



Civil Society Dialogue Network Policy Meeting

Preventing/countering violent extremism more effectively: Experience from the ground

23 October 2017

Hotel Sofitel Brussels Europe, Place Jourdan 1, 1040 Brussels, Belgium

Concept Note and Agenda

Background

Preventing and countering violent extremism (P/CVE) is a high-priority policy area, for which the European Union (EU) has a range of external action tools at its disposal that connect the internal and external dimensions of EU policy.

P/CVE policies are largely gender-blind, but their implementation is highly gendered in practice. This may hamper the identification of root causes and reduce the effectiveness of policy responses and contribute to counter-productive outcomes in the longer term in societies at risk of violent extremism and/or radicalisation. It may also damage the EU's credibility as an external actor.¹

Objectives

To address this, the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO), is organizing a one-day [Civil Society Dialogue Network \(CSDN\)](#) meeting to identify the opportunities for making P/CVE policies and programmes more effective.

The specific objectives are:

- to consider how EU P/CVE policies have integrated the experiences, interests and needs of different men and different women in analysis, policy-making and in implementation,
- to reflect on the impacts of P/CVE policies in relevant (third) countries, including from the perspective of different population groups,
- to provide suggestions for concrete ways to strengthen the EU's ability to deliver on P/CVE policy commitments in policy and in practice.

Participants

The meeting will bring together approximately 30 participants, including representatives of peacebuilding civil society organisations (CSOs) working in key countries and regions (e.g. Sahel; Jordan; Tunisia), officials from the European Commission and the European External Action Service (EEAS).

Format

The meeting will consist of three interactive round-table sessions. In each session, initial presentations from speakers will be followed by a facilitated discussion in which all participants will be encouraged to provide analysis and recommendations. The meeting will be in English, and simultaneous interpretation will be provided in French and Arabic.

¹ 'Leaked: "non – papers" on migration, mobility and readmission with Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan' 30 March 2016, *Statewatch* Available at <http://statewatch.org/news/2016/mar/eu-readmission-docs.html>

Draft Agenda

08.30 – 09.00	Registration of participants
09.00 – 09.30	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Sonya Reines-Djivanides, Executive Director, EPLO
09.30 – 10.30	Session 1: EU's P/CVE policies, programmes and instruments This session sets the stage for the subsequent discussions by presenting the existing policies, programmes and instruments dedicated to P/CVE and discuss their current limitations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A brief overview of the policies and instruments that the EU uses to prevent and counter violent extremism, and the connections between internal and external policies. • How do EU P/CVE policies reflect and address the diverse realities and concerns of the areas in which violent extremism develops? • (How) are the different experiences and circumstances of men and women understood and addressed in these? Opening comment by Mr Gilles de Kerchove, EU Counter-Terrorism Coordinator Moderated by Ms Sonya Reines-Djivanides, Executive Director, EPLO
10.30 – 11.00	Coffee Break
11.00 – 13.00	Session 2: Inclusive approaches to preventing and countering violent extremism (P/CVE) The aim of this session is for participants to share their analysis of the situations where they work, how different population groups are affected in specific areas, and the perception of EU's and EU Member States' P/CVE activities and policies. Key questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do men and women from various backgrounds experience violent extremism and radicalisation? • (How) do the drivers of violent extremism and radicalisation vary for different men and for different women? How can they be best addressed? • To what extent are assumptions about violent masculinities underpinning EU and other actors' responses in these areas? What risks do these assumptions carry, if any? What are we missing? • Can promoting greater gender equality reduce vulnerabilities for radicalization? What risks, if any, are inherent to this approach? • Would changing the underlying theories of change improve the effects of EU policies in these areas? If so, how? How to ensure the involvement of local affected individuals in their definition? Moderated by Mr Andrew Lane, Director, Quaker Council for European Affairs
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch
14.00 – 16.00	Session 3: Recommendations for more effective EU responses to P/CVE Participants share recommendations on how the EU could adopt a more effective approach to P/CVE.

	<p>Key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can the EU best support existing local civil society initiatives to P/CVE? What are the challenges to EU's support to civil society and how to address them? • (How) can the EU support P/CVE without supporting abusive security systems and/or contributing to already shrinking civic space? • How can integrating gender analysis and addressing structural violence (including gender discrimination) help the EU make its responses to P/CVE more effective in the countries under discussion? • How can the EU's different policies and programmes better integrate gender analysis for P/CVE? <p>Moderated by Dr. Laura Davis, Senior Associate, EPLO</p>
16.00 – 16.30	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amb. Mara Marinaki, EEAS Principal Advisor on Gender and on UNSCR 1325/Women, Peace and Security

The Civil Society Dialogue Network

The Civil Society Dialogue Network (CSDN) is a mechanism for dialogue between civil society and EU policy-makers on issues related to peace and conflict. It is co-financed by the European Union (Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace). It is managed by the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO), a civil society network, in co-operation with the European Commission (EC) and the European External Action Service (EEAS). The third phase of the CSDN will last from 2017 to 2020. For more information, please visit the [EPLO website](#).