

European Conference on Preventing Polarization & Violent Radicalization

26-29 April 2021

European
Forum for
Urban
Security

City-based Approaches II: Assessing, Preventing and Mitigating Polarisation



Co-funded by the European Union's Internal Security Fund - Police

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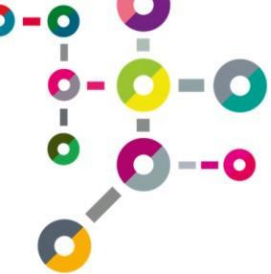
BRIDGE

*Building resilience to reduce polarisation and
growing extremism*



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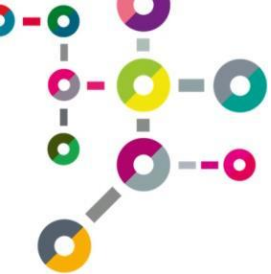


BRIDGE - Building resilience to reduce polarisation and growing extremism

Wooclap question:

What kind of institution/ organisation/structure do you work for?

link:



BRIDGE - Building resilience to reduce polarisation and growing extremism

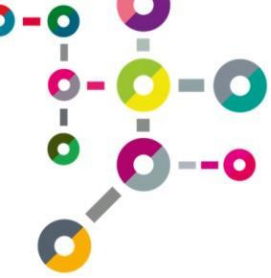
ISF-P, 2019-2021

Partners - 13 local and regional authorities from 7 Member States

Brussels (BE), Düsseldorf (DE), Generalitat de Catalunya (ES), Genk (BE), Igoumenitsa (GR), Leuven (BE), Reggio Emilia (IT), Regione Umbria (IT), Rotterdam (NL), Stuttgart (DE), Terrassa (ES), Val d'Oise (FR), Vaulx en Velin (FR)

Experts : Dr. Götz Nordbuch Ufuq e.V. (DE), Adrian Jofe Bosch RI Elcano (ES), Dr. Eolene Boyd-MacMillan, Tim Chapman, Prof. Markus Pausch

Efus (FR): leader of the project



Definition of polarisation under the BRIDGE-project

Polarisation \neq Conflict

- ❖ Growing fragmentation of society into antagonistic groups
- ❖ Sharpened forms of ‘us and them’ thinking, ‘othering’
- ❖ Negative attribution/hostility towards the ‘other group’
- ❖ Opponents in existential questions over a common future
- ❖ Absence of dialogue and cooperation





The role of local authorities

Although actors and driving factors of polarisation are present at national/international level, **polarisation manifests itself at the local level.**

Ignoring the presence and dynamic of polarisation:

- ☐ **can fuel existing tensions and lead to further escalation**
- ☐ **serve as breeding ground for radicalisation and violent extremism**

Local authorities are best placed to assess and monitor the phenomena of polarisation and tensions at the local and regional level. They have the relevant capacities and resources to elaborate local strategies to prevent polarisation and enhance social cohesion.

- **Assess and evaluate** polarisation and its manifestations, dynamics (eg. audit)
- **Raise the awareness** of the population to the phenomena
- **Develop and implement** concrete actions to prevent and mitigate polarisation both in the short and the long term (sustainable actions)
- **Identify and mobilise local resources** (e.g. partnerships, knowledge, expertise...etc.)



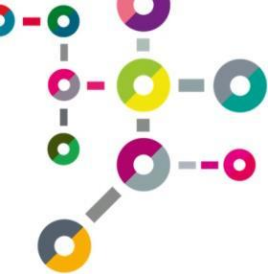


Local polarisation audits

Local polarisation audits include the assessment of

- ***Demographics, social, economic, institutional and democratic factors***
- ***Risk factors:*** existing tensions, polarising actors and discourses, vulnerable groups/individuals
- ***Protective factors*** : moderate voices networks, stakeholders(bridge builders)/existing projects/activities that foster social cohesion
- ***Mixed-method approach:*** qualitative methods (focus groups, group discussions) and quantitative methods (questionnaires, → ex. questionnaires on ‘zero-sum-mindsets’/ data analysis)
- Compliance with ***ethical requirements and procedures*** (local ethics committee)





Assessment tool

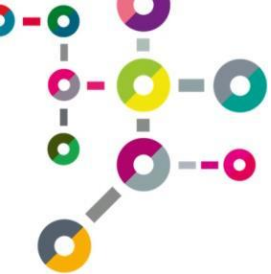
Zero-sum-mindset questionnaire

Patricia Andrews Fearon - PhD candidate, Gates Cambridge Scholar in the Department of Psychology at the University of Cambridge and a Guest External Expert of the BRIDGE project



