



Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe



CIO.GAL/181/15

1 December 2015

ENGLISH only

WORKING WITH YOUTH FOR YOUTH: PROTECTION AGAINST RADICALIZATION

Serbia's 2015 OSCE Chairmanship together with its
Special Representatives on Youth and Security

**Report on
Findings and
Recommendations
03 – 04 Sep 2015.**

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Belgrade, 2015

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Serbian OSCE Chairmanship-in-Office
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia
Kneza Miloša 24-26, 11000 Belgrade, Serbia
<http://www.osce.org/cio>; <http://mfa.rs/sr/>

WORKING WITH YOUTH FOR YOUTH: PROTECTION AGAINST RADICALIZATION

In the preparation of the conference "Working With Youth and For Youth: Protection Against Radicalization", as well as in the document on findings and recommendations, the following references have been taken into account:

Helsinki Final Act

Liang Dr, C.S. (2015), *Cyber Jihad: Understanding and Countering Islamic State Propaganda*

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, (2014.) *Preventing Terrorism and Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism: A Community-Policing Approach*

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, (2013.) *Youth Engagement to Counter Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism*

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, (2008.) *Countering Terrorism, Protecting Human Rights: A Manual*

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, (2007.) *Declaration of the Madrid Youth Forum*

OSCE Ministerial Council Declaration on Youth (MC.DOC/3/14)

OSCE Youth Ambassadors, (2014) *Model OSCE Youth Action Plan*

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Palace of Serbia, Conference “Working With Youth and For Youth: Protection Against Radicalization”, Photo credit: OSCE Mission to Serbia

FOREWORD

Violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism (VERLT) is a denial of democracy and of human rights, which are at the very core of the OSCE. Young people are particularly vulnerable in this context, given their age and what comes with it, e.g. new digital channels for recruitment used primarily by youth, belonging to marginalized communities, the portrayal of youth in the media, multiple identities and a variety of other factors.



In order to effectively commit to the elimination of VERLT, it is crucial to invest more in prevention measures targeting young people, while including them in shaping of such measures. Cooperation and work toward mutual values of peace and stability will pave the way for long-term change. *Without the participation of youth, the protection of youth is not as certain.*

Comprehensive human right education is one of the tools to tackle radicalization. However, taking into account psychological factors behind sliding into destructive behaviors, emotional and social literacy are also crucial factors in early empowerment of the young generation and in strengthening their capacity to make sane choices for themselves and society in general.

Protecting youth from violent radicalization and extremism and combating terrorism in general is a task for all participating States, which requires a multidimensional approach, involvement of all stakeholders in society and cooperation and further research in order to develop feasible and effective prevention measures. OSCE wide cooperation and inclusion not only of youth but other actors in all of our societies is a necessity rather than a choice, as complex issues of this kind can be understood and resolved with combined efforts only.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Milena Stosic', is positioned above the printed name.

Milena Stosic
Special Representative of the Chairmanship-in-Office on Youth and Security

Violent extremism among youth appears based on social bonding rather than ideological grounds. Young people may initially turn to violent extremist groups to find a sense of recognition, fellowship, and identity. The economic crises faced by many OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation had a disproportionate impact on youth in terms of poverty and unemployment, increasing vulnerability to VERLT.



Countering violent extremism among youth requires a sophisticated, comprehensive response. Recent efforts on the topic touch on the same issues and propose similar approaches. It is undisputed that the broader public and individual communities are stakeholders and partners in countering VERLT, rather than simply the passive subject of law enforcement. Youth engagement activities form a cornerstone of Anti-VERLT practices in many countries as youth can engage their peers on par, taking advantage of their own life stories. However, efforts remain largely invisible, unrecognized, and are even undermined due to a lack of adequate participatory and inclusive mechanisms to partner with decision-making bodies.

Building the capacity of front-line actors, such as the police, teachers, social workers and young religious leaders as well as promoting training in schools can strengthen young people's knowledge and skills to understand and reject VERLT narratives. Initiatives involving former violent extremists have shown great impact on youth as they can share their personal stories and challenge violent ideologies with more credibility.

We shall as societies seek to offer and support credible alternatives to violent extremism by fostering feelings of belonging to society, providing access to health and social services as well as employment opportunities to young people and enabling their active participation in public life including through civic and democratic engagement. Although these may be held as radical ideas in their communities, youth should be persuaded to fight for the values we stand for. Youth should be encouraged to embrace and actively promote peace, tolerance and democracy!

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'A' followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line.

