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Bulgaria's challenges when researching on radicalisation and violent extremism

A new report suggests the need for more coordination and monitoring of the strategies in place and the involvement of civil society to improve prevention

It's been produced by the Bulgarian Center for the Study of Democracy in the framework of the CONNEKT international research project

A just released publication of the **Horizon 2020 research project CONNEKT** describes the national approaches and strategies of **Bulgaria** towards radicalisation and violent extremism.

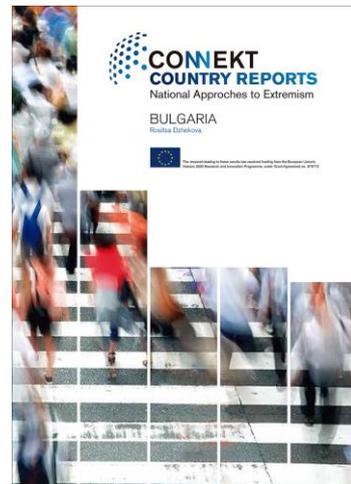
The report offers an overview of these phenomena in the country, reviews what the scientific and academic research has produced so far about the particular drivers for radicalisation, and identifies the actors and initiatives deploying Countering/Preventing Violent Extremism (C/PVE) strategies in the country.

It states that Bulgaria has taken important steps to address these issues though the focus is primarily on Islamist radicalisation, despite the fact that far-right extremism is also a significant challenge. The author considers there's a need to develop a more comprehensive understanding and evidence-based knowledge of radicalisation in order to better prevent and counter violent extremism. An effort where the engagement of key non-state actors such as civil society and religious communities should be enhanced.

The author of the report is **Rositsa Dzhekova**, Director of the Security Program at the Center for the Study of Democracy.

A report of the CONNEKT project

The report has been released along with 7 other country reports by the research project CONNEKT. The other countries studied are Egypt, Tunisia, Jordan, Morocco, Kosovo, North Macedonia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 870772



CONNEKT is a research and action project that analyses 7 potential radicalisation drivers among youth aged between 12 and 30 in eight MENA and Balkan countries. Its aim is to establish a multi-dimensional map of drivers of extremism among youth in the eight countries and to identify the interplay between them. Based in its findings, the project will recommend tools and measures for the prevention of violent extremism from a social and community perspective.

Led by the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed), based in Barcelona, the project gathers a multidisciplinary consortium involving 14 partners from MENA, the EU and the Balkans. Its partner in Bosnia and Herzegovina is the University of Sarajevo.

The CONNEKT project started in 2020 and it is funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme, under Grant Agreement no. 870772.

Bulgaria - Country Report

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CONNEKT Country Reports. National Approaches to Extremism

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