

[www.armourproject.eu](http://www.armourproject.eu)

Research, research and a bit more research!

The March - April 2019 period passed under the research sign! We have mapped the relevant stakeholders per partner countries, looked at the relevant best practices and literature to explore the best way to approach the qualitative analyses under the first research phase of the project, and started collecting relevant tools available!

We have conducted our first interviews with first-line practitioners, and we are looking forward to an overview of the first findings!

## ARMOUR - A radical model of resilience for young minds



Newsletter #2  
March – April  
2019

Learn more about the project, its design and structure, the partners involved and the most recent news at [www.armourproject.eu](http://www.armourproject.eu)!

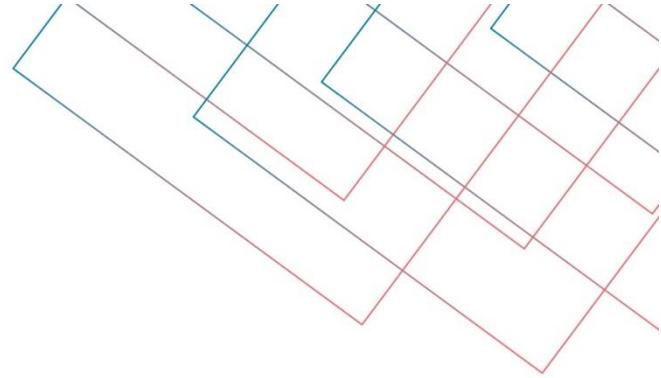


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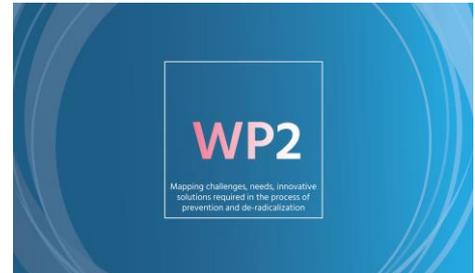


## ARMOUR updates

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During the March – April 2019 period, ARMOUR conducted a series of interviews. We are currently analysing the results and the most important findings will be published before the summer.

Now, the second stage of the qualitative research is to take place. The focus groups aim to validate the interviews results and to obtain relevant inputs for the next project tasks.



The **group discussions** will cover radicalisation and violent extremism understanding; factors, drivers and key elements for each of the three types of ideologies (religious-inspired, right-wing and left-wing extremism); as well as existing tools, services, protocols, programs, strategies and policies, practitioners' challenges, needs, required skills and recommendations towards effective prevention and intervention programs with minors and youth.

The focus groups will be carried-out with participation of **first-line practitioners**, including **academia** representatives, **educators**, **youth workers**, **social services** and specialist professionals working with youth and child as **psychologists**, **minor's services** and **law enforcement authorities**. They will take place during June-July 2019 period in seven partner countries - Austria, Greece, Italy, Malta, Netherlands, Romania, and Spain.



We have also initiated the initial research over the design of the ARMOUR Experimental Laboratories! The main purpose of the labs is to provide practitioners with a better understanding of risk factors in the community, family, school, as well as in peer-to-peer communication, and to teach them how to respond in concrete situations. The Experimental Laboratories' methodology will also consider the results of the conducted interviews and focus groups.

ARMOUR partners are constantly in search of new expert insights and collaboration in the field of youth and radicalisation.

A ['Radicalization: Age, emotions, reasons, ideologies' Conference](#), 23 March 2019, in Milan addressing the reasons behind radicalization processes saw the participation of Sara Gambino, a representative of one of our partners - Agenfor International Foundation (Italy).





## ARMOUR collects practical tools and guidelines for you

ARMOUR builds a repository of guidelines, tools, articles, etc. developed by third parties and identified by the ARMOUR Consortium as best practices in the social polarization field for first line practitioners working with children and youth.



The [RAN Collection of Approaches and Practices](#) presents a set of seven practitioners' approaches in the field of prevention of radicalisation, each of them illustrated by a number of lessons learned and selected practices and projects. The Collection supports the actions proposed in the EU Commission Communication "[Preventing Radicalisation to terrorism and Violent Extremism: Strengthening the EU's Response](#)", published in January 2014.

The Collection should be considered as a practical, evolving and growing tool, where practitioners, first liners and policy makers may: draw inspiration from, find examples adaptable to their local/specific context, and identify counterparts to exchange on prevention experiences.

As a work in progress, the RAN Collection is continuously adjusted and enhanced with new practices from EU/EEA Member States, providing information on community engagement and empowerment, delivering counter - or alternative narratives, educating young people, exit strategies, family support, multi-agency approach, prison and probation interventions, and training for first line practitioners.

We are constantly presenting some of our favourite resources, i.e. "[The role of youth work in the prevention of radicalisation and violent extremism](#)", "[The role of community engagement in preventing and countering violent extremism](#)", etc.

[LET'S TALK ABOUT IT](#) is an UK initiative designed to provide practical help and guidance to the public in order to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. It focuses on three key areas: building close relationships between our schools and universities, prisons, places of worship, health services, children's services, community groups, charities and other institutions; challenging extremist ideology and groomers by working closely with local and national agencies, partners and our communities; and supporting vulnerable individuals through intervention projects.

