



Learning to Discern

■ WHAT IS IT?

Learn to Discern is a [media literacy education program](#) developed in Ukraine amid a [flood](#) of fear-mongering Russian propaganda. The lessons (including a game) seek “to equip Ukrainian citizens to both identify misinformation and demand better quality information.” The critical-thinking curriculum encourages “peer learning” and can be tailored to fit different people or groups.

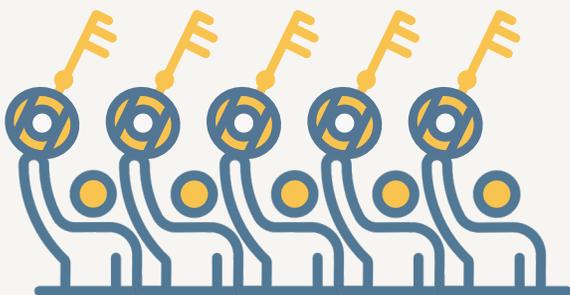
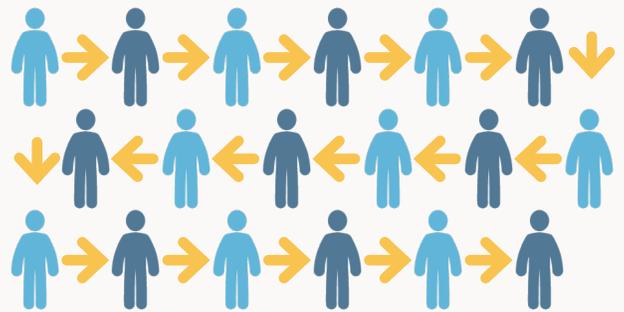


■ WHO'S BEHIND IT?

IREX is a nonprofit organization that [focuses](#) on cultivating leaders, empowering youth, strengthening institutions and increasing access to quality education and information around the world. IREX receives significant funding from the U.S. government, among other funders. After a nine-month pilot for adults, IREX is launching Learn to Discern in schools in Ukraine and developing a pilot for the United States. A [prototype](#) of the game — infiltrating a “factory of lies” to expose misinformation — is available in English.

■ DOES IT WORK?

More than 15,000 participated in the program’s pilot, and they shared what they learned with 90,000 more people. A related campaign warning of misinformation. reached an estimated 20 million television viewers and eight million radio listeners. (Ukraine has a [population](#) of about 44 million.) [Evaluators cited](#) a 24 percent increase in participants’ ability to identify trustworthy news and a 22 percent increase in the number of people who cross-checked information.



■ HOW TO DO IT

Training sessions for groups of 20 on average were held at libraries, universities and workplaces and lasted about four hours. Keys to success: Instructors customized the program to make it relevant and emphasized critical-thinking skills rather than focusing on singling out good or bad information sources. Participants also learned how to recognize and resist emotional manipulation. For a detailed description of the pilot and its results, see this [report](#).