

# GenderED Coalition

**WP2**

**T2.1 National Report**

**Gendered disinformation in Italy  
2024**

**FORMA.Azione**



## Introduction

The purpose of the report is to identify the “good practices” that exist within the four European partners (Bulgaria, France, Greece, Italy) on the topic of gendered disinformation as a threat to achieving inclusive environments on social media platforms (and other media), with a high Media and Information Literacy (MIL) component. The data gathered will hopefully contribute to a clearer understanding of the similarities and differences between the European countries, especially in terms of the various actors involved in the process.

Three major areas are considered that might yield pertinent answers: 1/the public policies on gender, education, disinformation (official documents, standard setting tools); 2/ the capacity-building forces and tools (competences, resources, funding and the actors); and 3/ the role of communities of practices and networks (private sector, civil society ...).

For the purpose of this study, “good practices” are defined as projects involving strategies and/or activities that have proven to be effective, sustainable and/or transferable, relying on resources and materials that have been shared and tested, with desired results, to be found via a dedicated website. They therefore reflect what is visible, with an online display, due to the focus on gendered disinformation via social media; they do not necessarily the full range of existing strategies and actors. For feasibility purposes, national experts were asked to select a limited corpus of 5 “good practices” reflecting a mix of MIL, gender education and/or online disinformation among a larger number of initiatives. The expected results are therefore not fully exhaustive but reflect a modicum of representativity — and institutional as well as financial support — across a short period of time (2015--). They cannot be generalized but can point to major trends and emerging practices.

Such a mapping process can serve as a pilot for a more extensive diagnostic tool and as an inspirational guide to evaluate policies and practices in the European countries considered, so as to promote change in the area. The data gathered will be published as country reports on the Gender-ED website (<https://www.genderedcoalition.net/>) and compiled in a cross-country comparison report also published on the website. The results will be disseminated in diverse venues and shared with policy-makers in the shape of strategic policy recommendations.

## Methodology

-Identify 5 projects (from 2015--) that, according to the experts' experience, deal with a mix of gender, online disinformation, and MIL. Enter the description of each using the online grid to create an ID card for each project with 12 dimensions (ranging from competences to stakeholders to funding and evaluation).

-Produce a synthesis (20 pages), with 1/brief national history/context, 2/national legal and political framework, 3/ most outstanding results of comparison of 5 projects, 4/ Conclusions derived from results (major trends, identified gaps...), and 5/ recommendations for public policies.

*The starting date 2015 is based on EU legislation and frameworks such as Equality in action; Roadmap for equality between women and men (2010); Strategy for equality between women and men (2010-2015). It is also based on the moment when disinformation was identified as a real democratic issue in the USA and the EU (2015--). The "good practices" approach was adopted as it is the most likely to yield concrete results in the case of issues like MIL or Gender education that are optional and cross-cutting, with no baselines for evaluating them.<sup>1</sup>*

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<sup>1</sup> See <https://www.obs.coe.int/en/web/observatoire/-/mapping-of-media-literacy-practices-and-actions-in-eu-1>; see also <https://www.taylorfrancis.com/chapters/edit/10.4324/9781315628851-2/mapping-media-information-literacy-policies-divina-frau-meigs-irma-velez-julieta-flores-michel>

## Executive Summary

This report delves into the intersection of gender, media, and information literacy (MIL) in Italy, based on the analysis of five selected projects from 2015 onwards. These projects reflect a concerted effort to address gender biases and promote equality through various initiatives, primarily focusing on media platform initiatives and resource creation. Despite significant strides in integrating gender perspectives into media education literacy, the effort has not yet included the adoption of competence frameworks, and the gaps remain, particularly in policy implementation and comprehensive framework adoption.

### Key Findings:

**Media Participation and resource creation:** The majority of projects are concentrated on media platform initiatives and resource creation, highlighting a preference for media and resource-based activities. Policy implementation and case studies are less frequently addressed, indicating potential areas for future development.

**Gender and MIL Competence Integration:** There is a notable deficiency in projects that combine a MIL Competence Framework and a Gender Competence Framework. Even if the Gender Competence Framework is still not formally existing, and therefore is hard to be referred to, the gap underscores the need for initiatives that simultaneously address media literacy and gender competence to achieve a measurable impact.

**Public Policy Engagement:** Projects show varied levels of engagement with public policies: the more institutional initiatives have a tendency towards inter-ministerial approaches, where the involvement of the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Education is particularly prominent, while bottom-up initiative address issues of competence of the Ministry of Health. Overall, the findings reflect the critical roles these institutions could play in the integration of gender and Media Information Literacy.

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## 1. Brief national history/context

EIGE yearly Gender Equality Index shows a systemic underrepresentation of women in the public sphere. In the **political** sphere, women make up for only 31% of Ministers, 33% of members of the Parliament, and only 24% of share of members in regional or local assemblies. In the **economic** sector, women are significantly less represented than men in board of quoted companies, supervisory board or board of directors, even if the figure is 9% points higher than the European mean. When we look at women's participation in the **workforce**, women work significantly less than men and are more likely to work part-time jobs and in less qualified sectors, and earn less than men, despite their better achievements in higher education.<sup>2</sup>

The underrepresentation of women in the Italian workforce can be attributed to a multitude of factors, including the absence of comprehensive public policies aimed at reconciling work-life balance, since unlike some of their European counterparts, Italy has lagged behind in implementing supportive measures such as parental leave policies, flexible working arrangements, or accessible and affordable childcare throughout the country. Furthermore, the persistence of traditional patriarchal gender roles within Italian society exacerbates the challenges faced by women in the workplace. In both family structures and professional environments, women encounter systemic barriers and discrimination that discourage active participation and hinder career advancement. This gendered division of labor not only perpetuates inequality but also limits women's economic independence and opportunities for professional and personal growth.

Mainstream media play a crucial role in the reproduction of both traditional and sexualized representations of women television channels (both private and public), together with the film and advertising industries, reproducing stereotypes which not only reflect but also reinforce societal attitudes towards gender roles and expectations, portraying women primarily in domestic roles and emphasizing their physical appearance over their intellectual or professional achievements.

The National public broadcasting company, RAI, has initiated efforts to monitor and address gender inequality in public representation on television, by sustaining initiative such as “*No Women No Panel*”, on equal gender representation in public debates, or by monitoring initiatives on women representation in RAI channels, such as the research conducted by CARES s.c.r.l. in 2019. Unfortunately, these attempts primarily remain in the realm of research and analysis, rather than translating into effective action. Moreover, they remain confined in public channels, while private broadcasting companies who have profited from the objectification of women's body on television, and successfully exported their business model in reproducing and normalizing gender stereotypes at the root of gender violence.

But gender discrimination in the media goes beyond the objectified representation of women. In Italy the *#MeToo* movement (launched by journalist Giulia Blasi as *#quellavoltache*, that translates as *#thattimewhen*), has not sparked the conversation about gender inequality and sexual harassment in the media industry as impactfully as abroad. In the first statistical research on the matter in the information and communication sector, conducted in 2019 by the main Italian journalistic federations and trade unions, it emerged that 85% of women journalists have

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<sup>2</sup> <https://eige.europa.eu/gender-equality-index/2023/country/IT>

been victims of sexual harassment in their professional path <sup>3</sup>. Unfortunately, the data has also suffered low media attention. In order to bring attention to the insufficient focus on the issue, *Amleta* association and *Differenza Donna* have been assessing the prevalence of sexual harassment and gender violence within the entertainment industry. This assessment involved the collection of 223 spontaneous accounts over a two-year period, revealing a submersed but widespread culture of harassment and violence in the sector<sup>4</sup>.

### **Challenges and Opportunities in the Digital Age**

Online activism has become a powerful tool for women in Italy to amplify their voices. Through social media platforms, blogs, and online forums, activists and professionals have been able to create networks beyond the mainstream media channels, to share personal experiences, and organize collective actions. Hashtags such as *#NonUnaDiMeno* have sparked important conversations about sexual harassment, violence against women, and systemic discrimination.

However, the rise of online women's activism has also been met with a backlash from misogynistic networks and hate groups seeking to silence and intimidate women. The anonymity and virality of online social-media platforms can amplify harmful stereotypes and perpetuate toxic masculinity, creating a hostile environment for women in digital spaces, which often also poses serious threats to women's safety and well-being. Many initiatives to combat online harassment and gender violence have been initiated by activists and public figures, such as the campaign *#odiareticosta* promoted by Thlon and lawyer Cathy La Torre, or the hashtag *#eiotipubblico* launched by ex-President of the Chamber of Deputies of the Republic Laura Boldrini to expose haters. However, the multifaceted character of online hate speech and gendered violence leaves women vulnerable and overexposed in the online arena.

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<https://www.fnsi.it/upload/70/70efdf2ec9b086079795c442636b55fb/888388a4bf3ad115e1a76504fc73fd2e.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.amleta.org/osservatoria-amleta/>

## 2. Brief national legal and political framework

### Gender equality

Italy's legal framework regarding gender rights has evolved significantly over the past century, reflecting broader societal changes. From the right for women to vote established in 1945, to the legalization of divorce in 1970, which followed by a contentious national debate and a referendum in 1974 that affirmed public support for the law, to the emanation of Law 194, enacted in 1978, which legalizes and regulates access to safe abortion, Italian women have achieved rights that formally guarantee equality of treatment before the Law.

