



DDCP-YD/CHS (2015) 61



Youth campaign for human rights online

Follow-Up Group

Eighth Meeting

Palais de l'Europe Strasbourg, 28-30 January 2015

Room 16

**Progress Report
2014**

Introduction

In 2014 the campaign became truly active and fully implemented. This report provides an update on what has become a very complex and rich project, due to the nature of the campaign, which is rooted in the activities carried out by national committees and campaigns coupled with an important reliance on online action.

Scope and duration

The campaign is devoted first of all to the promotion of the Internet as a public space where human rights values and norms apply. It unavoidably touches upon other areas of public policies, youth and non-youth specific, including Internet governance, human rights education, non-discrimination, participation and citizenship, online safety and protection for children and young people. The multi-faceted nature of the campaign makes it easier for a variety of actors to join the campaign; and for youth policy partners to connect with other actors of social policies.

As regards the duration of the campaign, the biennial programme of the Council of Europe foresees it for 2014-2015, including a necessary period of evaluation and follow-up. At its 30th meeting, the Joint Council decided to run the campaign until 31 March 2015.

Political support

The January Recommendation of the Parliamentary Assembly - 2032 (2014), “A strategy to prevent racism and intolerance in Europe” – called for the expansion and the strengthening of the campaign as the first measure for a Council of Europe action plan against racism, hatred and intolerance in Europe.

The Committee of Ministers, in its reply, noted the work and expertise of the Youth Department in the area of tackling hate speech, notably the campaign.

A further Recommendation of the PACE, Recommendation 2052 (2014) was adopted in September, inter alia calling upon Member States to support the NHSM and start or maintain national campaigns and also recommending to the Committee of Ministers to declare 22 July as the European Day for Victims of Hate Crime.

An internal Task Force of the Council of Europe was set up by the Director General of Democracy to co-ordinate the contribution of the various sectors and institutions of the Council of Europe for the campaign. This was seen as important to secure support for the results and consolidation of the campaign in the whole organisation; however, it has not been as productive as had been hoped. Bilateral co-operation with certain sectors has been excellent –(Parliamentary Assembly, Congress), but with others has been less successful (ECRI, Internet Governance).

Resources

The budget of the campaign has not changed; most of the means mobilised are from the annual programme of the Youth Department, complemented by the voluntary contributions received from **Finland** and the **French-Speaking Community of Belgium** in 2012 as well as

Armenia and **Hungary. Azerbaijan** also provided a very important contribution by organising the Forum of the campaign in Gabala in October.

Contributions in kind from the **French speaking Community of Belgium, Azerbaijan** and the **Stefan Batory Foundation in Poland** helped us complete our programme.

Requests were sent to member states and national committees to co-host or co-organise activities, in particular Bookmarks regional training seminars.

An administrative assistant was appointed, alongside with the campaign officer to ensure the running of the campaign until the end of 2014.

The partnership with the EEA Norway Grants continued, mostly through the support of their NGO programmes on projects addressing hate speech, and assistance with the translations of Bookmarks.

The contacts established with Google, Twitter and Facebook resulted in new advertising campaigns offered on a pro bono basis by Twitter and Facebook, for the promotion of the campaign through Tweets for Good and Facebook ads. Facebook and Twitter also carried out specific training programmes for activists with regard to reporting hate speech appearing on their sites.

Partnerships

The main campaign partners continued to be the **EEA Norway Grants, the European Youth Forum, ERYICA, EYCA, and the European Wergeland Centre.** Consultations with the **EEA Norway Grants** were held on a regular basis to secure co-operation and co-ordination, notably in relation to the 15 countries concerned by their Grants programme.

We co-operated with The Big March which held an online “march” against bullying on 11 June and the NHSM had a “virtual tent” on their website.

