

(NO) Hate Speech through EEA Grants – NGO Fund in Romania - summary of achievements

The NGO Fund in Romania was the only program that had a focus and specifically allocated financial support towards the no hate speech topic in the country. The intervention had a two sided approach – on one hand the operator – the Civil Society Development Foundation – implemented its own activities targeting the topic and – on the other hand – a special allocation inside the grant making scheme was designed for projects that tackle directly the issue.

At program level, the following activities were undertaken under CSDF direct coordination:

The *Launching Conference of the NGO Fund in Romania* was designed to provide initial and important information related to the program. The Council of Europe (No) hate speech campaign was launched for the first time in Romania in front of almost 400 participants of the conference by a representative of the campaign in the country. Hence, the (No) hate speech topic was highlighted as one of the key concerns within the Romanian NGO Programme, having a major impact on following activities considering that, at the time, the campaign was not known in the country. Issues related to hate speech were also addressed within the thematic workshops of the conference, such as promotion and protection of human rights.

Following the Launching Conference, there were a series of *information sessions* organized for potential applicants. The sessions had as first aim to familiarize the participants with the overall understanding of the NGO Fund, but also addressed and underlined this important concern of the program and that projects submitted for financing that had as main focus combating hate speech have a special allocation inside the grant scheme (220000 EUR). Also, as a supplementary measure, there was organized a dedicated *thematic session* in which potential applicants were invited to learn and share information on the (no) hate speech topic. The thematic session “Approaches related to the fight against hate speech”, was organised by Civil Society Development Foundation in Bucharest. 15 representatives from Romanian NGOs and public institutions attended the session. Through this session, there were explored different approaches on the fight against hate speech at national and European level and there were presented good practices from Romania and other European countries. The main objective of the session was to clarify perception regarding hate speech, in order to support the possible applicants to have a proper approach through their projects. As a

result, 5 of the participant organizations applied and got funding for (no) hate speech related projects.

The Romanian NGO Fair is the biggest outdoor event organized in the country by CSDF. It aims to get the nongovernmental organizations closer to the citizens, and for this there are 2 days of exhibition in a public area in Bucharest (usually a big park) where NGOs present their activities to the larger audience. In 2013 a photo project inspired of the 'No Hate Speech Campaign' was undertaken during the event, having more than 200 people posting messages for the campaign. Many of the [photos](#) from the project were used in official Council of Europe promotional materials.



In 2014, the annual Romanian NGO fair had as main theme celebrating diversity, tolerance and solidarity for combating discrimination and hate speech, hence a special edition dedicated to the topic of hate speech. Indoor activities in the first day, when the office of the President of the Romanian Chamber of Deputies hosted the opening event at the House of Parliament, offered the space for 200 participants (NGOs from Romania and 9 other countries, including Norway, Romanian officials as well as the Embassy of Norway and the EC Representation) to celebrate the contribution of the NGO sector to the development of the society, and highlight the need to become aware about the growing phenomenon of hate speech. The outdoor setup for the next 2 days allowed a direct

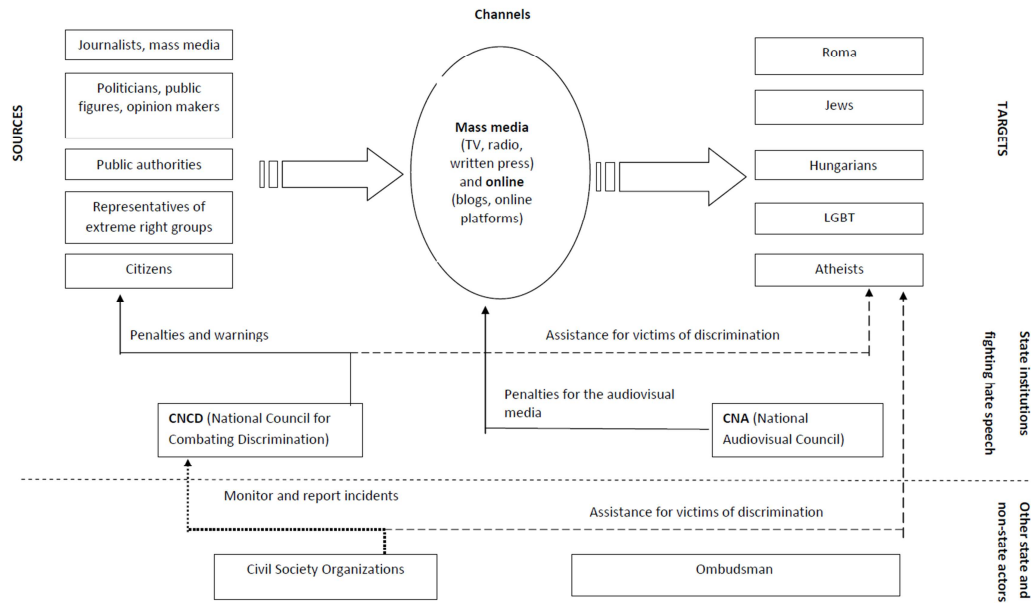
interaction of the NGOs to with the citizens, while a variety of debates and workshops, nonformal activities and stage performances completed the event. Exchanges of good practices between the participants from 10 countries were encouraged throughout the entire duration of the event (Bulgaria, Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Romania), either through the formal thematic events organised (6 thematic events in English on: civic engagement and citizens mobilisation, good practices and challenges in Roma integration, diversity education in NGOs projects, environmental challenges in urban development and heritage preservation, acting against Hate Speech across Europe, and democracy and the future of Europe with civic activists from Spain, Bosnia Herzegovina, Ukraine and Russia), or by directly interacting to the participating NGOs and visitors. The English programme with highlights on (no) hate speech debates was made available to all participants. As a satellite event to the NGO fair, a contest for bloggers was organized. The winning article, titled “Romanian intolerance – or how hard it is for us to accept the differences”, speaks about the online comments directed at Conchita Wurst, competitor at the 2014 Eurovision edition. In total, over 30 articles have competed to win the prize put on stake (a Romanian manufactured bike).

Overall, the NGO Fair succeeded in getting the no hate speech topic to a large audience of more than 20000 people that have participated as visitors in the event but also for more than 200 NGOs that were present at the editions of the Fair. Also, all exhibitors at the NGO Fair in all the years covered by the NGO Fund were invited to join and promote the No Hate Speech Campaign through direct discussions upon what is hate speech and how it could be recognised and fought against, they also acting as promoters of the concept and the project towards their citizen visitors.

Other important events undertook under the campaign were independently organized *TED events* with focus on education and human rights. In 2013 the *TEDxCaleaVictorieiED* hosted the intervention on (no) hate speech of the minority rights activist and former executive director of a LGBT organisation. More than 100 participants benefited from her inspirational [speech](#) related to the critical challenging of the norm. For the 2014 edition, defending human rights was one of the program’s strategic priorities, along with combating hate speech. Beginning with public policies, moving along through best practices and personal experiences, each of the [speeches](#) inspired the 100 participants to initiate or continue the fight against hate speech and the fight for the protection of human rights. Important public figures such as Csaba Asztalos (Director of the National Centre for Combating Discrimination) were speakers at the event. Also, another important aspect of the event was to present people who have been directly affected by hate speech and how they handled and solved the situation of their oppression.



