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SUCCESS STORY

Tackling radicalization through media



Photo: Internews Kosovo airs a reportage Failure of De-radicalization on national media

The global rise in violent religious extremism has had its fee in Kosovo as well. The conflicts of last decades within the region and in other countries, which people in Kosovo have traditional, cultural and historical ties with, have attracted citizens of Kosovo towards violent extremism. The presence of a significant number of Kosovar youth fighting in Syria and Iraq, and the overall growth of violence and hate speech on social media, indicates the lack of tolerance among many young people.

The Kosovo Government has made several attempts to counter violent extremism by passing laws on the prevention of terrorism financing, and prevention of participation in terrorist groups. The government has

also developed a national strategy on prevention of extremism and radicalization.¹

Engagement for Equity grantee Internews Kosovo is tackling the issue of radicalization through raising awareness of the Kosovar youth about violent extremism in order to prevent their radicalization and recruitment of youth in terrorist groups and monitoring current and future cases in court sessions related to terrorism and violent extremism. All these cases and current developments of violent extremism in Kosovo are aired through television and online media.

According to data collection conducted by Internews Kosovo on the number of persons that are a part of terrorist organizations, it comes out that there are 26 children, 37 women and 72 men from Kosovo are involved in foreign conflicts.

Internews so far has reached about 300,000 youth through targeted social media campaign, TV debates, written articles, lectures and infographics on extremism and radicalism, and aims to reach at least 1 million Kosovars.

The project “Countering Violent Extremism among Kosovo’s youth” is implemented by Internews Kosovo, supported by Engagement for Equity Program - E4E, financed by United States Agency for International Development – USAID, and supported by Advocacy Training and Resource Center -ATRC.

¹ Strategy on prevention of violent extremism and radicalization leading to terrorism 2015-2020 http://www.kryeministri-ks.net/repository/docs/STRATEGY_parandalim_-_ENG.pdf