PRESS RELEASE

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PARTNERS

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ABOUT SHIELD vs Disinfo

S.HI.E.L.D. vs Disinfo – Students' of Higher Education critical digital Literacy Development against Disinformation is an Erasmus+ KA2 project that runs **from October 2022 to September 2025.**

The project addresses digital transformation through development of digital readiness, resilience and capacity.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the project address three challenges:

1. The linking of HE courses with the future professional needs of the graduates and with the updated needs of the labor market by strengthening HE students' CDL.
2. Identification of democratic goods by HEIs and of the ways these are at risk from disinformation.
3. Changing current HE teaching practices by adopting student-centered teaching strategies that promote inquiry and web-based learning.

PARTICIPATING PARTNERS

The SHIELD vs Disinfo project is implemented by a multidisciplinary consortium of universities, research centers, and technology partners across Europe, combining expertise in education, media, technology, and social innovation. The partnership includes:

1. Athens Technology Center (Greece)
2. CY Cergy Paris Université (France)
3. Center for Social Innovation (Cyprus)
4. Medical University of Gdansk (Poland)
5. University of Tartu (Estonia)
6. University of Crete (Greece)
7. Vrije Universiteit Brussel (Belgium)

RESULTS

SHIELD vs Disinfo will produce a comprehensive suite of intellectual outputs designed to support Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in embedding Critical Digital Literacy (CDL) into their curricula:

- **CDL Competence Framework** – a structured outline of the core skills and knowledge students need to critically assess digital information, tailored to address professional demands in multiple sectors.
- **Interactive Quality Assurance Matrix** – a practical and research-informed tool for evaluating and enhancing the quality of CDL education across disciplines and institutional contexts.
- **Anthology of Educational Scenarios** – an innovative collection of learning activities, strategies, and assessments for teaching CDL in Higher Education, co-created with student and stakeholder input to ensure relevance and applicability.

- **Educators' e-Toolkit** – a digital resource hub providing ready-to-use teaching materials, adaptable lesson plans, and practical guidelines for educators aiming to integrate disinformation-resilience and media literacy into their teaching practice.

All resources emphasize **participatory design**, **action research methodology**, and **student-centered pedagogies**, reinforcing the project's commitment to aligning academic practices with the evolving needs of both learners and the labor market. The materials are freely accessible and scalable, supporting institutional uptake beyond the partner universities.

Target Groups

The SHIELD vs Disinfo project is designed to benefit a broad range of stakeholders engaged in education, research, and societal resilience against disinformation:

- **Teaching Staff and Students in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs):** The core target group includes university educators and students—particularly those in fields such as education, journalism, political science, ICT, and health—who are increasingly confronted with the challenges of navigating and countering digital disinformation in both academic and professional contexts. The project offers practical tools and pedagogical approaches to embed Critical Digital Literacy into university teaching and learning.
- **Researchers in Critical Digital Literacy, Media Studies, and Information Management:**
  The project's frameworks, methodologies, and research-based outputs provide valuable resources for scholars examining the intersection of media, education, and digital society. The use of action research and participatory design contributes to academic inquiry and innovation in these fields.
- **Companies, Training Centers, Lifelong Learning Institutions, NGOs, and Civil Society Organizations:**
  SHIELD vs Disinfo also engages organizations beyond academia that work on contemporary educational challenges, media literacy, or disinformation awareness. These include entities involved in corporate training, continuing education, or community outreach, for whom the project's materials and approaches can inform practice and enhance capacity-building efforts.

By addressing these diverse audiences, the project promotes sustainable, cross-sectoral impact in strengthening digital resilience, democratic engagement, and critical media skills across Europe.

Learn more: shieldvsdisinfo.com
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