



# CIVIL SOCIETY IN PREVENTING AND COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM IN MACEDONIA



This project is funded by  
the European Union



*Disclaimer: This publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.*

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Publisher: Centre for Common Ground Macedonia  
M.T Gologanov, 54/1-7,  
1000 Skopje, Macedonia

For the Publisher: Vilma Venkovska Milchev

Circulation: 100 copies

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- Mapping Report -

October 2018,  
Skopje

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## FOREWORD

Civil society organisations (CSO) 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. A key barrier to effective programming on P/CVE within the Western Balkans remains the lack of understanding of existing local community actors that have the capacity and credibility to deliver P/CVE programming at a grass-roots level. Therefore, a consortium made of six CSOs from the Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo<sup>1</sup> 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, faith-based organisations (FBOs) and formal and informal local community groups (LCGs), working in the field of P/CVE in Macedonia 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. Center for Common Ground has engaged the local organization *Democracy Lab* and their research team on P/CVE to conduct the mapping in Macedonia.

The 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 Forum MNE (Montenegro), Center for Legal Civic Initiatives (Albania), Hope and Homes for Children (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Partners Kosova - Center for Conflict Management (Kosovo), Cultural Center DamaD (Serbia) and Center for Common Ground (Macedonia) and is 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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<sup>1</sup> This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244 (1999) and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

## Executive Summary

Threats of violent extremism are global ones – no country is immune to its dangers. The Western Balkan countries are not an exception, especially having in mind its pace of overcoming the legacy of conflicts and creating a process based on the rule of law. According to the available data from the end of 2012 to the beginning of 2016 about 950 people from the Western Balkans travelled to Syria and Iraq<sup>2</sup>.

While there has been an increase in efforts regarding P/CVE in the past year or so in Macedonia, which have been mainly supported by the international community, significant gaps remain in Macedonia's efforts to address the issue. Chief among these is the overreliance on international funding for P/CVE, which limits the extent to which public institutions and organizations can take ownership of the issue. At the same time, there is a lack of work in several critical areas, including de-radicalization, rehabilitation, and work with families of returned foreign terrorist fighters.

Finally, there has been too much emphasis in the country on specifically Islamist extremism, with little to no attention paid to others forms of extremism, such as right-wing and nationalist extremism. This was to some extent donor-driven and has the potential to further isolate individuals who might feel targeted by the emphasis, which can make their radicalization more likely.

<sup>2</sup> Azinović, V. (Ed.). (2017). *Between Salvation and Terror: Radicalization and the Foreign Fighter Phenomenon in the Western Balkans*. Sarajevo

## Methodology

The research was conducted with aim to map civil society organizations (CSOs)<sup>3</sup>, which include faith-based organizations (FBOs), and formal and informal local community groups (LCGs), working in the field of prevention and countering violent extremism (P/CVE) in Macedonia.

It included:

- a. CSOs that engage in P/CVE-specific activities that either directly address the drivers of violent extremism across or within a part of the country;
- b. CSOs that engage in and/or P/CVE-relevant activities that indirectly address the drivers of violent extremism across or within a part of the country;
- c. CSOs that do not carry out any P/CVE-specific or P/CVE-relevant work at present, but which, based on their current mandate, might be interested in participating in the program;
- d. Practical mechanisms currently in place for CSO-to-CSO cooperation and CSO-government cooperation within the country; and
- e. Completed, on-going, and planned P/CVE-specific and P/CVE-relevant projects implemented by above-mentioned CSOs.

The study was undertaken by firstly performing desktop research on relevant actors in the CSO and FBO sector that do work related to P/CVE. Following this, questionnaires were sent to about 30 CSOs that we perceived that are working or are interested in working on P/CVE. These questionnaires included questions about the structure of the organization, the types of projects they do, who their main end receivers are, and most importantly whether they work on P/CVE. If they do, in what capacity, and if not, what would be their interest in working in it in the future. Further, we conducted five interviews with relevant stakeholders from the government, from the international community in Macedonia, and international organizations.

