



Annual Report 2010



Supported by



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Imprint

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PREFACE

Since its foundation in 1998, Stopline has committed itself to combating child pornography and National Socialist Offences on the Internet.

I'm proud to represent the online Hotline here in order to inform you, dear readers, about the activities of Stopline and to present you a review of the year 2010. I was especially impressed by the strongly increasing number of reports in 2010. Stopline received more than 5000 reports, which was much more than in the previous years.

I would also like to take this opportunity to say thank you! Doing this purposefully is becoming more difficult in the anonymous world of the Internet. So I believe that this annual report offers the best way to do that.

My special thanks go to all who have sent a report to Stopline in the past years instead of just looking or "clicking" away in case of illegal contents.

What would Stopline be without its partners: The close national cooperation with the responsible departments of the Federal Police Agency and the Federal Agency for State Protection and Counter Terrorism makes it possible to take successful measures against illegal contents. The close cooperation with the ISPs within the ISPA enables a fast removal of illegal contents in Austria. Additionally, the cooperation with Saferinternet.at and "Rat auf Draht" provides comprehensive information about the safe use of the Internet. Thank you very much for that!

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank the members of the Stopline Advisory Board for their voluntary work over many years. In my opinion, this cooperation has largely contributed to getting the right persons together – executive, ISPs, technicians and jurists – for a common fight against illegal contents on the Internet.

Of course, I also want to thank those without whom Stopline could not exist and work as successfully as it does: The agents in the background, who have the difficult tasks of processing the incoming reports, being constantly confronted with repulsive and mentally stressing pictures.

Finally, I want to thank the financial supporters: the EU with its Safer Internet Programme as well as nic.at, which is the registry for .at-domains.

Dear reader, thank you for your interest in Stopline. I hope you will find the annual report useful and informative. The work of Stopline depends on its recognition and, thus, on those people who send the reports! After all, there is an important common goal: combating child pornography and National Socialist Offences on the Internet!

Dr. Barbara Schloßbauer
Project Manager and Chairwoman of the Stopline Advisory Board



OVERVIEW OF STOPLINE

The report office Stopline is the online contact point for people who come across the following illegal contents on the Internet:

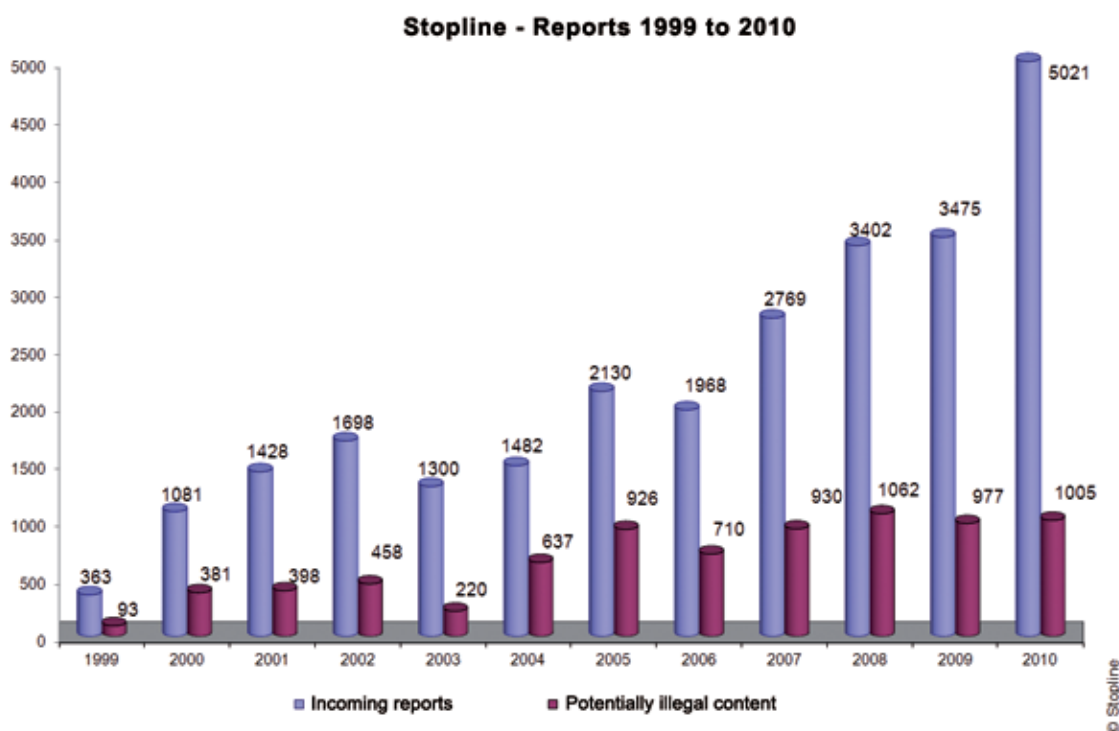
- Child pornography
- National Socialist Offences

Stopline's main task is the removal of these illegal contents from the Internet, especially with regard to publications in Austria.

Stopline was founded in 1998. It is operated as a commitment of the Austrian Internet service providers by the ISPA (see page 15), the association of Internet Service Providers Austria (www.ispa.at). Its foundation dates back to an incident in 1997, when child-pornographic material was found on the server of an Austrian ISP, which was uploaded by a customer.

Since its foundation, Stopline has been authorised and accepted by the public authorities. It closely cooperates with the Federal Ministry of the Interior¹ and with the Internet service providers by means of the ISPA. For a successful international approach, Stopline is also a member of the worldwide hotline network of INHOPE.

Within more than 12 years of its foundation, Stopline has processed more than 21,000 reports. In 2010 there was an enormous increase, with a record of more than 5000 incoming reports. Some 20 percent of incoming reports were actually classified as illegal, whereas the remaining reports were not object to criminal law.



The number of incoming reports has been constantly increasing since the foundation of Stopline.

