to Combat Misinformation	Working on Campaigns	Field Trip	Free Afternoon with Several Options	Presentation of Prebunking Visual Campaigns + Feedback	
15.00 - 15.30		Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break			Coffee Break	
15.30 - 16.30		Introduction to Fake News and Misinformation - Presentation	Group Discussion: Analysing Bias in News Sources	Introduction to Campaigns + Personal and Group Action Plan	Working on Campaigns			Fill in the Youthpass Certificate – Dialogue Space + Evaluation of the Mobility	
18.00 - 19.00		Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	
19.00 - 21.00	Chill Evening at the Hotel	Intercultural Night	Free Evening with Several Options	Karaoke Night	Movie Night	Walking Tour Around Trnava	Free Evening with Several Options	Goodbye Party	

