Confronting Violent Extremism

In general, respondents assume that addressing structural elements (and in particular tackling economic and social root causes) would be the best remedy to counter violent extremism. In particular, respondents acknowledge that there is a deficit of cooperation between security agencies of Mediterranean northern and southern countries and agree to a very large extent that cooperation between civil society organisations working on PVE should be reinforced and think that regional Euro-Mediterranean fora to tackle violent extremism are missing.

Regarding Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation in particular, respondents acknowledge that there is a deficit of cooperation between security agencies of Mediterranean northern and southern countries and agree to a very large extent that cooperation between civil society organisations working on PVE should be reinforced and think that regional Euro-Mediterranean fora to tackle violent extremism are missing.

Increasing border control is only seen as the best remedy to counter violent extremism. In particular, respondents acknowledge that there is a deficit of cooperation between security agencies of Mediterranean northern and southern countries and agree to a very large extent that cooperation between civil society organisations working on PVE should be reinforced and think that regional Euro-Mediterranean fora to tackle violent extremism are missing.

In a nutshell:

1. Overall, conflict zones are seen as the most fertile environment for violent extremism. EuroMeSCo respondents from the Southern Mediterranean tend to consider in higher proportions than their counterparts from the Northern Mediterranean that the internet and social media are a fertile environment for violent extremism.

2. Apart from Syria and Iraq, France and Egypt are seen as the most likely targets of violent extremism in the upcoming years.

3. Exclusion and discrimination are keywords to understand causes of violent extremism.

4. Violent Islamist extremism is perceived as a main threat to the region. However, other phenomena are also perceived as affecting the stability and security of the region: right-wing extremism and Islamophobia (for a majority of respondents from Southern Mediterranean countries) and authoritarian trends (for a majority of European respondents) and respondents establish links between these phenomena.

5. While acknowledging the impact of Daesh on the one hand and of foreign fighters on the other hand, respondents show that the threat of violent extremism is definitely not limited to these two phenomena.

6. When it comes to dealing with foreign terrorist fighters, respondents clearly favour preventive actions over reactive and repressive ones.

7. In general, respondents assess that addressing structural elements (and in particular tackling economic and social root causes) would be the best remedy to counter violent extremism. Increasing border control is only mentioned by 1.2% of the respondents in this context.

8. Along this line, it is widely agreed that cooperation and information sharing should be improved. Regarding Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation in particular, respondents acknowledge that there is a deficit of cooperation between security agencies of Mediterranean northern and southern countries and agree to a very large extent that cooperation between civil society organisations working on PVE should be reinforced and think that regional Euro-Mediterranean fora to tackle violent extremism are missing.

9. Commenting more specifically on the action of the EU and its member states, respondents from Southern Mediterranean countries are of the opinion that countering discrimination should be the main priority. Responses from European participants in the survey are more spread out among different priorities; they think that EU’s main focus should be on contributing to solving conflicts outside the EU that provide fertile ground for violent extremism.

10. Overall, other results show that specific and operational initiatives (such as tracking online terrorist-related content or strengthening the fight against terrorist financing) are considered more effective than broad policy frameworks.

EUROMED SURVEY OF EXPERTS AND ACTORS

VIOLENT EXTREMISM IN THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN REGION

RESULTS SAMPLE BASED ON RESPONSES FROM EUROMEDESCO EXPERTS

These are preliminary results of the 8th edition of the Euromed Survey on violent extremism in the Euro-Mediterranean region. A sample of 82 EuroMedESCO experts and actors in the region, 500 experts members of the EuroMeSCo network were invited to answer the survey. So far, 60 EuroMedESCO members participated. The results reflect participants’ opinions.

The Euromed Survey is still in progress. Final results will be available by the end of September.
**8th Euromed Survey: preliminary results**

**Context and Drivers of Violent Extremism**

- **Violent extremist groups** are seen as a major threat to the region. However, other phenomena are also perceived as affecting the stability and security of the region (violent extremism and Islamophobia for a majority of respondents from Southern Mediterranean countries and authoritarianism for a minority from their counterpart Northern Mediterranean countries).

- **Varying perceptions of main drivers of violent extremism** and socio-economic and political grievances.

