



Center for Social
Innovation



Improving police
response to
discrimination,
racism & intolerance



Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values
Programme (CERV)



Press release

Cyprus Police and the Center for Social Innovation - CSI announce their participation in the European project "**DISMANTLE - Improving Police Response to Discrimination, Racism and Intolerance**".

DISMANTLE **CERV-2023-EQUAL**

Date of Signing of Agreement: 01/05/2024 – 01/05/2026 (24 Months)

Project budget: € 298.800,61

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT:

The project is about upgrading the response of Law Enforcement Authorities (LEA's) concerning discrimination, racism and all forms of intolerance. In recent years, in the European Union, incidents of hate speech and hate crimes based on racism, discrimination and verbal and physical violence have been increased. In 2021, 33 hate crimes cases were reported to Cyprus Police. Those cases were related to racism against immigrants from Africa, xenophobia, prejudice and phobia against the LGBTIQ community.

The "Dismantle" project aims to achieve the following objectives:

1. Enhance the understanding and skills of police personnel on respecting individuals' ethnic origin, religion or beliefs, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics
2. Enhance the understanding and skills of police personnel on identifying and recording different forms of intolerance and bias (xenophobic, LGBTIQ-phobic etc.) and on approaches to victims in terms of discrimination
3. Promote the adoption of the principles of non-discrimination policies
4. Increase cooperation between the Police and other actors that support the rights of vulnerable communities/persons to improve responses to discrimination, racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance
5. Encouraging communication between Police Public and citizens
6. Enhance the trust between the public, especially vulnerable communities/individuals and the police, to encourage the reporting of incidents of discrimination and hate.



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The "DISMANTLE" consortium, apart from the two partners representing Cyprus, involves 6 more partners from 3 EU countries. The partners are, University of Applied Sciences for Public Service ((Hochschule für den öffentlichen Dienst) - Department for Policing (HfoeD), Hellenic Police, Center for Security Studies (KEMEA), Symplexis, Murcia City Council (Ayuntamiento de Murcia – Police Department (MCH), Vall d'Uixó City Council (Ayuntamiento de La Vall d'Uixó) - Local Police (VUC).

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