



[INACH Annual Conference 2017](#)

Vienna, 12 October 2017

Venue: [RENAISSANCE WIEN HOTEL](#)

Hate speech - the online threat to democracy

Internet, the current environment for human interaction, is under attack. Social media, but also blogs, forums and news providers are increasingly becoming the domain of haters, deniers, liars and other trolls, creating an atmosphere where "truth" is becoming fact-free, and opinions are the new truth.

Thus, the Internet is playing a major role in destabilizing democracies, while social media give haters great opportunities to push for their goals. Since there are only national laws in place to get at least illegal content removed, a lot of harmful and destabilizing content stays online or keeps circulating in other regions. A recent monitoring exercise with the active involvement of several INACH members on the implementation of the ["Code of Conduct on Countering Illegal Hate Speech Online"](#), an agreement of the European Commission and Internet companies, has shown significant progress as removal rates almost doubled in comparison to a previous monitoring exercise, but still: 40% of the illegal material remained online after notification, and the situation with harm- and hateful content and its handling becomes even more complex.

New apps, games and forums offer more opportunities for a continuous spread of hate behind "closed doors", not only preventive and protective measures can hardly adapt at that pace. Some countries have started to create new forms of relations with the (global) Internet Industry and treat them like new entities on the world map. Others react with harsh measures and regulate to such an extent that it clearly contradicts the very democratic spirit of the internet as an exchange platform for all. Therefore, we not only need to continue to analyze the influence of social media from different perspectives, their role for democratic processes online and offline, the phenomena like "fake news", the "use" of Social Media dynamics by right wing groups, racists, populists, radicals and (not so) ordinary politicians.

We now need to examine where we all stand. How we see our own role as civil society, but also the role of governments, the role of "classic" media with all their online channels, and the Internet industry mitigating the deluge of hate that threatens to drown the Internet and severely impact on communication, democracy and freedom.



bringing the online in line with human rights

That is why we dedicate our annual conference 2017 to the topic of **"Hate speech – the online threat to democracy"**. We aim to find answers to the pressing questions and present key outcomes to the OSCE Chairmanship Conference on Internet Freedom on October 13th.

INACH has a long-standing relationship with the OSCE and put the subject of cyber hate firmly on the OSCE-agenda in 2002, resulting in the High Level OSCE Paris summit in June 2004 on the relationship between racist, xenophobic and anti-Semitic propaganda on the Internet and hate crimes. This brought the USA and the European participating states closer together on "real life"- effects of hate speech, which generated OSCE commitments, among others at the 12th meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council in 2004 in Sofia, and at subsequent summits, which led to the tasking of ODIHR/TnD with supporting anti-cyber hate activities. These efforts were of great value to INACH as well as civil society. Last year, INACH took part in an expert discussion titled "Combating Hatred in the Social Media" at the Civil Society Pre-Conference to the OSCE Chairmanship Conference on Tolerance and Diversity in Berlin, where recommendations for the participating States were developed.

In our 15th year of successfully combating cyber hate we are hoping to add another chapter to the story of INACH.

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Demokratie **leben!**

BUNDESKANZLERAMT  ÖSTERREICH

STAATSEKRETÄRIN FÜR DIVERSITÄT,
ÖFFENTLICHEN DIENST UND DIGITALISIERUNG

EU – project: Research –Report – Remove:
Countering Cyber Hate Phenomena



RD Foundation Vienna

Research | Development | Human Rights
Gemeinnützige Privatstiftung

European Union, Directorate General for
Justice and Consumers



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Draft program:

08:45 Registration

09:15: Welcome by Philippe Schmidt, INACH Chairman and Claudia Schäfer, ZARA CEO

Short introduction to the conference & program by Suzette Bronkhorst, INACH secretary general, Chair of the day

9:30 Welcome note and input by Muna Duzdar, Austrian State Secretary for Diversity, Public Employment and Digitalization

Input by Iris Muth, German Ministry for Family affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth

09:50 Keynote: "What kind of speech? On Hate, conspiracies, and demagogy" by Robert Feustel, Researcher and author, Germany

10:15 Short Introduction to the workshops (moderators)

10:25 COFFEE BREAK

10:35 Start Workshops

WS 1. The Role of the State.

Moderator: Bastiaan Winkel, Senior Policy maker, Dutch Ministry of Security and Justice

Speakers: Sandra Breiteneder, Cabinet of the State Secretary for Diversity, Public Employment and Digitalisation, Austria

Paul Giannasi, Head of the UK Cross-Government Hate Crime Program, United Kingdom

Speakers give a short overview on situation, measures and actions in their countries and impact, then questions and discussion on:

How do state actors see their own role and the role of Journalists, NGOs and the Industry? What solutions or ideas would they like to recommend?

WS 2. The Role of Journalism.

Moderator: Irmgard Wetzstein, Senior lecturer, University of Vienna, board member of ZARA

Speakers: Bart Schut, Journalist, publicist, deputy editor of New Israelite Weekly, The Netherlands

David Lagerlöf, Journalist, Expo magazine, Sweden

Speakers give a short overview on situation, measures and actions in their sector and impact, then questions and discussion on:

How do Journalists see their own role and the role of the State, NGOs and the Industry? What solutions or ideas would they like to recommend?



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WS 3. The Role of Civil Society.

Moderator: Claudia Schäfer, ZARA

Speakers: Jonathan Vick, Associate Director, Investigative Technology and Cyberhate Response, Anti-Defamation League, USA

Zdravko Cimbalevic, International LGBTIQ activist, Foundation of Hope Board member, Canada/Montenegro

Speakers give a short overview on situation, measures and actions in their sector and impact, then questions and discussion on:

How do Civil Society Organizations see their own role and the role of the State, media and the Industry? What solutions or ideas would they like to recommend?

WS 4. The Role of the Industry.

Moderator: Selma Muhić Dizdarević (senior researcher, Charles University Prague)

Speakers: Aibhinn Kelleher, Product Policy Manager for EMEA, Facebook, United Kingdom

Angelika Dorvel, Public Policy and Government Relations Analyst/ Germany & Austria, YouTube/Google

Speakers give a short overview on situation, measures and actions in their sector and impact, then questions and discussion on:

How does the Internet Industry see their own role and the role of the State, NGOs and media? What solutions or ideas would they like to recommend?

12:00 LUNCH

13:15 Summary of the workshop results by rapporteurs and plenary discussion of the results

14:00 Presentation of the INACH project "Research – Report – Remove: Countering Cyber Hate Phenomena", funded by the European Commission (2016-2017)

Short intro to the project (Ronald Eissens, project coordinator, INACH)

Presentation of the report "Manifestations of Online Hate Speech" (Camille Lhopitault, LICRA; Andreas Schadauer, ZARA)

Presentation of the INACH database and figures (Tamas Berecz, INACH)

Q&A

15:00 COFFEE BREAK

15:15 Summary, short presentation of the final recommendations, information on follow up and closing words

16:00 END