



INACH ANNUAL REPORT 2020

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16/12/20

Bringing the Online in line
with Human Rights

INACH

International Network Against Cyber Hate - INACH

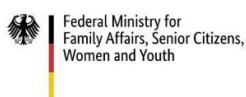
INACH was founded in 2002 to use intervention and other preventive strategies against cyber hate. The member organisations are united in a systematic fight against cyber hate, for example as complaints offices, monitoring offices or online help desks. In their respective countries, they provide important contacts for politicians, internet providers, educational institutions, and users.

Funding for INACH is provided by its members, the European Commission, the BPB and other donors. The International Network Against Cyber Hate (INACH) unites multiple organizations from the EU, Israel, Russia, South America, and the United States. While starting as a network of online complaints offices, INACH today pursues a multi-dimensional approach of educational and preventive strategies.



Supported by the Rights, Equality and Citizenship (REC) Programme of the European Union

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This publication has been produced with the financial support of the Rights, Equality and Citizenship (REC) Programme of the European Union. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of the International Network Against Cyber Hate and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Commission.

Executive foreword from INACH's chair Philippe A. Schmidt

2020 was a particular year in which the Covid-19 pandemic has shattered and weakened social, economic, and political life conditions in many continents. As the pandemic expanded, online phenomena of hate speech, fake news and conspiracy theories have increased dramatically almost everywhere. Indeed, the Internet and in particular social networks are a mirror which reflects as well as tends to exacerbate societies' questions, debates, and above all failures and crisis. Covid-19 also had a huge impact on the way NGOs and civil society networks such as INACH usually work.

Yet, INACH's Secretariat and the network quickly acted and reacted by re-organising all its activities in collaboration with its members to be able to continue to tackle all current phenomena of cyber-hate in an efficient way. Therefore, this year, INACH decided to take a different approach by providing online and accessible format when it comes to its events, training, projects, campaigns, and publications.

This annual report presents all the activities carried out by the network, its achievements, its recommendations as well as its plans. This report was conceived in order to offer a global and concise overview as well as to provide a deeper and extensive insight into the contributions of INACH's Secretariat and the network.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'P' followed by a horizontal line and a shorter horizontal line below it.

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I. Introduction

In 2019, we decided to take a different approach when it comes to our Annual Report. Up until then we used this outlet to present our findings on the state of cyber hate mostly within the European Union and somewhat around the globe. Due to some well-received criticism, INACH's Annual Reports are now more about the work we carried out in any given year, our achievements as a network and our plans for the future. This does not mean that we will provide less empirical data on online hate speech. If people are interested in data our members collected during 2020, they can look at that data by reading our other reports (some of those reports will be highlighted and discussed in this current one).

In this year's Annual Report, we will discuss the events we organized or participated in, the counter-speech curricula we developed further, how we developed our new online counter speech training space based on these curricula, the monitoring exercise we organized and participated in, our other publications for this year and the achievements of our individual members. We hope that this way, people interested in our work can gain a proper overview of, and a deeper, more substantial insight into the workings of INACH Secretariat and the Network as a whole; and thus, it will bring the network closer to the public, so we can bring the online in line with human rights together.

II. Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Our Work

Before we launch ourselves into the topics described above in the introduction, the effects of the pandemic need to be discussed. Just like all other NGOs and companies, INACH's workflow and its usual day to day rhythm were completely turned upside down by the coronavirus. We needed to - sadly - cancel some of our activities, restructure our workflow and move many of our planned activities into the online sphere.

The first victim of the pandemic was our planned strategy retreat. It was supposed to be a fruitful brainstorming event to plan INACH's future beyond 2021, but we felt that holding it in an online setting would not have been as useful or fruitful. Hence, it had to be cancelled.

Our in-person staff meetings also had to be rethought. Due to our employees being in multiple countries we had already been very used to strategizing and organizing our work via online meetings. However, we used to have regular face to face meetings in Amsterdam, usually three to four times a year (besides other INACH organized events where most staff members are present and can discuss work related issues in person). We just managed to have a kick-off meeting in the first week of March, right before most European countries started to have lockdowns, but all other offline staff meetings needed to be held online.

Our annual Members Assembly and Annual Conference also needed to be moved to the online sphere. We will be discussing how we faced that challenge below.

