Module 4: Media literacy as a solution

[00:00:02] Hello! We've reached the end of our course; this is the final video in this series. And I would like to finish on a high note, with something uplifting.
 I want to speak about the solutions of the IFCN for the problem of disinformation, which is a problem around the world.

[00:00:25] In our last video, we discussed the laws and problems that may arise due to these attempts at regulation. I wanted to use these last couple of minutes to explain the paths the IFCN has taken to fight disinformation. One is very quick and immediate, we can start tomorrow, and that's the path of collaboration. We must understand that the giant monster we are currently fighting against is not the competition within our sector; the giant monster is disinformation. What do I mean? We shouldn't worry about competition. We can't fight with our colleagues all the time.
We should make an effort to join forces and to be better prepared to fight against disinformation. A very successful example, and I would like you to check out their website and follow them, is the Coronavirus Facts alliance. It currently brings together 99 organizations across more than 70 countries in 43 languages and 16 time zones to fight COVID and vaccine disinformation. What have we achieved together? We have managed to put together a database with over 10.300 fact-checks that can be accessed worldwide. So, for example, if I am a fact-checker in Colombia and I see a fact-check done in Spain on a specific topic that is going viral in my country, I can, I am authorized by the members of the alliance, to repost this content in my country, but, of course, you must credit the authors. This makes it possible for fact-checkers to be quicker, provide higher quality and more accurate information, and tell a better story on a particular piece of disinformation. This is a proposal for you to consider how you could contribute and what working groups could come out of this course.

[00:02:47] I also wanted to talk about long-term efforts. Education is something the IFCN considers evident and necessary. I understand it might sound a little naive, but we are not going to win the war against disinformation unless we educate our future generations and unless we educate our readers and the users on social media. So I wanted to share with you some portals you can visit and find high-quality materials you can use.
The first one is PortalCheck, and it is in Spanish. It is a joint effort by Chequeado in Argentina, UNESCO, and the European Union. It is conceived as a resource center, offering high-quality content for five types of users. First, governments and government entities, as they, of course, need to be up-to-date as to how events are unfolding around the world. This is also for fact-checkers and journalists; it provides tips on how to check certain things and what tools can be used.
It is also for educators: there are many relevant materials they can just download and use in their classes. PortalCheck also offers content for influencers so they don't mistakenly share disinformation without realizing it. And of course, it is for the general public, lecturers, etc. The portal is in several languages, it started in Spanish, and it is very well designed. I recommend you visit their site.

[00:04:34] Another one I like very much is a joint initiative by Chequeado and the IFCN, it's called Educheck Map. It is a map of the training initiatives available in the world of fact-checking. This map has been around for a few years. It brings together a lot of educational materials developed by different fact-checking organizations around the world on a single website. This means that this site offers materials in several languages that can be used in schools, universities, news departments, and companies. There are several filters to use, and the materials are very easy to find.

[00:05:18] And finally, let me remind you that we also have Verificado, which is a UN portal that is trying to bring together all the people around the world who want to help in the fight against disinformation, so they can come together as a group and share content that has been fact-checked. I recommend you visit UN's Verificado and find out what you can do to help. The fight in favor of media literacy is crucial.

[00:05:57] And for those of you who read in English, I recommend MediaWise. MediaWise in the US is part of the Poynter Institute, host of the IFCN; it is another IFCN member. MediaWise offers content in English, of course, that has been created specifically for teenagers and older adults. It is crucial we pay special attention to these two age groups.

[00:06:26] Okay, I hope you have found this to be a helpful course. You can reach out to me on social media or email me, and I hope to see you soon because the war against disinformation is still on. We need your help. Take care and all the best. See you soon!