

SAFEFEED Youth

Concept note for potential CERV-2026-DAPHNE consortium collaborators

Core initiative partners: ZenFeed and Clínica ART / Proyecto ART

Potential call topics: CERV-2026-DAPHNE-CHILDREN and CERV-2026-DAPHNE-PREVENTION

Call deadline: 5 November 2026

Purpose of this document: to open conversations with potential consortium partners and existing Daphne initiatives.

1. Executive summary

SAFEFEED Youth is a proposed European initiative to reduce young people's exposure to online violence, cyberbullying, hate speech, toxic comments and harmful digital interactions. The project combines technology, clinical psychology, child and youth protection, research, education, civil society implementation and awareness-raising.

The initiative is currently driven by two complementary partners: **ZenFeed**, a Polish technology initiative developing an AI-supported tool for detecting and filtering harmful online comments; and **Clínica ART / Proyecto ART**, a Spanish clinical and research-oriented mental health group with experience in psychological care, psychoeducation, research activity and collaboration with universities.

The concept is designed to be developed with additional consortium partners, especially NGOs, youth organisations, child protection actors, schools, universities, research groups, digital rights organisations and public-interest networks. The project can be adapted either to a child-protection route under CERV-2026-DAPHNE-CHILDREN or to a gender-based online violence prevention route under CERV-2026-DAPHNE-PREVENTION.

2. Strategic rationale

Online violence is increasingly part of the lived experience of children, adolescents and young people. It appears in public comments, social media platforms, groups, private or semi-private digital spaces and youth-facing online communities. The harms include cyberbullying, humiliation, threats, body-shaming, misogyny, racism, xenophobia, LGBTQ+phobia, public ridicule and coordinated harassment.

From a psychological perspective, repeated exposure to harmful comments can become a form of chronic digital stress. It may affect anxiety, shame, self-esteem, body image, perceived safety, sleep, social withdrawal, self-censorship and willingness to participate online. Existing responses often remain reactive: block, report, delete or ignore. SAFEFEED Youth proposes a more preventive, evidence-informed and child-centred model.

The project aims to move from isolated moderation responses toward a structured European intervention model: detect harmful patterns, reduce exposure, support trusted adults, generate research evidence, provide psychological education and strengthen safer digital environments.

3. Fit with CERV-2026-DAPHNE

Potential topic	Proposed fit
CERV-2026-DAPHNE-CHILDREN	A child and adolescent protection project focused on online violence, cyberbullying, hate speech and harmful comment exposure. It can support child-centred, coordinated responses through technology, schools, NGOs, mental health expertise and research evaluation.
CERV-2026-DAPHNE-PREVENTION	A prevention project focused on gender-based online violence, especially misogynistic abuse, sexualised harassment, body-shaming and attacks targeting girls, adolescent girls and young women.

4. Core partners and contribution

Partner	Country	Contribution
ZenFeed	Poland	Technology partner. ZenFeed has moved beyond proof-of-concept and is currently at MVP stage, focused on AI-supported detection and filtering of harmful public comments. Its role could include tool adaptation, platform integration, responsible AI workflows, comment classification, dashboards and anonymised reporting for pilots.
Clínica ART / Proyecto ART	Spain	Clinical and research partner. Clínica ART is a mental health clinic and research-oriented group that collaborates with universities. Its role could include the psychological framework, clinical interpretation, psychoeducational materials, workshops, wellbeing indicators, research coordination and support in inviting university collaborators to the initiative.

5. Proposed project structure

The project can be organised into four work streams that combine the earlier strategic concept with practical development options identified during internal planning.

Work stream 1 — Prevention and protection pilots

Pilot SAFEFEED Youth with NGOs, schools, youth communities, creators with young audiences or organisations exposed to online hate. The aim would be to reduce exposure to harmful comments and test practical response pathways in real settings.

Work stream 2 — Technology adaptation and responsible AI

Adapt ZenFeed for public-interest use: improve harmful comment detection, develop multilingual categories, explore additional platforms, create anonymised analytics and test European, GDPR-conscious technical infrastructure where feasible.

