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Understanding and Prevention of Radicalization among Youth

19-28 March 2022, Kings Village Hotel, Bulgaria

Arrival date: 19th March by 7pm the latest
Departure Date: 28th of March after 10 am

[Application form](#)



Summary

An 8-day training course in Bulgaria with 21 participants from 8 countries, including Bulgaria, Serbia, North Macedonia, Jordan, France, UK, Slovenia and Italy aiming to provide youth workers with knowledge and skills to prevent radicalization among the youth they work with.

Context

Taking into account the presence of extremist movements in the EU, as well as the terrorists events from 2018 and 2019 in the UK, France and other, Foundation "Solidarity Works" considers it highly important to gather active young people, youth workers and activists from European and MENA countries to discuss the extremism phenomena in EU which continuously threaten democracies.

The insecurity which terrorists aim to create has the potential to undermine the cohesion of our societies, and is particularly harmful for youth who can fall victims to radicalization or become closedminded and distrusting towards others as a response to extremism.

Our training course aims to promote active participation of youth in prevention of extremism phenomena, and develop practical approaches to combat radicalization through youth work and non-formal education.

How do extremist movements emerge in Europe? Financial crisis, unemployment, violated rights of marginalized social groups create a good environment for extremism to emerge. Extremism results in a variety of negative phenomena such as xenophobia, discrimination, violence, social conflict, nationalism. Overcoming this current condition requires active participation of a varied group of key actors.

In its latest report entitled "Preventing Radicalization to Terrorism and Violent Extremism" the EUropean Comission further reiterated that involving and training practitioners (such as youth workers), is the key to effective prevention. According to the latest study led by Radicalization Awareness Network, the role of youth workers is critical: "Youth workers can provide young people with the necessary life skills and human rights values, contribute to a positive identity development, make them resilient against extremist ideologies and ensure their personal well-being".

Our team has identified several issues of concern that can be addressed through this project in order to prevent youth radicalization:

1. Absence of a mutual agenda and lack of quality working methods for youth workers regarding anti-radicalization among youth in local communities/countries;
2. Lack of recognition and wide visibility of the best strategies/methods used on this topic;
3. Deficiency of day-to-day cooperative peer-to-peer exchange instruments among youth organizations, especially for those working with youth at risk of radicalization.

This project has the main aim to address youth radicalization by offering training on understanding the phenomenon of radicalization, on prevention



strategies and methods to be used, and also by fostering cooperation between key actors.

Learning objectives

- Understanding the causes of extremism/radicalization
- Mapping the extremism/radicalization phenomena in Europe and finding connections between them
- Finding and analyzing the main factors leading to extremism/radicalization, as well as those leading to their prevention
- Analyzing European values and how they can be used as tools against extremism and radicalization
- Equipping youth workers with organizational abilities, resources/methods and required competencies on youth inclusion, social cohesion, intercultural dialogue, integration and conflict management, as tools of prevention of youth radicalization– competences gathered through thematic workshops, study visits and local actions with marginalized Youth
- Contributing to the recognition and visibility of good practices and new methods/strategies used to fight youth radicalization, reached through the development of a “Youth Workers engaged to prevent radicalization of young people” Guide which will be developed with the contributions of project participants.

Learning outcomes

During this training course, we will work on developing the following skills and competences with our participants:

1. Development of tools for youth workers to recognize signs of radicalization at an early stage within their specific area of work
2. Provision with consistent and effective instruments to help report their observations to the appropriate institutions
3. Establishment of prevention strategies that will enable all youth workers to respond appropriately to vulnerable youngster at risk of radicalization
4. Development of specific skills for organizing and actively facilitating sessions with young people in risk of radicalization (especially marginalized ones)
5. Identification of non-formal methods that can be adapted in the active framework of anti- radicalization processes

Abilities to be fostered during the project:

1. Identifying the signs of young people trapped in the radicalization process of terrorist groups (session “Spot the Sign”, discussing susceptibility to indoctrination; the need for identity, meaning and belonging; being influenced or controlled by a group; feelings of grievance and injustice; etc.