¹ Bundeskriminalamt – Report Office Child pornography and Bundesamt für Verfassungsschutz und Terrorismusbekämpfung – Report Office National Socialist Offences

THIS IS HOW STOPLINE WORKS

The following section describes Stopline's main field of activity – the processing of reports. It must be noted that the Stopline staff members do not actively search for illegal contents on the Internet. They only deal with online contents that were reported to Stopline by attentive Internet users or partner hotlines within the international network of hotlines (INHOPE, see page 17), respectively.

WHAT CAN BE REPORTED?

Stopline processes reports on

- Child pornography according to §207a of the Austrian penal code
- National Socialist Offences according to the National Socialist prohibition law and others

Please find detailed legal information about these offences on pages 6f.

Reports about other issues that are not directly within Stopline's responsibility are also accepted. However, they are not analysed but forwarded to the responsible authorities.

According to its agreement with the Austrian executive, Stopline processes reports on the following online services:

- WWW – i.e. World Wide Web
- Newsgroups
- E-groups

Reports on file-sharing programs, chat rooms or e-mail will be forwarded to the police anonymously.

HOW CAN A REPORT BE MADE

Details on illegal online contents can be forwarded (also anonymously) to Stopline

- via web form at www.stopline.at
- or by sending an e-mail to report@stopline.at

IMPORTANT:

- ⇒ websites: precise URL;
- ⇒ file-sharing programs: precise specification of author, date, subject and/or search term;
- ⇒ newsgroups: detailed description of the posting, especially name of the newsgroup, news server, author, date and subject of the posting.

BE CAREFUL – Don't send pictures!

It is explicitly recommended not to send any pictures, as this might be an illegal action itself. In order to process the report, Stopline only requires detailed information about the suspicious material.

The screenshot shows the Stopline web form. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links: 'About us', 'Report', 'Partner', 'Service', 'News', and a 'Report a crime' button. Below this, there are tabs for 'Newsgroups', 'File to report', 'E-mail', and 'Report a crime'. The main content area is titled 'Report: World Wide Web'. It contains a text box for 'The URL (web address) of the relevant content must be specified here. In order to avoid typing errors, it is advisable to copy it from the address field in the upper area of the browser as it is. Internet Explorer, Mozilla, Firefox, all have a function that copies the address to the clipboard, please specify it in order to make a further processing possible.' Below this, there is a note: 'NOTE: Please do not submit any graphical materials, screenshots or saved HTML files.' There is a section for 'Please fill out all fields marked with (*). They help us to answer your query as soon as possible.' This section includes 'Nature of suspect content' with radio buttons for 'Child Pornography', 'National Socialist Offence', and 'Other'. It also has a 'Source(s) / URL(s) *' field with a sub-note: 'eg. Video: channel-name/program-name/episode-number. Please provide complete URL, by host name (URL)'. There is a 'Short Description / Comment' text box and an 'e-mail address (if desired)' field with a note: 'Please use a valid e-mail address if you wish to receive a response.' At the bottom, there is a 'Submit' button and a footer with logos for 'STOPLINE', 'INHOPE', 'ISPA', 'NIC', 'Eurojust', and 'JCF-Net - Europe'.

INCOMING REPORTS

Stopline receives about 350 reports per month on child pornography, National Socialist Offences and other contents, which are processed by an agent within one working day. The majority of reports (65 percent) are classified by the sender of the report as "child pornography".

PROCESSING OF REPORTS

A successful finding of the content depends on the quality of the report. The more precise the description, the faster and more efficiently the report can be investigated.



ILLEGAL CONTENTS

Subsequently, the Stopline agents judge whether the reported content is actually illegal according to the criteria of the Austrian law. In case of illegal material, the Stopline traces the so-called host provider, i.e. the ISP or server via which the illegal content is actually published on the web.

ILLEGAL CONTENTS IN AUSTRIA

If the content is published via an Austrian Internet service provider (ISP), the following measures are taken immediately:

Information to the executive: preservation of evidence

Stopline immediately contacts the Austrian executive, informing them about the illegal content in order to enable the preservation of evidence.

Information to the ISP: removal of contents

In order to actually delete the illegal contents, Stopline contacts the ISP and asks them to technically remove the contents from the Internet, so they are no longer available to Internet users.

Stopline does not delete or censor presumably illegal contents, they just advise the ISPs about which steps should be taken. It is the decision of the ISP how they will react to this information. However, Austrian ISPs are definitely aware of their responsibility, which means that illegal contents are immediately removed from the web.

IMPORTANT:

In 2010, no illegal contents were reported to Stopline which were hosted in Austria.

ILLEGAL CONTENT INTERNATIONALLY

If the illegal material is hosted on a foreign server, the following steps are taken:

Information to the executive

Again, the local authorities are informed.

Information to INHOPE partner hotline

At the same time, Stopline forwards the information to foreign INHOPE partner hotlines (see page 17) as long as such a hotline exists in the respective country. In turn, the partner hotline takes the proper measures and informs the relevant authority and ISP in this country.

This procedure minimizes the bureaucratic effort between national executive organs, and experienced local hotlines can use their good contacts to remove the illegal content from the Internet as quickly as possible.

WHAT IS CHILD PORNOGRAPHY?

Not everything that looks like child pornography at first glance can actually be regarded as a criminal offence. With regard to the activities of the Stopline, child pornography is usually defined by pictures showing minors involved in sexual intercourse. Persons under the age of 18 are minors, while persons under the age of 14 are also politically immature. Pornographic material is usually presented in the form of photographs or videos and the like.

Child pornography:

- ⇒ Minor, i.e. under the age of 18?
- ⇒ Sexual acts?
- ⇒ Focus on genitals?

Other illustrations like drawings, paintings, comics or montages are grey areas. In these cases it is not instantly possible to verify the authenticity of the picture. The decisive factor is that the beholder must have the impression that a sexual intercourse with minors actually takes place. Texts describing the sexual intercourse with children are not criminal in terms of child pornography but possibly with regard to other legal regulations.

According to § 207a StGB (Austrian Penal Code), child pornography is defined by sexual intercourse with or by focusing on the genitals of minors. Thus, neutral photos of nudist beaches, for instance, are not subject to child pornography.

