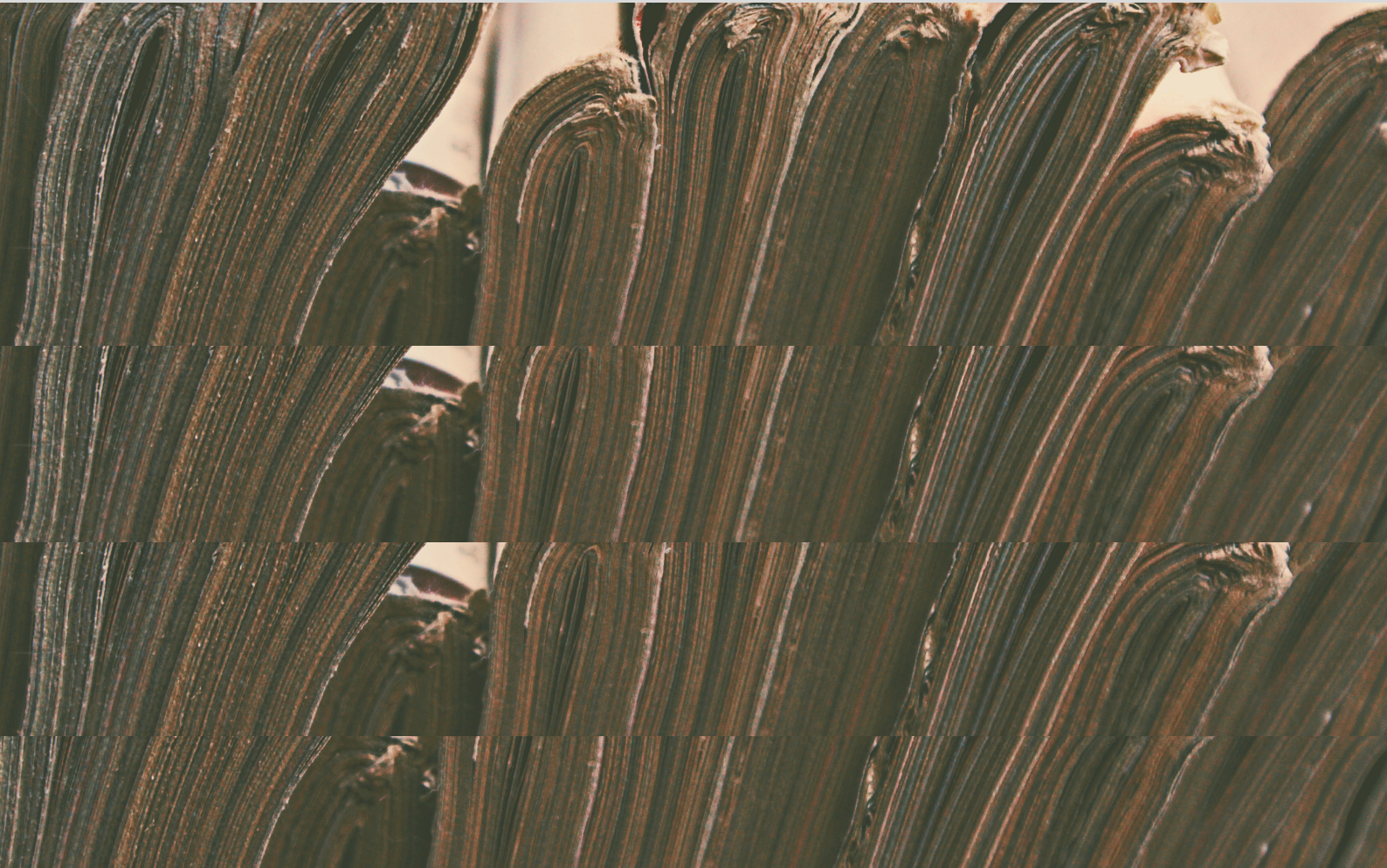


2026

Q1 UPDATE

INACH

Bringing the Online In Line with Human Rights



DIGEST
BULLETIN

BULLETIN CATALOGUE

Q1

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INACH'S DIRECTOR

DEAR SUBSCRIBERS,

The digital environment is evolving rapidly. New technologies, regulatory frameworks, platform policies, and emerging online trends continuously reshape the landscape in which online hate, discrimination, and harmful narratives spread. For organisations working to protect human rights online, staying informed and connected is essential to responding effectively to these developments.