Anna-Katharina Deininger

Special Representative of the Chairmanship-in-Office on Youth and Security

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is an output of the conference “Working With Youth and For Youth: Protection Against Radicalization”, organized by the OSCE Chairmanship-in-Office together with its Special Representatives on Youth and Security, from 03-04 September in Belgrade, Serbia. The conference aimed to provide a platform for discussion among young people, academia, participating States and civil society looking for a better understanding of the violent extremism and radicalization leading to terrorism, as well as to offer recommendations in approaching this phenomenon.

The report is structured along the three dimensions of the comprehensive OSCE notion of security: human, politico-military and economic-environmental. In addition, youth participation as a crosscutting area is dealt with as well.

While not aspiring to be an exhaustive resource examining VERLT in relation to youth and VERLT, the report represents a collection of opinions that reinforce existing OSCE principles and commitments, together with potentially new ideas. Most importantly, it incorporates youth voices as particularly relevant to the topic. Recommendations target all decision-making levels and all stakeholders who may draw inspiration from the experiences and angles presented.

Acknowledgement

Special thanks go to the OSCE Youth Ambassadors in shaping the conference agenda, as well as for their active and committed participation; to Ms. Maja Bjelos (Belgrade Centre for Security Policy - BCSP) for her valuable suggestions during the editing of the Report; to all young people, experts, civil society representatives and international organizations who took part; as well as to all OSCE participating States for recognizing importance of ‘working with youth for youth’ in countering violent extremism and radicalization leading to terrorism.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN THE OSCE FRAMEWORK - WORKING WITH YOUTH FOR YOUTH

Youth has a prominent place already in the Helsinki Final Act. 40 years later, there are a number of youth-related activities that are being implemented by different OSCE structures. The consecutive Chairmanships of Switzerland and Serbia in 2014 and 2015 prioritized youth in their Joint Work plan. 57 Youth Ambassadors were named and convened by the Swiss Chairmanship to develop a Youth Action Plan while the Serbian Chairmanship has appointed two Special Representatives on Youth and Security. The Declaration on Youth¹ was adopted at the Ministerial Council in Basel last year acknowledging the potential of young people to contribute to economic, political and social development.

Youth policies across OSCE Participating States reflect the diversity in terms of development, the level of youth participation and understanding of 'youth' per se. Should working with youth be promoted within the OSCE structures? What are benefits of youth participation regarding peace, tolerance and cooperation, and what are doubts and fears? How can examples of good practice of other international organizations be taken into account?

- The consecutive OSCE Chairmanships of Switzerland in 2014 and Serbia in 2015 brought youth back to the agenda of the organization, primarily through the project "Model OSCE: Youth for security and cooperation in Europe". The project began in 2014 in cooperation with the National Youth Council of Switzerland (SAJV). Over the course of the year, youth from 57 participating States – referred to as Youth Ambassadors – adopted by consensus the "Youth Action Plan²", containing 144 recommendations for the OSCE executive structures and participating States on how to best address youth protection, promotion and participation. The document was presented by the Swiss Youth Ambassador during the Ministerial Council in Basel in 2014. This MC also saw the adoption of the Declaration on Youth.
- In early 2015, the Chairmanship-in-Office appointed two Special Representatives on Youth and Security³, implementing one of the Youth Action Plan's recommendations on youth participation. At the same time, the network of Youth Ambassadors has remained active as an informal group independent from the CiO.

¹ <http://www.osce.org/cio/130536?download=true>

² <http://model-osce.ch/model-osce/youth-action-plan/>

³ <http://www.osce.org/cio/108330>

- In accordance with the Joint Workplan of the Swiss and Serbian Chairmanships, which provides for the adoption of a comprehensive OSCE Action Plan on Youth and Security, the CiO in 2015 has made use of the Youth Ambassadors' document as inspiration and re-initiated consultations to finalize and adopt the Action Plan.
- Previously, the 2007 Spanish Chairmanship had prioritized this issue. That year, the Madrid Youth Forum was organized and it produced a Youth Declaration focusing on particular areas, such as international co-operation in the fight against terrorism and support to victims of terrorism as well as the role of young people in conflict prevention.
- In the field missions there have been a number of ongoing youth-related activities. For instance, the Central Asian Youth Network (CAYN) was established in 2004 in Charvak, Uzbekistan. After a brief hiatus, CAYN was re-launched in 2009, at the initiative of the OSCE Programme Office (then known as the Centre) in Astana. Through CAYN, the OSCE missions in Central Asia have been investing in a network of young open-minded people since 2004. CAYN has served as a great example of what the OSCE can accomplish in promoting regional security, by helping young people make the most of their tremendous intellectual potential, energy, and willingness to overcome stereotypes and bring about changes. It aims to assist youth in building key skills and competencies – such as critical thinking, the ability to reflect, to interact with others and to peacefully channel and express opinions and reject calls for intolerance.
- Another prominent example of enhancing youth participation is the Youth Advisory Group in the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2014. The group is to provide input for the implementation of the Mission's programs with the aim of the strengthening its youth perspective.
- Other international organizations also have a tradition of youth participation mechanisms. The Council of Europe's co-management model is widely considered to allow for the greatest participation of youth. This involves that representatives from youth non-governmental organizations (NGOs) sit in committees with government officials and together they work out the priorities for the youth sector and make recommendations for future budgets and programmes. These proposals are then adopted by the Committee of Ministers, the Council of Europe's highest decision-making body⁴.
- Youth organizations play a major role in facilitating youth participation, as they usually create an environment for democratic deliberations and decision-making. On the national level, National Youth Councils are usually recognized as the highest representative bodies of youth with varying