The legislative framework that collects every previous measure aimed at achieving gender equality is *Codice delle pari opportunità* (Code of Equal Opportunities) established in 2006 and designed to promote and ensure equal treatment and opportunities for all individuals, regardless of gender, in various areas of public and private life. This comprehensive code, addresses issues such as gender discrimination in the workplace, equal access to employment, education, and training, and measures to support work-life balance. It aims to create a fair and inclusive society by eliminating barriers that prevent equal participation and advancement of women and men. Moreover, in 2011, the "Golfo-Mosca" Law mandated that women must make up at least one-third of the boards of publicly listed companies, aiming to increase female representation in corporate leadership. In fact, the Italian percentage of women in boards is since significantly higher than the EU average, demonstrating that pioneering laws are effective in promoting and sometimes enforcing gender equality.<sup>5</sup>

However, the implementation of equality measures has faced political and cultural challenges in various sectors. In the case of access to abortion, the high prevalence of "*obiezione di coscienza*" (conscientious objection) among medical professionals, which allows them to refuse to perform abortions on moral or religious grounds, has led to significant regional disparities in access to abortion services. Moreover, in a country as Italy, with one of the lowest natality rates in the world, 'pro-life' activists in positions of legislative power often oppose abortion rights, arguing that restricting abortions is crucial for the nation's future development. The theme sparks informal and even official spread of disinformation, with even government officials sometimes incorrectly claiming that abortions cause low natality. Data<sup>6</sup> shows that the number of abortions is steadily decreasing thanks to family planning measures and education policies.

### Gender Violence

One of the most notorious remnants of legalized gender violence in the Italian law was the "*delitto d'onore*" (honor killing) provision, which allowed reduced sentences for men who killed their wives or female relatives for perceived infidelity or behavior deemed dishonorable, and it was abolished only in 1981. Recent years have seen further advancements in protecting women's rights and safety. The Istanbul Convention on preventing and combating violence against women has been ratified in 2013, then the "Red Code" (*Codice Rosso*) law, enacted in 2019, accelerates the judicial process for cases involving domestic violence and stalking, ensuring quicker intervention and support for victims. Additionally, Italy has recognized femicide as a distinct crime since 2023 (law 9/2023 n. 12), acknowledging the gender-specific nature of violence against women and aiming to address it through targeted legal and social measures.

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<sup>5</sup> <https://eige.europa.eu/gender-equality-index/2023/domain/power/IT>

<sup>6</sup> Lalli, Chiara and Sonia Montegiove (2021) *Mai dati. Dati aperti (sulla 194)*. Perché sono nostri e perché ci servono per scegliere ISBN: 9788860448644, <https://www.maidati.it/>

Most of Italy's legislative efforts towards gender equality in recent decades have focused on mitigating gender violence and hate crimes against women. However, there is little attention to addressing gender violence from a cultural perspective, and educational efforts towards gender equality are scarce, often limited to a generic "end violence against women" message that identifies victims but fails to address the perpetrators effectively. To be able to address the cultural issue, since 2017 the National Strategic Plan on male violence against women combines awareness-raising initiatives with gender-disaggregated data collection, a first step to be able to address the endemic diffusion of gender violence. As data shows, despite stricter laws, in Italy every two days a woman is killed by a man.<sup>7</sup>

### **MIL education and gender equality**

Recently, Media Information Literacy (MIL) education has been significantly promoted through initiatives like the Italian Digital Media Observatory (IDMO) and Repubblica Digitale. Established in 2020, IDMO plays a crucial role in raising awareness about misinformation and promoting critical thinking among the public through collaborations with educational institutions, media organizations, and policymakers. Similarly, Repubblica Digitale, coordinated by the Department for Digital Transformation of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, focuses on reducing the digital divide and promoting future technology education. In 2021 it has established a working group on the digital gender divide, aiming to ensure equal access and opportunities in the digital space for all genders, thus recognizing a gendered disparity in the online presence and digital competences.

On the legislative front, Italy has implemented laws to combat online harassment, cyberbullying, and gender violence. Law 71/2017 specifically addresses cyberbullying by establishing preventive measures and punitive actions to protect individuals, particularly minors, from online harassment. The Italian approach has informed the guidelines issued by the European Council on 4 July, 2018. Nevertheless, the gender dimension is not directly addressed by the Law. The already mentioned "Red Code" addresses one form of cyber-violence, the 'illicit diffusion of sexually-explicit images and video's', which has been also inappropriately referred to as "revenge-porn" (Bainotti and Semenzin 2021).

Despite some legal progress, the phenomenon of online gender violence remains widespread, exposing women to the constant fear of public humiliation and discrediting, which prevents them from fully participating in democratic life.

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<sup>7</sup> <https://www.istat.it/it/files/2018/04/Analisi-delle-sentenze-di-Femminicidio-Ministero-di-Giustizia.pdf>



### 3. Most outstanding results of comparison of 5 projects

#### 3.1. Project category

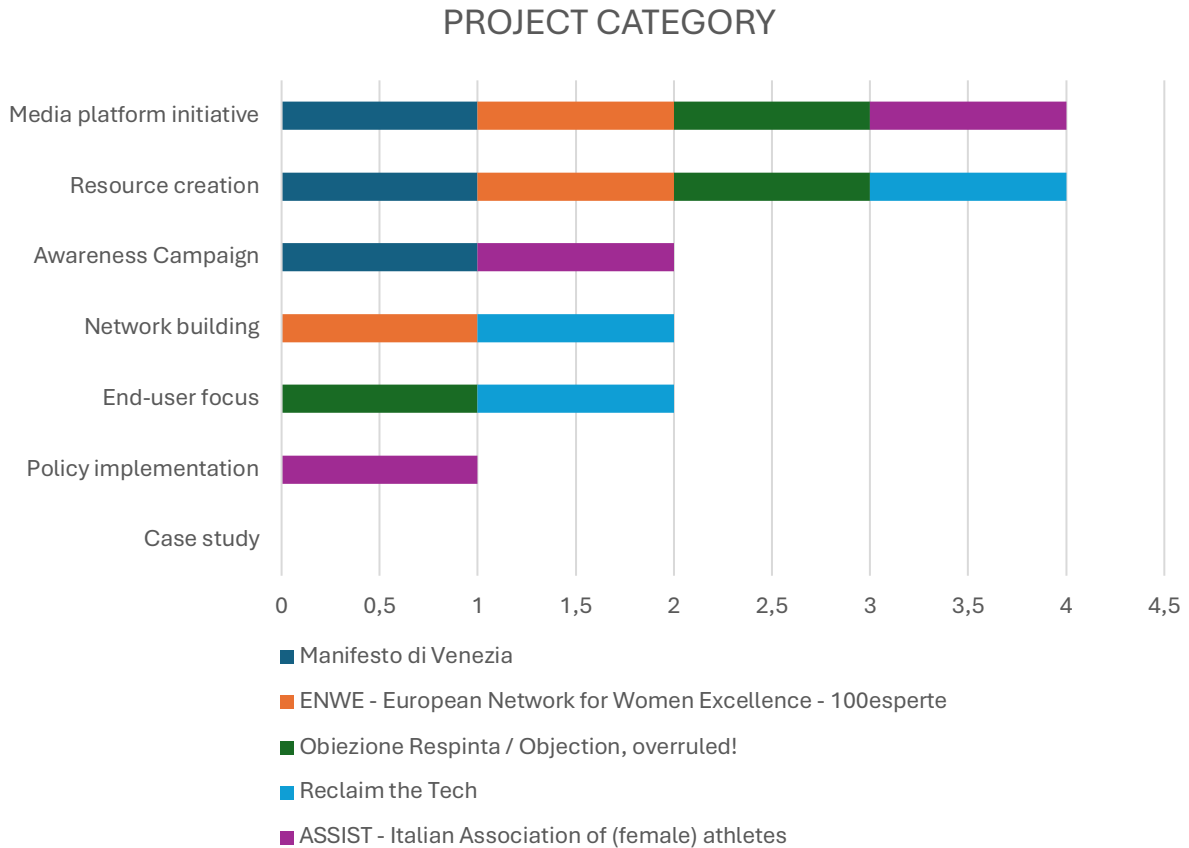


Figure 1

The first figure illustrates the distribution of the selected five projects across various categories of initiatives. The "**Media Platform Initiative**" and "**Resource Creation**" categories are the most common focuses, with most projects participating in these areas. This suggests a concerted effort, among the selected projects, to develop and provide new resources to their target audiences and to reach out to them through (social) media platforms. On the other hand, categories like "Policy Implementation" and "Case Study" are less commonly addressed, with less projects engaging in these areas. Specifically, only two projects are involved in "Policy Implementation," and no project, naturally among the selected ones, is focused on "Case Study." This might indicate a gap or an area of opportunity for future initiatives. Additionally, "Network Building" and "End-User Focus" have a moderate level of engagement, but they are the primary focus for one of the projects. Overall, there is a noticeable preference for media and resource-based activities.