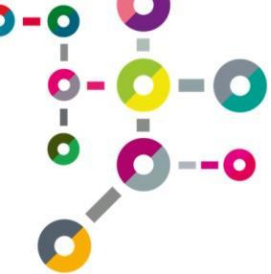
Video presentation
“The zero-sum-mindset questionnaire and its utility for local and regional authorities”





Assessment tool
Zero-sum-mindset questionnaire

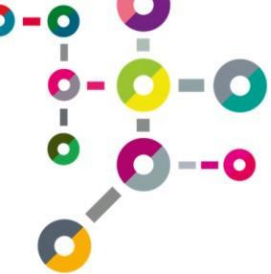




BRIDGE - Building resilience to reduce polarisation and growing extremism

Wooclap question:

*Do you see potential to implement a zero-sum-mindset a
questionnaire in your city/region?*



Assessment tool *The “Quick Scan”*

Aike Janssen, Policy Advisor to the City of Rotterdam



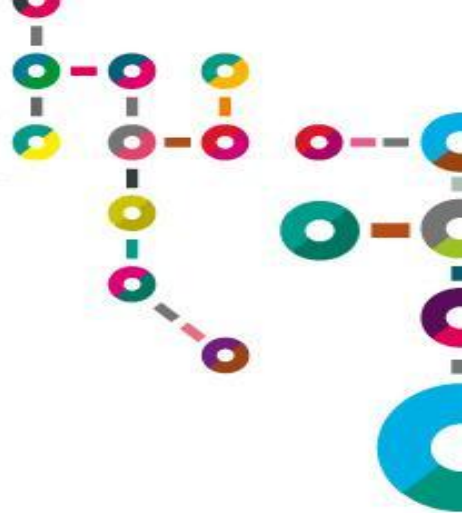
City of Rotterdam





City of Rotterdam

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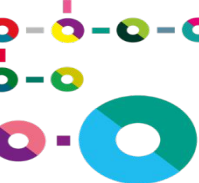


Monitoring polarization in the city of Rotterdam – **‘the Quick Scan 2.0’**

28-04-2021



With the Support of the European Union's Internal Security Fund - Police

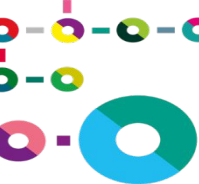


anti-radicalization approach

Department of Public Safety, City of Rotterdam

Four courses of action:

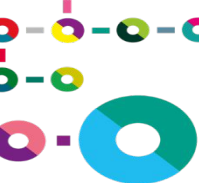
1. Fighting polarization and preventing societal tensions
2. Identification and training
3. Early & broad prevention
4. Targeted prevention > Radicalization Contact and Advisory Point



polarisation issues

- Tension and conflict within the Turkish community
- **‘Black Pete’** debate
- Black Lives Matter demonstrations
- COVID-19 & conspiracy theories
- Segregation

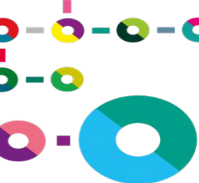




The Quick scan - Cause

- 4 times a year: gauge **the temperature**
- **Occasionally:** (inter)national incidents
- Intended for **the mayor** & MT department of Public Safety
- Depending on the **theme and outcomes**, additional action?
- **Examples:** terrorist attack in France; political situation in Turkey, Black Lives Matter, covid riots





The Quick scan - Sources

Key figures (one-on-one & meetings)

- + directly from the community, extensive network
- biased

Online research youth services

- + some tensions can be better monitored online
- social media can give a distorted image (magnifying glass)

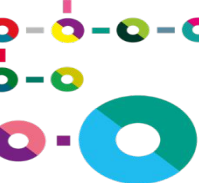
Open source information

- + large variety of information
- distorted image by media

Information from NCTV

- + reliable analyses
- difficult to obtain information, privacy issues





The Quick scan - Findings

- Hard vs. Soft signals (events/incidents vs. Sentiments/concerns)
 - Who ?
 - Size?
 - Where?
 - How long?
 - What level?
 - What are risks caused by tension?
 - In which stage are we? (theoretical Model of Bart Bran

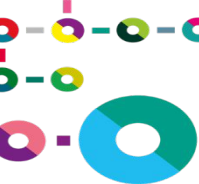




Examples from last Quick Scan

- Right and Leftwing extremism
- Conspiracy theories
- Anti government sentiments
- ‘COVID-19 denial’
- Dilemma for secondary school teachers



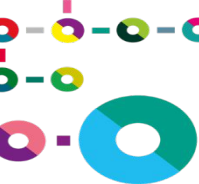


Actions based on outcomes dilemma's teacher

Secondary school teachers deal with different types of polarisation as mentioned before

- Difficulties creating a safe space for students discussing those topics?
- How to stimulate discussing normally on extreme ideas of students?
- As a teacher, how to deal with students who support extreme ideologies?