If a picture is subject to child pornography, any activity in connection with this is illegal: i.e. wilful access to such material on the Internet, producing, offering, acquiring, providing, showing, possessing or other kinds of sharing child pornography, also import, transport and export.

It must also be pointed out that this graphical material represents elements of an offence that are liable to prosecution only by the police and by the public prosecutor's office. Thus, it must be implicitly advised against selective Internet investigations by users. Even if the user's intentions are good, like making a report to Stopline, they might incur a penalty.

IN AUSTRIA THE OFFENCE OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY IS DEFINED IN § 207A OF THE PENAL CODE (STGB).

Wording of the law only available in German:

§ 207a StGB - Pornografische Darstellungen Minderjähriger

(1) Wer eine pornografische Darstellung einer minderjährigen Person (Abs. 4)

1. herstellt oder
 2. einem anderen anbietet, verschafft, überlässt, vorführt oder sonst zugänglich macht,
- ist mit Freiheitsstrafe bis zu drei Jahren zu bestrafen.

(2) Mit Freiheitsstrafe von sechs Monaten bis zu fünf Jahren ist zu bestrafen, wer eine pornografische Darstellung einer minderjährigen Person (Abs. 4) zum Zweck der Verbreitung herstellt, einführt, befördert oder ausführt oder eine Tat nach Abs. 1 gewerbsmäßig begeht. Mit Freiheitsstrafe von einem bis zu zehn Jahren ist zu bestrafen, wer die Tat als Mitglied einer kriminellen Vereinigung oder so begeht, dass sie einen besonders schweren Nachteil der minderjährigen Person zur Folge hat; ebenso ist zu bestrafen, wer eine pornografische Darstellung einer minderjährigen Person (Abs. 4) unter Anwendung schwerer Gewalt herstellt oder bei der Herstellung das Leben der dargestellten minderjährigen Person vorsätzlich oder grob fahrlässig gefährdet.

3) Wer sich eine pornografische Darstellung einer mündigen minderjährigen Person (Abs. 4 Z 3 und 4) verschafft oder eine solche besitzt, ist mit Freiheitsstrafe bis zu einem Jahr zu bestrafen. Mit Freiheitsstrafe bis zu zwei Jahren ist zu bestrafen, wer sich eine pornografische Darstellung einer unmündigen Person (Abs. 4) verschafft oder eine solche besitzt.

(3a) Nach Abs. 3 wird auch bestraft, wer im Internet wissentlich auf eine pornografische Darstellung Minderjähriger zugreift.

(4) Pornografische Darstellungen Minderjähriger sind

1. wirklichkeitsnahe Abbildungen einer geschlechtlichen Handlung an einer unmündigen Person oder einer unmündigen Person an sich selbst, an einer anderen Person oder mit einem Tier,
2. wirklichkeitsnahe Abbildungen eines Geschehens mit einer unmündigen Person, dessen Betrachtung nach den Umständen den Eindruck vermittelt, dass es sich dabei um eine geschlechtliche Handlung an der unmündigen Person oder der unmündigen Person an sich selbst, an einer anderen Person oder mit einem Tier handelt,
3. wirklichkeitsnahe Abbildungen
 - a) einer geschlechtlichen Handlung im Sinne der Z 1 oder eines Geschehens im Sinne der Z 2, jedoch mit mündigen Minderjährigen, oder
 - b) der Genitalien oder der Schamgegend Minderjähriger, soweit es sich um reißerisch verzerrte, auf sich selbst reduzierte und von anderen Lebensäußerungen losgelöste Abbildungen handelt, die der sexuellen Erregung des Betrachters dienen;
4. bildliche Darstellungen, deren Betrachtung - zufolge Veränderung einer Abbildung oder ohne Verwendung einer solchen - nach den Umständen den Eindruck vermittelt, es handle sich um eine Abbildung nach den Z 1 bis 3.

(5) Nach Abs. 1 Z 1 und Abs. 3 ist nicht zu bestrafen, wer 1. eine pornografische Darstellung einer mündigen minderjährigen Person mit deren Einwilligung und zu deren eigenem Gebrauch herstellt oder besitzt oder 2. eine pornografische Darstellung einer unmündigen minderjährigen Person nach Abs. 4 Z 4 zu seinem eigenen Gebrauch herstellt oder besitzt, sofern mit der Tat keine Gefahr der Verbreitung der Darstellung verbunden ist.

WHAT IS NATIONAL SOCIALIST OFFENCES?

In Austria, the denial of Nazi crimes as well as the dissemination and glorification of National Socialist ideologies are a punishable offence. Regarding the fight against National Socialist offences, the legal regulations below are applied.

Both regulations clearly point out that dealing with the ideologies of an illegal organisation in an objective, critical or historical way is legal, but not the approval of its ideas.

NATIONAL SOCIALIST OFFENCES:

- ⇒ Glorification of Nazi ideology
- ⇒ Forbidden insignia/uniforms
- ⇒ Denial of Nazi crimes

Problem: Different international legislation

In contrast to the Austrian legal situation, other countries, like Great Britain or the USA, protect such activities to a certain extent by applying the right of freedom of opinion and speech. Thus, it is quite difficult to remove websites that are hosted in one of these countries.

Regarding the fight against national socialist offences, the following legal regulations are applied in Austria - Wording of the law only available in German:

VERBOTSGESETZ

(Verfassungsgesetz vom 8.5.1945 über das Verbot der NSDAP)

§1 Die NSDAP, ihre Wehrverbände (SS, SA, NSKK, NSFK), ihre Gliederungen und angeschlossenen Verbände sowie alle nationalsozialistischen Organisationen und Einrichtungen überhaupt sind aufgelöst; ihre Neubildung ist verboten. ...

§3 Es ist jedermann untersagt, sich, sei es auch außerhalb dieser Organisationen, für die NSDAP oder ihre Ziele irgendwie zu betätigen.

