

**International Conference**

**Tackling the Impact of Hate Speech on Our Lives and Society:**

A Comprehensive Approach Towards

Prevention of Hate Involving Policy Makers and Young People



# Mainstreaming: HATE SPEECH&Euroscepticism

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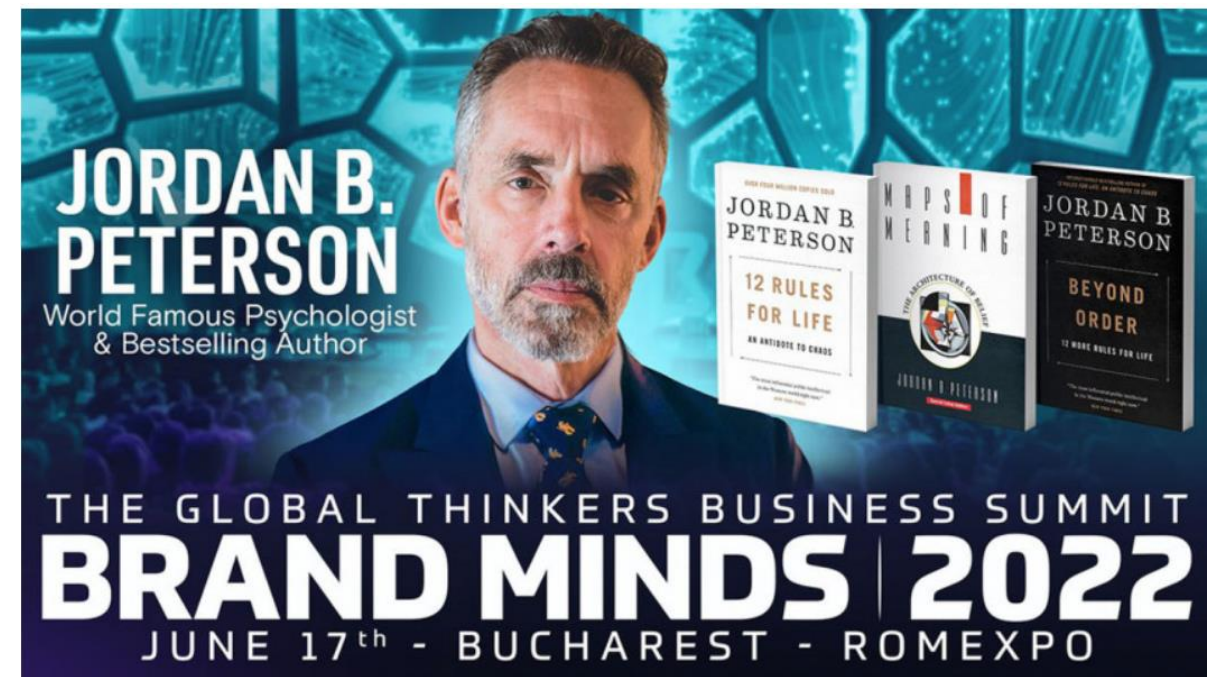
PATRIR, THE ROMANIAN PEACE INSTITUTE

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- Incidence
- Causes & Contexts of HS singled out by respondents
- HS and “mainstreaming” of far-right views and narratives.





