How to identify fake news

Modules:	Health & Well-being
Topic:	*How to identify fake news*
Title:	*Fake it till you make it…*
Target group:	*Middle and high school students*
Starting Point:	*With the widespread dissemination of information via social media and in general, digital media platforms, it is of high importance for individuals and societies to be able to evaluate the credibility of it and not just believe the content of any article. The consequences of fake news can range from being merely disturbing to influencing and misleading societies or even nations. It is also, worth highlighting that fake news is not a recent concept, but nowadays its appearance seems to be more frequent than never (De Beer & Matthee, 2021).*
Aim:	*Students learn how to do quality research in order to distinguish, which news is fake and which is based on true facts.*
Implementation:	*This activity is designed to be implemented inside one classroom.*
Estimated Duration:	*3 lessons*

More detailed content and instructions:

- On the first day, the teachers will collect some true news and make up some believable fake news and write them down on notes. For instance, the teacher could suggest "A recent study implied that Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine affects intelligence", as fake news. Then, each student will choose a note, without knowing its content and read it out loud.
- On the second day, the students will do some thorough research about this information and decide if the news was true or fake.
- On the third and final day, their opinions, as well as their arguments about this specific news will be presented in the class. In this way, younger people will learn how to identify if what they are reading, especially on the Internet, is based on reality, or it is made up for malicious reasons, thus protecting themselves from being misled.

Sources

- De Beer, D., & Matthee, M. (2021). Approaches to identify fake news: a systematic literature review. Integrated Science in Digital Age 2020, 13-22.