AFRICA

DESINFOX

Following Verifox Africa, a pilot project launched in 2019, Desinfox Africa ("combating fake news Africa") is providing support to media outlets in six French-speaking African countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Central African Republic, Senegal) in order to consolidate their journalists’ understanding of fact-checking and to get them to implement fact checking into their editorial model.

AIM

To contribute to reliable, objective and independent information in Western and Central Africa.

WHEN?

From October 2020 to December 2023.

FOR WHOM?

- Journalists trained in fact-checking techniques
- Media managers
- Regulatory bodies
- African civil society actors (bloggers and CSO members)

A project by
HOW?

- National forums to discuss on fake news;
- An introduction to image verification (e-learning module in the form of a mobile app) and to the basics of fact-checking;
- An overview of fact-checking and a follow-up on content production;
- Capacity building in fundraising and in reinforcing the economic viability of fact-checking;
- A Euro-African meeting on the issues surrounding the spread of fake news, taking place alongside the “Africtivistes” summit in Nairobi in June 2021;
- An introduction to IFCN (International Fact-Checking Network) criteria and media assessment;
- Training on how to use social media and reach a larger audience, advanced fact-checking techniques and new fact-checking formats;
- A meeting between the regulatory authorities of the target countries;
- Training for trainers;
- A closing forum in Dakar (Senegal).

ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

- Greater media actor awareness of the phenomenon of fake news and how it can be addressed;
- Enhanced fact-checking skills of the selected media outlets’ journalists;
- Increased production of fact-checking content.

CFI, the French media development agency

CFI provides support to media organisations as development actors across several continents. A subsidiary of France Médias Monde and an operator of the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, the agency is currently working on around 30 projects that fall under three major programmes: Media and Governance, Media and Enterprise, Media and Development. The “Media and Governance” programme tackles democratic governance issues, notably by strengthening the rule of law, media plurality, the ethical conduct of public debates and the search for pluralistic and high-quality information.

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