

Manifestations of Online Hate Speech

Reports on antisemitic, antiziganistic, homophobic and anti-Muslim Hate Speech

International Network Against Cyber Hate (INACH)

IN@CH



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Hate speech is intentional or unintentional public discriminatory and/or defamatory statements; intentional incitement to hatred and/or violence and/or segregation based on a person's or a group's real or perceived race, ethnicity, language, nationality, skin colour, religious beliefs or lack thereof, gender, gender identity, sex, sexual orientation, political beliefs, social status, property, birth, age, mental health, disability, disease.

This report was completed with the participation of the different members of the Network and partners in the project, namely the Zivilcourage und Anti-Rassismus-Arbeit (ZARA) from Austria, the Movimiento contra la Intolerancia (MCI) from Spain, jugendschutz.net from Germany, the Ligue Internationale Contre le Racisme et l'Antisémitisme (LICRA) from France, the Inter-Federal Centre For Equal Opportunities and Opposition to Racism from Belgium (now called Unia), and the Magenta Foundation from the Netherlands; who provided most of the data this report is based upon.

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We would like to thank [all organisations](#) who provided context and background information as well as cases for this report.

Executive Foreword

Today, 23 years after the internet took off in earnest, its everyday reality has become almost indistinguishable from our physical world. There are meetings, games, traffic jams, writers, bloggers, collectors, pornographers. There is graffiti, well-behaved and not so well-behaved citizens, politicians, matchmakers, traders, banks, shops, cinemas...and an ever-growing army of trolls and haters. During the first 20 years, we have been pretty much driving clear, well maintained roads, and the hate we saw coming was well defined and positional.

Alas, no more. Our modern hybrid digital/physical world, in which the social media rule the day and handhelds (tabs, pads, smartphones) have become the (necessary) vehicles of living, is unsafe in such a way that it now also creates reality based on lies and disinformation.

Although often not realized, navigating the modern Net is a risky task for the current and new generations. The pitfalls are often not or not clearly visible or recognizable and the cesspools, back-alleys and lunatic asylums of old have morphed to become part of an everyday 'normal' landscape. Added to this *hatescape* is an overlay of those who - for political or other reasons - boost hate and fakery.

During the age of explorers, the maps that were produced all had white areas on them; terra incognita, unknown land. Invariably, there would be a drawing of a giant octopus or another fabled animal, with the caption 'Here be monsters'. Early internet users knew where those monsters were and their names: Stormfront. Thule Netz. Free Historical Research. Radio Islam. Front14. The contemporary net is no longer mappable for concentration-points of hate. Sure, there are new main boosters although they are relatively young. Breitbart, Alt-Right, VK.com, Daily Stormer, to name a few. But online hate and incitement are now all over, embedded in blogs, postings, snaps, tweets, profiles, groups and grams. It can be found at the left and at the right, coming from religions, ethnicities or 'simply' from bias-groups.

The next years will bring new challenges in the form of augmented reality and AI-based systems, the latter being taught by humans, and inescapably ending up with human bias. Our tasks are clear; to guide users in navigation, to keep the streets clean and to put up warning

signs, to train users in what is real and what is fake, empower them to act against hate and where possible, to shield them from hate by removal.

This publication, part of our project Research – Report – Remove: countering cyber hate Phenomena, aims to contribute to the effective recognition and countering of several categories of hate speech.

Amsterdam, August 2017

Ronald Eissens,

project manager of "Research – Report – Remove: Countering Cyber Hate Phenomena" and board member of INACH.

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1. Introduction

This report has been written in the framework of the project "Research – Report – Remove: Countering Cyber Hate Phenomena" coordinated by the "International Network Against Cyber Hate" (INACH). It is in line with, and draws amongst others upon other reports written in the framework of this project and INACH such as the "Relevance of Cyber Hate in Europe and Current Topics that Shape Online Hate Speech"¹, the "Quarterly Reports on Cyber Hate"² and the report "Kick them back into the sea" – Online hate speech against refugees"³.

The report applies the definition of cyber hate and online hate speech used by the project. It is based on and expands the Recommendation of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers from 1997.⁴ For the project, all discriminatory and/or defamatory statements, intentional or unintentional, published online are seen as online hate speech. This includes incitement to hatred and/or violence and/or segregation based on a person's or group's real or perceived race, ethnicity, language, nationality, skin colour, religious beliefs or lack thereof, gender, gender identity, sex, sexual orientation, political beliefs, social status, property, birth, age, mental health, disability and disease and all content published online expressing any other forms of hatred based on intolerance. However, this list is not meant to be exhaustive and unchangeable. It is meant to be open to include all new possible forms of cyber hate expected to appear with coming social and technological changes.

¹ INACH. 2016b. *Relevance of Cyber Hate in Europe and Current Topics that Shape Online Hate Speech*. Available at: http://www.inach.net/fileadmin/user_upload/Relevance_of_Cyber_Hate_in_Europe_and_Current_Topics_that_Shape_Online_Hate_Speech.pdf

² All publications of the project "Research – Report – Removed: Countering Cyber Hate Phenomena" can be accessed here: http://www.inach.net/detail.html?tx_news_pi1%5Bnews%5D=34&cHash=7e57b373b1af8dc318b4e6eee7a0221a.

³ INACH. 2016a. *"Kick them back into the sea" – Online hate speech against refugees*. Available at: http://www.inach.net/fileadmin/user_upload/Refugee_Report20161.pdf

⁴ Council of Europe Committee of Ministers. 1997. Recommendation No. R (97) 20. Available at <https://rm.coe.int/1680505d5b>

All six organisations participating in the EU-project have contributed to the content by providing examples of cyber hate from their country. Three out of the participating organisations have been responsible for drafting this report: ZARA (Austria), Licra (France) and jugendschutz.net (Germany).

The aim of this report is to illustrate, on the basis of online hate speech examples from six countries⁵, patterns of cyber hate against four communities. The topics that will be subsequently analysed are: antisemitism, antiziganism, homophobia and anti-Muslim hatred. Each section will follow a similar pattern by first offering a definition of the central terms, analysing the context and transnational trends and then highlighting country-specific aspects.⁶ The label "country specific" should not imply that those aspects are in any way country exclusive. However, they show different emphasis and peculiarities in the participating countries.

This transnational analysis is complemented by national reports detailing the information and cases provided by the participating organisations. A compact version of this report featuring solely the transnational analysis is available at http://www.inach.net/detail.html?tx_news_pi1%5Bnews%5D=34&cHash=7e57b373b1af8dc318b4e6eee7a0221a.

The Methodology and process of data collection will be explained in the [following section](#). An overview of current trends and interesting initiatives will be presented before the conclusion. Additional information about the project and its participants can be found in [Annex 1](#).

⁵ Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, the Netherlands and Spain

⁶ The section of "Country specific aspects" is not included in the chapter on antisemitism, as no country specific aspects could be identified for this hate phenomenon.

2. Methodology

This report relies on the information provided by organisations dealing with antisemitism, antigiganism, homophobia and anti-Muslim racism. Within several methodological discussions among the project partners responsible for this report (jugenschutz.net, LICRA and ZARA) the approach, topics to be asked and form of inquiry were discussed and developed. In conclusion of the discussions we decided that the focus of the data gathering should be on three topics: contextual information on the different hate types in the countries, events triggering online hate speech and up to three examples illustrating the different forms of online hate speech.

Standardised form:

For the information gathering, a questionnaire for the collection of the required information was developed. This form functioned as a tool structuring the communication among the project partners and the different organisations we requested information from. Besides informing the organisations about the purpose of the inquiry, the main part outlined what kind of information we were interested in. This has been information on:

- trends related to the different hate types,
- events related to the different hate types,
- and up to three examples of online hate speech

For the examples, we asked for the basic details on the cases, a short description, whether the case was deemed illegal by the organisation and by other authorities, what actions have been taken and the outcome of these actions.

Part of the questions on the examples have been open ended, others offered possible answers to tick. A simple pre-test was arranged among the partner organisations not involved in the process of developing the approach and form and their suggestions have been implemented. The final form can be found in [Annex 2](#).

Country coverage:

The main focus has been on the six countries covered by the project partners: Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Netherlands and Spain. Each project partner was responsible for gathering information on the different hate types for their countries. If the information was not available within the own organisation, national organisations with expertise concerning the respective hate type had to be contacted and asked to fill out the form. This was the case for Austria. With this approach, information and exemplary cases for all hate types from nearly all included countries could be collected. [Table 1](#) provides an overview of the organisations which provided information for our inquiry.

Table 1: Participating organisations providing context and background information and cases

Organisation	Link	Group-oriented hatred	Country
Dokumentations- und Beratungsstelle Islamfeindlichkeit und antimuslimischer Rassismus	https://www.dokustelle.at	Anti-Muslim Racism	Austria
Forum gegen Antisemitismus	http://fga-wien.at/	Antisemitism	Austria
Homosexuelle Initiative Wien	http://www.hosiwien.at	Homophobia	Austria
Romano Centro	http://www.romano-centro.org/	Antiziganism	Austria
Viennese Anti-Discrimination office for LGBTI issues	www.wien.gv.at/kon-takte/wast	Homophobia	Austria
ZARA – Zivilcourage und Anti-Rassismus-Arbeit	https://www.zara.or.at/	Anti-Muslim Racism	Austria
Unia – Interfederal Centre for Equal Opportunities	www.unia.be	Antisemitism, antiziganism, Homophobia and anti-Muslim hatred	Belgium
Licra - Ligue Internationale Contre le Racisme et l'Antisémitisme	http://www.licra.org/	Antisemitism, antiziganism, Homophobia and anti-Muslim hatred	France
jugendschutz.net	http://www.jugendschutz.net/	Antisemitism, antiziganism, Homophobia and anti-Muslim hatred	Germany
MiND – Meldpunt Internet Discriminatie	www.mindnederland.nl	Antisemitism, antiziganism, Homophobia and anti-Muslim hatred	Netherlands
Magenta – Dutch Complaints Bureau for Discrimination on the Internet	http://www.meldpunt.nl/site/page.php?lang=1	Antisemitism, antiziganism, Homophobia and anti-Muslim hatred	Netherlands
MCI – Movement Against Intolerance	http://www.movimientoontraalaintolerancia.com/	Antisemitism, antiziganism, Homophobia and anti-Muslim hatred	Spain

3. Thematic report on Antisemitism

Introduction

Antisemitism is the oldest form of 'racial' discrimination known and has a long ugly history. Sadly, antisemitism is again widely prevalent nowadays, having gained a 'new life' by use of internet.

The word antisemitism was first coined by the radical publicist and agitator Wilhelm Marr in 1879, in an anti-Jewish pamphlet called "Der Weg zum Siege des Germanenthums über das Judenthum" (The Way to Victory of Germanism over Judaism). The same year, Marr founded the League of Antisemites (Antisemiten-Liga), the first German organisation committed specifically to combating the alleged threat to Germany posed by the Jews and advocating their forced removal from the country. Marr's racial theories about Jews became a cornerstone for the development of Nazi-ideology. This does not mean antisemitism was invented by Marr. Anti-Judaism, as it was known for some time, goes back 2000 years. The first anti-Jewish pogrom took place in Alexandria in the year 38 C.E., instigated by the Roman Governor, the Greek inhabitants and the Greek Publicist Apion, who wrote one of the first blood libels about Jews.⁷ From early Christian times, (3rd century C.E.), anti-Jewish feelings were institutionalised and canonized by the Catholic Church, mainly based on the accusation that Jews had been responsible for the murder of Jesus.

In the post-Holocaust era, antisemitism still frequently presents Jews as responsible for "why things go wrong": European history is full of sinister examples of this constant. Even if antisemitism is always prevalent amongst far-right extremists and branches of neo-Nazis, we can observe that new trends are becoming more popular among European societies and promote the antisemitic online proliferation: the resurgence of conspiracy theories; the popularity of Holocaust denial and Holocaust distortion theories; the stereotypes from the Middle Ages that are resurging today and the development of the trend called "the hidden antisemitism" whereby people who affirm that

⁷ Flavius Josephus, early second century C.E., *Against Apion*, book II, para 8. Available at: <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/2849/2849-h/2849-h.htm>.

they are anti-Zionist are in reality antisemitic. This trend has taken its roots in the geopolitical situation of the Middle East and is linked to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, but is also used and propagated by IS and other terrorist or extremist groups, but also by left-wing organizations, BDS⁸-organizations and radical Islam. This phenomenon is even more complex as the Muslim segment of populations can also be victim of online hate speech and offline hate crimes.⁹

Antisemitism, originating from very different perpetrator groups, now metastasizes also in non-traditional places, like mainstream internet sites and the social media, in this way rapidly becoming 'mainstream' and 'normalized'. There is an increasing overlap between Islamist, neo-Nazi and extremist left-wing rhetoric and even rhetoric by some of the mainstream labour parties, e.g. UK labour, the Swedish Social Democrats, and the Belgian PS when it comes to antisemitism and Holocaust denial, uniting old enemies. The common ground for online hate-mongers is called Jews.¹⁰

Definition

The most recent definition of antisemitism was created and adopted in 2016 by the 31 member countries of IHRA, the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance.

⁸ Launched in 2005, the BDS is a global movement of boycott, divestment and sanctions against Israel coordinated by the Palestinian BDS National Committee, active in some European countries as United-Kingdom, Spain and France. The BDS main objectives are: "ending its occupation and colonization of all Arab lands occupied in June 1967 and dismantling the Wall; recognizing the fundamental rights of the Arab-Palestinian citizens of Israel to full equality; and respecting, protecting and promoting the rights of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and properties as stipulated in UN Resolution 194." This movement has been defined as anti-Zionist for many years. (Get the trolls out. 2016b. *BDS activists condemned for antisemitic excesses: Ousted Trolls of the Month - April*. Available at <http://www.getthetrollsout.org/what-we-do/troll-of-the-month/item/72-bds-activists-condemned-for-antisemitic-excesses-ousted-trolls-of-the-month-april.html>)

⁹ Schmidt, P., 2016, Antisemitism on the web: current situation and remedies. In *Justice No. 58 - Fall Winter 2016*. Available at http://www.inach.net/fileadmin/user_upload/publications/Sfinal.pdf.

¹⁰ Eissens, R., 2007, Common ground for hatemongers: Incitement on the internet. In Fineberg, M., Weitzman, M. & Samuels, S. (Eds.), *Antisemitism - the generic hatred: essays in memory of Simon Wiesenthal*. VMbooks, Great Britain. p. 109-118.

The Working Definition of Antisemitism¹¹ as it is called, is based on the earlier EUMC definition, and states:

“Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.”

The Working Definition lists as an example: “Manifestations might include the targeting of the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity. However, criticism of Israel similar to that leveled against any other country cannot be regarded as antisemitic.”

On 1 June 2017, the European Parliament adopted a resolution calling on member states and their institutions to adopt and apply the IHRA working definition.¹²

Context and transnational trends

We observe that the internet can be used as a tool for developing and spreading antisemitic messages with a wide attention. Many aspects of antisemitic hate can be found amongst countries participating in this analysis (Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Netherlands and Spain).

Far-right “traditional” antisemitic speech

The first most prevalent trend is the constant online presence of the far-right “classical” antisemitic speech. Antisemitism has always been prevalent amongst far-right extremist and neo-Nazi speech. This trend is composed of historical-revisionist conspiracy theories, of

¹¹ IHRA, 2016. *Working Definition of Antisemitism*. Available at https://www.holocaustremembrance.com/sites/default/files/press_release_document_antisemitism.pdf.

¹² IHRA, 2017. *European Parliament calls on countries to adopt working definition of antisemitism*. Available at <https://www.holocaustremembrance.com/media-room/news-archive/european-parliament-calls-countries-adopt-working-definition-antisemitism>.

distortion or denial of the Holocaust for antisemitic purposes, of promotion of Nazi theories with promotion of strict codes and symbols and of glorification of the Nazi regime.

The far-right traditional antisemitic speech is well organized and structured around several types of personalities: pseudo-historians, political personalities, denialist activists, comedians, etc. It also promotes the use of the same concepts, as for example the "Holo-Hoax", and of the same conspiracy theories, for example Norman Finkelstein and his book "The Holocaust Industry".¹³ Another key element of this trend is the "pro-Nazi nostalgia": glorification of the Third Reich regime, hope for the return of Hitler and idolization of Nazi symbols and codes.

In addition, it may be noted that right-wing extremist speech is usually based on old sinister stereotypes and negative character traits from the Middle Ages. It has also integrated new elements as for example the "echo symbol". The (((echo))) sign has been used online to highlight people with Jewish background. Google used to have a plug-in that could detect these triple brackets to make it easier for antisemites to find Jewish people on the internet.¹⁴

¹³ Holo-hoax: play on words between "Holocaust" and "hoax" meaning the Holocaust has been invented, it is a joke. "The Holocaust Industry" is a book written by Norman Finkelstein in 2000. According to Omer Bartov book review (New York Times, August 6th 2000, A tale of two Holocaust), "(...) the main argument is based on a distinction between two phenomena: the Nazi Holocaust and 'The Holocaust', which he [Finkelstein; author's note] defines as 'an ideological representation of the Nazi holocaust.' [...] And why was 'The Holocaust' fabricated? Because it legitimizes 'one of the world's most formidable military powers,' Israel, allowing it to 'cast itself as a 'victim' state,' and because it provides 'the most successful ethnic group in the United States,' the Jews, with 'immunity to criticism,' leading to 'the moral corruptions that typically attend' such immunity".

¹⁴ Get the trolls out project. 2016a. *UK and other countries: (((Echo))) symbol to single out names of Jewish people*. Available at: <http://www.getthetrollsout.org/item-list/search.html?searchword=echo+symbol&categories>

Example: Ursula Haverbeck 1 (Germany)¹⁵

The website "trutzgauer-bote.info" is one of the right-wing extremist channels specialized in the spread of antisemitism, conspiracy theories, historical revisionism, Holocaust denial and National Socialist propaganda. In the article "Ursula Haverbeck erneut wegen 'Volksverhetzung' verurteilt" (Ursula Haverbeck convicted once again of 'incitement to hatred') published in November 2016, the statement is made that the Holocaust is a made-up story by "Zionists" to weaken and enslave the German people. The reference point is the conviction of Ursula Haverbeck for denying the Holocaust. Ursula Haverbeck, dubbed the "Nazi grandma" by the tabloid press, is a famous German right-wing extremist that is prosecuted and convicted for denialist theories and presented as a "martyr of the movement". She claimed concentration camps were merely labour camps, and called survivors "alleged witnesses". She was convicted of Holocaust denial and sentenced to two and a half years in prison.

The screenshot shows the homepage of the website "Der Trutzgauer Bote". The header features the site's name in a stylized font and a navigation menu with links for "Startseite", "Über diesen Blog", "Deutscher Geist", "Kultur", "Untersberg", "Vorträge", "Gesundheit", "Propaganda & Medien", and "Zukunftsgestaltung". A search bar is located on the right. Below the header, there is a "NEU" (New) section with a date "11:19:31 Uhr" and a link to "DAS URTEIL: 2 Rv 150/14 OLG Naumburg". The main content area displays a photograph of Ursula Haverbeck and a man, with the headline "Ursula Haverbeck erneut wegen „Volksverhetzung“ verurteilt". To the left of the main content, there is a "BEITRÄGE ABONNIEREN" (Subscribe to articles) section with a form for email and a "Beiträge abonnieren" button. Below that is a "follow us on twitter" button. To the right of the main content, there is a "Trutzbund Gemeinschaft der Leser des Trutzgauer Boten" logo and a "NEUESTE BEITRÄGE" (Latest articles) section with a list of article titles.

Screenshot of the article mentioned: "Ursula Haverbeck erneut wegen "Volksverhetzung" verurteilt"

¹⁵ More details can be found [here](#).

Example: Blanche Europe (France)¹⁶

The white supremacist website "Blanche Europe" (White Europe) promotes racial theories in direct connection with the racial theories of the 19th century, followed by the Nazi theory of race superiority: "We need to preserve the existence of our people and the future of our White children". It proposes several categories as for example the "Jewish question".

¹⁶ More details can be found [here](#).

Blanche Europe *Nous devons l'existence de n et l'avenir des en*

Accueil À propos Contact Liens utiles Contribuer Catégories

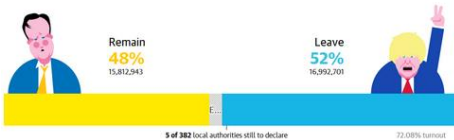
Brexit : le juif Laurent Cohen-Tanugi veut abolir la démocratie

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Archives
Archives Sélectionner
À lire
Tous les jours l'actualité n...



Pictures proposed for the article titled "Brexit: The Jew Laurent Cohen-Tanugi wants to abolish the democracy" published in June 2016

EU referendum live results – tracker



Conspiracy Theories

Already present in the first trend, the antisemitic conspiracy theories go far beyond the far-right "classical" antisemitic universe. Their resurgence and proliferation on today's internet reflect their popularity; despite the significant number of theories, the mechanism is almost the same: "Jews" are responsible for the most tragic historical and social events in order to supposedly control the world. Since the 19th century with the publication of the famous "Protocols of the learned Elders of Zion", the idea of a Jewish – sometimes Judeo-Masonic – domination controlling the main powers (Government, Finance and Media) is the cornerstone of every popular conspiracy theory.¹⁷

Example: VDP, Free Democratic Party (Netherlands)¹⁸

VDP (Vrije Democratische Party: Free Democratic Party) led by Turkish immigrant Burhan Gökalp was a political party founded in November 2016 with many controversies in their discourse: antisemitic and homophobic statements mainly. In a tweet posted in 2016, the message was: Jews are responsible for the Second World War and for all the victims of this war in order to hold the power. Now, they are responsible for all the problems in the Netherlands.

Every kind of social event is used to blame Jews. Online, one of the first conspiracy theories concerned the attacks on 9/11: Jews were informed in advance and were behind the attacks. Today, one of the most popular theories is the "weapon of immigration" for explaining

¹⁷ "The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion" is a classic in racist literature. "Presented as the confidential minutes of a Jewish conclave convened in the last years of the nineteenth century, it has been heralded by antisemites as proof that Jews are plotting to take over the world. Since its contrivance around the turn of the century by the Russian Okhrana, or Czarist secret police, it has taken root in bigoted, frightened minds around the world. The booklet's twenty-four sections spell out the alleged secret plans of Jewish leaders seeking to attain world domination. They represent the most notorious political forgery of modern times. Although thoroughly discredited, the document is still being used to stir up antisemitic hatred". Anti-Defamation League (ADL). n.d. *A Hoax of Hate: The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion*. available at: <https://www.adl.org/education/resources/backgrounders/a-hoax-of-hate-the-protocols-of-the-learned-elders-of-zion>

¹⁸ More details can be found [here](#)

the current "refugee crisis"¹⁹ in Europe. The main idea is that Jews are preparing a "Great replacement" with millions of refugees in order to weaken white and Christian Europeans.²⁰ This Zionist plan has been developed for the Jewish control of the world.



A message saying that Jews are responsible for the Second World War, all the victims of the Second World War and that Jews hold the power and cause all the problems in the Netherlands.

¹⁹ According to the report "'Kick them back into the sea' – Online hate speech against refugees", the term is normatively charged, because it suggests that refugees themselves are problematic or that welcoming refugees per se is critical. However, in our understanding, "refugee crisis" addresses the highly confrontational public debates, the increasing 'scandalization' of migration and the hate filled atmosphere towards refugees. The report is available at http://www.inach.net/fileadmin/user_upload/Refugee_Report20161.pdf.

²⁰ Great replacement has been theorized by Renaud: France is being colonized by Muslim immigrants from the Middle East and North Africa, which threatens to "mutate" the country and its culture permanently with the help of the government and the media.

Example: "Unzensuriert" (Austria)²¹

The screenshot shows the homepage of the website **unzensuriert.at**. The main navigation bar includes links for Politik, International, Chronik, Medien, Meinung, Wirtschaft, and Kultur. Below this, there are buttons for 'Neu', 'Beliebt', 'Diskutiert', and 'Suche'. The main article is titled 'Unzensuriert-TV: Die Geschäfte der Asylindustrie' and features a large image of a refugee camp with the headline 'Aktuell im neuen Unzensuriert-TV „Die Geschäfte der Asylindustrie“'. A sub-headline reads 'Wer von der Völkerwanderung finanziell profitiert, zeigt die neue Ausgabe von „Unzensuriert-TV“'. Below the image, a date and time stamp '20. Oktober 2015 - 17:00' is visible. The article text begins with 'Europa stöhnt unter der Last der Flüchtlingswelle. Deutschland und Österreich sind in besonderem Maße betroffen. Die Probleme werden von der Politik kleingeredet, von den Medien und auch der Polizei vertuscht.' A sub-section is titled 'Profitierer von ORS Service GmbH und Caritas', followed by text explaining that the new issue of 'Unzensuriert-TV' has put the profiteers of the asylum industry under a microscope, specifically mentioning ORS Service GmbH and Caritas. To the right of the article, there are social media sharing icons for Facebook, Twitter, and Google+, and a 'Mehr zum Thema' section listing 'Asylindustrie', 'Unzensuriert-TV', 'Flüchtling', and 'ORS'. Further right, there is a 'Video-Tipp' section with a video thumbnail titled 'Zeit für Neuwahlen - FPÖ-TV-Ma...' and a 'FPÖ: JETZT NEUWAHLEN!' banner. Below that is an 'Artikelempfehlung' section for 'Bank Austria: Keiner will 792 Millionen Euro an Pensionsbeiträgen'. At the top right, there is a logo for 'ENF' (European Network of Freedom) and a portrait of Harald Wiesmayr, an FPÖ politician, with the slogan 'Sichere Grenzen für ein sicheres Österreich' and 'statt EU-Willkommenskultur'.

Unzensuriert.at is an Austrian far-right news channel which publishes articles developing the idea of the "Refugee Industry": A video posted on the website explains how the "Jews" benefit from the arrival of refugees in Austria.

²¹ More details can be found [here](#)

Example: Ursula Haverbeck 2 (Germany)²²

In this example, the same kind of conspiracy theory is promoted: Jews are responsible for the "refugee crisis". On the website brd-schwin-del.org, a right-wing extremist channel, a video of Ursula Haverbeck about the "Hooton Plan" has been published. According to her, "The Hooton plan" has five steps:

"1) Germany shall be divided up into several pieces. We have that now, you only have to look at the maps. 2) All of the German education shall be destroyed. We have that. We know the chaos that "Gender Mainstreaming" is creating in the schools. 3) Destroy the National-Socialism in Germany. That has been done. 4) Birth-rates, and by that is meant pure German, to drastically reduce these. We have that now. We have hardly any children any more compared with in the past. 5) Having millions of foreigners coming into the country with the aim of genetically mixing the Germans, thereby breeding the Germans away. So we are right in the middle of this".

She describes the migrant crisis of 2015 as a result of a Jewish plan for the elimination of the European and especially German people. She states that after the "Jewish century of lie", now is the last chance to "wake up" and defend Germany and Europe before the Jewish "globalism" succeeds in reaching its goal.

²² More details can be found [here](#)



In the video Ursula Haverbeck talks about the "Hooton Plan".

The "hidden antisemitism", an anti-Zionism hiding a real antisemitism

The line between anti-Zionism, anti-Israel feelings and antisemitism is sometimes unclear. Anti-Zionism could be defined as "the refusal, in principle, to accept the existence of a Jewish State, independent of the Palestinian question".²³ Actually, it may refer "to criticism of Israel that questions Israel's right to exist as a Jewish State".²⁴ Anti-Zionism is not entirely associated to antisemitism. However, because of the influence of the geopolitical situation of the Middle East, sometimes anti-Zionism is used as "political correct" form of antisemitism. This new trend shares most of its traits with the old ones: caricatures, stereotypes and conspiracy theories. The influence of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in Europe has a lot of consequences in the development of the new trends: It is popular among some people from Muslim

²³ CEJL. 2015. Guidelines for identifying and monitoring antisemitism online and offline. Available at: <http://www.getthetrollsout.org/antisemitism.html>

²⁴ Idem

communities and also among some movements of the extreme left-wing.

Example: Palästinensische Jugend Österreich (Austria)²⁵

On this Austrian pro-Palestinian Facebook page, an image has been posted referring to the event of the Gaza flotilla.²⁶ Since then, it is often published online especially on social media whenever Israel is in the media. In this image, a boat named "Freedom" is attacked by a giant octopus marked with the Israeli flag except that the Star of David was replaced with a swastika. To be noted, the octopus has been associated to Zionism since the 1930s. In addition, Israel is compared to the Nazi regime which is a classical element of this "hidden antisemitism".



On this image, a boat named "Freedom" is attacked by a giant octopus marked with the Israeli flag except that the Star of David was replaced with a swastika.

²⁵ More details can be found [here](#)

²⁶ In 2010, in order to stop the blockade organized by Pro-Palestinian humanitarian boats named "flotilla free Gaza", the Israeli army decided to launch a military operation.

EXAMPLE : BDS 34 OF MONTPELLIER (France)²⁷

In 2016, the Court of first instance of Montpellier condemned two BDS activists (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement) for "incitement of racial hatred" and "Holocaust denial". Launched in 2005, the BDS is a global movement of boycott, divestment and sanctions against Israel coordinated by the Palestinian BDS National Committee, active in some European countries as United-Kingdom, Spain and France. This movement has been defined as anti-Zionist for many years. However, the line between anti-Zionism, anti-Israel feelings and antisemitism is not very clear.²⁸ In France, some judicial cases have underlined the presence of antisemitic activists.

In this case, which dated back to August 2014, two members of the local BDS of Montpellier have shared a photomontage comparing Israeli army to the Nazis on their public Facebook accounts. They also published these comments: "Nazis and Zionists are the two faces of the same coin" and "What Hitler has done to the Jews: it was done intentionally for giving them rights and making them look appealing to the world". On their Facebook pages, there were also public photos of dead Israeli soldiers with antisemitic comments, and photos of the gesture of the "quenelle"²⁹ behind Jewish names of cities.

²⁷ More details can be found [here](#).

²⁸ Get the trolls out. 2016b. *BDS activists condemned for antisemitic excesses: Ousted Trolls of the Month - April*. Available at <http://www.getthetrollsout.org/what-we-do/troll-of-the-month/item/72-bds-activists-condemned-for-antisemitic-excesses-ousted-trolls-of-the-month-april.html>.

²⁹ The "Quenelle" gesture was popularised by French comedian Dieudonné and can be considered an "inverted Nazi salute". (Get the trolls out. 2015. *Ousted Troll of the Month: Dieudonné M'bala M'bala*. Available at <http://www.getthetrollsout.org/what-we-do/troll-of-the-month/item/35-trolls-of-the-month-november.html>)

Antisemitism and terrorist groups

The internet is one of the perfect tools for spreading hateful and violent messages against a group and for "recruiting" people. The use of antisemitic vocabulary online is one key element of radical groups' hateful communication. This is because violent antisemitic contents are easily accessible on a global level: from the social media to the dark web. Moreover, it is used as a driver for recruiting and radicalizing people online especially in countries where strong Jewish communities live as for example France and Belgium. Jihadist groups usually exploit the conflicts in the Middle East and connect these to the responsibility of Jews/Israelis. According to jugendschutz.net's analysis, "each time when there were new outbreaks of violence in the conflict between Israel and Palestine the propaganda became more extensive and drastic. The Islamists present Israel as the sole guilty party in the armed conflict and as a state that slaughters innocent Palestinian children. They portray Jews as demons, as 'infanticide nation' and thus asperse them as inhuman. In this context you would often find statements reflecting conspiracy theories like: 'The Jews are conspiring against Islam and intend to destroy all Muslims'." ³¹

Conclusion

In conclusion, our analysis of the antisemitic online trends showed how this type of hate is a "social polymorph that is not minimized by its continuous re-invention in hatred" ³². Conspiracy theories, Holocaust denial, "hidden antisemitism", amongst others trends, demonstrate this reality. Significantly, our research underlines the transnational aspect of each trends: Even if national peculiarities exist, there are real common antisemitic online trends. Moreover, their online proliferation and influence are significant in each country that participated in this survey.

³¹ jugendschutz.net. 2015. *Islamism on Internet, propaganda, infringements and counter-strategies*. Available at: http://www.inach.net/fileadmin/user_upload/Islamism_on_the_Internet.pdf

³² CEJI, 2015, Guidelines for identifying and monitoring antisemitism online and offline. P. 3. Available at: <http://www.getthetrollsout.org/antisemitism.html>

NATIONAL REPORTS

Austria

Organisation: Forum gegen Antisemitismus

Trends:

The arrival of a high number of refugees in 2015 in Austria have influenced the proliferation of conspiracy theories and antisemitic incidents. The number of incidents doubled from 255 incidents in 2014 to 465 in 2015.³³ Much of the increase came from online antisemitism according to the Austrian Forum against Antisemitism.