# Key Points of the survey on HS in Romania:

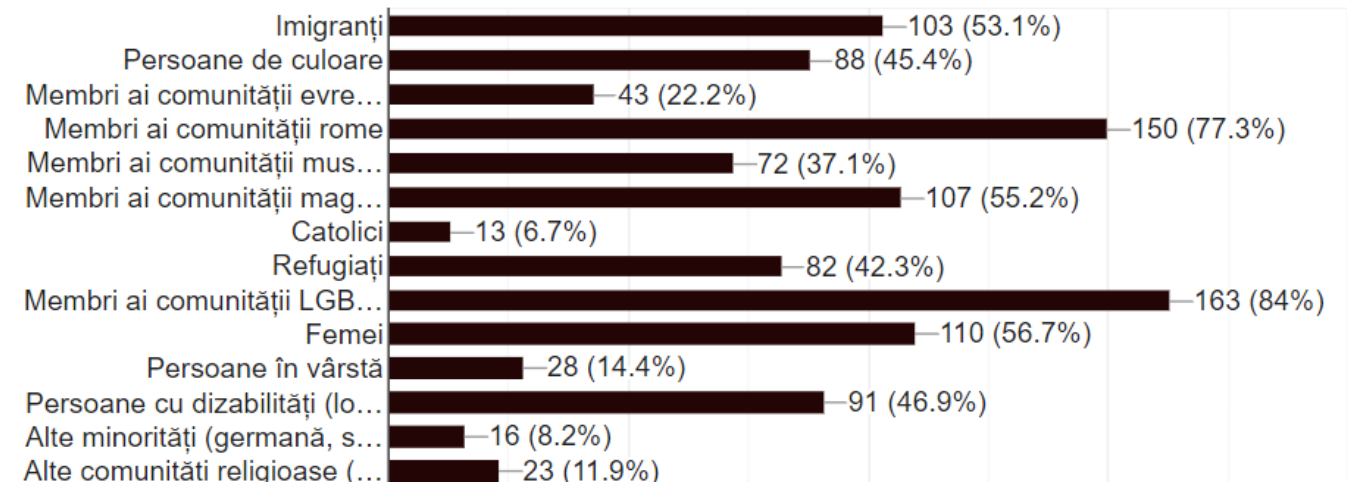
- 202 respondents
- 6 interviews
- Desk research

## Growing prevalence of hate speech among Romanian youth

- **Phenomenon:** particularly targeting the Roma community, the LGBTQI+ community, refugee and asylum seekers (particularly the Middle East), women, the Hungarian community and the Jewish community.

2. Ce grupuri sociale din România consideri că sunt cele mai vizate de discursul de instigare la ură?

194 responses



- Frequency: 33.5% stated that they noticed a hate incident weekly, 26% daily, 16% several times per month, 15% occasionally, and 7% answered that they did not see such hate speech.
- Framing: 60.7% said they felt personally targeted by hate speech, 61.2% said they experienced it as bullying, 55.1% as verbal denigration, 19% through segregation (they were barred from entering a group), and 30% experienced cyberbullying.
- Familiarity: In terms of the people producing the hate speech, 58.7% were identified as school or work colleagues, 53.3% were unknown to them, 22.7% were friends, 15.3% were family, and 1.3% were teachers.
- Our respondents singled out the *online* environment as the most frequent place for hate speech (72.8%), but often see it happening in public space.

**Growing awareness** among youth about the prevalence of hate speech and its problems: 68.5% consider that hate speech is a real issue.

- Themes and topics related to hate speech are listed as 32.9% related to gender (family values, reproductive rights), 20% to sexual orientation, and 21.9% to socio-economic conditions (classism).

However:

- Of those arguing it is not an issue, most, 53.7% argued that “the right to free speech cannot be affected”, and 31.7% argued that “the terminology is too vague, anything can be considered hate speech”.
- 22% argued “it does not really have serious implications” and 55.8% answered that hate speech “is sometimes justified”.

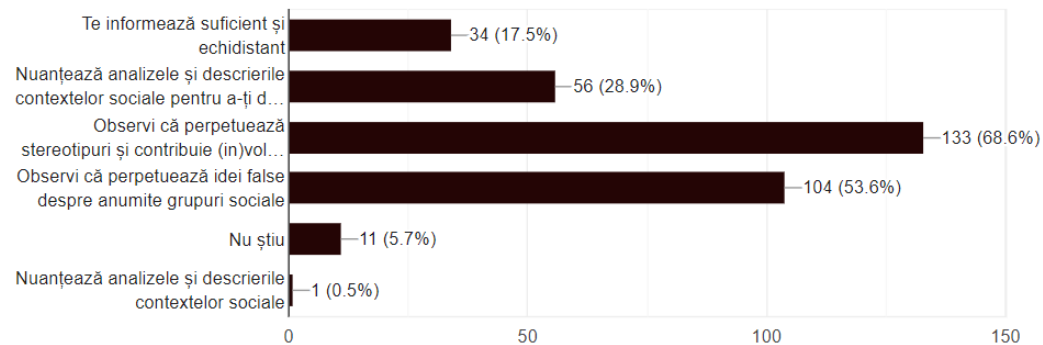
## Causes singled out:

- 71.1% stated “there is too much prejudice at society level”, 65.2% said people do not believe in values of equality, 64.2% that “hate speech is normalised” and 63.2% answered “hate speech is not understood as being harmful.
- 81.3% said that politicians, journalists and public individuals are responsible, and 66.7% blamed influencers. The important element here is that 54.4% of young people said they have witnessed hate speech from family members and friends, 57.3% from class-mates, and 57.8% from teachers. Other groups identified are the Church, and activists (2%).

6. În privința mijlocele de informare publică pe care le consulți (ziare, tv, media online), ești de acord că:



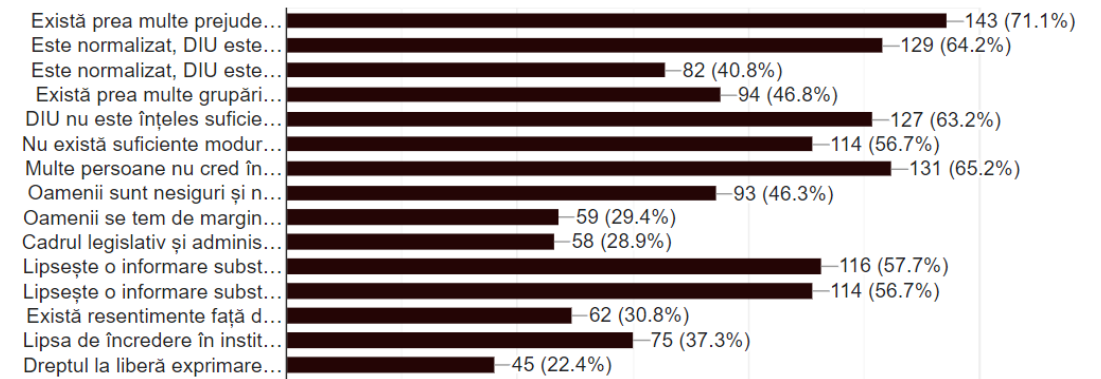
194 responses



5a. De ce crezi că au loc aceste incidente de DIU?



201 responses



## Social response:

- **Actions&response:** 40.6% answered they decided to take measures, 65.2% did not take any measures at all. Out of those who took some measures, 41.3% said they confronted the aggressor, 23.9% asked for help from a person of trust, but only 11.9% reported it.
- Out of those who did not take any measures, 34.1% listed the lack of support from people they trust, and 31% feared being socially excluded.
- Out of those who did not take any measures, 34.1% listed the lack of support from people they trust, and 31% feared being socially excluded. For those who did not react, 48.1% said it caused a lack of self trust in the long term, 35.7% reported feelings of helplessness, 29.5% stated a lack of interest in social involvement and activism, 25.6% said it created a state of confusion for them, and 20.2% admitted feelings of resentment

## Pathways

- Most responders in the survey stated that they are not informed enough about hate speech in the classroom, with 59.9% arguing that school education does not clarify these issues and 23.9% stating that school education does not include the subject at all.
- 83.2% would like to see people being better educated about hate speech, and 58.9% want to see campaigns in the public space that would focus on raising awareness of hate speech, also 52% argued that intergenerational dialogue should be encouraged in order to eliminate hate speech.
- The majority indicated the need for regulation- in legislation, online and offline media –of content. This was in contrast with a minority invoking the “free speech” approach.
- Mistrust in the institutional and state environment.



