



Factsheet – press pack

Polarisation and prevention of radicalisation leading to violent extremism

Wednesday 20 March, 16:30 - 18:00

Two examples of practices by Efus member cities

>> Note to Editors: please let us know if you want to contact representatives of the cities and organisations mentioned here for an interview

- **The city of Rotterdam** (Netherlands) conducts four times a year an assessment of social tensions and polarising topics in the city, called Quick Scan. It involves one-on-one interviews and meetings with key figures, stakeholders and representatives of all the communities and groups of local society. A cornerstone of Rotterdam's approach to local polarisation, the Quick Scan informs the city's strategy to foster dialogue and social cohesion. (For more information, see [BRIDGE - Understanding and addressing polarisation at the local level](#) published by Efus in 2021).
- **Nine European cities** set up groups of local young residents who each designed a local online campaign to prevent discrimination and polarisation, through the [LOUD project](#) led by Efus between 2019 and 2021. These were Augsburg (Germany), Dusseldorf (Germany), L'Hospitalet de Llobregat (Spain), Leuven (Belgium), Lille (France), Montreuil (France), Pella (Greece), Rosny-sous-Bois (France), and Valenciennes Métropole (France). Details of the campaigns and the project can be found in the publication [LOUD – When local authorities and young people from nine European cities mobilise against intolerance and extremism](#) (Efus, 2021)

Speakers

- Valerio De Divitiis, Programme Coordinator, [United Nations Office on Counter-Terrorism](#) (UNOCT), which leads and coordinates all over the world and all-of-UN approach to prevent and counter terrorism and violent extremism.
- Götz Nordbruch, Head of Peace Education, [Berghof Foundation](#) (Germany), an



independent, non-governmental and non-profit organisation supporting people in conflict in their efforts to achieve sustainable peace through conflict transformation and peacebuilding.

- [Olivier Vanderhaeghen](#), Director, Public Centre for Social Action, Municipality of Molenbeek (Belgium). [Molenbeek](#) is one of the 19 municipalities of the Brussels-Capital Region. It was shut down for several days after the 2015 Paris terrorist attacks because several attackers came from the borough. Now, residents want to change the narrative.

Efus' work and position

Efus has been working on the issue of polarisation and violent extremism for [more than two decades](#), having led or participated in [10 European projects](#) that explored how to develop resilience to extremist discourse, in particular among young people, how to locally address polarisation and violent extremism, and how to upskill and strengthen collaboration among all relevant stakeholders. It also collaborates with other international networks that seek to better understand and prevent polarisation and radicalisation leading to violence.