Documentation

European Expert Meeting: Preventing Islamist radicalisation of youth and the role of fighting Islamophobia and discrimination against Muslims

10th and 11th of December 2015
Bruxelles
Lena Reinschmidt and Dr. Sören Hoyer
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Publishing Information
1 Introduction

What can states do to successfully prevent Islamic extremism in young people, and to protect pluralism in our European society? This question has gained sad relevance recently with the terror attacks in Paris and Brussels. The search for answers is turning increasingly to holistic prevention approaches, which also consider the fight against Islamophobia and discrimination against Muslims. The background to these types of political approaches is the concept that experiences of marginalisation and devaluation can contribute to the process of radicalisation amongst young people, or a strengthening of these processes.

The Observatory for Sociopolitical Developments in Europe invited participants to a European expert discussion on this subject in December 2015 in Brussels. The discussion helped a pan-European exchange about the role of combatting hostility towards Islam and Muslims in the prevention of Islamic extremism in young people. This political approach was discussed with representatives of European institutions as well as with European NGO’s. Using best practice examples from European member states, various approaches and the experiences gained through these were highlighted and discussed. On the one hand, this promoted mutual learning and on the other, there was an increase in the understanding of the reciprocal effects of radicalisation processes. Speakers from France, The Netherlands, Germany and Austria, as well as the European Parliament, the European Commission and European activists in civic society reported on their experiences and discussed the different approaches.

The documentation here gives an overview of the main results of the specialist discussion and aims to intensify further discussion of the subject across Europe. The presentation slides used for the individual input are in the appendix.

The Observatory has published a subject-focussed newsletter on the subject of the specialist discussion, showing various political approaches by experts from France and Germany, as well as European organisations.¹

The Observatory for Sociopolitical Developments in Europe would like to thank all the participants for the lively discussion. We would also like to thank the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Young People (BMFSFJ in German) for their cooperation in planning and holding the discussion.

On behalf of the Observatory for Sociopolitical Developments in Europe

Lena Reinschmidt and Dr. Sören Hoyer

## Programme

**Thursday, 10.12.2015**

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<tr>
<td>12:30</td>
<td>Delegate arrival and light snack</td>
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<td>13:00</td>
<td>Welcome and introduction by Sera Choi</td>
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<td>Academic input on radicalisation and Islamophobia</td>
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<td>Dr. Marwan Abou Taam, academic expert at the Rheinland Palatinate</td>
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<td>Office of Criminal Investigation.</td>
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<td>Senior Citizens, Women and Young People in preventing extremism</td>
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<td>Nilden Vardar, Department for Democracy and Diversity, Federal Ministry</td>
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<td>Presentation of the Hesse Prevention Network against Salafism</td>
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<td>Gregor Dietz, Director of the Hesse Centre for Information and</td>
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<td>Competence Against Extremism (HKE)</td>
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<td>Presentation of the work of ufuq.de</td>
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<td>Dr. Götz Nordbruch, Joint Managing Director of ufuq.de</td>
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<td>Ana Gomes, Member of the European Parliament, S&amp;D Fraction, Member of</td>
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<td>the Committee for Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, as well</td>
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<td>as the Sub-Committee for Security and Defence</td>
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<td>Where are we, and where do we want to go? Taking stock and challenges</td>
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<td>from a European perspective</td>
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<td>Katerina Vyzvaldova, European Union Fundamental Rights Agency, FRA</td>
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<td>Julie Pascoët, European Network against Racism, ENAR</td>
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<td>Maarten van de Donk, Radicalisation Awareness Network, RAN</td>
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<td>Chaired by Dr. Sören Hoyer, Observatory for Sociopolitical Developments</td>
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<td>18:00</td>
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**Observatory for Sociopolitical Developments in Europe**

**Friday, 11.12.2015**

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<td>08:45</td>
<td>Welcome and transition</td>
<td>Irina Bohn, Institute for Social Work and Social Education</td>
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| 08:50 | Activities and experiences in selected EU member states | Florence Beclier, Délégation Interministérielle à la Lutte contre le Racisme et l'Antisémitisme, France  
      |                                                   | David Blum, Austrian Ministry of the Interior                           |
|       |                                                   | Saskia Tempelman, Dutch Ministry for Security and Justice                |
|       |                                                   | Chaired by Lena Reinschmidt, Observatory for Sociopolitical Developments in Europe |
| 10:15 | Coffee break                                      |                                                                         |
| 10:45 | Podium discussion: What to take away?             | Ilona von Bethlenfalvy, European Commission, Department for Migration and Internal Security, Anti-Terrorism Section: Prevention  
      |                                                   | Joël Le Déroff, European Network against Racism, ENAR                  |
|       |                                                   | Katerina Vyzvaldova, European Union Fundamental Rights Agency, FRA      |
|       |                                                   | Chaired for Sera Choi, Department for Democracy and Diversity, Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Young People |
| 11:45 | Summary and closing address by Sera Choi          | Department for Democracy and Diversity, Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Young People |
| 12:00 | Event close with midday snack                     |                                                                         |
3 Prevention of Islamic extremism in young people and the role of combatting Islamophobia and discrimination against Muslims

3.1 Welcome and opening of the specialist discussion – Sera Choi (BMFSFJ)

Sera Choi, Advisor at the Department for Democracy and Diversity, Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Young People, (BMFSFJ) opened the discussion with a few words of introduction. The welcome address will be printed later.2

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to welcome you to the discussion of “Prevention of Islamic extremism in young people and the role of combatting Islamophobia and discrimination against Muslims.

The struggle against extremist violence is firstly a political security task, but it is also a socio-political task. Security in our society includes preventative measures which prevent radicalisation processes and strengthen democratic behaviour. More and more attention is being devoted to prevention in debates in Europe and internationally. We welcome this development.

The aim of prevention must be to strengthen cohesion in society. As well as the problem of Islamic radicalisation, in Germany we are experiencing a mobilisation of a right-wing, popular right, anti-muslim movements. And our concern must be to avoid a division in society. By using democratic approaches, by really living democracy - we would like to strengthen the ability to handle conflicts in society.

“Live democracy! Active against right-wing extremism, violence and hate” is the name of our federal programme which started in early 2015. We had a total of 40.5 million Euro available for this federal programme to strengthen civil engagement and democratic behaviour. From 2016, the resources available for the federal programme will be increased to 50.5 million Euro.

Mrs Vardar will present the programme and our approach in the area of prevention of Islamic extremism and Islamophobia and discrimination against Muslims later. I would like to say a few words about the federal programme as an introduction.

Preventing radicalism is, above all, a task of youth policy. Radicalisation begins mainly in young people. From a youth policy perspective, it is a matter of support and assistance for young people. Young people who are affected and endangered in various ways, and their needs, must be considered. And we must reinforce their ability to handle Islamic extremism.

2 The spoken word applies.
In addition, as the Federal Ministry for the Family we place great emphasis on the promotion of an active civil society, on those who are actively involved in promoting democratic values and diversity on the ground in society. And it is also a matter of improving the collaboration of those active in state and civic society.

The Federal Ministry for the Family also adopts a cross-phenomenon approach. We concentrate on various forms of group-related hostility, such as anti-semitism, Islamophobia and discrimination against Muslims and anti-gypsy activity, as well as various forms of extremism: right-wing extremism, Islamic extremism and left-wing militancy. This cross-phenomenon approach allows us to view connections and interactions, as well as identify commonalities in educational approaches to prevention. This benefits the work in combating anti-Islamic feeling using experiences in the work against right-wing extremism.

Over the next two days, we would like to discuss with you the connections between prevention of Islamic extremism on one side and the prevention of Islamophobia and discrimination against Muslims on the other.

We know that the experience of discrimination and marginalisation can pose a risk factor for the radicalisation of young people. Radical preachers of hate argue with Islamophobia. Is it possible to combine the work on anti-discrimination and the preventative work against anti-Islamic hostility? What concrete problems and overlaps exist?

In addition, we must avoid any stigmatisation and reproduction of prejudices in preventative educational work. Above all, it is a matter of sensitising educators. For anti-Islamic attitudes from educators can lead to a further escalation. How can Islamophobia and discrimination against Muslims be addressed in educational handling of anti-Islamic sentiment?

