

HATE SPEECH and HATE CRIME

All European countries are committed to countering discrimination. Yet all too many tragic attacks in recent years highlight growing intolerance against minorities. Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway support numerous initiatives through the EEA and Norway Grants to raise awareness of hate crime and hate speech, as well as promote tolerance and multicultural awareness.

WHY FOCUS ON HATE SPEECH AND HATE CRIME?

Numerous reports in recent years from international organisations have documented worrying levels of harassment and violence towards minorities. The economic crisis in Europe has also fuelled prejudice and intolerance, with a clear link in some countries between the recession and the growth of hate speech and hate crimes.

- > A quarter of all respondents to a survey of LGBT people said they have been attacked or threatened in the last five years¹
- > About half of Roma surveyed said that they have experienced discrimination in the past year²
- > 21% of respondents to a survey on discrimination against Jews had experienced at least one incident of insult or harassment and/or a physical attack in the past year³
- > 78% of respondents to a Council of Europe survey have encountered hate speech online⁴

WHAT WILL WE ACHIEVE?

Through the EEA and Norway Grants, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway support a range of initiatives to tackle hate crime and hate speech, primarily through civil society and the Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) programmes.

HOW WILL WE ACHIEVE IT?

Worth almost €160 million, the NGO programmes are one of the biggest funding schemes for civil society in Central and Southern Europe. Civil society organisations are often at the forefront of tackling discrimination and provide a voice for victims. The NGO programmes actively address hate speech as well as tackle extremism and intolerance.

Programmes in other areas supported by the Grants – migration and asylum, gender-based violence, cultural diversity, social inclusion etc. – also contribute to countering hatred, protecting minorities and strengthening fundamental rights.

¹ EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (2013) *EU LGBT survey*

² EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (2011) *The situation of Roma in 11 EU Member States*

³ EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (2013) *Survey on discrimination and hate crime against Jews*

⁴ Council of Europe (2012/13) *Survey on young people's attitudes and experience of online hate speech*



EXAMPLES OF ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED BY THE PROGRAMMES:

- > Cultural and information activities to raise awareness of the impact of homophobia on LGBT communities in Slovakia
- > A weekly radio programme featuring personal stories of discrimination faced by minority groups in Bulgaria
- > A report setting out a series of recommendations for policymakers to improve protection and rights of hate crime victims in Lithuania and bring in line with EU standards

HOW DOES IT WORK?

NGOs can apply directly to the NGO programmes in each beneficiary country for funding for projects that set out to counter hate speech or hate crime.

Public bodies, NGOs and some intergovernmental organisations, can also apply for funding under programmes in other fields. Projects are selected by the programme operator in each country. Calls for proposals setting out detailed eligibility criteria are published on the websites of the programme operators and www.eeagrants.org.

WORKING IN COOPERATION

Countering intolerance requires joint responses from governments, international organisations and civil society. To benefit from its experience in promoting human rights, the EEA and Norway Grants have established a partnership with the [Council of Europe](#) and also engage with the [EU Agency for Fundamental Rights](#) (FRA) on issues of mutual interest.

Project partnerships between NGOs and other organisations in the beneficiary and the three donor countries are also widely encouraged. Seed money is available to support networking and partner searches.

SNAPSHOT OF EVENTS

Many activities have been organised by the NGO programme operators across the beneficiary countries to stand up against hate speech, including active engagement in the Council of Europe NO HATE SPEECH campaign.

Several high profile events on hate speech and hate crime have also been organised or sponsored by the donor countries of the EEA and Norway Grants, both in cooperation with the Council of Europe and as a key partner of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA).

- **NOVEMBER 2012** "Tackling Hate Speech: Living Together Online" with the Council of Europe (Budapest)
- **MAY 2013** "Right-wing Extremism and Hate Crime in Europe" (Oslo)
- **SEPTEMBER 2013** "Hate Factor in Political Speech" with the Council of Europe (Warsaw)
- **NOVEMBER 2013** FRA conference on "Combating Hate Crime in the EU" (Vilnius)
- **APRIL 2014** FRA conference on "Combating Hate Crime effectively" (Thessaloniki)



NO HATE SPEECH MOVEMENT

The EEA and Norway Grants are a strategic partner to the Council of Europe's NO HATE SPEECH MOVEMENT. Launched in March 2013, the campaign is based on human rights education, youth participation and media literacy. The NGO programmes are making a strong contribution to the campaign which runs until the end of 2015, organising training workshops for youth bloggers, compiling good practice databases and campaigning toolkits for schools.

COUNTRY OVERVIEW: NGO PROGRAMMES

Country	Programme Operator	Grant amount (€ million)
Bulgaria	• Open Society Foundation http://ngogrants.bg	11.8
Cyprus	• Price Waterhouse Coopers http://www.eeangofund.org.cy	1.3
Czech Republic	• Civil Society Development Foundation http://www.fondnno.cz/en/	9.8
Estonia	• Open Estonia Foundation http://oef.org.ee/en/our-work/ngo-fund	2.3
Greece	• Bodossaki Foundation http://www.weareallcitizens.gr	7.3
Hungary	• Hungarian Environmental Partnership Foundation http://norvegcivilalap.hu	13.5
Latvia	• Society Integration Foundation http://www.sif.lv	10.4
Lithuania	• Human Rights Monitoring Institute http://www.nvoprograma.lt	5.5
Malta	• Solidarity Overseas Service (SOS) Malta http://www.sosmalta.org/ngo	0.5
Poland	• Stefan Batory Foundation http://www.ngofund.org.pl	37
Portugal	• Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation http://www.gulbenkian.pt	8.7
Romania	• Civil Society Development Foundation http://fondong.fdsc.ro	36.3
Slovakia	• Ekopolis Foundation (Active citizenship and inclusion) http://www.eeango.sk/aoi • Open Society Foundation (Democracy and human rights) http://www.osf.sk	3.7 3.7
Slovenia	• Regional Environment Center (REC Slovenia) http://slovenia.rec.org	1.9
Spain	• NGO Platform of Social Action http://www.plataformaong.org/ciudadaniaactiva/	4.6
TOTAL		158.3

ABOUT THE EEA AND NORWAY GRANTS

Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway provide funding to:



AREAS OF SUPPORT

- Environmental management
- Climate change
- Civil society
- Cultural heritage and diversity
- Human and social development
- Green industry innovation
- Justice and home affairs
- Research and scholarships
- Decent work and social dialogue

* EEA Grants €993.5 million (Norway 95.8%, Iceland 3.0%, Liechtenstein 1.2%) – Norway Grants €804.6 million, financed by Norway alone