

# BIP EUfactcheck: Climate Change week – Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB)

## Objectives and Description

Climate change is one of the most pressing issues of our time and, at the same time, one of the most vulnerable to misinformation. With polarized narratives, political and economic interests at stake, and an overwhelming amount of information circulating on social media and digital platforms, journalists have a responsibility to approach the topic with rigor, accuracy, and an evidence-based perspective.

The *BIP EUfactcheck: Climate Change Week* aims to train journalism and communication students in fact-checking techniques applied to climate change coverage. Throughout an intensive week, participants will work in multicultural teams, attend lectures and workshops by experts, and develop practical fact-checking skills by investigating statements and narratives related to the climate crisis.

Additionally, this program seeks to promote solutions journalism, explore the relationship between misinformation and freedom of expression, and foster collaborative learning among students from various European universities.

The specific objectives are:

- To teach students fact-checking tools applied to climate change coverage.
- To foster critical thinking in the face of climate misinformation.
- To promote solutions journalism in the context of the climate crisis.
- To facilitate teamwork in intercultural groups and enhance the understanding of different perspectives on climate change across Europe.
- To produce and publish fact-checks on the *EUfactcheck* platform.
- To offer an immersive experience where students combine academic training, research, and practical learning.

Before the in-person meeting in May, an online session in April will introduce participants to the methodology and assign initial preparation tasks. After the program, a final online meeting in June will serve as an evaluation and wrap-up session.

## Methods and Outcomes

The program follows a hands-on learning methodology based on fact-checking, using the workflow and format developed by the *EUfactcheck* network, which is adopted by over 50 journalism schools across Europe and beyond.

Students will work in intercultural teams, guided by professors and experts, and will apply fact-checking techniques to climate change-related statements. The process includes:

1. **Research and selection of statements:** Identifying relevant claims about climate change.
2. **Analysis and verification:** Applying fact-checking methodologies to assess the truthfulness of statements.
3. **Writing and publication:** Producing fact-check articles to be published on *EUFactcheck*.
4. **Dissemination and reflection:** Planning strategies to share findings on social media and evaluating the impact of the work.

The expected outcomes include:

- Publication of fact-checks on *EUFactcheck*.
- Development of fact-checking and solutions journalism skills.
- Increased awareness of climate misinformation and its impact on public opinion.
- Experience in intercultural collaboration and international teamwork.

Students who successfully complete the program will receive a certificate and may obtain academic credits (ECTS), depending on their university's regulations.

## Programme

# BIP EUfactcheck: Climate Change week, 5 – 9 May 2025

Previous meeting 8/9 April	Virtual Meeting for students (and staff) (2 hours) <i>Introduction</i> <i>Methodology and preparation</i> <i>Assignment / homework</i>
<b>Monday, 5 May</b>	<b>Day 1. Setting the Ground: Welcome &amp; Research Kick-off</b>
15.00	<i>Registration</i>
15.30 - 16.00	<i>Institutional &amp; Project welcome</i>
16.00 - 17.30	<i>Guest lecture: Alexander Mäder-HDM Stuttgart – EuFactCheck Project</i>
17.30 - 18.00	<i>Coffee break</i>
18.00 - 19.00	<i>Decide on statements, make group tasks, start on research</i>
19.00 - 19.30	<i>Wrap up first day and plans for tomorrow</i>
<b>Tuesday, 6 May</b>	<b>Day 2. Digging Deeper: Fact-Checking Climate Narratives</b>
9.30	Check in
10.00 - 11.30	<i>Guest lecture: Factcheck for climate change (Verificat)</i>
11.30 - 13.00	Research and factchecking
13.00 - 14.00	<i>Lunch</i>

14.00 - 15.00	<i>Workshop/Guest lecture: Solutions journalism and climate (UAB)</i>
15.00 - 16.30	Research and factchecking
16.30 - 17.00	<i>Wrap-up of the second day</i>
	<i>Social-cultural programme in the afternoon (visiting Barcelona)</i>
<b>Wednesday, 7 May</b>	<b>Day 3. Fact-Checking in Action: Investigating Climate Narratives</b>
9.30	Check in
10.00 - 11.30	<i>Workshop/Guest lecture: Disinformation and freedom of expression (UAB)</i>
11.30 - 16.00	Research and factchecking
16.00 - 16.30	<i>Wrap-up of the third day</i>
	<i>Social-cultural programme in the afternoon</i>
	<i>Staff diner + Student diner (with Student assistants)</i>
<b>Thursday, 8 May</b>	<b>Day 4. Beyond the Facts: Reporting, Opportunities &amp; Cultural Exchange</b>
10.00	Check in
10.30 - 11.00	<i>Workshop/Guest lecture: Reporting on climate change: experience and opportunities (Grants)</i>
11.00 - 12.30	Research and factchecking
12.30 - 15.00	<i>Take away lunch + Castellors UAB (Students) - Staff (International Office)</i>
15.00 - 16.00	Research and factchecking
16.00 - 17.00	<i>Wrap up, networking, next steps and (soft) drinks lounge</i>
<b>Friday, 9 May</b>	<b>From Verification to Impact: Publishing &amp; Closing</b>
10.00 - 12.00	<i>Wrap up research, start publication, make plans for coming weeks (online) Student assistants and PT will assist with publications after drafts are uploaded</i>
12.00 - 12.30	Final meeting: Evaluation + certificates
12.30 - 15.00	<i>Farewell lunch</i>
11 June	<i>Outcomes and evaluation (online) (2 hours)</i>