Yet, the biggest challenge was what to do with our counter speech trainings planned for the year. 2020 was supposed to be a year of trainings for INACH, we were planning of holding almost a dozen of them throughout the year. Hence, the pandemic put us into an exceedingly difficult situation, and with a heavy heart we had to realize that our trainings had to be moved to an online training space. The gargantuan task of transforming our trainings into a digital educational space will be described in a later chapter.

III. Events

Annual Conference

As explained above, our Annual Conference, as well as every other event we had planned, had to be adapted to take place online, due to the pandemic. At first, it took some time to get used to the idea, as this event is the rare occasion during which we can see our colleagues from all around the world to reunite and celebrate our partnership. We had to accept that this year would simply have to be different, and that we could still make it a great event. We adapted every single aspect of the conference, with the big help of the ERGO Network (more detail about our cooperation with them later on) who's experts at online conferences helped to make the transition a smooth one. The medium we decided to use was the increasingly popular Zoom. The organization team as well as the speakers and participants were carefully coached to master Zoom and to make sure the experience could be as pleasant as possible. As well as preparing everyone for this first of a kind conference, we had to adapt the schedule to fit such a conference. Speeches were kept fairly short, as it is known that an online conference is harder to follow and more tiring than a real-life conference. We implemented more breaks, and so called "energizers" which helped people relax, interact, get to know each other, even though it is through a screen, and familiarize themselves with the fun and interesting tools Zoom possesses. All in all, the process was definitely a learning curve, a first for all of us at INACH, but thankfully, and with much preparation, it was a success.

Now that a word was said on the technical aspect of the conference, a few words about the content. The conference's topic was antisemitism. It took place over two different afternoons. We had around 85 participants the first day, and a bit less on the second day. The conference looked at left -and right-wing antisemitism, Holocaust Denial, the history of The Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement (BDS) and the use of law to combat antisemitism and Holocaust denial. We also discussed perspectives on antisemitism from Feminist, Religious, Youth and Black viewpoints. Lastly, empowering educators to prevent antisemitism, antigypsyism and other types of hate online (Project Re-ACT) and

the use of technology to curb anti-Semitism (OpCode project) was discussed. Her excellency Ms. Hana Jalloul, Spanish secretary of state for migration, spoke words of welcome. For a full report on the event, please click on this [link](#).

Members Assembly

The Members Assembly was no different than the Annual Conference, the set up was the same, also on Zoom, with the technical help of the ERGO Network, over two days, and a first for all INACH members. Around 38 representatives from the 26 members attended the two afternoon sessions. The goal of the Members Assembly was to discuss the progress, and to exchange knowledge and good practices. The session on the first day started off with a fun energizer to get everyone engaged and comfortable with the online meeting before continuing with the agenda, with a prize to be won for the winner of the game.

The agenda consisted of an update from the INACH Secretariat, news from the INACH Projects Department and some time to reflect together on ideas and work not covered (yet) as a follow-up to the Members Assembly 2019. The following day the members had the opportunity to get to know each other and each other's organizations even better with a Pub quiz. In preparation for that day, the members were also asked to share a one pager about their organization and the most important developments since the Members Assembly 2019. All submitted one-pagers were made available to the members via the INACH members page. Members who wished to do so, had the opportunity to further elaborate on specific developments during the 'News from the members session'. Day 2 ended with a presentation by Lovestorm about the online training platform that was launched in 2018 by Lovestorm, DigiQ, Human Rights House Zagreb and the University of Florence. Overall a great success for a first online Members Assembly.

IV. Corporate Outreach

Every year INACH aims at building new connections and relationships to be able to create new synergies and tackle cyber hate in novel and more effective ways. 2020 was not different in this aspect. We maintained our relationship with the biggest social media companies, and we participated in their online meetings on how to improve their approaches to removing illegal hateful content from their platforms. Our work did not stop there though.

During our participation in the final sCAN Project training to popularize our online complaints handling system and cyber hate database, we met [Samurai Labs](#) a frontier artificial intelligence company that is dedicated to eliminating online hate and violence. When we realized that we would have to move our counter speech trainings online, we contacted them and established a cooperation that has been extremely fruitful since. Samurai Labs developed an AI driven platform for us that gives the basis of the final exercise our trainees need to finish to receive their certificates. This platform links our trainees completely anonymously to real life instances of cyber hate where they can directly practice what they have just learnt in a safe and practical manner.

