



Policy Paper on Countering and Preventing Meso-Level Drivers of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism in MENA and Balkans



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POLICY PAPER ON COUNTERING AND PREVENTING MESO-LEVEL DRIVERS IN MENA AND BALKANS

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Introduction

The CONNEKT (Contexts of Extremism in MENA and Balkan societies) project, spanning countries in the MENA region (Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia) and the Balkans (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Kosovo, North Macedonia) regions, analyses drivers of radicalisation and violent extremism across macro (institutional), meso (community) and micro (individual) levels. The first phase of meso-level research explores diverse communities that are potentially vulnerable to radicalisation and provides important insights into relevant drivers of radicalisation (see Annex 1). The second phase of meso-level research goes into the prevention factors and attempts to provide recommendations for resilience building among the selected communities. CONNEKT's aim was to look into real or potential violent extremism (VE) contexts and drivers¹ within sub-state communities. Case-study analysis was chosen for its effectiveness in exploring these contexts, with proposed guidelines to guide case study selection by country teams. The selection process considered the relevance and outcomes of macro analysis on radicalisation drivers, aiming for diverse case studies to capture different combinations of drivers and conclusions. Involving stakeholders was also emphasised to align research results with identified needs and challenges. Nonetheless, the term “community” encompasses various social interaction contexts, including schools, villages, churches/mosques, civic associations, or online communities like Salafi lecturers, among others.

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This paper starts with “Unravelling the drivers in the first phase – a mosaic of case studies”. In this section, we establish the groundwork that emerged from the investigation of drivers of radicalisation. The narrative progresses to the exploration and discovery of relevant meso-level drivers out of those that CONNEKT explores, emphasising key patterns in the findings (see Annex 2). The subsequent thematic synthesis unveils the interconnectedness of drivers across diverse levels of analysis. Transitioning into the second section, “From analysis to action in the second phase – building resilience”, the paper explores the evolution from driver analysis to prevention strategies. It underscores the importance of community-level interventions in understanding prevention strategies. The exploration extends to case studies on prevention and resilience, delving into main findings and lessons learned. The section culminates in the identification of synergies and cross-learning opportunities, proposing a framework for collaborative and individual initiatives across regions. The final section, “Policy implications and recommendations”, synthesises the research findings into targeted policy recommendations for stakeholders at local, national, and international levels. The conclusion reiterates the pivotal role of meso-level analysis in comprehending radicalisation.

¹ Seven drivers include: religion, economic deprivation, social digitalisation, territorial inequalities, political grievances, educational, leisure and cultural opportunities, and transnational dynamics.

Unravelling the drivers in the first phase – a mosaic of case studies

MESO-LEVEL DRIVERS

The Balkans

TABLE 1. Case studies for each Balkan state under study

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	<p>CS1: Two schools under one roof</p> <p>[The political context of the case includes its influence on potential radicalisation and existing segregation.]</p>	<p>CS2: Organised groups of football fans</p> <p>[Public displays of violence throughout history.]</p>	<p>CS3: Youth supporters of online Salafi influencers</p> <p>[Lecturers attain a celebrity status within their respective online communities on platforms like Facebook and YouTube.]</p>
BULGARIA	<p>CS1: Online conservative communities</p> <p>[Rallying popular support by disseminating propaganda and misinformation.]</p>	<p>CS2: Football supporters</p> <p>[Political parties frequently utilise hooligans for political objectives.]</p>	<p>CS3: [Confidential since the study could lead to further marginalisation of an already marginalised community]</p>
KOSOVO	<p>CS1: Political grievances in the municipality of South Mitrovica</p> <p>[The city experiences divisions and varying degrees of ethnonational political tensions.]</p>	<p>CS2: Transnational dynamics in the municipality of Gjilan</p> <p>[Situated near the triangle formed by the borders of Kosovo, North Macedonia, and Serbia]</p>	<p>CS3: Religious interpretations in the municipality of Gjakova</p> <p>[Plurality of religious practices and beliefs, encompassing Sunni and Bektashi traditions within Islam, various Tariqats, as well as the coexistence of Catholicism and Christian Orthodoxy.]</p>
NORTH MACEDONIA	<p>CS1: Commemorations of the 2001 Macedonian conflict in Tetovo</p> <p>[The 2001 conflict holds significant importance as a memory-related topic in the domestic public discourse.]</p>	<p>CS2: Football fan groups in Tetovo</p> <p>[Ethnic divisions within the local football fan scene.]</p>	<p>CS3: Prisons and the Volkovija correctional and educational facility</p> <p>[The risk of radicalisation is heightened within prison environments.]</p>

