Training Module 1.3

Reporting on VE and terrorism and/or other critical incidents.

March, 2020
Training Courses for Albanian journalists/editors and students of journalism:
reporting on VE and terrorism and/or other critical incidents.

Training description:

Violent Extremism (VE) and the menace of radicalization are present in the Albanian society. Recent studies that have focused on risk assessment and the identification of factors that incite violent extremism confirm the presence of this phenomenon in the Albanian society. Awareness of this phenomenon has increased over these last years and the legal framework has improved, and as a result topics and discussions on these matters have been more present in the media and the public sphere. Nevertheless there is a need to improve knowledge and skills of journalists who are covering the VE issues on the media.

A baseline study\(^1\) was conducted in order to assess the needs of journalists and journalism students, and its main findings emphasize the need to improve the level of knowledge regarding VE and terrorism, as well as the need to improve professional skills in this field. The findings of the study, relevant to journalist and journalism students, will serve as a foundation to guide the content of the training modules and curricula with the aim of responding as accurately as possible to their needs for knowledge and skills improvement.

Therefore, the three-day training course will focus on general knowledge about VE and terrorism, as well as improving participants’ skills in reporting/covering VE and terrorism issues in the media. The first day of the training will focus on offering general knowledge regarding VE and terrorism (introduction of VE, terrorism and radicalisation; VE and terrorism manifestation; comparison between VE terrorism and resistance, legal framework in Albania) thus to give participants a comprehensive understanding over the topic. The two following days will have a professional approach and will focus on improving their reporting skills (reporting different forms of VE & terrorism, writing news reports, preparing interviews, preparing special features and reportages, etc.).

The training methodology will combine three levels of learning, receiving (lecture, audio-visual, reading), participating (discussions, demonstrations, exercises), and learning by doing (immediate practicing, to work under supervision).

Training Objectives:

This training will provide participants with a comprehensive exposure to Violent Extremism & terrorism, and strengthen their reporting skills while covering these issues. The objectives of the training are:

- To provide the necessary knowledge to journalists on the process of radicalizations that leads to violent extremism and terrorism.

\(^1\) Albanian Media Institute (2020) *Baseline Study/Media coverage of violent extremism and terrorism. An assessment of the needs of journalists, journalism students, and spokespersons of public institutions.*
• To improve participants’ professional skills necessary in reporting violent extremism and other related incidents.

**Key Learning Points:**

- To understand the process of radicalization that leads to Violent Extremism and terrorism.
- To be knowledgeable about Albanian legal context regarding VE and terrorism.
- To be aware of role of the media in framing and reporting VE and terrorism.
- To know the importance of preparing professional interviews, special reportages and news stories.
- To be able to detect fake news, propaganda and glorification as well as to avoid those.
- To understand the correct use of images, pictures and words while covering VE and terrorism issues.

**Training attendance criteria:**

This training is dedicated to a specific number of participants (15) who are currently working as journalists in main media outlets (written, electronic, online) as well as students of journalism who are in the third year of BA studies in university.

Participants should attend three training days in order to grasp the content fully and gain skills on reporting Violent Extremism and terrorism and/or other critical incidents.

**Training Methodology/Resources/Necessary Tools:**

The training is designed so that the concepts covered in the sessions are reviewed during the training through a combination of lectures, discussions and case studies. Participants’ ability to learn during this training will depend upon their understanding of the texts and readings, as well as an open and active participation throughout entire training duration.

For your convenience a list of information resources will be provided at the References section of the syllabus.
### Training Content/summary:

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<th>Third Day</th>
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<td>Training Opening, presentation of trainers and the training programme and objectives.</td>
<td>First Day Training Summary; the learning goals for second day training.</td>
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<td>Introduction to Radicalization Violent Extremism and Terrorism</td>
<td>Fake News, propaganda and glorification. How to detect and avoid them?</td>
<td>Media Framing and Reporting different forms of terrorism</td>
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<td>Drivers of Violent Extremism and its Manifestation</td>
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<td>Keeping balance between freedom, security and responsibility</td>
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<td>Treatment of foreign fighters (Case study)</td>
<td>(Reflections on this two training days)</td>
<td>Closure of the training (reflections)</td>
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### References to resources:

**Bibliography:**


- Zguri, Rr. (???? ) Countering religious extremism discourse in the media.

- Neumann, P. (2017) Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalization that lead to Terrorism: Ideas, Reccomendations, and Good Practices from the OSCE Region.


Webliography:

E4J University Module Series: Counter-Terrorism / Module 2: Conductive Conditions to the Spread of Terrorism

Identifying and tackling manipulated media. A course by Reuters News Agency
https://www.reuters.com/manipulatedmedia

The University of Sydney/ Explainer: What causes extremism
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uX-AOi8kp2U

Preventing Violent Extremism/Inter-agency Network for Education in Emergencies
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tm6imYYZ--o

TED Talk- How young people join violent extremism groups- and how to stop them/Erin Marie Saltman
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HY71088saG4

TED Talk- Why violent extremist narratives resonate/Christina Nemr
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= -6KniTPe6Y
UNESCO/preventing violent extremism through education
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=79MTkVumCCQ