# “Mainstreaming”

- 68% attribute HS to political positions and the political environment.
- Political attitudes: people shows that they are reluctant to identify with one ideology or another, in our survey 41.5% said they do not identify with an ideology, 28% identified with the left, 2.3% with the extreme left, 5.2% right and 2.4% extreme right.
- In correlation with the negative perception of the state institutional environment
- In correlation with the “re-assemblage” of extremism: online, gaming and digital, the left/right overlap, the “radical” challenges against liberal democracy (family values, nativism, identitarianism, appropriation of languages of “rights”).
- both HS and the complex fluidity of Euroscepticism (in waves and connected to cultural or economic debates) are markers of mainstreaming far-right views and narratives.
- the radical right, which fundamentally changed is the public relationship with democracy. There is a renewed and strong anti-establishment sentiment, that leads to increasingly more people receptive to conspiratorial and far-right ideas.

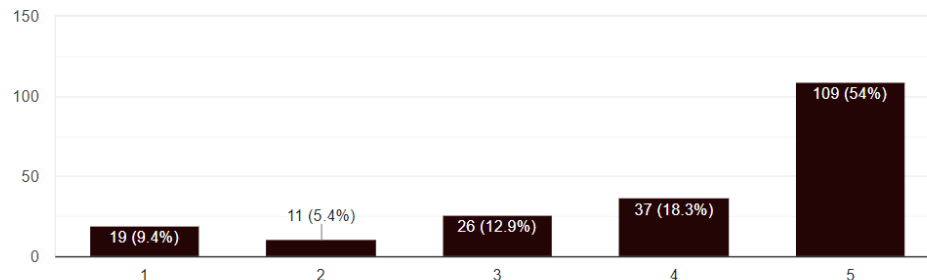
# Key Points on Euroscepticism in Romania

- There is a widespread support for the European project
- Youth perceive the European Union as a check mechanism of national policies
- 23% however answered “yes” when asked whether there are negative effects on state sovereignty

4a. Apartenența la Uniunea Europeană și la cadrele legislative aferente implică o responsabilitate de a limita/preveni manifestări de ură, discriminare a unor grupuri la nivel național?

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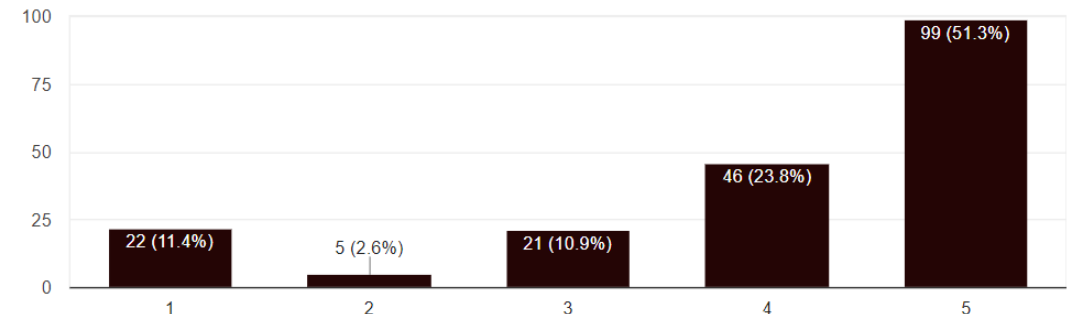
202 responses



4b. Consideri că legislația europeană trebuie să aibă efecte de suplimentare, control sau îmbunătățire a politicilor naționale?

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193 responses



A sizeable minority referred to the common extremist tropes such as the “replacement” theory, radically conservative: family values and European interference, “Neo-Marxism”, nativism, white supremacy, security, corruption

# Conclusions:

- The lack of formal (institutional, educational) approaches to HS is aggravating the issues, especially given the online spread
- Non-formal tools of prevention do not always respond to the political complexities of the drivers of the spread of HS and correlated phenomena (e.g. extremism).
- Mainstreaming is exacerbated by polarization.