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<sup>3</sup> Following the EU's most recent definition of CSO, they include "non-governmental organizations, organizations representing indigenous peoples, organizations representing national and/ or ethnic minorities, diaspora organizations, migrants' organizations in partner countries, local traders' associations and citizens' groups, cooperatives, employers' associations and trade unions (social partners), organizations representing economic and social interests, organizations fighting corruption and fraud and promoting good governance, civil rights organizations and organizations combating discrimination, local organizations (including networks) involved in decentralized regional cooperation and integration, consumer organizations, women's and youth organizations, environmental, teaching, cultural, research and scientific organizations, universities, churches and religious associations and communities, philosophical and non-confessional organizations, the media and any non-governmental associations and independent foundations." Multiannual Indicative Programme for the Thematic Programme "Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities" for the period 2014-2020, C(2014) 4865 final, 15.7.2014, p.4.

## Overview of the state of affairs regarding P/CVE in Macedonia

When analysing the efforts in regard to P/CVE in the Republic of Macedonia, it is important to keep in mind that they are several years behind in comparison to Kosovo and Albania. This is so, partly due to the political crisis that engulfed the country. For several years, areas of work like P/CVE were put on the side, with the resolving of the crisis being the main priority. After June 2017, when the crisis was finally resolved, and a new government took power, CVE has once again become a priority for the government, as well as other international stakeholders. The previous government did work on a strategy for CT in 2015, and on March 15th, 2016 the National strategy for combating terrorism was approved by the government. However, due to the political crisis, this strategy had not been implemented at all.

In 2017, the national CVE and CT coordinators for Macedonia were appointed, with a CVE strategy being drafted and approved by the Government in March 2018. These were positive steps for Macedonia because nothing like these steps had been carried out before. The coordinators, although lacking financial and human resources, have set a solid foundation for continued intergovernmental and civil society cooperation, which can be further improved in the future.

Regarding international actors and donors, the most active bodies are the U.S. Embassy, USAID, the British Embassy, the Dutch Embassy, the German Embassy, OSCE, IOM (which is implementing projects in several municipalities in Macedonia, including Saraj, Vrapciste, Studencani, Labunista, Lipkovo, Tetovo, and Shipkovic), and Hedayah. The donors have regular meetings where they discuss new **events** in the field of CVE, and try to ensure that there are no overlaps in funding. No funding has been provided by Macedonian governmental bodies for P/CVE efforts for CSOs which in turn means that CSOs are dependent on international donors for these sorts of projects. This could be a challenge, as it is important for P/CVE efforts to be sustainable and supported by local and national authorities to have more effect and promote local ownership of the process. It is important to note that there is generally a lack of governmental funding of CSOs in general, and not just on issues related to P/CVE. However, some funds have been made available to higher-priority areas of work for CSOs, such as EU and NATO integration, while none had been allotted for P/CVE.

When it comes to CSO-governmental institution cooperation on P/CVE, most occurs through the National P/CVE Coordination body. This body has not until this point established a formal channel of communication with CSOs, but does meet with them on an ad-hoc basis and has expressed its awareness of the need to formalize and regularize these meetings. In addition, there are no official



channels of communication between CSOs, or other relevant stakeholders such as local authorities.

The number of CSOs that are working in the area of P/CVE is on the rise. Only 2 years ago, there were no more than 3 CSOs, mainly focusing on research. Several extensive research projects have been conducted with a focus on country specifics of VE, including push and pull factors, communities at risk, and the institutional response, or lack of it. If additional research is to be conducted, it should be more targeted at a specific area of CVE, or community that has not been researched before.

