ABOUT THE PROJECT

The **Youth Empowerment and Innovation Project** (YEIP) is a 3-year Erasmus+ funded programme that aims to design a youth-led, positive policy prevention framework for tackling and preventing the marginalisation and violent radicalisation among young people in Europe. The project started in March 2017.

Led by young people and coordinated by Dr. Theo Gavrielides (Founder and Director of The IARS International Institute), YEIP is delivered in partnership with 18 partners from seven EU countries to construct and test innovative, policy intervention models founded on the principles of restorative justice, positive psychology and the Good Lives Model (GLM).

YEIP is implemented through the construction and field validation of tools (YEIP PREVENT model/ interventions, toolkit, training) in 4 environments (schools, universities, prisons, online) in the 7 participating EU member states.

YEIP will lay the foundations for systemic change at the national level and EU levels. The ultimate objective is for the project to help implement the EU Youth Strategy’s objective of preventing the factors that can lead to young people’s social exclusion and radicalisation. The project is also in line with the EU’s Counter-Terrorism Strategy of 2005 (revised in 2008 and 2014).

RESEARCH PARTNERS

**UK:** The IARS International Institute  
**Greece:** Kentro Merimnas Oikogenieas Paidiou  
**Cyprus:** Centre for Advancement of Research and Development in Education  
**Italy:** Anziani e non solo  
**Portugal:** INOVA+  
**Sweden:** Linne Universitetet  
**Romania:** Fundatia Schottener Servicii Sociale

YEIP CONSORTIUM

YEIP is led and co-ordinated by the IARS International Institute and delivered in partnership with 18 partners from seven EU countries.

The partnership includes:

PUBLIC AUTHORITIES  
**UK:** The Home Office  |  **Greece:** Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change  
Koinofelis Epicheirisí Iprieson Neapolis Sykeon (Common Benefit Enterprise for Services of Neapolis Sykies)  |  **Cyprus:** Municipality of Engomi,  |  **Italy:** Regione Ligura  |  **Portugal:** Câmara Municipal de Oliveira de Azeméis  |  **Sweden:** Lansstyrelsen i Kalmar Ian  |  **Romania:** National Council for Combating Discrimination, & Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sports – Institutul de stinte ale educatiei.

TARGET GROUPS  
**UK:** Khulisa  |  **Buckinghamshire New University**

YEIP was developed in response to the Call for proposals EACEA No 34/2015 Key Action 3: Support for policy reform - Initiatives for policy innovation – [European policy experiments in the fields of Education, Training and Youth led by high-level public authorities]. The project is co-funded under Erasmus+ Grant Agreement N° 2016-2927 /9.
On January 22nd, the YEIP International Conference took place at the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia (UNIMORE), bringing together over 100 young people, politicians, policy makers and scholars to debate the issue of youth radicalisation. The event was organised by the social cooperative Anziani e non solo, in collaboration with Liguria Region, IARS international Institute of London and CRID - Interdepartmental Research Centre on Discriminations and vulnerabilities UNIMORE.

The conference presented the results of the first phase of the Erasmus + Youth Empowerment and Innovation Project (YEIP), whose aim is to create new tools for the prevention of youth radicalisation, based on the principles of positive psychology, Good Lives Model and restorative justice.


Videos, presentations, documents and downloads here: http://yeip.org/events/international-conferences/
THE E-BOOKS

During the event Theo Gavrielides - founder and director of the IARS International Institute and coordinator of YEIP, launched the volumes “Young, marginalised but not radicalised: A comparative study of positive approaches to youth radicalisation” and “Youth Radicalisation, Restorative Justice and the Good Lives Model: Comparative learnings from seven countries.

The volumes include original findings from 7 Member States: Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Portugal, United Kingdom, Romania, Sweden, investigating the state of the art concerning the theme of radicalisation.

E-books available here: http://yeip.org/awareness-raising-material/yeip-ebooks/

THE NATIONAL REPORTS

RADICALISATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE UK

In the creation of this chapter, the IARS International Institute has sought to analyse the current state of the art for dealing with violent radicalisation in the UK, and the use of positive approaches such as the Good Lives model (GLM) and restorative justice in current practice.

The chapter also discusses the evolution of preventative policy in the UK for addressing radicalisation at local and national levels. Our focus was young people.

The chapter sets the scene of the historical and political context in which interventions have been developed to target youth radicalisation.

Due to the unique make-up of the UK’s state of the art Prevent programme, the context with which the GLM is proposed is vitally important.

