

[www.stopline.at](http://www.stopline.at)



## Annual Report 2012



Supported by:



[www.stopline.at](http://www.stopline.at)



**Place the Stopline logo on  
your website!**



[www.stopline.at/logo](http://www.stopline.at/logo)

## Content

Preface .....	3
Stopline at a glance .....	4
How Stopline Works.....	5
The year 2012 in numbers .....	8
2012 - The most important figures at a glance.....	11
Media coverage of Stopline in 2012.....	12
Stopline's public face in 2012.....	13
ISPA - the operator of Stopline.....	14
Stopline's advisory board .....	15
Safer Internet Centre Austria .....	16
Cooperation with the Austrian police.....	17
INHOPE .....	18
Frequently asked questions .....	20
Austrian laws .....	22
Our sponsors .....	23

## Sprechen Sie Deutsch?

Detaillierte Information über die Stopline, österreichische Meldestelle gegen Kinderpornografie und Nationalsozialismus im Internet, finden Sie hier:

[www.stopline.at](http://www.stopline.at)



## Legal information:

**Editor:** Stopline c/o ISPA  
Internet Service Provider Austria  
1090 Wien, Währingerstraße 3/18  
**e-mail:** [office@stopline.at](mailto:office@stopline.at)  
**Web:** [www.stopline.at](http://www.stopline.at)

**Place of publication:** Wien 2013  
**Layout:** POLAKandFRIENDS, Stopline  
**Images & graphics:** Stopline, ISPA, Privat, Shutterstock, POLAKandFRIENDS, INHOPE  
**Translation:** Mag. Lea Rennert

## Preface

Dear friends, readers and supporters of Stopline,

New design, same goal: The removal of illegal content from the Internet has been Stopline's mission since 1998. In other words, for almost 15 years, we have been fighting against child pornography and national socialist content on the Internet. It is time to update Stopline's appearance to introduce a new, fresh look in green - demonstrating that we don't only fight AGAINST illegal online content, but first and foremost FOR something: for an Internet that can be used without concern or danger and that serves as a positive space for learning, playing, working and communicating for all age groups and all types of users.

### For a safe Internet

Stopline's new design shall also serve as an appeal to the public: Help us make Stopline even more visible! The bigger Stopline's presence on the Internet and in the media, the more likely users are to report illegal content, and thereby contribute to its removal. It's easy: Just link from your website to [www.stopline.at](http://www.stopline.at) or publish Stopline's logo. And most of all, don't look away if you believe that online content may be violating the law. Your report may be the one that prevents future crimes.

### In 2012, again, there was almost no illegal content in Austria.

Since Stopline's inception, we have followed up on more than 32,000 reports of illegal material; in the year 2012, there were about 2,600 cases. In 2012, there were only two instances in which the illegal material was located on an Austrian server. All other reports referred to content that was hosted abroad. No matter if in Austria or abroad - Stopline's success is mainly due to the excellent, quick and unbureaucratic cooperation that we would like to showcase on the following pages.

### This year, Stopline would again like to take this opportunity to say thank you!

Stopline wouldn't be able to function without numerous attentive users: By reporting illegal content, they demonstrate their social responsibility and help to make the Internet a bit safer. Credit is due to our sponsors as well - the EU, with its Safer Internet Programme, and nic.at, the registry for .at-domains. We would also like to thank the Austrian Internet service providers (ISPs) for their cooperation when it comes to the prompt removal of illegal content - even if that content often stubbornly reappears elsewhere. With that in mind, our efforts will continue in the year 2013.

Dr. Barbara Schloßbauer

Project Manager and Chairwoman of the Stopline Advisory Board



## Stopline at a glance

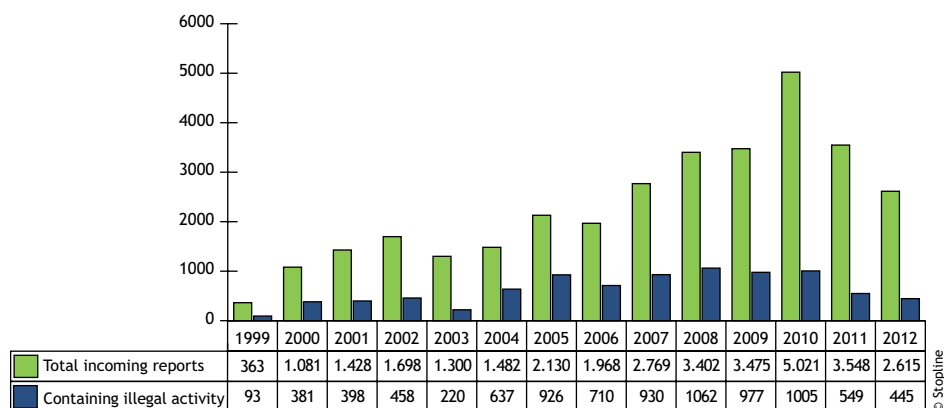
Stopline is the online contact point for people who come across child pornography or National Socialist content on the Internet. Stopline's main goal is to remove such illegal content from the Internet, especially online publications from Austria.

Stopline was founded in 1998 as a result of a voluntary agreement between the Austrian Internet service providers (ISPs). The industry was eager to take a stand after child pornography had been found on the server of an Austrian ISP, published by one of its customers.

Stopline is operated by the ISPA, the Austrian Association of Internet Service Providers, and has been authorized and recognized by public authorities since its inception. It cooperates closely with the hotlines of the Federal Ministry of the Interior and with Austrian Internet service providers. In order to successfully combat illegal content on the Internet worldwide, Stopline is part of the International Association of Internet Hotlines (INHOPE).

In the more than 14 years since its inception, Stopline has processed more than 32,000 reports. Almost 30% of those reports concerned material that was in fact illegal and most of which was hosted on servers abroad. Not least because of Stopline's efficiency and the prompt responses of Austrian Internet providers, Austria is not an attractive location from which to distribute illegal material.