An [*exploratory study of the state-of-the art facts in Romania*](#) on hate speech was aimed to identify the main constitutive elements of hate speech in Romania. This was the first coherent and integrated document ever realized on the topic in Romania up to that moment. It started by providing the global context, focusing on the main internationally accepted definitions of hate speech and theoretical approaches. It looked to hate speech phenomena in other EU countries and on the existing mechanisms and institutions to combat hate speech. In the case of Romania, the study offers a brief historical perspective of hate speech and identifies its main target groups and promoters, most frequent themes and the main channels through which it is delivered. It reviews the existing legislation and responsible institutions in Romania. The study was meant to be a fundamental reference for Romanian practitioners in combating hate speech, particularly for civil society activists and aimed to bring a comprehensive perspective of the phenomenon and to help practitioners to better tailor their actions (either by having a better understanding of the matrix target-source-channel-message) or by providing specific guidance on what are the most adequate institutions and instruments to help them tackle diverse types of hate speech.



The analysis revealed that in Romania, hate speech is directed mostly towards ethnic minorities (Roma, Jews, and Hungarians) and sexual minorities (LGBT). There are several reports that refer to hate speech against people with disabilities, and also a visible rupture in moral values in the Christian discourse against atheists. In terms of the most visible sources of hate speech, the study revealed them to be journalists, politicians and opinion makers. In this sense, mass-media is extremely relevant, since on the one hand it represents the main channel for politicians to transmit their messages, and on the other hand it acts as a medium for journalists to express negative views against vulnerable groups. Another category of sources is represented by public authorities, which issue hate speech mainly against the Roma. In addition, the study revealed the presence of extremist political groups or law enforcement structures as sources of hate speech. Regarding the legal aspects relevant for regulating hate speech, Romania sought to assume the majority of international/ European documents concerning the fight against discrimination, in general, and concerning the fight against hate speech, in particular. However, the analysis revealed a number of inaccuracies in the way the European law is reflected in the national legal framework. For example, even after the ratification of the Additional Protocol of the Council of Europe's Convention concerning the incrimination of any racist or xenophobic acts committed online, there is no modification in the national law relevant to this issue. Therefore, the concern for approaching various forms of hate speech through effective legal instruments is likely to remain high on the agenda in Romania, as well as generally in Europe. For the official launching of the study new and preeminent supporters were activated (the Head of the European Commission Representation in Romania, and the President of

the National Council for Combating Discrimination), while the event was also reflected in the media (e.g. National Television [broadcasted](#) about it in prime time, a special issue on (no)hate speech was released at the same week in a quality magazine), generating debates and thus awareness amongst the journalists, and further on for their readers or viewers.

The Laboratory of Nonformal Education is a concept event with the general aim to empower educational practitioners in using innovative methods of nonformal education into their daily work, regardless if we are talking about school or out of school activities. The event is open to practitioners from nongovernmental organizations, schools, libraries, cultural institutions like museums or theatres, which have in common educational activities for children youth or adults. The 2013 edition of the Laboratory focused on how to use nonformal education methods in combating hate speech through an educational approach towards the topic. More than 50 practitioners experienced methods inside the event and took home important practices on how to implement them in their daily work. The results of this event rely first of all in a change of paradigm for the participants in the sense that they better understand how to apply educational methods and use them for combating hate speech. Most of the participants put into practice with their beneficiaries the methods inside the Nonformal Education Day, a follow-up event of the Laboratory. Inside this event which took place in October 2013, there were more than 250 activities organized all over the country (in 36 counties of Romania) and more than 2000 people participated. Most of the events organized tackled the hate speech topic and participants to the Laboratory put into practices specific activities that addressed the issue using nonformal education methods.

Apart from the Nonformal Education Day, there were several other events organized by the participants - organization of the LGBT month in February 2014, month that included most of the nonformal activities present at the Laboratory).



As a follow-up of this event, in 2015 CSDF organized the *Laboratory on Fighting against Discrimination* and the *No Hate Resource Network*. During the event there were opened various thematic workshops where were discussed new ways to fight discrimination. The event had the purpose to establish a common direction on the approached subject, to try nonformal methods to fight with hate speech and to create future collaborations and partnerships between participants. The thematic workshops that took place during this event had the purpose to promote communication and interaction between the participants from different areas of activity and who have different experiences: sociologists, journalists, and bloggers. After the end of the workshop each of them engaged in the organization of a number of events and activities through which the methods about fight against the hate speech and the defence of human rights would become more known in their domain of activity.

Through the (NO) Hate Speech Resource Network the participants present at the Laboratory took the practices and implement them at local level as they acted as multipliers of information and practices. At the end of the Laboratory, each of them engaged in organizing a number of events and activities promoting the methods to fight against hate speech and for the defence of human rights, in their own domain of activity. The activities organized by the participants after the event were diverse and served specific audiences: educational workshops on the hate speech topic, trainings on equal opportunities and combating stereotypes in media, promoting human rights, development of specific curricula for training peer educators on bullying, writing a report on sex-workers in Bucharest, organization of informational sessions and street campaign to promote the fight against hate speech, national thematic camp for inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities which included elements on how to combat hate speech addressed to them, specialised consultancy activities on legal provisions related to school segregation and migration, creation of blog articles on the theme. The activities gathered more than 500 participants all over Romania and were directed mainly towards NGO representatives, journalists, youth workers, students, teachers and academia professors, human rights activists, disadvantaged youth but also the general public.

The conference *Trends in working with children and youth* was held in Bucharest with more than 100 practitioners in education. In the presence of the Romanian Minister of Education and Norway Ambassador in Romania, NGOs' representatives from Romania and other European countries, bloggers, academicians, journalists, together with representatives of Council of Europe met to share information about best practice projects in the area of children and youth, and understand what represents innovation in projects carried out in this field. One third of the conference was dedicated to the special topic hate speech/tolerance and antidiscrimination, and participants focused on how

