

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2020 - 1ST EDITION

SOpHiSM

A response to online hate speech through the enhancement of high-quality professional and citizen journalism

Online hate speech is a growing problem in Greece and Cyprus which can be attributed to societal attitudes towards specific groups, the evolution of online media, lack of awareness and of appropriate tools to recognise and counter hate speech. Professional and citizen journalists are producing content containing hate speech both intentionally, to gain visibility and unintentionally because they are not in position to effectively recognize it.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The SOphiSM project attempts to address this issue by drawing on existing international standards and tools, as well as the views of all involved actors (young journalists, students of journalism, citizen journalists and NGOs).

The project aims to:

- support high quality journalism in Greece and Cyprus through the enhancement of the media literacy skills of students of journalism, junior journalists and citizen journalists (bloggers and social media influencers);
- consolidate and add to the existing pool of data on hate speech online in Greece and Cyprus;
- improve media literacy and skills to identify and counter hate speech online, and to create anti-hate speech messages;
- create tools designed to target the particularities of online hate speech in the participating countries.

Furthermore, the project aims to raise awareness of the general public on the challenges of online hate speech. This shall contribute to decreasing hate speech elements in online journalism and in promoting accurate, truthful reporting framed by anti-hate speech.

Kick off meeting in Athens

The kick-off meeting was organized by the leading partner, the Center for European Constitutional Law-Foundation Themistocles and Dimitris Tsatsos (CECL) on 10 - 11 March 2020 in Athens.

The partners set out the next steps of the project and started a general discussion about hate speech online in Greece and Cyprus and the role of journalism, as this will be the focus of the project.

The partners also discussed the future activities of the project, including the planning and organization of focus group discussions with journalists and NGO staff working with vulnerable groups, training seminars and informative events.

The next phase of the project includes the creation of the project's website and Facebook account.

Who we are

The Centre for European Constitutional Law (CECL), the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (EKPA), EDEX – Educational Excellence Corporation Ltd (University of Nicosia) and the Hellenic League for Human Rights are implementing **the SOpHiSM (A response to online hate speech through the enhancement of high-quality professional and citizen journalism)** project, funded by the European Commission Justice Programme (JUST) Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme (REC-AG-2019/REC-RRAC-RACI-AG-2019). The duration of the project will be 20 months as of 01/03/2020.

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