

FINAL REPORT

Hate speech targeted on experts and policy makers

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The project aimed to provide research-evidence on how to tackle the major problem of cyberhate (i.e. online hate) and related intensions to influence on societal decision and policy making legally and societally. To this end, our objective was to analyze, explain and decrease cyberhate, and reduce its effects. The project conducted state-of-art review of legal protection and use legal documents to see if citizens are equally protected by the law. Also employer's actions in work related online hate are studied. In the social science part of the project a survey study was conducted among Finnish university staff, media professionals and among political decision makers.

Based on the results, hate and harassment are very common among the studied professionals. Generally, in work life, employees are increasingly facing hate, harassment and bullying especially through online means. Victimization of hate, harassment and bullying is a risk factor for lowered general well-being and well-being at work. Legislation provides remedies against, for example, assaults, distribution of information regarding private matters and intentional targeting. Our research indicates that police investigations on assaults are mainly done randomly. The results highlight that there is a lack of common principles regarding when the police investigations should be fully proceeded from the beginning until the end. Therefore, the victims are not always protected as much as it would be legally possible. The hate and harassment employees are facing outside their immediate workplaces have formed a new type of occupational health and safety risk, which employers should aim to prevent and reduce the effects occurred.