



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



IFAP

Information for All  
Programme

IPDC THE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME  
FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNICATION

## CONCEPT NOTE AND AGENDA



YOUTH AND THE

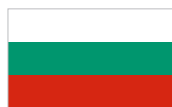
INTERNET

FIGHTING  
RADICALIZATION  
AND EXTREMISM

16 - 17 June 2015

UNESCO Headquarters

This conference is organized with the generous support of:



Republic of  
Bulgaria



People's Republic  
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Egypt

# Concept Note

### Introduction

Information and communication technologies provide enhanced opportunities for access to information and the creation and sharing of knowledge, enriching exchange as well as intercultural dialogue. The Internet, in particular, has catalysed innovation across all spheres of contemporary life and between a wide range of actors. This is especially relevant for young women and men, who are important actors and beneficiaries of the digital age.

At the same time, the Internet has been associated with rising challenges with young people, including through the emergence of gated communication and virtual communities, which can lead to isolation and marginalisation, and, in their most extreme form, may present a security issue.

In this respect, the Internet has been embraced by violent extremist groups, which are increasingly effective in using this technology in order to:

- Promote hatred and violence, based on ethnic, religious and cultural grounds;
- Extend outreach and recruitment efforts, particularly among young people;
- Create on-line communities with global reach, in which violent extremist views and behaviour can be encouraged, thereby contributing to processes of radicalization<sup>1</sup>.

The Internet has become a strategic tool for enhancing the visibility and influence of groups advocating for sectarianism and thriving as virtual communities, even if they develop offline on the margins of societies.

It is important for the international community to understand more clearly the role of the Internet as a recruitment tool for extremism and radicalization and craft effective tools in response. Violent extremism is an affront to the principles of the United Nations, embodied in universal human rights and fundamental freedoms. With a mandate to foster cooperation and solidarity through education, the sciences, culture, communication and information, UNESCO must support States and civil society actors in responding to extremism and radicalisation on the Internet.

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<sup>1</sup> Radicalization occurs when groups or individuals come to approve of and use violence to achieve their political objectives.

Media and information literacy programmes are essential in this respect, along with education for global citizenship and the integration of human rights in all education and life-long learning. It is essential to foster new skills and competencies among young people, including critical thinking, global solidarity as well as individual and collective responsibility. This calls for new forms of cultural literacy, in line also with the goals of the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures that UNESCO is leading across the world.

Tackling extremism and radicalisation on the Internet requires action across the board. This includes raising awareness about hate speech, its causes and consequences, and the creation of new platforms and networks for dialogue and mutual understanding. Data collection and research is important to establish early-warning mechanisms and produce evidence-based recommendations. The mobilization of civil society, as well as online communities and Internet Intermediaries (e.g., search engines, Internet service providers, online social networks), is important. The linkages between the Internet and other media should be taken into account, notably regarding the role of bloggers and social media platforms, including training of future journalists in reflecting diversity and promoting understanding. The Internet is increasingly important in terms of how cultural diversity is expressed and perceived, as well as how cultural expressions are created, produced, disseminated and accessed.

Young people stand at the forefront of many of these developments. They are also among the most vulnerable groups, especially in the context of challenging social and economic conditions, including unemployment, poverty, and enduring situations of conflict.

To build inclusive knowledge societies requires the active engagement of all young women and men through information and communication technologies, drawing on relevant quality content, on the basis of human rights and dignity. We see the rise of 'digital natives' today — our task is to nurture a new generation of 'digital citizens' at the global level.

The Internet must be supported as a tool to empower young people, enabling them to express and reach their aspirations for the benefit of all society. This calls for new skills in media and cultural literacy, as well as quality education and new forms of global citizenship. Young people should be engaged through the Internet as active citizens in ways that challenge the appeal of extremist groups exploiting perceptions of alienation and rejection, building on the Internet as a tool for enriching their world's perception. This means ensuring that young people have access to a wide range of positive opportunities for self-affirmation, engagement and solidarity, involving them in meaningful activities to tackle the challenge of extremism and radicalisation.

### **Proposed areas of intervention**

This initiative will be taken forward at two levels:

- An international conference will provide a platform for the engagement of young people regarding the challenges of extremism and radicalization on the Internet. It will also provide a framework to share experience amongst experts and policy-makers on effective policy interventions, projects and processes.
- The knowledge shared at the Conference will be taken forward thereafter through an integrated framework for action, which will act also as a learning lab for more effective policy responses.

The Conference will bring together officials, academics, policy-makers, youth NGOs, experts and practitioners from a range of institutions and disciplines, to share experience, highlight gaps and explore options in moving forward.

The Conference will also seek to identify areas for UNESCO action, across all its areas of competence, to support States in tackling the challenges of violent extremism and radicalisation on the Internet.

A network of conference participants will be established to support post-conference advocacy and knowledge sharing.

### **Beneficiaries**

The conference will seek to attract around 250 delegates over the course of two days and will be conducted in English and French.