⁴ https://www.coe.int/t/dg4/youth/Coe_youth/co_management_en.asp

degrees of independence from the state in different countries. Furthermore, youth also organize in international non-governmental organizations. In Europe, the European Youth Forum (YFJ) is a noteworthy example as it gathers in its membership both NYCs and INGOs, thus representing a prominent advocacy platform focusing on youth rights.

- Notwithstanding society's perception to the contrary, youth do deal with security issues in an organized manner. For instance, the YFJ General Assembly adopted resolutions in the past addressing radicalization as well as the situation in Ukraine in regard to youth and youth organizations, peace and stability, showing the fact that young people are interested in security and can contribute a valuable part to the solutions.
- Enabling youth participation requires that sufficient resources are allocated for this purpose. In the Council of Europe, the European Youth Foundation (EYF) was established to provide financial support for European youth activities and encourage stronger co-operation amongst young people.
- While drawing upon experience from other international organizations, the focus of the OSCE engagement should be on complementarities and on avoiding overlapping.
- Education (including non-formal education) is a key focus area to make a difference in promoting youth.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- *Ensure* that youth is mainstreamed into the work of the OSCE, both at the level of decision-making and in the operational structures and activities.
- *Establish* a permanent consultative structure within the OSCE linking youth with participating States' (pS) authorities. The CoE co-management seems to be a role model when it comes to highest level of youth participation (Roger Hart scale) and has the longest tradition in this regard.
- *Integrate* systematically a youth perspective into the daily work of the OSCE structures, institutions and field operations. This should go beyond youth outreach and advocacy and include relevant research and analysis as well as the design, planning and implementation of all programmes, projects and activities across the three dimensions. This approach could eventually be extended to include assistance to pS in their capacity-building efforts.

- *Acknowledge* that the MC decision on a OSCE Action Plan on Youth and Security would provide the necessary reference document to increase the inclusion of youth at all levels of the OSCE's work.
- *Ensure* adequate funding for OSCE youth activities as a priority issue among pS.
- *Coordinate* existing youth-related activities within the OSCE by facilitating regular communication between and meetings of Youth Focal Points, regional exchanges of best practices between youth organizations and cooperation especially on the level of the OSCE field presences.

HUMAN DIMENSION

COUNTERING RADICALIZATION AND PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS AS MUTUALLY REINFORCING GOALS: UNWRAPPING THE YOUTH ANGLE

Violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism (VERLT) is a denial of democracy and of human rights, which are at the very core of the OSCE. What can be done to find an effective approach that combines countering radicalization with human rights protection as mutually reinforcing goals? What role can young people, often considered especially vulnerable to the threat of VERLT, play? How can we make educational efforts work in the digital era?

How to tackle the challenges that (new) social media pose in the fight against VERLT while guaranteeing that human rights and fundamental freedoms are respected and protected?

This session examined the human rights angle in discussing the impact of VERLT on youth, their role in prevention measures, and an overall strategy to combat VERLT in the OSCE region - in the light of existing commitments and positions, as well as by exploring new ideas.

- Undue restrictions by states on human rights that are often based on broad definitions of terrorism and so-called extremism is alarming. This can lead to the suppression of views that, although controversial or at times considered extreme, are not unlawful under international human rights law. Freedom of expression must be preserved in all cases while combating violent radicalization efficiently. Hate speech must be conquered with more speech, not less.
- 'The somewhat overused vocabulary of 'radicalization' or 'terrorism' does not accurately or completely describe the challenge'. But another concept is available and can help in finding the right answers to our interrogations: 'Multiple identities'⁵.
- Counter-terrorism policies often lead to stigmatization and discrimination against certain individuals based on characteristics such as religion, racial or ethnic origins. Terrorism cannot be equated with any religion or ethnicity. Nonetheless, some communities seem more vulnerable to be subjected to VERLT than others. It is important to find a proper balance in working on prevention with target groups without unduly labeling them.