Focusing on Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Kosovo, and North Macedonia, the study includes a variety of case studies, providing insights into the region's dynamics. **Religion** emerges as a significant catalyst for radicalisation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, and Kosovo, where Salafi influences play a role, exploiting

social media to attract followers, and foster virtual spaces for sharing their worldviews. **Economic deprivation** is identified as a major driver of radicalisation in Bulgaria, Kosovo, and North Macedonia, with socioeconomic challenges leading marginalised individuals to seek solace in Salafi circles (Kapidžić et al., 2023). **Territorial inequalities** and transnational dynamics also contribute to radicalisation, which is manifesting most clearly in physical confrontations and damage to opposing football clubs in Bulgaria and North Macedonia. Additionally, **foreign propaganda and misinformation** on social media fuel radicalisation, particularly in Bulgaria, where conservative communities oppose liberal values (Ralchev and Stoynova, 2022).

Lastly, **political grievances** are key factors in the Balkan context. Bosnia and Herzegovina's education system is criticised for promoting division (Trkulja, 2017), while far-right ideology in Bulgaria leads to violence and hate speech. In Kosovo, socio-political demands are intertwined with the legacy of armed conflict, and, in North Macedonia, ethnic relations and political history contribute to the potential for radicalisation.

MENA

TABLE 2. Case studies for each MENA state under study

EGYPT	CS1: The Christian community of Al-Warraq [A high unemployment rate and low educational achievements.]	CS2: Bahtim informal community [Rapid transformation from a predominantly agricultural to an urban area.]	CS3: Alexandria University [A site of frequent youth protest.]
JORDAN	CS1: Karak area [Limited opportunities for youth, prevailing inequality, and a strained relationship between the state and citizens.]	CS2: Refugees in Northern Jordan [Scarcity of opportunities impacting their education, employment, and social integration.]	CS3: Ma'an female preachers [A loose structure in which informal preachers operate, including high unemployment rate.]
MOROCCO	CS1: Amal organisation [Association that provides opportunity to transform instances of violence into alternative discourses.]	CS2: Ultras Siempre Paloma football supporters [Platform for youth to express their discontent with political institutions.]	CS3: Childhood and youth organisation [The ideological socialisation of young people within this group.]
TUNISIA	CS1: Feriana [Proximity to the mountainous border area with Algeria, high youth unemployment rate.]	CS2: Hammam-Lif [Neighbourhoods in this area witness a high incidence of crime and delinquency among young individuals.]	CS3: Sidi Abdelhamid [Socioeconomic polarisation in the governorate.]

The reports from the MENA region highlight the complexity of radicalisation drivers. An essential finding is the need for an understanding of VE that considers **social contexts and the interrelation between ideology and context**.

Meso-level data collection and analysis reveal that **multi-level marginalisation** (economic, social, and political) forms the core of social and political grievances in the studied contexts. These settings share high rates of **underemployment, insufficient political representation, and limited access to social services**. The urbanisation patterns of radicalisation are notable, with reports pointing to various forms of exclusion experienced by different youth categories (Chirchi and Ghribi, 2023).

Lastly, the findings suggest that radicalisation and violence are symptomatic of a deeper systemic crisis, reflecting dysfunctions in the state-citizens' relationship. Nonetheless, effective solutions should align with the complex and systemic nature of radicalisation, addressing recurrent demands for improved human development conditions and significant economic, social, and political changes.

THEMATIC SYNTHESIS ACROSS THE LEVELS

The cross-level (macro, meso, micro) analysis of drivers in the MENA region and the Balkans provides a comprehensive examination of factors influencing radicalisation. In the realm of **governance models**, there is an intricate interplay between religion and political grievances within diverse contexts of these two regions. Furthermore, the **nexus of alienation** unfolds as an important combination-driver, encompassing individual political grievances, economic deprivation, and territorial inequalities. Nonetheless, this "triangle of anger" emerges as a focal point, addressing perceived or real marginalisation and injustice, underlining the complexities that contribute to radicalisation. The research at all levels also emphasises **alternative spaces**, the role of digitalisation and leisure/education, with a focus on fan cultures and online radicalisation.

