RESOLVE
NETWORK

Project Backgrounder | 2018-19
P/CVE Research Training and Volume

Methods, ethics, and security for P/CVE research, policy, and practice

Context

The need to craft proactive approaches to prevent and counter violent extremism (P/CVE) continues to grow as the global threat of violent extremism (VE) evolves. Methodologically-rigorous local research on rapidly evolving on-the-ground dynamics and trends is fundamental to gathering and analyzing the information needed to inform interventions.

Policymakers and practitioners benefit from a steadily expanding body of P/CVE studies. However, the need for a standardized, rigorous, do-no-harm approach to conducting research on violent extremism for P/CVE policy and practice remains. Specifically, guidance on the unique methodological, ethical, and security-related considerations that impact VE-focused research, both broadly and in specific geographic regions is limited. Clear and instructive guidance and resources are needed for use in conceptualizing, conducting, interpreting, operationalizing, and comparing VE research in a safe and rigorous manner for programmatic and policy-focused P/CVE goals. Researchers' personal experiences conducting VE studies offer insight instructive in standardizing and creating a more coherent, rigorous, and ethical field of study and practice.

Project Scope and Purpose

The RESOLVE Network's research training and curriculum initiative seeks to build the capacity of local researchers, develop higher standards, and promote ethical processes for conducting research on VE. The training and curriculum will be drafted by and informed by the experience of experts from academia, policymaking, and practitioners. It will specifically address how to conceptualize, conduct, analyze, and present research to inform and assess P/CVE policymaking and practice, both broadly and in specific geographic regions. The project is two-pronged in nature, including:

- Developing and implementing a curriculum and training-of-trainers (ToT) module, and
- The construction of an edited volume of works based on researcher experience to supplement the curriculum and training.

The core module will provide instruction and insight on experiences and issues associated with conducting research for P/CVE on a broad and global scale. In addition, the training curriculum and edited volume will incorporate regional overlays outlining considerations specific to research in particular geographic region. The regional overlay in the first edition of the training and edited volume (2018-19) will focus on researching VE in the Western Balkans.

Goals and Activities

In 2018-19, and in partnership with the U.S. Department of State's Bureau for Conflict and Stabilization Operations, RESOLVE will work to:

- Publish an edited volume of work that provides examples and insights from and for P/CVE researchers based on the previous expert experiences complete with guides for policymakers, practitioners, and researchers interested in the research process.
- Develop a core research training module, supplemented by the edited volume, that guides researchers through the research process and instructs them on security and ethical issues to consider when dealing with VE-related issues.
- Develop a region-specific research training overlay that enhances the core training module with information specific to researching VE in the Western Balkans.
- Build the capacity of local researchers in the Western Balkans through implementing a ToT training using the core and Western Balkans-specific research training modules.

These combined efforts will contribute to building the researcher capacity and the development of standardized guidelines for research informing P/CVE policy and practice. In addition, through building out regional overlays, these efforts will provide additional insight on regional differences and similarities impacting research on VE for P/CVE researchers, policymakers, and practitioners.

Contact

For more information about the RESOLVE Network's work in research training and resource-development and/or how to collaborate with or support the Network please contact us at research@resolvenet.org. Additional information about the RESOLVE Network and its partners can be found on our website: www.resolvenet.org.