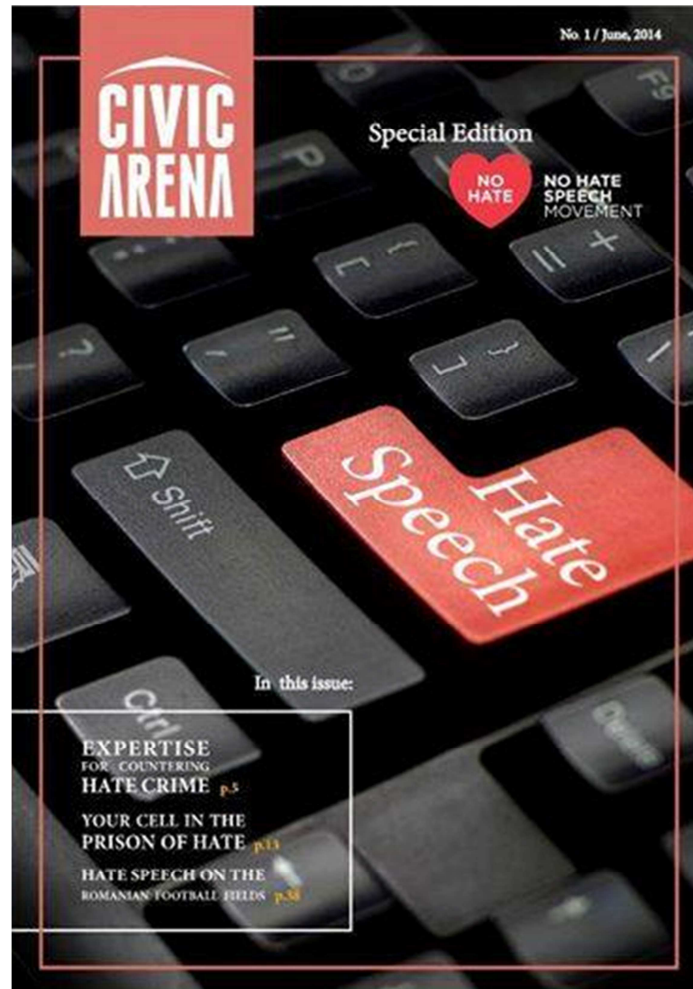
to use the educational platforms to fight hate speech amongst youngsters, how to address the newly emerging behaviours of children and youth of unconditionally adopting hate speech practices from online platforms, and donor countries and NGO Funds Operators experiences in dealing with hate speech topic connected to children and youth.



One dedicated *conference session* reproduced part of the experiments in the Laboratory of Nonformal Education in 2013, inviting specialized facilitators to undertake short demos on

nonformal education methods and demonstrate their efficiency in combating hate speech. Methods like living library, Photovoice, forum theatre, graphic facilitation, socio-educational animation, shadow theatre, improvisational theatre, origami, juggling, transcend were experimented directly and shared to the NPOs and project promoters from other countries, as well as from Norway in order to understand better how they can organize them so that they can tackle the human rights issue in their activities/projects. The topic was addressed also through the perspective of the NO Hate Speech campaign of the Council of Europe. Methodology and practical tools to be used in projects was a topic that raised interest of the participants. As general conclusions, from all the plenary interventions as well as from the workshops carried out, it arise the need to talk about innovation in education and to consider an integrated view on educational approaches (in projects mostly) through three perspectives: performance evaluation, teacher training and financing. Also, if the NGO sector wants to thoroughly contribute to the development of the educational sphere (formal education in general), projects undertaken should consider the relevance in addition to the educational needs, the context and time in which the projects are developed, side effects of the interventions and ethics and sustainability. A brief report of the conference can be found [here](#).

Continuing the series of events tackling hate speech, the first issue of *Civic Arena* (the magazine focusing on the non-profit sector in Europe, with a particular attention to Central and Eastern European countries), was released in Romania and Poland (the issue was introduced during the Polish Operator (NO) Hate Speech Conference in June 2014, in Warsaw). Dedicated to (NO) Hate Speech in the context of rising extremism, populism, racism and xenophobia across Europe, this first issue includes interviews with key actors in combating hate speech, overviews of in-country situations, good practices and other initiatives to counter the phenomenon. The first issue of *Civic Arena* reveals once again that Hate Speech is a highly dangerous phenomenon which does not spare any country in Europe. The target groups for hate speech are rather similar in most of the countries, yet each particular context and each future crisis can shift the weight to new and different groups. It is thus important to act now, to educate the public and the decision makers that “words matter” and that the road from speech to violence is short. The first issue of *Civic Arena* can be accessed [here](#).



The two editions of the *Civil Society Forum* gathered over 300 participants from 18 countries. Representatives of the main European institutions were also present: European Commission, European Parliament, Council of Europe, and Agency for Fundamental Rights. Regarding the hate speech dimension, the Forum has successfully contributed to promote the topic and discuss on concrete issues related to extremism and populism in Europe, also through the extent of the use of hate speech. During the events special dedicated workshops were undertaken and hate speech related promotional activities were made (special exhibition on hate speech, photo sessions with the No Hate campaign logo).



The Regional Conference on Roma and Discrimination: „A Quarter Century After” was organized by the Resource Centre for Roma Communities with assistance from CSDF. The event gathered 159 participants from 13 countries, bringing together a diversity of actors: civil society organizations implementing projects in the Roma field, NGO Fund Programme Operators, representatives of European Union institutions and national government, Ambassadors, experts and researchers. The conference included 6 plenary sessions and 6 working sessions, some of them focusing also on the hate speech topic. The debates looked constructively and also critically at the last 25 years of Roma public policy and programming, while also discussing the challenges for the future. Summary conclusions for the conference were published [here](#).

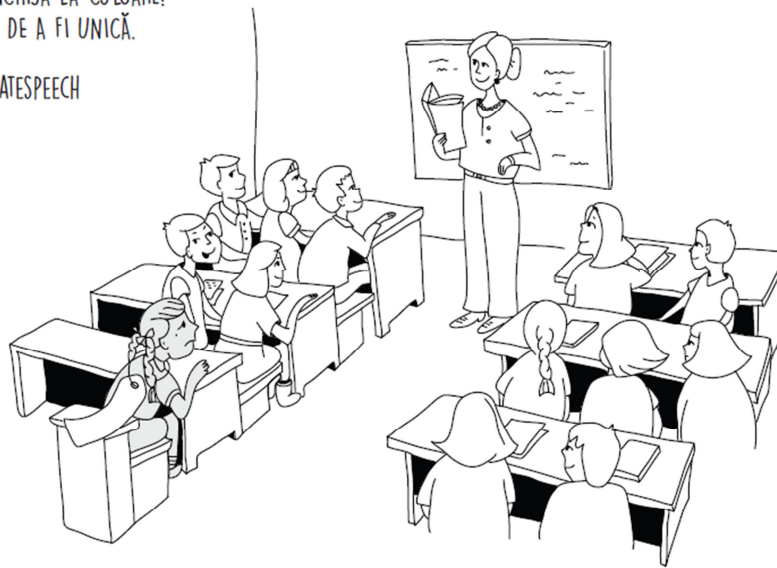
The *regional seminars with local media*, on the topic of NO Hate Speech were held on in 5 major cities in Romania. More than 50 NGO representatives and journalists attended the events. The aim of the sessions was to create an open space for debate among journalists and activists in the fields of education and human rights, particularly on the hate speech issue, taking into account that the mass-media is one of the main perpetrators of this discourse. The results of the exploratory study regarding hate speech and the applicability of the Romanian legislative framework were exposed. Projects dedicated to or with activities addressing NO Hate Speech were presented and journalists

had the opportunity to find out more about each one of them. Three articles on this issue were released after the session.

On December 10 2015, the International Human Rights Day, following the Council of Europe's initiative, we organized a short campaign with NO Hate Speech messages and activities. The NGOs financed within the programme were encouraged to sign and promote the petition to establish a European Day for Victims of Hate Crime on July 22, while also running a sponsored add campaign using the video animation ["The right to be UNIQUE"](#), produced under the program.

