



# Youth Counselling against Radicalisation

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For a critical minority of young people, adolescence is a time when serious problems emerge or earlier difficulties escalate. They may have difficulties at school, lack good role models or the resilience to deal with new pressures. They may be confronted with alienation from and experience discrimination and open or hidden racism. Since they do not see positive perspectives, a rising number is attracted by extremist ideologies, such as Neo-Nazi groups or the „Islamic State“ . “

The Radicalisation Awareness Network of the European Commission states that *„the best prevention is to stop people from getting involved in violent extremist or terrorist activities in the first place, or to convince them to turn away from such ideas and methods.... The people best placed to tackle the phenomenon of radicalisation are the so called first-liners – people in direct contact with targeted individuals or vulnerable groups of population.“*

[www.ycare.eu](http://www.ycare.eu)

Project promoter:

Vervey Jonker Instituut, Utrecht

<https://www.vervey-jonker.nl>

## Radicalisation of juveniles: What can counsellors and advisers do?

Youth counsellors and advisers, but also teachers and trainers – called „first-liners“ - need new skills and competences to be better prepared to deal with intercultural tensions between diverse groups of learners. They should be able to detect, at an early stage, indicators of radicalisation among their learners. However, many of them have had their vocational education years ago, and many of them are completely or partially unprepared to the changes in the way in which our society is organized and which conceptual aspects of radicalisation pose a threat.

Our project will provide youth counsellors, teachers and advisers with effective tools information and information about good practice and methods, in order to help them do their work better. They will be able to acquire skills and knowledge to apply interventions in a preventive stage, and to focus on self-esteem, empathy towards out-groups and managing negative emotions. In this way, the project also aims to be one of the concrete actions to reach the Horizon 2020 goals, but also some primary aims of the Secure Societies Challenge which is about undertaking innovation activities needed to protect our citizens, society and economy as well as our political stability and wellbeing, and to fight crime and terrorism.

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## What does our project want to develop?

The main outcomes of this project will be:

- Guidelines, a framework for counsellors to inform about targeted youth support to help vulnerable young people early to address their difficulties as soon as possible and to prevent their problems escalating, in order to prevent them from being drawn to into antisocial behaviour, crime or joining terrorist organisations and movements
  - Best Practice Toolbox, offering a modular range of awareness raising, training and demonstration materials for youth counsellors, trainers as well as other professionals working in the field of youth counselling, based on latest positive psychology research findings, particularly the use of new didactic tools combating problems such as radicalisation
  - Online Platform and Mobile Applications for the delivery of outputs of the project and providing new means of interaction between learners and trainers, as it supports electronic management, storage and presentation of materials, transcending limitations of space and time and creating the necessary conditions for a dynamic teaching environment
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