



Press Release (M3)

[May 2026]

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PERiSCOPE completes its first three months with project Kick-off Meeting and early capacity-building actions

Kick-off in Athens and two Media akademija events in Vilnius highlight early momentum in strengthening democratic resilience against disinformation, manipulation and SLAPPs.

Athens, Greece / Vilnius, Lithuania — [May 2026]

In its first three months, the European project PERiSCOPE (“Partnerships for Enhanced InfoRmation Resilience and Security, Citizen Democratic Participation, Awareness, and Engagement”) initiated project coordination and delivered its first public-facing capacity-building actions. Bringing together 12 partners from 8 EU Member States, PERiSCOPE aims to strengthen democratic resilience against disinformation, gendered hate speech and foreign information manipulation (FIMI) through inclusive media literacy, civic engagement and responsible AI.

The first quarter of implementation included the project Kick-off Meeting in Athens and two early events organised by Media akademija in Vilnius, Lithuania, targeting journalists and communication professionals with practical knowledge on SLAPPs and AI-enabled manipulation. In parallel, PERiSCOPE partners also initiated early media-literacy actions under WP1 (led by JSI) in Slovenia, with a first wave of workshops and training sessions engaging 300+ participants across youth, educators and media professionals.

What PERiSCOPE will deliver

- Capacity-building and training: practical learning resources and trainings supporting critical thinking, media literacy and democratic participation.
- Public awareness campaigns: cross-border campaign materials and outreach actions tailored to different audiences.
- Youth engagement and fact-checking initiatives: empowering young people to engage with verification practices and civic participation.
- Policy dialogue and knowledge exchange: structured exchanges between civil society, media, researchers and decision-makers to inform stronger responses.

Early highlights (first 3 months)

- **Project Kick-off Meeting (KoM) — Athens, Greece — 1–2 April 2026**

Hosted by UPRC at SuiHub Athens (Agiou Markou 22, 10560 Athens—centrally located near Monastiraki Metro), the Kick-off Meeting brought together consortium representatives in person and online. The purpose of the two-day meeting was to confirm governance and coordination routines and agree the implementation roadmap up to Month 6 (M6), including delivery planning for the project’s early communication foundations (communication plan, website/web presence and core dissemination assets), coordination of the first wave of capacity-building and awareness actions, and alignment on project-wide processes for stakeholder engagement, data protection and safeguarding. Partners also explored synergies across work streams to maximise reuse of materials and ensure consistent messaging and impact across countries. [Add: total participants / key decisions / link to minutes or photo album.]



PERISCOPE Kick-off Meeting in Athens (SuiHub Athens), 1 April 2026.

- **Media akademija lecture on SLAPPs — Vilnius, Lithuania — 31 March 2026**

As part of a public-facing event in Vilnius, the session “Vertę kurianti komunikacija (Value-creating communication)” introduced the concept of SLAPPs (Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation) as a threat to free expression and democratic debate. It highlighted typical characteristics (e.g., censorship intent, power imbalance and financial pressure), discussed a Lithuanian example case, and linked the discussion to PERISCOPE’s WP3 goals on legal empowerment and cross-sector dialogue for stronger protections for journalists and civil society. Target audience: journalists, media and communication professionals. [Add: speaker(s) / co-organisers / final participant count / link to event page.]

1st event: Value-creating communication



Project: 101022480 – PERISCOPE – CIVIC-2021-CITIZENSCOP

Media akademija — “Value-creating communication” event (Vilnius, Lithuania).

- **Media akademija workshop on AI-enabled manipulation — Vilnius, Lithuania — 29 April 2026**

The workshop “Investigating Digital Manipulation in the AI Era” targeted media professionals and focused on AI-enabled manipulation risks, including deepfakes and common AI-driven scams. Participants explored the AI-driven disinformation landscape, were introduced to a toolbox for digital investigation, and worked through case-study analysis and practical exercises, with emphasis on ethical considerations and responsible reporting. The session also positioned WP9’s upcoming Deepfakes Awareness Media Pack as a reusable set of high-impact digital materials co-developed with WP1 (AI literacy) and WP7 (disinformation ethics). [Add: final participant count / tools used / link to materials / photo(s)].

- **JSI series of workshops on AI Tools & Media Literacy — Ljubljana, Slovenia — 24-31 March 2026**

In Slovenia, JSI initiated the first wave of WP1 activities focused on AI tools and media literacy, helping participants understand AI-enabled manipulation and develop practical skills for identifying manipulated content. Across four early events delivered in March 2026, WP1 engaged ****300+ participants**** from diverse target groups, including secondary-level students and teachers, mentors and students participating in the ACM national computer science competition, members of the general public, and journalists/media experts. Activities were delivered primarily in Slovenian (with one lecture in English), combining short workshops, lectures and hands-on training.

- 24 March 2026 — “AI – Ethical Challenges and Responsible Use” (Ljubljana, JSI) — Short workshop for 4th-year secondary-level students and teachers (126 participants).



- 28 March 2026 — ACM national competition (University of Ljubljana) — two PERiSCOPE workshops — “Students’ Digital Literacy: Using AI to Understand the Information Space” for teachers/mentors (20 participants) and “Become an information detective with AI” for students (134 participants).



- 28 March 2026 — JSI Open Day (Ljubljana) — Public presentation “AI tools & media literacy” for visitors (33 participants).
- 31 March 2026 — “AI Tools to Support Media Literacy” (Slovenia) — Training for journalists and media experts, co-organised with the University of Maribor and the Slovenian Press Agency (10 participants).



A strong European partnership

PERiSCOPE is implemented by a multi-disciplinary consortium spanning research, civil society, media expertise and public-sector know-how and is coordinated by the University of Piraeus Research Center (UPRC).

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