What both GLM and RNR rely on is a definition. There is not a defined characteristic of young people online that are susceptible to radicalisation. There is barely a definition for radicalisation itself. It is therefore incredibly difficult for a counter-radicalism narrative to be dreamt up, let alone positively reinforced. Whatever model of prevention is proposed, the definition of what it targets and who it focuses on, should be clear.

The Good Lives Matter model could, if successfully implemented, allow for a greater wealth of opportunities for young people, generally, and in turn influence them to avoid the temptation that they might see online. It is imperative that there is research and trials done to determine what the effects may be on the levels of young people being radicalised in the UK.

Emily Lanham
Projects’ Coordinator
IARS International Institute

Download the national reports
(UK chapter at page 124)
In Sweden, the understanding of processes of radicalization and the development of preventive work against violent extremism can be said to be framed by a few specific political decisions that were formative for the policies developed. These are dealt with in the text. Among other things, the result shows that the security discourse and preventive work are often mixed up at the policy level, which has repercussions in research and prevention.

One important key to developing the work on security and prevention lies in the need for further knowledge development regarding everything from methods and field studies to policy practices. Apart from providing an account of developments in Sweden, there are also arguments for a more skeptical, reflexive, and critical attitude towards all forms of simplified categorizations of young people, which risks stigmatizing individuals and groups.

By starting from a critical and reflexive social education perspective, it will become possible to contribute to understanding and to an analysis of social contexts, risks, and negative spirals. The ambition of trying to predict which individuals will potentially commit crimes of terror represents a dead end.

On the other hand, there are possibilities of identifying risk environments, subcultural groups that cultivate extreme opinions, and then to approach these groups in various ways in order to develop effective social pedagogical work and positive and GLM-based trajectories for young people at risk for radicalisation.
NATIONAL REPORT ON YOUTH RADICALISATION IN GREECE

Radicalisation is the process by which a person accepts the use of force as means to achieve political, ideological or religious goals. The present report was developed in the context of the 1st Working Package of the EU Erasmus+ Project Youth Empowerment and Innovation Project (YEIP), which aims to create a framework for preventing the marginalisation and radicalisation of young people in Europe. YEIP’s tool for tackling radicalisation will be based on positive psychology, the Good Lives Model (GLM) and restorative justice. The present report provides the situation regarding marginalisation and radicalisation in Greece as well as available laws, policies and practices through analysis of the available literature and of data collected through focus groups with young people, with mental health professionals who work with young people vulnerable to radicalisation, with professionals of a juvenile detention centre and with 3 young ex-offenders. The findings indicated an increase of marginalisation and violent, mostly political, radicalisation of young people in Greece with the outbreak of the economic and more recently refugee crisis. The existing legislation and policies are limited as are the programmes based on the GLM, positive psychology and restorative justice. Data from the focus groups revealed that restorative justice models like the GLM could enable individuals to work towards the development of an identity, the need and search for which is considered the core factor leading to radicalisation. This report will act as the foundation for the development of YEIP’s innovative tool and for the first stage of field trials.

MULTI-FACTORIAL MODEL OF YOUTH RADICALISATION IN CYPRUS

Youth radicalisation has recently been emerging at increasing levels in Europe. In Cyprus, engagement with violent extremist movements of the same intensity or frequency as other countries in Europe, has not yet surfaced. Nonetheless, tendencies that relate to radicalisation such as racism, intolerance and hate crime have been reported.

The research for Cyprus was carried out within the framework of the YEIP project. A mixed methodology approach was adopted, the findings of which, having been analysed, led to the creation of a Multi-factorial Model of Youth Radicalisation. Primary and secondary data was collected from governmental departments, the National Strategy of Radicalization, but also from a National youth-led seminar on radicalisation. The seminar was attended by representatives of the public authorities and experts from research centres, the academic community and young people. The findings demonstrated that radicalisation in Cyprus is centered on: (1) Education, (2) Prevention, (3) Awareness raising and (4) Countering.

The Multi-factorial Model of Youth Radicalisation includes, among other factors, psycho-social education of young people on multiculturalism, respect and human rights, awareness raising at all levels of society, the provision of positive alternatives for personal and social development, but also the creation of an open and active society that will effectively resist forms and expressions of radicalization. Using this model to shape and inform the current policies and practice regarding radicalisation in Cyprus is crucial to ensure that young people are at the front-line of tools that will help prevent radicalisation.

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(Greek chapter at page 176)

Download the national reports
(Cyprus chapter at page 217)
THE PREVENTION OF THE YOUTH RADICALISATION IN ITALY

YEIP - The Youth Empowerment and Innovation Project, is a three-year project funded through an Erasmus + program involving seven European Member States (Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Romania, Sweden and United Kingdom). The purpose of the project is to create, experiment and disseminate some tools aimed to prevent and counter the phenomenon of marginalisation and radicalisation that can lead young people to violent extremism.