At the moment there are several significant P/CVE projects that are taking place. The Mothers Circle, implemented by ZIP institute under the guidance of Women Without Borders, is a continuation of the Mother Schools that was implemented by Analytica Think Tank in 2016/17. The Mother Circles is significant and unique as it explores the parent-child and student-teacher relationship, and supports mothers and teachers to continue to engage regularly and in a structured way, so they can effectively strengthen the resilience of youth to VE. Center for Research and Policymaking (CRPM) is leading a consortium that is carrying out a project that is aiming to strengthen front-line school workers and parents in helping youth build resilience against violent extremism. The Institute for peace, security and policy research “Konica” leads a training of trainings with 6 retired policemen on Community Policing, who should then train another 120 active policemen on a national level.

When it comes to community engagement, and building resilience, there have also been several projects conducted. The IOM has been very active in several municipalities in Macedonia, with youth-led initiatives, community dialogues, and parents and teachers training. Additionally, IOM works on supporting the office of the National Coordinator in the first phases of introducing a local referral mechanism in Macedonia. Center for Common Ground is leading a project to establish in the three municipalities of Chair, Gostivar and Kicevo, a Community Action Team (CAT), a local multi-stakeholder council, with a specific focus on P/CVE to draft and implement Local Action Plans. Civil – Center for freedom is also implementing a project “Communities against violent extremism” with local communities in Chair, Gazi Baba and Veles municipalities to identify and address factors of radicalization. Finally, Democracy Lab has been leading several initiatives on P/CVE including Community Dialogues as a result of a research project in partnership with Berghof Foundation to disseminate findings and provide community solutions with local stakeholder and community members and a Youth and Community Center in Gostivar to provide the community members alternatives, as well as to educate youth at risk with life-skills and build community resilience.

Currently, there is a lack of work in the field of disengagement, resocialization and reintegration of former FTFs, whether through prison programmes or other community programs. This seems to currently be the greatest gap, which has been acknowledged by several stakeholders in CVE.

Until this point, the majority of the research and activities to do with P/CVE undertaken by CSOs and intergovernmental initiatives have focused only on Islamist forms of extremism. This focus is potentially detrimental in that it has the potential of creating further divisions and feelings of marginalization and exclusion on the part of Muslims in the Macedonian society. This could result in that community feeling targeted by the government and non-government initiatives where they are “guilty by association” with a religion. This approach doesn’t take into consideration the growing right-wing extremism currently rising in Macedonia. This type of extremism is often more acceptable within mainstream political discourse than Islamist extremism in some parties. The change in government in Macedonia that took place recently may have shifted those right-wing extremist narratives out of the main public discourse and back into their grassroots form, where radicalization can happen in more unseen ways, which makes them more difficult to counter. These are reasons why it is crucial that international donors fund organizations that will research and strengthening resilience in ethnic Macedonian communities as well as in ethnic Albanian communities with regard to violent extremism. This approach will provide more balance for the overall CVE effort and address an issue that is not often covered by CVE initiatives, thus increasing its power, and which will not go away on its own.

It is critical to note that in general in Macedonia, other than lack of funding and communication between CSOs, there is a significant lack of expertise in CVE in the CSO sector. It would therefore be useful to have study visits or educational exchanges between Macedonian CSOs and FBOs and countries with more developed P/CVE programs and knowledge bases. This is especially critical when it comes to CVE, as it requires seasoned and knowledgeable practitioners in order for activities to be carried out with results and without creating damage, being that it is an extremely complex and sensitive topic in Macedonia, as well as in other countries.

Additionally, there is a lack of work undertaken by religious communities throughout the country in regards to P/CVE. In general, only the Islamic Religious Community has been involved in and acquainted with P/CVE in Macedonia, while other faith-based organizations have lacked involvement or awareness of their role.