ARE PIELEA MAI ÎNCHISĂ LA CULOARE?
E DREPTUL EI DE A FI UNICĂ.

#NOHATESPEECH



The International Workshop *Youth Bloggers for NO Hate Speech* gathered 25 bloggers from Romania, Poland, Lithuania, Portugal and Greece, between 26 – 28 March 2015 at Baile Tusnad, Romania. Within a series of interactive sessions, participants learned more about hate speech, the main targets of this type of discourse as well as about its consequences. The group also created model news messages in order to promote human rights through blogging. On the last day, representatives of 10 Romanian NGOs active in the protection of vulnerable groups and the promotion of democratic values presented their projects. During a short “project-fair”, the bloggers had the opportunity to learn more about applied forms to promote anti hate speech action. The 19 Romanian participants were selected through a national call for articles on human rights organized in partnership with Bloginitiative.ro and Kooperativa 2.0 agency. More information, including the list of bloggers, is available [here](#).

Another international event organized by CSDF in March 2017 was the *NO hate practitioners' meeting. Mainstreaming best practices*. The main aim of this event was to share experience and discuss on possible mainstreaming of best practices piloted inside interventions related to countering hate speech in Europe. The activity was designed to contribute to the dissemination of best practices related to hate speech from different program countries involved in projects financed through the EEA Grants NGO Fund and correlate these interventions to other initiatives throughout Europe.

Over 50 participants from 14 European countries were invited to share national realities related to the hate speech topic, to understand differences in approaches used in different countries in order to counteract hate speech, to learn (new) methodologies on dealing with hate speech and to plan interventions in their communities based on the learning acquired at the event.

As an important outcome of this event, CSDF decided to translate in Romanian language the Council of Europe BOOKMARKS, available [here](#).



Also, the *Closing Conference of the NGO Fund* showcased the importance and outcomes of the program in general and also of the no hate speech topic to the general audience. A series of materials were produced that depicted the implementation of the program and of its outcomes, also including the dimension of the no hate approach. More info can be found [here](#).

Overview and outcomes of hate speech at project level:

Out of the total financed projects under the NGO Fund in Romania, 20% tackled fundamental or significant measures against hate speech. Out of this total, 19 projects that specifically addressed the topic through their activities involved more than 90 NGOs and more than 40,000 citizens. Among main activities implemented were training courses for journalists, creation of manuals, reports, toolkits, legislative analysis, public policy recommendations, online and offline advocacy campaigns, online platforms and applications. Some of the products are promoted as best practice interventions and organizations took them and used them further on in their activities (for instance www.nohatespeech.ro became the official place of the no hate speech movement in Romania).

Besides these numbers, 145 projects specifically worked with young people to combat hate speech and hate crime and to develop positive responses to tolerance/multicultural understanding (challenging racism, extremism, homophobia, anti-Semitism, xenophobia and discrimination).

Overview of projects that dealt directly with the (no) hate speech topic:

Promoter: E-Civis Association - Political discourse without discrimination!

Short description of the project: Although Romania is one of the countries that decided to use penal instruments to prevent and fight hate speech, anti-Semitism and xenophobia, the number of such incidents have increased from one year to another, according to the petitions registered at the National Council against Discrimination. Moreover, hate speech is also used by politicians especially, but not only, during electoral campaigns.

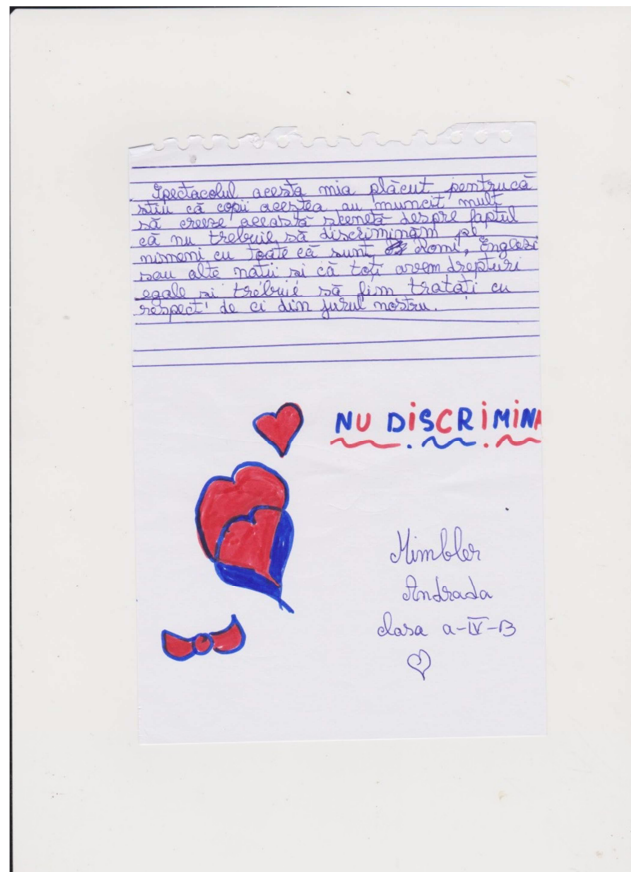
One of the major institutional problems in fighting hate speech, especially during electoral campaigns, is the fact that the National Council against Discrimination takes a long procedure in judging discrimination cases (around 3 months). E-CIVIS together with the project partners, the Permanent Electoral Authority and the National Council against Discrimination, worked together and identified a practical solution to the problem: to give electoral bodies the responsibility to decide on petitions regarding hate speech and discrimination during electoral campaigns. This way, the effects of hate speech on electors can be reduced by banning any hate speech electoral materials as fast as possible.

The most relevant outcomes of the project were the trainings undertaken by the promoter directed towards journalists and how they can better counteract hate speech during the electoral campaigns, the brochure Electoral Campaigns without discrimination that was directed towards political parties

and their members, the comparative study on legislation sanctioning hate speech and discrimination, undertook for the civil society through desk monitoring and data analysis.

The major success of this project is that the three partners, an NGO and two public institutions joint efforts and managed to modify the electoral legislation by introducing a new responsibility for the electoral bodies that will now be able to fight hate speech faster than before. It is worth mentioning, also, that these two public institutions collaborated now, for the first time, with the help of an NGO.

Promoter: Association for Continuous Development AD PLUS Iasi - Look beyond appearances



Short description of the project: “Look beyond appearances” project was developed by the Association for Continuous Development AD PLUS Iasi in partnership with a youth Roma association from town of Barlad (School Elite Association). The project was necessary in order to promote the respect for human rights, non-discrimination and social equity within the general population and to change their perception related to the Roma population. Project’s objectives consisted of: 1. 20 young journalists and future journalists trained, informed and more aware of the legislation on discrimination and social inequity and how mass media influence and educate the public. Following

the training, journalists accomplished 41 real stories of the Roma children and youth using a new journalistic method that made the public more sensitive to their subjects' situation. The stories are available on a printed magazine, and also [online](#). Some of the people that were the subject of the stories recognized that talking about their lives made them realize that is important to recognize their identity and to talk about discrimination. Some of the articles had a major impact on the readers and their subject was also taken over by other magazines (like Forbes) or TV shows.