§3a Einer gerichtlich strafbaren Handlung macht sich schuldig und wird mit Freiheitsstrafe von zehn bis zu zwanzig Jahren, bei besonderer Gefährlichkeit des Täters oder der Bestätigung auch mit lebenslanger Freiheitsstrafe bestraft

1. wer versucht, eine gesetzlich aufgelöste nationalsozialistische Organisation aufrechtzuerhalten oder wiederherzustellen oder mit einer solchen Organisation oder einer in ihrem Namen handelnden Person in Verbindung zu treten; als nationalsozialistisch Organisationen (§1) gelten: die NSDAP, die SS, die SA, das NSKK; das NSFK, der NS-Soldatenring, der NS-Offiziersbund, alle sonstigen Gliederungen der NSDAP und die ihr angeschlossenen Verbände, sowie jede andere nationalsozialistische Organisation.

2. wer eine Verbindung gründet, deren Zweck es ist, durch Betätigung ihrer Mitglieder im nationalsozialistischen Sinn die Selbständigkeit und Unabhängigkeit der Republik Österreich zu untergraben oder die öffentliche Ruhe und den Wiederaufbau Österreichs zu stören, oder wer sich in einer Verbindung dieser Art führend betätigt.

3. wer den Ausbau einer der in der Z 1 und der Z 2 bezeichneten Organisation und Verbindung durch Anwerbung von Mitgliedern, Bereitstellung von Geldmitteln oder in ähnlicher Weise fördert, die Mitglieder einer solchen Organisation oder Verbindung mit Kampfmitteln, Verkehrsmitteln oder Einrichtungen der Nachrichtenübermittlung ausrustet oder in ähnlicher Weise die Tätigkeit einer solchen Organisation oder Verbindung ermöglicht oder unterstützt.

4. wer für eine solche Organisation oder Verbindung Kampfmittel, Verkehrsmittel oder Einrichtungen zur Nachrichtenübermittlung herstellt, sich verschafft oder bereithält.

§3d Wer öffentlich oder vor mehreren Leuten, in Druckwerken, verbreiteten Schriften oder bildlichen Darstellungen zu einer der nach §1 oder §3 verbotenen Handlung auffordert, aneifert oder zu verleiten sucht, insbesondere zu diesem Zweck die Ziele der NSDAP, ihre Einrichtungen oder Maßnahmen verherrlicht oder anpreist, wird ... bestraft.

§3g Wer sich auf andere als die in den §§ 3a bis 3f bezeichnete Weise im nationalsozialistischen Sinne betätigt, wird sofern die Tat nicht nach einer anderen Bestimmung strenger strafbar ist, mit Freiheitsstrafe von einem bis zehn Jahren, bei besonderer Gefährlichkeit des Täters oder Betätigung bis zu 20 Jahren bestraft.

§3h ...wird auch bestraft, wer in einem Druckwerk, im Rundfunk oder in einem anderen Medium oder sonst öffentlich auf eine Weise, dass es vielen Menschen zugänglich ist, den nationalsozialistischen Völkermord oder andere NS-Verbrechen gegen die Menschlichkeit leugnet, gröblich verharmlost, gutheißt oder zu rechtfertigen sucht.

ABZEICHENGESETZ

(Bundesgesetz vom 5.4.1960, mit dem bestimmte Abzeichen verboten werden)

§1 (1) Abzeichen, Uniformen oder Uniformteile einer in Österreich verbotenen Organisation dürfen öffentlich weder getragen noch zur Schau gestellt, dargestellt oder verbreitet werden. Als Abzeichen sind auch Embleme, Symbole und Kennzeichen anzusehen.

§2 (1) Die Verbote des §1 finden, wenn nicht das Ideengut einer verbotenen Organisation gutgeheißen oder propagiert wird, keine Anwendung auf Druckwerke, bildliche Darstellungen, Aufführungen von Bühnen- und Filmwerken sowie Ausstellungen, bei denen Ausstellungsstücke, die unter §1 fallen, keine wesentlichen Bestandteile der Ausstellung darstellen. (2) Auf sonstige Ausstellungen finden die Verbote des §1 dann keine Anwendung, wenn sich die Ausstellung und deren Zweckbestimmung eindeutig gegen das Ideengut der betreffenden verbotenen Organisation richtet.

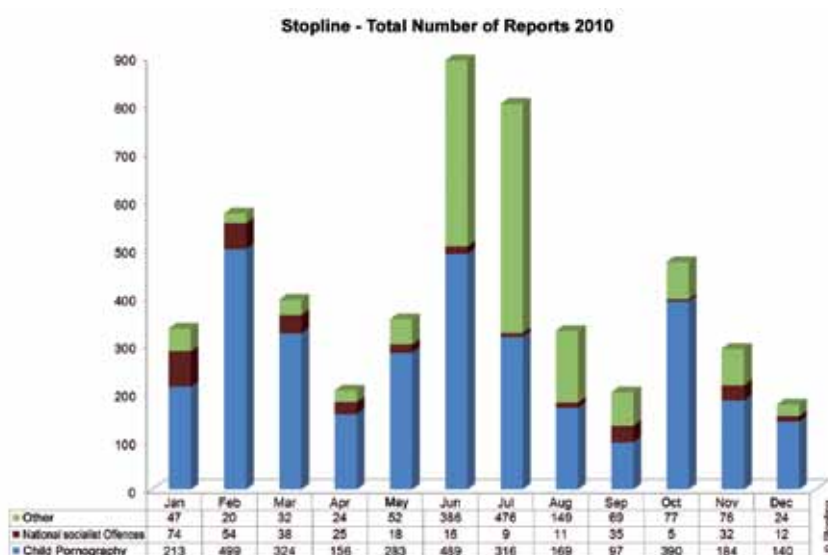
THE YEAR 2010 IN NUMBERS

2010 VERY SUCCESSFUL

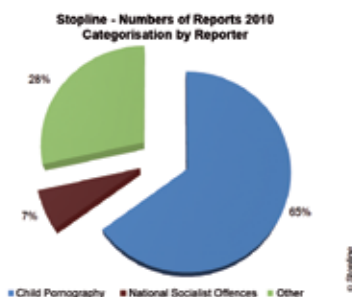
The year 2010 was a very successful one for Stopline. More than 5000 reports were received, which was a significant increase compared to the previous years. 948 were actually illegal in terms of child pornography, and 57 were classified as National Socialist Offences.