When it comes to educational preventative work against anti-Islam sentiment, we are (almost) right at the start. We need new concepts and strategies in our work with young people. We would also like to use this discussion to share and reflect on our approaches and experiences with each other, and to explore new findings relating to reciprocal effects between Islamophobia and discrimination against Muslims and radicalisation processes. We are delighted that representatives from European institutions and non-governmental organisations are taking part, as well as representatives from France, Austria and The Netherlands.

The Federal States and municipalities play an essential role in the prevention of extremism in Germany. So we felt it was important to show an example from a Federal State, when we present the German approach. I am delighted that in Mr Dietz, we have a representative of the State of Hesse with us. I am also pleased that Mr Nordbuch will present the work of UFUQ. The UFUQ organisation receives support as part of our federal programme.

I would like to thank the Observatory for Sociopolitical Developments in Europe for organising this event and designing the content.
3.2 Academic input on radicalisation and Islamophobia – Dr. Marwan Abou Taam

Dr. Marwan Abou Taam, Islamic and political scientist, and as an academic expert at the Rheinland Palatinate Office of Criminal Investigation, firstly made it clear that discrimination of Muslims is a daily phenomenon. More recently, this discrimination has also been captured in statistical police records. So the basis for the academic analysis required has improved.

At the start of his contribution, Abou Taam presented the main terms and their definitions. The debate (in Germany) has traditionally revolved around the expression “extremism”. However, there is a constitutional tolerance of extremism, i.e. being “extreme” is not forbidden per se. A crime is only committed when there is an associated action, to “save society” or implement the “absolute truth” - as demanded by extremism. Fundamentalism, as another expression in the discussion, is the politicisation of religion. Here, too, only the action is criminal. A third expression, radicalisation, is the inability to compromise. It should always be understood as a relative term with regard to the overall societal position, according to Abou Taam. Radical attitudes are problematic when they are opposed to the existing societal type (radical democrats are not problematic in a democracy). According to Abou Taam, extremist movements, including fundamentalistic movements are characterised by certain features: There is always a claim to be the sole representatives of an absolute truth. In this regard, Islamists act in contradiction to the teachings of the faith of Islam, as this rejects an absolute truth beyond the divine. The extremist world views, as a second feature, frequently operate with dualisms such as god/devil, race/people, etc. Thirdly, extremism means the flight into a collective, where common sense is set aside. Fourth, a linear constructed understanding of history is accepted, such as the creation to judgement day or the final victory of a race. Fifth, particularly in fundamentalist extremism, there is the tyranny of a text, such as quotes from the Koran or the Bible, instead of argument based on reason. With regard to radicalisation, this means that this can be regarded culturally as flight from the existing societal type. Intellectually, it is characterised by a setting-aside of reason and the acceptance of collective truths and traditional argument structures. Particularly amongst young people, who are searching for clarity, this is due to the fact that they are over-burdened by the pluralistic democratic system. Politically, radicalisation represents the rejection of the democratic community.

According to Abou Taam, islamophobia or hostility towards Islam is also culturally determined, and derives from the fact that Muslims are unable to “belong”. Here, a collectivisation takes place, which indicates a danger from all Muslims. This means anti-Islamic hostility and Islamophobia reinforce each other in terms of their argumentation. From a sociopolitical viewpoint the (extreme) fringe elements in society condense and articulate the prejudices that exist in the middle of society, as Abu Taam states. The challenge is to combat the prejudices that exist in the middle of society. Here is a problem of perception, above all. Contrary to what mainstream society in Europe believes, there is no “culture of Islam”. Many young people in Europe with a (Muslim) migration background live with a negative narrative, both from their families (“You're just like a German!”) and from society (“You're a Muslim!”) This makes them susceptible to radicalisation by extremists, who create feelings of belonging with corre-
sponding proposals. The surroundings and charismatic people play a central role in this creation of an identity, apart from the ideology. However, the causes of radicalisation may not have been adequately researched. It is clear, though, that we have to make sure that what the radicals are offering is not of interest, and that we have to offer young people a place in society, in order to prevent radicalisation. Abou Taam again emphasised that it is essential to maintain the high level of interpretation and definition and that these should not be left to the radicals and preachers of hate. Therefore it may be misleading to speak of counter-narratives, as these represent the actual narratives. With regard to the connection between Islamophobia and radicalisation, Abou Taam explained that Islamophobia can be a factor. Experiences of discrimination were frequently processed in the narratives of Islamists. In particular, well-educated young people felt more strongly discriminated against, as it had been suggested to them that a good education is an entry ticket to a successful biography within society. If this does not materialise, the level of frustration is particularly high. Mrs Vardar remarked that even those who gain an entry into established structures experience discrimination there.

3.3 Prevention policy and its implementation in Germany

3.3.1 “Live democracy” - The work of the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Young People in preventing extremism

Nilden Vardar, Advisor at the Department for Democracy and Diversity, Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Young People, (BMFSFJ) reported on the new concept of the Federal Programme “Live Democracy!” in 2015. In terms of structure, it now covers both the municipalities as well as the federal states and the national level. The eligible subjects were elaborated. Resources for supporting model projects are now available for the area of anti-Muslim hostility, group-related hostility and prevention of radicalisation.

Mrs Vardar went on to explain the preventive approach of the BMFSFJ. Prevention is viewed from the perspective of protection of young people, and follows an integrated understanding. In this regard, the potential of the young individual is in the foreground. The aim of the BMFSFJ is to reinforce civic society and to promote the network of different protagonists. A central part of the programme focuses on inclusion and participation of Muslims. The focus is on a peer group approach, to reach the young people better.
3.3.2 Presentation of the Hesse Prevention Network against Salafism

Gregor Dietz, Director of the Hesse Centre for Information and Competence Against Extremism (HKE), presented the approach to prevention by the State of Hesse in their struggle against salafism and in particular, went into the newly created coordination structures. The HKE acts as a coordination point which, on one hand, helps to strengthen the ability to act across departments. On the other hand, a dedicated budget is available for the implementation of projects and programmes. The HKE always works as an inter-ministry advisor, which is strategically very beneficial. As a part of the prevention network, the HKE works closely with civic society, following a peer-group approach. In terms of content, the work includes both prevention and intervention. The areas within prevention include schools, the justice system, universities and youth work. The schools area involves information and training for teachers. In the justice system, prison staff receive training, and this is complemented by programmes for support and work with radicalised individuals and the Muslim prison chaplaincy. Extra educational modules have been introduced into courses at universities, to give graduates opportunities to get involved, such as in advisory centres, and at the same time to provide appropriately trained staff for the centres. Within youth work, there are cooperations with mosque communities and street-worker projects which have proved to be very successful, underlining the importance of the peer-group approach. The municipalities also act as partners within the network.

3.3.3 Presentation of the work of ufuq.de

Dr. Götz Nordbruch, Joint Managing Director of ufuq.de reported on the implementation of preventative work in practice. He presented the work the project ufuq.de, which receives structural support from the federal programme “Live Democracy!” The objective of the project is to improve the political education of young Muslims. Nordbruch made it clear that political education is a fundamental component of prevention work. Ufuq.de is active in youth work both online and offline. Young Muslims are given the space to ask concrete questions that arise in their daily lives and their search for identity, such as: is it acceptable to go to a James Bond film as a Muslim? Training on the police and justice system was also held as part of the project. Ultimately the move from academic findings to educational work in prac-
practice was at the heart of the work. It became clear from the work of ufuq.de with young people, that young Muslims experience discrimination. This also includes the fact that Islamophobia is not talked about on a daily basis or in school.

3.4 Current initiatives from the European Parliament in the area of prevention of radicalisation in young people and hatred of Islam.

Ana Gomes, Member of the European Parliament, the S&D Fraction, Member of the Committee for Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, as well as the Sub-Committee for Security and Defence reported on the European Parliament resolution on the prevention of radicalisation and recruitment of European citizens by terrorist organisations. A cross-party consensus had been found, emphasising the importance of prevention policy. This requires financial resources, programmes of activity and the engagement of those involved. Gomes emphasised that injustice and increasing inequality in our societies create a breeding ground for radicalisation. In this regard, she expressed criticism of the role of the austerity politics of the EU. This had led to an increase in youth unemployment, amongst other issues. The high level of youth unemployment in Europe was a key problem. We should adopt the perspectives of young people in order to protect them from radicalisation. Integration policy also needs to be improved. With regard to Muslims in Europe, Gomes stated that they have multiple experiences of discrimination. Islam has been stigmatised, for example because the discussion about terrorism, refugees, migrants and Islam has become mixed up with each other. This stigmatisation of Islam should be combatted. For this, it must be stated very clearly that Islam is part of Europe.

