PRESS RELEASE

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PARTNERS

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About S.HI.E.L.D. vs Disinfo

The **SHIELD vs Disinfo** project, co-funded by the **Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union**, is approaching its final stages after three years of impactful work across Europe. Focused on strengthening **Critical Digital Literacy (CDL)** among students in Higher Education, the project addresses the growing societal challenge of disinformation by equipping future professionals with the tools to identify, evaluate, and counter false or manipulative information.

Project Objectives

SHIELD vs Disinfo aims to:

- Align higher education teaching practices with the professional realities of graduates in sectors vulnerable to disinformation (e.g., education, journalism, health, ICT, political science).
- Promote **student-centered, inquiry-based learning** to foster critical engagement with digital content.
- Enhance institutional capacity to resist disinformation by embedding **Critical Digital Literacy (CDL)** into teaching and learning processes.

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)

Key Results and Outputs

Over the course of the project, the consortium has developed a robust set of intellectual outputs to support CDL integration into Higher Education:

- **CDL Competence Framework** – outlines essential skills for critically assessing digital information, adapted for use in HE curricula.
- **Quality Assurance Matrix** – a digital, interactive tool for evaluating the quality and coherence of CDL-related teaching practices.
- **Anthology of Educational Scenarios** – features innovative, tested, and student-informed teaching activities to promote CDL in various academic disciplines.
- **Educators' e-Toolkit** – offers practical resources including lesson plans, implementation guides, and tips for educators aiming to integrate media literacy and anti-disinformation practices into their teaching.

Each output reflects **participatory design** and **action research methodology**, ensuring both academic rigor and practical relevance.

Recent Highlights

- The **International Conference "Revisiting Disinformation: Critical Media Literacy Approaches"**, held in Rethymno, Crete (June 27–28, 2025), brought together scholars, educators, and professionals to explore the societal impact of disinformation and the role of education in countering it.
- A 20-minute radio segment featuring **Prof. Eleni Katsarou (University of Crete)** aired on **Studio Rethymno 9.80**, highlighting the project's goals and the importance of CDL in school and university settings.
- The project was internationally recognized when a manuscript developed within SHIELD vs Disinfo received the **2025 Best Empirical Paper Award** from the Media, Culture & Learning SIG of the **American Educational Research Association (AERA)**.

Looking Ahead

As the project enters its final phase, partners are completing the deliverables and preparing **multiplier events** across participating countries. These events will disseminate the project's tools and methodologies, fostering broader adoption and long-term impact in European higher education.

Learn more: shieldvsdisinfo.com
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