MIR Lab in Youth Work

Course name: Digital investigations in an era of data-driven journalism

Step-by-Step Guide Toward Making an Investigation



Presentation Outline

- Your Hypothesis
- Map Your Sources
- Visualize your Plan
- Deliver your Findings







Observe

What is happening in your community/in a specific sector?

What is the news?

What do people talk (gossip) about?

Why do you care?

Why should others care?



What is your hypothesis?

What is the topic you want to discover? Can you?





What's your Plan?

What information do you need?

Who are your potential sources?

How can you find your data?

What are the obstacles?



Sources

Primary Sources

People who can share the info with you/whistleblowers

Secondary sources:

published data





Visualize your Plan

1

A Network of Sources

People & documents

3

Budget

Cost of getting the info

2

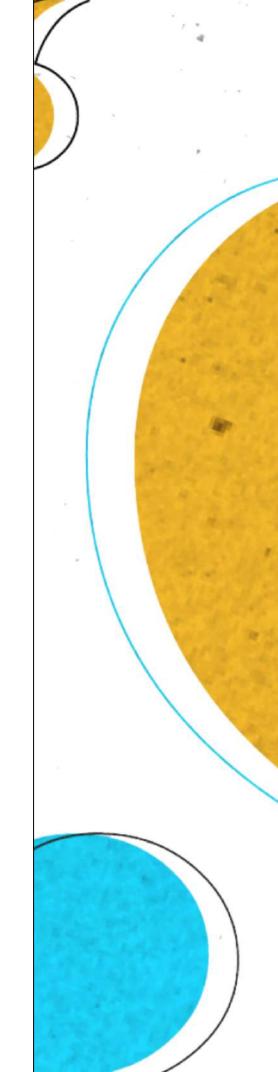
Method

Ways to get to your sources/info

4

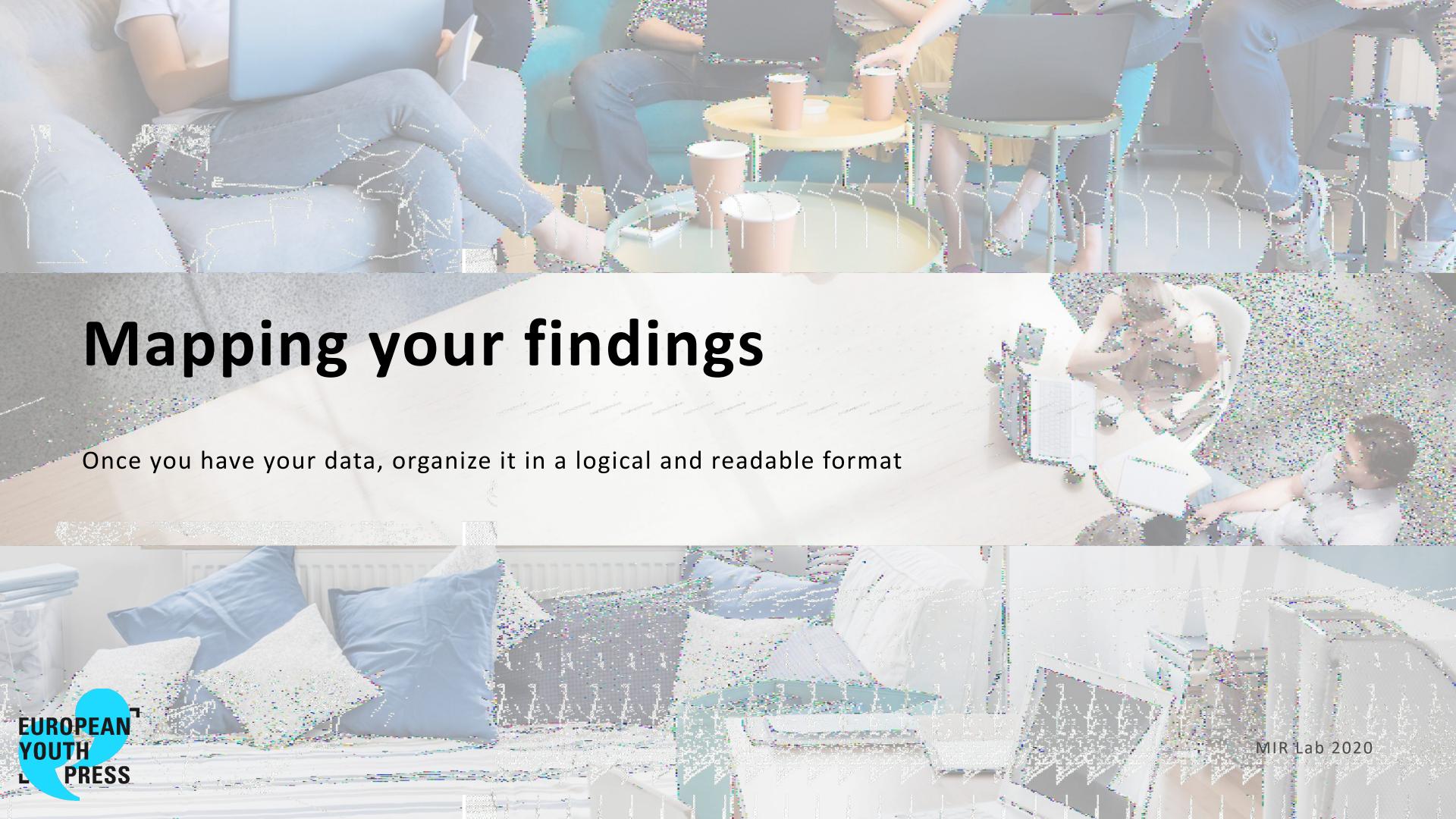
Time

Schedule of your activities



MIR Lab 2020





Investigate alone or in a team?



Working in a team:

- bigger skillset
- larger scope of work
- managing people
- division of tasks
- trust issues



Working alone

Smaller pool of contacts/skills

Greater control over the investigation



Collect, group, & verify

- Your findinds are only as valuable
 as you manage to verify and
 deliver them
- Doublecheck your findings
- Prioritize the main ideas
- Review critically & look for mistakes





Pitch & deliver

- The core of the story
- The outline
- Some background
- Why it matters
- Methods & proofs
- A bit about you
- Deadline & format



Post-Publication



Secure your interviews, docs, & other info

Stay in touch with your sources

Protect their identity & keep up the updates

2 Know your rights

Secure yourself & your work

Follow-up

Keep track of your story and its consequences