## ANNEX I

### Summary of NGOs working in the CVE field

1. Name of CSO – Analytica Think Tank <a href="http://www.analyticamk.org">www.analyticamk.org</a>
Type of organization, e.g., <b>NGO</b> , community-based organization, faith-based organization
<i>Thematic focus:</i> Analytica is a think tank that covers various areas, such as Security and Foreign Policy, Energy, Public Finance and produces policy reports, briefs and advocates on issues related to these areas. Analytica was also the first NGO in Macedonia to conduct research on the topic of P/CVE.
<i>Geographic focus :</i> Skopje
<i>P/CVE or P/CVE-relevant activities/projects worth noting (completed, ongoing, and planned)</i>
Assessment of Macedonia's efforts in Countering Violent Extremism , Policy Report ( <b>completed</b> ) Working Towards Resilient Communities, Report on the causes of violent extremism in Macedonia ( <b>completed</b> ) Mother Schools in Municipality of Chair. The project aimed to raise awareness on countering radicalism and enhance the competences and capabilities of mothers from Macedonia to deal with the phenomenon of radicalization, in their relationship with children.  It provided trainings for mothers in order to empower them to build a community based security strategy to counter radical ideologies. Within this model, mothers can work to demystify the threat and engage their families and communities to be vigilant and mobilized against this threat. ( completed )
<i>Sources of funding:</i> US Embassy, Dutch Embassy, Women Without Borders.
2. Name of CSO – Association for democratic advancement Democracy Lab ( <a href="http://demlab.org/">http://demlab.org/</a> )
Type of organization, e.g., <b>NGO</b> , community-based organization, faith-based organization
<i>Thematic focus –</i> Promoting and advancing democratic values in Macedonia through capacity building for CSOs and Institutions, civic engagement, digital tools and public campaigns.
<i>Geographic focus</i>
National
<i>P/CVE or P/CVE-relevant activities/projects worth noting (completed, ongoing, and planned)</i>
The CVE (Countering Violent Extremism) Speaker Visit project brought together some of the most active community organization leaders in the regions of Skopje and Tetovo to build their organizational capacities to counter violent extremism. Through an informal setting of discussion and experience-sharing, the participants had the chance to explore opportunities, activities and different tools and resources in order to initiate activities, projects and solutions to impact their own communities related to the topic. ( <b>completed</b> ) The Gostivar Youth and Community Center (YCC) serves a safe and open space for all Gostivar residents. We provide community programming to Gostivar's youth, and our rent-free community room is available to any community member wishing to bring positive change to Gostivar. We aim to bring the community members together, celebrate our rich cultures, and build a more resilient community. ( <b>ongoing</b> ) Opportunities for Preventing Violent Extremism through Intra-regional and Cross-regional Exchange - The main aim of the project will thus be to support the prevention of violent extremism in the Western Balkans by undertaking joint analysis, regional and cross-regional networking, and policy advice to national and international stakeholders, in order to address the 'push' and 'pull' factors of radicalisation (process) and violent extremism (outcome). The project will probe into the potential benefits of connecting PVE activities with regional peacebuilding and reconciliation efforts in order to prevent radicalisation and violent extremism. (ongoing)
<i>Sources of funding:</i> US Embassy, USAID, German Foreign Office, Local Governments.

3. Name of CSO – Association Step to Europe
efremov24@yahoo.com,
Type of organization, e.g., <b>NGO, community-based organization, faith-based organization</b>
Thematic focus – Contributing to the process of European integration through research on transparency and accountability of local actors; inclusion of youth and citizens in the process of decision making on the local level.
Geographic focus – Kavadarci region
P/CVE or P/CVE-relevant activities/projects worth noting (completed, ongoing, and planned)
No P/CVE efforts. Interested in working in this area in the future.
Sources of funding : International ( E.U Mission to Skopje, US Embassy in Skopje )