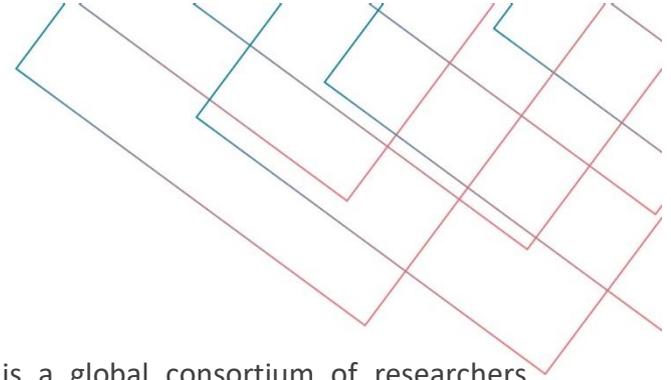


Let's Talk About It advocates the value of a strong and united community, prioritising the need for consistent awareness of the threat of radicalisation to become a part of our daily lives. It is developed under the Prevent umbrella, where Prevent is one of the four elements of [CONTEST](#), the UK Government's counter-terrorism strategy.

They provide their amazing resources and support materials for free!



This project was funded by the European Union's Internal Security Fund — Police, under Grant Agreement No. 823683.



## RESOLVE NETWORK

The [RESOLVE Network](#) is a global consortium of researchers, research organizations, policymakers and practitioners committed to empirically driven, locally defined research on the drivers of violent extremism and sources of community resilience. International stakeholders established RESOLVE to generate, facilitate, aggregate, and synthesize methodologically sound, locally informed research on the dynamics of violent extremism.

RESOLVE is a resource hub for researchers, practitioners, and policymakers in need of nuanced, **multidisciplinary, empirical approaches** to analyse the drivers of violent extremism and sources of community resilience. RESOLVE's work provides **key insights** on violent extremism by establishing connections and asking **critical questions** to enhance and inform **P/CVE research, policy, and practice**.

Every month, the RESOLVE Secretariat collates [a digest](#) of CVE-relevant, thematic must-reads to enrich the narrative around violent extremism.

Those working with young people often say they find approaching issues around **hate** or **extremism** difficult and don't always feel sufficiently equipped to hold constructive conversations. The [Extreme Dialogue Project](#) takes these concerns into account and provides a structured framework that suits different groups, objectives and sensitivities.



Extreme Dialogue promotes important discussions about compassion, cohesion and tolerance through [a structured framework](#) which helps to develop young people's **critical thinking abilities**, and **skills** which are transferable to a number of **cross-curricular subject areas** and **life experiences**.

The project is a vital means for schools and other community groups to fulfil statutory safeguarding duties. But going beyond keeping young people safe, it can also inform and enrich their lives through encouraging active citizenship to fulfil statutory safeguarding duties.

The project provides for free **educational materials** informed by more than 20 years of research and experience in managing global and community conflict.

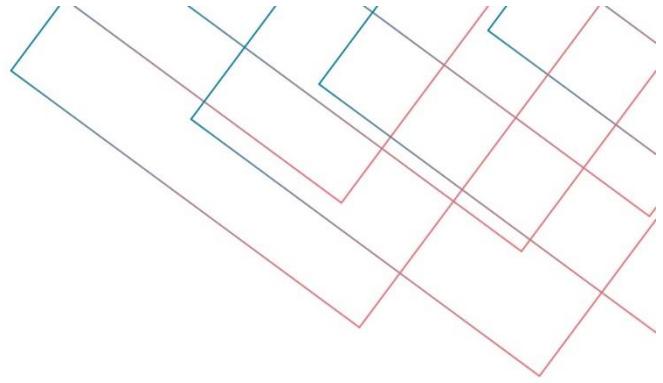


Founded in 1987 under the auspices of the Council of Europe, the [European Forum for Urban Security \(Efus\)](#) is the only European network of local and regional authorities dedicated to urban security. It includes nearly [250 local and regional authorities](#) from 16 countries.

The network provides for an interesting collection of publications, practice sheets, videos, and training materials.



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## What is next?

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ARMOUR continues its qualitative research by conducting a series with focus groups:

- 4 June 2019, Spain, hosted by: Euro-Arab Foundation for Higher Studies
- 10 June 2019, Greece, hosted by: Center for Security Studies
- 10 June 2019, Italy, hosted by: Agenfor International Foundation
- 11 June 2019, Romania, hosted by: "Mihai Viteazul" National Intelligence Academy
- 21 June 2019, Malta, hosted by: University of Malta
- 26 June 2019, the Netherlands, hosted by: University of Groningen
- 4 July 2019, Austria, hosted by: SYNYO GmbH

ARMOUR partners have also envisaged to take part in public events around Europe – stay tuned!

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**Are you interested in cooperating or taking part?**

**Do you want to know more about the project or any of our activities?**

**Get in contact via [office@armourproject.eu](mailto:office@armourproject.eu) or follow us online @TheARMOURmodel**