# Agenda

16 June 2015	
8.30 – 9.30	Registration of the participants
9.30 – 10.15	<b>Opening Remarks - Room XI</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO</li> <li>• Mr Mohamed Sameh Amr, Chairman of the Executive Board of UNESCO, Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of Egypt to UNESCO</li> <li>• Ms Margarita Popova, Vice-President of the Republic of Bulgaria</li> <li>• Ms Chafica Haddad, Chair of the Information for All Programme (IFAP)</li> <li>• Ms Albana Shala, Chair of the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC)</li> <li>• Mr Daniel Zielinski, Chief of Staff to the French Minister for Urban affairs, Youth and Sports</li> <li>• Mr Hugues Mingarelli, EEAS Managing Director, European Union</li> </ul>
10.15 – 11.00	<b>Key-note speeches - Room XI</b>
	<p><b>Moderator:</b> Mr Indrajit Banerjee, Director, Knowledge Societies Division, Communication and Information Sector, UNESCO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prof. Gilles Kepel, University Professor: "Radicalization on the Internet: mode of operation"</li> <li>• Dr Shashi Tharoor, Member of Parliament and Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs, India: "Terrorism, the Internet and the Human Imagination"</li> </ul>
11.00 – 11.15	<i>Coffee break</i>
11.15 - 12.30	<b>The United Nations/International perspective</b>
	<p><b>Moderator:</b> Ms Chafica Haddad, IFAP Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Ahmad Alhendawi, UN Secretary General's Special Envoy on Youth</li> <li>• Prof. Lynn Davies, International Education University of Birmingham: "The Role of Schools in Challenging On-line Radicalization"</li> <li>• Mr Hatem Atallah, Executive Director, Anna Lindh Foundation: "Young Mediterranean Voices in the Digital Age: The Potential of Internet for Intercultural Dialogue"</li> <li>• Dr Francisco Legaz, Chairman of the International Juvenile Justice Observatory: "Children Recruited into Terror: Prevention and Re-integration"</li> </ul> <p>Discussion with the audience</p>
12.30 – 14.30	<i>Lunch</i>

14.30 – 17.30	Parallel sessions – Rooms XI and XII
14.30 – 15.30	<p><b>ROOM XI</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Mr Bakhtiar Amin, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Foundation for the Future, former Human Rights Minister of the Republic of Iraq</p> <p><u>Rising Challenges and Forging Responses</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr Marc Hecker, French Institute for International Relations, France: “What Answers to the Use of the Web by Violent Extremist Groups?”</li> <li>• Mr Haras Rafiq, Managing Director, Quilliam Foundation, United Kingdom: “Pathways and Solutions to Islamist Radicalization”</li> <li>• Prof. Mark Brennan, UNESCO Chair for Rural Community, Leadership, and Youth Development and Professor of Leadership and Community Development at the Pennsylvania State University, USA: “Communicating Across Divides: A Process and Case Studies for Challenging Extremism”</li> </ul> <p><u>The Governmental Approach</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Senator Nathalie Goulet, President of the Inquiry Commission on the Organization and the Means to Counter Jihadist Networks in France and Europe</li> <li>• Prof. Rüdiger Lohlker, University of Vienna, Austria: “New Perspectives on Countering Jihadism Online: VORTEX Vienna”</li> </ul> <p>Discussion with the audience</p> <p><b>ROOM XII</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Mr Guy Berger, Director, Division of Freedom of Expression and Media Development, UNESCO</p> <p><u>Role of research/academia</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prof. Pat Dolan, UNESCO Chair in Children, Youth and Civic Engagement, Ireland: “Real world Research - Helping to Counter Youth Radicalization and Extremism”</li> <li>• Prof. Meng Wei, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences: “Facing Micro-blog Mobilization: Cultivation of Youth Network Literacy”</li> </ul> <p><u>Role of the Private Sector and Technical community</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms Delphine Reyre, Director of Policy, France and Southern Europe Facebook</li> <li>• Mr Yonathan Parienti, CEO Horyou, Private platform for online collaboration for development: «Youth: Connect for Good»</li> <li>• Mr Jens-Henrik Jeppesen, Representative and Director for European Affairs of Center for Democracy and Technology</li> </ul> <p>Discussion with the audience</p>
15.30 – 15.45	Coffee break