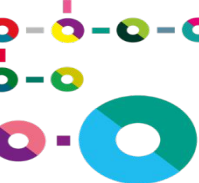




The workshop

- Organising workshop led by experts
- Pedagogic and radicalisation expert
- Purpose: educating and handing out tools for teachers.

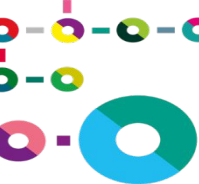




Outcome of the workshop

- Very enthusiastic reactions on the training.
- Practical tips and tricks applicable in the classrooms
- Attention and possibility to discuss diversity and inclusion inside the classroom
- Assignment that participants discuss and work on an abrasive theme
- Within 5 weeks there will be another workshop/returning day where outcomes and experiences will be discussed



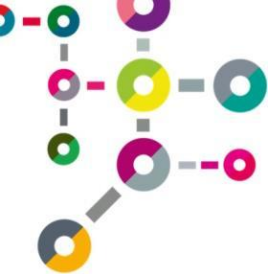


The city of **Rotterdam**

Any questions

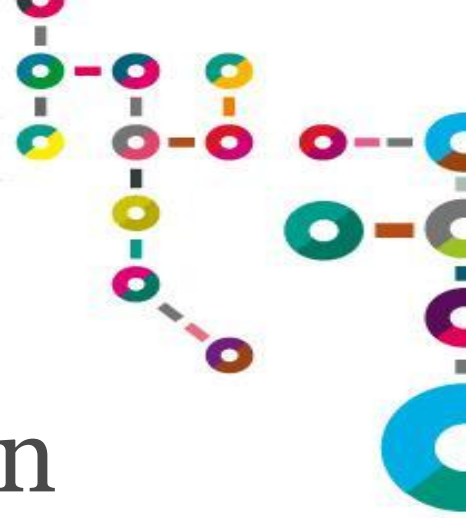


City of Rotterdam



Pilot Project
Cultural and educative pilot activities
to mitigate polarisation

**Quentin Degrave, Security Programme Manager at the
Departmental Council of Val d'Oise**

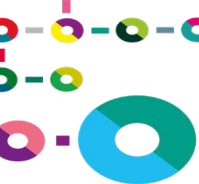


Preventing polarisation in Val d'Oise

European Conference on Preventing Polarization &
Violent Radicalization
28 April 2021

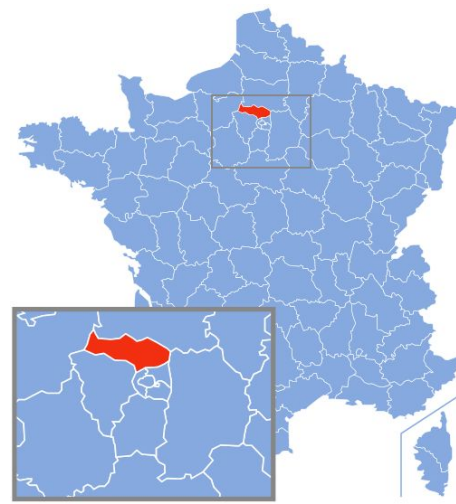


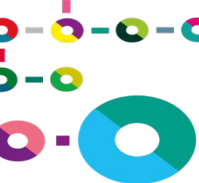
Co-financé par l'Union Européenne, Fonds de Sécurité Intérieur - Police



Val d'Oise - The territory

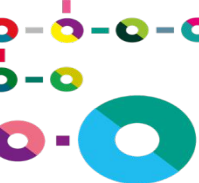
- The « Conseil départemental du Val d'Oise » is a local institution in charge of child protection and social affairs;
- Val d'Oise is located northwest of Paris, has a population of 1 million inhabitants with a number of relatively deprived cities on the south east (Sarcelles, Garges, Gonesse, Villiers-le-Bel);
- It is the department with the youngest population in France, with high rates of poverty and delinquency.





