

**A roadmap of recommendations  
from Tunisian civil society for the  
prevention of all forms of violent  
extremism in Tunisia**

**OPEV**

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# Introduction. —

This document proposes a Roadmap of recommendations from the Tunisian civil society for the prevention of all forms of Violent Extremism through relevant and concrete proposals as well as potential Activity sectors to implement the suggested strategies.

This analysis is the result of a "bottom-up" process in which different spaces for exchange, debate and citizen participation have been established in 6 regions of Tunisia. Meanwhile, specific sectors of society were monitored in order to understand their diagnoses, their ideas and their proposals. Thanks to this three-year study, carried out by the Tunisia Observatory for the Prevention of Extreme Violence (OPEV), with the support of the European Union and the Spanish Agency for Development and International Cooperation (AECID), this roadmap there for offers proposals and recommendations based on a participatory and inclusive analysis.

Preventing violent extremism has become a global priority. This objective is constantly present on the agenda of States as well as national and international organisations which have, consequently, developed national strategies and local policies in order to prevent the spread of extremism, in particular through the organization of conferences, symposia and workshops, allowing experience sharing between States.

From 2016, many measures have been put in place by a number of social actors in Tunisia, on the side of civil society as well as within institutions, to work towards the prevention of violent extremism. These initiatives have been hailed by the international community as an example of good practice. We are aware that in order to address and prevent violence in Tunisia, we must update, reaffirm and realign our prevention strategies and actions. We know that in order to be successful we need to strengthen our cooperation with actors who work with the same participatory and community approach.

The objective of this road map is to contribute to this new paradigm. Our objective is to put to work the idealism, hope, creativity and energy of civil society groups at the national level in Tunisia, in order to generate an effective and efficient alternative to radicalization and to violent extremism. We must all stand up to counter all violent extremism. And for that, we are ready to take part in any effort to achieve this objective.

# 01

## Objectives of this Road Map. —

We hope this roadmap Will be useful:

(1) To civil society in its efforts to prevent violent extremism in Tunisia, providing a frame work for actions that can strengthen internal cooperation and the consistency of actions carried out.

(2) To contribute to the debate around the revision of the National Strategy of the National Commission for the Fight Against Terrorism (CNLCT) of the Tunisian state, scheduled for the year 2021. By offering a structured and plural vision designed by the civil society committed to the issue, we hope to make a positive and relevant contribution, particularly regarding the first foundation: "prevention".

## 02

## Methodology for the making of the Road Map.

This roadmap is the result of three years of participatory process (2018-2020) developed around a bottom-up methodology. It consisted of 4 phases:

**First phase:** selection and analysis of governorates and cities in which the research and the participatory process will take place. In order to set up a bottom-up methodology, 23 interviews were carried out with political decision-makers, institutions and actors of civil society in order to identify the governorates and cities most affected by the phenomenon of extreme violence, places where we planned to establish the process. After the selection, the process of bibliographic analysis of the cities began. The final selection was: Governorate of Tunis (Sidi Hcine Sijoumi and Dejebel Eljeloud), Governorate of Ariana (Soukra), Governorate of Kef (Kef-est), Governorate of Kasserine (Ezzouhour), Governorate of Medenine (Béni Khedache and Zarzis), Tataouine Governorate (Tataouine-Nord).

**Second phase:** the field study. This phase includes the development of questionnaires, the implementation of the field study and the analysis of all the results. The questionnaire consisted of 58 questions, organized in seven parts to analyze: access to public services, social capital, socio-economic status, respect for human rights, social cohesion, the presence of extremist groups and the security situation. A total of 2,400 people responded to this questionnaire, including 49.9% women, 11.4% young people under 20 and 49% young people under

29. All responses we reanalyzed and grouped together to facilitate their analysis.

**Third phase:** Participatory local debates. Based on the results of the field questionnaire, a SWOT analysis was suggested for each governorate / city and presented to the main representatives of local institutions and civil society actors. A participatory session in each governorate was organized in order to locally validate the suggested diagnoses and to propose a first series of key proposals to prevent violent extremism.