## Incoming Reports 1999 - 2012



## How Stopleveline Works

Stopleveline employees do not look for illegal content themselves; instead, they work exclusively with incoming reports. These reports come from mindful Internet users as well as partner hotlines within the international INHOPE network (see pages 18-19).

## What can be reported?

Stopleveline processes reports on:

- **Child pornography,**  
as defined in § 207a of the Austrian Penal Code (StGB);
- **National Socialism,**  
as defined in the laws banning National Socialist activities, symbols and regalia (Verbotsgesetz, Abzeichengesetz, etc.).

Reports include content found online in:

- **Websites;**
- **Newsgroups;**
- **E-groups;**
- **File sharing services;**
- **FTP servers;**
- **Social networks.**

This procedure has been agreed upon with the Austrian police. Stopleveline forwards reports regarding filesharing services, chatrooms or e-mails to the police while preserving the anonymity of the sender. Reports about content that is outside of Stopleveline's area of work are forwarded to the appropriate authorities whenever possible as well.

## How can a report be made?

Illegal online content can be reported - anonymously if desired - in the following ways:

- **By filling out an online form at [www.stopleveline.at](http://www.stopleveline.at);**
- **By sending an e-mail to [meldung@stopleveline.at](mailto:meldung@stopleveline.at).**



## What information does Stopleveline need?

Stopleveline can follow up on reports more promptly and efficiently when the source has been precisely described. Reports are processed within one business day.

Please be as exact and detailed as possible when making reports:

- **For websites, e-groups, FTP servers and social networks:** precise URL;
- **For filesharing services:** author, date, subject and/or search term(s);
- **For newsgroups:** a detailed description of the posting; specifically, the name of the newsgroup, the news server, the author, the date and the subject of the posting.

### IMPORTANT:

Please do not actively search for illegal material and do not send any pictures to Stopleveline! This alone may constitute an illegal act. For Stopleveline, describing the source of the suspicious material as accurately as possible is all that is needed to process the report.



## Legal or illegal - how does Stopline know?

Depending on whether a report refers to child pornography or National Socialism, the following criteria are used:

### Child pornography

Child pornography is any depiction of sexual acts with minors or images that focus on the genitalia of minors, i.e. persons under 18 years of age. The pertinent definition can be found in § 207 of the Austrian Penal Code (StGB) (see page 22).

Stopline's staff will assess whether the reported material:

- Shows a minor;
- Depicts sexual acts;
- Focuses on genitalia.

If this is the case, the reported material is classified as illegal. It is photographic evidence of a child actually being abused!

But not everything that at first glance looks like child pornography meets the standards for a criminal offence. For example, neutral pictures of naked minors on a nude beach or texts that describe sexual acts with children do not constitute child pornography.

Comics also represent a grey area. In that case, the relevant question is if an observer would have the impression that a real sexual act has taken place. If so, then the material is illegal.

The results of every processed report are recorded in detail to ensure a comprehensive statistical evaluation, and also to enable Stopline to recognize trends and new dangers.

### Child pornography:

- Minors (children under age 18);
- Sexual acts;
- Focus on genitalia.

### National Socialism

Here, Stopline assesses if one of the following criteria is met:

- Denial of National Socialist crimes;
- Glorification of National Socialist ideology;
- Depiction of illegal insignia and uniforms.

These issues are regulated under the Austrian Verbotsgesetz (Prohibition Act) and the Austrian Abzeichengesetz (Insignia Act), amongst others (see page 22). A factual, critical or historical analysis of National Socialist ideas is, of course, permitted.

Once illegal material has been identified, it is categorized accordingly: Does it contain National Socialist symbols, texts, music, or videos? Is it a post, an image or a chart? What language is it in? These facts are important for further analysis as well as for statistical purposes.

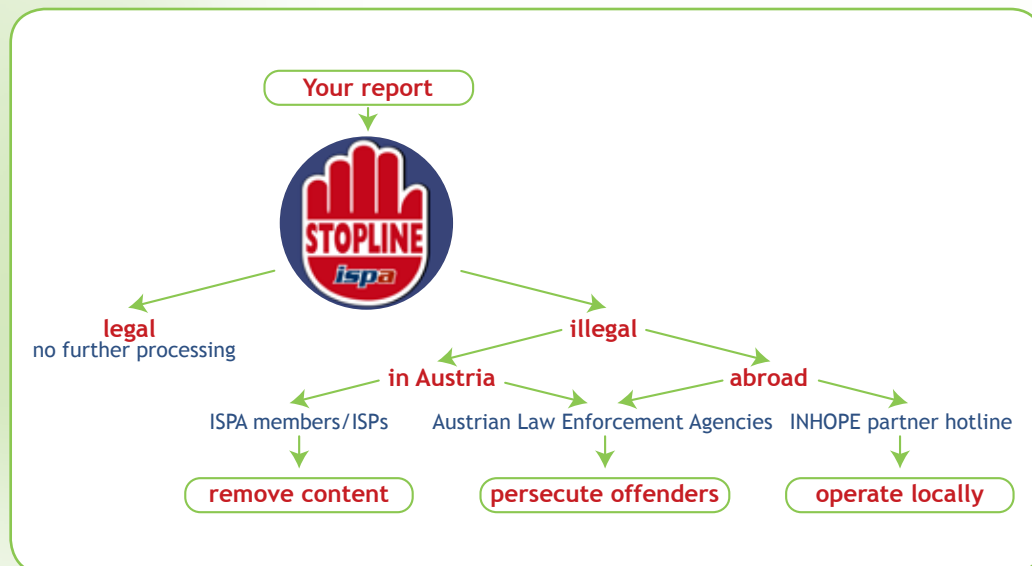
Countermeasures, however, are only possible in a few countries, most notably Austria and Germany. In other countries (the US, for example) there is frequently no legal basis for prosecution because these activities fall under the right to freedom of speech and opinion.

### National Socialist offenses:

- Glorification of National Socialist ideology;
- Forbidden insignia/uniforms;
- Denial of National Socialist crimes.