The role of the social networks and businesses is of course of paramount importance in the campaign. As well as the welcome financial support from Facebook and Twitter to help us in promoting the campaign and our social network pages. Google, Twitter and Facebook are also co-operating with the campaign in other areas (in particular in training nominated activists on their policies).

We now have over 18.000 Facebook supporters and over 14,600 Twitter followers..

Involvement of other Council of Europe sectors

Virtually all sectors of the Council of Europe are now involved in or connected to the campaign and the Director’s General’s internal Task Force met twice last. Notable are the increasing interest of the Parliamentary Assembly (see above) and the Congress. We continued to work also with the Internet Governance Unit (Eurodig, IGF, dissemination of the Guide to Human Rights for Internet Users, recently adopted by the Committee of Ministers); and the Children’s Rights sector children (co-operation on Safer Internet Day). ECRI secretariat remained reluctant to co-operate, although did present the work on a new General Policy Recommendation on Combatting Hate Speech to the Follow Up Group.

National campaigns

The United Kingdom launched its campaign on 9 July, with a training for young bloggers and activists in counter narrative.

The Republic of Srpska officially launched the No Hate Speech Campaign on 22 August in Banja Luka.

The campaign was formally launched in Ireland on 24 September by the Campaign Support Group led by the National Youth Council of Ireland. Italy formally launched a campaign in November.

Albania has formally launched its campaign.

Outside of the Council of Europe member states, Mexico launched its campaign on 27 September, and the province of Québec is preparing to start a campaign.

The number of countries with involvement in the campaign is now 40 (with obviously very different levels of resources and stages of development).

A local meeting was held in Strasbourg on 17 October, bringing 35 participants from local and regional organisations, education institutions and the city of Strasbourg to discuss various possibilities and needs for campaigning in Strasbourg. A draft plan of action was agreed.

Interest has also been shown by a number of NGO's in Germany to start a campaign and the Secretariat is assisting them in this endeavor. In France a group of active campaigners are setting up a campaign.

Follow-up Group

The first 2014 meeting of the **Follow-up Group** (set up by the Joint Council) was held in January, a second in April and a third in October. At these meetings the Group both refined the strategy of the campaign and monitored its implementation. An important new member was the observer from the CDPPE. This has helped lead to more co-operation with the Education sector – particularly as regards the use of Bookmarks in formal education.

Campaign activists

The group of online activists, trained in 2012 and 2013, continues to play a vitally important role in the campaign, especially by providing input to and moderating the platform and by preparing the European Action Days. The Activists came together for an important seminar on 7 – 11 December, at which they discussed, *inter alia*, how they could continue to work together for the NHSM even after the campaign itself ends.

The Follow-up Group agreed on a system of incentives and recognition of the contribution of the activists to the campaign. The secretariat is implementing these incentives.

Tools for campaigning

The **campaign platform** is now fully functional; regular updates and improvements are implemented by Latte Creative. The landing page was re-structured so as to leave more room for the work of national committees and partners. A system to advertise blog posts and Hate Speech Watch Reports is also being studied.

The campaign **newsletter** is currently received by 3500 readers.

All the newsletters can be found at <http://blog.nohatespeechmovement.org/category/newsletter/>.

FlashNews continues to be published every Monday. Flashnews is intended to share quick and recent information on campaign developments to the national co-ordinators, activists and partners. The members of the Joint Council also receive copies.

Bookmarks, the manual for combating hate speech through human rights education, has been published in English and French. The title in French is “Connexions”. Translations are under way in 14 languages. “User friendly” online versions will also be made available. The EEA Norway Grants have been participating in the translation and dissemination of Bookmarks.

Bookmarks has been designed for usage in schools and non-formal education activities. It complements the educational resources of the Youth Department for human rights education, notably Compass and Compasito. The secretariat has prepared a document outlining the procedures and function of regional training courses based on Bookmarks.