Gomes emphasised the transnational character of the problem which therefore demands that stronger European collaboration is required. For this, the exchange of information between countries and authorities must be in the foreground. But information and knowledge about radicalisation processes in general, as well as online and in prisons specifically, must be shared more optimal within Europe.

3.5 Where are we, and where do we want to go? Surveys and requirements from a European perspective

Katerina Vyzvaldova then presented the European Union Fundamental Rights Agency, FRA. The FRA was founded in 2007 as an independent research institute, in order to advise EU institutions and member states in matters of fundamental rights. Vyzvaldova first ex-
plained that, up to now, a legal definition of islamophobia did not exist. The FRA’s research work (qualitative interviews with Muslims, quantitative surveys) made it clear that political approaches needed to be thoroughly overhauled in order to improve trust within Muslim communities. Hate crimes must also be combatted more forcefully.

The data shows that Muslims are often subject to hostility because of their appearance. Sometimes Muslim children in schools are defamed as terrorists. As well as this open hostility to Islam, islamophobia can also be expressed more covertly in everyday situations. Landlords ask about language ability, or family size, teachers make derogatory statements about the religious or ethnic background of Muslim pupils, or employment agencies are asked not to send any Muslim staff. Second or third generation Muslims, in particular, often have the experience that they are seen as foreigners and they encounter a lack of trust.

One important point raised by Vyzvaldova was the lack of comparable data on discrimination and hate crimes committed against people with a migration background, or ethnic minorities, with a particular focus on religion. This is why the FRA carried out the EU MIDS Survey in 2008. 33% of those surveyed replied that they had been the victims of discrimination in the last 12 months. 79% of those affected had not reported the incidents, with the justification that this would not change anything. One in ten of those surveyed had been the victim of a hate crime in the previous 12 months. 25% had been stopped by the police in the previous months. The majority felt that this was because they were Muslims. The second phase of the survey took place in 2015, and the results are currently being evaluated. This may allow possible trends to be highlighted. In addition, the question of the effects of experiencing discrimination on Muslims should be explored. Another FRA study in cities with a large Muslim population in France, Great Britain and Spain has revealed that young people who have experienced discrimination more frequently became violent themselves. It also showed that religious discrimination affected Muslim young people above all.

With regard to radicalisation, Vyzvaldova stressed that this could not only be explained by experiences of discrimination or racism alone. Many factors played a role. Therefore, we should talk less about Islamophobia as a supporting factor for radicalisation. We should, instead, take a step back and discuss the negative effects of security policy measures and anti-terrorism strategies. These have led to a stigmatisation of Islam as a threat to security and laid the groundwork for Islamophobia. In view of this, political approaches must be over-
looked to examine whether they are reaching the right areas of discrimination (particularly in the employment market), whether the educational institutions are sufficiently enlightened about anti-Muslim hostility, and whether there is an appropriate environment that makes prosecuting discrimination easier.

Maarten van de Donk from the Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN), who advise the EU Commission, views Islamophobia as a problematic concept, as it over-emphasises the importance of religion in identity attribution. To some extent, it was just a new term for existing phenomena such as discrimination or fear of immigrants. Regarding immigrants from Syria with an affiliation to the terror network ISIS, van de Donk stressed that these people’s knowledge of Islam was often very poor. So other approaches to the prevention of radicalisation must be found, which go beyond the discussion of Islamophobia. One approach involves supporting young Muslims on the one hand, by opening opportunities in society, and on the other by re-inforcing their own identity. Young people must be nurtured towards emancipation, with the education competence of the parents being of great importance. The lack of knowledge about Islam amongst the wider population, as well as the traditions and values of Muslims make it harder to differentiate between “normal” behaviour and radical tendencies. Nor should we talk about moderate Muslims, as this also promotes stigmatisation processes. In conclusion, van de Donk emphasized to make use of learnings gained from dealing with right-wing extremism, and not to re-invent the wheel. Measures and approaches could be transferred to the prevention of Islamic extremism.

Julie Pascoët from the European Network against Racism (ENAR) then presented the ENAR perspective on the subject. ENAR is a European non-governmental organisation whose aim is to influence the EU's anti-racism policy. They take a group-oriented approach to the subject of racism, and draw attention to the implementation deficit in EU policies. To start, Pascoët stressed that EU directives and guidelines do, in fact, exist. However, the problem lies in the faulty implementation by the EU member states. Pascoët also indicated that a Muslim-specific viewpoint was missing in the way EU institutions looked at the phenomenon of racism. At the same time, there is the danger that confusing the terms extremism and Islamophobia in the debate end in repressive measures. Islamism could be a consequence of anti-terrorism policies. ENAR prefers the term “potentially violent religious radicalisation” instead of the expression radicalisation or islamism. The Paris attacks have triggered an increase in hate crime and anti-Islamic hostility. The majority of victims were women and girls. So Islamophobia also has a strong gender component. This may be explained by the fact that Muslim women are easier to identify (e.g. by wearing head scarves) and supposedly not as strong as men. Pascoët then explicitly praised the resolution proposal from
the European Parliament for the promotion of national plans to combat Islamophobia. National strategies to combat Islamophobia are a key demand from ENAR. Member states must also be obliged to collect data on equality of treatment.

The high level of interest in sharing examples of good practice and mutual learning became clear in the subsequent debate. Van de Donk mentioned here that programmes working with credible narratives from the peer group were often successful in the context of prevention work. Questions were asked about possible effects on human rights after the Paris attacks. Vyzvaldova also noted that the FRA noticed an increase in hate crimes against Muslim and Jewish communities after the attacks. She also pointed out the negative effects of profiling, or the targeted checking of certain groups of people using defined characteristics. The FRA has put together a handbook showing how profiling - as a legitimate tool in police work - can be used in such a way that it does not have a discriminatory effect, and is compatible with human rights. One important sign is that political leaders, for example in Germany, have condemned the attacks together and demonstrated their unity. Communication and confidence-building policies will be of fundamental importance in the coming decades, to combat anti-Islamic hostility. Alongside communication from politicians, the education sector is of fundamental importance. Educators must be better trained. Florence Beclier reported here about incidents where schoolchildren refused to take part in the minute’s silence for the victims of the Paris attacks. Many teachers were surprised by this reaction and struggled with it. After the attacks in November the Education ministry provided information and tips for teachers, in order to help shape their thinking and help them handle divergent reactions. When asked about ENAR’s hopes and expectations of the new EU coordinator for combatting Islamophobia – David Friggieri – Pascoët stressed that this would improve the awareness of the subject of Islamophobia. She also hoped that the creation of the new body was more of a re-structuring of existing competencies. She also hoped it would add impetus to the implementation of anti-discrimination directives.

3.6 Welcome and transition

Irina Bohn from the Institute for Social Work and Social Education welcomed the delegates to the second day. She reported on the Institute’s many years of experience in research into anti-racism, its implementation in practice and its evaluation. Mrs Bohn welcomed the exchange across Europe and said she was looking forward to see which approaches would be chosen by other member states with regard to the prevention of islamism and combatting Islamophobia.
3.7 Activities and experiences from France and Austria

Florence Beclier from the Délégation Interministérielle à la Lutte contre le Racisme et l’Antisémitisme (DICLA) was pleased with the initiatives and ideas she had already been able to take from German policy during the course of the event. From France, she reported that the DICLA was created in 2012 and that it had been located under the Prime Minister since 2014. As a reaction to the attacks on Charlie Hebdo in January 2015, the French government published a 3-year plan for the fight against jihadism in April 2015. Before that, at the end of 2014, a national action plan to combat racism and anti-semitism had been set in motion by the Prime Minister. This envisaged a reinforcement of civic society and preventative measures. Part of the plan to combat jihadism included a freephone number, where people could report information about radicalisation and also provided advice for affected family members. What makes this special is the networking of the national body DICLA and the départements who are responsible for child protection. This kind of collaboration is unprecedented. Every reported case of a minor who became radicalised will be evaluated by a support group. Measures may then be introduced, both social and judicial in nature, where necessary. Police and security services collaborate in this regard. As well as the preventative measures, Syria returnees were escorted, and also prosecuted. Moreover, as part of the national plan by the Ministry for the Interior, programmes for educators, social workers and law-enforcement officials were promoted and carried out. To combat radicalisation on the internet, online blogs could be blocked and their operators prosecuted, whereby the shutdown would be checked by an independent commission to ensure it was proportionate. The national plan against racism and anti-semitism was targeted at education and prevention (in particular on the internet), as well as the effective networking of existing measures. The plan follows an holistic approach and includes three levers: Culture and education, mobilisation of civic society to implement the agreed government measures, as well as sanctioning. Beclier mentioned the example that since 2015, republican and democratic values were increasingly dealt with in schools, to make it clear which values were shared by all, and also what holds the French nation together.
David Blum from the Austrian Federal Ministry for the Interior heads up the analysis unit at the Austrian Office for the Protection of the Constitution. Unlike Germany, for example, this is not part of the domestic intelligence service, but rather the police service. With regard to the situation in Austria, Blum explained that as well as right-wing extremism, the last three years had seen an increase in Islamic extremism and terrorism, and the number of refugees from Syria had grown since ISIS had become more powerful. Austria could report 250 emigrants and 70 returnees. Blum explored two kinds of measures in Austria: Measures that the ministry had taken, and measures in civic society with state support.