### 3.2. Project MIL competences that mention Gender

## PROJECT MIL COMPETENCE FRAMEWORK

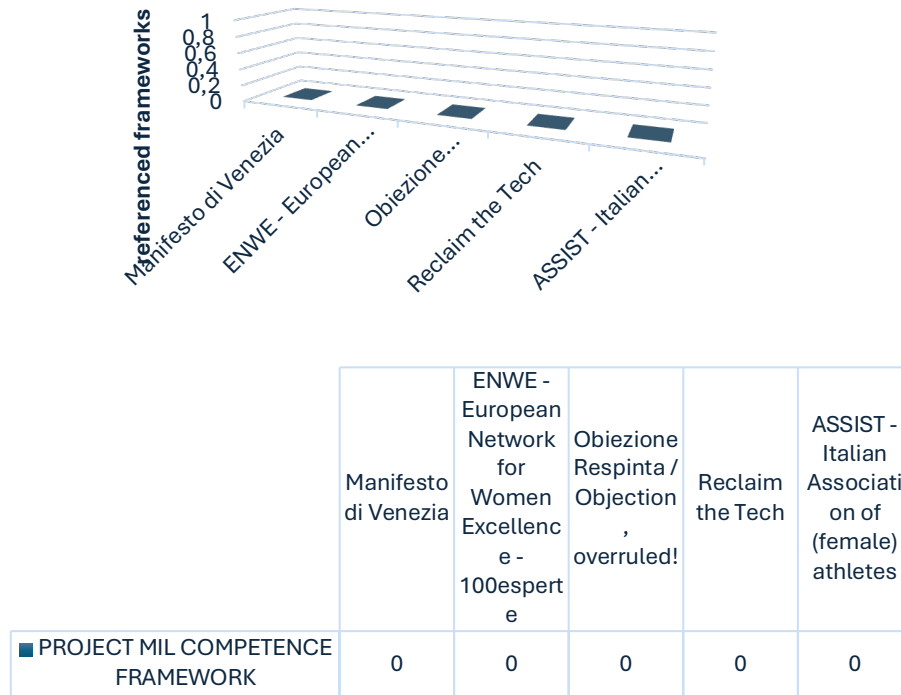


Figure 2

The graphic highlights a lack of projects that integrate both the Project MIL Competence Framework and the Project Gender Competence Framework. This formal lack does not reflect into the projects' practices, which on the contrary explicitly work at the intersection between MIL education and gender-sensitive competences. The mismatch between theoretic frameworks and practices highlights the urgent need for initiatives that adopt these competence frameworks, combining media and information literacy with gender competence to fill this critical gap and ensure more comprehensive and measurable impact on MIL education and on Gender competences.

## Inferred MIL Competences

### Project MIL competences that mention GENDER

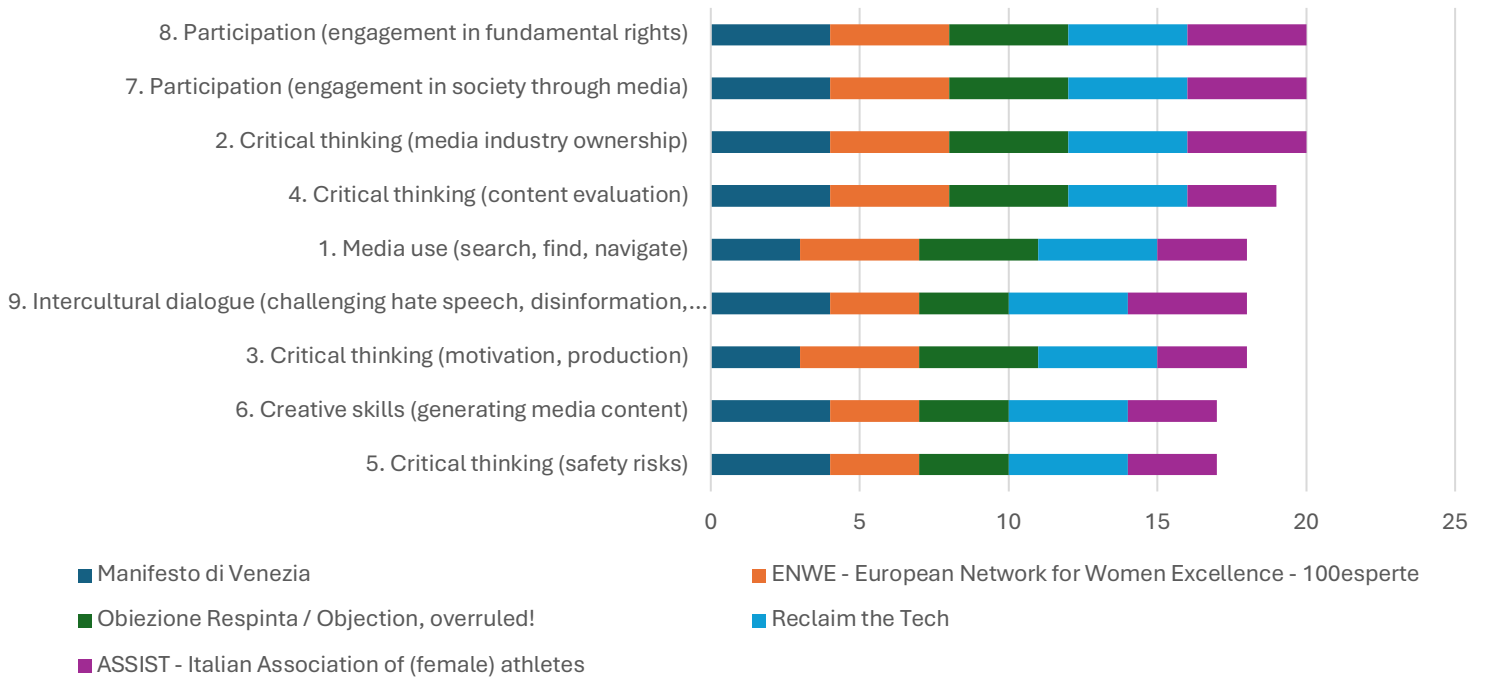


Figure 3

In the figure above we look at the practical overlaps of MIL (Media and Information Literacy) competences that involve gender across several projects. The projects represented are shown to engage with gender-related MIL competences across nine key areas.

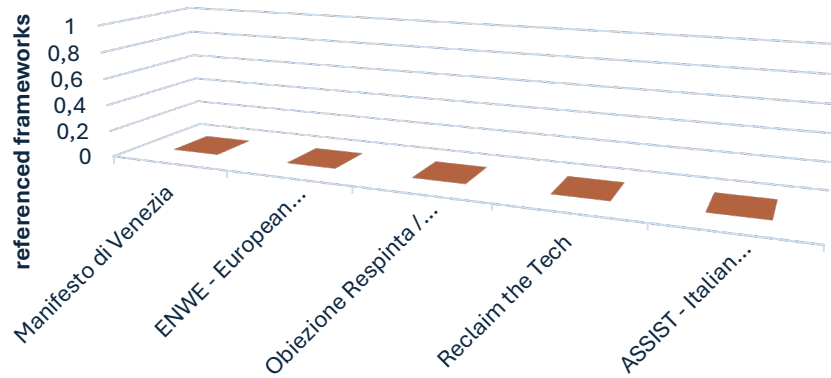
Each project shows significant **participation** in promoting engagement in **fundamental rights**, indicating a collective effort to integrate gender equality within broader social engagement. Projects are also heavily engaged in using **media as a tool** for societal participation, reflecting the importance of media literacy in empowering gender-inclusive communication.

The ability to **critically evaluate content**, including its gender implications, is highlighted across the projects: analyzing media industry ownership through a gender lens obtained the highest score, pointing to the necessity of exposing power dynamics in media.

Overall, this figure showcases a comprehensive engagement with gender-related MIL competences across diverse projects, demonstrating significant informal overlaps in their approaches. Despite the absence of a formal framework combining these competences, the projects collectively highlight the critical need for integrating gender perspectives within MIL initiatives to foster inclusive and equitable media literacy practices.

### 3.3. Project gender competences that mention social media and/or MIL

#### PROJECT GENDER COMPETENCE FRAMEWORK



	Manifesto di Venezia	ENWE - European Network for Women Excellence - 100esperte	Obiezione Respinta / Objection, overruled!	Reclaim the Tech	ASSIST - Italian Association of (female) athletes
PROJECT GENDER COMPETENCE FRAMEWORK	0	0	0	0	0

Figure 4

In a specular way, Figure 4 shows the absence of projects dedicated to Gender and MIL referring to a Gender Competence Framework. Once again, if we look at the gender competences inferred in the projects, the observation underscores the necessity for future endeavors to integrate those dimensions systematically.