⁵ Wurth H., Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the OSCE, (2015) *Multiple Identities*

- Discriminatory treatment on any basis can be a risk factor and contribute to violent radicalization. Further research is necessary, especially in regard to distinguishing clearly between risk factors and core sources/reasons for destructive/anti-social behaviors, including VERLT.
- Discrimination, stereotypes, prejudices about youth can also be a practical obstacle to the engagement of youth against VERLT. Although there is overall consensus about the need to involve all relevant stakeholders in countering VERLT, the security sector often remains unresponsive to the inclusion of other professionals/experts. Such an approach may limit the chances for a comprehensive understanding of the phenomenon and, thus, for effective measures, as it discounts “non-obvious” links to the issue and resorts to simplifications of the causes of VERLT, failing to sufficiently explain its origins.
- Attention should be given also to the impact of anti-terrorist legislation on freedom of expression and the role of intermediaries (social media platforms, for example) in assisting authorities to regulate and record what is expressed in the digital world.
- Young people can have an active role in developing counter-narratives. Experience in youth engagement in the prevention of other anti-social and/or risk behavior – such as trafficking, drugs abuse, violence etc. – seems to suggest that youth can play an important role in countering discourse that contributes to VERLT.
- There is a relative lack of security-related civil society organizations, and particularly youth organizations, though this segment of work may be found in some of them.
- Social media plays an important role in the recruitment of youth. Young digital natives are using these channels as part of their everyday life while their parents, teachers, and legislators may not be keeping up with the technology. Research⁶ suggests that, terrorist groups strategically target young men and women for their purposes worldwide, using Internet sites, online magazines but mostly social media tools..
- There is a prevailing misconception that violent extremism and terrorism exclusively concern men. In reality, young women and even children are potential targets for radicalization too. Policies and initiatives must recognize this fact and be tailored in accordance to it.
- The ongoing refugee crisis can be a fertile ground for radicalization, which may be exacerbated in countries in transition or with history of recent conflicts. The role of the OSCE is yet to be defined and field operations could be particularly engaged. Such steps may be in line with early warning

⁶ <http://www.gcsp.ch/News-Knowledge/Publications/Cyber-Jihad-Understanding-and-Countering-Islamic-State-Propaganda>

principles, at least when it comes to sensitizing peoples to diversity (ethnic, religious, cultural..) and preventive measures against prejudices and violent behaviors.

- Among reasons for youth to get into VERLT, psychological factors seem to play a prominent role. A sense of belonging to society is challenged nowadays. The capacity to cope with such existential uncertainties, i.e. resilience, may be an important factor in 'staying on a right path'.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- *Draw* experience from youth organizations' initiatives in regard to prevention measures, as well as re-integration programmes to further develop youth's role and youth-led activities in countering VERLT.
- *Involve* youth in identifying and addressing the factors conducive to VERLT in different contexts, following OSCE's multi-dimensional approach.
- *Ensure* that national and local policies and measures to counter VERLT among youth uphold fundamental freedoms and human rights, in particular the freedom of expression, the right to equality and non-discrimination, and the right to privacy..
- *Encourage* (youth) civil society organizations to get involved more in security related topics, in particular countering VERLT and include them whenever possible in existing initiatives.
- *Support* "local, community-level initiatives aimed at strengthening resilience against violent extremist agendas⁶" and address "underlying grievances and conflicts that feed extremism".
- *Apply* professional and ethical standards when reporting on the public's interest and ensure ethical and objective media coverage of VERLT. Besides, encourage trainings for young journalists and media makers in this regard, as well as exchange of practices regionally.
- *Develop* and disseminate via different social media positive counter-narratives on the role of young people in public life and especially in fighting against VERLT.
- *Tackle* violent radicalization through comprehensive human right education and developing critical thinking among youth. Aside from that, invest in long-term prevention measures, such as emotional literacy education, oriented toward increasing capacities to understand and cope with (negative) emotions/triggers/risk factors.

- *Provide* research-based analysis on roots, psychological circumstances of VERLT etc. and policy solutions on the ways and means to counter VERLT.
- *De-securitize* and deconstruct narratives on violent extremism and radicalization that link terrorism and terrorist motives to any religion or belief.
- *Encourage* initiatives fostering cooperation among different sectors (local community, police, youth organizations, psychologists, family, institutions, etc.), as well as regional cooperation. The approach to countering VERLT must be comprehensive and inclusive not only of age groups, but also of marginalized and vulnerable groups.
- *Encourage* inter-cultural dialogue, networking and mobility among young people from areas affected by conflict and provide possibilities for joint initiatives and cooperation in promoting understanding, respect and tolerance among religious and cultural communities, and in combating stereotypes prejudices on all sides.
- *Develop* a long-term OSCE-wide educational campaign devoted to countering VERLT, with an emphasis on national and regional level activities, cooperation and strong involvement of youth.

