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#15 Highlights

Tackling radicalisation and extremism through the ARMOUR Model

A selection of ARMOUR tools for first-line practitioners and how they link together

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ARMOUR - A radical model of resilience for young minds

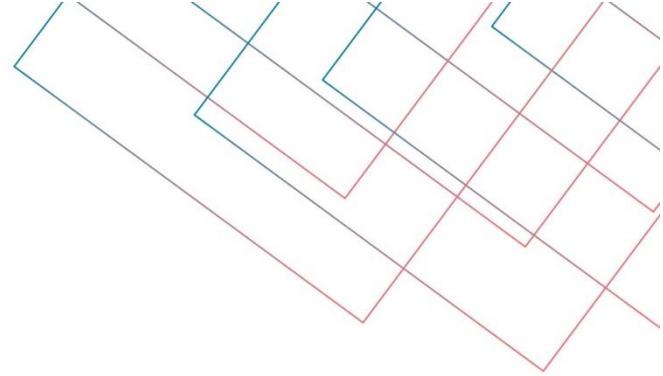


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Learn more about the project, its design and structure, the partners involved and the most recent news at www.armourproject.eu!





ARMOUR Model

In 2020-2021, after a series of research activities, ARMOUR evolved upon the creation of [experimental labs](#), where special attention was placed on developing and testing individual capacity building and social skills of support. The labs represented a safe environment where participants could experience alternative ways of responding to push and pull factors of social polarisation and extremism. ARMOUR emphasized the process of internalizing and further facilitating learning by others of practical, hands-on strategies and personal skills of conflict resolution, peace building, critical thinking, anger management, proportionate response, etc.

ARMOUR sought cost-effectiveness and accessibility of its experimental model by focusing not only on the nature of the model itself but also on how it could be implemented. The labs' concepts were expanded in an interdisciplinary model of learning helping individuals and mainstream communities build resilience to ideologies and behaviours specific to violent extremism. The project aimed at both existing and potential 'influencers' to model youth's opinions by integrating skills on how to create a message that deals with common concerns and interests of the middle ground society; develop critical thinking so as to delineate propaganda from solution oriented discourse; capitalise assertiveness and emotional intelligence into mediating speech that engages and connects with the diverse categories of the silent majority; and use anger management and conflict resolution to contain and push back the discourse of the radical pushers and joiners.

This resulted in a series of training activities and tools dedicated to first-line practitioners working with young people between 10 and 18 years of age (teachers or training assistance, social and youth workers, psychologists, law enforcement officials and security experts, representatives of civil society organizations working with youth, etc.). The full set forms the ARMOUR Toolkit being the theoretical guidelines and hands-on materials visualizing and explaining the ARMOUR Model.

ARMOUR Tools for First-line Practitioners

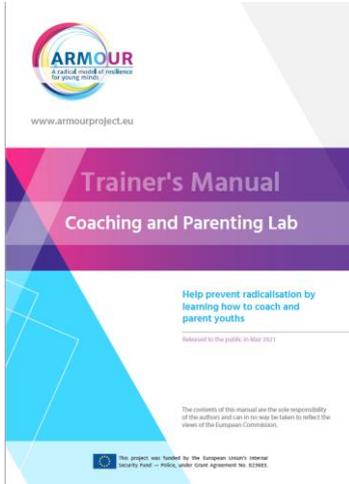
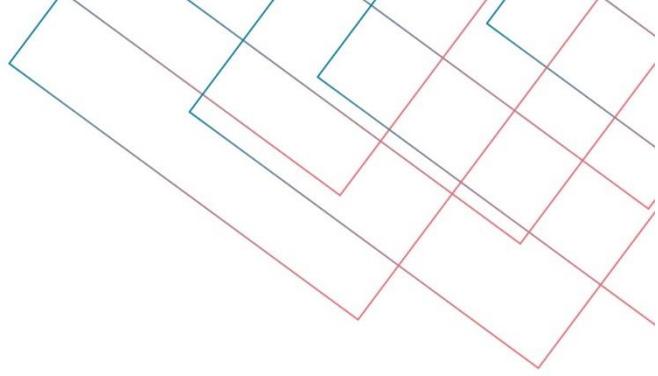
'Radicalisation through the ARMOUR looking glass' Set consists of a policy brief based on ARMOUR research findings and three infographics providing for an explanation of the most significant insights revealed by first-line practitioners on which the follow-up tools are based. These materials can also be used as a quick read with regards to the main challenges faced in the ARMOUR EU Member States, the needs of first-line practitioners working with children and youth in countering violent extremist ideas and behaviour, and the interconnected drivers of radicalisation explored during the interventions with professionals.



