

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

LIVING TOGETHER ONLINE: POSITIVE MESSENGERS PROMOTING TOLERANCE

21-22 June 2018

The Red House Centre for Culture and Debate
15 Lyuben Karavelov Str., Sofia

PROGRAMME

The international conference organized by Sofia Development Association under the Coalition of Positive Messengers project will gather decision-makers, human rights activists, NGO and media representatives, students, project partners and stakeholders from Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, Italy, Romania, and the United Kingdom to discuss more effective counteraction of hate speech. The conference working languages are Bulgarian and English.

June 21, 2018, Thursday

- 14:00 – 14:30 Registration and welcome refreshments
- 14:30 – 15:00 Structured networking activities
- 15:00 – 15:15 **Positive Messengers project welcome**
Associate Prof. Todor Chobanov, Sofia Deputy Mayor for Culture, Education, Sport and Prevention of Addictions
Svetlana Lomeva, Sofia Development Association Director
Video message from **Eva Maydell**, Member of European Parliament
- 15:15 – 16:15 **Setting the Scene** moderated debate
Moderator: **Sevdalina Voynova**, Programme Director, Sofia Development Association

The moderated debate aims to tackle issues like who the authors of hate speech are, which are the popular media for hate speech, what regulations are in place, what measures different stakeholders take, what we have learnt so far.

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Partners:

The power of storytelling to counter hate

***Eric Murangwa Eugene, Football for Hope, Peace and Unity (F.H.P.U) and Survivors
Tribune Founder***

***The impact of the social media and awareness raising campaigns in combating
online hate speech***

Jaroslav Valuch, Press Start and Factczech.cz project leader

What people hear: Public attitudes to hate speech

Ivanka Ivanova, Programme Director, Open Society Institute

Hate speech in media – between fake news and real attitudes

Nadya Obretenova, journalist, BNT

Q&A

16:15 – 16:45 Coffee break

16:45 – 17:45 Parallel workshops

The workshops aim to provide an opportunity for a deeper analysis, more intense exchange among participants and skills development, building on the previous panel.

How to design effective public campaigns through social media

Jaroslav Valuch

***Storytelling workshop. How the stories of the survivors can counter hatred, even
the most extreme kind such as genocide***

Eric Murangwa Eugene

How to provide emotional support for hate speech victims

Maria Marinova-Alkalay, The Infinite Opportunities Association

19:00 – 20:30 Multi Kulti Workshop
Bistra Ivanova, Multi Kulti Collective Bulgaria

Exploring culture and fostering mutual understanding through cooking and sharing recipes.

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June 22, 2018, Friday

10:00 – 10:15 **Keynote address**
Iliana Iotova, Vice President of Bulgaria

10:15 – 11:30 **The Way Ahead: Supporting Stakeholders to Develop Alternatives** panel discussion
Moderator: Ph.D. Lid King, Director of Languages Company, UK

The panel discussion aims to outline a strategic framework for support by integrating all relevant stakeholders: policy makers, media, businesses, educators.

Monika Panayotova, Deputy Minister for the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the EU 2018

Denitsa Sacheva, Deputy Minister of Education and Science

Irina Nedeva, Chairperson of Association of European Journalists

Sabine Brachmann-Bosse, Head of the language department and deputy director of the Goethe Institute

Ferdaws Benselloum, Association of Young Muslims of Italy, Perugia, IT

Dobroslav Dimitrov, Imperia Online Co-Founder

Q&A

11:30 – 11:50 Coffee Break

11:50 – 12:40 **Amazing resources to combat hate speech to try right now** pitch session
Moderator: Guido Ferrili, IULM

The session presents an opportunity to a variety of actors to present and pitch the resources for combating online hate speech they have developed and made available to others.

Maria Koreck, Director, Divers Association, Romania

Philip Harding-Esch, Expert, Languages Company, UK

Denitsa Lozanova, Programme Director, Sofia Development Association

Simeon Vassilev, Founder and Chairperson of GLAS foundation

Raya Tsvetkova, Expert, Law and Internet Foundation

Emil Jassim, Expert, Safer Internet Centre

Mariya Borisova, Expert, Forma.Azione, Italy

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12:45 – 13:30

Navigating the Future: Policy Recommendations panel discussion

Moderator: **Snezhina Gabova**, Sofia Development Association

The aim of the session is to present to policy makers at local, national and EU level policy recommendations, advice and guidance in the area of human rights and combating online hate speech.

Anton Kutev, Member of Bulgarian National Assembly and Chairperson of Committee on Interaction with Non-governmental Organizations and the Complaints of Citizens

Malina Edreva, Chairperson of Education, Culture, Science and Cultural Diversity Committee in Sofia Municipal Council

Dr. Levan Khetaguri, member of Soul For Europe Strategy Group

Denitsa Lyubenova, lawyer at LGBT Association "Deystvie"

Raycho Raychev, Vice President of National Youth Forum

13:30 – 14:30

Lunch with "Maria's World" Foundation

Photobooth: Joining Coalition of Positive Messengers to Counter Online Hate Speech

14:30 – 16:00

Photography exhibition "Love and Hate in the City"

Presentation by **Anastasios Sotiriou**, Greece

Interaction Activity led by **Aggeliki Oikonomopoulou**, Manager of Social Services Department and **Kosti Katerina**, Manager of Cultural Department, Municipality of AAK, Athens, Greece

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