Lesson 6. Manipulation: Disinformation, Manipulative Headlines and Photos
Unit 4 Part A, B

VERY VERIFIED

Activity	Time	Instructions & objectives
Game: How Well Do You Follow Instructions?	10 min	Print the "Rule book" document for each participant of the training or send it electronically to everyone right before you start the game (but no sooner!). The rule book document contains a long list of instructions but the only ones that are important are from 12 - 15. They indicate that if the participant read all the instructions till the end before rushing to react, they didn't have to do anything. In the end, tell the participants that the activity is just a reminder that they should read the information they come across carefully instead of rushing to react.
Dis/mis/malin formation	3 min	Tell students that there are 3 main types of harmful information. Misinformation is untrue, but the person spreading it meant no harm. For example, people sometimes spread untrue rumors about each other but they don't always do it wishing that they would harm someone. They often do it just because they think it is fun, although wrong. Disinformation is false information that is spread with the knowledge that it's misleading. It includes both a country or a political party purposefully spreading false information that will get people angry, as well as individuals who purposefully spread false information to gain popularity. Malinformation might be true, but it's done to harm someone's reputation (by, for example, spreading intimate photos).
Quiz	3 min	To introduce the next part of the session about manipulative headlines and images, ask them to read the example and indicate if they think the headline accurately represents what's written in the story. Link - https://veryverified.eu/units/unit-4/part-b-manipulation/headlines-and-manipulated-photos

Activity	Time	Instructions & objectives
Video on manipulative headlines and images	5 min	Link - https://youtu.be/2UEAfB_L1zU
Show slides about the three main types of manipulative photos	3 min	Name the three main types. Tell students that on slide 7 they can see an image of a man in a bumble bee costume that is often used to claim that it is the ex-president of Estonia Toomas Hendrik Ilves as if to show that Estonia is now a part of the "demoralized West". On slide 8 they can see an image of a bridge in with a crack. On the left, the background has been edited to depict Riga, although the bridge is actually in Brazil. On the 9th slide, there's an example that supposedly shows the impact of deforestation, although both images are cropped from the same photo.
Verify images	10 min	Ask the students to scan the QR code and download or copy the link of the image. Link - https://test.veryverified.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/4.10-2.png Then follow the instructions on slides 10 - 12.
Video on deepfakes and cheapfakes	5 min	Link - https://youtu.be/aAiskxviTds
Conclusion	2 min	Remind students to never share information that doesn't come from reliable sources and they haven't checked (although sometimes these sources might mislead too, they are less likely to - well-known media outlets with a reputation that is overall good, well-known research organizations, government institutions).