

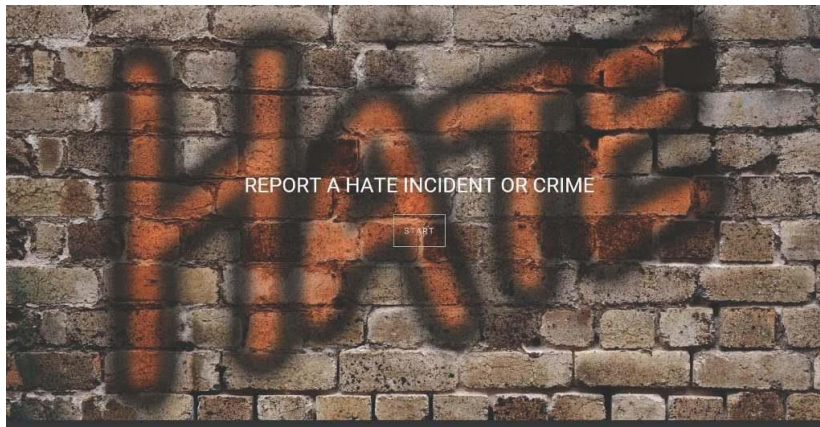
PRESS RELEASE

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The University of Cyprus is coordinating a major programme funded by the European Union for tackling hate crime/speech online



The University of Cyprus is coordinating the project **C.O.N.T.A.C.T. (Creating On line Network, monitoring Team and phone App to Counter hate crime Tactics)**, one of the four programmes selected by the EU DG Justice in May 2015.

The project is a synergy between 5 Universities and 7 NGOs, from 10 different countries (UK, Denmark, Italy, Spain, Malta, Poland, Lithuania, Rumania, Greece, Cyprus). The total budget of the project is 701.000 Euro, of which 560.880 Euro were awarded by the European Commission.

Its aim is to improve, encourage and analyse reporting of hate crime/speech online as well as raise awareness about what hate crime is, how to prevent it and how to report it. Research shows that in the EU, hate crime is often not seen as a serious offence and there is therefore significant under-reporting of hate crime, definitions of what constitutes a hate crime differing from country to country. Hate incidents, especially online, are increasing in most countries, extremist groups and parties rising in Europe and using hate against certain groups of people. This 2-year project, launched on 15th October, will combine research such as discourse analysis with practical activities, such as training and course development. It will also develop an Online Network, a monitoring Team and a phone App which will

have a direct link to the webpage <http://reporhate.eu/> to counter hate crime tactics. The main groups targeted by the project are youth, media, legal and law enforcement professionals.

The project will culminate in a major international conference to be held at the University of Cyprus in June 2017.

For more info visit the website of the project: <http://reporhate.eu/>

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