



Summary of Comprehensive Report

| Belgium, Cyprus, Italy, Portugal |



Project No: 2022-1-BE04-KA220-YOU-000086534

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Project Information	
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1. Introduction

Project overview

ANIMATOPEDIA is a significant European initiative, backed by Erasmus+, that places a strong emphasis on preventing sex-based discrimination, sexual harassment, and advancing gender equality among young individuals through the medium of animated educational content. The project stands as a collaborative effort, with a consortium comprising partner organisations hailing from Cyprus, Belgium, Italy, Portugal, and the Netherlands. The overarching objective of Animatopedia is to develop an inclusive and comprehensive educational program that harnesses the power of animated videos and accompanying resources to foster healthy relationships, prevent gender-based violence, and empower the youth.

A pivotal aspect of this endeavour is Work Package 2 (WP2), which is dedicated to the development of educational content through a multilayered methodological approach. WP2 focuses on creating an array of engaging animated videos, lesson plans, and additional resources. This educational content encompasses a range of themes, including gender equality, consent, healthy relationships, and bystander intervention. By addressing these critical topics, the project aspires to achieve its ultimate aim: to raise awareness, provide essential education, and empower young individuals to actively promote respect, equality, and healthy relationships within their local communities.

Key objectives

Key objectives that Animatopedia seeks to achieve include:

1. **Preventing and Redirecting Discrimination and Harassment:** Through educational efforts, the project aims to curtail sex-based discrimination, including digital harassment, by equipping young people with the knowledge and skills needed to counter these challenges effectively.



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2. **Challenging Gender Stereotypes:** Animatopedia is committed to combating sexism and dispelling gender stereotypes prevalent among the younger generation by leveraging education as a catalyst for change.
3. **Empowering Diverse Groups:** The project aspires to empower women, migrant and refugee women, and the LGBTQIA+ community by creating a safe and supportive environment that champions their rights and inclusivity.
4. **Eradicating Discrimination through Education:** The project recognizes that education can be a powerful tool in eradicating sex-based discrimination and is devoted to creating engaging educational activities that contribute to this goal.
5. **Enhancing Knowledge and Understanding:** Animatopedia endeavours to enrich understanding about the state of gender equality across partner countries and contribute to the discourse surrounding these issues.
6. **Fostering a Supportive Environment:** The project aims to create a nurturing and enabling environment for both young individuals and youth workers, fostering positive change on a broader scale.

Partners

FAJUB - Federação de Associações Juvenis do Distrito de Braga is a Portuguese organisation that politically represents the youth associations of the District of Braga both locally, nationally, and internationally.

SYNTHESIS - Synthesis Center for Research and Education is a pioneering organisation in Cyprus that initiates and implements projects of social impact, with a focus on social inclusion, and the leading organisation in the fields of social entrepreneurship and social innovation.

Tia Formazione – Italian organization TIA Formazione's core values are represented by respect for human rights in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the European Convention on Human Rights and the Nice Charter. Our actions are oriented towards creating a more European society, an actor that plays a political



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role in an international context, therefore promoting activities oriented towards European integration is our main objective.

WHI - Welcome Home International ASBL is a non-profit organisation based in Brussels, Belgium, dedicated to supporting and assisting refugees and migrants to help them settle into life in Belgium.

Methodological approach of WP2

The Methodological Approach employed in WP2 serves as a crucial step in establishing a solid foundation for the project's success. This approach centres on collecting baseline data that sheds light on requirements, gaps, and needs. This data collection process involves gathering insights from young individuals aged 18 to 30 in partner countries, supplemented by real stories and examples. This comprehensive approach not only aligns with the European Union and the Council of Europe's emphasis on gender equality but also informs the development of digital tools to address discrimination, harassment, and gender equality effectively.

The methodological approach used by the involved partners in their national contexts involved narrative interviews, semi-structured questionnaire-based interviews, and surveys to gather data from a diverse group. The focus was on strategies to prevent discrimination, challenges faced, support methods, and views on existing laws, while ethical considerations such as informed consent, confidentiality, and participant well-being were prioritised.

Outcome of WP2

A key outcome of Animatopedia's endeavours is the production of National Reports, each tailored to the context of individual partner countries. These reports provide a comprehensive overview of legal frameworks, policies, and initiatives related to sex-based discrimination and harassment within each nation. Furthermore, the reports delve into the current challenges faced in addressing these issues and offer insightful recommendations for future actions.