Moreover, far-right movements have gained popularity because of tensions over immigration and concerns following terrorist attacks in Europe. Online antisemitic trends also include anti-Israel statements that make use of antisemitic imagery and rhetoric. Glorification of the Nazi regime as well as historical revisionism are also constant trends.

Antisemitic rhetoric also includes non-Jewish people, especially public figures like the German Chancellor Angela Merkel or the Austrian President Van der Bellen, who are accused of being Jewish in attempt to defame their person and make them responsible as "Jews" for their perceived wrongdoing.

Events (2015–Today):

Although antisemitism is a constant issue and seen as perpetrated from various spectrums of society, some events can have an effect on antisemitic contents. Some recent incidents include the media coverage of the high number of refugees that entered Austria in 2015, politics, elections, protests against far-right events, and various court cases that receive media attention – this includes cases relating to the punishment of World War 2 criminals and also to far-right extremism, glorification of the Holocaust and historical revisionism.

³³ The data was collected by the non-governmental organization "Forum gegen Antisemitismus" (Forum against antisemitism) and presented by the Israelitische Kultusgemeinde IKG.

First Example

Title: Antisemitic caricature

Content	Incitement to hate, use of symbols
Type of speaker	Pressure Group
Medium	Social Media
Private, group or public	public

The image was first observed during the Gaza Flotilla and is often seen since then whenever Israel is in the media. An image of a boat titled "Freedom" and an evil squid pulling it under the sea was posted by the Palestinian Youth in Austria to their Facebook page. The evil squid is marked with the national flag of the state of Israel, except that the Star of David was replaced with a Swastika. This image is considered antisemitic as the evil squid has been an antisemitic symbol representing Jews for years and can even be found in the "Stürmer". In addition, comparing the state of Israel to the Nazi regime is considered to be antisemitic.

Forum gegen Antisemitismus does not interpret the case as illegal under national law. Therefore, the case has not been filed with national authorities.



Second example

Title: Holocaust denial

Content	Denial of Holocaust, Use of Symbols, Apology of war crime and crimes to humanity
Legal measure/action	Taken to court
Type of speaker	Identifiable commenter
Medium	Social Media
<i>Private, group or public</i>	Public

A woman was sentenced for posting an image of Adolf Hitler together with a comment asking for his return. During the court case the accused claimed to have done so because of her anger against the current administration not doing anything against refugees. In her comment she claimed "Hofer (a right-wing candidate during the presidential election 2016 in Austria) is the second Hitler and that is a good thing! I am not proud of what Hitler did, but what we are experiencing now – a second Hitler would be super. This has nothing to do with Xenophobia." This comment is seen in relation to the elections held in Austria, as well as the refugee situation.

Forum gegen Antisemitismus interprets the case to be illegal under national law. The case has been filed with national authorities.

Third example

Title: Unzensuriert.at

Content	[Insult]
Type of speaker	[Journalist]
Medium	[Social Media]
<i>Link to the website / URL</i>	[https://www.unzensuriert.at/content/0019040-Unzensuriert-TV-Die-Geschaefte-der-Asylindustrie]

A far-right news channel "Unzensuriert" posted a video that explained how "the Jews" profit from the "Refugee Industry". This is in relation to the number of migrants that entered Austria. It also makes use of antisemitic stereotypes and conspiracy theories.

Forum gegen Antisemitismus interprets the case to be illegal under national law. The case has been filed with national authorities.

Forum gegen Antisemitismus sent a takedown request to the provider, but has not received a response.

Belgium

Organisation: Centre for Equal Opportunities and Opposition to Racism (Unia)

Trends:

For Belgium, antisemitism has been on the rise in the country since 2012. Antisemitic incidents and hate speech are becoming more violent and the online public sphere such as social media sites are playing an increasing role in the dissemination of such speech. This rise in more violent online hate speech culminated into a deadly shooting at a Jewish Museum in May 2014.³⁴ Moreover, the connections of some political controversial figures as Laurent Louis with members of the French fascist-sphere underline the proliferation of conspiracy and traditional antisemitic trends.³⁵

³⁴ Berez T. and Devinat C., 2016, Relevance of Cyber Hate in Europe and Current Topics that Shape Online Hate Speech. Available at: http://www.inach.net/fileadmin/user_upload/FV-Relevance_of_Cyber_Hate_in_Europe_and_Current_Topics_that_Shape_Online_Hate_Speech.pdf

³⁵ Laurent Louis, French-speaking Belgian politician as well as former member of the Belgian Chamber of Representatives, has been acting very regularly upon his antisemitic ideologies via Facebook and Twitter.

First example

Title: Selfie Case

Content	Hate speech]
Legal measure/action	Reconciliation [
Type of speaker	Private person]
Medium	Twitter]
Private, group or public	Private and group]

The author has shared a 'selfie' that she took in May 2016 during a demonstration of the Flemish Party Vlaams Belang at a Muslim Fair in Antwerp. Shortly after, the public came to know that the same person had posted antisemitic tweets in the past, such as

"Hitler didn't kill all the Jews, he left some. So we know why he was killing them #fuckers"

"Fucking joden wollaah heb zon haat jegens hun"

and *"Fuck die jodetaal!"*

Translation: "Fucking Jews, I have such a hate against them" and "Fuck the Jews!" in 2014.

The author apologized for those tweets and distanced herself from these opinions. She closed all her social media accounts.

Unia contacted the author to hear her opinion about the facts. As a consequence, a certain number of measures have been taken. Unia took into account (1) the young age of Mrs. Z; (2) her lack of knowledge about the historical context of the genocide during WWII by the German NS regime; (3) that she was not aware of the impact social media have; (4) she originally posted her comments next to pictures and the comments have been retweeted without these images, thus out of

their context; (5) Unia's efforts to mediate wherever possible, and finally, (6) the call of Joods Actueel on the 24th of May 2016 for a visit to Kazerne Dossin (a transit camp for Jews and Roma during WWII).

Unia undertook two steps:

- (1) Explanation of the law and the legal consequences attached to her behaviour
- (2) Upon Unia's request, Mrs. Z visited Kazerne Dossin and discussed with a specialized guide.

Second example

Title: Antisemitic comments on Zita.be

Content	[Antisemitic, minimalisation]
Legal measure/action	[Civil party]
Type of speaker	[individual]
Medium	[Online news platform]
Editorial content or user comment e.g. at newspaper or other website	[User comment]
Private, group or public	[public]

The case concerns a certain number of racist and antisemitic posts on the website "www.zita.be". On the 5th of November 2012, the author posted the following:

"Ik wil ook een cordon, nee ik wil opnieuw gaskamers zodat walgelijke stinkende Joden ook eens een lekkere douche kan gaan nemen. Voor de stinkende joodse huid is er niets beter dan zyklon B. Alles wat die vuile stinkende vieze Joden niet aanstaat, moet in een cordon. Adolf jij was goed bezig, maar je mocht niet verder doen."

Translation: "I want a sanitary border, no I want gas chambers again to make sure those disgusting smelling Jews take a good shower. For the smelly Jewish skin, nothing works better than cyclone B. All that doesn't belong to those dirty smelly Jews, has to be protected by a cordon. Adolf was on a good way, but he couldn't go on";

"nu ga ik eens wat foto's bekijken van uitgemergelde en in de wachtrij staande Joodse kakkerlakken die gaan opgestookt worden en dan nog genieten van de gebakken"

vleesgeur; nietwaar Michael Freilich, het smerigste voorwerp in het heeal."

Translation: "I'll have a look at pictures of emaciated Jewish cockroaches waiting for their turn that are going to be piled up and enjoying the smell of baked meat; isn't it Michale Freilich, the filthiest one amongst them";

"@Dwa: ik ben heel graag extreem links (als jij dat denkt) als daarmee die vuile Joodse plaag uitgeroeid wordt. Ik zie het liefst stinkende Joden in Dachau, Treblinska en ander gezondheidsforums, ingesteld op de stinkende Joodse huid, ik blijf erbij: Zyklon B".

Translation: "@Dwa: I am ok with being far-left (if that's what you believe) if that leads to the eradication of the Jewish infestation. Where I like seeing smelly Jews most is in Dachau, Treblinka and other health centres, specialized on the smelly Jewish skin, I stick to it: cyclone B".

Unia interprets the case to be illegal under national law. The author has been condemned by the Court of Antwerp (section Mechelen) on the 9th of July 2015.

France

Organisation: International League Against Racism and Antisemitism (Licra)

Trends:

In France, antisemitism is largely widespread on the web, on which we can observe: the resurgence of the conspiracy theories; the development of the trend called "the hidden Antisemitism" that concerns the people that affirm that they are anti-Zionist but are in reality antisemitism. This trend has taken its roots in the geopolitical situation of the Middle-East and is linked to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and to the Western interventions in Iraq and Afghanistan; the confusion between the terms "Jews", "Israelis" and "Zionists"; the return of the stereotypes from the Middle Ages that are resurging today; the Holocaust denial or the Holocaust distortion.

"French" antisemitism can be decomposed into several ideological trends:

- 1) Traditional forms of antisemitism: Far-right "classical" antisemitism (social networks, blogs and websites), the "fachosphère" (own popular websites and social networks), distortion and denial of Holocaust: always present and popular on the web (mainly on US blogs and websites, video platforms), the increasing weight of the conspiracy theories (own very popular websites, social media and video platform).
- 2) New forms of antisemitism:
BDS movement and false "antiracist" movement, terrorism and antisemitism

For France, the fascist-sphere is quite active for promoting antisemitic speech: a galaxy composed of nationalist, identitarian, homophobic, sexist and racists groups, comedians, historians or journalists. This sphere is specialized in using provocative opinions based on antisemitism, Holocaust denial and conspiracy theories.

Events (2015–Today):

France has the third most important Jewish community (after Israel and United States). Antisemitic acts are still numerous in France. The Jewish Community Security Service highlights in its annual report that "Once again in 2015, Jews, who represent less than one percent of the total population, are the target of 40 percent of all racist crimes in France, and 49 percent of racist violent acts committed against people".³⁶

What can be noted? The antisemitic acts are mainly occurring in Paris. Violent acts are mainly murders or attempted murders. Lots of the registered acts concerned attacks on holy sites such as synagogues and cemeteries.

Another point is actually the violence of the antisemitic acts: in 2006, Ilan Halimy was tortured and murdered because he was a Jew; in Toulouse, in 2012, Mohammed Merah killed one professor and three children behind their Jewish school, Ozar Atorah; in 2015, at the Hypercacher of Vincennes, a kosher supermarket in Vincennes, Amedy Coulibaly took hostages and shot four of them on a Friday. Jewish community is still a target nowadays.

³⁶ Service de Protection de la Communauté Juive (SPCJ). 2015. *Annual Report*. Available at: <http://www.antisemitisme.fr/dl/2015-EN.pdf>

First example

Title: Blanche Europe

Content	[Antisemitic insults, incitement to racial hatred]
Legal measure/action	[Sent to public authority/state]
Type of speaker	[Blogger]
Medium	[Website / CloudFlare]
Private, group or public	[Public]
Link to the website / URL	[http://www.blancheurope.com/2016/06/24/brexit-juif-laurent-cohen-tanugi-veut-abolir-democratie/]

Blanche Europe website, with a Celtic cross on the top banner and a White supremacist message “We need to preserve the existence of our people and the future of our White children”, claims to be “a website of information and analysis, defending nationalism without any concession. You are part of the White Race? You like your people and want to defend its interests? So, you are in the good place to be informed and participate to the discussion”.

White supremacist symbols are present in their presentation as for example a cartoon of Pepe the frog looking to Donald Trump with a weapon. The website proposes different categories as “Jewish question” and “racial issues”.

On this article posted on their website on the 24th of June 2016, the author proposed an antisemitic analysis of Laurent Cohen-Tanugi's column on the French daily Le Monde. In his opinion piece, Laurent Cohen-Tanugi, lawyer and essay writer, explained the key factors to understand the outcome of the British referendum to leave the EU and took position to “stop the European populist suicide”. The commentary by Blanche Europe, called “a translation of the article”, is an accumulation of violent antisemitic and racist clichés in words and images. The antisemitic echo symbol, used to mark Jewish people and

Jewish names, is used throughout the article and directly on the photo of Laurent Cohen-Tanugi.

Licra interprets the case to be illegal under national law.

www.blancheurope.com is hosted on CloudFlare based in the US. According to their community rules, they accept reports for "Copyright infringement & DMCA violations, Trademark infringement, Child pornography, Phishing & malware and Violent threats". It is not possible to report websites or blogs for racial offences.

Licra's legal service has sent a report to the legal authorities on the 26th of July 2016. Then, a request has been sent to the BRDP, Police unit for prevention and suppression of delinquency on the 2nd of September 2016. A judicial inquiry will be opened by the designation of a judge.

Second example

Title: SFR employees on Periscope

Content	[Antisemitic insults]
Legal measure/action	[Direct contact and reporting]
Type of speaker	[Employees of a French telecommunication company]
Medium	[Periscope (Twitter)]
Private, group or public	[Public]
Link to the website / URL	[https://www.periscope.tv/]

On the 31st of May 2016, two employees working at the SFR shop in Antony (SFR is one of the main French telecommunications companies), in the southern suburbs of Paris, made a video on the live video streaming app Periscope. They uploaded it in a channel named "Petit Pony" in reference to the French comedian Dieudonné's shows. First, one of the two employees referred to a customer as a "Jewish bastard" to the hilarity of the "cameraman", another SFR employee. They then criticised a woman passing on the street saying she was "mid-hooker, half-subject" in reference to the French feminist movement Ni Putes Ni Soumises ("Neither whores nor submissive").

Periscope, launched by Twitter in 2015, has become very popular in France. On the crossline between YouTube and Twitter, it allows its users to broadcast and watch live streaming videos worldwide, as well as replay them online for up to 24 hours after the broadcast. Live-streaming videos have become the latest bastion of bullying and harassment on the internet.

Licra interprets the case to be illegal under national law. With a direct tweet to the SFR twitter account, Licra quickly brought the video to the attention of SFR. The company replied distancing itself from the behaviour of the two employees and publicly informing Licra that the two employees were suspended. "Hi! SFR rejects those remarks. The perpetrators were identified and laid off", said the company. The video has since been removed from Periscope.

Third example

Title: Alain Soral and Egalité & Réconciliation

Content	[Denial of Holocaust]
Legal measure/action	[Sent to public authority/state]
Medium	[Website / CloudFlare]
Private, group or public	[Public]
Link to the website / URL	[http://www.egaliteetreconciliation.fr/Les-dessins-de-la-semaine-38678.html]

Alain Soral is well-known as his acolyte Dieudonné as one of the main actors of the French “fascist-sphere” (fachosphère). Soral, extreme-right author of polemical essays, is also close to other conspiracy and extreme-right groups, including the members of “Manif pour tous” groups that strongly oppose the same-sex marriage. Created in 2007, his website “Egalité & Réconciliation” (“Equality and Reconciliation”), a heap of nationalism, homophobia, sexism and antisemitism, became an NGO under “Egalité & Réconciliation” and is currently a political party, “Réconciliation nationale” (“National Reconciliation”). In 2014, Soral declared: “I am not from the extreme-right, I am a National Socialist”.

Using provocative opinions based on antisemitism, Holocaust denial and conspiracy theories, Soral has created what is considered by many to be a “fascist business”. On his website, an online shop sells books, t-shirts, mugs and lighters. Furthermore, each of his trials has been strategically used by Soral himself to build up a new media buzz. On this website was published in April 2016, after the terrorist attacks of Brussels, a parodic paper's cover named “Chutzpah Hebdo” (in reference to Charlie Hebdo) with the face of Charlie Chaplin wearing the Star of David with the caption “Holocaust where are you?”.

Licra deems the case illegal under national law.

www.egaliteetreconciliation.fr/ is hosted on OVH based in the France. The LCEN of 2004 (French law to support confidence in the digital economy) develops the concept of “responsibility” of French hosting companies including reporting system. In the case of “Egalité & Réconciliation”, Alain Soral said that he was not the website publication director. As a consequence, he was not responsible of the application of the LCEN. He also said that the website publication directors were two French prisoners.

In the decision of the 14th of March 2017, the Regional Court of Paris has sentenced Alain Soral as website publication director to three months of prison and a 5.000 euros fine. Regarding the content, the Court considered it constitutes a denial of the Holocaust and a racial insult. It has to be removed.

However, the content has not been removed and the reporting system is not yet installed on “Egalité & Réconciliation” website.



Fourth example

Title: BDS 34 OF MONTPELLIER

Content	[incitement of racial hatred]
Legal measure/action	[Sent to public authority/state]
Medium	[Facebook]
Private, group or public	[public]

In 2016, the Court of first instance of Montpellier condemned two BDS activists (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement) for "incitement of racial hatred" and "Holocaust denial". Launched in 2005, the BDS is a global movement of boycott, divestment and sanctions against Israel coordinated by the Palestinian BDS National Committee, active in some European countries as United-Kingdom, Spain and France. This movement has been defined as anti-Zionist for many years. However, the line between anti-Zionism, anti-Israel feelings and antisemitism is not very clear.³⁷ In France, some judicial cases have underlined the presence of antisemitic activists.

In this case, which dated back to August 2014, two members of the local BDS of Montpellier have shared a photomontage comparing Israeli army to the Nazis on their public Facebook accounts. They also published these comments: "Nazis and Zionists are the two faces of the same coin" and "What Hitler has done to the Jews: it was done intentionally for giving them rights and making them look appealing to the world". On their Facebook pages, there were also public photos of dead Israeli soldiers with antisemitic comments, and photos of the gesture of the "quenelle"³⁸ behind Jewish names of cities.

³⁷ Get the trolls out. 2016b. *BDS activists condemned for antisemitic excesses: Ousted Trolls of the Month - April*. Available at <http://www.getthetrollsout.org/what-we-do/troll-of-the-month/item/72-bds-activists-condemned-for-antisemitic-excesses-ousted-trolls-of-the-month-april.html>.

³⁸ The "Quenelle" gesture was popularised by French comedian Dieudonne and can be considered an "inverted Nazi salute". (Get the trolls out. 2015. *Ousted Troll of the Month*:

Germany

Organisation: jugendschutz.net

Trends:

Historical revisionism is a long-term phenomenon in Germany. The reflexion of German history regarding WWII and the Holocaust has been not only a topic for historians but for society as a whole since 1945. From the beginning right-wing extremists have tried to occupy this topic with statements that play down the crimes against humanity and rehabilitate National Socialism.

A popular variation of such historical-revisionist conspiracy theories is that Jews allegedly try to oppress the German people with the "Holo-Hoax". A "cult/religion of guilt" is installed through brain-washing for breaking the German vigorousness and to realize the plan to weaken or annihilate the German people through "race-mixing". To underpin this conspiracy theory authors for example refer to the so called "Hooton Plan" or even cite "The Protocols of the Elders of Zion" and thereby draw the antisemitic picture of Jews striving for world domination through "the weapon of migration".

Antisemitism online can often be observed in the context of such conspiracy theories. During the last years they spread increasingly across the social web and reached more and more users. Especially a German movement called "Reichsbürgerbewegung" gained more interest. Beside their core theme – the allegedly absence of German states sovereignty after WWII – the denial of the Holocaust is common. Much more, they argue that the Holocaust is a made up story by the Jews to oppress the Germans and prevent Germany from becoming a fully sovereign state.

Events (2015 – Today):

Right-wing extremists that are prosecuted and convicted for stating such conspiracy theories become "martyrs of the movement", most prominently the repeatedly condemned Holocaust denier Ursula Haverbeck. In the last three years she was brought to court several times and every time people showed their solidarity online through mostly antisemitic, historical-revisionist publications. As an outcome of the latest trial the 88-year old Haverbeck, dubbed the "Nazi grandma" by the tabloid press, was convicted for Holocaust denial and sentenced to two and a half years in prison.

Multiple times Haverbeck published articles and gave interviews where she claimed concentration camps were merely labour camps, and called survivors "alleged witnesses". During the trial supporters of Haverbeck demonstrated outside the court. Right-wing extremists loyal to Haverbeck also showed solidarity online, accompanied with hate speech against Jews, politicians and mass media.

First example

Title: Ursula Haverbeck I

Content	{Denial of holocaust }
Legal measure/action	{Sent to Public Authority/state }
Type of speaker	{Blogger }
Medium	{Website }
Private, group or public	{public }
Link to the website / URL	{ http://trutzgauer-bote.info/2016/11/22/ursula-haverbeck-erneut-wegen-volks-verhetzung-verurteilt/ }

The website trutzgauer-bote.info is a right-wing extremist channel to spread antisemitism, conspiracy theories, historical revisionism (including Holocaust denial) and National Socialist propaganda. In this article the statement is made that the Holocaust is a made up story by "Zionists" (in this context a code word for Jews) to weaken and enslave the German people. The reference point is the conviction of Ursula Haverbeck for denying the Holocaust. In the comment section you can find – beside best wishes and declarations of solidarity for Ursula Haverbeck – more antisemitic hate speech.

jugendschutz.net interprets the case to be illegal under national law.


The whole website has been forwarded to the Commission for the Protection of Minors in the Media (KJM) to pass it on to the Federal Review Board for Media Harmful to Minors (BPjM), responsible for examining and censoring media allegedly harmful to young people. There has been no decision taken yet.

Browser window showing a news article from the website "Trutzbund".

Address bar: <http://trutzbund-blogs.de/2016/>

Page title: Ursula Haverbeck erneut... |

Navigation: Home | Suchen | Kontakt | Impressum | Footer |



Ursula Haverbeck erneut wegen „Volksverhetzung“ verurteilt

Wie zufröhliche Nazis in gemischten Jahren (25. November 2016)
 von Deutsche Protestbewegung, Deutschland, News, Deutschland, Kommentare

In einem Artikel von ZEITONLINE dürfen wir folgendes erfahren:

Die politische Holococaustleugnerin Ursula Haverbeck ist erneut wegen Volksverhetzung zu

Trutzbund
 Gemeinschaft der Leser
 des Trutzbundes

NEUESTE BEITRÄGE

- Die Hölle vor Nürnbergens Küste
- Lasst Geihen was richtig Unser ist
- Die Britischen Inseln: ein Nachkriegsdeutschland
- Leben im Paradies
- Gerd Honsik „Der Blumenkrist“

NEUESTE KOMMENTARE

- JosefS? bei Die Hölle vor Nürnbergens Küste
- Bernd Ulrich Krenner bei Die Hölle vor

Second example

Title: Ursula Haverbeck II

Content	{Incitement to hate }
Legal measure/action	{Sent to Public Authority/state }
Type of speaker	{Blogger }
Medium	{Website }
Private, group or public	{public }
Link to the website / URL	{ https://brd-schwindel.org/deutschland-voll-im-griff-der-feinde/ }

The website brd-schwindel.org is a right-wing extremist channel to spread antisemitism, conspiracy theories, historical revisionism (including Holocaust denial) and incite to hate against Jews, refugees, Muslims and politicians. In the embedded video Ursula Haverbeck talks about the "Hooton Plan". She describes the migrant crisis 2015 onwards as a result of a Jewish plan for the elimination of the European and especially German people. She states that after the "Jewish century of lie" – which is a term for a Jewish conspiracy about the allegedly made up Holocaust – now is the last chance to "wake up" and defend Germany and Europe before the Jewish "globalists" reach their goal.

jugendschutz.net interprets the case to be illegal under national law.

The whole website has been indexed by the Federal Review Board for Media Harmful to Minors (BPjM), responsible for examining and censoring media allegedly harmful to young people, with decision no. E 10411 (V), 28.03.2012, list part D.



Ursula Haverbeck - Kommentar zum Hooton Plan

In the video Ursula Haverbeck talks about the "Hooton Plan".

The Netherlands

Organisations: Meldpunt Internet Discriminatie (MiND) and Stichting Magenta

Trends:

In the Netherlands, the conspiracy antisemitic trend is increasing: Jews are perceived as controlling the media for pushing their propaganda, gaining more power and money. Holocaust denial is a constant trend. The level of antisemitic hate speech online is quite high, whilst it is highly exacerbated by conflicts breaking out in Gaza.

Events (2015 – Today):

The conspiracies are the same as they are in many other countries. To name a few of the most known:

- Holocaust never happened or not this big or the Jews were murdered by Jews;
- Jews are the one in power all over the world and they keep the poor people poor, or even poorer ;
- They are behind terrorist attacks like 9/11 in the US;
- They control all the media and push their propaganda;
- They do everything to gain more power and money.

Websites: These are the more known websites. There are a lot of complaints about these:

- Frissekijk.info (suspended)
- Altrechts.com (suspended)
- <http://www.joodscomplot.nl/>
- <http://www.erkenbrand.nl/>
- <http://www.goedenieuws.nl/>
- <http://hetzuur.nl/>
- www.radioislam.org (Written in Dutch, but not based in the Netherlands)
- <http://www.ninefornews.nl> (Not based in the Netherlands)
- www.stormfront.org (Not based in the Netherlands)
- <https://vnnforum.com/showthread.php?t=252806> (Written in Dutch, but not based in the Netherlands)

First example

Title: Holocaust abuse

Content	[insult]
Legal measure/action	[Yes, request for removal]
Type of speaker	[Anonymous commenter]
Medium	[Facebook Social Media]
Private, group or public	[Public]
Link to the website / URL	[https://www.facebook.com/michel.tervelde?fref=ts]

News items posted on a Facebook page with the title “Bombing in Gaza Zionist Israelis dancing before bombing” This sets of a discussion between Israel sympathizers and Palestinian sympathizers.

MiND interprets the case to be illegal under national law.

A takedown request was sent to the provider and the comment has been removed the same day.

Second example

Title: Conspiracy theories

Content	{insult }
Legal measure/action	{Request for removal }
Type of speaker	{Anonymous commenter }
Medium	{Forum }
Private, group or public	{public }
Link to the website / URL	{http://forum.waterkant.net/viewtopic.php?pid=505675#p505675 }

A deep discussion on the world history of Jews in different conflict areas. Their share in violence and hatred.

MiND interprets the case to be illegal under national law.

A takedown request was sent to the provider and the comment has been removed the same day.

WATERKANT Nieuws Forum Foto Film Chat Markt Contact

1) The Bolshevik "Russian" Revolution was not Russian vs. Russian, but atheist Jews (Edomieten) vs. Christians.
2) Jews were there, and still are today behaving much worse than any S.S. Nazi officer under Hitler's "Third Reich".
3) Jews are NOT the blameless, innocent, altruistic and wrongfully persecuted religious minority group they claim to be.
4) The so-called MASS MURDERERS they perpetrated constitute mass genocide and are the epitome of "White Crimes" against Humanity.
5) They make Hitler's "Holocaust" camps look like Sunday School Pinnacles in comparison.

Also, this article will expose the constant use of aliases by so many bolshevik Jew-Edomieten. I would simply submit that the sort of people who change their names are mostly those who commit the most heinous of crimes against humanity.

"A people that elect corrupt politicians, imposters, thieves and traitors are not victims... but accomplices"
"George Orwell"

Anjoemara
2017-01-07 08:51:06 17

Master poster
Offline
Registered: 2007-03-26
Posts: 29,887

Ha,ha,ha, en wie verandert zijn nick hier regelmatig op WKN ? Onze szz gestoord aka Lassie ede aka Huradin Ala vul maar in.
Dubbelijk een leerling van de Edomieten van Satan.

"A people that elect corrupt politicians, imposters, thieves and traitors are not victims... but accomplices"
"George Orwell"

Anjoemara
2017-01-07 08:59:37 18

Master poster
Offline
Registered: 2007-03-26
Posts: 29,887

Logisch niet zeurderige stoere, volging van Edomieten, dat dit soort duivels Nobel prijzen winnen met zoals ze nu de beste bewakingsystemen overal in de wereld leveren afkomstig van hun experimenten in het grootste open lucht laboratorium van Gaza met mensen die ze met de meest gruwelijke middelen bestoken (marterlingen, roofdieren, dagelijkse neerzichten etc.) en dan vervolgens afschieten wat voor verzet er komt en die te monitoren.

Tja als je dit de afgelopen 30 jaar vooruitgang noemt; geef mij dan lever kletlabellen.

Third example

Title: Holocaust denial

Content	[Denial of holocaust]
Legal measure/action	[Request of removal]
Medium	[Facebook social media]
Private, group or public	[Public]
Link to the website / URL	[https://www.facebook.com/nos/?fref=ts]

Facebook page of NOS (Dutch News Channel). The content reported was “the Holocaust is the second biggest lie in the world”.

MiND interprets the case to be illegal under national law.

A takedown request was sent to the provider and the comment has been removed the same day.



Fourth example

Title: Vrije Democratische Partij PARTIJ (VDP)

The picture is a message saying that Jews are responsible for Second World War, all the victims of the Second World War and that Jews hold the power and cause all the problems in the Netherlands. VDP was a political party with controversies in their discourse. For example, they are opposed to homosexuality and to Jews.

The Tweet with illegal content was flagged by MDI with Twitter. At first the Tweet was not taken down. So we escalated the complaint and this resulted in Twitter suspending the account of VDP. We did not file the complaint with another national authority or with the author. There was no contact with the author at all.



Spain

Organisation: Movement against Intolerance (MCI)

Trends:

The Spanish situation has not experienced a qualitative development in the recent years regarding antisemitic online trends: many contents with Holocaust denial and trivialization, promotion of the Jewish “hidden power” and conspiracy theories and issues with the pro-Palestinian movement BDS in the basis of incitement to discrimination for national origin.³⁹ The Middle Eastern conflict plays a much lesser role in antisemitism in Spain.

In order to offer concrete data on trends related to Antisemitism, it is interesting to pay attention to the last two official reports on hate crimes for the years 2014 and 2015. These reports are made by the Ministry of Interior every year since 2013. According to this, antisemitic incidents have dropped by 62% from one year to another. During 2014 24 cases were reported, but in 2015 there were only nine. It represents only 0, 7% of the hate crime cases included in the report. Four of this nine cases were related with online hate speech.

³⁹ Launched in 2005, the BDS is a global movement of boycott, divestment and sanctions against Israel coordinated by the Palestinian BDS National Committee, active in some European countries as United-Kingdom, Spain and France. The BDS main objectives are: “ending its occupation and colonization of all Arab lands occupied in June 1967 and dismantling the Wall; recognizing the fundamental rights of the Arab-Palestinian citizens of Israel to full equality; and respecting, protecting and promoting the rights of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and properties as stipulated in UN Resolution 194.” This movement has been defined as anti-Zionist for many years.

First example

Title: Guillermo Zapata Tweets

Content	[Joking on victims of Holocaust]
Legal measure/action	[Prosecuted and declared not guilty in the highest instance]
Type of speaker	[Private person that ended up to be a relevant politician]
Medium	[Twitter]
Editorial content or user comment e.g. at newspaper or other website	[Social Media]
Private, group or public	[Public]
Link to the website / URL	[Deleted after scandal raised up]

One of the cases that reached a lot of media attention, and a public discussion was about a post in Twitter of a relevant member of Podemos in the Madrid City Hall. Some years ago before he was appointed as a Councillor of Culture, he wrote a joke in Twitter using victims of Holocaust. More or less something like "how to put six million Jews in a small car... in an astray". He was prosecuted for Holocaust trivialization, condemned in Madrid level courts, but declared not guilty by the Supreme Court. As a consequence of this cases he resigned as a Councillor of Culture, but appointed by another high-level position in Madrid Institutional Structure. He defended himself by two arguments: he has never had the intention to be offensive, and he was participating in a discussion about limits of humour. However, this joke making reference to ashes was used by him in other occasions in an anti-Israel critic context. There were many Antisemitic posts in Social Media arguing that this case was raised up because the "hidden power of Zionists".

MCI interprets the case to be illegal under national law.

The comment was deleted by the author when scandal raised up. The post was made in 2011, but when perpetrator was elected as a Councillor of Madrid, some media raised up and scandal raised up. MCI didn't put a complaint since Prosecutor Office acted by itself. MCI made some public statement pointing out the penal code articles that applied in the case.

First, at Madrid Court level, the perpetrator was declared guilty, but later he was declared not guilty at Supreme Court.



Second example

Title: Neo-Nazis on YouTube

Content	[Neo Nazi Material]
Legal measure/action	[Sent to the Prosecutor Office]
Type of speaker	[Private neo-Nazi Profile in YouTube]
Private, group or public	[Public]
Link to the website / URL	[https://www.youtube.com/user/juankar1488/videos]

This is a private neo-Nazi profile in YouTube. It includes many hate songs, Nazi symbols, threats and general hatred material.

MCI interprets the case to be illegal under national law.