2. Choosing appropriate learning methods and adapting existing ones to the needs of young people in risk of radicalization (sessions “Intercultural dialogue” and “Conflict management”, giving participants methods to use in their youth work)
3. Developing an appropriate program for different profiles of young people and asking questions to support the learning process
4. Supporting young people in overcoming learning barriers through including different categories of young people in the follow-up phase with partner organizations
1. Facilitating learning about prejudice and discrimination (session “Intercultural dialogue” – presenting different cultures in their local communities)
2. Anticipating potential extremism or radicalization-identifying specific signs (through various examples/questions asked)
3. Encouraging the expression of different points of view – intercultural tools developed through the mobility

Skills to be developed:

1. Recognizing and working with group dynamics - facilitating sessions during the mobility
2. Collecting, analyzing and organizing information in order to prepare specific activities for the follow-up stage
3. Motivating others to take an active role – by disseminating results among members, youth workers, leaders and relevant stakeholders

Other transversal skills:

1. Necessity to organize work with young people in risk of radicalization
2. Intercultural and civic competencies through participating in all sessions of the mobility
3. Detailed information about the phenomenon of radicalization among young people in the 8 participating countries, as well as the solutions to be applied at the level of youth work to prevent this phenomenon

Profile of participants

Participants in the training should be:

- Youth workers directly working with young people in risk of radicalization such as marginalized young people: minorities, institutionalized, juvenile delinquents, Roma, homeless, young people over 18 years who are not enrolled in the child welfare system without family, long term NEETs.
- not part of the staff/management teams of the partner organizations
- residents in a partner country
- Older than 18



- Working-level English proficiency to be able to follow the training course and contribute to it
- holding formal training or wanting to deepen their specific knowledge/skills in psychology and social work
- aiming to develop/ acquire practical skills enabling them to work with potential victims of radicalization phenomenon
- At least basic knowledge and understanding of non-formal education and communication
- Knowledge about the specific context in their NGOs and local communities
- Willingness to further disseminate the project results and participate in the follow-up phase
- Comfortable with shared accommodation conditions (participants will be accommodated in shared rooms with 2 or 3 beds per room)

Preparation tasks required for participation

The representatives from the countries in this project will do preliminary research on extremist movements' development in their countries, and share their findings with their international colleagues. The project participants will be supported in conducting this preliminary research task by receiving a guide with questions provided by the organizers. All national teams will do presentations of their findings during a designated workshop as part of the training program.

Project team

Tiziano Tomassini (Facilitator) (Degree in Sociology), From 2012-2017 has been a member of Magenta city council with delegation to youth and culture. Until 2013 he was president of the International Youth Association Young Effect and founder in 2009. He was European Voluntary Service coordinator for Joint Association in Milan, and Erasmus and EVS coordinator in Antalya (Turkey) University for 2 years. Tiziano is expert in non-formal education, he has been working for close to 10 years in the facilitation of training courses at international and local level. He specializes in social entrepreneurship projects and is also a freelance consultant with Milano Città Metropolitana for the program Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs. He primarily facilitates training courses related to nonviolence education, prevention of extremism and human rights education.

Maggie Nazer (Project manager), Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Middlebury College, USA; pursuing a Master in History of Women and Gender at Sofia University. Maggie is an experienced non-formal education trainer with 4 years of experience implementing training courses, workshops and public speeches on a diverse range of subjects. Nazer has experience in academic research on Islam and islamophobia,



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as well women's and human rights. As a sociologist Maggie is able to assist the development of critical perspectives in relation to the project topics, while her social entrepreneurship background allows her to motivate and give relevant examples of ways to create and implement various initiatives in order to bring about change.

Valya Marinova (Coordination support) holds a BA in Art History from the School of Oriental and African Studies and is pursuing an MA in Artistic Psychosocial Practices and Psychodrama. She has experience in multiple Erasmus+ training courses on the subjects of personal development, social work and art, and is at the beginning of her career in organizing and implementing youth exchanges and training courses. She has experience in leading sessions for young people in art-making for personal development, and is interested in utilizing the therapeutic potential of playfulness and creativity.