To support this shared mission, INACH is launching the Update Digest Bulletin. This bulletin is designed to keep our members and wider stakeholders informed about key developments relevant to combating online hate and promoting safer digital spaces. It will provide concise updates on new tools, standards, research findings, policy initiatives, and regulatory changes that influence how online harms are addressed across Europe and beyond.

By sharing timely insights and practical information, the Update Digest Bulletin aims to strengthen the collective capacity of the INACH network. It seeks to cultivate a well-informed community that can anticipate emerging challenges, adapt to evolving digital dynamics, and respond with coordinated and effective action.

Through this initiative, INACH continues its commitment to supporting its members, strengthening partnerships, and ensuring that our network remains aligned, prepared, and impactful in addressing the digital challenges of today and tomorrow.



TAMÁS BERE CZ
DIRECTOR OF INACH



POLICY MOVES THAT MATTER

EC WORK
PROGRAMME 2026

OVERVIEW OF
TRANSPARENCY
REPORTS

NEW EU ANTI-
RACISM STRATEGY
2026-2030

OVERVIEW OF
SYSTEMIC RISKS
ANALYSIS

DEMOCRACY SHIELD

SYSTEMIC RISKS AND
MITIGATION MEASURES

What the EU Work Programme 2026 Means for Online Hate, Platforms and Civil Society

The European Commission Work Programme 2026 signals a decisive shift: online harms are no longer treated as isolated speech issues, but as systemic threats to democracy, security, and social cohesion.

The EC explicitly links extremism, disinformation, cyber threats and foreign interference to declining trust in democratic institutions and electoral integrity.

For civil society organisations working on online hate, this marks an important opportunity. It creates political momentum for stronger platform accountability, evidence-based regulation, and meaningful civil society involvement in EU digital governance.

[READ THE FULL OVERVIEW HERE](#)



European
Commission

OVERVIEW OF TRANSPARENCY REPORTS

This overview compares the latest transparency reports from the VLOPs: Meta (Feb 2025), TikTok (Dec 2024), X (April 2025), YouTube (Feb 2025). Across platforms, the transparency reports vary considerably in completeness and usefulness.

While all reports provide tables detailing the number of human moderators per language, it is immediately apparent how limited the moderation capacity is for smaller or less widely spoken languages. The clarity of the data also differs significantly. For instance, X's Transparency report does not provide a meaningful link between the volume of illegal hate-speech reports received and the number of items removed either globally or nationally.

Similarly, several platforms do not specifically report on illegal hate speech: Meta, for example, aggregates hate speech within a broader "illegal content" category that also includes other forms of violations. TikTok has almost no data available specifically on hate speech as a separate category.

[READ THE FULL OVERVIEW HERE](#)



NEW EU ANTI-RACISM STRATEGY 2026-2030

Hate Speech in the EU Anti-Racism Strategy 2026–2030

The EU Anti-Racism Strategy 2026–2030 positions online hate speech as a major societal and democratic risk, committing the EU to stronger enforcement of hate speech laws, platform accountability under the DSA, and deeper cooperation with civil society to counter racism both online and offline.

The strategy identifies racial hatred, hate crime, and hate speech as major threats to:

- fundamental rights
- social cohesion
- democratic participation
- security in the EU

[READ THE FULL OVERVIEW HERE](#)

