CIVIL SOCIETY IN PREVENTION AND COUNTERING OF VIOLENT EXTREMISM IN ALBANIA

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- Mapping Report–

FOREWORD

Civil society organisations (CSOs) in the Western Balkans have been increasingly encouraged to engage in prevention and countering of violent extremism (P/CVE) focusing primarily on countering radicalization leading to violence, but also on broader issues related to promoting tolerance, preventing hate speech, reconciliation, and civic education. The effective P/CVE programming in the Western Balkans requires the building of the capacities of te existing stakeholders in the local community in order to provide the P/CVE programs at the community level.

Therefore, a consortium made of six CSOs from the Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo[1], the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia) has simultaneously conducted a mapping of the range of stakeholders relevant for implementing P/CVE actions. This publication contains research findings on identified CSOs in national level, faith based organisations (FBOs) and formal and informal local community groups (LCGs), working in the field of P/CVE in Albania and provides understanding of quality and potentials of their relations with key local, national, and regional stakeholders from public, civic and business sector. The mapping has been done using a single robust mapping methodology deployed by each partner.

The Center for Legal Civic Initiatives (CLCI) engaged Av. Iris Aliaj as the expert responsible for conducting the national mapping process in Albania. The mapping process included 55 CSOs and FBOs operating both at national and local levels in the field of CVE and P/CVE. The methodology used in order to successfully conduct the mapping process included the use of structured questionnaires, meetings with relevant stakeholders, desk research, participation in different activities organized by CSOs, or donors/partners operating in this field in Albania.

This activity is part of the regional project "Communities First: Creation of Civil Society Hub to Prevent and Counter Violent Extremism—from prevention to reintegration" implemented by The Center for Legal Civic Initiatives (Albania), Hope and Homes for Children (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Partners Kosova - Center for Conflict Management (Kosovo), Forum MNE (Montenegro), Centre for Common Ground (Macedonia), and Cultural Center DamaD (Serbia) and financially supported by the European Union through Civil Society Facility and Media Programme 2016-2017, Consolidating Regional Thematic Networks of Civil Society Organisations.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

Civil Society Organizations - CSO

Decision of the Council of Ministers -DCM

The Center for the Coordination Countering Violent Extremism - CCCVE

The Ministry of the Interior - MI

The Ministry of Health and Social Protection - MHSP

Violent Extremism - VE

Countering Violent Extremism - CVE

Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism – P/CVE

The Albanian Helsinki Comittee – AHC

The Albanian Rehabilitation Center for Trauma and Torture - ARCT

I. Achievements. Overview of risks: information on the current violent extremist threat in the country, as seen primarily from the perspective of CSOs

The civil society in Albania acknowledges the legal, political and institutional developments for the prevention and countering violent extremism in Albania.

Different civil society organizations operating in this field, in their publications, appreciate the progress made to date following the implementation of the National Strategy and Action Plan against Violent Extremism. (November 2015)[2].

In this framework, we can mention several major achievements in the field of prevention and countering violent extremism such as the improvements made to the legal framework, particularly to the criminal legislation, the approval of the CVE's National Strategy, the establishing of the CVE National Coordinator's office and of the CVE Coordination Center, the undertaking of several insitutional reforms by the Albanian government, and the contribution made by the CSOs at local and national level implementing the projects for preventing and countering these phenomena. Furthermore, one of the positive aspects is that despite the program being an intervention, prevention or rehabilitation program, there is a wide range of initiatives and activities within. The thematic focus of the civil society organizations is wider, including different topics such as: tangible inititatives of the local authorities, schools, families, and young people working with regard to addressing the factors which lead to violent extremism, to buiding sustainable communities, to the piloting of Schools as Community Centers, to the strengthening of Community policing, to the increasing of the cooperation level between the civil society organizations and state institutions at local and central level, to the strengthening of the local stakeholders, to the upgrading of the research at local and central levels, etc. The work of the CSOs operating in this field has produced tangible results. Thus the promulgation of values of every religious belief and community, the decrease of religious incidents, the participation of religious communities, the CSOs, and local institutions in the security councils at local level, education through counter narratives for countering violent extremism and radicalization through social and traditional media, the work of local partners in addressing the push and pull factors related to violent extremism, the strengthening of responsible stakeholders at local level, etc., are some of the specific results.

In December 2017, The Coordination Center Countering Violent Extremism (CCCVE) was set up, with headquarters at the office of the former Ministry of

European Integration[3] operating under the authority of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Albania. In accordance with the Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 737, dated 13.12.2017, the mission of the Coordination Center is developing the capacities of various actors involved in actions countering violent extremism[4], preserving and promoting values of tolerance, religious harmony and protection of human rights, promoting rule of law performance and democratization process, and protecting the Albanian community from violent extremism[5].

In 2017, the Prime Minister appointed the Head of Coordination Center Countering Violent Extremism, Mr. Agron Sojati, in the position of National Coordinator Countering Violent Extremism, The Center became operational in June 2018, and by December 2018, it operates with 90% of its internal human capacities.

On the other hand, despite the progress, several substantial threats of violent extremism (VE) in the country, mainly observed from the CSOs point of view, have been identified:

Firstly, the community lacks sufficient information to understand the phenomenon, the factors, the groups at risk, the policies and the legislation in place and the structures in charge and their role in the implementation of these policies and laws for the prevention and fight against violent extremism and radicalization leading to terrorism,. With the view to enhance the information and community awareness regarding such a phenomenon, work is in progress with regard to those CSOs, which fail to cover the whole geographical area and which mostly result to be unstable and unproductive. As a consequence, the results are not always time sustainable and efficient.

Secondly, the risk of Violent Extremism phenomenon in the country is real.

"Roughly 150 Albanian citizens, among which 31 children and 13 women, have travelled to Syria in order to engage and assist the armed groups."[6]

Several individuals have been sentenced by the Serious Crimes Court[7] for commiting the criminal offences of: "Incitement, public calls and propaganda

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[3] At: Papa Gjon Pali II Street, No. 3, II Floor, E-mail: info@cve.gov.al / ëeb: ëëë.cve.gov.al.

[4] See http://www.qbz.gov.al/Botime/Akteindividuale/Janar%202017/Fletore%20225/VKM%20nr.%20737,%20date%2013.12.2017.pdf

[5] Zj. Klejda Ngjela,Head of Coordination Sector of Education and Scientific Research. The Coordination Center Countering Violent Extremism (CCCVE)

[6] Sandër Simoni, Manjola Xhaxho, Arbër Lloshi, Report on "The Extremism, Radicalization and Terrorism" Tirana 2018, p.14. This report was prepared in the framework of the project of "Prevention of violent extremism and radicalization in the Municipality of Roskovec and in the surrounding rural areas", implemented by the "Woman, Community, Environment" Center in cooperation with the Center for Legal Civic Initiatives (CLI), financially assisted by the "Civil Society Countering Violent Extremism" Project, a EU project and implemented by the Albanian Helsinki Committee, the Norwegian Helsinki Committee, the Dutch Helsinki Committee and the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Serbia and the "Together for Life" Association.

[7] Sander Simoni, Manjola Xhaxho, Arber Lloshi, Report on "The Extremism, Radicalization and Terrorism", Tirana 2018, p.15-16. This report was prepared in the framework of the project of "Prevention of violent extremism and radicalization in the Municipality of Roskovec and in the surrounding rural areas", implemented by the "Woman, Community, Environment" Center in cooperation with the Center for Legal Civic Inititatives (CLI), financially assisted by the "Civil Society Countering Violent Extremism" Project, a EU project and implemented by the Albanian Helsinki Committee, the Norwegian Helsinki Committee, the Dutch Helsinki Committee and the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Serbia and the "Together for Life" Association.

for committing act of terrorist intetntions" (Article 232 and 25 of the CC)[8], "Incitement of hatred or disputes" (Article 265 and 25 of the CC), "Recruitment of persons for committing acts of terrorist intention or financing terrorism" (Article 231 and 25 of the CC)[9], "Involvement in military operations in a foreign state" or participation as such, provided by Article 265/a/1 related to the Article 25 of the Criminal Code, etc.

The civil society organizations in Albania believe that the risk of violent extremism is real and present as far as the factors feeding this phenomenon such as social factors, behavioural factors realted to the vulnerability of certain groups, contributing factors such as unemployment, the weak link between the individual and the state, the low level of information on the phenomenon in question, the exclusion of the sense of belonging to the certain community, the spread of violence and discrimination in society, etc., exist. On the other hand the insight into the violent extremism and radicalization, the causes and contributing factors, has increased as far as the actors involved are concerned, the amount of information at community level needs to be increased. In a 2015 publication on religious radicalization[10], the Institute for Democracy and Mediation (IDM) made the following observation: "….the lack of civil society (in remote areas) or of the substantial measures in addressing issues related to poverty, youth and community has left behind a huge gap and has given way to (religious) radicalization."
 In the present climate, the civil society and other stakeholders at local and central level are aware of the fact that properly addressing the problems of poverty and vulnerability, of unemployment, etc. plays a major role in reducing the phenomenon of violent extremism and radicalization.

"…. the presence of religious extremist ideologies and individuals is confirmed…."[11]
 "The country's state of democracy and its current level of socio economic development raise concerns that they, in combination with other factors, may threaten specific groups in society through the power of manipulation of extremist ideologies"[12]

"The presence of religious extremists and individuals who exert pressure on religious believers to join extremist causes is confirmed in communes that have

[8] Decision no. 58 dated 03.05.2016 of the First Instance Court of Serious Crimes.

[9] Decision no. 46 dated 04.05.2017 of the First Instance Court of Serious Crimes.