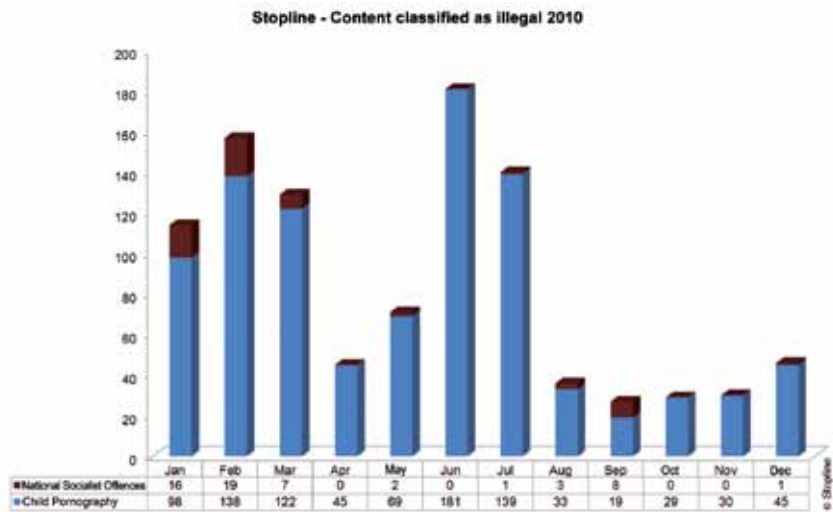
In 2010, about 90 percent of all contents that were defined as illegal were forwarded to an INHOPE partner hotline. At the moment there are 39 report offices in 34 countries. The most common countries of origin of the reported illegal contents were the USA, Russia, the Netherlands and Germany.

Only 10 percent of the contents classified as illegal by Stopline were hosted in countries without a partner hotline. In these cases the Federal Police Agency and the Federal Agency for State Protection and Counter Terrorism take the relevant steps in an international cooperation with Interpol.

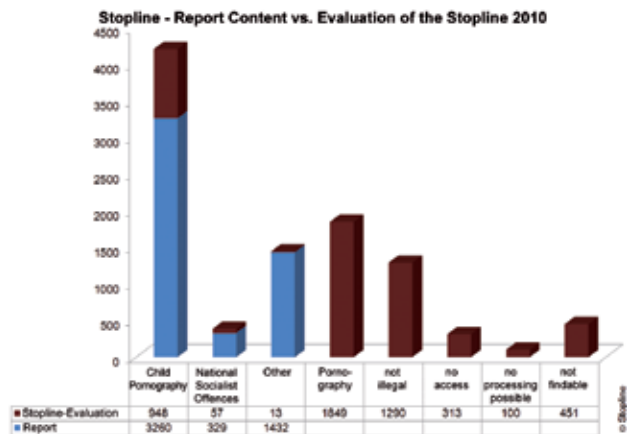
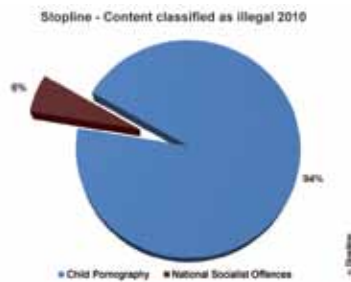


A major part of reports was classified by the users as child pornography (65 percent), about 7 percent were classified as National Socialist Offences, and about 28 percent of reports included other topics.

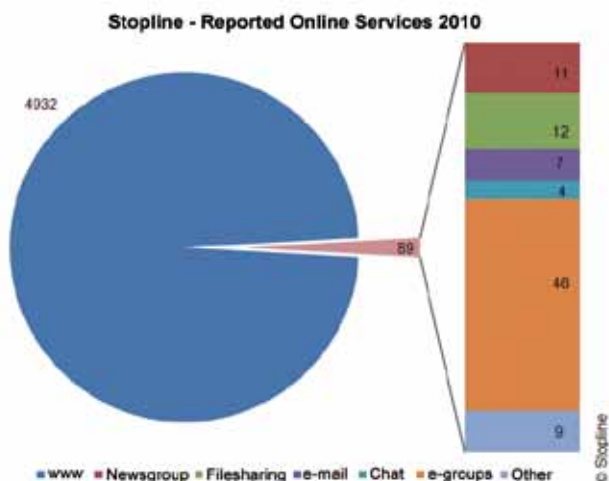




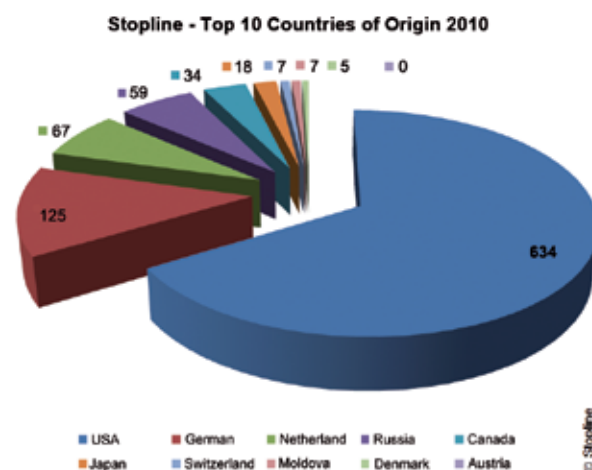
In 2010, the Stopline agents actually found illegal contents in almost 20 percent of all cases. This is a clear decline compared to the years 2008 (32 percent) and 2009 (28 percent), which is mostly due to the increased number of reports.



