WHY FOCUS ON HATE SPEECH AND HATE CRIME?
Numerous reports from international organisations have documented worrying levels of harassment and violence towards minorities. The economic crisis 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 years.

About half of Roma surveyed said that they have experienced discrimination in the past year.

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 year.

78% of respondents to a Council of Europe survey have encountered hate speech online.

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 over €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.

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 and NGOs 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 / www.norwaygrants.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.

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.

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
SNAPSHOT OF EVENTS

Many activities have been organised by the NGO programme operators across the beneficiary countries to stand up against hate speech, such as training of youth bloggers. The programmes are also making a strong contribution to the Council of Europe’s 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).

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 2017, organising training workshops for youth bloggers, compiling good practice databases and campaigning toolkits for schools.

COUNTRY OVERVIEW: NGO PROGRAMMES

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<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Programme Operator</th>
<th>Grant amount (€ million)</th>
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ABOUT THE EEA AND NORWAY GRANTS

Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway provide funding to:

- reduce disparities in Europe
- strengthen bilateral relations

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 95.7%, Iceland 3.2%, Liechtenstein 1.1%) – Norway Grants €804.6 million, financed by Norway alone

www.eeagrants.org
www.norwaygrants.org

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