[10] http://idmalbania.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/RadikalizmiFetar-webOK2.pdf

[11] Gjergji Vurmo & Enis Sulstarova, IDM, "Violent extremism in Albania", A national assessment of drivers, forms and threats. IDM Research Team: Gjergji Vurmo, Lead Researcher, Enis Sulstarova, Researcher, Aleka Papa, Researcher, Dalina Jashari, Researcher, Romario Shehu, Researcher. Tirana, October 2018, p.11. This study is prepared in the framework of the project "Reinforcing efforts and capacities to prevent violent extremism", supported financially by the Public Affairs Office of the US Embassy in Tirana. http://idmalbania.org/sq/study-violent-extremism-in-albania-november-2018/

[12] Gjergji Vurmo & Enis Sulstarova, IDM, "Violent extremism in Albania", A national assessment of drivers, forms and threats. IDM Research Team: Gjergji Vurmo, Lead Researcher, Enis Sulstarova, Researcher, Aleka Papa, Researcher, Dalina Jashari, Researcher, Romario Shehu, Researcher. Tirana, October 2018, p.11. This study is prepared in the framework of the project "Reinforcing efforts and capacities to prevent violent extremism", supported financially by the Public Affairs Office of the US Embassy in Tirana. http://idmalbania.org/sq/study-violent-extremism-in-albania-november-2018/

previously been unknown as hotspots by the community of C/PVE stakeholders and practitioners in Albania"[13]

Thirdly, while the threat of violent extremism is real, the structures responsive to this phenomenon are limited or newly established, some of them are under construction or building their capacities, with a fragile cooperation with the local government, civil society organizations, which operate at local and national level and other stakeholders.

The structures at local level, which tackle this phenomenon, are not established in all municipalities and in those municipalities where these structures are currently established, there is a need for capacity-building. This fact is of major concern if we take into account the fact that, in certain municipalities, the civil society organizations are limited in number and sometimes in their activity objectives.

Nevertheless, even in the municipalities with a strong and active civil society presence, the cooperation between the civil society, educational and religious institutions and local government units is mostly focused on the conducting of information and awareness-raising campaigns and less so on the identification of problems, real cases and their proper addressing.

Such a fact stems from the data gathered by the recent study on the role of stakeholders in preventing extremism. "The main three actors most frequently suggested by the surveyed Albanians (Table 6: Respondents'opinions on the most important actors to prevent the spread of religious extremism in Albania) include senior leaders of religious communities (41%), the media (37.3%) and local religious clerics (33%). This group of actors is closely followed by central government (26%) and civil society (25.8%)"[14].

Fourthly, the instuments used for preventing or countering violent extremism need to be tailored according to their specifics of the targeted groups and effective as such. Nevertheless there are positive examples.

One example is how the social media succeeds in conveying the message to different targeted groups. The use of social media by stakeholders operating in the field needs to be strategic and methodologically oriented towards different

[13] Gjergji Vurmo & Enis Sulstarova, IDM, "Violent extremism in Albania", A national assessment of drivers, forms and threats. IDM Research Team: Gjergji Vurmo, Lead Researcher, Enis Sulstarova, Researcher, Aleka Papa, Researcher, Dalina Jashari, Researcher, Romario Shehu, Researcher. Tirana, October 2018, p.11. This study is prepared in the framework of the project "Reinforcing efforts and capacities to prevent violent extremism", supported financially by the Public Affairs Office of the US Embassy in Tirana. http://idmalbania.org/sq/study-violent-extremism-in-albania-november-2018/

[14] Gjergji Vurmo & Enis Sulstarova, IDM, "Violent extremism in Albania", A national assessment of drivers, forms and threats. IDM Research Team: Gjergji Vurmo, Lead Researcher, Enis Sulstarova, Researcher, Aleka Papa, Researcher, Dalina Jashari, Researcher, Romario Shehu, Researcher. Tirana, October 2018, p.114. This study is prepared in the framework of the project "Reinforcing efforts and capacities to prevent violent extremism", supported financially by the Public Affairs Office of the US Embassy in Tirana. http://idmalbania.org/sq/study-violent-extremism-in-albania-november-2018/

groups, more vulnerable profiles, the youth, the unemployed, the women and returnees, etc. The descriptive communication of the activities of the civil society organizations is a common occurrence, mainly focused on the activities organized under the framework of the implementation of different projects and there is less content-based communication with the different groups in the community, tackling the phenomenon, its root causes, its drivers, or lessons learned from fighting it. The stakeholders should give more consideration to how much of the social media is consumed by these groups, such as the rural community, disabled people.

While the extremist elements in Albania have been quite successful in using the social media.

"The development of other forms of social communication, the social network, unlimited access constitute an opportunity to recruit young people. During the court proceedings in the Court of Serious Crimes, it resulted that the defendants, extremist elements of radical ideas, were regular users of the web, nearly 1500 people, most of them were young ones."[15].

The positive practice needs to be shared among actors at national level. Therefore, the Government of Albania, through the Coordination Center CVE, in cooperation with the CIJA organizations and with the financial support of the USA, has implemented the "Schools for Safer Communities" initiative, a programme aimed at educating teachers throughout Albania about the risks of radicalization and violent extremism among youth[16]. Such an initiative was tailored to the specifics of indirect and direct beneficiaries.

Fifthly, the national policies, which address this phenomenon, in the past, have not been thoroughly consulted with the civil society organizations and have not been properly financed while further complicating the implementation of their objectives[17].

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[15] Sandër Simoni, Manjola Xhaxho, Arbër Lloshi, Report on "Extremism, Radicalization and Terrorism", Tirana 2018, p.18. This report was prepared in the framework of the project of "Prevention of violent extremism and radicalization in the Municipality of Roskovec and in the surrounding rural areas", implemented by the "Woman, Community, Environment" Center in cooperation with the Center for Legal Civic Inititatives (CLI), financially assisted by the "Civil Society Countering Violent Extremism" Project, a EU project and implemented by the Albanian Helsinki Committee, the Norwegian Helsinki Committee, the Dutch Helsinki Committee and the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Serbia and the "Together for Life" Association.

[16] Through a series of Trainings for Trainers 28 000 teachers in the country were raised awareness , an activity that was realized on 12th of January 2018.

[17] The Strategy has four strategic objectives that are integrated within its core capacity-building mission of involving several actors, to effectively address the conditions leading to radicalization and violent extremism. In line with its mission, the proposed measures under the National Strategy are as follows:
- Strengthen coordination, cooperation and partnership at the local, national and international levels, between government agencies, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, religious communities and the media, in defining and implementing effective CVE measures;
- Encourage local research to better understand the conditions, factors and incentives that promote violent extremism and radicalization, as well as the current levels of community resistance to violent extremism;
- Reinforce community's resistance and shrink the causes of radical radicalization and violent extremism through community-based education and employment policies;
- Reducing the impact of violent extremism propaganda and online recruitment, by utilizing social media for designing and transmitting positive alternative messages. See http://www.qbz.gov.al/botime/fletore_zyrtare/2015/PDF-2015/203-2015.pdf

"2015 saw the approval of the Inter-sectorial National Strategy and Action Plan which apply a preventive approach against violent terrorism by identifying the community at risk of being victims of radicalization and by making use of instruments such as education and employment in order to hamper efforts made by different groups with the aim of recruiting. Alongside, the strategy points out the cooperation and coordination with stakeholders at local, national and international levels among state institutions identified above and non-governmental organizations, the private sector, religious community and media, as the approach for countering violent extremism within the country and also beyond Albania's borders."[18]

The National Strategy and the Action Plan (2015 – 2020) aim to follow the so-called "holistic approach". Regarding governmental institutions, the Ministry of Education and Sports, the Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Defense are foreseen to be the main contributions and play a facilitating role in the successful implementation of the National Strategy and Action Plan.[19] Based on the above-mentioned, there is a need to financially support the Action Plan in order to achieve the desired results. Prevention and countering violent extremism and the necessary measures are not fully integrated in the policies and action plans at the ministry level and even in those cases where there exist such an integration, the budgeting is still insufficient.

There are several opportunities for this integration of the responsible ministries. The Coordination Center of CVE has created the contact tree at local and central level, including all in-line ministries and other relevant actors. Regarding The Ministry of Health and Social Protection (formerly the Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth) the effective implementation of the employment strategies is of a high importance. This institution is in the process of implementing the national strategy for skills and employment (2014–2020) in Albania, where the identification of social inclusion is one of its main objectives. The national employment service also aims to promote improved and diversified active labor market policies and programs that will be made available to vulnerable groups in these areas.

There is a need to prioritize the cooperation among the social welfare experts and the mental health professionals in order to provide for sufficient service support and availability. The inclusion of the MHSP through providing the financial support according to the World Bank studies improves the living conditions of

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[18] The speech of the deputy minister of the Interior, Ms. Romina Kuko held at the Regional Conference Countering Violent Extremism, http://www.mb.gov.al/2018/06/04/konferenca-rajonale-kunder-ekstremizmit-te-dhunshem-kuko-forcuam-bashkepunimin-me-partneret-strategjike-fbi-e-cia/

[19] In this regard, see also Speeches by Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Niko Peleshi and by Deputy Minister of Interior, Mrs. Romina Kuko at the Conference Against Violent Extremism, held on 4 June 2018.
Available at https://kryeministria.al/newsroom/angazhim-maksimal-ne-luften-kunder-ekstremizmit-te-dhunshem/ and http://www.mb.gov.al/en/2018/06/04/konferenca-rajonale-kunder-ekstremizmit-te-dhunshem-kuko-forcuam-bashkepunimin-me-partneret-strategjike-fbi-e-cia/

the vulnerable groups in particular, including the fighter returnees. The state institutions, the non-state stakeholders, the religious communities and the civil society should coordinate their efforts to better operate in the fields of local governance, education, social, youth, employment and discrimination issues, etc.[20]

Regarding The Ministry of Education and Sports, it has played an important role through the organization of campaigns undertaken to raise community awareness countering violent extremism, namely with the "School as a community center" initiative. According to the Strategy for the Development of Pre-University Education (2014-2020), it plans to expand the "School as a Community Center" network in the following years. This measure will contain the following actions:

- Expand and expose the "School as a community center" network to problematic areas.
- Strengthen and train teachers to distinguish and respond to the signs of radicalization.
- Increase school support and extracurricular efforts in target schools in order to prevent radicalization, including civil and religious education, artistic and sporting initiatives, debate clubs, and similar activities that can increase resistance.[21]
- Addressing the socio-economic causes that promote radicalization and VE through providing vocational education and training, as well as employment services.

Regarding the Ministry of Interior – the "Community Policing" has been used as a tool. As part of its previous seven-year strategy (2007-2013), Albanian State Police included the "community policing" model to be implemented across the country. In this sense, the Albanian State Police, under the Ministry of the Interior, is to oversee the process of information sharing. This proactive and collaborative problem-solving approach, focused on prevention, is especially useful when dealing with threats related to violent extremism. Moreover, expanding and enhancing community policing skills, placing emphasis on preventing radicalism and VE , will be prioritized through the following action: Maximum utilization of community policing capacities in target areas.

