



CHAMPIONS

Cooperative Harmonised
Action Model
to Stop Polarisation
in Our Nations

Activity Brief #8

The RADPol Conference

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Introduction

On 18 and 25 June, and 2 July 2020 the **RADPol Conference** on the topic of “Radicalisation in Central and Eastern Europe – trends, challenges and opportunities to counteract” was implemented as a joint initiative of three European projects, namely CHAMPIONS, MINDb4ACT (H2020 #740543), and BRaVE (H2020 #822189).

Originally planned as a two-day conference in Poznan, Poland, due to COVID-19 the three consortia decided to organize an online event instead. The online conference featured three webinars and four expert panels which were attended by over 200 participants.

The main aim of the organizers was to facilitate knowledge exchange on trends of various forms of radicalization in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and to explore the challenges that radicalization brings. Participants were encouraged to exchange experiences and share good practices in prevention and countering violent extremism, to present the latest research results, and to engage in multi-agency cooperation in this field.

The webinars were recorded and are now available for public viewing on YouTube under the following link: <https://youtu.be/jai3b5QuGI8>

While not originally an activity within the CHAMPIONS project, the opportunity to collaborate with sister consortia on a joint initiative was one that proved enriching for all and certainly enlarged the network of and public awareness of CHAMPIONS.

The following section provides a short overview of central topics discussed during the conference, which are of relevance to the CHAMPIONS consortium and its local partners.

The three webinars

Webinar 1 offered an insight into how research can inform the practice of preventing radicalization. Researchers involved in the projects CHAMPIONS, MINDb4ACT and BRaVE discussed the importance of evidence-based practice and policy development in the field of prevention. Furthermore, they shared the latest insights from their own research.

Webinar 2 offered a policy perspective on Central and Eastern European approaches to countering radicalization and violent extremism. Two expert panels discussed two sub topics in detail. Panel I discussed the current trends on radicalization in the region. Panel II focused on right-wing extremism in the region.

Webinar 3 was dedicated to the sharing of best practices and to the support of effective policy development. Speakers highlighted the importance of multi-stakeholder collaboration in countering radicalization. Furthermore, the importance of adding a gender perspective when

addressing the problem of extremism was noted. The topics were discussed in further detail during the two expert panels. Panel I focused on the multi-agency approach and on joint initiatives in tackling radicalization. Panel II addressed the gender perspective.

The conference presentations can be accessed on the conference homepage:
<https://ppbw.pl/en/conference-radpol2020/>

As a result of the exchange between researchers, practitioners and policy makers, a number of policy briefs have been formulated. The policy briefs can be accessed via the following link:

<https://ppbw.pl/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/RADPol2020-conference-Policy-Briefs.pdf>



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