**Fourth phase:** development of the Road Map. Based on the results of the field study, on the local participatory debates organized in the six governorates and on the in-depth documentary analysis, a first draft of the Roadmap was drawn up and validated by the members of OPEV Tunisia (UGTT, LTDH, ATFD, Free Sight, WW-GVC and NOVACT). This document was debated during a two-session seminar with 41 experts, local professionals and representatives of civil society. This seminar provided an inclusive space and made it possible to identify good practices and innovative proposals. Based on the results of this seminar, this final version of the Roadmap to prevent all forms of violent extremism has been drawn up.

All the documents that led to this Road Map are available on the OPEV website ([www.opev.org](http://www.opev.org)): the analysis of the 6 governorates, all the results, the analysis of the field questionnaire, the Previous Road Map which includes the basic definitions and diagnosis used to write this Road Map.

# 03

## An agenda for action: Roadmap of recommendations from Tunisian civil society for the prevention of all forms of Violent Extremism. —

The following Roadmap brings together the key proposals of Civil Society and academic experts with the aim of contributing to the prevention of extreme violence in Tunisia. Some of these proposals refer to actions that should be implemented by civil society; others are policy recommendations that should be carried out by the Tunisian government or decentralized institutions; finally, some proposals concern the need to strength cooperation between civil society and the Tunisian government.

All of these proposals are structured in nine objectives.

### **OBJECTIVE 1: Studying and acting on the driving forces of all forms of violent extremism in Tunisia**

1. Despite the significant efforts made by the Tunisian government, civil society, academia and the international community, to improve knowledge of the factors and vectors of violent extremism in Tunisia, the organizations that support this Road Map note that these efforts have focused almost exclusively on understanding the phenomenon associated with violent jihadism, paying much less attention to other forms of violent extremism, such as hate speech and hate crime. To understand

violent extremism as a whole, we consider it essential to strengthen efforts to understand the origins of extremist violence based on gender, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, race or affiliation to an ethnic group. Further research is proving essential to understand the origins of extremist violence consisting of the expression of intolerance and rejection of people for the simple fact of being different (or perceived as different).

#### **Key results of the field study related to this objective:**

According to all the results of the field study conducted to develop this Road Map, 66.1% of the people questioned in the seven governorates noted that marginalization and poverty are the main factors producing the conditions favorable to extremist violence in Tunisia. Indeed, 75% of those polled said that in their governorates, there are no work opportunities and 72.4% confirmed the total absence of vocational training centers. Even if this was not directly mentioned as a vector of violent extremism by the respondents, we consider it significant that 27.1% of them declared that they knew people close to extremist groups, and with whom they had normal relationships. This rate, which is extremely high, suggests a form of normalization of the presence of extremist groups, which may favor their actions.

All study results are available at [www.ojev.org](http://www.ojev.org).

2. There is a real desire to strengthen cooperation between the Tunisian Government, the CNLCT and civil society actors. One of the priorities of this cooperation should be to create the space for discussion to reach a horizontal and multi-party agreement on what is meant (and not meant) by the terms "violent extremism" and "radicalization". In the discussion around violent extremism, institutions, practitioners, and activists need to find an agreement that can emphasize that while individuals can be violent, ideologies may not be. There are, on the other hand, groups and ideologies that explicitly advocate the use of violence to achieve long-term goals and these are more likely to appeal to violent extremists.

3. Another area of cooperation between the CNLCT, academia and civil society should be to develop coordination systems for the identification of good practices and lessons learned during activities to prevent violent extremism. This coordination system should set up a shared information system for key players in civil society on the main lessons learned. In order to realize this proposal, our recommendation is to encourage agreements with universities and think tanks to promote critical research on the causes and vectors of ALL forms of violent extremism. In the same approach, it is necessary to coordinate and strengthen initiatives aimed at collecting information on discrimination, social exclusion, hate crimes, structural and cultural violence and terrorism.

4. Taking advantage of the fact that in many respects the work carried out in Tunisia on the subject of the ENP represents an example of international good practice, we propose to strengthen efforts to monitor the evolution of hate speech and its perpetrators on social networks, by developing so-called "big data" analyses and monitoring / follow-up tools. These digital tools

should allow us to establish early warning and reaction mechanisms aimed at preventing violence in addition to alternative dispute resolution mechanisms such as dialogue, negotiation, mediation, conciliation, arbitration and restorative justice, in order to resolve conflicts and achieve lasting peace.