With regard to the components of the consultation on policy and action plans and their respective budgeting, the situation is promising. Based on the official information issued by the Coordination Center of CVE, the Strategy Action Plan is being broken down in real and relevant sectorial activities to be implemented by every responsible Ministry. These activities will be budgeted according to the expertise of the international partners and will be shared among different actors of interest, including the civil society organizations.

[20] Data collected by IOM Albania.
[21] For more information, see e.g. pg. 4 of the National Strategy and Action Plan, available at http://www.mb.gov.al/files/documents_files/Strategjia_Kombëtare_për_Luftën_kundër_Ekstremizmit_të_dhunshëm_dhe_Planit_të_Veprimit.pdf

Sixthly, the contributing factors of the VE or radicalization occurrence in Albania are not only of ideological nature but mainly social and economic one. As a result, the successful prevention of this phenomenon might be carried out only through the application of previously established mechanisms such as the Referral Mechanism of the gender-based violence-related cases at national level, or the Child Protection Mechanism, etc.

II. Data collection. Methodology, Sources and Instruments;

The data incorporates the information collected by the following stakeholders:

a) Staff members of the Coordination Center Countering Violent Extremism (CCVE)[22];
b) Representatives of the local organizations;
c) Representative of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Presence, The International Office for Migration (IOM),Terre Des Hommes;
d) International donors operating in Albaniasuch as: The US Embassy, the EU through its support to the Albanian CSOs;

The sources and tools used for data collection are as follows:

a. Structured questionnaires;
b. Interviews/communications/meetings with:
     I. Representatives of the Coordination Center Countering Violent Extremism (CCVE);
     II. Representatives of the Security Council at municipality level;
     III. Mrs. Megi Llubani, representative of the OSCE Presence in Albania;
     IV. Representatives of the civil society organizations working in the field of prevention and countering violent extremism.
c. CSOs' reports and existing studies, particularly IDM reports, of the OSCE Presence in Albania, publications of the Albanian Helsinki Committee (AHC), studies and reports prepared by different civil society organizations.
d. Studies, articles, published works prepared by professors, experts and the academia, etc.
e. Evaluation reports of the CSOs' initiatives assisted by the European Commission and other donors;
f. Participation in different national and regional activities organized by CSOs operating in this field in Albania;
g. The social media of organizations, donors/partners, etc.
h. The organizing of a Round Table by the expert for the confirmation of findings, on 17.12.2018, with the participation of more than 25 CSOs[23].

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[22] The feedback of Ms. Klejda Ngjela, Head of the Coordination Sector of Education and Scientific Research;

[23] FOJF pjesëmarrëse në aktivitet ishin: Lëvizja Rinore Pukë, Tjetër Vizion", Woman Center for Development and Culture Albania, Qendra A.L.T.R.I, Qendra Rinore "Perspektiva", Qendra për Nisma Ligjore (QNL), People in Focus, Komiteti Shqiptar i Helsinkit (KShH), Terre des Hommes Albania, AWEN, WDN Albania, INAC, Qendra Këshillimore për Njerëzit me Aftësi të Kufizuar Shkodër (QKNJAK), CoDe Albania, Shoqata "Jona" Sarandë, Qendra e Koordinimit KEDH, ICC Albania, etj.

• **The sample:**

The organizations listed in Annex 1 have contributed in drafting the mapping report.

III. Analytical/descriptive section.

Qualitative evaluation. Identification of civil society organizations whose main work focus is P/CVE and CVE and their respective activities. Information on each organization identified is to be found in Annex I.

IV. Which are the fields of prevention and countering violent radicalization where the civil society organizations are most active?

"Some of the activities where civil society organizations have the capacity to get involved in preventing and addressing violent extremism are as follows:

a) Organizing activities whose main focus is the fostering of public debate and filtering of citizens' opinions regarding the issues raised and solutions offered when it comes to extremism;

b) Organizing activities such as roundtables, workshops and forums, which aim at establishing political, inter-religious and intercultural dialogue, as well as promoting tolerance regarding identity, culture, religion or human rights;

c) Building capacitites by training representatives of civil society, media, youth, religious communities, civil servants or stakeholders from the justice system, on a multifaceted wide spectrum (as per the needs of the representative group to be trained) of issues regarding the prevention and addressing of violent extremism;

d) Developing and implementing special programs with the focus on youth education and the integration of vulnerable groups which might be more at risk of falling victims of extremism or of being recruited by extremist groups.

e) Promoting public policies through lobbying and advocacy (including the identification of the problem and setting forth a series of recommendations regarding the areas exposed to PCVE);

f) Following-up, monitoring and assessing the implementation of the legal framework, of the strategic documents and other state institutions' policies, with the view to address and prevent violent extremis, etc.[24].

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[24] Izabela Kisic, Dushko Radosavleviq, Jarmila Bujak Stanko, Predrag Petroviq, Pavle Kilibarda, Pavel Domonji, "Violent extremism: the major challenge of our times. MANUAL FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS", p.31, 2018, http://www.ahc.org.al/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Manual_Ekstremizmit-1.pdf

V. Findings:

First, we have found that for the major part, the CSOs have been focused on raising the community's awareness, particularly in the school community, including the community of students, parents and teachers on the phenomenon in question.

Second, the civil society organizations have played an important role through their participation in the security councils at the local level, such as those established in the areas of Cërrik, Burrel, Elbasan Librazhd, etc. "The role of the civil society in the security councils at the local level is deemed to be of primary importance in identifying and analysing the needs and problems of the local community, in strengthening the participation, transparency and consultations. The civil society organizations migh as well contribute by drafting local security strategies and actions plans, by making recommendations and formulating professional opinions, or they might advocate for their upgrading in case such strategies and action plans are not yet in place. The CSOs might spread best work practices and models among councils in cities, municipalities or other areas, and they should serve as mediators for building the council network and for strengthening cooperation.[25] Nevertheless, there is a need for a more efficient involvement of the CSOs in these councils, not only in the area considered as "hot spots", but in the whole territory of Albania.

Third, we have found that there has been little engagement by the civil society organizations in monitoring the court proceedings of cases involving individuals, accused of violent extremism and terrorism. There is a need to further strengthen the role of the civil society organizations in monitoring the investigative and judiciary processes involving persons accused of violent extremism or terrorism, as well as to advocate the proper implementation of alternative measures as an important component of the role of the CSOs in the functioning of the law-enforcement institutions[26]. On the other hand, the monitoring results might help in preventing and countering radicalization and VE.

Fourth, the number of the organizations, which work for the reintegration of the returnees, needs to be increased. There is a need for covering more fields when it comes to the reintegration of individuals who have been victims of violent extremism and radicalization, and for making statistical data related to the number of Albanian returnees public and easily accessible to the CSOs;

[25] Izabela Kisic, Dushko Radosavleviq, Jarmila Bujak Stanko, Predrag Petroviq, Pavle Kilibarda, Pavel Domonji, "Violent extremism: the major challenge of our times. MANUAL FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS", p.31, 2018, http://www.ahc.org.al/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Manual_Ekstremizmit-1.pdf

[26] Izabela Kisic, Dushko Radosavleviq, Jarmila Bujak Stanko, Predrag Petroviq, Pavle Kilibarda, Pavel Domonji, "Violent extremism: the major challenge of our times. MANUAL FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS", p.31, 2018, http://www.ahc.org.al/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Manual_Ekstremizmit-1.pdf

Fifth, the issues of radicalization in prisons require further attention and addressing from the civil society organizations. There is a limited number of organizations whose focus is tackling such issues among which the Albanian Rehabilitation Center for Trauma and Torture (ARCT), the Albanian Helsinki Committee (AHC) and the Correctional Center (CC).

Six, there is a large number of civil society organizations which are engaged in activities that indirectly address the root causes of violent extremism. Such organizations are working on strengthening the role of young people and women, of the due legal process, of the anti-corruption, of the civil engagement, of the human rights, of democracy, of good governance, of the vocational training, education, building of trust, community engagement and conflict and dispute resolution. The aim of these organizations is not to prevent or counter violent extremism, but to contribute in the reduction of these phenomena or to build resilience against VE . for example the Counseling Line for men and boys in Tirana and the Counseling Office for Men and Boys in Shkodër[27], whose aim is the rehabilitation of abusers in the family relations and indirectly contribute in countering and preventing VE.

Seven, there has been an increase in the number of publications prepared by the experts in the field, which have contributed in raising the level of phenomenon-related information available to the community as well as with regard to the capacity-building of the civil society in this field.[27]

Eight, "several initiatives are undertaken by the civil society and the religious communities in Albania, with the view to prevent and counter violent extremism. Nevertheless, the main focus has been repressing and preventing violent extremism and no tanglible programs have been implemented to deal with individuals, groups, whose actions and calls are considered to be radical."[29]

Nine, international organizations have sustainably contributed in this field. "In 2018, the OSCE Presence in Albania has supported five young reserachers which are engaged in researching several VE-related topics. Their findings were presented in a conference held early this year.

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[27] http://www.clmb.al/; http://gruajatekgruaja.com/

[28] Some of the publications are: AHC "Violent extremism: a major challenge of our times", manual for the civil society organizations, 2018; AHC: "Togethre against violent extremism, terrorism, and radicalizations" – a brochure prepared by Prof. Dr. Arta Mandro, expert; AHC: The Civil society countering violent extremism", a brochure: IDM & Berghof Foundation, Redion Qirjazi & Romario Shehu, "Community Perspectives on preventing violent extremism in Albania", Case Study 4, 2018; Gjergji Vurmo & Enis Sulstarova, IDM, "Violent Extremism in Albania", 2018, OSCE 2014, Preventing terrorism and countering violent extremism and radicalization leading to terrorism: community policing approach, Enri Hide, "Risk assessment of the national secuitry / the state's ability to react; the birth of a new impact of radical and religious extremism in Albania", Albanian Institute for International Studies, Prof. Dr. Edmond Dragoti & Dr. Emanuela Ismaili, " National study on bullism and violent extremism in the Albanian Educational Syste" Tirane 2017 with the support of the EU and the Council of Europe, etc.