Our other corporate outreach cooperation is still in early stages. We have been contacted by [Trust Lab](#), another small IT company that aims to tackle the issue of hate on the internet. They are developing tools to make monitoring cyber hate a lot easier and a lot more streamlined. We are in discussions with them and hope to build a cooperation with them for the next year to try and utilize some of their tools during the coming monitoring exercises to check the adherence of social media companies to the Code of Conduct on removing illegal content from their platforms.

V. Youth and police trainings

Creation of the training

As with everything else, our original plan changed dramatically when it came to our counter speech training. We decided to make it fully digital. We had to reimagine every aspect, inform ourselves about how to create an online training space and tested it countless times to make sure it was user friendly. We asked for tips and advice from many colleagues, friends, experts, and in the end, we are really proud of what we accomplished; [INACH's free online training | Equip yourself for #nohate speech online](#).

This training is a fun and interactive way participants can learn about media literacy, hate speech online and counter speech. The media literacy section is about how news are produced and how to consume media content critically and responsibly. The second section is about hate speech, what it is, how it is defined, what laws govern its (il)legality, and why it is extremely important to fight it. The third section provides the participants with a myriad of counter speech methods, so that by the end of the training they will be perfectly equipped to combat cyber hate and bring the online in line with human rights.

Our training is aimed at those with ties to the police and the youth (over 18 years old) (the only difference is that the first out of the three sections is not mandatory for the police group to complete the training and to get a certificate). At the end of each section the participants must complete an engaging exercise to test what they have learned. The course is exclusively in English, but we created a forum to help anyone for whom anything seems unclear. The participants can do this training at their own pace, in a day or in a month. If they successfully complete the training, they receive an official INACH certificate, making them a blossoming champion of anti-discrimination on the internet.

Spreading the word

Our strategy in spreading the word about our training was firstly, for our members to share it around them, and secondly with our very own social media campaign. We received some financial help from Twitter and Facebook, asked an expert to make us an advertising video, and we were off to let the world know about our new creation. Thanks to all of this help we had a great start; on the first days we had more and more new applicants, and are now at almost 150 applicants, and growing. Our ad reached around 30.000 people on Facebook and more than a million on Twitter, and we plan on recalibrating the ad near the end of the year for a second round, as well as start a few new ads as well. We are also in contact with many other colleagues and organizations, and the interest for our training is growing every day. We hope to get a great number of participants from the Dutch police, as those were the ones, for that specific target group, that we had planned on working with closely this year. We will also keep spreading the word all throughout next year and update our training if needed.

VI. Joint Shadow Monitoring Exercise with the Projects sCAN and OpCode

Similarly, to 2019, INACH carried out a shadow monitoring exercise in cooperation with the sCAN and OpCode projects. These projects are comprised of more than a dozen INACH members with well-established expertise in combating hate speech, monitoring and recommending policy changes to increase the efficacy of platforms in removing illegal content. The findings of this shadow monitoring exercise were published in two separate reports. One was written by INACH Secretariat and the sCAN Project, and it made the following observations:

“The results of this monitoring exercise highlight the need for a more consistent performance of IT companies in removing illegal hate speech online across time and location. The overall removal rate of 58 % is almost 10 % lower than the overall removal rate in previous monitoring exercises organized by the European Commission. This includes the 6th EC monitoring exercise in November and December 2019, only one month before this silent monitoring exercise. Companies must ensure that they respond in a timely manner and remove illegal online hate speech at all times. The findings of this monitoring exercise indicate, however, that if a monitoring is run unannounced, the companies achieve much lower removal rates. The data presented above also show stark differences between the countries monitored in this exercise. While most platforms responded comparatively well in Germany, France and Latvia, the removal rates in the Czech Republic, Croatia and Slovenia were less satisfactory. In Italy, none of the monitored platforms reached the goal of reviewing and removing the majority of illegal content reported to them in less than 24 hours.”

The rest of the report can be found [here](#).

The second report was written by the members of the OpCode Project based on their findings. They made fairly similar observations to the aforementioned report:

“The overall responsiveness and removal rate are quite low and suggest disproportionate cross-national approaches regarding the hate speech phenomenon. Facebook has proven to be the most responsive and efficient social platform, especially with reports submitted from Estonia, Romania and Slovakia. Twitter and YouTube were the least responsive platforms in assessing hate speech reports. Despite the high occurrence of antisemitic content in Polish social media, the response and removal rate of such content are dangerously low. The high occurrence of xenophobic messages in Spanish social media is also alarming and yet not addressed by the IT companies. IT companies should dedicate supplementary resources to monitor and reduce hate speech especially in countries that are dealing with socio-political contexts that fuel radicalization and extremism.”

