pacem
youth association

February 26 – March 2

S.H.I.E.L.D.

İstanbul, Türkiye

Fake News & Democracy, the Threat of Disinformation

Who We Are?

As Pacem International Youth Association, we strive to achieve make an impact on the world, not only for ourselves but for the next generations. Because of that, Our mission is to empower individuals worldwide to become active citizens who possess the power to shape a brighter future, both as individuals and as a group.

Pacem International Youth Association is not merely a name, but a declaration – a declaration of our unyielding commitment to fight for peace. We believe that through collective action, we can dismantle the barriers and pave the way for a better world.

“Si Vis Pacem, Para Bellum” If you want peace, get ready for war.

War against ignorance, poverty, disinformation, global warming and lack of education. A fight, neither with shields and swords nor guns or planes, but with pen and paper. A battle, not in trenches and swamps but in schools and institutions. Together, as a united force, we shall prevail, we shall forge a path towards a brighter, more equitable, and peaceful future. Join us on this extraordinary journey, where each step brings us closer to the dawn of a new era – an era of peace, an era of Pacem.

About the Project

S.H.I.E.L.D. is a 14 month project that brings together 3 youth organizations from Romania, Greece, and Turkey to tackle a pressing challenge: disinformation and its impact on democracy, particularly among young people from vulnerable groups. The project supports Erasmus+ priorities in democratic values, civic participation, digital transformation, and inclusion.

We aim to train 20 young leaders (18-30) in media literacy, digital tools, and critical thinking, equipping them not only to identify and counter disinformation but also to become active advocates for truth and democratic values in their communities. Through interactive workshops, creative projects, and practical campaigns, participants will gain the skills, confidence, and networks needed to promote informed civic participation and resilience against disinformation and fake news.

The project also strengthens transnational cooperation among youth organizations and creates a sustainable network of active, informed young people committed to fighting disinformation, fake news, extremism, and hate speech.

Program Highlights

Countering MMD in Democratic Processes: Analyzing the impact of misinformation, disinformation, and malinformation on electoral integrity and developing fact-checking strategies to protect voter agency in the digital age.

AI, Deepfakes & Electoral Reality: Exploring how AI-generated content and deepfakes can manipulate public opinion during election cycles, with hands-on activities to detect synthetic media targeting political narratives.

Democracy-Focused Digital Campaigns: Designing innovative social media campaigns and digital tools that promote transparent information and encourage active, informed civic participation among youth.

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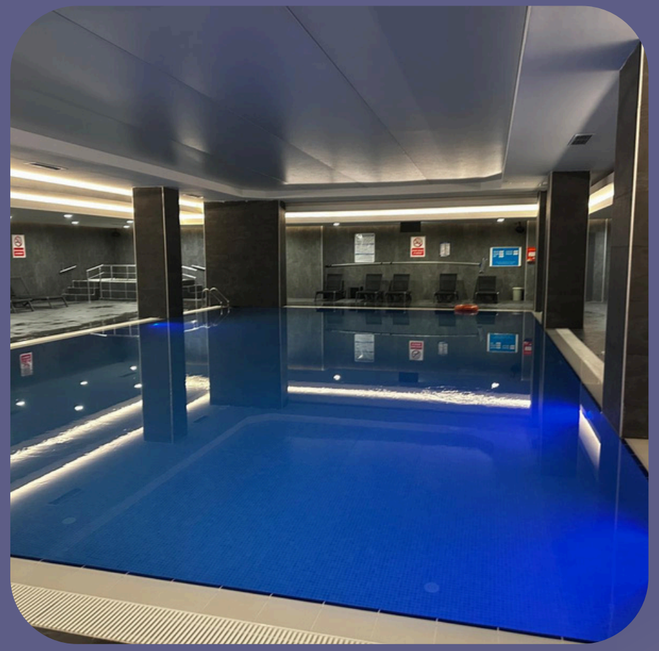
ACCOMMODATION

You will be staying at the 5-star

La Quinta by Wyndham Istanbul Hotel in Türkiye.

Swimming pool, Turkish bath (hamam), and sauna are also available for the team.



How to Reach the Hotel?

Step 1: Board the Havaist

•Upon arrival at Istanbul Airport (IST), follow the signs for the Havaist bus service.
•Board the bus and get off at the first stop, Kuleli Station.

Step 2: Take the Metro

•From Kuleli Station, it's a 3-minute walk to the M9 metro station.
•Take the M9 metro line and travel for 5 stops.
•Exit the metro at the 15 Temmuz station.

Step 3: Arrive at La Quinta by Wyndham Istanbul

•Your destination is just a 2-minute walk from the station.
•You've successfully arrived at the hotel!
•A Note on Time: As this is Istanbul, we recommend planning for potential traffic delays, especially during peak hours.

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Reimbursement

Only the cabin luggage can be included to the travel plan. Any extra payment such as check-in luggage, seat options and business class is out of reimbursement policies.

Reimbursements of travel are based on EU regulations, each selected participant will be contacted by the partner organisation to arrange travel before purchase.

Note: The reimbursements will be made via bank transfer within two months after the project. Only public transportation and Havaist are included in the reimbursement. Taxi services will not be refunded.

About Food

We will make sure to talk with the hotel chefs so that your dietary preferences are respected.

Whether you are vegan, vegetarian, pescatarian or have other needs, everything will be taken into account.

And yes... no matter what you choose, there will be baklava on the table.

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What to Bring?

- Each team should have at least one laptop or Ipad
- Swimsuit
- **Your total energy, day and night!**

Can Samet Özcan

Project Trainer

Miraçbey Fatih Mehmet Öztürkmen

Chairman of the Board

Hamza Erfidan

Project Coordinator

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THANK YOU!

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shield_democracy

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