[29] IDM & Berghof, Redion Qirjazi & Romario Shehu, "Community Perspectives on preventing violent

Furthermore, during the October-November 2018 timeframe, the OSCE Presence in Albania with the help of a local expert on VE issues has organized workshops in 7 cities which are identified as hotspots. There has been engaged a total of 140 young people and the work will continue during the next year for promoting critical thinking, the building of capacities for personal dispute resolution and stripping the negative phenomena of the mythicism so often attached to religious discussions.

During 2018, the OSCE has also provided support to the Coordination Center for Countering Violent Extremism and they have jointly organized a national meeting, in cooperation with UNODC[30], on identifying the foreign fighters on cross-border checkpoints, on building the capacities of the Albanian authorities for such identification and on increasing the regional cooperation through the Albanian law-enforcement agencies and those of neighboring countries.

In the two-day trainings organized with members of security councils in three Albanian cities, the presence of the implementing partner (The Foundation for Local Autonomy and Governance) has assisted the drafting of the 2019 Action Plans which include measures to address VE issued in these cities.

In October 2018, with the assistance of the OSCE Secretariat in Vienna, there was introduced the role of civil society countering violent extremism bringing together state and non-state entities from the whole region of the Western Balkans with the view to share best experiences of the stakeholders in countering narratives and VE.

The OSCE is also supporting the training of trainers in a 5-day program in Skopje, where three young people from different cities of Albania are being provided with the appropriate knowledge to become peer-to-peer learners and leaders in their communities to address violent extremism. The OSCE Presence in Albania will continue to support these trainers in different activities at local level, for 2019. Every year, the Presence also supports Albanian public officials in the Pan-European Conference countering terrorism, where the Albanian party avails of the opportunity to present its approach countering violent extremism.[31]

VI. Achievements and goodpractices

• Dalina Jashari, IDM representative touches upon some major achievements in this regard: amendments to the Criminal Code of the Republic of Albania, the approval of the National Strategy Countering Violent Extremism, the setting-up of the office of the National Coordinator of CVE and of the Coordination Center for the CVE (by Decision of Council of Ministers, No. 737, dated 13.12.2017), the

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[30]   https://www.unodc.org/southeasterneurope/en/albania.html
[31] Information published on the role of the OSCE Presence in Albania has been officially provided.

undertaking by the Albanian Government of certain institutional reforms such as: ratification of CVE best practices, the building of training and logistical capacities regarding the Anti-terror Directorate, the upgrading of the monitoring skills and of the coordination between the secret services and the police, the raising of civil society awareness, the carrying-out of the evaluation of the phenomena of violent extremism and radicalization by external experts which will generate data sets and reommendations for the decision-makers and other stakeholders with regards to preventing violent extremism at local and central level.

• "The AHC has organized forums and trainings with different CSO with the view to strengthen the capacities of their representatives on the VE issues. Pursuing the same objective, the AHC has organized 10 trainings with the staff of the penitentiary system in Albania. Furthermore, it has organized 8 forums with high school students in different citites in order to inform the young people on such issues.

• The AHC in cooperation with the General Directorate of Prisons has contributed in drafting the Manual on "Managing and preventing Violent Extremism and Radicalization" with the view to unify the practices in use by the prison staff to handle the cases of potential radicalized prisoners, recently approved by the GDP".[32]

• A positive model is the participation of the CSOs' staff in the (ToT) trainings at national and regional level with the view to strengthen the capacities, exchange best experiences and practices.

VII. Which are the gaps identified in the direct or indirect involvement of the CSOs in issues such as preventing and countering violent extremism?

Regarding the CSOs, which are particularly focused on the prevention and countering of VE , the gaps identified are as follows:

• The phenomenon of violent extremism and radicalization which leads to terrorism is very dangerous and sensitive and it has most recently been given due consideration. Owing to the fact that it is a relatively new phenomenon in Albania, the Albanian society was not ready to deal with it, with regard to the institutional response, human resources, CSO – state entitites cooperation mechanisms and CSO – CSO cooperation mechanisms, etc.

• One of the gaps related to the civil society organizations' enagement in the field is the lack in capacities and human resources in their staff, in capacities on the monitoring and assessment of the projects implemented in the fields of CVE and P/CVE, etc.

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[32] Information provided by the Albanian Helsinki Committee (AHC).

• There are limited financial capacities of the civil society organizations, which are engaged to prevent and counter VE and radicalization leading to terrorism. The calls for projects published during the last years for contributing in this sector covered short periods of time and provided for limited financial support.

• The PVE programs have not sufficiently been adapted,to meet the needs of the targeted groups. "Prevention actions should be tailored to specific at-risk groups. Instead of working with an approach of "one size fits all", prevention actions should reflect the vast diversity of at-risks groups and drivers."[33]

• The financial support is too limited to address this phenomenon sustainably. The short-term projects implemented by the civil society organizations in Albania have had time-frames of on the average some months to one year and as such they do not provide opportunities for the organizatons to achieve the expected results;

• The level of coordination among the civil society organizations working in this field doesn't meet the expectations. Sustainable coordination mechanisms are absent other than under the framework of tangible project implementation;

• The cooperation among the CSOs and stakeholders at the local level such as the representatives of religious communities, social services, law-enforcement agencies, schools and local government has been more productive when part of projects and not as a sustainable approach of a clear and long-term plan.

• The drafting and implementation of concrete measures for VE activities and the disengagement and reintegration of the returnees and the detachment from the extreme and violent ideology of other "manipulated" religious devotees is considered highly risky by the civil society organizations. The insufficient level of cooperation among civil society organizations and the local government hampers the process of implementing the measures for the reintegration of the returnees, through service provision among others.

• The state doesn't financially support the civil society organizations working in this field. "The majority of the P/CVE initiatives are implemented by the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) with the support of the donations from different foreign donors. The donors are oriented by the government, mainly the Coordination Center for CVE, to address the financial support in this field, based on the identified needs. There has been identified an increase in the involvement of young people in CVE initiatives. Nevertheless, the programs which strengthen

[33] Gjergji Vurmo & Enis Sulstarova, IDM, "Violent extremism in Albania", A national assessment of drivers, forms and threats. IDM Research Team: Gjergji Vurmo, Lead Researcher, Enis Sulstarova, Researcher, Aleka Papa, Researcher, Dalina Jashari, Researcher, Romario Shehu, Researcher. Tirana, October 2018, p.12. This study is prepared in the framework of the project "Reinforcing efforts and capacities to prevent violent extremism", supported financially by the Public Affairs Office of the US Embassy in Tirana. http://idmalbania.org/sq/study-violent-extremism-in-albania-november-2018/

the role of young people and young leaders should gain more momentum and enlarge its scale.[34]

• It is found that there is an increase in the number of the young people engaged in the informative initiatives on the phenomenon at local level, the involvement of women and their role in the process needs to be strengthened. This might be achieved through close cooperation with the organizations which work for the rights of women and/or the networks[35] operating in this field. Such a cooperation will achieve the gender component inclusion in every activity or initiative undertaken by all actors, particularly the Coordination Center for CVE, whose prioriy is the gender component. The printed and electronic media are not thoroughly used at local level and the qualitative use of the media needs to be increased as far as the traditional and online media are concerned, while focusing more on the results of initiatives and the progressive ones.

• Despite an increase in the cooperation level of the civil society organizations with the experts and the academia, there is still room for improvement particularly at local level, at the Universities in Tirana and in other cities.

• More focus should be given to the projects' assessment and reflection on achievements and challenges. "It is not easy to assess the efficiency of these programs as they are all on-going ones. Furthermore, these programs are mostly concentrated on preventing violent extremism which translates in long-term expected project's results, making the short-term impact difficult to assess."[36]

a. The relation among the civil society organizations, local and central government and the private sector in the country. ///

• The cooperation between the civil society organizations and local and central government has been manifested in different forms such as: participation in activities organized by each party, organization of joint activities, facilitation in the organizing of activities, support in addressing factors which either contribute or stimulate violent extremism, assistance given in real cases, etc.

• The cooperation of civil society organizations with the state insitutions requires progressive redimensioning. It should follow the developments regarding the number of the identified individuals, terrorist fighters at national level, the numbr of the returnees, the number of the rehabilitated individuals and the risk monitoring.

The approach of the authorities to cooperate with the CSOs has reflected the idea that extremism issues fall under the domain of the law-enforcement agencies or the intelligence services and not an issue pertaining to a larger number of

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[34] Informacion i marrë nga IOM Albania.
[35] The Network of Monitoring Gender-Based Violence. https://rrjetikunderdhunesgjinore-monitorime.al/, Rrjeti AWEN;
[36] IDM & Berghof Foundation, Redion Qirjazi & Romario Shehu, "Community Perspectives on preventing violent extremism in Albania", Case Study 4, 2018, p. 28.

stakeholders at local and central level and as a community.

• There is a need to further expand the field of cooperation between the civil society organizations and state institutions at local and central level. Such expansion should cover fields such as: the cooperation with the Ministry of Justice with regard to training the personnel of prisons, of the probation service, of psychologists and/or social workers with the view to provide adequate treatment to the detainees and convicts sentenced for criminal offences which fall under VE and radicalization leading to terrorism; cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior regarding different initiatives pursuant to the Strategy and the Action Plan under the framework of community policing, cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Social Protection with the view of women involvement in these initiatives, pursuant to the National Strategy and Action Plan on Gender Equality (2016-2020), implementation of plans at municipality and qark level, etc.;

• The cooperation of CSOs operating in this domain with the private sector is almost nonexistent.

b. Which are the current mechanisms for the cooperation between the civil society organizations and the government as well as for the cooperation among the civil society organizations in our country?

As far as the cooperation mechanisms between the CSOs and the government is concerned, some of them are listed below:

• Community policing is a very important mechanism for the cooperation between the police and the civil society organizations with the view to prevent and counter violent extremism and radicalization leading to terrorism;
"The CSOs can organize awareness campaigns targeting citizens and explain to them what community policing is, what its advantages are and how they can benefit from it. The CSOs can share their knowledge and expertise regarding community policing in their local area and in other areas, in other cities and municipalities. They can serve as mediators or they can organize consultations with the citizens and police with the purpose of promoting and strengthening community policing. The CSOs can be the champions of drafting and improving the legal acts and by-laws, the strategies or action plans regarding the community policing, and they might make comments or suggestions when these acts are drafted as initiatives of the institutions themselves. Furthermore, the CSOs can monitor the implementation of the legal framework of community policing, organize surveys among citizens in order to evaluate their sensitivity and observations on this kind of policing, and lobby or advocate at the state institutions for the taking of adequate measures aiming at addressing the identified problems"[37]. The cooperation of police with the civil society organizations regarding community

[37] Izabela Kisic, Dushko Radosavleviq, Jarmila Bujak Stanko, Predrag Petroviq, Pavle Kilibarda, Pavel Domonji, "Ekstremizmi i dhunshëm sfida madhore e kohës sonë MANUAL PËR ORGANIZATAT E SHOQËRISË CIVILE", http://www.ahc.org.al/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Manual_Ekstremizmit-1.pdf

policing and the main objectives of this cooperation are tackled in various publications of the OSCE Presence in Albania[38].

