

**BRaVE** aims to systematise existing knowledge and assess the impact of policies and practices in preventing extreme ideologies and polarisation in European societies.

## Context

The BRaVE project comes at a time of great global uncertainty when European societies are at risk of becoming increasingly polarised. Vulnerable social groups - including ethnic minorities, migrants and a growing number of people disenfranchised by perceived and real inequality - may be seduced by the powerful sense of belonging and purpose offered by joining extremist groups or movements.

## Research

The project will survey relevant policies, programmes and research projects on the national, European and international level aiming at counteracting polarisation and violent extremism. Using this review of current approaches, it will design and build a set of Polarisation Indicators, which will be discussed and refined through stakeholder workshops. It will particularly focus on the role of three sets of factors in providing fertile ground for extremism and polarisation to grow, or conversely in helping to build resilient and cohesive communities: historical and cultural factors; real and perceived socio-economic inequalities; and media discourses, particularly social media communication 'bubbles'.

## BRaVE Platform

The BRaVE Platform will act as a tool for collecting and sharing existing policies, projects, and research. It will organise available evidence and encourage exchange and networking among established projects responding to extremism. The project consortium will design and create online and on-site activities involving NGO practitioners and educators and develop policy tools that contribute to preventing and mitigating polarisation.



## BRaVE: Building Resilience against Violent Extremism and Polarisation

A European research project bringing together researchers and stakeholders with a view to understanding which factors drive polarisation and violent extremism in European societies, as well as identify strategies in response that build resilient communities.

### About BRaVE

Far Right and Islamist groups seeking to recruit people to their political cause promote 'black and white' ideologies that lead to polarisation, hatred, intolerance and violence. Often cherry picking from narrow religious or nationalist doctrines, they rely on a superficial understanding and ideological interpretation. The activities of such groups can lead to disruption of social cohesion, diminished civic capacity, greater social tensions, hate speech, discrimination and even violence. This project builds on existing knowledge and policy experience with a view of developing better analytical and policy tools for the design of more efficient resilience policies that counteract polarisation and prevent violent extremism.

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- Contact email: [brave@eui.eu](mailto:brave@eui.eu)
- Website: [www.brave-h2020.eu](http://www.brave-h2020.eu)
-   @BraveProjectEU

### Exploring resilience as a response to violent extremism and polarisation

BRaVE asks:

- What can European countries learn from the studies, policies and programmes implemented so far to counter violent extremism and polarisation?
- What tools can we develop to support practitioners, policy makers and stakeholders across Europe in building resilient communities?

The project aims to create an analytical framework that helps us understand processes of violent extremism and polarisation both towards the Far Right (or Far Left) and towards religious radicalisation. It will create relevant policy indicators on polarisation to assess trends on national and European-wide levels. It will produce key insights and policy recommendations on the use of interfaith and intercultural education, arts and sports, with a special focus on youth, to build resilient communities and prevent polarisation.