There has been a takedown request. The profile is still operative but apparently inactive.

The case has been sent to the special prosecutor offices for hate crimes, but they didn't take any actions.

4. Thematic report on Antiziganism

Introduction

For the Alliance against Antigypsyism, the stigmatisation of Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize as "gypsies" is a historical heritage linking different countries across and beyond Europe. Depending on the historical context, it takes different forms but always serves the same goal, to justify unequal treatment. Either seen as slaves like in Romania until the 19th century, combined with the ideology of race as "gypsy race" or homogenously condensed as "ethnicity", "heritage" or "culture", Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize are universally socially constructed as an inferior "other" and minority contrasting a superior "self" and majority.

The negative consequences of these processes of "othering" are severe. Beside slavery, it also led to invasive measures of population control, like the coercive sterilization of Romnija and Sintize, and to the genocide by the National Socialist Party in Germany and its allies, distinguished as Porajmos by Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize activists and in many countries receiving very late recognition. However, to this date, Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize face a lot of hate, exclusion and repression in Europe. Due to these historical legacies, the Alliance against Antigypsyism argues that "[...]the ideological justifications of the unequal treatment of Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize and other groups, and the practices of discrimination and persecution of them, have been shaped and reshaped over and over and should be understood against the backdrop of particular historical developments and events."⁴⁰

Today, the socio-technological development of the internet towards Web 2.0 plays an important role in giving antiziganist sentiments new momentum. It is now easier than ever before to spread and enforce stereotypes and prejudices against Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize. These communication technologies offer new ways of threatening and

⁴⁰ Alliance against Antigypsyism. 2016. *Antigypsyism – A reference paper*. p.7 http://antigypsyism.eu/?page_id=17

stigmatising groups into inferior “others” and constitute a new manifestation of antiziganism, which more attention has to be paid to.⁴¹ The collection of exemplary online cases collected in this report illustrates some recent manifestations of antiziganism spread using various tools and devices, from email, blogs to platforms like Twitter. The additional country information offers possible considerations on how certain contexts may fertilise online hate against Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize.

Definition

Following the literature on antiziganism, the precise definition as well as the appropriate label summarising hate speech and crime against Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize is still debated and fluid. Besides antiziganism, the labels antigypsyism and Romaphobia⁴² are used in public documents (e.g. in the European Parliament resolution on the situation of the Roma in the European Union⁴³) and by equal rights organisations (e.g. Alliance against Antigypsyism⁴⁴). Beyond the topic of labelling, there are also other unresolved issues. The question, how antiziganism is manifested and its many implications for Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize, is still not fully explored. Also what antiziganism entails and its relation to other forms of hate and discrimination is still open for debate. For the project “Research – Report – Remove”, a definition offered by Valeriu Nicolae, Representative of the Secretary General for Roma Issues of the Council of Europe, in the anthology “Roma Diplomacy” is used as basis for further analysis:

⁴¹ A first overview on online antiziganism in the countries covered by the project “Research – Report – Remove” is given here: INACH. 2016b. Relevance of Cyber Hate in Europe and Current Topics that Shape Online Hate Speech. Available at: http://www.inach.net/fileadmin/user_upload/Relevance_of_Cyber_Hate_in_Europe_and_Current_Topics_that_Shape_Online_Hate_Speech.pdf.

⁴² The use of “phobia” in this and similar contexts is problematic and misleading. See for more on this also the chapter on “Homophobia” in this report.

⁴³ European Parliament. 2005. *European Parliament resolution on the situation of the Roma in the European Union*. Available at <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P6-TA-2005-0151+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN>.

⁴⁴ The website of the Alliance against Antigypsyism. Is available at http://antigypsyism.eu/?page_id=55.

"[...] Anti-Gypsyism is a distinct type of racist ideology. It is, at the same time, similar, different, and intertwined with many other types of racism. Anti-Gypsyism itself is a complex social phenomenon which manifests itself through violence, hate speech, exploitation, and discrimination in its most visible form. Discourses and representations from the political, academic, and civil society communities, segregation, dehumanization, social stigma, social aggression, and socio-economic exclusion are other ways through which anti-Gypsyism is expressed. Anti-Gypsyism justifies and perpetrates the exclusion and supposed inferiority of Roma and is based on historical persecution and negative stereotypes."⁴⁵

To structure the many possible manifestations of antiziganism, Hristo Kyuchokov differentiates between three forms of antiziganist prejudice and racism: "individual/personal", "institutionalised" and "institutionalised personal antigypsyism"⁴⁶. Focusing on cyber hate, most examples illustrated below take the form of "individual/personal antigypsyism". The other two forms, however, form the context for flourishing cyber hate, often serving as blueprints for individual outbursts of racist slurs. As the country cases below illustrate, publicly reproduced antiziganist prejudices and stereotypes do not always meet adequate social and public repercussions. This enables policy makers on the local (e.g. in Austria) or the national level (e.g. in France) to utilise and reinforce prejudices for their own political benefit. Taking into account also policy measures aiming directly against Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize (e.g. the evictions of 11,118 people from 111 camps in France in 2015), Miriam Staffansdotter Langmoen

⁴⁵ Nicolae, Valeriu, 2007: Towards a Definition of Anti-Gypsyism. In: Nicolae, Valerie; Slavik, Hannah: *Roma Diplomacy*. Puchheim: IDEA. p.21f

⁴⁶ Kyuchokov, Hristo 2015: Preface. In: Selling, Jan; et. al.: *Antiziganism. What's in a Word?*. Cambridge Scholars Publishing. p.xi

argues that antiziganism has to be seen as a kind of “socially accepted racism”⁴⁷.

For Valeriu Nicolae the element of dehumanisation is at the core of antiziganist racism, that “[...] Roma are often seen as a subhuman group closer to the animal realm than the human realm”⁴⁸. This dehumanisation morally legitimises to withhold basic human rights.⁴⁹ In this sense, the cases below are examples of how a certain kind of “conceptual gypsy”⁵⁰ is projected onto allegedly Roma/Romnija, Sinti/Sintize, travellers or the poor in general by taking away their human traits and insinuating animalistic behaviours.

The European Commission against Racism and Intolerance includes these constitutive elements in their policy recommendation on „Combating Anti-Gypsyism and Discrimination against Roma“, offering the definition: “[...] anti-Gypsyism is a specific form of racism, an ideology founded on racial superiority, a form of dehumanisation and institutional racism nurtured by historical discrimination, which is expressed, among others, by violence, hate speech, exploitation, stigmatisation and the most blatant kind of discrimination.”⁵¹

Context and transnational trends

The collected examples from six different countries (Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Netherlands and Spain) illustrate a wide variety of

⁴⁷ Langmoen, M. S., 2014. Socially Accepted Racism: How European Antiziganism Prevails. In *bluestockings magazine*, Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island: <http://bluestockingsmag.com/2014/07/08/socially-accepted-racism-how-european-antiziganism-prevails/>

⁴⁸ Nicolae, Valeriu, 2007. p.22

⁴⁹ In the report on Antigypsyism in Austria, Romano Centro also observed: “The incidents documented here show a shocking degree of conceptual dehumanisation through positive references to Nazism, instigating murder and extermination fantasies.” Romano Centro. 2015. *Antigypsyism in Austria*. p.28. Available at http://www.romano-centro.org/downloads/Antigypsyism_in_Austria_2015.pdf

⁵⁰ Kyuchokov, Hristo 2015: Preface. In: Selling, Jan; et. al.: *Antiziganism. What's in a Word?*. Cambridge Scholars Publishing. p.xi

⁵¹ European Commission against Racism and Intolerance. 2011. *ECRI General Policy Recommendation No.13 on Combating Anti-Gypsyism and Discrimination against Roma*. Available at http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/activities/GPR/EN/Recommendation_N13/e-RPG%2013%20-%20A4.pdf.

antiziganist sentiments and include illegal and tendentious statements. They cover reinforcements of negative stereotypes, incitement to violence as well as an openly expressed lack of any compassion towards Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize⁵²

The reinforcement of negative stereotypes is one central theme present in the examples from all countries. In these, Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize are characterised as "dirty"⁵³, "thieves"⁵⁴, "beggars"⁵⁵, or as a group of people one has to be warned about⁵⁶. This unanimous view across the different countries supports the notion of Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize as Europe's "quintessential minority"⁵⁷, facing prejudices and exclusion similar in form across all of Europe.⁵⁸

Many of the exemplary hate posts also show how Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize are dehumanised by equalising them with animals and

⁵² An extreme case of a severe lack of any compassion was given by the French partner, where a politician commented reports on the death of a Roma/Romnija baby with: "A Roma baby died in her mother's arms who was begging in Lille. Use a baby as a bait includes some risks!"

⁵³ For example, several online articles published in Germany claim that Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize are responsible for pollutions in the neighbourhood accompanied by user comments claiming that Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize "want to live in dirt und mud".

⁵⁴ For example, an article on a news webpage from the Netherlands on the exceptional outcome of an IQ test of a Romnija girl contained the statement: "Instead of being genius in stealing materialistic goods she stole the hearts of the genius British with her IQ of 162."

⁵⁵ For example, in Austria on a local public complaint service webpage one user stated: "Hordes of Gypsies storm tramways, harass the passengers, and even small kids offensively beg people.[...] Please take effective action against this menace." This was published in response to reports on arson attacks on tent camps in the same federal state.

⁵⁶ For example, an email distributed in France warned of the presence of "Roma people" and "camps of Roma people" in the neighbourhood and recommended "to close your doors and windows [...] and the access doors".

⁵⁷ Goldston, J. A. 2002. "Roma Rights, Roma Wrongs." *Foreign Affairs* 81 (2). p.146–162.

⁵⁸ The Spanish entry into the right-wing encyclopaedia *metapedia* is an accumulation of stereotypes and prejudices culminating in the statement that Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize are the most despicable race in the world.

vermin, e.g. calling them “Asian parasites”⁵⁹ or “primates”⁶⁰. Coupled with hate posts explicitly calling for violence against Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize, e.g. that they have to be “beaten up”⁶¹, put into “concentration camps”⁶², or “burned”⁶³ and posts showing no compassion in case of tragic occurrences⁶⁴, a hateful and hostile tone against Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize is created and normalised which in the worst case can lead to assaults like the late arson attacks in Austria and the riots after a demonstration in Spain in 2014.

The majority of the posts have been triggered by local events, either by certain policy measures (France), the presence of camps (Austria, Germany), or attacks on Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize (Austria). In our cases, this distinguishes antiziganistic cyber hate from other racist hate speech like anti-Muslim hatred which is more frequently triggered by national and international events and development.

⁵⁹ For example, in Austria an Email has been distributed blaming Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize for the arson attacks against their settlements containing several dehumanising expressions: “Roma = Gypsy = Asian parasite! Thieves, rascals, work-shy welfare scroungers.”

⁶⁰ An article on the evictions of so-called slum houses in Duisburg-Marxloh published on a German right-wing webpage was accompanied by hateful user comments calling Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize, amongst others, “primates”.

⁶¹ An article published on a German right wing Facebook page was accompanied by several user comments calling for violence one stating: “we need to beat them up”.

⁶² For example, a French politician and member of the National Front party published this statement on his weblog: “But what can the Minister of the Interior do--apart from concentrating these foreign people in camps--where life would undoubtedly be so below what they counted on that they would prefer to flee such inhospitable territory?”

⁶³ A user in Austria commented a report on Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize published on the Facebook page of a local municipal department with: “„There is still place in the WAV, huge oven.” WAV is an acronym for a local waste recycling plant.

⁶⁴ See the [example from France](#) (Footnote 52) on the politician cynically commenting the death of a Roma/Romnija baby. In Austria, some showed no compassion at all after arson attacks on temporary settlements, but rather further insulted Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize and exercised the reversal of blame. In an open Email responding to the reports on the attacks, the author asked: “Who can be sad about this?”

Country-specific aspects

As stated in the context information provided by the different organisations, antiziganist sentiments are not just spread by online hate posts. Also mass media⁶⁵ as well as politicians occasionally rely on stereotypes and prejudices when reporting or talking about Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize.

In Austria, some politicians at the local level tend to equalise Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize with poverty and organised crime in public speeches and election campaigns. This is not just the case for politicians from the right-wing party, but also from the conservative party. For example, during an election in Salzburg in 2014 one party warned about “bands of beggars” on their election posters. Also assaults on Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize have not stopped since the deadly attack in 1995 which cost the lives of four people. The latest have been several arson attacks on provisional tent camps.

In France, not just politicians at the local level reproduce stereotypes and spread hate against Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize, but also at the national level, like the then Minister of Interior in 2013 who publicly advocated the deportation of all Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize out of France and the European Union. Also the head of the right-wing party in France publicly equalised Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize with thieves. A situation similar to Spain where the Fundación Secretariado Gitano (FSG) points out that antiziganism is growing despite penal codes forbidding discrimination due to an atmosphere of “absolute impunity”.

The widely spread and re-enforced notion of Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize as a threat also unites countries like France and Belgium in their attempts to delimit their freedom of movement, e.g. by building a wall around a reception zone for camping cars. One example from Belgium, a prolific Twitter user focusing mainly on spreading hate against Muslims but also aiming occasionally at other minorities

⁶⁵ For this see also the two cases from the Netherlands, where one online newspaper uses the derogative term “gypsy” and the other, completely unrelated to the topic of article, accuses a girl a tendency to thievery just because of her Roma/Romnija origin.

e.g. by publishing the statement "Roma have to be gassed, right as it happened during WWII", illustrates that antiziganism often goes hand in hand with hate against other groups and minorities.

In Germany, antiziganist hate is also spread by right wing "news"-pages like "Politically Incorrect News". Reports about local events like the eviction of houses in Duisburg-Marxloh openly antagonise the residents using a vast variety of antiziganist slurs. In these narratives, antiziganist labels function as a tool to invert the question of responsibility and insinuates that it is the residents' own fault for being poor. The triggered online hate against Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize accompanying these articles is indeed part of their publication strategy.

Conclusion

The internet and social media is used to further stereotype and to spread prejudice against Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize and not just by anonymous users but also by politicians and political parties. In doing so, they re-enforce the image of Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize as "dirty", "beggars", "thieves", "less than human" and as inferior "other". An image historically used to legitimise oppression, deportation and extermination. Besides stereotyping, fantasies of violence are verbally acted out using the image of the "conceptual gypsy" mixed with explicit incitements to violence. These different online manifestations of expressed hate against Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize illustrate just how alive and well the "gypsy threat narrative"⁶⁶ still is in Europe.

⁶⁶ Loveland, M. T. and Popescu, D., 2016. "The Gypsy Threat Narrative: Explaining Anti-Roma Attitudes in Europe". In *Humanity and Society Humanity & Society 2016, Vol. 40(3)*. P. 329-352. Available at <http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/0160597615601715>.

NATIONAL REPORTS

Austria

Organisation: Romano Centro – Verein für Roma und Sinti

Context:

In 1995 antiziganism hate costed the life of four humans in a cowardly pipe bomb assassination, but assaults against Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize happen to this day. When it comes to online hate, news-reports about Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize, e.g. on the alleged case of child abduction in Greece from 2013, are accompanied by an abundance of hostile and racist comments in the newspaper online forums and social media.

Print, online and social media coverage gravitates especially around the topics of allegedly organised *begging and beggars* and around reports on the recently installed parking places for mobile Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize. Especially tabloids like the *Krone Zeitung* and local newspapers regularly pick up the topic of *organised begging* to insinuate the existence of a *beggar mafia, rigid clan structures, aggressive behaviour* and *brutalisation* of Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize often also using pejorative terms (e.g. "clan" instead of "family", "gang" instead of "group"). That many media had to point to this supposed "beggar problem" at the 20th year Remembrance Day of the pipe bomb assassination was especially distressing and uncalled-for. Besides the tabloids, media in general also tend to thematically equalise Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize with *beggars*.

This thematic cliché and prejudice however is also kept alive by policy makers especially on the local level and not just from the extreme-right. For example, in 2014 the conservative party in Salzburg focused on the topic of "*organised begging*" posting warnings about "bands of beggars" during a local election. The extreme right and their media make no secret of their antiziganist attitude publishing openly racist articles on Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize and bothering local parliaments with absurd inquiries on incidents based solely on hearsay or on publications by the own right-wing media.

In social media, Romano Centro observes a strong increase of antiziganist hate speech showing “[...] a shocking degree of conceptual dehumanisation through positive references to Nazism, instigating murder and extermination fantasies.”⁶⁷

Events (2015–today):

In Vorarlberg in 2015 there has been a fierce debate regarding poverty-stricken Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize coming from Rumania in which policy makers reinforced racist stereotypes blaming Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize for their alleged life style instead of supporting them in improving their economic and social situation. Media reports covering this topic reproduced the racist stereotypes and provoked racist online replies. In addition there also have been cases of direct discrimination (insults, denial of goods and services).

There also have been similar public debates in Linz, focusing especially on homeless and persons forced to beggary due to poverty. There have been cases of denial of emergency overnight accommodations forcing families to sleep outdoors in tents. At the end of February and beginning of March 2016 three arson attacks completely destroyed these provisional accommodations.

⁶⁷ For more context information on antiziganism in Austria see the report “Antygypsyism in Austria 2015”, Available at http://www.romano-centro.org/downloads/Antigypsyism_in_Austria_2015.pdf.

First example

Title: Incitement to hatred on Schau.auf.Linz.at

Content	[Insult, Incitement to hatred]
Legal measure/action	Sent to Prosecutor's Office, complaint for incitement to hatred against the user and the webpage owner (Magistrate of the City of Linz) Request for Removal]
Type of speaker	[Anonymous commenter]
Medium	[Website: www.schau.auf.linz.at]
Editorial content or user comment e.g. at newspaper or other website	[User Content]
Private, group or public	[Public]
Link to the website / URL	[www.schau.auf.linz.at]

Before the third arson attack in Linz the position of the tent camp was published on www.schau.auf.linz.at. In reaction to attacks on the tent camp one user published this comment titled "Gypsy menace as far as one can see":

"Hordes of Gypsies storm tramways, harass the passengers, and even small kids offensively beg people. Paying customers are leaving the tram in disgust. Public toilets (Volksgarten, Station Unionkreuzung) are used as washroom, changing room and god knows for what else. It already must have reached the most secluded

office that this situation will no longer be tolerated by the community members. Please take effective action against this menace."

The main function of the website is complaint management. Citizens can call attention to damaged street lightning, illegally disposed garbage, and so forth and receive a prompt answer by the municipality. However the website has often been used to stir up hate against Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize or to insult them. The municipality does nothing to prevent those kinds of posts and rather tolerates them on their webpage.

To deal with this posting, Romano Centro got in contact with the site operators of schau.auf.linz. During several exchanges, they however expressed no understanding why this user comment may be insulting and a problem. During a phone call on the topic of the comment they informed us that it has been discussed with management and decided that the comment doesn't infringe the site's terms of use and will therefore remain online. Just after emphasizing that Romano Centro will report the case to the authorities the comment was deleted.

Romano Centro also reported the case to the public prosecutor office in Linz but the charges have been dismissed as the user couldn't be identified.

Zigeunerplage wohin man sieht



Status	Status: wird nicht umgesetzt / keine Zuständigkeit
Kategorie	Sonstiges
Adresse	██████████
eingebracht von	Gast, am 3.3.2016, 07:43 Uhr
UnterstützerInnen	7 <input type="button" value="Meldung unterstützen"/>

Hordeweise stürmte Zigeuner die Strassenbahn, belästigen die Fahrgäste, sogar die kleinen Kinder betteln offensiv die Leute an. Die zahlenden Fahrgäste verlassen angewidert die Strassenbahn. Öffentliche WC's (Volksgarten, Station Unionkreuzung) werden als Waschraum, Umkleidekabine und was weis Gott noch alles benutzt. Es müsste mittlerweile bis in die letzten Amtstuben vorgedrungen sein das dieser Zustand von der Bevölkerung nicht mehr lange toleriert werden wird. Bitte endlich wirksame Massnahmen gegen diese Landplage setzen.

Kommentare



- Es sind wirklich zustände. Beginnend von der Blumau über Volksgarten bis hin zum Schillerpark, geht es zu.
8 mal angebettelt. Massivst bedrängt. 5 Leute schleichen um einen umher, drängen sich vorbei, danach sind wieder 2 Taschen beim Rucksack offen.
Müll wird einfach fallen gelassen.
Wir haben eh so wenige Parks und die die wir haben, kann man mit seinen Kindern nicht mal mehr benutzen!

Zu den 60 Millionen die die Brücke kostet, tut's noch ein paar Tausender hinzu und bauts beim Schillerpark eine Polizeiwachstube.

██████████ (3.3.2016, 08:09 Uhr)

- Höre gerade im Radio, dass wieder ein Zeltlager gebrannt hat...

██████████ (3.3.2016, 11:04 Uhr)

- Seltsamerweise kurz nachdem es hier mit genauer Position gemeldet wurde.

██████████ (3.3.2016, 11:07 Uhr)

- Wir haben Ihre Meldung an die Polizei und den Ordnungsdienst weitergeleitet.
[Schau.auf.Linz \(3.3.2016, 11:23 Uhr\)](#)

Second example

Title: Incitement to hatred by email

Content	[Insult, Incitement to hatred]
Legal measure/action	[Taken to court]
Type of speaker	[Identifiable commenter]
Medium	[E-Mail]
Private, group or public	[Group]
Link to the website / URL	[Newspaper article on the case: http://derstandard.at/2000048788809/Verhetzungsprozess-Der-Dieb-und-der-Abschaum]

After the first arson attacks on the tent camps in February in Linz an email was send to several public offices, the major of Linz and several newspapers stating:

"Now it finally went public that tents owned by Roma have been torched. Who can be sad about this? Just a blockhead who doesn't know about this scum of humanity. Roma = Gypsy = Asian parasite! Thieves, rascals, work-shy welfare scroungers."

The author of the email was reported to the public authorities. At the trial, the author argued that the news reports on the arson attacks made him to write and send this Email. In December 2016 he was found guilty of incitement to hatred. The author of the email has been sentenced to seven months conditional imprisonment.

Third example

Title: Incitement to hatred on the Facebook page of the City of Wels

Content	[Incitement to violence]
Legal measure/action	[Statement of the facts to the prosecution officer in Wels]
Type of speaker	[Identifiable commenter]
Medium	[Facebook]
Editorial content or user comment e.g. at newspaper or other website	[User comment]
Private, group or public	[Public]
Link to the website / URL	[Press release by SPÖ Wels: https://stadt-wels.spooe.at/2016/03/16/skandaloeso-oeffentlichkeitsarbeit-der-stadt-wels-provoziert-ueble-hetze-auf-facebookseite/]

This case was brought to the attention of Romano Centro by the Social Democratic Party (SPÖ) of Wels. In a press release in March 2016 the SPÖ Wels criticised the way the current municipal government represents Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize in their press releases and how it is taken up by readers. A villainizing report using disgusting pictures on transient Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize led to several hateful comments on the official Facebook page of the city of Wels. One reader commented:

„There is still place in the WAV, huge oven.“

WAV stands for *Welser Abfallverwertung*, an Austrian waste recycling plant.

According to SPÖ Wels the comment was kept online for 19 hours after it has been reported and after severe protests.

The SPÖ Wels also sent the case to the public prosecutor's office in Wels, but there is no information on the progress or outcome of the proceeding.

Belgium

Organisation: Centre for Equal Opportunities and Opposition to Racism (Unia)

Context:

The Roma/Romnija, Sinti/Sintize and traveller communities face challenges similar to those of other minority groups in Belgium. The recent attacks that took place on the European continent participated to render the context more difficult for all of them. Some "nationalist" authors target Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize amongst many other communities such as Muslims, refugees, etc. Nevertheless, antiziganism has particularities as well.

Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize are frequently perceived as a homogeneous ethnic minority composed of "foreigners" living in poverty at the margins of society as a travelling community. Whereas most of them have been living in Europe for a very long time, have citizenship of an EU Member State, etc. poverty obviously also affects other groups of the population and not all beggars are "Roma".

Persisting prejudice, suspicion and mistrust are pointed out by the lawyer of the French speaking Human rights League of Belgium, Jean-Marie Dermagne, as a central difficulty. What he calls the "sordid amalgams" are still strong in Belgium in 2017. Many clichés about the Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize community are around. The consequence of this is fear and rejection.

Events (2015 – Today):

The aforementioned context leads to expression of fear and clichés by different means.

Building of a wall on the French-Belgian boarder: a reception zone for camping cars has been set up in France close to the Belgian border. The aim was to welcome travelling families. Belgian residents complained about the nuisance and the mayor and French authorities agreed to build a wall of 2m40 height around the area in May 2015.

First example:

Title: Antiziganist post on Fidelio Twitter page

Content	Incitement to violence
Legal measure/action	Legal complaint
Type of speaker	Individual
Medium	Twitter
Private, group or public	Private account – public access
Link to the website / URL	https://twitter.com/Fidelio_is_weer

The administrator of the Fidelio_is_weer account presents himself with the words “The only proper Muslim policy comes from the barrel of a gun!” He is very active on twitter and is being followed by more than thousand users.

In the past few years, his account has been taken down twice. Every time he comes back with the same ‘policy’ and a slightly different name. Unia filed a complaint against him in 2014 but this didn’t lead to a prosecution. It seems that he has already set up a number of accounts with relatively similar names from the very beginning.

The recent “climate” (the asylum crisis in 2015, the Syrian war, the ISIS and terrorist attacks in Paris and in Brussels in 2016, etc.) led to even more aggressive tweets by this user: he calls for the extermination of all Muslims as “the only solution”; all ‘collaborators’ must be extinguished too. This Twitter account incites others to violence and hate on a daily basis. Alongside hatred against Muslims, the account also attacks other minorities such as Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize, for example.



Fidelio_is_weer @Fidelio_is_weer

Roma moeten worden vergast, net zoals tijdens WOII ! <https://t.co/fklO0d9X1m>

Translation: "Roma have to be gassed, right as it happened during WWII"

Unia did request a takedown for the previous account. Unia believes, however, that this is a case of a convinced and repeated offender and a danger to our national security and our democratic society. It is crucial to identify this perpetrator and put him to justice.

The prosecutor did send Twitter a court order for the identification of the administrator – a process that is still running.

Second example

Title: Antiziganism on Public Radio

Content	Insult
Legal measure/action	Transfer to media regulatory body
Type of speaker	Public
Medium	Radio, newspapers, social media
Editorial content or user comment e.g. at newspaper or other website	Subsequent Facebook user comments under press articles
Private, group or public	Public
Link to the website / URL	http://www.lesoir.be/1374177/article/culture/medias-tele/2016-11-22/alain-simons-de-rape-sur-gitans

On the 22nd of November 2016, during the morning show the radio moderator Alain Simons on the public radio channel “Vivacité Charleroi” said that the population “should be careful” because “gypsies” are around in certain neighbouring towns.

UNIA filed the case with the Audiovisual Council on the 24th of November 2016. The institutions agreed that UNIA would be sending an advice and opinion about the case, which was done on the 14th of December 2016. The decision of the Audiovisual Council was published on the 10th of May 2017.

In its decision, the Audiovisual Council considered that the journalist had not only spread a stigmatizing message by saying that Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize are thieves but also incited the population to act accordingly by adopting a discriminatory attitude depending on the persons' ethnic origin. The effect of the speech on the public was seen as independent of the intention of the speaker to incite violence or discrimination. The Audiovisual Council took into

consideration the content of the message, the fact that the journalist did not seem to understand the seriousness of his behaviour and that this spreads heavily trivialises clichés that are present in society. Furthermore, the fact that the message has been spread on a public radio channel has also been taken into consideration. Nevertheless, the attitude of the radio group RTBF which reacted quickly towards its employee has also been taken into consideration. Therefore, the Audiovisual Council decided that RTBF will have to read a message saying that they have been condemned by the Audiovisual Council for those events:

- 1) During the show where the message was initially spread, once directly after the news, twice a day, once at 6.30am and another time at 7.30 am from 19/06/2017 until 25/06/2017
- 2) Publish the message on its website on the homepage of the concerned radio channel from 19/06/2017 until 25/06/2017

The contacts and procedure were efficient and swift. As Unia did not consider the content to be illegal, the transfer to the Audiovisual Council allowed a treatment of the issue.

The event has led to numerous news articles and subsequent user comments. Below are two examples to user comments to an article published on lesoir.be

"The end of democracy is when two phenomena can be witnessed: (protected) minorities take over, and the difference between reality and the speeches of public authorities is enormous. Then, against all expectations, the so hated populism (which is only the expression of the majority) finds a fertile soil... fed by the same idiots that made it possible. Roma, gypsies, etc.... do not have a lifestyle that is compatible with ours, neither here, nor in their home countries where they pretend to be victims of racism. They benefit from a permissive system and from a romantic perception that some spread that prostitution rings (including children), begging (including children, ill and hand-capped tailor made for the job), racketeering... thank you for having told us about their presence, the opposite would have been in the best case scenario a failure to help people in danger and in the worst case scenario participation! Thanks for not falling into this self-censorship, this precaution to maintain the good people in ignorance, in

the hope not to wake up the 'beast that sleeps inside every democratic human being paying taxes', especially that it is exactly when acting like this that the demons awake"

"Stealing without any violence nor threat?? Maybe you should inform yourself before inventing facts, as the violence of Roma doesn't require any proof anymore. Go and ask in France. They are amongst the most dangerous!"

France

Organisation: International League Against Racism and Antisemitism (Licra)

Context:

In France, antiziganism is quite complex because of the amalgams between Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize, Gypsy, Romani and sometimes Romanian people. Around 20.000 Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize live in France and they constitute one of the smallest and most marginalized population groups. No big efforts have been taken in learning about and familiarising with the history and living conditions of Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize. The "Porajmos", the genocide of Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize during World War II, is quite unknown among French citizens.

It is rather difficult to gain an overview of the distribution of antiziganism in the internet in France. In general, antiziganism is quite often used in political (even at the highest level) and sometimes media publications and speeches. It could be considered as being trivialised in public opinion. In a survey published at the end of 2014 in the Annual report of the National Consultative Committee for Human Rights (CNCDH) on xenophobia, racism and antisemitism, 77% of the interviewees considered Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize as not able to be integrated into France and that they live mainly from stealing. As a consequence, posts and articles published on social media platforms and far right, nationalist and "identitarian" websites disseminate a combination of stereotypes, prejudices, misunderstanding, and expressions of fear and of hostility. Many of these statements published online and offline reinforce old stereotypes and prejudices, e.g. that Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize exploit children and are specialized in thievery, scamming and looting.

Events (2015–today):

In 2013, Manuel Valls, at this time Ministry of Interior and now ex-Prime Minister, declared "Roma should return to their country and be integrated over there. [...] They should return to Romania or Bulgaria and for that the European Union, with the Bulgarian and Romanian authorities, must ensure that these populations are firstly integrated in their countries. [...] It's illusory to think that we can resolve the problem of the Roma population solely via insertion (into French society)." He further claimed: "There is no other solution than to progressively dismantle these camps and deport (Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize)". This position is rather representative of the public opinion on Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize in France. Antiziganism is quite present and rather trivialised in French society. For example, in 2012, Jean-Marie Le Pen said that that Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize "are like birds... they fly (*vole*) naturally". The French verb "*vole*" means both to fly and to steal. Also confusion and misunderstandings about Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize are quite common and widespread in France.

Other political positions and statements also reflected this situation in France. In summer 2013, the then Mayor of Cholet, Gilles Bourdouleix, claimed about a Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize camp installed in his municipality territory: "Hitler did not kill enough". He has been sentenced for apology of war crimes and crimes against humanity. He was handed a 3.000€ fine in his appeal verdict. Another example, in 2015, the Mayor of the city of Champlain has refused the burial of a Roma baby of 2 months. In the same year, 11.118 Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize have been evicted from 111 camps by public forces. France is a country which has often been criticized amongst others by the UN and the Council of Europe for its policy of mass deportations of Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize.

In 2017, a National Front municipal councillor of the South of France (Isère), M. Sinisi, declared: "To house the Roma, I think there could be some sort of self-financing. The city should pay for dental services... in order to recover their gold-encrusted teeth".

First example

Title: Jean-Yves Narquin and the Roma baby

Content	[Incitement to racial hatred]
Legal measure/action	[Reporting]
Type of speaker	[Mayor of Villedieu le Château / National Front (far right)]
Medium	[Twitter]
Private, group or public	[Public]
Link to the website / URL	[https://twitter.com/Narquin_JY/status/550937807477145600]

Jean-Yves Narquin, General delegate of the movement "Bleu Marine" (National Front) and Mayor of the city of Villedieu le Château, published in his twitter account a reacting to the death of a Romnija baby in the train station of Lille-Flandres: "A Roma baby died in her mother's arms, who was begging in Lille. Use a baby as a bait includes some risks!"

