

www.stopline.at

Annual Report 2016



Stopline

Stopline is an online hotline for anyone who comes across child pornography or National Socialist content on the Internet. Stopline's main goal is to remove this illegal content from the Internet in cooperation with the host providers, especially if it was published in Austria.

Stopline was founded in 1998 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 a member of the International Association of Internet Hotlines (INHOPE).

What can be reported?

Stopline 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.)*.

* The full text of these laws can be accessed in German at www.ris.bka.gv.at.

How Stopline works

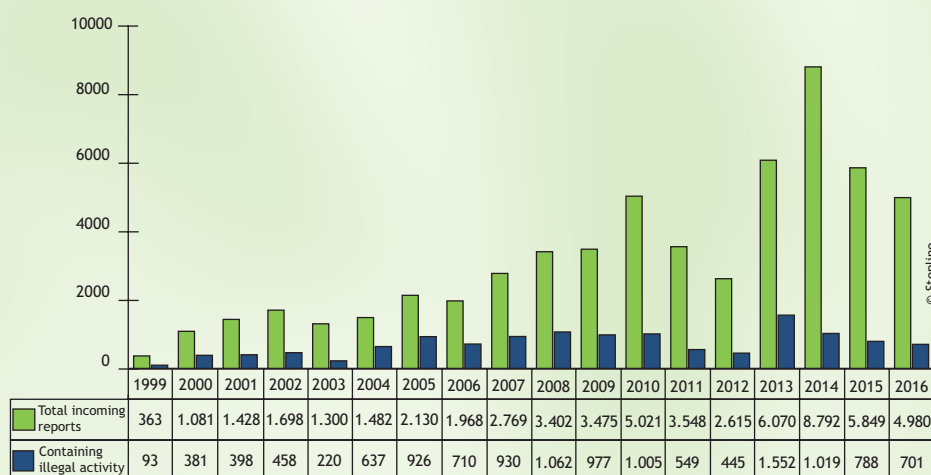
Stopline employees do not look for illegal content themselves; instead, they work exclusively with incoming reports. These reports come from alert Internet users, as well as from partner hotlines within the international INHOPE network.

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.stopline.at.
- By sending an e-mail to meldung@stopline.at.

Incoming Reports 1999 - 2016



IMPORTANT:

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

Report Data 2016

Fewer reports, more National Socialist content

After the unusually high number of reports we received in 2014, the number of reports declined in 2015 and again in 2016. With a total of 4980 reports, this year's number is comparable to that of 2010. The percentage of reports pointing to material that was actually illegal, i.e., deemed child pornography or National Socialist propaganda, has again increased slightly from 13 percent in 2015 to 14 percent in 2016. In absolute numbers, the 701 instances of illegal content in 2016 consisted of 644 instances (92 percent) of child pornography and 57 instances (8 percent) of National Socialism. The proportion of National Socialist content has continued to rise: in 2014 it stood at one percent, in 2015 at six percent, and in 2016 at eight percent.

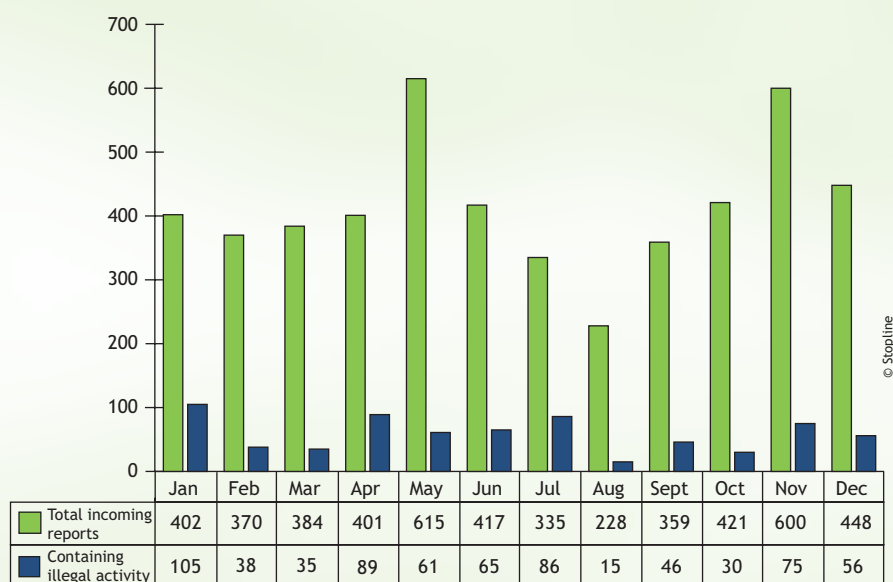
Only one case hosted in Austria

The amount of illegal content that was hosted in Austria has decreased significantly—Stopline identified only one case of child pornography in 2016, as compared to five cases of child pornography and one case of National Socialist content in 2015. After being informed by Stopline, the relevant Internet service provider immediately removed this content from the Internet so that it could no longer be accessed.