The rest of their report can be found [here](#).

VII. COVID-19 Compilation Report

INACH aims to document cyber hate related to major events, such as elections, terrorist attacks, the refugee crisis or other international or national developments that alter the trends within online hate speech. It is perfectly clear to everyone that the coronavirus pandemic had an immense impact on the lives of everybody. Humanity has not seen a pandemic such as this since the Spanish flu in the early 20th century. This global event affected everything, the welfare state, the economy, the healthcare systems and changed our lives arguably irreversibly, most likely for good. However, for most, it might be less obvious how many toxic social effects the pandemic will have had everywhere. The pandemic brought with it a huge wave of discrimination, racist hatred and a slew of conspiracy theories. This wave of hate has been meticulously documented and analysed by our members. Their findings and reports were compiled into a joint report edited by INACH Secretariat to provide an overarching continent-wide view on the pandemic's effects on cyber hate and discrimination. This compilation report can be found [here](#).

VIII. Our Projects Department's Work and Project ReAct

Projects' department

The director of the newly established projects department has continued her efforts to acquire projects and project participation of INACH in various transnational consortia and funding lines. To date, half the submitted proposals involving INACH in various roles have been accepted for funding, with one more proposal currently awaiting final notice. Due to the situation with COVID-19, the implementation of one project INACH is partnering with has been postponed to 2021.

Project ReAct

In February, the transnational, EC-funded project Re-ACT started after an intense preparatory phase during which not only some amendments to the initial proposal had to be initialized and approved by the EC but also a consortium agreement negotiated. After the successful identification and establishment of a set of internal guidelines and management structures, the project staff met physically for its kick-off meeting in early March at the INACH secretariat in Amsterdam, shortly before the first lockdown due to COVID-19 put transnational travels and physical meetings to a halt in most of Europe. Despite this unforeseen situation and resulting challenges, the project team consisting of INACH's projects director as the coordinator and staff members of the INACH member organizations ROMEA and LICRA together with the team of the research company SYNNO managed to conduct and deliver all activities in due time and accordance to the schedule.

In an initial research period, analytical papers and comparative reports have been produced to lay the factual basis for the overall aim of the project: to boost prevention work on the phenomena of online antisemitism, antigypsyism and other types of hate by equipping teachers, youth workers and others active in the prevention of online hate with

ready to use educational materials and tools. To date, the collection and complementary production of materials is ongoing, and the design and concept of the online platform via which these materials will be made available to potential users is under final review and will be presented to its users before the end of the year. Milestones of the project so far include a stakeholder workshop on online antisemitism and antigypsyism with keynotes on these two focus topics, a comprehensive stakeholder survey for identifying the needs of prevention workers, intense research on phenomena of online antisemitism and antigypsyism and their historical roots, and the collection of high quality informational and educational materials for the upcoming online prevention-hub. Public outreach activities spanned from the establishment of a project website, the production of an introductory video in four languages to the launch and establishment of a Re-ACT newsletter, complementing the continuous dissemination activities on social media and third party online-meetings and events.

All research and other public activity reports on project Re-ACT can be accessed via: <https://react.inach.net/>

IX. New members

Global Project Against Hate and Extremism

We are proud to announce that GPAHE has joined INACH as a member this year. They aim to combat the growth of far-right movements motivated by white supremacy, xenophobia, anti-LGBTQI beliefs, antisemitism, religious discrimination, and gender bias in North America, Europe and other parts of the globe. They do so by, in their own words:

- *“Documenting and exposing how extremist and hateful movements use social media and the internet to organize, propagandize, and recruit followers and sympathizers;*
- *Educating anti-hate actors, policymakers, and the public about extremist movements, their leadership, and their activities;*
- *Examining how extremist movements influence each other across borders, and specifically analysing the impact of American extremists on other countries.*

By shining light on these racist and hateful activities, and through coordinated campaigns executed by a transnational network, GAPHE works toward a global reduction in extremist activities and an associated reduction in mainstream acceptance of bigoted ideologies.”

We are very honoured to have them join us in making the internet a better place.

