

8TH IARS ANNUAL
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

YEIP IN GREECE

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KINDLING A BETTER **WORLD**



Youth Empowerment
and Innovation Project



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Violent radicalisation in Greece

- Not a frequent phenomenon in Greece
- It includes mostly political radicalisation and hooliganism
- Cases of religious radicalisation are even more infrequent
- No special legislation in Greece concerning radicalisation
- What is radicalisation ?
 - A terminology problem

Phases of YEIP's implementation in Greece

- WP1: Building the foundations
- WP2: Fieldwork phase 1. Building and testing the YEIP tools
- WP3: Fieldwork phase 2. Field trials

WP1 Methodology and key findings

- WP1 focused on recording and analysing the state of affairs in Greece in relation with youth radicalisation
 - Desk research
 - Field research
 - Three focus groups:
 - a) Mental health professionals
 - b) Staff and detainees at a Youth Offending Institution
 - c) Young people

WP2 Methodology and key findings

- 11 young researchers with a background in sociology were recruited and attended the IARS youth-led research methods training seminar
- Research in three environments:
 - Schools
 - Universities
 - Youth Offending Institutions

- ## Key findings

- The term “radicalisation” seems to create a problem of understanding to many young people
- There seems to be a general consensus that violence is not legitimate way to attain goods and achieve goals
- There is also a general agreement that lack of education can make young people vulnerable to extremist messages
- The sense of belonging among youngsters in Greece seems to be found in their family, friends, the community and everyday activities
- Injustice, lack of reward and respect, devaluation, rudeness and dogmatism are some of the common traits that irritate young people in Greece

WP3 Methodology and key findings

- Field trials in three environments
 - Schools: 63 highschool pupils, 23 highschool teachers
 - Universities: 48 students , 15 university professors
 - YOIs: 25 detainees , 23 professionals

- ## Key findings

- Young people's resilience scores were improved between the first and the second phase of the field trials, even though they were quite high in advance
- In general, both high school students and university students seem to be quite optimistic about their future
- When it comes to university teaching staff, their interaction with YEIP increased their willingness to use some of the project's basic notions.
- One alarming finding from the young detainees' group is that they appear to be easily influenced by those who have strong viewpoints and they do not always feel that they can explain their opinions about many subjects

- Piloting YEIP's toolkit on policymakers
 - 21 policy makers participated
 - Interestingly, the way policy makers evaluated themselves concerning their knowledge on radicalisation and intervention policies did not change between the first and the second phase of the field trials
 - Perceptions of authority?

Conclusions

- The Greek educational system needs to provide much more concrete and enhanced information about the phenomenon of violent radicalisation
- The importance of critical thinking
- The need for more extensive use of the GLM, positive psychology and restorative justice, especially in YOIs
- Need for action both at the local and the EU level

Thank you for your attention!

Do you have any questions?

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