

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Participant:	1 - ETHNIKO KENTRO EREVNAS KAI TECHNOLOGIKIS ANAPTYXIS (CERTH)
PIC number:	998802502
Project name and acronym:	ECHO - Engaging Citizens in Honest Opinion: A Citizen-Led Initiative for to Counter Disinformation and for Honest Opinion & Information Integrity

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	1
Event name:	Building Synergies: Connecting Eu-Funded Projects for Collaborative Impact
Type:	Workshop
In situ/online:	In-situ
Location:	Conducted in Greece
Date(s):	30/3/2026
Website(s) (if any):	N/A
Participants	
Female:	7
Male:	17
Non-binary:	9
From country 1 [Greece]:	23
From country 2 [Germany]:	2
From country 3 [Spain]:	1
From country 4 [Italy]:	2
From country 5 [Cyprus]:	1
From country 6 [Netherlands]:	2
From country 7 [United Kingdom]:	1
From country 8 [Bulgaria]:	1
Total number of participants:	33
From total number of countries:	
	8

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

The scope of the event was to create a cluster of EU projects that are related to ECHO. This event brought together representatives from EU-funded initiatives tackling similar challenges, aiming to foster collaboration and enhance collective impact. The event creates a platform to connect efforts, align strategies, and scale results more effectively. Through the event, participants engaged in knowledge exchange and best practice sharing, identified synergies and complementarities across projects, and explored opportunities for future joint actions such as workshops, publications, and pilot initiatives. The event also supported the establishment of an ongoing network of EU-funded initiatives, strengthened communication channels, and laid the groundwork for future collaboration and funding opportunities, ultimately increasing the visibility and impact of participating projects.



Engaging Citizens in Honest Opinion: *A Citizen-Led Initiative for to Counter Disinformation and for Honest Opinion & Information Integrity*

Grant Agreement No 10835407

DELIVERABLE 1.1:

Event Description Sheet WP1

Work Package: 1

LEAD BENEFICIARY:

CENTRE FOR RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY HELLAS (CERTH)

Delivery Date: 31.03.2026



Funded by
the European Union

Document Sheet

Project acronym	ECHO
Project full title	Engaging Citizens in Honest Opinion (ECHO): A Citizen-Led Initiative for to Counter Disinformation and for Honest Opinion and Information Integrity
Programme	Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (CERV)
Topic	CERV-2025-CITIZENS-CIV
Type of Action	CERV-LS CERV Lump Sum Grants
Grant Agreement	10835407
Start day	1 January 2026
Duration	24 months

LEGAL NOTICE

This project has received funding from the European Union Horizon Research and Innovation programme under grant agreement No 10835407. Neither the European Commission nor any person acting on behalf of the Commission is responsible for the use, which might be made, of the following information. The views expressed in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Commission.

©ECHO Consortium, 2026

Reproduction is authorised provided the source is acknowledged.

Document Information

Deliverable number	D1.1
Deliverable name	Event Description Sheet WP1
Lead beneficiary	CERTH
WP	01
Related task(s)	1
Type	R
Reviewers (Organisation)	ALL
Delivery date	31.03.2026
Main author(s)	CERTH
Contributor(s)	CERTH
Dissemination Level	Public (PU)

Document history

Version	Date	Changes	Reviewer/Contributor
0.1	26/2/26	Preparation of table of content	CERTH
0.2	15/3/26	Integration of material prepared for workshop	CERTH
0.3	31/3/26	Deliverable sent for review	CERTH
1.0	31/3/26	Final deliverable	CERTH

Table of Contents

1	Introduction	7
2	Objectives of the Clustering Event.....	7
3	Event 1: Planning & Organisation	8
3.1	Stakeholder Identification & Engagement	8
3.2	Agenda Design & Structure.....	8
4	Implementation of the Event.....	9
5	Outcomes and Impact.....	10
6	Dissemination & Communication Activities	12
6.1	Visual Identity and Branding (Logo, Templates, etc.)	12
6.2	Social Media & Online Communication	12
	Annex: Agenda of the workshop.....	13