POLITICO-MILITARY DIMENSION

YOUTH IN POLITICS IN PARTICIPATING STATES - THREAT OR REMEDY?

Radicalization of youth that leads to terrorism seems to be spreading faster than the development of prevention policies. Although there is strong political will to counter VERLT, the path from commitment to tangible results on the ground appears to be long. At the same time, recruitment methods and activities of extremist groups are maturing and becoming ever more sophisticated, and a return to nationalist policies of exclusion is getting stronger on an electoral level. What is the relationship between law enforcement and dissatisfied youth escalating to the formation of paramilitary groups? How can foreign fighters be best identified and what can participating States do to address the security threat they pose? How can youth organizations become more concretely involved in anti-extremist strategies? This session addressed these questions in the framework of politico-military dimension of the OSCE.

- Radicalization is a multi-level concept, which demands for a differentiated approach tailored to the escalating levels of radicalization, i.e. lack of trust, lack of identity, sympathy, radicalization, joining. However, we should be aware that these levels are not always distinct as such but rather interconnected and constantly present concepts and not all of them present a security threat
- Terrorism and extremism pose serious threats to numerous regions of the OSCE. Terrorist attacks in 2015 present a clear example of imminent threat that radicalization present particularly for multi-ethnic States. Tensions in the community and between ethnical groups can be leading factors of radicalization and conflict; therefore fundamental issues such as hate talk and discrimination have to be addressed.
- People become radicalized through a series of events and influences including: mentors, websites, political and religious leaders. They can often become radicalized without ever leaving their country or their home place. They may believe they cannot fulfill their potential in their home country and therefore harbor feelings of hate towards their community, which may be further exacerbated by lack of proper education.

- The OSCE Youth advisory group in Bosnia and Herzegovina offer a promising example of effective youth engagement and participation as it gives youth the opportunity to get involved in the democratic political process, to see the benefits of the democratic system, which is, in turn, an incentive to get educated and gain experience in cooperation between communities.
- Un-educated, disenfranchised individuals lacking a clear perspectives to live up to their true potential, are vulnerable to VERLT. They may seek and find acceptance and appreciation in radicalized groups, which seemingly offers them a mission and a powerful alternative, and productive role. Lack of knowledge, trust and understanding fuels hate and extremism. Actual experience of cooperation between communities help young people lose fear and gain trust.
- The securitization of religious communities further contributes to the increase of extremist behavior since it creates grievances and feelings of exclusion, resulting in continuous exclusion from the rest of the society, fueling a vicious cycle of hate and violence between communities. Sweeping generalizations and negative portrayal of religious communities lead to stigmatization and fear.
- Gender stereotypes are obstacles to effectively combating VERLT. Too often have women been overlooked as true partners in the fight against radicalism and extremism or depicted along narrow categories of motherhood and child rearing. The role of women needs to be further analyzed and understood in a more comprehensive way.
- Example of good practice: "Women without Borders" launched a project Mother Schools, addressing the need for education on child development, especially focusing on the period of adolescence. Family is essential to child development. Mothers and fathers may need to be trained to respond to early signs of radicalization in their children.
- Radicalization is too often wrongly reduced to religious motives. It is important to recognize that different forms of radicalism exist, such as "nationalism", "racism" and "Nazism". Moreover, right-wing and xenophobic discourse is on the rise and poses a serious threat to European security.
- Intolerance and discrimination appear to be gaining in political power and becoming increasingly normalized in politics as threats of exclusion (and even violence) are more often used as legitimate means to gain political influence. As some are claiming to be "taking justice into their own hands", they challenge the state's monopoly of power and contribute to destabilizing communities.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- *Develop* practical tools for early warning on lower levels including: school, clubs, youth groups, etc..
- *Refrain* from over-securitization of radicalization and be judicious in the response to radicalization, treating different levels of radicalization according to their main driving factors.
- *Invite* youth organizations as partners in the response to VERTL, and include youth in discussions about measures against specific stages of radicalization in order to get a broader perspective on the issues discussed.
- *Bring* together divided communities through programs on the neutral ground of international organizations.
- *Use* social media campaigns in order to reach young members of communities.
- *Provide that* youth have the opportunity to become politically and socially active members of society.
- *Provide* ethnically mixed education programs and programs addressing especially inter-ethnic education and understanding.
- *Address* different stages of radicalization and provide tools for reintegration and rehabilitation of radicalized individuals back into society.
- *Ensure* gender and youth mainstreaming in all policies and measures in countering VERTL, on a national and international levels.
- *Design* programs for social inclusion of minority groups on all levels with special attention to all religious groups, which will give young members of communities the feeling of belonging and equality.
- *Prevent* further securitization of religious communities leading to discrimination against them and pushing their members towards radicalization and social exclusion.
- *Address* the issues of rising nationalism through education on inclusion and diversity.
- *Promote and support* cross-border exchange and educational programs.