## How does Stopline follow up on illegal content?

First, Stopline traces the location of the so-called host provider, i.e. the service provider or server via which the material has actually been published on the web. The next steps depend on the ISP's country of origin.



### Illegal content in Austria

If the content has been hosted on an Austrian ISP, the following steps are taken immediately:

#### Stopline informs the Austrian police

That way, the police can collect the appropriate evidence that will be necessary for a later prosecution of the offenders.

#### Stopline contacts the provider

and requests that they technically remove the content from the web, ensuring that it cannot be accessed anymore. Stopline itself does not delete nor censor any content perceived as illegal; it merely gives recommendations to the ISPs regarding their further course of action. It is up to the ISP to decide how to react. However, Austrian ISPs are quite aware of their responsibility, with the result that illegal content is immediately removed from the web.

### International illegal content

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

#### Stopline informs the Austrian police

Since investigations into Internet crimes are usually transnational, information about illegal content abroad is relevant to Austrian law enforcement as well.

#### Stopline reports to the INHOPE partner hotline

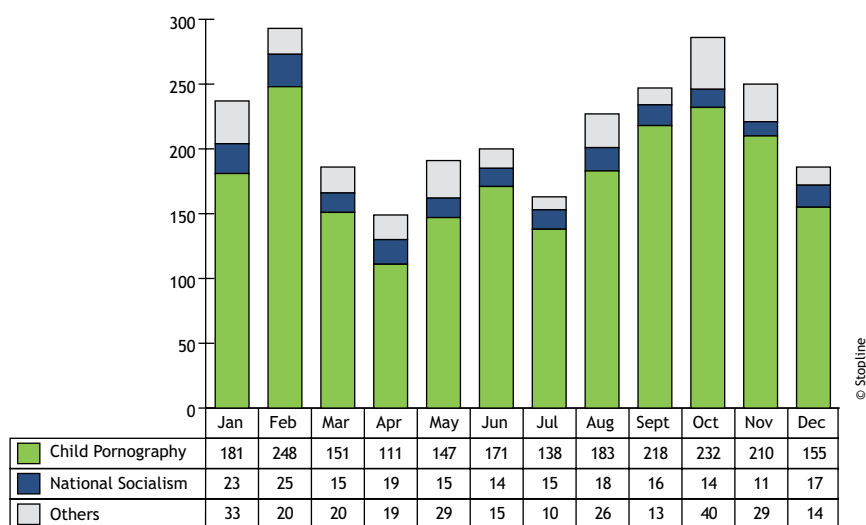
Worldwide, more than 40 partner hotlines are working to combat illegal material on the Internet within the framework of INHOPE (see page 18). If such a hotline exists in the country involved, they will start their own proceedings immediately after receiving Stopline's report and inform the local authorities and ISPs. Cooperation is quick and doesn't involve red tape or a lengthy navigation through official channels. With their experience and extensive contacts in their own country, the partner hotlines can effect a rapid removal of the content in question.

## The year 2012 in numbers

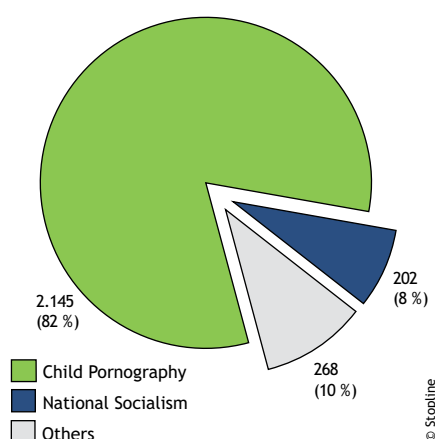
With 2,615 reports in 2012, the decline in reports seen over the past few years has continued. However, the rate of content that was actually judged to be illegal has again risen slightly to 17 percent, from 15.5 percent in 2011. Only 2 of the 445 materials judged to be illegal were hosted in Austria; both could be removed promptly from the Internet owing to the swift intervention of the respective host providers.

This low level of incoming reports, however, does not necessarily indicate that there was less illegal content on the Internet. While legislative changes and initiatives such as Stopleveline do make it less likely that users will encounter illegal content by chance in the course of "normal" surfing, further research and international comparisons show that illegal content has increasingly migrated to closed forums that are only accessible to certain groups of users. But even here, technical innovations have made it possible for Stopleveline to keep up with these developments and to find new means of combating illegal content in such environments.

### Incoming reports in 2012 - categorization by reporting user

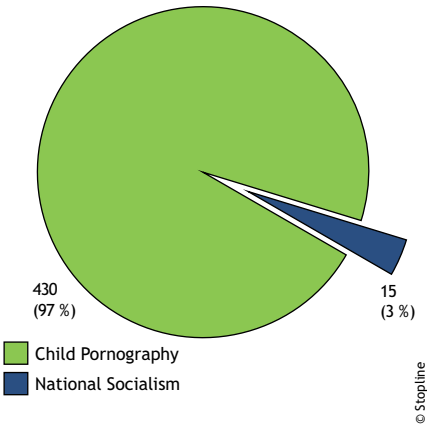
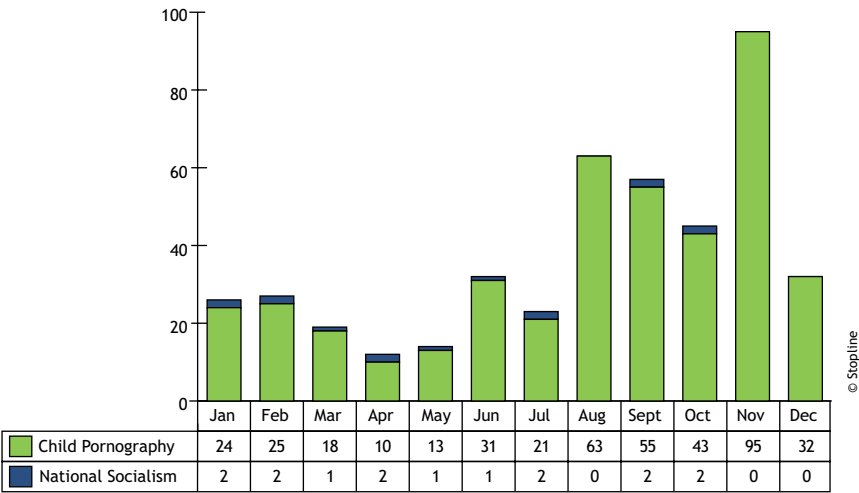


On average, close to 220 reports were made to Stopleveline each month. The majority of those reports (2,145, or 82 percent) concerned child pornography. Close to 200 reports concerned National Socialist content. In the remaining cases („other“), users reported content outside of Stopleveline’s area of work. There is no general rationale behind the fluctuations from month to month. However, it shows that increased media coverage of child pornography, amongst other things, leads to a higher number of incoming reports.