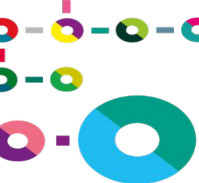
Results of the local audit

- Audit on local polarisation based on interviews with practitioners from several institutions (police, justice, social services...);
- One issue underlined by all stakeholders as being a key factor of local polarisation: conflicts between young residents of working-class neighbourhoods and police officers;
- Val d'Oise is particularly sensitive to this issue : conflicts based on mutual mistrust have fueled many tensions in the past decade and the lockdown context is aggravating these tensions;
- National issue with recent measures taken by the French government and the establishment of the «Police de sécurité du quotidien» which aims in particular to work on relations between the police and the population;



Results of the local audit

- Conflictual interactions where juvenile conduct and police behaviour are mirrored and where mutual mistrust logics are solidified ;
- The issue of police identity checks is a central element of the resentment expressed by young people;
- The police interventions methods in neighbourhoods accentuate the dynamics of conflict instead of promoting their de-escalation ;
- Many police officers are tired of the violence they experience on a daily basis, which makes them feel isolated and creates professional disillusion and weariness ;
- The main problem today : conflictual relationships with the police have become the norm in daily interactions and juvenile socialisation and identity.

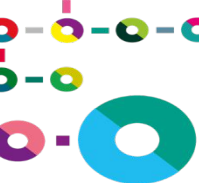


Pilot project

Goals of the pilot project :

- understanding - from the different points of view - the existing tensions between the police and the youngsters;
- nuancing and developing the perception and the representation of the two groups and creating favorable conditions for dialogue;
- strengthening the links and trust between professionals involved in the regulation of juvenile behaviour in public spaces.

The pilot project of Val d'Oise was divided into four - mutually reinforcing and complementary - sub-activities.



Pilot project

1) Educational action for young people with the Valdocco association

The 'Valdocco' association (specialised prevention) started working with a group of 4-5 young girls on writing a screenplay in order to make a short film on the theme of police-population relations.

The girls were able to meet police officers and exchange. This exchange nourished the final phase of the implementation of the short film, which will be the subject of an artistic exhibition on the neighbourhood.

2) Educational action with young people with the Contact association

The Contact association (specialised prevention) works with youngsters to transcribe (accompanied by a professional from a publishing company) their experiences with and perceptions of the police. The texts will constitute the basis of a meeting between the youngsters and the police in order to discuss these representations.



Pilot project

3) Youth/Police Relations Working and Exchange Group

Organisation of a working group including police officers and specialised prevention educators structured around training time and exchange sessions.

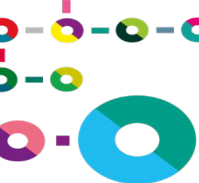
The goal is to cross views on the youth/police issue and to resolve mutual negative representations.

4) Youth/Police Relations Theatre/Debate Programming

This action aims at taking the form of theater performances, on the theme of police-population relations, followed by a debate.

The play has been written for the Departmental Council of Val d'Oise, with the involvement of police officers and specialised prevention associations.

The play is going to be offered to specialised prevention associations that can mobilise young people to participate.



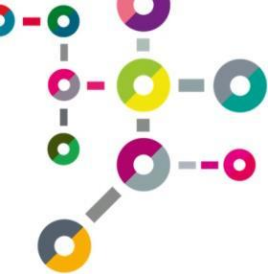
Results of pilot project

Results of the project :

- Better understanding of the existing tensions between the police and the youngsters;
- Stronger ties between the professionals involved in the regulation of juvenile behaviour in public spaces;
- More favorable conditions for dialogue between the youngsters and the police in certain neighbourhoods.

Key attention points:

- Create a safe place for dialogue;
- Establish trust with each group concerned before trying to work on the subject with them;
- Engage in artistic and cultural activities in order to build a bridge between the different groups.



Pilot Project Respect Guides

**Gregor Belgardt, Head of the Crime Prevention Office
at the City of Stuttgart**

STUTTGART



Project RESPECT GUIDES of the Municipality of Stuttgart

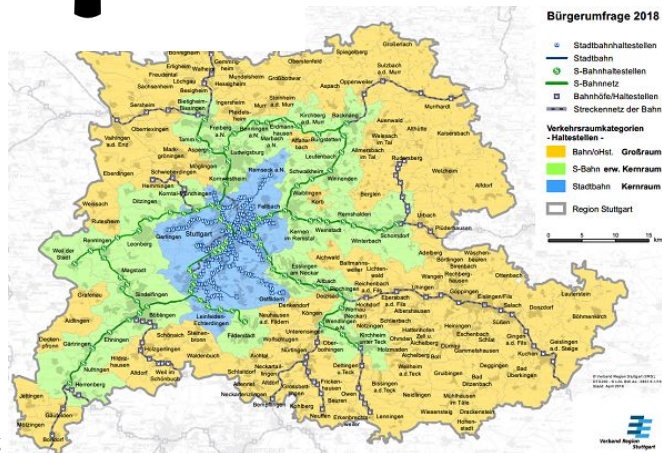




Stuttgart



<https://de.wikipedia.org>





www.stuttgarter-zeitung.de



www.badische-zeitung.de



RESPECT GUIDES as a BRIDGE pilot



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Security

Co-funded by the
Internal Security Fund Police (ISFP)
Programme of the European Union