Better quality of incoming reports

We are happy to note that the quality of reports is rising, as can be seen numerically in the categorization of reported content by Stopline on page 4: Only 10 percent of reports concerned topics outside the scope of Stopline's work. In 2015, the comparable number was 18 percent; in 2014, it was 35 percent. After discounting all reports concerning content that cannot be found or accessed, as well as reports that cannot be processed for other reasons, this still leaves us with almost three-quarters of all reports. Stopline analyzes the content of those reports and if necessary forwards them to the relevant bodies.

All reports vs. criminally relevant reports in 2016

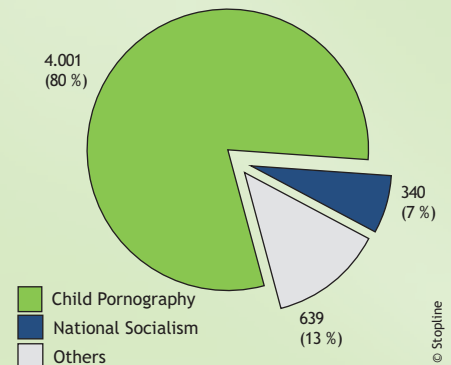


* All numbers commercial rounded.

Incoming reports in 2016 - categorization by reporting user

In 2016, each month more than 415 reports, on average, were made to Stoplevel.

Of the 2016 total of 4,980 reports, 80 percent were classified as child pornography by the reporting user. Nearly 340 reports (7 percent) were classified as National Socialist content. In the remaining cases ("other"), users reported content that they did not assign to either of these categories.



Does the reported content constitute an offense?

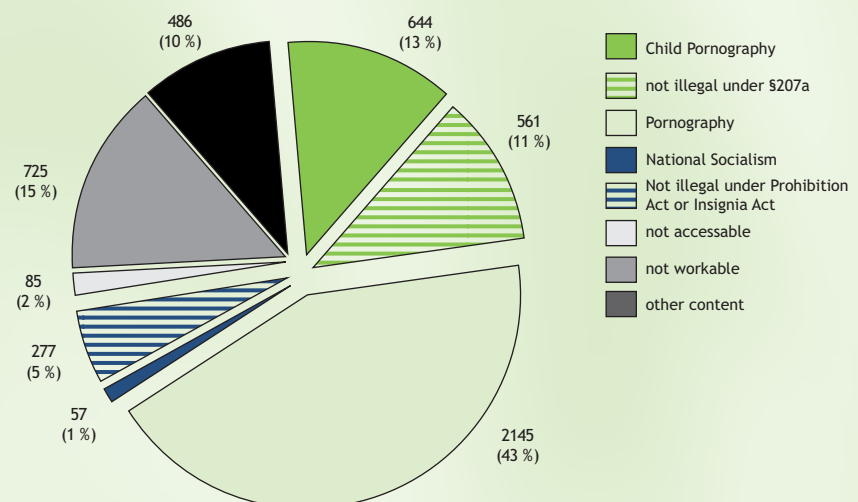
Stoplevel assesses whether the reported content does, in fact, violate the laws against child pornography or National Socialist propaganda.

Most reports must be carefully investigated by Stoplevel. Not everything that users assume to be child pornography or National Socialist content meets the legal criteria for those categories.

Categorization of 2016 reports by Stoplevel

In 2016, 701 reports, or 14 percent of the 5000 incoming reports, were classified as illegal by Stoplevel (compared to 13 percent in 2015). Ninety-two percent of the illegal material was child pornographic.

Forty-three percent of reports concerned legal pornography with obviously adult participants. Fourteen percent of reports contained material that, after careful investigation by Stoplevel, was deemed to be a depiction of minors or of National Socialist topics which may seem illegal to a layperson, but which nevertheless do not violate either § 207a StGB or the laws banning National Socialist activities (namely, the Austrian Prohibition Act and the Austrian Insignia Act).



All reports vs. criminally relevant reports in 2016 at a glance

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

	Incoming reports	Containing illegal activity	
		Number	Percentage
World Wide Web (without Social Media)	3971	668	17 %
Social Media	929	27	3 %
YouTube	39	4	10 %
TOR Network	1	0	0 %
Filesharing	6	1	17 %
Other	34	1	3 %
Total incoming reports	4.980	701	14 %

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

	Incoming reports	Containing illegal activity	
		Number	Percentage
Child pornography	4.001	644	16 %
National Socialism	340	57	17 %
Other	639	-	-
Total incoming reports	4.980	701	14 %

Notification regarding illegal content

Further steps regarding reports that Stopline classified as illegal depend on the Internet service provider's (ISP) country of origin. When Stopline processes these reports, the content's origin is investigated using appropriate technical queries.

National cooperation regarding illegal content in 2016

If the content was distributed through an Austrian ISP, Stopline first forwards the information to the appropriate police department. For many years, Stopline has been cooperating with the relevant divisions of the Austrian executive forces in the Ministry of the Interior, as well as with the hotline for child pornography and child sex tourism at the Federal Office of Criminal Investigation and the hotline for National Socialist offences at the Federal Agency for State Protection and Counter Terrorism.

