



STAND-UP
Standing up against hate in the EU

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Discrimination, intolerance and hatred are still present in European societies, often leading to serious and violent crimes. These practices and feelings are largely causes of broader social tensions and have long-lasting repercussions on victims, their families and on our societies. However, there are deficiencies at the European level in the management of hate crimes and discrimination against people or communities based on gender, race, sexuality or other aspects, as well as in the response given by the public authorities of European countries. All the elements of, and actors responsible for, countering hate crime must be addressed cooperate within one coordinated framework.

In this framework, STAND-UP aims to establish a public authority-led, multi-agency model for countering hate crime. The model, designed and verified through participatory design process and a 6-month piloting period, comprises:

- Training activities target public authorities (law enforcement and judicial bodies in particular), as well as CSOs, with the aim of
 - Ensuring that relevant actors are able to implement the tools and mechanisms developed within the project and
 - Better harmonising public body and CSO activities.
- Virtual Reality case simulations support training on sensitive questioning at investigation and prosecution.

From a methodological perspective, STAND-UP strives to create a comprehensive and holistic counter-hate crime framework that covers all components of counter-hate process (reporting-investigating-prosecution-prevention (RIPP), embedded within a framework of victim support. In this way, the project ensures the complementarity of the work of different actors, leading to a streamlined and more efficient RIPP cycle, better victim support, and higher levels of trust between CSOs, law enforcement, judiciary, and victims.

Open Source INTelligence (OSINT) is used to understand hateful sentiments and speech in localised contacts, helping public authorities and CSOs to identify areas of intervention, at-risk groups, and the weight of hateful sentiments expressed online as an indicator of physical acts of hate offline, all multi-factorally disaggregated. We will develop a platform for interagency data exchange and carry out activities to raise awareness of STAND-UP and its outcomes, and to heighten awareness of hate crime and its impact on victims

NEEDS ADDRESSED

NEED 1:

Strengthened cooperation between CSOs, law enforcement, and judicial actors.

Tackling hate crime involves enhanced reporting, investigation, prosecution, and prevention (RIPP), and parallel victim support, necessitating the involvement of a range of public and civil society actors. The division of responsibilities and competencies of the actors is essential in terms of trustful relationships with victims and methods or instruments that can be employed. Careful coordination of these separate activities must be conducted in order to ensure their complementarity and the comparability of data gathered, and to support investigation, prosecution and reporting through mechanisms such as third-party-reporting.

NEED 2:



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Improved reporting procedures,

As where hate crimes (“the most severe expression of discrimination”) are not reported, their victims are left without redress and perpetrators never brought to justice. Accurate reporting is also essential in ensuring the scale and urgency of the issue is understood and sufficient resources are dedicated to tackling it. A range of elements currently complicate the reporting of hate crimes and incidents of discrimination, including a lack of a standardised definition of hate crimes across relevant bodies in each Member State, a reluctance on the part of victims to report hate crimes, and inadequate data sharing between CSOs and law enforcement.

NEED 3:

Strengthen Victim Support

Adequate victim support is a matter of ensuring, protecting, and enforcing their rights as per the Victims’ Rights Directive. Victim support is also essential in building trust between relevant agencies and victims, which must be enhanced in order to boost reporting rates and contribute to more effective investigations, prosecutions, and long-term prevention. Here, communication and cooperation between public authorities and CSOs is critical owing to the nature of the relationships between CSOs and victims, as well as CSOs and minority groups more vulnerable to hate crime, which is a large asset in encouraging reporting on the part of victims.

NEED 4:

Enhanced practitioner training

Specific to the different aspects of combating hate crime, including on reporting, investigating, and prosecuting, as well as on victim assistance and inter-agency cooperation.

OBJECTIVES:

Enhance multi-agency cooperation in countering hate crime by establishing harmonised definitions of hate crime, embedded within a blueprint framework for cooperation.

Standardise reporting procedures through the co-design and validation of a reporting forms for 1. law enforcement agencies and 2. CSOs/NGOs.

Deepen relevant actors’ understanding of the phenomena of hate speech and hate crime, including the sentiments behind them on a local level through enhanced monitoring tools and skills. STAND-UP employs open-source intelligence-led monitoring mechanisms, piloted in two separate Italian municipalities.

Strengthen victim support through awareness and skills on “sensitive investigation” and prosecution through which “victims are recognised and treated in a respectful, sensitive, tailored, professional and non-discriminatory manner” (Art 1.1 of the Victims’ Rights Directive), focusing on unbiased reporting and investigation procedures and LEA-CSO support networks, strengthening Art 8. of the same.

Design and implement training for CSOs, LEAs, and prosecutors and judges on reporting, investigating, prosecuting, and preventing (RIPP) hate crimes and discrimination, with parallel victim support.