

## New developments at ActiveWatch

1. We have two projects focused strictly on hate speech financed by the EU, OpCode (in partnership with INACH) and WECAN4HRS (led by CoE). This is great news, because we have ample resources to research and deal with online hate speech, but it also means that we have less and less time to deal with other activities than the ones required by the projects
2. Due to huge project demands and the COVID situation, we were unable to draft our Annual report on hate speech for 2019. We might release a two-year report next year
3. The COVID-19 situation has stirred up hate against Roma ethnics in Romania to a worrying extent.
4. The National Liberal Party, which is now in office, has lost points in opinion polls regarding the election schedules for this fall, so it started resorting to anti-Hungarian rhetoric to make up for lost voters. The Hungarian government responded just as aggressively, and a spiral of hate seems to have been put in motion. Things seem to have calmed down a little bit, but the situation is still tense.
5. The Parliament is about to appoint new members to the National Council for Combating Discrimination (NCCD), Romania's equality body and the institution that deals with administrative cases of hate speech. Many of these new members have no experience on anti-discrimination as is the person that is likely to become the new president of NCCD. These are serious signs that the institution is about to be politically controlled and made unable to function properly.