List of Figures

Figure 1: Interactive session during workshop	10
Figure 2: ECHO project's logo	12

Abbreviations

Abbreviations	Full name
D	Deliverable
WP	Work Package

Publishable summary

The ECHO (Engaging Citizens in Honest Opinion) project organised a clustering event bringing together representatives from EU-funded initiatives addressing disinformation, information integrity, and civic engagement. The event aimed to foster collaboration, enhance knowledge exchange, and strengthen the collective impact of projects working on similar challenges. The workshop gathered a diverse group of participants, including EU project representatives, researchers, and citizens, and provided a platform to share experiences, tools, and approaches. Through presentations, discussions, and interactive sessions, participants explored common challenges such as disinformation detection, citizen trust, and the use of digital technologies.

A key feature of the event was the inclusion of interactive experiments, which actively engaged participants in assessing information credibility. These interactive activities provided valuable insights into behavioural patterns and decision-making processes, while also demonstrating innovative approaches for future research and engagement.

The event resulted in the identification of synergies among projects, the exchange of best practices, and the exploration of opportunities for joint actions, including collaborative workshops and policy-oriented outputs. It also highlighted important challenges, such as the limited adoption of transparency tools at the municipal level and the need for more inclusive and accessible digital solutions.

1 Introduction

This report presents the organisation, implementation, and outcomes of the clustering event held within the framework of WP1. The event was designed to bring together representatives from related EU initiatives addressing similar challenges, with the objective of fostering collaboration, enhancing knowledge exchange, and increasing the collective impact of project results.

The report outlines the planning and execution of the event, including stakeholder engagement, agenda development, and coordination activities. It also documents the dissemination and communication efforts undertaken in support of the event, such as the preparation of visual identity materials, including the project logo, and social media channels.

Furthermore, the report highlights key outcomes of the clustering event, including the identification of synergies among projects, the establishment of communication channels, and the exploration of opportunities for future joint actions. Overall, it aims to provide a comprehensive overview of both organisational aspects and the broader impact of the event within the EU project ecosystem.

2 Objectives of the Clustering Event

The clustering event was organised within the framework of the ECHO project's in WP1, and its title was "Building Synergies: Connecting EU-Funded Projects for Collaborative Impact". The primary objective of the event was to bring together representatives of EU-funded projects addressing related challenges in order to foster collaboration and enhance the collective impact of their activities. Recognising that many EU initiatives operate in parallel on similar thematic areas, such as disinformation mitigation, digital media literacy, civic engagement, artificial intelligence in information ecosystems, and transparency, the event sought to address the fragmentation that often results from limited interaction among projects. The creation of a dedicated space for dialogue and exchange, the clustering activity aimed to connect ongoing efforts and support the scaling of results.

The event targeted a diverse group of stakeholders, including representatives of EU-funded projects (i.e., Athena, Shazaam, MedDMO, iMedius, Mindishield, HealthAI, Localwatch, and Anti-Corruption City Toolkit), researchers, and citizens. These participants brought complementary expertise spanning areas such as fact-checking technologies, AI-driven media analysis, public health communication, civic monitoring, and anti-corruption tools, all contributing to a shared goal of strengthening trustworthy information ecosystems. The specific objectives of the clustering event were to:

- Facilitate knowledge exchange and sharing of best practices among participating projects;
- Identify synergies and complementarities in methodologies, tools, and approaches;
- Foster the development of partnerships and collaborative relationships;
- Explore opportunities for joint activities, including co-organised workshops, shared dissemination actions, and pilot initiatives;
- Contribute to the development of a common roadmap and recommendations for tackling disinformation and promoting information integrity;
- Strengthen communication channels and establish the foundations for an ongoing network of EU-funded initiatives.