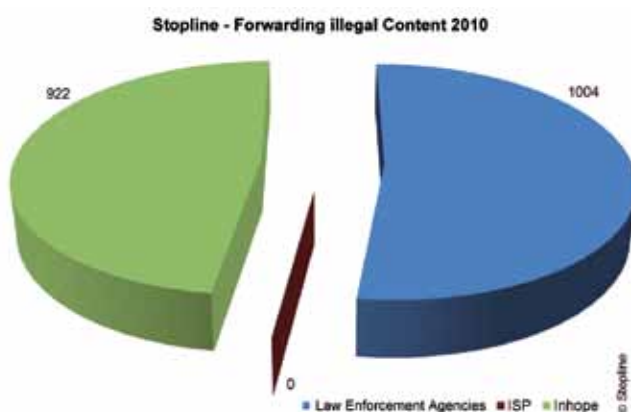
In 2010, about 20 percent of all reports actually referred to child pornography or National Socialist Offences. The remaining 80 percent turned out to be “legal pornography” (i.e. all persons were clearly of age), “not illegal” (i.e. the pictures did not violate any law), “not traceable”, “no processing possible” and “other”, which include topics that are definitely not within the Stopline’s responsibility.



Websites of the World Wide Web were the most common subject in the users' reports to Stopline in 2010. The number of reported newsgroups, file-sharing programs and e-groups is strongly decreasing.



In 2010, no illegal contents were reported to the Stopline that were hosted in Austria. Also in 2010, the presumable countries of origin of the possibly illegal contents reported to the Stopline were mostly the USA, followed by Germany, the Netherlands and Russia. However, supposedly illegal contents can also be found on host-servers located in countries like Canada, Japan, Switzerland and Moldavia.



There were 1005 reports about supposedly illegal contents in 2010 that Stopline actually forwarded to the Federal Police Agency and the Federal Agency for State Protection, respectively. In order to combat these illegal contents efficiently, 922 of these reports were also forwarded to responsible foreign INHOPE partner hotlines. As no illegal contents were found in Austria, the Stopline didn't contact any local ISPs.

THE MOST IMPORTANT NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

Reports received by Stopline in 2010 / of which classified as illegal – by content:

	number	of which classified as illegal
Child pornography	3260	948
National Socialist Offences	329	57
Others	1432	0
Total number of reports received	5021	1005

Reports received by Stopline in 2010 / of which classified as illegal – by online services:

	number	of which classified as illegal
World Wide Web	4932	988
Filesharing programs	12	4
Newsgroups	11	1
Others	66	12
Total number of incoming reports	5021	1005

Five most important countries of origin in 2010:

USA	634
Germany	125
Netherlands	67
Russia	59
Canada	34
Austria	0
Others	86

REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2010

DISCUSSION:

DELETING OR BLOCKING ILLEGAL CONTENTS?

There was a discussion going on in Austria and numerous other European countries about the question whether the aim of combating child-pornographic contents should be the actual removal of the illegal websites or whether so-called blocking lists should be created instead. These lists make it difficult for the user to access illegal contents. One way to realise such an access restriction is that the Internet user who is trying to enter a blocked URL in his browser will be forwarded to the website of the police, where they get informed that the target website is illegal (see draft of the German Federal Criminal Police Office below – this method hasn't been implemented yet).

DRAFT OF AN EU DIRECTIVE

This problem area was also brought into discussion by implementing the EU directive "Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and European Council on combating the sexual abuse, sexual exploitation of children and child pornography, repealing Framework Decision 2004/68/JI" (KOM/2010/0094 - COD 2010/0064) in article 21. A final decision is still to be made.

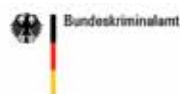
In some countries such blocking lists have already been implemented, either as a form of voluntary cooperation of the ISPs with the executive (e.g. in Scandinavia, Poland) or with the national hotline (e.g. Great Britain), or due to laws (e.g. Italy; in Germany such a law exists but is not applied).

PRO AND CON

Supporters of blocking lists see an opportunity to quickly take action against internationally published illegal contents on the Internet without having to rely on the cooperation with foreign ISPs or the like. The main problem of blocking contents is that the actual contents of illegal websites are not affected and basically remain accessible. Critics also point out that such blocks can easily be bypassed, that the actual problem, which is showing the sexual abuse of children, is not solved, and, moreover, such blocks create an environment of censorship, which might also be used elsewhere in the future, like for copyright infringements.

AUSTRIAN INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS

Austrian Internet service providers explicitly prefer the removal of illegal contents. This also represents the experience of the Stopleveline that Austrian ISPs immediately react to the information, i.e. child pornography is hosted on one of their servers, by removing the contents.



QUELLE:
http://de.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Datei:Kinder_vlopp.png&filetimestamp=20090418174246



Sketch of the planned "redirection website" of the German executive against child pornography on the Internet. Only available in german.

STOPLINE-WEBSITE

In 2010 Stopline globally revised its website and published it in October.



www.stopline.at

DATABASE

For a more efficient processing of reports, Stopline implemented a new internal database in the course of the year 2010, which significantly eases the everyday processing of reports.



FOLDER

The Stopline folder provides the interested Internet user with an overview of the activities of Stopline. The folder can be requested or downloaded as a pdf-file from the www.stopline.at website.

SAFERINTERNET DAY 2010

On 9 February 2010, the 7th European Safer Internet Day took place. It is the annual highlight of the activities of the national information and coordination centers for a safe use of the Internet and the Safer Internet Network of the EU. "Think before you post" was the motto of the thematic focus, namely the protection of privacy on the Internet.

Further information: www.saferinternet.at/sid2010/



STOPLINE 2010 IN THE MEDIA

In 2010, Stopline was again mentioned in the press. Here are a few examples:



Sources:

www.ispa.at, 9.7.2010
futurezone.ORF.at, 17.5.2010
APA - www.ots.at, 9.7.2010
ORF.at, 9.7.2010
futurezone.ORF.at, 16.5.2010

Die Gemeinde, March 2010
krone.at, 9.7.2010
diepresse.com, 9.7.2010
Salzburger Nachrichten, 30.10.2010

THE STRUCTURE OF THE STOPLINE

ISPA – CARRIER OF THE STOPLINE

The ISPA – Internet Service Providers Austria – is the umbrella organisation of the Austrian Internet economy and represents their interests in national and international matters. It was founded as a registered association in the year 1997 and currently has about 200 members from business areas like access, service, hosting, and content providing.



