



SUCCESS STORY

Preventing violent extremism through lectures



Photo: iChat during lectures with youth on violent extremism

During last decades the people of Kosovo have undergone a difficult period of armed conflict, circumstances which have influenced radicalism, hatred and non-tolerance among different groups, which consequently can affect the appearance of elements of terrorism. The geo-strategic position of Kosovo presents a risk for spreading the syndrome of terrorism, particularly the one with religious fundamentalism basis.

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 Also, civil society is working on raising awareness amongst citizens and youth in particular.

Engagement for Equity grantee Qualitative Institute for Researches, Analyses and Trainings – iChat has implemented the project “Inform to prevent” and has raised awareness of various forms of involvement of youth in extremism that lead to radicalism in Kosovo. Fifty six (56) young people were certified as "Peace promoters" after following lectures and trainings on peace promotion and prevention of young people of their community from engaging in activities that undermine their security and integrity.

iChat held lectures in 14 high schools from 7 Kosovo municipalities (Ferizaj/Uroševac, Kaçanik/Kaçanik, Prizren, Gjilan/Gnjilane, Peja/Peć, Mitrovica and Vushtri/Vučitrn) gathering over 500 young people from all over Kosovo. These lectures contribute on raising awareness and prevention of youth involvement in violent extremist activities in foreign wars.

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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