- The project RESPECT GUIDES was developed by our municipality as part of the BRIDGE project
- BRIDGE: Building Resilience to reduce polarisation and growing extremism
- Objective: Raise awareness for the issue of polarisation and extremism and strengthen municipalities' capability to address these issues
- BRIDGE focusses on the role of municipal actors when it comes to preventing extremism and polarisation



Project RESPECT GUIDES

- Objectives:** Reducing polarisation and extremism by
1. Establishing a better communal life by sensitizing the public for respect and a fair togetherness
 2. Establishing a dialogue between the municipality and the public, especially with young people
- Duration:** August 2020-July 2021 (Continuation planned)
- Responsible:** Municipality of Stuttgart:
Crime Prevention Office and Integration Unit
- Local Partners:** Local Police
Association for Security and Tidiness in Stuttgart
Provider of local youth clubs



Who are the RESPECT GUIDES?

- Young men and women in the age of 18 to 30
- “Peer to Peer Approach”: They know the reality of life of young people
- They are accepted by the public and are able to communicate on an eye-to-eye level
- They represent the diversity of our city:
 - School, University, Apprenticeship, Voluntary service
 - Born in Stuttgart or with migrant background or with refuge experience
 - Different languages
- When in deployments: Wearing consistent clothes



RESPECT GUIDES

Coachings

The RESPECT GUIDES are trained in a dedicated coaching, comprising:

- Law and ethics
- Conflict resolution strategies
- Communication strategies

The RESPECT GUIDES are also offered advanced training and reflexion.



RESPECT GUIDES in coaching



Achievements

20	Voluntary RESPECT GUIDES in the Team
10	Languages spoken by the RESPECT GUIDES
10	Deployments conducted so far
7	Locations visited in deployments
200	People reached so far in deployments

And many more to come!

Respektlotsenprojekt

Du möchtest Babo werden?

Beginne als Respektlotse!

Beginne als Respektlotsin!

Wir suchen junge, engagierte und kontaktheldige Männer und Frauen im Alter zwischen 18 und 30 Jahren, die an einigen Wochenenden als Respektlotsen im Insalbad Unterfinkheim und in ausgewählten Bereichen im öffentlichen Raum tätig sein wollen.

Respektlotsen sorgen schon vor entstehenden Konflikten für ein faires und respektvolles Miteinander. Das Motto lautet: **RESPEKT geben! RESPEKT teilen!**

Deine Aufgabe:

- Du reddest mit Jugendlichen über RESPEKT
- Du motivierst Jugendliche für Freizeitangebote in der Stadt
- Du arbeitest im Team

Das bringst Du mit:

- Respektvolles Auftreten
- Kommunikationsfähigkeit
- Interkulturelle Kompetenz
- Verlässlichkeit und Flexibilität
- Motivation und Zivilcourage

Wir bieten:

- Professionelles Coaching im Konfliktmanagement
- Eine Aufwandsentschädigung von 10,- € pro Stunde
- Eine Teilnahmeurkunde der Landeshauptstadt Stuttgart
- Ein passendes Arbeitsoutfit

Nur wer selbst RESPEKT hat, kann RESPEKT geben!

Traust Du dir die Aufgabe zu?
Dann melde Dich und werde Respektlotse!

Ruf an oder schreib uns eine E-Mail bis 30. Juli 2020.
Ab 1. August starten wir mit dem Training.