Content identified as illegal in 2012 - categorization by Stopline

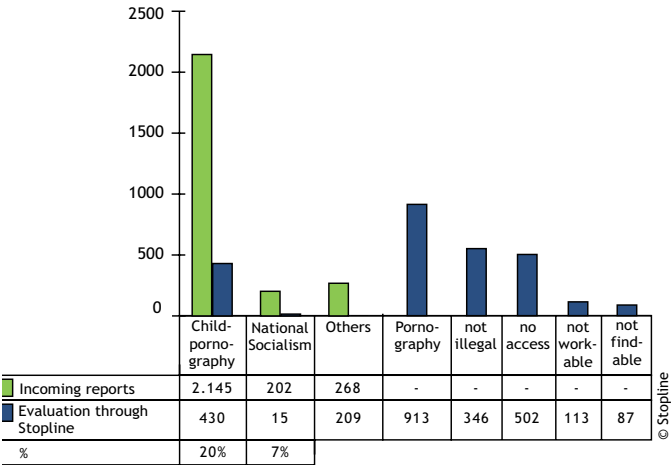


In 2012, 445 reports, or 17 percent of the 2,615 incoming reports, were identified as illegal by Stopline. While the rate of actually illegal child pornography rose from 18 percent of reports in 2011 to 20 percent in 2012, only 7 percent of the reported National Socialist content was identified as illegal in 2012 (compared to 21 percent in 2011).

Out of the total of 445 reported illegal materials, 430 cases, or 97 percent, concern instances of child pornography. Fifteen cases, or 3 percent of the illegal materials, were classified as illegal National Socialist content.

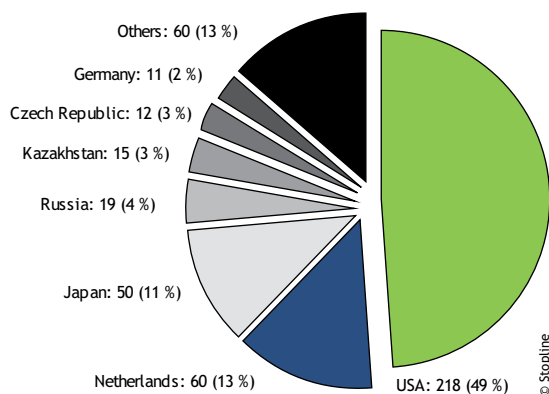
Categorization of all reported content

In any case, 83 percent of reports are not identified as illegal under Austrian law. First and foremost, there are reports concerning legal pornography with obviously adult participants, followed by reports categorized as „not illegal“, e.g. depictions of minors or National Socialist topics that do not violate any laws within Stopline’s domain. Often, however, content can simply not be found or processed or lies outside the scope of Stopline’s work.



## International cooperation regarding illegal content in 2012

Almost all illegal content that is reported to Stopline is hosted on servers abroad; in all of 2012, only two cases were hosted in Austria. This goes to show how vital international cooperation is when it comes to removing illegal content from the Internet. Through the international network of hotlines, INHOPE, hotlines can cooperate quickly, efficiently and without red tape. One of Stopline's most important activities, therefore, is to immediately notify the partner hotlines in the country involved.

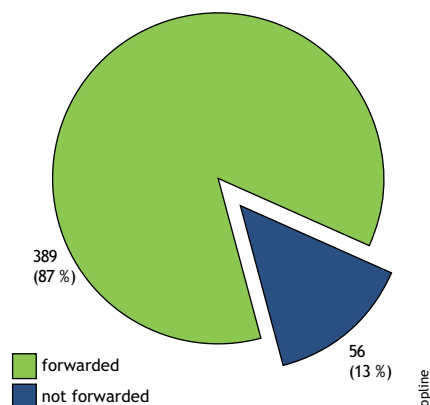


## The most common countries of origin

Illegal content is hosted primarily where un-bureaucratic and cheap infrastructure (server, webspace, connectivity) is easily available. As a consequence, the top three countries were the US (49 percent), the Netherlands (13 percent) and Japan (11 percent). From 2011 to 2012, the number of cases hosted in Kazakhstan more than doubled (from six to fifteen). In five percent of cases, it was technologically impossible to determine the country of origin. Austria is not an attractive location for hosting such content (only two cases in 2012).

## Notification of INHOPE partner hotlines

Stopline forwards all content that has been identified as illegal to the Austrian police. Just as important is the prompt notification of the respective INHOPE partner hotline. With the exception of Kazakhstan, hotlines exist in all countries of origin that Stopline received frequent reports for in 2012. Therefore, Stopline could directly notify a competent hotline in 87 percent of cases hosted abroad.



