



# WIR: WORKSHOPS FOR INTEGRATION AND THE PREVENTION OF RADICALIZATION

## Background

War and subsequent flight often force individuals to interrupt or abandon their education, damage family structures, cause (familial) traumata and lead to an ensuing lack of adequate role models. In some cases, young people affected by war experience difficulties in developing their identities. This can manifest itself in an inability to resolve conflicts, including a propensity for violence, as well as religious and nationalistic tendencies, often based on false information. A perceived lack of prospects and negative media coverage, which serve to fortify sentiments of alienation, make adolescents and young adults more susceptible to radicalization and hamper efforts towards their successful integration. Young Chechens in particular have become receptive to such developments in recent years.

## Objectives

The present pilot project aims to support and guide adolescents and young adults with Chechen roots to reflect on their identity in their multicultural setting within Austrian society. The steps toward achieving this goal will create common ground by employing a balanced approach characterized by mutual respect. The backbone of the project will be comprised of a series of workshops that will develop strategies and skills needed to recognize and challenge radicalization. Co-teaching teams, composed of specially trained intercultural mediators from the Chechen community, an expert from the association "Großes Schiff" and an IOM project coordinator, will conduct a total of ten workshops in Vienna and Linz. The workshops will address the history and current state of affairs in both Chechnya and Austria and will increase beneficiaries' media literacy and social skills in intercultural communication and conflict management. The overarching objective is to prevent radicalization.

## Project activities

- Formation of a "*Stakeholder Group*" for determining content and methods and establishing a *monitoring mechanism* in Vienna and Linz
- Selection and training of "*intercultural mediators*" to conduct the workshops in the co-teaching team
- *Cooperation with youth work practitioners* (association "Großes Schiff")
- Conduction of the *workshop series* (1 series of five workshops per participating city)
- Conduction of an *outdoor event* for team building in each participating city
- Public *closing event* in which beneficiaries present their results from the workshop series

**Participating cities:** Vienna and Linz

**Duration:** 1 March 2018 – 31 December 2018

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