## Inferred gender Competences

### Project GENDER competences that mention social media and/or MIL

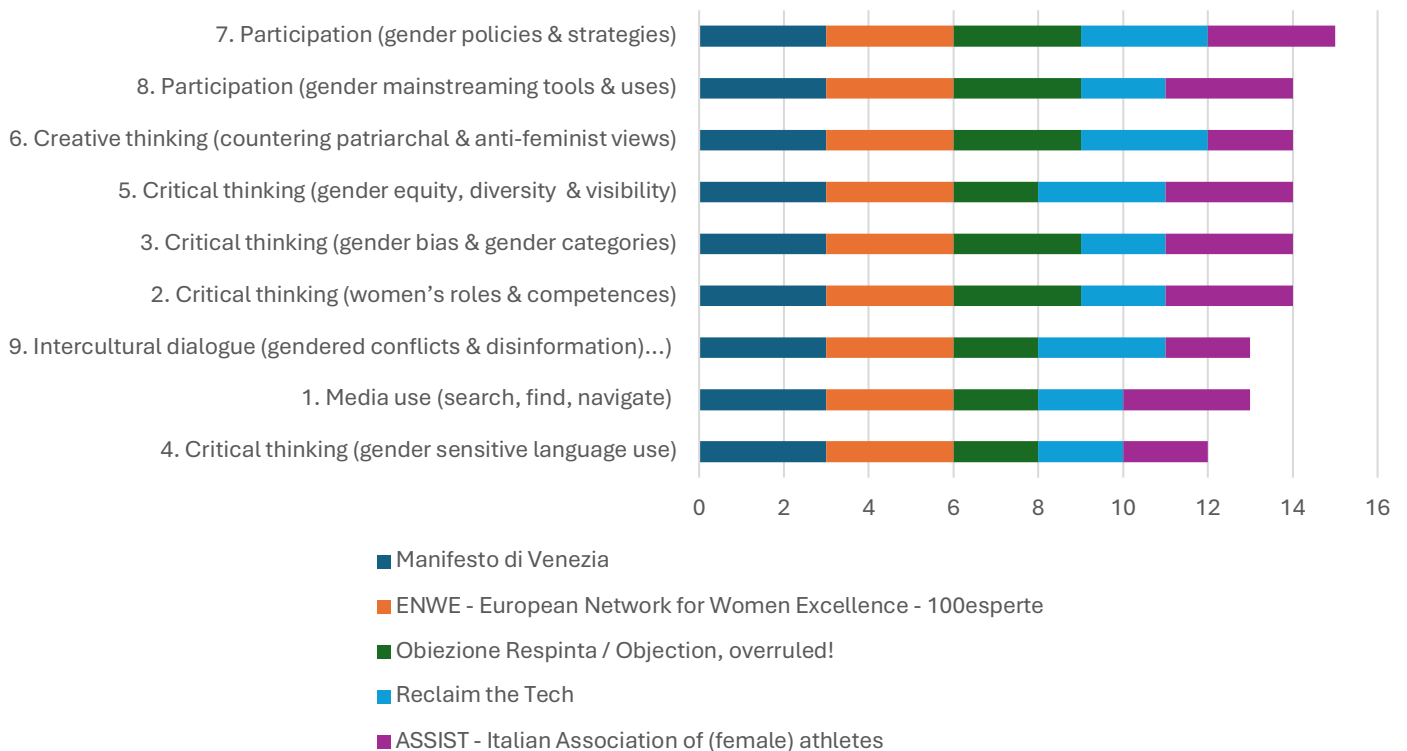


Figure 5

The table above shows the projects' gender competences referring to social media and /or MIL, and reveals a consistent emphasis across all projects on the importance of participation concerning **gender policies and strategies**. This indicates a shared recognition among the initiatives of the crucial role that active engagement plays in fostering gender inclusivity and equality within their respective contexts. By prioritizing **participation**, these projects demonstrate a commitment to gender mainstreaming tools and uses.

The projects also consistently emphasize the importance of **creative and critical thinking** in countering patriarchal and anti-feminist narratives and promoting gender equity, diversity, and visibility. This comprehensive approach underscores the recognition of social media and MIL as powerful platforms for challenging gender biases, stereotypes, and restrictive gender norms. By addressing issues such as gender bias, gender categories, and women's roles and competences through these mediums, projects demonstrate a nuanced understanding of the complexities surrounding gender dynamics in contemporary digital spaces.

### 3.4. Project gendered disinformation themes

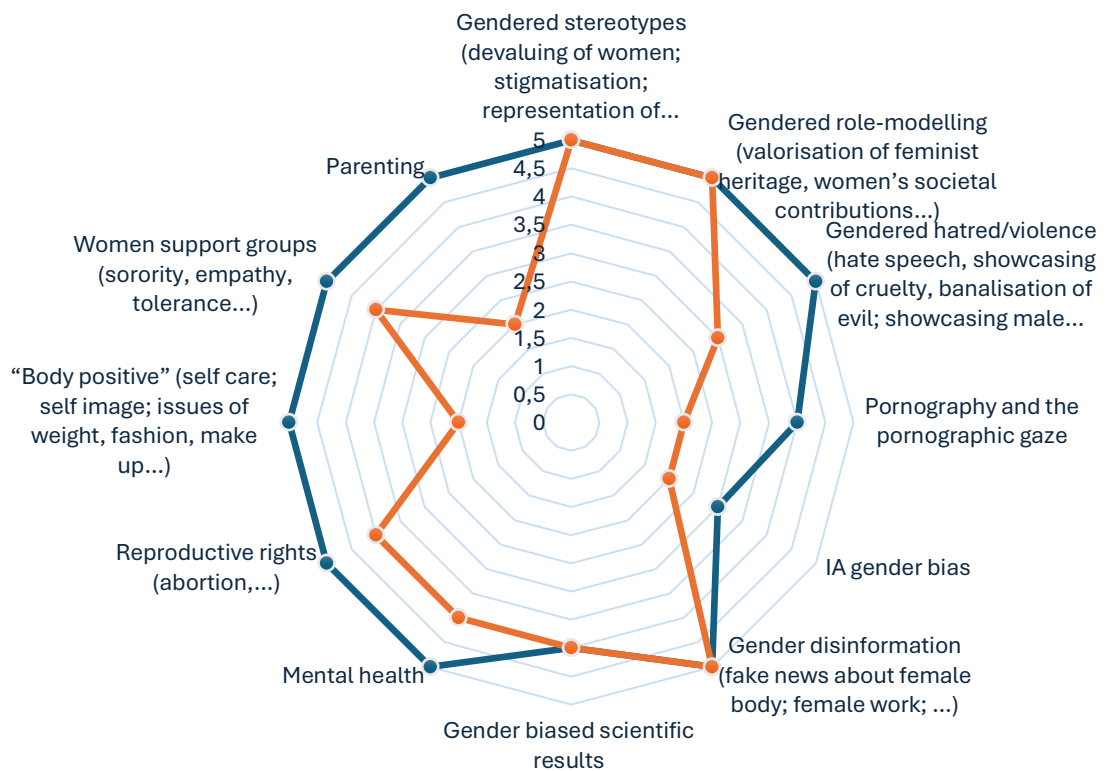


Figure 6

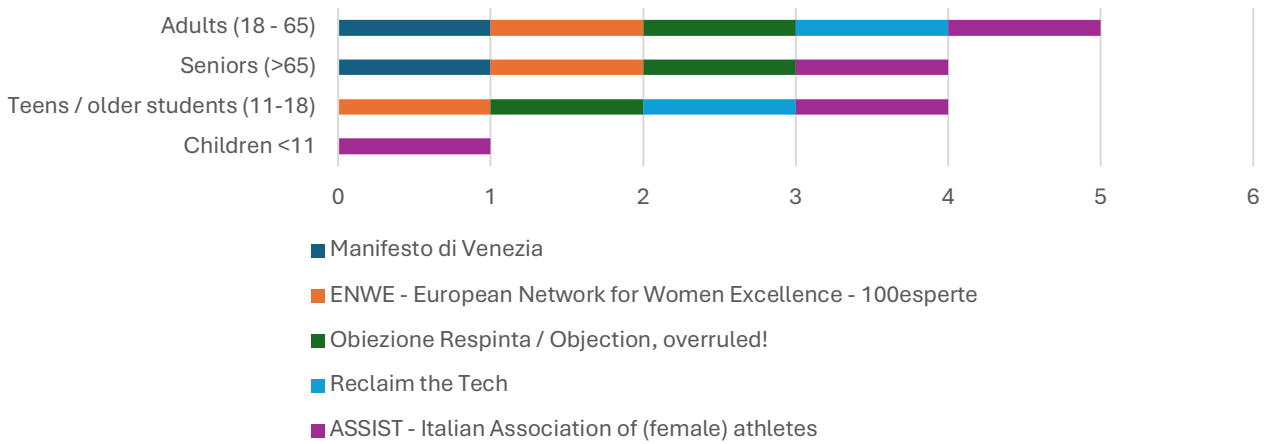
Our fourth dimension of research highlights the projects involvement in themes of gender disinformation, where the blue line refers to **critical thinking**, and the orange line refers to **participation**.

Overall, the Italian cases show a commitment to engage in **critical thinking** with nearly all the themes, with two notable **exceptions of IA gender bias, pornography and pornographic gaze, and gender biased scientific results**.

The situation is different with regard to action and participation, where there is less engagement. It is interesting to note that the lack of engagement is more notable in categories that involve body positive themes, parenting, and again pornography and IA gender bias. The **participation is highest** with regard to **Gender disinformation, gendered role-modelling, and reference to gender stereotypes**.

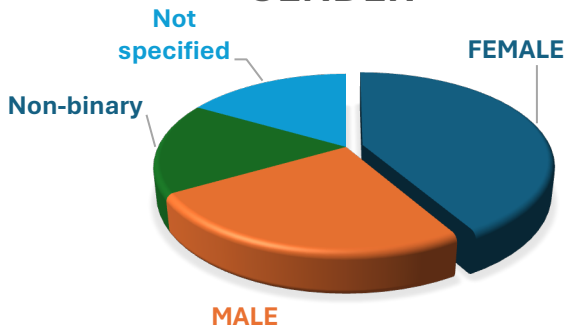
### 3.5. Project target public

#### PROJECT TARGET GROUP BY AGE



By analyzing the target groups by age, all projects are targeting adults (18-65), most project target also Teens and Seniors, but just one specifically targets children.

