

National round table: A comprehensive approach to combating hate speech in Moldova

On 11 June 2021, the Council of Europe⁶ in cooperation with the Central Electoral Commission of the Republic of Moldova, the Audiovisual Council and the Centre for Continuous Electoral Training, organised an online round table aiming to discuss the application of a comprehensive approach to combating hate speech in Moldova, in particular during electoral periods.

The event provided a common platform of discussions for public institutions, non-governmental organisations, electoral stakeholders including political parties, media, anti-discrimination stakeholders and potential voters, who had the possibility to analyse responses to hate speech, in particular concerning electoral competitors and the role of mass-media.

In the framework of this event, the Council of Europe launched a systemic mapping report about hate speech in the Republic of Moldova, that is available [here](#).

As an important outcome of the event in view of combating hate speech, especially in the context of the upcoming Parliamentary elections in Moldova, [the electoral and mass-media actors from Moldova were invited by the Central Electoral Commission to sign the Code of conduct, that explicitly foresees the obligation not to use hate speech](#).

The round table was organised as a joint initiative of the three Council of Europe projects: “Promoting European standards in the audio-visual regulation of the Republic of Moldova”, “Strengthening access to justice for victims of discrimination, hate crime and hate speech in the Eastern Partnership” and the), “Improving electoral practice in the Republic of Moldova, Phase II”.