THE GOAL OF THE PROJECT

AUGMENTED EUROPE. OUR FUTURE IS CONNECTED. DIGITAL AWARENESS AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR INCLUSION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE, FOR A BETTER EUROPE.

MILAN
BERLIN
RIGA
GDANSK
BARCELONA

FROM MILAN PASSING THROUGH BARCELONA, BERLIN, GDANSK AND RIGA MORE THAN 130 YOUNG PEOPLE MET DURING THE TRANSNATIONAL ARTATHON, WHERE THEY CONFRONTED EACH OTHER AND DEVELOPED INNOVATIVE INITIATIVES AND PROPOSALS TO MAKE THEIR AND OUR TOMORROW BRIGHTER.

AUGE AUGMENTED EUROPE IS A PROJECT FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

AugE 2nd is a project funded by the European Commission under the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme

Co-funded by the Europe for Citizens Programme of the European Union

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KEYNOTE SPEAKER

LAURA CARRER & ANDREA SIGNORELLI

Laura Carrer kicked off the day with an inspiring keynote where she shared her visionary ideas on the potential of digital utopias, which refers to the idea that technology can be harnessed to create a better world, while also highlighting the "Solarpunk" movement, a vision of the future that emphasizes sustainability, community and creativity.

Andrea Signorelli took the stage to shed light on the hidden biases and ethical challenges of AI systems. He highlighted the potential dangers of AI systems, which can perpetuate discrimination and inequality if not addressed with awareness and responsibility, while also emphasizing the need for a more responsible approach to the development and implementation of AI systems.

DIGITAL LITERACY EMPOWERS PEOPLE TO PARTICIPATE FULLY IN THE DIGITAL SOCIETY, ACCESS INFORMATION, COMMUNICATE, AND MAKE INFORMED DECISIONS.

ARTATHON MILAN

Digital literacy refers to the ability to effectively navigate, comprehend, and utilize digital technologies and information in various contexts. In today's fast-paced, technology-driven world, digital literacy has become an essential skill set for individuals of all ages. It empowers people to participate fully in the digital society, access information, communicate, and make informed decisions.
Digital literacy encompasses a range of competencies. First and foremost, it involves basic skills such as operating a computer, using software applications, and navigating the internet. These foundational skills lay the groundwork for more advanced digital literacy.

DIGITAL LITERACY IS NOT ONLY IMPORTANT FOR INDIVIDUALS BUT ALSO FOR SOCIETIES AS A WHOLE.

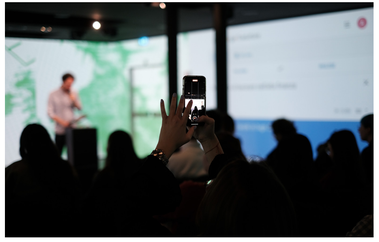
Beyond the basics, digital literacy involves critical thinking and information evaluation. With the vast amount of information available online, individuals need to be able to discern reliable sources, analyze information for accuracy and bias, and make informed judgments. This is especially important in an era of misinformation and fake news, where the ability to differentiate fact from fiction is crucial.
Digital literacy also includes online communication and collaboration skills. With the rise of social media, email, and various online platforms, individuals need to understand the appropriate ways to communicate, engage in discussions, and collaborate with others in the digital realm. This includes understanding online etiquette, respecting privacy and security, and being aware of the potential risks and challenges of online interactions.
Another important aspect of digital literacy is data literacy. In today's data-driven world, individuals need to be able to interpret and analyze data effectively. This involves understanding concepts such as data collection, interpretation, visualization, and privacy. Data literacy empowers individuals to make evidence-based decisions and to be critical consumers of data-driven information.

IT PROMOTES SOCIAL INCLUSION BY BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE AND ENSURING THAT EVERYONE HAS EQUAL ACCESS TO DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES AND INFORMATION.

Digital literacy is not only important for individuals but also for societies as a whole. It promotes social inclusion by bridging the digital divide and ensuring that everyone has equal access to digital technologies and information. It enables individuals to participate in the digital economy, find employment opportunities, and conv ation by empowering individuals to create and share their own content, whether it be through blogs, videos, or other digital mediums.
tribute to economic growth. Additionally, digital literacy fosters creativity and inno- and navigating the internet. These foundational skills lay the groundwork for more advanced digital literacy.