Kontaktlotse
 Landeshauptstadt Stuttgart
 Referat Soziales und gesellschaftliche Integration
 Abteilung Integrationspolitik
 Kevin Gurka
 Eberhardstraße 61
 70173 Stuttgart
 Telefon: 0711 / 216-82397
 E-Mail: kevin.gurka@stuttgart.de



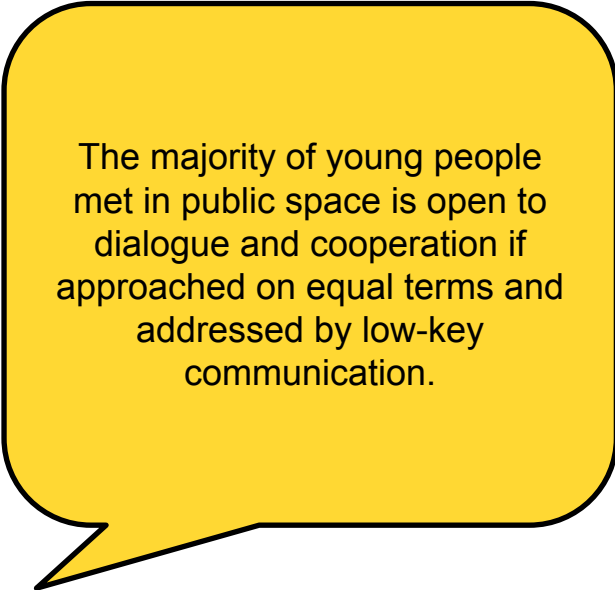
RESPECT GUIDES in deployments





Experiences and Findings

- The project is received very well
- The RESPECT GUIDES get valuable feedback
 - What are the expectations towards the municipality?
 - What are the most pressing issues for the people they meet?
 - What do people think about the matter of respect?
- The RESPECT GUIDES are able to raise awareness for the issue of respect and are able to establish a dialogue



The majority of young people met in public space is open to dialogue and cooperation if approached on equal terms and addressed by low-key communication.



Perspectives and Development

- Many people can be met in public spaces in our city's neighbourhoods: RESPECT GUIDES should therefore be deployed there too instead of focussing on the city centre
- Interaction between street workers and civil society organisations should be increased
- RESPECT GUIDES should organise their deployments more self-reliant

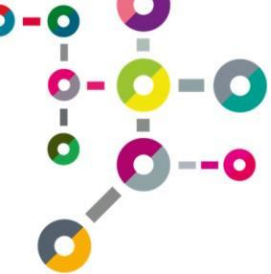


Let's get in touch!

Gregor Belgardt
Municipality of Stuttgart
Head of the Crime Prevention Unit

kriminalpraevention@stuttgart.de





Pilot Project *The Restorative Justice Approach*

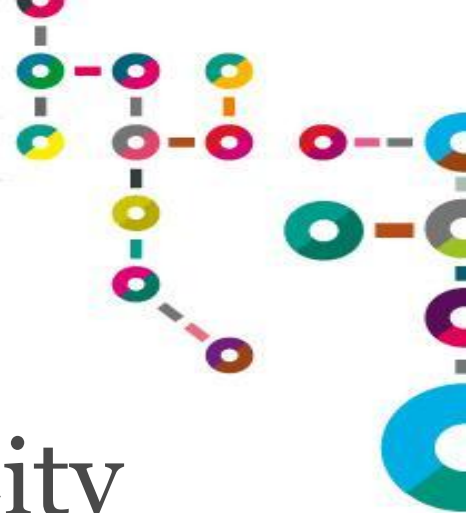
**Miran Scheers, Head of Prevention and
Safety at the City of Leuven**





LEUVEN

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Leuven Restorative City

Miran Scheers, Head of Prevention

28 April- City Based Approaches Workshop

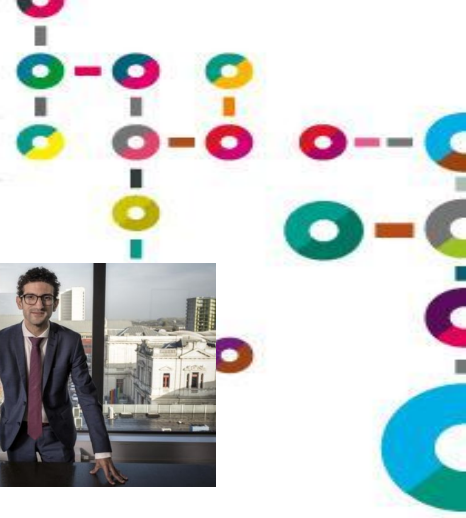


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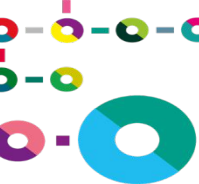


- Mayor : Mohamed Ridouani
- Capital province “Vlaams-Brabant”
- 100.976 inhabitants
- +/- 65.000 students
- 5563 ha – 5 submunicipalities
- 171 nationalities
- European capital of innovation 2020