4. Name of CSO - Association NATIONAL ROMA CENTRUM Kumanovo ( <a href="http://nationalromacentrum.org/en/">http://nationalromacentrum.org/en/</a> )
Type of organization, e.g., <b>NGO, community-based organization, faith-based organization</b>
Thematic focus-- Advocate and support for better living conditions of the Roma population in Macedonia, as well as to all community groups who are living in social risk, i.e. sickness, poverty, facing discrimination, segregation or are vulnerable and living on the verge of social and economic marginalization. Creating favourable conditions for increased integration in the labour market of the long-term unemployed, socially vulnerable and poor people; •
Geographic focus – Mainly Kumanovo, but works on a national level as well.
P/CVE or P/CVE-relevant activities/projects worth noting (completed, ongoing, and planned)
Allot of the work of National Roma Centrum revolves around tackling conditions that facilitate for discrimination and hate crimes against the Roma community, which is relevant to P/CVE.
Sources of funding: European Union, Open Society Foundation

5. Name of CSO – Association for development and activism "Akva"
Type of organization, e.g., <b>NGO, community-based organization, faith-based organization</b>
Thematic focus : Akva works on issues related to:, good governance, education ,Youth , Diversity , Youth in a Multiethnic Environment
Geographic focus
Struga
P/CVE or P/CVE-relevant activities/projects worth noting (completed, ongoing, and planned)
They did not have any projects, but they are interested in developing their capacities in this field.
Sources of funding, e.g., domestic (which part of the government) and/or international (which donor(s))
Sources of funding : /

6. Name of CSO – Association Institute for Peace, Security and Policy Research -Konica
Type of organization, e.g., <b>NGO, community-based organization, faith-based organization</b>
Thematic focus – Promotion and advancement of inter-ethnic relations, protection and promotion of human rights, promotion and promotion of cooperation between citizens.
Geographic focus – Skopje region
P/CVE or P/CVE-relevant activities/projects worth noting (completed, ongoing, and planned)
Project name: "Friendly patrols". Funded by the US Embassy in Skopje. Project duration: 5 months. The activities of the project: 1. Training of six former officers with soft methods for early detection of the signs of radicalization and their prevention; 2. Training of 120 current officers with the abovementioned methods and their use in day-to-day work; 3. Preparation of soft methods applicable in Macedonia to counter violent extremism; 4. Creating a network of police officers who can work in countering extremism in day-to-day work.
Sources of funding, e.g., domestic (which part of the government) and/or international (which donor(s))
Sources of funding : U.S Embassy in Skopje

7. Name of CSO – Center for Education and Development ( <a href="http://ced.org.mk/site/en/">http://ced.org.mk/site/en/</a> )
<i>To raise the level of self-initiatives and responsibilities</i> <i>To raise awareness among young for environmental protection</i> <i>To increase the cooperation between youth from different nationalities</i> <i>To contribute in creating capacities for inclusion of youth with disabilities in education, the labor market and the society in general</i> <i>To actively contribute in creating strategies and policies for different institutions</i>
Type of organization, e.g., <b>NGO</b> , community-based organization, faith-based organization
Thematic focus
<i>CED invests in young people's development through non-formal education, volunteerism and youth work fostering creative initiatives and mutual collaboration in order to contribute in strengthening the capacities of youth with skills and knowledge for dealing with life challenges.</i>
Geographic focus
Polog region
P/CVE or P/CVE-relevant activities/projects worth noting (completed, ongoing, and planned)
Completed. Project with Hedayah. (no additional information was provided ).
Sources of funding, e.g., domestic (which part of the government) and/or international (which donor(s))
Hedayah

8. Name of CSO – Center for Intercultural Dialogue ( <a href="http://cid.mk/">http://cid.mk/</a> )
Type of organization, e.g., <b>NGO</b> , community-based organization, faith-based organization
Thematic focus – Promoting intercultural acceptance and active citizenship through capacity building processes, education and youth work
Geographic focus
Kumanovo region
P/CVE or P/CVE-relevant activities/projects worth noting (completed, ongoing, and planned)
Ongoing . Camps and workshop for promoting multiculturalism and tolerance. Youth peace initiatives, and multiculturalism through sports. .
What are the current gaps in terms of P/CVE efforts in the community, country, and region, including as related to the efforts of CSOs?
Sources of funding, e.g., domestic (which part of the government) and/or international (which donor(s))
OSCE , British Embassy, EU, European Commission,