Next, Stopline contacts the host provider. The provider is asked to remove the content from the web so that it can no longer be accessed. Stopline itself does not delete or censor allegedly illegal content. Instead, Stopline makes recommendations to the providers regarding their course of action. It is up to the provider to decide how to respond. In Austria, providers are well aware of their responsibility and promptly remove illegal content from the web.

If the illegal content is hosted on a foreign server, Stopline will still forward the information to the Austrian police. In addition, the information is forwarded to Stopline's international partners (see page 6).

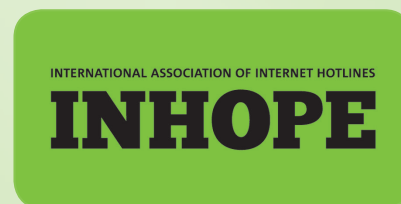
Content that Stopline identified as illegal in was forwarded to:

	Number	Percentage
Police (BK and BVT)	701	100 %
Austrian ISPs	1	0,1 %
INHOPE partner hotlines	632	90 %

International cooperation regarding illegal content in 2016

The majority of reported content that Stopline classified as illegal in 2016 was hosted on foreign servers. This demonstrates how vital international cooperation is in regard to removing illegal content from the Internet. One of Stopline's most important activities, therefore, is to immediately notify the partner hotline in the host country involved.

Through the international network of hotlines, INHOPE, hotlines can cooperate quickly, efficiently, and free of bureaucratic difficulties. INHOPE was founded in 1999 as an international Association and had 47 member organizations in 42 countries worldwide at the end of 2016.



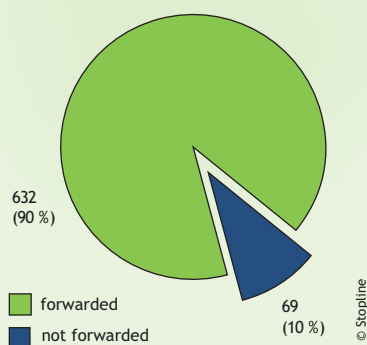
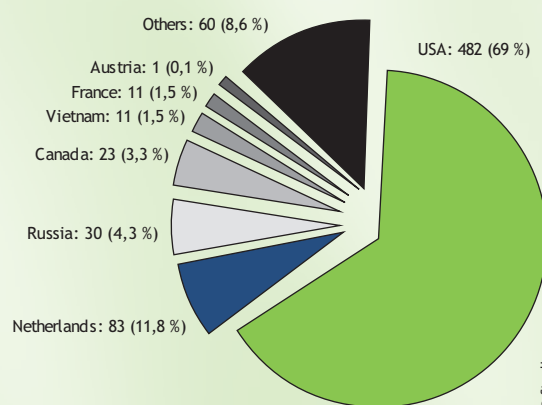
www.inhope.org

The most common countries of origin in:

	Number	Percentage
USA	482	69 %
Netherlands	83	12 %
Russia	30	4 %
Canada	23	3 %
France	11	1,5 %
Vietnam	11	1,5 %
Czech Republic	7	1 %
Seychelles	7	1 %
Austria	1	0,1 %
Others	45	6,5 %
Not determined	1	0,1 %

The most common countries of origin in 2016

Illegal content is often hosted in countries with easy access to unmonitored and cheap IT infrastructure (servers, web space, connectivity) or where publishing such material is legal. In terms of content reported to Stopline, the US has been at the top of the list for several years. Austria, with just one case of identified illegal content in 2016, clearly continues to be an uninviting location for hosting such material.



Notification of INHOPE partner hotlines in 2016

Apart from the Seychelles and Vietnam, partner hotlines against child pornography exist in all of the most frequent countries of origin for content reported to Stopline in 2016 (see chart above). Therefore, Stopline was able to directly notify a qualified hotline in 90 per cent of the instances of child pornography hosted abroad.

The INHOPE Foundation, an organization that supports new hotlines in the making, especially in emerging and developing nations, currently has six members.
www.inhopefoundation.org

National partners



The police hotline for National Socialist offenses is located at the Federal Agency for State Protection and Counter Terrorism (BVT). Whenever Stopline's experts identify a report regarding National Socialist offenses, the BVT is activated.

www.bmi.gv.at/meldestellen/



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

www.bmi.gv.at/meldestellen/



The Austrian Association of Internet Service Providers, ISPA, is the umbrella organization of the Austrian Internet industry.

www.ispa.at



The Austrian Association of Internet Service Providers, ISPA, is the umbrella organization of the Austrian Internet industry.

www.nic.at

Austrian Safer Internet Centre

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



www.saferinternet.at



www.rataufdraht.at



office@stopline.at
www.stopline.at

Legal information

Editor: Stopleveline
c/o nic.at GmbH
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Sprechen Sie Deutsch?

Mehr Information über die Stopleveline, österreichische Meldestelle gegen Kinderpornografie und Nationalsozialismus im Internet, finden Sie hier:
www.stopline.at