

INACH

REPORT INACH MEMBERS ASSEMBLY 2022

This report is not a public report and for INACH members only

On the 20th of May 2022 INACH organized its Members Assembly. It took place in Dublin in hybrid form. 20 people attended the Members Assembly in person, approximately 8 joined in online. The meeting started at 9.15 with words of welcome by Tamas Berecz. TELL Mama, the newest INACH member, introduced itself afterwards, followed by news from the other members and a brainstorming session on how to strengthen the network. After lunch there was time to discuss the network's strategy on approaching Telegram. The meeting was finished with a presentation of the work of FOA by Tomer Aldubi.



FPA and beyond by Tamas Berecz, Operational Manager of INACH:

- INACH has received the second round of the Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) of the EU, for the next four years. Besides that, the secretariat has handed in four more projects and is awaiting results.

- The FPA will last until 2025 and contains four main focus points. Monitoring is the first pillar, currently with the Monitoring Exercise and hopefully in the future with the continuous monitoring project. If that project will be awarded to INACH and the consortium, the regranting needs to be sorted out. Also, members will be included and will only need to apply through a mini proposal on the INACH website. It will be kept as simple as possible.
- The second pillar is advocacy. The EC strategy document that was presented in Dublin, aimed more advocacy with the social media companies and included also the INACH roundtable discussion that will take place yearly in September. It will be an opportunity to discuss the results of the last ME. If the EC wants this to be a structural event, it needs to be opened up to non-members of the INACH network as well. The INACH secretariat is talking on a regular basis to the companies. If there

are any issues with reaching these companies, the secretariat asks to let INACH know. The secretariat will try to bring them to the table.

- The third focus is the Cyber Hate Neutralization Hub. It is currently still in its very early stages, the aim is to have it live in 2024. This year the secretariat focuses on conceptualizing it and next year it will be developing it. The Cyber Hate Neutralization Hub will have an algorithm to find the sources of hate online, bots systems and networks that spread hate. A website with an info hub on hate will go with it, from experts of the INACH network.
- Finally, the secretariat will continue with its biyearly member webinars, members assembly and annual conference. The annual conference will take place on **3 and 4 November**, it will be hybrid as well. The roundtable with the social media companies will take place on the **7th September**, and the member webinar on the **5th of October**.

Introduction of new INACH member TELL Mama by Iman Atta:

- TELL MAMA (Measuring Anti Muslim Attacks) was set up 11 years ago and is based in Brussels and Dublin. It started with collecting data and monitoring in both the UK and Europe.
- The organization publishes annual- and quarterly reports with data. Iman will also start sending these through the members list. TELL MAMA said up a lexicon of anti-Muslim words and helps governments and other institutions on understanding the trends around hatred since it is very fluid. It also conducts projects to raise awareness on religious (Jewish, Christian, Muslim) hatred both in the UK and Europe. The lexicon will become public in September.
- TELL MAMA helps with intelligence gathering on extremist groups and the trigger points. Terrorist attacks drive spikes in hatred against Muslims. Even if it is a far-right extremist attack, there is always a backlash on Muslim communities. For example, the Christchurch attack caused an enormous spike of anti-Muslim hate. TELL MAMA also compares the dynamics between Europe and the UK. It compares the political discourses on immigration and analyzes the similarities and differences between both regions.

News from the INACH members:

- **Jugendschutz.net:** Has joined the Competence Network Against Hate on the Net, together with Hateaid, Das Netz and No Hate Speech Germany. With this network one contact point for different focuses around online hate was created. Jugendschutz.net is not just focusing on social media companies anymore but also on video games and fleeting content.
- **MCI:** The Spanish government decided to create a local code of conduct practice and set up a sort of local monitoring exercise which MCI is part of. Apart from that, MCI is part of suing a Spanish Nazi leader Pedro Varela. He is a holocaust denier and says he is inspired by Hitler. He used to own a bookshop where he sold books that contained similar information.
- **Greek Helsinki Monitor:** When founded 30 years ago, it focused on Roma and other minorities but soon it shifted to hate speech in general. GHM is standing trial for supposedly false accusations against a well known Bishop who GHM accused of

spreading antisemitic hate. Many different human rights organizations have denounced the Bishop as well but there is no word about it in the Greek press. GHM works with a group of volunteer lawyers to help them with the different cases they are involved in.