OVERVIEW OF SYSTEMIC RISKS ANALYSIS

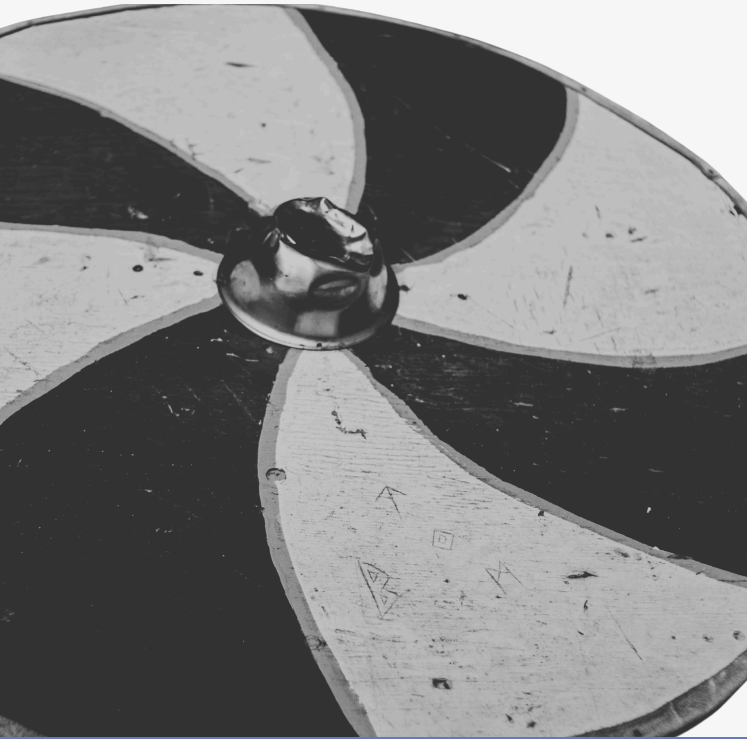
Under Article 34 of the Digital Services Act, Very Large Online Platforms (VLOPs) are required to conduct systemic risk assessments at least annually. However, the Digital Services Act (DSA) does not prescribe a harmonised timeline or format for publication. As a result, platforms publish risk assessment reports at different moments and they vary in scope, format, and depth. It limits their comparability and reduces their value for public oversight. This has been widely criticised as undermining transparency and comparability.

The reports are often outdated, relying on information that is no longer current, and they are difficult to locate. Moreover, there is little transparency regarding publication timelines. Overall, the reports reflect a limited sense of responsibility and a lack of proactive commitment to protecting minorities and other targeted groups.

[READ THE FULL
OVERVIEW HERE](#)

DEMOCRACY SHIELD

The European Democracy Shield is a draft Communication from the European Commission outlining a comprehensive strategy to protect EU democracies against disinformation, foreign interference, online manipulation, AI-driven threats, and attacks on media freedom.



The Democracy Shield Does:

Identifies disinformation, foreign information manipulation and interference (FIMI), deepfakes, and synthetic content as systemic threats.

Stresses the need for transparency and accountability of platforms, especially VLOPs/VLOSEs under the DSA.

Highlights the dangers of AI-generated disinformation, bot networks, coordinated online abuse.

[READ THE FULL OVERVIEW HERE](#)

SYSTEMIC RISKS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

First report of the European Board for Digital Services in cooperation with the Commission pursuant to Article 35(2) DSA on the most prominent and recurrent systemic risks as well as mitigation measures.

The report concludes that illegal hate speech and discriminatory content remain major systemic risks on large platforms, amplified by recommender systems, algorithmic engagement design, and moderation gaps across languages and formats. These risks affect not only victims but also fundamental rights, democratic debate, and civic participation, and therefore require structural mitigation measures by platforms under the DSA risk-management framework.

[READ THE FULL OVERVIEW HERE](#)

WHAT THE RESEARCH REVEALS

DUTCH ELECTIONS
REPORT

RECENT HUB
RESEARCH

GLOBAL TRENDS
IN ONLINE HATE
SPEECH

SRI LANKA
OVERVIEW OF TRENDS
AND PATTERNS

HATE SPEECH
TRENDS AND
PATTERNS



DUTCH ELECTIONS REPORT

Our research with the [European Observatory of Online Hate \(EOOH\)](#) and written with [Dare to Be Grey](#) is now available in both Dutch and English.

We examine the role and evolution of online hate narratives during the 2025 Dutch parliamentary elections. Through our research we found that xenophobic, anti-immigrant, anti-Muslim, and anti-LGBT+ narratives were present and strategically amplified across digital platforms, including through AI-generated content and synthetic propaganda. Political actors played a significant role in driving and legitimising these narratives, enabling fringe concepts such as the “Great Replacement” and remigration to enter mainstream political discourse. The report concludes with recommendations to strengthen platform accountability, support civil society monitoring, promote responsible political communication, and enhance public awareness.