- **Drivers providing fertile ground for the development of violent extremism** (% of the most significant driver by group of countries):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Environment</th>
<th>Southern and Southeast Mediterranean countries</th>
<th>EU countries</th>
<th>All survey EU countries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conflict</td>
<td>32.1%</td>
<td>15.9%</td>
<td>24.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internet and social media</td>
<td>23.3%</td>
<td>30.3%</td>
<td>25.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Familial relations</td>
<td>15.6%</td>
<td>18.4%</td>
<td>16.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marginalization</td>
<td>12.3%</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prisons</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Authoritarian regimes</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethnic</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Which of these countries are likely to become targets or continue being targeted by violent extremist groups in the upcoming years?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Southern and Southeast Mediterranean countries</th>
<th>EU countries</th>
<th>All survey EU countries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>40.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>40.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Israel</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morocco</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tunisia</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **To what extent do you consider the following phenomena the biggest threat to violent extremism?** (mean 0: very low extent, 10: very high extent)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phenomenon</th>
<th>Southern and Southeast Mediterranean countries</th>
<th>EU countries</th>
<th>All survey EU countries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Authoritarian regimes</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Islamophobia</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fetters on freedom of expression</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Authoritarian regimes</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Islamophobia</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fetters on freedom of expression</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Impact of Violent Extremism**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Impact of Violent Extremism</th>
<th>Southern and Southeast Mediterranean countries</th>
<th>EU countries</th>
<th>All survey EU countries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Terrorist attacks across the MENA region</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic performance from other countries</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Authoritarian regimes</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic performance from most of their recent neighbors</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Authoritarian regimes</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic performance from most of their recent neighbors</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Authoritarian regimes</td>
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<td>5.5%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic performance from most of their recent neighbors</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
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<td>5.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Authoritarian regimes</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Authoritarian regimes</td>
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<td>5.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Authoritarian regimes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Authoritarian regimes</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Economic performance from most of their recent neighbors</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Authoritarian regimes</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic performance from most of their recent neighbors</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
8th Euromed Survey: preliminary results

Context and Drivers of Violent Extremism

- Despite conflict zones are seen as the most fertile environment for violent extremism, respondents were invited to choose three and rank them: results show first choice.

- Apart from Syria and Iraq, France and Egypt are seen as the next likely targets of violent extremism in the upcoming years. Overall, conflict zones are seen as the most fertile ground for violent extremism.

- In which environments and contexts are recruiters more likely to successfully turn an individual into a violent extremist? (respondents were invited to choose three and rank them: results show first choice)

Drivers providing fertile ground for the development of violent extremists (% of the most significant driver by group of countries)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Driver</th>
<th>EU country respondent</th>
<th>SSE country respondent</th>
<th>All survey EU countries</th>
<th>Southern and South East Mediterranean countries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| State and failure of rule of law and weak
  societal cohesion
  (mean 0: very low extent, 10: very high extent) | 6.9                    | 7.2                    | 7.5                     | 7.7                                            |
| Economic, political, and socio-political
  grievances
  (mean 0: very low extent, 10: very high extent) | 5.67                   | 6                       | 5.67                    | 6                                               |
| Experience of state repression
  (mean 0: very low extent, 10: very high extent) | 4                      | 4.1                     | 4.6                     | 4.1                                            |
| Psychological vulnerability
  (mean 0: very low extent, 10: very high extent) | 3.7                    | 3.7                     | 3.7                     | 3.7                                            |
| Role and impact of global
  insecurity
  and failing security
  (mean 0: very low extent, 10: very high extent) | 3.7                    | 3.7                     | 3.7                     | 3.7                                            |
| Normalisation of violence
  (mean 0: very low extent, 10: very high extent) | 3.7                    | 3.7                     | 3.7                     | 3.7                                            |
| Weak state capacity
  and failing security
  (mean 0: very low extent, 10: very high extent) | 3.7                    | 3.7                     | 3.7                     | 3.7                                            |
| Authoritarian trends (for a majority of the
  respondents were invited to choose three and rank them: results show first choice) | | | | |
| Experience of state repression
  (mean 0: very low extent, 10: very high extent) | 3.7                    | 3.7                     | 3.7                     | 3.7                                            |
| Role and impact of global
  insecurity
  and failing security
  (mean 0: very low extent, 10: very high extent) | 3.7                    | 3.7                     | 3.7                     | 3.7                                            |
| Normalisation of violence
  (mean 0: very low extent, 10: very high extent) | 3.7                    | 3.7                     | 3.7                     | 3.7                                            |
| Weak state capacity
  and failing security
  (mean 0: very low extent, 10: very high extent) | 3.7                    | 3.7                     | 3.7                     | 3.7                                            |