ERGO Network

The ERGO Network is an organization that fights for the rights of the Roma community. In their own words, *“founded on the philosophy of active citizenship, shared responsibility and grassroots empowerment, ERGO Network members aim to convince policy makers that positive change for Roma is possible when antigypsyism is recognized and tackled as the root cause for inequality and when Roma can take part in civic life as equal stakeholders”*. To do so they *“advocate for better policies and policy implementation on national and European level based on evidence-based research, organize public campaigns, build the capacity of Roma activists and provide spaces for networking and mutual learning.”* We have partnered with them very closely during our two online events

of the year, the Annual Conference and Members Assembly. They acted as our official technical support, and it would not have been possible without them. We are also working on finding a form of more structural and official co-operation with them for the future, keep tuned for more on that next year!

X. Our Members' Main Activities in 2020

Active Watch

Active Watch is the lead partner of the EC-funded OpCode Project. The project is comprised of five INACH members (Active Watch, DigiQ, Never Again Association, Estonian Human Rights Centre, MCI). The project published several major reports in 2020. These are the following:

[COVID-19 Crisis and Hate Speech - Transnational Report](#)

[Monitoring and Reporting Illegal Hate Speech Shadow Monitoring Report 1st ed.](#)

[Monitoring and Reporting Illegal Hate Speech Shadow Monitoring Report 2nd ed.](#)

CEJI

2020 has been a challenging year for everyone. As the pandemic hit Europe, CEJI brought out the Facing Facts Online course titled “Monitoring and responding to hate crimes in this time of global crisis”, reflecting on the challenges and changed circumstances of our reality, with participants from CSOs, academia, law enforcement and public authorities. Shortly after, Facing Facts published the continuously updated [resource page on Covid-19 and hate](#), and was [featured on NBC news](#). CEJI also published an article in BePax’s magazine in Belgium titled “[The virus of hate](#)”. Throughout the year, CEJI hosted three online courses for the wider public on Facing Facts Online, two of them focusing on hate crime monitoring and one focusing on hate speech and counter-action. These courses altogether attracted more than 120 interests and ran in full cohorts. At the same time, Facing Facts Online continued to run [custom made online-courses](#) for law enforcement agencies in different EU countries and for IGOs.

This year, CEJI has also launched the NOA (Networks Overcoming Antisemitism) project, that offers a pioneering approach to tackle the problem of rising antisemitism in Europe in a partnership of major Jewish networks. One of the project outputs, the [NOA Compass](#) is now available online, aiming to be the first online map of European initiatives overcoming antisemitism and to bring them into a network, creating a resource for public

authorities and civil society organizations looking for transferrable practices. The tool also includes projects and initiatives that combat antisemitic hate speech and continues to be [open to submissions](#).

CESIE

CESIE was in charge of organizing the final project conference of Project sCAN in Brussels. They had almost everything arranged (venue, catering, promotional material, agenda, invitees, etc.) but eventually they had to cancel the whole event due to COVID. Alternatively, they coordinated (with the collaboration of all partners) the development of several informative videos to promote and disseminate the outputs of sCAN. During the first lockdown they worked on the development of the sCAN2 project proposal, but unfortunately it was rejected by the Commission.

Besides this, they have been invited and joined some training sessions organized by RAN (Radicalisation Awareness Network), which are of great interest for their communication and visibility department (especially the social media managers). The Rights and Justice Unit of CESIE is also implementing projects funded by the Internal Security Fund- Police, which are all focusing on the prevention and contrast of radicalization and violent extremism (mostly right-wing extremism, but to a lesser extent also religious extremism). The basis upon which they build their work is the contrast of disinformation, propaganda and hate speech against all those people and "minority" groups targeted by hatred and incitement to violence. As part of this work, they are now training more than 40 students of communications studies (University of Palermo) to design and run counter and alternative narrative campaigns to challenge extremism, disinformation and online hate speech.

CST

CST published several major reports in 2020 and contributed to policy changes in Facebook's stance on the removal of Holocaust denial. These initiatives and reports are listed below:

January - June 2020 Antisemitic Incidents Report

<https://cst.org.uk/data/file/c/5/Incidents%20Report%20Jan-Jun%202020-1.1596720071.pdf>

The Hate Fuel blog <https://cst.org.uk/news/blog/2020/06/11/hate-fuel-the-hidden-online-world-fuelling-far-right-terror>

The Coronavirus Research

Briefing <https://cst.org.uk/data/file/d/9/Coronavirus%20and%20the%20plague%20of%20antisemitism.1586276450.pdf>

Jack Renshaw White Jihad <https://cst.org.uk/data/file/6/0/Jack%20Renshaw%20-%20White%20Jihad.1589376409.pdf>