Interconnectedness takes centre stage in the analysis of transnational dynamics and digitalisation. External influences within the regions, along with the role of diaspora and digitalised relations, are crucial factors shaping the landscape of radicalisation. Nonetheless, **gender and youth** are considered as important elements as well, meaning that issues of toxic masculinity, youth alienation, and under-representation could be highlighted in that regard.

From analysis to action in the second phase – building resilience

UNDERSTANDING PREVENTION STRATEGIES

Moving into the second phase of the meso-level research, the focus shifted to assessing the impact of drivers on the community-level prevention strategies. The primary objective of this second phase of meso research was to examine local community dynamics that deter VE. Consequently, the chosen case studies provided insights relevant to preventive research. All countries under study have chosen communities where conditions conducive to the onset of VE exist, yet there were no actual instances of violence (Bieber and Pollozhani, 2023). The majority of the case studies we will present here in this second phase align with case studies from the first phase of the research. This approach aims to show why a particular local community remains resilient to VE despite the presence of conditions that could otherwise lead to violent occurrences.

CONNEKT’s interpretation of prevention aligns with building social resilience, focusing on stages preceding radicalisation. The combination of prevention and intervention tools, adapted to context-specific parameters, is deemed essential for effective prevention. In recent years, the term “resilience” has been predominantly used to promote a holistic approach in preventing violent extremism (PVE). For example, the PAVE Project defines resilience as “the ability of political systems and (in)formal governance arrangements at the community level to adjust to changing political and social conditions” (Halilovic Pastuovic, 2021). This helps to set up a conceptual framework for the analysis of community’s structural and agency-driven ability to respond to challenges, while looking at the social connections, sense of belonging, capacity-building within the community, individual satisfaction with socioeconomic conditions, and other potential factors that contribute to better meso-level dynamics.

MAIN FINDINGS FROM CASE STUDIES ON PREVENTION AND RESILIENCE

After conducting research, several key factors have been identified for community-level prevention and resilience. These factors are presented in the following sections as regional findings, as well as the cross-cutting synergies. It is important to note that the majority of case studies in the second phase remained the same as in the first phase (see Table 3 and Table 4).

The Balkans

TABLE 3. Case studies for each Balkan state under study

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	CS1: Two schools under one roof	CS2: Organised groups of football fans
	[The same as in phase one.]	[The same as in phase one.]
BULGARIA	CS1: Violence in schools	CS2: Football hooligans
	[Societal factors and specific community influences affecting young people.]	[The same as in phase one.]

KOSOVO	CS 1 Mitrovica	CS2: Gjakova
	[The same as in phase one.]	[The same as in phase one.]
NORTH MACEDONIA	CS 1 Football fan groups in Tetovo	CS 2 Prisons and the Volkovija correctional and educational facility
	[The same as in phase one.]	[The same as in phase one.]

Key factors



MENA

TABLE 4. Case studies for each MENA state under study

EGYPT	CS 1 The Christian Community of Al-Warraq [The same as in phase one.]	CS 2 Bahtim informal community [The same as in phase one.]
JORDAN	CS 1 Ma'an female preachers [The same as in phase one.]	CS 2 Karak area [The same as in phase one.]
MOROCCO	CS 1 Amal association [The same as in phase one.]	CS 2 Childhood and youth organisation [An organisation active in the realm of combating various forms of violence, present at the national level.]
TUNISIA	CS 1 Hammam-Lif [The same as in phase one.]	CS 2 Ben Guerdane [A border city with a football fan culture. ISIS attempted to seize it in 2016.]

Key factors

Community dynamics:

Emphasis on family bonds, local organisations, and community-based activities.

Youth empowerment:

Utilising education and skill development.

Collaboration:

Collaborations with external stakeholders, including civil society organizations, training institutes, and youth clubs.

Religious education:

Interactive religious education that promotes tolerance.

Combating hate speech:

Using art and counter-speech initiatives to prevent extremism and promote positive narratives.

Coordination and work support:

Addressing economic deprivation through entrepreneurship.

Addressing challenges in youth volunteering.

