RESEARCH REPORT

Executive Summary

HEADS-UP

SUMMARY OF PARTNER REPORTS AND 12 RECOMMENDED TOOLS
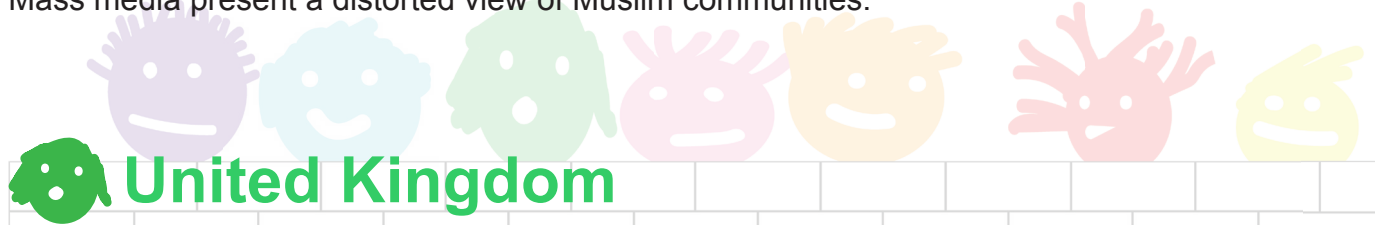
Spain

Main Subjects

Internet, social media, online activities, Islamophobia, Nationalism, Facism

Key issue (s) / findings

Rise of Jihadist radicalism, nationalism & facisms growing again in the country Rise of Islamaphobia and radicalisation of young Muslims.

Mass media present a distorted view of Muslim communities.

United Kingdom

Main Subjects

Internet, social media, online activities, Islamophobia, tech industry, Education sector - Prevent Duty, Government.

Key issue (s) / findings

Two thirds of people involved in Islamic terrorism offences were known to have consumed extremeist materials almost exclusivey online.

This generation of young people is largely characterized as the emergence of the Us/Them mentality.

The "War on Terror" generation - young people are the main target - ones that are searching for identity, young muslims are most vulnerable.

Reporting to local authorities and its barriers - very little is known about what reporting of the potential violent extremist. Some younger respondents would also share concerns with lecturers or teachers, but most were dubious about confiding in GP or health worker.

😀 CYPRUS

Main Subjects

Nationalism, racism, xenophobia and the creation of the far-right party, internet, digital media.

Key issue (s) / findings

Over the last few years: rise of the far-right and the creation of the Cyprus nationalist party with a strong youth wing

Little discussion has taken place on the use of the internet for youth radicalization

Cyprus has a few civil society organisations that focus their work on supporting refugees and migrants, as well as promoting tolerance, acceptance and addressing racism and xenophobia.

😮 IRELAND

Main Subjects

Internet, digital media, identity, isolation.

Key issue (s) / findings

Threat of radicalisation risen significantly. In the last decade, . Irish authorities estimate that in the region of 30 to 40 Irish people, many of them teenagers and young adults, have travelled to fight in Syria and Iraq.

Irish militant individuals and organisations, as well as extreme right wing groups, also target young people through social media platforms using images, blogs, podcasts, videos and appealing directly to sympathisers through messaging or comments.

Those identified as being most at risk of radicalisation in Ireland include people who feel that their culture/ beliefs or ideology is being threatened, young people who feel disenfranchised and are susceptible to peer pressure or manipulation and members of the Muslim community who feel isolated, anger and frustration or who have been exposed to radical and extreme preachers or rhetoric.

🐌 CROATIA

Main Subjects

Xenophobia, discrimination, Education, minorities, media content

Key issue (s) / findings

The biggest risk of radicalization in Croatia is the radicalization of mainstream society towards minorities.

Also, the research has uncovered xenophobia towards certain groups; a part of the population thinks that certain ethnic, religious and other groups are a threat to Croatia and its citizens. In particular, this concerns attitudes towards Roma, asylum seekers, Serbs, Muslims, the Chinese and Arabs.

How discrimination appears to young people - discrimination can be a result of home-based education or a result of the way of life in an environment where an individual grows up - Educators can influence this outlook.

👹 PORTUGAL

Main Subject(s)

Digital media, racism, Schools.

Key issue (s) / findings

At schools, children are involved in some environments that promote attitudes of some that can create a path to lead to intolerance and radicalization. In Portugal 2 main groups, black people and gypsies are on the target, since young age.

At least a dozen Portuguese nationals have joined jihadist groups fighting in Iraq and Syria, according to new estimates by Portuguese counter-terrorism officials. All of the Portuguese jihadists (ten men and

two women) are under the age of 30 and most of them are children of immigrants

FINLAND

Main Subject

Social Media

Key issue (s) / findings

The threat of violent radicalization and extremism in Finland has increased in recent years.

In 2012 the Finnish Government decided on the preparation of the first national Action Plan for the prevention of violent extremism and the Plan was revised in 2016.

The number of people residing in Finland illegally has increased as a result of the situation with asylum seekers in 2015. They are in a very poor position and are very vulnerable and subject to recruitment by extremists groups.

CZECH REPUBLIC

Main Subjects

Social media, right wing, left wing, Religion

Key issue (s) / findings

The Ministry of the Interior's Report on Extremism in the Territory of the Czech Republic (2015) recognizes three types of events: 1) public gatherings and demonstrations, 2) concerts, 3) other events (other concerts, meetings, discussions and partly public or private events).

Radicalisation includes: Right wing, left wing, and religious extremism.
Main causes and motivations radicalisation: . Cases of dysfunctional families, which are causing radicalization of youth, are also normal. Young people who are searching for strong examples and do not find these in their families they might be able to find examples in radical groups. Right-wing radicals are supported very often by young people, who are even under the age of criminal responsibility, who lack moral barriers, and who consider minorities responsible for their failures or low social status.

Places for radicalisation includes schools.

CONCLUSION

Overall, each report has offered insights into the differences of issues and findings experience by a country. However, there are shared concerns over certain findings that ties all countries together. Digital media, Islamaphobia, far right threat, Media, discrimination and Education are prominent in the reports with the latter discussed by some as a tool to tackle radicalisation and help young people who are otherwise vulnerable to extremism of some form.

This leads to 12 tools discussed by the UK team that can be developed by other teams to meet specific aims. These include: Flyer, Pamphlet, booklet, workshops, short meetings with parents, video, podcast, and social media content.

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Erasmus+