

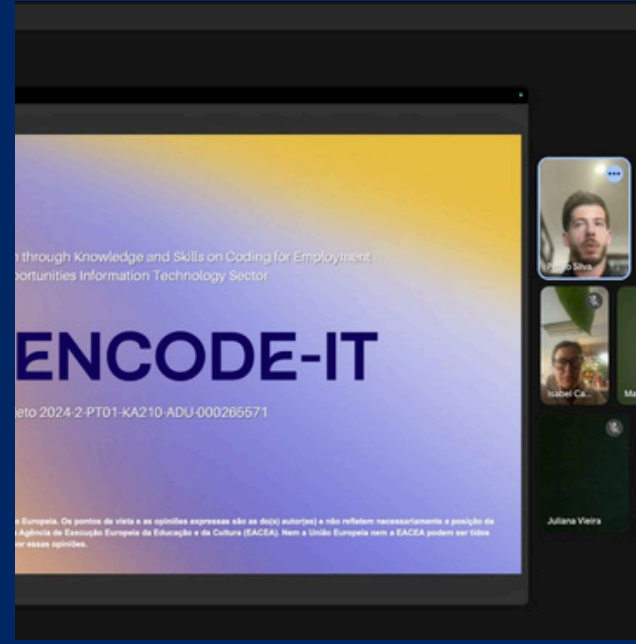
NEWSLETTER – III

VIRTUAL BOOTCAMPS EMPOWER WOMEN THROUGH AI-SUPPORTED DIGITAL CREATION

BUILDING PRACTICAL AI SKILLS ACROSS PORTUGAL, TÜRKİYE, AND BELGIUM

The ENCODE-IT project successfully completed its Virtual Bootcamp activities implemented by APPIS, IGEA, and SDSN in Portugal, Türkiye, and Belgium. The bootcamps brought together women from diverse backgrounds, including students, unemployed women, housewives, and newly graduated participants interested in digital transformation and artificial intelligence.

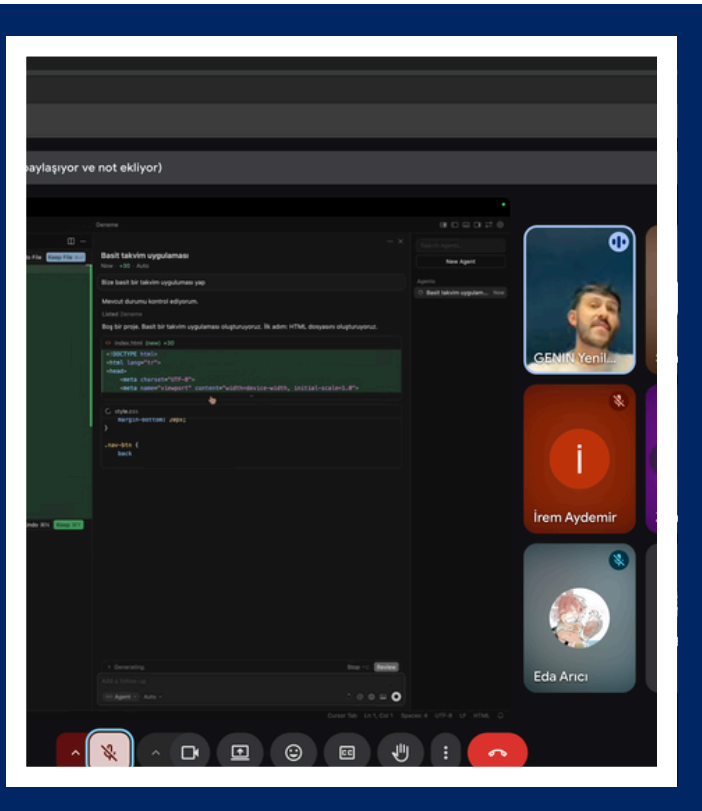
The sessions focused on accessible and practical AI-supported learning experiences designed to reduce technological barriers and strengthen women's confidence in digital environments. Participants explored how AI can support creativity, productivity, workflow management, and digital production through hands-on activities and collaborative learning.