The Ministry of the Interior had initiated measures for training “normal” police officers, above all the officers involved in prevention. In addition, the subject of radicalisation has been integrated into police training. In the prison sector, there has been a reaction to cases of radicalisation in prisons, and 3,000 prison officers have been trained. In cooperation with civic society, a central advisory service has been set up, to which the public has been able to turn to with questions relating to radicalisation since 2014. They had looked at a number of models, including those in Germany, and taken advantage of other experiences. The extremism advisory service was deliberately not housed in the confines of the Ministry of the Interior and the police service. Instead, it is supported by the Federal Ministry for the Family and Young People, as the public is often very reluctant to contact the police force. The “Bundesnetzwerk offene Jugendarbeit” or National Network for Public Youth Work, a state-financed, non-governmental organisation, leads the advisory service. A great deal of confidence building was required during set-up. It is important to stress that the advisory service is a helpline, not a hotline. The advisory service acts as a central institution for prevention, it does not have a mandate in the area of de-radicalisation. It employs five multi-lingual staff (including Arabic, Turkish and Russian) and can also boast a pool of experts, for issues such as training for law-enforcement officers and teachers, of which 150 have already been held. From a total of 900 contacts with the advisory service in its first year, around 50 have resulted in family care programmes. The public response was very positive, which is why the budget for the advisory service was increased.

In addition, Blum reported about an inter-ministerial steering committee for prevention of radicalisation, with representation from the Education, Justice, Social, Family and the Interior ministries, and other ministries if required. Every two months or so, the strategic political direction of prevention is discussed. Blum stressed that the exchange of ideas in an institution such as this had proved to be indispensable, to avoid duplication of effort in the ministries policies. In this regard, prevention should be seen as a task for the whole of society. To make sure this wasn’t just a platitude, there are joint presentations with the advisory service. As part of this, it should also be made clear at what point the police service is responsible within the radicalisation process, and when they should intervene.

The discussion which followed made it clear that there is a great deal of interest in the different experiences and in an exchange of opinions. The Austrian Mr Blum was asked if Austria was keeping up with the demand from bodies including the FRA and ENAR for a national strategy to combat anti-Islamic hostility. Blum stated there is currently no written strategy in Austria. But this was likely to come. The advisory centre was currently considering how to
include hostility to asylum seekers and foreigners. There was also the question whether Islamophobia and discrimination against Muslims had a role to play within politics. It was absolutely essential to consider this question in Austria, according to Blum, as Islam had been a state-recognised religion since 1912. The Islam Law and the umbrella body for Muslims - The Islamic Faith Community in Austria - made dialogue easier here. This means there is prevention work with young Muslims in Austria.

Sera Choi from the BMFSFJ asked Florence Beclier about measures for primary prevention, as the preventative measures described would, from a German point of view, more likely be understood as intervention from a German viewpoint. Beclier replied that in France, for reasons of secularism, there were no policies which addressed specific communities, rather just a universal political approach. For this reason, there are also no preventative measures targeted at the start of the radicalisation process, as this is only possible with a group-specific approach. Beclier made it clear that the French approach was anti-discrimination per se, as it was not targeted at the features of certain groups, rather at young people from disadvantaged areas, for example.

Katja Schau from the German Institute for Young People highlighted the shortage of knowledge in this area, and asked what role research and academia played within national strategies, and what role the integration of Muslim organisations played. Mr Blum also highlighted that there was a major need for knowledge and spreading knowledge, especially within the general public. In Austria, there is a focus at the University of Vienna, which should be expanded within the framework of RAN Austria. Islamic organisations are already being included, reinforced by the Islam Law. Beclier stressed the importance of specialists. They need more information, such as how young people become radicalised. As part of the action plan in France, an academic council has been engaged. In addition, finance has been set aside for academic research in this area. With regard to collaboration with Muslim organisations, Beclier made the point that it is often difficult to decide which organisations should be included in the dialogue and which ones should not. The question of representativity arises, as well as the aims and objectives of the organisation. At the same time, the delegates stressed that empowerment of Muslims must be an objective in its own right.

Then questions arise as to how to improve early recognition, and how to handle those returning from ISIS areas in Syria and Iraq. You can also definitely learn from their experience, and also from those people who leave the right-wing radical scene, and use these negative experiences to discourage others. Blum stressed that raising awareness within the general public was the best support to early recognition. With regard to people returning, it should be noted that here in Austria, as in France, a legal investigation is always carried out initially. If the individual is not prosecuted, they are cared for by social workers. This care is only provided at the start of the development. Beclier explained that people returning from ISIS are always questioned by the security services. Minors are cared for within educational programmes, where they are not subjected to prosecution. In order to avoid radicalisation in prisons, ISIS returnees should be isolated there. At the same time, Beclier also emphasised the huge shortage of information and the need for an exchange and transfer of information.
3.8 Podium discussion: What to take away?

Ilona von Bethlenfalvy, from the European Commission, Department for Migration and Internal Security, Anti-Terrorism Section: Prevention, first explained what the commission understood by the term and their political approach to the subject of prevention. She pointed to the European Agenda on Security, which contains more than repressive measures. She also mentioned the finance from the RAN network, which is now to be expanded with a Centre of Excellence. The role of this is to prepare research results for specialists and the world of politics. RAN makes their expertise available to the member states. Fundamentally, youth social workers are critically important in the prevention of extremism.

The commission has developed recommendations for the member states, inspired by the work of RAN. These include the requirement that national prevention and de-radicalisation strategies should be developed in the member states. In addition, national networks should be developed in which the various protagonists take part in preventative politics. According to von Bethlenfalvy, the commission is very active in various international forums, such as the UN. Ultimately, it is true to say that the solutions must be tailored to local requirements. She also made it clear that the discussion often focussed on Syria/ISIS emigrants. But at the same time, it was also clear that right and left wing extremism was on the rise. So the EU’s response to violent radicalisation should not be limited to one special group.

Joël Le Déroff from ENAR stated with regard to the most important need for action at a European level, that the prevention of racism should not take place without the affected victims. A universal approach should not be questioned. But there are also certain peculiarities, such as those regarding anti-Islam hostility, as the types of discrimination can differ significantly. At this point, Le Déroff explicitly welcomed the appointment of the EU coordinator to combat anti-Muslim hostility, and thus also to promote confidence-building. As some of the subjects in this area - hate speeches, diversity, anti-discrimination, etc - lie within the competence of the member states, ENAR called on the EU Council of Ministers to become active in this area.
Katerina Vyzvaldova from the FRA made it clear that the EU could already point to a strong legal framework in the anti-racism area. The problem was more that many people were not aware of this. She stressed it is important to combat Islamophobia and discrimination independently, and not merely to view it as a means to prevent extremism. She sees a critical problem in the lack of trust of minorities in the authorities and institutions. Above all, the challenge here was to create a robust and inclusive society. Nor should racism be reduced to hate crime, as hate crime is a widely controversial issue, whereas racism is more multifaceted and is significantly more controversial.

In the discussion which followed, Abou Taam emphasised that radicalisation is a phenomenon that cuts across social milieux and generations. In Western Europe, young people are affected above all, as the identity crisis reinforced by society - as a breeding ground for radicalisation - is most strongly exhibited in the group of people between 15 and 30 years old. A potential identity crisis is countered from the extremists’ side with the narrative that the individual is in a position to make history.

Katja Schau made it clear once more that there were many gaps in the empirical data, both qualitatively and quantitatively and also in terms of how radicalisation processes work. But it is also very plausible that narratives of non-belonging (“You don’t belong here”) play a role in radicalisation processes.

Mrs Choi then thanked all the participants for the interesting discussions. Delegates had been given an insight into the various approaches to prevention of Islamist extremism in young people on the one side, and combatting Islamophobia and discrimination against Muslims on the other. There is a great need for an exchange of ideas across Europe, both with regard to knowledge of radicalisation processes and successful measures for their prevention.
# 4 List of participants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Marwan Abou Taam</td>
<td>Academic Expert to the Office of Criminal Investigation Rhineland-Palatinate / Wissenschaftlicher Experte Landeskriminalamt Rheinland-Pfalz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florence Beclier</td>
<td>Florence Beclier, Délégation Interministérielle à la Lutte contre le Racisme et l’Antisémitisme, Frankreich Inter-ministerial delegation for the fight against racism and antisemitism</td>
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<tr>
<td>David Blum</td>
<td>Austrian Federal Ministry of the Interior / Österreichisches Bundesministerium für Inneres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irina Bohn</td>
<td>Institute for Social Work and Social Education e.v. / Institut für Sozialarbeit und Sozialpädagogik e.V. (ISS e.V.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sera Choi</td>
<td>Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Young People / Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gregor Dietz</td>
<td>Hessian Centre for Information and Expertise against Extremism / Hessisches Informations- und Kompetenzzentrum gegen Extremismus (HKE)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ana Gomes, MEP</td>
<td>Member of European Parliament / Mitglied des Europäischen Parlaments</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Sören Hoyer</td>
<td>Observatory for Sociopolitical Developments in Europe / Beobachtungsstelle für gesellschaftspolitische Entwicklungen in Europa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joël Le Déroff</td>
<td>European Network against Racism / Europäisches Netzwerk gegen Rassismus (ENAR)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Götz Nordbruch</td>
<td>ufuq.de</td>
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<tr>
<td>Julie Pascoët</td>
<td>European Network against Racism / Europäisches Netzwerk gegen Rassismus (ENAR)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Name</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lena Reinschmidt</td>
<td>Observatory for Sociopolitical Developments in Europe / Beobachtungsstelle für gesellschaftspolitische Entwicklungen in Europa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rudolf Roy</td>
<td>German Federal Ministry of the Interior / Deutsches Bundesministerium des Inneren</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katja Schau</td>
<td>German Youth Institute / Deutsches Jugendinstitut (DJI)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maarten van de Donk</td>
<td>Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nilden Vardar</td>
<td>Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Young People / Bundesministerium für Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ilona von Bethlenfalvy</td>
<td>European Commission / Europäische Kommission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katerina Vyzvaldova</td>
<td>European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, 2015. Agentur der Europäischen Union für Grundrechte (FRA)</td>
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</table>
5 Presentations

I. Preventing Islamist radicalisation of youth and the role of fighting Islamophobia and discrimination against Muslims – Dr. Marwan Abou Taam

II. Live Democracy! Active against Right-wing Extremism, Violence and Hate. The support for democracy and against extremism – Nilden Vardar

III. Hesse Information and Competence Centre to Counter Extremism (HKE) – Gregor Dietz

IV. Civic education on Islam, anti-Muslim racism and Islamism Empowering Muslim youngsters, building resilience against radical religious ideologies – Dr. Götz Nordbruch
European Expert Meeting: Preventing Islamist radicalisation of youth and the role of fighting Islamophobia and discrimination against Muslims

Dr. Marwan Abou Taam

**Extremism**
- Rejection of values, procedures and institutions of the democratic states
- Offenses which are directed against the democratic constitution

**Fundamentalism**
- Politicization of religion
- Moralism that wants to prevail by force in a society

**Radicalism**
- Political attitudes that will change a prevailing social order fundamentally
- Uncompromising insistence on basic positions. Intolerance against the attitudes and values of other

*Target direction: elimination of the fundamental values of liberal democracy*
Structural Properties

- Claim to sole representation with respect to absolute truths
- hermetic worldview
- distinction between good and evil
- own system of concepts/ Codes/ Language
- Moving away from democracy and liberality

Radicalization

Culturally
- Escape of the individual into the "bondage closed collectives".

Intellectually
- The escape from the open discourse into the "unjustifiable and groundless secrets of foundations"

Politically
- Rejection of the rules of democracy
Radical Settings

- Fundamentalist concepts are dualistic
- Eternal battle between "good" and "evil"
- Simplification of complex issues
- Sacralization of a particular reading of the story
- Linear understanding of history
- Dictatorship of the text (text orthodoxy)

Islamophobia

- Islam condemned as an obscurantist religion, closed to any form of progressive thought.
- The idea of an Arab Muslim world which is violent, fanatical and amoral.
- The fear of seeing populations of Magreb and Turkey, immigrating to Europe
- The propaganda chain: Arabs- the terrorist acts of 11.09.- economical slump
Reasons to keep Islam in the distance (according to Mass-Media)

- Islam and democracy seem to be contradictory

- Every Islamic pressure from Nigeria to Afghanistan, means an extension of the Shari’a, i.e. less rights for the women, for the Non-Moslems and even for the Moslems.

- Today, in Islam, the non-Moslem minorities are reduced as shagreen leather… Moslem colonies multiply in Europe.

- From Cyprus to Indonesia the frontiers of Islam are blood-stained.

- Islamism, the only modern ideology, openly opposed to the Human rights, fast established in some states and desiring to impose itself in the world, even by the force.

Islamophobia/ Anti Muslim racism

- The biggest obstacle in challenging Islamophobia:
  - lack of monitoring
  - lack of hard information and statistics

- Andreas Zick & Beate Küpper (Group focused Hate)
  - 16.6% of Germans believe “The Muslim culture fits well into Germany”
  - 44% of Europeans surveyed agree somewhat or completely with the statement: “There are too many Muslims”
  - “Islam is a religion of intolerance.” 52.2% of German respondents and 54.4% of Europeans surveyed agree or strongly agree.
Islam today

Arab spring

Freedom-House-Klassifizierung und Arabischer Frühling 2011/2012

Konflikte:
- Großdemonstrationen, Unruhen
- Bürgerkrieg

Politische Folgen:
- Starz des herrschenden Regimes
- Rücktritt des Staatsoberhauptes
- Ankündigung von Reformen
- Durchführung von Reformen
- keine Änderungen der Politik
The evolution of IS

- At-Tauhīd wa-l-Dschihād (2003–04)
- 2006 formation of IS
- ISIS (2013)
- Foundation of the calaifat 2014
To understand IS - we must study geopolitics
Islam - Europe's “second religion”

- today: Nearly 20 million inhabitants of the EU are Moslems:
- by 2020 Moslems will be 10% of the overall population of Europe

Salafism in Germany

- Muslim in Deutschland ca. 4 Mio. Personen
- Salafist (ca. 9000)
  - 1000 potentially Violent
  - 670 foreign fighters in Syria
Radicalization in Germany

- Radicalized immigrated
- Muslims who are emotionally connected with countries of origin
- Salafism as a youth movement and culture of Protest:
  - Muslims
  - Converts

Way to radicalization

Blackbox

Input
- youth
- young adults

Output
- Ideology
- Jihadism

Social problems
- political conviction

Group dynamics
- religious belief
- economic problems
- Zeit

Identity conflict

Jihadism
Salafism

- Faith in Qur'an and Sunnah
  - Idealization of the early days of the first Muslims in Mecca Medina
  - Implementing God's commandments into practice
  - Following a literalist understanding of the Koran (the uncreated, unchanging, timeless Word of God) and opposing historical-critical hermeneutics approaches

- Tawhid: there is only one God:
  - Any action that indicates that something or someone is revered or worshiped besides God, is a sign of heresy
  - Disclaiming any authority which does not refer to God
    - Rejection of philosophy
    - Rejection of Islamic mysticism
    - Rejection: visiting the graves of saints (Ziyarat al-Qubur)
Salafism

- Takfir: exclusion of Muslims
  - All non-Salafis are infidels (also "Muslims")
  - Fighting in jihad
- Manhağ / Method: "al-ittiba 'wa al-zam ibtida" (compliance [sacred texts] and the disapproval of the introduction ILLEGAL innovations)
- "Demonstrative guidance" (al- haddi az-Zahir)
- al-walā' Wal-Bara'a (loyalty and broken)

20:35:26

Foreign Fighters

- Transnational Identity in Civic Conflicts
- Spanish Civil War
- Israeli War of Independence
- Kongo
- Afghanistan
- Bosnia
- Syria ...

- transnational insurgencies have existed for centuries
- most Contemporary Foreign Fighters are Muslims
- But: in the first half of the twentieth century, most foreign fighters were Communist and nationalists before that they were anarchists

Source: The Washington Post
Conclusion

- Problem of returnees
- Polarization of Islam discourse
- Increasing securitization of socio-political phenomena
- Extremism promoting extremism
- Increasing diffusion of inter-ethnic / national conflicts
- Problem is meeting Europe within a demographic turning

Vielen Dank!
Live Democracy!
Active against Right-wing Extremism, Violence and Hate

The support for democracy and against extremism

European Expert Meeting:
Preventing Islamist radicalisation of youth and the role of fighting Islamophobia
Brussels, December 10th - 11th 2015

Democracy promotion
and prevention of radicalisation at all levels

- The federal programme funds civic engagement and democratic practice at the local, regional („Länder“) and federal level
- For the overall programme a total of 50 Mio. Euro has been made available
- In order to enhance planning reliability all structural and pilot based projects have a max. funding period of 5 years.
### Local Partnerships for Democracy

- 217 Towns, cities, municipalities, districts
- Funding of
  - Competence and coordination units
  - Action and initiative fund
  - Participation, public relations and networking
  - Youth participation via youth fund
- Special funds of max. 10,000 € for measures against violent religious radicalisation
  → 103 municipalities have received this additional funding in 2015

### Sustainable structures

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Local level</th>
<th>Regional level („Länder“)</th>
<th>Federal level</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>217 Local</td>
<td>16 Democracy</td>
<td>Funding of Structural</td>
<td>60 Pilot Projects</td>
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<tr>
<td>Partnerships for</td>
<td>Centres</td>
<td>Development of 28 NGOs</td>
<td>on ways to</td>
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<tr>
<td>Democracy</td>
<td>coordination of counseling and support services</td>
<td>with nation-</td>
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<td>wide impact scale</td>
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<td>competence and</td>
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### Pilot Projects

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<tr>
<td>60 Pilot Projects on selected phenomena of Group-related-Hate and</td>
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<td>approaches to strengthen democracy in rural areas:</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Antisemitism</td>
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<td>- Islamophobia</td>
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<td>- Anti-Gypsyism</td>
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<td>- Homophobia and Transphobia</td>
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### Implementation and further programme partners

Bundesamt für Familie und zivilgesellschaftliche Aufgaben (Federal Agency for Family and Civil Tasks), Deutsches Jugendinstitut (German Youth Institute), Forum of Competence
Democracy Centres

- 16 Democracy Centres at Federal State („Länder“) level
- Federal State-wide coordination, counselling and networking
- Network of counselling and support services
- Mobile Counselling & Victims' Counselling Services
- Disengagement and exit counselling
- Each Democracy Centre is entitled to special funds of max. 40,000,00 € per year for measures against religious radicalization
- 11 Federal States have applied for and received this additional funding

Seite 5

Democracy Centres

- Additionally, Democracy Centres have the possibility to apply for the funding of a pilot project aimed at the prevention of religious radicalisation (up to 130,000 €)

- Requirements:
  - Structural improvement
  - Sustainability
  - Model character
  - Innovative character

- 7 Democracy Centres have established pilot projects

Seite 6
Pilot Projects of 7 Democracy Centres

Modellvorbahen der Länder zur Radikalisierungsprävention:

- **Baden-Württemberg**: Aufbau einer landesweiten Vernetzungs- und Koordinierungsfachstelle, Stärkung von Beratungs- und Bildungsstrukturen
  Träger: Jugendstiftung Baden-Württemberg
- **Bayern**: Einrichtung eines landesweiten Präventionsnetzwerks, Wissenstransfer im Themenfeld
  Träger: Ufuq e.V.
- **Berlin**: Fortbildung und Qualifizierung von Fachkräften der schulischen und außerschulischen Bildungsarbeit
  Träger: Ufuq e.V.
- **Hamburg**: Sozialräumlich konzipiertes Präventions- und Beratungsangebot
  Träger: Basis & Woge e.V.
- **Hessen**: Zielgruppenorientierte politische Bildungsarbeit, Qualifizierung von Multiplikatoren, Stärkung der Handlungskompetenz
  Träger: Violence Prevention Network e.V. (VPN)
- **NRW**: Aufbau eines landesweiten Kompetenz- und Beratungsnetzwerks, Qualifizierung von pädagogischen Fachkräften der Kinder- und Jugendhilfe
  Träger: Arbeitsgemeinschaft Kinder- und Jugendschutz e.V. (AJS), Landesstelle NRW
- **Rheinland-Pfalz**: Qualifizierung von Multiplikatoren in der Präventionsarbeit
  Träger: Paritätisches Bildungswerk, Landesverband Rheinland-Pfalz e.V.

Structural Development of nation-wide NGOs

- 28 NGOs with a nation-wide impact scale receive funding for their structural development
- Fields of expertise: Countering Right-wing extremism, combating racism, and other forms of Group-related Hate such as Antisemitism, Islamophobia, Anti-Gypsyism, Homophobia, Transphobia
- Development of a nation-wide infrastructure with nation-wide impact
- Professional and methodological expertise
- Exchange and networking at the national and international level
Seite 37

In the context of his contribution, Abou Taam presented the main terms and their definitions. At the start of his analysis, he highlighted the importance of understanding fundamentalism, which is a concept that is often associated with extremism. However, it is important to note that fundamentalism is not inherently a crime, as it is a constitutional right to hold extreme beliefs. A crime is only committed when there is an associated action, such as committing a crime based on extreme beliefs.

According to Abou Taam, discrimination against Muslims is a daily phenomenon. More recently, this discrimination has also been captured in statistical police records. This improvement in data collection has allowed for a better understanding of the extent of discrimination against Muslims in Germany.

Abou Taam pointed out that the Rheinland Palatinate Office of Criminal Investigation, firstly made it clear that discrimination against Muslims is a daily phenomenon. More recently, this discrimination has also been captured in statistical police records. This improvement in data collection has allowed for a better understanding of the extent of discrimination against Muslims in Germany.

Abou Taam emphasized that the challenge is to combat the prejudices and fears that drive discrimination. He argued that Islamophobia reinforces the argumentation of extremist groups, and this form of discrimination is culturally determined, and derives from the fact that Muslims are unable to "belong". Here, a collectivization of Muslims is a daily phenomenon. More recently, this discrimination has also been captured in statistical police records. This improvement in data collection has allowed for a better understanding of the extent of discrimination against Muslims in Germany.

According to Abou Taam, Islamophobia or hostility towards Islam is also culturally determined, and derives from the fact that Muslims are unable to "belong". Here, a collectivization of Muslims is a daily phenomenon. More recently, this discrimination has also been captured in statistical police records. This improvement in data collection has allowed for a better understanding of the extent of discrimination against Muslims in Germany.

Abou Taam also discussed the concept of collectivization, which he defined as a process where individuals are forced to identify with a group based on their religion or race. He argued that this process is often used by extremist groups to strengthen their influence and to justify their actions.

Abou Taam concluded by emphasizing the importance of understanding the roots of extremism and to develop strategies to combat it. He argued that this can be achieved by promoting a culture of inclusiveness and by educating people about the dangers of extremism.

Throughout his analysis, Abou Taam emphasized the importance of understanding the roots of extremism and to develop strategies to combat it. He argued that this can be achieved by promoting a culture of inclusiveness and by educating people about the dangers of extremism.