Venue & Accommodation



The project will be hosted in [Kings Village Hotel](#), located near the village of Drugan, 10 kilometres away from the town of Radomir. The hotel has a pool, tennis courts and spacious indoor and outdoor working areas. You will be accommodated in rooms of 2 or 3 according to your gender.



!!! You are expected to arrive in Sofia on 19th of March by 19pm **the latest**. You will be given [directions](#) how to reach the town of Radomir from Sofia (the bus ride takes about 45 minutes, but if you arrive late, there might be no public transportation to take you), and we will pick you up from Radomir to bring you to Kings' Village Hotel. On 28th of March at 10am we will take you back to Radomir from where you will take bus or train to Sofia.

Please, coordinate your travel and don't buy tickets before you have discussed your travel options with Maggie Nazer (Project Manager, maggie@solidarityworks.eu).

Health insurance

Health insurance for participants from non-EU countries has to be provided by the participants themselves. Participants from EU-countries are asked to use their [European health insurance card](#).

Additionally, all participants are requested to purchase insurance covering expenses related to COVID19 treatment and quarantine costs, or commit to covering any such expenses themselves, should they arise.

Financial conditions

<i>Partner</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Number of Participants</i>	<i>Maximum allowance travel (in Euro)</i>
SolidarityWorks	Bulgaria	4	20
Young Effect Association	Italy	3	275
DACORUM COUNCIL VOLUNTARY SERVICE	UK	2	360
Alternativni centar za razvoj	Serbia	3	180
Kulturno umetniško društvo Transformator	Slovenia	2	275
Kiva Collective	France	2	275
Association for Education and Sustainable Development BRIGHT	North Macedonia	3	180
"Odlar Yurdu" Youth Public Union	Azerbaijan	3	360

Requirements for entering Bulgaria:

1. From **Italy**- red zone as of 5 Jan 2022



2. From **UK** - red zone as of 20 Dec 2021
3. From **Serbia** - orange zone as of 20 Dec 2021
4. From **Slovenia** - red zone as of 20 Dec 2021
5. From **France** - red zone as of 20 Dec 2021
6. From **North Macedonia** - orange zone as of 20 Dec 2021
7. **Azerbaijan** - Orange zone

Bulgaria tourist visa is required for Azerbaijani citizens. The stay is usually short with a period of 90 days and visa expires in 90 days. Applicant is required to be present when applying for Bulgaria tourist visa. A total of 11 documents are required for applying Bulgaria tourist visa. You can also find visa exemptions and useful tips from fellow travellers. (Source: <https://visalist.io/bulgaria/visa-requirements/azerbaijan>)

Orange zone (countries outside the red and green zone)

People arriving from countries within the orange zone are allowed on the territory of the country upon presentation of one of the following documents:

- a valid EU digital COVID-19 vaccination certificate,
- a valid EU digital COVID-19 recovery certificate,
- a valid EU digital COVID certificate for conducted testing (a document showing a negative result from a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test conducted up to 72 hours before entry into the country or a negative result from a rapid antigen test conducted up to 48 hours before entry into the country from the date of sampling entered in the document),
- a similar document containing the same data as the EU digital COVID certificate (for vaccination/recovery/testing).

Note: In the absence of the aforementioned documents, the person shall be quarantined for 10 days at home or in another place of accommodation where he/she has indicated that he/she will reside.

Note: Not less than 5 percent of the entrants from countries in orange zones are tested for COVID-19 with a rapid antigen test by the border health authorities.