The first training course on Bookmarks took place on 15-19 October in Namur, Belgium and was conducted in French. It was co-organised with the Bureau International de la Jeunesse with financial support of the French Community of Belgium. The 21 participants were from France, Switzerland, Luxembourg, Belgium, Greece, Andorra and even Canada and were trained on the different activities proposed in the manual. They have already started thinking about ways to implement it in their city/country. Ideas for starting a campaign in France were also raised.

Programme

The European programme of the campaign is based on the programme adopted by the Programming Committee, reinforced by activities held in co-operation with national campaigns and partners. The secretariat would like to highlight the following activities:

- Meetings of national co-ordinators.

The first **meeting of national campaign coordinators** was held in Namur, Belgium, thanks to the generosity of the Belgian National Campaign Committee (French speaking community). The second was held in Warsaw, from 9 – 11 november 2012, and funded by the generosity of the Stefan Batory Foundation (as supported by EEA Norway grants). Besides bringing together the national co-ordinators to share their good (and less good) experiences, these meetings gave us a very useful opportunity to discuss with the national co-ordinators their expectations from the campaign and from the European support for them and to express our requirements regarding participation and reporting. The second meeting offered the opportunity for national co-coordinators to express their needs in terms of continued support in the period after the European campaign formally ends. As well as campaign co-ordinators or their representatives, the meetings were attended by representatives

of The National Commission for Prevention of Discrimination of Mexico (CONAPRED) (at the first meeting) and the “Offices de la jeunesse Québécois” (at the second meeting).

Day of Remembrance of the Roma Genocide (2 August) was adopted as an informal action day by the online activists. The campaign was also present at the event “Look and don’t forget” that brought together more than 1000 people in Auschwitz and Krakow.

Regional training courses based on Bookmarks. These courses are the main educational component of the campaign. They seek to train groups of trainers and multipliers to develop educational activities (in formal and in non-formal education settings), based on Bookmarks, the manual to combat hate speech through human rights education. They are a potentially very important support to national campaigns. (see above). Proposals for hosting regional training activities are welcome.

Forum of the No Hate Speech Movement

This was held from 2 to 5 October in Gabala, Azerbaijan and brought together 250 participants active in the campaign. The forum was organized in the framework of the Azerbaijan chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers with support from the Ministry of Youth and Sport and co-organised with NAYORA.

The message from the Forum to the Council of Europe can be found on the Youth website <http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/youth/> in English and French. A document will be also distributed among the Follow up group members.

Living Library and PACE

On September 30 and October 1 a “Living Library” took place in the Palais de l’Europe in Strasbourg. As it ran alongside the Autumn Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) more than 70 parliamentarians and other visitors were able to “borrow” one of our human books and discover their stories of how they faced discrimination and hate in their lives. Inter alia refugees, former Neo Nazis and Roma talked about their experiences but also our National Campaign Coordinator from Norway, Eirik Rise was one of the “books”.

Anne Brasseur, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), Olemic Thommessen, President of the Norwegian Parliament and Thorbjørn Jagland, Secretary General of the Council of Europe inaugurated the event and highlighted in their speeches again the importance of combatting hate speech online. Before that the PACE had adopted the report of counteraction to manifestations of Neo-Nazism with an overwhelming majority and also recommended to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to declare 22 July as the European Day for victims of hate crime (see above).

Photo competition of the No Hate Speech Movement

A photo competition took place on the platform of the website. This competition was open to all young people who were invited to submit a photo for the 21 September, European Action Day against islamophobia and religious intolerance, on this theme. The winners were announced on 21 September. The names can be found at <http://www.nohatespeechmovement.org/photo-competition>. An exhibition of the winning photographs was organised for 10 December, and this exhibition, in the main entrance hall of

the Palais de l'Europe was opened by Ms Maria Giannakaki (Greece, SOC), General Rapporteur on combating racism and intolerance for the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and co-ordinator of the No Hate Parliamentary Alliance; who also presented the prizes to the winning photographers.. This exhibition will also be on display during the PACE January session (26 – 30 January 2015), in the lobby of the hemicycle. On this occasion we will also show videos from the Campaign and from the Video Competition entries

Video competition

A video completion was also organised – in collaboration with the NCC's. Due to limitations on time, and the small number of entries received, we will decide, with the NCC's on the winners and announce them on Safer Internet Day (10 February).

