



Workshop on the
Prevention of Violent Extremism through Educational Media¹:

Sharing Good Practices

26th June 2017, Room XI, UNESCO House

Paris, France

Overview: workshop from 10 am-3 pm including lunch as a forum for further discussions

- How and why can educational media contribute effectively to PVE?
- What are the challenges that educators and policymakers face?
- How can we overcome these challenges and move forward?

1. Background and Goals

In response to the rise in the number of attacks perpetrated by local and global violent extremist groups, UNESCO's actions to prevent violent extremism (PVE) have been rapidly expanding over the past year. In line with the UN Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism² and following the adoption of UNESCO's Executive Board decision on 'UNESCO's role in preventing violent extremism through education'³, this workshop is being organised in order to strengthen national capacities to prevent violent extremism through education – in particular, through textbooks and other educational media (including images, audio and video materials) by identifying and presenting good practices.

This workshop is consistent with the underlying belief that education systems can and should contribute adequately, holistically and effectively to the prevention of violent extremism. It will provide a forum for the discussion of good practices of educational media in both formal and non-formal interventions that countries can adapt to their national contexts, thereby assisting in the effective implementation of UNESCO and UN country commitments. Within the framework of Agenda 2030, and in particular Target 4.7, education sectors need to ensure that they are equipped with adequate human, educational and financial resources to face this challenge. **This event therefore, seeks to develop capacity building when addressing controversial issues related to both past and present conflicts of interest by identifying challenges, sharing expertise and providing impulses for stimulating further action.**

¹ Educational media refers to any type of educational resource used to educate students including images, audio and video materials

² (A/70/674) Presented in December 2015

³ Decision 46 adopted at the 197th session



The focus will be on delineating the role of textbooks and other educational material in preventing violent extremism, and more specifically on developing the necessary competencies for young people to resolve conflicts in a peaceful manner and build their resilience to the messages of violent extremists. Such a paradigm shift aims at fostering adequate critical thinking skills, empathy, intercultural and conflict-resolution skills which will enable students to understand and tolerate diverse cultural, religious and political views within the prism of **multi-perspectivity**. It encourages and empowers learners to express themselves through democratic and peaceful engagement rather than resorting to violent extremism.

2. Format, date, location and working languages

The event will be a half-day workshop, taking place on the 26th June 2017, in Paris, that will provide senior education stakeholders with the opportunity to discuss, network, share good practices and foster further partnerships. The working language of the workshop will be in English and French with simultaneous translation provided. The duration of the workshop will be from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Opening session: 10.10 - 10.20: Welcoming remarks by Ambassador Stefan Krawielicki,
Permanent Delegate of Germany to UNESCO

Workshop sessions:

Introduction/ 'Appetizer': 10.20 am - 11.30 am

PVE through educational media: achievements, existing practices and challenges

Chair: Alexander Leicht, Chief of the Section of Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship, UNESCO

- 10.20-10.35 - Soo-Hyang Choi, Director of the Division for Inclusion, Peace and Sustainable Development, UNESCO
'Queries on the prevention of violent extremism through education'
- 10.35-11.05 - Eckhardt Fuchs, Director, & Eleni Christodoulou, Postdoctoral research fellow, Georg Eckert Institute (GEI)
'PVE and educational media: opportunities, initiatives and challenges'
- 11.05-11.30 - Discussion



Principal Part/ 'Main Course': 11.30 am - 1.00 pm

PVE through educational media: formal and informal experiences

Chair: Karel Fracapane, Senior Project Officer, Section of Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship, UNESCO

- 11.30-12.10 - 'Experiences from the classroom': Roundtable with teachers and teacher educators
 - Bruno Derbaix, Teacher (Human sciences, philosophy and comparative religions) and school coach at the MIEC (Mouvement des Institutions et des Ecoles Citoyennes/ Movement for active citizenship in schools and institutions)
 - 'Tools for active citizenship education as responses to the different dimensions of violent extremism in the Brussels context'**
 - Didier Guise, Teacher (Media and Information Literacy) and school librarian at Lycée Professionnel Régional Bertrand Schwartz
 - 'Media and information literacy as preventive action'**
 - Fadi Tawa, Professor at the Lebanese University (Faculty of Education) and coordinator of the training centre for public school teachers and directors
 - 'Citizenship education at Lebanese University-Faculty of education and in schools: reality and challenges'**
- 12.00-12.10 - Roundtable discussion
- 12.10-12.25 - Jozef Marie Mathias Ritzen, Chair and President of CELL (Conflict and Education Learning Laboratory)
 - 'Reducing divisive stereotypes in textbooks as a strategy to alleviate conflict'**
- 12.25-12.40 - Ariane Wolf, Head of International Affairs, Violence Prevention Network
 - 'PVE examples from Germany: current strategies, best practices and experiences'**
- 12.40-13.00 - Discussion and closing remarks

Closing session/ 'Desert': Lunch (1.00 - 3.00 pm)

3. Participants

Participants will mainly be UNESCO delegations of member states, senior education officials, teacher educators, NGOs and research experts.

4. Organizers

The workshop is co-organized by the Georg Eckert Institute for International Textbook Research and the Permanent Delegation of Germany to UNESCO.