

Combating discrimination, hate crime and hate speech in the Eastern Partnership (1/2022)

[Перейти к версии на русском языке / Click here for the Russian version](#)



Project news

The EU - Council of Europe project on combating discrimination, hate speech and hate crimes in the Eastern Partnership countries has been prolonged until August 2022. This extension allows the project

activities to become even more sustainable, for example by carrying out launching and follow-up activities on combating hate speech in Armenia, Ukraine, Georgia, and Republic of Moldova. Furthermore, the project will organise additional capacity-building activities for equality bodies/Ombudsoffices, law enforcement and the judiciary. The final meeting of the project, aimed at discussing results and sharing good practices, is now reported towards summer 2022.

The project held its first regional meeting already on 17 January 2022, with 15 equality bodies representatives from the region, and 25 from the Western Balkans, working on counternarratives to hate speech. The online meeting tackled the work and the key results during 2021, where several seminars were organised, to improve the response to hatred by reinforcing the role of equality bodies in protecting and promoting equality and non-discrimination.

Six grants for civil society organisations in the Eastern Partnership countries

As a second grant scheme for civil society organisations, the project is supporting six projects, between December 2021



and April 2022, focusing on reinforcing victims' protection. To learn more on topics included and objectives, you can visit the following dedicated pages: [discrimination affecting Yezidi girls in Armenia](#), [discrimination affecting disabled people in Armenia](#), [combating sexism in the Republic of Moldova](#), [discrimination affecting ethnic minorities in the Republic of Moldova](#), [discrimination affecting disabled people in Ukraine](#), and [discrimination affecting people on their sexual orientation and gender identity in Ukraine](#).



Reinforcing the capacities of law enforcement and the judiciary in Armenia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine on combating hate speech

The EU - Council of Europe project on combating discrimination, hate speech and hate crimes throughout the second part of 2021 carried out three training courses, based on the [HELP methodology of the Council of Europe](#) - course on combating hate speech, in co-operation with the Justice Academy in Armenia, the National Institute of Justice in the Republic of Moldova and the National School of Judges in Ukraine. Over 100 prosecutors and judges participated in these activities, with a very positive evaluation.

Republic of Moldova: storytelling articles about the experiences of people targeted by hate speech

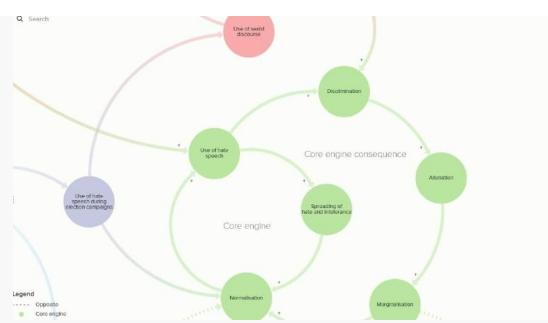
Interested to learn how hate speech is experienced by victims? Five articles are available, about people targeted by hate speech on the grounds of [disability](#), [religious beliefs](#), [HIV status](#), [ethnicity](#), and [sexual orientation](#). The articles are the result of a co-operation process with the Moldovan Equality Council, Ombusoffice, and NGO Promo-LEX and involved the journalists of the People and kilometers platform ([oamenisikilometri.md](#)).



Georgia: Launch of the report “Systemic mapping of national responses to hate speech in Georgia”

The [report on the systemic mapping of national responses to hate speech in Georgia](#) was launched during an online

event on Monday 22 November, during the event stakeholders also discussed priority areas to combat this phenomenon. The report contains an overview of the elements and dynamics of hate speech in the country and recommendations to all stakeholders on how to address it. It refers to the Council of Europe’s European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) General Policy Recommendation No. 15 on combating hate speech which stresses the importance of a comprehensive approach to tackle hate speech and the need to reconcile the right to freedom of expression with other rights, notably those of groups targeted by hate speech. Representatives of the Ministry of Education, Public Defender Office, Georgian Democracy Initiative, Media Development Foundation and Charter of Journalistic Ethics participated in panel discussion on how to best co-ordinate efforts to respond to the threats posed by hate speech.



Ukraine: the report on the systemic mapping of national responses to hate speech launched

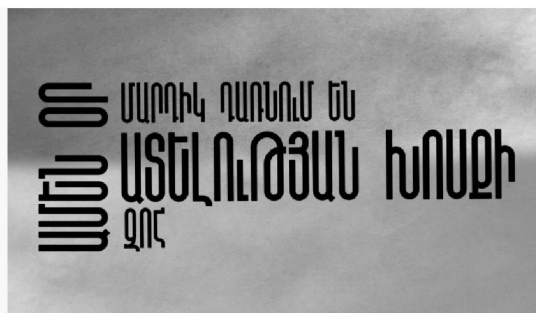
On 20 January 2022 the [report “Systemic mapping of national responses to](#)

[hate speech in Ukraine”](#) was presented with the participation of a wide range of national stakeholders. The main challenges ahead and priority areas for intervention were the focus of presentation of representatives of the Ombudsoffice, State Service on Freedom of Conscience and Ethnic Policy, National Council of Television and Radio Broadcasting, Commission on Journalistic Ethics, Roma NGO coalition, Centre for Human Rights ZMINA and the United Nations Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine. Education, raising awareness of citizens, but also of institutions and professionals, including journalists, and harmonization of legislation were clearly identified among the key priorities. The importance of effective co-ordination to build a national strategy against hate speech was also highlighted, based on the roadmap provided in the report.

Armenia: three videos on combatting hate speech in Armenia are published

In cooperation with the Human Rights Defender of Armenia, [three awareness-raising videos on combating hate speech](#)

have been prepared. The core message of the three videos is that democratic societies are built on the values of respecting human rights and human dignity. The first video shows that hate speech eventually hits the one who spreads the hatred, while the second video affirms that hate speech does not relate to freedom of speech. The third, final video tends to elaborate on the role of the Ombudsperson Office in combating hate speech.



Republic of Moldova: A new report on the access to justice of Roma people

A new [report](#) by the Roma National Center from the Republic of Moldova is available online, approaching the subject of access to justice of Roma people. Some of the main findings show a series of problems related to the failure of Moldavian courts to apply the international standards of human rights fighting discrimination on the bias of ethnic belonging and racism, the lack of effective and sufficient remedies for the victims of discrimination, the failure to sanction hate speech in the media environment against Roma people, but also limited rights of the Equality Council in the enforcement of the anti-discrimination legislation. Consequently, the recommendations of this study urge the relevant actors to find mechanisms and solutions to these problems.



Georgia: third edition of the Equality Week

The Council of Europe Office in Georgia together with partner organisations organised the third [Equality Week](#) on 15-24 November 2021 in Georgia. The

Equality Week is celebrated around the International Day for Tolerance (16 November) with the aim to raise awareness about the importance of diversity and equality in Georgia as well as to provide information on redress mechanisms for the victims of discrimination. More than 1700 participants attended various online and offline events providing information on the redress mechanisms against discrimination and hate crime, and for promotion of tolerance, equality and diversity are in Tbilisi as well as in regions of Georgia.

The newsletter is part of the regional project “Strengthening access to justice for victims of discrimination, hate crime and hate speech”, financed by the European Union and the Council of Europe and implemented by the Council of Europe in their Partnership for Good Governance II.



This newsletter has been produced as part of a project co-funded by the European Union and the Council of Europe. The views expressed herein can in no way be taken to reflect the official opinion of either party.

Council of Europe, Avenue de l'Europe F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex

Tel. +33 (0)3 88 41 20 00

www.coe.int