Training Module 1.5

Training course for Government spokespersons on issues of VE and terrorism

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Training Courses for Government spokespersons on issues of VE and terrorism

Training description:

Public agencies and institutions play an important role in providing information on Violent Extremism and terrorism. Therefore media spokespersons and communication specialists are crucial in this regard. The information regarding violent extremism or terrorism is considered as highly sensitive from state institutions which, in a way, try to monopolize this information and classify it as secret, by displaying a lack of good will to improve the level of transparency towards the media and the public in general. Additionally, professional skills and the baggage of knowledge of the communication professionals working for public institutions directly affect the perception of the media and the public regarding the level of transparency of these institutions.

When we assessed the needs of government spokespersons in the framework of the baseline study, the findings revealed the need for trainings for these individuals in order to improve their level of knowledge on religious matters and concepts related to VE and terrorism, as well as the need to improve the professional skills of individuals in charge of managing the flow of information from public institutions to the media and the public. The perceptions of this category of officials on the main problems that pose obstacles during the media coverage of VE and terrorism are almost identical to concerns identified by journalists, students of journalism, and representatives of the civil society. Some of the main sources of concern remain disinformation, fake news, and hate speech. Furthermore, the cooperation with the online media appears to be even more difficult, according to the perception of spokespersons and media liaison officials. However, the most important aspect for this category remains the establishment of a working relationship with the media, as one of the ways to improve the transparency of public institutions.

Based on the needs identified in the baseline study this training course/workshop will serve the staff of government agencies involved in countering VE and terrorism, especially their spokespersons, to improve first of all the level of their own knowledge on these phenomena, the nature and forms they manifest themselves at the global and local levels, and, secondly, to improve their professional skills in communicating with the civil society, especially with the media sector. The trainings/workshops will address a series of topics that will be related to the improvement of their knowledge and capacities related to VE and terrorism.

The training methodology will combine two levels of learning, receiving (lecture, audio-visual, reading), and participating (discussions, demonstrations, exercises).
Training Objectives:

This training will provide participants with knowledge and improve their competences in informing on VE and terrorism, and communicating with media in a more open and professional manner.

The objectives of the training are:
- To provide knowledge to government spokespersons on VE and terrorism
- To improve government spokespersons capacities in informing on VE and terrorism
- To enhance interaction between government and media in relation to VE and terrorism.

Key Learning Points:

- To understand the difference between “radicalization as process, that leads to “violent extremism” and “terrorism.”
- To understand the drivers of VE and terrorism and their manifestation in a global point of view.
- To be aware of the importance of transparency, and the negative effects/consequences of the lack of it, from the state institutions towards media and citizens when it comes to VE and terrorism
- To avoid propaganda when dealing with media.

Training attendance criteria:

This training is dedicated to a specific number of participants (15) who are representatives of different relevant ministries and public bodies, such as Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Social Welfare, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Culture, National CVE Coordinator Office, Commissioner against Discrimination, State Committee on Religion, local governments, whose work is related to CVE and the war against terrorism.

Participants should attend three training days in order to grasp the content fully and gain knowledge and skills regarding VE and terrorism issues.

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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<td>Preparing press releases and other forms of communicating with the media</td>
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<td>Legal and political accountability of the institutions. Information</td>
<td>Preparing interviews with media and disseminating information to the public</td>
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<td>transparency towards the media and the public, its importance when</td>
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<td>present and negative effects when lacking.</td>
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References to resources:

Bibliography:


- Council of Europe (2018) Udherrefyesi-Modul per trajnimin e trajnereve. Modul trajnimi per te mesuarit per botekuptimet fetare dhe jofetare ne edukimin nderkulturor.


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


Webliography:

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

The United Nations countering terrorist travel programme
https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=87&v=-4AKlyVS61g&feature=emb_logo
Preventing Violent Extremism/Inter-agency Network for Education in Emergencies
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tm6imYYZ-o