The ISPA regards itself as a lobby group and mouthpiece of the Austrian Internet industry towards the government, public authorities and other institutions, and it promotes the communication of the market participants among themselves. Its intention is to create the optimum economical and legal conditions for the development of the Internet.

Furthermore, since 1998 the ISPA has committed itself to the fight against child pornography and National Socialist Offences on the Internet by founding the Stopline within a work group, which is still represented by the Stopline Advisory Board, and by stipulating the ISPA Code of Conduct.

www.ispa.at

THE STOPLINE ADVISORY BOARD

The Stopline Advisory Board is a communication platform for experts from the economy, Internet industry and public authorities. Experts like lawyers, university professors and IT security experts contribute additional know-how. The Stopline Advisory Board promotes the co-operation between different organisations in their fight against illegal contents on the Internet and the exchange of knowledge, thus ensuring the best possible mutual support.



MEMBERS OF THE STOPLINE ADVISORY BOARD 2010:

- Peter Rastl - ZID University of Vienna / Aconet
- Andreas Wildberger - ISPA Secretary General
- Romana Cravos - ISPA
- Wolfgang Schwabl - A1 Telekom Austria AG
- Ewald Ebner - Federal Office of Criminal Investigation
- Sibylle Geißler - Federal Agency for State Protection and Counter Terrorism
- Gabriele Schmölzer - University of Graz
- Michael Pilz - Lawyer
- Christian Reiser - Security expert
- Richard Wein – CEO of nic.at
- Thomas Grünewald - Senior Prosecutor, Federal Ministry of Justice
- Harald Gremel - Federal Office of Criminal Investigation
- Bernhard Jungwirth - Saferinternet.at
- Barbara Schloßbauer - nic.at jurist, Chairwoman of the Stopline Advisory Board

STOPLINE – NATIONAL COOPERATION

Stopleveline's success is also due to its competent and reliable partners, who come together at regular meetings in order to exchange information and opinions.

THE AUSTRIAN EXECUTIVE

Stopleveline has been cooperating for many years with the responsible departments of the Austrian executive in the Ministry of the Interior.

Hotline for child pornography on the Internet – Federal Office of Criminal Investigation

The Federal Office of Criminal Investigation operates the police Hotline for child pornography and child sex tourism. Stopleveline and the executive closely cooperate and use their regular meetings to exchange experience and information in their fight against illegal contents on the Internet.



Hotline for National Socialist Offences – Federal Agency for State Protection and Counter Terrorism

This Hotline of the executive is located at the Federal Agency for State Protection and Counter Terrorism. Regular meetings in this subject area allow for a successful cooperation and a continued exchange of experience.



www.bmi.gv.at/meldestellen

SAFER INTERNET CENTER AUSTRIA

In order to raise awareness about the dangers of the Internet, Stopleveline also forms a successful cooperative team with



Saferinternet.at: the national information and coordination center for a safe Internet use especially supports children, youths, parents and teachers in using the Internet safely.

www.saferinternet.at



Rat auf Draht: the successful phone support of the ORF (Austrian broadcasting station) and the emergency number for children, youths and their parent persons is available 24/7 in Austria via the abbreviated toll-free number "147".

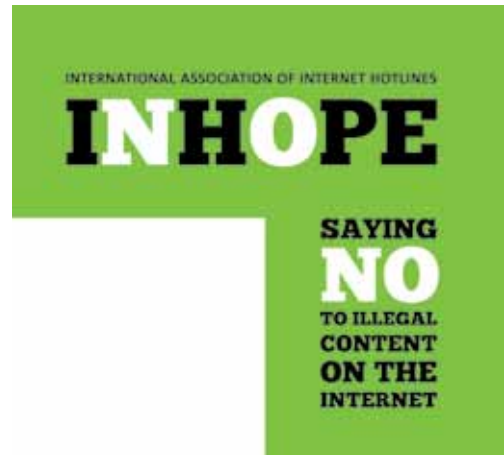
www.rataufdraht.at

STOPLINE – INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

STOPLINE – MEMBER OF INHOPE

INHOPE (International Association of Internet Hotlines) is the worldwide union of Internet hotlines within Europe but also in the USA, Canada, Australia, Japan, South Korea, South Africa and Taiwan. By the end of 2010, INHOPE consisted of 39 member report offices in 34 countries. Stopline is one of the founding members of INHOPE and has taken an active role in its development ever since.

The common goal of the INHOPE members is to ban child pornography from the Internet as fast and efficiently as possible and to protect young people from harmful and illegal use of the Internet.



The regular INHOPE meetings particularly serve the comprehensive exchange of information for the daily operation of the hotline. One of the most significant aspects is the cross-national investigation of illegal contents. In doing so, the relevant hotlines try to localise the supposedly illegal content and forward this information to the proper hotline in that country. This hotline, in turn, has shorter and less bureaucratic contacts to the local authorities, which can initiate their proceedings immediately. This way it is possible to investigate reports, especially about child pornographic contents, that are hosted on foreign servers in a fast, efficient and successful way.

From about 1000 reports in the year 2010 that actually concerned illegal contents, Stopline has forwarded more 900 reports to partner hotlines.

In 2010, about 24,000 reports were exchanged within a shared database of the INHOPE network. Detailed numbers and reports on the events of the year 2010 can be found in the current annual report of INHOPE.

www.inhope.org

STOPLINE – FINANCIAL SUPPORT

EU - SAFER INTERNET PROGRAMME

With this programme the EU greatly contributes to the fight against illegal and harmful contents on the Internet and, thus, enables the funding of activities for a common approach within the European Union.

The basic aim of the project is the promotion of a safe use of the Internet and new online technologies, as well as the fight against illegal and unwanted Internet contents. Apart from the hotlines, this programme also concentrates on the information and training of parents, educators and children. The international cooperation is a vital part of all its fields of activity.