15.45 - 17.30	Continuation of the debates
	<p><b><u>ROOM XI</u></b></p> <p><u>Exploring Case Studies and Experience across the World</u></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Mr. Boyan Radoykov, Chief, Universal Access and Preservation, Knowledge Societies Division, UNECO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Jove Jankulovski, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: "Case Studies/Experiences from the Balkans"</li> <li>• Mr Abdelbasset Ben Hassen, Arab Institute for Human Rights: "The Role of the Internet in the Promotion of the Culture of Human Rights and Citizenship Among Youth in Transition"</li> <li>• Mr Ernesto Rodriguez, CELAJU, Uruguay: "Youth, Violence and Internet in Latin America: Experiences and Challenges"</li> <li>• Mr Lawrence Ndambuki Muli, President and Regional Coordinator, Pan African Youth Network on the Culture of Peace, and Mr Daniel Da Hien, Coordinator, Réseau Afrique Jeunesse: "Internet as a collaborative tool for promoting a Culture of Peace in Africa"</li> <li>• Mr Harry L. Roque, Center for International Law, The Philippines: "Southeast Asian Experiences on Hate Speech and Blasphemy: Impact on Radicalization"</li> </ul> <p><b><u>ROOM XII</u></b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Ms Albana Shala, IPDC Chair</p> <p><u>Freedom of Expression in Countering Online Radicalization</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms Gabrielle Guillemin, Senior Legal Officer, Article 19</li> <li>• Mr Larry Kilman, Secretary General, World Association of Newspapers</li> <li>• Mr Remzi Lani, Director, Albanian Media Institute: "Political Correctness Off-line vs Hate Speech On-line"</li> <li>• Dr Olunifesi Adekunle Suraj, Postgraduate Programme Coordinator, School of Communication, Lagos State University: "Employing MIL as a proactive measure in combating Internet Extremism and Radicalization among Youths"</li> <li>• Mr Iginio Gagliardone, Oxford University, lead author of forthcoming UNESCO study "Countering Online Hate Speech"</li> <li>• Mr. Dana Asaad, journalist, Managing Director of Media Academy Iraq</li> </ul> <p>Discussion with the audience</p>
18.00 – 19.30	Reception



17 June 2015	
<b>9.30-10.45</b>	<p><b>Session 1: Approaches to counter-radicalization</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Ms Souria Saad-Zoy, Programme Specialist, UNESCO Youth and Sports Section</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Laurent Bonelli, Researcher at University Paris-Ouest-Nanterre-La Défense, Institut des sciences sociales du politique, France: "For a Relational Approach to Radicalization and Deradicalization"</li> <li>• Ms Bridget O'Loughlin, Campaign Manager, Council of Europe: "Lessons learnt from the No Hate Speech Movement and why it is important in the fight against violent extremism and radicalization"</li> <li>• Mr Ulrich Kropiunigg, Research Director, Women without Borders, Austria: "Educating Families to Prevent Violent Extremism"</li> <li>• Mr Lakshitha Saji Prelis, Search for Common Ground, Sri Lanka: "The Role of Youth in Promoting Peace and Countering Radicalization in their Communities"</li> </ul> <p>Discussion with the audience</p>
<b>10.45-11.00</b>	<i>Coffee break</i>
<b>11.00-12.30</b>	<p><b>Session 2: Multi-faceted youth online engagement</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Ms Lillian Nalwoga, President, Internet Society ISOC, Uganda</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms Francine Saillant, Outgoing Director of the research Centre CELAT/ Laval University, Canada: "Characteristics and Paradoxes of Youth Online Engagement and Behaviors"</li> <li>• Mr Sami Hourani, Leaders of Tomorrow, Jordan: "Engagement Experience in Jordan through For9a and Fadfed Programmes"</li> <li>• Ms Khadija Ali, Coordinator NET-MED Youth in Libya: "Youth Driving the Change in Libya Through Internet: Experiences and Risks"</li> </ul> <p>Interactive and guided brainstorming session with the youth and the audience</p>
<b>12.30-14.30</b>	<i>Lunch break</i>

<p><b>14.30-15.30</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Session 3: Youth-led innovative platforms and practices</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Ms Camelia Nistor, Romania, UNITED for Intercultural action</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Selim Kharrat, Founding Director of the NGO Al-Bawsala, Tunisia: “The Use of Social Media for Education on Democracy and Accountability of National Stakeholders”.</li> <li>• Mr lyad Kallas, Board member, Programs Manager - Radio Souriali, Syria: “How to Use Youth-led Web Radios to Promote Inter-Cultural Dialogue and Counter Radicalization?”</li> <li>• Mr Olav Vogt Engeland, Vice-President Academic Activities (ELSA), Norway, European Law students Association: “Students - led Guidelines to Fight Against Hate Speech”</li> <li>• Ms Baktygul Kubanychbekova, Lawyer specialized in mass media law and cyber security issues, Kyrgyzstan : “Youth-led Initiatives on Cyber CVE (Countering Violent Extremism) in Kyrgyzstan”</li> </ul> <p>Discussion with the audience</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Session 4: The way ahead</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Ms Nada Al-Nashif, Assistant-Director General for Social and Human Sciences, UNESCO</p>
<p><b>15.30 – 15.45</b></p>	<p><b>Taking UNESCO’s mandate forward:</b></p> <p><u>Presentation of related activities</u></p>
<p><b>15.45 – 17.00</b></p>	<p><u>Presentation of the new framework initiative</u></p> <p>Discussion with the audience</p>
<p><b>17.00 – 17h30</b></p>	<p><u>Closing remarks</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Getachew Engida, Deputy Director-General of UNESCO</li> </ul>