## 2012 - The most important figures at a glance

Stopline's incoming reports 2012 / of these, classified as illegal material - by content:

	Total incoming reports	Number of reports containing illegal activity	Percentage of reports containing illegal activity
Child pornography	2.145	430	20 %
National Socialism	202	15	7 %
Other	268	0	0 %
Total incoming reports	2.615	445	17 %

Stopline's incoming reports 2012 / of these, classified as illegal material - by online source:

	Total incoming reports	Number of reports containing illegal activity	Percentage of reports containing illegal activity
World Wide Web	2.600	444	17 %
File sharing services	6	1	17 %
Other	9	0	0 %
Total incoming reports	2.615	445	17 %

The most common countries of origin in 2012:

USA	218	49 %
Netherlands	60	13 %
Japan	50	11 %
Russia	19	4 %
Kazakhstan	15	3 %
Czech Republic	12	3 %
Germany	11	2 %
Austria	2	0 %
Others	38	9 %
Not determined	20	5 %

Content that Stopline identified as illegal in 2012 was forwarded to:

	Anzahl
Police (BK and BVT)	445
Austrian ISPs	2
INHOPE partner hotlines	389

\* All numbers commercial rounded.

## Media coverage of Stopline in 2012

In 2012, as in previous years, Stopline's activity was frequently covered in the media. Here is a digest:



Origin:  
 kronen.at, 21.3.2012  
 ispa.at, 9/2012  
 futurezone.at, 21.3.2012  
 e-media, 3.4.2012  
 medianet, 30.3.2012  
 Tiroler Tageszeitung, 26.3.2012  
 wienerzeitung.at, 12.3.2012  
 stopptdierechten.at, 8.4.2012

A complete list of all media reports about Stopline can be found at [www.stopline.at/presseclippings](http://www.stopline.at/presseclippings)



## Stopleveline's public face in 2012



### Stopleveline Press Conference

On March 21, 2012, Barbara Schloßbauer, project head of Stopleveline, and Maximilian Schubert, the general secretary of the ISPA, hosted a press conference to present Stopleveline's 2011 end-of-year review. ZIB 1, among other media, reported the event on Austrian television.



### Stopleveline at events

In 2012, Stopleveline's experts presented the hotline's work at a variety of events addressing issues concerning the Internet. At other events, Stopleveline's information materials were displayed and available for free - for example, at the IBM Education Day, the Accessible Media A-TAG, at the conference on net politics #DNP12, at all events of the ISPA and many more.



Are you interested in a presentation by Stopleveline? Contact us at [office@stopline.at](mailto:office@stopline.at) and tell us more about the event you are planning.



### Stopleveline's news service

Stopleveline is constantly monitoring media coverage of issues such as safer Internet, child pornography and National Socialism on the Internet. The news section on [www.stopline.at](http://www.stopline.at) features a weekly digest.



### Stopleveline's information materials

Information materials are available for download at [www.stopline.at](http://www.stopline.at). Brochures can be ordered in print as well; every year, Stopleveline sends thousands of brochures to interested parties. On the occasion of Stopleveline's 15th anniversary, a new look was introduced: Stopleveline now sports a bright, fresh look in green.



## ISPA - the operator of Stopline

The Austrian association of Internet Service Providers, ISPA, is the umbrella organisation of the Austrian Internet industry and represents their interests in national and international matters. The ISPA was founded as a registered association in the year 1997 and has approximately 200 members providing access, content and services, whose interests the ISPA represents in politics, government and other bodies. The ISPA aims to create the optimum economic and legal conditions and to foster the promotion and development of the Internet.

Stopline was founded in 1998 by the ISPA and is part of the voluntary self-monitoring undertaken by the Austrian Internet service providers (ISPs).

Supporting Stopline is one of the ways that the ISPA's members live up to their socio-political responsibilities.

[www.ispa.at](http://www.ispa.at)



### Dr. Maximilian Schubert, ISPA:

*"Stopline is a highly successful initiative of the Austrian Internet service providers which shows that they live up to their socio-political responsibilities."*



## Stopline's advisory board

When combating illegal content on the Internet, good networking is absolutely essential. Only when all involved act in concert, share information and support each other is it possible to succeed together.

That's where Stopline's advisory board comes in - it is the advisory body for Stopline and a successful communication platform, bringing together experts from the Austrian executive branch, the Internet industry and the economy.

Other professionals, such as lawyers, university professors and IT security experts contribute additional know-how. The Stopline advisory board promotes the cooperation of these different organisations and the exchange of knowledge.

### Dr. Wolfgang Schwabl, Telekom Austria Group:

*„For A1, the biggest Austrian Internet provider, Stopline - founded on the initiative of the providers themselves - is a very important partner. Together, we want to prevent illegal materials from being distributed through our infrastructure. Therefore, we are grateful for each and every report that comes from engaged, volunteer users. Due to its competent support, Stopline plays an outstanding role when it comes to combating illegal content.“*



### Mag. Thomas Grünewald, Chief Prosecutor:

*„With Stopline, the Austrian association of Internet Service Providers makes a valuable contribution to detecting and tracking down criminal content on the Internet. Stopline's advisory board serves as an important platform enabling an informal exchange of experiences between the facilities and organisations represented therein which bear responsibility for combating illegal content on the Internet.“*



The members of Stopline's advisory board 2012:

Romana Cravos	ISPA
Ewald Ebner	Federal Office of Criminal Investigation
Sibylle Geißler	Federal Agency for State Protection and Counter Terrorism
Harald Gremel	Federal Office of Criminal Investigation
Thomas Grünewald	Senior Prosecutor, Federal Ministry of Justice
Bernhard Jungwirth	Saferinternet.at
Michael Pilz	Lawyer
Christian Reiser	Security expert
Robert Schischka	CEO of nic.at
Barbara Schloßbauer	nic.at jurist, Chairwoman of the Stopline Advisory Board
Gabriele Schmölzer	University of Graz
Maximilian Schubert	ISPA Secretary General
Wolfgang Schwabl	Telekom Austria Group

## Safer Internet Centre Austria

Together with Saferinternet.at and Rat auf Draht, Stoplevel forms the „Austrian Safer Internet Centre“. As the Austrian partner in the Safer Internet Network of the EU, Insafe, it contributes to comprehensive awareness raising about safe Internet use.

**Saferinternet.at**  
Das Internet sicher nutzen!



### Saferinternet.at

First and foremost, Saferinternet.at supports children, adolescents, parents and teachers in their competent and safe use of digital media. It also helps with problems concerning cyber-bullying, data abuse or fraudulent websites, and informs about dangers and risks. Besides numerous informational brochures, Saferinternet.at offers videos and online courses to various topics on their website as well.