SYNERGIES AND CROSS-LEARNING

Drawing upon insights from research conducted in both the Balkans and the MENA region, it is possible to formulate a comprehensive framework for cross-regional learning and collaboration. This framework aims to facilitate the exchange of best practices, foster synergies, and promote mutual learning between these two regions. One proposed initiative within this framework involves the establishment of exchange programmes engaging youth from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, and Tunisia. These programmes would serve as platforms for young individuals to share their experiences and knowledge.

Additionally, the development of targeted training programmes could address specific challenges identified in the Balkans and MENA research, such as community engagement in Al Warraq, youth empowerment in Karak, and educational reforms in Bulgaria. These programmes would offer practical solutions to the issues outlined in the research.

Lastly, to further enhance cross-learning, the establishment of virtual forums is suggested. These forums would bring together educators, civil society organizations (CSOs), and government representatives from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, and Tunisia. These online platforms would serve as spaces for sharing specific interventions, discussing challenges, and celebrating successes in the ongoing efforts to prevent radicalisation among youth.

Policy implications and recommendations

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE BALKAN REGION

On a local level

Support local NGOs: Bolster the role of local NGOs in the prevention segment. Provide financial and institutional support to these organizations, because these organizations are sometimes the only actors in small communities that can offer alternative to the youth. Sole focus on NGOs in larger/capital cities should be avoided.

Community stakeholder collaboration: Encourage collaboration among football clubs, sports associations, schools, and various public and civil society institutions to address radicalisation tendencies among organised football fans. There is a need to increase the focus on the positive aspects of organised football fan groups, who could help their peers and neighbours through volunteering and humanitarian work.

Community programmes: Facilitate community forums, workshops, and events to foster a sense of belonging and empowerment. Support initiatives that enhance the skills and capacities of community members, who are seen as leaders within the community.

Promote inclusive sports culture: Encourage sports events that promote inclusivity, such as running competitions, to counter violence and hate speech. Support sponsors and advertisers that contribute to positive sports culture.

Targeted socioeconomic policies: Implement targeted policies and programmes addressing poverty and unemployment to counter radicalisation. Focus on education leading to employment and specific job searching skills.

Strengthening school-employer connections: Enhance linkages between schools and local employers regionally to create a more seamless transition for youth into the workforce.

Investment in community centres: Invest in community centres as hubs for educational and cultural activities, particularly in disadvantaged communities. Put particular focus on art, and education through art.

Youth awareness programmes: Promote education and awareness-raising initiatives against nationalism, xenophobia, racism, and hate speech. Empower youth to implement thematic projects addressing the dangers of these ideologies.

On a national level

Education reform: Implement systemic changes in the educational system to enhance discipline, engagement, and respect among adolescents. Foster critical thinking and diversity within the curriculum. Also, prioritise critical thinking over memorisation.

Media literacy programmes: Develop and integrate media literacy programmes into educational curricula to equip young people with the skills to recognise and resist misinformation and extremist content. It is important to start enhancing their skills at an early age, if possible, in primary schools.

Interfaith dialogue and religious literacy: Promote national-level initiatives for interfaith dialogue and religious literacy programmes. Engage moderate clerics in leading discussions on non-violence, tolerance, and cooperation.

Internal mutual exchange programmes: Encourage mutual exchange between different territorial parts, fostering interaction between poorer and richer areas and those with different ethnonational compositions.

Establish professional networks: Form national professional networks addressing specific issues, such as the role of social media in radicalisation. Focus on collaboration and information sharing.

On an international level

NGO collaboration: Facilitate international partnerships and collaborations with NGOs to share best practices, resources, and expertise. Support initiatives that strengthen the capacity-building of local NGOs, since local actors need to be able to have sustainability and not depend on the project-to-project basis. Many instances have shown that local NGOs depend on the agenda of the donor and stop dealing with certain topics after the expiration of the project.

Interregional sports initiatives: Foster interregional collaborations in sports initiatives, encouraging football clubs and associated institutions to share successful preventive strategies. Facilitate cross-border partnerships to address common challenges.

International collaboration on fan behaviour: Facilitate international collaboration on managing fan behaviour during matches. Share well-developed scripts and practices for fostering a positive sports atmosphere.

Information sharing on social media: Establish regional networks for transnational cooperation, focusing on the role of social media in radicalisation. Promote information sharing among governments, civil society, and the private sector.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE MENA REGION

On a local level

Youth empowerment projects: Implement grassroots projects at the local level, working over a minimum of three to five years to build trust with young people. These initiatives should provide spaces for youth to develop a sense of agency.

