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#14 Highlights

European Conference
on Preventing
Polarization and Violent
Radicalization 2021

#EUPrevent

Summary and Results

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ARMOUR - A radical model of resilience for young minds



Newsletter #14

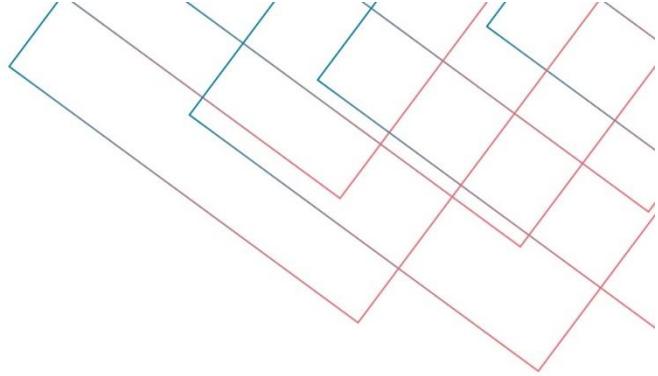
April 2021

Learn more about the
project, its design and
structure, the partners
involved and the most
recent news at
www.armorproject.eu!



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





ARMOUR @ #EUPrevent 2021

Between the 26th and the 29th of April 2021, the **European Conference on Preventing Polarization & Violent Radicalization ‘Strengthening Resilience, Fostering Innovation, Consolidating Lessons & Pioneering New Frontier’ (#EUPrevent)** brought together six ISF-P European Commission funded projects, namely [Rhizome against Polarization](#), [CHAMPIONS](#), [YoungRes](#), [WayOut](#), [ARMOUR](#) and [BRIDGE](#). Envisioned as a joint closing conference of EU funded projects the main aims were to present the project outputs to diverse audience (practitioners, policymakers, researchers, and the interested general public), to share lessons learned among the members of the consortia and to build new networks of practitioners and researchers in the field of preventing and countering violent extremism (P/CVE).

The ARMOUR Project (notably, Euro-Arab Foundation for Higher Studies – FUNDEA, “Mihai Viteazul” National Intelligence Academy – MVNIA, University of Groningen – RUG, and LIBRe Foundation) co-organized the event and was thus given the platform to present the ARMOUR project outputs.

In two consecutive workshop days, the ARMOUR Model was presented to a wider professional audience for the first time. The project partners introduced the different psycho-educational tools for building individual resilience against polarization and (violent) extremism by helping first-line practitioners working with youth in this task. These social and psychological interventions were very practical and focused on the early stages of polarisation and radicalisation. Key lessons learned from ARMOUR were also presented on the last day of the conference, during which the project was presented to a large and diverse audience.

‘Tools for building individual resilience against polarization and (violent) extremism’ Workshop took place on 27 April 2021 as part of Day 2. Carola Onderdelinden (RUG) facilitated the workshop integrating her hands-on practical knowledge with the experience gained throughout the project. She is leading [ARMOUR Work Package 4 ‘Integrating best practices and training’](#),

within which the project team designed and carried out a train-the-trainer programme for first-line practitioners and civil society representatives on best practices in the field of countering extremist ideologies and polarization among young people, integrating and using the ARMOUR Experimental Labs in their countering violent extremism activities.

The discussions were moderated by Javier Ruipérez (FUNDEA).

April 26th-29th

European Conference on Preventing Polarization & Violent Radicalization:
Strengthening Resilience, Fostering Innovation, Consolidating Lessons & Pioneering New Frontiers
#EUPrevent

Tuesday 27 April 2021
10 am – 1 pm

Workshop:
Tools for building individual resilience against polarization and (violent) extremism



Dr. C. Onderdelinden
Research Fellow at University of Groningen, The Netherlands



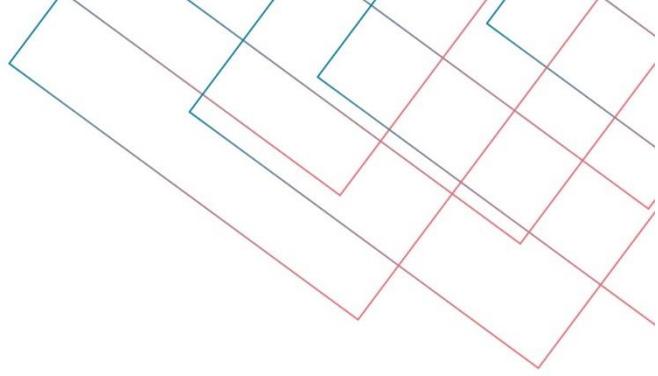
Javier Ruipérez
Director of Research and Projects at The Euro-Arab Foundation for Higher Studies