#### PROJECT TARGET PUBLIC BY GENDER



#### PROJECT TARGET PUBLIC BY STATUS

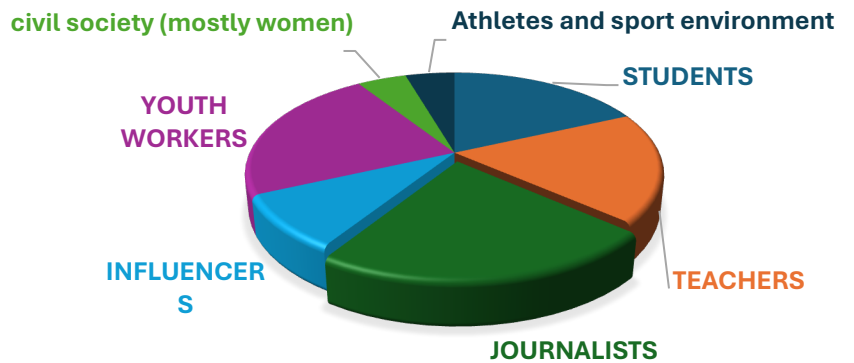


Figure 8 and 9

Women are target by the majority of the projects, but most projects also target society at large without specifying gender, and some projects explicitly target also a non-binary public. Two of the selected projects are targeted at media information professional categories, and that is probably why Journalists are the most targeted public. Then there is an even distribution among professional categories directly involved in MIL education, such as youth workers, teachers, and students (a broad category that could encompass primary, secondary and tertiary education).

### 3.6. Project Stakeholders

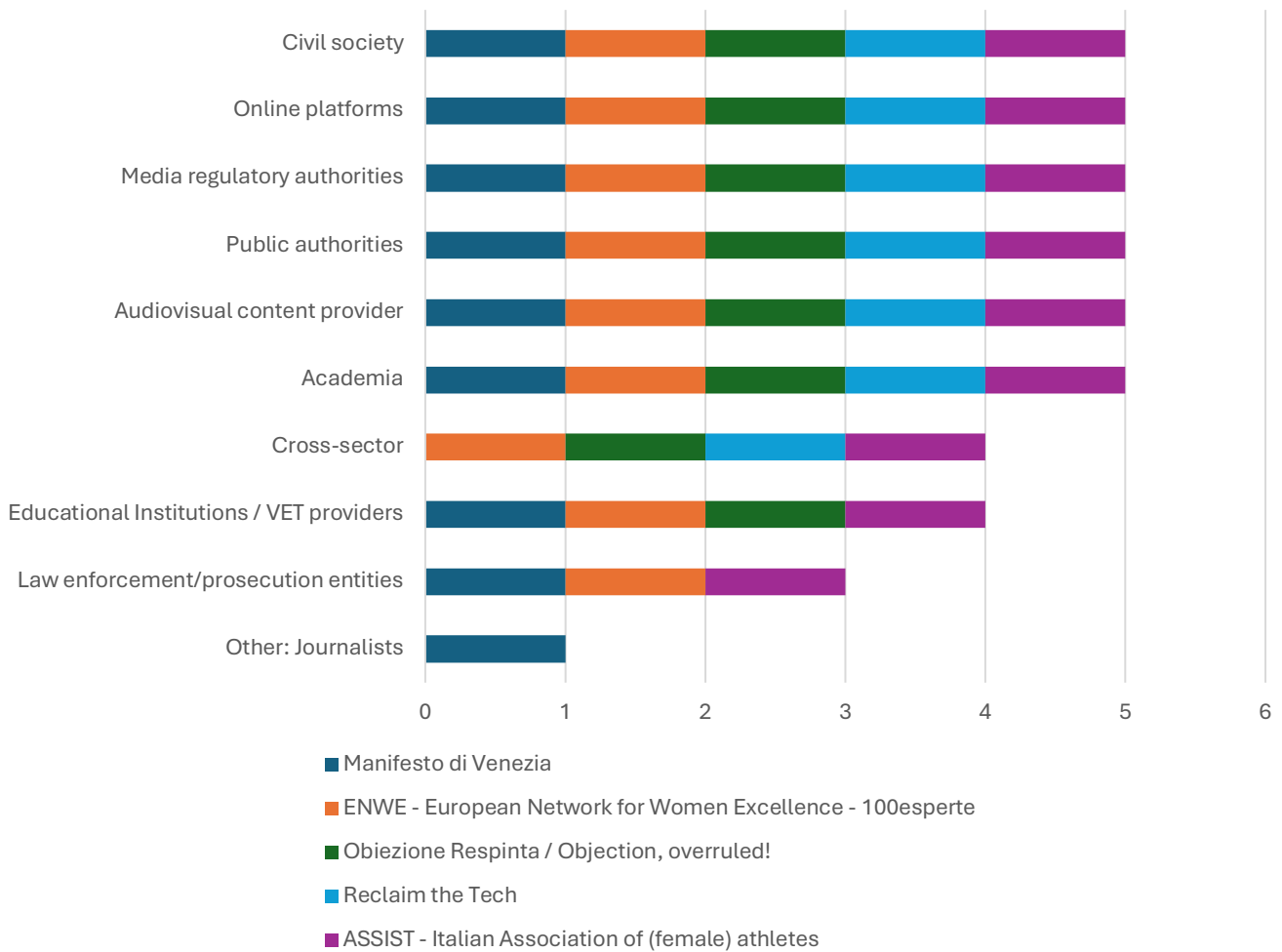


Figure 10

The projects' have a broad network of stakeholders, involving both online and offline media providers and with special attention to civil society and public and regulatory authorities. The least involved category of stakeholders are prosecution entities and law enforcement.



### 3.7. Project networks

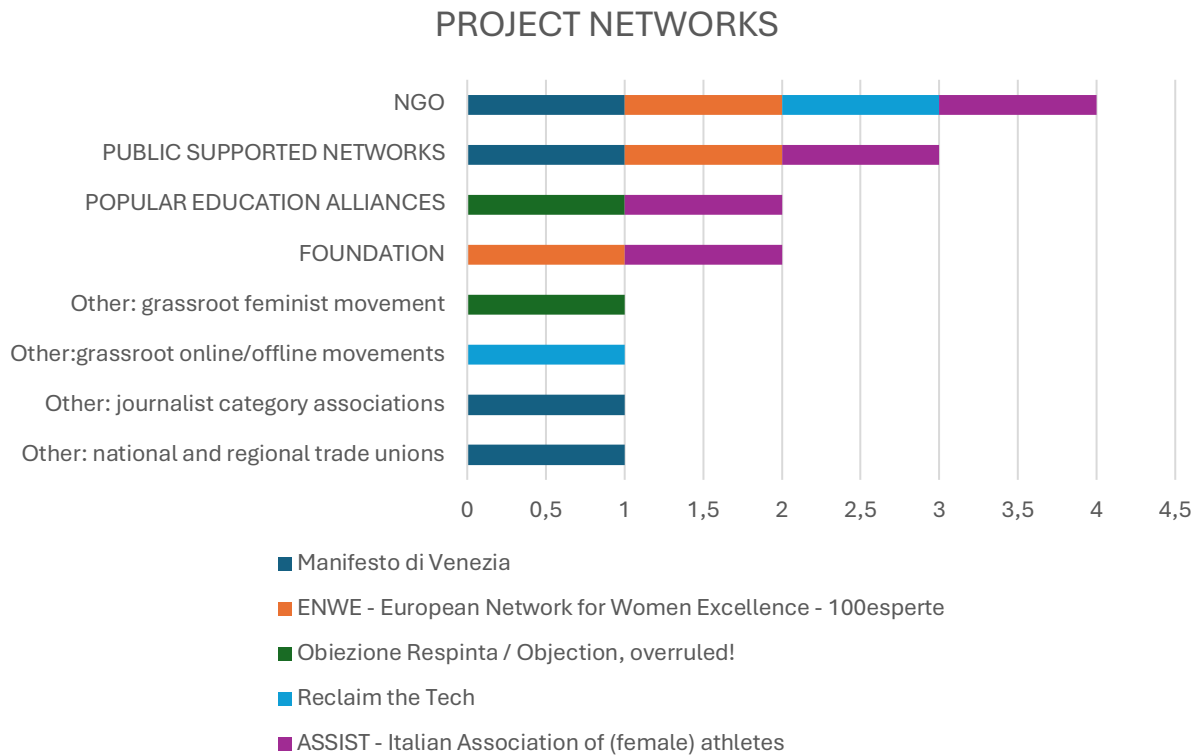


Figure 11

There is a variety of different networks in which the selected projects operate, that often do not overlap. The NGO sector and Public Supported networks are preferred by the majority of the projects.

There are two references to grassroots online/offline movements/grassroot feminist movements, thus informal networks. Trade unions and professional category associations are also mentioned.

