

Lessons Learned of Multi-Agency Approach in CHAMPIONS



CHAMPIONS

Cooperative Harmonised Action Model
to Stop Polarisation in Our Nations

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CHALLENGES

- MAA is in headwind *in autocracies*
 - ruling parties' attitude to share of power, dialogue and civil society
 - fear, mistrust, group enmity, strong polarization and hatred at all levels: how to overcome traditional lack of dialogue?
 - no established networks/platforms/mechanisms for dialogue and interactions neither horizontally nor vertically
 - homogenization of societies weakens public awareness of grave implications of current trends of radicalization
- Lack of experience/capacities in sustainable dialogue and interaction at community level *in liberal democracies*
- *Significance* of Champions: experiment to address these challenges and build up capacities *in practice*



State of Play in Hungary

- number of meetings with FLPs: more than 10
- anticipated other 10-12 events by the end of the project (extra tasks for the organizers)
- outcome
 - a. venue of roundtables: 8th district of Budapest
 - b. issues/risks to be addressed by the roundtables:
 - cohabitation of people
 - segregation in education
- design and launch of implementation of Action Plans



Lessons Learned/Conclusions

- *difference* between the objectives of multi-agency approach in Western Europe and CEE, particularly in Hungary
- *need of space* for open and frank discussion/exchange of views of people from different sectors with different values
- *recruitment/engagement* of participants is more difficult than anticipated due to workload of FLPs/radicalization is far away/strong political divide at all levels (representatives of the ruling parties do not take part in the process)
- *point of departure of FLPs* differs from that of NGOs working on prevention of radicalization: FLPs prefer settling daily problems instead of addressing mid-term challenge of radicalization/transforming theory into practice (but: awareness of links between theory and practice is appreciated)



RECOMMENDATIONS

- *international organizations*
 - provide funds for follow up of the project as sustainability of the project activities is a fundamental requirement of FLPs
 - provide support for exclusively dialogue processes assisting set up of platforms and mechanisms
 - make distinction between the different political context and challenges in different regions of Europe
 - de-radicalization through MAA may not be limited to fight Islamism and terrorism
- *scholars/researchers*
 - develop theory on the basis of daily practice → share and assess best practices
 - raise public awareness: MAA being a “whole of sectors” approach is the complementary element/“brother” of the “whole of government” approach needed to counter extremism
- *implementers*
 - bring “high-level political” challenges to the earth: thoroughly map and tailor your program to daily local needs and jobs - each situation requires different approach
 - reckon with extra time for the design and preparation of each event to
 - keep vivid discussions under control
 - arrive at tangible results from the aspect of de-radicalization
 - keep up vigilance and interest of participants
 - avoid language of scholars (“polarization”, “radicalization”, “extremism” etc.) – it is not “sexy” for FLPs; instead: focus on phenomena/problems
 - save time and energy of FLPs by combining online and off-line formats of meetings





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