[www.saferinternet.at](http://www.saferinternet.at)

### Rat auf Draht

Maintained by the Austrian Broadcasting Corporation ORF, „Rat auf Draht“, the successful telephone hotline and emergency number for children, adolescents and their caregivers, can be accessed free of charge from everywhere in Austria through the abbreviated telephone number „147“. A team of experts consisting of psychologists, life and social counselors, psychotherapists and lawyers counsel approximately 130,000 callers per year on topics such as cyber-bullying, love, relationships, friendships, family or school.

[www.rataufdraht.at](http://www.rataufdraht.at)

### Mag. Bernhard Jungwirth, Saferinternet.at:

*„Information, support and remedial action: those are the contributions of the Austrian Safer Internet partners - Saferinternet.at, Stoplevel and Rat auf Draht - to a safe use of the Internet. The fact that content that is illegal or harmful to young people is promptly removed from the Internet is also due to Stoplevel. We are delighted about our successful national cooperation.“*



### Safer Internet Day 2012

This international day of action, initiated by the European Commission, featured more than 70 participating countries and was celebrated for the 9th time in 2012 on February 7th, with the slogan “discover the digital world together...safely!” The goal of the Safer Internet Day is to call attention to the topic of Internet safety. To that end, numerous activities and initiatives took place in schools and educational institutions during February, the month of action.

Further information can be found at: <http://www.saferinternet.at/saferinternetday/sid-2012/>  
Information about international activities: [www.saferinternetday.org](http://www.saferinternetday.org)

## Cooperation with the Austrian police

For many years, Stopline has been cooperating with the relevant departments of the Austrian police in the Ministry of the Interior. In regular meetings, information and experiences are exchanged; in addition, representatives from these departments serve as members on Stopline's advisory board (Page 15).

**.BVT**  REPUBLIK ÖSTERREICH  
BUNDESMINISTERIUM FÜR INNERES  
BUNDESAMT FÜR VERKEHRSSICHERHEIT UND TERRORISMUSBEWÄHRUNG

### Hotline for National Socialist offences

This hotline of the Austrian executive forces is located at the Federal Agency for State Protection and Counter Terrorism (BVT). Whenever Stopline's experts identify a report as pertaining to National Socialist offenses, the BVT is activated.

#### MR Sibylle Geißler, BVT

*„Cooperation between public authorities and private institutions provides an understanding of the necessities of the work in both areas. The network of those organisations who work to protect society and youth can only be strengthened by it.“*

**.BK**  REPUBLIK ÖSTERREICH  
BUNDESMINISTERIUM FÜR INNERES  
BUNDESKRIMINALAMT

### Hotline for child pornography on the Internet

The Federal Office of Criminal Investigation (BK) operates the police hotline for child pornography and child sex tourism. Stopline informs this authority whenever a report has actually led to the identification of child pornographic material on the Internet.

#### Harald Gremel, chief inspector, BK:

*„Combating the distribution of child pornography is only possible in cooperation with each other. That's why the close collaboration between the Austrian Federal Office of Criminal Investigation (BK) and Stopline is a success story.“*





## INHOPE

An Internet without borders requires cooperation without borders when it comes to combating illegal content. That is a lesson the first Internet hotlines at the end of the 1990s had to learn very quickly. Therefore, in 1999, eight European hotlines - amongst them, Stoplevel - joined forces to start taking action against child pornography together.

### On average, two new hotlines a year

Since this first collaboration and the resulting establishment of INHOPE, the International Association of Internet Hotlines, a lot has happened: Today, there are 43 INHOPE hotlines in 37 countries; 26 EU countries as well as Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, Japan, Canada, South Korea, Russia, South Africa, Taiwan, Turkey and the United States, to be precise.

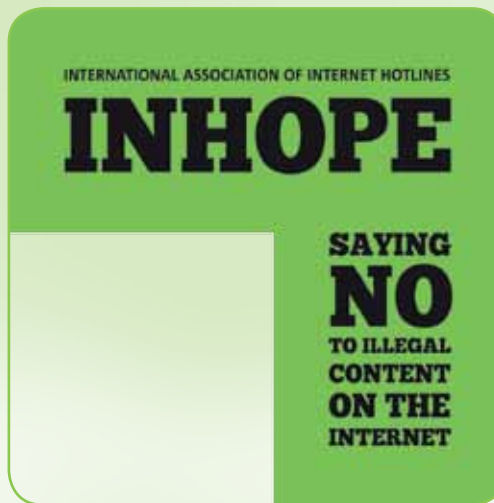
### INHOPE supports, coordinates and provides information

The main objective of INHOPE is to support Internet hotlines worldwide so that they can optimally fulfill their responsibilities and ensure that child pornographic material is removed as quickly as possible. This is mainly done through the coordinated and documented exchange of reports. In addition, the sharing of experience in an environment of trust, collective standards and technological developments, together with the constant expansion of the network of hotlines, serve as the basis for the individual hotlines' success.

### INHOPE's lobbying efforts



Whether it be with high-ranking decision-makers, in EU bodies or at international conferences, INHOPE strives to raise awareness for the issue of child pornography on the Internet and to provide an understanding of the importance of hotlines. Continuous cooperation has been established with Interpol, Europol, the EU's Safer Internet Programme and EuroISPA, the pan European association of European Internet Services Providers Associations.





### Nine to twelve new hotlines within the next three years

INHOPE aims to expand the network of hotlines by at least three new members per year. INHOPE counsels organisations that are under development, sends experts, holds trainings and provides manuals and even financial support via the INHOPE foundation when necessary.

