

Wednesday

On Wednesday the Erasmus+ group went to the university of mental health Univer Sal to see a presentation from 3 journalists about fake news and social media. They spoke about their company Living from stories or Vivirdelcuento. The journalists met while working in the television industry and decided to team up and create a company to help small businesses. They help the businesses by making videos to tell their stories and by creating and launching messages on social media.

The journalists also spoke in which way fake news can manipulate the people because we have always believed that whatever we see on TV must be true. They also believe that television should be public and independent, but politicians want to hide their mistakes and provide the content they like. Because of that, journalists have to be strong and have experience. On Fridays the journalists in Spain wear black as a sign of disagreement of the messages they are forced to transmit. To capture the attention of the public there are 4 different strategies:

- 1) DISTRACTION – a strategy to move the people’s attention away from a negative topic by putting positive news in the spotlight. This strategy was used by the Minister of Spain to announce corruption in the Government.
- 2) NO OPTION- used for giving out bad news by presenting an ultimatum. «If we don’t do this, it will be much worse»
- 3) EMOTIONS – bringing the emotions out from the public by using sad stories. This can be used to scam people like in the case of Nadia. She was a young girl who was ill and her parents presented her condition as deadly and used it as an excuse to collect millions of euros.
- 4) TECHNICAL TERMS – using vocabulary that 80% of the population cannot understand.

Fake news is created to manipulate, confuse and cheat the public. Fake news has been used for a long time, but since the digitalization of news it has become widespread and can be used by nearly anyone. Fake news can have serious consequences on the population. It spreads misinformation and causes damage that can’t be fixed. It’s impossible to create the same impact with true articles like it is with fake news. Fake news can also affect a person’s political reputation like it did in the case of the Croatian President. After Croatia placed second in the World Cup, the pictures of the Croatian President in a bikini surfaced online. It was actually another woman who looked like the President. Because of the spread of fake news you should always check the sources of the story, the credibility of the writer and check if the page is on the list of fake news websites. The Internet has completely changed the way of transporting information, but the disadvantage is the circulation of fake news. You shouldn’t believe everything you read because everyone can be a journalist nowadays but not everyone is trained to be one.

After the presentation we went to Palma and had different activities. First we visited cathedral Santa Maria de la Palma where we were introduced to beautiful paintings and sculptures from Gothic period. Afterwards, we had treasure hunt and had to act out plays. By 2 o’clock we were finished and had free time to explore Palma on our own.

Nikola Bencun, Majda Anticev, Marija Gardijan