- **MIND:** Investigates cases and reports of online hate and requests to remove it. It reports social media and private blogs on websites. MIND waits for people to report to them. Out of the cases yearly reported, 25% is punishable.



- **CEJI:** Received an operating grant of four years to enlarge their network and to strengthen the network on research and training. A lot more research on hate speech is needed to set up a mapping study on hate speech with input from experts of the field and the network. CEJI wants to know what kind of research would be useful and will have it be shaped and formed by the experts. It will be able to conduct the research or set up training for any member that is interested. If anyone is interested, they can reach out to CEJI through www.facingfacts.eu or talk to Amy, amy.leete@ceji.org.

- **Human Rights House Zagreb:** A month ago HRHZ published its annual human rights report for Croatia and it was

well received. The report is not translated anymore in English because of the lack of interest in it outside Croatia. HRHZ applied for membership of EDRI. It also has an online reporting tool through which 100 reports per year are received. 60% of it is not linked to hate speech. However, it also serves an educational purpose because sometimes people are uncertain if it is illegal or not and therefore seek advice. The reporting tool was expanded and can now also report physical violence motivated by hatred, with a disclaimer to call the police first. The purpose of it is to gather data and share experiences and they are used as illustrative examples for training and advocacy.

- **Never Again Association:** Much of the current work is related to the war in Ukraine. It published a report on anti refugee hatred on social media which was discussed a lot in the media in Poland. Members of the European Parliament wrote a letter demanding more action to counter pro-war propaganda on the social media platforms and it received the first response from Twitter so far. Never Again participates in other initiatives as 'Get the trolls out' with the Media Diversity Institute and is part of the 'Global Alliance Against Digital Hate and Extremism'. Never Again is also involved in a court case suing a publisher of antisemitic books selling them on the biggest online platform in the polish market.
- **Human Rights Center Estonia:** Is currently very busy with Ukrainian refugees since they are the contact point of UNHCR in Estonia. Also, they had the court deciding against them in the case of a homophobic and racist radio DJ who has been

spreading hate on the radio for years. A student set up a petition to remove him from the air and it was signed by a lot of people. As a response, the radio DJ sued the student who was supported by EHRC for loss of income due to that petition. The court decided in favor of him, they reasoned there was not enough proof of hate speech. The case will of course be appealed. Besides that, EHRC is finishing a project on hate speech with other INACH members on educating young people on hate speech. The final workshop will take place on **June 17th**, welcoming young people from countries from INACH members.

