

Key Action: Learning Mobility of Individuals
Action Type: Mobility of youth workers

Project Title

Prevention of violent extremism

Project Coordinator

Organisation Copenhagen Youth Network
Address Frederiksborgvej 98 , 2400 København NV , Hovedstaden , DK
Website Cyn.dk

Project Information

Identifier 2022-1-DK01-KA153-YOU-000070616
Start Date Jun 1, 2022
End Date Apr 30, 2024
EC Contribution 66,831 EUR
Partners MITRA FRANCE (FR) , PEWOBE GEMEINNUTZIGE SOZIALE BETREUUNGSGESELLSCHAFT MBH FRANKFURT/ODER (DE) , MESOPOTAMIA YOUTH GROUP (TR) , AL-EMAD ALKABEER FOR TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT CO. (JO) , Asset Based Community Development Innovation Center (AM) , European Foundation for South Asian Studies (EFSAS) (NL) , Mediterranean Youth Foundation for Development (EG) , Mediterranean Forum For Social Development (MA) , Civic Organization "Development and Initiative" (UA) , POLITISTIKI ANAZITISI LESVOU AMKE (EL)
Topics Media literacy and tackling disinformation ; Preventing radicalisation ; Preventing racism and discrimination

Project Summary

Objectives

This project aims to address the cycle of mutual radicalization between Far-rights and Islamist radicalization by training youth workers and other front-line practitioners who work with young people through two tailored-made trainings focusing on different aspects of PVE/CVE. The first training, which will take place in Denmark will focus on the proliferation of far-right narratives and right-wing extremism. It will examine the various types of propaganda techniques utilized by extremists, their mediums of communication and recruitment strategies. The second training, which will take place in Morocco, will juxtapose those with the circulation of Islamist terrorist narratives. Similarly, it will discuss the modus operandi of such outfits. Finally, the project will analyse how far-right and Islamist extremist groups feed off each others' discourses, ultimately creating a vicious cycle of radicalization. Thus, this multiactivity project aims to address this 22-catch situation by providing front-line practitioners and youth workers with the necessary media literacy and critical thinking skills to prevent the further indoctrination of youth towards violent extremism.

Specific Objectives:

to encourage youth workers to research into trends in far-right and Islamist radicalization and evaluate existing practices.

to enhance their media literacy skills and competences for the purposes of recognizing suspicious contents and behaviour online.

To train youth workers how to approach youth at risk of radicalization with empathy and compassion, in order to develop relationships that will help the latter avoid radicalization.

To exchange best practices and experiences between organisations to encourage mutual learning and intercultural awareness

to expand the networks of individual organizations for the purposes of planning future initiatives based on their respective target groups and fields of activity.

Activities

The 11 countries, which will take part in this youth exchange are Germany, Denmark, Netherlands, Armenia, Ukraine, France, Greece, Jordan, Morocco, Turkey and Egypt. Each partner organization will send 3 participants, while keeping in mind the preservation of a gender balance. Among those, there will be individuals belonging to the following groups:

- Refugees/IDPs
- Migrants
- NEETS
- Participants from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds

The training courses will implement activities which cover the following objectives based on the principles of media literacy and critical content analysis:

- to provide theoretical background on the discourses and drivers of both Islamist and right-wing radicalization;
- to foster understanding on the phenomena of fake news, misinformation, propaganda and media bias;
- to instill skills to use different tools for media content analysis to be able to identify radical discourses;

to discuss the cumulative radicalization phenomenon between far-right and Islamist extremism
to provide participants with knowledge and competencies in media literacy principles in order to be able to counter radical discourses;
to explore the potential of social media and learn how to efficiently communicate online;
The facilitators' theoretical contributions will be supplemented with practical and interactive exercises that will assist communication efforts at the local and international levels. Participants will first explore the various theoretical frameworks of radicalization, define terminology, and reflect on underlying root causes and push and pull factors. Then, participants will learn about media literacy concepts such as: social representations, media bias, fallacy, post-truth phenomena, fake news, propaganda, dis/misinformation, etc., in regards to PVE/CVE. In addition to that, the youth workers will take part in practical exercises on recognising fallacious argumentation and emotional appeals. They will also discuss the different types of propaganda and will apply that knowledge on mainstream and social media channels. The first training will focus on far-right extremism, while the second one one Islamist, during which the two would be also juxtaposed, comparing their respective narratives and discourses, exploring strategies for creating counter and alternative messages. Finally, participants will discuss themes related to social media and social activism in order to enhance their online communication.

Impact

Participants in the training courses will experience the positive impact of being acquainted with potentially unfamiliar until then matter and contemporary geopolitical realities, which influence the proliferation of Islamist and right-wing ideologies. They will get a better knowledge of concepts and theories linked to extremist indoctrination, radicalisation, propaganda, and misinformation, as well as successful measures for avoiding falling prey to such phenomena. They will learn how to build up comprehensive media literacy skills; how to think critically about extremist messages; how to question and compare information sources; how to conduct independent and objective online research; how to detect fake news, censorship, and bias; and how to examine texts, audio, and visual information that may be radical and provoking.

Participants will be encouraged to put their creative problem-solving abilities to the test and will be challenged to come up with new ideas. Furthermore, given the diverse background of participants and their differing perspectives, the trainings will function as a platform for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge. Consequently, participants will gain skills such as critical thinking, improved communication, delegation of tasks and duties, collaboration, and developing a shared identity with other members of the group. In addition to that, participants will receive the opportunity to improve their language and communication skills given the international milieu of the TCs.

The youth project further intends to inspire youth workers to incorporate this knowledge later after the project lifetime in their respective occupations, sharing their experience with their colleagues, networks and other concerned parties. We further hope that the trainings will grant participants with new outlooks and vistas which would further motivate them to pursue the field of media literacy in a professional setting.

However, more importantly, the project intends to reduce and prevent cases of Islamist and right-wing radicalization by stimulating participants to analyze the threats present on social and mainstream media and recognizing signs of indoctrination amongst their target groups, ultimately building a framework that emphasizes the critical role of democratic values, PVE/CVE knowledge, and media literacy skills in fostering human rights, social contributing to long-term international development and peace.

Link to project card: [Show project card](#)