

RESIST - Strengthening Societal Resilience to Disinformation in Europe

- Empowering informed citizens for building democratic resilience –

What is RESIST?

RESIST is a flagship initiative of the **Council of Europe**, implemented under the **EEA and Norway Grants**, that aims to help societies strengthen their democratic resilience by addressing the challenge of disinformation in a holistic, inclusive, and sustainable way. The project recognises that disinformation is one of the most serious threats facing European democracies today - undermining trust in institutions, eroding civic engagement, and distorting public debate. While many previous efforts to counter disinformation have focused primarily on the “supply side,” such as fact-checking, content moderation, or platform regulation, RESIST focuses on the “**demand side**” of the problem: the people who receive, interpret, and share information.

By prioritising education, media literacy, youth engagement, and cultural participation, RESIST seeks to **empower citizens to think critically, question manipulative narratives, and make informed decisions**. It helps institutions and individuals develop the awareness and skills needed to identify, understand, and resist false or misleading information. Through a participatory, cross-sectoral approach, the project brings together public authorities, media regulators, educators, journalists, and civil society organisations to co-create national strategies that strengthen resilience to disinformation.

RESIST is implemented across ten European countries and will develop a shared methodology for assessing democratic systems’ vulnerabilities to disinformation. The results will inform evidence-based policies and practical tools for governments and stakeholders. In line with the **Council of Europe’s Reykjavik Principles for Democracy** and the **New Democratic Pact for Europe**, RESIST embodies a forward-looking vision: defending democracy not through censorship, but through empowerment, inclusion, and critical awareness. In doing so, it reinforces the Council of Europe’s mission to safeguard democracy, human rights, and the rule of law in the digital age.

Why it matters

- Disinformation undermines trust in democratic institutions and social cohesion.
- It manipulates public debate and can distort elections, thereby negatively impacting the state of democracy and human rights.
- Building resilience means empowering citizens rather than censoring voices.

Scope

Beneficiary countries: Croatia, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Belarusian media in exile

Duration: 60 months | Budget: €2,000,000

Our approach

- Demand-side focus – strengthening how citizens engage with information.
- Cross-sector collaboration – uniting media, culture, education, and youth sectors.
- Rights-based – ensuring responses respect freedom of expression and human rights.
- Evidence-driven – guided by research, data, and inclusive consultation.

Key actions

- Co-designing and piloting a methodology to assess societal strengths and vulnerabilities to disinformation across various policy areas (media, culture, education, youth, etc.).
- Conducting peer learning meetings, workshops, and regional exchanges to showcase good and bad practices in the different policy areas, and subsequently feed the development of guidelines for preparation of national resilience strategies.
- Developing guidelines for preparation of national strategies for strengthening resilience encompassing, media, education, culture, and youth policies, alongside a model national resilience strategy.
- Creating inter-sectoral national platforms for strategic cooperation to undertake creation of national resilience strategies.
- Promoting the work under the project and dissemination of its results.

Expected outcomes

- ✓ Countries equipped with tested tools to assess and respond to disinformation.
- ✓ Strengthened cooperation between public institutions, media, and civil society.
- ✓ Citizens empowered to think critically and navigate the information environment.

Together we can build resilient, informed, and democratic societies.



The project is implemented by the Council of Europe [Division for Cooperation on Freedom of Expression](#) with support from the [EEA and Norway Grants](#).

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