



## **Project Radical (Ex)Change Greek National Focus Group**

22 September 2021  
Place: Online, Zoom platform

---

***Organized by***

***International Olympic Truce Centre IOTC (Greece)***

***Focus Group Coordinators:***

*Katerina Salta (IOTC)*

*Christine Chachamidis (IOTC)*

---

### **Participants (*in Alphabetical Order*):**

- ***Adla Shashati***, Director of the Office of the Greek Forum of Migrants and a Member of the Sudanese Community
- ***Aggelos Nakis***, Membre of the NGO Sxedia
- ***Christos Lazaridis***, Membre of the Greek Forum of Refugees

- **Eleni Loumaki**, Primary Education, Teacher at the Community Center of Action Aid
- **Ioanna Papadopoulou**, Psychologist Action Aid
- **Lefteris Papagiannakis**, Specialist in Public Law, Head of Advocacy, Policy, and Research for the Greek NGO Solidarity Now
- **Markos Papakostantis**, Lawyer, Assistant professor of European Law at Panteion University
- **Theo Bogeas**, Occupational Therapist
- **Vassilis Kalyvas**, Professional in the field of Education and Parasports

### Focus Group Methodology

<p>I. <b><u>First phase: Sending all participants the document</u></b></p> <p><i>“Radical (Ex)Change” Project and Information</i></p>
<p>II. <b><u>Second phase: Realization of the FG.</u></b></p> <p><i>Recording of the session, and transcription of the interventions.</i></p> <p><i>Coordinators have made up at the FG beginning the normalized inputs, and intervened in some points during the FG for to re-activate the discussion among the participants.</i></p>
<p>III. <b><u>Third phase:</u></b></p> <p><i>Content Analysis of the participants’ interventions in the FG.</i></p>
<p>a) <b>First</b>, the relevant concepts have been detected, after the inputs made by the coordinators, or by commenting with the other participants.</p>
<p>b) <b>Second</b>, a panel has worked out in the blind the grouping categories for to include each concept previously detected.</p>

### Results

*The results of the Content analysis has been structured in three different levels:*

- **1st Level:** Relevant concepts expressed by the participants.
- **2nd Level:** Grouping Categories
- **3rd Level:** Participants’ Literal quotes.

## Research – Concept

Clear definition of radicalization: attitudes, beliefs and/or behaviors

What are the real values that the youth people have nowadays? We are perhaps using an ancient book of recipes?

It is possible de-radicalization through the use of sport, or just sport should be a preventive tool?

Why sport is better than other activities (e.g., music, reading, playing, etc.) for to work in this field as a tool?

### Sports Managers - Concept

Evaluation of risks vs benefits to build up social interventions

Evaluation of the impact of direct professionals (pedagogues, coaches, etc.) respect to the impact from institutional managers and gestors

### Education - Concept

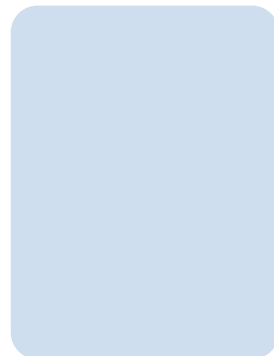
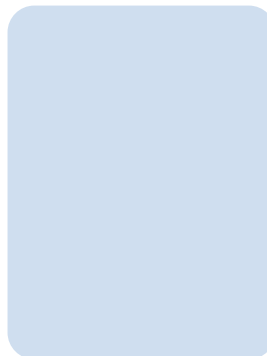
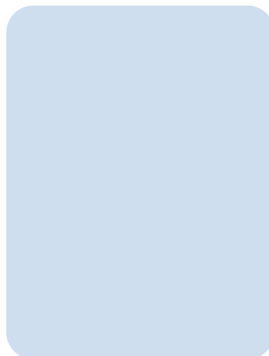
Building up co-ed mentorships for the target youngsters (same age, similar worries, same or similar language, etc.)

