How do we move on?
Outcomes and near future.
We have published 79 fact-checks.
We have published 50 blog posts.
We have generated good media exposure.
We were on social media all the time.
We cooperated in a fantastic, constructive and multinational way!

To Do: see links in extra mail / slack message
- Add dissemination materials in Google Drive.
- Fill in the Output Questionnaire!
- Let us know if you will be at the Wrap Up in Paris.
- Register for WJEC5 (EUfactcheck presentation).
- Register for EJTA AGM (EUfactcheck Wrap Up).
- Think about how you want to continue with EUfactcheck.

Deadlines
- 7 June: Questionnaire for Output Report
- 8 July: EUfactcheck Wrap Up
- 17-18 October: Beyond EUfactcheck

#productionteam track record 501
Ghent (Belgium), Stuttgart (Germany), Tbilisi (Georgia), Mechelen (Belgium), Antwerpen (Belgium), Thessaloniki (Greece), Kalmar (Sweden), Utrecht (Netherlands), Zagreb (Croatia), Wien (Austria), Tilburg (Netherlands), Helsinki (Finland), Paris (France), Zwolle (Netherlands), Chelyabinsk (Russia), Milan (Italy), Aarhus (Denmark), Barcelona (Spain).
Output

130 articles

79 fact-checks

51 posts blog

6  28  22  13  10
Impact

Unique visitors:

February: 1,064  March: 2,419  April: 3,115  May: 4,467
Impact: social media
Acquisition channels

eufactcheck.eu acquisition channels (visits per channel)
Acquisition channels - Lessons learned

- **Social Media** is indispensable to quick-launch a website
- Take very good care of your **Search Engine Optimalisation**: effects start to kick-in after +/- 1 month (if you’re lucky)
- Don’t let go of your social efforts

- A lot of Journalism teachers:
  - Don’t believe in social?
  - Don’t know how to do it?
  - Are not active on social?
  - ... ... ...
Eufactcheck.eu

Fact-checks:

• Crossnational + national
• Difficult topics: sciences, economics, technical issues
• Critical about EU and institutions, laws
• Critical about (social) media
• Popular: migration, climate, Brexit
Blog posts:

• Personal process of students: in general - specific FCs
• Criticism on journalism
• Importance of factchecking
• Media monitor and analyses (SUSU / AUTH / Univ. Of Georgia)
• About EU citizenship and awareness
• About politics and democracy
• Visuals, vlogs and photo blogs
Output reports

- 50% of students are 3 BAC
- Most participants corporated factchecking as a unit with EC.
- Bootcamp was a very useful experience (to be copied in the following Train the Trainer(s)).
- Most students were prepared with extra courses and sessions for FCing and EU courses.
Output reports: challenges for flowchart

- At first glance: quite complex and detailed
- Easiest to handle when printed
- Terminology
- Convince students step by step
Output reports

• “Checkable claims aren’t always relevant or interesting, interesting claims aren’t always relevant.”

• Rating the claim= challenge.

Did the flowchart help your students to check the facts and rate the claim?
18 antwoorden

- Not at all: 55.6%
- Very little: 16.7%
- Somewhat: 27.8%
- To a great extent: 0%
Output reports

- Waiting for experts’ answers.
- Closed sources.
- No real cooperation with national fact-checking sites.
- FCing takes much more time than expected.
- Claims vs opinions?
Output reports

How easy/difficult did you find the publication process on the Wordpress platform (the website)

18 antwoorden

- Very easy: 33.3%
- Moderately easy: 33.3%
- Neither easy nor difficult: 33.3%
- Moderately difficult: 11.1%
- Very difficult: 22.2%
Output reports

• If need for visualisation: great cooperation with team.
• Social media: also criteria needed.
• Slack:

Would you consider using Slack for project management and communication for future projects? Would you recommend it to other people?

18 antwoorden

- Yes: 77.8%
- Maybe: 11.1%
- No: 11.1%
Output reports

• Production team: 94,1% excellent
• External communication: already quite some material, put on the Drive!
• 33 % of participants never or sometimes liked or shared media posts
• 50% of these participants give this reason: “I didn’t have time”
Communication channel: SLACK
Lessons learned by students

• Students develop critical approach towards news.
• Students have higher interest and insight in EU policies and reporting.
• Students realise that they need to think analytically.
• Students recognise the importance of context.
• Students realise they need to find a concrete source.
Lessons learned by students

QUOTES FROM STUTTGART:

• "In times of information overload, it is good to learn how to select what is important and what is correct."

• "The project has changed my perception of news. Today, I always ask for an independent source to back up a claim."

• "It was interesting to see how some politicians construct a false reality out of correct bits of information."

• "The project has raised my awareness of facts."
Lessons learned by students

During our fact checking process, we’ve learned the meaning of perseverance, when we tried calling the politicians behind the statements checked for weeks with no response. We’ve had to develop stamina, as we stayed up all night writing and then had to make it to early meetings the next morning. (…)

Even with all the hard work and frustration involved, fact checking can be a very eye-opening and enlightening experience.
Lessons learned by students

“Fewer and fewer journalists value the process of factchecking. We believe that’s a pity. Changing this phenomenon in the short term is difficult, but it’s clear changes needed to be made. Factchecking remains a valuable basis of journalism, especially if we want to be taken seriously as a source of information and more importantly as a source of truth.”
“During the last weeks work with EUfactcheck, I’ve dived into statements presented as facts, from politicians trying to convince others for better or worse. I’ve come across statements with no abutment in reality and truthful facts hidden behind questionable agendas. (...) What I learned from this week is that our relationship with facts is not as close as we might think – as a matter of fact, it’s a long distance relationship. We have to make it our mission to shorten the distance. “
Lessons learned by production team

• Differences in approaches= unique project.
• Cooperation between production team.
• Publication schedule.
• Different roles: socials, publications, help desk, ...
• Technical problems.
• Category ‘uncheckable’ is very interesting.
• Slack= great tool for project communication.
Immediate future

False: EUfactcheck stops
Fact-check: False • By EUfactcheck team • May 28, 2019

Rumours have it that the EJTA project EUfactcheck is definitely going to stop after 26 May 2019. The political debates died down, the EU elections are all over. However, we consider the rumours to be false.
Is there an immediate future?
(From output reports)

• Strengthen bonds in projects.
• Great international, collaborative project.
• Great chance to practise FCing skills and experience how to publish FCs.
• Established platform with acknowledgement in the field.
• Make it available to other students.
• Huge positive response from students.
Immediate future: to do!

• Participants of 2019: CONTACT US!!
  – Continue in autumn?
  – Gather testimonials from students
  – Gather dissemination material

• Participants of 2020: CONTACT US!!
  – Commitment?
  – Train the Trainer in Febr 2020 in CEE
EUfactcheck.eu in autumn 2019

- Publication schedule and team (minimum)
- General theme= EU
- Formats: old + new (visual)?
- Flowchart
- Resulting in permanent publication
- Take it ‘further’?
  - New ways of storytelling
  - Involve the public actively
  - Cooperate with media?

- Meeting in Dortmund (EJTA Teachers’ Conference): Friday 18/10/19, 9 am.
Near future

• Funding from Evens Foundation

• Manual / guidelines / recommendations
  – Fact-checking unit and methodology
  – Organisation of international FC-ing project
Near future

• Train the Trainer
  – Focus on CEE (venue)
  – Also: new EJTA and non-EJTA participants
  – Practical workshops
  – February 2020
Questions?