



PREVENTING
YOUNG PEOPLE
FROM GOING
DOWN THE
RABBIT HOLE

read, learn, find,
fake news, conspiracy
theories, disinformation,
critical thinking,
understanding

1st Newsletter

Briefly about the project

Today false news stories spread farther, faster, deeper, and more broadly than true news stories.

As an answer to this the Critical Balance project was started with the aim of strengthening and empowering young people to become better at recognising conspiracy theories and disinformation.

The project will focus on youth workers as well as young adults to supply them with a set of tools which can boost their critical thinking skills and critical media literacy. These are planned to be achieved through non-formal, informal methods as well as through an e-learning environment.



A consortium of six European partner organizations, coming from Sweden, Romania, Denmark, Latvia, Germany and Greece are working together for 30 months to

- **map conspiracy theories in Europe** related to young people.
- **publish an E-book** as a resource for youth workers on critical thinking and conspiracy theories.
- **develop a Toolbox** for youth workers which includes 24 interactive exercises to implement with young people
- **develop an E-platform** – an educational platform which will host all the developed materials alongside a magazine-style Pop Quiz

The Conspiracy Map has been signed-off

The Conspiracy map was created based on the research done by the Critical balance project consortium. It merges all the findings from the national researches carried out in the first project phase and summarises them into a map of conspiracy theories in Europe. The map can help you to understand:

- which conspiracy theories are prevalent in the national contexts of the EU (do they differ or show similarities),
- how young people consume media and news today and how this relates to risks of believing in conspiracy theories.

The Conspiracy map is also showing tools and possibilities to influence young people in relation to critical thinking and conspiracy theories.

E-book under development

In the last months partners were working to develop the **E-book chapters**, which is offering a deeper insight to critical thinking and conspiracy theories.

Partners are concentrating their efforts to draw up the **24 interactive exercises** also targeted to youth workers which are to support their work with youngsters in their efforts of creating understanding and develop young people's critical thinking skills.

What is next?

Stay tuned for more, visit our [website](#) and [FB page](#).

