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EMN Cyprus National Conference

Topic: Hate Speech in Public Discourse

26 October 2023, 09.00-16.00 (EEST)

Location: Sun Hall Hotel, Larnaca

Athens Ave 6, Larnaca 6302, Cyprus

Agenda

1. RATIONALE AND AIMS

Xenophobia and hate speech are two interrelated phenomena often questioning the values of democracy, human dignity, freedom, equality, respect of human rights and the rule of law. The aim of this conference is to open a fruitful discussion on the implementation and efficiency of national and EU law on identifying and consequently combatting incidents of xenophobia and hate speech.

The Council Framework Decision [2008/913/JHA](#), ensures that certain serious forms and expressions of racism and xenophobia are punishable by means of criminal law throughout the European Union (EU). In the majority of EU Member States, offences as such are criminalised within the national legislation. However, incidents of xenophobia and hate speech against migrants, are gradually becoming more evident amid the legal obligations.

On the other hand, the [EU Anti-racism Action Plan 2020-2025](#) objectives are setting the ground for member states to actively engage with this topic and through various actions to combat this phenomenon. Close collaboration and sharing of experiences on the topic are considered an asset for the harmonisation with the legal obligations.

This conference aims to bring into discussion the implementation and efficiency of national and EU law in combatting these serious incidents. How national law safeguards the respect and protection of migrants and other minority groups in general, from being subjected to hate speech and encounter incidents of xenophobia that might be harmful for their dignity and life in general?

Experts from selected institutions will discuss the challenges and opportunities in combating xenophobia, hate speech and hate crimes in the fields of journalism, social media and education. Which are the main factors that can potentially create gaps on abiding the law? What are the legal weaknesses encountered in combating this phenomenon? Participants will have the opportunity to share their experiences and developments on the topic for the last

years thus giving the opportunity to stakeholders and other professionals to listen to effective mechanisms of implementation and alternate examples on combating these challenges.

2. PRACTICAL INFORMATION

- Hybrid conference
- EMN NCP members, professionals, stakeholders, journalists, university students
- Link for registration will be shared shortly
- Link for online connection will be shared shortly
- Language of the Conference: Greek and English

AGENDA

Date	
09.00 – 09.30	Registration and welcome coffee
09.30-09.45	Welcoming remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Michael Beys, National coordinator, EMN Cyprus ■ Perm. Sec of Ministry of Interior
09.45-10.30	Keynote Speech- Decoding hate speech: the legal framework <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Aristoteles Constantinides, Associate Professor of International Law and Human Rights, Department of Law, University of Cyprus
10.30 - 10.45	Coffee Break
10.45 – 12.00	Panel 1: Hate Speech and Ethics in Journalism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ George Fragkos, President, Union of Cypriot Journalists ■ Erotokritos Fahmi, Information Officer, Press and Information Office, Ministry of Interior ■ Michael Papaevagorou, Journalist ■ Committee of Media Ethics -TBC Moderated discussion- Elli Kotzamani, President, Committee of Media Ethics
12.00 – 13.15	Panel 2: Monitoring of Hate Speech in social media. Combating cybercrime <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Nikolaos Isaris, Deputy Head of Representation/Head of Political Reporting and Policy Analysis, European Commission Representation in Cyprus ■ George Kakotas, Administrative Officer A', Commissioner for Administration and the Protection of Human Rights ■ Michalis Moutselos, Lecturer Department of Social and Political Sciences, University of Cyprus

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Venetia Papa, Lecturer, Department of Social and Political Sciences, University of Cyprus <p>Moderated discussion- Irini Kadianaki, Associate Professor of Social Psychology, University of Cyprus</p>
13.15-14.30	Lunch Break
14.30 – 15.45	<p>Panel 3: Mechanisms and tools on combating Hate Speech in education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Dr Elena Papamichael, First Educational Planning Officer, Cyprus Pedagogical Institute (Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth) ■ Dr Nikoletta Polydorou, Co-Founder & Executive Director, Sistema Cyprus ■ Dr Christina Hadjisoteriou, Associate Professor School of Education, University of Nicosia ■ Galina Altouchova, Supervisor, Independent Department for the Monitoring and Coordination of the Refugee Education, Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs <p>Moderated discussion- Professor Panayiotis Angelides, School of Education, University of Nicosia</p>
15.45 – 16.00	<p>Concluding remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ <i>Michael Beys, National coordinator, EMN Cyprus</i>