This statement published on the 2nd of January 2015 has shocked a lot of Twitter users and was considered as racist, with no compassion and based on prejudices. Moreover, Francesca, the two months old baby, died due to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.

Whether this is an illegal post or not is not clear as it hasn't been prosecuted.



Narquin Jean-Yves

@Narquin_JY

 Suivre

Un bébé rom meurt dans les bras de sa mère qui mendiait à Lille

utiliser un bébé comme appât comprend des risques !

fr.news.yahoo.com/b%C3%A9b%C3%A9...

09:53 - 2 Jan 2015



Un bébé rom meurt dans les bras de sa m...

Un bébé rom âgé de deux mois est mort jeudi à la gare de Lille-Flandres dans les bras de sa mère qui mendiait et une enquête a été ouverte
fr.news.yahoo.com

  105  36

Second example

Title: „Warning: presence of Roma people in the area“

Content	[Racial defamation]
Legal measure/action	[No action possible]
Type of speaker	[Shared-ownership association delegate]
Medium	[Mail]
Private, group or public	[Private]

This mail has been reported to our legal service. It has been sent by the delegate of the shared-ownership association. The title of the mail is “Warning: presence of Roma people in the area”.

The content of the mail is:

“Dear all, we have noticed this Monday morning a deformation of the locks of the parking of the following buildings, Syra and Paros. It probably happened this weekend. I ask you to be careful and to close your doors and windows [...] and the access doors [...]. You may have noticed the presence of Roma people near to the fire station since last Friday. Actually, there exist several camps [of Roma people] in the area [...]”

This mail reinforces several stereotypical beliefs against that Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize: they are all nomads, they are here to steal, and they all live in camps.

The issue with this case is its privacy: because it is an Email, there is no legal action, no reporting system. The only possibility is to get in contact with the author which has been done by the people who reported the mail to Licra, but there is no information on the outcome of this.

Third example

Title: Paul-Marie Coûteaux and the Roma camp

Content	{Incitement to racial hatred }
Legal measure/action	{Sent to public authority/state, reporting }
Type of speaker	{Ex-National Front candidate and François Fillon (Republicans' party –right movement) actual supporter }
Medium	{Blog – BlogSpot }
Private, group or public	{Public }
Link to the website / URL	{ http://paulmariecouteaux-municipales.blogspot.fr/ }

A National Front party candidate running in Paris's municipal elections has caused outrage by suggesting the best way to deal with the country's Roma/Romnija population would be to "concentrate" them in "camps" in a blog posting. In response to reports on the presence of Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize in his district, Paul-Marie Coûteaux published this view on how they should be treated by public authorities on his blog:

"But what can the Minister of the Interior do-- apart from concentrating these foreign people in camps--where life would undoubtedly be so below what they counted on that they would prefer to flee such inhospitable territory?"

The blog was hosted on BlogSpot (Google). SOS Racisme (a partner of Licra) reported the content to Google. The Blog has been entirely removed but Coûteaux has created a new blog. SOS Racisme decided to

also report this content to the legal authorities. A legal information has been opened.

The blog posting was published during the month of February 2014. The correctional Court of Paris has delivered its judgement in January 2016, two years after the publication of the blog post. Paul-Marie Coûteaux has been sentenced to a 3,000€ fine.

Germany

Organisation: jugendschutz.net

Context:

Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize are one of the most marginalized population groups in Germany. Although they are represented by the Central *Council of German Sinti and Roma* (Zentralrat Deutscher Sinti und Roma), it took a long time until minority rights were fully accepted and the actions taken against them during the Second World War were recognised as genocide. Unlike the victimhood of the Jewish people, deportations and other crimes committed by the Nazi regime against Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize, were legitimized as "criminal prevention" even by courts and in scientific discourses after 1945. This only started to change when political self-organizations of those affected began to form in the 1970s. Still, to this day Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize have to fight with everyday racism and stigmatization, mainly based on the stereotype of being "gypsies", "nomads" or "travelling people" leading an unstable life.

Regarding hate speech on the internet, it is difficult to say whether antiziganism is disseminated on certain platforms or through certain tools. Not only right-wing pages pick up stereotypes and defame Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize as deviant in total. Mass media sometimes make use of these prejudices as well when they report about issues concerning Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize. Even if the language of serious news formats is moderate, some articles tend to reinforce and promote hateful sentiments against the group. Stereotypes then appear between the lines and in rather subtle ways. News coverage on Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize can lead to even more aggressive forms of cyber hate: it instigates users to comment on articles in form of insults and defamations, and right-wing fake news pages use press articles as authentic sources to substantiate their hate campaigns against Sinti and Roma.

Events (2015–today):

Duisburg–Marxloh is part of a German city with a huge migrant population, high crime rates and poverty migration especially from Eastern Europe (Romania, Bulgaria, etc.). Those migrants often live together in slum-like houses that are run-down and overcrowded. Due to the ethnic origin of some its inhabitants as Roma/Romnija (or their origin of Eastern Europe, which is often equated with "Roma"), local residents and newspapers called the houses "Roma houses". Repeatedly there were complaints from residents about heaps of rubbish on the streets, in the inner courtyards and on the basements that would attract vermin. Some neighbours also reported thefts and beggary, some engaged in street protests that were soon joined by right-wing extremist groups. Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize were quickly labelled as thieves, prostitutes, responsible for diseases and epidemics, dirty etc. They were compared with rats and primates and some called for deportation and the "Waffen-SS".

In 2016, the city carried out evictions of several houses that appeared particularly problematic, on grounds of shortcomings in fire protection and general inhabitability. Some media criticized the city administration for their firm approach when forcing families out of their homes and reported on the poor and hopeless situation of many migrants. Other media suggested that Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize rather *caused* problems than having problems and ascribed deviant behaviour to ethnicity. News coverage on Duisburg–Marxloh on one hand sensitized for the issue of poverty migration and social marginalization of Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize. On the other hand, it reinforced old prejudices against the population group and triggered online hate.

First example

Title: Duisburg–Marxloh – right wing antiziganism

Content	[Incitement to hatred]
Legal measure/action	[No Actions Taken]
Type of speaker	[Blogger]
Medium	[Website]
Private, group or public	[Public]
Link to the website / URL	[https://www.pi-news.net/2016/10/marxloh-stadt-raeumt-zigeunerbruchbuden]

A hateful article about evictions of so-called slum houses in Duisburg–Marxloh was published on the right-wing, conspiracy-theory-based site "Politically Incorrect News". The article describes Roma as responsible for the dirt, rats, smell etc. and it was followed by several hate comments like "antisocial gypsies", "primates", "gypsies want to live in dirt und mud" etc.

swissgoldsafe



Schliessfächer
im Gotthardgebiet -
ausserhalb des
Bankensystems

POLITICALLY INCORRECT

NOTFALL-BLOG

wordpress.com

STATISTIKEN UND INFOS



PFEFFER
SPRAY

abwehrsprays.net

CHADDANTA

DIEAN

« Islamisierung auch bei ALDI — Al Hayat TV: Das leckere Blut der Ungläubigen »

Marxloh: Stadt räumt Zigeunerbruchbuden



Viele der in Dusbürg-Marxloh lebenden Zigeuner hausen in Schrottmobilien. Wenn Häuser nicht davor schon baufällig waren, so sind sie es sobald die Zigeuner es sich dort längere Zeit "gemütlich" gemacht hatten. Dreck, Gestank, Müllberge und überall Ratten. Die Stadt zieht nun mit der „Task-Force-Problemmobilien“ die Reißleine und will alle derzeit zur Sprache stehenden 85 Gebäude unter die Lupe nehmen und gegebenenfalls räumen. In den Häusern bestehen nicht nur katastrophale hygienische Zustände, sondern – was viel schwerer wiegt – gravierende Brandschutzmängel. Einer der Vermieter hatte gegen eine Räumung geklagt und verloren, nun ging die Stadt ans Werk und tat was lange angekündigt war, sie räumte die betroffenen Gebäude. Jetzt gibt's mediales und gutmenschliches Affentheater, weil die Zigeuner aus ihren mit Rattenkot verdreckten Bruchbuden geworfen wurden.



Der 17. Juni - unser nationaler Feiertag

26.03.2017 um 13:00 Uhr
Jakobsplatz - Nürnberg



GEWALTFREI & VEREINT
2. Jahre
NÜRNBERG
PEGIDA



Stickment
STICK YOUR STATEMENT



DANKE

Second example

Title: Right wing propaganda: "Gypsies terrorize people"

Content	[Incitement to hatred]
Legal measure/action	[No Actions Taken]
Type of speaker	[Pressure group]
Medium	[Social media]
Private, group or public	[Public]
Link to the website / URL	https://www.facebook.com/Widerstand.NRW/posts/1766826426918029

A Facebook post on the right-wing Facebook page "Widerstand NRW" (resistance Northrhine-Westfalia) assumes terrorizing of German people by Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize migrants who would behave like conquerors. The post quotes an article of a neo-Nazi website. The comments under the FB posts say e.g.: "This is cultural enrichment – get the pack out!" or "burn the knickers of the gypsies so they get cosy at the crotch".

The linked article (<http://staseve.eu/?p=19541>) assumes land grab by "Romanian gypsies" who terrorize people and left piles of rubbish, would be violent, spit on kids while "politics" won't do anything etc. The "Article" is a collection of imputations about Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize without any source or real event. The "Article" also claims to represent the "voices from the people living there" and that it would be even worse than described in the "Article". The comments under article calls e.g. for violence against Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize ("we need to beat them up"), call them "blowflies" etc.

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August 30, 2016

<http://staseve.eu/duisburg-marxloh-zigeuner-terrorisieren-b...>

Duisburg-Marxloh: Zigeuner terrorisieren Bewohner...sie benehmen sich wie Eroberer...Antwort der Stadtverwaltung: ihr müsst den Terror...

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Political Organization

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Friedlich demonstrieren und der Politik zeigen, was wir wollen

1,975 people like this and 1,919 people follow this

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- Political Organization

Third example

Title: Gypsies are illegal workers and whores

Content	[Incitement to hatred]
Legal measure/action	[No Actions Taken]
Type of speaker	[Anonymous commenter]
Medium	[Social Media (Twitter)]
Private, group or public	[Public]
Link to the website / URL	[https://twitter.com/Abidabinabi/status/663041569092714496]

A twitter post by a private user about "gypsies" coming to Germany from Romania: "Everyday new busses from Romania to Heilbronn, full of gypsy vermin who work here illegally and bring whores with them."



The Netherlands

Organisation: Meldpunt Internet Discriminatie (MiND) and Stichting Magenta

Context:

In the Netherlands there are not a lot of complaints concerning anti-ziganism. Since 2015 MDI received eight complaints. Almost all of them were about the stereotyping of Romani people/"gypsies"/trailer people etc. as thieves and having a low IQ. Below you can see two examples of complaints MDI received.

Events (2015–today):

There was one incident in 2016 with supporters of the football club PSV in Spain harassing a group of people stigmatised as "zigeuners". There was no provocation of any sort leading to this. This offline event had not resulted in any complaints, but did cause an uproar in society. PSV openly condemned the action of the PSV supporters and wished no to be associated with this kind of behaviour. They also banned the identified supporters. Whether the PSV was going to share the names with the Justice department of the Netherland and Spain or not, was also topic of an intense debate. In the end, PSV did not share the names as they saw the event not as a criminal action, but a matter of norms and values. MDI also openly expressed disgust upon the incident and the behaviour of the Dutch PSV supporters in Spain.⁶⁸

⁶⁸ A news video about this incident can be seen here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w3VSKG9jkIM>

First example

Title: Roma girl smarter than Einstein

Content	[Insult]
Legal measure/action	[none]
Type of speaker	[Journalist]
Medium	[Websites including newspapers]
Editorial content or user comment e.g. at newspaper or other website	[Editorial content]
Private, group or public	[public]
Link to the website / URL	[http://frontpage.fok.nl/nieuws/722905/1/1/50/13-jarige-roma-chick-scoort-twee-punten-hoger-dan-einstein-en-hawkins.html]

In an article on the webpage fok.nl a journalist reported on the outcome of an IQ Test by a Romnija girl who scored 2 points higher than Albert Einstein. The introduction to the article stated:

"(...) [she] seems to have a different future than the normal future for Roma people. Instead of being genius in stealing materialistic goods she stole the hearts of the genius British with her IQ of 162."

This is an example of how people regard Roma/Romnija as thieves. No action was taken as the website corrected the sentence themselves into: 'She stole the hearts of genius British with her IQ of 162'

Second example

Title: Use of the derogative term "zigeuners" in a news article.

Content	[Insult]
Legal measure/action	[no]
Type of speaker	[journalist]
Medium	[website]
Editorial content or user comment e.g. at newspaper or other website	['Police is warning people for stealing and threatening in Asten and surroundings']
Private, group or public	[public]
Link to the website / URL	[http://www.dichtbij.nl/helmond/112/artikel/4238163/let-op-politie-waarschuwt-voor-stelende-en-dreigende-zigeuners-in-asten-en-omgeving.aspx?trk=blk_meest_gelezen_Regio]

On the webpage [dichtbij.nl](http://www.dichtbij.nl) a journalist reprinted a warning by the local police about activities of a gang stealing, threatening and conning people. In the title of the article, the journalist changed the expression "Sinti" used by the police into "zigeuners" (a derogatory term similar to "gypsy").

Although this is not illegal, it is tendentious and it shows the stereotyping of Sinti in the Netherlands.

Spain

Organisation: Movement against Intolerance (MCI)

Context:

According to the latest report on the *discrimination of the Roma Community* in Spain for 2015 and 2016 by the Fundación Secretariado Gitano (FSG) there have been 368 cases of discrimination against Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize. Most of the cases dealt with discrimination at the labour market and access to housing. Two demonstrations in the last years against Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize in Estepa and Castellar –rural areas in the southern region of Andalucía – were considered by the FSG and others as very serious events due to its high level of hostility and the displayed readiness for violence. When it comes to official data on hate speech nothing can be found in the report of the Ministry of Interior. This is due to the fact that there is no category for Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize and the cases might therefore be categorised under the general term of “racism”.

Nevertheless, according to the FSG, antiziganism hate speech is growing in an atmosphere of “absolute impunity” in spite of the penal code updated on hate speech in the recent years.

Events (2015–today):

An unauthorized demonstration against “Roma robbery” in Estepa ended in an act of violence when several houses of Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize families have been burned down. 24 people have been prosecuted for that crime but they weren’t charge for hate crimes against Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize.⁶⁹ The organisers and members of the demonstrations used the application WhatsApp for coordinating their activities, it therefore also may be seen as an act under the 510 provision of the penal code about incitement to hatred. Even though this incident happened on July of 2014 its ramifications are still present nowadays.

⁶⁹ For more on this incident see this article on El Pais:
http://ccaa.elpais.com/ccaa/2015/12/01/andalucia/1448988989_792074.html

First example

Title: Tweeting antiziganist slurs

Content	Insult, Incitement to violence
Legal measure/action	Request for Removal
Type of speaker	Anonymous commenter
Medium	Twitter
Private, group or public	Public

MCI reported these three posts to Twitter using the common reporting tools offered by the platform.

The first post calls Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize “putos”. The second demands the “extinction of Roma”. And the third is linking Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize to “yonhis”.

To date, they haven’t received a reply by Twitter and the posts haven’t been deleted. However, it has to be pointed out that this was done before the code of conduct between social media enterprises and the European Commission has been agreed upon.

Second Example

Title: Insulting encyclopaedia entry about Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize

Content	Insult,
Type of speaker	Anonymous commenter
Medium	Metapedia
Editorial content or user comment e.g. at newspaper or other website	User Content
Private, group or public	Public

On the Spanish version of the right-wing encyclopaedia Metapedia the entry on Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize contains a large number of insulting and pejorative terms and explanations. The article accuses Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize of bad behaviour especially in public spaces, of being prone to violence and crime, and of a tendency to child abuse – own kids included. The entry ends with the claim that Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize are the most despicable race in the world.

Gitanos

Se define a gitanos, romaníes, romaníes o gitanos gitano a una comunidad étnica originaria del Subcontinente Indio, particularmente de la zona del actual estado de Rajastán^[1] que alda de los siglos medios de la India, con rasgos culturales comunes aunque con enormes diferencias entre sus subgrupos, antropológicamente de ascendencia caucásica. Que son los descendientes directos, los hijos de sus padres.

Se encuentran asentados principalmente en Europa, y son de hecho la mayor minoría étnica de la Unión Europea, aunque están presentes también, pero en menor proporción, en el resto del mundo, con importantes comunidades en Estados Unidos, México, Perú y Chile, por ejemplo.

Los gitanos tienen comportamiento agresivo a quienes no lo son. Su comportamiento antropológico racista, su alto índice de criminalidad y su tendencia a los abusos infantiles (incluso a los de sus propios hijos) son factores por los cuales se los considera étnicamente indeseables, siendo uno de los grupos más rechazados por el mundo en general. Son temidos por su comportamiento agresivo para obligarlos a emigrar o permitirlos. También suelen caer a su presa en estados aún infantiles en todos los países.

Orígenes

1. Roma
2. Práctico nomadismo
3. Étnico problema en España
4. Problemas del sistema
5. La situación del racismo en los gitanos en España
6. Expansión geográfica de los gitanos en España
7. Corridos, situación actual y perspectivas del mestizaje
8. Ficción y realidad
9. La discriminación racial
10. Clases sociales
11. Religión
12. Admisión racialista
13. Historia sobre cómo gitano

Orígenes

Cuando se va buscando siempre se cree que los gitanos europeos tienen sus orígenes en la India, aludiendo a la presencia de algunos de los palabras que utilizan. Y algunos de sus rasgos étnicos. Esto ha sido confirmado por un estudio liderado por el Dr. Thomas Kivimäki, de la Universidad de Cambridge, en el que participaron académicos procedentes de la India y de Europa. El estudio llegó a situar el origen de esta etnia en el subcontinente indio, y no en el norte de África como se creía anteriormente. Como grupo del que pertenecen los gitanos^[2]. Thomas Kivimäki es un experto en estudios humanos.

Para llegar a esta conclusión, los investigadores han contado con la colaboración de un grupo de científicos del centro Helmholtz para biología celular y molecular, con expertos procedentes de Estonia y Rusia, que se encargaron de comparar más de 10.000 muestras tomadas en más de 200 etnias diferentes.

El estudio, publicado recientemente en la revista Nature, apunta las conexiones y rutas de ADN para comparar las firmas genéticas de hombres europeos con las de miles de indios de todo el subcontinente.

Third example

Title: Far right agitation against Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize

Content	[Insult,]
Type of speaker	[Anonymous commenter]
Medium	[Metapedia]
Editorial content or user comment e.g. at newspaper or other website	[User Content]
Private, group or public	[Public]
Link to the website / URL	[http://antigitanos.blogspot.com.es/2011/10/anti-gitanos.html]]

Antigitanos is a far right probably neo-Nazi website. There the owners regularly publish aggressive texts aiming at Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize. Although no new content has been published for several years, the webpage is still online and the MCI is preparing a complaint for the special prosecutor of the hate crime office. In the forums of the webpage, some user openly call for the extinction of all Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize.

5. Thematic report on Homophobia

Introduction and Definition

According to the European Commission, “Homophobia is a mixture of negative attitudes and feelings towards lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people”.⁷⁰ Referring to this phenomenon of “negative attitudes and feelings” as homophobia is by no means meant to be an acknowledgment of it as a phobia in the clinical sense (based on physiological reactions) or as an individual rather than a social prejudice.

The aim of this chapter will be to analyse, on the basis of the online hate speech examples provided by the six participating organisations, the context and transnational trends and to highlight country-specific topics of homophobia.

Context and Transnational Trends

The rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex (LGBTI) people have been strengthened over the last decade in the six participating countries and social acceptance seems to be growing. Some countries for example allow legally registered relationships, enabling same sex couples to marry or to adopt a child, and introduce co-maternity legislation.⁷¹ LGBTI public figures start being more visible, the Austrian entertainer Conchita Wurst or the former Ministers Elio di Rupo (Belgium) and Guido Westerwelle (Germany) are just a few examples. The results of a poll carried out in 2016 in Belgium for Unia – the Interfederal Centre for Equal Opportunities – even shows that 60% of the respondents neither have a problem with the concept of LGBTI as such, nor with public expression of homosexuality.

⁷⁰ European Commission. 2017. *Homophobia*. Available at http://ec.europa.eu/justice/fundamental-rights/homophobia/index_en.htm.

⁷¹ FRA. 2016. *Fundamental Rights Report 2016*. P.69. Available at <http://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2016/fundamental-rights-report-2016>.

At the same time, nearly the same share of the respondents to the poll admitted that their friends make jokes about “gay”.⁷² One could thus believe that the acceptance for LGBTI people goes hand in hand with the acceptance of anti-gay slurs in daily life, but the picture is obviously more complex.

In its annual report 2017, ILGA-Europe points out numerous examples of bias-motivated hate speech.⁷³ According to a study by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), in 2013, two thirds of LGBTI people still concealed their sexual orientation. A great number (91%) of participants to the study recall poor treatment and harassment of LGBTI students or students that were perceived as gay. Furthermore, according to this study, about half of the respondents tends to avoid certain places for fear of being harassed, threatened or attacked on grounds of their sexual orientation or gender identity.⁷⁴ Notwithstanding the legal and social improvements that should have benefitted LGBTI people, the community thus still seems to feel insecure and discriminated against. The examples provided by the different participating organisations suggest that, at least in the online world, the *de jure* improvements do not necessarily lead to a *de facto* improvement for LGBTI people.

For the sake of clarity in this section, we will present the examples of homophobic and transphobic hate speech online in three categories: expressions of everyday hate speech and the spreading of stereotypes (1), adverse consequences of the legal improvements and the subsequent increase in visibility of the LGBTI communities (2) and the hate speech linked to external events that can lead to the intersection of different protected characteristics (3).

⁷² Unia & iVox. 2016. *L'homophobie en Belgique anno 2016 : rapport de recherche*, p.3. Available (in French and Dutch) at http://unia.be/files/Documenten/Artikels/Son-dage_FR_perception_homosexualité_-_iVOX_.pdf.

⁷³ ILGA-Europe. 2017. *Annual Review of the Human Rights Situation of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex People in Europe 2017*. Available at: http://www.ilga-europe.org/sites/default/files/2017/full_annual_review.pdf.

⁷⁴ FRA. 2013. *EU LGBT survey*. Available at <http://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2013/eu-lgbt-survey-european-union-lesbian-gay-bisexual-and-transgender-survey-results>.

Everyday hate speech and the spreading of stereotypes

Homophobic slurs seem engraved in everyday speech and authorities do not appear to have the means to counter such sentiments.⁷⁵ In the Belgian poll mentioned above, more than half (60%) of the respondents admitted that their friends make jokes about "gay".⁷⁶

HOSI Vienna, an Austrian Anti-Discrimination Unit for Same-Sex and Transgender, alongside the increase of homophobic comments, points out that "the emotional threshold to post homophobic comments recedes". When public figures, whether they are politicians, artists or sportsmen, spread or share homophobic content online their fans and followers seem to actively like and share them. One could consider that this increased visibility of homophobic hate speech contributes to legitimizing it and by that rendering it socially acceptable. The influence public figures can have should thus not be underestimated. This has been recognized by the Dutch Court of Den Bosch who found guilty the rapper "Ismo" for the lyrics of one of his songs: "I don't give faggots a handshake". Interestingly enough, the same song was not found worth to be taken down by YouTube yet. In Germany, the far-right party NPD (Nationaldemokratische Partei Deutschland) employed the hashtag #nohomo which stems from teenage slang. It is a defence from being homosexual after expressing appreciation for a same sex person but is also used to express the rejection of homosexuals as such.

Alongside the acceptance for "mainstream" homophobic hate speech and slurs, old habits seem to die hard. Stereotypes depicting LGBTI people as mentally and physically ill who need to be cured, still seem to be widely spread. For example, the political program published at the end of 2016 by the newly founded "Free Democratic Party" (VDPartij) in the Netherlands contained an openly homophobic and

⁷⁵ INACH. 2016b. *Relevance of Cyber Hate in Europe and Current Topics that Shape Online Hate Speech*. P.13. Available at http://www.inach.net/fileadmin/user_upload/Relevance_of_Cyber_Hate_in_Europe_and_Current_Topics_that_Shape_Online_Hate_Speech.pdf

⁷⁶ Unia & iVox. 2016. *L'homophobie en Belgique anno 2016 : rapport de recherche*. P.3. Available (in French and Dutch) at http://unia.be/files/Documenten/Artikels/Sondage_FR_perception_homosexualité_-_iVOX_.pdf

antisemitic agenda. One aspect was that homosexuality was considered as an illness: "Homosexuality is an infectious disease that we need to get rid of fast, otherwise our posterity will be in danger". The account of the party has been successfully reported to Twitter. At present, neither the party nor its front man are publicly active anymore. Another Dutch example rose after LGBTI people had been attacked in spring 2017. In one of the cases, the assailants were youngsters. The following message was posted on a Moroccan forum in the Netherlands: "The children have bravely defended themselves from the AIDS bombs". In Spain, the far-right group "Blood and Honour" also presented homosexuality as an illness to be cured.

In other countries, LGBTI people are pictured as something abnormal. In Germany for example, the rainbow symbols are perverted to show homosexuality as something abnormal which society needs to be protected from. The means by which society can protect itself are depicted as an umbrella preventing the rainbow rain, but it can also be depicted as a rainbow pistol pointing at the traditional family (see the first and second example from Germany below).

Adverse consequences of the legal improvements and increase in visibility

A certain number of homophobic hate speech has been triggered by what can be considered as positive developments for the LGBTI community. Those developments encompass the growing presence of LGBTI public figures such as the Austrian singer Conchita Wurst as well as the above-mentioned legal developments in favour of the equality of LGBTI people. A comment published under an Austrian press article⁷⁷ about the 21st Rainbow Parade provides a good example of this by stating: "It seems that today you can't be gay without rubbing it in everyone's face day in day out. I am not surprised that so many normal people are bugged by those persons".

⁷⁷ Kronen Zeitung. 2016. *Gedenken an Orlando. 130.000 Menschen bei Wiener Regenbogenparade*, 18/06/2016. Available at <http://www.krone.at/oesterreich/130000-menschen-bei-wiener-regenbogenparade-gedenken-an-orlando-story-515784>

When it comes to legal developments such as same-sex marriage or right to adoption, most of the participant organisations observed criticism from the defenders of the traditional family and in some countries in the form of a real outcry. Depending on the country, those groups can be fostered by religious and/or political beliefs and have a variable degree of organisation. The French "Manif pour tous" (demo for all) deriving from the "Mariage pour tous" (marriage for all), is probably the most prominent example of those movements and has also spread to other countries. As the name of the movement suggests, the creation of the movement derived from advancing improvements of the rights of LGBTI people, namely the possibility to get married on equal footing with heterosexual couples. Those movements advocate the traditional nuclear family with conservative gender roles which they see under attack and in need of defence. Created in 2012, this heterogeneous gathering is composed by right-wing as well as far-right groups and conservative Catholics amongst others. In 2016, it developed into a proper political party called "Sens commun" (common sense).

The Spanish organisation "Hazte Oír" (get heard),⁷⁸ also refers to the nature of human beings in its campaign by stating the following: "Boys have a penis. Girls have a vagina". It also underlines the destiny linked to it: "If you're born as a man, you're a man. If you are a woman, you will keep being a woman". This message was spread by online and offline campaigns, amongst others on a bus touring around the country before being found "transphobic" by court. The campaign by Hazte Oír aimed against syllabi sensitising school children to LGBTI topics.

In Germany, the topic of the protection of children was also put forward by similar movements. The "Demo für alle" (demo for all) movement, which is similar to the French movement "Manif pour tous", appeared as a reaction to the announcement of regional education reforms inserting teaching modules about gender and sexual identity. This movement developed online and offline campaigns against the

⁷⁸ Information on Hazte Oír is available at <https://go.citizenengo.org/firmamanifestolibertaddeexpresion.html>

“harmful indoctrination of children through gender mania”. With the claim that an allegedly early sexualisation of children harm their development to become a “normal” person and as a consequence depicts homosexuality as abnormal. While registered civil partnerships existed in Germany since 2001, same-sex marriage was adopted on 7th July 2017 and will enter into force on 1st October 2017.

In Belgium, same-sex marriage has been in force since June 2003 and thus did not raise popular concerns in the period covered by this report, namely 2015–2017. However, some messages relating to same-sex marriage keep circulating. Such as a message received by an educator on Facebook by one of his students using a pseudonym after changing the profile picture to commemorate the Orlando attacks: “Fuck you dirty faggot fuck your mother you’re fucking with X he’s sucking your very small dick”. The reconsideration of the traditional family picture, amongst other via the adoption by same-sex couples or the co-maternity legislations, has led to a certain extent of opposition as well. On the Belgian site of the Turkish organization Yeni Vatan,⁷⁹ an author compares homosexuality to paedophilia and states that adoption by homosexual couples has to be forbidden because their only aim would be to abuse the children. Aside from these extreme positions, the results of the above-mentioned poll commissioned by Unia showed that about 10–15% of the respondents who did not consider themselves as homophobic felt uncomfortable about some expressions of homosexuality. Respondents seem to consider those expressions more problematic when they arise from people that are part of their sphere of life.⁸⁰

Intersection of different protected characteristics

Some participating organisations noticed the appearance of homophobic comments in combination with hate speech about other char-

⁷⁹ Information on Yeni Vatan is available at [http://www.yenivatan.be/homoseksuellere-
evlatlik-cocuk-verilmez/](http://www.yenivatan.be/homoseksuellere-
evlatlik-cocuk-verilmez/)

⁸⁰ Unia & iVox. 2016. *L’homophobie en Belgique anno 2016 : rapport de recherche*. P.3. Available (in French and Dutch) at [http://unia.be/files/Documenten/Artikels/Son-
dage_FR_perception_homosexualité - iVOX .pdf](http://unia.be/files/Documenten/Artikels/Son-
dage_FR_perception_homosexualité - iVOX .pdf)

acteristics. This phenomenon has been named "intersectional protected characteristics" by Burnap and Williams (2016) who explored the likelihood of the appearance of hate speech against several characteristics at the same time. Their results suggest that for example "people posting this content were targeting more racist content towards a black homosexual man than they were targeting homophobic remarks to a black heterosexual man".⁸¹

In France, Belgium and Austria for example, homophobic hashtags are used with reference to the Holocaust (#BurnAllTheGaysOnLegion88, #Gaystapo). Holocaust denial and homophobic hate speech thus seem to "join forces". In Austria, after having shared a news report about LGBTI refugees and services offered to them by a local project, HOSI saw the following comment appear on its website: "Homosexuals? Should be gassed. You are absolute filth! Go into the jungle, fuck apes, then there will be new illnesses! Wish you can pass on to us".

Since the summer of 2015, subsequent to the increase in migration, an increase in online hate speech has been noted throughout Europe.⁸² Alongside messages targeted specifically at refugees, it led to a general increase of hate speech stemming amongst others from the so called "identitarian movements"⁸³ which flourish in the aftermath of the "refugee crisis". Several organisations submitted examples of homophobic online hate linked to the "refugee crisis", amongst others by questioning the "real homosexuality" of the refugees. After a report about support actions for LGBTI refugees, an Austrian Broadcasting Company received the following comment on its Facebook page: "Another reason for tolerance! It will get around quickly. Now they are all like gay. At least the women in our country don't have to worry anymore".

⁸¹ Burnap & Williams. 2016. Us and them: identifying cyber hate on Twitter across multiple protected characteristics. In *EPJ Data Science (2016) 5:11*. P.11. available at <http://link.springer.com/article/10.1140/epjds/s13688-016-0072-6>.

⁸² INACH. 2016. *Kick them Back Into the Sea. Online Hate Speech Against Refugees*. available at http://www.inach.net/fileadmin/user_upload/Refugee_Report20161.pdf

⁸³ You can find more information on the identitarian movements [here](#)

Country-specific aspects

Even though a certain number of transnational trends can be put forward, alongside the common factors, the local events and contexts determine the patterns of homophobic hate speech inside those trends. This section will provide a few national examples of those specificities. More detailed examples are available below.

