

NORADICA, the fight against radicalization starts at school

5 European Countries provide teachers, students and policy makers with materials to prevent religious radicalization

In recent years, **radicalization** and **recruitment of citizens by terrorist organizations** has been investigated at international level because of the worrying dimension of the phenomenon. In 2015, the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs of the European Parliament conducted a report on radicalization in Europe, pointing out the crucial importance of education in preventing such circumstances.

In fact, in order to limit the conditions for radicalization to develop, **schools** have a crucial role in decreasing the phenomenon, by enabling **teachers** to take an active role against all forms of discrimination and racism. The fight against radicalization can be carried out by prevention, monitoring of the phenomenon and its evolution, by raising awareness and communication campaigns, and finally by adjusting rules and norms to the reality.

In this context, the European Erasmus+ project named **NORADICA – *Inter-Religious Dialogue Against Radicalization of Youth through Innovative Learning Practices at School*** is giving its own contribution, involving several partners in 5 European Countries: University of Catania and PMF Research in **Italy**, University of Social Sciences (SAN) in **Poland**, RenaSup in **France**, Inforef in **Belgium** and the School Inspectorate of Iasi County in **Romania**. Started one year ago, the final aim of this project is **to try defeating radicalization by fostering dialogue between different religions**. In fact diversities, real or perceived, are often origin of prejudices among cultures and, unfortunately, cause of radicalization and extreme forms of behaviours. For this reason the NORADICA project wants to develop and spread tools for inter-religious dialogue promotion in schools, by involving **teachers and students aged 12-16** of European nations involved.

By using a scientific rigour, all NORADICA partners have conducted in their Countries **Desk Researches**, investigating different aspects of terrorism, radicalization and society's solutions for them, and also making **surveys to teachers** working in multi-religious classes. Moreover, in order to gain a wider point of view on the phenomenon, NORADICA partners also **interviewed religious leaders of 11 different faiths**, focusing on several aspects, such as their relationships with schools, communities and institutions, discussing inter-religious dialogue and radicalization in young generations.

This big amount of data is the basis on which NORADICA partnership is working to **provide smart tools to schools**, by using a catching layout and teenagers' language in order to promote the importance of inter-religious dialogue among cultures. Between these tools, a **set of Educational Infographics** is about to be completed and several edu-Cartoons will be created later on, based on religious leaders interviews. Also teachers will directly benefit of NORADICA outcomes, by using an **interactive ebook** containing all the project researches, enriched by audios, videos and links to

external resources. Finally, partners will prepare a **set of recommendations** for teachers, students and policy makers in order to promote inter-religious dialogue at schools, raising awareness against radicalization and foster de-radicalization processes in local communities.

All NORADICA outcomes will be **available on the project website**, <https://www.noradicalism.eu/>, free accessible and downloadable, in order to guarantee the sustainability of the project also after its duration.

To know more about the project, visit the [project page on Facebook](#) or the group on LinkedIn, to discover how the NORADICA community deal with anti-radicalization.

24-01-2019

NORADICA