EUROPEAN RESEARCH COMMUNITY ON RANDICALISATION (ERCOR)

Call for Interest
The Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN) Policy Support was launched in January 2021 by the European Commission as a new strand of the RAN. It supports the Commission to facilitate exchanges among policy-makers across the EU by addressing key priorities in the field of prevention of radicalisation defined by EU Member States. RAN Policy Support aims at supporting Member States’ actions to prevent and counter violent extremism through the establishment of evidence-based and data driven outcomes, contributing to more effective policy responses.

RAN Policy Support also brings together a wide community of EU researchers as well as extra-EU research institutes and networks active in preventing and countering violent extremism (P/CVE). This enables the exchange of more information and complementary research findings, with the goal of effectively informing the policy-making process within the EU and beyond.

**BACKGROUND, OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE**

We are contacting you as part of a number of pre-selected organisations that are working in the field of P/CVE to express your interest in becoming part of the European Research Community on Radicalisation (ERCOR).

With the purpose of strengthening the areas of research related to radicalisation, the European Commission intends to create ERCOR, with the aim of collecting and streamlining research on P/CVE and terrorism. ERCOR will facilitate the transfer of knowledge on these topics among researchers and between researchers, policymakers and other stakeholders suggested by the European Commission.

**ERCOR HAS TWO MAIN PURPOSES:**

1. ERCOR intends to be a focal point for researchers, and a dedicated platform to allow this EU-based research community to channel its insights into the policy-making process, strengthening the research policy interface in the field of radicalisation. It is the objective of ERCOR to be the most comprehensive and inclusive database of researchers working on the field of radicalisation in the EU. ERCOR will be comprised of members of the Researcher’s Directory, international research institutes and networks (IRIN), members of the RAN Policy Support Research Advisory Board, and members of the RAN Policy Support consortium.

2. ERCOR will create a Researcher’s Directory from which the European Commission will draw expertise and consultancy to support EU policy
making in the field of radicalisation. The Directory will be available also to Member States that need the input of researchers for papers, events, reports, and evaluations, among others. Members of the Directory will automatically be part of the broader ERCOR community.

THEMATIC AREAS

Relevant thematic areas (other topics may be considered upon evaluation) for the European Research Community on Radicalisation include:

- Processes of radicalisation; Extremism, especially forms of extremism leading to violence; P/CVE policies and approaches; Polarisation; misuse of gaming; Hate speech online and offline; Deradicalisation; Disengagement; Violent right wing extremism and radicalisation; Left wing extremism and radicalisation; Jihadism; QAnon; Ethno-Nationalism; Indoctrination; VERLT; Accelerationism; Incel; Radicalisation in prisons; White Supremacy; Radicalisation leading to terrorism; Migration-radicalisation nexus; COVID-19 pandemic and resilience to radicalisation; Exit mechanisms; Mental health and radicalisation; Role of women and children in violent extremist groups, Extremist ideologies and narratives, disinformation leading to violent extremism.

RESEARCHER’S DIRECTORY – SELECTION CRITERIA

Researchers will be formally selected by the European Commission on the basis of a list proposed by the RAN Policy Support. The Commission will then submit the list to Member States for their validation. RAN Policy Support will recommend researchers based on a combination of their relevance and experience.

- Relevance: the researcher must have relevant publications to the thematic areas outlined above on the field of radicalisation and countering radicalisation aiming to improve the understanding of field. The thematic areas mentioned in this Call for Interest can be extended upon validation of the EU Commission.

- Experience:
  - Junior ERCOR affiliate: Minimum of 5 years of relevant academic research experience in the fields of Radicalisation, Extremism and P/CVE.
• **Senior ERCOR affiliate:**
  Minimum of 10 years of relevant academic research experience in the fields of Radicalisation, Extremism and P/CVE.

**ACADEMIC RECORD AND RESEARCH OUTPUT**

- **Scientific quality:** Publications, articles in peer-reviewed journals, books, chapters, published papers in conference proceedings.

- **Other scientific reports specific to the field:** Scientific or technical reports focusing on Radicalisation, Extremism and P/CVE; participation in conferences with scientific contributions, and publication in the proceedings in the fields of Radicalisation, Extremism and P/CVE.

- **Participation in EU funded research projects:** Focusing on the above-mentioned topics (FP7, Horizon 2020, Horizon Europe, ERC, etc.)

**Membership** in the researcher’s directory is not time limited. An updated CV will be requested every 3 years, and ERCOR encourages members to inform us about new publications. Any changes in the researcher’s status will need to be swiftly communicated by the researchers.

**Exclusion:** Researchers can be excluded from the list on any grounds related to violations of research ethics (see above), academic misconduct (e.g. plagiarism), inappropriate behaviour, low quality outcomes or contributions, or for bringing ERCOR into disrepute. This will involve a joint assessment by the European Commission and RAN PS, with RAN PS making the case, and the Commission deciding whether based on this an individual should be excluded.

**BENEFITS FOR RESEARCHERS**

- The researchers who are members of the Researcher’s Directory will be able to call themselves “ERCOR Researcher” and be part of the community of researchers that contribute to activities that can feed directly into the work of the European Commission and, indirectly, of the Member States. EU institutions and Member State policy makers will have access to the Directory at their perusal to reach out to experts for advise on specific radicalisation aspects.

- ERCOR Researchers will be given the opportunity to highlight their publications in the various deliverables of RAN Policy Support, such as the ERCOR newsletter, and will be invited to present their findings at research meetings organised by the European Commission. They may also be asked to attend briefings, evaluation committees, and they may
be commissioned to write papers as required by the European Commission or recommend colleagues for such tasks.

APPLICATION

- We invite you as part of the pre-selected organisations that are working in the field of P/CVE to nominate researchers affiliated with your organisations and that meet the above selection criteria to express their interest in becoming part of the European Research Community on Radicalisation (ERCOR) Researcher’s Directory. You can express your interest by completing the online application form no later than 31 July 2022 through the following link: https://share-eu1.hsforms.com/1PAZJyD0GSIC52D20fQVpgfaj8d