HOSI, the Austrian respondent, pointed out that homophobic hate speech in Austria is influenced by Eastern European politics. This external influence by the speeches of foreign political figures has not been mentioned as such by the other project partners. This specificity might stem from the geographical proximity to the sometimes difficult environment for LGBTI people in Eastern Europe as pointed out in INACH's relevance report.⁸⁴

The political discussions initiated towards adopting more inclusive legislation seem to have led to an increase in homophobic hate speech in most participating countries. Depending on the degree of legal development and the topics raised, the contents are different. The protection of children is put forward as an argument against awareness-raising in schools in Germany, the same-sex marriage in France and adoption against homosexual couples in Belgium. However, the origin of this hate speech seems to stem either from right to far-right political organisations or religious groups defending the traditional family and traditional role models. In certain countries, such as in France, the movements fighting against the erosion of the traditional family picture have developed into a proper political party whereas in Belgium or Germany, amongst other things due to the federal structures of the state, reactions seem to stem more from local branches of movements.

⁸⁴ INACH. 2016b. *Relevance of Cyber Hate in Europe and Current Topics that Shape Online Hate Speech*. P.13. Available at http://www.inach.net/fileadmin/user_upload/Relevance_of_Cyber_Hate_in_Europe_and_Current_Topics_that_Shape_Online_Hate_Speech.pdf

Conclusion

Homophobic online hate speech might not be the most prominent one in terms of registered numbers and visibility, nevertheless it seems well anchored on the web and in real life. It contributes to creating a context of fear and uncertainty for LGBTI people. Maybe the lack of perception stems from a relatively low emotional threshold for using stigmatizing vocabulary and expressions towards LGBTI people pointed out by some contributors. Homophobic slurs that appear in political debates, artistic performances and on sports grounds seem to play a role in the legitimisation of hateful and stigmatizing vocabulary in daily-life.

LGBTI people have felt and are still feeling adverse consequences of legal improvements that are supposed to favour their equality. The legal recognition and debates that arose around it have also had a polarizing effect. The reactions to the legal improvement that happened over the last two decades came, inter alia, from groups and movements defending traditional family values and images.

Inside a context of legal improvements for LGBTI people, a climate of homonegativity seems to spread in most participating countries. As highlighted above, a certain number of groups in the population defend heteronormativity and spread negative and fearful feelings about the LGBTI community.

Most countries seem to face an increasing number of intersections between characteristics, especially since the "refugee crisis". This intersection sometimes appears in line with random hateful comments or specifically labelling refugees as rapists or all Muslims as intolerant. In Austria, messages putting into doubt the real "homosexuality" of the refugees have appeared. In France, Belgium and Austria language and hashtags use Holocaust denial references.

Finally, LGBTI people, as most other population groups affected by online hate speech, face the consequences from the general increase of hate speech after the increased migration and terrorist attacks.

NATIONAL REPORTS

Austria

Organisation: HOSI Vienna, Viennese Anti-Discrimination office for LGBTI issues

Trends:

The Viennese Anti-Discrimination office for LGBTI issues observed an increase of homophobic comments in online forums over the period looked at. In general it should be noted that content is getting rougher and the emotional threshold to post homophobic comments recedes. When public figures (Felix Baumgartner, Andreas Gabalier e.g.), or representatives of religious groups, express homophobic opinions many fans and follower like and support it. However, there are also many people openly opposing these opinions, which is a good thing.

The openly expressed homophobic positions of parties and politicians in Eastern Europe also strengthen conservative and homophobic forces in Austria and made homophobic comments and positions socially acceptable again.

As positive development they see that incitement to hate, verbal abuse and threads published online gets more attention lately and that it is also tackled by policy. It shows that the web isn't seen as outside legal jurisdiction

HOSI Vienna also observed that there is an increased number of homophobic hate comments on topics of LGBT and refugees. This led to an increase of hate comments combining racism and homophobia.

Events (2015 – Today):

Homophobic and transphobic comments as well as fake reports are also triggered by recent positive developments in Austria. The following examples can be mentioned:

- Nomination of Conchita Wurst, singer and drag queen, as Austrian representative for the Eurovision Song Contest
- Events like the Rainbow Parade and the Pride-Village
- Rights for adoption of same sex couples

- Funding for LGBTI organisations
- Reports on same sex marriage
- Access for lesbian couples to Medically Assisted Reproduction
- Demands for full equal rights and social treatment for Lesbians, Gays, Trans- and Intersexual
- Reports on support for LGBTI refugees led to increased homophobic cyber-hate

First example

Title: Hate against gay refugees

Content	Insult , Incitement to violence and hate
Legal measure/action	Request for Removal
Type of speaker	Identifiable commenter
Medium	Social media, Facebook
Editorial content or user comment e.g. at newspaper or other website	User comment
Private, group or public	Public
Link to the website / URL	www.facebook.com/HOSI.Wien/

After sharing a news report from 17.03.2017 about gay refugees and the services of Queer Base, an LGBTI project for refugees located at the Türkis Rosa Lila Villa, on the Facebook page of HOSI Vienna one day after it has been broadcasted, one user published this comment (translated):

"Homosexuals? Should be gassed. You are absolute filth! Go into the jungle, fuck apes, then there will be new illnesses! Which you can give us!"

The comment has been published at 19:54 and was deleted by HOSI Vienne five minutes later.

Homosexuelle? Sollten alle vergast
werden. ihr seid der letzte Dreck!
Geht doch in den Jungle, Affen
ficken, dann kommt eine neue
Krankheit heraus! Die ihr Uns
Menschen anhängen könnt!

Vor 5 Minuten · Gefällt mir ·  1 ·
Antworten · Nachricht

Second example

Title: Blame reversal

Content	[Not prohibited but tendentious]
Type of speaker	[Anonymous commenter]
Medium	[Websites including newspapers]
Editorial content or user comment e.g. at newspaper or other website	[User comment]
Private, group or public	[Public]
Link to the website / URL	[http://www.krone.at/oesterreich/130000-menschen-bei-wiener-regenbogenparade-gedenken-an-orlando-story-515784]

Following a newspaper article by Kronen-Zeitung published online about the 21st Rainbow Parade titled: In Commemoration of Orlando. 130.000 people at the Viennese Rainbow Parade one reader commented on the 18th of June 2016 (translated):

"It seems that today you can't be gay without rubbing it in everyone's face day in day out. I am not surprised that so many normal people are bugged by those people. "

This is one of many similar comments and received 415 likes. This is a typical homophobic prevarication which often appeared alongside reports on the Rainbow Parade.

The comment received many likes and follow-up comments with similar arguments.

1Samstag, 18. Juni 2016, 17:16
von 

MELDEN

Anscheinend kann man heut zu tage nicht homosexuell sein ohne es jeden und allen den ganzen tag unter die nase reiben zu müssen. Mich wunderts nicht das so viele normale leute von diesen personen genervt sind.

[antworten](#)415   26

Third example

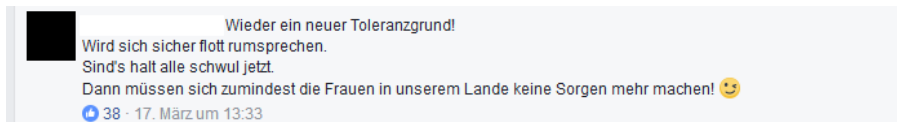
Title: Cynically ignoring the problems of gay refugees

Content	[Not prohibited but tendentious, Incitement to hate]
Type of speaker	[Identifiable commenter]
Medium	[Social media, Facebook]
Editorial content or user comment e.g. at newspaper or other website	[User comment]
Private, group or public	[Public]
Link to the website / URL	[https://www.facebook.com/Zeitim-Bild/?hc_ref=NEWSFEED&fref=nf]

The case concerns a report published on the news feed of the Austrian Broadcasting Corporation on "gay refugees" and the services of Queer Base, an LGBTI supporting refugees, received this comment:

Another reason for tolerance! It will get around quickly. Now they are all like gay. At least the women in our country don't have to worry anymore!

It was published on the same day as the report and is one of the top comments. An example for how homophobia and racism go hand in hand.



Wieder ein neuer Toleranzgrund!
Wird sich sicher flott rumsprechen.
Sind's halt alle schwul jetzt.
Dann müssen sich zumindest die Frauen in unserem Lande keine Sorgen mehr machen! 😊

38 · 17. März um 13:33

Belgium

Organisation: Centre for Equal Opportunities and Opposition to Racism (Unia)

Trends:

In 2016, Unia published a poll that has been undertaken by iVox among 1000 respondents. Even though in general terms the acceptance seems to be growing, progress still needs to be made.

About 60% of the respondents say they don't have any problem with homo- or bisexual people. Nearly nine out of ten respondents (88%) would not accept one of their friends insulting a same-sex couple for their sexual orientation. For 63% of the respondents a kissing same-sex couple appears to be totally normal. The acceptance drops to 43%, though, if the couple would be among the friends of the respondent. This growing acceptance has been acquired through the work of LGBTI NGOs and political representatives over the last twenty years. Nevertheless, 60% of the respondents admitted that their friends make jokes by using homophobic slurs on a regular basis. The acceptance rate amongst men seems lower than amongst women. 47% of the male respondents, compared to 26% of the female respondents, present heterosexuality as the social norm to their children.⁸⁵

Events (2015 – Today):

Homophobic online hate speech has been triggered by events increasing the visibility of the LGBTI community such as Gay Prides or gatherings to remember the Orlando attacks.

The discussions about legal improvements that are supposed to benefit LGBTI people such as the adoption by same-sex couples or the leverage of the ban on blood donation by homosexual men tend to attract discussions. Alongside hateful comments, it must be noted that the discussions are also filled by people defending the rights of LGBTI people.

⁸⁵ Unia & iVox. 2016. *L'homophobie en Belgique anno 2016 : rapport de recherche*. P.3. Available (in French and Dutch) at http://unia.be/files/Documenten/Artikels/Sondage_FR_perception_homosexualité_-_iVOX_.pdf

First example

Title: Aftermath of Orlando Attacks

Content	[Insult]
Legal measure/action	[None]
Type of speaker	[User]
Medium	[Newspaper website]
Editorial content or user comment e.g. at newspaper or other website	[User comment]
Private, group or public	[Public]
Link to the website / URL	[http://www.lesoir.be/1239385/article/actualite/regions/bruxelles/2016-06-14/bruxelles-hommages-communaute-lgbtq-aux-victimes-d-orlando-video]

After the Orlando attacks in 2016, several newspapers reported the tribute the LGBTI community pledged to the victims. Even though the homophobic comments were minority, some of them were heavily stigmatizing as the example below:

"It's all for those faggots, incredible, how the human being can degenerate, and being applauded for it, real values disappear thanks to those politicians who support this sad and regrettable movement. It's absolutely against nature and disgusting".



Genval, Brabant, Belgium

A en a plus que pour ces pédales, incroyable, comme l'être humain peut dégénérer, et en plus applaudit, c'est n'importe quoi, les véritables valeurs foutent le camp et cela grâce a tous ces politiciens qui soutiennent ce triste et lamentable mouvement. C'est absolument contre nature et dégueulace .

J'aime · Répondre · 3 · 56 min

Second example

Title: Association between the terms gay and gestapo

Content	[Press article about same-sex adoption]
Type of speaker	[Facebook user comments under article]
Medium	[Pressforum via Facebook Login]
Editorial content or user comment e.g. at newspaper or other website	[User comment]
Private, group or public	[Public]
Link to the website / URL	[http://www.sudinfo.be/1637864/article/2016-08-04/vingt-adoptions-par-des-couples-homos-en-10-ans-un-seul-enfant-a-ete-confie-a-un]

Reaction to a press article published on the website of the newspaper in 2016 saying that over the last ten years, 20 children have been adopted by same-sex couples in Wallonia and Brussels. The comment states the following:

"I consider it unacceptable to deprive children from what they need most, A MOTHER,, for what? For whom? For those with inferiority complex who can't stand being different.

PS. I'm absolutely not criticising homosexuality, but from there to make children "hostages" to free themselves from their (?????) I find it abject"



Travaille chez Commune de Saint-Ghislain

@ (No comment...).. -moi si !!!

Je trouve inadmissible de priver des enfants de ce qu'il y a de primordial pour eux, UNE MAMMAN,....., pour quoi, pour qui?, pour des complexés qui n'arrivent pas à supporter leurs différences.

PS. Je ne critique absolument pas l'homosexualité, mais de là à prendre des enfants en « otage » pour se libérer de leur (??????) je trouve cela abject.

J'aime · Répondre · 14 · 5 août 2016 08:25

Third example

Title: homophobic comments

Content	[Insult]
Legal measure/action	[Party president has been contacted]
Type of speaker	[Twitter accounts, amongst which one elected member]
Medium	[Twitter]
Editorial content or user comment e.g. at newspaper or other website	[User comments]
Private, group or public	[Group]
Link to the website / URL	[https://twitter.com/search?q=charles%20michel%20perd%20les%20p%C3%A9dales&src=typd]

During a Parliamentary debate, Laurette Onkelinx, a socialist French-speaking political figure stated:

"Charles Michel perd les pédales"

Translation: "Charles Michel loses his mind" (pédale means faggot in French). This was a reaction to Prime Minister Michel's alleged comparison of her party to far-right.

Two tweets have been highlighted to Unia:

"Des pédales, j'en connais plus au PS qu'au MR... lol "

Translation: "I know more faggots at the Socialist party than with the liberals... lol"

"Tu veux une liste des élus de la pédale du MR, je peux d'aider (sic) si tu veux ☺ "

Translation: "Do you want a list with liberalist faggots, I can help you (sic) if you want☺"

France

Organisation: International League Against Racism and Antisemitism (Licra)

Trends:

On social networks, Twitter seems to be prominently used to spread homophobic content. In 2013, neo-Nazi users developed homophobic hashtags in reference to the Holocaust as for example: #BurnAlltheGaysOnLegion88, #IfmySonsGay or #GaysNeedToDisappear.

Homophobia is also quite present on far-right pages, blogs and websites where conspiracy theories against the "Gay lobby" are developed. The fight against the "Gender theory" has also been used as a tool for stigmatising LGBTI people. A common driver was the inclusion of "Gender Theory" in school seen as "perverting" French children.

Events (2015 – Today):

The "Manif pour tous" movement had a lot of consequences in the French and European homophobic landscape. Created in 2012, this heterogeneous movement is composed of right-wing, far-right groups (Génération Identitaire, the Gud), extreme Catholics groups as the prominent Civitas and "traditional and conservative families" from provincial cities or from chic Parisian areas. The movement named "Demonstration for all" (in consonance with marriage for all) organized demonstrations against the adoption of same-sex marriage in France: many homophobic incidents happened. It also defends a traditional family system (their slogan was "a dad, a mum"), religious (especially Catholic) values, is against "Gender Theories" and was connected to the far-right movement. In 2016, "Manif pour tous" became a political party. A part of the movement became "Sens commun" which is close to the former presidential candidate François Fillon (Republican Party – right).

After the vote of the same-sex marriage law, the movement did not disappear and has pursued its actions, for example in October 2016, when the French government has launched an awareness campaign for fighting AIDS. This campaign was aimed at the gay community. The governmental posters showed photos of a kissing gay couple. The posters were disseminated in French cities. Some mayors decided to

forbid, delete and hide the photos for violating the rules of morality.
The debate also spread on to the social networks (mainly Twitter).

First example

Title: Attacks against Ian Brossat

Content	{Insults }
Legal measure/action	{Sent to public authorities/police }
Type of speaker	{Anonymous commenter }
Medium	{Twitter }
Private, group or public	{Public }
Link to the website / URL	{https://twitter.com/ianbrossat }

During the spring of 2015, Ian Brossat Assistant to the Mayor of Paris (Communist Party), was victim of homophobic tweets by two users employing the pseudonyms "Albéric de la Villad", "Jtebaisetamère" ("I fuck your mother") and "@OneStepBEY00ND". Both of them were answering to Ian Brossat's tweets with these kind of messages: "hello little queer. So you have been fucked by the ass lol"; "You have been fucked like a dog. Do you think you are normal fucking misogynist", "elected faggot power danger" and "the day where I will beat your little face of whore, it will be with my hands". In April 2015, Ian Brossat has decided to file a complaint for homophobic insults.

The Court of Paris has sentenced the two users, after their identity was disclosed, to two and four months of prison and the symbolic fine of one Euro. The victim communicated about the event and his complaints in a magazine.⁸⁶

⁸⁶ <http://leplus.nouvelobs.com/contribution/1353674-des-tweets-homophobes-j-en-re-cois-tous-les-mois-ras-le-bol-je-porte-plainte.html>



[Blurred name]

@lanBrossat tu te fais enfler comme un clebs tu te crois normal sale mysogine?



[Blurred name]

@lanBrossat pas de respect pour ces choses indifforme, non humaine, 2 cerveaux dans le calbard.. jlaisse pas le pouvoir aux chiens



[Blurred name]

@lanBrossat élu pd pouvoir danger



[Blurred name]

@lanBrossat le jour ou jte plie ta sale gueule de petite trainée, c'est avec mes mains..

Second example

Title: #Manif pour tous

Legal measure/action	Reporting]
Type of speaker	Identifiable commenter]
Medium	Twitter]
Private, group or public	Public]

SOS homophobia is an NGO and partner of Licra fighting anti-LGBT hate – online and offline. The NGO has recently communicated about the online homophobic contents they have reported as for example this case.

This case underlines the connection between homophobia and the movement “la Manif pour tous”. This movement has been created in 2012 when the French government (including Christiane Taubira, Ministry of Justice at this time and victim of racial insults) decided to vote a law for same-sex marriage and child adoption. The movement named “Demonstration for all” (in consonance with marriage for all) organized demonstrations against this law: many homophobic incidents happened.

This tweet is an example of the “Manif pour tous” ideas: “Homosexuality is an animal behaviour related to the psychiatric illness #ManifPourTous”.

The account of “Key de Vesoul” has been removed by Twitter after a report by SOS homophobie the 16th of October 2016.

Germany

Organisation: jugendschutz.net

Trends:

Homophobia is often expressed through memes. The iconography of the LGBTI-community itself is used to visualize hatred against LGBTI persons or show rejection against non-heteronormative partners and gender diversity as a whole. Most prominently the popular rainbow symbol is depicted in a style that shows diversity as something "unnatural", disgusting and to be fought against. Moreover, traditional families and role models have to be protected against an allegedly omnipresent "gender mania", which is forced upon the people by liberal politicians.

Events (2015 – Today):

Over the last two years a growing movement against regional education reforms that plan to teach children about gender and sexual diversity in school emerged. Inspired by the French movement "La Manif pour tous" (in German: "Demo für Alle", in English: demo for all), a group of different political backgrounds (right-wing extremist and populist parties or groups, religious fundamentalists, abortionists etc.) held demonstrations in different cities and run an online campaign against the "harmful indoctrination of children through gender mania".

First example

Title: education reforms I

Content	[Not prohibited but tendentious]
Legal measure/action	[No Actions Taken]
Type of speaker	[Pressure group]
Medium	[Social media]
Private, group or public	[Public]
Link to the website / URL	[https://www.facebook.com/781398128582084/photos/a.793762464012317.1073741828.781398128582084/873497236038839/?type=3&theater]

A supporting group of the "Demo für Alle" (demo for all) movement continuously posts links to articles and memes with the goal to inflame sentiment against education reforms that plan to teach children about gender and sexual diversity in school. The person claims that an allegedly early sexualisation of children harm their development to "normal" persons. Also homosexuality is pictured as "abnormal".



Second example

Title: education reforms II

Content	[Not prohibited but tendentious]
Legal measure/action	[No Actions Taken]
Type of speaker	[Pressure group]
Medium	[Social media]
Private, group or public	[Public]
Link to the website / URL	[https://www.facebook.com/112904948774376/photos/a.1113391742059030.1073741828.1112904948774376/1133066643424873/?type=3&theater]

The right-wing extremist group "Kontrakultur Frankfurt" took part in the "Demo für Alle" in Stuttgart. Just a few days after they published photos from their participation, a meme was posted on their Facebook page that shows a pistol in rainbow colours aiming at a person's head. The meme suggest that education about sexual diversity destroys conventional images of families with a father, a mother and children.




Third example

Title: education reforms III

Content	Not prohibited but tendentious
Legal measure/ac-tion	No Actions Taken
Type of speaker	Political party)
Medium	Social media
Private, group or public	Public
Link to the web-site / URL	https://www.facebook.com/junge.nationalisten/photos/a.530419860364995.1073741829.512735275466787/894518007288510/?type=3&theater

The youth organisation of the right-wing extremist party NPD (Nationaldemokratische Partei Deutschland) continuously calls for participation at, and took part in, many demonstrations of the "Demo für Alle", even as security guards. At the demonstrations, they held a banner saying "#nohomo". This phrase stems from teenage slang: it is a statement of defence from being labelled as gay after expressing appreciation for a same sex person. At the same time, the rejection of homosexuals can be expressed throughout this hashtag, so does the youth organisation online and offline.

Browser window showing a Facebook post from "JN - Die Jugend für Deutschland". The browser address bar displays "https://www.facebook.com/jn...". The page title is "#NoHomo - JN - Die Jugend...".



We are normal
We are immune

#NoHomo

und 62 anderen gefällt das · Top-Kommentare ·

21 Mal gefeilt · 4 Kommentare

Ich habe nichts gegen Schwule, solange sie mich in Ruhe lassen, ist alles ok. 3 · 6. Juli 2015 um 07:43

Die lassen UNS ALLE oben nicht in Ruhe mit ihrer ökonomisch zur Schau gestellten Sexualität (GSD). Eine Minderheit (ca. 10 % der Bevölkerung) spielt sich auf... 1 · 11. Juli 2015 um 13:07 · Bearbeitet

Weniger Antworten anzeigen

Ihr könnt nicht normal sein den normale Menschen besitzen ein Gehirn 06. Juli 2015 um 10:36

The Netherlands

Organisation: Meldpunt Internet Discriminatie (MiND) and Stichting Magenta

Events (2015 – Today):

In 2017, two incidents that lead to an increased number of hate speech happened in The Netherlands.

Attack of a gay couple:

On the 2nd of April 2017 a gay couple was physically attacked by 4 persons in Arnhem.⁸⁷ In the aftermath of this hate crime, on different online forums homophobia started to surface. News item topics were posted and different individuals placed hateful and homophobic comments. MiND received 20 individual reports that consisted homophobic hate speech in direct link to the recent incident in Arnhem.

Two examples of the hate speech that was reported:

(Both content was posted on www.forums.marokko.nl)

"Ga toch weg met je Homopropaganda hoe vies immoreel en abnormaal die homol's toch zijn?"

Translation: "Get out of here with that homo propaganda, gay people are nasty amoral and abnormal, right?"

"De kinderen hebben zich dapper verweerd tegen de aidsbommen"

Translation: "The children have bravely weathered against the aids bombs" (the children were the assailants in the incident)

⁸⁷ Bollinger, A., 2017. Gay couple brutally beaten for holding hands. Available at <https://www.lgbtqnation.com/2017/04/gay-couple-brutally-beaten-holding-hands/>.

VDP (The Free democratic party):

Around the turn of the year 2016, a local entrepreneur in the city of Alkmaar, wanted to participate in the national elections in March 2017 with the group "The Free Democratic Party". On his Twitter account and during interviews on different online media, he explained the party's vision. His vision consists, amongst other, of homophobic content. MiND received a total of 8 reports about the VDP. The account "VDPartij" has been successfully reported to the Twitter legal team. The party and the leader has never been heard or seen again.

All the messages reported contained the following quote:

" Homoseksualiteit is een besmettelijke ziekte waar we met SPOED vanaf moeten, anders hebben wij geen nieuw nageslacht meer"

Translation: "Homosexuality is an infectious disease that we need to get rid of fast, or else posterity will be in danger"

5 december 2016 · Cultuur, Politiek, Recreatie, Zaandam · 45 reacties

Zaanse Fish-Grill wordt anti-homo (en anti-joden) partij



In de voormalige Fish-Grill op Krimp 2a in Zaandam is De Vrije Democratische Partij gevestigd.

De partij wil meedoen met de komende Tweede Kamer-verkiezingen, maar ze ligt ook onder vuur vanwege het anti-homo-standpunt en de uitspraken over joden.

Homoseksualiteit in Nederland is een besmettelijke ziekte, waar we met SPOED vanaf moeten. Anders hebben we geen nieuw nageslacht meer! - meldde de partij op haar Twitter-account

Op Facebook schreef de VDP bijvoorbeeld dat joden hun eigen volk afgeslacht hebben en ze levende Hitler aan de macht hebben geholpen, en: "joden zijn erger dan de duivel"

Het Bureau Discriminatiezaken heeft, met het oog op een mogelijke aangifte, het Openbaar Ministerie gevraagd om een oordeel te geven over een aantal uitingen van de Vrije Democratische Partij. Maar op die vraag is nog geen antwoord binnen.

First example

Title for the instance: gay marriage

Content	[Insult]
Legal measure/action	[No Actions taken]
Type of speaker	[Politician]
Medium	[Twitter]
Private, group or public	[Public]
Link to the website / URL	[https://twitter.com/Beweging_DENK/status/804305923527372801]

Politician discouraging gay marriage during electoral campaign by saying:

“Het is onzin dat DENK het homohuwelijk in ons land wil verbieden. We willen het enkel Onmoedigen door bijv. de leges te vertienvoudigen”

Translation: "It is nonsense that DENK wants to forbid same-sex marriage. We only want to discourage from it by multiplying the fees for it by ten."

Second example

Title: Rapper ISMO

Content	[Insult]
Legal measure/action	[Request for removal]
Type of speaker	[Public figure]
Medium	[YouTube]
Private, group or public	[Public]
Link to the website / URL	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=frTkFOPZfiE

The Dutch rapper Ismo, performs a song with the lyrics "I don't give faggots a handshake". He was found guilty by the court of Den Bosch. However, YouTube did not remove the content yet. MiND has escalated this issue with the Social Media platform and is still expecting a reply.

Spain

Organisation: Movement against Intolerance (MCI)

Trends:

On this matter, it is interesting to report about the so call "Transphobic Bus". It is a marketing campaign by an organization called Hazte Oír. Hazte Oír can be translated into "make yourself heard". It is a far right catholic organization with some links to the former Falange – Franco unique political party.

The Transphobic Bus is a big orange bus travelling all around Spain to bring the "truth" to the young people which are seen as "being manipulated" by feminists and the "gay lobby". The aim of the bus is to inform that boys have a penis and girls a vagina. The organisers have been prosecuted for what it is considered a transphobic message and there has been a big backlash against the organisers by a large part of society. It is both an offline and on-line campaign, www.hazteoir.com



Events (2015 – Today)

An official report on hate crimes produced by Ministry of Interior says that cases motivated by homophobia dropped by 67%, from 513 cases in 2014 to 169 in 2015.

Example

Title: Neo Nazi song calling for attacking transsexual people

Content	[Incitement to violence against transsexual]
Legal measure/action	[Sent to the prosecutor office]
Type of speaker	[Neo Nazi militant]
Medium	[Social Media]
Editorial content or user comment e.g. at newspaper or other website	[Offensive remarks against transsexuals. Reference to aids, talking about "disgusting mutation"]
Private, group or public	[Public]
Link to the website / URL	[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0VuVgFotVnY]

A neo-Nazi organisation using the logo of Blood and Honour published a song on YouTube with homophobic content amongst others. The text treats transsexuality as mental illness which has to be healed chanting "heal their mental disease". This can be seen as an explicit incitement to use violence against transsexuals.

6. Thematic report on anti-Muslim hate

Introduction and Definition

The fourth hate phenomenon analysed by the project "Research – Report – Remove: Countering Cyber Hate Phenomena" is anti-Muslim hate. The relevance of this phenomenon has been underlined by the Quarterly Reports on Cyber Hate published by this project. In the research conducted by the project partners, anti-Muslim hate consistently ranked among the three most widespread online hate types.⁸⁸

There are various terms describing hateful attitudes and behaviour towards Muslims. However, the definitions of and distinctions between those terms are neither clear-cut nor universally accepted. The term most commonly used is "Islamophobia". This term was originally defined as "unfounded hostility towards Islam" by the Runnymede Report in 1997 (p. 4). The report further explained that the term "refers also to the practical consequences of such hostility in unfair discrimination against Muslim individuals and communities, and to the exclusion of Muslims from main-stream political and social affairs".⁸⁹

This definition and the use of the term Islamophobia in general has since been contested in academic discourse. On the one hand, researchers criticize that the suffix "-phobia" (Greek for irrational or unfounded fear) would put this term in context with mental illnesses and anxieties, thereby not adequately describing the underlying attitudes.⁹⁰ Pfahl-Traughber argues that the connection to "fear" would

⁸⁸ INACH. 2017a. Quarterly Report on Cyber Hate (May, June and July 2016).

INACH. 2017b. Quarterly Report on Cyber Hate (August, September and October 2016).

INACH. 2017c. Quarterly Report on Cyber Hate (November and December 2016).

Available at http://www.inach.net/detail.html?tx_news_pi1%5Bnews%5D=47&cHash=fffd0e27d4e038690831f154e89ad21a.

⁸⁹ Runnymede Trust (Ed.), 1997. *Islamophobia: A Challenge for Us All*, London.

⁹⁰ Kahlweis, L. & Salzborn, S., 2012. „Islamophobie“ als politischer Kampfbegriff. Zur konzeptionellen und empirischen Kritik des Islamophobiebegriffs. In: Pfahl-Traughber, A. (Ed.): *Jahrbuch für Extremismus- und Terrorismusforschung 2011/12*, p. 248 – 263. Brühl.

describe a feeling which had to be distinguished from tangible attitudes or behaviour towards people.⁹¹ Another criticism on the term Islamophobia is that it focuses on negative attitudes towards the Islam as a religion, instead of the individuals who are affected by corresponding behaviour. He therefore introduced the term "Antimuslimismus"⁹² ("antimuslimism") to describe depreciative and discriminating attitudes or behaviour towards Muslim people based on their religious belief.

In the context of the project "Research – Report – Remove: Countering Cyber Hate Phenomena" the focus on people rather than the religion is seen as an important aspect. In order to better reflect the project's objective to analyse hate phenomena in the terminology of the report, the project partners drew on the above considerations and chose the term "anti-Muslim hate" to reflect online and offline hate against Muslim individuals or communities based on their religion.⁹³

Context and transnational trends

Some aspects of anti-Muslim hate can be found across all or most of the countries participating in this analysis. One of the most prevalent trends is the lacking differentiation between refugees, Arab people and Muslims, resulting in the attribution of prejudices against one of those groups to members of all groups. Therefore, hate against refugees or anti-Arab hate often employs anti-Muslim hate speech. Consequently, the current "refugee crisis" is one of the main drivers of anti-Muslim hate. This connection cannot only be observed in online discussions, but also in offline incidents. In Belgium and the Netherlands pigs' heads have been left at mosques and refugee camps alike over the past few years. Not only are dead animals traditionally seen

⁹¹ Pfahl-Traughber, A., 2010. Gemeinsamkeiten und Unterschiede von Antisemitismus und "Islamophobie". Eine Erörterung zum Vergleich und ein Plädoyer für das "Antimuslimismus"-Konzept. In: Pfahl-Traughber, A. (Ed.): *Jahrbuch für Extremismus- und Terrorismusforschung 2009/2010*, p. 604–628. Brühl.

⁹² Ibid. p. 612

⁹³ INACH. 2016b. *Relevance of Cyber Hate in Europe and Current Topics that Shape Online Hate Speech*. Available at: http://www.inach.net/fileadmin/user_upload/Relevance_of_Cyber_Hate_in_Europe_and_Current_Topics_that_Shape_Online_Hate_Speech.pdf.

as a death threat, but the pig is also viewed as impure by Islam, suggesting an anti-Muslim motivation for those acts.

The second prominent driver of this hate phenomenon are the Islamist terrorist attacks that struck European countries in recent years. After each of the attacks in Belgium, France and Germany participating organisations reported an increase in anti-Muslim hate speech in the Social Web. In Belgium, events like the war in Syria, the emergence of the so-called IS, Belgian "IS" fighters and terror attacks in Europe created a climate of fear and led to a certain "legitimation" of anti-Muslim hate in the Belgian society. These developments also led to a general association between Muslims and terrorists in certain parts of the online community. For example, on her private profile a Facebook user spread hateful and fearful messages about Muslims and people with another national origin (mostly from the Sub-Saharan region). Among other posts she wrote: "The 'good(?)' Muslims do very little against the extremists of their ooooh sooo 'peaceful belief'... why don't they go massively onto the streets to go against them? Because they – if it comes down to it – are all guilty; they leave it to these extremists so that they can say they had nothing to do with it."

In an example from France, a video was posted on several social media platforms associating Muslims and Arab people with terrorists. The video is 13 minutes long. An excerpt reads: "Always another Mokhtar in Orlando. Another Mokhtar with a camel face who characterize you so well and who killed 50 homosexuals (...). And then, in the wake, a new Mohamed, who rushed his 19 tons truck in the crowd of Nice".

