

RADEX – Mobilising against Extremism through Countering and Diverting Radicalisation of Young People

MEETING MINUTES – SHORT REPORT **1ST SCRUTINY PANEL MEETING**

16TH February 2022, 10:00 CET Time, Ms Teams

	Name of the participant	Role
1	Mrs. Aikaterini Kalafati Michailaki	Project coordinator
2	Mrs. Asmahan El Mokhtari	Educational Engineer in e-Training
3	Mr. Yanis Lammari	Youth Worker
4	Mrs. Maria Georgiou	Criminologist
5	Mrs. Sofia Tsiortou	Project manager
	Apologies from the rest of the panel members	

The meeting started at 10.00 am CET time with the above people participating. Katerina Kalafati, the project coordinator welcomed everyone to the 1st Scrutiny panel meeting where the following topics were on the agenda:

- Welcome and member introduction
- Introduction to the project by Katerina
- Introduction to the Scrutiny panel, role and responsibilities by Sofia
- Discussion on IO1 Survey findings
- Discussion on IO2 proposed modules and the RADEX positive impact approach
- Discussion on key questions for project result sustainability and transferability

Following the project presentation by Katerina, Sofia proceeded with the presentation of the Scrutiny Panel's objective and role.

It was reiterated that the panel's role is to support the project's efforts and provide valuable input to its results, based on their expertise and know-how.

The meeting continued with the presentation of IO1 Research and its findings. The major findings were presented in one slide and were the following:

- There is no uniform definition of radicalisation, while the process of radicalisation can take many different shapes and stages, that take place gradually.
- Recruitment can take place both online and offline
- There are no exhaustive checklists/risk factors and warning signs of vulnerability and/or radicalisation indicators, that someone can use to identify if radicalisation is taking place.
- Common factors leaving young people open to radicalisation and extremism: social, economic, political and often psychological.

The questions posed by the panel experts on the above, and which led to a subsequent discussion, were the following:

1. How did the RADEX project derive to the module titles, from these findings?
2. If we have a common definition and how can radicalisation be a positive thing? Did we only study violent radicalisation?
3. Did we consider checklists / indicators from professionals (police etc.)? Look into index clusters (a combination of indicators representing radicalisation).
4. What do we mean with common factors? Will there be more elaborate examples in the report?

The discussion focused on the above with various type of input provided by the panel members. Specifically, Yanis suggested a possible cooperation with other professionals working with combination of indicators, which might be of interest to our target groups but to also be present or referred to, in the RADEX results.

The discussion ensued with Katerina presenting the RADEX positive methodology approach to how the titles / modules were derived. The main objective with the training course to be developed is to allow for youth empowerment, building resilience when in difficult times in their lives and to learn how to protect themselves.

Sofia continued with the presentation on the RADEX approach and presented three suggested modules that will be created within the project, and namely:

- Focus on a more positive intervention which increases resilience and enhance a positive identity formation. Strengthening the protective values against extremist ideologies and empowerment of youth resilience and further the enrichment of young people's talents and skills.
- Focus on promoting media literacy skills to address youth vulnerability to radicalisation. Taking a more positive approach to build communication channels and raise awareness through existing initiatives about internet safety. This will support the dissemination on the threat and tackle youth vulnerability towards a multitude of factors, such as exposure to social networks and exposure to extremist propaganda and fake news.
- Focus on information filtering when online, to build stronger resilience to hinder radicalisation recruitment, connected also to critical thinking.

The discussion focused on how to make young people's learning experience more motivating and more enticing to participate. When working with these type of groups (youth, possible radicalisation etc.) it is necessary to have created a safe space for learning and for sharing experiences. This is imperative since issues and problems that will be discussed, need to have the proper preparation. When in an online environment, the sharing of information and experiences might be tricky and un-motivating, thus, the need to create an environment where young people feel that they can share with their peers.

Important aspects to consider when training youth, youth workers in the above topics, emerging following the discussion:

- Gamification elements in the training
- Filtering information activities – interactive
- Young people need to talk thus, the relevant incentives need to be put in the platform as activities
- Peer discussions and sharing information between peers
- Sharing of opinions, allow for critical thinking and allow for youth to connect to other people through their stories,
- Problem solving and make them feel like they are responsible for a task / problem

- Role playing to build empathy and to enhance understanding of situations
- Work with scenarios in learning to work on the above but in parallel, build skills and competences.

Related to the questions posed to the panel members on future sustainability, uptake of results by their organisations and staff and if they are aware of any initiatives that could benefit RADEX, the following emerged:

- Yanis suggested that as sustainability options, RADEX organizes a training course or Youth Exchange for the Prevention of Youth Violent Radicalisation. This would greatly enhance confidence and motivation of youth workers to participate in the RADEX Training course and become multipliers.
- Maria suggested to cooperate with Cyprus Youth Association (85 Youth organisation as their members - <https://www.cyprusyouth.org>) and disseminate the RADEX results and invited professionals to the pilot testing,
- Asmahan suggested to collaborate with their organisation and further disseminate the RADEX results and allow for more professionals to participate in the RADEX project activities.

The next online meeting will take place in June. A doodle will be set up and circulated to the panel members to finalise date and time.

The meeting was concluded by Katerina and Sofia.