### 3.8. Project funding

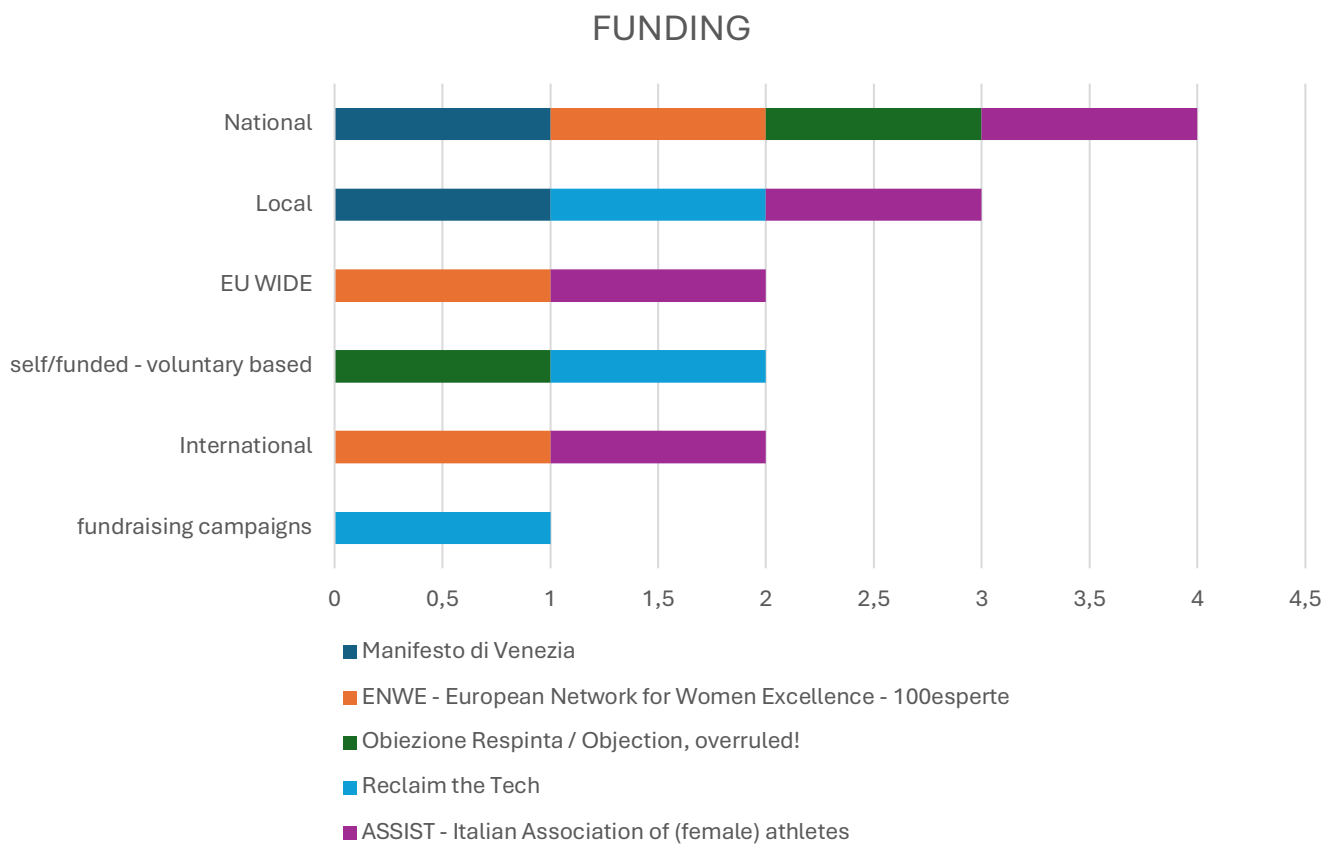


Figure 129

Most project are funded at national level and in lesser measure local level. Two projects declare EU wide funding AND International funding, thus transnational.

There are two additional categories that refer to fundraising campaigns and self-funding or voluntary based project funding. While those two categories could be mentioned as sub-categories of local level funding, they can be considered self-standing categories because they are not place bound, mostly happening online and thus mentionable across different categories.

### 3.9. Type of media used/targeted

Instagram and Facebook are the most targeted media. Again, the most striking data is the

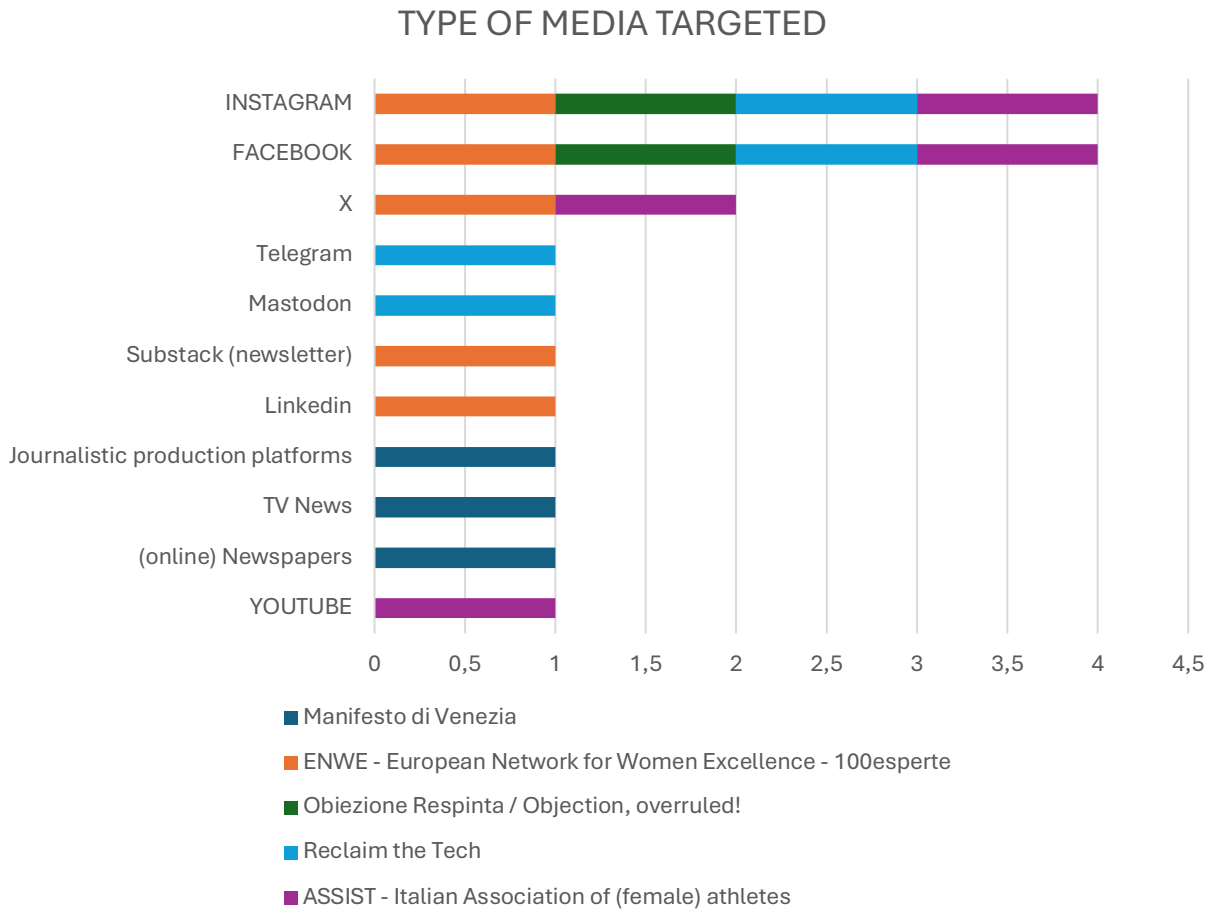
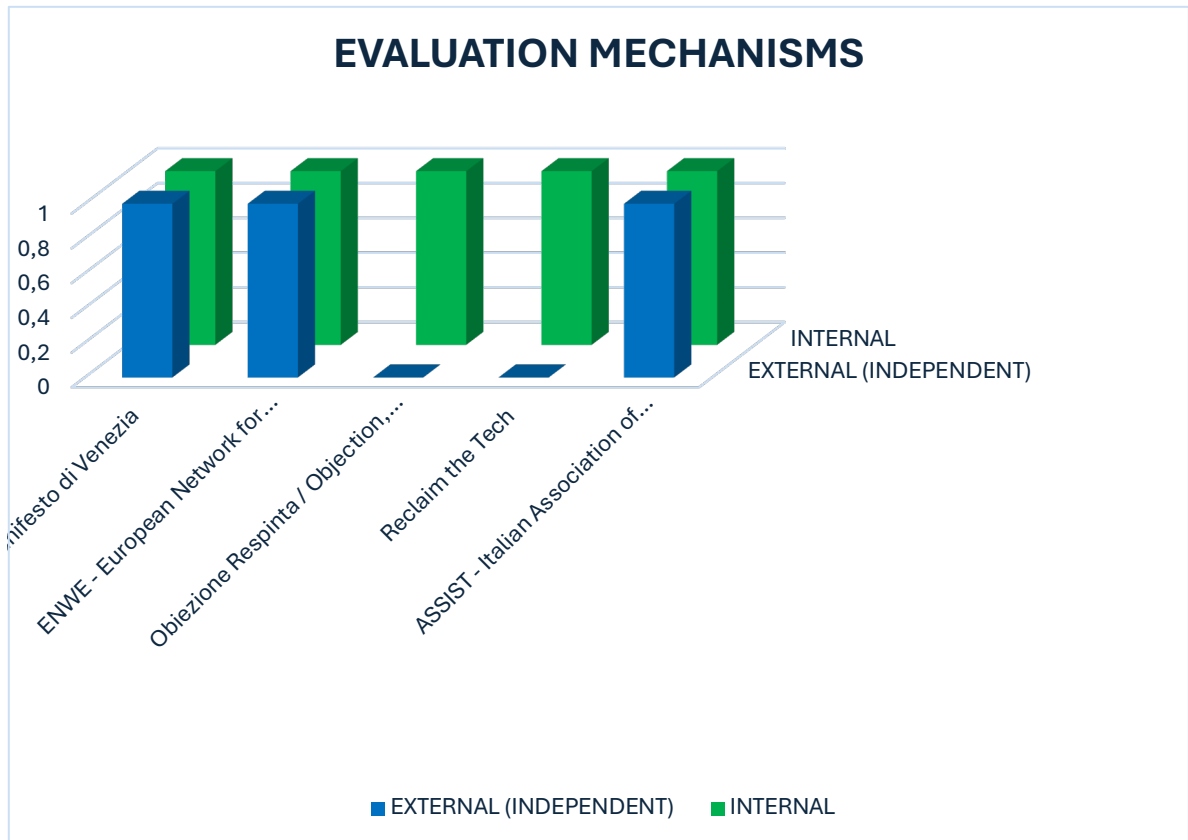