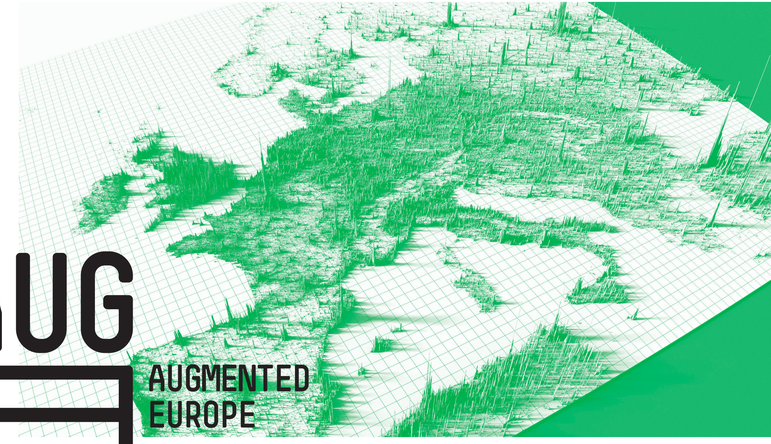
MEET

To develop and enhance digital literacy, education and training play a crucial role. Schools, colleges, and other educational institutions have a responsibility to integrate digital literacy into their curriculum and provide students with the necessary skills and knowledge. Furthermore, governments, organizations, and communities should collaborate to offer digital literacy programs and initiatives to individuals of all ages, including those who may have limited access to digital resources.
In an era dominated by technology and information overload, digital literacy is no longer a luxury but a necessity. It equips individuals with the skills to navigate the digital landscape responsibly, critically evaluate information, and make informed decisions. Digital literacy empowers individuals to harness the power of technology, participate actively in the digital world, and contribute meaningfully to society. By embracing digital literacy, we can navigate the vast sea of digital information with confidence, ensuring a brighter future for ourselves and future generations.



IT ENABLES INDIVIDUALS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DIGITAL ECONOMY, FIND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES, AND CONTRIBUTE TO ECONOMIC GROWTH.

A renewed and meaningful sense of Europe, based on the past but that looks straight at the future, focusing on societal challenges and on how youths can contribute to shape the EU political agenda.



MEET MILAN

Digital awareness,
inclusion and equality
for a better Europe

CLICK HERE FOR
THE VIDEO

FAKE NEWS AND DEEP FAKE

Challenge1

WITH NEWS SPREADING RAPIDLY IN THE DIGITAL AGE, FAKE NEWS AND DEEPFAKES ARE WORRISOME, LEADING TO CALLS FOR CENSORSHIP. FIGHTING FAKE NEWS IS IMPORTANT, BUT IT RAISES QUESTIONS ABOUT FREE SPEECH AND RESPONSIBILITY.

How can we develop effective methods to detect and fight the spread of fake news and deepfakes in online platforms, while also protecting freedom of speech and avoiding censorship?

During a first moment of brainstorming, participants provided advice on how to spot and avoid fake news and deepfakes, such as checking the credibility of the source, including the need to look for several sources and be aware of clickbait titles. We also talked about how to fight misleading information by reporting it and promoting reputable news sources.
As a result of continuous confrontation, the participants imagined a number of possible ideas to answer our question, such as a non-political, non-government figure of authority consisting of ordinary citizens, specialists and scholars to fact-check upon request (using human labor and AI combined) or special classrooms for both children and adults. The final solution consists of a "True or false" app where you can find real news approved by a committee of real people and AI. Our solution was also presented with a disclaimer: we cannot impose the truth on the unwilling. That's why, the solution is voluntary – to provide expertise to any interested and willing party.
Overall, the group activity provided participants with a useful opportunity to learn about fake news and deepfakes, their effects, and how to recognize and fight them, taking into account the problem of censorship.
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DATA SURVEILLANCE AND USE OF DATA

Challenge2

AS TECHNOLOGY ADVANCES, PERSONAL DATA COLLECTION AND MONITORING ARE GROWING MORE ADVANCED, RAISING PRIVACY CONCERNS. BALANCING PUBLIC SAFETY AND INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS IS CRUCIAL. THE INCREASING VALUE OF DATA REQUIRES ETHICAL AND SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING ITS USAGE AND IMPLICATIONS.