With the Sup

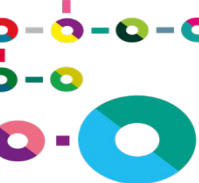




Radicalisation and polarisation, violent extremism in Belgium

- Foreign Terrorist Fighters (Syrië) – National taskforce 2015 and local taskforces (security services)
- 22 maart 2016 – Terrorist Attack Brussels Airport/Metro
- Homegrown terrorist fighters
- 2016: prevention is considered as very important !! (prevention reinvented)
 - Local integrated security cell (LIVC-R): police and prevention actors come together and exchange information
 - “deradicalisation”-programs
 - Coordination at the local level
 - “Leuven: action plan to prevent racism, discrimination, social exclusion, violence, etc ... that can lead to polarisation and violent extremism”





ROOTS Leuven

@RootsStelplaats

Startpagina

Info



ROOTS Leuven

16 maart om 14:09 · 🌐

Leuke avond op ons eerste 🍷 Roots-Café 🍷 !!

Grote opkomst!

Veel plezier!

Voor herhaling vatbaar 🍷 sta tuned!! 🍷

Sophie Roots Enya Roots Jeroen Jongerenwerker Leuven



19



EUROPE GOES LOCAL

Supporting Youth Work at the Municipal Level

[ABOUT](#)

[NEWS](#)

[EGL IN ACTION](#)

[PRACTICES](#)

[EVENTS](#)

[CHARTER](#)

October 15, 2020

“GOING BACK TO THE ROOTS”- THE ROOTS PROJECT IN LEUVEN, BELGIUM

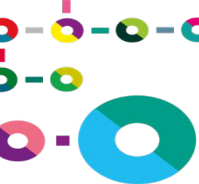
As a strategic partnership that supports municipal level local youth work, Europe Goes Local (EGL) not only aims to raise the quality of youth work development but also create and influence a multiplier effect through identifying and promoting diverse activities of and to its members, partners and stakeholders. Thanks to the quality of its cooperation, EGL has become a rich platform of activities and practices that showcase the diversity and success of local youth work in various local settings and contexts.

As we are counting down the days to the official launch of the Changemaker Toolkit, which is designed to support working with the European Charter on Local Youth Work, we have decided to select and present to you 5 good practices that highlight the importance, creativity and impact of local youth work and look at the ways they align to the Charter's principles and promote its values across Europe.

In the hope that you might get inspired to implement a similar approach in your own country or learn more about what others are doing successfully, today we present to you Roots Leuven in Belgium with their good example of youth participation and inclusion people of refugee background in city life and in the Belgian culture through organizing mentorship programs and cultural activities.



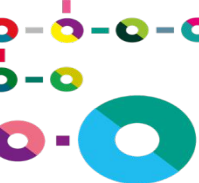
- **Name of the good practice:** Roots Fest
- **Location:** Leuven, Belgium
- **Organization:** Roots Leuven
- **Organization Profile:** Roots organizes leisure activities for people with a refugee background in Leuven. The goal is to encourage them to participate in the city life of Leuven. The youngsters are often at high risk to fall through the gaps of society. Therefore Roots Leuven focuses on youth welfare work and is at the centre of prevention work, youth and integration work.



Prevention in Leuven

- Youth prevention workers & outreachers
- Neighbourhoodmanagers & committees
- Buddy-project in schools
- Mediation programs
- Financing multicultural associations
- Local bounce-network: program (students, teachers, train the trainer)
- Casablanca goes casablanca (together with the local police)
- Inclusion programs (mother groups, Roots, Nomade, bike school....)
to empower people & to facilitate integration



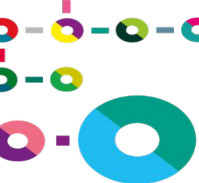


Key elements

- Communication
- Proximity
- Solidarity
- Inclusion
- Involvement
- Cooperation
- Social support
- Resilience
- Reconciliation
-
- Dialogue
- Listening
- Helping
- Outreaching
- Respect
- Networking
- Empowerment
- Key figure
- Building bridges



LEUVEN



Restorative city/justice approach

Leuven restorative city

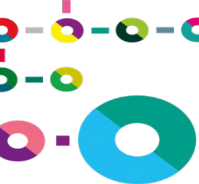
Steering group: services of the city, local police, University of Leuven Institute of Criminology (LINC), local services of mediation, youth workers, social workers, ...

Aims:

- Stimulating restorative practices and projects
- Collecting and sharing expertise
- Creating testing grounds based on shared expertise.

Restrictions:

- Limited visibility and support.
- No clear view on the tools and resources.
- No central contact point and coordination.



