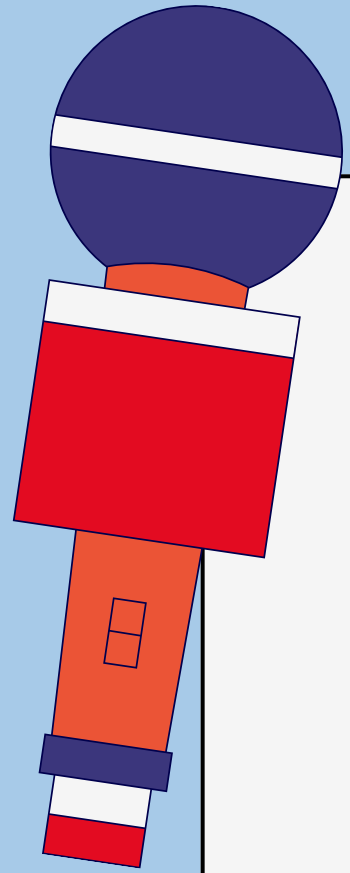
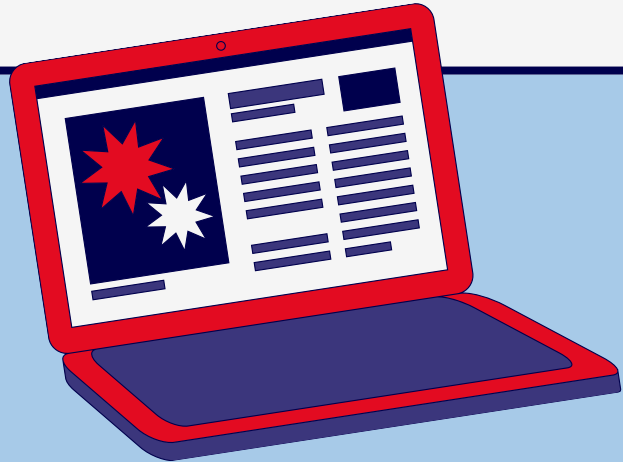


**ERASMUS project**

# **Freedom of the press**



# The escape game's stages



To unlock the box, you will take part in these following workshops :

**01**

Exploring a  
fundamental  
text

with  
Pierre-Gabriel

**02**

The press  
freedom's  
evolution

with  
Elien

**03**

The law facing  
the facts

with  
Constance

**04**

Separate fact  
and fiction

with  
Athénais

# I. Exploring a fundamental text

|           |             |             |
|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| group 1:  | 20.15       | 19.5.20     |
|           | — —         | — — —       |
| group 2:  | 15.14.12.25 | 20.8.5      |
|           | — — — —     | — — —       |
| group 3:  | 1.14.4      | 2.1.19.9.19 |
|           | — — —       | — — — — —   |
| groupe 4: | 12.9.6.5    | 22.9.5.23   |
|           | — — — —     | — — — —     |

# The Munich Charter, 1971

**“The right to information, to freedom of expression and criticism is one of the fundamental rights of all human being.”**

# II. The press freedom's evolution

**Protecting** x 3

**Introducing**

**Guaranteeing** x 3

**Enhancing** x 2

New rules to protect media pluralism and independence

The European Media Freedom Act puts in place a new set of rules to protect media pluralism and independence in the EU. They ensure that media – public and private – can operate more easily across borders in the EU internal market, without undue pressure and taking into account the digital transformation of the media space.

Among others, the European Media Freedom Act is

- protecting editorial independence
- protecting journalistic sources, including against the use of spyware
- ensuring the independent functioning of public service media
- enhancing transparency of media ownership
- safeguarding media against unjustified online content removal by very large online platforms
- introducing a right of customisation of the media offer on devices and interfaces
- guaranteeing transparency in state advertising for media service providers and online platforms
- ensuring Member States provide an assessment of the impact of key media market concentrations on media pluralism and editorial independence
- boosting transparency in audience measurement for media service providers and advertisers

# III. The law facing the facts



### European Media Freedom Act (2024)

The European Union has adopted legislation to protect media independence, limit political pressure, and ensure transparency regarding media ownership. As a result, media pluralism and the protection of journalists are strengthened in all member states



5

### Press freedom is a fundamental pillar of EU

This liberty is protected by common laws and institutions, and is advancing through the creation of European legislation. It is linked to freedom of expression and opinion. Furthermore, safeguarding it is essential to democracy and the rule of law.



5

### EU institutions condemning attacks on press freedom

The European Parliament and the Court of Justice of the EU criticize or sanction Member States that restrict media freedom.

This shows the existence of a shared framework for defending fundamental freedoms.



6

### Anti-SLAPP legislation (2024)

The Council adopted a law to protect persons who speak out on matters of public interest against abusive lawsuits meant to silence them.

Persons targeted by so called strategic lawsuits against public participation (SLAPP), typically journalists and human rights defenders, will benefit from a number of procedural safeguards and measures.



4

### Russian interference in the presidential elections in Romania

Moscow's involvement in electoral manipulation in favor of Călin Georgescu, a pro-Russian, nationalist, and Europhobic candidate

Even though this first round of voting was invalidated—and a pro-European centrist was ultimately elected president—these various episodes have fueled political instability in Romania and increased the population's distrust of institutions and the media



2

### Media control in Hungary.

The government exerts strong influence over: public media, private media close to those in power

Moreover critical journalists are marginalized or deprived of funding



2

### Press freedom threatened

Press freedom is eroding locally in places where the rule of law is weak:

Indeed, it is being undermined by abuses of power at the national level, as well as political and economic pressures.



1

### Violence and intimidation against journalists

Murder of Daphne Caruana Galizia (Malta, 2017) in a car bomb attack

An anti-corruption journalist in her country, she is known internationally for her investigation into the Panama Papers.

Her assassination was one of the events that exposed serious flaws in the protection of journalists.



3

# IV. Separate fact and fiction

0

ARTICLE

European Civic News

INDEPENDENT COVERAGE OF EU POLICY & CIVIC LIFE

EU AFFAIRS

European Commission launches €3 million call for media literacy projects

By Clara Jensen | Published: 24 October 2025

The European Commission has launched a new call for cross-border projects designed to strengthen media literacy across the European Union.

The call, published under the Creative Europe programme, makes €3 million available for organisations working on tools, training activities and educational initiatives that help citizens better understand and evaluate information in a changing digital environment.

According to the Commission, the aim is to support innovative projects that help people recognise disinformation, understand how media content is produced and develop a more critical approach to online information. The call is open to cross-border partnerships and encourages cooperation between organisations from different European countries.

Projects may include workshops, digital tools, training materials or awareness campaigns. They can target different groups, including young people, teachers, journalists, local communities or other citizens exposed to online information manipulation.

The Commission states that media literacy is an important part of democratic resilience, especially at a time when citizens receive information through many different platforms, including social media and video-sharing services.

Applications opened on 23 October 2025 and are expected to close on 11 March 2026. Selected projects may receive EU funding to develop and test media literacy actions across several countries.

The initiative does not create new legal obligations for citizens or schools. It is a funding opportunity intended to support organisations that already work, or wish to work, on media literacy and democratic participation.

6

ARTICLE

DAILY EUROPE WATCH

NEWS - OPINION - DEBATE

OPINION & DEBATE

Brussels wants to teach Europeans what to believe online

By Martin Keller | Published: 25 October 2025

The European Commission has announced a new €3 million programme that will fund projects on so-called “media literacy” across the European Union.

Officially, the programme is presented as a way to help citizens identify disinformation and understand online media. However, critics argue that the initiative gives Brussels a growing role in shaping how Europeans interpret news and political information.

The Commission says the money will support cross-border projects, training activities and educational tools. These projects could be used in schools, youth organisations or civil society groups. The stated goal is to make citizens more “resilient” against disinformation and information manipulation.

Some observers have welcomed the programme, saying that young people need better tools to check sources and avoid manipulation online. Others are more cautious. They argue that European institutions should not decide which information is trustworthy and which is not.

The call for projects opened in October 2025 and will remain open until March 2026. Organisations selected by the Commission may receive funding to develop media literacy campaigns in several European countries.

Although the programme does not directly impose lessons in schools, it raises questions about who should define media literacy and whether public authorities should finance projects that influence how citizens judge information.

The Commission insists that the initiative is about critical thinking, not censorship. But the debate shows that education, information and democracy remain sensitive issues in the digital age.

8

ARTICLE

GLOBAL DIGITAL REPORT

TECHNOLOGY / POLICY / SOCIETY

TECHNOLOGY & POLICY

EU to require media literacy certificate before students can use social media

By Thomas Reed | Published: 26 October 2025

The European Union has approved a new plan that will require young people to obtain a media literacy certificate before accessing major social media platforms, according to sources close to the Commission.

The measure is expected to affect students aged 15 to 18 and could be introduced gradually in schools across Europe. Under the plan, pupils would have to complete an online course about disinformation, journalism and European values before being allowed to use platforms such as TikTok, Instagram or YouTube.

A senior European official reportedly said that “young Europeans must learn to use the internet responsibly before they are allowed to participate fully online.” The same source suggested that schools may be asked to organise compulsory training sessions before the end of the academic year.

The programme would be financed through a €3 million European fund announced in October 2025. This money would help governments create digital tests, online certificates and monitoring tools for schools.

Some parents have already expressed concern about the plan, saying that the EU should not decide when teenagers can access social media. Digital rights groups are also worried that the measure could lead to more control over young people’s online activity.

The Commission has not yet published the full technical details of the certificate system, but implementation could begin as early as 2026.

Citizens are encouraged to stay alert as more information is expected in the coming weeks.

# Final step : Find the code !

 Final Challenge: You have collected four digits during the previous missions.  
The code has been scrambled.

Work with your team to find the correct order.

 Hint: The code forms an important year related to press freedom in Europe.  
The first team to unlock the box wins!

**Munich Charter:**



**Cards:**

**New legislations:**

\* \* \* \*

**Articles:**

# Discussion on press freedom

Daphne Caruana Galizia

## Maltese businessman paid hitmen €150,000 to kill Daphne Caruana Galizia, jury hears

Yorgen Fenech, heir to property empire, on trial for alleged involvement in murder of journalist, which he denies



Yorgen Fenech in 2019. His trial began this week in Valetta. Photograph: Yara Nardi/Reuters

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LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND JUSTICE SYSTEM VIOLENCE AGAINST JOURNALISTS NEWS

## Malta: Trial opens for alleged mastermind behind assassination of journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia, reviving hope for justice



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