Impact of Violent Extremism

- Violent Islamist extremism is perceived as most threat to the region. However, other phenomena are also perceived as affecting the stability and security of the region: right-wing extremism and Islamophobia. For a majority of respondents from Southern Mediterranean countries and Morocco, right-wing extremism is perceived as an even bigger threat to the region.

- Throughout the survey respondents establish links between these phenomena.

Most harmful attacks

- Park attacks in November 2015 were a deadly reminder that terrorist attacks have become a tool in a deadly arsenal that affects in different ways all countries. Park attacks are a clear example of how right-wing and non-Muslim and between Sunni and the Western world.

- While acknowledging the impact of Daesh on the one hand and of foreign fighters on the other hand, respondents show that the threat of violent extremism is definitely not limited to these two phenomena.

- When dealing with foreign, terrorist attacks, respondents clearly favor preventive actions over reactive and repressive ones.

Do you agree that defeating or weakening Daesh will be a major contribution to the eradication of the violent extremism threat in the Euro-Mediterranean region? (mean 0: very low extent, 10: very high extent)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>EU country respondent</th>
<th>SSE country respondent</th>
<th>All survey EU countries</th>
<th>Southern and South East Mediterranean countries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Syria</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Libya</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>4.3</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>4.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Morocco</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tunisia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
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<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Belarus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ukraine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>4.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
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<tr>
<td>Croatia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Malta</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>4.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kosovo</td>
<td>4.3</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>4.3</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>4.3</td>
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<td>4.3</td>
<td>4.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portugal</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>4.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>4.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Do you agree that foreign terrorist attacks (as defined in the United Nations Security Council 2178 resolution) represent the biggest threat to violent extremism? (mean 0: very low extent, 10: very high extent)

- 0% 10% 5% 15% 20% 25% 35% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

40% 30% 20% 10% 0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

All survey EU countries | Southern and South East Mediterranean countries

Which of these countries’ leaders are likely to become targets or continue being targeted by violent extremists in the upcoming years? (respondents were invited to choose three and rank them: results show that choice)
8th Euromed Survey: preliminary results

Context and Drivers of Violent Extremism

- General context: conflicts are seen as the most likely environment for violent extremism.
- Euromed countries are among the highest-ranking countries. The main threat is seen as originating from the Near East, followed by the Balkans and the Central Mediterranean. Russia, the US, and the Gulf countries, Iran, and Iraq are seen as the next likely targets of violent extremism in the upcoming years.

In which environments and contexts are recruiters more likely to successfully turn an individual into a violent extremist?

- Respondents were invited to choose three and rank them: results show first choice.

Drivers providing fertile ground for the development of violent extremists (in order of most important to least important)

- Lack of socioeconomic opportunities
- Injustice or repression, Islamophobia
- Economic exclusion
- Psychological vulnerability
- Marginalisation, social exclusion
- Persecution or displacement
- Persecution or displacement and failing security
- Persecution or displacement and repression
- State repression, Islamophobia
- Psychosocial vulnerabilities
- Discrimination, injustice
- Economic exclusion and repression
- Economic exclusion and limited opportunities
- Economic exclusion and injustice
- Marginalisation and limited opportunities
- Injustice and repression, Islamophobia
- Injustice and repression
- Social exclusion
- Religious
- Persecution or displacement and repression, Islamophobia
- Persecution or displacement and repression
- Economic exclusion and discrimination
- Economic exclusion and repression
- Economic exclusion and persecution

Impact of Violent Extremism

- Violent jihadist extremism is perceived as the most serious threat to the region.
- However, other phenomena are also perceived as affecting the stability and security of the region: namely violent extremism and Islamophobia for a majority of respondents from Southern Mediterranean countries.
- Terrorism is considered by the majority of respondents as the main threat to the region.