### Cooperation amongst INHOPE partner hotlines

The prerequisite for INHOPE membership is that a hotline is well connected within their respective country - that is, a hotline must have established good cooperation with both the local authorities and local Internet service providers. That is the only way to guarantee that all parties concerned know each other and will react quickly and that illegal content will be removed promptly. Whenever a hotline receives a report about illegal material that is hosted in a country with an INHOPE partner hotline, that information is immediately forwarded via the INHOPE exchange of reports system. The hotline on site can then act quickly and with a minimum of red tape and arrange for the necessary steps with their local partners. INHOPE can collect statistics on the reports and detect international trends and tendencies.

### How INHOPE benefits Stopline

Learning from the experiences of others and enhancing the efficiency of cooperation - that is what makes INHOPE such a valuable platform for its members. New hotlines especially can profit from the longstanding practices of established hotlines such as Stopline.

Stopline, in turn, can contribute expertise for the benefit of the worldwide battle against child pornography and utilise collaboratively developed technologies.

### Success through cooperation

Time after time, the police announce cases where the cooperation of hotlines via INHOPE has verifiably led to the investigation and arrest of producers or providers of child pornography. Sometimes, even the victims of abuse can be identified and thus protected from further abuse.

[www.inhope.org](http://www.inhope.org)



### Fred Langford, INHOPE:

*„Stopline is a founding member of INHOPE and has been a very active, reliable and professional member in our association ever since. We appreciate the cooperation with Stopline and its commitment to fight child sexual abuse material all over the world. INHOPE's success and performance is strongly dependent on hotlines like Stopline.“*

## Frequently asked questions

### Why does Stopline process only child pornography and National Socialist content?

Stopline purposely devotes itself to these two deeply serious criminal offences within Austrian law. In the supposed anonymity of the Internet, it is precisely these types of materials that are frequently circulated.

### Why doesn't Stopline actively search for illegal content?

An active search for illegal content can already constitute a criminal offence and even Stopline's staff may therefore not engage in it.

### How long does it take until a report is processed?

Reports are processed within one business day.

### Does Stopline give feedback to a report?

Stopline does not report back to the user whether illegal content was, in fact, found. This procedure has been agreed upon with the Austrian police. In fact, any blanket statement would be problematic since online content can change so rapidly. Stopline would run the risk of designating content as „not illegal“ that might later turn out to be illegal.

Once Stopline has forwarded a report to the police, the entire responsibility rests with them - even Stopline does not receive any information about further steps and criminal prosecutions.

### How long does it take until illegal

### content has been removed from the web?

If the illegal content is hosted in Austria, the responsible provider usually removes it immediately upon notification from Stopline - unless there are explicit counter instructions from the police (for example, in order to track down consumers of the illegal material).

### Can content without apparent connection to Austria be reported as well?

Any illegal content can be reported regardless of country of origin or language. Stopline can combat illegal content even across borders via INHOPE, the International Association of Internet Hotlines.

### What makes international cooperation so important?

Just as the Internet itself crosses borders, the cooperation against illegal content has to cross borders as well - that is the only way to remove illegal content quickly and efficiently. Therefore, Stopline has always been active in the International Association of Internet Hotlines INHOPE, of which it is a founding member.

### 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 police so that proper measures can be taken right away.

### **How many people have been arrested because of Stopline's activities?**

Stopline's only goal is to make sure that child pornographic and National Socialist material is no longer published on the Internet. The responsibility for tracking down the producers or consumers of such content rests with law enforcement authorities alone.

### **Why are reported websites not removed immediately upon notification of a hotline?**

If content remains online, one of several reasons may apply:

- Sometimes it is impossible to remove content that is hosted abroad, for example if the activities are not illegal in the country in question (mainly when it comes to National Socialism, but sometimes regarding child pornography as well).
- It isn't always possible to identify the technical - and therefore, geographical - source of an online service.
- If there is no INHOPE hotline in the country of origin, international cooperation is done through INTERPOL. Occasionally, this can lead to delays.
- Sometimes, webpages are kept accessible for a while so that law enforcement authorities have the chance to trace as many consumers as possible.

### **Why do removed websites often appear online again before long?**

An ISP who was informed by Stopline can only disable access to the contents of a specific web address. The operators, however, often switch to a new address and publish the content again.

### **Why does National Socialist content often remain on the web?**

In contrast to Austria, there are countries such as the US, for example, where such activities are by and large protected by the right to free opinion and speech. In these countries, there is no legal basis for countermeasures.

### **How can I protect my child from harmful or illegal Internet services?**

Unfortunately, your child can not be protected 100%. However, there do exist, for example, various kinds of filter software that can be installed on one's computer. Nevertheless, it can happen that not all problematic content is filtered out or that harmless content is not displayed.

The most effective protection for children is still to give them a strong base of knowledge about how to properly deal with the Internet and all the content therein. Saferinternet.at (page 16), for example, provides detailed information to that end.





## Austrian laws

### Excerpt from the Austrian Penal Code (Strafgesetzbuch, or StGB)

§ 207a StGB - Pornographic depictions of minors

(1) Whoever

1. creates or

2. offers, procures, cedes, shows or makes available in any other way to another a pornographic depiction of a minor (para 4) shall be punished with a prison term of up to three years.

(2) Whoever creates, imports, transports or exports a pornographic depiction of a minor (para 4) for the purpose of distribution or commits an offense according to para 1 for professional purposes, shall be punished with a prison term between six months and five years. Whoever commits the offense as a member of a criminal association or in such a way that it results in particularly serious harm to the minor shall be punished with a prison term between one and ten years; equally shall be punished whoever creates a pornographic depiction of a minor (para 4) by use of serious violence or who during the creation endangers the life of the depicted minor intentionally or by gross negligence.

(3) Whoever procures or possesses a pornographic depiction of a person under full age [a „mündige minderjährige Person“, i.e. a person between the ages of 14 and 18, translator's note] (para 4 subparas 3 and 4), shall be punished with a prison term of up to one year. Whoever procures or possesses a pornographic depiction of an under-age person [„unmündige Person“, or a person under the age of 14, translator's note] shall be punished with a prison term of up to 2 years.

(3a) Whoever knowingly accesses a pornographic depiction of a minor on the Internet shall also be punished according to para 3.