Will the use of data become more invasive or more responsible in the future? How can we ensure that data collection and usage are conducted ethically?

The participants identified the pros and cons of data surveillance, including its usefulness for sustainability, sense of security, open access, providing infrastructure, and influence, as well as its potential for manipulation, control, biased judgment, and increased anxiety. The discussion led to the sharing of ideas on how to ensure ethical data use and surveillance, culminating in the concept of a "Data Detector" application.

The "Data Detector" application would provide users with valuable information such as whether their microphone is being listened to and for how long, what they have accepted in a new app's terms and conditions, what kind of data a newly downloaded app will collect, and whether credit card data is being monitored. Additionally, the application would enable users to see the percentage of their data that is secure, and to review and modify their choices regarding terms and conditions at any time.
The solution was designed for a universal audience, including both younger and older groups, helping them raise awareness of the ethical issues surrounding data use and encouraging them to take action to protect their privacy. It would also help users make informed decisions about when to use online services and what level of data collection is acceptable. To address the risk of the application being acquired by a third party that could potentially access users' data, users would be able to use the application anonymously to search for information on individual apps and services and see what data they collect.

PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT OF SOCIAL MEDIA

Challenge3

SOCIAL PLATFORMS HAVE REVOLUTIONIZED INTERACTION BUT ALSO PRESENT PSYCHOLOGICAL CHALLENGES. EXPOSURE TO NEGATIVE NEWS CAN HARM MENTAL HEALTH, DISTORTING WORLDVIEW AND INCREASING ANXIETY. EMPHASIZING A SOCIETY'S UNIQUENESS, RATHER THAN CONFORMING TO INACCESSIBLE ONLINE STANDARDS, IS VITAL FOR WELL-BEING AND AUTHENTICITY.

How can we change the vision of social media for future generations for a more conscious Europe in the use of digital media?

During the Artathon, the focus was on exploring the psychological effects of social media on young individuals, particularly teenagers who are more susceptible to its negative impacts. Various solutions were proposed to tackle this issue. One idea was to introduce educational programs in schools and homes that would educate young people about the risks associated with digital platforms, promoting responsible and aware online behavior. Providing support through therapy and tutorials was also suggested to prevent mental health problems such as anxiety among future generations. The participants acknowledged the role of age in understanding the effects of social media on mental health and emphasized the need for developing awareness and self-awareness in young individuals for responsible social media usage. The importance of improving concentration and focus to enable conscious and responsible social media usage was also discussed. Educating parents on how to monitor their children's social media usage and setting a positive example for them was another key aspect addressed. In conclusion, the Artathon facilitated the development of effective solutions to mitigate the psychological impact of social media on young people, with a focus on teenagers. Education and training for young individuals and parents, reliable sources and educators, positive role modeling, and fostering self-awareness were identified as crucial tools to prevent negative effects on young people's mental health. Ongoing monitoring and the exploration of new strategies were emphasized to promote responsible social media use among young individuals.

DIGITAL UTOPIA

Challenge4

TOGETHER, WE CAN SHAPE THE FUTURE WORLD BY ENVISIONING OUR IDEAL UTOPIA. THE DIGITAL REALM ELIMINATES BARRIERS, ALLOWING US TO FREELY IMAGINE AND CREATE WITHOUT LIMITATIONS OF LANGUAGE, GEOGRAPHY, ECONOMY, OR TIME. LET US COLLABORATE AND DESIGN THE DIGITAL UTOPIAS OF TOMORROW.

Do we want to decide what the world of tomorrow will be or do we want to let others choose it?

