IGNITED-POWER Project Kicks Off in Cyprus: A New European Initiative for LGBTQI+ Youth Empowerment

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Limassol, Cyprus – January 2024: The Erasmus+ Cooperation Partnership in Youth project *IGNITED-POWER: Inclusive Gender and Sexual Orientation Navigation for Transformation and Empowerment* held its 1st Transnational Partner Meeting on 22–23 January 2024 in Limassol, Cyprus.

Funded under the Erasmus+ KA220-YOU action, IGNITED-POWER brings together six partner organisations from Spain, Greece, Italy, Cyprus, and Romania to tackle marginalisation and prejudice faced by LGBTQI+ youth across Europe.

The kick-off meeting, hosted at RESET Social Space in Limassol, set the foundation for the 24-month project by aligning partners on strategic priorities and planning key activities. Over two days, the consortium worked on the project's five core work packages:

- **Project Management:** Coordination, quality assurance, and impact evaluation.
- **Development of the IGNITED-POWER Educational Package:** Creating innovative training materials for youth workers.
- **IGNITED-POWER Community Hub:** Building a multilingual digital platform to connect and empower youth.
- **IGNITED-POWER for Change:** Co-creating practice and policy recommendations with young people and experts.
- **Communication and Dissemination:** Designing strategies to reach more than 300,000 people across the EU.

Partners also discussed upcoming milestones, including the Training Course for Youth Workers, the Open Resource e-Toolbox, and the launch of the participatory Validation Team comprising youth and gender identity specialists.

IGNITED-POWER directly supports the **EU LGBTIQ Equality Strategy 2020–2025** and the **EU Youth Strategy 2019–2027**. Over the next two years, the project will engage 75 youth workers and 180 young people, producing educational resources, podcasts, and digital tools to enhance inclusion and empower LGBTQI+ communities across Europe.

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