

NORADICA, the European project that prevent religious radicalization at school

5 European Countries raise awareness about inter-religious dialogue and provide teachers, students and policy makers with resources to prevent terrorism

In recent years, **radicalization** and **recruitment of citizens by terrorist organizations** has been investigated at international level because of the worrying dimension of the phenomenon. In 2015, the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs of the European Parliament conducted a report on radicalization in Europe, pointing out the crucial importance of education in preventing such circumstances. In order to limit the conditions for radicalization to develop, **schools** have a crucial role in decreasing the phenomenon, by enabling **teachers** to take an active role against all forms of discrimination and racism.

In this frame, after 2 years duration, the European Erasmus+ project named ***NORADICA – Inter-Religious Dialogue Against Radicalization of Youth through Innovative Learning Practices at School*** gave its own contribution providing firstly teachers and students aged 12-16, and secondly policy makers with materials and tools to prevent religious radicalization. The European partnership made by 5 countries (University of Catania and PMF Research in **Italy**, University of Social Sciences in **Poland**, RenaSup in **France**, Inforef in **Belgium** and the School Inspectorate of Iasi County in **Romania**), conceived and produced in the past 2 years several resources for teachers to be used during lessons, such as a **Set of Educational Infographics**, a **Web App** with interactive materials on religious diversity, 6 cartoons about multiculturalism and inter-religious dialogue named “**NORADICATOONS**”, and a **Set of Recommendations** both for schools and communities as a meaningful summary of project’s findings.

All these resources have been created in English and translated in Italian, French, Polish and Romanian and are freely available on the [project website!](#)

Catchy in terms of design and easy to use, all NORADICA outcomes have a strong scientific base represented by a [Desk Research](#) conducted in all partners’ countries, which investigate different aspects of terrorism, radicalization and society’s solutions for them. Moreover, as an important starting point, partners carried out **surveys to teachers** working in multi-religious classes and [interviews to religious leaders of 11 different faiths](#), discussing their relationships with schools, communities, institutions, inter-religious dialogue and radicalization in young generations. From this big amount of data, NORADICA resources came out with a good evaluation both from partners and experts, and with a positive impact on target groups who are now starting to use the project products.

The **Set of Educational [Infographics](#)** is composed by six boards which focus on religious local presence, cultural dialogue initiatives, terrorism and radicalization in NORADICA countries, teachers' point of view about multireligious classes and best skills and practices, quotations of

religious leaders about inter-religious dialogue and radicalization. Another resource for teachers freely available on the project website is the **NORADICA [Web app](#)**, which provide them interesting videos, documents, articles and online items to focus on multicultural and inter-religious topics. On the other hand, **[NORADICATOONS](#)** are the artistic product of the project and are strictly addressed to students and young people: six animated videos which start and end at school to point out the importance of education in preventing radicalization. Among teenage students and religious leaders who are the most recurrent characters, there are also an alien and a monster that spread up the message of the diversity dialogue in unusual and enjoyable way. Finally, addressed to schools, policy makers and communities, the **Set of Recommendations** provides examples of good practices to prevent the risks of radicalization and terrorism. With this final aim, the Recommendations are going to be translated in 17 languages, not just in the partners' ones but also in other idioms, some of them non-European such as Chinese and Arabic.

During the 2 years of the project many **events** have been organized in partners' countries, and some of them have reached lots of people with a meaningful impact in terms of raising awareness about the topic. It's the case of the **[flash mobs](#)** organized by project partners during the **International Peace Day** on the 21st of September 2019, involving over 1000 people in Catania, Lodz, Paris, Brussels and Iasi among students, teachers and families.

Also the academic environments have been involved during the project, especially during the final conference "**Dialogue versus Radicalization: Challenges on the ground**", held the 25th of October at the Department of Education Sciences of the University of Catania, at the presence of partners, teachers and stakeholders. Among them, there was also **Kevin McDonald**, Professor at the Middlesex University London UK, authoritative expert on radicalization, who pointed out the importance of NORADICA project in fostering dialogue between different religions and preventing risky behaviours in young people.

Actually, the **project results continue to be promoted and disseminated** especially in schools across Europe, in order to keep teachers and students closer to NORADICA resources and to raise awareness about inter-religious dialogue.

Discover more information about NORADICA on social media: [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [YouTube](#).

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