9. Name of CSO – Center for Research and Policy Making ( <a href="http://www.crpm.org.mk/">http://www.crpm.org.mk/</a> )
Type of organization, e.g., <b>NGO</b> , community-based organization, faith-based organization
Thematic focus : CRPM works on issues related to: Macedonian politics, good governance, education labor market, gender analysis and sustainable development.
Geographic focus
Skopje
P/CVE or P/CVE-relevant activities/projects worth noting (completed, ongoing, and planned)
Educate to prevent, funded by Hedayah ( ongoing ). Activities are divided into three (3) work packages: Basic research on the perceptions of CT and C / PVE in school staff (professors and professional service) in secondary schools on the territory of the City of Skopje and the municipalities of Kumanovo, Tetovo and Gostivar; Strengthening the capacities of the professors and members of the professional service, the parents and representatives of the municipal administration in the field of CT and C / PVE and recognizing the early signs of radicalization; Develop an early warning system from radicalization that leads to violent extremism and develop a referral system at a local (municipal) level
Sources of funding, e.g., domestic (which part of the government) and/or international (which donor(s))
Sources of funding : Hedayah,

10. Name of CSO – Center for Sustainable Development of the Community- Diber
Type of organization, e.g., <b>NGO</b> , community-based organization, faith-based organization
Thematic focus : CSDC works on issues related to: good governance, education , communities, youth.
Geographic focus
Debar
P/CVE or P/CVE-relevant activities/projects worth noting (completed, ongoing, and planned)
They didn't have any project in field of CVE or PVE, but they are interested to work on it.
Sources of funding, e.g., domestic (which part of the government) and/or international (which donor(s))
Sources of funding : /

11. Name of CSO- Factor Kichevo
Mandate/Responsibilities – N/A
Type of organization, e.g., <b>NGO</b> , community-based organization, faith-based organization
Thematic focus- Youth empowerment through activities that improve their political engagement, and inter-cultural dialogue and understanding
Geographic focus- Kicevo
P/CVE or P/CVE-relevant activities/projects worth noting (completed, ongoing, and planned)
Completed. Project on combatting hate speech (financed by the EU)

12. Name of CSO – Foundation for Local Development and Democracy Fokus - Veles
Type of organization, e.g., <b>NGO</b> , community-based organization, faith-based organization
Thematic focus : Good governance, initiatives for local community development, philanthropy, institutional development, capacity building for women and youth, as well as international cooperation
Geographic focus
Veles
P/CVE or P/CVE-relevant activities/projects worth noting (completed, ongoing, and planned)
They did not have any projects, but they are interested in developing their capacities in this field.
Sources of funding, e.g., domestic (which part of the government) and/or international (which donor(s))
Sources of funding : - /

13. Name of CSO – Forum for research of security policies - SEKURITAS
Type of organization, e.g., <b>NGO</b> , community-based organization, faith-based organization
Thematic focus – Security policies and foreign affairs
Geographic focus – Skopje
P/CVE or P/CVE-relevant activities/projects worth noting (completed, ongoing, and planned)
Completed. Feasibility study on the implementation of a CVE handbook in high school in Macedonia.
Sources of funding, e.g., domestic (which part of the government) and/or international (which donor(s))
Sources of funding : OSCE Mission to Skopje

14. Name of CSO – Horizon Civitas
Type of organization, e.g., NGO, community-based organization, <b>faith-based organization</b>
Thematic focus: Civic activism and encouraging social responsibility.
Geographic focus : Skopje
P/CVE or P/CVE-relevant activities/projects worth noting (completed, ongoing, and planned)
1) Ongoing – Strengthening the resilience to radicalization of youth in the Western Balkans. The project will contain a research component as well online counter narratives, and workshops for promoting religious coexistence. 2) Ongoing– Strengthening the capacity of the National Coordinators for how to approach the families of imprisoned FTFs and utilize their stories as counter-narratives.
Sources of funding: Globsec (Slovakia) and UK Embassy in Skopje.