Examples for posts equating Muslims with terrorists



Twitter Facebook Google+ Partager



L'auteur



Maxime Lépage

Réalisateur de plus de 40 vidéos sur les prières musulmanes illégales en France. Partisan de l'expulsion de tous les musulmans hors des pays occidentaux.

Suivez moi sur Twitter

Notre chaîne vidéo



Top de toujours

Article titled "For avoiding the French genocide, we must deport Muslims!" on "Riposte Laïque"; July 18th 2016

Another aspect which can be found in all countries participating in this analysis is the prejudice of all refugees being potential rapists. Due to the lacking differentiation between refugees and Muslims, this prejudice is also directed against Muslims. It often stems from an insinuated disregard of women's rights by Muslim culture and the implied inability of Muslims to adapt to Western norms and values. The sexual assaults on women during New Year's Eve 2015/2016 in Cologne and other cities in Germany by men of, according to police reports, "Arab or North-African appearance" were often perceived as an expression of this culture and further fuelled hate speech in this context. The German movement "European Patriots against the Islamization of the Occident" (PEGIDA) for instance created a hashtag "#rapefugees" which equates refugees with rapists. However, the repercussions of this event were felt in other countries as well. But the ability of Muslims to integrate is not only denied when it comes to women's rights. In Germany, jugendschutz.net observed prejudices against Muslims linking them with generally sexist, antisemitic and homophobic worldviews and criminal behaviour.

Example of posts about Muslims not being able to adapt

• 66-JÄHRIGE VON AUSLÄNDERN GETÖTET – KEINEN JOCKS, KEIN AUFSCHEE, NICHTS!
Hilflos | Wirtschafts Nachrichten Juli 2016

Moslems fordern ein Verbot der Hundehaltung...das erwartet uns wenn die Zahl der Moslems zunimmt
Posted by [deutschelobby](#) · 17/07/2016

★★★★★ · 6 likes

Ich fordere ein Verbot der Moslenhaltung. Unsere Hunde fühlen sich belästigt und sind gesundheitlich gefährdet.

**Ich fordere die sofortige Verbannung nicht assimilierbarer Fremdkörper
ich liebe Hunde aber ich verabscheue die oben erwähnten Fremdkörper**

Manchester: Flugblätter gegen Hundehaltung verteilt



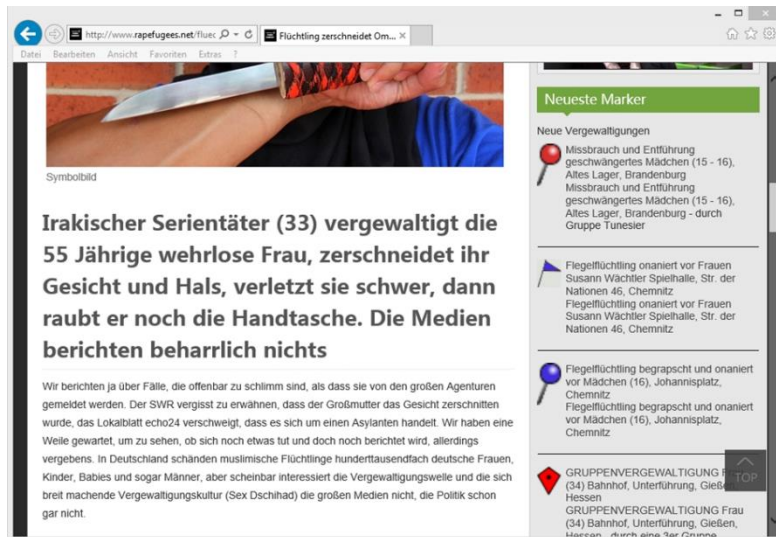
The image shows a man with a blurred face holding a small white dog in his left arm and a red leaflet in his right hand. The leaflet features a black dog silhouette with a red 'X' over it, and some illegible text. The background is a blurred green outdoor setting.

A blogger claims on <https://deutschelobby.com/> (a blog filled with hate speech) that a leaflet asking people not to walk their dogs in order to respect the large Muslim community was spread in the city of Manchester. As a response he demands to forbid "Muslim keeping" instead of "dog keeping" and to ban "foreign bodies that cannot be assimilated".

Closely connected to this is the emergence of a general distrust in mass media and politicians by parts of the population. This leads to a rise of "alternative news" websites and online posts spreading fake news and hatred against Muslims. For example, the Facebook page of the Flemish Defence League claimed to be a news website with the aim to "prove what Islam really is and the crimes the Sharia commits against Human Rights, the Rights of Children and Woman". Hate-mongers frequently spread fake news about sexual assaults on women by refugees and Muslims. While in Germany and Austria these stories are usually situated in the respective countries, French fake news about this topic are usually situated in Sweden or Germany.

Distrust in politicians is also transferred to state personnel and official state authorities. It leads to a growing radicalisation of online discussions, in which people are urged to arm themselves and vigilante justice is propagated. This shows the threat of online hate resulting in offline violence.

Example of fake news about refugees being rapists



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <http://www.rapefugees.net>. The main article features a photograph of a hand holding a large knife. The headline reads: "Irakischer Serientäter (33) vergewaltigt die 55 Jährige wehrlose Frau, zerschneidet ihr Gesicht und Hals, verletzt sie schwer, dann raubt er noch die Handtasche. Die Medien berichten beharrlich nichts". Below the headline, the text states: "Wir berichten ja über Fälle, die offenbar zu schlimm sind, als dass sie von den großen Agenturen gemeldet werden. Der SWR vergisst zu erwähnen, dass der Großmutter das Gesicht zerschritten wurde, das Lokalblatt echo24 verschweigt, dass es sich um einen Asylanten handelt. Wir haben eine Weile gewartet, um zu sehen, ob sich noch etwas tut und doch noch berichtet wird, allerdings vergebens. In Deutschland schänden muslimische Flüchtlinge hunderttausendfach deutsche Frauen, Kinder, Babys und sogar Männer, aber scheinbar interessiert die Vergewaltigungswelle und die sich breit machende Vergewaltigungskultur (Sex dschihad) die großen Medien nicht, die Politik schon gar nicht."

The sidebar on the right, titled "Neueste Marker", lists several incidents:

- Neue Vergewaltigungen
- Missbrauch und Entführung geschwängertes Mädchen (15 - 16), Alles Lager, Brandenburg
- Missbrauch und Entführung geschwängertes Mädchen (15 - 16), Alles Lager, Brandenburg - durch Gruppe Tunesier
- Flügel Flüchtling onaniert vor Frauen Susann Wächter Spielhalle, Str. der Nationen 46, Chemnitz
- Flügel Flüchtling onaniert vor Frauen Susann Wächter Spielhalle, Str. der Nationen 46, Chemnitz
- Flügel Flüchtling begrapscht und onaniert vor Mädchen (16), Johannisplatz, Chemnitz
- Flügel Flüchtling begrapscht und onaniert vor Mädchen (16), Johannisplatz, Chemnitz
- GRUPPENVERGEWALTIGUNG Frau (34) Bahnhof, Unterföhring, Gießen, Hessen
- GRUPPENVERGEWALTIGUNG Frau (34) Bahnhof, Unterföhring, Gießen, Hessen

In this article on the anonymous website "rapefugees.net" Muslim refugees are assumed to rape German "women, children, babies and even men hundred thousand of times" because of their "culture of rape (sex dschihad)".

Furthermore, it has to be noted that in many countries hate speech particularly targets Muslims wearing religious clothes or symbols (e.g. women wearing headscarves) as this is seen as an unwillingness to integrate. In France, the value of "laïcité" adds to this phenomenon. Laïcité stands for secularism, the separation between State and religion and a ban on the display of religious symbols in public schools, but also for freedom of religion. Nevertheless, it is being used by the far-right and nationalist movement in online campaigns against the Islamic veil or the burkini. In Austria, the ban on burkinis in some French cities in the aftermath of the terror attack in Nice has sparked

heated debates both online and offline. In September 2016, the city swimming pool of Vienna banned burkinis on its premises.

Conspiracy theories also form a significant aspect of anti-Muslim hate transnationally. Though there are differences in the details, a common narrative is the fear of Muslim immigrants taking over the western world. In France, this is reflected by the theory of "great replacement" propagated by Renaud Camus. This conspiracy theory describes a "colonization" of France by means of replacing the population with Muslim immigrants. In Germany, the PEGIDA movement is holding weekly demonstrations and online discussions about the "Islamisation" of Germany and the Western World. During the presidential elections campaigns in Austria (see above) right-wing candidate Norbert Hofer spoke of an "invasion" and in Spain some people are talking about a "crash of civilization".

Examples of posts promoting the theory of "great replacement"



Twitter comment by Robert Ménard, mayor of the city of Béziers: "#StartOfSchool: the most obvious proof of the #GreatReplacement is ongoing. Just take a look at the old pictures of classroom..."



On the 5th of September, LCI, a TV channel, tweeted this statement of Robert Ménard: "In a city-center classroom of my city, 91% of Muslim children. Of course it is an issue".

Country-specific aspects

Some of the trends in anti-Muslim hate appear across countries but show country-specific peculiarities. An example for this is online hate speech disseminated by political right-wing populist parties and tabloid newspapers. This happened especially in times of election campaigning. In Austria, the presidential elections in 2016 were preceded by a xenophobic, anti-Muslim and anti-refugee campaign of the right-wing freedom party FPÖ. During his campaign FPÖ candidate Norbert Hofer inter alia proclaimed a need to "stop the Muslim invasion". FPÖ politicians also used social media and especially Facebook to incite to hatred and call on their followers to write hate postings against refugees, Muslims and foreigners in general. France faced a similar increase in radical and extremist statements in the run-up to the presidential election campaigns 2017. A polarized political debate ensued, discussing immigration, integration, liberalism, secularism and the welfare system. Unlike in Austria, Twitter was the platform most frequently used to spread online hatred. In the Netherlands, the Partij voor de Vrijheid (PVV) increasingly campaigned for a ban on re-

religious symbols of Islam like headscarves, the Qur'an or the construction of mosques. In 2016, Geert Wilders, the leader of the PVV, was found guilty for incitement to discrimination for his comment "we want less Moroccans". Tabloids engaging in anti-Muslim campaigns and negative stereotyping of Muslims included "BILD" in Germany and the Austrian "Kronenzeitung". Both are the (tabloid) newspapers with the highest circulation in their respective countries.

The attempted coup in Turkey and subsequent news coverage on anti-democratic developments lead to an increase in hate speech against Turks and Muslims in Austria and Belgium. In Austria, for example, Muslims are increasingly being equated with Turks and labelled "Erdogan supporters", irrespective of their actual origin or political affiliation. In the Netherlands, this event also had an impact on online discussions. However, hateful comments in those discussions were not specifically targeting Muslims. Rather, the followers of Gülen and Erdogan were spreading hateful comments about each other.

Post-colonial resentments and prejudices in France and the Netherlands give an example on how anti-Arab and anti-Muslim hate are connected. While negative stereotypes and prejudices mainly target people from former colonies, their religion gained importance as a motive for hate speech in recent years.

A quite unique form of anti-Muslim hate can be observed in Spain. During the Middle Ages, large parts of Spain were under Muslim reign for more than 700 years. Historians agree that this was a peaceful and tolerant era in Spanish history granting religious freedom to all citizens. However, there are revisionist views claiming it was a time of occupation and oppression until Spain was "reconquered" by Catholic kings. This revisionism is frequently used to spread hatred against Muslims currently living in Spain. The Spanish far-right band "Estandarte88" published a song claiming: "The Reconquista is over. The moors are coming again. Spain is fucked". It is important to notice that this song uses slang expressions.

Conclusion

Our research showed that anti-Muslim hate is a complex phenomenon. Some negative stereotypes of Muslims – e.g. as terrorists, rapists or generally not being able to adapt to western values – as well as conspiracy theories are prevalent in all countries. "Alternative" and fake news websites emerged spreading hatred against Muslims. Other aspects of anti-Muslim hate like campaigns by right-wing populist parties show different characteristics in every country. It is further important to notice, that historical developments and historical revisionism can strengthen anti-Muslim sentiments in some countries.

NATIONAL REPORTS

Austria

Organisation: Zivilcourage und Anti-Rassismus-Arbeit (ZARA)

Events (2015 – Today):

Since the number of IS terror attacks in Europe and worldwide has increased during the last years, hateful comments and posts against Muslims have been significantly on the rise. The "refugee crisis" in 2015 and the rise of asylum seekers with presumed Islamic religious background drastically boosted the already existing resentments against Muslims in general, this upward trend continued in 2016. Comments against refugees are widely mixed with or include hate speech against Muslims who are generally associated with extremists and terrorists, especially when openly showing religious symbols (e.g. women wearing headscarves, which is seen as "unwillingness to integrate" and a radical, anti-Austrian attitude). Right-wing political parties (mainly the FPÖ/"freedom party") as well as right-wing populist tabloid media (strongest: the "Kronenzeitung", Austria's tabloid newspaper with the highest circulation in the country) have intensified their on-going anti-Muslim campaigns and use their respective web presence – websites, social media-sites (Facebook!) – to collaborate in promoting their agendas.

At the beginning of 2016 the sexual assaults on women on New Year's Eve in Cologne, committed presumably by asylum seekers and men from North-African countries, provoked a massive outrage against refugees and Muslim men in general who were labelled as "sexual offenders" ("rapefugees") and were perceived to be disrespectful against women and women's rights. The following discussion about the necessity (or not) to declare the nationality of suspected offenders in media reports about crimes lead to an increase of media reports about real but also fictitious offenses, especially sexual offenses, committed by asylum seekers in Austria.

Like the terrorist assaults in the years before, the IS motivated/coordinated terrorist attacks in Belgium, France and Germany were strong drivers of anti-Muslim cyber hate.

The attempted coup in Turkey has led to several demonstrations and extended news coverage on anti-democratic development in Turkey. Those events have triggered further hate speech against Turks in Austria and Muslims online.

In May and October 2016 the final rounds of Austria's presidential election took place; the two candidates in the run-off were a FPÖ (right-wing freedom party) politician and a former head of the green party. Therefore hateful comments also appeared increasingly in online-discussions about the election and politics. The FPÖ candidate continued his party's xenophobic, anti-Muslim and anti-refugees campaign (i.e. he announced that "we have to stop the Muslim invasion") which also reinforced anti-Muslim hate speech in social media platforms.

Organisation: Dokumentations- und Beratungsstelle Islamfeindlichkeit und antimuslimischer Rassismus

Events (2015 – Today):

The year 2016 saw multiple presidential elections or announcements thereof. Our database shows that during the electoral campaigns anti-Muslim hate was prevalent (especially in the two weeks leading to the elections).

Since the attempted coup in Turkey in June 2016, followed by extensive media coverage in Austria, there has been the new phenomenon of intersectional hatred against Muslims and people from Turkey. Muslima wearing headscarves increasingly reported about being attacked for being from Turkey or supporting Erdogan notwithstanding their actual ethnical or national origin and political view. When it comes to comments on online newspaper websites or in social media, negative references to turkey are also more and more common when talking about Muslims.

The burkini ban in France also was fervidly discussed in Austrian in newspapers and in social media and whether they also should be banned in Austrian too. This not only had an impact on online debates but also lead to several cases of discrimination against burkini wearing Muslima in Austrian.

In April 2016, the Documentation Centre on Islamophobia and anti-Muslim racism published their report on anti-Muslim Racism in Austria. This publication led to several online attacks against the voluntary workers at the centre.

First example

Title: Dehumanising Muslims

Content	[Incitement to hate]
Legal measure/action	[Sent to Police (NS-Meldestelle)]
Type of speaker	[Identifiable commenter]
Medium	[Webblog]
Private, group or public	[public]
Link to the website / URL	[https://deuschelobby.com/]

A blogger claims on <https://deuschelobby.com/> (a blog filled with hate speech) that a leaflet asking people not to walk their dogs in order to respect the large Muslim community was spread in the city of Manchester. As a response he demands to forbid "Muslim keeping" instead of "dog keeping" and to ban "foreign bodies that cannot be assimilated". He further states that he "loathes those foreign bodies".

Link: <https://deuschelobby.com/2016/07/17/moslems-fordern-ein-verbod-der-hundehaltung-das-erwartet-uns-wenn-die-zahl-der-moslems-zunimmt/>

The ZARA Counselling Unit has reported the content to the reporting centre operated by the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution and Counterterrorism (NS-Meldestelle).⁹⁴

⁹⁴ The Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution and Counterterrorism is a security agency based in the Ministry of the Interior. Its responsibilities include combating extremism and other terrorist phenomena. The federal office and its various regional authorities monitor the right-wing extremist scene in Austria and investigate offences against the Prohibition Act by carrying out activities intended to re-establish, glorify or identify with National Socialism. It is possible to report neo-Nazi, racist or antisemitic content on the internet to the reporting centre operated by the agency.

It is to be decided by the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution and Counterterrorism whether further investigations and consequently a trial are to be carried out. ZARA is not party to the case, as ZARA is neither the one whose rights are violated against nor the one violating someone else's rights, and therefore is not legally entitled to be informed about the outcome of the case.

- 66-JÄHRIGE VON AUSLÄNDERN GETÖTET - KEINEN JUCKTS, KEIN AUFSCHREI, NICHTS! Pösterl Wirtschaftliche Nachrichten Juli 2016


Moslems fordern ein Verbot der Hundehaltung...das erwartet uns wenn die Zahl der Moslems zunimmt
Posted by deutscheobby · 17/07/2016

★★★★★ 0 likes

Ich fordere ein Verbot der Moslemhaltung. Unsere Hunde fühlen sich belästigt und sind gesundheitlich gefährdet.

***Ich fordere die sofortige Verbannung nicht assimilierbarer Fremdkörper
ich liebe Hunde aber ich verabscheue die oben erwähnten Fremdkörper***

Manchester: Flugblätter gegen Hundehaltung verteilt



The image shows a man with red hair and a grey t-shirt holding a small white dog. He is also holding a red flyer with a white circle and a red slash over a dog icon, indicating a ban on dogs. The background is a blurred green area, possibly a park or street.

 hat einen Link geteilt.
25. Juli 2016 · 🌐



Schwimmunterricht: Moslems fordern Geschlechtertrennung
Die Islamverbände in Mainz haben sich für einen geschlechtergetrennten Schwimmunterricht an den Schulen der Stadt ausgesprochen. Muslimische...
JUNGEFREIHEIT.DE

👍 Gefällt mir 💬 Kommentieren ➦ Teilen

👍👎👉 51

  Oh saufen suls.

Gefällt mir · Antworten · 👍 3 · 26. Juli um 06:23

  Ich fordere Schwimmunterricht mit Bleigürtel in einem grossen tiefen Becken 👍👍👍

Schön langsam reichs mit deren Forderungen 🙄🙄🙄

Die sollten erst einmal lernen sich zu integrieren !!!

Gefällt mir · Antworten · 👍 4 · 26. Juli um 19:26

Third example

Title: incitement to hatred against Muslims

Content	[Incitement to violence and to hate]
Legal measure/action	[Sent to Police (NS-Meldestelle)]
Type of speaker	[Identifiable commenter]
Medium	[Social Media]
Private, group or public	[public]
Link to the website / URL	[https://www.facebook.com/HCStra-che/posts/10153447691713591?comment_id=1015344774818591]

After the terrorist attacks of Paris in November 2015 international football matches started with a minute of silence in commemoration of the attacks. At a football match against Greece, some Turkish supporters booed during this commemoration minute. Media articles reported about this incident. An Austrian right-wing politician posted one of these articles on his Facebook page, commenting it with "No comment needed! Turkey has no place in Europe!" This post got over 1.000 comments. Some addressed the issue (and problem) that terrorist attacks – happening in the whole world – are perceived differently according to the country they took place and that attacks in Europe generate more media reports, outrage and commemoration ceremonies than attacks in other parts of the world. However, most of the comments used the post and the reported incident to express their antipathy, often hate, against Turks and Muslims in general.

One User commented: "When will we defend ourselves... strike back... why doesn't that happen... the Muslims have to be killed off ..."

The ZARA Counselling Unit reported the content to Facebook in order to have it removed. Facebook answered that the comment did not violate the Community Standards and did not delete the content. ZARA then contacted Facebook by e-mail, reported the content again and

also informed the company about the legal assessment. Facebook answered that the content was evaluated a second time and that the content was considered to violate the Community Standards and therefore removed. The company apologized for the mistake.

The ZARA Counselling Unit also reported the case to the reporting centre operated by the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution and Counterterrorism (NS-Meldestelle; see above).

It is to be decided by this office and the Public Prosecutor's Office whether further investigations and consequently a trial are to be carried out. ZARA is not party to the case, as ZARA is neither the one whose rights are violated against nor the one violating someone else's rights, and therefore is not legally entitled to be informed about the outcome of the case.

In the context of an initiative against hate on the internet the Federal Ministry of Justice published examples of case law concerning the offence of incitement to hatred on its website. One of the quoted verdicts referred to the comment described above.

23 Std · Bearbeitet · Seite gefällt mir

Ohne Worte! Die Türkei hat nichts in Europa verloren!



Türkische Fans piffen Paris-Gedenkminute aus

<https://www.facebook.com/hermann.knapp/posts/900132033404323>

SPORT.OE24.AT

Gefällt mir Komentieren Teilen

7095 Personen gefällt das.

Top-Kommentare

1864 Mal geteilt



Schreibe einen Kommentar...

Drücke die Eingabetaste zum Posten.

Wann wehren wir uns...schlagen zurück...zerschlagen sie...warum passiert das nicht...die moslems gehören vernichtet....

Gefällt mir · Antworten · 22 Std.

Sag es mal zu einem moslem dan siehst du es was passiert

Gefällt mir · Antworten · 21 Std.

Anzeige draußen

Gefällt mir · Antworten · 20 Std.

Ja sieht man...terror terror und nochmal terror...unddersnderevtp sollte dich und seine frunde selber anzeigen...

Gefällt mir · Antworten · 20 Std.

Fourth example

Title: Online attacks against anti-racism activists

Content	{ Verleumdung: islamische Extremistin, politischer Islam, Anhänger terroristischen Muslimbruderschaft }
Legal measure/action	{ Sent to Police }
Type of speaker	{ Blogger }
Medium	{ Weblog }
Private, group or public	{ public }
Link to the website / URL	{ https://hotandrash.wordpress.com/ }

In reaction to the invitation to the press conference by the Documentation Centre for the publication of the anti-Muslim Racism report 2015, hotandrash.wordpress.com published an article attacking the organisation, the voluntary workers at the Documentation Centre and Muslims in general. The Article equalises Islam with terrorism, calls the voluntary workers extremists, and claims that in Austria Extremists are worshiped and gain public financial support.

The Documentation Centre got aware of this blog article in summer 2015 and reported it to the public authorities. The police however didn't follow up the report as an investigation wasn't possible. It also wasn't possible to get in contact with the author as no contact data is available. The article is therefore still online.

The article is available at:

<https://hotandrash.wordpress.com/2016/04/18/hate-crime/>

Fifth example

Title: Blame reversal

Content	Incitement to hate
Legal measure/action	No action
Type of speaker	Identifiable commenter
Medium	Facebook
Private, group or public	Public

An article by Oe24 titled „Muslima with headscarf are afraid in public transports“ published on Facebook received several racist comments:

“The whole debate is a joke and distracts from the fact that that Islam is a fascist ideology which calls for the termination of “non-believers” [...]”

“A Headscarf alone is ok, but being veiled to the ground Maybe even with an explosive belt below”

"I am also afraid of Muslims with a headscarf at the public transport. Most of them are so unsanitary that you can smell them ten meters upwind and you have to be afraid to catch vermin."

Die ganze Diskussion ist ein Witz und lenkt von der Tatsache ab, daß der Islam eine faschistische Ideologie ist, die zur Tötung von "Ungläubigen" aufruft, Juden verfolgt, Schwule massakriert, Ehrenmorde opportun findet, die Frau als mindewertig begreift, Kinderhehen arrangiert, den Beischlaf mit Toten und Tieren erlaubt etc. Das Kopftuch ist die Flagge des Islams - ergo zusammen mit dieser faschistischen Ideologie zu verbieten! Ende der Diskussion.

Gefällt mir · Antwort · 27. Oktober 2016 10:36

Kopftuch allein is ja ok, aber sonst verschleiert bis zum Boden.... womöglich mit Sprengstoffgürtel drunter.....

Gefällt mir · Antwort · 26. Oktober 2016 22:46

Wien

ich habe auch Angst vor Mulsime mit Kopftuch in den Öffis, die meisten sind so unhygienisch das man se von 10meter gegen den Wind necht und man Angst hat sich ned irgend ein Ungeziefer einzufangen

Gefällt mir · Antwort · 13 · 25. Oktober 2016 16:04

Also ehrlich, ich hab schon viel Bullshit gelesen, aber das top alles...

Gefällt mir · Antwort · 5 · 25. Oktober 2016 16:35

dann dürften sie noch nicht mehrmals (und das nicht nur im Sommer) in den Genuss gekommen sein, den Sitzplatz wechseln zu müssen weil sich ein verschleiertes Etwas vor sich in der Sitzreihe hingesetzt hat und und Sie sich dann wünschten es wäre doch nur n Hackler der frisch von der Arbeit kommt - starken Schweißgeruch kann man noch ein wenig unterdrücken

Gefällt mir · Antwort · 27. Oktober 2016 13:45

Facebook Comments Plugin

Benutzung dieser Website stimmen Sie dem damit verbundenen Einsatz von Cookies zu.

Sixth example

Title: Attacking Muslima for speaking out

Content	[Insult, Incitement to violence]
Legal measure/action	[Request for removal, directly with placer/owner]
Type of speaker	[Identifiable commenter]
Medium	[Facebook]
Private, group or public	[public]

A report by the public broadcasting station in Austria (ORF) on the 4.2.2017 covering the #NoMuslimBanAustria Demo in Vienna was commented by one user as follow:

"The mouldy head diaper has to be teared from the obscured head. That fresh air can reach it. As for me, they can wipe their asses with it. There is no place in Europe for this. This is our country."

The Documentation Centre commented this hate post pointing out that it is insulting and that it incites violence and asked that it should be deleted. As the comment was still online after eight hours, they wrote an email to the broadcasting station with a screenshot of the comment added. After a short time they received an answer, thanking for the report and the comment has been deleted. The broadcasting station also added that they carefully moderate the comment section but if they miss comments, the Documentation Centre should keep informing them.



Belgium

Organisation: Centre for Equal Opportunities and Opposition to Racism (Unia)

Trends related to Anti-Muslim hate:

Unia frequently notices a confusion between racial and belief characteristics. Asylum seekers and refugees seem to be considered as Muslims by many people.

From the complaints Unia deals with, they have the feeling that social-media, as a main stream communication channel, is being used by far-right groups on top of their usual alternative channels since a few years. The aim of this could be to boost their message and give it more legitimacy. Being active on social media can allow them to spread their messages widely. The content that is shared seems to be selected to discredit the Muslim population by spreading the following topics:

- criminality
- burden for society
- difference and incompatibility between them and us

Articles wearing catchy titles are also shared, even if they don't contain a stigmatizing message as such, but they still might incite the reader to hatred.

Identitarian Movement Belgium

Identitarian movements are present in Belgium alongside well established extreme right political parties. Some of them are organized locally (Namur identitaire, Identitaires Ardennes, e.g.). Others are covering the linguistic territory of one of the Belgian Federal entities. This is the case of "Nation" for example which presents itself as 'the only alternative, the only opposition' in the French speaking part of the country. In Flanders, the "Vlaamse Verdedigings Liga" (Flemish Defence League) is acting "for Flanders. For the Flemish". The latter have been very active on Facebook and the withdrawal of their Facebook account by the administrator has been broadly spread in the newspapers. The administrator closed the account after having published a comment about the death of a young Belgian of Moroccan origin

who died during his summer holiday. The publication led to a high number of hateful comments, from some of the more than 20.000 followers, putting into doubt the realness of the "young Belgian". In the meantime, a new Facebook page has been set up. Some political parties are representing identitarian ideas. The Vlaams Belang for example which is an extreme right Flemish political party. In the French speaking part of the country, the "Front National" is less powerful but benefits from a sometime difficult socio-economic environment.

Events (2015 – Today):

The recent terrorist attacks that took place throughout Europe and in Brussels participated to altering the online environment regarding the perception of the Muslim community. Over the past few years, there has been a chain of events that contributed to a form of 'legitimation' of hate speech against Muslims. First there was the war in Syria, the rising of IS and the Belgian IS fighters that were involved in the conflict. Following this war, there was a huge "refugee crisis" with a big impact for Belgium and Belgian communities, this sphere culminated in the recent terrorist attacks in France, Belgium, Germany, etc. The combination of all these events has led to a feeling of fear that offers a fertile soil for the development of hate.

Against this backdrop, being against the "Muslims" is somehow considered normal regarding "what they do all over the world". The content of the messages has moved from stigmatizing to relatively violent. "They don't belong to our society" has become "they are a danger to our society". In other words: they have to leave. This kind of message leads to even more violence online.

In between 2015 and 2016 an increase in complaints has been noted.

First example

Title: The Flemish Defence League (Facebook)

Content	<p>Facebook page that claims to be a News/Media website; publishing (news)articles about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>political issues</u> – criticism against the left wing politics; → general message: we have to fight for an independent Flanders → the left wing politicians are the cause of our problems: they let the 'strangers' and Muslims come into our country - <u>refugees</u> → spread of news and information that criminalize them; create fear; and prove that refugees are a problem, they need to go back - <u>Muslims</u> → message: Muslims are dangerous, criminals, stupid, parasites, not welcome in our society – impossible to 'integrate'
Legal measure/action	Legal complaint
Type of speaker	Group
Medium	Facebook
Editorial content or user comment e.g. at newspaper or other website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stigmatizing content published by the administrators of the page - Messages inciting to hate by the users, some of those messages have been liked by the administrators
Private, group or public	Public

This Facebook page already exists since 2012. The events described above however led to mainstreaming of his queries in news articles

that the administrator could use to found his message. This helped the administrator to obtain a wide spread audience. The administrator got more and more active in posting articles and in creating messages in form of slogans, stickers, cartoons, etc. He started using a logo that is based on the logos of (other) European Defence Leagues. Unia noticed that these logos and slogans were shared very broadly and repeatedly were used in other online messages. The Flemish Defence League also tried to gather people to protest and organize actions against refugees and the Islam. Unia filed a legal complaint against them in April of 2015.

The Facebook page defines itself as follows:

"Wij zullen alles doen om te bewijzen wat islam in feite is, en welke misdaden er door de sharia worden begaan tegen de Rechten van de Mens, het Kind en de Vrouw."

Translation: "We will do anything to prove what Islam really is and the crimes the Sharia commits against Human Rights, the Rights of Children and Woman."

This may seem to be a neutral and not illegal aim, however the content of the page clearly shows that it has the intention to spread hate against people of other national origin (more specifically of Maghreb origin) and members of the Muslim community. That the perpetrator succeeds in his intentions, is shown by the comments of his more than 6500 followers.

Most of the posts and comments refer to the Islam and thus fall under the characteristic of belief (art. 22 Federal Antiracism Act). Some posts and comments refer to the racial characteristics (art. 20 Federal Anti-discrimination Act). Legally speaking, the difference between those two articles lies in the possibility to effectively get a file to court. Whereas lower courts can rule about the "race" characteristics, belief still falls into the category of non-racist press offences and thus has to be dealt with by the Assize Court and thus a jury, an extremely long and burdensome procedure that is highly unlikely to be undertaken in cyber hate cases.

It concerns comments such as:

"Stuur al die makakken daar naartoe. sowieso niets aan verloren. + Stuur hun familie vooral mee als "steun" voor hunne moraal, zijn we ineens van heel die vuile soort af !!!"

Translation: "Send all those macaques home. It isn't any loss + and make sure you send their family with them to support them morally, that way we're gonna be rid of all that rotten type"

"Ze hadden die nikkers nooit mogen leren lezen of schrijven om te beginnen, ze zijn nog altijd wilden hoor! Trouwens voer de slavernij overal terug in en TEM die wilde beesten!"

Translation: "They should never have taught those fuckers reading and writing, they're still savages! Introduce slavery again and feed them to the wild animals!"

