



# The European Youth Foundation & the No Hate Speech Movement



**Youth projects combating hate speech online, supported by the European Youth Foundation**

# Foreword

*Young People Combating Hate Speech Online* is a campaign initiated by the youth representatives in the Joint Council on Youth and being run by the Council of Europe's youth sector since 2012. It aims to combat racism and discrimination, as expressed online as hate speech, by mobilising young people and youth organisations to recognise and act against such human rights violations.

Combating hate speech has been one of the strategic priorities for the programme of the Council of Europe's youth sector since 2012. These priorities are followed by the Programming Committee on Youth, which is the co-managed body taking decisions on the programme of the youth sector and on the grants awarded by the European Youth Foundation.

Since the launch of the campaign, more than 77 projects with a local, national and international dimension have been supported by the European Youth Foundation within this framework, in more than 28 member countries of the Council of Europe.

With this publication, the European Youth Foundation would like to outline its involvement in the No Hate Speech Movement campaign and to present examples of projects that illustrate the diversity of initiatives that are being supported. The role of the Foundation in combating hate speech is ongoing and will continue for as long as the campaign is running.

October 2015



Map illustrating the projects supported by the European Youth Foundation within the framework of the No Hate Speech Movement campaign and presented in this publication.

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## No Hate Speech Movement Ireland - youth activist event and launch

### National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI) - Ireland



A training course for young activists, to acquire skills to counter online hate speech and to prepare launching events for the national **No Hate Speech Movement campaign** in Ireland. The project responded to the trend of increasing incidents of hate speech by encouraging young people to adopt an active stance against human rights abuses with creative ways.

The June 2014 training addressed digital literacy, human rights education, safe online practice and behaviour, confronting hate speech and cyber bullying. The young activists were equipped with the tools of critical thinking, writing skills, creative methodologies (video, photography, graphics) and drama, all to be applied in public actions against hate speech.

*“We learnt a lot about running the campaign during that phase. We are now bringing our campaign experiences to Northern Ireland.”*



Within the framework of this training course, the [website](#) that hosts the official National Campaign Committee of Ireland for the **No Hate Speech Movement** was developed and launched.



Another output from this project was a [video](#) that illustrates the impact on victims of hate speech and invites people to say “No” to this phenomenon and to join the **No Hate Speech Movement**. Overall, with this project **NYCI** achieved extensive awareness raising about the campaign and introduced a discourse on hate speech in Ireland that was previously absent.

## Virtual Feels Real

LIBERO – Serbia



*"Virtual Feels Real started with 12 enthusiasts and speaks the language of youth using channels and images that are familiar to them. The fact that those 12 people multiplied to hundreds and thousands of high school students all around Serbia by the end of the project shows how successful this project was and how well accepted by the target group."*

Carried out in 2013 and 2014, the “Virtual Feels Real” activities aimed to fight discrimination and violence in social media, particularly hate speech.

The 2013 activity grew from a local to a nation-wide campaign, training 40 young peer educators who then transferred their skills and knowledge to thousands of youth around Serbian schools. Workshops were used to explain what hate speech is, how to recognise and react to it, using tolerance as means to

fight discrimination, discussing the legal aspect (forbidding discrimination), safe ways to use the Internet, etc.

The outcome: a [Virtual Feels Real website](#), publication “[A-to-Z Virtual feels real](#)”, [leaflets](#), posters and a network of young people aware of hate speech and how to protect themselves and others from it. [Libero](#) believes to have reached 2500 high school students.

*"EYF recognised our idea and supported us throughout the pilot period, which enabled kick-off of this project. Afterwards other donors saw it as a successful one and supported it as well."*

The “Virtual Feels Real” 2014 project was a continuation of the 2013 campaign and aimed at challenging the causes of hate speech, while creating support for young victims.

Young people were trained on human rights, discrimination, hate speech online and were supported in transferring their skills to their peers, creating a snowball effect.



## No Hate No Discrimination

Youth Space - Georgia



The 6-day training course organised in November 2014 aimed to motivate participants to become activists of human rights education and the **No Hate Speech Movement**.

Participants developed their skills in planning, developing and implementing activities on human rights education and hate speech, increased their knowledge on the **No Hate Speech Movement campaign** and designed an action plan.

During the action day in Rustavi, graffiti footprints of **no hate hearts** followed by a flash mob against discrimination in the main city square were organised.

**Youth Space** produced an [official video](#) of the action day and a documentary in Georgian which were shared on social media. As a follow-up action plan activity, informal presentations were made at Tbilisi State University and ["Take a Selfie –say no to hate speech"](#) action was launched.