In an initial brainstorming moment, one by one the participants began to expound their first thoughts of digital utopias: from the theme of transforming the world of work to that of environmental sustainability.
Through an internal discussion, was chosen to be explored the theme of hybridization of the organic body with the digital. One entered a utopia in which human beings choose to become, precisely, cyborgs, of which the capabilities that are implemented are not so much those of the physical but those of the mind. This is a true "cyborg mind." The goal is to juxtapose a human mind, which acts as a filter, as a memory of fundamental informations and as the seat of reflection, with a digital mind, which functions as a kind of archive capable of storing a great deal of secondary and notional informations, such as birthday dates or telephone numbers. In this way, the "progression" of the human mind, and the human in general, would result from "deactivating" the cognitive effort involved in remembering a lot of secondary informations. It would be free to devote itself to deeper reflections and idea generation, to the root causes of phenomena and not just to their description. Ultimately, the principle that "Culture is what remains in memory when you have forgotten everything."
Another aspect of the cyborg mind is the ability to connect to the Internet.
For example, a practical implication of the benefits of the cyborg mind can be seen in its ability to be able to preserve and safeguard all languages, including the increasingly threatened dialects, and to be able to simultaneously translate any language, thus being able to speak any existing language.
Ultimately, it has also been proposed to exploit the digital in juxtaposing the individual consciousness of each individual, with a collective consciousness, that is a device that can gather the knowledge of all other human beings or those belonging to a specific group. Any knowledge that each individual human being acquires would automatically become acquired by all others as well.

AI, HUMAN—ROBOT RELATIONSHIP & CHAT BOTS

Challenge5

AI DEVELOPS ALGORITHMS FOR MACHINE LEARNING, CREATING ADVANCED ROBOTS AND CHATBOTS THAT INTERACT NATURALLY. RESPONSIBLE USE IS VITAL, ENSURING EQUITABLE BENEFITS AND ADDRESSING CONCERNS. ONGOING CONSIDERATION OF TECHNOLOGY'S RESPONSIBLE AND SUSTAINABLE USAGE IS ESSENTIAL.

What are the opportunities offered by AI to create more efficient and sustainable solutions to global challenges?

They were given the opportunity to decide which of these elements to think more carefully about, and the final choice fell on "creativity." Trying to get more and more specific, in order to find a possible solution to the initial challenge, they were asked to bring up a problem related to the relationship between creativity and A.I. This is what came to the surface: AI tools can be used successfully to help humans create, and not to replace them. However, there are barriers, including lack of knowledge, fear, and the temptation to present AI-generated responses as one's own.
These reasoning led the group to devise a possible solution: a workflow on how AI can be used at different stages of the creative process, without taking creativity away from humans, but supporting it.
It involves identifying a problem, using A.I. to find and sort information, making a moodboard, and using these digital tools find possible critical issues. Once all these steps, supported by human creativity, have been done, the result of the work should be put under the screening of an anti-plagiarism tool to be sure that artificial intelligence has been used only as a support and not as a substitute for human activity.
At the end of this process, it was suggested that the workflow could also be distributed among educational institutions in Europe to help students use AI correctly.

DIGITAL ECONOMY AND BLOCKCHAIN

Challenge6

THE DIGITAL ECONOMY REVOLUTIONIZES BUSINESS, WITH BLOCKCHAIN ENHANCING DATA MANAGEMENT, REDUCING COSTS, AND BOOSTING SECURITY. IT ALSO ENABLES NEW BUSINESS MODELS THROUGH CRYPTOCURRENCIES, ALLOWING SECURE AND ANONYMOUS TRANSACTIONS WITHOUT INTERMEDIARIES. RELIABILITY, SECURITY, AND TRANSPARENCY ARE THE KEY PRINCIPLES OF BLOCKCHAIN'S IMPACT.

How can blockchain technology be used to improve the efficiency and security of digital transactions in the digital economy?

Trying to get more specific, to find a possible solution to the initial challenge, they were asked to propose a problem related to the relationship between the digital economy and blockchain. Here is what emerged: the blockchain creates an ecosystem so that the digital economy can exist, in relation to the digital economy the blockchain allows it to be simpler and safer, the blockchain facilitates access between a good that can also be digital and the buyer.
Reasoning on these issues led participants to develop ideas for a possible solution on the assumption that it cannot only be technical but also has various social implications.
During the discussion, however, the participants wondered about the most important question, to whom to address this problem.
Several possibilities emerged at the round table that would lead to a better understanding of the topic and an easier resolution: To focus more on the educating people rather than the age of the target group, to identify a range of people that can manage this topic as experts, to include people with no background knowledge in digital economy.