[YOU CAN FIND THE
ENGLISH REPORT
HERE.](#)

[FOR THE DUTCH
REPORT
CLICK HERE.](#)

RECENT HUB RESEARCH

Analysis Q4 2025 toxic bot comments

Here are the latest results from our Cyber Hate Neutralization Hub , mapping out toxic bot content on TikTok.

Read all the results [here](#).

Prominent Toxic Categories

Religion (10%)
Politics
Racism
Hatred of Jews

Threatening Content

About 5% of messages fall within this category.

Most Frequent Combination

Politics + Religion.
About 675 messages (5%) were very toxic, with a score > 0.8.

Disinformation

About 3% of the messages fall within this category.

GLOBAL TRENDS IN ONLINE HATE SPEECH (2026)

Our recent Global Trends reports analyzes patterns of online hate speech across five regions: Albania, DRC–Rwanda, Israel, North Macedonia, and Russia. It examines how cyber hate is shaped by political contexts, conflict, and social tensions, and how digital platforms amplify harmful narratives.

In the past year we have published different Global Pulse Briefs from INACH members from outside the EU: Academy of Political Studies (APS), DRC- Rwanda, FOA, Metamorphosis, and SOVA. The research highlights recurring narratives, targeted groups, and contextual triggers, while also identifying notable national specificities.



[READ THE REPORT HERE.](#)

By compiling these insights, the report contributes to a broader understanding of how online hate manifests and adapts within local contexts. It further sheds light on policy developments, regulatory frameworks, and prevention efforts at both national and European levels

This monitoring report was produced with the financial support of the Citizens, Equality and Rights and Values (CERV) Programme of the European Union. However, the research and the content of this publication are the sole responsibility of INACH and should not be regarded as reflecting the views of the European Commission.

SRI LANKA OVERVIEW OF TRENDS AND PATTERNS

Global Pulse Brief Series: From Screens to Streets: How Online Hate Fuels Offline Violence in Sri Lanka

Our latest research for the Global Pulse Brief Series examines how digitally amplified hate in Sri Lanka has repeatedly preceded and fuelled offline violence such as anti-Muslim riots and scapegoating during the Covid-19 pandemic. The report highlights a recurring pattern: online incitement spreads rapidly, hostility is normalised, and vulnerable communities face real-world harm.

Sri Lanka's experience underscores a broader global warning: without early intervention, consistent accountability, and rights-respecting governance, digital hate can escalate into physical violence.

[READ THE FULL REPORT HERE](#)



HATE SPEECH TRENDS AND PATTERNS

Monitoring Hate Speech: Trends and Patterns Online hate speech across Europe is becoming more visible, normalized, and technologically sophisticated. This report, compiled by the International Network Against Cyber Hate (INACH) and partner organizations, examines emerging trends and patterns in the monitoring of online hate across multiple countries. Drawing on case studies and monitoring data from civil society organizations, it highlights how hate speech increasingly targets migrants, religious minorities, and LGBTIQ+ communities, often intersecting with broader narratives of racism, xenophobia, and political polarization.

This report provides a comprehensive overview of the key trends and patterns identified through our ongoing monitoring efforts. The findings draw upon both qualitative and quantitative observations, alongside case study contributions from CESIE ETS, Greek Helsinki Monitor, ILGA Portugal, Jewish Association Czulent, and TransParente Portugal. The research highlights recurring narratives, targeted groups, and contextual triggers, while also identifying notable national specificities.

[READ THE FULL REPORT HERE.](#)



ADVOCACY & POLICY DEVELOPMENT FORUM

on 5 march stakeholders gathered in Brussels for the first annual Advocacy and Policy Development Forum. The event included two panels from an institutional and Trusted Flagger perspective and a roundtable brainstorming session.

[Read our Report and Recommendations Here.](#)



BRUSSELS, 2026

MICROSOFT HEADQUARTERS



INACH

Bringing the Online In Line with Human Rights



STRATEGIES



SHARING PERSPECTIVES FOUNDATION

Is online hate affecting your organisation, staff, or the communities you work with?

Does your organisation face repeated harassment, hate speech, or coordinated attacks online?