2. Sustaining 15 theatre performances by Roma and non-Roma children that promote democratic values, non-discrimination in schools and kindergartens in Vaslui and Iasi counties. The purpose was to educate the young children in an original manner about discrimination, racism and social inequities. There were 17 performances were staged throughout Vaslui and Iasi county and also one show in Bucharest. The play had a great impact on their direct beneficiaries (children involved in the play) but also on their indirect beneficiaries (teachers, parents, local communities).

Promoter: Centre for Independent Journalism - Media Literacy for High School Students against Discrimination

Short description of the project: Digital Literacy for High School Students to Fight Hate Speech and Discrimination in the Media contributed toward the education of high school students in the spirit of tolerance and inclusion. It developed media competences that would allow them a critical reception of the media discourse, as well as a responsible presence in the public sphere, as „online content generators”. The project was run by the Centre for Independent Journalism, in partnership with Norsensus Mediaforum (Norway), which secured the know-how transfer in the field of youth media literacy programs.



The project addressed a serious issue that studies have revealed among teenagers: the relatively high rate of intolerance and some of its causes: information received through formal education and mass media. Textbooks seldom tackle diversity and hate speech related issues, while the media encourages stereotypes and promotes intolerance.

The project addressed both students and teachers for whom special course materials were developed. The course materials are available on project promoter's website, have been largely publicized and can be used by anyone interested in conducting similar activities. An advocacy guide for teenagers was also developed.

Over 260 students and 30 teachers were familiarized with the human rights and media freedoms / standards. The project had a very practical character: students conceived 12 advocacy campaigns, which were evaluated by a Romanian – Norwegian jury. The three winning campaigns received logistic and material support for implementation. They developed the students' capacity to unite and cooperate for a common cause, thus enhancing their civic participation ability – one of the main outcomes of the project. Noteworthy is that three teams of teenagers succeeded in involving over 1000 citizens from three cities (Babadag, Bistrita and Botosani) in their campaigns, including local authorities, CSOs, the community at large.

The Norwegian partnership has been instrumental in developing resource materials and enriching the staff's first-hand knowledge of democratic institutions' mechanisms. The promoter and Norsensus MediaForum have already concluded two projects together and are now implementing a third one.

Promoter: Civic Education Project and Academic Development Project - Young people build a civic Romania

Short description of the project: The "Youth Building a Civic Romania" project has been implemented by the Civic Education Project and Academic Development Foundation (FPECDA). The project identified and addressed the divide between formal democratic institutions and the informal institutionalization within the Romanian society of discriminatory practices and attitudes. The main objective was to promote human rights by increasing the knowledge, awareness and sensitivity of the public towards general issues such as homophobia, racism, hate speech and sexual harassment. It also aimed at increasing the organisation's capacity to further develop such activities in the future. The project addressed 655 direct beneficiaries and 2022 indirect beneficiaries (16-25 years old). The partners involved in the project were ANA Society, National College" Ion Neculce" and the "Nicolae Titulescu University". The partners (a high-school, a university and an NGO focused on gender

studies) have been selected based on their contribution to reaching the target group and the academic expertise of their respective members in the area of discrimination and gender issues.

The main result of the project is the change that it produced in the perceptions and, hopefully, in the mentalities of the targeted group of the project, that is the high-school and university students who actively participated in the activities and events of the project. They had the opportunity to experiment, analyse and discuss sensitive issues such as sexual harassment, homophobia, racism, with antidiscrimination experts and, thus, acknowledge and better comprehend the extent of these concepts.

The event that had the greatest media coverage was the debate organised in the 10th of March 2015 at the headquarters of the European Commission Representation in Romania. Its subject was "Freedom of expression vs. Hate Speech? Europe and Romania after Charlie Hebdo". The main partner in organising the debate was National Council for Combating Discrimination and the event had good media coverage (radio, online news) and was transmitted live on European Commission Representation's website.

Promoter: ActiveWatch Association - FreeEx Map

Short description of the project: The FreeEx project - Freedom of Expression Interactive Map - has developed and expanded a national network dedicated to freedom of expression in Romania. The project encouraged active citizenship and developed a communication platform for a practice community which included dozens of citizens (journalists, human rights activists, lawyers, students, professors, artists, writers etc.) interested in freedom of expression, freedom of the press, access to public information, and in other human rights, such as the right to one's own image, the right to privacy, the rights of minors and minorities.

The FreeEx team, collaborators and volunteers (the FreeEx community) published about 200 rapid reactions, multimedia articles and blog posts and released two FreeEx Reports "Media Freedom in Romania" (in May 2014 and May 2015). They have been involved in 16 advocacy actions (legislative analyses, public letters) and contributed to three broad public initiatives (the Big Brother laws, A Cleaner Press and "Vulturilor"). They worked with a large number of NGOs (over 50), including younger NGOs who benefited from the know-how transfer from experienced organizations, as well as with NGOs for minorities or vulnerable groups. During the 18 months of the project they conducted 65 meetings with over 800 students, journalists, media managers and civil activists in Bucharest, Cluj, Turda, Sibiu, Miercurea-Ciuc, Galati, Iasi, Focsani, Ploiesti, Pitesti, Mioveni, Craiova, Baia Mare. Over 950 people have directly participated in the events and meetings organized by the FreeEx team. Thousands of people have seen and appreciated the project's initiatives.

700 subjects were mapped by FreeEx volunteers and collaborators in the online application (FreeEx Map) created in the project. The platform integrates and maps the topics that inform the public about the issue of freedom of the press, freedom of expression and access to information of public interest, and leads to encouraging the critical (advised) consumption of media, condemning the violations of these rights, thus also helping to combat discrimination, xenophobia, homophobia, hate speech etc.

Promoter: Romanian Academic Society - Mobilizing universities to combat discrimination

Short description of the project: The project contributed to combating discrimination and hate speech in higher education, by increasing the capacity of universities, students and of relevant public institutions to adequately respond to this phenomenon. Previous to the implementation of this project, there was very limited data available on the level of discrimination in universities, despite studies pointing to the conclusion that intolerant attitudes were widespread among young people in Romania. Within this project, Romanian Academic Society (RAS) and its partners performed a multi-method analysis of the phenomenon of discrimination and the rules and procedures set in place to combat it and they formulated 17 policy recommendations for the relevant ministries and for universities. The project outputs also included a brochure documenting best practices and a guide for combating discrimination in universities.

The project engaged the academic community, by bringing together students and student associations, professors' unions and teaching and administrative staff from 8 universities. It created a network of volunteers who work towards disseminating the project results in universities and report on cases of discrimination. Policy-makers, the media and bloggers were also involved.