*"Participants initiated follow-up activities and till today they are actively involved with the organisation as volunteers... In 2016 we are planning two more national trainings."*

## Wipe Out Hate: Stop Hate Speech Online

United for Intercultural Action - European Network against Nationalism, Racism, Fascism and in Support of Migrants and Refugees (UNITED) - *The Netherlands and Czech Republic*

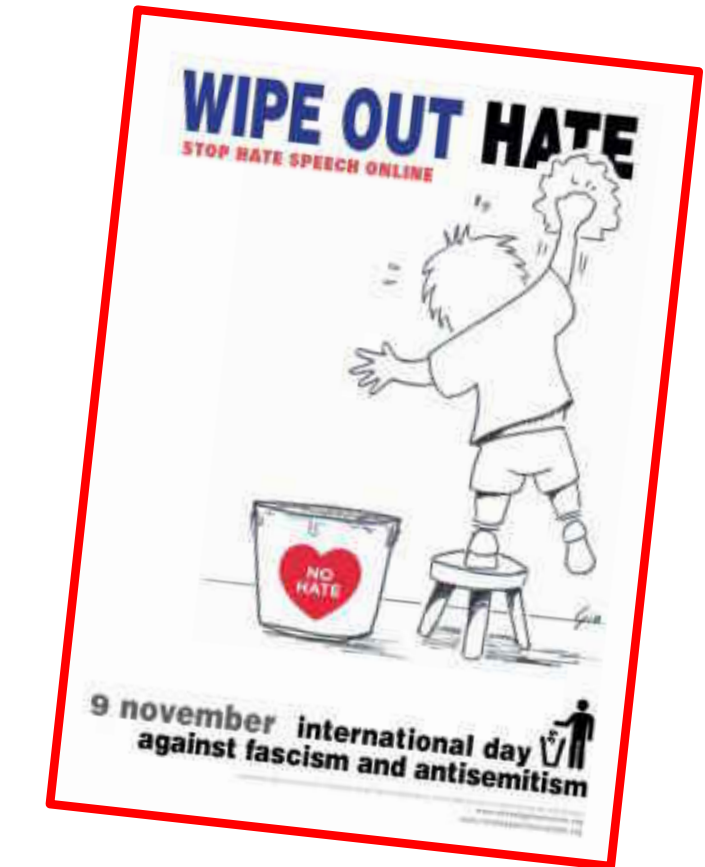
During 2013, the “Wipe Out Hate: Stop Hate Speech Online” campaign aimed to raise awareness and respond to the trend in growing populism in Europe also by mobilising young activists against hate speech and intolerance online.

The International Day Against Fascism and Antisemitism on 9 November was used as coordination date for the campaign.

Material prepared included: [posters](#), [leaflets](#) and [postcards](#). A media release was sent out ahead of the official launch.

Information was provided during the campaign via a new [website](#) and a [Facebook](#) page. Activists and NGOs were encouraged to join the organised activities. Events were featured on an interactive map, while the “Wipe Out Hate! UNITED in Solidarity” conference was an opportunity for the antiracism movement to gather and develop concrete ideas against hate speech.

[UNITED](#) estimates to have reached most Council of Europe member states. Events took place in 42 countries; 238 people took an active stance against online hate, 35000 posters were distributed throughout Europe.



Organised in October 2013, “Wipe Out Hate! UNITED in Solidarity” conference brought together activists from 33 European countries in response to the growing populism and in the run-up to the EU 2014 elections.

The aim: to provide a platform for the antiracism movement to share information, good practices, develop partnerships and cooperation, and mobilise concretely against online and offline hate. An action was organised by participants in the centre of Prague in support of the Roma community of Ostrava, who were threatened by a Nazi-march on the same day.



# Training Course on combating online hate speech manifestations of Anti-gypsyism

Amaro Drom - Germany



Having noticed that dominant media discourses construct the identity of Roma people around stereotypes, in addition to increased number of hate messages appearing in the virtual space, [Amaro Drom](#) organised a training course in Berlin on 2 – 5 October 2014, to equip young Roma activists with the skills to recognise, expose and deconstruct online and offline manifestations of anti-Gypsyism.

The young activists analysed cases of hate speech against Roma on the news media and the social media platforms, including those concealed in seemingly neutral forms of expression. They got familiarized with existing tools of online and offline activism and they learned how to react within the social media platforms and how to produce their own, visual materials for the purpose of anti-Gypsyism campaigning.

*“The participants were trained as multipliers of the messages of the No Hate Speech Movement campaign and have used their social media channels in order to disseminate the results of the campaign.”*



Two social spots were produced as an output of the project: a humorous video that puts a Roma family into “the shoes” of a German family with stereotypic perceptions, aiming to [turn prejudices upside down](#).

And a spot where Roma youngsters present themselves [with pride](#) and invite people to challenge their prejudices. Both were widely disseminated through the social media platforms of the organisation and through diverse networks.



