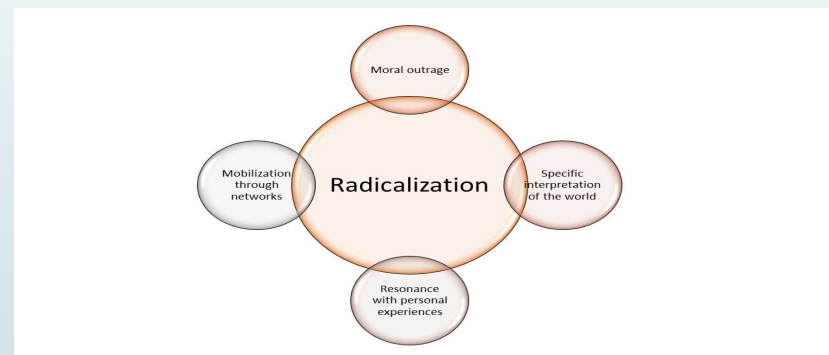


Methods for dealing with radicalization



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Partners:

Association of European Development - Applicant

EOS DEVELOPMENTAL SA – Hosting organization

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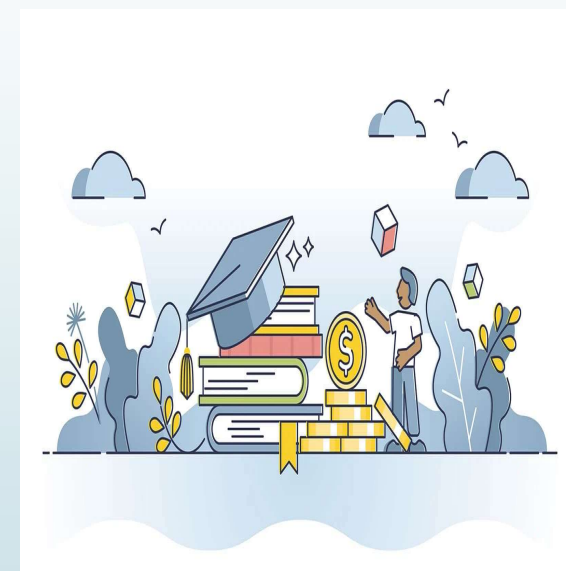
Important definitions

- Radicalisation is a process whereby a person increasingly accepts the use of violence to achieve political, ideological or religious goals. A process of radicalisation that results in violent extremism is characterised by:
 - a cognitive development toward a steadily more unilateral perception of reality, where there is no room for alternative perspectives.
 - thereafter, a further development where the perception of reality is experienced so acutely and seriously that violent actions appear necessary and just.
- Violent extremism is activities of persons and groups that are willing to use violence in order to achieve their political, ideological or religious goals.
- Hate crime means criminal acts that are fully or partially motivated by negative attitudes to a person or group's actual or perceived ethnicity, religion, political affiliation, sexual orientation, gender expression or disability. Violent extremism is the most extreme form of hate crime.



Education as the key to resilience

- Education is an essential requirement for strengthening resilience to various forms of radicalism and extremism and it involves interaction and communication. If people do not speak the same language – and this does not only include language in the traditional sense but also the mutual understanding– this leads to isolation, and to inability to act on the other.
- That is why it is of high importance to the society to keep education accessible to everyone in order to promote the social and cultural mix when acquiring knowledge and receiving education. This does not only lead to better understanding between people with different life plans, it also promotes social justice.
- In this case, education is more than vocational training or the mere transfer of factual knowledge. Education offers the great opportunity to break up existing social inequalities, including gender inequality. Sociopolitical discourse opportunities offer the possibility to support men and women, regardless of their gender, in developing different potentials in their individual personality.





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Social responsibility and health

- ▶ One of the conditions favouring the development of violent extremism is the existence of “push factors”. Among others, social, psychological and health factors are to be mentioned. Also, if individuals have experienced violence, they are more prone to join extremist groups and follow extremist ideologies.
- ▶ Any type of method to deal with radicalization must be based on the creation of positive life perspectives, the opportunity to change one's lifestyle and the access to alternative social networks.
- ▶ For a stable, democratic social order, it is crucial that everybody, regardless of his or her origin (family background, region, migration) and sex has the possibility of social mobility and social advancement with regard to his or her education, income and social status.
- ▶ Promoting social security means preventing the risk of isolation, radicalisation and extremisms caused by poverty and exclusion and strengthening common use of public spaces. Guaranteeing healthy living and working conditions and a public system of healthcare and psychosocial care equally accessible to everybody, can help to prevent and avoid extremisms and radicalisation processes and help to identify them at an early stage.

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UNESCO's position

- ▶ It is not enough to counter violent extremism --- we need to prevent it, and this calls for forms of 'soft power', to prevent a threat driven by distorted interpretations of culture, hatred, and ignorance. No one is born a violent extremist – they are made and fueled. Disarming the process of radicalization must begin with human rights and the rule of law, with dialogue across all boundary lines, by empowering all young women and men, and by starting as early as possible, on the benches of schools.
- ▶ UNESCO Member States adopted the landmark decision (Decision 197EX/46) to enhance UNESCO's capacity to provide assistance to States as they craft sharper strategies to prevent violent extremism. UNESCO has also committed to the UN Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism, with a focus on priorities of direct relevance to UNESCO's work: (i) education, skills development and employment facilitation; (ii) empowerment of youth; (iii) strategic communications, the Internet and social media; and (iv) gender equality and empowering women.

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Preventing online child radicalization

- From an early age, people need to be equipped with the skills and confidence to engage with the digital world safely, and to know where to go for help when things go wrong.
- This involves being willing to tackle and embrace difficult conversations appropriate to different age groups. We need to talk about diversity, sexuality, religion and politics in schools. We need to empower young people, so when someone challenges their way of thinking, they can fall back on their own knowledge, rather than being led down a dangerous path.
- We need to keep up to date with technology and understand how it changes. We also need to educate ourselves about the online world and the issues that children, young people and vulnerable adults may be faced with online.
- That can be as simple as spending time with a young person and playing and using some of the games and social media platforms they love. By engaging with a child, we will not only begin to understand what they are doing online and the potential dangers, but we can start to build their trust.





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