5. . Due to the complex and cross-cutting nature of the challenge of violent extremism, a preventive and proactive response requires that these signals be monitored and considered in the context of the social transformations occurring at national but also local levels, focusing on the interactions between the different components of society and understanding their determinants, causes and effects. This should be done over an extended period of time, as such interactions occurring cumulatively over time. Universities, research centers and official institutions and the international community should undertake a scientific effort to monitor, study and track social transformations in order to prevent the emergence of violent extremism.

6. Promote in-depth study of the driving forces and different levels at which violent radicalization occurs in Tunisia: macro, meso and micro. The production of scientific knowledge on the circumstances which create fertile ground for the expansion of violent extremism can only be done through close and horizontal collaboration between different social and political actors and research, on a basis of multidisciplinary and critical investigation. It is from these studies that successful policies in terms of PVE addressing the root causes of violent extremism can be built within state institutions, international bodies and organizations of civil society.

7 We recommend action at the macro level to limit the difficulties experienced by Tunisian citizens who live in situations of economic scarcity and various forms of social and cultural



disadvantage. Therefore, we should study strategies to guarantee equitable access to services, including health, to natural resources (especially water), to work towards environmental justice as well as to provide social protection organizations with financial and efficient resources in order to be able to bring more support the population in distress.

8. Given the fact that the context of the COVID-19 pandemic further compromises the economic difficulties and will further widen social differences, we believe that certain specific policies aimed at the economic support of the most vulnerable groups should be considered by the Tunisian institutions in the post-pandemic context. In the current context and generalized confinement, we are concerned that the Tunisian population, and in particular the youngest, maybe exposed to extremist propaganda on social networks.

9. Policies capable of restricting diversities between inland regions and coastal regions should be devised and the mechanisms that feed the organized marginalization or planned exclusion of inland and border regions should be ended in order to achieve greater employability (especially among young people) and promote consultations between the State, unions and investors to create quality jobs.

10. Advocating open channels for regular migration with foreign states cooperating with Tunisia and with international organizations that are concerned by the migration phenomenon. In this sense, by reducing the difficulties in obtaining visas from foreign embassies in Tunisia.

11. Support the activities of civil society and social movements in the establishment of support programs for the less privileged populations of urban suburbs and in the interior regions. In this sense, the authorities should avoid any escalation of violence in the context of protests that erupt

periodically due to the socio-economic injustices experienced by these people.

## **OBJECTIVE 2: Ensure the protection of human rights in anti-terrorism laws**

12. Promote the establishment of a Community Oriented Policing (COP) that focuses on developing relationships with community members and increases trust. Police training in human rights and community mediation is also recommended. Greater involvement of the police in resolving interpersonal violence through mediation could be an opportunity to avoid a possible escalation of violence.

13. Amend the anti-terrorism law N ° 2015-26 of August 7, 2015, going further than the changes made in 2019, in order to eliminate the most problematic aspects in terms of violation of fundamental rights. In particular, precisely define the term "terrorism". Reduce the duration of police custody in accordance with international standards to no more than 48 hours without judicial authorization, allow the detainee to consult his lawyer without delay and facilitate his access to medical care if necessary. Abolish the current death penalty for 17 terrorist offenses.

### **Key results of the field study related to this objective:**

According to all the results of the field research carried out for the development of this Road Map, most of the questioned people considered, on the one hand, that an increased presence of the security forces is necessary to prevent the action of extremist groups. On the other hand, they say they have a complete lack of trust and a bad relationship with the security forces.

The data that justifies the previous assertion is, initially, that 39.3% of respondents feel a high level of insecurity in their neighborhood. In the same

perspective, 47.9% consider that there is a lack of presence of the security forces in their neighborhood. In particular, 82% of those questioned in Tataouine Nord consider that this absence of the security forces is a factor which facilitates the expansion of violent extremist groups.

Even if there is a clear demand for more presence of the security forces, 41.2% of respondents say they have a lack of trust and a bad relationship with the security forces and only 4.7% say they have a good relationship with the security forces.