• Sharing of best practices and challenges in joint activities at national and regional level, with the participation of representatives of the central and local governments and of the CSOs constitutes another mechanism;
A mechanism which needs to be further developed is fro the Coordination Center for CVE to take into consideration the reflections of the CSOs for the drafting of the strategies, action plans and their implementation in the whole country. Under this framework, the Coordination Center for the CVE will make use of its networks transforming them into open discussion platforms. One of them is the CSOs' network which will discuss and consult policies/activities, etc. Another important mechanism is the reviewing of the policies, action plans and their monitoring and the assessment of their implementation.

• The CSOs participation in the security councils of many municipalities is another form of cooperation between the local government and the CSOs. This is one of the mechanisms which enable the government to transform the policies and action plans into tangible results at local level. "The local civil society organizations often find themselves in a better position for identifying the local priorities and informing the national policy-makers and international stakeholdres on the risks associated with the use of a certain terminology"[39].

• The cooperation of the CSOs with the municipality, the police, the district courts, the prosecutor's district offices, the religious communities, etc. is of vital importance with regard to the well-functioning of the security councils. There need to be more effective mechanisms in place with regard to the CSO-central institutions cooperation in order to address the potential extremism and radicalization cases.

• As work is under way for the establishing and functioning of the efficient mechanisms in the field, the existing mechanisms of the Referral Mechanism on domestic violence, and the Child Protection Mechanism at local level might be used for preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization leading to terrorism.

• There have been no calls for projects from the state or central insitutions. "One of the objectives of the National Strategy is "strengthening the civil society with the aim of building community sustainability", but no substantial measure has been undertaken and no call for proposals has been issued by the state institutions to support the CSOs in the areas considered as hot spots, as set forth in the strategy. As a matter of fact, the CSOs have been relying on foreign grants for the implementation of P/CVE projects"[40].

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[38] OSBE 2014, Parandalimi i terrorizmit dhe lufta kundër ekstremizmit dhe radikalizmit të dhunshëm që favorizojnë terrorizmin: qasja e policimit në komunitet, p.155, https://www.osce.org/sq/secretariat/123186?download=true ;
[39] Eric Rosand, Emily Winterbotham, Michael Jones, Franziska Praxl-Tabuchi, A Roadmap to Progress, the state of the global p/cve agenda, The Prevention Project and Royal United Services Institute, p.26, September 2018;
[40] The questionnaire filled out by Dalina Jashari, IDM.

• A more creative and innovative communication strategy would enable more opprotunities for mechanisms of cooperation between the civil society organizations and local and central state institutions; "Nevertheless, little has been done for a larger engagement of different stakeholders, such as public officials, the academia, the media, civil society, religious communities and social workers"[41].

• There are also cooperation mechanisms between the CSOs and the central institutions which need further strengthening.. Thus, the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth is developing specific implementation plans for all educational elements of the National Strategy with the view to incorporate awareness programs in high schools, to raise awareness among young people on the risks and issues of the phenomenon in question. Nevertheless there is a need to better coordinate among national agencies, communes, civil society and other partners through the exchange of information and the coordination of real activities to prevent the spread of violent extremism.

• There is a need to further spread and promote the programs strengthening the role of young people and leaders.

• There is a need to prioritize the cooperation among the social welfare experts and the mental health professionals in order to provide for sufficient service support and availability. The integration of the MHSP and the financial support according to the World Bank studies improves the living conditions of the vulnerable groups in particular, including the fighter returnees. The state institutions, the non-state stakeholders, the religious communities and the civil society should coordinate their efforts to better operate in the fields of local governance, education, social, youth, employment and discrimination issues, etc[42]

c. As far as the CSO-CSO cooperation mechanisms are concerned, some of them are as follows:

• The subgranting mechanisms have provided for more cooperation opportunities by setting the prerequisite or the preference of project implementation in partnership and the implementation of projects by a local organization as a project leader . "….donors are increasingly more willing to put their resources in funding mechanisms that allow for sub-granting by larger organizations, including CSOs, which can quickly disburse and oversee (including handling often onerous donor reporting and monitoring requirements) small amounts of funding to smaller, grassroots actors"[43].

[41] The questionnaire filled out by Dalina Jashari, IDM.

[42] Information provided by IOM Albania.

Eric Rosand, Emily Winterbotham, Michael Jones, Franziska Praxl-Tabuchi, A Roadmap to Progress, the state of the global P/CVE agenda, The Prevention Project and Royal United Services Institute, p.20, September 2018;

Thus, the Helsinki Committee, under "The Civil Society countering violent extremism" Project, funded by the European Union has supported: 1. "Perspektiva" Youth Center, 2. UET Centre, 3. "Woman to Woman" Association, 4. The Albanian Muslim Intellectual Forum, 5. Open Doors, 6. "Agritra Vizion" Center, 7. The Center for Youth Progress, 8. The Albanian Institute for Public Affiars, 9. "The Youth Movement for Democracy" Center, 10. Nothern Roma Integration, 11. "I. The Woman" association, 12. People in Focus, 13. The Albanian Education Foundation, 14. The Netwowrk for Information and Active Civics, 15. The Albanian Institute for International Studies, 16. "The Democratic Integration and Development" Center, Kukës, 17. "Woman towards Development" Association Korçë, 18. The Woman – The Coomunity – the Environment, harmonized for Development, 19. The Social Integration Center, 20. The Counseling Center for People with Disabilities (CCPD).

In addition, "Terre des Hommes" Albania in cooperation with ISD, CCG and Bedër University, has provided support for 21 civil society organizations under the "Strenthening the Civil Society to build youth resilience to violent extremism", funded by the European Union. USAID has supported different civil society initiatives aiming at building capacities and increasing the local community active participation.[44]

• Roundtables / discussion forums with a wide range of participants from the CSOs which operate specifically or substantially in this domain, in order to better coordinate their activities pursuant to the national strategy countering violent extremism and radicalization.

• Another working mechanism has been the introduction of project-ideas by the applying organizations, which not only have increased the transparency in the civil society sector but have also supported in spreading best practices. Nevertheless, the cooperation between the CSOs operating in the field is still limited. They should coomunicate more as there are overlapping cases when it comes to initiatives, projects, programs, reports and studies.[45].

• An important recent development is the prioritizing of the support to the local organizations at grassroots level and to the local executives operating in this domain. This priority has on one side strengthened the local organizations' capacities and on the other side it has boosted the need for cooperation of these organizations with other more experienced ones not only in this field, but also with regard to the proposed initiatives, projects' management, etc.

Creation of opportunities whereby the grant recipient CSOs, through different activities, can share their achievements and challenges and set forth opportunities for further cooperation. These activities are organized with the participants

from the organizations which are directly involved in P/CVE and other relevant organizations.

The involvement of the CSOs' staff in (ToT) trainings at national and regional level, with the view to increase the capactites, exchange best practices and experiences.;

• The links between P/CVE and gender are becoming increasingly clear and they create many opportunities for the organizations, which are directly or indirectly involved in preventing and countering these phenomena. "The gender equality programs are increasingly popular for development organizations operating in the preventative space based on the assumption that progress on broader gender empowerment indicators can prevent radicalization to violence"[46].

• The connection with the human rights is also obvious. Violation of human rights is a key factor of violent extremism. This fact contributes in a stronger cooperation between the directly involved organizations and those indirectly involved in the field.

VIII. Which are the obstacles hampering cooperation between the CSOs and the government in directly or indirectly contributing to P/CVE and CVE?

• There are limited opportunities in practice for the policy-makers to hear from the CSOs and share with them the achievements, the results of the cooperation, the challenges, lessons learned be they positive or negative. The communication sustainability among them will translate in a more defined and productive cooperation.

• There are reports and studies focusing on giving insights on the phenomena, the legal framework, religious radicalization[47], etc., but there is only a limited number of studies and reports acknowledging the achievements of the stakeholders, including the CSOs operating in this domain, the challenges of state-CSO cooperation, the efficiency of the partnership and the existing mechanisms. The CSOs networking would help in upgrading this communication.

• The drafting and implementation of the local plans in this field, including the stakeholders responsible for their implementation as well as the respective budgets would reduce the risk of unplanned, understudied and unrelated local CSO's interventions.

[46] Eric Rosand, Emily Winterbotham, Michael Jones, Franziska Praxl-Tabuchi, A Roadmap to Progress, the state of the global P/CVE agenda, The Prevention Project and Royal United Services Institute, p.30, September 2018;

[47] GJERGJI VURMO, Main researcher and co-author BESFORT LAMALLARI, researcher and co-author ALEKA PAPA, researcher and contributing author ELONA DHËMBO, senior expert, "Religious radicalization and violent extremism in Albania", http://idmalbania.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/RadikalizmiFetar-webOK2.pdf

The short timeframe of the projects and budgets do not provide the sufficient opportunities for sustainable cooperation mechanisms among the civil society organizations and the government.

IX. Preliminary analysis of the strengths and opportunities of the local CSOs and the formal and informal community groups in developing and finalizing the programs for the prevention and countering these phenomena and policy issues.

a. Strengths:

• The number of the organizations which operate for awareness-raising, preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization leading to terrorism is increasing;

• As regards to the geographical distribution of initiatives, projects and programs, the Coordination Center countering VE has played an important role for orienting the CSOs and donors towards the hotspots and the needs for intervention. This Center has also oriented the donors and civil society organizations on the need for intervention in areas such as Cërriku, Bulqiza, the surrounding areas of Tirana, etc.

