

Press Release

Erasmus+ Project “ScrollOff” Calls for Stronger Action Against Gender-Based Hate Speech and Disinformation Online

30 December 2025

Partners of the groundbreaking ScrollOff project have announced the completion of the project’s Policy Brief as ScrollOff comes to a close.

Gender-based hate speech and online disinformation are rapidly increasing across social media platforms, negatively affecting the mental health, safety, and civic participation of young people, particularly girls and young women. The Erasmus+ funded project ScrollOff responds to this challenge by equipping youth workers and communities with training, research-based tools, and practical strategies to help build safer and more inclusive digital environments.

Social media has become a central space for communication and identity-building among young people aged 18–30. At the same time, young users are increasingly exposed to misogyny, sexualised attacks, manipulative stereotypes, toxic humour, and targeted online harassment. These experiences can deeply undermine self-confidence, create fear and anxiety, and discourage participation in public life. Women in public-facing roles, including journalists, politicians and activists, are especially vulnerable, and many report modifying or reducing their online presence to avoid harassment. Project partners from Sweden, Cyprus, Greece and the Czech Republic note that without coordinated prevention and support systems in place, many young people still feel isolated when confronted with hostile online behaviour.

ScrollOff’s research confirms the scale and seriousness of these harms. Young women and girls continue to report high rates of online harassment, while teenagers increasingly encounter cyber-bullying, image-based abuse and digitally-facilitated intimidation. Beyond the psychological consequences such as fear, isolation and self-censorship, gender-based online hate also threatens democratic participation, as targeted disinformation and harassment silence voices and shape public debate.

Empowering youth to combat gender based disinformation and hate speech spread through social media (ScrollOff)

PROJECT NUMBER: 2023-2-SE02-KA220-YOU-000170150



Co-funded by
the European Union

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The project also highlights the role of social-media algorithms in accelerating the spread of polarising and hateful narratives, particularly on platforms such as TikTok, Instagram, X and Facebook, where content circulates rapidly and often without adequate moderation or context.

To address these challenges, ScrollOff has developed a comprehensive package of educational and support tools. These include the “ScrollOff KeyBook,” an open resource offering real-life examples, theoretical guidance, and practical tools that youth workers can apply directly in their work. The project also created an online learning platform and carried out a series of national and international workshops to strengthen critical thinking, digital awareness, prevention skills and psychosocial support among practitioners and young people. These activities help youth workers and educators better recognise subtle and evolving forms of gender-based hate, such as toxic memes, coded language, micro-aggressions and algorithm-driven radicalisation.

However, the project also identifies major gaps that still need to be addressed. Youth workers often report not having enough training, guidance or institutional support to respond effectively when online hate occurs. Victims of gender-based harassment rarely receive adequate psychosocial assistance, and reporting procedures remain confusing or inaccessible. Digital and media literacy are still not sufficiently embedded into national education systems, leaving many young people unaware of how to verify online information or respond safely to online attacks. Furthermore, the absence of robust platform accountability and transparency limits meaningful intervention, while legal frameworks in many countries do not yet recognise online gender-based abuse as a distinct form of violence.

Based on its findings, ScrollOff calls for stronger coordination between policymakers, educational institutions, youth organisations and digital platforms. The project stresses the need for national and European-level reforms that explicitly recognise gender-based online abuse as a form of violence and discrimination. It also recommends greater investment in long-term digital and media-literacy education, systematic training for youth workers and teachers, and expanded psychosocial support for young people who experience online harm. At the same time, the project highlights the importance of increasing transparency and accountability among social-media and technology companies, particularly in relation to content moderation and algorithmic amplification of misogynistic or harmful narratives.

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Partners emphasise that tackling gender-based hate speech and disinformation is not only a matter of online safety, but a democratic and equality-based imperative. When young people — especially women and LGBTQ+ youth — do not feel safe online, they withdraw from public spaces, silence themselves, and lose trust in institutions and digital communities. ScrollOff therefore calls on governments, education systems, civil-society organisations and technology platforms to work together toward a digital environment grounded in respect, human rights and equal participation.

If you wish to learn more about the ScrollOff project or express your interest in participating, kindly visit [the project website](#) for further information.

About the Project and Partners:

The ScrollOff project is co-funded by the European Union through the Erasmus+ program and involves the collaboration of six esteemed organizations from Sweden, Ukraine, Cyprus, Greece, and the Czech Republic. The consortium comprises:

- [Internationella Kvinnoföreningen](#)
- [HOGSKOLAN HALMSTAD](#)
- [The Hive](#)
- [Stando Ltd.](#)
- [NGO "Non-formal education for youth"](#)
- [Business & Professional Women CR](#)

For media inquiries or additional information, please contact scrollffproject@gmail.com

Stay tuned for further updates on the ScrollOff project as we work towards a safer, more inclusive online environment for all. You can also follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).