Another component of the project focused on building and formalizing partnerships between the implementing organisations and other institutions with competences in the field, as well as adhering to coalitions

Promoter: ActiveWatch Association - Net-rangers against discrimination

Short description of the project: The project was designed to help the fight against hate speech in the Romanian public space. During the '90s, hate speech in Romania had taken quite a violent form, particularly against the Roma, the LGBT community and the Hungarians. After a period of less hate speech that lasted more or less between 2000 and 2008, hate speech was once again present in the public space, even though in a far less violent form, except for the comments section in the online newspapers, where the situation was still rather bad. Perhaps the biggest problem was that virtually no decision maker or stakeholder was willing to support coherent measures to tackle the problem

while at the same time taking into account the issue of protecting freedom of speech. Thus, the project raised awareness on the importance of combating hate speech, as well as to the activity of the institutions and stakeholders that can contribute to a responsible and hate-free public space.

A group of more than 600 high school students were involved in activities aiming to make them aware of the need to combat hate speech and teach them how hate speech can be fought, mainly in the online environment. 28 high school students have formed a brigade of net-rangers to fight hate speech. The brigade wrote articles, helped monitor the internet in search for cases of hate speech and drafted press releases with support from the project team. The members of the brigade also made short videos on issues regarding hate speech, discrimination and intolerance and took part in debates carried out at two Romanian institutions with attributions to sanction hate speech, two newsrooms and one faculty for journalism and communication studies.

An online app to report hate speech to journalists and newsrooms was developed and used by the net-rangers.

But perhaps the most important product of the project was the first edition of the Annual Report on Hate Speech in Romania, which was launched with the help of a gala-like event. The research looked at Romanian legislation with implications on hate speech and the draft laws that might influence the phenomenon, analysed the activity of the institutions that are supposed to sanction hate speech, analysed self-regulation mechanism for the media and political parties and provided a summary of the most serious cases of hate speech and of the most successful actions designed to help grow tolerance in the Romanian society.

Promoter: Corona Foundation - PANDORA

Short description of the project: PANDORA project responds to a concrete need of the Romanian society: lack of civic mobilization. As internet usage becomes a habit for both children and adults and as Hate Speech phenomenon spreads rapidly, the users should take action to tackle the hate and discrimination messages. PANDORA sought to provide the tools and knowledge for NGOs activists, professors and youngsters to identify, combat and report hate speech. 5 activities were foreseen in order to attain this result.



The project started and ended with a contest which valorised the emotions and thoughts of children and students on discrimination issues. Their creations were afterwards used by NGO activists in combating hate messages within the first online campaign of such kind developed in Romania. The impact of the kit containing students' applications was presented to 60 teachers which were trained to help children in dealing with hate speech. 602 debates involving 15,400 students were organised in urban schools from North-East region of Romania. Thanks to the project, around 20 children identified as victims and perpetrators of Hate Speech received specialized counselling. 15 NGOs and 60 schools become part of a Partnership which operates in order to identify, combat and report discrimination and hate speech.

As main outputs of the project, there were developed: a counter-messages kit, a brochure presenting the results of the first online monitoring campaign against hate speech from Romania, 2

videos encouraging tolerance and understanding, 1 leaflets enclosing the most important facts about hate speech, 7 testimonial videos of activists telling the story of the "demons" on the internet. The main activities that involved the target groups and increased awareness and sensitivity regarding hate speech issues were: 2 contests involving 190 students and consisting of hate speech counter-messages production, 4 trainings on hate speech targeting 15 NGOs activists and 60 dissemination teachers, 1 partnership signed by 15 NGOs and 60 schools on combating online discrimination and hate messages, 1 kit testing campaign, 602 debates organized, 15,400 students informed on how to identify, combat and report hate speech.

Promoter: SCIENTIA NEMUS Association - Today's youth: the democracy of tomorrow

Short description of the project: The project "Today's youth: tomorrow's democracy" aimed at developing competences and increasing knowledge in the area of democratic values, human rights, gender equality of 75 teenagers aged 14-18, by involving them in thematic workshops, awareness campaigns, and community impact groups.

Many research studies have shown that youngsters in Romania do not have enough information about democratic values, human rights, gender equality, or people who face social exclusion. This lack of information and interest from the authorities and educational system representatives leads to discriminatory behaviour and ignorance amongst youngsters, even from early ages. Given all these, the project proposed a series of activities involving teenagers - students in the high schools of Drobeta Turnu Severin, activities meant to develop their capacities of understanding concepts such as discrimination, bullying, gender inequality, as well as to enable them to use effective methods of fighting those phenomena in their social circles, and in the society, in general.



During the implementation of the project, an initiative group of 5 young people with leadership abilities and 5 teachers from schools in Drobeta Turnu Severin was formed. They have been selected based on the voluntary activities they had previously been involved in, or coordinated. The initiative group was trained to develop facilitation activities with the young people in the project. The teens who attended the project took part in thematic workshops, living libraries, world cafes, designing awareness campaign on democratic values for the community. At the beginning, most of the teens involved in the project were not aware of any forms of virtual bullying and any measures of prevention; only a small part of them knew measures of fighting against hate speech and which the most important human rights are.

At the end of the project, a significant improvement in the awareness of social phenomena such as discrimination, hate speech, bullying could be observed in the target group. The initiation, in the framework of the project, of the community impact groups has the role to pass the skills and the knowledge gained in the project to the next generation of students.

Promoter: Centre for Independent Journalism - I teach diversity and my students love it

Short description of the project: The general objective of the project was to promote the respect towards democratic values and human rights, among high school students, while raising their awareness regarding diversity. The project started from the fact that the civic education in Romania is still limited, that youth are quick to embrace racist or even chauvinistic views, and that the school knows little in correcting these trends. In addition to this, the lack of media competences (both in terms of critical reception and responsible content generation, especially on social networks) makes the youth vulnerable and undermines the teachers' authority.

The project offered teachers a practical instrument that helps them include elements of diversity and multiculturalism in their daily teaching, in attractive, interactive forms (including new media). A toolkit for teachers was developed, in order to include the legal framework, examples of lessons, videos, or articles from the media that could serve as a starting point in teaching or in extracurricular activities. 19 teachers were trained to the use of new teaching tools and methods, during an intensive summer school, with the participation of the education expert Heidi Biseth (from Norsensus Mediaforum - the Norwegian partner).

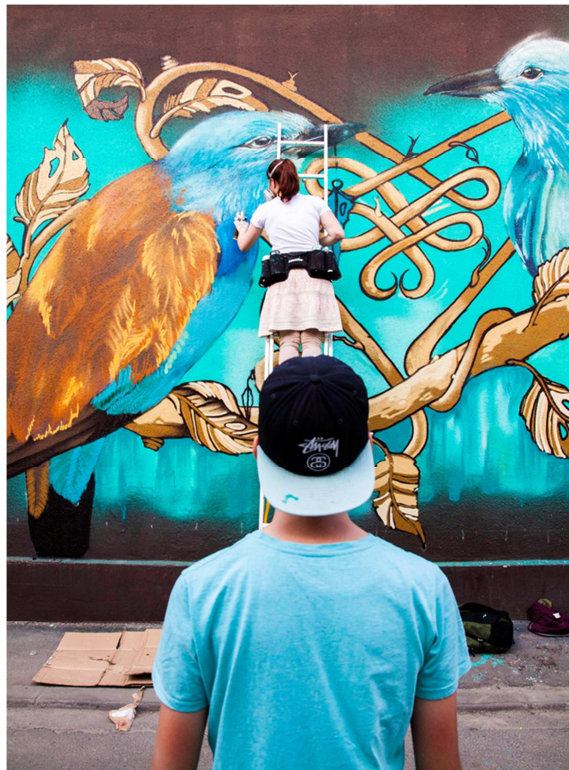
Following the activities from the summer school, the trained teachers applied the new knowledge and skills in year-long activities involving their students, other teachers and parents. The students were encouraged to produce their own projects, aimed at promoting diversity and tolerance.

