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PRESS RELEASE

DISMANTLE - Improving police response to discrimination racism & tolerance

Information Event for the DISMANTLE project

The kick-off event of the European Project "DISMANTLE" on addressing discrimination, racism, and intolerance by the police was successfully held in Athens on October 21, 2024. This innovative project aims to improve police response to all kinds of discrimination and violence, enhance public trust in the police for reporting all relevant incidents, and consequently lead to a more effective response to incidents of racist violence. The event was organized by the three implementing bodies of the project in Greece: Hellenic Police, Center for Security Studies (KEMEA), and Symplexis.

The purpose of the event was to inform and raise awareness about the activities, expected results, and benefits of the project, both for the Hellenic Police personnel and law enforcement agencies, as well as public authorities, civil society groups, and other organizations/agencies working to protect human rights and combat racism, xenophobia, LGBTIQ+ phobia, etc., while encouraging them to actively participate. Similar events have been held in all the countries participating in the project (Germany, Cyprus, and Spain).

In this context, more than 40 people attended, including staff from different services and departments of the Hellenic Police, as well as representatives of major civil society organizations and agencies working to protect human rights, combat racism and other forms of intolerance, and support victims.

During the event, the following were presented:

- The preliminary results of a survey conducted within the framework of the project regarding the attitudes and perceptions of police officers towards vulnerable social groups, which will form the basis for the design of a targeted program to enhance the skills of police personnel.
- The training activities that will be organized within the framework of DISMANTLE, with the participation of 800 police personnel from all over Greece, as well as the existing training and further education activities of the police personnel in the field of combating racism and intolerance,
- The project's actions to promote inter-agency cooperation, develop policies to address discrimination, and improve online tools for reporting racist violence and hate crimes.

A central point of the event was the discussion among the attendees, as it provided an important forum for exchanging views on issues of managing and addressing incidents of racist violence, highlighting and emphasizing the need to promote cooperation between the



police and civil society organizations for a more effective response to these incidents, by strengthening trust, facilitating/encouraging reporting, and protecting victims.

The event closed with the promise of a meeting of all involved actors to create the working group, the next step of the project, which aims to ensure rights, enhance protection, and improve support provided to victims of racist violence through cooperation between the police and civil society organizations.

The DISMANTLE project

"DISMANTLE - Improving police response to discrimination racism & tolerance " is a two-year project funded by the European Commission's Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) program. It aims to improve police response to (intersectional) discrimination, racism, antisemitism, LGBTIQ+ phobia, and all forms of intolerance and prejudice in the project's partner countries (Germany, Spain, Greece, and Cyprus).

Among the key actions to be implemented within the framework of the project are training activities for at least 1,760 police officers in the four countries, the development and adoption of anti-discrimination policies regarding police interactions with members of vulnerable groups, and the (re)design of tools and mechanisms for reporting racist violence and hate crimes by police forces in each country.

DISMANTLE is a joint effort of 8 partners from 4 EU member states, including law enforcement agencies, research institutions, and NGOs. The project is coordinated by the Department of Policing at the University of Applied Sciences and Public Administration in Bavaria (HfoeD). The consortium also includes the Hellenic Police, KEMEA, and Symplexis from Greece, the Local Police of the Municipality of La Vall d'Uixó and the Police Department of the Municipality of Murcia from Spain, the Cyprus Police, and the Center for Social Innovation - CSI from Cyprus.

For more information, visit the DISMANTLE website and follow the project's social media for relevant updates.



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