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MEDIAActive Youth Network NEWSLETTER

2026 MID-YEAR OVERVIEW

Empowering young people through
media literacy, critical thinking and
democratic participation.

The first half of 2026 has been an
intensive and productive period for
MAYnet. Together we are empowering
young people to navigate the information
environment safely, responsibly and
critically.



13
PARTNER
ORGANISATIONS



13
EUROPEAN
COUNTRIES



25+
DECLARATION
SUPPORTERS



2025
FOUNDED
IN 2025

OUR NETWORK • 13 partner organisations from 13 European countries



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declaration](https://mediactiveyouth.org/declaration)



Watch the promo video
[mediactiveyouth.org/
declaration-video](https://mediactiveyouth.org/declaration-video)

1



Foundation of the Network

MAYnet was established in 2025 as an informal European network of youth organisations committed to promoting media literacy, civic participation and democratic values among young people. In 2026 the network received support from the European Union through the Civil Society Cooperation in the field of Youth programme, enabling partners to launch joint activities, develop educational resources and strengthen cooperation across Europe. The support provided by the European Union represents an important recognition of the relevance of youth media literacy in contemporary society.

2



2026 Work Plan

In January 2026 the network adopted its first annual work plan, outlining a comprehensive programme of educational, advocacy and communication activities. The work plan includes the development of online learning opportunities, regular publication of articles through the Transnational Youth Magazine, dissemination campaigns, participation in European policy discussions and the development of the Youth Media Literacy Declaration. The programme follows the priorities of the EU Youth Strategy and contributes to the objectives of Engage, Connect and Empower.

3



European Youth Week 2026 – Think. Check. Act.

As part of European Youth Week 2026, MAYnet partners organised the communication initiative Think. Check. Act. aimed at encouraging young people to critically evaluate online information before sharing or reacting to it. Through social media messages, educational promoted fact-checking, critical thinking and responsible digital citizenship. The activity reached young people across several European countries and highlighted the growing importance of media literacy in everyday life.

4



Participation in the EMERGE Expert Forum

In May 2026 a representative of CDER participated in the EMERGE Expert Forum, contributing to international discussions on youth participation, democratic resilience and the role of media literacy in combating disinformation. Participation in this event provided an opportunity to present the work of MAYnet, exchange experiences with experts from across Europe and explore opportunities for future cooperation with organisations working in related fields.

5



Youth Media Literacy Declaration

One of the most important achievements of the network during 2026 was the development and launch of the Declaration on Youth Media Literacy. The Declaration calls for stronger support for media literacy education, critical thinking and youth participation in shaping the information environment. Particular emphasis is placed on the responsibility of institutions, educational systems, media organisations and civil society to equip young people with the competencies needed to navigate today's digital landscape. By the end of June 2026, the Declaration had already been endorsed by 25+ organisations from across Europe, demonstrating broad support for its principles and objectives. To further promote the initiative, MAYnet also produced and published a dedicated promotional video encouraging additional organisations and stakeholders to join the initiative.

6



Introduction to Media Literacy Course

During May and June 2026, CDER and project partners successfully implemented the online course 'Introduction to Media Literacy and Critical Thinking'. Participants had the opportunity to improve their understanding of misinformation, disinformation, propaganda techniques and digital safety, while also developing practical skills for verifying information and recognising manipulative content. The successful delivery of the course represents an important contribution to strengthening youth media literacy capacities across Europe.

7



Transnational Youth Magazine

The Transnational Youth Magazine (TYM) continues to serve as an important platform for promoting youth voices and sharing ideas related to media literacy, youth participation and European values. Throughout 2026, network partners have regularly contributed original articles, analyses and stories addressing current issues affecting young people. The magazine has become one of the key visibility tools of the network and a space for international exchange of ideas.

8



Contribution to the Future EU Youth Strategy

On 28 May 2026, MAYnet contributed to the European Commission's public consultation process on the future EU Youth Strategy beyond 2027. Through the completion of an extensive questionnaire, the network provided recommendations based on its experience in youth participation and media literacy. The contribution reflects the network's commitment to ensuring that media literacy becomes a more visible component of future European youth policies.

9



Dissemination and Communication Activities

Throughout 2026, MAYnet and all partner organisations have actively promoted youth media literacy through their websites, social media channels, newsletters and public events. In addition to the network's official communication channels, each partner has contributed to increasing visibility within their local communities and national contexts. This continuous dissemination effort has helped establish MAYnet as an emerging European voice in the field of youth media literacy.

TOGETHER WE CAN BUILD A EUROPE

where every young person is media literate, critically informed and actively engaged in shaping our democratic future.



GET INVOLVED!

MAYnet invites youth organisations, civil society organisations, educational institutions, media actors and other stakeholders across Europe to join us in promoting media literacy, critical thinking and youth participation.

Join us and find out more:



www.mediactiveyouth.org



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