Do you agree that defeating or weakening Daesh will be a major contribution to the eradication of the violent extremism threat in the Euro-Mediterranean region? (mean 0: very low extent, 10: very high extent)

- 1.2% of All survey EU countries Southern and Southeast Mediterranean countries
- 2.4% of All survey EU countries Southern and Southeast Mediterranean countries
- 3.7% of All survey EU countries Southern and Southeast Mediterranean countries
- 3.9% of All survey EU countries Southern and Southeast Mediterranean countries
- 5.4% of All survey EU countries Southern and Southeast Mediterranean countries
- 7.4% of All survey EU countries Southern and Southeast Mediterranean countries
- 9.0% of All survey EU countries Southern and Southeast Mediterranean countries
- 12.4% of All survey EU countries Southern and Southeast Mediterranean countries
- 13.4% of All survey EU countries Southern and Southeast Mediterranean countries
- 14.6% of All survey EU countries Southern and Southeast Mediterranean countries
- 20% of All survey EU countries Southern and Southeast Mediterranean countries
- 24.2% of All survey EU countries Southern and Southeast Mediterranean countries
- 27.6% of All survey EU countries Southern and Southeast Mediterranean countries

Do you agree that violent extremism (as defined in the United Nations Security Council 2015/2016 resolution) represents the biggest threat to violent extremism? (mean 0: very low extent, 10: very high extent)

- 1.2% of All survey EU countries Southern and Southeast Mediterranean countries
- 2.4% of All survey EU countries Southern and Southeast Mediterranean countries
- 3.9% of All survey EU countries Southern and Southeast Mediterranean countries
- 5.4% of All survey EU countries Southern and Southeast Mediterranean countries
- 7.4% of All survey EU countries Southern and Southeast Mediterranean countries
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- 13.4% of All survey EU countries Southern and Southeast Mediterranean countries
- 14.6% of All survey EU countries Southern and Southeast Mediterranean countries
- 20% of All survey EU countries Southern and Southeast Mediterranean countries
- 24.2% of All survey EU countries Southern and Southeast Mediterranean countries
- 27.6% of All survey EU countries Southern and Southeast Mediterranean countries

Do you agree that terrorism (as defined in the United Nations Security Council 2015/2016 resolution) is one of the biggest threats to violent extremism? (mean 0: very low extent, 10: very high extent)

- 1.2% of All survey EU countries Southern and Southeast Mediterranean countries
- 2.4% of All survey EU countries Southern and Southeast Mediterranean countries
- 3.7% of All survey EU countries Southern and Southeast Mediterranean countries
- 3.9% of All survey EU countries Southern and Southeast Mediterranean countries
- 5.4% of All survey EU countries Southern and Southeast Mediterranean countries
- 7.4% of All survey EU countries Southern and Southeast Mediterranean countries
- 9.0% of All survey EU countries Southern and Southeast Mediterranean countries
- 11.1% of All survey EU countries Southern and Southeast Mediterranean countries
- 13.5% of All survey EU countries Southern and Southeast Mediterranean countries
- 14.6% of All survey EU countries Southern and Southeast Mediterranean countries
- 19.6% of All survey EU countries Southern and Southeast Mediterranean countries
- 21.6% of All survey EU countries Southern and Southeast Mediterranean countries
- 29.4% of All survey EU countries Southern and Southeast Mediterranean countries
- 32% of All survey EU countries Southern and Southeast Mediterranean countries
Confronting Violent Extremism

- In general, respondents agree that addressing structural elements (and in particular tackling economic and social root causes) would be the best way to counter violent extremism.
- Increasing border control is only mentioned by 6% of the respondents in the context.
- Regarding Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation in particular, respondents acknowledge that there is a deficit of cooperation between security agencies of Mediterranean northern and southern countries and agree to a very large extent that cooperation between civil society organisations working on PVE should be reinforced and think that regional Euro-Mediterranean fora to tackle Violent Extremism are missing.
- Apart from Syria and Iraq, France and Egypt are seen as the most likely targets of violent extremist attacks in the upcoming years.
- Exclusion and discrimination are keywords to understand causes of violent extremism.

Do you agree with the following statements regarding Euro-Mediterranean cooperation?

1. Overall, conflict zones are seen as the most fertile environment for violent extremism. EuroMedCo respondents from the Southern Mediterranean region tend to consider in higher proportions than their counterparts from the Northern Mediterranean that the internet and social media are a fertile environment for violent extremism.