Community-centric public services: Improve the quality of local public services, particularly in education and healthcare, ensuring better access for marginalised communities. Develop inclusive urban policies at the local level to address specific needs and involve communities in decision-making processes.

Local employment opportunities: Establish local programmes that link schools with nearby employers, creating opportunities for young people to gain practical skills and employment. Encourage local entrepreneurship through initiatives that address bureaucratic hurdles and offer support to youth-led projects.

Open civic spaces: Invest in accessible civic education tools and collaborate with civil society to strengthen youth capacities for positive participation in the city. Involve local communities in designing public policies to bridge trust gaps.

Youth trust projects: Encourage grassroots projects that build trust between youth and local governments over a longer period of time.

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On a national level

Education and employment policies: Formulate national policies that address socioeconomic issues, focusing on education and employment opportunities. Strengthen the linkages between national education systems and industries to enhance youth employability.

Quality public education: Prioritise investment in public education to ensure equal opportunities for all. Enrich school curricula with experiential learning, critical thinking, and spaces for youth-led discussions on social, economic, and political issues.

Youth inclusion in public policies: Develop national policies that encourage youth participation in shaping public policies. Establish channels for expressing frustrations and grievances peacefully.

Civic education programmes: Integrate civic education programmes into national curricula, collaborating with civil society to promote inclusive education. Encourage the establishment of spaces for dialogue in schools and cultural/youth centres at the national level.

Tax incentives and administrative facilitation: Incentivise investments in underdeveloped regions through tax incentives. Facilitate administrative procedures related to projects, making them accessible to citizens in marginalised regions.

Inclusive urban policies: Develop inclusive urban policies that consider the real composition of cities, addressing issues like transport, leisure, cultural facilities, and marketplaces in a participatory and inclusive manner.

Quality public services: Improve the quality of public services, including education, healthcare, and access to cultural spaces, with a focus on better accessibility for marginalised communities.

On an international level

Transnational collaboration: Facilitate transnational cooperation and information sharing among governments, civil society, and the private sector. Establish professional networks at the international level, focusing on issues such as the role of social media in radicalisation.

Global economic support: Seek international support for economic development initiatives, including equitable resources management. Encourage international investments in underdeveloped regions and promote global collaboration. Break the isolation of marginalised areas by establishing international twinning processes. Create human, cultural, and economic connections with other communities.

International educational partnerships: Collaborate with international organisations to enhance public education and provide equal opportunities globally. Exchange best practices in civic education and youth empowerment programmes on the international stage.

CONCLUSION

The first phase of the meso-level research revealed that, in the Balkans, religion is a key driver intertwined with transnational dynamics, especially in Kosovo. Bulgaria and North Macedonia showcase the influence of transnational conservative communities, and territorial inequalities impact minority groups. The MENA region driver analysis reveals a “triangle of anger” involving economic development, youth unemployment, and ineffective education. Economic deprivation emerges as a leading driver, exacerbated by religious factors and distrust in the state. Both regions share dissatisfaction with political systems and divisive structures. Additionally, new drivers emerged from the research, such as drug use in the MENA region and nationalism, xenophobia, and hate speech in the Balkans. Toxic masculinity becomes evident in male collectivities like football clubs, indicating an additional layer of complexity.

In the Balkans, the research underscores the critical importance of collaborative efforts between educational institutions, CSOs, and local authorities to prevent radicalisation among youth. Key prevention factors include quality education fostering critical thinking, positive social engagement, intercultural dialogue, media literacy, and psychosocial support. The active role of civil sectors and the influence of local NGOs are highlighted, emphasising the need for positive role models and the development of successful young individuals to counter harmful narratives. In addition, organised football groups are addressed through social intervention, with an emphasis on awareness, education, and community engagement. Meanwhile, in the MENA region, the prevention landscape is shaped by community dynamics, protective factors like family bonds and strong identities, and collaboration with external stakeholders. Religious education, digital entrepreneurship, and volunteerism emerge as crucial prevention elements.

In the Balkan region, a set of policy recommendations emerges, spanning local, national, and international levels to combat radicalisation and VE. Locally, empowering local NGOs and fostering community collaboration are key strategies, emphasising some of the positive aspects of organised football fan groups and promoting inclusive sports culture. Nationally, reforms in education, media literacy, and interfaith dialogue take precedence, along with targeted socioeconomic policies. Internationally, collaboration through NGO partnerships and sports initiatives, along with sharing information on social media, forms a united front against radicalisation.