• The role of the Coordination Center countering VE has been crucial to the harmonizing of the activities organized by different CSOs, in order not to have overlapping of activities in the areas where they are deemed necessary. Thus, as a result of the work carried out by this Centre, a roundtable was organized in Shkoder with the support of UNDOC and OSCE on the border management and control and the links to terrorist fighters. ;

• Regardless of the project implementation timeframe and the modest budgets, the civil society organizations have tried to establish sustainability through the organizing of different activities. With regard to the work with the school community, the organizations have shard with teachers and headteachers different materials such as manuals, reports and guides which will serve the teachers and students to raise public awareness and prevention of violent extremism and radicalization leading to terrorism even after the implementation of the projects; Activites such as peer to peer educators and training for trainers dedicated to young people have also served to share the information with a large number of individuals after the project implementation. The strengthening of the skills of young students through trainings, aiming at their information, strengthening and engaging other peers is included in the projects of supported CSOs. For example the Youth Center of Pukë[48] has developed the skills of 80 young people selected among the high schools of Pukës and Fushë Arrës, in order for them to serve as mentors

[48] http://www.lrd-albania.org/

and suporters of other 14-18-year-olds who might be at risk in the rural areas of Pukë and Fushë Arrës, during the period January 2017 - April 2018. In the project implemented by the "Woman, Community, Environment, harmonized for development" Center in partnership with the Center for Legal Civic Initiatives during the year 2017-2018, have built the capacities of studnets of the Law Faculty, in order to share information on P/CEV in the area of Roskovec. These capacities will be used after the implementation of the project by the local organizations operating in this area.

• One of the positive aspects is that, despite the program being an intervention, prevention or rehabilitation program, there is a wide range of initiatives and activities within the program. The thematic focus of the civil society organizations is wider, including different topics such as: tangible inititatives of the local authorities, schools, families, and young people working with regard to addressing the factors which lead to violent extremism, to buiding sustainable communities, to the piloting of Schools as Community Centers, to the strengthening of Community policing, to the increasing of the cooperation level between the civil society organizations and state institutions at local and central level, to the strengthening of the local stakeholders, to the upgrading of the research at local and central levels, etc.

Representatives of Other Vision organization mention as some of the CSOs' strong points the achievement of the following results: the establishment of local security Councils at several municipalities such as Gramsh, Prrenjas and Peqin, increasing the level of information and capacities in youth, establishing CSOs network working in the field and institutions against VE, developing a mutual Strategy and Action Plan against VE and radicalism, opportunities created from projects on drafting and sharing several publication in the field, drafting of security plans on municipality level such as the municipality of Elbasan,etj

• The Analysis if the factors that increase vulnerability to VE and radicalization makes is clearer for the CSOs the focus of activities and initiatives to be undertaken, The families with no income or no sufficient incomes, the dissenters, the underachievers are identified as potentially at risk of falling victim to these phenomena. In such a situation, the economic empowering of these families and individuals, the social empowerment, their achievemnts, the strengthening of the individual – state link and the individual's perception of the state support are some of the pillars of the civil society organizations' work at local level, in cooperation with the responsible insitutions. ;

• The geographical focus of the initiatives is broadened while including the districts of Kukës, Dibër, Librazhd, Pogradec, Peqin, Cërrik, Tiranë, Korçë, Kavajë, etc. as well as certain rural areas such Dorez, Librazhd, villages of the administrative units of Kurjan, Kuman, in the municipality of Roskovec, etc.

• Some civil society organizations have gained a wide experience in this field through the implementation of projects for a longer period of time and in a more sustainable way. Thus IDM[49], AHC, ANTTARC, the Albanian Rehabilitation Center for Trauma and Torture (ARCT), etc have implemented a number of projects in the fields while building the capacities of their staff;.

• There are established organizations with a long-standing experience in implementing projects with a specific geographical or national focus.

• There are use different tools for conveying messages. The CSOs have made use of different communication strategies, awareness-raising video materials, art, etc. with the view to convey messages to targeted groups.

• There has been an increase in the number of ypung people ate community level as actors of change in the civil society programs.

• There has been an increase in acknowledging the role of women as actors of change in this field despite the need for further strengthening their role at local level;

The CVE Coordinator's Office has been a focal point in the cooperation of civil society organizations and it has supported the sharing of experiences.

• Thus, Ms. Antonjeta Pero, the Executive Director of the Conseling Center for People with Disabilities (CCPD) in Shkoder, values the communication and experience with 20 local organizations supported by the Albanian Helsinki Committee (AHC) in implementing the "Civil Society Countering Violent Extremism" Project. The CSOs have continuously cooperated with the National Center Countering Violent Extremism. Such a cooperation has provided best examples and practices from the respective offices of Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Hungary, United Emirates, which have shared their data on the phenomenon and their experience on how to counter and prevent it.

b. Opportunities

The global agenda in preventing and countering VE has improved regarding the number of programs, institutions and funds available to support such prorams. The issues related to preventing violent extremism and radicalization have been of major interest for the domestic and foreign donors, and as such the number and variety of the CSOs' activities in this field has increased. Due to the global

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[49] Some of the projects implemented by the IDM are: Prevention of (religious-based) radicalization in Albania, Strengthening the role of Local Partners in Preventing Violent Extremism. The Forum for researching Extremism in the Western Balkans, Opportunities for Preventing Violent extremism through intra and inter-regional cooperation, Boosting the efforts and capacities for the VE prevention. Beyond schools towards sustainable communities, etc. The studies prepared by the IDM along the years constitute a very important source of information for all state and non-state entities.

situation, other countries, particularly the neighboring countries of Albania are organizing similar activities. Such a regional interest and joint challenges have created the right conditions for the more experienced CSOs to implement regional projects. The U.S Embassy in Tirana has supported projects which directly aim at countering and preventing violent extremism and radicalization as well as projects which directly contribute at addressing such phenomena. The work with university students as drivers of change, the carrying out of studies and activities which aim at empowering communities, women and young people, the initiatives which aim at strengthening the role of the Coordination Center for Countering Violent Extremism (CCCVE), the prevention of VE in prisons, etc. are some of the initiatives supported by this civil society partner. "On 30 January, Ambassador Lu met with students from the Universities of Beder, Logos and "Zoja e Këshillit të Mirë", The Catholic Teological Institute in Shkodër, and the Orthodox Academy in Durrës in an open discussion".[50] In her speech held at the Conference "Violent Extremism in Albania", Chargé d'Affaires, Moses-ones highlighted that: "With the support of more than $5 million in U.S. assistance, we are working with you to build community resilience, empower women and youth, strengthen local governance, and promote moderate voices within religious communities."[51] The "Prevention of violent extremism"Project and rehabilitating programs, implemente by the Albanian Center for Torture and Trauma Rehabilitation, is supported by the Embassy of the Netherlands under the MATRA program; The Berghof Foundation supports the "Opportunities for Preventing Violent Extremism in the Western Balkans" Study Program; The Open Society Foundation in Albania (SOROS) has also provided support to the initiatives in this domain. The Council of Europe has supported several initiatives in this field, aiming to find effective means to fight bullying and extremism in the education system in Albania, etc. Another supporter has been the Austrian Development Agency.[53]

• As far as networking is concerned, the organizations' representatives state that they have benefited from such an experience of networking in: The Local P/CVE Network, Western Balkans Resonant Voice Inititative, etc.

• The Coordinator's Office is working with the view to set up seven networks focusing on the following directions: 1) the NPOs, 2) the Media; 3) Research; 4) Youth; 5) Belief; 6) Women; 7) Community Policing. The setting-up of these networks will be a major contribution to the joint efforts in drafting strategies and action plans with regard to their implementation while creating opportunities for those civil society organizations which want to contribute in this field, including youth, women, religious organizations, etc.

[50] https://al.usembassy.gov/sq/ambasadori-lu-bisedon-studente-universiteti-per-tolerancen-fetare/
[51] https://al.usembassy.gov/sq/fjala-e-te-ngarkuares-me-pune-leyla-moses-ones-ne-konferencen-kombetare-ekstremizmi-i-dhunshem-ne-shqiperi
[52] Project "Countering religious extremism in the media", implemented by the Albanian Media Institute is supported by the Austrian Development Agency.

• Efforts are being made by the Coordination Office to set up a dedicated network for the NPOs, which operate at national level. This network will be used to share official information from the Office to the NPOs, to give hot spot-related information to the NPOs in order to avoid overlapping, to receive information from the NPOs operating in this field at national level with the view to prepare and implement strategies and action plans countering violent extremism and radicalization;

• Developing policies and action plans constitute an opportunity for the civil society organizations. Every ministry is building the action plans for the prevention and countering of violent extremism and radicalization. The level of NPOs' involvement in drafting the action plans and tangible activity plans is still below expectations. This role is expected to be of great importance in the implementation stage.

• There is an increasing number of donors which support the NGOs' initiatives in this field. The US Embassy in Tirana, the Albanian Helsinki Committee (AHC) supported by European Commission funds, Terre Des Hommes, etc which other than the financial support are implementing by themselves many projects and initiatives countering VE and radicalization..

• The civil society organizations at local level are in a better position now because they know the context, the territory, the marginalized groups and the problems concerning the community. The trust that they have built at local level is an important driver in their efforts in this field

• Experience, information and best practices sharing and access to manuals are tools that strengthen the civil society organizations and their approach towards these phenomena;

• There is a need for more engagement in terms of local institutions and other stakeholders at community level, and this is a great opportunity to work with the civil society organizations. The wide range of pushing and pulling factors enables the engagement of the religious stakeholders, the local government, the NGOs and empowered citizens, etc.

• The universities, The Academy of Science, the Research Institutes, etc., are a good collaboration opportunity for the civil society organizations
Communicating the work results of the civil society organizations by means of a clear communication strategy and transparency and accountability plan is good opportunity to build the community's trust on the civil society and to increase the partnership's efficiency.

X. Preliminary analysis of weaknesses, challenges and barriers faced by the local CSOs and formal and informal community groups for the development of P/CVE programs and policy-related issues.

a. Weaknesses

• Among the weaknesses noticed are the blurred meaning of the basic concepts of violent extremism, radicalization, terrorism, etc and knowledge gaps. Another barrier is the fact that the organizations' staff lacks expertise in this field. There has been a scarcity of in-depth training available to organizations' staff or trainings involving all stakeholders, which would have contributed to achieve the expected results. The organizations' internal capacity building is a must. The sharing of lessons learned, of good and bad practices in building resilience countering violent extremism, of network's contribution at national and regional level would help the NPOs in building their capacities.

