

# Factsheet LIBE

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**The question of how to deal with opposing groups in society and find political ways to build bridges between these groups, in order to fight social exclusion and radicalisation.** How can European countries tackle the issue of political opposing groups without creating additional problems in society? What measures should be taken in order for these groups to not cause further division? How can the EU member states ensure that bridges are being built between these groups?\_

## **Current Situation:**

Social polarization has become a pressing issue because of the consequences it has brought to society. The effect of this has caused an uproar of radicalized groups. A big part of that has been the technology we have access to today. Among other things, fake news and filter bubbles can cause further division in society when reaching certain groups with strong opinions. Furthermore, ideology and religion can fuel strong opinions especially when given a social network to communicate only within the group. Being only exposed to people with similar views and beliefs causes radicalization as you are not challenged.

Ideology and religion are prevalent when shaping society. There are always going to be people with different values and beliefs. Opposing groups with strong opinions effect the political state in the country and can cause polarization. By only interacting with people with the same ideals makes you isolated to a point where you might not know what is going on on the outside. In addition, the strengthening of similar opinions may lead to an echo chamber where groups congregate to discuss and validate potentially destructive ideas towards society. Therefore, communication between opposing groups is important to prevent isolation and strengthening of echo chambers.

Radicalization often starts with the frustration of individuals towards the government or their living situation. If several people with similar radical beliefs join they form a radical group, where they often strengthen their beliefs due to the constant exposure. Radicalization is the foundation for terrorist attacks. In 2015 there were 211 terror attacks in the EU with the main reason for them being ethnic nationalism and sepaatism. Following that the EU leaders issued a joint statement to guide the work of the EU and its member states to ensure the security of citizens, prevent radicalisation and safeguarding values and cooperate with international partners.

## **Key Words:**

- Polarization: division into two sharply contrasting groups or sets of opinions or beliefs.
- Radicalization: the action or process of causing someone to adopt radical positions on political or social issues
- Filter bubble: a state of intellectual isolation that can result from personalized searches when a website algorithm selectively guesses what information a user would like to see based on information about the user
- Echo chamber: An environment where a person only encounters information or opinions that reflect their own.

## **Useful Links:**

[https://www.europarl.europa.eu/stoa/en/document/EPRS\\_STU\(2019\)634414](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/stoa/en/document/EPRS_STU(2019)634414)

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/security/20210121STO96105/radicalisation-in-the-eu-what-is-it-how-can-it-be-prevented>

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/factsheets/en/sheet/60/the-fight-against-poverty-social-exclusion-and-discrimination>

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/fight-against-terrorism/>