- **DigiQ:** Together with other partners, DigiQ will offer training to INACH members on how to train others to respond in order to eliminate hate speech online. It will also train empathy with kids so it has a variety of uses. DigiQ will share the link with the INACH members.
- **LICRA:** Is mainly involved in giving training in schools, universities and police academies. It also has set up a partnership with the French professional soccer league and is developing partnerships for training with companies together with ZARA. LICRA is also looking into other professional sports leagues in France. Apart from that, LICRA is involved in the judicial case of Rivarol, the antisemitic newspaper. And is still continuing the case on Eric Zemmour who is being sued since 2011.
- **CESIE:** The final conference of the project conducted by CESIE and the Gamer Partnership, took place in January 2022. It focused on recruiting young gamers and monitored their efforts to engage with extremist people on video platforms. During the project a lot of information was gathered regarding the gaming world. Second, CESIE is working on the issue of under-reporting of hate against muslim women. CESIE connects law enforcement with muslim communities in Italy to cooperate with each other.
- **Subjective Values:** Has been involved in focus group discussions with young women on how the Covid-19 pandemic has affected online hate speech. It also set up a campaign with Hungarian influencers on hate speech and invited others to share their own stories and unite.
- **ROMEIA:** Is also busy with the 300.000 Ukrainian refugees that have arrived to the Czech Republic. ROMEIA is overwhelmed with work regarding this issue. Roma Ukrainian refugees, about 2000, are facing anti-gypsyism instead of the welcoming attitude towards Ukrainians in general in the country. It's part of Czech discourse: there is a lot of fake news and hoaxes about how the Roma steal the benefits of the Czech. ROMEIA is concerned about the change of heart judges seem to have in the country. Before the war in Ukraine they were not interested at all in giving verdicts against hate speech cases but now everything related to the war is punishable. It gives the impression that some forms of hate speech are allowed and others are not, it becomes political.
- **SOVA:** War means there is a lot of hate speech. Russian citizens can not discuss hate speech regarding Ukraine. SOVA continues with its work despite the difficulties. In June there will be a conference in Berlin regarding the issue of hijacking the narrative on the Holocaust.
- **ZARA:** Published recently its report on online hate speech and racism. It is also involved in two new projects with partners from all over Europe on countering online hate speech to train young people, educators and journalists on recognizing hate speech and how to denounce it. The second project, Web Angels, is based on

countering hate speech online in a forum of Austrian newspapers to train them on identifying strategies to counter it.



Making our Network stronger - brainstorming session

The session focused on how to make INACH into a more united front. A few of the questions that were discussed were: how can communication be enhanced? How can social media sharing go smoother? What did the members think of the ideas of the secretariat to shine a light on the members and including them?

Many great suggestions were given, here are a few examples:

- The members agreed to place the INACH logo on their websites. The secretariat will send the logo to all the members. Not every member has the possibility to place the INACH logo in their email signature due to various reasons but it would be an idea to at least mention at the bottom of the email that they are part of the INACH network. Or they can use the logo during appropriate events.
- Many agreed that an easier way to communicate with everyone would be through a closed Facebook group with a calendar of events. The mailing list is good but sometimes it is hard to read, it goes to spam or the email gets lost. Either way, the mailing list will remain in place next to a new Facebook group.
- The newsletter is a great way of exposing the work of the network and the webinars are a great initiative as well.
- In social media posts from INACH, members should be tagged. Sometimes members have their own social media strategy or only produce content in their own language which makes sharing INACH's content harder. An option would be to provide the 'raw' material that can be translated and used to make content by the members. Helpful would be to request something from members with a timeline on when it is needed. Also, it would be good to ask members what their social media strategy is in order to understand each other better. A suggestion is also to agree upon what hashtags to use for events like the webinars and annual conference.
- It would be great if INACH can create slides of the organization that members can utilize and share to whoever they talk to.
- When it comes to advocacy, INACH is not visible enough yet in Brussels.
- INACH can go to members and ask for input to take to the platforms and the European Commission. If members have issues with social media companies that should be taken to the next level, they should contact INACH.
- To connect more between members an idea would be to set up an online 'Social Café' every 2 or 3 months and live stream it to discuss certain topics.

- Another suggestion is to use the members section on the website more and develop it further.
- This year INACH celebrates 20 years of existence which is an opportunity to use that for its visibility on social media etc..