• There is a need for enhancing the active role of the civil society organizations with regard to the drafting of policies, action plans and their implementation at central and local level. The implementation of current policies and action plans should clearly define the partnerships with the civil society, the duties and liabilities of each partner.

• The CSOs have made it their focus the awareness raising on prevention and countering these phenomena at local level, but the awareness raising at central level is still deemed low.

• The role of the CSOs in providing special programs dedicated to anger management, or addressing the needs of the individual posing the risk of being drawn to violent extremism and radicalization, is far below the expectations These needs might be addressed only through cooperation with other responsible stakeholders.

• The lack of previous experience at NPOs' level in implementing projects with the focus on violent extremism and radicalization has been one of the technical barriers to the implementing organizations. The interviewed representatives of the grant recipient organizations expressed their concern that such a lack in the level of accumulated experiences has wasted their time and energy in achieving the desired results.

• Another weakness is perceived to be the particular attention given to certain areas while leaving unattended other areas, which might have equal needs. The activities seem to have been focused on certain areas/cities, which have been part of the media reporting for the recurrent cases of the phenomena in question.

As a result, other areas, which are equally exposed to the violent extremism and radicalization risk, are disregarded.

• Another result of the weaknesses' analysis is the implementation of the low budget projects, which target very small focus groups .

• The massive use of social media makes it for the radicals to communicate their extremist ideas. "The new methods and communication means allow for the radicals to emotionally impact people (particularly young people), to involve them into their activities, to promote their ideas, pleas and principles. The mobile communication, the multimedia and the information technology have transformed the interpersonal communication into massive communication. Consequently, the radicals can reach out to thousands of people".[53]

• The identification of individuals posing threats of extremism is a highly intricate process for the civil society organizations. There are cases that present an elevated risk when the organizations have to work with radicalized people or with criminals charged with terrorist acts;

• The lack of an effective mechanism for managing the identified cases is a severe problem, which demands a multidisciplinary approach. The existing mechanisms such as the Referral Mechanism on Domestic Violence at local level, the Child Protection Mechanism, etc. might be used on addressing these phenomena until the full functioning and establishing of specific mechanisms..

b. Challenges

• The interviewed representatives of the CSOs have identified as a challenge the fact that the topic is considered as judgemental toward certain religions, in case there is a lack in expertise among the staff working with these initiatives in this field;

• Due to the fact that many of the CSOs activities under the framework of awareness raising, have been school activities, a major challenge here has been their cooperation with the educational directorates and other educational insitutions. This situation is also due to the fact that different CSOs present requests to work with the school commuities and sometimes with the same schools. One of the challenges made known by the civil society organizations is the overload resulting from the managing of many activities in a very short time and the time wasted in trying to avoid the operlapping of projects as regards to this domain.

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[53] Information gathered by the questionnaires filled out by the Youth Center in Pukë.

• One of the issues raised is the wrong analogy made when comparing the situation of violent religion-based extremism in the EU and U.S.A with the situation as it is presented in Albania or the Balkans.

• One of the challenges faced by the local organizations is the need to build capacities in project management. Such a challenge was addressed through the cooperation of local organizations with the partner organizations or the ones providing support through grants, as it is the case of the Albanian Helsinki Committee, Terre Des Hommes, etc.

• The budgeting and time frame of the projects implemented by the NPOs have been limited while not giving way to sustainable initiatives. This requires from the civil society organizations to play a more active role at local level in order for the initiatives to be funded by the municipalities, the private sector or other stakeholders.

• One of the barriers faced by the civil society organizations during the project implementation has been the lack of trust in the civil society contribution;

• Another challenge for the implementing CSOs has been dealing with the issue under the light of security and not as a community issue. Guaranteeing the security of the staff of the civil society organizations operating in this field constitutes a challenge, which requires an effective cooperation with other stakeholders at the central level such as local police directorates, police commissariat, etc.

• Monitoring, evaluating and drawing conclusions from the project implementation in the field has been a challenge to the civil society organizations. The setting of a baseline and of well defined indicators to measure progress becomes a necessity.

ANNEX I
CSOs involved in the national mapping process

No.	Theme	Name of CSO / FBO	Geographic Focus	Website	Type of focus of activities
1.	Prevention and combating terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations ; Support in project implementatio, scientific research, trainings, coopera-tion with the state insitutios in charge; countering narra-tives and violent extremism.	OSCE Presence in Albania	Activities are organized in country;	https://www.osce.org/coun-tering-terrorism	"Prevention and countering violent extremism and radical-ization leading to terrorism" (VERLT).
2.	Community engage-ment/Awareness raising	Center for Youth Progress (CYP)	Municipality of Kukes	http://cyp.al	Prevention programming/ whole-of-society approach
3.	Community en-gagement/ early identification and prevention/deradi-calisation	The Albanian Rehabilitation Centre for Trau-ma and Torture (ARCT)	The territory of Albania	http://www.arct.org/index.php	Prevention programming
4.	Community en-gagement/early identification and prevention	Network for Information and Active Citizen-ship (INAC)	District of Elbasan	www.inac.org.al	Prevention programming/ whole-of-society approach

No.	Theme	Name of CSO / FBO	Geographic Focus	Website	Type of focus of activities
5.	Community engagement, teacher trainingdrafting teacher manual on preventing negative phenomena; Informal activities with the Municipality representative,religious communities, schools, parents,young people, etc. studies, "Assessment of drivers and recommendations for addressing the phenomenon; Extracurrucular activities, awareness raising activities.	Albanian Legal and Territorial Research Institute (ALTRI)	Pogradec,Tirana, Elbasan	www.altri.al	Prevention programming/ whole-of-society approach
6.	Raising awareness/informative sessions/scientific research /report drafting	Center for Legal Civic Initiatives (CLCI)	Roskovec	http://www.qag-al.org/ang/html/about.htm	Prevention programming/ whole-of-society approach
7.	Community engagement/trainings	International Ca – Operative Center Albania (ICC Albania)	National and regional	www.iccal.net	Prevention programming/Resilience
8.	Raising awareness/informative sessions/scientific research /report drafting	The "Woman, Community, Environment -Harmonized for Development" Center	Roskovec	https://www.facebook.com/GruajaKomunitetiMjedisi-harmonizuar-per-zhvillim-1678886 732364471/	Prevention programming/ whole-of-society approach
9.	Awareness raising, preparation of questionnaires on the phenomenon, organization of ToT and other regional forums	European Centre Foundation	Tirana, Elbasan, Pogradec	http://www.euro-centre.eu/kreu/	Prevention programming/
10.	Community engagement/Trainings	Advisory Center for People with Disabilities Shkodra (ACPD)	Shkodra, Lezha, Kukësi	http://www.qknjak.org/	Prevention programming/ whole-of-society approach

No.	Theme	Name of CSO / FBO	Geographic Focus	Website	Type of focus of activities
11.	Community engagement/awareness raising sessions	Albanian Muslim Intellectual Forum	Elbasan	www.cveinfo.al	Prevention programming/ whole-of-society approach/ resilience
12.	Trainings	Academy of Political Studies (APS)	National and international	www.asp.al	Prevention programming/ whole-of-society approach/ resilience
13.	Community engagement	"I, the Woman" Association	Municipality of Pogradec, District of Korça	https://www.unegruaja.org/what-we-do/	Prevention programming
14.	Raising awareness	Albanian Center for Public Communication (ACPC)	Paskuqan, Tirana	www.acpc.al	Prevention programming/ whole-of-society approach
15.	Trainings/mentoring	Positive Development Partnership - PDP	Pogradec	https://www.facebook.com/pdporganisation/	Prevention programming/ whole-of-society approach
16.	Raising awareness	"Agritra-Vision" Center	District of Dibra	www.agritra-vizion.com	Prevention programming
17.	Training sessions, capacity-building, informative sessions, re-integration of returnee fighters and of their families	IOM Albania	Albania	https://www.albania.iom.int/	Prevention programming/ Rehabilitation programming / whole-of-society approach /
18.	Trainings / /awareness raising activties	"Woman to Woman" Center	District of Shkodra; Municipality of Shkodra, Vau Dejes Municipality (Bushat and Barbullush), and Malësia e Madhe Municipality (Koplik and Hot).	www.gruajatekgruaja.com	Prevention programming/ whole-of-society approach
19.	Awareness raising activities / participation in Security Councils, training sessions	Inter-Religious Center Elbasan	Elbasan Prefecture, Elbasa, Cërrik, Gramsh and Belsh.	www.interreligiouscenter.com	Prevention programming/ whole-of-society approach/ resilience

No.	Theme	Name of CSO / FBO	Geographic Focus	Website	Type of focus of activities
20.	Community engagement and resilience	Institute for Democracy and Mediation (IDM Albania)	Kukës, Dibër, Librazhd, Pogradec, Peqin, Cërrik, Tiranë, Korçë, Kavajë	http://idmalbania.org/	Prevention programming/ whole-of-society approach/ resilience
21.	Community engagement	CoDe Albania	Municipality of Cërrik	http://codealbania.org	Prevention programming/ whole-of-society approach/ resilience
22.	Information sessions/capacity building	"Children Today" Center (QFS)	Dorez, Librazhd	www.femijetsot.org	Whole-of-society approach/ resilience
23.	Information sessions	"Another Vision" Center	District of Elbasan (District of Prrenjas, Cerrik, Elbasan)	www. tjetervizion. org.al	Prevention programming/ whole-of-society approach
24.	Community resilience	Bedër University	Tirana	https://www. beder.edu.al/	Prevention programming / whole-of-society approach/ resilience
25.	Informative sessions	Youth Center Perspektiva	Dibra, Elbasan, Kukës	https://perspektiva4youth.org/	Prevention programming
26.	Informative sessions	UET Center	Elbasan	https://www. uetcentre.org/ portal/	Prevention programming
27.	Community involvement	The Center for Social Research in Health Quality (CHRHQ)	Municipality of Pogradecit, Korça District	https://www. qkscsh. org/?lang=en	Prevention programming