- *Give* attention to the rising threat of semi-legal formations often formed in a way of paramilitary forces which can present a serious physical threat to peace and stability and especially target immigrants and minorities groups;

ECONOMICAL- ENVIRONMENTAL DIMENSION

BRIDGING DIFFERENCES, BUILDING TRUST: EMPOWERING YOUTH IN THE ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL DIMENSION

Economic and social disparities, environmental challenges, lack of the rule of law, weak governance, corruption, widespread poverty and high unemployment are among the factors that contribute to global threats such as terrorism and violent extremism.

Authorities are increasingly isolating their efforts to counter violent radicalization from initiatives aimed at achieving goals related to integration and social cohesion. Efforts to achieve these latter goals are important per se and authorities tend to believe that they can also help in countering violent radicalization

How can the needs of youth be mainstreamed in migration policy? Which alternatives could public-private partnerships or Civil Society provide to youth? Can engagement of youth in environmental decision-making through environmental networks offer an alternative path to youth at risk? Is empowerment of youth in terms of entrepreneurship as a poverty reduction measure a possible step in radicalization prevention?

- The importance of youth empowerment, of investment in youth at all levels and of their participation for sustainable country development seems to be widely acknowledged.
- VERLT is a multidimensional phenomenon, which is found in all classes, races and ethnicities, and therefore young people may be subject to discrimination and exclusion in all communities and societies, as well as they may endure difficulties in developing their prospects nearly everywhere.
- Many radicals have sufficient income and are highly educated. As a result, it would be misleading to attribute radicalization solely to either economic or social factors – because there are multiple dimensions and sectors within radicalization and violent extremism.
- Importance of increased attention towards young people and placement of youth higher on the agenda both at the national, as well as the international levels is to be highlighted. The difference in values is a key issue leading to radicalization among individuals, communities and societies.
- Migration is an global trend with multiple implications for youth, including developing a sense of alienation, discrimination, inequality and an increasing gap among migrants and inhabitants of host countries alike.

- The fear of risk that terrorists will be among the migrants, exacerbates tension and enhances prejudices towards the migrants. Intolerance and racism towards migrants creates a fertile ground for radicalization and violence and alienation.
- A significant amount of youth aged 18-24 is out of the education system. More importantly, the education system often does not respond to the labor market requirements, leaving youth unemployed. The education system must meet the demands of the labor market.
- While considering solutions for combating social factors contributing to radicalization, education was agreed to be key in reducing radicalization among youth. Young people need to be taught values and tolerance just as they learn about geography, history or math.
- Lack of information of youth on how to participate and engage in decision-making processes or any other civic activities is one of the key obstacles. Youth should be given equal opportunities, equal treatment and be mainstreamed and promoted in all policies with their active participation in the decision-making processes, including voting.
- High levels of corruption may contribute to social inequality and ineffectiveness that fuels VERLT. Youth are frequently dissatisfied and express discontent towards the corrupt system created by older generations.
- Youth unemployment is one of the key issues contributing to youth radicalization and extremism, as young people who are in search of purpose in life are prone to radicalization. Another issue is over qualification: When young people are refused a job for having extra knowledge and experience, they might develop a sense of despair and frustration.
- Young people starting their own companies and businesses often depend on government subsidies and loans. They often have to endure difficulties in terms of unfavorable business environment and overly bureaucratic processes, which in the end can push their discontent and radicalization.
- Challenges such as the need for a strong economic foundation, as well as demands and requirements of labor market can be overcome by providing inclusive quality education for all as well as entrepreneurship and labor market measures targeted to youth.

- Sharing ownership of economy with the society, particularly with those at risk of poverty, promotes social inclusion and a sense of belonging.
- There is a necessity to pass sustainable environment to future generations. Climate change causes natural disasters, contributing to migration of families, which have to deal with various socio-economic difficulties in the host countries.
- In situations where environmental degradation occurs poverty creates grounds for conflicts as natural resources and environmental goods are both increasingly sought after and becoming scarce. According to a panelist, 40 % of all conflicts can be attributed to natural resources or money gained from natural resources.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- *Ensure* whistle-blowers protection, as independent media and ethical journalism when being watchdogs, are key in disclosing assets of public figures, public procurement procedures, as well as revealing corruption.
- *Encourage* the creation of job and socio-economic security in general, which form a comprehensive framework of security. All stakeholders and decision-makers should empower the young generation and develop alternatives to offer young people choices in education, employment and participation, so that they can make informed choices about their lives and their environments..
- *Fund and assist* youth projects and initiatives, and encourage youth to own and manage own enterprises, which do not only contribute to economic sustainability, but to social progress and innovation.
- *Empower* in particular communities, which are most at risk of violent extremism, by investing in human capital and skills development.
- *Invest in and promote* innovative projects in the energy sector, as investment in technologies and entrepreneurship is crucial in contributing to sustainable environmental development.
- *Provide* opportunities for students and researchers to use their knowledge for advancing academic and practical discourses on environment as a key factor in combating development of radical beliefs and attitudes.

