

D18 Conference report



Deliverable description:

Conference report in electronic form; available in English.

EU level conference for 100 participants: participants are invited from all MS's, Iceland and Liechtenstein

Date and venue: 21 October 2019, Zagreb, Croatian Journalist Association

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AGAINST HATE

Zagreb, 21 October 2019

Conference 'Good practices in combating hate crimes and hate speech'

CROATIAN JOURNALIST ASSOCIATION

Perkovčeva 2

9.00

Registration

9.30 – 11.00

Introductory session

Welcoming speeches:

Tena Šimonović Einwalter

Deputy Ombudswoman,
Ombudswoman's Office

Bahrija Sejfić

Deputy director, Office for Human Rights and the Rights of the National Minorities to the Government of the Republic of Croatia

HE Risto Piipponen

Ambassador of the Republic of Finland to the Republic of Croatia

Yrsa Nyman

Ministerial Adviser, Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Finland

Key note speech by:

Christel Mercade-Piqueras

Fundamental Rights Policy Unit, European Commission

11.00 – 11.30

Coffee break

11.30 – 13.00

Session I: state responses to hate speech and hate crimes

Panelists:

Andrea Šurina Marton

State Attorney's Office of the Republic of Croatia: trainings of professionals (law enforcement, state attorneys, lawyers, CSOs) on hate crimes and hate speech provisions in Croatian Criminal Code

Kristof De Busser

Antwerp Police department, Belgium: training on hate crime for new employees or specific groups of employees

Francisco Javier Bernáldez

The Spanish Observatory on Racism and Xenophobia (OBERAXE), Spain: cooperation with various levels of governmental institutions and CSOs in Spain, with European Union and other international institutions

Intervention by:

Griffin Ferry

ODIHR: resources available to authorities and CSOs developed by ODIHR and available for improving MS national contexts of combating hate crimes

Moderated by:

Tena Šimonović Einwalter

Deputy Ombudswoman and ECRI member in respect of Croatia

13.00 – 14.00

Lunch break

14.00 – 15.00

Session II: raising awareness and citizens' participation

Panelists:

Andrej Motl

Spletno oko, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

Elina Grundström

The Council for Mass Media, Finland: self-regulation by publishers and journalists

Abdulhamid Kwieder

Dokustelle center, Austria: collecting data on Islamophobia and anti-Muslim racism reported by citizens

Francesca Cesarotti

Amnesty International Italy: the role of human rights education in combating (online) hate speech

Moderated by:

Ana Krolo Molnar

Croatian Radio

15.00 – 15.30

Break

15.30 – 16.30

Session III: inspiration for take-away: different approaches and methods in addressing and combating hatred incited violence

Panelists:

Anna Tatar

Never Again Association, Poland

Julia Mozer

CEJI, Facing Facts, Belgium

Alexander Hili

SOS Malta, Malta

Moderated by:

Branka Vierda

Youth Initiative for Human Rights Croatia

16.30 – 16.45

Conference closure and final remarks

Conference report

On 21 October 2019, [Centre for Peace Studies](#) and [Human Rights House Zagreb](#) organized conference entitled „Good practices in combating hate crime and hate speech“¹ as an closing event of the project “Against Hate”, two-year long activity led by the [Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Finland](#) and partners from both Finland and Croatia.

Conference gathered around 100 participants from most of the 28 EU Member States. Participants were invited based on previous cooperation during the research for the guidebook on good practices that was also presented at the conference.

Working method chosen for the conference was panels with three or more speakers with interactive part for the participants to comment ask or present similar experiences and practices they are aware of or participate in implementation.

Before the conference start, part of the panellists gave media statements on the state of affairs of hate speech and hate crimes in their respective countries.



Cvijeta Senta, Tina Đaković, Elina Grundström, Kristof De Busser and Tena Šimonović Einwalter prior to the conference

¹ Conference announcements at the web pages of project partners: [Centre for Peace Studies](#) and [HRHZ](#).

Ms Cvijeta Senta, organization coordinator from Centre for Peace Studies opened the conference and moderated the introductory and welcoming session.

Welcoming speeches included addresses by Ms Tena Šimonović Einwalter, Deputy Ombudswoman from the Ombudswoman's Office of the Republic of Croatia, Ms Bahrija Sejfić, Deputy director at the Office for Human Rights and the Rights of the National Minorities to the Government of the Republic of Croatia, HE Risto Piipponen, Ambassador of the Republic of Finland to the Republic of Croatia and Ms Yrsa Nyman, Ministerial Adviser in the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Finland.



Ms Bahrija Sejfić addressing the conference participants in her welcoming speech

Ms Christel Mercade-Piqueras from the Fundamental Rights Policy Unit in the European Commission's DG Justice and Consumers gave the keynote speech.

After the welcoming and introductory speeches, Ms Senta presented the aims of the conference and the guidebook as well as the content of the guidebook.



The conference proceeded with its work in the three panel sessions.

First panel focused on state responses to hate speech and hate crimes. Presenters included authorities' representatives from Croatia, Belgium and Spain with an intervention by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) on available resources to authorities and civil society developed by ODIHR and available for improving MS national contexts of combating hate crimes.