No.	Theme	Name of CSO / FBO	Geographic Focus	Website	Type of focus of activities
28.	Informative sessions	Open Doors	Elbasan	http://wwww.opendoors-albania.org/index.php?lang=sq	Prevention programming
29.	Informative sessions	Observatory for Children and Youth Rights	Pogradec, Tirana, Elbasan	http://observator.org.al/	Prevention programming
30.	Informative sessions	Albanian Public Institute for Public Affairs (AIPA)	The district of Korça	http://aipa.al/	Prevention programming
31.	Community resilience	Integration of Roma Community of the North Association	Lezha	https://www.facebook.com/Integrimi-i-Romeve-te-Veriut-584974618379876/	Prevention programming
32.	Informative sessions	People in Focus Albania	Has Municipality	https://www.facebook.com/peopleinfocus1/	Prevention programming
33.	Academic research	Albanian Education Foundation	Shkodra	https://www.facebook.com/fashfanpage/	Building community resilience
34.	Informative sessions	Youth Center Puka	Municipality of Puka, Municipality of Fush-arrez Administrative Units of Gjegjan	https://www.facebook.com/levizjarinore.puke.5	Whole-of-society approach/ building community resilience
35.	Trainings/Informative sessions/academic research	Albanian Institute for International Studies (AIIS)	National and regional	wwww.aiis-albania.org	Whole-of-society approach/ building community resilience

No.	Theme	Name of CSO / FBO	Geographic Focus	Website	Type of focus of activities
36.	Activities, trainings, awreness raising, research and informative sessions	"Woman Center for Development and Culture" Organization	National and regional	https://wcdc.al/	Awareness and prevention programing / Capacity building and countering narratives/ Whole-of-society approach/ building community resilience
37.	Launching the National Strategy Countering Violent Extremism	YMCA Tirana, Albania	Kashar (Yzberisht, Mëzez, Katund i Ri)	www.ymcatirana.ëordpress.com	Prevention programming / building community resilience
38.	Informative Sessions with young people/ building community resilience	Youth for Integration Activism and awareness - RIAS	Pogradec	https://www.facebook.com/pg/RIASorganization/about/?ref=page_internal	Prevention programming / Whole-of-society approach/ building community resilience
39.	Informative Sessions with young people/ building community resilience	The Board of the Youth Council Pogradec	Pogradec	https://brkp.wordpress.com/about/	Prevention programming / Whole-of-society approach/ building community resilience
40.	Trainings informative activities / building community resilience / scientific research / advocacy / sub-granting / manual drafting	Albanian Helsinki Committee (AHC)	The territory of Albania	http://www.ahc.org.al/?lang=en	Prevention programming / whole-of-society approach / building community resilience
41	Grant-based support provision	US Embassy in Albania	The territory of Albania	https://al.usembassy.go/	Prevention programming / whole-of-society approach / building community resilience
42	Trainings/informative activities/ building community resilience / scientific research / advocacy / sub-granting	Terre des Hommes Albania	The territory of Albania	https://www.tdh.ch/en	Prevention programming / whole-of-society approach / building community res
43	Informative activities with schools, trainings and building community resilience	'Pashko' European Institute	Kamez, Tirane	http://www.pashkoinstitute.org/about-us/	Prevention programming / whole-of-society approach / building community resilience

No.	Theme	Name of CSO / FBO	Geographic Focus	Website	Type of focus of activities
44	Training with Security Councils' members; Drafting of action plans for the year 2019	The Foundation for Local Autonomy and Governance	Cërrik, Elbasan and Librazhd	http://flag-al.org/	Prevention programming / whole-of-the-society approach
45	Informative activities with schools	"Woman in Development" Association Korçë	Korça	https://gzhk.org/	Prevention programming / whole-of-the-society approach
46	Awareness and informative activities	The Center for Democratic Integration and Development - Kukës - CDID	Kukës, Has	-	Prevention programming / Whole-of-society approach/
47	Awareness and informative activities	ANTTARC	The territory of Albania	http://anttarc.org/	Prevention programming / Whole-of-society approach/ building community resilience
48	Awareness and informative activities/ establishing a Local Council for Public Security	GUS Albania	The territory of Albania	https://gusalbania.al/	Prevention programming / Whole-of-society approach/ building community resilience
49	Trainingsinformative activtities / building community resilience/scientific research/advocacy/ sub-granting	"Together for Life" Association	The territory of Albania	http://together-forlife.org.al/sq/	Prevention programming / Whole-of-society approach/ building community resilience
50	Informative sessions with schools/ building community resilience	International Association for Solidarity (IAS)	Kombinat	http://www.shisalbania.org/	Prevention programming / Whole-of-society approach/ building community resilience
51	Informative activities	Infinit +	The territory of Albania	http://infinitplusi.com/	Prevention programming / Whole-of-society approach/ building community resilience

No.	Theme	Name of CSO / FBO	Geographic Focus	Website	Type of focus of activities
52	Promotion of youth employment and enterprise, drafting a local plan for youth employment ; awareness activities	Social Integration Center	Elbasan	www.facebook.com/Qendra-e-Integrimit-Social-2612688 37607959 /?tn-str =k*F	Prevention programming / Whole-of-society approach/ building community resilience
53	Rehabilitation of returnee fighters through weekly religious activitiesorganized in prisons	Center for Human Correction (CHC)	The territory of Albania		Rehabilitation programing
54	Awareness activities, training the community on P/CVE	In the Family for the Family	Cërrik and Belsh	www.nfpf.org.al	Prevention programming / Whole-of-society approach/ building community resilience
55	Awareness activities, trainings, , capacity building workshops , research and report on push and pull factors of P/CVE.	Focus Center	Tirana and Pogradec	www. facebook .com/ qendra Fokus/	Prevention programming / Whole-of-society approach/ building community resilience

ANNEX II

Definitions

Having in mind that terminology around violent extremism and preventing and countering can be confusing and problematic - terms are often politicized and used interchangeably and often without clear definition, resulting in the same terms being used to describe different approaches - for the purposes of this mapping, definitions developed by the Regional Cooperation Council as part of its Regional Platform for Countering Radicalization and Violent Extremism Leading to Terrorism and Recruitment of Foreign Terrorist Fighters were used:

I. violent extremism (VE): The name for the phenomenon whereby people or groups, in pursuit of their ideological goal, display a willingness to use violence as the ultimate consequence of their extremist way of thinking; the use of violence to pursue political goals; the process of taking extremist/radical (political, religious, or ideological) views and putting them into violent action.

II. preventing and countering violent extremism (P/CVE): Using non-coercive means that seek to address the drivers or root causes of violent extremism. According to UNDP, "a distinction can usually be drawn between CVE, which is focused on countering the activities of existing violent extremists, and PVE, which is focused on preventing the further spread of violent extremism. However, in practice, initiatives will frequently work on both aspects, with a combined approach." This mapping should include CSOs, inter alia, working on projects that are labeled or otherwise described as "CVE", "PVE", or "P/CVE".

Additional relevant definitions:

P/CVE-specific: CSOs listed in the mapping should be classified as P/CVE-specific when engaged in the following activities: preventing and countering violent extremism, deradicalization, disengagement and reintegration, counter-narrative and counter-messaging, and building community resilience to violent extremism. Such activities are designed with the explicit goal of reducing or building resilience to violent extremism.

De-radicalization: the social and psychological process whereby an individual's commitment to, and involvement in, violent extremism is reduced to the extent that they are no longer at risk of involvement and engagement in violent activity, i.e., rejecting the underling violent ideology or belief and the commitment to use violence to advance it. De-radicalisation may also refer to any initiative that tries to achieve a reduction of risk of re-offending through addressing specific and relevant disengagement issues. De-radicalisation implies a different change than

that associated with disengagement alone: it implies change at a cognitive level, not simply the physical cessation of some observable behaviour.

Disengagement: the process whereby an individual experiences a change in role or function that is usually associated with a reduction of violent participation – i.e., foreswearing violence rather than the underlying ideology or beliefs.. It may not necessarily involve leaving the violent extremism organization or movement. Additionally, whole disengagement may stem from role change, that role change may be influenced by psychological factors such as disillusionment, burnout, or the failure to reach the expectations that influenced initial involvement. This can lead to a member seeking a different role or roles within the movement.

Reintegration: the process whereby a returning "foreign terrorist fighter" (FTF) or former violent extremist who is deemed not to pose a security threat is provided psycho-social support, education, employment, or training to facilitate their re-entry in the community from which they originated or another appropriate community.

Counter-narrative/messaging: messaging that offers an alternative view to extremist recruitment and propaganda. Messaging can provide an alternative answer or path to potential recruits who may be seeking guidance or meaning. Counter-narrative messaging may also seek to deconstruct extremist narratives and expose logical flaws..

Community resilience: the ability of a community to withstand, respond to and recover from a wide range of harmful and adverse events. [Note: depending on the design/target of a "community resilience" program, these efforts could be categorized as P/CVE-specific or P/CVE-relevant.]

P/CVE-relevant: CSOs listed in the mapping are classified as P/CVE-relevant when engaged in activities that indirectly address the drivers of violent extremism through: youth and women's empowerment, rule of law, anti-corruption, civic engagement, human rights, democracy, good governance, vocational training, education, trust-building and community engagement, and conflict resolution. P/CVE-relevant activities are ones the purpose of which is not to prevent or counter violent extremism, but which nevertheless contribute to reducing or building resilience against violent extremism.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Communities First is a regional Western Balkans civil society platform for P/CVE lead by consortium of six non-governmental organisations from Montenegro, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, and Serbia. This three-year initiative is focused on fostering national and regional co-operation among grassroots CSOs, faith based organisations, and community activists engaged in P/CVE. The goal of the program is to empower these actors, to increase their capacity, improve efficiency and accountability, and to enable them to become more effective influencers of relevant P/CVE policies.

Activities include: mapping of CSO-led P/CVE programmes and initiatives; developing online CSOs' hub for sharing good practices, resources and increasing regional cooperation; capacity building and mentoring programmes; and creating and implementing small grant programme.

ABOUT THE CENTER FOR LEGAL CIVIC INITIATIVES (CLCI)

The Center for Legal Civic Initiatives (CLCI) is an Albanian non-profit organization, with head offices in Tirana established since November of 1997. CLCI operates as a legal service center for vulnerable groups, focusing especially on women who have been victims of domestic violence and/or victims of gender-based discrimination, with the aim of increasing their access to the Albanian justice system. All services are provided for FREE.