ANNEXES

ANNEX // ANNOTATED AGENDA // CIO.GAL/131/15/Rev.1

Thursday, 03 September

09:00 - 09:30 Registration and Accreditation, Palace of Serbia, Main Entrance

09:30 – 10:30 Opening plenary session

Opening remarks:

- Ms. Snezana Klačnja, OSCE Chairmanship-in-Office; Assistant Minister of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Serbia
- Mr. Michael Uyehara, Deputy Head of the OSCE Mission to Serbia
- Ms. Beatriz Balbin, Deputy Director, ODIHR

Key note speeches:

- Ms. Anna-Katharina Deininger, Special Representative of the Chairmanship-in-Office on Youth and Security
- Ms. Christina Schori Liang, Geneva Centre for Security Policy

Presentation of the #unitedCVE campaign:

- Ms. Vera Djemelinskaia, OSCE Transnational Threats Department / Action against Terrorism Unit

Facilitator: Ms. Sanja Milinkovic, Ambassador, OSCE Chairmanship-in-Office

10:30 - 11:00 Coffee break

11:00 - 13:00 Introductory plenary discussion:

Youth participation in the OSCE framework - Working with Youth for Youth

Youth has a prominent place already in the Helsinki Final Act. Now, 40 years later there are number of youth-related activities implemented by different OSCE structures. Consecutive Chairmanships of Switzerland and Serbia in 2014 and 2015 prioritized youth in their Joint Work plan; 57 Youth Ambassadors developed Youth Action Plan and Special Representatives on Youth and Security were appointed. Declaration on Youth

was adopted at the Ministerial Council in Basel last year acknowledging the potential of young people to contribute to economic, political and social development.

Nevertheless, youth policies across OSCE Participating States reflect diversity in terms of development, level of youth participation and understanding of 'youth' per se. Is working WITH youth still to be enabled within the OSCE? The plenary discussion will tackle questions of youth participation in the OSCE, benefits of it in commitments regarding peace, tolerance and cooperation, doubts and fears, while taking into account examples of good practice of other international organizations.

Moderator: Milena Stosic, Special Representative of the Chairmanship-in-Office on Youth and Security

Panelists:

Mr. Jean Luc Oesch, Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the OSCE

Ms. Sanja Milinković, Ambassador, OSCE Chairmanship-in-Office

Ms. Natalia Zarudna, Ambassador, Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Astana

Mr. Tim Cartwright, Head of the Council of Europe Office in Belgrade

Mr. Dejan Bojanić, Youth Forum Board Member

Ms. Alexandra Klutzka, OSCE Youth Ambassador from Poland

13:00 - 14:30 Lunch

14:30 - 15:30 Parallel sessions

Session 1:

Countering radicalization and protecting human rights as mutually reinforcing goals: unwrapping the youth angle

Violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism (VERLT) is a denial of democracy and of human rights, which are at the very core of the OSCE. What can be done towards an effective approach where countering radicalization and human rights protection are mutually reinforcing goals? Can young people, often marked as especially vulnerable in this context, have more than an observer role? How can we make educational efforts work in the digital era? While human rights and fundamental freedoms must be promoted and protected in the context of combating VERLT, particularly freedom of expression, (new) media sometimes are playing the exact opposite role. Members of religious and minority communities are often being marked as 'suspects' in public discourse and attempts of Internet regulation are back-firing.

This session will examine a human rights angle in discussing the impact of VERLT on youth, their role in prevention measures, and an overall combating strategy of VERLT in the OSCE region - in the light of existing commitments and positions, as well with exploring fresh youth ideas.