## Final Conference of Online Hate Speech as a Cybercrime programme

European Law Students Association (ELSA) - Norway



ELSA organised the “Conference on Online Hate Speech” in December 2013 in Oslo as the final step of its operational plan for 2012-2013 on informal legal education. The conference presented the results of the Legal Research Project on Online Hate Speech as a cybercrime and addressed the trend of online hate speech from a criminal law perspective with law students and young lawyers from 20 countries members of the Council of Europe.

The Legal Research Project was a research group, introduced by [ELSA](#) together with the Council of Europe, intended for exploring the legal environments regarding online hate speech in different countries. During the conference, the results of the research were discussed and several workshops explored specific case laws of the European Court of Human Rights, as well as practical patterns and motives of online hate speech. A final report was produced, collecting the legal status quo on online hate speech at national level, from 17 countries members of the Council of Europe.

With this publication, distributed to 330 faculties, [ELSA](#) aimed at providing young legal professionals with a tool to increase their awareness on legal and moral considerations related to online hate speech, to contribute to legal education and to foster a Europe wide approach to the challenges of online hate speech.



*“ ... a network of 41,000 law students became aware of the importance of combating hate speech. This success would not be achieved without the valuable coordination of the Council of Europe and the support of the European Youth Foundation for the organisation of a forum where young people exchanged their ideas on this contemporary issue.”*

## No Hate Speech Regional Bus

Serbian Association for Youth (UMS) - Serbia

Implemented as a 7-day regional tour in August 2014, the “No Hate Speech Regional Bus” project promoted the No Hate Speech Movement campaign and raised awareness of the consequences that online hate speech has on the lives of real people, especially young people who

are the most affected by this type of violence.



35 young volunteers travelled together in a branded bus through Serbia, Hungary, Republic of Slovakia, Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro. At each stop they organised public events, such as a flash mob, and distributed promotional material. Thousands of brochures

were handed out and various videos made and uploaded as the bus made its way through the various locations. This ensured an almost live coverage of the project and also resulted in a [final video](#) that sums up the activity.



The [Serbian Association for Youth \(UMS\)](#) estimates to have reached more than 5000 young people directly through face-to-face activities.



# Social Rightwork: Hate Speech online - capacity building workshop

South Europe Youth Forum (SEYF) – Italy

Basing their work on a virtual communication platform, [SEYF](#) came across the challenges of online communication also among youngsters, and in response they developed the training course “**Social Rightwork: Hate Speech online - capacity building workshop**” in December 2012 to provide new information, tools and skills dealing with online discrimination.



[SEYF](#) brought thirty young activists in contact with experts in defending human rights and together they explored the status quo on hate speech online with an analysis of official reports and studies on the issue at the European and local level. Cases of hate speech on social networks, newspapers and websites were mapped, analysed and used for the conception of tools and project ideas that would actively counteract such incidents.



*“The project has been a great occasion for dealing with a hot and delicate issue, continuously growing within European countries.”*

The output: an [e-handbook](#) for trainers, youth workers, and human rights’ activists that presented a mapping of hate speech online, general prevention policies and measures, as well as the importance of education and the role of human rights NGOs on the issue. In that final aspect, it proposed active ways in combating online hate speech and produced a tool that online activists were invited to use: thematic [e-stickers](#) linked to [SEYF’s](#) website and to information on the [No Hate Speech Movement](#), to be employed to name cases of hate speech online.

*“As a matter of success, we consider important the capacity to involve different stakeholders in a continuous dialogue, in order to keep a high level of awareness and as much structure as possible. EYF gave us the opportunity to strengthen our relationship with local and international stakeholders by supporting our idea and our project.”*



## I'm the change! Training Course on No Hate Speech

ArmActive – Youth Center – Armenia (in cooperation with Loesje Youth NGO)



The training course “I’m the change” focused on raising awareness on Human Rights Education and the No Hate Speech Movement in Europe and in the local context.

Participants learned about what Human Rights are and the various protection mechanisms available, and discussed NHSM case studies and examples.

Tools and techniques to combat hate speech were provided. The working methods included theoretical inputs, games, experiential learning, discussion and art workshops.

The photo and video workshops developed participants’ artistic skills, leading to the production of two videos. The videos are aimed at drawing the general public attention to hate speech online.





## No Hate Speech Road Show

### Foundation of Subjective Values (FSV) - Hungary

An awareness raising project, the “No Hate Speech Road Show” aimed to make the No Hate Speech Movement campaign (NHSM) more visible in Hungary, highlighting local issues and engaging more people to act when seeing hate speech online. The target audience, high school and university students, was primarily reached through the placements of stands in 9 different locations. This included universities, high schools, music and wine festivals.