**All study results are available at [www.opev.org](http://www.opev.org).**

14. Repeal Decree No. 78-50 regulating the state of emergency and replace it with an organic law that can provide a legal framework for emergency measures with a more sensitive approach to the respect of rights and freedoms. Limit the number of administrative searches, undermining the right to privacy to the minimum necessary, as well as house arrest. Establish a legislative framework for other extrajudicial administrative measures, capable of guaranteeing respect for the principles of necessity and proportionality. Therefore, cease the adoption of administrative control measures restricting freedom of movement.

15. Work towards the prevention of torture and ill-treatment, reaffirming without any ambiguity the absolute nature of the prohibition of torture and inhuman and degrading treatment during and outside of detention. Strengthen the capacities of detection, monitoring and handling of cases of torture at the institutional and civil society level. Therefore, provide the National Authority for the Prevention of Torture (INPT) with the most appropriate financial and human resources to complete the full operation of this important institution. Implement the recommendations made by civil society organizations that offer assistance to victims and cooperate in their fight against the

impunity of torturers. Guarantee the accountability of public officials guilty of having committed acts of torture or ill-treatment by bringing them to justice with impartial and effective investigations, with the aim of rebuilding the relationship between Tunisian citizens and security and judicial institutions. Ensure that the mandates of accountability mechanisms are fulfilled by experts taking into account the gender criterion.

16. Work to reduce the excessive use of preventive prison, which undermines the right to liberty and the right to a judgment rendered without undue delay. Put in place policies aimed at reducing court times and prison overcrowding in order to better prevent violent extremist enlistment in prisons.

17. Protect human rights defenders and other civil society actors who strive for justice, dignity and social change.

### **OBJECTIVE 3: Protecting all victims from violent extremism**

18. Supporting and strengthening victims also involves the promotion of training and awareness-raising campaigns on their rights and their voice in an active and constructive perspective to get out of victimization. We advocate to support and disseminate the messages of the victims of hate crimes, hate speech and terrorism by promoting a process of reparation and a message of tolerance and mutual understanding. It is important to remember that victims have the potential to transform themselves into main agents of change.

19. Prevent the spread of hate speech and hate crimes by considering that reforms within state institutions can first set an example. A first step towards this goal could be the repeal of article 230 of the Penal Code, which punishes consensual relations between persons of the same sex by three years' imprisonment. We recommend an immediate end to the criminalization of homosexuality in

Tunisia and the opening of investigations into the violations to which people may have been victims during their arrest. Were it that intrusive medical examinations, including anal testing, have no scientific basis and constitute violations of the rights of those who on these bases will be tried.

20. We recommend the modification of article 230 and all other texts in contradiction with articles 21, 23 and 24 of the Constitution, as well as the strengthening of the protection of LGBTQI + people against discrimination, violence, torture and abuse. The authors of Joint Communication No. 239 and Human Rights Watch (HRW) observe that Tunisia has not followed up on two recommendations addressed to it during its last Universal Periodic Review concerning the repeal of texts penalizing sexual relations between consenting adults of the same sex. The Tunisian Government mainly applies article 230 of the Penal Code in this area, which punishes male and female homosexuality with sentences of up to three years' imprisonment. Amnesty International, the authors of Joint Communication No. 544 and the Shams Association make similar observations. The authors of Joint Communication No. 2 recommend that Tunisia immediately repeal Article 230; bring the Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure into conformity with the 2014 Constitution as well as with the various international treaties and instruments ratified by Tunisia; to guarantee access to justice for all citizens without any discrimination, in particular that based on sexual orientation and gender identity. HRW makes a similar recommendation. Amnesty International recommends the immediate and unconditional release of all persons detained for their real or perceived sexual orientation and / or identity. The Shams Association recommends repealing provisions criminalizing sexual practices and prostitution, and ending state interference with the privacy of citizens. The authors of Joint Communication No. 7 recommend the revision of legislative texts relating to the sex trade; reduce

attitudes of stigma and discrimination; to avoid harassment of sex workers and to allow them to benefit from the right to social security and retirement, as well as the right to a heritage.

21. Protecting victims also means building ways of publicly denouncing discrimination, hate speech, hate crimes, terrorism and structural violence. This is why we advocate for the establishment of channels of public denunciation and collective response that can support victims in their journey to justice.

