A youth-led approach to radicalisation and insecurity: An alternative vision for social cohesion

The MARGIN project
Final conference, Horizon 2020
Budapest, Hungary, 3-5 April 2017

Dr Theo Gavrielides
IARS Founder & Director

The IARS International Institute
Community-led Solutions for a fairer society

YEIP Youth Empowerment and Innovation Project

My claim and assumption

Claim

The road that we have taken for security policy and practice is leading to further division and the erosion of our European societal values.

This is by no coincidence

My claim and assumption

My argument

Europe is in a democratic deficit perpetuated by a number of challenges such as the economic downturn, fears of security, nationalism and the continuous marginalisation of the disempowered.

My assumption

There is an alternative vision for social cohesion

KEEP
CALM
AND
BE
PREPARED

How secure is our world today?

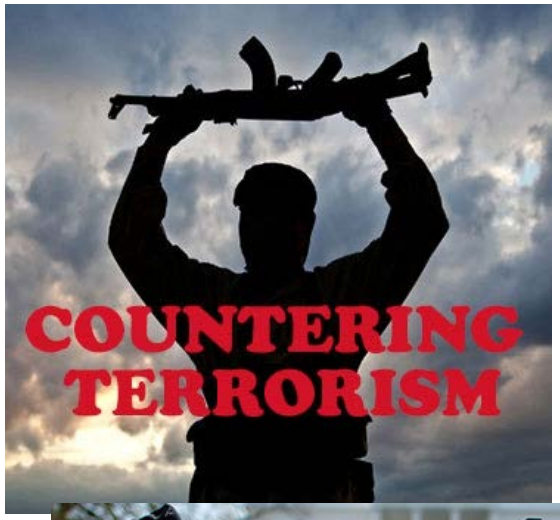
Control through Fear

- ✓ Security terror (terrorism & radicalisation)
- ✓ Financial terror (financial crisis)
- ✓ Identity terror (nationalism)

Control through security fear: The new reality

1. Terrorists are no longer seen to be acting alone. Terrorist powerful networks do exist.
2. The use of weapons of mass destruction is possible including nuclear and biological weapons
3. Terrorism as an act cannot be confined by time, place or nation.

The new reality



PAGES 22-23

NEW SERIES

In a triumphant week for British values, Tories unveil plans to give Parliament and judges power to ignore the European Court and its crazy decision making

END OF HUMAN RIGHTS FARCE

BRITAIN will force a showdown with Europe to seize back sovereignty over human rights if the Tories win the election.

It will ignore verdicts by Euro judges it does not agree with under

By James Slack
Home Affairs Editor

an explosive Tory plan to reinstate the primacy of the UK courts and Parliament.

If Strasbourg objects, the UK will resign from the European Court of Human Rights and 'walk away'. The

promise to reinstate Parliamentary sovereignty and reduce the court to a mere 'advisory' role is made by Justice Secretary Chris Grayling.

In an article for today's Mail, he unveils a manifesto commitment to scrap Labour's Human Rights Act and replace it with a British Bill of Rights.

The legislation – certain to provoke a blazing row with civil liberties groups

and even some Tory MPs – would for the first time acknowledge that rights must be accompanied by responsibilities.

The result would be a dramatic curtailing of the ability of foreign criminals to claim they have a 'human right' to avoid deportation. In the case of a foreign national who takes a life – such as in a death by dangerous driving case – they will n

Turn to Page 4

The IARS International Institute
Community-led Solutions for a fairer society

YEIP Youth Empowerment and Innovation Project

Fear through power

1. Realism defines “power” as a capability to impose, enforce or exercise influence and dominance

2. Liberalism identifies power with law and order

3. Power the “necessary ingredient in the pursuit of goals and aims”, Thucydides

Power can be a good thing!

Fear through power

Liberalism and realism recognize that power undeniably influences global politics and that human rights may construct an appropriate framework that can bring balance of power

Hobbes stressed the importance of controlling forces of power or authorities' control in imposing compliance with treaties.

Where do we go from here?

- ✓ The law alone cannot bring social justice!
- ✓ It is through the result of millions of small actions that we change *status quo*.
- ✓ The role of civil society has long been underestimated and it is now becoming clearer that without the NGOs, movements and campaigns that comprise it, governments and other vessels of power would not be held to account.

