



# Erasmus+ Project

Prevention of violent Radicalisation and  
Of Violent Actions in intergroup relations



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Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

## ABSTRACT WPI FOCUS GROUPS' REPORT



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DEGLI STUDI  
FIRENZE  
SCIFOPSI  
CENTRO DI RICERCA E FORMAZIONE  
IN PSICOLOGIA



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This project has been funded with support from the European Commission.  
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## WP1 - FOCUS GROUPS' REPORT (ABSTRACT)

The activities of PROVA PROJECT WP1 are aimed at increase the understanding of violent radicalization and activated responses in Europe, involving stakeholders and social actors, and also at building systems of preventive and contrasting interventions.

The expected results are:

- The increasing of knowledge about European studies on violent radicalization with measures and good practices to prevent and contrast this social issue for minors and young adults;
- The mapping of territorial professionals involved in juvenile justice system and stakeholders committed in social and integration policies, to explore and understand how professionals deal with the radicalization and which measures they use to carry out;
- Detection of existing good practices while sharing interventions between professionals.

In particular, each partner country carried out at least three focus groups aimed at allowing a meeting among the involved (and previously mapped) social actors, for analyzing phenomena related to radicalization, their importance and main features, the effectiveness of provided responses and interventions in the reference area, and the existing good practices. All these elements were studied using semi-structured focus groups and interviews with professionals coming from juvenile justice system, professionals who plan and develop local interventions for prevention marginalization and promotion of social integration, and stakeholders.

The **WP1 report** collects all the results of the focus groups managed by each partner Country (Italy, Germany, Romania and Spain-Catalonia) and the following common suggestions came out from their analysis.

Comparing all partners' experiences, some differences emerged on the participants' perception of violent radicalization phenomena and local interventions to contrast them, but also common points, such as:

### **- Definition of radicalization**

In countries where there is less history of initiatives to contrast radicalization it

may be more difficult to define and understand clearly what radicalization and its related phenomena/behaviours are.

Surely more vulnerability can be recognized in young generations who are at risk in embracing extremist behaviours, so, to prevent and avoid this issue, is important to work on conflicts, awareness of their own feelings and communication skills.

### **- Youth**

The risk that young people feel socially excluded and translate their disorientation into violent conflicting behaviours is very high. All the partners agree on the need to intervene on several fronts because the perception of injustice experienced by minors may not make them feel treated as they deserve. It could lead them to be attracted and then join violent radical groups, becoming hostile towards all the other social groups. Finding the right key actions to deal with this issue can bring the sense of belonging to a community back.

### **- Detention and Relational Spaces**

Another important aspect emerged from the focus groups that support the aforementioned observations, is the need of qualifying the detention and relational spaces. In some cases unsuitable spaces may favour a confusion of values, making young people no longer able to identify what is right or wrong and to know the importance of collective spaces.

### **- Professionals**

Finally emerges also the need to create or consolidate not only a local professionals network, but also a national and international one to get and share ideas on how to deal with violent radicalization and then develop effective preventive projects based on good practices.