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April 26th-29th

European Conference on Preventing Polarization & Violent Radicalization: **Strengthening Resilience, Fostering Innovation, Consolidating Lessons & Pioneering New Frontiers**

#EUPrevent

Wednesday 28 April 2021
10 am – 1 pm

Workshop: **Building Community Resilience Through Educational Approaches**



ARMOUR ‘Building community resilience through educational approaches’ Workshop strived to show different tools to teach these skills in the educational environment. It was conducted on 28 April 2021 as part of Day 3 of #EUPrevent.

Cristina Ivan (MVNIA) and Valentin Nicula (MVNIA) led the workshop sharing their efforts

and experience stemming from the implementation of [ARMOUR Work Package 3 ‘Experimental Labs’](#).

The Experimental Labs are designed to represent a safe chamber where participants can experience alternative ways of responding to push and pull factors of social polarisation and extremism and develop skills and competences on both individual and community level.

The discussions were moderated by Javier Ruizperez (FUNDEA).

What else should you know about #EUPrevent 2021?

#EUPrevent was implemented as an online event, spanning over 4 days. It featured 6 panel discussions and 11 workshops, which were attended by over 250 participants. The conference organizers and speakers came from diverse professional and geographic backgrounds, including members and representatives of over 30 universities, institutions, organizations, and agencies from 15 different EU countries. In addition to the registered participants, the panel discussions and special sessions were also broadcasted live on YouTube, resulting in more than 300 additional views.

The panel discussions and special sessions were recorded and are now available for public viewing on YouTube under the following [link](#).

April 26th-29th

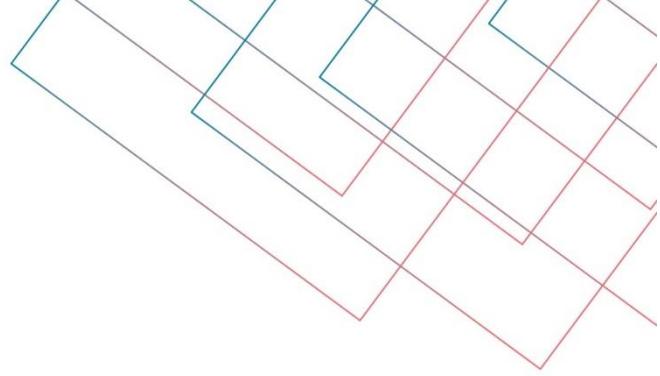
European Conference on Preventing Polarization & Violent Radicalization: **Strengthening Resilience, Fostering Innovation, Consolidating Lessons & Pioneering New Frontiers**

#EUPrevent

15 EUROPEAN COUNTRIES



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The main aims of the conference were to facilitate knowledge exchange on trends of various forms of radicalization and polarization in Europe, to share best practices in tackling polarization and extremism, and to encourage participants to develop strategies for action against polarization and radicalization. To achieve these ambitious goals the conference was structured in the following way:

- Day 1 served as an introduction to the status and the contemporary context of radicalization and polarization and prevention work.
- Day 2 and Day 3 featured specialized workshops where interventions, methods and approaches were presented in-depth to facilitate exchange among experts. Following the workshops, the practitioners' fora offered a space for expert engagement, small-group consultations, and networking. Both days ended with special sessions approaching radicalization, extremism, and polarization from a historical perspective.
- Day 4 provided an opportunity for all the project teams to come together to share the lessons learned from the projects and as a result of the inter-disciplinary exchange during the conference.

More about the Conference programme, materials and summary of each day can be found at <https://www.firstlinepractitioners.com/european-conference-2021/>

In the meantime, we continue our work to provide you with an innovative framework and tools for addressing societal polarization. Do you want to know more about the project or any of our activities?

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