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### SONDER – A Vision for Inclusivity and Change

The European Union-funded project **SONDER: Each Life is as Vivid and Complex as Any Other** has been officially launched as part of the CERV-2024-CITIZENS-REM-HISTMIGRATION initiative. SONDER responds to the urgent need to confront racism, xenophobia, and discrimination, particularly within the context of Europe's historical and ongoing challenges with migration, colonialism, and imperialism.

Taking inspiration from the concept of "**sonder**"—the realization that every person leads a life as rich and complex as our own—this project aims to highlight the lived experiences of those affected by racial discrimination, fostering a deeper societal understanding and empathy. The initiative seeks to challenge the so-called "colorblind" approach to race, which often dismisses the realities faced by people of color, including African migrants, and instead promotes a shift toward "Color Consciousness." Recognizing the role of race in social experiences is a crucial step in combating discrimination and fostering inclusion.

SONDER has received an outstanding 97.5 out of 100 evaluation score under the European Remembrance program of the **Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) Programme**. It is aligned with **Priority 3: Migration, De-colonization, and Multicultural European Societies** and will be implemented over 24 months (April 1, 2025 – March 31, 2027).

Over the course of two years, **SONDER** will implement a series of impactful activities aimed at raising awareness and fostering intercultural dialogue, including in-depth interviews documenting the stories and experiences of African migrant women in Europe, bringing visibility to their challenges and contributions.

The project will also incorporate creative storytelling and visual arts, developing comics, drawing, painting, sculpture, engraving, photography, video, filmmaking, to make these narratives more accessible to European



audiences. Workshops and educational materials will be developed to engage educators, students, artists, and policymakers in discussions about racial discrimination, aiming to create a more inclusive and multicultural mindset within society.

The **SONDER** project brings together a dynamic partnership of organizations dedicated to social inclusion and empowerment. **EKE (Greek Kenyan Chamber of Commerce)** is active in economic, cultural, social, educational and scientific fields and serves as the project coordinator. **ComMedi (Communities of Mediterranean) – Greece** is a social enterprise committed to youth empowerment, cultural exchange, and civil society development. **CESIE – Italy** is a non-profit organization focusing on education and community engagement, inspired by the work of sociologist Danilo Dolci. **European Network of Women of African Descent (ENWAD) – Spain** is a grassroots network advocating for civil rights, gender equality, and the empowerment of women and youth from minority backgrounds. **A.B. Institute of Entrepreneurship Development Ltd. – Cyprus** is an organization dedicated to innovation, digital skills development, and entrepreneurship training.

**SONDER** represents a critical step in dismantling systemic racism and fostering a more inclusive European society. By amplifying marginalized voices and promoting empathy-driven dialogue, the project not only addresses immediate discriminatory challenges but also works toward long-term social change. Through storytelling, education, and community engagement, **SONDER** aspires to inspire transformation, celebrate diversity, and ensure that every individual's story is seen, heard, and valued.



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