Journalists, bloggers, and activists working with minority or women's groups attended the activities in schools, sharing their personal experience regarding discrimination and success stories on

combating it. Over 2,350 students participated directly in project activities, while 197 teachers benefited from its results. All the teachers who were involved in the project organised around 330 activities for students and their families, from class lessons to debates, workshops, a multi-media production contest, artistic displays and flash-mobs. The toolkit as well as other information on the project can be found at www.predauniversitate.info.

Promoter: Quantic Association - GraffitiA

Short description of the project: According to The Global Index of Gender Disparities 2013, gender discrimination still remains one of the challenges the whole society faces today. Globally, there are major gaps regarding the access of women and men to resources and opportunities, participation and involvement in the social, economic, political and cultural life. GraffitiA project tackled gender discrimination and used means of participatory art as tools for promoting gender equity. GraffitiA promoted street art and graffiti as efficient tools for women to reclaim their active citizenship, to freely express ideas and opinions, to fight for a new society, where human rights are being respected and people are equal. In Romania, female artists are facing gender discrimination every day: their professional achievements are marginalised or dominated by masculine critical perspectives. GraffitiA aimed to encourage young female artists to actively involve them in the street art and graffiti movement and to use participatory art as a tool for highlighting the problems they confront with in today's society. The project goal was achieved through:



- activities focused on combating hate speech against women: organising "girls only" events and workshops, building an online platform which promotes female artists from Romania and from abroad, organising female artists' exhibitions, doing the first graffiti mural by a female artist in Bucharest; editing and distributing Urban Collectors - GraffitiA Edition, an artistic album with feminine works of art;
- empowering girls by involving them in creative activities: 10 female volunteers, 7 female experts, more than 100 young women participating in art, graphic, street art workshops; 30 young female artists exhibited their art works during GraffitiA Closing Party, 2 female artists organised their own exhibition inside Urban Collectors Public Library, 1 female artist doing the first mural in Bucharest, 15 female artists promoted through the Urban Collectors album, more than 100 female artists promoted online, on urbancollectors.ro;
- organising spaces for female street artists in order for them to be united under a common cause, and to make their voice and message heard: Urban Collectors Library, urbancollectors.ro, GraffitiA facebook page, the public space (for murals), the album Urban Collectors, GraffitiA Edition.

Promoter: MRC - Median Research Centre Foundation - Less Hate, More Speech - Teens get involved!

Short description of the project: The main objectives of the project were to increase the capacity of 200 students to identify online and offline hate speech, and to empower them to react systematically, in accordance with the democratic values, against discriminating and extremist behaviour.

At the beginning of the project, as a result of an open selection process, 10 partnership agreements were signed with 10 gymnasiums and high schools all over the country, aiming at supporting the project implementation. Following the agreements, each partner school selected a coordinating teacher and 20 students, as volunteers in the project. 10 workshops were organised, one for each partner school. The objective of the workshops was to enable students to recognize hate speech, and acquire the adequate skills to fight it.

Following each workshop, two mini-events were held locally by students' teams, targeting the project theme. In total, twenty such events were held, and, as a sustainability element, all these events were held using resources which have been identified locally, by the team members. The project team prepared support materials for all these mini-events, and delivered phone and online help, whenever needed.

The peak point of the project was the Olympics preparation - a camp organised as a contest. A series of aspects which have been approached in the first phase of the workshops were developed at

this stage contributing to a final analysis of the student's behaviour and anti-prejudice stimuli. All ten coordinating teachers, and four students from each team (40 students in total) participated in the activities organised within the camp. All the activities tackled aspects related to hate speech as well as ways of identifying and fighting it.

Throughout the entire period of implementation, the project's online section has been updated with instruments and resources available to the partner schools in the project, but also to any other school that wants to integrate the topic of combating hate speech in its curricula.

Promoter: Peace Action, Training and Research Institute of Romania - Switch OFF/ONline Hate Speech

Short description of the project: The main goal of the "Switch OFF/ONline Hate Speech" project was that of promoting the right to freedom of expression and the right to dignity in the Romanian online environment for digital natives, aged 14 to 24 and digital colonists, aged 25 to 40.

During the 12 months period of implementation of the project, the proposed objectives of engaging journalists, bloggers, video bloggers and online opinion makers into raising awareness on the existence and consequences of using hate speech in the online environment were successfully achieved. An action group of 18 people was created, their communication and conflict management skills were enhanced through trainings and workshops, and then, together with the project team members, they produced and distributed online content such as articles, interviews, videos and infographics in order to say ""NO to online hate speech!""

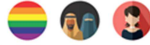
The project team created a weekly video debate with opinion makers "What is Hate Speech?" and tested people's reactions to reading out loud hate speech messages written in the online. Also, within the project, the first study (in Romania) on the incidence of online hate speech in comments made by users on the top Romanian Facebook pages, blogs and news platforms was conducted and issued. Project activities were carried out in the framework of the No Hate Speech Campaign in Romania. An online platform - www.nohatespeech.ro, with corresponding social media accounts (FB, twitter), were created and aimed at raising awareness of the target audience about hate speech. During the 5 months of the campaign, 286 materials have been posted on Facebook, with a total reach of 513,765 users on the project's Facebook page. On the website, 115 items have been posted and viewed by 5,053 users.

The project promoter succeeded in engaging a good number of public figures on the topic, as well as psychologists and college teachers, who are interested in continuing to analyse the topic of online hate speech and support further activities of the No Hate Speech Campaign. PATRIR became a member of the campaign's steering committee in Romania.

Mișcarea „NO HATE SPEECH“

Pe cea rășoară, moulă online și comunicarea
au avut contact cu fenomenul hate speech **83%**

Pe cea rășoară, moulă online și comunicarea
au avut contact cu fenomenul hate speech **70%**



cele mai vizate grupuri de fenomenul hate speech
sunt comunitățile LGBT, musulmanii și femeile

SWITCH OFF/ ONLINE HATE SPEECH

Switch Off/Online Hate Speech este prima campanie desfășurată în România,
care vizează creșterea gradului de conștientizare a fenomenului Hate Speech
în mediul online autohton.



DIGITAL



WORKSHOP



MIȘCAREA

Strategia de promovare prevede inclusiv conferințe de educare și explicare a
fenomenului Hate Speech, care sunt adresate oamenilor de comunicare,
marketing, jurnaliști și bloggery.