Bridge

Leuven as a city in which diversity is seen as a challenge and not as a problem.

Restorative approach = prevent situations that can be a breeding ground for polarisation by giving citizens, organisations, schools, companies, ... tools to prevent conflicts and/or to cope with them in a constructive way.

Objectives of Bridge for the city of Leuven

- Developing a model of 'restorative approach' in the city.
- Experimenting the 'community circles' methodology in a pilot case within a problematic neighbourhood context.



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Bridge – audit & stakeholder meeting

Results

- Leuven is a multicultural city, with high levels of social cohesion, diversity and tolerance. This is a factor in protecting it from polarisation and extremism.
- There are polarities in Leuven, but they do not necessary lead to violence or violent extremism.

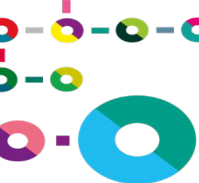
The great challenge for Leuven is:

- to maintain social cohesion by creating continuity in the work;
- and therefore foster reciprocity to prevent the phenomenon of polarisation from gaining ground.

A long-term approach is desirable.



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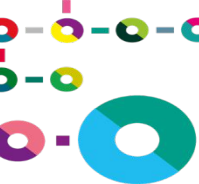


Restorative approach

Two parallel sections

- To define the required organisational structure (governance): exploring the ambitions and objectives, the form of the governance, the roles and tasks of the partners and the financial operation. (Kamino)
- To explore the scientific substantiation of a ‘restorative city’: concretize the conceptual elaboration of restorative justice, restorative practices in various institutional and broader social contexts. (University of Leuven)

Formulating conclusions and recommendations for the City Council.



Community circles

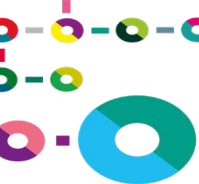
Pilot case of community circles within a problematic neighbourhood context.

Stakeholders:

neighbourhood managers, community workers, (neighbourhood) mediators, local police, social housing, community guards, ...



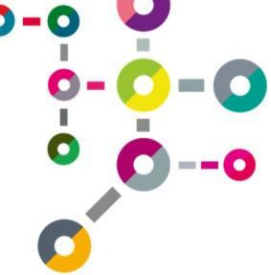
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Questions?



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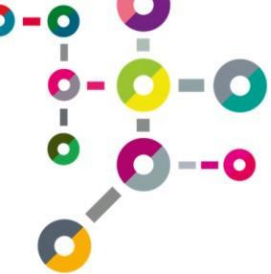


BRIDGE - Building resilience to reduce polarisation and growing extremism

Discussion

General questions

- *Is polarisation a phenomenon in your municipality?*
- *Is the phenomenon of polarisation present in the public discussion/
media coverage in your city/region/work context?*
- *Are relevant city services familiar with it?*

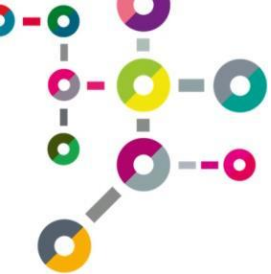


BRIDGE – Building resilience to reduce polarisation and growing extremism

Discussion

Assessing polarisation

- *Do you have prior knowledge on key polarising factors and actors within your respective local context?*
- *Representatives of municipalities: Do you feel equipped to carry out a local polarisation audit?*
- *What are the key challenges when planning and implementing such an audit?*

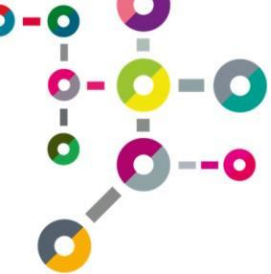


BRIDGE - Building resilience to reduce polarisation and growing extremism

Discussion

Prevention and mitigation of polarisation

- *What networks and resources can you in your context mobilise to elaborate strategies to prevent or mitigate polarisation?*
- *What strategies and activities seeking to prevent and/or mitigate polarisation do already exist in your city /region?*



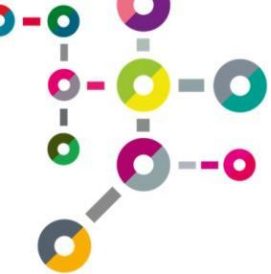
Coming soon



BRIDGE Handbook - Final Publication addressed to local and regional authorities (local audits, pilots projects, practical recommendations) ENG and FR



BRIDGE final coordination meeting (online): 31/5/2021 - ENG and FR
More Information soon: efus.eu



Thank you for your attention!

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