Those passing by the stand were handed out publicity materials, from flyers, to badges and invited to take part in a more in-depth presentation about hate speech. Generally, these students did not come to the stand on purpose, however the participants in the presentation had been in contact with local organisations and partners and were particularly interested by the topic. The presentation introduced participants to the NHSM campaign, Hungarian regulations, circumstances and identification of hate speech. In each location, local issues were discussed by partners. As a result, refugees, LGBTQ rights, Roma, youth empowerment and online media issues have all been touched upon in the “No hate Speech Road Show” project.

One outcome of the project, the “No Hate Road Show 2014 Hungary” publication, presents some of the hundreds of photos taken during the project and a short description for each one of the location events. The [Foundation of Subjective Values \(FSV\)](#) estimates to have directly reached 1800 young people in total. As a result of the Road Show, FSV gained more followers on social media channels and recruited new activists for the movement.

*“After the huge wave of refugees entering Hungary we feel it’s really crucial to maintain the NHSM movement for increasing the combat against hate speech, discrimination and racism through online campaigns and discussion.”*



## IGLYO on Online Hate Speech

International Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender and Queer Youth and Student Organisation (IGLYO) - Belgium

Published in 2013, "[IGLYO On Online Hate Speech](#)" explored the concept of hate speech in relation to freedom of speech. It outlined the situation in a wider European context and the development of the national campaigns of the [No Hate Speech Movement](#) and presented testimonies related to online hate speech from Norway and Italy. Illustrated narrative was used to present some of the key aspects of online hate speech.



The aim of this publication was to serve as a tool which Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ) organisations and other youth NGOs could use in their work. It represented the experiences of LGBTQ youth regarding [online hate speech](#), by presenting best practices and achievements in combating this phenomenon. It explored the main concepts linked to hate speech and encouraged the sharing of information as a way of young people to fight against all forms of discrimination.

1000 hard copies were printed and distributed via the mailing list of the organisation and were made available at all [IGLYO](#) events and external representations. The electronic version was promoted through [IGLYO](#)'s website, social media, and members' network as well as through partner organisations. The International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Youth and Student Organization estimates that "[IGLYO on Online Hate Speech](#)" has reached directly more than 5000 young people.





## **“Hate Fighters” program**

**Club for Youth Empowerment 018 (KOM 018) - Serbia**

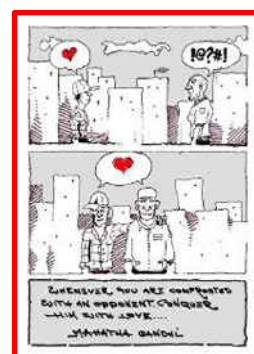
(in cooperation with Council for Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency - SPPMD, “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”)

The “Hate Fighters” program has been implemented through various youth meetings and capacity building activities during 2013 and 2014. The “hate fighter” is a young person who has participated in the education

and action stage of a project. First, participants take part in a workshop (educational component) and second, they take an active part in a local action against hate speech. To thank them for their contribution to the campaign, they become officially known as “hate fighters”. The capacity building or thematic workshops are concerned with what hate speech is, how to combat it, legal aspects and online activism.

*“We believe our project “Hate Fighters” to be real success and one of the main success factors was that it was developed based on the opinion of young people who were included in its development from the beginning. Important factor was the fact that creative methods were used in work with youngsters...”*

Methods such as hip hop dance, music, photography and drawing have been used to produce more tools to combat hate speech. The outcome has been a multitude of comics, illustrations, photo comics, as well as a [Facebook page](#) and [YouTube channel](#).



The official song of the “Hate Fighters” program [“Stop Hate Speech”](#) has been created by a [KOM 018](#) volunteer, rapper and songwriter. The choreography was developed by a dance trainer. All material is used as educational tools.

Thousands of young people have been reached though the various social media platforms.

The “Hate Fighters” Booklet, presents some of the products of the 2013 and 2014 activities - from photo groups, to comics and hip hop dance.

THE END



European Youth Foundation would like to thank all the NGOs for their great work and for making this publication possible.



CLUB FOR YOUTH  
EMPOWERMENT



YOUTH SPACE



UNITED



AMARO DROM E.V.



škola za talente

SERBIAN ASSOCIATION



FOUNDATION OF SUBJECTIVE  
VALUES



LIBERO



The European Law Students' Association

EUROPEAN LAW STUDENTS  
ASSOCIATION



ArmActive



IGLYO



South Europe Youth Forum

SOUTH EUROPE YOUTH FORUM



NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL



European Youth Foundation: <http://eyf.coe.int>

No Hate Speech Movement: <http://nohate.ext.coe.int/>

Council of Europe: <http://www.coe.int>

