Empowering learners against conspiracy theory

Example of use of the Allo-Tolerance Toolbox

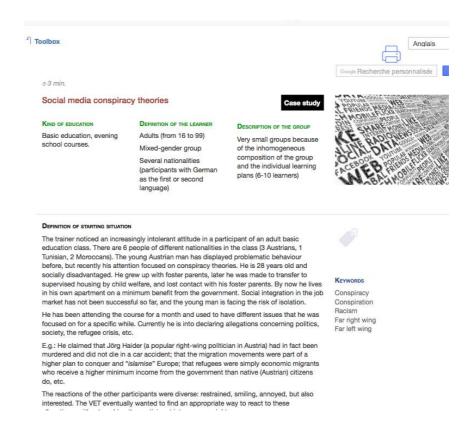
The link between conspiracy theory and radicalism has been scientifically established by Dutch researchers in a survey published in the Social Psychological & Personality Science journal "Political Extremism Predicts Belief in Conspiracy Theories". Conspiracy is also considered as a stepping stone to Jihadist radicalisation that offers a vision of the world inspired by victimism, of a Muslim world that would be the victim of a plot by the Western world to enslave Muslims or to create a third world war. French sociologist Gérald Bronner states that radicalisation is an incremental process, a staircase with small first steps. The conspiracy theory is very attractive. There is a re enchantment effect when you are offered a behind-the-scenes look: it is much more exciting than the dull news. Knowing "what's really going on" gives the impression of being smarter than others. It also makes it possible to put in coherence a whole series of incoherent events. But with the Internet, the information market has deregulated: any information can now be placed in the public space. It is the law of the strongest that applies, meaning that those who are motivated to impose their opinion win the battle for visibility. And the most motivated are the believers, the activists and the radicalised, because radicality is an indicator of motivation. The result is that we make a confusion between the visibility of a point of view and its representativeness.

The Allo-Tolerance Toolbox can be used to build a global awareness action by using a succession of available tools.

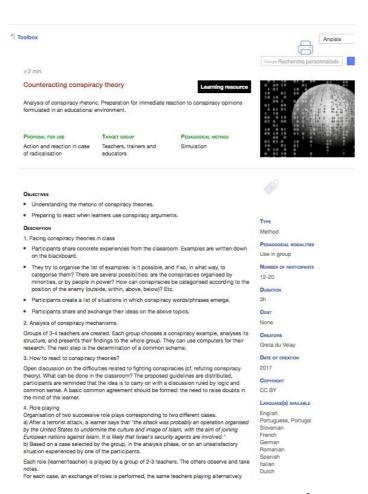
1st Tool Social media Conspiracy Theories

A case study about the consequences of conspiracy theory within a group





Through an example teachers or trainers can evaluate how conspiracy theories are modifying individual and collective behaviours. They can exchange about situations they may have lived, involving any kind of radicalism or conspiracy.



2nd Tool Counteracting Conspiracy Theories

Teachers and trainers will analyse conspiracy theories and prepare to react accordingly through role plays



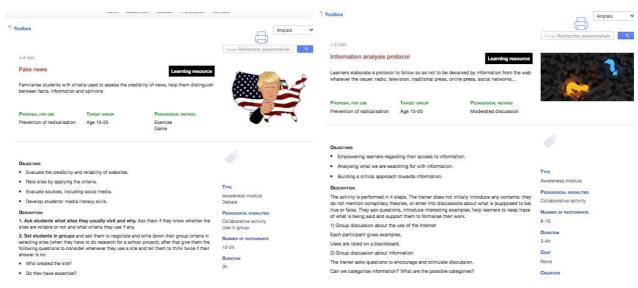
3rd Tool Activity to implement with learners: 2 options

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Fake News

Information Analysis Protocol



With "Fake News" activity, learners write down criteria they use in selecting sites and compare them with a set of questions provided by the trainer. By using "Information analysis protocol" we take another angle: the teacher is not saying what is true or false, but s/he helps learners to think about their use of information and to determine their own criteria of trust regarding their access to information.