Work stream 3 — Research and evaluation

Build evidence with research and university partners. Possible research areas include psychological impact of reduced exposure, patterns of online hostility, escalation dynamics, detection of harmful intent, and pre/post changes in perceived safety, agency, emotional burden or body image concerns.

Work stream 4 — Education, training and dissemination

Develop workshops, psychoeducational materials, toolkits and public awareness resources for young people, families, educators, youth workers, NGOs and moderators. Dissemination would translate research and technology into practical social impact.

6. Possible project activities

- Needs assessment with young people, educators, families, NGOs, moderators and mental health professionals.
- Development of a taxonomy of harmful online interactions: cyberbullying, humiliation, threats, body-shaming, misogyny, racism, xenophobia, LGBTIQ+phobia, harassment and coordinated attacks.
- Pilot implementation of ZenFeed with selected organisations and communities.
- Creation of consent, GDPR, safeguarding and ethics protocols, especially if minors or research data are involved.
- Pre/post evaluation of perceived safety, sense of agency, helplessness, emotional burden, body image concerns and willingness to remain present online.
- Psychoeducational materials on online hate, shame, anxiety, digital boundaries, body image, help-seeking and safer online participation.
- Training for NGOs, schools, youth workers, families and moderators on recognising and responding to online violence.
- University collaboration for research design, ethics review, data analysis and publication-quality outputs.
- Awareness-raising through reports, webinars, public articles, policy/practice briefs, NGO toolkits and school resources.

7. Research potential

The initiative has strong research potential because it sits at the intersection of digital mental health, online violence prevention, youth wellbeing, social psychology, platform behaviour and responsible AI. With appropriate consent and ethical safeguards, the project could generate evidence on both the nature of harmful comment environments and the psychological effects of reducing exposure to them.

Potential university collaborators could contribute to methodology, ethics approval, validated scales, qualitative interviews, quantitative analysis, impact evaluation and academic dissemination. Clínica ART / Proyecto ART can help coordinate the clinical and psychological research dimension and invite university partners already connected to its research network or new universities aligned with the topic.

8. Consortium partners sought

Partner type	Possible role
Youth / child protection NGO	Implementation with children, adolescents, families and professionals; safeguarding expertise; access to target groups.
University / research centre	Research design, ethics approval, evaluation methodology, data analysis and publications.
Schools / youth networks	Pilot contexts, educator involvement and real-world validation.
Digital rights / legal / AI ethics partner	GDPR, child rights, responsible AI, data minimisation, transparency and freedom of expression safeguards.
Civil society / awareness partner	European dissemination, advocacy, public education, stakeholder engagement and campaign development.

9. Expected results

- A tested European model for reducing young people's exposure to harmful online comments.
- Improved capacity of NGOs, schools and youth professionals to recognise and respond to online violence.
- Practical resources for young people, families, educators and moderators.
- Evidence on psychological and social effects of safer comment environments.

- A responsible, GDPR-conscious and human-oversight-based approach to AI-supported moderation.
- A stronger network of technology, mental health, research and civil society partners for future European collaboration.

10. Ethics, safeguarding and limits

- The project should be designed around child safeguarding, informed consent/assent, referral pathways and professional oversight.
- Any use of comment data for research must follow GDPR, data minimisation, anonymisation and clear retention rules.
- AI-supported classification must remain transparent, limited, bias-aware and subject to human oversight.
- The project should clearly distinguish criticism, disagreement, conflict, hate speech, harassment and abuse.
- The initiative does not claim to provide therapy or diagnosis; it aims to reduce exposure to harmful digital interactions and support safer online environments.

11. Proposed next steps

- Validate the best Daphne route: CHILDREN, PREVENTION or a dual-track strategy.
- Identify whether ZenFeed and Clínica ART should join an existing consortium or build one with a suitable lead partner.
- Invite universities and research groups aligned with digital mental health, cyberbullying, youth wellbeing, body image, social psychology, platform studies or responsible AI.
- Hold exploratory calls with NGOs, universities and child/youth protection actors.
- Develop a full proposal structure with work packages, deliverables, budget logic, partner roles and impact indicators.

Contact

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