

# Launch of the project “Local Institutions Against Violent Extremism II” (LIAISE 2)

The Kick-off meeting plus a Conference of LIAISE 2 project led by the [European Forum for Urban Security](#) took place last week 26-27 of May 2016 in Bordeaux.

28 European partners (including 18 cities and regions) participated in the launch of the LIAISE 2 project in which CEP is full partner. The project seeks to strengthen the capacities of local and regional European authorities to prevent and tackle the issue of radicalisation leading to violent extremism.

The first day internal meeting was held at the Hotel de Ville of Bordeaux. During the morning session the organization and the activities that will be developed under the project in the different European cities were discussed. During the afternoon we participated in a workshop about pilot projects of partner cities and regions. There were exchanges of ideas for pilot projects between partners and a contribution of experts on radicalization, especially on topics like: understanding and conceptualization of radicalization, local multi-agency strategies and training professionals, communication and counter narratives, family support, resilience and preventive work with youth and de-radicalization and disengagement.

The first day was followed by a European Conference on “European cities facing radicalization: communication and counter-narratives” that took place at the Grand Théâtre de Bordeaux. More than 250 attendants from 14 different countries participated at the Conference. The programme combined plenary sessions as well as round tables with lively discussions and exchanges.

The formal opening of the Conference was done by Marik Fetouh, Deputy Mayor of Bordeaux in charge of equality and citizenship and for Roger Vicot the President of the French Forum for Urban Security. After, Magnus Ranstorp, Research Director of the Centre for Asymmetric Threat Studies from the Swedish Defence University took the floor and introduced a proposal to better understand the concept of radicalization and gave a framework concept to work with.

Two round tables composed by different local authorities and experts were developed. The focus themes of the round tables were the communication strategies and the establishment of a counter-narrative as essential elements for local actors to build dialogue with and mobilize their citizens, as well as to prevent and address violent extremism. Questions such as: What communication strategy should be adopted at the local level? How can we address the issue of radicalisation and its related concepts when they themselves are in debate? How can we address all citizens, without stigmatizing any particular group of society? In what ways can the local level contribute to the development and dissemination of a counter-narrative? were

discussed and each representative presented their local plans and strategies regarding it. Attendants could also participate with questions to each member of a table.

The Closing speech was made by Alain Juppé, mayor of Bordeaux, who emphasized the diversity as well as unity as a positive key element of the citizens of Bordeaux.

Local Institutions against Violent Extremism II Project (LIAISE 2) is an EU-funded project led by the European Forum for Urban Security (EFUS). The project will last 24 months and will build on the results of LIAISE project initiated in 2014. The project aims to organize five European conferences on different aspects of the issue of radicalisation. Furthermore, it will deliver training sessions to local authorities' partner of the project and will help them to set up pilot projects through which they will apply locally the knowledge gained during the training sessions as well as develop innovative practices. CEP will be in charge of organizing a Conference together with Efus and Local authorities on the topic "Preventing Radicalisation in Probation and Prison".