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Civil society engagement countering Violent Extremism



"The idea of civil society engagement countering violent extremism is rich in content and important for the coordination of activities either among the civil society within the city, but also at national level."

Vlora Gaxheri – Syri i Vizionit

Engagement of civil society organizations and activists countering Violent Extremism in municipal level in Kosovo is an important approach in order to have locals addressing the issue, based on community activities.

Ten (10) civil society organizations from Peja, Mitrovica South, Gjilan, Ferizaj and Kaçanik, together with “Security Policy Research Center” and National Coordinator on Implementation of Strategy on Prevention of Violent Extremism and Radicalization Leading to Terrorism 2015-2020, gathered in Pristina, on 27th of December 2016, in a Activity Planning Workshop for 2017, and the first round of trainings for SCOs municipal level on violent extremism leading to terrorism.

Vlora Gaxheri is one of civil society activists from Peja. She works with NGO “Syri i Vizionit”, which – as she describes – is involved in the welfare of citizens and is ready to give contributions whenever and wherever necessary.

“Violent Extremism although not something unfamiliar in our country, still continues to be confused with terrorism. Even though it remains a threat, it is still not accepted as an existing issue, or it is silenced when identified. Such elements are enough convincing to undertake concrete steps towards preventing and fighting it, in places where it is suspected that is getting stronger”, says Vlora Gaxheri.

She emphasizes the necessity of the community activities countering violent extremism in her municipality.

“Municipality of Peja is not listed as large-risk place of violent extremism, but the beginning of "localization" and raising awareness about the consequences and the fact that no one benefits from extremism, is no longer needed, but very necessary indeed”, says Gaxheri.

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