Disadvantage thinking vs positive thinking

The foundations of positive thinking

- ✓ Young people are not “risks” to manage
- ✓ Young people “at risk” have talents and it is those that we need to target for nurturing – not the young people!
- ✓ Europe needs the hopes and ideals of young people more than ever. This cannot be a mere statement of intent and theory, but one of genuine and proactive action.

The user led model of social action projects

If “Youth-led” policy is constructed through youth-led research methods, then by default its content will be informed by the lived experiences of its target group.

However, this cannot be achieved without learning to share ***power*** with young people.

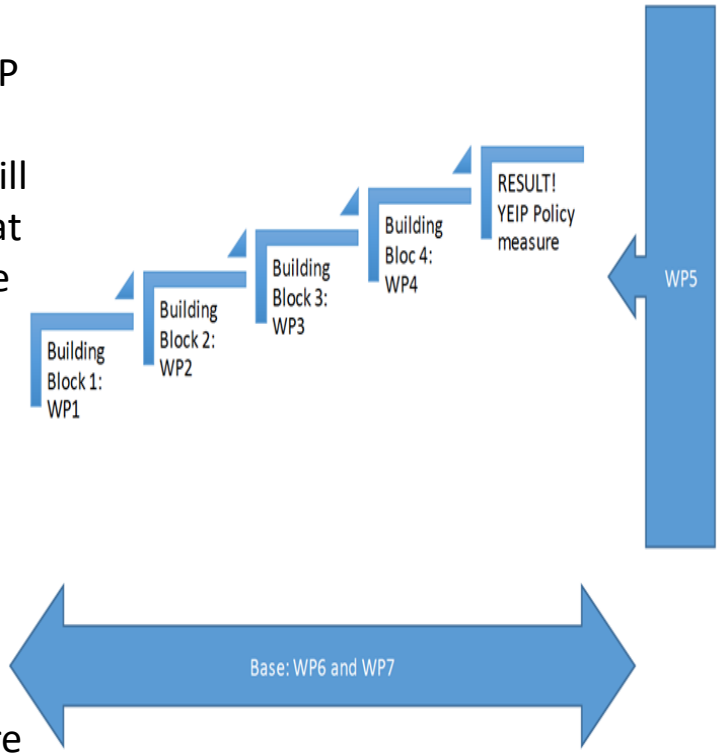
Steps for IARS model of youth-led research for policy

- ✓ **Step 1:** Relinquish power and remove hats
- ✓ **Step 2:** Reach out widely and recruit diverse groups with others
- ✓ **Step 3:** Empower through ad hoc and tailored accredited training that is flexible and adjustable to young people's needs as these are defined by their diverse lives
- ✓ **Step 4:** Facilitate discussions on current topics that need change
- ✓ **Step 5:** Coordinate their action research and support to write evidence based solutions through peer reviewed processes (Youth Voice Journal), websites, social media, campaigns, videos, posters and other means that reach young people
- ✓ **Step 6:** Support the evaluation, monitoring, project management and control of all previous steps through youth-led tools and a standing Youth Advisory Board
- ✓ **Step 7:** Reward and accredit.

A case study: The Youth Empowerment & Innovation Project (Erasmus KA3)

