

G-LENS project:  
against online violence against girls and women



# International Conference Digital Citizens in Sofia, Bulgaria

**Event Dates:** 9-11 October 2025

**Location:** Largo, Sofia (Bulgaria)

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## About the conference

In the framework of the European project G-LENS, OPEN SPACE foundation (Bulgaria) invites **stakeholders from education, media, academia/research, politics, civil society, including youth organizations, journalists, and social media content creators** from Europe to participate in situ, in a three-day, conference + expo and workshops.

The Digital Citizenship Conference aims **to support the exchange of international good practices for prevention (including education, working with the public sector, civil society, and media) to tackle gender-based disinformation.**

A conference featuring guests and experts who will share their experiences and hold discussions with the audience on 3 key topics:

- **Topic 1: Fundamentals of Digital Citizenship and Rights in the Digital Age.** We will seek an answer to the question of what is the interaction between technologies and the formation of digital citizenship; we will explore its relationship with fundamental rights and responsibilities in the online space.
- **Topic 2: Navigating the information landscape: media literacy and disinformation.** The second session focuses on critical media literacy and combating disinformation, with a particular emphasis on specific harmful narratives. We will also explore the role of the media and entertainment industry in combating disinformation and harmful narratives: How the media can be part of the solution.
- **Topic 3: Psychological impact of the digital world: cyberbullying and social media.** The focus here will be on the deeper psychological aspects of digital citizenship, including cyberbullying and the impact of social media on young people.

## Indicative programme

### 9 October 2025 \ Thursday: EXPO

15:00 - 19:00	<b>EXPO:</b> Exhibition of civil society organizations and educational institutions that will present games and tools for developing media literacy and critical thinking
15:00 - 19:00	Partner in the event will be <b><i>The National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings</i></b> in Bulgaria that will present a Mobile Escape room presenting the risks of sexual and labor trafficking.

### 10 October 2025 \ Friday Conference

09:00 - 09:30	Official opening	<b>09:00 – 16:30 EXPO:</b> Exhibition of civil society organizations and
09:30 – 11:00	Panel 1: Digital Citizenship and Rights in the Digital Age	

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11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break	educational institutions that will present games and tools for developing media literacy and critical thinking
11:30 – 13:00	Panel 2: Media literacy and disinformation	
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch	
14:00 – 15:30	Panel 3: Cyberbullying and social media	
15:30 - 16:30	Meet our exhibitors	
16:30 – 19:00	Free time	
19:00 – 20:30	“Let be off-line” (nigh event)	

### 11 October 2025 \ Saturday: Work-shops

09:00 – 10:30	Work-shop 1	Work-shop 2
11:30 – 13:00	Work-shop 3	Work-shop 4

## About the project

The two year (2024-2026) European Project G-LENS (Gender-Inclusive, Long-lasting and Empowered Networks and Societies), co-funded by the EU, takes a comprehensive approach to countering gendered disinformation. By combining research, education and advocacy, G- LENS empowers young people to create a more inclusive and democratic digital environment.

### Key objectives

1. **Understanding the problem:** Mapping the prevalence and impact of gendered disinformation across Europe to identify actionable solutions.
2. **Raising awareness:** Conducting public campaigns to highlight the societal harm caused by gendered disinformation.
3. **Empowering youth:** Equipping young leaders, journalists and content creators with the tools to recognise and counter disinformation.
4. **Sharing best practices:** Facilitating international collaboration to exchange strategies and insights.
5. **Driving policy change:** Advocating for systemic changes through dialogue with policymakers, media and civil society organisations.

While young people are often both targets and inadvertent spreaders of disinformation, they also hold immense potential to drive positive change. By involving young people as co-creators of solutions, the project nurtures their ability to recognise and challenge disinformation, amplify fact-based narratives and lead grassroots campaigns that resonate with their peers and communities. This initiative sets clear objectives to create lasting change, starting with increasing awareness of gendered disinformation among young people and key stakeholders. **The project is run in four European countries: Poland, Cyprus, Romania and Bulgaria.**

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## About the host

The [OPEN SPACE foundation](#) (OSF) is a non-governmental organization dedicated to building a better future through education and active civic participation. We believe that young people are the driving force for change, and our core mission is to empower them to be responsible and engaged citizens. We work diligently to provide them with the necessary knowledge and skills to help them develop as critical and thoughtful individuals in the complex digital world.

We pay special attention to creating accessible self-study resources designed for people who do not have the opportunity to participate in traditional training services. These programs are tailored to the current challenges of the digital environment and aim to build sustainable critical thinking and media literacy skills.

## Call for partners

We are currently looking for keynote speakers to join forces and participate in the Pop-Up Event with conference in Sofia, Bulgaria from 9 until 11 October 2025.

We are looking to cooperate with a range of European local and national partners and experts. Specifically, we invite partner organisations and experts to participate with offers for:

- **Learning & development opportunities:** training / workshops that could be offered to visitors to the Pop-Up Event.
- **On the spot expert / keynote speakers for the conference:** policy makers, practitioners, youth workers and young people. You may be interested in taking part in a dialogue about our topic, particularly if you work for local authorities or for youth organisations, or if you are engaged in policy or advocacy work.
- **Creative activities** that will engage young people and guests.

We'd love to hear from you with your suggestions too!

Sincerely,

Pepa Peneva – chairperson of the board of OPEN SPACE foundation

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