

THE YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND INNOVATION PROJECT

Preventing Radicalisation and Social Exclusion from the bottom up: Young People's Voices

Call for young researchers

General scope of the Project

The Youth Empowerment and Innovation Project ([YEIP](#)) is a 3-year Erasmus+ funded programme that aims to design a youth-led, positive policy prevention framework for tackling and preventing the marginalisation and violent radicalisation among young people in Europe. The project started in March 2017.

Led by young people and coordinated by the [IARS International Institute](#), YEIP is delivered in partnership with 18 partners from 7 EU countries (Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Romania, Sweden and UK) to construct and test innovative, policy intervention models founded on the principles of restorative justice, positive psychology and the Good Lives Model (GLM).

YEIP is implemented through the construction and field validation of tools (YEIP PREVENT model/ interventions, toolkit, training) in 4 environments: schools, universities, prisons, online.

The bulk of the work is structured in 4 scientific work packages:

Research phase with the final output to produce an [e-book](#). Chapters are produced in native languages, with executive summaries in English and a comparative chapter also in English.

Data collection through qualitative research in all participating countries to test assumptions made in the research phase, and create a tool as a final output. Training material will also be produced as part of the prevent toolkit for policy makers and practitioners.

Testing step: for the model and tool, and pilot of the findings through field trials in all participating countries.

Online survey to allow for quantitative triangulation across the EU. Two surveys will be created with one designed for young-people and another for professionals.

YEIP will lay the foundations for systemic change at the national level and EU levels. The ultimate objective is for the project to help implement the EU Youth Strategy's objective of preventing the factors that can lead to young people's social exclusion and radicalisation. The project is also in line with the EU's Counter-Terrorism Strategy of 2005 (revised in 2008 and 2014).

The success of this youth-led project will demonstrate to European citizens the leadership and determination of EC institutions in rooting out the reasons that lead to young peoples' marginalisation and radicalisation, firming up in this way trust and confidence.

YEIP is developed in response to the Call for proposals EACEA No 34/2015 Key Action 3: Support for policy reform - Initiatives for policy innovation – [European policy experimentations in the fields of Education, Training and Youth led by high-level public authorities]. The project is co-funded under Erasmus+ Grant Agreement N° 2016-2927/9.



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The project in Portugal

[INOVA+](#) is the Portuguese researcher of the project. The organization works closely with the Municipality of Oliveira de Azeméis, as public authority. During the first year of the project, INOVA+ focused on an extensive literature review on public policies and preventive programmes on radicalization of young people at risk in Portugal, especially in school and online contexts. The [study](#), published on the YEIP website, starts with a reflection on the key-concepts of the project, particularly radicalization and its meaning at national level. Thus, the reality of the Portuguese situation regarding extremism is currently significantly different from other European countries (see a brief reflection on radicalization [here](#))

Besides bibliographical research and within the objective of enriching the study, INOVA+ has organized, in September 2017, a focus group around the topic of YEIP, gathering public authorities (Municipalities of Oliveira de Azeméis and Matosinhos), academic actors (ISMAI, UCP, UFP), school workers and civil society (associations working with young people at risk). The project and the first findings of the [national report](#) on the state of art on radicalization in Portugal have been presented to the participants. Moreover, an interesting discussion has been led on the definition of radicalization in Portugal, the reality of the situation at local and national levels, and the relevance of implementing a preventive model on radicalization, particularly based on the Good Live Model and positive psychology.

Results have been equally presented, in January 2018, to a group of 26 young people of the Municipality of Oliveira de Azeméis, during a youth-led policy seminar, to collect the opinions and suggestions of the target group itself, within the objective of developing a preventive model that responds properly to the needs of young people at risk of marginalization and radicalization.

More recently, on January 22th 2018 in Modena, Italy, the first [YEIP international conference](#) “The prevention of radicalization of young people - Preventing Radicalisation and Social Exclusion from the bottom up: Young People’s Voices” took place. During this event, different interventions approached radicalization upon diverse aspects: legislation, criminality, positive psychology, mental health, interculturality and young people’s perspective.

More information about the progress of the project in Portugal [here](#) and [here](#).

More information on the [YEIP](#) website.

Call for young researchers

As the second phase of the projects starts, the YEIP partnership gives the opportunity to **9 young people (aged 18-24)** from Portugal to participate in the project as young researcher.

The Data Collection process will last until October 2018, and will consist in:

- A One-day Research training for the 9 selected young people (March-April 2018), on basics of qualitative research (concepts, methodology and tools), what is youth-led research, value and risks, how to define research questions, principles of questioning, organisation of and interpretation of qualitative data, and case studies. The participants will receive a certification for this recognized training;
- The organization and realization of a half-day focus group in the Municipality of Oliveira de Azeméis (April-May 2018), to address 20 students at school (Age 15-16) on marginalization and radicalization issues;
- The conduction and analyze of 25 semi-structured interviews (April-June 2018) with a sample of young people at risk, at local, regional and national levels;
- The contribution to the writing of a national study reporting the main findings of the data collection phase (June-September 2018), which will be published by IARS, as a YEIP product.

Eligibility:

- Be resident in Portugal;
- Be between 18 and 24 years-old (exceptions can be made, upon relevance);
- Be available to actively participate in **all** the activities mentioned above, of the Data Collection phase;
- Speak Portuguese and English fluently;
- Candidates do not need to have the Portuguese nationality to apply;
- Candidates do not need to be students to apply;

Application process:

1. Send the completed **form** attached, and a **CV**, to Aurélie Delater, Project Manager: aurelie.delater@inovamais.pt.
2. **Deadline: March 4th 2018.**
3. **Inova+** will examine the applications received and inform all participants about the outcomes of the first phase of the selection process.
4. INOVA+ will then select a short list of candidates for an **interview**.

