



## **Recommendations from the Sarajevo Workshop on Preventing Violent Extremism**

On 23-25 April 2017 the Austrian OSCE Chairmanship with support from the OSCE Transnational Threats Department and the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina conducted the *Youth and the Prevention of Violent Extremism: Perspectives from the Western Balkans* workshop. A group of young experts from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, and Kosovo<sup>1</sup>, as well as from Croatia and Slovenia, discussed their role in prevention of violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, and formulated the following recommendations for policy makers. These recommendations will be presented to OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation at the 2017 OSCE-wide Counter-Terrorism Conference to be held on 23-24 May 2017 in Vienna.

### **CO-ORDINATION AND COMMUNICATION ON PREVENTING AND COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM**

- Governments together with other stakeholders should improve and facilitate access to information on existing Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (P/CVE) activities and funding opportunities, for example by developing a centralized online information platform.
- Establish local and regional alliances for CVE among NGOs working on youth and education in order to implement activity-based CVE projects.

### **EDUCATION (FORMAL AND NON-FORMAL)**

- Develop inclusive educational programmes, including vocational training, focused on engaging marginalised and at risk groups in economic and political participation.
- Develop training programmes for youth workers and civil society leaders on preventing and countering violent extremism (P/CVE) in order to promote youth mainstreaming to contribute to effective implementation of P/CVE programmes.
- Develop vocational activities on human rights and tolerance through co-operation between education authorities and civil society organizations, helping to identify exclusion, discrimination and marginalization.
- Encourage educational authorities to further include the expertise of civil society organizations in P/CVE activities.
- Promote inclusion, tolerance and pluralism in formal and informal education from the earliest stages of education.

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<sup>1</sup> All references to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text should be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244.

- Proactively encourage development of critical thinking skills through formal and informal education.

### **POLITICAL PARTICIPATION**

- Provide education for youth on the importance of civic engagement, along with knowledge on how to engage in decision-making processes.

### **MEDIA AWARENESS-RAISING CAMPAIGNS**

- Develop a comprehensive communication campaign to raise awareness on CVE, tailored to the local contexts.
- Create an online platform providing counter-narratives to counter various types of violent extremism and hate speech, and engage credible and influential voices as well as former extremists and their relatives, as well as victims of violent extremism, where appropriate.
- Engage media representatives and journalists to agree on professional and ethical reporting on violent extremism and terrorism.
- Develop guidelines on professional media reporting on cases of violent extremism and terrorism.
- Implement a social media campaign on media literacy for the public.

### **PREVENTION**

- Implement existing multi-stakeholder co-ordination mechanisms including community policing for a successful strategy on PVE on the local level.

### **ENGAGEMENT OF RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES**

- Provide know-how to religious leaders on conflict resolution strategies in communities.
- Provide know-how to religious leaders how to deal with disengagement of violent extremists, including providing targeted theological counter narratives by specialised experts.
- Establish a regional interfaith dialogue platform engaging all religious communities in interreligious dialogue.
- Work with religious leaders of all faiths on effective communication strategies to counter hate speech and violent extremist ideologies.

### **REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION**

- Implement re-socialization and reintegration programmes for former violent extremists by considering existing good practices, for example through engaging families affected by violent extremism in marginalized neighbourhoods or by providing on-going support from police, health and social services.