Facebook's policy update about the removal of Holocaust Denial, that mentions CST as only one European organization

<https://about.fb.com/news/2020/10/removing-holocaust-denial-content/>

Gegen Vergessen Für Demokratie

In 2019, GVFD started a new project called "BeInterNett". Here, the aim is to strengthen young Muslims between 18 and 30 in their commitment against hate speech. Our cooperation partners are RAMSA (council of Muslim students and academics) and jugendschutz.net. The project is funded by the Federal Agency for Civic Education (Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung). The main goals of the project are to establish counter-narratives against islamophobia as well as religious extremist hate and propaganda by groups such as ISIS. In 2020 the project team (GVFD, RAMSA and volunteer students) has developed educational programs for young adults in non-formal education. The concept of the BeInterNett-workshop was finalized and tested. The

workshop will be conducted, either online or offline, by peer coaches for groups of Muslim students in 2021. It will train those students to democratically react to hate speech and divergent opinions in their daily social media use and enables them to improve the quality of online-discourse by focusing on empathic and tolerant communication patterns.

Due to the Corona crisis most of our workshops were held online. The main purpose was to sensitize the participants to (disturbed) dynamics of online communication and to support them in putting democratic principles into practice online. They could learn from top level speakers, who shared their expertise in various fields and took the time to discuss the challenges that one faces while actively and openly countering hate speech. In the end of 2020, the recruitment and education of peer coach team was conducted, to prepare phase II of the project: to spread the workshop all over Germany 2021 and increase the number of young adults being confident to stand up for themselves and others who are threatened by hate speech.

They also developed the online counselling against right-wing extremism. The online counselling seeks to inform and advise people who encounter right-wing extremism in their private or professional environment. Online counselling is particularly suitable for those who are looking for help but wish to remain anonymous. Offering quick and competent support since its inception 12 years ago, the service has reached people who otherwise would not have sought advice in a more conventional way, due to geographical distance, shame or fear.

In 2019 and 2020, the number of cases was consistently high. Particularly after the anti-Semitic attack against the synagogue in Halle 2019 and the far-right and racist attack in Hanau near Frankfurt, many people wrote to us looking for information and support in dealing with right-wing friends and family members. The financial support by the federal program *Demokratie Leben!* ("Live Democracy!") of the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth ran out by the end of 2019. Therefore, the counselling is currently founded by *Gegen Vergessen – Für Demokratie e.V.*

Greek Helsinki Monitor

The Greek Helsinki Monitor carried out the following major tasks in 2020:

1. [Presentation on Greece's compliance with the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and Discrimination against women in Greece](#) to be reviewed by UN CEDAW (NGO + NCHR reports) (they include a joint report, a joint addendum, and a joint presentation)
2. Communication to the Human Rights Committee about Theodoropoulos and others v. Greece filed on 5 July 2020 led to imposition of interim measures on 6 July 2020, ordering Greece not to evict these Roma families of Aspropyrgos until they are offered alternative accommodation (UN HRC letter available [here](#)).
3. [Committee on the Rights of the Child begins review of Greece: NGO and NCHR submissions and oral statement to the UN CRC on Greece's compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child](#) (they include a joint report, a joint addendum, and a joint presentation).
4. [Freedom of religion in Greece at the ECHR with Greek Helsinki Monitor involvement: the Papageorgiou, Dimitras and Papanikolaou cases](#) (it includes a new case communicated to Greece in 2020 plus a late 2019 judgment with GHM third party intervention - plus all freedom of religion ECHR cases litigated by GHM in the past).
5. Hundreds of complaints on racist crimes and/or police violence (including pushbacks in Greek-Turkish land border or Aegean Sea) filed with prosecuting authorities in 2020 by GHM.

FOA

Fighting Online Antisemitism - FOA - is a newly formed Israeli NGO founded in the beginning of 2020. In ten months, they have recruited dozens of volunteers from Israel and abroad and have held many different online live training sessions for their volunteers.

FOA has also been collaborating closely with their colleagues at NGOs as well as governmental ministries including the Israeli Ministry of Education, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Strategic Affairs and Public Diplomacy. Notably, they are

collaborating with the recently formed Interparliamentary Task Force to Combat Anti-Semitism.