Through these objectives, the event aimed to enhance coordination across projects, either ongoing and finished ones, increase their visibility and impact, and support the emergence of more integrated and sustainable approaches to addressing disinformation at the European level.

3 Event 1: Planning & Organisation

The organisation of the clustering event under the ECHO project followed a structured and collaborative approach, ensuring the effective engagement of relevant stakeholders, the development of a targeted and balanced agenda, and the smooth coordination of logistical aspects. The planning phase was instrumental in aligning the event's objectives with the needs and expectations of participating projects and stakeholders.

3.1 Stakeholder Identification & Engagement

The event preparation involved the identification and engagement of relevant stakeholders operating in areas related to disinformation, media literacy, civic engagement, and information integrity. Particular emphasis was placed on EU-funded projects addressing complementary challenges, in order to maximise opportunities for collaboration and knowledge exchange. The ECHO consortium mapped and selected a group of projects with thematic relevance and potential synergies, including Athena¹, Shazaam², MedDMO³, iMedius⁴, Mindishield⁵, HealthAI⁶, Localwatch⁷, and Anti-Corruption City Toolkit⁸. These initiatives were chosen based on their expertise in areas such as AI-driven content analysis, citizen engagement, digital health communication, and transparency tools. The selection of these projects was made also due to the interesting tools and algorithms that these projects have developed and the lessons learnt that have been extracted so far and can be shared publicly.

Stakeholder engagement was carried out through targeted invitations, direct communication with project coordinators, and the dissemination of event information through established networks. Efforts were also made to ensure the participation of researchers and citizens, in line with the citizen-centred approach of the ECHO project. Specifically, invitations were sent to researchers via emails and also through personal communications.

3.2 Agenda Design & Structure

The agenda of the clustering event was carefully designed to support interaction, knowledge exchange, and the identification of collaboration opportunities. It was structured to balance informative presentations with participatory sessions, enabling both the sharing of project experiences and active engagement among participants. The event programme included (Annex):

- Introductory presentations outlining the objectives of the clustering activity and the scope of the ECHO project;
- Presentations from participating projects, highlighting their main activities, tools, and results;

¹ <https://project-athena.eu/>

² <https://shazaam.eu/>

³ <https://meddmo.eu/el/>

⁴ <https://imedi.us.gr/gr/>

⁵ <https://www.media-diversity.org/projects/mindishield-combating-online-minority-related-disinformation/>

⁶ <https://www.clinicaldatascience.nl/projects/health-ai>

⁷ <https://athens.localwatch.gr/>

⁸ <https://www.access-info.org/2020-02-12/act-fighting-corruption-at-local-level/>

- Thematic discussion sessions focusing on common challenges, such as combating disinformation, enhancing citizen trust, and leveraging digital technologies.

The logistical planning of the event aimed to ensure accessibility, efficiency, and a positive participant experience. The event format (physical) was selected to maximise participation across geographically dispersed stakeholders. Key logistical aspects included:

- Coordination of the event date and time to accommodate participants from different countries (who were flying in for the event);
- Selection and setup of the appropriate venue;
- Preparation and distribution of supporting materials, including the agenda, presentation templates, and background information;
- Technical support to ensure the smooth running of presentations and discussions;
- Communication with participants before and after the event, including confirmation emails and follow-up information.

4 Implementation of the Event

The clustering event was successfully implemented as an interactive and participatory workshop, designed to encourage dialogue, collaboration, and hands-on engagement among participants. Having preparatory work as baseline, the event created a dynamic environment that facilitated both knowledge exchange and practical exploration of challenges related to disinformation and information integrity.

The event was structured as a workshop combining presentations, discussions, and interactive activities. This format enabled participants to both present their work and actively engage with the themes addressed during the event. During the interactive sessions (Figure 1), participants were invited to engage in practical exercises aimed at assessing their ability to detect disinformation.

These experiments provided valuable insights into audience behaviour, perception patterns, and levels of awareness regarding misleading or false information. At the same time, they served as a testing ground for participatory methodologies that can be further developed and refined. The inclusion of these interactive elements significantly enhanced participant engagement and contributed to a more experiential understanding of the topic. Specifically, during the SHAZAAM session, an interactive experiment was conducted to actively engage participants in disinformation detection. Participants were presented with a statement and were asked to assess its validity by positioning themselves according to whether they believed the statement was true or false.

Following this initial selection, participants in each group were invited to justify their choice. Those who identified the statement as true explained the reasoning and evidence supporting their judgement, while those who considered it false provided their own arguments and interpretations. This facilitated a structured exchange of perspectives and encouraged critical reflection on how individuals assess information credibility.

This experimental approach proved particularly valuable, as it enabled the observation of a range of behavioural patterns, including decision-making processes, confidence levels, and the influence of personal biases. Additionally, the exercise provided rich qualitative insights into the types of justifications participants used in both cases, highlighting differences in reasoning strategies and levels of critical evaluation.



Figure 1: Interactive session during workshop

5 Outcomes and Impact

The clustering event generated valuable outcomes in terms of knowledge exchange, identification of synergies, and insights into both technological and societal aspects of disinformation, transparency, and civic engagement. The discussions and interactive sessions contributed to a deeper understanding of common challenges, as well as opportunities for collaboration among participating initiatives.

One of the key outcomes was the mapping of existing clusters and networks in which participating projects are involved. In particular, the ATHENA project highlighted its engagement with several relevant initiatives, including the SAUFEX cluster, EU-HYBNET, FERMI, and the VIGILANT cluster. These connections demonstrate the broader ecosystem of EU-funded projects working on related topics and underline the importance of

strengthening cross-cluster collaboration to maximise impact. Further discussion among these projects will be done for their participation on our next events.

Policy-related contributions also emerged as a significant result of the event. ATHENA presented a policy brief developed within its WP2, which includes a set of ten recommendations addressing disinformation and information integrity. This raised important considerations regarding the uptake of such recommendations, particularly whether policymakers actively engage with and implement these outputs. The discussion also highlighted the potential value of developing joint policy briefs across projects, thereby increasing their visibility, coherence, and influence at the European level.

The event further confirmed the importance of interactive and participatory approaches. The success of the experimental sessions demonstrated that such formats are essential for capturing behavioural insights and engaging participants more effectively. As a result, it was identified that future workshops should systematically incorporate interactive elements to enhance both data collection and participant involvement.

Several insights were also gathered regarding the adoption and use of digital tools, particularly at the municipal level. It was noted that, despite the availability of tools designed to enhance transparency and citizen participation, some municipalities show limited interest or willingness to adopt them. For example, the LocalWatch tool, which has been piloted in Thessaloniki, has not been widely utilised, despite offering functionalities similar to other established platforms such as ETAPAS⁹. This highlights a gap between tool development and real-world implementation, pointing to the need for stronger engagement strategies with local authorities.

At the same time, examples of good practices were shared. Some municipalities have implemented platforms where official documents are uploaded and citizens are invited to participate in consultations and provide comments, thus fostering more transparent and participatory governance processes.

From a technological perspective, several innovative approaches were presented by participating projects. The iMedius project developed tools allowing users to report and upload instances of fake content, supporting crowdsourced identification of disinformation. In addition, iMedius conducted experiments to analyse user attention patterns, investigating which parts of an image attract users' focus when comparing real and fake visuals. This work led to the creation of datasets that can support further research on visual disinformation and user perception.

Other contributions emphasised the importance of inclusivity in technological solutions. In particular, the need to make AI-based tools more accessible and user-friendly for elderly populations was highlighted, ensuring that vulnerable groups are not excluded from efforts to combat disinformation.

Transparency and anti-corruption tools were also discussed. The Anti-Corruption City Toolkit (ACT!) project presented whistleblowing mechanisms designed to support the reporting of corrupt practices. Additionally, the adoption of the Open Contracting Data Standard (OCDS) was highlighted as a key enabler for transparency. This standard allows for the publication of data across all stages of the public contracting process and supports the calculation of "red flag" indicators, which can help identify potential risks or irregularities in procurement procedures.

⁹ <https://www.etapasproject.eu/>

6 Dissemination & Communication Activities

Dissemination and communication activities within the ECHO project were designed to ensure the effective promotion of the project's objectives, activities, and results to a wide range of stakeholders, including researchers, policymakers, practitioners, and citizens. These activities aimed to enhance the visibility of the project, support stakeholder engagement, and maximise the impact of its outcomes at both national and European levels. A strategic approach was adopted, combining a strong visual identity with targeted online communication actions. Particular emphasis was placed on accessibility, clarity of messaging, and consistency across all communication channels, in line with EU visibility and dissemination requirements.

6.1 Visual Identity and Branding (Logo, Templates, etc.)

A coherent visual identity was developed for the ECHO project to ensure recognisability and consistency across all dissemination materials. Central to this was the design and use of the project logo, which reflects the project's core mission of engaging citizens and promoting information integrity. In addition to the logo, a comprehensive set of branded materials and templates was created to support both internal and external communication. These included:

- Presentation templates for project partners;
- Deliverable and report templates;
- Templates for communication materials such as agendas, flyers, and posters;
- Visual assets for digital dissemination, including banners and graphics.



Figure 2: ECHO project's logo

6.2 Social Media & Online Communication

The ECHO project made active use of digital communication channels to disseminate its activities and results to a broader audience. Accounts on social media platforms and online tools were created to increase outreach, engage stakeholders, and promote interaction with the project's content. Project's website () is under preparation, which will host all information about the past and upcoming events of the project. Efforts were made to present content in an accessible and engaging manner, often supported by visual materials and concise messaging.

Annex: Agenda of the workshop



Engaging Citizens in Honest Opinion: A Citizen-Led Initiative for to Counter Disinformation and for Honest Opinion & Information Integrity

Grant Agreement No 101254012

Location: *Online*

Clustering Workshop Agenda

Date	30 March 2026, 13:30 – 17:30 Local Time
Venue	Centre for Research & Technology Hellas (CERTH) Room: Amphitheater (Main Building)
Contact Persons	Anastasios Drosou, Maria Tsourma, Elisavet Katseli
Contact Details	e-mails: drosou@iti.gr ; mtsourma@iti.gr ; elisavet.katseli@iti.gr ;

Monday, 30 th March 2026 13:30am – 17:30pm (local time)		
13:30 - 17:30	Clustering Workshop Agenda	
13:30 - 13:45	Welcome & Context Setting - Welcome from organizers - Why clustering EU projects matters - Key challenge: Disinformation spreads across domains of ECHO project	CERTH
13:45 - 14:05	Athena project	David Wright
14:05 - 14:10	Q&A	
14:10 - 14:30	Shazaam project	Ioanna Kostarella
14:30 - 14:35	Q&A	
14:35 - 14:55	MedDMO project	Michael Sirivianos
14:55 - 15:00	Q&A	
15:00 - 15:20	iMedius project	Charalampos Dimoulas
15:20 - 15:25	Q&A	
15:25 - 15:40	Coffee break	
15:40 - 16:00	HealthAI project	Renée Vasbinder
16:00 - 16:05	Q&A	
16:05 - 16:25	Localwatch project	Stefanos Loukopoulos
16:25 - 16:30	Q&A	
16:30 - 16:50	ACT (Anti Corruption City Toolkit) project	Stefanos Loukopoulos
16:50 - 16:55	Q&A	
16:55 - 17:15	Collective Discussion: Future EU Collaboration - What common challenges did we identify? - What joint initiatives could emerge? - Could we build: - a joint policy recommendation - a shared data space a disinformation observatory	CERTH; ALL
17:15 - 17:20	Q&A	
17:20	End of meeting	