Similarly, the MENA region confronts radicalisation with a comprehensive approach across local, national, and international domains. At the local level, youth empowerment projects and community-centric public services stand as pivotal initiatives. Nationally, a focus on education, employment policies, civic education, and inclusive urban strategies is imperative. Internationally, fostering transnational collaboration, seeking global economic support, and promoting international educational partnerships create a holistic framework for countering radicalisation in the MENA region. Through coordinated efforts at all levels, these policy recommendations provide a roadmap for fostering resilience, inclusion, and positive youth engagement to counter the threat of radicalisation.

Therefore, as the CONNEKT project, we call upon Balkan policymakers and practitioners to forge collaborative efforts, and to embrace a comprehensive approach that spans local, national, and international levels, empowering communities, reshaping policies, and fostering transregional cooperation. As we navigate the complex landscape of radicalisation in the MENA region, the CONNEKT project asks policymakers and practitioners to act decisively. Ground initiatives should be able to address economic disparities and needs of communities, as well as to provide spaces for youth agency. Internationally, foster collaboration, share insights, and seek support for holistic strategies.

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Annex 1

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THE FIRST PHASE OF MESO-LEVEL RESEARCH

Religion

- Question 1. Is religion a driving factor of violent extremism with greater relevance than other colliding factors? Has religious education played a role in preventing violent extremism? Do youngsters identify with existing religious leaderships?
- Q. 2. Does the relation between religion and national belonging play a specific role?
- Q. 3. What is the impact of social experience and practice of religion on communities, or it is rather the individual attitude towards religion what drives young people to radical ideas and actions?

Economic deprivation

- Question 4. Do territorial inequalities produce collective grievances that can intersect with other identity or ideological dimensions?

Social digitalisation

- Question 5. Is the digital context an overwhelming channel for violent extremism in MENA and the Balkans? Are social media and internet narratives relevant to explain radicalisation processes in target countries? Do these processes have commonalities with social media and internet recruitment in the EU?

Political issues

- Question 6. What is the impact of the political context in the process of radicalisation? To what extent do democracy, good governance, rule of law and political inclusion have a role in shaping perceptions of drivers of radicalisation?
- Q. 7. How different actors of radicalisation are framed by the state in each targeted country?
- Q. 8. What are the dominant narratives on community grievances based on political claims?

Educational, leisure and cultural opportunities

- Question 9. To what extent does the lack of cultural, educational and leisure opportunities have a role in driving radicalisation? Is it possible to link the failure of educational attainment with radicalisation processes? Are those contexts that provide better leisure facilities for young people less susceptible to radicalisation and violent extremism?

Transnational dynamics

- Question 10. How globalisation and transnational movements impacted politics and society?
- Q. 11. Are perceptions on foreign policy a driver of violent extremism?

- Q. 12. What is the role of new family patterns and diffuse social relations in the field of the transnational nature of radical groups?
- Q. 13. How globalised communities link themselves to transnational movements?
- Q. 14. What is the role of family, ethnic, religious, political, criminal networks?