In conclusion, Abou Taam's analysis provides a valuable insight into the challenges of combating extremism and discrimination against Muslims in Germany. His work highlights the importance of understanding the roots of extremism and to develop strategies to combat it. He argued that this can be achieved by promoting a culture of inclusiveness and by educating people about the dangers of extremism.
Thematic distribution of pilot projects on Group-related Hate

- Aktuelle Formen des Antisemitismus: 13
- Antiziganismus: 9
- Aktuelle Formen von Islam-/Muslimfeindlichkeit: 9
- Homophobie und Transphobie: 9
- Demokratieentwicklung im ländlichen Raum: 6

Pilot Projects on Prevention of Radicalisation

46 Pilot Projects

Prevention of Radicalisation

- Right-wing extremism
- Violent extremism on religious grounds
- Violent and anti-democratic manifestations of left-wing militancy
Thematic distribution of Pilot Projects on Prevention of Radicalisation

- Rechteextreme Orientierung und Handlungen: 14
- Islamistische Orientierungen und Handlungen: 3
- Linke Militanz: 19
- + 10

Pilot Projects on violent extremism on religious grounds

Unterschiedliche Ansätze werden erprobt (Auswahl):

- "#selam - Gemeinsam stark im Pott"
  Träger: IFAK e.V. - Verein für multikulturelle Kinder- und Jugendhilfe
  Aufsuchende Jugendarbeit, Sensibilisierung, Schulung

- "180 Grad Wende"
  Träger: Jugendbildungs- und Sozialwerk Goethe e.V.
  Aufbau eines Multiplikatorennetzwerks, Peer-Group-Ansatz

- "Kultur als Veränderungspotential im Justizvollzug"
  Träger: Förderverein JVA Holzstraße e.V.
  Entwicklung von Konzepten für reflektierte Kulturarbeit im Strafvollzug

- "Akteure der Jugendbildung stärken - Jugendliche vor Radikalisierung schützen"
  Träger: Kreuzberger Initiative gegen Antisemitismus e.V. (KiGa)
  Entwicklung von päd. Konzepten, Qualifizierung, Online-Plattform
2. round selection of pilot projects on violent extremism on religious grounds

Schwerpunkt auf Auswahl von muslimischen Trägern (Auswahl):

- DITIB Türkisch-Islamische Union der Anstalt für Religion e.V. „Muslimische Jugend – Friedliche Zukunft“
- Zentralrat der Muslime in Deutschland e.V. (ZMD) „Respekt und Teilhabe: Prävention mit der Safer Space Strategie“
- SCHURA - Islamische Religionsgemeinschaft Bremen e.V. „Pro Islam-Gegen Radikalisierung und Extremismus. - AL-ETIDAL“
- Rat muslimischer Studierender & Akademiker e. V. (RAMSA) „DERAD - Netzwerk sozialer Zusammenhalt, Prävention, Deradikalisierung, Demokratie“
- MINA - Muslimisches Frauenbildungszentrum e.V. „Radikal nett und engagiert!!!!“
- Bündnis der Islamischen Gemeinden in Norddeutschland e. V. (BIG) „Think Social Now 2.0 – Verantwortung übernehmen im Internet“

Conceptual approach towards prevention of radicalisation

- Holistic understanding of prevention
  Taking reciprocal interrelations between different phenomena into account, avoiding stigmatization effects, etc.
- Potential-oriented (instead of deficit-oriented) pedagogical approaches
- Well–interlinked relevant actors and stakeholders on local and regional and federal level in order to make use of synergies
- Strengthening civil society structures in order to ensure sustainability
- Inclusion of the Muslim community and Muslim stakeholders, strengthening Islamic civil society structures
- Peer-Group-Approach
Further fields of action on prevention of radicalisation

- Internet: Online-Contest
  - I_Slam as a Islamic youth initiative
  - Multi-dimensional concept of the project:
    - Engagement with questions on (religious) identity, society, Islamophobia and radicalization on religious grounds
    - Empowerment and capacity-building through workshops
    - Competition entries serve as „counter narrative“ in social-media-platforms (Facebook, Twitter, Youtube, etc.)

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Further fields of action on prevention of radicalisation

- Research association „Junge Menschen und gewaltorientierter Islamismus - Biografische Verläufe, Entwicklungswege und sozialräumliche Konstellationen“
  - Interdisciplinary: IIT Osnabrück, IKG Bielefeld, DJI München/Halle (Islamic Studies, Social Psychology, Youth Sociology)
  - Biographical research: reconstruction of biographies of radicalized young people will deliver in-depth insight into the development, self-interpretations and motivations of young people who have joined violence-oriented radical groups and/or “returnees"
  - Practice-oriented: research results serve as basis for adequate and target-group oriented pedagogical prevention and intervention
Further tasks

- Interministerial Working Group on „Democracy promotion and prevention of extremism“ (IMA)
- Research Center for Prevention of Right-Wing Extremism and Radicalization of the DJI
- Scientific monitoring and evaluation
- jugendschutz.net
- Public Relations

Thank you very much for your attention!

For further information, see: www.demokratie-leben.de
Hesse Information and Competence Centre to Counter Extremism (HKE)

Tasks and goals
Coordinating Hesse’s programmes/projects
Serving as point of contact for all relevant actors
Expanding project efforts and funding possibilities

Steering group
HMdIS
HSMI
LfV Hessen
N.N.

Right-wing extremism
✓ beratungsNetzwerk
✓ Rote Linie
✓ IKARus
✓ KOREX
✓ Partnerschaften für Demokratie

Islamist extremism
✓ Präventionsnetzwerk Salafismus (Salafism prevention network)
✓ Prevention (general and specific)
✓ Intervention (counselling for family members, deradicalization, exit assistance)

Other
• Extremism by foreign nationals
• Left-wing extremism
• pp.
There is always a claim to be the sole representatives of an absolute truth. In this regard, extremism demands the implementation of an "absolute truth." Fundamentalism, as another den, per se. A crime is only committed when there is an associated action, to "save society" for the sake of an absolute truth, which is not always evident in the initial phases.

Rheinland Palatinate Office of Criminal Investigation, firstly made it clear that discrimination against Muslims is a daily phenomenon. More recently, this discrimination has also been captured in statistical police records. So the basis for the academic analysis required has improved.

Dr. Marwan Abou Taam, Islamic and political scientist, and as an academic expert at the Observatory for Sociopolitical Developments in Europe, presented the main terms and their definitions in his contribution. At the start of his contribution, Abou Taam highlighted the problem of perception, above all. Contrary to the discussion, the (extreme) fringe elements in society condense and articulate the prejudices that exist in the middle of society. Here is a problem of perception, above all. Contrary to the discussion, the (extreme) fringe elements in society condense and articulate the prejudices that exist in the middle of society.

According to Abou Taam, Islamophobia or hostility towards Islam is also culturally determined. To be clear, this is due to the fact that they are over-burdened by the pluralistic understanding of history is accepted, such as the creation to judgement day or the final victory of a religious dimension. Fifth, particularly in fundamentalist extremism, there is the tyranny of a text, such as quotes from the Koran or the Bible, instead of argumentation based on reason. With regard to the acceptance of this understanding of history is accepted, such as the creation to judgement day or the final victory of a religious dimension. Fifth, particularly in fundamentalist extremism, there is the tyranny of a text, such as quotes from the Koran or the Bible, instead of argumentation based on reason. With regard to the acceptance of this understanding of history is accepted, such as the creation to judgement day or the final victory of a religious dimension. Fifth, particularly in fundamentalist extremism, there is the tyranny of a text, such as quotes from the Koran or the Bible, instead of argumentation based on reason.

Abou Taam also pointed out that the (extreme) fringe elements in society condense and articulate the prejudices that exist in the middle of society. Here is a problem of perception, above all. Contrary to the discussion, the (extreme) fringe elements in society condense and articulate the prejudices that exist in the middle of society.
Civic education on Islam, anti-Muslim racism and Islamism

Empowering Muslim youngsters, building resilience against radical religious ideologies

Götz Nordbruch
Brussels, 10 Dec 2015

„Islam is part of German society.“

Strengthening cultural and religious diversity, empowering Muslim youngsters, preventing antipluralist and antidemocratic orientations

Working with (Muslim) youngsters on- and offline

Training practitioners and local actors

Knowledge transfer between research and education / social work
Seite 46

Dr. Marwan Abou Taam, Islamic and political scientist, and as an academic expert at the Observatory for Sociopolitical Developments in Europe. In his contribution, he presented the main terms and their definitions. The debate (in Germany) has traditionally revolved around the expression "extremism". At the start of his contribution, Abou Taam presented the main terms and their definitions. However, there is a constitutional tolerance of extremism, i.e. being "extreme" is not forbidden. A crime is only committed when there is an associated action, to "save society". In this regard, there is always a claim to be the sole representatives of an absolute truth. In this regard, the debate is about the absoluteness of truth. Only the action is criminalized, not the claim to an absolute truth.

