

## Lisbon Forum 2015

### How to combat radicalisation and terrorism: prevention tools and shared knowledge in the Mediterranean and European space

Ismaili Centre, Lisbon, 3-4 December 2015

**5 November 2015**

#### **The context:**

An annual event since it was established in 1994 by the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, the Lisbon Forum has been a distinctive platform bringing together high-level participants from Europe, neighbouring regions and other continents to share experience, good practice and expertise. Themes of the Forum have been closely related to the core mission of the Council of Europe: to promote democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

Following developments in the region and a refocusing of the Centre's mission to contribute to the Council of Europe's policy towards its neighbouring regions, recent editions of the Forum have sought to address key challenges faced by countries of the Southern Mediterranean and explore possibilities for renewed cooperation with Europe. These recent editions have been supported by the joint EU/ CoE Programme "Strengthening democratic reform in the Southern Neighbourhood" (South Programme).

A second phase of the South Programme started in 2015, building on the achievements of the South Programme I and adapting to new realities. SPII calls for sustained action in the field of democratic governance in the southern Mediterranean based on acknowledged CoE expertise in supporting the building of pluralist democracies across Europe and beyond.

SPII will continue to support the organisation of the Lisbon Forum by the North-South Centre insofar as it contributes "Towards strengthened democratic governance in the Southern Mediterranean."

Towards a Strengthened Democratic Governance in the Southern Mediterranean

Funded  
by the European Union



Implemented  
by the Council of Europe

### **Choice of Theme:**

At their 125<sup>th</sup> Session in Brussels on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2015, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe reiterated their determination to make a strong contribution to the fight against violent extremism and radicalisation leading to terrorism, firmly based on the respect of human rights, rule of law and democracy. They adopted an Action Plan with the objective of reinforcing the legal framework against terrorism and violent extremism and promoting targeted activities to prevent and fight violent radicalisation through concrete measures in the public sector.

Building on the expertise and core mission of the Centre to promote dialogue between North and South, foster solidarity and promote global interdependence, the Executive Committee of the Centre, composed of actors of the quadrilogue, agreed on the theme: *"How to combat radicalisation and terrorism: prevention tools and shared knowledge in the Mediterranean and European space."*

The Forum will be chaired this year by H.E. André Azoulay, North-South Prize Laureate 2014, Counsellor to His Majesty the King of Morocco and former President of the Anna Lindh Foundation.

The choice of theme will gather quadrilogue actors from across Europe and the Southern Mediterranean to:

- contribute to implementation of the Action Plan;
- promote dialogue and exchange across the Mediterranean and European space;
- further develop ideas and outcomes from the World Forum for Democracy (Strasbourg 18-20 November); and the 3<sup>rd</sup> European Congress on Global Education (Zagreb, 26-28 November);
- Adopt operational conclusions and recommendations addressed to all quadrilogue actors that can serve to prevent and combat radicalisation and terrorism.

### **Concept and objectives:**

The Forum represents an opportune moment to mobilise the North-South Centre's network of actors with recognised expertise in global/development education and youth cooperation to discuss the state of play in the region, exchange experience and good practice in light of recent events or acts of terrorism that are a shared area of grave concern for the European and Mediterranean space.

The key objectives of Lisbon Forum 2015:

- Share tools and knowledge to prevent and combat radicalisation and terrorism contributing to reinforcement of the legal framework in European and Mediterranean space
- Promote good practices and further develop outcomes from the [World Forum on Democracy](#)
- Take stock of existing educational approaches, identify appropriate methodologies and develop preventative measures
- Identify concrete measures to promote interdependence, democratic citizenship and inclusive societies
- Raise awareness in member and non-member states of the Council of Europe legal framework against terrorism
- Develop a common understanding of the effects and impact of terrorism on populations and good governance in neighbouring states of the Mediterranean region

The Forum will facilitate awareness-raising among participants of the new additional protocol to the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism (CETS N. 196) and other Council of Europe initiatives such as Competences for Democratic Culture and the protocol to the Convention on Cybercrime on Xenophobia and Racism (CETS. 189) while enabling European participants to benefit from the knowledge and experience of participants from partner countries in the Southern Mediterranean.

**Expected results :**

- Contribute to the overall objectives of South Programme II to support constitutional processes, the consolidation of a common legal space and the creation of formal and informal networks between Europe and the countries of the Southern Mediterranean
- Concrete initiatives identified to prevent and fight violent radicalisation, based on civic responsibility and the promotion of active citizenship through education;
- Operational conclusions and recommendations adopted empowering civil society and tasking all quadrilogue actors with specific actions to promote democratic values and strengthen resistance to radicalisation on the ground
- Cooperation at regional and international level to combat radicalisation and terrorism is enhanced through exchange of experience and good practice from across CoE member states and Southern Mediterranean partner countries.

**Proposed format:**

The Forum will be organised around plenary sessions, roundtables and workshops with activities spread over two days.

The opening session in the morning of Thursday 3 December 2015 will offer the opportunity to frame discussions in light of recent developments with a brief presentation of the outcomes of 3 important Council of Europe events organised in the weeks preceding the Forum:

- CoE Exchange on the religious dimension of intercultural dialogue: ["Building inclusive societies together: - the role and place of religion in public space; - teaching about religions and non-religious beliefs at school"](#)( Sarajevo, 2-3 November)
- [World Forum on Democracy – Freedom vs Control: For a democratic response](#) (Strasbourg, 18-20 November)
- [3rd European Congress on Global Education – Unity in Diversity](#) (Zagreb, 26-28 November)

Subsequent discussions will follow a three-step discussion process:

- An initial roundtable will explore a broad thematic area, contextualising the subject and opening the path to more in depth discussions in workshops.
- Break-off workshops will facilitate more specialised and interactive discussions
- Summing up session between rapporteurs to prepare conclusions and recommendations

Discussions at the Forum will be developed along three main axes:

1. Countering radicalisation through education and training
  - Deradicalisation strategies: Community-based approaches; countering radicalisation in the prison system; training non-governmental frontline actors
2. Empowering young people and women to promote positive citizenship
  - Structured participation in democratic processes: the quadrilogue approach to build trust, promote dialogue, and empower civil society
  - Alternative narratives: challenging extremist ideas by winning hearts and minds
3. Democratic responses and legal framework to combat radicalisation
  - Regional cooperation and consolidation of a common legal space based on the conventions of the Council of Europe such as the CoE Additional Protocol on the Prevention of Terrorism and other European and international standards

### **Participants:**

#### **From partner countries:**

Representatives of relevant Ministries (Foreign Affairs, Interior, Education), independent democratic governance structures, parliaments, local authorities and civil society (including Schools of political Studies network, academics, frontline practitioners)

#### **Europe:**

EU and CoE representatives, sister EU-funded projects

### **Potential partners:**

EU (EC – DG NEAR, EEAS, DG Home)

EU funded projects (EuroMed Justice, Anna Lindh Foundation, EuroMed Youth, Radicalisation Awareness Network)

### **Communication**

All communication activities will be done in accordance with the Communication and visibility plan of the South Programme II.

A dedicated Lisbon forum webpage on the North-South Centre homepage will be linked to directly from the new South Programme website.

It is expected that the Forum will build on and further raise the profile of the EU-CoE joint work in the Southern Mediterranean to support the democratic governance agenda, the development of a common legal space and the creation of formal and informal networks across the region and between Europe and countries of the Southern Mediterranean.