YEIP tools, based on the principles of positive psychology, Good Lives Model and restorative justice, will focus on talents and strengths of young people, helping them to develop positive identities and meaningful life projects.

The purpose of the Italian chapter is to investigate the problem of violent radicalisation in Italy, analysing the existence of laws, policies and good preventive practices, also linked to the principles of positive psychology, Good Lives Model and restorative justice.

The investigation will be useful for the second phase of experimentation that, in Italy, will take place in “School” and “University” environments.

The chapter analyses, in general, historical and socio-cultural Italian background in relation to terrorism, also examining the relationship between mafia and terrorism, and, in specific, jihadist extremism and political extremism in their contemporary manifestation.

The chapter also examines Italian, European and International law system related to the prevention of radicalisation.

Finally, some examples of good radicalisation prevention practices are proposed, including experiences in the field of mafia prevention, considered possible elements of inspiration for the creation of the YEIP tools.

THE PREVENTION OF THE YOUTH RADICALISATION IN PORTUGAL

The present study, developed in the framework of the project YEIP (Youth Empowerment Innovation Project), intends to give an overview, about policies, programmes, and stakeholders related to the prevention of youth radicalization in Portugal.

This report constitutes the first step of this ambitious 36-month project, involving organizations from seven countries (Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Romania, Sweden and UK), which intends to produce an innovative model to tackle youth radicalization, based on the positive psychology.
A reflection on the concept of radicalization and its meaning at national level introduces the study. The common assumption of this concept in Europe doesn’t seem to be so relevant in the actual Portuguese context.

The mapping of the legal framework for preventing youth radicalization, including laws, decrees and ministerial resolutions, and of the programmes, initiatives and projects implemented at national level, focused in school and online environments, allowed to reflect on the national state-of-art, in terms of prevention of radicalization of youth and openness to the implementation of positive psychology-based innovative approaches.

The analysis of the panorama was clear - in Portugal there isn’t a harmonized and national policy, preventing youth radicalization and inspired in positive psychology approaches, neither in schools, neither online.

The fact that the country does not deal directly with terrorist threats, as well as the fact that the most problematic schools are endowed with a high level of autonomy when structuring prevention (and reaction) measures to these problems, are some of the factors that can explain this current scenario. However, although there is no uniform national plan with preventive measures, it is clear that there is a high interest and sensitivity of the educational community towards positive psychology. Projects in schools, which are still embryonic and emerging, have already proved the relevance of developing this type of initiatives in Portugal.

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Project Manager, INOVA+

Pedro Costa
Senior Consultant and Project Manager, INOVA+

Joana Santos
Translator, INOVA+

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YOUTH MARGINALIZATION AND RADICALIZATION IN ROMANIA

This research aimed at analysing the current state of the art in the area of youth marginalisation and radicalisation in Romania in order to inform the development of tailored positive prevent measures and tools. The research involved both desk-based research and user feedback. Following a conceptualisation of radicalisation and GLM, the national legal developed in response to the EU Youth Strategy, the European Agenda for Security and the ET 2020 Framework was assessed. It also revealed that GLM interventions and practices in Romania have been poorly developed in the justice system and the NGO sector. The continuity of the NGO interventions is limited to the duration and amount of funding. A mapping of key governmental and non-governmental actors at the local and national level was also carried out. This step is relevant for promoting the project activities and outcomes. The research results were validated through a one youth-led seminar involving both young people and representatives of relevant public authorities. Participants stressed the need develop GLM prevent tools adapted to the country profile for professionals in the public and non-governmental sectors along with a set of support measures for socially disadvantaged and marginalized groups.

Andrei Barbu
Communication officer and project assistant Fundatia Schottener Servicii Sociale

IOANA BARBU
Manager of the Program Development and Management Department Fundatia Schottener Servicii Sociale

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Download the national reports
(Portuguese chapter at page 288)

Download the national reports
(Romanian chapter at page 321)
FREE E-BOOKS DOWNLOADS

Click on the cover to download the E-BOOKS ON YOUTH RADICALISATION, RESTORATIVE JUSTICE AND THE GOOD LIVES MODEL AND A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF POSITIVE APPROACHES TO YOUTH RADICALISATION (Executive summaries, comparative findings and National reports)

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Youth Empowerment and Innovation Project, led by young people will construct and test innovative policy intervention models. Join our network, please register filling out the application form

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