

# Sphera Editorial Guidelines

## 1. Ethical standards

- a. Young audiences across Europe are the target of the project. The contents produced in the frame of the Project aim at informing the youth about topical issues across the EU and spur pan European debates, potentially leading to the establishment of a European public sphere.
- b. Therefore, each Party commits to provide high-quality, original and thought-provoking outputs targeted at this audience specifically.
- c. Each Party commits to balancing its own presumption of freedom of expression with responsibilities, to respect privacy, to be fair, to avoid unjustifiable offence, and, therefore to the following:
  - i. achieving the highest standards of due accuracy and strives to avoid knowingly and materially misleading our audiences.
  - ii. respecting privacy. Private behaviour, information and correspondence will only be shared if there is a public interest that outweighs the expectation of privacy.
  - iii. safeguarding the welfare of children and young people who contribute to and feature in our content.
  - iv. preserving and fostering the right of young people to speak out and participate while ensuring their dignity and their physical and emotional welfare is safeguarded.
  - v. being transparent about the nature and provenance of the content we offer online.
  - vi. providing information about the origin of any editorial material the Parties and the Lead Coordinator might build upon. This implies identifying who has created a given content and labelling it.
  - vii. contextualising opinion-based formats, highlighting the editorial nature and specificity of the latter.
  - viii. being honest and open about what it doesn't know and avoid unfounded speculation.
- d. The Lead Coordinator will assure that, across the production plan, a diversity of opinions will be shared relative to the themes dealt with during the Project.
- e. The Lead Coordinator and the Parties are independent of any outside interests and arrangements that could undermine our editorial integrity.
- f. Contributors and audiences involved during the Project will be treated with respect.

- g. Content that might be unsuitable for children will be scheduled appropriately.
- h. These principles apply to all content produced during the Project both in terms of content production, communication activities, as well as online and offline debates.

## **2. Joint editorial oversight**

- a. The Lead Coordinator will designate an editor-in-chief and an editorial coordinator acting on behalf of the former to guide editorial reflections and decision-making processes.
- b. The joint editorial oversight is ensured through day-to-day exchanges between the editor-in-chief, the editorial coordinator and editorial representatives or journalists of the Parties. These exchanges will take place on a collaborative platform of choice of the Lead Coordinator and will avoid unrepresentative viewpoints or negative impact of a few partners on the editorial production of the Project.
- c. Each Party commits to engage in weekly and monthly editorial meetings chaired by the editor-in-chief or the editorial coordinator. These meetings make sure that the Lead Coordinator is informed about all contents produced in the frame of the Project, as outlined in the production plan and in the Internal Cooperation Agreement Article 5.1.
- d. The Lead Coordinator and the Parties establish a Joint Editorial Board composed by one representative of each Party, as detailed in Article 5.2 of the Internal Cooperation Agreement.
- e. The Joint Editorial Board meets periodically to evaluate Sphera's quality standards and discuss the achievement of editorial goals of the Project. The Joint Editorial Board will assure that any new editorial production validated by the editor-in-chief as detailed in Article 5.1.2 of the Internal Agreement, suits the objectives of the Project. The Joint Editorial Board expects all journalists to work according to best ethical practices as outlined in article 1.

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