

European Platform of Deradicalising Narratives (EDNA)

How to counter extremist story-telling in the internet? Which kinds of narratives are, at all, able to de-radicalize vulnerable young people – and instil sustainable personal development and pro-social attitudes? How may we garner such deradicalising narratives, and in what form should we present them? Most pivotal these questions are, since today's youth ever more intensely uses the Internet to negotiate social belonging, form personal identity narratives, exchange lived-through experiences and build values. This is why we need to go beyond just detecting and closing down radical websites – and why ISEC rightly strives to “[to] provide media skills and platforms to mainstream voices, moderate opinion-leaders, victims, ... and challenge single extremist/terrorist narratives”.

However, taking a bunch of interview statements around the issue of violent radicalization and putting it onto a website, will be of little help only – and might even have detrimental effects. Not every narrative de-radicalizes – not even the most well intended ones. And not everybody's statements are helpful with any group of beneficiaries. Instead we will draw from recent Interdisciplinary Narratology, EU best practice research, existing materials and deradicalisation practitioners' experiences, in order to gain profound answers as to which kinds of story-telling are needed, how to elicit them in responsible ways and how to edit, produce and present them to various audiences.

The two-year starter measure conducted in Germany will intensely work with about four dozens of diverse participants:

- (1) ex-radicals from different kinds of violent extremisms (right-/left-wing, religious);
- (2) family and acquaintances of [ex-]radicals;
- (3) moderate voices from the respective cultural backgrounds;
- (4) social workers and experts;
- (5) and – under certain methodological provisions – victims of terrorist acts.