



# NEWSLETTER



## Launch of the SHIELD Project in Palermo: Cutting-Edge AI Solutions to Combat Gender-Based Violence

We are pleased to announce the successful launch of SHIELD (European AI-Powered Gender-Based Violence Reduction Initiative), marked by its inaugural meeting held in Palermo, Italy, on December 3, 2024. Partners from five European countries (Italy, Spain, Germany, the Netherlands, and Greece) came together to discuss the project's objectives and lay the groundwork for cross-sectoral innovation. The initiative brings together educators, youth workers, researchers, policymakers, and technical experts to address one of society's most pressing challenges. Among SHIELD's key goals are the development of an educational platform on gender-based violence targeted at youth and youth workers, as well as the creation of a dedicated chatbot.

## First Project Milestone Achieved: Desk Research Report on Gender-Based Violence and AI

SHIELD's first major milestone is now available online: a comprehensive desk research report exploring how artificial intelligence and open data can support the prevention of gender-based violence among young people. The report examines the ethical, legal, and policy dimensions of using emerging technologies to address gender-based violence, with a particular focus on youth-centered interventions across the EU. It provides valuable insights into existing governance frameworks, identifies critical gaps, and proposes ethical guidelines to inform future AI applications. This foundational work sets the stage for the project's next concrete steps.



## Next Phase: Voices from the Field Focus Groups and Interviews Across Europe

As SHIELD moves forward, the project will enter a crucial participatory phase involving focus groups and interviews conducted in the partner countries. These sessions will bring together young people, educators, gender-based violence specialists, and AI experts to deepen the understanding of how artificial intelligence intersects with real-life experiences of gender-based violence. This inclusive research phase will ensure the project remains grounded in the genuine needs and concerns of its core stakeholders, fostering co-creation and ethical innovation.



## Empowering Youth Through Technology Training Platform and Chatbot

SHIELD is developing an interactive training platform and an AI-powered chatbot to support young people and youth workers in preventing gender-based violence. The platform will provide engaging, age-appropriate content and real-life scenarios, while the chatbot will offer accessible, confidential support and information. Together, these tools aim to educate, foster dialogue, and build safer communities online and offline.