

Group A: Preventing violent extremism

1. What does a peacebuilding approach to tackling radicalisation and violent extremism entail?

- It is important to put people at the heart of the approach rather than focusing on the 'infrastructure'. Such an approach needs to prioritise behaviour and thinking. Sustainable solutions to violent extremism (VE) require the internalisation of peace.
- It is necessary to bridge the different strands of action, to foster connections between different actors, to create inclusive state responses, and to strengthen trust between civilians and security forces.
- Robust analysis of conflicts and their key drivers is required. Gender analysis is equally important. It is necessary to challenge the assumptions that women and men have about countering violent extremism (CVE).
- Approaching the issue of CVE through a peacebuilding lens also means looking at existing capacities for peacebuilding and trying to counter negative narratives about VE. Attention needs to be given to the resilience of local people; they are essential due to their unrivalled knowledge of local contexts.
- Context analysis involving local actors, including youth, is extremely important.
- In order to apply a peacebuilding approach to preventing violent extremism (PVE), it is important to take into account all of its dimensions.

2. What are the good practices so far and the most effective ways to support local actors in tackling radicalisation and violent extremism?

- There are insufficient resources available for investing in CVE-related research (e.g. counter-narratives) or for creating safe places for debate. It is important to listen more to local voices and to support community-based, grassroots, bottom-up approaches to CVE.
- Regarding the issue of trust; it is important to consider the legitimacy of the different actors involved.
- It is very important to consider the internal-external dimensions of CVE.
- Constructive alternatives to CVE are those which are moving away from a focus on national security and which avoid a narrow framing of the issue.
- Actions in support of PVE need to take place before violence erupts. It is important to focus on prevention and to invest in non-formal education for young people.
- Consideration should be given to the root causes of VE (e.g. How can poverty be alleviated so people do not turn to VE as a source of income?)
- CSOs need more support for the research components of the projects and programmes which they implement on behalf of the EU.
- It is important to learn from what has worked well in the past.
- Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) mechanisms need to be integrated into the implementation of activities and undertaken regularly rather than being planned separately.
- There is a need for more conflict-sensitive journalism.
- It is important to bring actors together and to maximise synergies. How can different actors build on each other's' work rather than constantly starting from scratch?
- [United Nations Security Council Resolution \(UNSCR\) 2250](#) could offer a basis for working with youth on PVE.
- It is important not to instrumentalise women and girls in PVE/CVE processes.

- Religion is a secondary issue in VE. The twin issues of youth being cut off from society and their vulnerability to instrumentalisation are the ones which need to be prioritised.
- To foster inclusive approaches, it is necessary to ask local communities what they need, to work on trust-building and to prioritise bottom-up approaches.
- It is important to ensure adequate healing for people who give up VE.
- Adequate mechanisms and capacities for local authorities need to be ensured.
- Education is critical in PVE.

3. What are the challenges ahead (rehabilitation and reintegration, responding to sexual and gender-based violence, etc.)?

- The lack of a clear definition for CVE coupled with a top-down agenda often imposed on civil society organisations (CSOs) can be counter-productive. It is necessary to consider the issues from multiple perspectives.
- The issue of inequality, which is often aggravated by government responses to it, is at the heart of the resilience problem.
- A CSO-led initiative in the MENA region aimed at bringing young people together to discuss radicalisation and VE in 'debate clubs' had very positive results where it was implemented. A major challenge remains around ensuring the sustainability of such efforts. Better links with other frameworks and initiatives (e.g. with the cultural sector) are required.
- How can regional actors be supported (e.g. African initiatives aimed at CVE)?
- How can different actors get a handle on the large body of research on the issue?
- How can activities in one country or region be connected to others?
- Given the recent developments regarding the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP) (i.e. the proposal to include a new 'Capacity building for security and development (CBSD)' component, can it support PVE effectively?
- Resilience is key. The challenge is: how to assess existing capacities?
- Can any peace mapping contribute to PVE?
- How can different actors ensure that PVE processes are owned by people in the countries and regions in which they take place? How can capacity building for local actors be supported?
- Does the IcSP have the capacity to connect with other funding instruments?
- How can PVE actions be monitored and their impact measured?