SCOPUL „NO HATE SPEECH“



CONȘTIENȚIZARE



EDUCAȚIE



IMPLEMENTARE

*Goodness is the only investment
that never fails* Henry David Thoreau

CUM SE POATE IMPLICA UN BRAND ÎN „NO HATE SPEECH“



Campanii de CSR



Campanii De
Brand Awareness



Campanii De
Educare



Campanii De
Marketing

Proiectul pune la dispoziție site-ul oficial
www.nohatespeech.ro
conturile de pe rețelele de socializare Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube.

Estimare de audiență:



> 5000
de vizitatori unici
pe luna pe
nohatespeech.ro

> 300.000
de persoane pe
rețelele de socializare

> 30 influențeri
bloggery, vloggery, jurnaliști



SWITCH OFF/
ONLINE
HATE SPEECH

Other examples of projects that dealt with hate speech as important topic:

Promoter: Partners Foundation for Local Development - Youth Voice

Short description of the project: "Youth Voice, Here and Now!" tackled young people's need to be invested both with the capacity and motivation to get themselves organized and involved in generating positive change on issues related to human rights, specifically no hate speech, youth being considered a vulnerable group that could belong to any discriminated category. Consequently, the project presented by Partners Foundation for Local Development aimed at developing youth's capacity and motivation to get organized in order to influence the schools' policies and to have them as spaces that are not tolerating the hate speech or human rights' violations. The aim was invested with specific activities that offer youth the opportunity to research, to identify and to mobilize human, financial and logistical resources in order to develop their own campaigns on awareness rising on no hate speech policies as well as on the changes that are aiming to generate. For this purpose, 5 initiative groups were created or developed in 5 high-schools from Bucharest, over 45 high-school students were trained on human rights education, community organizing, partnership building, advocacy and campaigning and through the 9 Campaigns implemented (8 offline and one online), managed to get the support of over 4000 community members in combating hate speech in schools.



The online campaign was developed on the Facebook pages of each initiative group. All the activities had been implemented on partnership basis with the 5 high-schools and also benefit of the support of other 10 nongovernmental organizations. In the same time, the Promoters succeeded to enlarge their community facilitators' team by recruiting new members for whom they organized training sessions in community organizing. The community facilitators will continue to work together with the five initiative groups.

Promoter: Semper Musica Association - Volunteer in TECUCI!

Short description of the project: Initially, before this project, in Tecuci (a small town in Galati County) there were no NGOs who would constantly organize volunteering activities for high school teens, or community events addressed to the entire community. Thus the project aimed to create a local organisation that would develop volunteering activities addressed to high school students, as well as youth in general. Since fewer than 5% of the teens in small towns participated in volunteering activities, but not in an organised form, outside their high schools (as the 400 questionnaires applied in Tecuci, Alexandria, Curtea de Arges, Calarasi, Giurgiu, showed), the project proposed 5 volunteering fairs in all 5 high schools in Tecuci, where 65 volunteering opportunities had been presented. Over 1,500 high school students applied for their favourite type of volunteering activity and, in the end, 304 got involved for their favourite cause. The majority of the volunteering opportunities were organised outside the schools. Also, through the public fair organised in Tecuci, adults had the possibility to engage in different volunteering opportunities presented by 5 different institutions, 330 participants registered and 72 actually applied to become volunteers.

Through all the public events and volunteering fairs organized, in schools for students and outside schools for adults, the Volunteers Gala, the volunteer brigades developed and their community events, the project increased the access of teens, adults and the community to volunteering opportunities and training on specific themes, such as No Hate Speech or the specificities of different groups, discriminated in Romania. Also, by setting up a new NGO in Tecuci, having among the founding members 6 local teachers, organising for them a capacity building training on NGO management and a team building meant to develop the strategic plan of the organisation for the next year, the sustainability of the activities was ensured – they will be continued in a legal and legit form and with chances for the new NGO to receive local support.

Promoter: Go Free - The Association for the Support of Civil Society - Community Journalists for Social Responsibility: StReEt

Short description of the project: The project “Community Journalists for Social Solidarity: StReEt” is a 12.5 months initiative implemented by Go Free- Association for the Support of Civil Society, with the purpose of teaching 20 young people between the ages of 14 and 30 to use community journalism as a tool for getting actively involved in multi-ethnic communities of Transylvania, as well as developing their competences in media advocacy and their role as a watchdog for social justice. Thus, during the implementation, StReEt project has achieved the following results:



- 11 people involved in volunteer work (2 volunteers from the partner - Romano Suno - and 9 from Go Free);
- 33 young people involved in volunteering programmes from both the Promoter and the partner Romano Suno;
- 20 young journalists developed their competences in media advocacy and their role as a watchdog through 3 training events called StReEtLab organised;
- 5 rural communities from Cluj, Mures, Alba and Salaj were chosen and themes relevant to the field of social justice were identified by the young community journalists (themes that served as subjects for some of the journalistic materials);
- public actions with citizens of the StReEt communities: 5 Cafe Journalism for Justice editions, 1 public media advocacy event during the FanFest Festival in Rosia Montana, 3 public local media

advocacy campaigns in Daroiaia, Camarasu, Cristoltel; 2 regional events in Alba-Iulia and Cluj Napoca and the “Community Journalist Gallery”;

- a website which has assured the dissemination of the activity of the young community journalists as well as of the messages/themes that were central for the StReEt project (such as social justice, No Hate Speech, respect for diversity etc.);

- Volunteer management and financial (including fundraising) management practices developed;

- “Social Justice for All” resource centre developed.

The project received several prizes at different galas, for an innovative way to bring social justice issues into the attention of the public.

Promoter: Cluj-Napoca Volunteer Centre - Volunteers Management from A to Z

Together with the partners involved in the project, Pro Vobis – National Resource Centre for Volunteering and IOGT Tippetue Norway, through the project “Volunteer Management from A to Z”, Cluj-Napoca Volunteer Centre (CVCN) aimed, to increase the organisational capacity of 16 NGOs from Romania, through effective and professional involvement of volunteers in their own activities.

The organisational growth has been accomplished by involving the representatives from the 16 NGOs in a progressive, coherent development process in which they could gain knowledge, skills and attitudes relevant in implementing with success volunteering programs. The 16 NGOs benefited of activities of training, consultancy and job shadowing in organizations with experience in volunteer management. In the end, each organization put into practice what they learned, by organising a public event set on promoting the fight against hate speech, event that has been included in the general No Hate Speech Campaign. The public events have been prepared and implemented together with local volunteers and constant support from CVCN. In this way the 16 organizations had the chance to put in practice the “9 steps in volunteering management”, practically developing and improving their volunteer management skills.

In order to present to the audience the challenges faced in the volunteer management process, together with discriminatory situations that sometimes volunteers are facing, a social theatre performance was created “Occupy future” challenged, through the performance and the debate, the audience to search together for solutions to the situations presented.

The increase of organisational capacity of the 16 beneficiary NGOs, as well as the theatre play and public events gathered in the “No Hate Speech Campaign from A to Z”, have ensured a numerous set of direct and indirect beneficiaries of the project. 1746 citizens participated in the events.