

ADDRESSING HATE SPEECH ONLINE

PROFIL DE L'ÉQUIPE

We are looking for five students with a strong interest in exploring current trends of hate speech online and related responses from actors from various fields and regions. Students with a background in communications, human rights and expertise in one of the five defined focus themes are especially encouraged to apply.

Fluency in English and French proficiency will be required. Participants should have experience in conducting literature/desk reviews, additional mapping experience would be a plus.

INSTITUTION PARTENAIRE

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PERSONNE RESPONSABLE DU PROJET

Karel Fracapane

PRESENTATION DE L'INSTITUTION & CONTEXTE DU PROJET

UNESCO is the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. It seeks to build peace through international cooperation in Education, the Sciences and Culture.

Within the framework of its global programme on Global Citizenship Education and the prevention of violent extremism through education (PVE-E), UNESCO promotes educational approaches that address the root causes and drivers of violence and hatred. These include in particular programmes that build the resilience of young people against violent extremist narratives and all forms of intolerance and discrimination, including hate speech.

In this context, and to inform related activities, UNESCO seeks to commission a desk review of current research trends and existing initiatives on the governmental and civil society level pertaining to addressing and preventing hate speech online, with particular attention to the responses provided by the education sector (e.g. media and information literacy, civic/citizenship education, peace education, inter-cultural dialogue etc.).

CONTENU PÉDAGOGIQUE DU PROJET

The Sciences Po research team should prepare a detailed desk review on the topic of addressing hate speech online with a strong focus on educational approaches, concentrating on the following five focus themes:

- Antisemitism, particularly Holocaust denial and distortion
- Anti-Muslim discourse

- Anti-migrant and anti-refugee discourse
- Conspiracy theories
- Gender-based violence, including violence and discrimination against girls, women and LGBT.

For each of these focus themes, the research team should conduct:

- **Literature review** of recent academic articles and research, focusing on the analysis of drivers and conditions conducive to hate speech and recommendations made to prevent and counter the phenomenon, notably from an education perspective.
- **Mapping of civil society initiatives** to prevent and combat the particular phenomenon, including activities, strategies, target groups and partners, with a special focus on educational approaches (global level).
- **Mapping of governmental engagement** to preventing and combating the particular phenomenon, including broader approaches to address online hate speech, legal measures, and educational approaches (global level).
- **Mapping of efforts undertaken by tech and social media companies** to counter the particular phenomenon, these may include “best practices” implemented in the wider context of countering online hate speech, that could be adapted, with particular attention to education measures.

In this context, particular attention should be brought to restrictions of freedom of expression and to different national approaches in this respect, with a view to uphold international norms relevant to freedom of expression. The research should therefore focus as much as possible on hate speech as it may amount to “advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence” (International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, article 20).

RESULTATS ET PRODUITS ATTENDUS

Expected outputs:

- Outcome paper, clearly stating key findings, identifying existing gaps and describing overarching trends (25 p.)
- List of recommendations on strengthening educational initiatives to address and prevent hate speech online, taking in account key findings and identified good practices (5 p.)
- Detailed Annex, including an overview of all initiatives and practices identified as part of the mapping exercise and a complete bibliography.

All outcome documents will have to be delivered in **English**.

Bearing in mind that significant overlap between the four focus themes is to be expected, the work should be carefully coordinated, logically structured and presented. The final paper should clearly highlight overarching trends, while also reflecting the specific characteristics of each focus theme and corresponding practices and recommendations.

CALENDRIER DU PROJET

The project will be launched with an introductory meeting in mid-September 2019. Participating students will regularly report on their research and advances during the scheduled monthly meetings. The outcome documents are expected to be finalized by mid-April 2020.

MÉTHODOLOGIE

Participating students are expected to elaborate a work plan at the beginning of the project, to be validated by UNESCO. The research team will meet once a month at UNESCO to discuss the project, present findings and coordinate the following steps. Outside of these monthly meetings, participants are expected to organize their work themselves.

Regular communication, guidance and feedback will be provided throughout the duration of the project.

Relevant UNESCO and UN documents and legal frameworks should be taken into account for the research activities. Monitoring of UN activities on this topic should be constantly carried out.

LOGISTIQUE

Monthly meetings will be held in a meeting room at UNESCO.

Participating students will have access to the « Projet Collectif » room at Sciences Po, which is equipped with a computer, large screen, printer, and telephone.