REINFORCING

Action 2:
Development and Validation of the Ethics-in-Practice Framework

During the second phase of the project, significant progress was made in the development, refinement, and validation of the Ethics-in-Practice Framework for Educators and Students. Building upon the methodological foundations established in Action 1, the project focused on stakeholder engagement, qualitative research, and the co-design of practical tools to support responsible digital transformation and AI adoption in higher education.

A key achievement of this phase was the preparation of the first draft of the Ethics-in-Practice Framework, including its core chapters covering ethical and conceptual foundations, institutional and technological contexts, participatory methodology, the ORRI Translation Map, and the structure of the Ethics-in-Practice Toolbox.

To ensure that the Framework reflects the needs and experiences of its intended users, the project team conducted focus groups involving students, educators, researchers, and institutional representatives from both partner institutions. The findings provided valuable insights into ethical challenges, institutional needs, and the practical implications of AI and digital technologies in higher education. These insights directly informed the refinement of the Framework and the development of stakeholder-oriented tools and guidance materials.

The project also organised internal and external co-design and validation workshops, enabling participants to assess the relevance, usability, and applicability of the proposed tools and Framework components across different institutional contexts. Feedback collected through these activities contributed to the further improvement of the Framework and its supporting instruments.

As a result of Action 2, the project delivered:

1. Draft Chapters 1–6 of the Ethics-in-Practice Framework, providing the core conceptual, methodological, and operational structure of the Framework;
2. A robust evidence base derived from stakeholder engagement and qualitative research conducted at Belgrade Metropolitan University (BMU) and University Adriatic (UA);
3. A refined ORRI Translation Map linking ORRI principles with stakeholder-specific practices, practical instruments, and implementation pathways;
4. A structured Ethics-in-Practice Toolbox containing practical resources, templates, checklists, and guidelines tailored to educators, students, researchers, and institutions;
5. Initial validation of Framework components and Toolbox instruments through participatory co-design workshops;

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6. A deeper understanding of institutional contexts, digital environments, and levels of AI maturity across partner institutions, strengthening the Framework's adaptability and transferability.

These achievements establish a solid foundation for the next phase of the project, which will focus on the further development of practical instruments, pilot implementation, training activities, and broader validation of the Ethics-in-Practice Framework in real higher education environments.

Focus groups link to news:

Student Focus Group Held at Belgrade Metropolitan University

1. news 1
2. news 2
3. news 3

Student Focus Group Successfully Held at the University Adriatik

1. news 1
2. news 2
3. news 3

Working Visit to the University Adriatic in Bar, Montenegro (April 2026) (Picture 1, Picture 2 and Picture 3):



Picture 1.

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Picture 2.

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Picture 3.

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