FOA have reported hundreds of antisemitic posts to the platforms VK, TikTok, Twitter, Facebook, YouTube and Instagram in 2020. Their findings are summarized in their [reports](#):

1. Antisemitic Content Monitoring Report April - July 2020
2. Monitoring Online Antisemitism Related to COVID-19 - April 2020
3. Antisemitism on social media platforms in the context of global anti-racism protests - June 2020
4. TikTok Monitoring Report - October 2020

jugendschutz.net

In 2020 jugendschutz.net published their [annual report on right-wing extremism 2018/2019](#) and a report on [right-wing extremist propaganda on Telegram](#) (In German). Apart from that, they published a report on hate speech during the COVID-19 pandemic. The results from this report were incorporated into the sCAN report on the same topic and INACH's compilation report on the pandemic.

Finally, they also published a report on right-wing extremist music in streaming platforms like Spotify. Since this report has not been translated to English it is summarized below: Music is an integral part of right-wing extremist propaganda. It serves several functions: Through emotionalization, far-right ideologies can be disseminated to a wide audience. Additionally, bands, concerts and festivals, as well as labels and shops help finance right-wing extremist structures. Songs, codes and brands popular in the scene provide a basis for identification and also form an important part of the 'right-wing extremist experience world' online.

Next to the classical “right-wing rock” with bands like “Landser”, right-wing music can also be found in other genres. For example, rap, one of the genres most popular with young people, has been included into right-wing propaganda. In order to avoid prosecution and reach a wider audience, many songs refrain from drastic lyrics and instead work with insinuations or alleged “irony”. However, songs promoting violence and threats can also be found. Those songs promote racism, antisemitism and a glorification of National Socialism and target a right-wing extremist audience. Right-wing extremists use multiple platforms to disseminate their music. Since most social media allow the upload of self-generated content, right-wing extremist music can be found on almost all platforms. Right-wing extremist labels also try to disseminate their music on streaming platforms like Spotify, Deezer or Amazon Music, which are particularly popular among young users. Next to well-known German right-wing extremist bands and musicians like “Stahlgewitter”, “Übermensch” and “Chris Ares”, international bands with ties to the far-right scene can also be found. Algorithms promoting similar content increase the risk for young people to be confronted with such music even without explicitly searching for it.

Due to moderation and removal on larger platforms like YouTube, extremists flock to alternative platforms to disseminate their propaganda. For right-wing extremist music, those alternative platforms include Vimeo and SoundCloud. While those platforms reacted to notifications by jugendschutz.net and removed illegal content, the platforms Dailymotion, VK.com or Telegram did not remove illegal content notified to them. Right-wing extremist songs, brands, codes and hashtags can also be found on the popular platform TikTok. TikTok removed all illegal content reported by jugendschutz.net. Due to the large amount of subtle propaganda, young people must be better educated to recognize right-wing extremist ideologies, conspiracy theories and verbal as well as visual codes.

Never Again Association

The Never Again Association, in addition to their participation in the OpCode project (as highlighted above under Active Watch’s activities) carried out two other major initiatives

in 2020. One of them is a substantial report on the effects of the pandemic on hate speech and racist conspiracy theories in Poland: [The Virus of Hate: Brown Book of the Epidemic A selection of xenophobic incidents documented by the “NEVER AGAIN” Association in the context of the coronavirus epidemic in 2020.](#)

The other is an online anti-fascist educational initiative; On the occasion of the International Day against Fascism and Antisemitism (9 November, the anniversary of the Kristallnacht pogrom), the ‘NEVER AGAIN’ Association announced the launch of an online educational initiative under the title ‘Watch Out’. It is a joint venture by the ‘NEVER AGAIN’ Association and the Forward Foundation supported by the European network for alternative thinking and political dialogue Transform! Europe. As part of the project a set of materials directed at high school students was prepared. They include videos, presentations, worksheets and lesson outlines for teachers, NGO educators, scout leaders, organizers of youth camps and for students who want to broaden their knowledge. All the materials are also available in English and can be used all over the world.

More information on this initiative can be found [here](#).