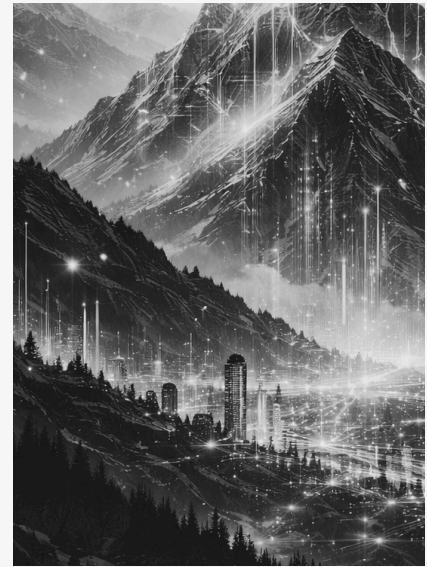
Are you looking for practical ways to understand and respond to online hate on your digital platforms?

Together Against Online Hate Speech (TAOHS) is an international project led by a consortium of organisations (Sharing Perspectives Foundation, ichbinhier, FundiPau, Build Up and the University of Amsterdam) across Germany, the Netherlands and Spain to understand, counter and process hate speech. TAOHS aims to increase the resilience of civil society organisations, media outlets and authorities to understand and tackle online hate speech on their platforms and contribute to a safer and plural online space.

[READ MORE ABOUT IT HERE](#)



NEXT ON THE HORIZON



Call for expression of interest for participation in the consultation processes for the implementation of the EU Anti-Racism Strategy 2026-2030.

The European Commission invites civil society organizations (CSOs) and other stakeholders committed to combating racism to take part in the call for expression of interest for the Anti-Racism Civil Society Forum.

[READ MORE ABOUT IT
HERE.](#)

THE SECRETARIAT

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INOCH

Bringing the Online In Line with Human Rights

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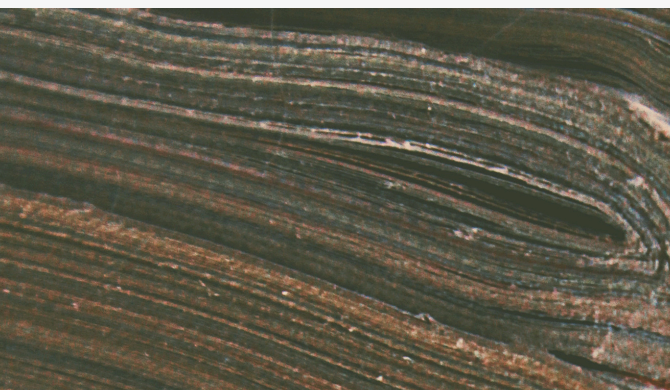
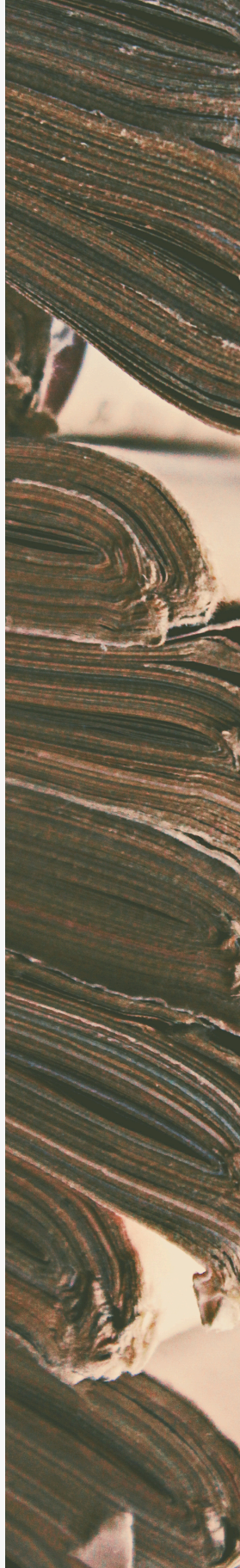
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I N A O C H

Bringing the Online In Line with Human Rights

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INACH has received operating grants from the European Commission since 2018 and project funding for initiatives such as SafeNet, while also being supported by foundations, public institutions, and philanthropic funds, with corporate sponsorships limited to charitable projects, transparently acknowledged, and capped so that no single social media company contributes more than 20% of the organization's annual income.

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