

PRESS RELEASE

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“YOUNG, MARGINALISED BUT NOT RADICALISED: NEW PREVENT RESEARCH LAUNCHED”

On the 22nd January 2018 at Modena University, Italy, the findings of the EU funded [Youth Empowerment and Prevention Project \(YEIP\)](#) will be launched, revealing new directions in preventing youth radicalisation.

Prevention and control have been dealt with as top down responsibilities of governments, but young people believe that it is now time that they have their say. YEIP was created in response to the lack of effective youth policies that can enhance young people’s social inclusion and minimize the risk of radicalization with greater ‘buy in’ from youth themselves. The conference will launch the book [“Young, marginalised but not radicalized: A comparative study of positive approaches to youth radicalization”](#). This is the outcome of research that was carried out in the UK, Italy, Romania, Portugal, Cyprus, Greece and Sweden. It features the national findings written in native languages as well as their comparative analysis and summaries written in English.

[Professor Theo Gavrielides](#), Editor of the book and YEIP coordinator said: “Last year, in the UK alone, we had four attacks and at least seven attempts to cause terror and divide us. This is also Europe’s reality. It is time that we stop doing the same thing, hoping that the result will be different. We need to look at what young people are doing and saying in response to reasons that leave them marginalised and some radicalised. Our role as civil society is now more vital than ever. It is our responsibility to also stand strong and focused and I am honoured to be leading the YEIP Consortium in creating a new prevent model for Europe”.

YEIP, funded by Erasmus+, is delivered by a consortium of 18 partners from 7 EU Member States who will meet in Modena, Italy, for an international conference organized by the Italian partners Anziani e non solo and Liguria Region. The international event will gather experts, researchers and young people from all across Europe to share knowledge and practices.

Licia Boccaletti, project manager on behalf of Anziani e non solo said: “We are proud to host in Modena the first international conference of YEIP. It would be an excellent opportunity to learn from international experts, but also to understand to which extent Italian experiences can contribute to the implementation of the project strategy”.

Liguria Region said: “We have signed a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of Welfare and Labour – General Directorate on Immigration and Integration Policies, on the basis of which the Region is committed to transfer and share with the DG the information and the results achieved through this project. The DG is also committed to enhance all the information and the project material through their web portal “Migrant Integration” and to disseminate the results achieved through its institutional network.”

The morning sessions will focus on the international perspective, with presentation of relevant research studies from leading institutions. The afternoon sessions will focus on the Italian context and on examples of youth participation. Among the key-note speakers include: Stefano Dambruoso, MEP and promoter of the law on the prevention of radicalization; Chaimaa Fatihi, author of the book “*You will never have us. Open letter from an Italian Muslim to terrorists*” and Tatiana Esposito, Head of General Direction for Immigration and Integration Policies, Italian Ministry of Work and Social Policies.

Maija Linnala a young person from Finland involved in YEIP said: “All too often young people are treated as a problem and not as part of the solution in preventing radicalisation. Countering hate speech and hate crime, as well as, improving and investing in the education sector are a vital part of preventative work. As a young person, I feel that investing in our abilities, interests and aspirations whilst recognising our weaknesses will provide a more feasible solution to the current problem of radicalisation instead of labelling us as risks that must be managed.”

Ends.

Notes

- Project website www.yeip.org
- YEIP is 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 experimentations 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.
- The IARS International Institute: www.iars.org.uk
- For more information: <http://yeip.org/international-conference-22-january-2018-modena-italy/>