EuroDIG

The campaign co-ordinator and a number of activists represented the campaign at EuroDIG (Dialogue on Internet Governance), lobbying participants and organised a very well attended side event on the issue of hate speech online – this was chaired by the Chair of the CDMSI.

European Youth Event

The European Youth Event gathered 5000 young people from all over Europe on 9 and 10 May. Different activities took place and the activists of the No Hate Speech Movement were also present. A stand was dedicated to the Movement itself and some workshops and panels were aimed at discussing the importance of tackling hate speech. A Living Library took also place and was a very important success, with a lot of young people “reading” the books on the shelves.

OSCE Side Event

The No Hate Speech Movement campaign was one of the Side Events during the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting of the OSCE in Warsaw. The panel of the round table “Combating hate speech online” included the campaign co-ordinators from Poland and Latvia, as well as several experts and activists for human rights to discuss the problems of hatred and discrimination on the Internet.

The issue of hate speech on line is gaining interest and we have been able to present the campaign at seminars and conferences in **Internet Governance** (in Graz), Political trends (Cologne), cyber hate (INACH conference in Brussels) and regional (Montenegro) and national campaign conferences (Belgium, Slovenia, Spain and Romania) and the local meeting in Strasbourg.

European Action Days

The Campaign, at European and national levels, focused on the **European Action Days**, which have been relatively successful – as a pioneering activity each new one presents us with lessons to be learned for the future to improve their impact – for example the need to develop our co-operation with partners and national campaign committees in the planning and operations of the EAD's. In 2014 we held seven Action Days and two Action Weeks.

In general there was one Action Day per month in 2014 and the aim has been to combine online activities (blogging, focus of hate speech watch on the minority or vulnerable group concerned, proposed activities, promotion of the days on our site and our Facebook and Twitter accounts, etc); with offline activities to be organised and run by the national campaign

committees or their constituent organisations. At the same time, each of the action days was accompanied by a study session or seminar related to the situation of the minority or vulnerable group concerned and the effects of hate speech on them.

All the reports of former Action days are to be found on the coordination website.

2015- Perspectives

In 2015 we will hold one Action Day on 10 February – Safer Internet Day and one Action Week

- against Racism and Discrimination (21 -28 March). The latter will also mark the closing of the campaign. Also, depending on the decision of the Committee of Ministers in the upcoming weeks, we will mark 22 July, hopefully, as the first European Day for Victims of Hate Crime.

The Evaluation Conference is planned for 19 – 22 May. Evaluators have been hired and are in the initial stages of gathering the necessary information.

A final meeting for Activists is planned and we hope to be able to organise a final meeting of NCC's in the second half of 2015.

Again depending on the decisions of the Committee of Ministers, it is possible that a high level conference will be held at the end of March; on combating hate speech on the internet, with hopefully the participation of the Internet social media corporations and other ISP's.

Remaining challenges

As the campaign unfolds, it has attracted a growing number of partners and activities. It is difficult to respond to all calls and invitations. At the same time, it is very important to support national initiatives and campaigns where the support of the Council of Europe can make a real difference.

As noted, the campaign touches upon various areas of policy (human rights, Internet governance, youth participation, education and citizenship...), and so it has been important to identify reachable goals and to reach them.

Among other challenges, the secretariat would highlight the following:

- keeping up with information, developments, communication with national committees and campaigns;
- securing some presence and visibility of the campaign in the countries not yet involved, especially France and Germany;
- following up effectively the research and evaluation dimensions of the campaign;
- mobilising additional resources to implement and evaluate the campaign properly.