Guidebook of good practices in combating hate crime and hate speech with the conference agenda

First speaker, Ms Andrea Šurina Marton from State Attorney's Office of the Republic of Croatia (Deputy Attorney General) presented trainings of professionals (law enforcement, state attorneys, lawyers, CSOs) on hate crimes and hate speech provisions.

Ms Šurina Maron presented legislative and policy framework in combating criminal offenses of hate crimes and public incitement to hatred and violence as well as training seminars curricula she participated in development of².

Second speaker, Mr Kristof De Busser, Chief Inspector from the Antwerp Police department in Belgium presented his unit's (Diversity Police Division) training on hate crime for new employees or specific groups of employees using interactive presentation software Mentimeter. Mr De Busser showed the participants part of the actual training for the police officers and they were able to participate in the quiz he prepared for them. Topics covered diversity within the group (do participants feel like diversity is normal to them or they see it as a problem), migration background in Antwerp and in the police department they are a part of, moving to the definition and examples of hate crimes³.

Third speaker, Mr Francisco Javier Bernáldez, Head of Service of the Spanish Observatory on Racism and Xenophobia (OBERAXE) presented the cooperation with various levels of governmental institutions and civil society organizations in Spain, with European Union and other international institutions. OBERAXE is

² Ms Šurina Marton's presentation is enclosed to deliverable D17.

³ Mr De Busser's presentation is enclosed to deliverable D17.

platform offering information and analysis and spurring on work to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance as well as hate incidents and crimes under the Ministry of Labour, Migration and Social Security's Secretary of State for Migration, and specifically under the Directorate General for Integration and Humanitarian Aid⁴.

Ms Tena Šimonović Einwalter, Deputy Ombudswoman and ECRI member in respect of Croatia moderated the first panel session. Ms Šimonović Einwalter reflected on the ECRI's country monitoring work, when ECRI examines the situation concerning manifestations of racism and intolerance in each of the Council of Europe member states.

Second panel's focus was on the raising awareness and citizens' participation in combating hate crimes and hate speech.

Mr Andrej Motl from hotline Spletno oko at the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia presented this reporting tool, which enables internet users anonymous reporting of hate speech, and child sexual abuse material that they may come across online⁵.

Ms Elina Grundström, president of the Council for Mass Media from Finland spoke of self-regulation by publishers and journalists. The Council for Mass Media is a self-regulating committee established by publishers and journalists in the field of mass communication for the purpose of interpreting good professional practice and defending the freedom of speech and publication⁶.

Mr Abdulhamid Kwieder is a volunteer of the Dokustelle centre from Austria. Mr Kwieder presented Dokustelle's work on collecting data on Islamophobia and anti-Muslim racism reported by citizens and further published in a yearly report⁷.

Ms Francesca Cesarotti from the Amnesty International Italy presented the role of human rights education in combating (online) hate speech on the example of Amnesty's activity entitled "Barometer of hate -

⁴ Mr Bernáldez's presentation is enclosed to deliverable D17.

⁵ Mr Motl's presentation is enclosed to deliverable D17.

⁶ Ms Grundström's presentation is enclosed to deliverable D17.

⁷ Mr Kwieder's presentation is enclosed to deliverable D17.

Observatory on hate speech in the electoral campaign” that represents a methodology and tool for data collection, monitoring and analysing online hate speech⁸.

Ms Ana Krolo Molnar, a journalist from the Croatian Radio moderated the second panel session.

Third panel was inspiratory session with presentations of different approaches and methods in addressing and combating hatred incited violence.

Panellists included Ms Anna Tatar from Polish Association Never Again that publishes The Brown Book - a documentation of monitoring of crimes committed by neo-fascists and the extreme right, as well as racist and xenophobic incidents and acts of discrimination in Poland. Ms Tatar further spoke of Never Again’s struggle with the Allegro e-commerce site to halt sales of item bearing Nazi symbols.

Ms Julia Mozer, communication officer of CEJI presented Facing Facts, an innovative programme aiming to tackle the issue of hate crime and hate speech in Europe. Training topics include: hate crime training for police, hate crime monitoring for civil society organisations, hate speech monitoring and counteraction available in English, French, German and Italian, hate speech advocacy, 7 Bias Indicators modules that address the specificities linked to hate crimes targeting communities (disabled, Jewish, LGBT, migrants and refugees, Muslim, people of African descent, Roma)⁹.

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Mr Alexander Hili from organization SOS Malta presented the work of the web-site Kellimni.com. It is an online support service run by trained staff and volunteers reachable through e-mail, chat and smart messaging 24/7 for support. Kellimni.com’s mission is to offer one-on-one online support services to service users, mainly youth who are suffering from any form of social exclusion, abuse, neglect, and/or psychological difficulties and/or are in need of emotional, moral and social support¹⁰.

Ms Branka Vierda from Youth Initiative for Human Rights Croatia moderated the third panel session.

Ms Tina Đaković, organization coordinator of the Human Rights House Zagreb closed the conference with a few final remarks on the importance of cooperation among different actors when tackling the issue of hate crimes and hate speech, complementarity of approaches used by the civil society and the authorities and the pertinence of the synergies on international level.

⁸ Ms Cesarotti’s presentation is enclosed to deliverable D17.

⁹ Ms Mozer’s presentation is enclosed to deliverable D17.

¹⁰ Mr Hili’s presentation is enclosed to deliverable D17.