

## Report NordPlus Stipend

In the end of November and the beginning of December I traveled to Finland to make a project about disinformation. For fourteen days I was interviewing Finnish experts and journalists about this topic. Based on their experiences I have made a handbook: 10 Commandments for Fighting Disinformation. The handbook is initially meant to be for Czech journalists but can be used by journalists all around the world or anyone who is interested in disinformation. I wouldn't have a chance to do such an amazing project without the Nordplus Student Stipend, since the travel cost for such a long trip were quite high, and the project would be impossible to make if I would do it from abroad.

In recent years, Czech Republic has been experiencing a rise of disinformation coming from Russia, mostly within alternative and social media. The journalists haven't been working together on the fight against such issue, media education in schools is in cradle. Therefore, I decided I would try to find the best way how to report on disinformation and how to educate the children about this topic, since it has become a serious threat to almost every nation.

For the last semester, I was an intern in Seznam news (Czech media house) as a part of Sherlock team - our job was to disprove and fight against disinformation appearing in media in our country (you can check it out on Twitter, but unfortunately everything is in Czech: <https://twitter.com/TymSherlock>). And I found out that the biggest challenge wasn't the disproving itself but getting in touch with the people that believe in the disinformation, and most likely, convince them to use critical thinking to find the truth.

I've chosen Finland because I was attending a presentation of Jessikka Aro in spring within the Czech Journalism Forum 2019, where she talked about her experiences in the Russian troll farm. It was quite surprising for me, since I hadn't known that Finland must deal with those issues as well. When I looked more in depth of this manner, I found out that the Finnish government is trying to solve this issue (f. e.: establishing the Chief Communications Specialist at Finnish Prime Minister's Office, Jussi Toivanen, who has traveled the country to train Finns about disinformation) - unlike Czech government. I've seen a great work of organizations such as Faktabaari or Media Pool, that help with the media literacy at schools or make a place where journalists and government can discuss together serious threats. I also talk to some Finnish journalists to find out what is their approach towards disinformation.

Currently, the project composes of the handbook for journalists and video for general public but is going to be broaden with other videos and interactive worksheets for schools.