

Specifics of the current problems related to risks of radicalization



Project 2021-1-BG01-KA122-ADU-000035679 Safety and success, Erasmus +

Partners:

Association of European Development - Applicant

EOS DEVELOPMENTAL SA – Hosting organization

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About the project

- Project 2021-1-BG01-KA122-ADU-000035679 Safety and success, Erasmus +; Partners: Association of European Development - Applicant and EOS DEVELOPMENTAL SA – Hosting organization
- Goals: To develop the competencies of experts (trainers, psychologists, social workers) for soc. responsibility, civic engagement, and tolerance, raise awareness of the problems in the area of risks of radicalization, their prevention and ways to deal with them. The project includes 1 mobility in Greece, which will allow participants to increase their awareness and disseminate it through formal and informal initiatives of the association. With its implementation, they will get acquainted with new techniques in the field of radicalization prevention, the use of the Internet and soc. networks in the fight against radicalization, and the introduction of good European practices in national policies. 25 adults will take part in the mobility. Another objective is to build values like tolerance and inclusion.
- Activities : – Project organization and management; – Preliminary preparation for mobility in Greece, selection of participants; – Implementation of mobility and feedback (25 participants who are trainers, psychologists, counselors and social workers, specialists with experience in the field of adult support, prevention of radicalization); – Information activities.

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Expected results

Expected Results:

- 1 mobility in Greece for 7 days with 25 participants;
- improvement of the skills and competencies of experts working with adults, such as psychologists, soc. workers, trainers, counselors;
- increased awareness of the problems and risks of radicalization and the ways to deal with it;
- new techniques, methods, tools and good EU practices in the field of prevention of radicalization, Internet and soc. networks as a way of working and introducing it into national policies, stimulating critical thinking, civic engagement, and social responsibility, as well as values such as tolerance and social inclusion.
- After the mobility, we will integrate the results through the practical application of the acquired good practices, tools, methods, and techniques in the work of AED experts and through the active use of newly acquired skills and knowledge.



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Association of European Development

- ▶ AED is an NGO founded in 2013. It is a member of the Youth Forum for Partnership with Local Authorities, and the Advisory Youth Council of the Municipality of Varna. It participates in various initiatives, and is actively involved in environmental causes. AED is active in conducting initiatives on Earth Day - 22.04.2015 and International Youth Day - 12.08.2015. The team works in partnership with kindergartens, schools, NGOs and others on the territory of Varna district, with which it implements initiatives related to increasing the readiness of children for school, increasing knowledge of ecology, combating discrimination, equal opportunities. Our partners are: Municipalities, Kindergartens, Universities, NGOs and other.
- ▶ AED is organizes initiatives, trainings, seminars, round tables, discussions related to discrimination prevention, promoting social inclusion of vulnerable groups, entrepreneurship, civic engagement and social responsibility. We organize trainings aimed at career development, psychological counseling, methods for applying anti-discrimination, equal opportunities for all.

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EOS DEVELOPMENTAL SA

- ▶ EOS DEVELOPMENTAL SA, based in Greece, works for social responsibility and environmental entrepreneurship among young people. It makes trainings to protect the environment for children and young people. With the participation of municipalities and schools, they organize different national youth competitions and reformulate the best recycling youth plants.
- ▶ EOS DEVELOPMENTAL SA is developing through the creation and operation of recycling centers, consisting of the most advanced technologies for "sorting at source" empty packaging. Similarly, the collective system applies specific actions for packaging materials for recycling. EOS DEVELOPMENTAL SA concludes cooperation agreements with local governmental organizations for the alternative implementation of management programs.

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Radicalization-definitions

- Radicalization is the gradual social process into extremism and is applied to explain changes in ideas or behavior. A distinction exists between the cognitive and behavioral dimensions of radicalization, with the latter referring to engagement in extremist activities. Radicalization as a concept is not absolute, but relative and dependent on the context.
- The term received much attention following the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Yet, the concept of radicalization is heavily contested and as a result, a universally accepted definition is yet to be developed .
- Van den Bos defines radicalization as a process of growing willingness to pursue and/or support radical changes in society that conflict with, or could pose a threat to, democratic legal order.
- Hafez & Mullins identify three elements that may be viewed as important for an comprehensive understanding of the concept: 'Radicalization is usually a (1) gradual "process" that entails socialization into an (2) extremist belief system that sets the stage for (3) violence even if it does not make it inevitable'.