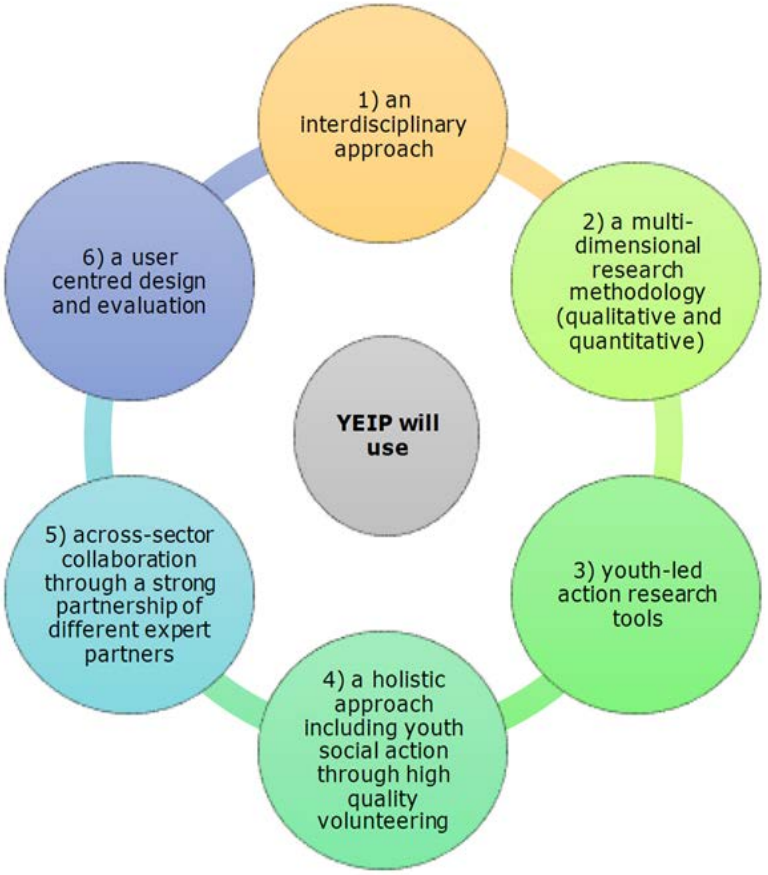
YEIP's aim is to construct a policy measure that will help enhance social cohesion and prevent violent radicalisation of young people in Europe. To this end, it will construct evidenced-based tools (YEIP PREVENT model, toolkit, training programme) that will allow the delivery of direct interventions in 4 different environments that will be evaluated prior to rolling out the policy measure. To ensure that our results are translated into policy making at a national level, we put together a partnership of 8 EU member states consisting of:

- **1 Public Authority per country** that would be able to take strategic leadership in the Call's area of PT7
- **1 Researcher per country** that would carry out in an independent and robust manner the action research/ field trials, while acting as the main point of contact between the Coordinator and the given Public Authority
- **2 examples of Target Groups** with practical expertise to ensure user engagement.



What is most challenging & innovative in YEIP?

- ✓ The project methodology which will be youth-led impacting on project management, evaluation, quality control but also research methods and content analysis and dissemination.
- ✓ The project scientific (state-of-the art) and practical (implementation and validation) results which will
  - ✓ Move away from the RNR model and towards the GLM positive approach to dealing with radicalisation
  - ✓ Drill down into the realities of eight case study EU members in a multi-disciplinary way and with the intention of upscaling the YEIP policy measure locally, nationally but also EU wide
  - ✓ Create social action opportunities for young people across Europe and bring them closer to EU institutions increasing social cohesion.



Social Policy impact indicators

Local, National, European levels target audiences:

- ✓ Professionals and volunteers from NGOs and public services working with young people at risk of radicalisation, exclusion and violence
- ✓ Educational providers (teachers, university staff, non-formal educational providers, schools)
- ✓ Decision makers and policy makers at the participating countries
- ✓ Local universities and research institutes
- ✓ The media for the purposes of increasing awareness about the project and its practical results.

Indicators at the EU level

- ➢ Support and help deliver the Youth Strategy's aim of preventing social inclusion of young people and by mitigating the risks that lead to their radicalization
- ➢ Complement and help deliver Erasmus+ Inclusion and Diversity Strategy by focusing on young people with fewer opportunities and by paying particular attention to issue of gender, migration and socio-economic status.
- ➢ Integrate with the EU agenda on security and the further measures against radicalization presented by the EC in June 2016.

Indicators at the national level x 8

The IARS International Institute
Community-led Solutions for a fairer society

YEIP Youth Empowerment and Innovation Project

Final words

Share power and this will allow young people from all walks of life to construct their own philosophies. This is not a conclusion based on a hunch but one that is founded in a number of theories including the constructivist philosophy of learning (Brooks & Brooks 1993), which asserts that students construct meaning for themselves.

If power and with it responsibility are shared, then young people will be left to develop their much needed autonomy.

However much money is thrown by the EU, the Council of Europe, government, trusts and donors for new policies, good schooling, textbooks, volunteering programmes, different curricula, improved parenting or even affirmative action schemes it won't help address the real issues faced by young people and the widening gap between the powerful and powerless.

YEIP Youth Empowerment and Innovation Project

Thank You!

Erasmus+

The IARS International Institute

14 Dock Offices

Surrey Quays Road

London SE16 2XU

United Kingdom

www.iars.org.uk

contact@iars.org.uk

Tel. (0044) 207 064 4380