

CONCEPT NOTE FOR THE EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA REGION SERIES ON : **Misinformation, Disinformation and Malinformation in East Africa**

EU YPS Network Webinar - 16 October 2026

1. Introduction

This proposal sets out a EU YPS Network webinar on misinformation, disinformation and information integrity, using Kenya as the principal country case study and drawing brief comparisons from other countries. It follows the resumption of EU YPS Network meetings and is proposed for delivery ahead of, and alongside, the network's regular townhall gatherings, giving members a shared practical framework for a challenge that affects civic space across the region.

The webinar responds to a simple observation from frontline peacebuilding, governance and PCVE work: harmful information can spread across borders and communities in minutes, while professional verification usually takes far longer. Young people are the most active creators and distributors of digital content in the region, which makes them both the group most exposed to information disorder and the group best placed to interrupt it.

2. Aim and Objectives

Aim: to strengthen young people's understanding of information disorder across East Africa and equip them with practical, transferable skills to identify, investigate and responsibly respond to misleading information.

Specific objectives

- Explain the differences between misinformation, disinformation and malinformation, and situate these within the broader concept of information integrity.
- Recognise how information is manipulated through false context, selective editing, misleading headlines, recycled content, impersonation and AI-generated material.
- Examine how Kenya's political and electoral environment - and comparable dynamics in other countries - intensifies information disorder.
- Understand how information disorder can contribute to polarisation, hate speech, xenophobia and, in some circumstances, violent extremism, without overstating the link.
- Apply a practical verification framework to claims, photographs, videos, screenshots and online sources.
- Introduce AmaniCheck as an emerging Kenyan tool for making verification more accessible to ordinary users, and discuss its relevance for the wider region.

3. The Three Terms, with Regional Examples

The session treats misinformation, disinformation and malinformation as distinct problems requiring different responses, illustrated with concrete regional cases rather than abstract definitions alone:

- Misinformation - false or inaccurate information shared without intent to cause harm. Example: old flood photos from a previous season recirculate during a new flood in Kenya, shared in good faith as if current.
- Disinformation - false or manipulated information deliberately created or spread to deceive or harm. Example: real video footage deliberately mislabeled as evidence of inter-community violence in Nairobi - the opening case study used in the session.
- Malinformation - genuine information used in a misleading or manipulative way. Example: a real campaign-rally clip is cut to remove context and recirculated to inflame ethnic tension during an election period.

4. Target Audience

Members of the EU YPS Network across East Africa, including country focal points, youth peace ambassadors and partner-organisation staff who joined the resumed regional meetings and the upcoming townhall.

5. Methodology

The session is designed as an investigation rather than a lecture. Participants encounter a real viral claim, form an initial judgment, and then work through it step by step - discovering how source, date, location and context change the picture. This experiential approach is used throughout: a live “three headlines, one event” exercise on framing, a short “emotion test” on how posts are designed to trigger fear, anger or urgency, and a hands-on verification walk-through using the STOP → TRACE → CROSS-CHECK → CONTEXT → DECIDE framework.

The country case study is Kenya, using the 2017 and 2022 election cycles and the 2024 Gen Z-led protests as illustrative material, since these provide well-documented examples of framing, competing narratives and cross-platform spread. Shorter examples from Uganda and Tanzania are included so the discussion reflects the region rather than one country, and participants are invited to bring examples from their own countries.

6. Materials and Tools

- PowerPoint deck
- Screenshots and short video clips of selected real social-media posts for the opening case study
- Live access to AmaniCheck for the demonstration segment
- Verification tools referenced live: Google Lens, Google Fact Check Explorer, TinEye, InVID/WeVerify, Wayback Machine
- A short post-session handout containing the verification checklist

7. Expected Outcomes

- Participants can distinguish misinformation, disinformation, malinformation and information integrity.
- Participants can conduct a basic verification of a claim, photograph, video or online source.
- Participants make more informed decisions about creating, consuming and sharing information within their own Youth Hub communities.
- The regional network gains a shared, practical reference framework it can reuse in country-level sessions.
- Increased regional visibility and feedback for AmaniCheck ahead of further development.

8. Speaker

Hamisi Mwatondo, Programme Manager at Jamii Action Centre (JAC) and MEL & Programs Officer at Kenya Muslim Youth Alliance (KMYA), where his work spans PCVE, interfaith adolescent health, civic engagement and information integrity across Kwale, Mombasa and Kilifi counties. He is the founder and sole builder of AmaniCheck, a bilingual civic AI platform for fact-checking and misinformation resilience.

9. Logistics

- Date & time: Thursday, 16 October 2026, 6:00 PM – 8:00PM (EAT)
- Format: Virtual webinar hosted for the EU YPS Network
- Duration: 2 hours , inclusive of Q&A and closing pledge
- Follow-up: circulate the verification checklist and a short recording/summary to the network after the session