Romea

Romea mainly focused in 2020 on fighting Roma Holocaust denial within antigypsyism hate speech. They [produced a film](#) that got special recognition at the Romani film festival in Berlin about removing a pig farm from a WWII-era concentration camp site in the Czech Republic. Furthermore, Romea’s Roma Memory project seeks to map the fate of Roma people living in the Czech Republic, and thus present the history of the Roma from wartime to the present with their own eyes. The project creates a collection of memories of more than 50 Romani witnesses in the form of video interviews, which are published on the website www.pametromu.cz (in Czech only). The project [The Virtual Reality of the concentration camp in Lety u Písku](#) symbolizes the Holocaust of Roma people in

Bohemia, as well as the long-term struggle for its recognition. The tour lets people see the appalling conditions in which whole families, even with small children, were detained just only on the basis of ethnic origin. The tour is intended primarily for schools, to which we offer a comprehensive educational program with lecturers for pupils and students from the age of 12. In the future ROMEA expects it to be open to the general public through educational institutions such as the Museum of Romani Culture in Brno. The virtual reality of the camp in Lety u Písku was created by ROMEA o.p.s. in cooperation with the Czech Institute of Informatics, Robotics and Cybernetics CTU in Prague with the financial support of the US Embassy in Prague.

SOVA Centre

The SOVA Centre published two annual reports on 2019, both published in 2020:

[Criminal Activity of the Ultra-Right. Hate Crimes and Counteraction to Them in Russia in 2019](#)

[In the Absence of the Familiar Article.](#)

[The State Against the Incitement of Hatred and the Political Participation of Nationalists in Russia in 2019](#)

They also have a podcast series (in Russian) about the post-Soviet developments of the Russian ultra-right movement that can be found [here](#).

Spletno Oko

Spletno Oko, the Slovenian hotline for reporting images of child sexual abuse and hate speech online, has published its [Annual Report](#), summarizing its activities in 2019, in 2020. The report presents the activities and statistics of the hotline in 2019. Last year Spletno Oko received 773 reports of alleged hate speech, 90 of which were classified as potentially illegal. Compared to the year before there was a significant increase in both the number of reports received and the number of potentially illegal cases. In most cases

potentially illegal content was related to hatred against migrants (42 %), Islamophobia (23 %), hatred due to political beliefs (11 %) and homophobia (10 %).

ZARA

ZARA published its [3rd annual report](#) (in German) on online hate speech in Austria in September 2020.

Project sCAN (Comprised of 10 INACH members from multiple countries)

Our members participating in the sCAN Project published two major reports in 2020. These are described below:

[sCAN Annual Report: 2019-2020](#)

“The internet is an integral part of everyday communication worldwide. While it is most often used in a peaceful manner to communicate with friends or freely express one’s opinion on a diverse range of topics, some users spread hatred and incite to violence against certain groups or persons. The sCAN project, therefore, was designed to tackle three areas deemed crucial in this endeavour. This Annual Report presents the sCAN project’s results for the second year of the project (July 2019 – April 2020) in the three areas of combating hate speech covered by the project’s activities.”

[Policy recommendations](#)

“During the past two years, the sCAN partners have worked together closely to analyse and monitor hate speech online and to develop online and offline trainings. We made our insights available to the larger public and contributed to building capacities in civil society to combat hate speech together. During our activities we gathered valuable experiences and collected ideas for improvement. All stake-holder groups are called upon to intensify their efforts to ensure an online environment that is respectful and inclusive for all users. We would like to share our experiences and provide recommendations for the institutions

of the European Union, national authorities and public institutions, politicians and public figures, social media companies, media and journalists as well as civil society organizations and individual internet users on how to better combat all forms of hate speech online.”

XI. Conclusion

It is not surprising that due to the global pandemic, INACH faced a difficult year. The virus and the lockdowns and restrictions that aimed to curb it impacted our work immensely. Our plans involved a lot of in person meetings, almost a dozen trainings, a Members Assembly and an Annual Conference. Yet, with the help of our members, the Secretariat managed to rise to the occasion and faced these new challenges had on. We turned our Members Assembly and Annual Conference into online events with the help of ERGO Net, managing to make both of them successful and fruitful. However, our biggest undertaking was the engineering, designing and producing of our new online counter speech training space that was built so that we can still keep our trainings going. We also had to rehaul and update our counter speech curricula so it would fit this online approach better and we had to come up with solutions to make the training's efficacy verifiable. Due to our corporate outreach we also managed to do that.

By solving these problems successfully and tackling these challenges effectively, we learned a lot and gained substantial experience in quickly reacting to major upheavals in our workflow. Hence, we look optimistically into the future and the final year of our Framework Partnership agreement with the European Commission, knowing that we are very well prepared to have our major events in an online space if needed and that we can now provide a continuous training to interested people no matter what the situation is with the pandemic. Thus, INACH is still very much equipped to bring the online in line with human rights.