CIVIS

Europe's Civic University Alliance

CIVIS Open Labs

**Project Combating Health Misinformation,
a CIVIS Collaborative to empowering community against misinformation**
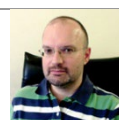*Version 2025-11-05*

1. Context & Short Description (max 150 words)

This project addresses the growing impact of health misinformation, which spreads rapidly through digital media and undermines informed decision-making. Partner universities identified a strong need for interdisciplinary actions that combine health sciences, communication, and technology to help students and communities critically evaluate online health content.

The initiative has two main objectives. The first is to reduce the risk of believing false health information by engaging students in participatory research, conducting systematic literature reviews, and creating educational materials, workshops, and seminars for diverse audiences. The second objective is to empower communities with digital tools—a guidebook, a website, and the co-design of a mobile app and digital game—to build digital health literacy and support vulnerable groups.

As a CIVIS Open Lab collaboration, the project integrates research, community engagement, and digital innovation, culminating in shared outputs and a final dissemination event.

2. Partners

Partner Name	Type	Bio (2–3 lines)	Website/Link	Photo/Logo
Flora, Malamateniou	academic	**Professor Flora Malamateniou Director of the Health Informatics Laboratory at the Nursing School of NKUA.**	https://en.nurs.uoa.gr/academic_personnel/teaching_and_research_staff/professors	
Emmanouil, Zoulias	academic	**Dr Emmanouil Zoulias, member of the Health Informatics Laboratory at the Nursing School of NKUA.**	https://en.nurs.uoa.gr/academic_personnel/laboratory_and_teaching_staff	
Marianna, Isaakidou	**PhD student**	**Mrs Marianna Isaakidou is a PhD candidate at the Nursing School of NKUA.**	-	-
Dimitris Koutsombolis	academic	**Dimitris Koutsompolis is a member of the Laboratory of New Technologies in Communication, Education and the Media at NKUA and serves as Faculty Staff at the Department of Communication and Media Studies. His work focuses on digital journalism, visual communication, and the communication strategies of large organizations, while he also heads the University's Press and Communication Office.**	-	
Theoklis-Petros Zounis	academic	**Theoklis-Petros Zounis is a member of the Laboratory of New Technologies in Communication, Education and the Media at NKUA and**	-	

		serves as Faculty Staff at the Department of Communication and Media Studies. His work focuses on art management, cultural policy and art sponsorship.		
Mihaela Gavrila	**academic**	**Associate Professor/Scientific Director of RadioSapienza (University Radio Station)**		
Silvia Migliaccio	**academic**	**-**	-	**-**
Christian Ruggiero	**academic**	**-**	-	**-**
Maria-Magdalena Roșu	**academic**	**Dr Magdalena Roșu, Assistant Professor, whose research address public policy and citizens' aggregate decision-making processes (relevant for counteracting fake news, managing health crises, consumption behaviour, collective anxiety, and governmental communication)**	https://faa.ro/index.php/profesori-deaac/rosu-maria-magdalena.html	
Andrada Fiscutean	**PhD student**	**PhD candidate Andrada Fiscutean, Teaching Assistant, their research addresses science communication, science journalism, science popularisation and research on managing and properly communicating science uncertainty (and, consequently, crisis management and misinformation)**	https://unibuc.ro/user/andrada.fiscutean/	

3. Main Beneficiaries & Social Impact

A. Main Beneficiaries

Who is the project for – students, citizens, NGOs, policymakers? How can they participate – workshops, open calls, co-creation sessions? How many are involved?

The project addresses a wide range of groups, including university students, school students, young immigrants and unaccompanied minors, chronic patients, health professionals, NGOs, and the wider public. University students from NKUA, Sapienza, and the University of Bucharest are central participants, engaging through research activities, educational workshops, participatory co-creation sessions, and the development of communication and digital tools. Approximately 10 students per university will be actively involved, supported by faculty and researchers.

Young immigrants and unaccompanied minors participate in awareness workshops and media literacy sessions delivered in collaboration with community partner organisations, The Home Project, Forum SAD, and the Romanian Chronic Patients' Alliance. At least 10–20 participants are expected per group.

Health professionals, NGOs, and policymakers are engaged through seminars, podcasts, newsletters, and the project website, contributing expertise and benefiting from improved communication and public awareness tools.

Overall, the project is expected to reach several hundred individuals through workshops, dissemination activities, outreach events, and continuous access to digital resources.

Social Impact

How do beneficiaries benefit (learning opportunities, networks, capacity-building, real-world impact)? What is the expected or observed social impact – awareness, strengthened skills, collaboration, policy influence?

Beneficiaries gain significant opportunities for learning, capacity-building, and real-world impact through their involvement in the project. University students develop critical thinking, research skills, digital literacy, and interdisciplinary collaboration through participatory research, co-creation workshops, and the development of communication tools. They also expand their academic and professional networks across three universities and multiple social partners.

Young immigrants, unaccompanied minors, and chronic patients benefit from accessible learning opportunities that improve their ability to recognise and resist health misinformation. Health professionals and NGOs strengthen their communication strategies and gain evidence-based resources—such as the website, guidebook, and podcasts—to support public awareness efforts.
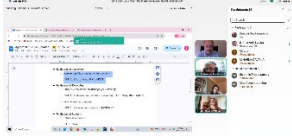
The expected social impact includes increased health literacy, stronger media-evaluation skills, and greater confidence in identifying credible online health information. The project fosters cross-border collaboration, supports inclusion by engaging vulnerable groups, and encourages responsible digital citizenship. Over time, the initiative contributes to a more informed society, improved public health decision-making, and potential influence on education and communication practices related to misinformation.

4. Core Methodology (max 50 words)

Describe the main approach or method used. Examples: co-creation workshops, participatory research, community engagement

The project uses **participatory research** and **co-creation workshops** where students, educators, health professionals, and community groups jointly develop educational materials and digital tools. Through **community engagement**, seminars, and collaborative design sessions, participants actively contribute to identifying misinformation challenges and creating practical, user-centred solutions.

5. Events in the Project

Event Name	Date(s)	Location	Description (purpose, audience)	Photo/Link
Kick-Off Meeting	**17/9/2025**	**Online**	**Consortium Meeting**	
Partners meeting	**18/11/2025**	**Online**	**Consortium Meeting**	
Workshop in the University of Bucharest	**8/12/2025**	**On-Site**	**Workshop, students of the University of Bucharest**	

6. Deliverables & Resources

Deliverable / Resource	Type (report, video, toolkit...)	Link / File	Caption / Description
Systematic literature reviews to recognise key trends, gaps, and challenges in the study of misinformation.	Report	[Find the file here](#)	Literature Review on misinformation
Research ready for publications on literature review.	Publication	[Find the file here](#)	Manuscript and the Cover Letter
Development of project website	Website	https://www.misinformation.nurs.uoa.gr/	

7. Testimonials & Highlights

Keep quotes short and authentic; combine with actionable insights to inspire others.

B. A. Key Take-Aways / Highlights

The project is in a very early stage.

C. B. Beneficiary Impressions / Quotes

The project is in a very early stage.

8. Contact Point

Name: Flora Malamateniou

Email: fmalamat@nurs.uoa.gr

Institution / Role: Professor/Coordinator