3.2 Academic input on radicalisation and Islamophobia – Dr. Marwan Abou Taam

According to Abou Taam, Islamophobia or hostility towards Islam is also culturally determined, and derives from the fact that Muslims are unable to "belong". Here, a collectivization phenomenon is observed. Muslims are seen as a group, not as individuals. They are seen as a threat, not as equals. This is a collective truth, and it is based on the acceptance of a collective argument. Particularly amongst young people, who are searching for clarity, this is due to the fact that they are overburdened by the pluralistic type. Intellectually, it is characterised by a setting-aside of reason and the acceptance of a collective, where common sense is set aside. Fourth, a linear constructed understanding of the world is observed. Fifth, particularly in fundamentalist extremism, there is the tyranny of a text, such as the Koran or the Bible, instead of argument based on reason. With regard to race, the races are divided into "us" and "them", and the "us" is perceived as superior. This is a racist worldview. With regard to religion, Muslims are seen as a threat, and this is a religious worldview. With regard to politics, Muslims are seen as a threat, and this is a political worldview.

3.5 III Versorgungsoptimierung

3.5.1 Die Versorgung Demenzerkrankter aus Sicht der Angehörigen und Ehrenamtlichen – Rudolf Herweck

3.5.2 Bericht über die Arbeit der Stiftung Fondation Médéric Alzheimer zu eingesetzte Versorgung und Pflege – Marion Villez

3.5.3 Herausforderungen im Rahmen der Versorgung von Menschen mit Demenz – Ingeborg Germann

3.5.4 Professionen übergreifende Versorgungsnetze – Ingeborg Germann

3.5.5 Versorgungsstrukturen in Schleswig-Holstein im Kontext der Erstellung eines Demenzplanes – Dörte Christens-Kostka

3.6 IV Finanzierung von Strategien und Maßnahmen

3.6.1 Die Evaluation und die Finanzierung der französischen Demenzstrategie – Jihad Mourtazawy

3.6.2 Aktuelle Ansätze zur Verbesserung der Frühdiagnose – Amy Dalrymple

3.6.3 Erkenntnisse über die verschiedenen Ausprägungen von nationalen Demenzstrategien auf europäischer Ebene – Heike von Lützau-Hohlbein

3.6.4 Vorstellung des "Post Diagnostic support" Modells in Schottland – Verena Hanselmann

3.6.5 Die politischen Konflikte in der Türkei spiegeln sich auch in Spannungen zwischen türkischstammigen Migranten in Deutschland. Nationalistische und rechtsextreme Organisationen wie die "Grauen Wolke" bieten gerade für Jugendliche Identitäts- und Gemeinschaftsangebote, die sich auf eine mythisch überhöhte Geschichte des "Türkentums" beziehen. In seinem Artikel gibt Taimur Kabil einen Überblick über türkisch-nationalistische Organisationen und fasst deren ideologische Besonderheiten zusammen. Weiter >
I. ADDRESSING RELIGIOUS INTERESTS

II. ADDRESSING DISCRIMINATION AND GRIEVANCES
III. THINKING BEYOND „US“ AND „THEM“
The debate (in Germany) has traditionally revolved around the expression “extremism”. At the start of his contribution, Abou Taam presented the main terms and their definitions. However, there is a constitutional tolerance of extremism, i.e. being “extreme” is not forbidden. A crime is only committed when there is an associated action, to “save society” from the dangers of extremism.

There is always a claim to be the sole representatives of an absolute truth. In this respect, fundamentalism, as another expression in the discussion, is the politicisation of religion. Here, too, only the action is criminal. According to Abou Taam, fundamentalism or extremism is not the same as radicalisation. Extremism exists in the middle of society, as Abu Taam states. The challenge is to combat the prejudices against Islam.

Islamophobia reinforce each other in terms of their argumentation. From a sociopolitical viewpoint, this is the flight into a collective, where common sense is set aside. Fourth, a linear constructed understanding of history is accepted, such as the creation to judgement day or the final victory of a race. Fifth, particularly in fundamentalist extremism, there is the tyranny of a text, such as quotes from the Koran or the Bible, instead of argument based on reason. With regard to race, fundamentalists act in contradiction to the teachings of the faith of Islam, as this rejects an absolute truth beyond the divine. The extremist world views, as a second feature, frequently exist in statistical police records. So the basis for the academic analysis required has improved.

In statistical police records, the (extreme) fringe elements in society condense and articulate the prejudices that exist in the middle of society. Here is a problem of perception, above all. Contrary to what mainstream society in Europe believes, there is no “culture of Islam”. Many young people feel discriminated against, and are searching for clarity, this is due to the fact that they are over-burdened by the pluralistic society. In this respect, they feel that their families (“You’re just like a German!”) and from society (“You’re a Muslim!”) This makes them susceptible to radicalisation by extremists, who create feelings of belonging with comprehensive and treasonable slogans. The aim is always, however, to create a community.

According to Abou Taam, islamophobia or hostility towards Islam is also culturally determined, and derives from the fact that Muslims are unable to “belong”. Here, a collectivisation of the Muslim community is necessary, to create a respective identity. Islam is a religious faith, but for the Muslims, it is, above all, their identity, and their “true homeland”.

One of the main characteristics of extremism is the absolutisation of the religious conviction, with the exclusion of the “traitor” and “enemies” from the religious community. This process is particularly typical in the case of radical democrats, who claim their right to democracy, but do not accept the existing democratic community. Extremism is, therefore, always a response of the individual to the exclusion, and as such, an enriching social phenomenon, which suggests the need for a renewed sociopolitical dialogue.

3.4.1 Vorstellung des “Post Diagnostic support” Modells in Schottland – Amy Dalrymple

Alternatively, in the Third Plenary Session, the experts discussed the “Post Diagnostic support” Model in Scotland. The purpose of this approach is to achieve a comprehensive and integrated care process, which can reduce the stress levels of the patient and their relatives, and can improve the quality of life. Furthermore, it is characterised by a multi-disciplinary team, which includes doctors, nurses, social workers, and therapists, who work together in a holistic manner.

3.5.1 Die Versorgung Demenzerkrankter aus Sicht der Angehörigen und ihrer Familien – Dörte Christens-Kostka

In the following session, the experts presented the perspective of the relatives and families of the patients with dementia. They highlighted the difficulties and problems they face, such as the lack of information, the burden of care, and the lack of support. Furthermore, they stressed the importance of communication and cooperation between the relatives and the healthcare professionals.

3.5.2 Bericht über die Arbeit der Stiftung Fondation Médéric Alzheimer zu einer Versorgungsstrategie in Frankreich – Verena Hanselmann

In the Sixth Plenary Session, the experts presented the work of the Fondation Médéric Alzheimer on the implementation of a care strategy in France. They highlighted the challenges and difficulties they faced, such as the lack of resources, the lack of awareness, and the lack of political support. Furthermore, they stressed the importance of collaboration and cooperation between the different stakeholders, such as the healthcare professionals, the families, and the government.

3.5.3 Herausforderungen im Rahmen der Versorgung von Menschen mit Demenz – Ingeborg Germann

In the following session, the experts presented the challenges and difficulties they face in the care of people with dementia. They highlighted the lack of resources, the lack of knowledge, and the lack of support. Furthermore, they stressed the importance of education and training for the healthcare professionals, as well as the need for a better awareness and understanding of the disease.

3.5.4 Professionen übergreifende Versorgungsnetze – Ingeborg Germann

In the Sixth Plenary Session, the experts presented the challenges and difficulties they face in the care of people with dementia. They highlighted the lack of resources, the lack of knowledge, and the lack of support. Furthermore, they stressed the importance of education and training for the healthcare professionals, as well as the need for a better awareness and understanding of the disease.

3.6 IV Finanzierung von Strategien und Maßnahmen

In the last session, the experts presented the financial aspects of the strategies and measures. They highlighted the importance of funding and the need for a sustainable solution. Furthermore, they stressed the importance of collaboration between the different stakeholders, such as the healthcare providers, the families, and the government.

3.6.1 Die Evaluation und die Finanzierung der französischen Demenzstrategie – Schützenbauer

In the last session, the experts presented the financial aspects of the strategies and measures. They highlighted the importance of funding and the need for a sustainable solution. Furthermore, they stressed the importance of collaboration between the different stakeholders, such as the healthcare providers, the families, and the government.
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