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Antigypsyism on the Internet: Widespread, Rarely Addressed

Amaro Drom e.V. publishes the German country report of the EU project TAAO (Together Against Antigypsyism Online) and invites attendees to the final expert event in Oberhausen

Oberhausen/Berlin – Antigypsyist hate speech is widespread on the German internet and goes unpunished in the overwhelming majority of cases. This is the conclusion reached by the German country report of the “Together Against Antigypsyism Online” (TAAO) project. The report is based on the analysis of 526 pieces of online content collected over a twelve-month period by a trained monitoring team.

Amaro Drom e.V. will present the findings on **27 March 2026**, as part of a **conference in Oberhausen**.

The TAAO Project

TAAO – Together Against Antigypsyism Online is a transnational EU project running from March 2024 to February 2026 and co-funded by the “Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values” (CERV-2023-EQUAL) program. Organizations from six EU member states are collaborating: Germany (coordination: Amaro Drom e.V.), Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia, and Romania. The project’s goal is to combat anti-Roma hate speech on the internet. To this end, monitoring, awareness-raising, and advocacy are combined at the national and European levels.

Amaro Drom e.V. is coordinating the project and conducted the monitoring in Germany from October 2024 to October 2025. A team of seven trained young monitors from various cities—including Mainz, Frankfurt, Halle (Saale), Hamburg, and Oberhausen—collected and analyzed content on TikTok, Facebook, X (Twitter), YouTube, and Instagram.

Key findings of the German Country Report

The study, authored by Katharina Schwaiger, shows that antiziganism is not a marginal phenomenon in the digital space. Of the 526 pieces of content analyzed, 63.6% are assessed as negative toward Roma*. An overview of the key findings:

- TikTok (131 cases) and Facebook (124 cases) are the most frequently recorded platforms. They are followed by X/Twitter (95) and YouTube (88). Most posts originate from private accounts.
- The topics of “attributed criminality” and “social aspects” dominate the discourse. Ethnicizing reporting by traditional media often serves as a starting point for escalating comments.

- 68% of the hate speech analyzed is explicit. It includes overt insults, dehumanizing statements, mockery, and direct calls for violence. In half of these cases, the intensity is rated as high or extremely high.
- About 70% of the content is phrased in an emotional manner, such as in the form of opinion, entertainment, or supposed humor. This makes it difficult to identify and classify legally.
- 64% of the posts contain images, videos, or memes. Visual content often has a stronger impact and triggers more intense reactions than text alone.
- The monitoring team reported 276 cases to platforms. In most cases, there were no visible consequences. This confirms the findings of a 2025 study by HateAid, which found that only about half of the reported illegal content is removed.

Voices from the project

“Anti-Gypsyism on the internet is not an isolated digital problem. It reflects and reinforces discrimination in the real world. Our data shows that racist online discourse directly threatens the safety and well-being of Roma and Sinti. We need decisive action at all levels: from platforms, the rule of law, and policymakers.”

– Vahide Berisha, Amaro Drom e.V.

Expert event in Oberhausen – 27 March 2026

The findings of the German country report will be publicly presented and discussed at the expert event “Online Antiziganism in Germany – Findings, Narratives, Options for Action” on March 27, 2026, in Oberhausen (Max-Planck-Ring 66a). Representatives from civil society, politics, and professional practice will come together.

The program includes:

- Welcome and introduction by Vahide Berisha (Amaro Drom e.V.)
- Keynote by Mustafa Jakupov (Reporting and Information Center on Antiziganism, MIA)
- Presentation of the monitoring results by Sejnur Memisi (TAAO Monitoring, Media and Cultural Center of German Roma e.V.)
- Panel discussion with Amella Ajvazi (TAAO Monitoring activist), State Parliament Member Pegah Edalatian (Alliance 90/The Greens), Heike Hansen (Office of Member of the Bundestag Sascha H. Wagner, The Left), and Ismeta Stojkovic (DINA-NRW). Moderator: Elvira Ajvazi

Recommendations for Action

The report sets forth specific recommendations. Online platforms should collaborate more closely with Romani organizations, improve reporting systems, and respond in a more transparent manner. Government agencies and law enforcement must be made more aware of anti-Romani narratives.

At the European level, TAAO calls for the fight against antiziganism to be more firmly anchored in strategies against hate and disinformation. Long-term funding for monitoring structures should also be secured.

About Amaro Drom e.V.

Amaro Drom e.V. is an intercultural youth organization of Roma and non-Roma based in Berlin. The association advocates for the political and social participation of young people. Its focus is on empowerment, mobilization, and self-organization. As a project partner of TAAO, Amaro Drom combines civil society work with research against antiziganism.

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