Figure 13

variability of targeted and/or used media from the different projects.

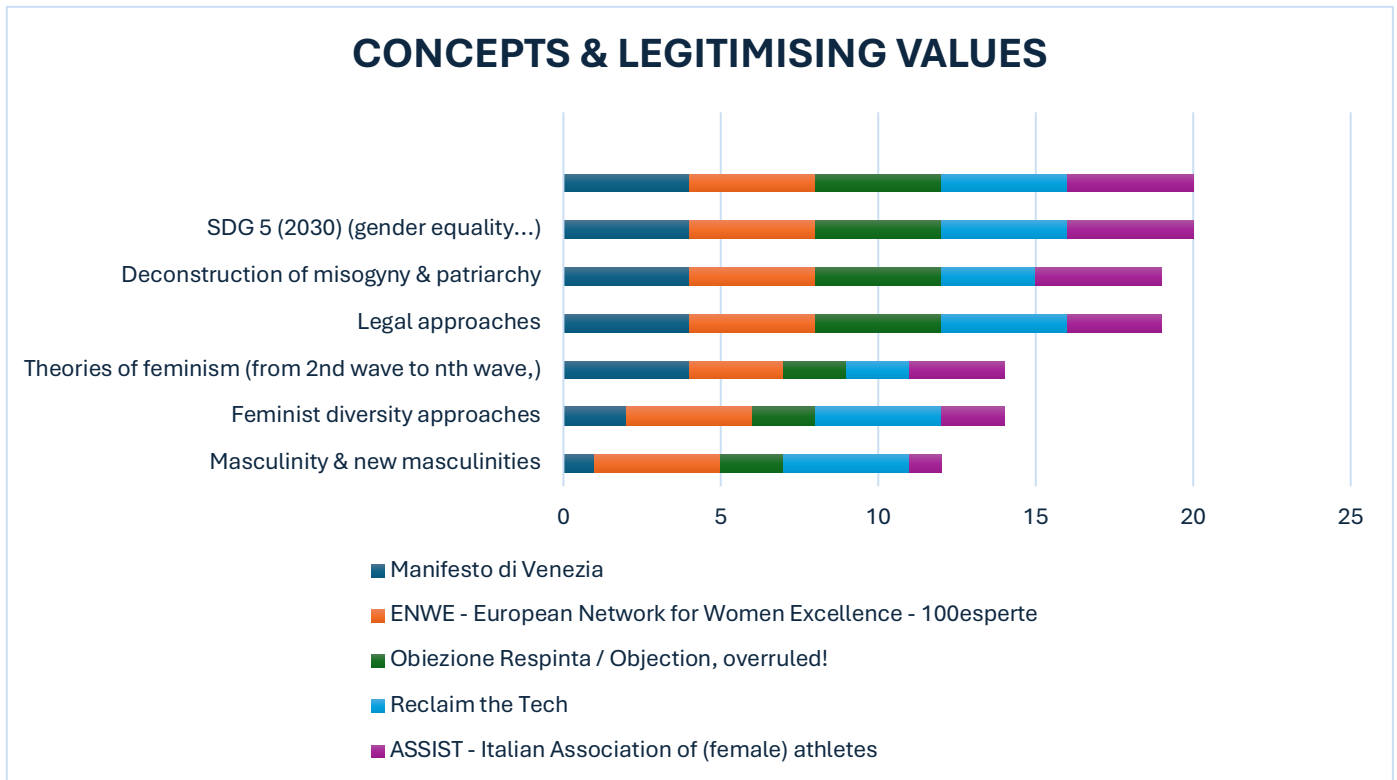
Formal projects invest in mainstream/offline media presence, and some other maintain their presence in hybrid online media such as newsletters (Substack) or LinkedIn, X and Youtube,. Informal projects are active or try to be active in alternative online media such as Mastodon and Telegram, considered to be more democratic and less filtered by censorship, to combat the mechanisms that reinforce gendered disinformation.

### 3.10. Evaluation mechanisms (inside and outside project)



Most projects are evaluated both externally and internally, due to the institutional nature of the organizations and the public recognition. Nonetheless, the evaluation is not transparently showed and there is no reporting mechanism directed at the general public. The two projects characterized by a higher degree of informality declare internal, peer-to-peer evaluation, but no external evaluation.

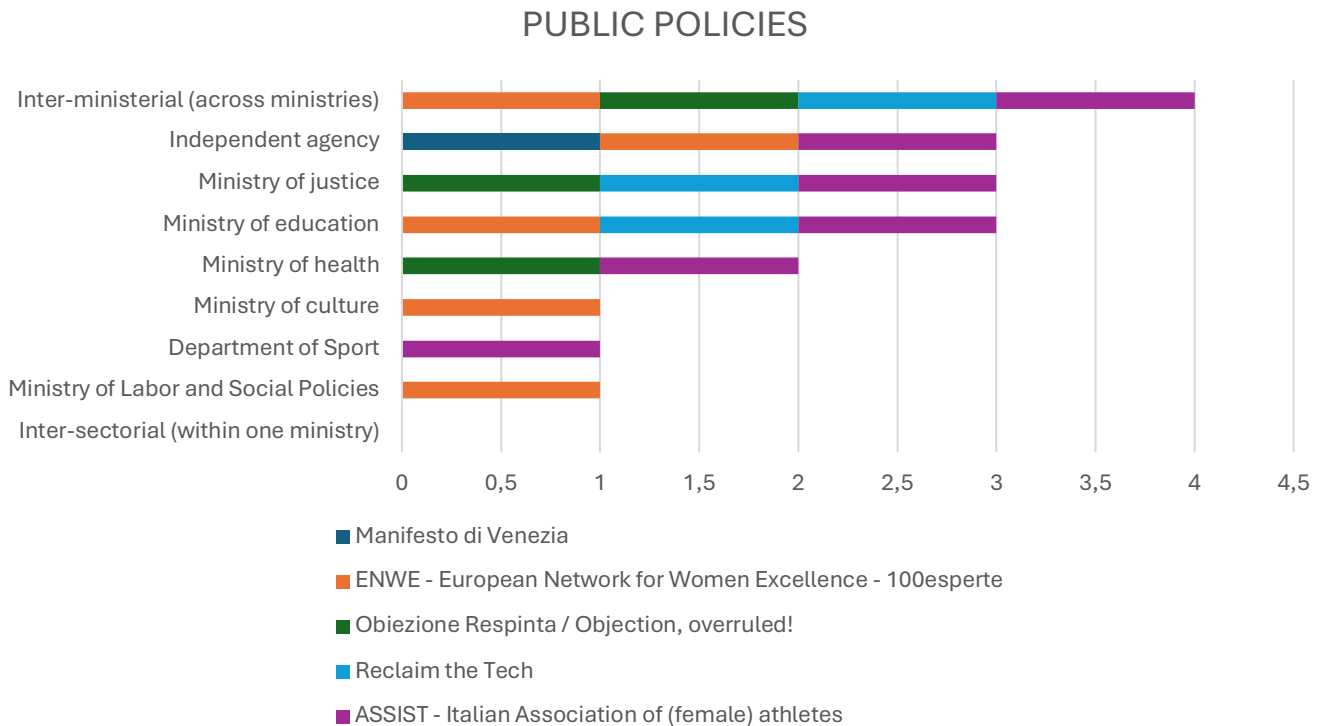
### 3.11. Main concepts and legitimizing values/concepts



When we look at the legitimizing values, we see that all projects stress the importance of deconstructing misogyny and patriarchy; also, there is a widespread reference to Sustainable Development Goals, or the 2030 agenda, regarding gender equality measures. Theories of Feminism and legal approaches to (online) gendered disinformation are also predominant, while themes of Ecofeminism are less present, even though not absent, in the core legitimizing concepts.