(4) Pornographic depictions of minors are

1. realistic depictions of a sexual act with an under-age person or of an under-age person by themselves, with another person or with an animal;

2. realistic depictions of an event with an under-age person that, on observation and considering the circumstances, conveys the impression that a sexual act with the under-age person or of the under-age person by themselves, with another person or with an animal, has taken place;

3. realistic depictions of

a) a sexual act according to subpara 1 or of an event according to subpara 2, but with a person under full age, or

b) the genitalia or pubic region of a minor, insofar as these depictions are sensationally distorted, narrowly reduced and detached from other manifestations of life, and serve to sexually arouse the viewer;

4. pictorial representations that, on observation - by virtue of changing a depiction or without using such a one - and considering the circumstances, convey the impression that they were depictions according to subparas 1 to 3.

(5) Not punished according to para 1 subpara 1 and para 3 shall be whoever

1. creates or possesses a pornographic depiction of a person under full age with that person's consent and for their own use, or

2. creates or possesses a pornographic depiction of a person under full age according to para 4 subpara 4 for one's own use, insofar as this act is not associated with any danger of distributing the depiction.

### Prohibition Act (Verbotsgesetz)

(Austrian constitutional law, passed on May 8th, 1945, banning the NSDAP)

§1 The NSDAP, its paramilitary organisations (SS, SA, NSKK, NSFK), their divisions and affiliated associations as well as all National Socialist organisations and institutions generally are dissolved; their revitalization is prohibited. ...

§3 It is prohibited to promote the NSDAP or its goals in any way, even outside of these organisations.

§3a A person is guilty of an act punishable by the courts and will be punished with a prison term between ten and twenty years, or, if the offender or the act are especially dangerous, even with imprisonment for life, who

1. tries to maintain or revive a legally dissolved National Socialist organisation, or to become connected with such an organisation or a person acting in such an organisation's name; the following are considered to be National Socialist organisations

(§1): the NSDAP, the SS, the SA, the NSKK; the NSFK, the NS-Soldatenring, the NS-Offiziersbund, all other divisions of the NSDAP and affiliated associations, as well as all other National Socialist organisations,

2. founds an association whose goal is to undermine the autonomy and independence of the Federal Republic of Austria or to disturb public peace and the rebuilding of Austria through the activity of its members in terms of National Socialism, or whoever takes a leading role in such an association,

3. promotes the expansion of an organisation and association according to subparas 1 and 2 through the recruitment of members, provision of monetary funds or in a similar manner, equips the members of such an organisation or association with weapons, means of transportation or communication equipment or whoever enables or supports the activity of such an organisation or association in a similar manner,

4. produces, procures or keeps available weapons, means of transportation or communication equipment for such an organisation or association.

§3d Whoever calls for, incites or attempts to entice someone into an act that is prohibited according to §1 or §3 in public or in front of several people, in publications, disseminated writings or graphic representations, especially whoever glorifies or praises the goals of the NSDAP, its divisions or actions to this end, will be ... punished.

§3g Whoever is active in terms of National Socialism in another way than those designated in §§ 3a to 3f will - insofar as the act isn't more severely punishable according to another provision - be punished with a prison term between one and ten years, or, if the offender or the act are especially dangerous, with a prison term of up to twenty years.

§3h ...anybody who denies, grossly plays down, approves of or tries to justify the National Socialist genocide or other National Socialist crimes against humanity in a print publication, on the radio or in another medium or else publicly in a way that is accessible to many people will also be ... punished.

### Insignia Act (Abzeichengesetz)

(Federal Law passed on April 5th, 1960, which prohibits certain insignia)

§1 (1) Insignia, uniforms or parts of uniforms of an organisation that is prohibited in Austria may not be publicly worn, displayed, depicted or disseminated. Emblems, symbols and signs are also regarded as insignia.

§2 (1) As long as the ideas of a prohibited organisation are not approved of or propagated, the prohibitions in §1 do not apply to print materials, pictorial representations, performances of stage and film works and exhibitions, in which exhibits that fall under §1 do not constitute integral components of the exhibition.

(2) The prohibitions of §1 do not apply to other exhibitions insofar as the exhibition and its intended purpose are clearly directed against the ideas of the prohibited organisation in question.

These translations are supplied for informational purposes only and should not be considered complete or be used to determine legal liability. The full text of these laws can be accessed in German at [www.ris.bka.gv.at](http://www.ris.bka.gv.at).



## Our sponsors

### EU - Safer Internet Programme

With this programme, the EU greatly contributes to the fight against illegal and harmful content on the Internet and enables the funding of activities for a joint approach within the European Union. These funds are used to finance activities that combat illegal and undesirable content on the Internet.

Besides the hotlines, the programme focuses on the education and training of parents, educators and children. International cooperation is meant to be an integral part of all its activities.

Within the framework of this programme, Stopline receives financial support from the EU.

[http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/activities/sip/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/sip/index_en.htm)



### nic.at GmbH

nic.at is the registry for domains under .at, .co.at und .or.at. As a center of excellence regarding domains, nic.at participates in national and international bodies. Since its inception, Stopline has been supported by nic.at.

[www.nic.at](http://www.nic.at)



### Richard Wein & Robert Schischka, nic.at:

*„Online safety and compliance with the law is important to us. That's why we are not only active when it comes to cyber security, but also support the battle against illegal content: by funding Stopline and by operating the Austrian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT.at), we fulfill our mandate to cultivate the Internet in Austria - for the benefit of the Austrian Internet community.“*



**We need your help -  
for a safe Internet**



Report online content if you believe that it may violate the law.

Order the Stopline brochure free of charge.

Link from your website to [www.stopline.at](http://www.stopline.at).

Publish Stopline's logo.

**office@stopline.at**  
**www.stopline.at**

Please don't hesitate to contact us with  
further questions and suggestions at  
[office@stopline.at](mailto:office@stopline.at).

The project is co-funded by the European Union, through  
the Safer Internet plus programme.  
<http://ec.europa.eu/saferinternet>