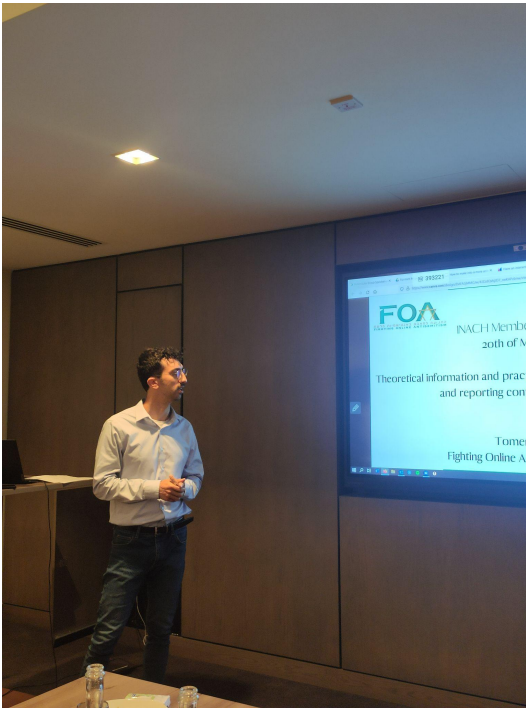
Telegram discussion

- Jugendschutz.net and the INACH secretariat would like the input from the members regarding their experience with Telegram.
- Jugendschutz was contacted by Telegram after they gave a presentation on safe havens at a conference. At the time there were only 5 people in the monitoring team. They asked for material to train their AI tools and employees.
- Jugendschutz sent cases directly to Telegram that they wanted to report but only 30% of it was deleted.
- The second time Jugendschutz spoke with Telegram, there were 150 people in their supporting team.
- The German federal government threatened to forbid them. They also threatened that Telegram would be deleted from the Google app store in Germany.
- Telegram is registered in Russia but based in Dubai. However, there are only empty offices there. The creator of Telegram is a nationalized French. In order to be allowed to nationalize, you need to have one house in France. LICRA will ask around to see possibilities to contact him. Tell MAMA has a contact with the Telegram office and can share that with INACH and Jugendschutz and will also send their cases they have collected.
- The hateful content doesn't stay on Telegram. The platform is used to voice hate and share it from there to the main platforms.
- LICRA did monitor Telegram but found out it is impossible to report hate speech, there is no option for it.
- Telegram is in a transition phase. They are not the young rebellion start-up anymore and want to start making profit through advertisement, so it will try not to have big scandals. Therefore, it is a good opportunity to approach Telegram now.
- A suggestion is to set up our own small monitoring exercise to gather results to present to Telegram.
- The plan is to have a call with Telegram as INACH and present the experience of the members. The call could be done by the INACH secretariat / board and INACH members who want to join the conversation with Telegram. FOA, Tell MAMA and DigiQ are interested in doing so. First, a call should be scheduled together with all the participants and then the next step will be to contact Telegram and set up a meeting.

Theoretical information and practical tips and steps for monitoring and reporting online hate by Tomer Aldubi from Fighting Online Antisemitism (FOA)

- FOA is the largest NGO in Israel to monitor antisemitism. They monitor in more than 8 languages other than Hebrew on more than 6 social media platforms. FOA's goals are to remove content, educate and to develop IT tools.
- FOA has trained more than 200 volunteers on content removal. Most of the volunteers are Israeli but a small part comes from all over the world. Israeli youth

have to volunteer and one of their options is to volunteer with FOA, therefore the organization depends a lot on volunteers and the platforms they choose to monitor. Some of them stay afterwards and work with FOA.



- From FOA's experience, antisemitic content gets removed easier than anti Israeli content. They report based on the community standards of the platform.

- Since FOA is not part of the ME, they have their own monitoring form. If INACH members have any links to share they can do so with FOA if they want it to get checked. In the future, FOA plans to conduct broader monitoring, make a greater impact, have greater efficiency and increased awareness by reaching new audiences.

- FOA has also started monitoring racist content next to antisemitism because there is no NGO that monitors racism content in Israel.

The annual conference:

- INACH will celebrate 20 years of existence by having a two days conference in Amsterdam. The two days will be used to reflect on those 20 years and to focus on two different 'hate types': gender based hate and LGBTQ+ hate.

The INACH Secretariat thanked all participants for their contributions and participation in the Members Assembly. The next meeting will be the INACH Annual Conference on 3 and 4 November 2021.

*** End of the report ***