



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

Project promoter:

Verwey Jonker Instituut, Utrecht

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

Needs of front line agents to tackle youth radicalisation in Europe

Under the leadership of our Spanish partner Aldaima we have elaborated a Needs Assessment Report. Its main objective was to identify and analyse the needs of professionals to address radicalisation and to assess the level of their understanding of this phenomenon. To this end, we contacted 346 professionals working with youth in general (31%), youth at risk of social exclusion (25%), childhood and families (20%), migrants (7%), minor offenders (7%) and disabled people (4%).

Here are some interesting results:

- The majority of professionals (70.4%) “agree” or “totally agree” with the statements concerning risk factors of radicalisation; the role of key agents in its prevention and the social and personal impact of the phenomenon. This reflects a medium to high awareness level.
- An equally high proportion (74.5%) confirmed that they need adequate resources (abilities to prevent, material resources and available information) and specific tools (capacity-building, information and material resources).
- Almost all the survey respondents have acknowledged a large understanding of the radicalisation phenomenon. However, the interviews have shown some discrepancies that can have an influence on the decision of practitioners concerning the accurate moment for intervention (e.g. intervention only in case of violent incidents or even before; ethnic groups vs. extremist groups).
- Whereas, on the one hand, radicalisation is associated to extremist and violent behaviour, on the other hand it is associated to the adoption of radical behaviours (with/without the use of violence).
- It is notable that hardly anyone knew any specific resource addressed to youth radicalisation, but in other fields (e.g. racism, coexistence, etc.).
- In line with this lack of resources, the interviews gathered a large number of needs, mainly focused on awareness and training. Conversational skills techniques are noted as a strategy used by professionals when confronted to radicalisation issues.

The situation of radicalisation in the countries of the partnership

Needs Assessment Report contains also a description of the situation in the Netherlands, Austria, Germany, Ireland, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain.

Read more at the project’s website: www.ycare.eu



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