"Groot gelijk da volk hoort nie in belgie"

Translation: "You're totally right, that population doesn't belong in Belgium"

"Ik denk dat wij als westerlingen beter zelf een wapen aankopen er er zelf komaf mee maken wereldoorlog 3 kunde krije stront makake"

Translation: "As Western Europeans, we should buy a weapon and solve the problem ourselves by a third World War to get rid of this bloody macaques"

"Ik vecht om mijn trots als Vlaming late wij als Vlamingen de moslims executeren zoals zij het doen laten wij hun stoppen in deze wereld te veroveren fucking moslims ga ergens anders me elle tapijt de grond wa neuke"

Translation: "I am fighting for my proudness as a Flemish, let's get the Muslims being executed right as they do it, let's stop them go

somewhere else to fuck the ground with your carpets fucking Muslims"

The Facebook page was finally brought down (probably by the administrator himself) following an online escalating of hate speech. The context is the following:

The administrator posted a news article about a Belgian boy (with Moroccan roots) that died during his vacation in Morocco (in August 2016), with the message: "Does a Flemish person looks like this nowadays?" As a reaction, other Facebook users made a lot of hateful and illegal comments. This flow of hate caught the attention of the press and created a lot of commotion. As a result the page was quickly brought down (probably by the administrator himself), the court informed us about their intention to summon the administrator, and even Facebook contacted us proactively about it. This event has also drawn the attention from political representatives. Amongst others the federal parliamentarian Veli Yüksel has raised the issue at the assembly.

Unia got in touch with the moderator to ask him to moderate the hateful comments, but he didn't want to respond to our request.

Unia didn't do a request for take down of the whole page – they only reported illegal individual comments. Some individual comments were taken down, others weren't.

Unia reported different comments via a non-trusted channel, the responses were swift but not often positive.

They then escalated the situation with some examples of comments that were not removed via the trusted channel. Facebook checked what went wrong: a 'human error' on one hand and a 'technical bug' on the other hand were brought forward as the cause; they retroactively removed the comments Unia reported.

Examples:

The administrator posted a picture of Muslims praying in a street in Brussels with the following additional text: "Unbelievable but true. Brussels police closing off streets for praying Muslims."

Several reactions on this post instigate hate, violence or discrimination based on one of the protected characteristics – Faith or personal beliefs – in the Belgian anti-discrimination law and could lead to prosecution.

"Hadden ze gelijk een nekschot kunnen geven."

Translation: "They should have given them a neck shot while at it."

"Ze zouden ze beter vergassen! die vuile mierenneukers"

Translation: "They would better gas them! Those hair splitters"

"Allemaal n dike headshot geven"

Translation: "Give them all a big headshot"

"Klote land allemaal kapot schieten regering en politie hebben bang van hun ik zou ze zelf allema van klein tot groot kapot schieten"

Translation: "Fucking country – shoot them all – government and police are scared of them I would shoot them all – little to big"

"Kutvolk ge kunt beter die kop tegen de muur slagen..."

Translation: "Shit people you can better hit their head to a wall..."

Unia sent a report to the legal authorities.

- introduction of our legal complaint: 28/4/2015
- escalation related to an event: August 2016 – page was taken down – the public prosecutor did let us know that they were going to summon him to court
- opening session before the criminal chamber of the court of first instance ('correctionele rechtbank van 1^{ste} aanleg'): 17/03/2017

- the administrator of the page has been condemned to a ten month conditional sentence for incitement to racial hate on 4/7/2017

Unia have a cooperation agreement with law enforcement that facilitates our efforts.

Some alternative measures were also taken. Unia contacted the moderator with a Facebook message to communicate with him and to give him more information about the law and how he could avoid illegal content – he reacted that he was not willing to negotiate.

Linked event:

The logo, slogans and cartoons he created were not only widely shared on Facebook but also used in other communication tools such as chain emails.

- News article about the escalation: <http://newsmonkey.be/article/69893>

Second example

Title: Twitter page against Muslims

Content	[Twitter page inciting others to hatred and to violence towards all Muslims and their 'collaborators']
Legal measure/action	[Legal complaint]
Type of speaker	[Individual]
Medium	[Twitter]
Private, group or public	[Private account – public access]
Link to the website / URL	[https://twitter.com/Fidelio_is_weer]

The administrator of this account presents himself with the words "The only proper Muslim policy comes from the barrel of a gun!" He is very active on Twitter and is being followed by more than thousand users.

In the past few years, his account has been taken down twice. Every time he comes back with the same 'policy' and a slightly different name. Unia filed a complaint against him in 2014 but this didn't lead to a prosecution. It seems that he has already set up a number of accounts with relatively similar names from the very beginning.

The recent "climate" (the asylum crisis in 2015, the Syrian war, the ISIS and terrorist attacks in Paris and in Brussels in 2016, etc.) led to a very extreme discourse: he calls for the extermination of all Muslims as "the only solution"; all 'collaborators' must be extinguished too. This Twitter account incites others to violence and hatred on a daily basis.

Some examples:

"Je uitspreken tegen islam EN de moslims en moslim-pijpende collabo's is van primordiaal belang. Daarom willen collabo's ons de mond snoeren!"

Translation: "You need to speak up against Islam and the Muslims and all the Muslim-sucking collaborators! This is primordial! That's why the collaborators want to silence us."

"moslims moeten worden uitgemoord, en de collabo's voor een volksgericht gesleept!"

Translation: "Muslims have to be exterminated and the collaborators put to trial."

There has been no takedown request. Unia did request a takedown for the previous account. As Unia believes that this is a case of a convinced and repeated offender and a danger to our national security and our democratic society, a complaint has been filed with the prosecutor.

The prosecutor sent Twitter a court order for the identification of the administrator which was granted. The case is still pending.

No alternative measures have been taken.

No specific events could be linked to the case. But he feels very legitimate with his hate against all Muslims and collaborators.

Third example

Title: Private Facebook account that incites to hatred

Content	[Messages that incite to hatred and violence against Muslims, people of other national origin (mostly Moroccan or from the Sub Sahara region)]
Legal measure/action	[Legal complaint]
Type of speaker	[Individual]
Medium	[Facebook]
Editorial content or user comment e.g. at newspaper or other website	[Hateful messages against the Muslim community, sharing of news articles]
Private, group or public	[Private FB-page with a public access]
Link to the website / URL	[https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100012380868694&ref=ts]

The perpetrator uses her own Facebook page to spread hateful and fearful messages about Muslims and people with another national origin (mostly from the Sub Saharan region). She thinks of herself as some kind of 'activist' that needs to inform her environment about the 'real nature' of Muslims and refugees or people with other national origin. She is a convinced perpetrator as she has been clearly informed by Unia about the legal boundaries of freedom of speech.

Her case dates back further than 2015, but her account is still online and still inciting others to hatred and violence. Unia filed a complaint

against her in February of 2015. There has been a procedure of alternative measures which did not succeed. She will be summoned to court soon.

The perpetrator feels legitimate in her 'mission' to 'inform' the world about 'the truth': the real danger of Muslims and about the necessity to ban them out of our society, violently if necessary. She is feeding her intentions with news articles that she actively searches and posts on her page accompanied by inciting, criminalizing and stigmatizing messages.

Examples:

"(...) ne marokkaan is en blijft ne marrokaan... hier geboren of niet ze passen hun toch nie aan... dus oprotten met da volk!!!" en "(...) heb je het verstaan vuil kut moslims... oprotten!!!"

Translation: "A Moroccan is and stays a Moroccan. Even if he's born here, he will not adapt... so get lost with that people! Did you hear me dirty fucking Muslims... get lost!!!"

"(...) de "goede(?)" moslims doen er wel heeeel weinig aan hé aan die extremisten van hun ooohh zooooo "peacefull geloof" ... waarom komen ze nu niet massaal op straat om tegen die extremisten in te gaan? ... omdat ze als het er op aan komt allemaal schuldig zijn ze laten het aan die extremisten over zodat ze kunnen zeggen dat zij er niks mee te maken hebben...(...)"

Translation: "the 'good(?)' Muslims do very little against the extremists of their ooohh sooo 'peaceful belief'... why don't they go massively onto the streets to go against them? Because they – if it comes down to it – are all guilty; they leave it to these extremists so that they can say they had nothing to do with it."

By that, her page encourages others to develop hateful feelings or even to pledge violent acts against Muslims or people of countries where Islam is the main belief.

Reactions of her followers:

" (...) wanneer gaan ze al die klote moslims is opruimen??"

Translation: "when are they going to sweep away all those fucking Muslims?"

"radicaal afmaken dat volk er is echt geen andere oplossing!"

Translation: "radically extinguish that people, there is no other solution"

"(...) precies of wij weten niet dat de regeringen omgekocht zijn door de moslims (...) wij het volk zullen nog het heft in eigen handen moeten nemen voor de veiligheid van onze kinderen en onze mensen want de regeringen laten ons in de steek!"

Translation: "as if we didn't know that the government has been bought by these Muslims (...) we – the people need to take matters in our own hands for the safety of our children and our people because the government let us down"

"Het wordt hoge tijd dat ze dit ras met de grond gelijkmaken als België niet rap wakker wordt en al die klote moslims buiten gooit zijn wij ne vogel voor de kat."

Translation: "it's high time to eradicate this 'race' – if Belgium doesn't wake up very soon and throws out all those fucking Muslims, we are done."

The hate speech by this user is extremely stigmatizing. By pointing out the difference and the inferiority because they are deviant, and

the subsequent risk that emanates from the Muslim community in her opinion, she stigmatizes Muslims. This process leads to an increase in fear, abjection and hate. The tone of her Facebook page is not meant to look for arguments and go into discussion, but to look for allies and to present Muslims in a stereotypical way. It somehow leads to a de-personalisation and dehumanisation of the representation of the Muslim.

Unia interprets the case to be illegal under national law. An official evaluation of the case by state authority is pending as a consequence of the failed mediation (see below).

Unia sent takedown requests for individual comments and posts, but not the whole page. After the filing of a legal complaint in 2015, there have been no more takedown requests. In 2014 and 2015, some comments were deleted, some weren't.

The case has been filed with the national authorities. The author has been invited five times to discuss the facts with an employee of Unia.

Introduction of complaint: 05/02/2015; with request for an orientation towards alternative measures.

Unia did contact the perpetrator to enter into a dialogue – she refused. She also did not respect the conditions and agreements of the legal mediation:

- 1) Follow a training
- 2) Promise not to pledge acts again during a period of six months after the signature of the mediation agreement
- 3) Discussion with an Unia employee

As the mediation failed, the case is proceeded by the court. Until now (July 2017), no date has been set for the hearing.

De facto, the author continues posting illegal content on her Facebook page.

It is not known, whether there were events linked to the case. But she clearly did incite others to post hateful comments under her posts.

France

Organisation: International League Against Racism and Antisemitism (Licra)

Trends:

An important point about the anti-Muslim hate in France is the confusion between Muslim and Arab people including people from Maghreb. Besides this confusion, there is also a polemic about the use of "Islamophobia" (instead of "anti-Muslim hate") even if the concept has been approved by the CNCDH (National Consultative Committee for Human Rights).

About the online trends related to anti-Muslim hate, Licra observes a dissemination on social networks, on fake news and conspiracy websites, on far-right, nationalist and "identitarian" (identitaire) pages (including National Front and sometimes classical right movement).

First, Muslims are associated with the theory of the "Great replacement" developed by Renaud Camus (already convicted of incitement to racial hatred for this theory): the colonization of France by Muslim immigrants from the Middle East and North Africa, which threatens to "mutate" the country and its culture permanently. "The Great Replacement is very simple. You have one people, and in the space of a generation, you have a different people". This theory is quite popular in France online and offline.

Muslims are also criticized on the social networks especially on pages, accounts, blogs for not be able to be integrated in France even if it is the third generation living in the country. It is associated with the question of the "suburbs", the "scum" (popularized by the ex-President Sarkozy), the urban violence and the traffic sustaining criminal or terrorist activities.

Another point is the dissemination of the fake stories about refugees as for example articles about European women raped by refugees. Most of the time, these story happened in Sweden or in Germany. It is presented as if it was hidden from the "mainstream media". And the article explanations are quite the same: Muslim refugees are from another culture which does not understand women.

The debate about the definition of the "laïcité" which has been monopolized by the far-right and nationalist movement. They are using this concept for banning Islam out of France. The symbol of this hateful fight is the anti-Islamic veil and burkini online campaigns on the social networks (using false photos, memes, etc.).

The identitarian movement in France

The identitarian movement has appeared during the 00's: actually, it takes its roots in old movements as for example the GUD (Groupe Union Défense which was created in 1968 in the Parisian University of Law of Assas, in opposition to the student movement of "Mai 68". This movement has also been very close to the National Front (some ex-members of the GUD are now prestigious members of the FN)), the "Oeuvre française" created by Pierre Sidos (far-right well-known political figure, this movement was a combination of neo-Fascism, pro-Pétainism (in reference to Philippe Pétain), antisemitism and social Catholicism; P. Sidos also created the "Occident movement" which is a reference for identitarian and far-right movement).

The identitarian groups in France are characterized by promotion of regional values (Breton, Niçois (from the city of Nice), Alsatian, etc.), more preoccupied by the "growing presence of Islam in France" and by the "destructive multiculturalism" than antisemitism and anti-Zionism (however, some groups are clearly promoting neo-Nazi theories).

Famous French groups: Bloc identitaire, Génération identitaire, Jeunes identitaires, etc.

Examples of actions: in 2012, on the construction site of a mosque in Poitiers, génération identitaire has occupied the site with banners promoting the Reconquista, Charles Martel (French King who stopped the Arab invasion in Poitiers in 732) or asking for a "referendum on the construction of mosque and on immigration". In 2014, the same movement has launched a campaign named "generation anti-scums". They also promote actions for helping the "real French" homeless with soup kitchen using pork.

Events (2015 – Today):

In France, ethnical and religious statistics are not allowed. As a consequence, it is difficult to have a clear vision of the religious and ethnical components of the French society. The estimations of the number of Muslims in France are: between 3 and 4.7 million (20 million according to the far-right movement). An important point about the anti-Muslim hate (or Islamophobia) is the confusion between Muslim and Arab people including people from Maghreb countries. Besides this confusion, another element is quite important: the history of the French colonization and decolonization especially the Algerian War. Experts have underlined the mutation of the Anti-Arab racism into the Anti-Muslim hate.

The anti-Muslim hate is at the heart of the far-right ideology using the French original value of "laïcité" (French secularism: separation of the State and the Churches, freedom of religion, no religious signs in public schools) or the defence of Women's rights with the symbolic fight against the Islamic veil or the burkini. During the summer of 2016, there were national polemics about the burkini on public beaches in the South of France and in Corsica. Some mayors have taken municipal by-laws to ban burkinis. Municipal policemen have forced a woman to remove her burkini on a public beach. The "Conseil d'Etat" has forbidden some of these municipal by-laws. However, this debate has consequences on the anti-Muslim hate.

France was the target of ISIS terrorist attacks: January 2015, 13th of November 2015, attack of police couple in Magnanville (May 2015), attack of Nice on Bastille Day, attack of a priest in Saint-Etienne du Rouvray in July, etc. NGOs and experts have observed that each time an attack happened, the anti-Muslim acts (online and offline) increased. The association "Muslim"/"terrorist" is quite used online and offline. Since the beginning of the year 2015, the number of desecration of mosques has increased: anti-Muslim tags, pig's head, ham in the letterbox, fire (for example in Corsica), etc.

Regarding to the refugees crisis, even if France does not welcome many refugees, the situation has become more and more complicated in some areas, especially in Calais (city located in front of the Great-Britain and closed to the tunnel) until the dismantling of the camp. A

popular anti-refugee hate has emerged. One of the characteristic of this hate is the supposed religion of the refugees: Islam. Presented as unable to be integrated in the French society, as "rapists", as a danger for the White Christian European values, as potential terrorists, etc. In line with the promotion of the theory of Renaud Camus: "the great replacement".

Another point was the vote of the deprivation of nationality: in this vote, France might deprive dual nationals convicted of terrorism or crimes against the state of French citizenship. The root of the problem: it might have clearly affected people from Muslim countries (especially from Maghreb countries).

First example

Title: Robert Ménard and the Great replacement

Summary

Content	[Incitement to racial hatred]
Legal measure/action	[Reporting / Sent to public/state authorities]
Type of speaker	[Far-right Mayor of Béziers (South of France)]
Medium	[Twitter + TV]
Private, group or public	[Public]
Link to the website / URL	[https://twitter.com/RobertMenardFR/status/771404889754927104?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw&ref_url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.20minutes.fr%2Fmontpellier%2F2026799-20170308-beziers-robert-menard-juge-mercredi-provocation-haine]

Robert Ménard, mayor of the city of Béziers (South of France), close to the National Front and co-founder of the NGO Reporters without borders (Reporters sans frontières), has declared in a TV interview and on Twitter, the first day of class (1st of September 2016) that the theory of the "Great replacement" developed by Renaud Camus is confirmed (= "the colonization of France by Muslim immigrants from the Middle East and North Africa, which threatens to "mutate" the country and its culture permanently") by the "proportion of Muslim children" in classrooms. On Twitter, he wrote: "#StartOfSchool: the most obvious proof of the #GreatReplacement is ongoing. Just take a look at the old pictures of classroom..." The 5th of September, LCI, a TV channel, tweeted this statement of Robert Ménard: "In a city centre classroom of my city, 91% of Muslim children. Of course it is an issue".

Licra's legal service sent a report to the legal authorities.

In a court decision on the 25th of April, Robert Ménard has been sentenced to 2000 euros fine for "incitement to hatred and discrimination" by the correctional court of Paris. Mr. Ménard has appealed.

No alternative measures have been taken.

Robert Ménard @RobertMenardFR

[#rentreedesclasses](#) : la preuve la plus éclatante du [#GrandRemplacement](#) en cour Il suffit de regarder d'anciennes photos de classe. ...

RETWEETS 377 J'AIME 331

10:50 - 1 sept. 2016

↳ 377 ❤️ 331 ⋮

LCI @LCI

[.@RobertMenardFR](#) : "Dans une classe chez moi, 91% d'enfants musulmans, évidemment que c'est un problème" [#LCImatin](#)

Regarder LCI en direct
L'information au quotidien en continu en vidéo.
lci.fr

RETWEETS 197 J'AIME 124

23:17 - 4 sept. 2016

↳ 56 ↻ 197 ❤️ 124

Second example

Title: "Pas d'amalgames"

Content	Racial insult, incitement to racial hatred
Legal measure/action	Sent to public/state authorities
Type of speaker	Director
Medium	Vimeo
Private, group or public	Public
Link to the website / URL	https://vimeo.com/180478777

This video is a monologue of 13 minutes against Muslims and Arab people (especially from Maghreb countries). The video has been posted on several platforms: YouTube, Facebook and Vimeo (with 461.000 views). Moreover, some well-known racist-far-right-nationalist websites have shared this video as for example "Fdesouche" or the Facebook pages of the "independent nationalists France" and of "National support of Bleu Marine" (pro-National Front).

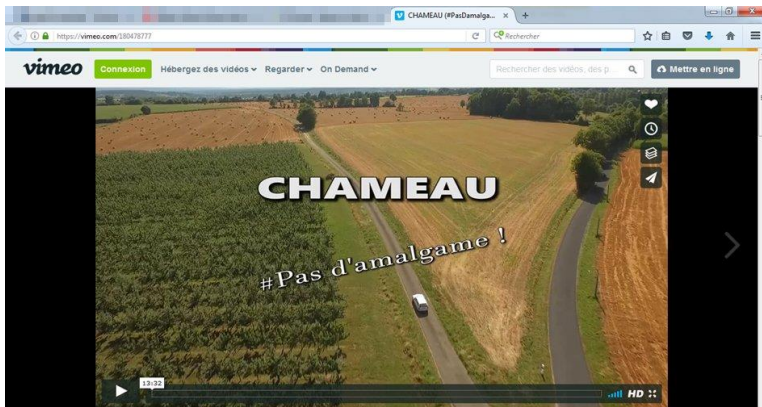
The author compared Muslims with "camel", "big pig", "shit" or "asshole" and said about them that "they look like fennec, with a jackal style, a breath of goat and a face of rat". Moreover, he associated Muslims and Arab people with terrorists (e.g. Mohammed Merah, the Kouachi brothers, Mohamed Lahouaiej-Bouhel, the Orlando shooting and the Jihad).

LICRA didn't file a takedown request with Vimeo. However, Licra's legal service has reported the video to the legal authorities on the 3rd of March 2017.

No alternative measures have been taken.

"Toujours un autre Mokhtar à Orlando. Un autre Mokhtar avec cette gueule de chameau qui celui-là supportait pas les feux d'artifices. vous caractérise si bien qui est allé liquider 50 homosexuels (...) Et dans la foulé encore un Mohamed, hein, qui a lancé son camion de 19 tonnes contre la foule à Nice".

Translation: "Always another Mokhtar in Orlando. Another Mokhtar with a camel face who characterize you so well and who killed 50 homosexuals (...). And then, in the wake, a new Mohamed, who rushed his 19 tons truck in the crowd of Nice".



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying a Vimeo video. The video player shows an aerial view of a road winding through a green field. Overlaid on the video is the text "CHAMEAU" in large white letters, and below it, "#Pas d'amalgame!" in a smaller, slanted font. The video player interface includes a progress bar at the bottom of the video frame, showing a play button, a progress indicator at 13:23, and a volume icon. The video title "CHAMEAU (#PasDamalgame!)" is displayed below the player, along with the uploader's name "de Gérard BOYADJIAN" and a "Suivre" button. To the right, there is a "Recommandé" section with two video thumbnails: "CHAMEAU (#PasDama" and "ReflectionVOID".

Third example

Title: Riposte Laïque

Content	[Incitement to hatred]
Legal measure/action	[Sent to public/state authorities]
Type of speaker	[Blogger]
Medium	[website]
Private, group or public	[Public]
Link to the website / URL	http://ripostelaique.com/eviter-genocide-faut-expulser-musulmans.html

Riposte Laïque website has been created in 2007, presented as affiliated to the "laïcité" movement. In reality, this website is close to nationalist, far-right and identitarian movements as for example the "Bloc identitaire" and declared itself as anti-Muslim. His founders as for example Pierre Cassen have organized in 2010 an event named "Apéro-Saucisson-Pinard" (Drink-Sausage-Wine) in the Myhra street (Paris) famous for the Muslim prayers on the street. The event was prohibited because of the threat to public order.

The 18th of July 2016, on this website an article titled "For avoiding the French genocide, we must deport Muslims!" was published. In this article (actually a selection of articles), the authors want to prove that terrorism is "at the heart of Islam". The theory of the great replacement is promoted.

The website doesn't offer any possibility to report content. The DILCRAH (Interministerial Delegation Against Racism, Antisemitism and LGBT-hate) has reported this article to the legal authorities asking Licra to be part of the report. The audience was the 22nd of March. On the 6th of April, the publication director of the website "Riposte laïque", Alain Jean-Mairet, has been sentenced to 5000 euros fine for

“incitement to hatred” against Muslims by the correctional court of Paris.

No alternative measures have been taken.



**Un musulman extrémiste veut vous assassiner.
Un musulman modéré veut qu'un musulman extrémiste vous assassine.**

Twitter Facebook 2 785 Google+ Partager



Maxime Lépante
Réalisateur de plus de 40 vidéos sur les prières musulmanes illégales en France. Partisan de l'expulsion de tous les musulmans hors des pays occidentaux.

Notre chaîne vidéo



Top de toujours

Germany

Organisation: jugendschutz.net

Trends:

Hatred against Muslims is often to be found in fake news, where they are accused of being (potential) terrorists or rapists (see also below). Under the topic of "crime committed by foreigners" several fake news sites try to create a threat scenario with migrants, refugees or Muslims as perpetrators and Germans as victims. Suggesting that certain population groups are a danger to public order, is in fact not a new line of argumentation, but the emergence of manipulative news pages is a recent development which is increasingly undermining conventional mass media.

Some of the most far-reaching manipulative news pages are "Deutschland DECKT AUF" (Germany uncovers), "Tägliche Einzelfälle" (Daily cases) and "Die Wahrheit '24h News'" (The truth '24h news"). Respective pages use a combination of reliable news sources, rumours and references to so-called "alternative media" which stem from right-wing environments. The mixing of sources is an insidious strategy: On the one hand the links to serious news convey the impression of credibility, on the other hand sensational headlines and exaggerations arouse interest. Supposed "revelations" of crimes committed by Muslims or migrants promote the image of a weak state and law enforcement, wrong asylum policy and defenceless "German people".

At the same time, a militarization of discussions can be observed as there are increasing calls for arming and vigilante justice against Muslim "invaders", "terrorists" and "rapists". Since the state no longer is able to protect its people, Germans have to defend themselves.

Events (2015 – Today):

In the course of New Year's Eve 2015/2016 there were many incidents of sexual assaults against women and thefts, mainly at the central station in Cologne and also in other German cities like Hamburg and Stuttgart. Police stated that the offenders were men of "Arab or North African appearance", most of them being asylum seekers, and that Germany had never experienced such mass sexual assaults before.

The events led to a public debate about Germany's asylum policy, and cultural differences between European societies and those of North Africa and the Middle East regarding women's rights and sexuality. Taking place during the European migrant crisis, the attacks not only led to a hardening of attitudes against immigration but also to more hateful sentiments against the Muslim community in Germany, Muslim refugees and Islam. It is important to see that, in terms of online hate, the concept of "refugees" often overlaps with the concept of "Muslims".

Right-wing movements and political parties saw a chance in this heated climate to spread propaganda and run their campaigns. PEGIDA (European Patriots against the Islamization of the Western World) for instance created a hashtag "#rapefugees" which equates refugees with rapists. But not only did refugees and migrants become targets of online hate speech during the following weeks, Muslims were attacked exceptionally harshly and often as well. The narrative of refugees as (potential) rapists and criminals went hand in hand with the stereotype of Muslims not being able to adapt themselves to values and norms of Western societies. Many defamations against Muslims imply that they are born with a natural propensity for criminal behaviour or that they generally represent sexist, antisemitic, homophobic worldviews that contradict pluralistic or "Western" values.

Negative stereotypes of Muslims were also promoted by tabloid press when BILD, the highest-circulation paper in Germany, wrote about an alleged "sex mob" rioting through Frankfurt at New Year's Eve 2016/2017. Similar to the events one year before, the perpetrators were described as men of "Arab or North African origin". The article from February 2017 caused great agitation, but was debunked as a rumour in the end.

First example related to the event(s):

Title: "migrant crisis"

Content	[Incitement to hate/violence]
Legal measure/action	[Request for Removal]
Type of speaker	[Anonymous commenter]
Medium	[Facebook]
Private, group or public	[Public]
Link to the website / URL	[https://www.facebook.com/1007214945965490/photos/a.1012604892093162.1073741828.1007214945965490/1208163622537287/?type=3&comment_id=1208165489203767&comment_tracking={"tn":"Ro"}]


As one can observe on many FB-pages, news about Muslims often lead to hateful comments. For example the FB-page "Islam gehört niemals zu Europa" (Islam never belongs to Europe) is continuously posting content which pictures Islam and therefore Muslims as brutal, degenerated and uncivilized. One user commented a post with a call for shooting Muslim refugees because they all are violent criminals that cannot be integrated into Western countries.

The case was flagged as normal user in the course of the last EC monitoring executed by INACH. First the whole page was offline but later on available again. Since 17/01/17 the FB-page "Islam gehört niemals zu Europa" is offline again.

The case hasn't been filed with national authorities. No alternative measures have been taken.

https://www.facebook.com/ Islam gehört Niemals zu Europa

Startseite 1 Freunde finden



Islam gehört Niemals zu Europa

Startseite Info Fotos „Gefällt mir“-Angaben Videos Beiträge

Eine Seite erstellen

Gefällt mir Nachricht senden Teilen Mehr

Gefällt mir Kommentieren Teilen

92 Chronologisch

60 Mal geteilt 33 Kommentare

Und so ein Dreck kommt hierher. Auge um Auge Zahn um Zahn.
Gefällt mir · Antworten · 12 · 26. September um 12:30

Das ganze pack gehört abgeknallt. Ich hör in Deutschland immer nur Rassismus. Die größten Rassisten sind doch die, die hier Asyl beantragen. Für die sind wir eh nur ungläubiger Abschaum und unsere Frauen huren. Da laßern die über rechte Gewalttaten gegenüber Asylanten wir sollten mal besser die Statistiken veröffentlichen wie die Gewalttaten von Moslems gegen deutsche Bürger aussehen. Darüber spricht keine Sau. Heuchlerisches idiotenvolk unsere Politiker.
Gefällt mir · Antworten · 33 · 26. September um 12:34 · Bearbeitet

Schreibe eine Antwort ...

Weitere Kommentare anzeigen

Kommentieren ...

Drücke die Eingabetaste zum Posten.

Status Foto/Video

Schreib etwas auf seine Seite ...

https://www.facebook.com/.../posts/.../

Gefällt mir Kommentieren

https://custo-sancto.blogspot.de/2016/09/wurde-der-islam-von-juden-erfunden.html?m=1

Gefällt mir Kommentieren

Hallo Nachbarn, die Flüchtlingswelle schwappt weiter! Die demogr... Weiterlesen

Gefällt mir Kommentieren

WURDE VON DIESER SEITE MIT „GEFÄLLT MIR“ MARKIERT

Never Again Can... Gefällt mir

Chat (aus)

Second example


Title: "migrant crisis II"

Content	Incitement to hate
Legal measure/action	No Actions Taken
Type of speaker	Blogger
Medium	Website
Private, group or public	public
Link to the website / URL	http://www.rapefugees.net/fluechtling-zerschneidet-omi-gesicht-vergewaltigt-und-beraubt-sie-die-medien-schweigen-heilbronn/

The anonymous website "rapefugees.net" pretends that it reports neutrally about properly investigated cases of crimes perpetrated by migrants. What "rapefugees.net" really does is incite hatred against refugees and Muslims through manipulated or completely made up stories camouflaged as news. Articles of this website are shared thousands of times by right-wing extremist social media profiles and sites. In this case a real news from established media is taken up, dramatized and manipulated, while at the same time it is claimed that no media is reporting the truth. The aim of the website becomes obvious just by reading the first paragraph. Muslim refugees are assumed to rape German "women, children, babies and even men hundred thousand of times" because of their "culture of rape (sex jihad)". The article goes on in the same manner.

http://www.rapfugees.net/flu... x Flüchtlng zerschneidet Om... x

Datei Bearbeiten Ansicht Favoriten Extras ?



Symbolbild

Irakischer Serientäter (33) vergewaltigt die 55 Jährige wehrlose Frau, zerschneidet ihr Gesicht und Hals, verletzt sie schwer, dann raubt er noch die Handtasche. Die Medien berichten beharrlich nichts

Wir berichten ja über Fälle, die offenbar zu schlimm sind, als dass sie von den großen Agenturen gemeldet werden. Der SWR vergisst zu erwähnen, dass der Großmutter das Gesicht zerschritten wurde, das Lokablatt echo24 verschweigt, dass es sich um einen Asylanter handelt. Wir haben eine Weile gewartet, um zu sehen, ob sich noch etwas tut und doch noch berichtet wird, allerdings vergebens. In Deutschland schänden muslimische Flüchtlinge hunderttausendfache deutsche Frauen, Kinder, Babies und sogar Männer, aber scheinbar interessiert die Vergewaltigungswelle und die sich breit machende Vergewaltigungskultur (Sex Dschihad) die großen Medien nicht, die Politik schon gar nicht.

Neueste Marker

Neue Vergewaltigungen

- Misbrauch und Entführung geschwängertes Mädchen (15 - 16), Altes Lager, Brandenburg
- Misbrauch und Entführung geschwängertes Mädchen (15 - 16), Altes Lager, Brandenburg - durch Gruppe Tunesier

Flüchtlng onaniert vor Frauen Susann Wächler Spiehhalle, Str. der Nationen 46, Chemnitz

Flüchtlng onaniert vor Frauen Susann Wächler Spiehhalle, Str. der Nationen 46, Chemnitz

Flüchtlng begrapscht und onaniert vor Mädchen (16), Johannisplatz, Chemnitz

Flüchtlng begrapscht und onaniert vor Mädchen (16), Johannisplatz, Chemnitz

GRUPPENVERGEWALTIGUNG (34) Bahnhof, Unterführung, Gießen, Hessen

GRUPPENVERGEWALTIGUNG Frau (34) Bahnhof, Unterführung, Gießen, Hessen - durch eine Sex Crime

The Netherlands

Organisations: Meldpunt Internet Discriminatie (MiND) and Stichting Magenta

Trends:

The refugees: same as in other EU countries. AZC (asylum seekers centre) set on fire, putting pig heads at or near an AZC.

Moroccan people: Labour immigrants for decades now. Seen as criminals, living on social security, scammers, thieves, violent etc. etc. Also their religion is an issue for some people, Islam. Say they oppress woman, etc., but more and more also radicalization and fundamentalism.

