

**National  
Platform  
for Preventing and  
Countering  
Violent  
Extremism  
and  
Radicalization  
That  
Leads to  
Terrorism**



# National Platform for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalization That Leads to Terrorism (P/C VERLT)



*Ministarstvo unutrašnjih  
poslova Crne Gore*



**CENTAR ZA  
DEMOKRATSKU  
TRANZICIJU**



Organization for Security and  
Co-operation in Europe  
**Mission to Montenegro**

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**Zajedno  
protiv nasilnog  
ekstremizma**

Different forms of violent extremism and radicalisation that leads to terrorism (VERLT) are global phenomena that each society should actively and determinedly oppose at the local, national, regional and international level.

The region of the Western Balkans is one of the most sensitive areas, bearing in mind the **negative legacy** of the wars that took place at the end of the 20th Century, **overlapping of various interests and influences**, but also often wrong understanding of national and religious diversities of the population inhabiting the region.

As one of the countries from within the Western Balkans, Montenegro belongs to the group of potentially **less vulnerable** countries. Incidences of various forms of violent extremism and radicalisation to violence are not the norm in Montenegrin society thus requiring special attention by focusing on the Constitutional definition of Montenegro as a civic state and a society where incitement of hate, discrimination or stigmatization on any grounds is prohibited.

Suppression of Violent Extremism and Radicalization That Leads to Terrorism (VERLT) requires **dedicated involvement and professional cooperation of all segments of the society, primarily of** all the national authorities and institutions of local self-government, but also other relevant societal actors from the non-governmental, private, scientific and civil society.

The initiation of this Platform is a reflection of the need to **create and support an environment** that spreads understanding and promotes the principles of the **civic state**. Annual meetings are envisaged, with its actors contributing to the suppression of these phenomena in various ways between the meetings.

Under the slogan “Together against Violent Extremism”, this Platform should bring together the representatives of **relevant national institutions, local authorities, media, political parties, NGOs, religious communities, academic community and individuals** who can contribute to P/CVERLT.

The Platform also aims to **enable better understanding of the significance of** this process and to clarify and specify the ways they can contribute to the fight against violent radicalisation and violent extremism through open dialogue.

The government is ultimately responsible for the security and coordination of responsibility within this field, through the implementation of the strategic documents and related action plans with efforts focusing on early warning, while avoiding the risk to prematurely criminalize individuals, overextend the role of Law Enforcement, and/or stigmatize certain ethnic/religious groups.

**Local authorities** have a specific and responsible role of being the first in line to potentially face this phenomenon. In that sense, local communities and municipalities are valuable allies for early detection and prevention and must **build the required capacities for efficient and timely response to tackle this issue**.

The role of parliamentary parties must focus on increasing knowledge and capacity of parliamentarians to understand P/CVERLT. Building political consensus around P/CVERLT should be supported.

The role of the **media** is just as important in this field through its **specific features**. The media are equally important

\* OSCE:  
The Role  
of Civil Society  
in Preventing  
and Countering  
Violent Extremism  
and Radicalization  
that Lead to  
Terrorism: A Focus  
on South-Eastern  
Europe (2018); OSCE:  
Preventing Terrorism  
and Countering  
Violent Extremism  
and Radicalization  
that Lead to  
Terrorism:  
A Community-Policing  
Approach (2014);  
Remarks by OSCE  
Secretary General  
Lamberto Zannier  
Geneva Conference  
on Preventing  
Violent Extremism  
- The Way Forward  
(2016); OSCE:  
'Leaders Against  
Intolerance and  
Violent  
Extremism'.

in education campaigns, mobilization of citizens, prevention of stigmatization as well as capacity building on responsible reporting and media literacy among the youth.

**Non-government organisations and civil society at large play an important role in research, expert analyses or education campaigns** due to their knowledge of and access to local communities.

**Religious communities** also have a very important role through education regarding tolerance by the prevention of the misuse of the message “in the name of their faith”, by the condemning the damaging acts that are committed by violent extremists.

**Academic community** should analyse this phenomenon in Montenegro and propose relevant actions to tackle and reduce any ongoing identified threat through scientific meetings and papers.

The Platform especially recognizes **the importance of creating alternatives and facing the challenges** experienced by those vulnerable to VERLT, including the creation of alternative narratives aimed at diminishing the effects of extremist propaganda.

Great emphasis will be placed on frontline or grassroots practitioners from all around Montenegro who work daily with people who have already been radicalised or who are vulnerable to radicalisation to violence. Practitioners will include police and prison authorities, but also those who are not traditionally involved in counter-terrorism activities such youth workers, civil society representatives and healthcare professionals. Montenegro will consult with the EU RAN and the OSCE\* to inform these programs and processes.

We wish this Platform to become a valuable **national resource centre** for countering these and similar phenomena that might affect the stability of our society in the future.

Taking the EU RAN as a model, the Platform represents **the initiation of a national RAN network**, which will be founded and coordinated by the state authorities. Its work should be divided into specific, **thematic RAN working groups**; in addition to the national authorities, these which would address specific themes and be open for other social segments.

The Platform supports initiated activities of the state authorities on **establishing firm regional and wider international cooperation** in this field. Along with that, international **exchange of knowledge**, experience and cooperation should be developed among all other important actors in this process.

The Platform is based on national, regional and international **documents and initiatives\*\***, which set up the framework for Suppressing Violent Extremism and Radicalization and That Leads to Terrorism.

The principles and foundations set out in this Platform shall be **specified** through adoption of the strategic documents, accompanying action plans, the work of the National Operational Team for Suppressing Violent Extremism (NOT), the OSCE and the activities of the RAN work groups.

The text of this Platform may be **changed or amended**, as required, between the annual meetings.

All societal players that share these **values**, and are ready to **respect the principles and foundations** stated in this document and wish to **participate** in further activities in this field may join the Platform by sending their consent to the following e-mail address

**[zajednoprrotivekstremizma@cdtmn.org](mailto:zajednoprrotivekstremizma@cdtmn.org)**

Podgorica, November 2018. godine

\*\* Ustav  
 Crne Gore  
 (Slušbeni list  
 1/2007 i 38/2013  
 amandmani - XVI );  
 Ministerial Declaration  
 on Preventing and  
 Countering Violent  
 Extremism and  
 Radicalization that  
 lead to Terrorism  
 (MC.DOC/4/15);  
 United Nations  
 Security Council  
 resolutions 2178  
 (2014) (S/RES/2178),  
 2368 (2017)  
 (S/RES/2368), 2396  
 (2017) (S/RES/2396);  
 The Plan of Action  
 to Prevent  
 Violent Extremism  
 (A/70/674);  
 The United  
 Nations Global  
 Counter-Terrorism  
 Strategy A/RES/70/291;  
 EU Strategy for  
 Combating  
 Radicalization and Re-  
 cruitment to  
 Terrorism 9572/17;  
 The Berlin  
 Declaration  
 AS (18) D E -  
 Resolution on  
 Preventing and  
 Countering Terrorism  
 and Violent  
 Extremism and  
 Radicalization That  
 Lead To Terrorism;  
 Sofia Declaration  
 (2018); EU Strategy  
 for the Western  
 Balkans (2018);  
 Joint Action Plan on  
 Counter-Terrorism  
 for the Western  
 Balkans (2018);  
 South East  
 European  
 Cooperation Process  
 (SEECF) - Charter  
 on Good-Neighborly  
 Relations, Stability,  
 Security and  
 Cooperation in  
 South-Eastern  
 Europe (2000); Strate-  
 gija suzbijanja nasilnog  
 ekstremizma (2015).



**Together  
against Violent  
Extremism**