NEWSLETTER IV

July 2025

S.HI.E.L.D. vs Disinfo - Students' of Higher Education (HE) Critical Digital Literacy (CDL) Development against Disinformation, is an Erasmus+ KA2 project that runs from October 2022 to September 2025.

S.HI.E.L.D VS DISINFO

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the project address three challenges:

- the **connection** of HE courses with future professional needs of graduates, aligned with the current needs of the labor market by strengthening HE students' CDL,
- **identification** of democratic goods by higher education institutions (HEIs) and how these are impacted by disinformation,
- **changing** current HE teaching practices by adopting student-centered teaching strategies that promote inquiry and web-based learning.

RESULTS

The results of the project will be:

1) **CDL Competences Framework**, including skills needed for staying critical opposite any information,
2) **An interactive matrix** of quality-assurance criteria for critical digital literacy education,
3) An anthology of innovative educational scenarios (educational material, strategies and activities) to teach and assess CDL in HEIs,
4) **Educators' e-Toolkit** (Ee-Toolkit) for CDL development and education against disinformation for various educational contexts.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN CRETE

The **S.HI.E.L.D. vs Disinformation** project successfully held the **International Conference "Revisiting Disinformation: Critical Media Literacy Approaches"** at the Xenia Center, **Rethymno, Crete, Greece**, on **Friday, June 27, and Saturday, June 28, 2025.**

This two-day event **brought together scholars, researchers, educators, professionals, and students** to explore the phenomenon of disinformation and its societal impacts through the lens of critical media literacy.

The conference proved to be a **fruitful and engaging platform** for academic exchange, featuring **keynote addresses, panel discussions, and presentations of current research**. Participants engaged in meaningful dialogue and collaboration, contributing valuable perspectives to this pressing global issue.

AWARD AT THE AERA CONFERENCE 2025

We are pleased to share that the manuscript **"Incorporating Students' Empowerment Against Disinformation in the Curricula of HEIs in EU Countries"** by **Prof. Eleni Katsarou** and **Dr. Konstantinos Sipitanos** (University of Crete) received the **2025 Best Empirical Paper Award from the Media, Culture, and Learning SIG of the American Educational Research Association (AERA).**

The paper, developed within the framework of the SHIELD vs Disinfo project, highlights how educational tools were co-designed with active input from students and professionals and implemented through action research. This recognition affirms the project's impact on fostering critical digital literacy and addressing disinformation in higher education.

OUR WORK

The consortium is currently working on **Work Package 4**, the Educators' e-toolkit which reflects all the procedures developed during the life-span of the Project, the teaching scenarios and materials produced and useful tips for any lecturer interested to involve relevant issues in his/her courses. At the same time, the partners are focusing on project dissemination and the organization of the final multiplier events.

NEXT STEPS

The next step will be the finalization of all the deliverables and the promotion and dissemination of them (Matrix, Anthology and E-toolkit).

RADIO INTERVIEW

On **June 24th** 2025 at 10:40 a.m., a **20-minute radio segment on Studio Rethymno** featured **Professor Eleni Katsarou from the University of Crete**, speaking about the **SHIELD vs Disinfo project.**

The discussion focused on the **project's goals, the phenomenon of disinformation** and its societal consequences, and the critical importance of media literacy in both school and higher education. Special attention was given to the need for empowering future professionals—such as teachers, doctors, journalists, and ICT experts—with the skills to critically address and counter disinformation.

S.HI.E.L.D VS DISINFO

PARTNERSHIP

VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT BRUSSEL

Center for Social Innovation

CERGY PARIS UNIVERSITÉ

UNIVERSITY OF TARTU

ATC ATHENS TECHNOLOGY CENTER

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