



Improving police
response to
discrimination,
racism & intolerance



July-August 2024

★DIGITAL LEAFLET #1★

Kick-Off of the EU-funded project DISMANTLE



*The consortium partners at the Kick-Off Meeting in Fürstfeldbruck, Germany
(Photo: T. Beyer).*

In May 2024, project DISMANTLE started. The 24-month research project is funded by the EU Commission as part of the “Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values” (CERV) programme (Project Number: 101145049). In view of a notable EU-wide increase in incidents of hate speech and hate crime in recent years, and a very low reporting rate of the crimes by the victims, DISMANTLE aims to address these challenges in Germany, Spain, Greece and Cyprus, by:

1. Enhancing the understanding and skills of police personnel on respecting individuals’ ethnic origin, religion or belief, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics in all processes and communication between police and citizens, and on the impact of discrimination, racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance;
2. Enhancing the understanding and skills of police personnel on identifying and recording different forms of intolerance and bias (xenophobic, LGBTIQ-phobic etc.), and on gender-sensitive approaches to victims of discrimination;
3. Promoting the adoption of non-discrimination policies regarding police interactions with vulnerable groups members facing multiple forms of discrimination (e.g. transgender and intersex people, LGBTIQ migrants and Roma etc.);
4. Increasing cooperation between the police and other actors that support the rights of vulnerable persons to improve responses to discrimination, racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance;
5. Enhancing the trust between the public, especially vulnerable persons, and the police, to improve reporting of incidents of discrimination and hate.



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First project activities

In the first important project activities, the partners will conduct:

- An online survey between August and September 2024 with at least 500 police officers in the four partner countries on their attitudes towards ethnic and religious minorities and LGBTIQ+ people as well as on their level of knowledge about the manifestations and effects of racism, intolerance, LGBTIQ+ phobia, discrimination, hate (crimes), etc.;
- Expert interviews in September with senior policy makers, police leaders and police trainers to analyze gaps in existing policies, regulations and police measures to protect the rights of vulnerable groups; and
- Five 1-day project launch events with around 150 representatives of all project target groups in the four project partner countries to raise their awareness of the project goals and to motivate them to actively participate in the project activities.

PARTNERS

To achieve these objectives, DISMANTLE will build on the capacity-building experience and expertise of its 8 consortium partners from 4 EU Member States, including law enforcement agencies, research institutions and NGOs, who bring to the project complementary expertise and experience, relevant to the scope and objectives of the project. The consortium is coordinated by the Department of Policing at the University of Applied Sciences for Public Service in Bavaria (HfoeD). The partnership comprises the Hellenic Police, KEMEA and Symplexis from Greece, Ayuntamiento de La Vall d' Uixó and Ayuntamiento de Murcia from Spain, Cyprus Police and Center for Social Innovation – CSI from Cyprus. The Jaume I University from Spain also participates as an associate partner.



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