22. Operate for the effective implementation of United Nations resolution 1325 and promote the objectives of the Women Security and Peace (WPS) agenda in Tunisia, by providing public institutions and civil society organizations with the financial and human resources to accomplish their mission. Ensure the implementation of the National Action Plan adopted in 2018 and ensure that the sectoral action plans can be applied within the different ministries. Improve dialogue, cooperation between institutions, civil society and international organizations. In general, we invite all social and political actors to give more importance to the WPS agenda, and we champion the integration of the health emergence of COVID-19 as a source of human insecurity with gendered repercussions in the upcoming action plan.

#### **OBJECTIVE 4: Promoting gender justice and expose gender specificities**

23. We have to operate for the effective implementation of United Nations resolution 1325 and promote the objectives of the Women Security and Peace (WPS) agenda in Tunisia, by providing public institutions and civil society organizations with the financial and human resources to accomplish their mission. Ensure the implementation of the National Action Plan adopted in 2018 and ensure that the sectoral action plans

can be applied within the various ministries. On the other hand, with a view to adopting the new FPS National Action Plan in 2021, the authorities should ensure the implementation of what has already been established by the 2019 Masterplan. With this objective it is necessary to improve dialogue and cooperation between institutions, civil society and international organizations. In addition, it is necessary to start a process of decentralization of the national FPS action plan by guaranteeing a more effective presence of the regions, for example with the creation of regional action plans. In general, we invite all social and political actors to give more importance to the WPS agenda, and we advocate for the integration of the health emergency of COVID-19 as a source of human insecurity with gendered repercussions in the upcoming action plan.

24. Observe and act on the gendered impact of anti-terrorism policies in Tunisia, in particular police raids, sexual violence as a means of torture, mistreatment with the aim of obtaining information on relatives suspected of terrorism.

25. Observe and consider measures providing solutions for the harmful consequences of the current health emergency in the female population by trying to slow the increase in inequalities between the sexes, economic insecurity, disparity in access to technologies computers, domestic violence.

26. Conduct more rigorous research on the participation of women in armed groups and not only in terrorist organizations. Guarantee the care of women victims of extreme violence in specialized centers for psychological and physical follow-up.

27. Ensure the application of Law 2017-58 on the Elimination of Violence against Women and facilitate by all means the complaint process which still remains a real obstacle course. Provide the National Observatory for the Fight against Violence against Women with the means necessary for the accomplishment of its mission.

28. Consider the creation of a gender-sensitive action plan for the treatment of women accused of terrorism at the level of investigation and their imprisonment in national prisons.

29. Advocate for the inclusion of full representation of women in government and institutional planning and decision-making processes. Ensure the participation of women and minorities in speaking out on the subject of violent extremism and in building prevention policies. Take into account the specificities of gender in public policies of PEV by moving away from positions favoring the exploitation of the role of women in society for security reasons. On the other hand, build policies aiming at achieving effective gender equality.

## **OBJECTIVE 5: Strengthening the role of young people as agents of change**

30. Unite efforts between the different stakeholders to build a new narrative on young Tunisians that breaks the deadlock that sees the young either as a threat to national security or as a passive actor in the construction of strategies intended to resolve national issues. We advocate within institutions for the establishment of policies which, beyond make-up operations, can succeed in bringing about a real inclusion of young people in the future of the country.

31. Establish policies aiming at reducing the unemployment rate among young people, the population most affected by this phenomenon. To achieve this objective, we recommend to adjust the national employment strategy to the specific needs of young people, including young graduates, and to stimulate active employment programs by improving the employability of job seekers of different levels. Supporting green and inclusive economic initiatives could also offer the keys to employability among the young population. More

and more qualified young people could implement social enterprise projects, social community projects, cooperatives but also any form of traditional enterprise in the sense of environmentally friendly economic development. It would have a positive impact on the reduction in the medium and long term of the high rate of unemployment among young people, mainly in the interior regions, as well as the high rates of unemployment of young people having followed a vocational or university training.

**Key results of the field study related to this objective:**

According to all the results of the field study carried out for the making of this Road Map, the majority of those questioned consider that giving opportunities and a better future to young people should be one of the priorities. 21.2% of those polled believe that "putting young people first" should be the priority of policies to prevent violent extremism. Also, they think that first and most of all, in terms of priority, "reforming the education system" is considered essential by 28.1% of respondents. All of this illustrates the importance of the role of youth.