15. Name of CSO – Islamic Religious Community of Macedonia ( <a href="http://bfi.mk/en/">http://bfi.mk/en/</a> )
Type of organization, e.g., <b>NGO</b> , community-based organization, faith-based organization
Thematic focus – The official Islamic religious community in Macedonia. Follows a Hanafi school of thought.
Geographic focus
Macedonia
P/CVE or P/CVE-relevant activities/projects worth noting (completed, ongoing, and planned)
Ongoing. Working on countering ideas spread by extremist preachers through raising awareness during Friday prayers.

16. Name of CSO – Macedonian anti-poverty platform
Type of organization, e.g., <b>NGO</b> , community-based organization, faith-based organization
Thematic focus : Macedonian anti-poverty platform works on issues related to reduction of poverty and social exclusion, participatory democracy, human rights, social and health protection, non-discrimination, employment, education, policy making.
Geographic focus
Skopje, Butel
P/CVE or P/CVE-relevant activities/projects worth noting (completed, ongoing, and planned)
They did not have any projects in filed of Countering or Preventing Violent Extremism in Macedonia
Sources of funding, e.g., domestic (which part of the government) and/or international (which donor(s))
Sources of funding : /

17. Name of CSO – Multicultura
Type of organization, e.g., <b>NGO</b> , community-based organization, faith-based organization
Thematic focus : Multicultura works on Youth Activism and Interethnic Relations.
Geographic focus
Tetovo region
P/CVE or P/CVE-relevant activities/projects worth noting (completed, ongoing, and planned)
Do not have a previous project or activities on P/CVE.
Sources of funding, e.g., domestic (which part of the government) and/or international (which donor(s))
Sources of funding : /

18. Name of CSO – Nexus Civil Concept ( <a href="http://nexus.org.mk/">http://nexus.org.mk/</a> )
Type of organization, e.g., <b>NGO</b> , community-based organization, faith-based organization
Thematic focus – Promotion and Advancing of Democracy
Geographic focus
Polog region
P/CVE or P/CVE-relevant activities/projects worth noting (completed, ongoing, and planned)
Educate to prevent, funded by Hedayah (ongoing), in partnership with CRPM and CED. Activities are divided into three (3) work packages: Basic research on the perceptions of CT and C / PVE in school staff (professors and professional service) in secondary schools on the territory of the City of Skopje and the municipalities of Kumanovo, Tetovo and Gostivar; Strengthening the capacities of the professors and members of the professional service, the parents and representatives of the municipal administration in the field of CT and C / PVE and recognizing the early signs of radicalization; Develop an early warning system from radicalization that leads to violent extremism and develop a referral system at a local (municipal) level
Sources of funding: Hedayah.
Sources of funding : /

19. Name of CSO – Youth Cultural Centre Bitola
<a href="https://mkcibt.org.mk/en/">https://mkcibt.org.mk/en/</a>
Mandate/Responsibilities -
Type of organization, e.g., <b>NGO</b> , community-based organization, faith-based organization
Thematic focus - Unite and develop the creative potential of young people and encourage civic activism through the development of volunteering and informal education; development of democratic and civil society; and development of urban culture and production.
Geographic focus – Bitola and Pelagonija region
P/CVE or P/CVE-relevant activities/projects worth noting (completed, ongoing, and planned)
Part of the Divided Past – Joint Future Initiative. This project brings together 18 partner organisations and aims to help CSO's be recognized by governments as important societal factors, to strengthen regional cooperation, to increase credibility, political participation and effectiveness of CSO's, to advocate prevention of radicalization, to facilitate inter-ethnic dialogue in the region of the Western Balkans and Turkey, and implement cross-stakeholder's approach which will foster societal reconstruction. More info at : <a href="http://jointfuture.org/about/">http://jointfuture.org/about/</a>
Sources of funding: Various sources, mainly international.

