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## **LEAD-Online PROJECT**

**(funded under CERV-2021-EQUAL)**

*“Learn, Engage, Act: Digital Tools to Prevent and Counter Hate Speech Online”*

### **Mapping the problem of Hate Speech Online (HSO)**

Over the past months, **LEAD-Online** Project partners have been working on assessing the situation regarding **Hate Speech Online** (HSO) in their countries, namely Austria, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Croatia, Italy, Greece, and Romania, and designing the next steps and activities for addressing the problem. They also gathered in Vienna along with external participants for a training activity (ToT) related to the issue of HSO.

A mapping of the situation in the respective countries took place from June to September 2022, to assess the level of the problem, collect information on HSO cases/stories, initiatives, other projects, campaigns, and existing procedures for the prevention/ counteraction/ reporting of HSO in schools/NGOs/media, on the relevant national legislation, laws or codes of conduct. The **mapping** created an **inventory of relevant cases** and stories on HSO as an important input for the subsequent project tasks, notably, for building the scenarios of the **Hate Out! Online game**. The mapping was conducted through desk research and the use of an online **Hate Speech Self-Assessment Tool**. The results of both mapping activities have been consolidated in a **national report** for each country, Austria, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Croatia, Italy, Greece, and Romania, and a **comparative report**.

#### **The Hate Speech Self-Assessment Tool**

A **Hate Speech Self-Assessment Tool** was created in the form of an online **multiple-choice questionnaire**, partially differentiated for students and adults, to help organizations, teachers, and students, become aware of whether they are (un)consciously using HS in their everyday

life and allow partners to have a deeper understanding of the target groups' perceptions, attitudes, and response to HSO. The piloting of the tool took place from 1 October to 11 November 2022 and had **2,762 students/youngsters** and **516 adults** as test users. The test has been conducted anonymously, collecting data exclusively on the gender and age of the users. Through the collected answers, the tool allowed the partners to identify the most frequent targets of HSO, typical expressions, the impact of HSO on victims, frequency of reporting, and channels used for reporting. The results will serve as baseline information for identifying and measuring relevant changes in the knowledge, skills, attitude, and behavior of the target groups during project activities. The tool has versions in all partner languages and will remain **free for use** by schools, civil society organizations, media, etc. In that scope, a final number of respondents will be available at the end of the project's lifetime.

[Here is the link](#) to the **HS-SAT**.

### **Insights on the Training of Trainers in Vienna (ToT)**

External **participants** and the project's partners met in **Vienna** from November 14 to 16 for the LEAD-Online EU project's International **Training of the Trainers** seminar (ToT). Leading partner ZARA - Zivilcourage und Anti-Rassismus-Arbeit designed a 16 hours workshop with 13 interactive activities, to allow all participants to share, discuss and exchange ideas on ways to prevent Hate Speech Online. Through all the activities partners managed to **improve their knowledge** of the phenomenon of HSO, outline current trends and specific traits at the country level, **raise awareness** among the project target groups, and started **building alliances** with stakeholders, above all schools, for the future phases of the project.

The ToT encompassed input, activities, and discussions on:

- Raising awareness of hate speech online
- Recognizing, decoding, and counteracting hate speech online
- Legal background on the restrictions of freedom of speech
- Probing activities for workshops on hate speech online
- The art of agenda-making and debriefing
- Participatory assessment of the Hate Out! online game

#### **LEAD-Online Partners are:**

SOFIA DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION | Bulgaria

FORMA.AZIONE SRL | Italy

CENTER FOR PEACE, NON-VIOLENCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS - OSIJEK | Croatia

Asociatia Divers | Romania

FUTURE NEEDS MANAGEMENT CONSULTING LTD | Cyprus

HELLENIC OPEN UNIVERSITY | Greece

ZARA - ZIVILCOURAGE UND ANTI-RASSISMUS ARBEIT | Austria

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