



## H2020 SISTER PROJECTS RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

23 February 2022

9.00 – 9.30 **Welcome words and round of introductions**

Chaired by meeting hosts (FMSH), PAVE coordinator (Berghof), CONNEKT coordinator (IEMed), PREVEX coordinator (NUPI)

9.30 – 10.45 **Terminology caveats: dealing with the conceptual conundrum and projects overviews**

How do we understand radicalisation, violent extremism, and terrorism? Which is the theoretical framework and what does the available literature tell us? What do different PVE approaches have in common (or not) and how do they define resilience? This session will discuss the possibilities of harmonizing the different terminological approaches and delimiting the scope of political instruments enabled to deal with them. In addition, every project will present its main foci areas and overall approach.

**CONNEKT: Lurdes Vidal Bertran**, CONNEKT's Scientific Coordinator; Director of the Arab & Islamic Department, European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed), Spain

**PAVE: Maja Halilovic-Pastuovic**, Research Fellow at the School of Religion, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland

**PREVEX: Francesco Strazzari**, Professor in International Relations, Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies, Pisa, Italy

*Moderation: Véronique Dudouet, Berghof Fondation, Germany (PAVE coordinator)*

10.45 – 11.15 **Coffee break**

11.15 – 12.30 **Communities under the spotlight: Drivers and features of violent extremism at the intersection between gender, religion, ethnicity and politics**

The pooling of our expertise and different meso narratives translates into an effort to understand the interference of community actors, both public and private, and their influence on radicalisation and violent extremism. The session will deal with issues such as the occurrence versus the non-occurrence or the risks of stigmatisation in meso research, among others. The exchange of methodologies and findings on the role of community leaders (such as religious, state and civic actors) in fuelling, mitigating or

preventing violent extremism, reveals a potential of complementarity among projects that will produce a holistic and more consolidated vision for the formulation of targeted policies and community-led initiatives.



**CONNEKT:** **Tasnim Chirchi**, Director, Jasmine Foundation for Research and Communication, Tunisia

**PAVE:** **Marie Kortam**, Associate Researcher, Fondation Maison des Sciences de l'Homme (FMSH), France

**PREVEX:** **Kari Osland**, Senior Researcher, Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI)

*Moderation: Lurdes Vidal Bertran, IEMed (CONNEKT coordinator)*

12.30 – 14.30 **Lunch break**

14.30 – 15.30 **Country findings and regional trends in the Western Balkans**

This session will draw on field research conducted by the three consortia in the Western Balkans: Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Kosovo, Serbia, Bulgaria, Albania, Montenegro. The aim will be to identify regional trends across the field sites and their implications for policy approaches and debates on violent extremism and PVE strategies. The researchers will also discuss methodological challenges encountered when conducting research and strategies used to mitigate them.

**CONNEKT:** **Lidija Georgieva**, Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts (MASA)

**PAVE:** **Ramadan Ilazi**, Head of Research, Kosovar Centre for Security Studies (KCSS)

**PREVEX:** **Evlogi Stanchev**, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

*Moderation: Sead Turčalo, University of Sarajevo (PAVE)*

15.30 – 16.30 **Country findings and regional trends in the MENA**

This session will draw on field research conducted by the three consortia in the MENA region: Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Syria. In addition to the aims described above (similar to the previous session), this session will also draw on the insights from external experts (from outside the three consortia) invited as discussants.

**CONNEKT:** **Amina Er-Rifaiy**, Université Moulay Ismail, Meknès, Morocco

**PAVE:** **Josep Garcia Coll**, Department of Research and Projects of the Euro-Arab Foundation (FUNDEA), Spain

**PREVEX:** **Georges Fahmi**, European University Institute, Florence (Italy)

*Moderation: Rudayna Baalbaky, Issam Fares Institute, AUB (PAVE)*

16.30 – 17.00 **Coffee break**

17.00 – 18.00 **Debate: Can MENA and the Balkans be compared? Challenges and risks of cross-regional comparisons**



The European Union's determination to promote the development and improvement of its Neighbourhood Policy, strengthening relations with next-door countries, is reflected in the three projects. However, the statement of common elements throughout all countries becomes a major challenge during research. Dealing with such vast diversity; with a plurality of cultural codes from two different regions, and with countries that, in some cases have been at odds historically, poses a great challenge. This final session will aim to discuss and contrast the obstacles that each consortium has encountered in the conduct of cross-regional analysis and the formulation of generic policy recommendations.

**CONNEKT:** Lura Pollozhani, Centre for Southeast European Studies, University of Graz, Austria

**PAVE:** Isak Svensson, Uppsala University, Sweden

**PREVEX:** Gilad Ben-Nun, University of Leipzig and Sciences Po, Paris, Germany/France

*Moderation: Amjed Rasheed, Open Think Tank (PAVE)*

#### 18.00 – 18.30 **Conclusions and planning ahead**

Chaired by meeting hosts (FMSH), PAVE coordinator (Berghof), CONNEKT coordinator (IEMed), PREVEX coordinator (NUPI)