



CONSPIRE:

Conspiracy theories and radicalization risks in Europe

University of Turin, Department of Cultures, Politics and Society

PARTNER:



University of Turin



Aalborg University (Danimarca)



Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (Spagna)



University of Tartu (Estonia)



Istanbul Technical University (Turchia)



CESUE - Euractiv (Italia)

OBJECTIVES:

CONSPIRE aims to provide social sciences' students with the main concepts and tools to:

- (a) **learn about conspiracy theories, critically analyze arguments for and against them;**
- (b) **and understand the radicalization processes associated with these theories.**

These two objectives aim to promote **active citizenship** among students, fostering **conscious participation in democratic debates**, the ability to **assess the reliability of health-related information** disseminated by the media, and an attitude of opposition to potential outcomes of **radicalization** and violent **extremism perpetuated** by conspiracy thinking.

SUMMARY:

The project proposes a **university training program** aimed at students in social science courses. This program focuses on conspiracy theories related to risks to human health, encompassing physical, psychological, relational, and spiritual well-being. These theories suggest the **existence of secretive power elites** who manipulate historical events to the detriment of the population. As established by significant academic studies, these **conspiracy narratives can undermine adherence to clinical protocols (e.g., the use of vaccines), civic and political engagement within democratic institutions, and the exercise of critical thinking.**

The innovativeness of CONSPIRE within the European context is evident in three key areas: theoretical, didactic, and practical. **Theoretical innovation** lies in being the first training program dedicated to conspiracy theories related to health risks. Regarding **teaching**, the program employs a participatory pedagogical approach that involves not only academic practitioners but also non-academic professionals, such as journalists, scientists, religious leaders, and activists and it also engages students through creative classroom techniques, like role-playing based on group storytelling. On a **practical level**, CONSPIRE promotes civic engagement through community organizing, enabling students to connect and engage with the public, thereby elevating the issues addressed in the training program to the public sphere for greater visibility.

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