

European University Institute ROBERT SCHUMAN CENTRE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES



Building Resilience Against Violent Extremism and Polarisation

Presented by Richard McNeil-Willson



This project has receive funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement number 822189





BRaVE Project Research Questions

- 1. What are the key factors for violent extremism and polarisation in Europe?
- 2. How can we understand and develop resilience in combatting violent extremism and polarisation?
- 3. How can we support practitioners in responding to violent extremism and polarisation?

Case studies: BE, DK, FR, DE, GR, HU, IT, NL, PL & UK



Factors of Violent Extremism and Polarisation

Study of existing research, factors and indicators revealed 20 factors contributing to polarisation in Europe

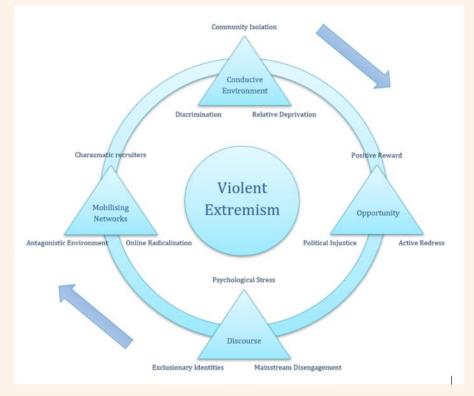
Category	Macro	Meso	Micro
Socio-Economic	State Welfare Segregation	Minority Recruitment Diversity Programmes	Individual Assets
Historical	0 0	Lack of Representation Inter-Group Conflict	Individual Voting Behaviours
Cultural	Lack of Transnational Identity	Lack of Cultural Mixing Ignorance of Minority Culture Restrictions on Minority Symbols	Individual Perceptions of Self and Other
Communication-Based	Exclusionary Production Practices Hate Speech Legislation Polarising Media Content	Polarising Communication Online	Selective Communications



Factors of Violent Extremism and Polarisation

Polarisation Factors provides a conducive environment for violent extremism. This forms one part of a set of processes for violent

extremism.







Developing and charting factors of Resilience

The ability to face and respond to adversity, and the capacity to draw on various sources of strength and social resources to adapt and cope with challenges and situations of strain, stress or trauma.

Category	Macro	Meso	Micro
Socio-Economic	Equality of Opportunity Social Cohesion	Equality of opportunity Sufficient resources	Agency
Historical	Social inclusion	Positive Political Engagement	Community Engagement/Support
Cultural	Complex and flexible cultural identity (bridging)	Family support / collective identity (bonding)	Sense of belonging
Communication-Based	Supportive Environment	Democratic media reporting Pro-social messaging Trusted accurate information	Online resilience Positive cultural image





Supporting practitioners

- 1. Show how polarisation and resilience are playing out across Europe
- 2. Give practitioners more information about current CVE approaches across Europe
- 3. Support new and existing resilience-focussed community-led projects

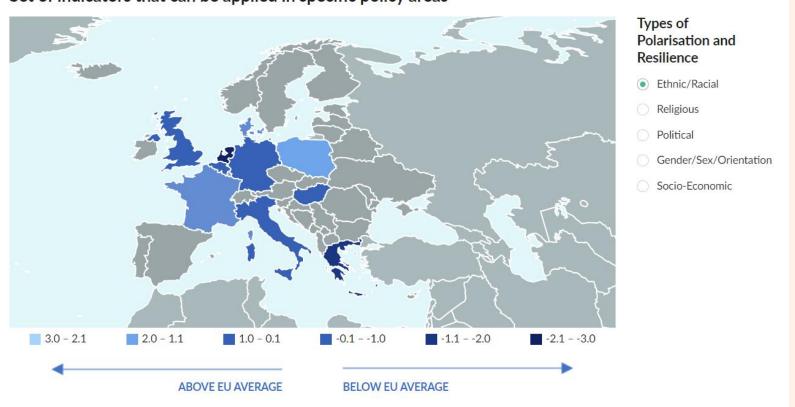




Resilience in European approaches to extremism

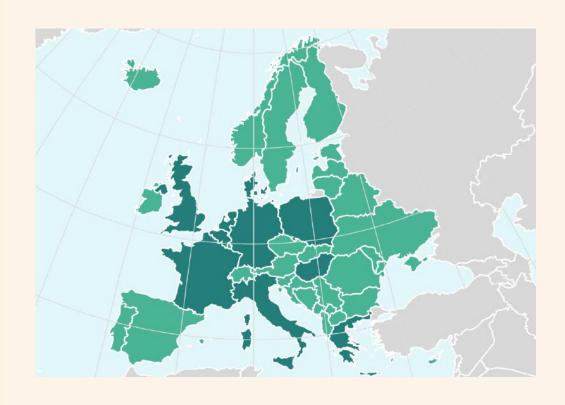
Polarisation indicators

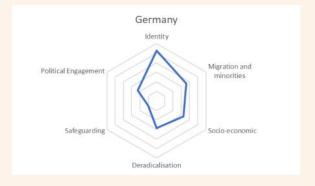
Set of indicators that can be applied in specific policy areas





Mapping existing CVE approaches





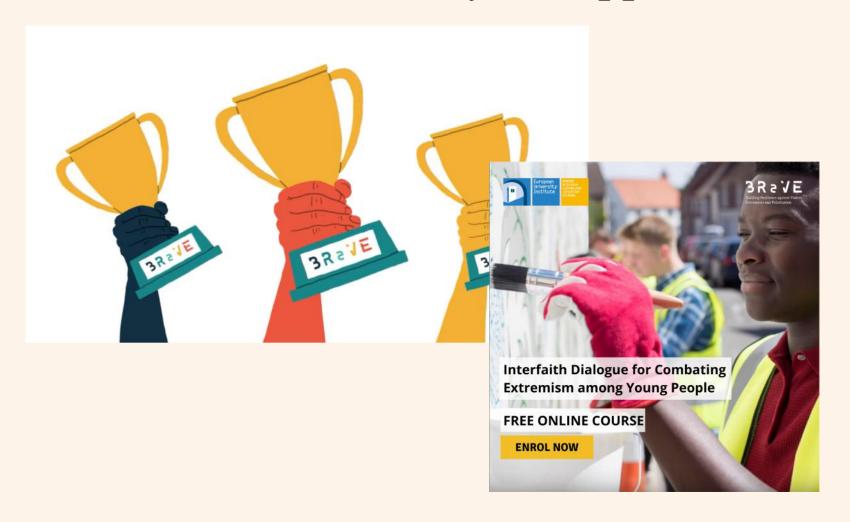








Supporting New and Existing community-led approaches







Issues facing Central & Eastern Europe CVE

- Limitations in Governmental-level implementation of CVE approaches
- Disconnect between Governmental and locallevel CVE practice
- Lack of theoretical discussion over patterns and causes of violent extremism and polarisation in a regional context
- Opportunity for stronger international cooperation





Implications for Central and Eastern Europe

- European and national-level examination of trends and factors causing violent extremism and polarisation (socioeconomic, cultural, political & communication-focussed), as well as sharing good practice
- Further theoretical development of resilience
- Sharing of good practice within and among European countries and areas
- Support of localised resilience-based approaches