



# THE EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON PREVENTING POLARIZATION & VIOLENT RADICALIZATION

CHAMPIONS co-organized the **#EUPrevent** conference (26th-29th of April) jointly with 5 ISF-P funded projects (Rhizome Against Polarization, YoungRes, WayOut, Efus and ARMOUR) to unite European efforts in the prevention of and response to radicalization and polarization.

The program of the 4-day conference featured 6 panel discussions and 11 workshops, drawing on the expertise of researchers, practitioners and policymakers. This newsletter presents the highlights of the conference and points to relevant resources for those who could not attend the conference.

## Online resources

Program:

<https://www.firstlinepractitioners.com/european-conference-2021/>

Presentations & project videos:

<https://www.firstlinepractitioners.com/european-conference-results/>

Activity Brief:

<https://www.championsproject.eu/wp-content/uploads/sites/20/2021/05/CHAMPIONS-Activity-Brief-9.pdf>

April 26th-29th

European Conference on Preventing Polarization & Violent Radicalization:  
**Strengthening Resilience,  
Fostering Innovation,  
Consolidating Lessons  
& Pioneering New Frontiers**

#EUPrevent

15 EUROPEAN COUNTRIES



These projects were funded by the European Union's Internal Security Fund — Police

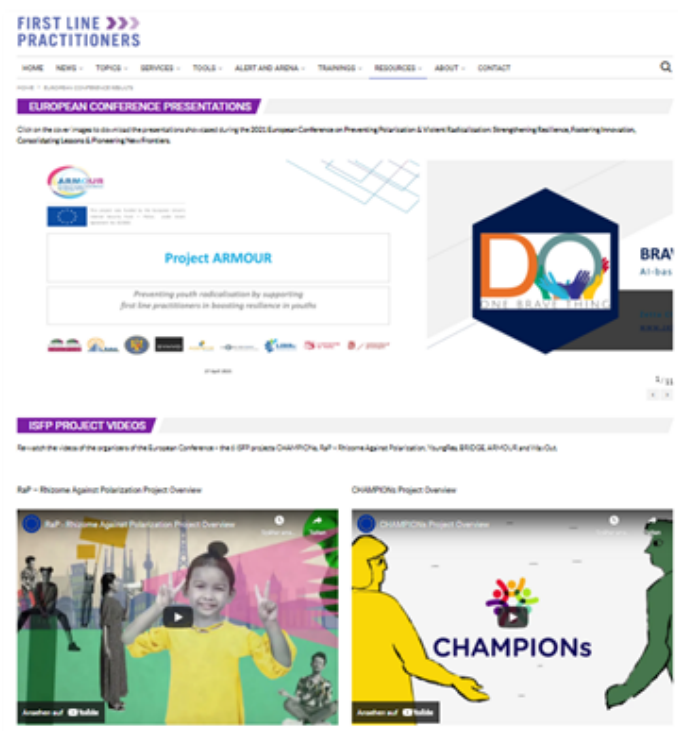


## Bridging the gap between research and practice

Preventing and countering polarization and radicalization is at the center of the CHAMPIONS project, which implements roundtables and working groups in Germany, Romania, Hungary and Poland and creates online tools for collaboration and knowledge exchange. The strength of CHAMPIONS lies in its bottom-up approach of facilitating trainings and workshops with local communities and in building lasting networks of practitioners

who work in the field of preventing and countering violent extremism. The conference was a step further in this direction, by inviting practitioners, researchers and policy-makers from across Europe to exchange ideas and work together to develop a successful and sustainable strategy to address the issues of polarization and violent extremism.

The conference was an opportunity to explore the diversity of the field, to discuss specific issues in depth and to learn from the experiences of experts. Topics covered during the conference ranged from the development of serious computer games to boost the resilience of youngsters to radicalization, to city-based approaches and local initiatives to counter polarization and marginalization, to the sharing of gender, human-rights, and peacebuilding perspectives, to academic discussion on the root-causes of extremism.



**#EUPrevent** demonstrated that there are a multitude of actors in Europe working to address the issue of polarization and violent extremism. The conference also highlighted that there is a need to coordinate efforts and to bring the tools and insights from research to the local communities and to policymakers.

The full program of the conference and the biographies of the speakers are available online:

<https://www.firstlinepractitioners.com/european-conference-2021/>

Conference presentations as well as project videos and links to recorded sessions can be accessed on a dedicated webpage:

<https://www.firstlinepractitioners.com/european-conference-results/>

The CHAMPIONs media page features Activity Brief No9 which provides short summaries of the different sessions and the lessons learned:

<https://www.championsproject.eu/media/>

A special report on the conference will provide detailed information on all the panel discussions, workshops and presentations. The report will be made available on the CHAMPIONs media website at the end of May.

Given the success of the conference and the positive feedback by participants, the organizers hope to install the European Conference on Preventing Polarization and Violent Radicalization as a yearly event. We look forward to welcoming you to #EUPrevent 2022 next year.

## CHAMPIONs - Cooperative Harmonized Action Model to Stop Polarisation in Our Nations

The main objective of the project is to develop collaboration models for establishing working groups between first-line-practitioners. The offline approach is supported by collaborative online tools, practitioner trainings and digital services.

[www.championsproject.eu](http://www.championsproject.eu)



This project was funded by the European Union's Internal Security Fund — Police. Grant agreement No: 823705.