Technical staff must learn to read, and to express emotional considerations

### Radical (Ex)Change PROJECT - Concept

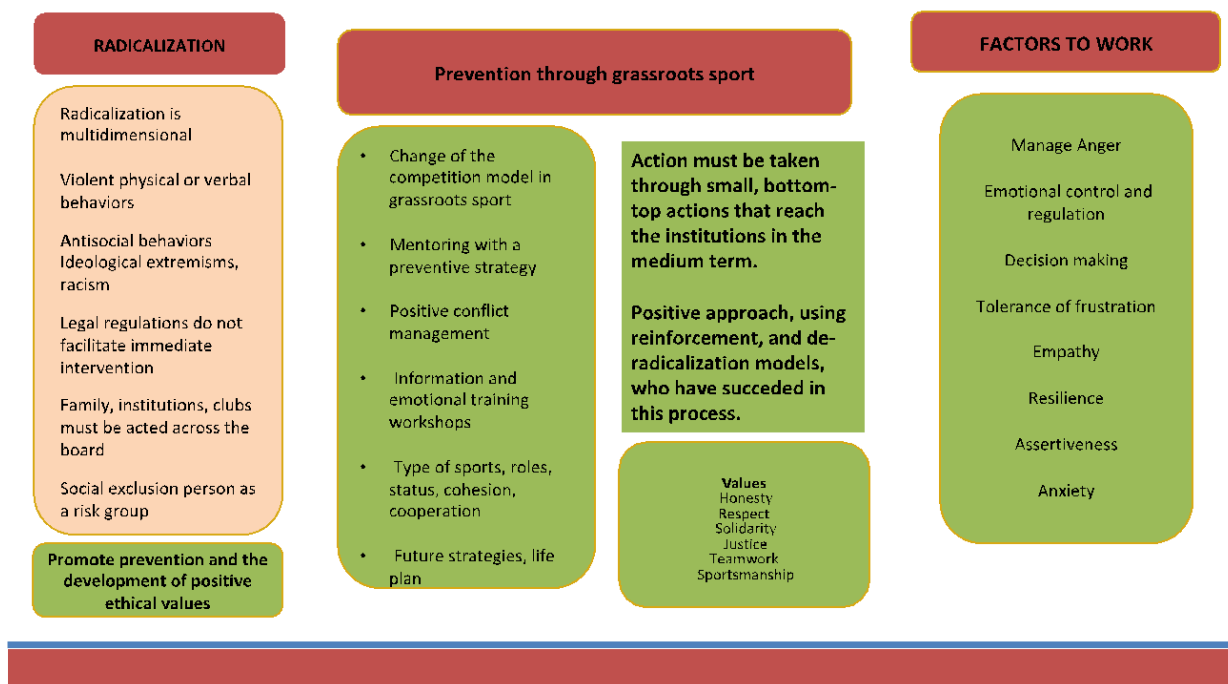
Separate clearly: "Prevention of radicalization through sport", vs "Prevention of radicalization in sports"

### PSYCHOLOGICAL - Concept





**Figure 1.** An analysis-intervention proposal within the Radical (Ex) Change Project.



## **Greek National Focus Group Global Comments**

### Participants' Literal quotes

#### **Markos Papakostantis**

*The European Union does not have a comprehensive policy so as to tackle radicalization of young people. Each country has its own particularities, and these particularities are also recognised by the Lisbon Treaty itself, which classifies education, training, young and sport in the European Union's responsibilities. This makes the project more difficult as we will have to find common paths in order to be able to make proposals. The violence is a part of the everyday life of the young people. Sport has to prevent radicalization and not to recover radicalisation. It's a matter of education, there are gaps in the education of youth. So, that's why youth are more vulnerable towards radicalization. Sport can play a crucial role at the prevention of radicalization. The major challenge is how we can support policies that are not supported from the state.*

#### **Adla Shashati**

*There is a relationship on football and sport in general with the labor market. Athletes from migrant communities believe that by focusing on making a group inside of their community it would be easier for them to find publicity channels and come out in the labor market. But this also helps their community, because they are creating groups inside and also in these groups the youth are participating which is a very good practice. The lack of social inclusion policies from the state usually creates groups of people, especially the youth, that they do not have anything to do.*

#### **Eleni Loumaki**

*We try to teach some values to the kids through football. In most of sports there is a gap between the two genders. We can bring this division through sports. Maybe the first thing is to have role models to both sides.*

#### **Ioanna Papadopoulou**

*Generally, the football free methodology is a methodology trying to teach teens to accept each other. They are themselves building the rules how they want to play the game.*

#### **Theo Bogeas**

*Accessibility to sport groups and clubs should be by contacting local groups but also by communicating with all the organisers of sports events and championships, as well as with associations at a local and national level discussing about this specific issue. It is about promoting of how we can use sports both as a means and as an end. But people cannot wait until this change can happen.*

#### **Vassilis Kalyvas**

*Sometimes there is a special feeling of solidarity among people with disabilities and how the disability connects them. It's not like they prefer to do it on their own groups, but all the negative attitudes and suspicious thoughts they get softer and easier when they have the disability aspect*

connect them. They become a part of a group they develop friendships and social networks and I mean physically social networks, and this is very important for them and their wellbeing.

### **Aggelos Nakis**

*We play just to become a better person not better player. Football is a remedy by its own. We try all of us to coexist in the same team.*

### **Lefteris Papagiannakis**

*Sport is an excellent tool, but a tool without support of policy. It might face issues concerning sustainability. There is no element of sustainability, the appropriate funding, support etc. The results if they are not taken on the higher level are lost. It might also be something with a local authority or regional authority speaking about Greece. We have seen other cities around Europe who have more capacities, more budget and more personnel. The lack of national policy in the social inclusion is something that is missing in order to have a more inclusive approach.*

### **Christos Lazaridis**

*Migrant, refugees and asylum seekers wish to be actively involved, especially in the decision-making procedures. That means that someone should provide them with access in order to raise their voice and empower their message. Inclusion to the whole society means progress. Apart from that football is a language itself it gives a space to invest on that.*

### **Screenshoot of the Focus Group development**