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Types of radicalization

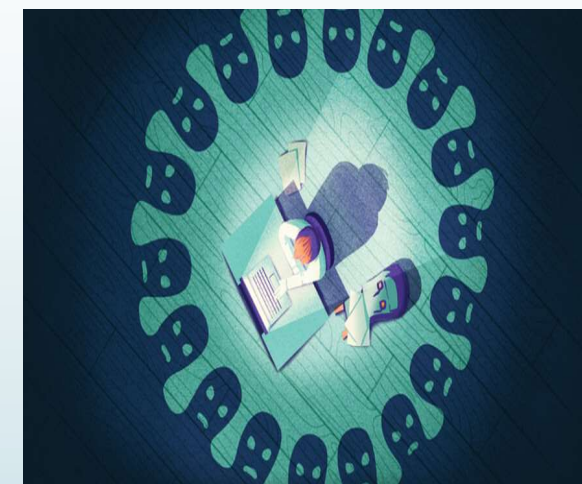
- ▶ **Right-Wing Extremism:** associated with fascism, racism, supremacism and ultranationalism. This form is characterized by the violent defense of a racial, ethnic or pseudo-national identity, and is associated with radical hostility towards state authorities, minorities, immigrants and/or left-wing political groups.
- ▶ **Politico-Religious Extremism:** A form associated with a political interpretation of religion and the defense, by violent means, of a religious identity perceived to be under attack (via international conflicts, foreign policy, etc). Any religion may spawn this type of radicalization.
- ▶ **Left-Wing Extremism:** A form that focuses on anti-capitalist demands and calls for the transformation of political systems considered responsible for producing social inequalities, and that may ultimately employ violent means to further its cause. This category includes anarchist, maoist, trotskyst and marxist-leninist groups.
- ▶ **Single-Issue Extremism:** motivated by a sole issue. This includes: radical environmental or animal rights groups, anti-abortion extremists, certain anti-gay/anti-feminist movements, and ultra-individualist or independent extremist movements (such as Free Men on the Land and sovereign citizens) that use violence to promote their causes.

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Risks of radicalization

Risk Factors Associated With Engaging or Attempting to Engage in Terrorism

- ▶ Having a Criminal History
- ▶ Having Been Involved With Delinquent Peers
- ▶ Being a Member of an Extremist Group for an Extended Period
- ▶ Having a Deep Commitment to an Extremist Ideology
- ▶ Having Psychological Issues
- ▶ Being Unemployed
- ▶ Having Less Education
- ▶ Having a Lower Social Economic Status
- ▶ Having Trouble in Relationships
- ▶ Having Been Abused Being Distant From One's Family



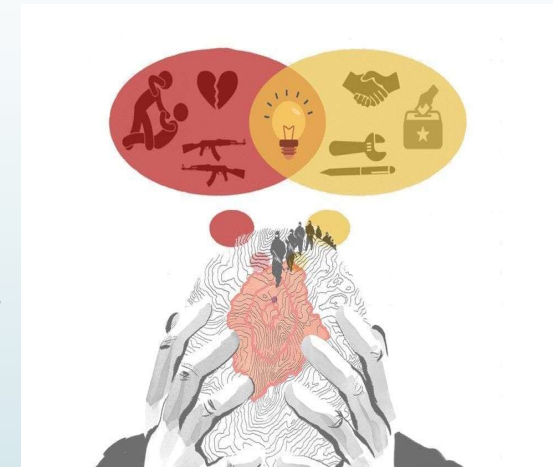
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Signs of being radicalized

Signs aren't always obvious, but indicators may include:

- Withdrawal from family and friends, or changing circle of friends
- Hostility towards others
- Being unwilling to discuss their views
- Increased levels of anger
- Being secretive, particularly around what they are doing on the internet
- Using extremist terms to exclude people or incite violence
- Expressing the values of extremist or terrorist organisations
- Supporting violence and terrorism towards other cultures, nationalities, or religions
- Possession of extremist literature or other material, or trying to access extremist websites
- Possession of any material about weapons, explosives, or military training

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Current problems related to social media and the Internet

- ▶ UNESCO explored the role of the Internet and social media on the development of radicalization among youth in a 2017 research report. The report explores violent extremism in the countries within Europe, North America, Latin America, and the Caribbean; violent radicalization in the Arab world and Africa; and, violent radicalization in Asia.
- ▶ The report expresses a need for continued research on this topic overall as there are multiple types of radicalization (political, religious, psychosocial) that can be explored in relation to youth and the role the Internet and social media play. One key conclusion of the report is that "social media constitutes a facilitating environment rather than a driving force for violent radicalization or the actual commission of violence."



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The EU context

Radicalization leading to violent extremism and terrorism is a phenomenon of concern in EU Member States and beyond. The 2020 Counter-Terrorism Agenda puts forward a number of initiatives to support to Member States in areas such as online radicalization, prisons and reintegration, as well as empowerment of communities. For that purpose, the Commission makes use of different policy instruments, which include:

- countering terrorist propaganda and illegal hate speech online,
- addressing radicalization in prisons
- promoting inclusive society, education and EU common values,
- boosting research, evidence building, monitoring and networks,
- strengthening international cooperation and
- enhancing the rights of and support to victims of terrorism



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