Red zone entry ban exemptions:

- citizens of the European Union,... citizens of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and citizens of the countries listed in Annex 4 of the Ordinance and their family members arriving from a member state of the European Union, the European Economic Area, the Swiss Confederation, from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and the Northern Ireland or from a country listed in Annex 4 of the Ordinance;

The persons falling under the exceptional categories listed above are allowed on the territory of the country upon presenting one of the following documents:

- a negative result from a test conducted up to 72 hours before entering the country by the method of polymerase chain reaction for COVID-19 (PCR test), certified by a valid EU digital COVID certificate for testing (PCR test only), or a similar document containing the same data as the EU digital COVID certificate for testing (PCR test only),

AS WELL AS



- a valid digital EU COVID-19 vaccination certificate, or
- a valid digital EU COVID-19 recovery certificate.

Sources:

1. Ministry of Health order - 05/01/2022 - https://www.mh.government.bg/media/filer_public/2022/01/05/zapoved_vlizane_bg_04_01_2022-3.pdf
2. Ministry of Foreign Affairs - 17/12/2021 - <https://www.mfa.bg/en/customnews/main/24737>

Reimbursement

There is no participation fee. Food, accommodation, international and local travel costs (only during the training course dates) as well as 1 PCR test to enter Bulgaria (for red zone country participants only) will be covered by the grant received by Foundation "SolidarityWorks" from the Bulgarian National Agency of the Erasmus+ Programme.

Foundation "SolidarityWorks" will reimburse **100% of participants' travel costs** (with cheapest means of transportation (economy class), no taxi, within the limits set by Erasmus+ Programme) upon presentation of original tickets, invoices and boarding passes.

All documents should have the price, currency, name of the passenger and date of purchase clearly visible on them, otherwise we will be unable to reimburse the costs.

!!! Please note that participant's travel costs should not exceed the travel budget limits which are approved by the Bulgarian National Agency of the Erasmus+ Programme, and the travel route and dates should also be in accordance with it. If you have problems to stay within the indicated maximum allowance, please, contact the organizers.

If you want to arrive earlier or stay longer, you can arrive/leave up to two days before the official dates of the training course (19-28 March 2022). Please, consult with us prior to buying your tickets, so that we are able to reimburse you afterwards!

Participants will receive reimbursements by bank transfer **after the training** and upon sending of return travel documents, international bank details, and dissemination activity reports. No exception to this rule will be done. Reimbursement will be done in EUR, regardless of the currency indicated on the ticket and receipt/ invoice. Any tickets purchased in a local currency other than EUR, will then be converted and calculated according to the exchange rate of the official European Commission website¹. SolidarityWorks is not responsible for, and will not cover bank charges administered by receiving banks.

COVID-19 measures

- Toilets in the hotel will have detergent and hand sanitizer;
- We may measure participants' temperature daily
- If you do not have a suitable mask or have lost yours, you will be able to contact staff to get one for free;

¹ www.ec.europa.eu/budget/inforeuro/index.cfm?Language=en



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- We will have meals in the outdoor sitting area of the hotel (weather permitting)
- We will do many activities outside (weather permitting) and our inside working space will be spacious and will be ventilated frequently

What to bring

- Traditional music, clothes, snacks and drinks for intercultural evening (you will have about 15 minutes to present your country)
- Information about your organization (if you have materials you want to share)
- Proof of all travel expenses:
- Tickets (there must be price and name of the person stated on them)
- Bank account details (Account number, Iban, Swift code, Bank name)
- Boarding passes (DON'T LOSE THEM!)

About Foundation “SolidarityWorks”

Drugan, Radomir municipality, Bulgaria

[Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Youtube](#) | [Website](#)

Our main goal is to promote, encourage and support the sustainable development of individuals and communities through solidarity and collective action for social change. Furthermore, we aim to support and expand equal access to education and opportunities for development, and work to overcome the impact of inequality and violence, as well as reduce it.

We achieve our goals by:

- empowering individuals, marginalized groups and other collectives
- supporting equal access to education and opportunities for development, and work to overcome the impact of inequality, as well as reduce it
- encouraging and supporting solidarity and cooperation between individuals and communities
- developing the capacity for collective action toward social change
- conducting advanced sociological research

Contacts for further information:

hello@solidarityworks.eu