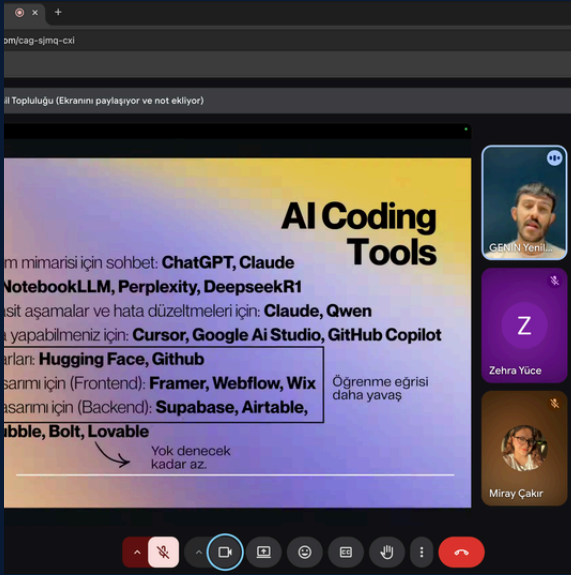
A PRACTICAL AND AI-FIRST LEARNING EXPERIENCE

The ENCODE-IT Virtual Bootcamps adopted an AI-first educational approach centered on experimentation, accessibility, and real-world application. Participants practiced using tools such as ChatGPT, Claude, Cursor, GitHub Copilot, and several no-code and low-code platforms while learning about prompt engineering, workflow logic, and AI-supported creation.

The activities emphasized that artificial intelligence can become an accessible and empowering tool when supported through inclusive and practical educational methods. Many participants created AI-assisted outputs and explored digital production processes for the first time.



SUPPORTING WOMEN IN DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION



The ENCODE-IT Virtual Bootcamps strongly contributed to the project's broader objective of increasing women's participation in digital transformation processes across Europe. By combining accessibility, practical experimentation, AI literacy, and collaborative learning, the activities demonstrated that technology can become more inclusive when educational approaches are adapted to real participant needs.

The bootcamps also strengthened participants' awareness regarding employability, future-oriented digital competencies, and lifelong learning opportunities. Many women expressed increased motivation to continue exploring AI-supported technologies within their academic, personal, and professional lives.

FROM AI LITERACY TO DIGITAL CREATION: HOW THE ENCODE-IT VIRTUAL BOOTCAMPS HELPED WOMEN EXPLORE AI, BUILD CONFIDENCE, AND DEVELOP PRACTICAL DIGITAL SKILLS

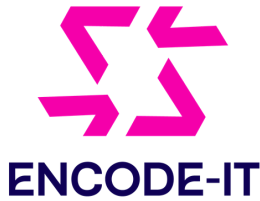
The Virtual Bootcamps represented one of the most important practical learning phases of the ENCODE-IT project. Through a progressive and accessible learning structure, participants moved from understanding the basic logic behind artificial intelligence to actively experimenting with AI-supported systems within practical digital production environments.

The educational content covered several interconnected themes, including "Why Code with AI?", "Design Thinking with AI", "AI Coding Tools and Usage", "Algorithm Logic and Prompt Engineering", "Workflow, Automation and Agent Logic", and "Product Development with AI". These themes helped participants understand that modern digital creation is no longer limited to advanced programmers and that AI-supported technologies can significantly lower technical barriers for beginners and non-technical users.

Throughout the bootcamp activities, participants practiced writing effective prompts, understanding workflow structures, experimenting with no-code systems, and exploring AI-supported application development environments.

They were also introduced to modern AI tools such as ChatGPT, Claude, Cursor, GitHub Copilot, Replit, and Google AI Studio, allowing them to explore how artificial intelligence can support idea generation, organization, productivity, communication, and creative problem-solving. The sessions strongly emphasized practical experimentation and hands-on learning. Instead of focusing only on theory, participants actively tested digital tools, explored AI-supported creation processes, and developed small practical outputs. This approach helped many women overcome their fear of technology and increased their confidence regarding digital participation and innovation.

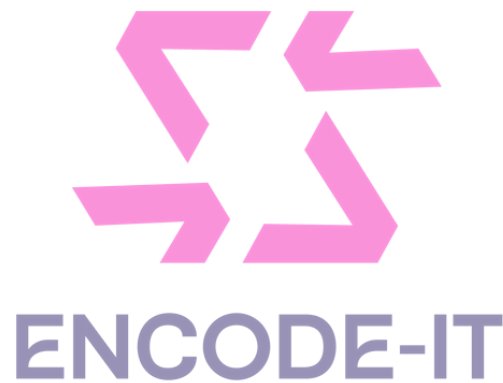
Another important outcome of the bootcamp activities was the creation of an inclusive, collaborative, and motivating learning environment. Participants from Portugal, Türkiye, and Belgium were encouraged to exchange ideas, support one another, and collaborate throughout the training process. This international and participant-centered structure contributed not only to digital skills development but also to confidence building, intercultural learning, social inclusion, and women's active participation in digital transformation processes.



Empowering Women through Knowledge and Skills on Coding for Employment Opportunities in Information Technology Sector

ENCODE-IT PROJECT 2024-2-PT01-KA210-ADU-000265571

This project has been funded with the support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.



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