



## Education & peace building initiatives targeting children and youth: Preventing radicalisation and extremist violence among young people

You are preparing a speech for the Head of EU Delegation in Jordan who is meeting with religious leaders to discuss ways to foster peace, stability and security in the country and to limit recruitment into ISIL/Da'esh.

In line with the EU's priorities to prevent radicalisation and extremist violence among young people, you would like to include a strong focus on **youth engagement, youth participation and education.**

**Your task:** (1) Identify concrete and innovative actions that could be discussed with religious leaders, focussing on youth engagement, participation, and education; (2) prepare a three-minutes pitch to convince your Head of Delegation about the need to focus on these actions to tackle radicalisation, extremist violence, and recruitment into ISIL/Da'esh.



### Background information

- Da'esh has declared ambitions to widen its territory to neighbouring countries such as Lebanon, Jordan and Gulf countries.<sup>1</sup>
- The presence of more than 600,000 Syrian refugees in Jordan (total population: 6.4 million) is placing a strain on service delivery and scarce natural resources, in particular water. Access to education and work opportunities are limited for young people in general, adding to a sense of marginalisation among some.
- The arrival of so many refugees in Jordan has driven down wages while simultaneously increasing rent and unemployment, which rose from 14.5 percent to 22.1 percent between 2011 and 2014 in areas with high concentrations of Syrian refugees.<sup>2</sup>

### For inspiration and reference, please consult:

Tool 2.3 Sector checklists: Education, Vocational Training and Culture

Tool 3.1.4 Matrices for assessing the environment for child participation: Assessing opportunities to influence agendas

Tool 3.1.5 Matrices for assessing the environment for child participation: Assessing Respect for Children's Participation

### Key resources - excerpts:

#### Council conclusions on the EU Regional Strategy for Syria and Iraq as well as the ISIL/Da'esh threat

2.1.2 Isolate and defeat Da'esh as a military force and as a terrorist organisation and counter its ideological influence

Counter-narrative and Countering Violent Extremism (CVE)



- Support to communication campaigns carried out by relevant actors in Syria, Iraq and in the region (including in countries of origin of foreign fighters) to discredit Da'esh's ideology and denounce its violations of human rights and to counter violent extremism and hate speech linked to other groups in the region.
- Support to countering violent extremism projects in Lebanon and Jordan and possibly other countries in the region, targeting the most exposed segments of the populations, in particular the youth.
- Preventing radicalisation in prisons through an integrated programme of reintegration or disengagement for detained or returning members of terrorist groups, in the region and in the EU.
- Encouragement to the governments and relevant societal actors in the region to take targeted measures to prevent and curb radicalisation and incitement in public places (including universities).

### 2.1.5 Strengthen local resilience capacities in Syria, Iraq and the affected neighbouring countries

- To prevent more recruitment by Da'esh, as well as future violence in and between displaced populations and host communities, assistance and perspectives for a better future for these populations are essential. Humanitarian efforts must be linked with the affected person's longer term development needs as a means to promote post-conflict reintegration and development and to counter potential extremism amongst refugee populations and host communities. (p. 23)

## EC Communication - European Security Agenda, 28 Apr 2015

### 3.1 Tackling terrorism and preventing radicalisation

Education, youth participation, interfaith and inter-cultural dialogue, as well as employment and social inclusion, have a key role to play in preventing radicalisation by promoting common European values, fostering social inclusion, enhancing mutual understanding and tolerance. Inclusive education can make a major contribution in tackling inequalities and preventing marginalization. Youth work, volunteering, sport and cultural activities are particularly effective in reaching out to young people. (p. 15)

## VALLETTA SUMMIT, 11-12 NOVEMBER 2015 POLITICAL DECLARATION

We commit to address the root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement resulting from state fragility and insecurity, as well as from demographic, economic and environmental trends. Our common response will focus on reducing poverty, promoting peace, good governance, rule of law and respect for human rights, supporting inclusive economic growth through investment opportunities and the creation of decent jobs, improving the delivery of basic services such as education, health and security. Rekindling hope, notably for the **African youth**, must be our paramount objective. (p. 2)

## VALLETTA SUMMIT, 11-12 NOVEMBER 2015 ACTION PLAN

### 1. Development benefits of migration and addressing root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement

#### 1.1. Investing in development and poverty eradication

- Step up assistance to youth to acquire labour market-relevant skills through education, vocational training, access to digital technologies, while ensuring equal opportunities for young women and men (e.g. AU/NEPAD new skills initiative)
- Create new economic opportunities for young women and men through initiatives focused on, among others, targeted measures to create jobs and employment opportunities and stimulate entrepreneurship), and programmes with civil society to foster youth participation in the public sphere
- Step up support to micro, small and medium sized enterprises (SME) in the formal and informal sector including through access to finance and micro-loans, training and incubation with particular focus on women, youth and rural populations (p. 3)



## 1.3 Addressing instability and crises

- Launch measures to prevent and counter radicalisation and violent extremism, in particular among the youth, notably in the Sahel, Lake Chad, North Africa and Horn of Africa regions, taking into account inter alia ElAzhar's leading role in this regard, the Moroccan experience regarding the education of imams and the outcome of the International Conference on Violent Extremism and Deradicalisation held in Algeria on 22 and 23 July 2015. (p. 5)

### Council conclusions on counter-terrorism, Foreign Affairs Council, 9 February 2015

Addressing the underlying factors of radicalization by supporting initiatives across the region with regard to youth, education, vocational training, job opportunities, civil society, security sector reform, role of women. The EU will work with faith-based organizations, as appropriate. (p. 3)

<sup>1</sup> Council conclusions on the EU Regional Strategy for Syria and Iraq as well as the ISIL/Da'esh threat, 15 March 2015

<sup>2</sup> Political instability in Jordan, Council on foreign relations, 2014, <http://www.cfr.org/global/global-conflict-tracker/p32137#/?marker=10>