DRIVERS

SOCIAL CONTEXT

	Religion	Economic deprivation	Territorial inequalities	Social digitalisation	Political grievances	Cultural opportunities	Transnational dynamics
Socialisation/ education	Ma'an (JO)				Two schools under one roof (BiH)		
	Two schools under one roof (BiH)				Two schools under one roof (BiH)		
	Football fans (BiH)				Football fans (BiH)		Ma'an (JO)
	Bahtim (EG)	Bahtim (EG)		Ma'an (JO)	Bahtim (EG)	Football fans (BiH)	Two schools under one roof (BiH)
	Al-Warraq (EG)	Al-Warraq (EG)	Bahtim (EG)	Bahtim (EG)	Al-Warraq (EG)	Bahtim (EG)	Two schools under one roof (BiH)
	Prisons and the Volkovija correctional and educational facility (MK)	Gjakova (XK)	Al-Warraq (EG)	Al-Warraq (EG)	Football fans (MK)	Al-Warraq (EG)	Gjakova (XK)
	Gjakova (XK) Mitrovica (XK)	Mitrovica (XK)		Gjakova (XK) Mitrovica (XK)	Gjakova (XK) Mitrovica (XK)		Mitrovica (XK)
Employment and labour relations		Al-Warraq (EG)	Ma'an (JO)		Bahtim (EG)		
	Al-Warraq (EG)	Amal (MA)	Bahtim (EG)		Al-Warraq (EG)	Karak (JO)	Gjakova (XK)
	Gjakova (XK) Mitrovica (XK)	Gjakova (XK) Mitrovica (XK)	Al-Warraq (EG) Amal (MA)	Karak (JO) Bahtim (EG)	Gjakova (XK) Mitrovica (XK)	Bahtim (EG)	Mitrovica (XK)
Urban and peri-urban spaces		Bahtim (EG)	Ma'an (JO)			Bahtim (EG)	
	Al-Warraq (EG)	Al-Warraq (EG)	Bahtim (EG)		Bahtim (EG)	Al-Warraq (EG)	
	Gjakova (XK)	Gjakova (XK)	Al-Warraq (EG)		Al-Warraq (EG)	Gjakova (XK) Mitrovica (XK)	
Artistic and cultural creation		Karak (JO)		Bahtim (EG)		Bahtim (EG)	
	Al-Warraq (EG)	Bahtim (EG) Al-Warraq (EG) Gjakova (XK)	Bahtim (EG)	Al-Warraq (EG) Childhood and youth organisation (MA) Gjakova (XK) Mitrovica (XK)	Al-Warraq (EG)	Al-Warraq (EG) Childhood and youth organisation (MA) Gjakova (XK)	Gjakova (XK) Mitrovica (XK)

DRIVERS

SOCIAL CONTEXT

	Religion	Economic deprivation	Territorial inequalities	Social digitalisation	Political grievances	Cultural opportunities	Transnational dynamics
Punitive justice system	Al-Warraq (EG)	Al-Warraq (EG) Prisons and the Volkovija correctional and educational facility (MK)	Bahtim (EG) Al-Warraq (EG)		Football fans (BiH) Bahtim (EG) Al-Warraq (EG)		
Ethnic community	Two schools under one roof (BiH) Football fans (BiH) Football fans (MK) Gjakova (XK) Mitrovica (XK)			Gjakova (XK) Mitrovica (XK)	Two schools under one roof (BiH) Football fans (BiH) Gjakova (XK) Mitrovica (XK)	Two schools under one roof (BiH)	Football fans (BiH) Prisons and the Volkovija correctional and educational facility (MK) Gjakova (XK) Mitrovica (XK)
Political and social participation	Football fans (BiH) Bahtim (EG) Al-Warraq (EG) Gjakova (XK) Mitrovica (XK)	Bahtim (EG) Al-Warraq (EG) Gjakova (XK) Mitrovica (XK)	Karak (JO) Bahtim (EG) Al-Warraq (EG)	Al-Warraq (EG) Gjakova (XK) Mitrovica (XK)	Karak (JO) Two schools under one roof (BiH) Football fans (BiH) Bahtim (EG) Al-Warraq (EG) Prisons and the Volkovija correctional and educational facility (MK) Gjakova (XK) Mitrovica (XK)	Bahtim (EG) Al-Warraq (EG)	Football fans (MK) Gjakova (XK) Mitrovica (XK)



What drives youth to violent extremism? How can they turn from being “the problem” into “the key” for a solution? By engaging youth in the research, CONNEKT will raise young voices to become stakeholders in the prevention of radicalisation and violent extremism.

CONNEKT is a research and action project which analyses seven potential radicalisation factors among youth aged between 12 and 30: religion, digitalisation, economic deprivation, territorial inequalities, transnational dynamics, socio-political demands, and educational, cultural and leisure opportunities and evaluates them on three levels: transnational/state, community and individual.

Its aim is to establish a multi-dimensional map of drivers of extremism among youth in Egypt, Jordan, Tunisia, Morocco, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, North Macedonia and Bulgaria, and to identify the interplay between them. Based on the empirical research findings, the project will end up recommending tools and measures for the prevention of violent extremism from a social and community perspective both for the regions of study and the European Union.

Under the coordination of the European Institute of the Mediterranean, (IEMed), the project gathers a multidisciplinary Consortium involving 14 partners from MENA, the EU and the Balkans.



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