2. Apart from Syria and Iraq, France and Egypt are seen as the most likely targets of violent extremism.

3. Exclusion and discrimination are keywords to understand causes of violent extremism.

4. Violent Islamist extremism is perceived as a main threat to the region. However, other phenomena are also perceived as affecting the stability and security of the region: right-wing extremism and Islamophobia (for a majority of respondents from Southern Mediterranean countries) and authoritarian trends (for a majority of European respondents) among different priorities; they think that EU’s main focus should be contributing to solving conflicts outside the EU that provide fertile ground for violent extremism.

5. While acknowledging the impact of Daesh on the one hand and of foreign fighters on the other hand, respondents show that the threat of violent extremism is definitely not limited to these two phenomena.

6. When it comes to dealing with foreign terrorist fighters, respondents clearly favor preventive actions over reactive and repressive ones.

7. In general, respondents agree that addressing structural elements (and in particular tackling economic and social root causes) would be the best remedy to counter violent extremism. Increasing border control is only mentioned by 1.2% of the respondents in this context.

8. Along this line, it is widely agreed that cooperation and information sharing should be improved. Regarding Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation in particular, respondents acknowledge that there is a deficit of cooperation between security agencies of Mediterranean northern and southern countries and agree to a very large extent that cooperation between civil society organisations working on PVE should be reinforced and think that regional Euro-Mediterranean fora to tackle Violent Extremism are missing.

9. Commenting more specifically on the action of the EU and its member states, respondents from Southern Mediterranean countries are of the opinion that countering discrimination should be the main priority. Responses from European participants in the survey are more spread out among different priorities; they think that EU’s main focus should be contributing to solving conflicts outside the EU that provide fertile ground for violent extremism.

10. Overall, other results show that specific and operational initiatives (such as tracking online terrorist-related content or strengthening the fight against terrorist financing) are considered more effective than broad policy frameworks.

The Euromed Survey is still in progress.
Confronting Violent Extremism

1. Overall, conflict zones are seen as the most fertile environment for violent extremism. EuroMedCo respondents from the Southern Mediterranean countries tend to consider in higher proportions than their counterparts from the Northern Mediterranean that the internet and social media are a fertile environment for violent extremism.

2. Apart from Syria and Iraq, France and Egypt are seen as the most likely targets of violent extremism in the upcoming years.

3. Exclusion and discrimination are keywords to understand causes of violent extremism.

4. Violent Islamist extremism is perceived as a main threat to the region. However, other phenomena are also perceived as affecting the stability and security of the region: right-wing extremism and Islamophobia (for a majority of respondents from the Southern Mediterranean countries) and authoritarian trends (for a majority of European respondents) are establishing links between these phenomena.

5. While acknowledging the impact of Daesh on the one hand and of foreign fighters on the other hand, respondents show that the threat of violent extremism is definitely not limited to these two phenomena.

6. When it comes to dealing with foreign terrorist fighters, respondents clearly favour preventive actions over reactive and repressive ones.

7. In general, respondents assess that addressing structural elements (and in particular tackling economic and social root causes) would be the best remedy to counter violent extremism. Increasing border control is only mentioned by 2% of the respondents in this context.

8. Along this line, it is widely agreed that cooperation and information sharing should be improved. Regarding Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation in particular, respondents acknowledge that there is a deficit of cooperation between security agencies of Mediterranean northern and southern countries and agree to a very large extent that cooperation between civil society organisations working on PVE should be reinforced and think that regional Euro-Mediterranean fora to tackle Violent Extremism are missing.

9. Commenting more specifically on the action of the EU and its member states, respondents from Southern Mediterranean countries are of the opinion that countering discrimination should be the main priority. Responses from European participants in the survey are more spread out among different priorities; they think that EU’s main focus should be on contributing to solving conflicts outside the EU that provide fertile ground for violent extremism.

10. Overall, other results show that specific and operational initiatives (such as tracking online terrorist-related content or strengthening the fight against terrorist financing) are considered more effective than broad policy frameworks.

EUROMED SURVEY OF EXPERTS AND ACTORS
VIOLENT EXTREMISM IN THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN REGION
RESULTS SAMPLE BASED ON RESPONSES FROM EUROMEDESCO EXPERTS

11. Thus, while the Euromed Survey is still in progress, final results will be available by the end of September.