### 3.12. Public policies on Gender/Media

Finally, the research explored the reference to Public Policies, and once again the difference



between institutional projects and informal projects. The most common approach is inter-ministerial, where there is a combination of competences and public policies intertwined in project's activities.

Among single ministries and competences involved, the areas mostly addressed are of competence of the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Education, followed by the Ministry of Health.

### 3.13. Conclusion:

In conclusion, while notable progress has been made in addressing gender biases through media literacy initiatives in Italy, there remain critical areas that require further attention. The integration of comprehensive frameworks, enhanced policy implementation, improved transparency in evaluation, and stronger intersectoral partnerships are essential to measure the projects' impact and advancing these efforts and achieving lasting gender equality. The selected projects vary significantly in their aims and degrees of formalization, yet they share a common commitment to promoting gender equality and combating gender disinformation. Utilizing different media channels, these projects effectively reach diverse target groups, from professionals such as journalists and athletes to end-users. While some projects emphasize changing discourse and countering stereotypes to enhance women's image in media, others focus on practical strategies to resist everyday discrimination and misinformation. Collectively, these efforts aim to ensure women's rights to self-determination and full participation in democracy, addressing both the portrayal of gender in media and the practical obstacles women face in public and online spaces.

## 4. Public policies recommendations

### **Develop a gender Competence Framework, clearly detailing descriptors and expected outcomes**

As already recommended by authorities such as EIGE on gender mainstreaming<sup>8</sup> and by the Council of Europe's Gender Equality Strategy<sup>9</sup>, every measure in contrasting and combating gender disinformation would have quickly fading effects without a systematic development of gender equality competence frameworks. There is a proven need to define a gender competence framework as a useful reference for professionals in the education, social sectors, as well in life-long learning paths and in the definition and evaluation of public policies.

**Develop Comprehensive Frameworks:** Foster stronger collaborations across different sectors and areas of competence to address gender disinformation in a coordinated and effective way.

Both MIL Competence Framework and Gender Competence Frameworks would enhance monitoring and evaluation measures and enhance transparency and accountability.

**Enhance Policy Implementation:** Focus on increasing the number of projects dedicated to policy implementation and case studies to address the identified gaps and promote more effective gender equality measures.

Despite the existence of projects and initiatives that combat gender disinformation and advocate for gender equality and women's full access to human rights, these efforts are often not supported by public policies. There is a critical need for investment to bridge the gap between civil society's proactive efforts and the delayed and inadequate responses from public authorities, emphasizing the importance of structural measures and effective policy implementation.

### **Collect data and information through appropriate monitoring systems and tools**

Define a comprehensive monitoring system, based on appropriate tools to provide evidence-based results able to inform and inspire other policy makers and key stakeholders. The standardization and systematic collection of gender-disaggregated data have direct positive impact on awareness-raising initiatives by providing clear and detailed insights into gender-specific issues. These practices also enhance the ability to counteract phenomena of gender disinformation and violence by offering accurate data that inform and support targeted interventions and policies.

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<sup>8</sup> [https://eige.europa.eu/gender-mainstreaming/toolkits/gender-institutional-transformation/step-9-developing-gender-equality-competence?language\\_content\\_entity=en](https://eige.europa.eu/gender-mainstreaming/toolkits/gender-institutional-transformation/step-9-developing-gender-equality-competence?language_content_entity=en)

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.coe.int/en/web/genderequality/gender-equality-strategy>

## 5. Appendix: Projects' description

### 1. Manifesto di Venezia

**URL link:** <https://giulia.globalist.it/leggi/2018/12/29/manifesto-di-veneziah/>

**Place:** Venezia, IT <https://maps.app.goo.gl/ayYqwfhi8VeSBKfEA>

**Project summary:** The "Venice Manifesto" was published on November 25, 2017 in Venice, to promote respect and gender equality in the media. The manifesto was developed by the Equal Opportunities commissions of FNSI (the Italian National Press Federation) and USIGRALi (RAI's journalists union), along with the "GiULiA Giornaliste" association and the journalists of Sindacato Veneto, regional trade union. It provides recommendations on how to report on violence against women in a respectful manner, how to avoid gender stereotypes. The manifesto promotes the use of inclusive and gender-savvy language and the elimination of violent words and slurs through awareness actions carried out by FNSI and its territorial branches, along with regional organizations, with ad-hoc training courses, and collaborations with schools, universities, associations, and trade unions. The Venice Manifesto has been cited since 2020 among the best practices of Grevio, the group of experts that monitors the implementation of the Istanbul Convention against domestic and gender-based violence in different countries. After advocacy, it was partly incorporated into an article in the Italian journalists' code of ethics, which calls for appropriate language and highlighting women not only as victims but also as survivors and positive actors in the society. It was distributed in the newsrooms as guide line to address femicide e gender-based violence news.

### 2. ENWE - European Network for Women Excellence - 100esperte

**URL link:** <https://enwe.org/>

**Place:** Pavia, IT <https://maps.app.goo.gl/JhQb7VHHsMu1yHWAA>

**Project summary:** The ENWE project (European Network for Women Excellence) is a network of freely accessible databases. It was launched in 2019 by GiULiA Giornaliste Association, to counter the disinformation about the female expertise in the media and the under representation of the women as experts in the media narrative. According to the Global Media Monitoring Project, the women experts interviewed in the media in Italy are only 12%. ENWE answers the need for a fairer representation of society in the media, but also to enhance women's presence and contribution in the public discourse, by creating a database of women experts available for interviews, conferences, and panels. The database is active in Europe in various countries and in Italy at <https://100esperte.it/>, and it collects names and CVs of female STEM experts, a sector historically underrepresented by women but strategic for the socio-economic development. It was recently extended to Economics and Finance, International Politics, History and Philosophy, and Sport.

The initiative has created a scientifically informed, scalable database aimed at mapping women experts in various field to give visibility to women professionals and make their voices heard in the mainstream media.

### 3. Obiezione Respinta / Objection, overruled!

**URL link:** <https://obiezionerespinta.info/>

**Place:** Pisa, IT <https://maps.app.goo.gl/CwNopwi9xGBQjup8A>



**Project summary:** The initiative “*Obiezione Respinta*” (in English “Objection, overruled!”) aims at ensuring effectiveness of reproductive rights in Italy, by contrasting the increase in cases of “conscientious objection” among pharmacists and public hospitals in Italy, and by offering correct information regarding IVG procedures (voluntary termination of pregnancy). *Obiezione respinta* stems from the national (and international) movement “Non una di meno” (*Ni una menos*), and it promotes the right of self-determination of women with a self-managed platform that allows users to signal places where services are or not guaranteed. The website offers a (moderated and anonymous) grassroots collaborative mapping tool to track anti-choice practices in the national public health sector and in Pharmacies. It provides information to the public that ought to be transparent, especially opening hours, schedules and contact information of public health clinics. It also serves as a review mechanism regarding the quality and availability of access to reproductive rights across Italy. The initiative involves several independent researchers who might be affiliated to universities but are not explicitly funded by any institution, and it is to be considered grassroots feminist initiative.

#### 4. Reclaim the Tech

**URL link:** <https://reclaimthetech.it/>

**Place:** Bologna (IT) <https://maps.app.goo.gl/KLoWjVShZj4Cjy2e9>

**Project Summary** (From the website): “Reclaim the Tech is a movement of people, networks, and communities that want to reclaim technology and use it for a better tomorrow.

Together, we organize a festival built from the bottom up, and we operate as a travelling workshop of ideas and practices for the digital, social, ecological and gender justice. Our dream is to write an alternative story made of democratic and shared technologies, and of communities that use technology to take care of people and the environment.”

The initiative started in 2023, and is organized as a travelling festival, where an online community of tech experts and feminist activists (and both) gather to find solutions around the topics of technology and participatory practices. It focuses on transparency and inclusiveness of mainstream media, and works towards the creation and strengthening of democratic online spaces. It promotes the accessibility and equity of technology, against algorithmic bias and injustice. It is also active in awareness-raising online campaigns on the risks related to unregulated AI use, and on practices of feminist combat of hate speech and online disinformation campaigns.

#### 5. ASSIST - Italian Association of (female) athletes

**URL link:** <https://www.assistitaly.eu/>

**Place:** Rome (IT) <https://maps.app.goo.gl/ZPbXnj2dPC16CgGy7>

**Project summary:** *Assist Associazione Nazionale Atlete Aps* is the Italian association of female athletes, and aims to protect and represent the collective rights of female athletes of all sports disciplines operating at a competitive level, and of female sport operators (coaches, sport managers, communication professionals and journalists at all levels). Its main objectives are to raise awareness on all issues concerning equal rights in sport, equal access to sport, and the education of policy makers on the topics of inclusion and gender equality in the sports. Assist works against harassment in sport through awareness-raising and communication projects and in particular the SAVE Sport Abuse and Violence Elimination project. It organizes events, training curricula and study conferences and produces promotional materials, videos and multimedia productions, often working in cooperation with institutions, in particular through calls for tenders from the EU funding. The association

was set up in 2000 and is active and growing. It is active in leadership and education, but also in policy making and guidance, E+ funding and institutional presence. Also, it acts as promotor for the rights of female athletes in Italy, and in awareness raising campaigns against male violence.