



“Faktoje” has been established on May 2018 with the full technical support from the USAID-funded project “Justice for All”, implemented by EWMI.

Faktoje is a media center that deals with fact-checking by evaluating the statements of public officials and politicians, as well as by analyzing important social and economic issues. More than 300 statements and promises per year are evaluated according to the criteria of truthfulness, consistency and fulfillment of promises.

Faktoje” is the only fact-checking media in Albania that promotes accountability based on the right to information and transparency.

In our daily work, we seek to empower citizens of Albania and increase transparency on the promises and claims made by public officials or private entities benefitting from public funds.

“Faktoje”, as a signatory member of the IFCN and co-founder of the Anti-Disinformation Network for the Balkans (ADN), fact-checks articles by relying on credible sources, which may be located outside Albania as well.

As part of IFCN, we apply the same rules and methodology that help us strengthen collaboration and maintain independence and professionalism.

“Faktoje” was part of the working group with the right to vote, among 40 other fact checking organizations in Europe, which participated in the drafting of the Code of Professional Principles of the European Fact Checking Network (EFCSN).

The ultimate goal of “Faktoje” is to improve public performance standards in Albania.

During these years the platform has become a reliable information source for the general public, by setting an example of responsible and ethical journalism.

Activities

Factchecking of political statements

Every year, “Faktoje” verifies at least 300 public statements and promises and works on in-depth verifications on how Albanians’ tax payers’ money is spent.

“Faktoje” as part of a strong network on the Western Balkans works to expose the malignant and harmful influence spread by foreign actors in Albania. Every year we debunk and fact check more than 60 articles and every year we publish a report on malignant disinformation in the Western Balkans.

Monitoring of the accountability of local government

From 2019 and on, “Faktoje” publishes the “Monitoring Report on the Transparency in Municipalities and on the Evaluation of Promises of Mayors”.

The findings of the reports and recommendations have been shared with the mayors and members of civil society on yearly bases.

Since 2019 “Faktoje” has checked promises, statements, and settled deadlines regarding the recovery process after the devastating earthquake of November 2019 and the transparency of managing the public money.

“Faktoje” has built a centralized database for grants, rent bonuses, and a list of individuals that benefit new houses according to a scoring system and their family characteristics.

In 2021, “Faktoje” has published a report with findings and recommendations regarding the promises and transparency of funds dedicated to the reconstruction of public housing affected by the 2019 earthquake.

Training and mentorship

“Faktoje”, since 2019 – ongoing is collaborating with the University of Tirana to provide the students the opportunity of an internship at “Faktoje”.

“Faktoje” has established a bachelor-level of 14 weeks long, a Fact-Checking course, in collaboration with the Department of Journalism and Communication at the University of Tirana (2021-2023).

From 2020, “Faktoje” is training local journalists and students from 6 regions of Albania focusing on disinformation, malformation, methodology of fact-checking and media literacy.

“Faktoje” organizes and heads trainings with coordinators in all the public institutions and journalists on the implementation of the law on the right to information.

“Faktoje” is training hundreds of high school students all over Albania on simple methods of verifying facts and deepening of the critical thinking.

Disinformation Campaign: Do not be fooled! Fact-check too!

From 2019 and on, “Faktoje” has conducted several awareness campaigns to stop disinformation on social networks, regarding Covid-19 pandemic and the earthquake, war in Ukraine, environment etc

Cases in Court

For nearly 3 years, “Faktoje” has taken to court 13 public institutions that refused to publish the expenditures of their officials for work travels abroad.

In some instances, the Administrative Court has sided with “Faktoje”; however, many institutions refuse to publish their expenditures. Despite the Administrative Court decision requiring them to submit their invoices, two institutions, namely the Presidential Office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, refused to provide such invoices to the Bailiff Service, the institution that executes court decisions.

The case is still under trial at the Court of Appeals regarding other important institutions, such as the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Health.

For the first time, a media outlet has filed the same lawsuit against 11 institutions, and the case has been under trial for nearly 2 years, represented by Respublika.

Partners

Transparency is crucial on the subject of sources of funding. All the financial, legal and organizational data of Faktoje are published on our website. “Faktoje” partners are USAID, National Endowment for Democracy (NED), British Embassy, US State Department, European Union Delegation in Albania, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Embassy of Sweden, OSCE, UNESCO, GIZ, META, etc.