Full set of public ARMOUR research materials, guiding a researcher or a first-line practitioner through the in-depths of the project, provide a full retrospect on the research, experimenting and training activities. Available on the ARMOUR's website www.armourproject.eu.



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Seven **Trainer's Manuals** are designed as instructional guidelines on the methodology, curriculum and tools for each ARMOUR Experimental Lab encompassing both the moderators' experience and the participants' feedback. Ready-to-use scenarios, exercises, and hands-on materials are designed to help first-line practitioners addressing both risk factors for violent and anti-social behaviour and protective factors when working with youth.

ARMOUR three-day **train-the-trainer program** and accompanying manual are intended for first-line practitioners to (a) get to know about radicalisation and its causal factors and experience examples of possible exercises to influence these causal factors; (b) get acquainted with the train-the-trainer programme and to be able to give the training on their

own; and (c) introduce them to the seven workshops should they be willing to give the workshops themselves using the materials provided by ARMOUR.

Based on the ARMOUR Train-the-trainer 'Preventing Youth Radicalisation' Programme and Manual, **one-day workshop scenarios** and ready-to-use materials for each of the seven sets of skills and competences (coaching and parenting, critical thinking, anger management, narratives and identity, debating and simulation, conflict resolution, and proportionate state response) are prepared to supporting first-line practitioners in making effective interventions aimed at young people 10-18 years of age.

Day 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Set-up and content workshops• Radicalisation and causal factors• Coaching and parenting (incl. exercises)• Critical thinking (incl. exercises)
Day 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Anger management (incl. exercises)• Narratives and identity (incl. exercises)• Debate and simulation (incl. exercises)
Day 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conflict resolution (incl. exercises)• Proportionate state response (incl. exercises)• Best practices (incl. ARMOUR's e-learning)• Evaluation

The ARMOUR **Impact Assessment Prototype** explains the possible evaluation strategies that can be used in relation to social and psychological interventions to prevent radicalisation. It provides a set of guidelines that practitioners can follow for the design, data collection and analysis, presentation of the findings and the follow-up when working on their own intervention programmes and impact assessment activities. It also outlines the structure of the impact assessment methodology for the ARMOUR tools (also included as part of the ARMOUR train-the-trainer programme).

All training materials mentioned above are available on both the ARMOUR's website www.armorproject.eu and the www.firstlinepractitioners.com platform.

The '**Preventing Youth Radicalisation**' eLearning could be used as a standalone activity or as a complementary measure to the overall training programme. It is a self-paced six-module programme for first-line practitioners, parents and others who are interested in the topic of radicalisation and how to prevent it. Available on www.traininghermes.eu in English, Spanish, Italian, Romanian, Dutch, Greek, and Bulgarian.



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How to use the ARMOUR Model in Practice

Should a first-line practitioner be interested to implement a preventive measure as a standalone activity or as a part of a wider intervention, they could review the respective scenarios, exercises, and hands-or materials provided in the Trainer's Manuals and the 'Preventing Youth Radicalisation' Workshops, and either use them directly or adapt them to the specific context. However, should a professional seek to train their peers or integrate the topics in a training/educational curricula, then it is recommended they review the full cycle of the ARMOUR documents and materials provided.

It is recommended to perform the trainings in a classroom setting to experience possible (and anticipated) advantages. In any case, given examples and exercises performed should be tweaked to the audience's interests and level of knowledge and experience, including their national context.

Engaging with national professional organisations and competent authorities to structurally embed the training concepts and materials into schools' curricula as well as in training programmes for first-line professionals could guarantee sustainability and further continuity of one's efforts.

For any questions or requests for support, get in contact with our team at office@armourproject.eu!

End of June marks both an end and a beginning for the ARMOUR Project: while the project officially ends, our efforts to promote and share the tools we have developed with first-line practitioners, policymakers, parents, youth, and other stakeholders continue!

Stay tuned for all useful materials we have prepared for you!

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