

Spletno Oko/Safer Internet Centre Slovenia

Since Andrej decided to dedicate more of his time to studying, our organisation has a new coordinator. It is Urša Valentič, she has been working as a journalist at the National Television of Slovenia for the last 15 years. Most of these years she's worked as a news reporter, in the last years she's been co-hosting the tv show Koda which is kind of a slovenian version of the Watchdog. She is very happy to have a chance to cooperate in this network.

Some of the statistics. If we look at our key results in numbers for the year 2019 (the results are still unofficial), we received more than 770 hate speech reports. August 2019 was our record month with more than 200 received reports.

More than 90 of those reports were forwarded to the police. The record month was august 2019 in this case as well, with 29 reports forwarded to the police.

Other than that, we are happy with implementing the fact that on the 4th of July 2019, the Supreme court of Slovenia set an important legal precedent in a case involving hate speech against the Roma. The court ruled that public incitement to hatred, violence or intolerance is a crime not only when it threatens public peace and order but also in case of threats, abusive language or insults.

Previously, the higher judges held that the comment against the Roma did not amount to a crime because the amended Article 297 of the Penal code meant that only acts that may be a threat to public order and peace qualify as a crime of public incitement to hatred, violence or intolerance.

Such an interpretation of hate speech has often been cited in the past as the reason why intolerant and hateful incitement cannot be prosecuted.

The Supreme court held that in cases when the act is committed by means of a threat, abusive language or insult, with other legal indications of a crime, the act does not necessarily need to potentially jeopardise public order and peace in order to be treated as a crime.

The court said that prosecution of public incitement to hatred, violence or intolerance did not protect only public peace and order but also human dignity. The rule would significantly affect the prosecution of public incitement of hate, violence and intolerance.