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2. Summary of the Comprehensive Report

The purpose of the Comprehensive Report is to provide an overview on the sex-based discrimination, (sexual) harassment and gender equality issues across the diverse context of the partners countries: Cyprus, Belgium, Italy, and Portugal. The Comprehensive Report includes the theoretical background and analysis of the specific national context of each country in addressing sex-based discrimination, (sexual) harassment, and gender equality. While the results show that approaches may vary, their collective goal remains steadfast – to create inclusive and respectful societies where education, empowerment, and positive change flourish for all.

Theoretical Background

The synthesized theoretical framework encompassing insights from Portugal, Cyprus, Italy, and Belgium lays on the following aspects:

Sex-Based Discrimination: Sex-based discrimination arises from the interplay of biological sex characteristics and socially constructed gender identity, roles, attributes, and cultural contexts. This discrimination manifests through societal interpretations of gender differences.

Harassment and Sexual Harassment: Harassment, as per EU Directive 2002/73/EC, involves unwanted conduct linked to a person's sex that breaches dignity, fostering environments of intimidation, degradation, or offense. Sexual harassment entails unwelcome sexual behavior that violates dignity, particularly when creating a hostile environment.

Gender Equality: Gender equality ensures freedom for individuals of all genders and identities to pursue chosen paths, with equal opportunities and participation in



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society. The EU Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025 aims to end violence, challenge stereotypes, bridge labour gaps, and achieve gender balance.

Intersectionality: Intersectionality recognizes interconnected identities (race, gender, sexuality) shaping privilege and oppression. This perspective addresses gender-based violence and discrimination within complex systemic structures.

Youth Violence: Youth violence spans psychological, verbal, and physical aggression to severe outcomes, including murder. Acts may target individuals, animals, or objects, influenced by multifaceted causes.

Gender-Based Violence Definitions: Gender-based violence, rooted in gender inequality, targets individuals based on gender, predominantly affecting women and girls. Forms include physical, sexual, psychological, and economic harm.

Third-Wave Feminism and Intersectionality: Third-wave feminism emphasises inclusive approaches, considering diverse women's experiences, while intersectionality recognizes identities' interaction and their influence on discrimination and harassment.

Analysis of the specific national contexts: A summary

Gender equality, sex-based discrimination, sexual harassment, and related issues are significant concerns across Portugal, Cyprus, Italy, and Belgium. While each country has its unique context, the Comprehensive Report shows that they share common challenges and efforts to promote gender equality.

In all four countries, legal frameworks, government initiatives, and non-governmental organisations play pivotal roles in addressing these issues. The focus is on preventing discrimination, promoting gender equality, and providing support for victims of harassment and violence. The results show that while progress has been made, there is an ongoing need for continuous efforts to challenge stereotypes, raise awareness, and create safer environments for everyone.



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In relation to the digital transformation among youth, in all four countries, digital transformation has reshaped how gender equality issues are understood, discussed, and addressed. The prevalence of social media and online platforms underscores the importance of leveraging these spaces to amplify voices, educate youth, and foster meaningful change in the pursuit of gender equality and the elimination of harassment and discrimination.

Overall, the interviews conducted across Portugal, Cyprus, Italy, and Belgium revealed common themes and perceptions surrounding sex-based discrimination and sexual harassment experienced by young people, despite the unique contexts of each country. The insights gained from these interviews revealed a collective desire for change and a commitment to fostering inclusive and respectful societies that prioritise gender equality and safety for all individuals.

In all countries, the call for education, awareness, support, and policy changes to combat sex-based discrimination and harassment was prominent. The role of digital tools was recognized, but their effective use requires more focused efforts. The collective insights from these results underscore the need for multi-faceted strategies involving education, legal frameworks, cultural shifts, and the power of digital platforms to create lasting change in the lives of young people.

Conclusion and Next Step: Digital Educational Tools

The guiding principles developed from the research in Portugal, Cyprus, Italy, and Belgium offer a comprehensive blueprint for combatting sex-based discrimination, sexual harassment, and promoting gender equality. These guiding principles collectively provide a comprehensive framework for action, addressing the identified gaps, needs, and requirements in each context, highlighting the importance of education, legal frameworks, cultural transformation, technological innovation, collaboration, inclusivity, data-driven decision making, accountability, and youth empowerment in the journey towards gender equality.



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The next step in promoting gender equality involves the development and utilisation of digital educational tools to address the identified needs and gaps in each context. These tools have the potential to raise awareness, educate, empower, and promote online safety among young people. Research results gathered from Portugal, Cyprus, Italy, and Belgium revealed that digital educational tools can indeed effectively address the identified needs, promote gender equality, and contribute to a more inclusive and equitable society. This step represents a significant opportunity to engage and educate young people on crucial topics related to gender equality and discrimination.



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