

European media facility in Armenia

Credible Media. Viability. Cooperation.

Internal political crises, ongoing conflict, as well as external factors such as the recent geopolitical developments in the wider region prepared a fruitful ground for the dissemination of hate speech, fake news, disinformation, and misinformation. The context is becoming more complicated in Armenia with very small number of independent media lacking financial, institutional and in some cases human capacities to provide the wider public with free and fair information.

DW Akademie in partnership with BBC Media Action, Democracy Development Foundation (DDF), Hetq/Investigative Journalists NGO, and Factor TV, was entrusted by the European Union (EU) and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) to implement the project called “European Media Facility in Armenia — Building Sustainable and Professional Media.”

The three-year project is aimed at contributing to the promotion of a vibrant and viable media sector in Armenia, that is capacitated to fulfil its role as a watchdog for the Armenian society. The main target groups

of the initiative are media managers, regional media outlets, independent journalists, fact checkers, young journalists, and students.

“Professional and responsible journalism is the guardian of democracy, providing the public with accurate and unbiased information that empowers individuals to make informed decisions and fosters a more enlightened and harmonious society. People in Armenia are concerned about disinformation and more and more vigilant about it. The European Media Facility in Armenia project, which is close to conclusion, aimed to address the issues above, and help to find solutions to them. The European Union remains committed to supporting the media as they represent the most effective instruments for promoting shared values.”
H.E. Mr. Vassilis Maragos — Ambassador, Head of the EU Delegation to Armenia.

The project consists of a whole set of mutually enriching activities including fact-checking and investigative reporting development, networking opportunities for media representatives within Armenia and abroad, as well as financial support and capacity building activities for regional media



Factor TV Students Award Ceremony

organizations. Additionally, Armenia’s first media management E-School has been established within the project.

The project has conducted several needs assessments on media management, fact-checking, as well comprehensive research reports on the coverage of environmental issues in Armenian media and preferences and insights of audience on partner media organizations. Moreover, individually designed consultancy sessions were organized for each of the local partners based on needs and expectations raised by them.

The “European Media Facility in Armenia — Building Sustainable and Professional Media” project is being implemented by DW Akademie in cooperation with BBC Media Action, Democracy Development Foundation (DDF), Hetq/ Investigative Journalists NGO and Factor TV. The project is funded by the European Union and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). This publication was funded by the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of the DW Akademie and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.



BBC MA “Serving audiences when they need it most” networking event

Hetq

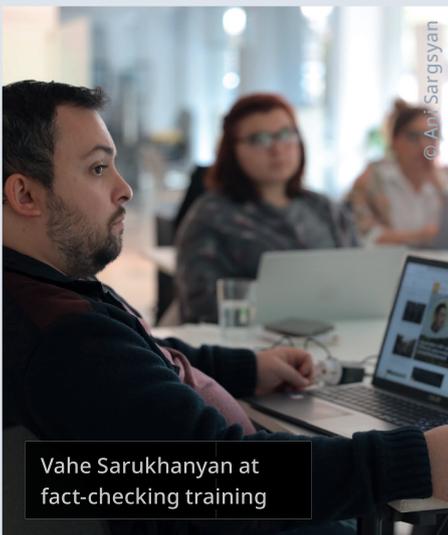
Fact-checking and networks

Hetq is actively promoting fact-checking culture in Armenian media through educating and training journalists from numerous Armenian media outlets and media-related organizations. Hetq's fact-checking and investigative experts also work towards strengthening the community of journalists who are interested in fact-checking and combatting disinformation.

Establishment of the fact-checking team

One of Hetq's achievements has been the establishment of a fact-checking team. The team is actively engaged in monitoring daily events, scrutinizing statements made by officials, examining disseminated information, and adapting fact-checking tools to produce reliable content.

"It doesn't matter if the news was spread through word of mouth, cuneiform records, or media. There are different types of fake news, and each fake information has its purposes and intentions" mentions **Vahe Sarukhanyan**, Hetq Fact-checking team lead.



Vahe Sarukhanyan at fact-checking training



Fact-checking workshop at Hetq Media Factory

Hetq has developed a comprehensive fact-checking policy that outlines editorial standards and principles. This policy serves as a guiding framework for not only the fact-checking team but also the entire editorial staff. During one-on-one consultancies and experience exchanges, Hetq also shares this policy with partner media organizations in order to help them to develop their own tailor-made policies.

Encouraging fact-checking culture in Armenia

Hetq believes in its mission to advance the practice of fact-checking throughout Armenia. Over the past two years, Hetq's fact-checking team has been working with regional media outlets assisting them in content creation, offering guidance, and providing training courses on various fact-checking tools.

The InFact network

Hetq initiated a network of fact-checking journalists, involving a range of media outlets and organizations throughout Armenia. What initially began as a collaborative effort has now evolved into a formal network, institutionalized through a cooperative memorandum.

The InFact Facebook group has transformed its initial role as a meeting platform for fact-checking enthusiasts. It has turned into a platform where more than 700 individuals mindful about fact-checking and countering disinformation can work and learn together. Here, they share subjects of personal and professional interest, share essential tools and resources related to fact-checking, and exchange materials. Hetq is actively engaged in seeking global collaborations for the local fact-checking network aiming to establish connections with foreign fact-checking networks.

To further engage Armenian journalists in the practice of fact-checking, Hetq has organized two competitions focused on articles created using fact-checking tools. The winners of these competitions are rewarded, fostering increased interest in this field and laying a foundation for the development of the journalistic discipline.

Contact Us

For more information on our projects and how to get involved, contact us through any of the following:

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