

European Platform of Deradicalisation (EDNA):

Strategy for transfer of EDNA methodology and products into EU member states and globally

by Harald Weilnböck



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(I) Strategically EDNA had budgeted funds to allow for translating parts of the website material into English in order to facilitate the EDNA transfer.

(II) Aside of submitting follow-up proposals in ISEC – either EU based ISEC or in Shared Management of national Internal Security Funds – or in other “transfer of EDNA” has been planned to be an integral part of the deliverable of “application for additional academic funds”.

Hence, the first measure within the strategy for transfer of EDNA methodology into EU member states is to apply for an ERC Advanced Grant (European Research Council) and submit a grant proposal which includes staff positions in some selected member states (MS). These staff positions will then be national anchors for EDNA transfer and development in the country. This will be achieved by submitting the project proposal “Media Interaction to Prevent Violent Extremism (MIPE)” from the host institution of Humboldt University, Berlin, in Oct 2014.

(III) During the EDNA project, contact – in the form of talks/ presentations and lectures as well as correspondence – to the RAN (Radicalisation Awareness Network, EC Brussels) and WomEx (Women in Extremism, CI Berlin), the EENeT (Fed. German Criminal Police Office, the TNT division of the OSCE (Transnational Threats Dept., Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe) the British Home Office (Counter Communications Dept) and the US State Dept Communication division and other international actors has been and will be utilized to identify and address suitable partner institutions for EDNA transfer in some selected member states (MS).

Selected member states will be those in which there is a high risk of violent extremism and which, in addition to this, witness some degree of nationalistic and anti-diversity populism in mainstream population. In the first instance, the strategy will focus on Hungary, Greece, Check Republic, and Slovakia. The ISEC project EU Fair Skills (with CZ, HU, SK).

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(IV) In the selected member states potential partner organizations will be sought. More precisely, tandem organization will be brought together in which each tandem consists of one academic institution and one practitioner organization.

The academic institution has research experiences in topics of violent extremism and populism pertinent to this particular country and its regions. The academic institution will also have expertise in qualitative social research and in narrative methods; it will, furthermore, be open to interdisciplinary exchange with psychological and clinical resources.

The practitioner organization is in close contact to the – difficult to access – target group of EDNA: young people vulnerable or already recruited into life styles of violent extremism and hate crime.

Within these tandem organizations, inter agency teams of researchers and practitioners are built. Ideally, both members of these teams will, to different degrees, have expertise in extremism studies, qualitative methods, interview techniques and analytic practices; and they will have, to different degrees, possess authenticity and street credibility in the sense that they are able to reach out to and confidently interact with young people from violent extremism(s).

The researcher-practitioner tandems thus constitute model interviewer teams around which the national EDNA initiative can develop – receiving the transfer in methodology from the original EDNA project. Specifically, these teams will – in case of further project funding – receive training in narrative interview techniques and transcript analysis.

(IV) The strategic actions will be aligned with the RAN Hub of Knowledge which will be established in the beginning of 2015.