The 'Monitor Islamophobia Project' does show a rise in online hate on two important fora: 'Geen Stijl' and 'PowNed'. On these websites Muslims and Islam are portrayed as a cultural or political threat. When talking about a cultural threat most posts refer to 'our norms and values'. In more decent discourse the freedom of speech and principles of rule of law are emphasized. In less decent discourse about a cultural threat there is more use of words like: 'retarded', 'Middle Ages' and 'desert'. It is a discourse of 'us' against 'them'. 'Us' being superior to 'them'. The same sentiment is seen when talking about gender/sexuality. The look, clothing, traditions and hair of Muslims are used as an example that Muslims are isolating themselves from the rest. Talking about these aspects of Muslims makes Muslims easy to recognize on the streets. Which could lead to more discrimination towards this group.

Islam is seen as an ideology of a totalitarian system pretending to be a religion, which is a political threat. It is put in the same box as fascism. The 'Fifth column' is often used to express the Muslim invasion in West Europe to ruin the western civilization from within. Political left is seen as a collaborator in this situation. The hateful comments are used to discredit, degrade, humiliate, insult and shock people. Often used terms are neologism, borrowed from the discourse of Geert Wilders. More and more comments are deleted, with the top four topics being: women, then Muslims, then refugees and, with the most deleted comments, Moroccan people.

Events:

Just as in the last years, Wilders is a hot topic. This year the trial for his “we want less Moroccans” expression was closed. This took two years and he was found guilty. The whole trial and outcome were biased according to Wilders and his followers.

Gülen and Erdogan: The political issues in Turkey have had some influence in the Netherlands because of the big Turkish community here. The hatred and discrimination between the Gülen and Erdogan followers was seen on forums, YouTube etc. But also other people responded online. In these discussions there was a lot of discrimination towards Turkish people, Dutch people and criticism on Dutch policy towards Turkey.

Referendum Turkey: Turkey was not allowed to campaign in the Netherlands. Erdogan threatened the Dutch people and called the Dutch fascist and Nazi's. There were a couple of riots of Turkish-Dutch people and the tension between the two communities increased.

For two or three years now, people protest against the arrival of refugees or the existence of a refugee centre. There were also pork heads put at mosques. In Enschede someone put 14 pigs' heads at a terrain at which a refugee centre was going to be built. Although there was no note with the expression of motive, it was thought to be a protest against the new refugee camp. The mosques do not only get pig's heads, but are also vandalised, receive threatening letters or are put on fire.

Although some people are not sure about the meaning of the pork heads, here are some: for ages any dead animal is seen as a death threat, a warning what will happen to the receiver. Pig heads were used in the Middle Ages as a stigma for marginalised people. As in several other religions, pigs are impure and filthy according to the Islam. The use of a pigs head is therefore another way to insult Muslims. With refugee centres it might not be directed at the religion of the refugees, but with the mosques, it is safe to say that it is directed at Muslims. The person responsible is almost never known and thus the motive remains unclear. But it is certainly a hateful message.

Summary of the report: Monitor Muslim discrimination 2014 – 2016 (Ineke van der Valk)

Islamophobia and in particular discriminatory aggression against Mosques is a rising problem. Around New Years Eve of 2014/2015 there were several calls for arson attacks on Mosques on social media. In the spring of 2016 there was a big number of threat letters with Nazi symbols sent to Mosques. In the beginning of 2016 there was an attack on a Mosque with Molotov cocktails. This attack was deemed as a terrorist attack by the judge. In autumn 2016 the perpetrators were sentenced to imprisonment. During the last half of 2015 and beginning 2016 there were protests against refugees, due to the large number of new refugees coming to the Netherlands.

Anti-discrimination organizations received 165 complaints on grounds of Islam in 2014. In 2015 this was 240 (+45%). Police and online discrimination organizations received 279 complaints in 2014 on grounds of religion, of which 206 on the grounds of Islam. In 2015 this number doubled. That year the police received 439 complaints and the online discrimination organizations 472.

Because of the increase in Islamophobia a new complaints service was put into place for complaints. The Facebook page 'Meld Islamofobie' received 158 complaints in 2015. All complaint services had a rise in complaints after terrorist attacks in Western Europe. The same was true for aggression against Mosques. There was also some rise in complaints around debates about the "refugee crisis", especially online hate speech.

In the last half of 2015 and beginning 2016 there was a lot of media coverage around incidents about refugee centres, which explicitly referred to the refugees' supposed Muslim background as a motive. During 2014 – 2016 there were relatively more trials in which people were sentenced for discrimination on the grounds of Islam than previous years.

In the report they also look at the PVV. The political party that called for a ban on headscarves, Qur'an, Azaan, foreign financing of Mosques, construction of new Mosques, 'less-less-less Moroccans' and later on also a total ban of Mosques. PVV increasingly called for social actions against Mosques and refugee centres, often with known

extreme right groups. On European level the PVV collaborated with traditional extreme right political parties for a joint EP fraction. As was said before, Wilders was found guilty for incitement to discrimination last December for his expression 'less-less-less Moroccans'.

First example

Title: Put Muslims in gas chambers

Content	[Incitement to violence]
Legal measure/action	[Request for removal]
Type of speaker	[Identifiable commenter]
Medium	[Social media-YouTube]
Private, group or public	[Public]
Link to the website / URL	[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AfFjWJUIOKI]

Comment regarding putting a Dutch Turkish politician together with the other Muslims in a gas chamber.

MiND sent a takedown request to the provider and the comment was removed. The case was not filed with national authorities.

Second example

Title: Blood painted Mosque

Content	[Incitement of violence]
Legal measure/action	[No actions taken]
Type of speaker	[Identifiable commenter]
Medium	[Social Media twitter]
Private, group or public	[Public]
Link to the website / URL	[https://twitter.com/Yggdr4sill/status/833695467577950217]

When MiND received the report the content on the social media platform was already removed. The tweet originally said: “we will paint the mosque with your blood”.

Third example

Title: Hate speech toward the Alevites

Content	[Not prohibited but tendentious]
Legal measure/action	[Request for removal]
Type of speaker	[Identifiable commenter]
Medium	[Social Media, Facebook]
Private, group or public	[Public]
Link to the website / URL	[https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1665874263428125&id=208319212516978]

Discussion regarding riots in Rotterdam with Turkish protesters. Somebody commented hate speech regarding Alawites.

MiND interprets the case to be legal under national law. Nevertheless, they sent a takedown request to the provider and the content was removed the same day.

Spain

Organisation: Movement against Intolerance (MCI)

Trends:

When it comes to spreading hatred against Muslims in Spain, it is used quite much the revisionism history of Al Andalus, which dates back to the Muslim Spain during the Middle Age. This revisionism claims that Muslims coming from the Middle East and Northern Africa were "occupying" the peninsula during eight centuries until Catholic Kings liberated the land by the means of the so called "Reconquista". It is particularly active online. However, this portrayal is contrary to scientific historical findings. There are a lot of studies and historical testimonies proving that Christians, Jews, and Muslims were pacifically coexisting during that time, with certain levels of tolerance and not forcing conversions to any religion, under the rule of Muslims. This was accepted as a scientific historical fact. This form of systematic revisionism is particularly active online. Inventing a false historic narrative of poor Christians and Jews oppressed under that regime.

Aside from that, it is easy to find more extended versions of islamophobia such as linking Islam with terrorists, talking about invasion, crash of civilization, retrograde attitudes towards women, etc.

Events (2015 – Today):

Official Data Report on Hate Crimes doesn't say a word on incidents against Muslims, probably because they are classified under racism or xenophobia, therefore it is difficult to assess official data about the evolution of this phenomenon. Nevertheless, the Network against Islamophobia reported 278 incidents, which represents an increase of 567.22% comparing with the previous year. According to this report 21 % of the cases were cyber hate against Muslims.

First example

Title: Neo-Nazi song about "Moros"

Content	{ Neo-Nazi song against "moros" Spanish disrespectful word to refer to Muslims }
Legal measure/ action	{ Sent to the prosecutor office }
Type of speaker	{ Neo Nazi Militant }
Medium	{ You tube }
Private, group or public	{ Public }
Link to the website / URL	{ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-AQM-gwZWLE }

"Moros" are human waste and should be exterminated -implicit- Song talks about a paw searching for invaders and traitors.

MCI sent a takedown request to YouTube, but it is still online. MCI also filed the case with the Special Prosecutor's Office for Hate Crimes, but there has been no follow-up.

MCI believes there has been offline hatred, since there were many incidents in the area referred to by the song. But a connection is impossible to demonstrate.

Excerpt of Lyrics:

"La Reconquista ya acabo, los moros vuelven. ¡¡españa se jode!!"

Translation: "The Reconquista is over. The moors are coming again. Spain is fucked!"

It is important to notice that this song uses slang expressions. "Reconquista" is used to refer to the alleged "liberation" of Spain by Catholic kings. "Moros" is an informal racist slur that refers to Arabs. "España se jode" is used to insinuate that Spain is broken or humiliated by new Muslim immigration.

Second example

Title: "Muslim terrorists"

Content	Defamation of Islam, linking with terrorist
Legal measure/action	Sent to the Prosecutor Office
Type of speaker	Promoted by a neo Nazi Spanish profile
Medium	YouTube
Private, group or public	Pubic
Link to the website / URL	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ocCIWbIFiNk

Basically it links Islam with terrorism. It profanes symbols of Islam, which it is against the law in Spain. It is very aggressive and dangerous.

MCI sent a takedown request to YouTube, but it is still operative. MCI also filed the case with the Special Prosecutor's Office for Hate Crimes, but there has been no follow-up.

7. Current developments: New actors and tools

After looking in detail at specific manifestations of cyber hate, some cross-cutting developments that spread cyber hate against all four of the discussed communities and beyond should also be discussed.

Fake news have gained considerable attention in recent years, especially after the last presidential elections in the USA. Propagators of fake news benefit from a growing distrust in mass media in parts of the population. This caused the emergence of "alternative" and fake news websites, published mostly – though not exclusively – by right-wing groups.

Some examples of this are the German websites "Deutschland DECKT AUF" (Germany uncovers), "Tägliche Einzelfälle" (Daily cases), "Politically Incorrect News" and "Die Wahrheit '24h News'" (The truth '24h news"). Those sites use a mixture of fake news, rumours and reports from reliable news websites which have been taken out of context to give the websites a guise of credibility, thus influencing the political views of their readers more effectively. The Austrian website "unzensuriert.at" employs similar tactics. While not publishing actual fake news, they use biased news selection to publish negative and tendentious articles about e.g. immigrants, journalists and refugees.⁹⁵ Since April 2017, "unzensuriert.at" is also being published in Germany under the label "unzensuriert.de".⁹⁶ In the Netherlands, hate speech can often be found on the websites "Geen Stijl" and "PowNed". "Geen Stijl" describes itself as "tendentious, unfounded and unnecessarily offensive".⁹⁷ "PowNed" is a news broadcaster closely connected to "Geen Stijl".⁹⁸ Both websites publish hateful articles and

⁹⁵ Winter, J. & Brodning, I. 2016. unzensuriert.at: Wie die FPÖ-nahe Site systematisch Stimmung macht. In: Profil, 30. 11. 2016. Available at <https://www.profil.at/oesterreich/wie-fpoe-site-unzensuriert-at-stimmung-7709776>

⁹⁶ Meisner, M. 2017. "Die rechte Blase im Netz wächst". Die FPÖ-nahe Plattform "Unzensuriert" expandiert aus Österreich nach Deutschland. Im Bundestagswahlkampf könnte sie AfD-Propaganda machen. In: Der Tagespiegel, 04.04.2017. Available at <http://www.tagesspiegel.de/medien/plattform-unzensuriert-die-rechte-blase-im-netz-waechst/19612102.html>

⁹⁷ Geen Stijl website. Available at <http://www.geenstijl.nl/>

⁹⁸ PowNed. n. y. Oorsprong. Available at <https://www.powned.tv/over-powned/oorsprong>

comments, most of which target women, refugees, Muslims and especially people of Moroccan descent. The hateful comments are used to discredit, degrade, humiliate, insult and shock people. Often used terms are neologisms borrowed from the discourse of Geert Wilders, leader of the right-wing populist political party PVV.

A relatively new actor in the field of (online) hate, the *Identitarian movement* is active in many European countries. A common strategy of Identitarian groups is the use of pop-cultural and "hip" elements (e.g. memes, graffiti and music) to reach a broader audience and especially young people. In May 2017, members of the Identitarian movements of several European countries worked together to block a ship of the NGO "SOS Méditerranée" which was rescuing refugees from drowning in the Mediterranean. They also used the action to create promotional material resembling campaigns of popular environmental activists like Sea Shepherd or Greenpeace. It can be seen as a test run for the Identitarians' "Defend Europe" campaign lasting from July to August 2017. The aim of "Defend Europe" was to monitor and block rescue ships of NGOs which the Identitarians accuse of cooperating with human traffickers.⁹⁹ After a series of setbacks and local resistance they ended the campaign on 17 August 2017.¹⁰⁰

The French Identitarian movement emerged at the beginning of the new century and is often seen as the root of Identitarian movements in other European countries. An important topic for different Identitarian groups in France is the promotion of regional values. Their dominating concerns are the "growing presence of Islam in France" and the "destructive multiculturalism". Antisemitism seems to be less present, although some groups are clearly promoting neo-Nazi theories. In Austria the Identitarian movement was founded in 2012. While officially distancing themselves from National Socialism, references to

⁹⁹ HOPE not hate. 2017a. *Defend Europe Report*. Available at http://hopenothate.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Defend-Europe-Briefing_210717.pdf.

¹⁰⁰ HOPE not hate. 2017b. *Failed Defend Europe mission comes to an end*. Available at <http://hopenothate.org.uk/2017/08/17/failed-defend-europe-mission-comes-end/>.

NS personnel and fascist movements in other countries are common.¹⁰¹ In Belgium, Identitarian groups exist alongside well-established extreme right political parties like the Vlaams Belang in Flanders or the Front National in the French speaking part of the country. Most Identitarian groups are locally organized. However, there are some groups which cover one of the linguistic territories of Belgium. In Germany, the Identitarian movement portrays itself as 'innocuous' and '0% racist', while spreading a xenophobic ideology. They refrain from using traditional extreme right vocabulary and instead use neologisms. Their main platforms are social media, where they share videos of their campaigns and discuss with their predominantly young audience.¹⁰²

An internationally successful example on how Identitarian actors use pop-culture to attract a large audience is the French band "Les Brigandes". The messages they convey in their songs are chiefly anti-globalist, fundamentalist and based on conspiracy theories. Choreographed songs, clear voices and femininity bring a "breath-of-fresh-air effect"¹⁰³ to the mostly masculine and sexist fachosphere and have boosted their international success.¹⁰⁴ Their music videos on YouTube have been subtitled in several languages.

Both fake news and the Identitarian movement do not primarily address a traditional far-right audience but aim to disseminate their ideology to the general public by disguising it as "harmless". They thus pose a special challenge to NGOs combatting racism and to civil society as a whole.

¹⁰¹ Documentation Centre of Austrian Resistance. n. y. Identitäre Bewegung Österreich (IBÖ). Available at <http://www.doew.at/erkennen/rechtsextremismus/rechtsextreme-organisationen/identitaere-bewegung-oesterreich-iboe>

¹⁰² jugendschutz.net. 2017. *Network of hatred – How right-wing extremists use Social Media to court young people*. Available at http://www.hass-im-netz.info/fileadmin/user_upload/Network_of_Hatred.pdf

¹⁰³ Ligue Internationale Contre le Racisme et l'Antisémitisme. 2016. Are 'Les Brigandes' the "new stars" of the fascist scene? Available at <http://www.getthetrollsout.org/what-we-do/articles/item/64-are-%E2%80%998les-brigandes%E2%80%99-the-new-stars-of-the-fascist-scene.html>

¹⁰⁴ Ibid.

8. Conclusion

The period covered by this analysis is a particular one due to the density of events that took place. Since 2015, subsequent to the terrorist attacks and increased migration, an advancing growth of online hate speech has been noted throughout Europe.¹⁰⁵ Alongside messages targeted specifically at “refugees” and “Muslim terrorists”, it led to a general increase of hate speech stemming amongst others from the so called Identitarian movements which flourished in the aftermath of the aforementioned events. Those movements played a major role in establishing a polarized environment in which Western values such as Human Rights, the Rights of Children and Women are seen as being threatened by “outsider” communities representing values allegedly incompatible with the values of modern societies and the Western ways of living. In that context, Muslims are depicted as not being able to integrate or not belonging to our societies, LGBTI people as unable to form a “normal family”, Jews as responsible for “why things go wrong” and Roma/Romnija and Sinti/Sintize as quintessential embodiment of self-inflicted poverty and wildness not deserving any compassion or support. Moreover, in the countries covered, the impact of the geopolitical situation of the Middle East and of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has contributed to the growing proliferation of hateful theories especially of antisemitic nature. Those perceptions led amongst others to a resurgence of conspiracy theories in which “foreign communities” take over “our community”.

In many of those narratives, the world is divided into two categories: “them and us” or “normality and deviance”, without any nuances. One of the most prevalent trends seems to be the lacking differentiation between refugees, Arab people and Muslims, resulting in the attribution of prejudices against one of those groups to members of all groups. Therefore, hate against refugees or anti-Arab hatred often employs anti-Muslim hate speech. Furthermore, most participating organisations noticed an intersection of characteristics expressed

¹⁰⁵ See for example the report: INACH. 2016a. *Kick them back into the sea. Online Hate Speech Against Refugees*, available at: http://www.inach.net/fileadmin/user_upload/Refugee_Report20161.pdf

within the hateful messages. Frequently, references to what happened during the Second World War are used as online threats against Jews and other communities by for example presenting gas chambers as a suitable solution for Roma/Romnija, LGBTI people and Muslims. Holocaust denial and distortion are also quite popular online. Furthermore, the likeliness to be targeted by cyber hate seems higher for individuals or communities which are perceived as combining different characteristics. Another issue is the concept of a "double standard", which asserts that the Jewish community is better protected against discrimination and criticism than other communities. This concept can encourage victims of cyber hate to spread hate speech on another target group themselves.

Finally, when it comes to the sources of cyber hate, alongside politically and belief motivated messages stemming from local movements, one should not underestimate the power of public figures. In Austria and France, the positions adopted by political parties as well as candidates running for presidential office have triggered a lot of hate speech. Some of this hate speech expresses a general distrust in politicians by parts of the population. On the other hand, the stigmatization spread by political figures themselves and the legitimizing power it might have can be considered as particularly harmful by lowering the emotional threshold for posting hateful messages. Other public figures such as artists, journalists or TV hosts also have an important influence in shaping mindsets. With their statements and behaviours, public figures may contribute to making hate speech and discrimination against minorities appear to be more and more socially acceptable.

9. Initiatives countering cyber hate

The transnational analysis of four online hate phenomena showed the complexity of the subject cyber hate. The quantity and diversity of messages and approaches pose a challenge to the organisations devoted to creating a respectful online environment that is in line with human rights. Disparate legal bases across countries, business interests of Social Media Companies and the difficult position of the topic between various fundamental rights add to the challenge of transnationally combating online hate speech.

Several EU Member states have not yet adopted specific legislation concerning cyber hate, which makes addressing the phenomenon in front of the judiciary difficult. Determining who is liable, for how long and to what extent are only some out of many questions that need to be addressed. Finding a solution is further complicated by the global nature of the internet and, thus, the transnational nature of cyber hate.¹⁰⁶

Public authorities and law enforcement actors have an important role to play when it comes to combating cyber hate. Common initiatives and exchange of knowledge allow to strive for changes in international legislation and social media guidelines. A good example of this approach is the EU's "[Code of conduct on countering illegal hate speech online](#)". By agreeing to comply with the Code of Conduct, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Microsoft promised to assess most user notifications within 24 hours, respect European and national legislation concerning hate speech and remove illegal messages. Furthermore, feedback procedures and transparency should be improved.¹⁰⁷

During two monitoring exercises in 2016 and 2017, civil society organisations – many of them members of the International Network Against Cyber Hate (INACH) – worked together with the EC to test Facebook's, YouTube's and Twitter's notice-and-takedown mechanisms

¹⁰⁶ Schadauer, Andreas (2017). Transnational online hate and incitement to hatred – the problem in brief, in: *ZARA Racism Report 2016*. https://www.zara.or.at/wp/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Zara_RR16_Englisch_web_fin.pdf (last accessed August 2017)

¹⁰⁷ European Commission, 2017a. *Countering illegal hate speech online #NoPlace4Hate*. Available at http://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/just/item-detail.cfm?item_id=54300.

to assess their implementation of the Code of Conduct. While some improvements in feedback and removal rate could be observed, more needs to be done. This is especially true when notifications are sent by general users rather than organisations having attained a "trusted flagger" status with the IT companies.¹⁰⁸

The probably most prominent attempt of national legislation in this field was undertaken by the German Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection. The "Act to Improve Enforcement of the Law in Social Networks" (NetzDG) obliges Social Networks with more than two million registered users to publish half-yearly reports on their "handling of complaints about unlawful content".¹⁰⁹ Reporting mechanisms have to be improved. Furthermore, Social Media Companies have to remove "manifestly unlawful"¹¹⁰ content within 24 hours and other illegal content within a week. In cases of doubt, cases can be referred to a "recognised self-regulation institution".¹¹¹ If Social Media Companies do not comply with those obligations, they face fines up to five million Euro.¹¹² This act met with considerable opposition by advocates of freedom of speech who fear censorship by corporations frightened by the prospect of heavy fines.

A different approach has been adopted in Austria. In spring 2017, the State Secretary of the Austrian Federal Chancellery, Muna Duzdar, initiated the formation of a counselling service against online hate – a low-threshold service for victims and witnesses of online hate speech, cyber mobbing and other forms of violence online. The offered service includes, amongst others, an initial assessment of the matter at hand, information on possible options on how to proceed

¹⁰⁸ European Commission, 2017b. *Code of Conduct on countering online hate speech – results of evaluation show important progress*. Available at http://ec.europa.eu/news-room/just/item-detail.cfm?item_id=71674.

¹⁰⁹ German Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection. 2017. *Act to Improve Enforcement of the Law in Social Networks*. Available at https://www.bmjv.de/SharedDocs/Gesetzgebungsverfahren/Dokumente/NetzDG_engl.pdf;jsessionid=9BB3C5791301B0299B0782B5FA761B79.2_cid334?__blob=publicationFile&v=2.

¹¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹¹ Ibid.

¹¹² Ibid.

and support for dealing with and actions against instances of online hate. The counselling service started its work in September 2017 and is located at and organized by the INACH Member ZARA – *Civil Courage and Anti-Racism Work*.

Beyond legal regulations and policy measures, civil society is also working together to transnationally combat cyber hate. The International Network Against Cyber Hate (INACH) has been active in this field for 15 years. INACH currently unites 21 members in 18 countries. The participating organisations exchange information and best practice via regular meetings, e-mail discussions and conference calls. Joining forces is necessary, not only because of the complexity of the phenomenon but also regarding the diversity of tools and levels where organisations fighting cyber hate need to be active.

INACH supports groups and institutions who want to set up a complaints bureau. Alongside the establishment of complaint bureaus, a multidimensional approach of sensitizing Internet Service Providers, developing educational tools to raise awareness and promote attitude change in civil society, as well as awareness raising and lobbying activities on national and European political level is of utmost importance.

Numerous INACH members are involved in EU and international projects. For example, INACH members CEJI (Belgium) and Licra (France) participated in the education program for young people "[Get the trolls out](#)" as coordinators for their country. Some members have started working on counter speech initiatives. In Austria, ZARA set up the "[CounterACT](#)" platform which offers easily accessible guidelines for people wanting to analyse or react to cyber hate. Furthermore, INACH members like CEJI, Magenta, Unia and ZARA are involved in the development of tools for "[Facing Facts!](#)", a civil society initiative that aims to improve the recognition, recording of and responses to hate crime and hate speech at the national level and beyond by working across civil society and public authorities.

Whether these measures and actions, their impacts and effects lead to more democratic and inclusive communication, have no effect or even unintended and contrary effects and whether they (uninten-

tionally) breach fundamental rights, has to be continuously monitored and evaluated. Keeping the balance between the different fundamental rights at stake is of utmost importance and fundamental for all these activities. However, freedom of speech and fighting cyber hate are not mutually exclusive. On the contrary, not taking actions against cyber hate in the name of freedom of speech would crucially underestimate the damage cyber hate can cause and in consequence would harm freedom of speech itself.

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11. Annex

ANNEX 1: ABOUT THE PROJECT RESEARCH – REPORT – REMOVE: COUNTERING CYBER HATE PHENOMENA

The EU-project *Research – Report – Remove: Countering Cyber Hate Phenomena* (2016–2017), developed by the International Network Against Cyber Hate (INACH), aims to provide a solid basis to draw sound conclusions on the concept of cyber hate.

Systemic knowledge about the phenomenon, its origins and sources, as well as forms and influences will be gathered through comparative research. By this cooperation, the project partners will jointly gather evidence about current trends in cyber hate and subsequently identify EU wide dynamics.

Furthermore, the project aims at developing standards to document and analyse cyber hate and to improve takedown procedures.

This will be done by establishing guidelines for Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and social network sites as well as by providing support and advice to the political, legal and educational communities.

Establishing a central contact point will help to develop a sustainable and effective cross-border online complaint mechanism available worldwide to all users from their home or mobile device.

Regularly undertaken monitoring activities shall furthermore help developing an early warning system by continuously observing and analysing hateful content on the internet.

The project partners will particularly focus on the monitoring of anti-semitism, hate against Roma and Sinti, hate against Muslims and homophobia.

Table 2: Project Partners

	<p>International Network Against Cyber Hate</p>	<p>Netherlands</p>
	<p>Interfederal Centre for Equal Opportunities (UNIA)</p>	<p>Belgium</p>
	<p>Magenta Foundation (MAGENTA)</p>	<p>Netherlands</p>
	<p>jugendschutz.net</p>	<p>Germany</p>
	<p>International League against Racism and anti- semitism (LICRA)</p>	<p>France</p>
	<p>ZARA - Zivilcourage und Anti-Rassismus-Arbeit (ZARA)</p>	<p>Austria</p>
	<p>Movement Against Intol- erance (MCI)</p>	<p>Spain</p>

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Demokratie *leben!*

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ÖFFENTLICHEN DIENST UND DIGITALISIERUNG

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EUROPE
INTEGRATION
FOREIGN AFFAIRS
FEDERAL MINISTRY
REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA



Bundeszentrale für
politische Bildung

ANNEX 2: GENERAL TEMPLATE – DATA COLLECTION FORM

Research and Data Collection: Country Specific Cyber Hate Phenomena

This request is located in the context of the project "Research – Report – Remove: Countering Cyber Hate Phenomena", which is conducted by the International Network Against Cyber Hate (INACH) and funded by the European Commission (2016–2017).

The following data collection does not only address the six project members (Zara/Austria, Unia/Belgium, Licra/France, jugend-schutz.net/Germany, Magenta/The Netherlands, MCI/Spain), but is also meant to gather information from **all INACH member organisations** and associated project partners.

The goal of the research is to analyse, classify and compare instances of

- [antisemitic](#),
- [antiziganistic](#),
- [homophobic](#) and
- [anti-Muslim](#)

hate speech on the internet on a local or national level.

We want to explain the relation between these **four hate types** and **events** in your country that occurred between 2015 and today. Thereby the exercise will provide qualitative information on **country specific hate phenomena** which will be compared in a transnational perspective. For this we prepared the following template for a **one-time data collection** which we would like you to fill out.

Before you fill out the template, please note the following:

- a) This is a single request – you only need to do the exercise one time, there will be **no further obligations**.
- b) Our approach is to gather in depth data, which means every question should be answered thoroughly and **as detailed as possible**.

The template covers three topics: *trends, events* and *cases*.

What do we mean with *trends*?

With this we mean new tools (e.g. memes, conspiracy theories, fake news stories, etc.) used by people to spread cyber hate in your country. Trends can also relate to new target groups, new groups of perpetrators or a growing role of a certain online platform.

What do we mean with *events*?

Events are understood as local or national incidents leading to an increased number of hateful sentiments expressed offline and online. This includes events directly connected to the attacked groups (e.g. the opening of a new refugee home triggering anti-Muslim hate or fake news about crimes allegedly committed by Sinti and Roma triggering antiziganistic hate), but also general popular events used to spread hate speech, e.g. sport events like the soccer championship.

What about the *cases*?

For the information about exemplary cases we would like to ask you to select cases of cyber hate from the last months that are **related to the events** described above. For the description of the cases you find a questionnaire. Further explanation on single concepts are provided in a [legend](#) at the end of this document.

How to fill out the template:

- The template includes a sheet with questions concerning trends and events, and a questionnaire for the description of cyber hate cases.
- Please use one template for each hate type (antisemitism, antiziganism, anti-Muslim hate, and homophobia).
- Please provide examples of up to three cases per hate type.
- We are aware that your organisation doesn't cover all hate types. We therefore suggest to focus on the hate types your organisation has experience with and information about.

The material and data will not be published without your consent.

Type of hate:

Organisation in charge of filling out: [Name of organisation.]

Trends related to Antisemitism: Please provide a short paragraph (up to 500 words, complete sentences, no bullet points) about new tools (e.g. memes, conspiracy theories, fake news stories, etc.) used by people to spread cyber hate in your country. Trends can also relate to new target groups, new groups of perpetrators or a growing role of a certain online platform.

[]

Event(s) related to Antisemitism (2015–today): Please provide a short paragraph (up to 500 words, complete sentences, no bullet points) about local or national incidents leading to an increased number of hateful sentiments expressed offline and online.

[]

First example related to the event(s):

Title for the instance: [Please provide a descriptive title for the case.]

Summary (a legend has been set up to support you, see last page)

Country	[]
Affected group(s)	[]
Content	[]
Legal measure/ac- tion	[]
Type of speaker	[]
Medium	[]
<i>Editorial content or user comment e.g. at newspaper or other website</i>	[]
<i>Private, group or public</i>	[]
<i>Link to the website / URL</i>	[]
Space for adding screenshots is reserved below.	

Short description of the instance/case [between 2015 and today]:

To which of the events described before is the case related? Please tell us about the context, the content, the author, where it was published. Please be as detailed as possible so that a reader not familiar with the case can understand what happened and why it is important:

[]

Does your organisation interpret the case to be illegal under national law?

Yes: No:

Is the case deemed illegal under national law by court or another authority?

Yes: No: It hasn't been brought to court/another authority/no decision taken yet:

Has there been a takedown request? Yes: No:

If yes, please specify the outcome:

| |

Please also offer an assessment about the treatment of your request and how the online hate instance has been handled by the company? E.g. time of first reply, time till they deleted the reported comment, general communication with the company, feedback, handling of the complaint by the company.

| |

Has the case been filed with national authorities (police, public prosecutor)? Yes: No:

If yes, please specify: the type of institution, the length and the outcome of the procedure undertaken if possible.

| |

Please also offer an assessment about the treatment of your request and how the online hate instance has been handled by the national authorities? E.g. time of first reply, time till the reported comment was deleted, general communication with the authority, good, feedback, handling of the complaint by the authorities.

| |

Did you take alternative measures e.g. get in contact with the author?

| |

Linked events: has the online incident led to further hatred (e.g. attacks, riots, other cyber hate incidents)? (optional)

[]

Please add any relevant material e.g. links, screenshots (either attached to the email or inserted here), etc.

[]

Legend

Affected group:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antisemitism • Anti-Muslim hate • Antiziganism • Homophobia
Content:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Threats, stalking, harassment and bullying • Insult • Apology of war crime and crimes to humanity, glorification of war • Glorification of terrorism • Denial of holocaust • Incitement to violence • Incitement to hate (including the destruction of symbols) • Use of symbols <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibited • Not prohibited but tendentious
Legal measure/action:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taken to court • Sent to Police • Sent to Prosecutor's Office • Sent to other Authority <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Authority/state • Professional chamber/press council • Request for Removal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foreign ISP, national/local ISP, directly with placer or owner • No Actions Taken
Type of speaker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy maker (e.g. party representatives, elected politicians) • Political Group (political parties or related groups) • Pressure Group (e.g. vigilante group, Identitarian movement) • Extremist Group (e.g. ISIS) • Journalist • Blogger/page owner/facebook group owner/etc. • Public figure (includes media personalities) • Anonymous commenter

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identifiable commenter
Medium:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• (Online) Games• Applications• Webforums• Websites including newspapers• Webblogs• Social media (e.g. Facebook)• Chain letters, emails, sms• Letters, Emails, sms• Video and image platforms• Messengers (e.g. WhatsApp, Telegram)

A complemented version of the report detailing the information and cases provided by the participating organisations in national reports is available at http://www.inach.net/fileadmin/user_upload/Manifestations_of_online_hate_speech.pdf.

Or scan the QR-Code:

