



EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

(To be filled in and uploaded as deliverable in the Portal Grant Management System, at the due date foreseen in the system.)

 Please provide one sheet per event (one event = one workpackage = one lump sum.)


PROJECT	
Participant:	[01] - [MEERSSEN IN EUROPA VERENIGING] [Douzelage]
PIC number:	[916709947]
Project name and acronym:	[Free Press under Pressure] — [FPuP]

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	[101091132]
Event name:	[Free Press under Pressure]
Type:	[Conference]
In situ/online:	<i>In situ</i>
Location:	[Netherlands], [Doenrade, Maastricht]
Date(s):	[5-11-2023 – 8-11-2023]
Website(s) (if any):	www.douzelagemeerssen.nl
Participants	
Female:	43
Male:	27
Non-binary:	-
Austria	1
Belgium	2
Bulgaria	3
Croatia	1
Czech Republic	3
Denmark	1
Estonia	4

France	1	
Germany	5	
Hungary	4	
Ireland	3	
Italy	6	
Lithuania	4	
Luxemburg	4	
Netherlands	14	
Romania	2	
Slovakia	4	
Slovenia	5	
Spain	3	
Total of participants	70	From total number of countries: 19

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

Free Press under Pressure (FPuP) is a European project organised by Douzelage, a European Town Twinning organization of 28 partner towns from each EU member state and the UK. The amount of participating towns was 19 (including The Netherlands). The participants were 70 young adults (18 – appr. 30 years of age) from the participating countries (56 from other countries than the Netherlands). Of these 70 there were 27 male, 43 female, 0 non-binary.

On Sunday November 5th all participants arrived in the hotel "Kasteel Doenrade" in the small town of Doenrade and were registered.

The participants worked on Monday November 6th actively in 7 workshops around the theme of free ethical journalism versus media oppression, disinformation and unverified facts. In other words, insight in and developing tools to navigate in the multifaceted freedom of expression in a complex democratic society where the traditional news sources are challenged. The aim of the project is to create a toolkit that enables the participants to discern factual, verifiable news from disinformation and fake news. The discussions were fed with the participants own experiences and practical cases of news items from social media posts, fake news on blogsites to journalistic articles from newspapers.

During this day a member of the European Parliament, Jeroen Lenaers, did a Q&A session via a videocall around the topic of the Pegasus spyware used to spy on journalists.

The end result of the day were 7 toolkits, ranging from videos, social media pages, websites, flowcharts and decision trees. The toolkits ranged from encouraging the readers to double check before trusting a news item, to practical websites with specific tips on how to discover unverified or fake news.

On Tuesday November 7th all gathered in the Gouvernement in Maastricht (the regional government building where in 1992 the Maastricht Treaty was signed). Here the 7 workshops presented the toolkits to each other and the invitees and discussed the different outcomes. Studio Europa, our partner of Maastricht University, organised a "fishbowl" discussion between the participants on freedom of the press. In the council chamber concluding speeches by representatives from Studio Europa, Fontys Pedagogiek, United Nations University (UNU-MERIT) and Douzelage, all sponsors and partners in FPuP, were held. A group photo was taken and the program ended with a Treaty of Maastricht tour. In the evening a social program was presented after dinner.

On Wednesday November 8th all participants were brought to the nearby train stations.

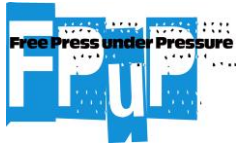
The workshops were formed along the lines of gender equality and maximum amount of countries per workshop. The fact that every participant discussed with representatives from many other EU member states was a new experience for many of them and very much an eye opener. All participants felt free to speak their minds and felt listened to. Bringing all these nationalities together in these discussions was a positive result in itself.

The end conclusions of the project will be spread amongst all our partner towns (28) by means of websites and social media. Some local news sites covered the event. The participants of the project will be stimulated to present the results in their home towns to their peer groups, working environment and/or to fellow students. During the event video shots were taken for a video covering the whole event. The video will be spread via the channels mentioned above.

After the event the participants of Fontys University of Applied Sciences will share their insights and toolkits with fellow Pedagogy students in Sittard. Each participant will give three workshops. This way more young people

The participating partner organizations will publish the results on their channels (Douzelage Meerssen, Fontys, UNU-MERIT, Douzelage Köszeg, Douzelage Siret).





EU Grants: Event description sheet (CERV): V1.0 – 08.11.2023

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	08.11.2023	Initial version (new MFF).