



What drives youths towards violent extremism?

The CONNEKT (*Contexts of Extremism in MENA and Balkan Societies*) project is funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program. This project has a budget of 2.9 million Euros over three and a half years, starting from 2020.

This European research project will examine the above question, in order to improve prevention mechanisms. Focusing on young people between the ages of 12 and 30 from the MENA region and the Balkans, it will analyse seven potential factors of radicalization (religion, digitalization, economic deprivation, territorial inequalities, transnational dynamics, socio-political demands, and educational, social and leisure opportunities), on three levels (transnational, community and individual) in order to determine their interrelations and specific significance.

Its objective is to establish a multidimensional map of the factors - and of their interactions - which are likely to drive the youths towards extremism in selected countries: Egypt, Jordan, Tunisia, Morocco, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, North Macedonia and Bulgaria.

To do so, an interdisciplinary team, formed by 14 partners from the region, will use an innovative methodology involving not only universities and think-tanks, but also civil society actors and local authorities. On the basis of the results of this empirical research, the project will recommend prevention instruments and measures which could be applied to both the countries under study and the European Union.

Led by IEMed, the multidisciplinary consortium gathers 14 partners from the South and East of the Mediterranean region, the Balkans and the European Union:

- American University Cairo (AUC), Egypt
- Generations for Peace (GFP), Jordan
- Jasmine Foundation for Research and Communication (JFRC), Tunisia
- Université Moulay Ismail (UMI), Morocco
- University of Sarajevo (UNSA), Bosnia
- Kosovar Institute for Policy Research and Development (KIPRED), Kosovo
- Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts (MANU), Macedonia
- Islamic Youth Forum (IYF), Macedonia
- Center for the Study of Democracy (CSD), Belgium
- Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB), Belgium
- Centre for Southeast European Studies, University of Graz, Austria (UNI-GRAZ), Austria
- Universitat Rovira i Virgili (URV), Spain
- Euromed Cities Network, France