Stopline is also financially supported by this EU programme.

http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/sip/index_en.htm



This project is funded under the Safer Internet plus programme, a multiannual Community Programme on promoting safer use of the Internet and new online technologies.

<http://ec.europa.eu/saferinternet>

NIC.AT INTERNET VERWALTUNGS- UND BETRIEBSGESELLSCHAFT M.B.H.

nic.at, the registry for domains below .at, has given financial support to Stopline for many years now. As the safe use of the Internet is of great concern to them, nic.at also conducts the Austrian CERT, the Computer Emergency Response Team.



www.nic.at

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

DOES STOPLINE GIVE FEEDBACK TO A REPORT?

Upon agreement with the Austrian executive, Stopline does not inform the sender of a report whether illegal contents were actually found. General statements are problematic, as Internet contents may change within a short time. Therefore, Stopline could run the risk of classifying contents as “not illegal” that turn out to become illegal contents later.

Moreover, Stopline is not informed about further measures of the police, which means that no information can be given about further actions against illegal websites that are hosted abroad.

WHY IS INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IMPORTANT?

Due to the boundlessness of the WWW and other online services, only an international cooperation can guarantee the most efficient approach against illegal contents. Therefore, Stopline has been actively taking part in the international network of Internet hotlines INHOPE (see page 17) for many years and is also a founding member of this organisation.

HOW MANY WEBSITES ARE REMOVED BY THE ISP AFTER A REPORT TO STOPLINE?

All websites reported to Stopline that contain child pornography or National Socialist Offences and are actually hosted in Austria are removed. If such websites are hosted abroad, Stopline immediately informs the partner hotline in the respective countries as well as the Austrian executive in order to take the proper measures.

HOW MANY PERSONS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED BECAUSE OF THE ACTIVITIES OF STOPLINE?

The activities of Stopline only target the publication of child pornographic and National Socialist contents on the Internet. Tracking down the producers or consumers of such contents exclusively lies within the responsibility of the law enforcement authorities.

WHY DO REMOVED WEBSITES OFTEN APPEAR ONLINE AGAIN WITHIN A SHORT TIME?

An ISP who was informed by Stopline can only disable access to the contents of a certain address. However, in many cases the same contents are made available again by the actual operators at a new address.

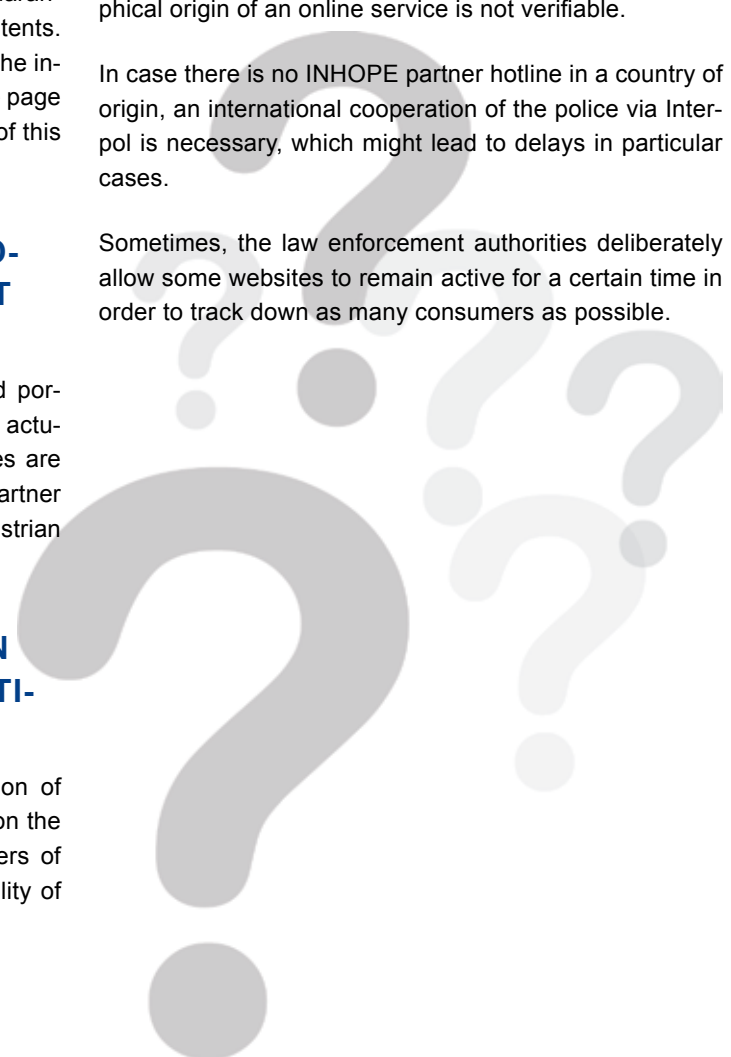
WHY AREN'T ALL WEBSITES DELETED IMMEDIATELY AFTER A REPORT TO A HOTLINE?

Unfortunately, in some cases it is not possible to access contents that are hosted abroad, for example because the offences are not liable to prosecution in this particular country. This is often the case with National Socialist Offences and, sometimes, with child pornography too.

In certain circumstances the technical and, thus, geographical origin of an online service is not verifiable.

In case there is no INHOPE partner hotline in a country of origin, an international cooperation of the police via Interpol is necessary, which might lead to delays in particular cases.

Sometimes, the law enforcement authorities deliberately allow some websites to remain active for a certain time in order to track down as many consumers as possible.



DON'T LOOK AWAY!

Child pornography is not a trivial offence –
it shows the actual sexual abuse of a child!

The glorification of the Nazi era or the use
of forbidden insignia is liable to prosecution!



SET AN EXAMPLE!

- ⇒ Report online contents if you feel that they may violate the law.
- ⇒ Put a link on your website to www.stopleveline.at.
- ⇒ Order the Stopleveline brochure for free.
- ⇒ Publish the Stopleveline logo.

YOUR SUPPORT IS IMPORTANT!



www.stopline.at
office@stopline.at

For further questions and suggestions we will gladly be at your disposal: office@stopline.at



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the European
Union