Moderator: Ms. Milena Stosic, Special Representative of the Chairmanship-in-Office on Youth and Security

Panelists:

Mr. Hubert Wurth, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the OSCE

Mr. Juan Barata Mir, Principal Adviser, Office of the OSCE Representative on the Freedom of Media

Mr. Henrik Villadsen, Director, Office of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities

Ms. Yulia Korysheva, Programme officer, ODIHR

Ms. Maja Bjelos, Belgrade Center for Security Policy

Ms. Christina Schori Liang, Geneva Centre for Security Policy

Ms. Marketa Studena, OSCE Youth Ambassador from Czech Republic

Session 2:

Youth and politics in participating States - threat or remedy

Radicalization of youth that leads to terrorism seems to be spreading faster than development of prevention policies gets to see its implementation. Although there is strong political will to counter VERLT, the path from commitment to changes on the ground appears to be long. At the same time, recruitment methods and activities of extremists groups are maturing and getting more sophisticated, political mainstream itself is under threat of radicalism and extremist candidates are increasingly gaining favor on an electoral level. What is the relationship between law enforcement and dissatisfied youth escalating to the formation of paramilitary groups? Who are young foreign fighters and what Participating States can do to address this security issue? How can youth organizations become more concretely involved in anti-extremist strategies? This session will try to address these questions in the framework of politico-military dimension of the OSCE.

Moderator: Anna-Katharina Deininger, Special Representative of the Chairmanship-in-Office on Youth and Security

Panelists:

Ms. Desirée M.J. Kopmels, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the OSCE

Mr. Jonathan Moore, Ambassador, Head of the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina

Ms. Najat Boudra, 180 Grad Wende

Mr. Ulrich Kropiunigg, Women without Borders

Ms. Radka Vicenova, Centre for European and North Atlantic Affairs

Ms. Hillary Briffa, OSCE Youth Ambassador from Malta

Session 3:

Bridging differences, building trust: Empowering youth in the Economic and Environmental Dimension

Economic and social disparities, environmental challenges, lack of the rule of law, weak governance, corruption, widespread poverty and high unemployment are among the factors that contribute to global threats such as terrorism, violent extremism. Youth from marginalized groups, not seeing possibilities for self-fulfillment, might succumb to VERLT narratives.

Authorities are increasingly isolating their efforts to counter violent radicalization from initiatives aimed at achieving goals related to integration and social cohesion. Efforts to achieve these latter goals are important per se and authorities tend to believe that they can also help in countering violent radicalization. At the same time, it is increasingly believed that a counter-radicalization strategy that blurs the line between supporting social cohesion and countering radicalization is likely to achieve neither. Efforts are therefore increasingly kept separate and the entities implementing them are different.

This session will also try to address the following questions: How can the needs of youth be mainstreamed in migration policy? Which alternatives could public-private partnerships or Civil Society provide to youth? Can engagement of youth in environmental decision making processes including through environmental networks offer an alternative path to youth at risk? Is empowerment of youth to successfully develop and manage small and medium-sized enterprises as a poverty reduction measure a possible step in radicalization prevention?

Moderator: Mr. Paul Steiner, OSCE Youth Ambassador from Germany

Panelists:

Ms. Blanka Jamnisek, Ambassador, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia

Ms. Nino Malashkhia, Office of the Co-ordinator for OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

Mr. Mato Meyer, Office of the Co-ordinator for OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

Mr. Evrim Ersan-Akkilic, Institute for Islamic Studies, University of Vienna
Mr. Mirko Popovic, Belgrade Open School

Mr. Aaron Joshua Pinto, OSCE Youth Ambassador from Canada

15:30 - 16:00 Coffee break

16:00 - 17:00 Continuation of parallel sessions

Friday, 04 September

09:00 - 10:30 Plenary session- Reports from parallel sessions

Facilitator: Ms. Sanja Milinkovic, Ambassador, OSCE Chairmanship-in-Office

Rapporteurs:

Youth Participation:

Daniele Pancheri, OSCE SG Office

Session 1:

Zukhra Iakupbaeva, OSCE Youth Ambassador from Kyrgyzstan

Roger Padreny, OSCE Youth Ambassador from Andorra

Session 2:

Blaz Grilj, OSCE Youth Ambassador from Slovenia

Matteo Pugliese, OSCE Youth Ambassador from Italy

Session 3:

Robin Metral, OSCE Youth Ambassador from Switzerland

Mariam Sikharulidze, OSCE Youth Ambassador from Georgia

10:30 - 11:00 Coffee break

11:00 - 12:00 Discussion

12:00-13:00 Closing remarks

- Ms. Milena Stosic, Special Representative of the Chairmanship-in-Office on Youth and Security
- Ms. Roksanda Ninčič, Ambassador, State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia

WORKING WITH YOUTH FOR YOUTH: PROTECTION AGAINST RADICALIZATION

Serbia's 2015 OSCE Chairmanship together with its Special
Representatives on Youth and Security

Is working WITH youth still to be enabled within the OSCE? What are benefits of it in commitments regarding peace, tolerance and cooperation, and what are doubts and fears? How examples of good practice of other international organizations can be taken into account? Can young people, often marked as especially vulnerable in this context, have more than an observer role?