20. Name of CSO – Youth Empowerment Platform YEP
Type of organization, e.g., <b>NGO</b> , community-based organization, faith-based organization
Thematic focus : YEP works on developing intellectual capacities for young people.
Geographic focus
Gostivar
P/CVE or P/CVE-relevant activities/projects worth noting (completed, ongoing, and planned)
They have not worked in this issue but they are ready to work because, according to them, youth is more affected by this phenomenon which requires that it be addressed and worked by youth organizations
Sources of funding, e.g., domestic (which part of the government) and/or international (which donor(s))
Sources of funding : USAID, UNDP



21. Name of CSO – ZIP Institute ( <a href="http://zipinstitute.mk/">http://zipinstitute.mk/</a> )
Mandate/Responsibilities -
Type of organization, e.g., <b>NGO</b> , community-based organization, faith-based organization
Thematic focus- ZIP Institute aims at improving democratic processes, the rule of law and the development of civil society in the Republic of Macedonia, through tailor-made solutions to the most pressing social, societal and systematic problems such as democratization of Macedonian society, rule of law and good governance, strengthening of the civil consciousness, inclusive policies, multicultural coexistence,
Geographic focus – Skopje and the surrounding area
P/CVE or P/CVE-relevant activities/projects worth noting (completed, ongoing, and planned)
-Mother Circles(ongoing): Strengthen Community Cohesion by kick-starting a MotherCircle community movement, which involves supporting mothers and teachers to continue to engage regularly and in a structured way so they can use their voices to break down the silence around the taboo topic of extremism. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Empower women to become community leaders by training emerging talents from the MotherSchools.</li> </ul> -"Countering Violent Extremism Initiative" (completed) The project seeked to open the dialogue between different young theology students from different religious groups, as well as their religious leaders to understand better the manipulations and misrepresentations of religion for the purposes of political gain or incitement of hate speech and violence. The overall goal of the project was to firstly open and then build an effective, moderate dialogue between the three major religious communities in the Republic of Macedonia, through targeting the most vulnerable and potentially most influential groups: young students of theology, latter to become religious leaders in their respective communities.
Sources of funding: Civica Mobilitas, Women without borders, CIJA US

## 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 labelled 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, de-radicalization, 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 underlying 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., forswearing 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.

## ANNEX III

### About the CENTER FOR COMMON GROUND (CCG)

The Centre for Common Ground (**CCG** as **SFCG** is known in Europe) has been working toward reconciliation, interethnic relations and stability in the Western Balkans since 1994, beginning with Macedonia and later expanding into Kosovo after eruption of civil war. Although inter-communal tensions never exploded into full civil war as they did in Kosovo, Macedonia was on the verge of a civil war in early 2001 and sharp divides still exist between ethnic Macedonians, Albanians, Turks and Roma. It works across all demographics but especially with children and youth to counter prejudice and stereotypes and incorporating them in the decision-making processes and empower the next generation of leaders.

CCG mission is to transform the way people and communities deal with conflict - away from adversarial approaches and towards cooperative solutions. It works with local partners to find culturally appropriate means to strengthen societies' capacity to deal with conflicts constructively: *to understand the differences and act on the commonalities*. Using innovative tools such as education, media production –TV and radio series, public service announcements (PSA), facilitation, training, music, and theater and working at different levels of society, CCG engage in pragmatic long-term processes of conflict transformation. It has been creating multi-faceted projects and initiatives, designed to facilitate inter-ethnic communication on all societal levels, improve community cooperation, promote peaceful co-existence and encourage cross-cultural dialogue in the country.