Other significant responses can illustrate the situation of youth in Tunisia and in particular the fact that 75% of respondents said that there are no work opportunities for young people or vocational training centers. There is a strong sense of lack of opportunity among young people.

**All study results are available at [www.opev.org](http://www.opev.org).**

32. Promote the inclusion of young people and educational organizations in the development, monitoring and follow-up of activities for the prevention of violent extremism. Strengthen the participation of the youth population in the design and dissemination of alternative narratives for the prevention of violent extremism to provide new evidence on the importance of the contribution of

young people as a role model in the prevention of violence.

33. Consider the creation of disengagement programs for young people belonging to violent groups. Work with young people who have joined violent extremist groups to channel their goals for change into constructive, non-violent and inclusive activities and approaches. Include the prevention of drug use in the design of disengagement processes as well as in penitentiary center programs. Consider the creation of reintegration programs for young prisoners leaving prisons, including for offenses linked to violent extremism, taking into account the difficulties in access to employment for people presenting a certificate 3 (a judicial record) which includes references.

34. Advocate for the strengthening of places of entertainment, leisure and cultural initiatives available to young people, in particular youth centers, cultural centers and sports establishments.

35. Put an end to all measures restricting freedom that have a disproportionate impact on the freedom and rights of young people. We commend that the authorities put an end to any administrative measure that is not based on a clear and precise legislative text, including the "S" registration measures and extrajudicial house arrest, as well as limit to what is strictly necessary the home searches that were to be carried out under mandate.

36. We are aware of the efforts made by the presidency of the Tunisian government and of the recent reform of the Penal Code which makes it possible to speed up criminal proceedings in the event of minor offenses. Nonetheless, we deem it necessary to act to limit the use of detention for minor offenses. For example, reconsider the repeal of Law No. 92-52 on the consumption of narcotics, under which many young people find themselves detained and become easy prey to indoctrination. We recommend the taking into consideration within the Ministry of Justice of a series of alternative

punitive measures to detention, which may represent more prepositive responses especially for the young population.

## **OBJECTIVE 6: Strengthening education and resilience at the local level**

37. Promote equitable access to education and consider the implementation of an action plan to address the problem of early school leaving. In order to improve the conditions of the Tunisian educational system, an improvement in the budget reserved for the Ministry of Education should be considered to provide a response to the many administrative dysfunctions as well as the structural problems of schools. Far from educational strategies focused solely on the acquisition of knowledge, we advocate for the updating of the education system which can be based on the construction of a critical mind, on education for diversity, tolerance, rights and the basis of social cohesion. Faced with this budget shortage, schools are often forced to close classes or organize students into overcrowded classes in which work is proving increasingly difficult. In this sense, dropping out of school and the difficulties or even impossibility of resuming the educational path after dropping out of school should be the priority of educational reform. The educational policies in place concerning early school leaving reinforce the feeling of a lack of opportunities among young people in Tunisia.

38. Strengthen the possibility of having psychological support at school for students and establish more stable mechanisms to allow civil society actors to make available material, training, workshops and conferences in the educational community. Promoting student engagement during their educational journey must be a priority.

39. Strengthen efforts to provide spaces for culture and recreation, especially in rural environments. Improve the quality of spaces in urban areas for young people and move towards decentralization.

### **Key results of the field study related to this objective:**

According to all the results of the field study put in place for the development of this Road Map, most of the people questioned consider that the reform of the education system should be the priority for the prevention of violent extremism. 28.9% said that "reforming the education system" should be a priority for PVE policies. Other data that can be used to illustrate the situation of young people in Tunisia is the fact that 95% of the respondents declared that, in their neighborhood, there is a total absence of leisure centers, parks, family spaces, youth and cultural centers and sports areas. In addition, 95% of those questioned noted the presence of mosques, Koranic schools attended by young and old, and Koranic kindergartens.

**All study results are available at [www.opev.org](http://www.opev.org).**

40. Include an PVE module in the educational pathway at school to ensure knowledge of basic concepts and contribute to resilience, through a human rights approach. It is important to also consider the possibility of including specific subjects such as civic education or the value of respecting difference.

41. Support civil society in its efforts to achieve the creation of genuine community resilience to the discourse of violent extremism. Develop participatory strategies to prevent the emergence of violent extremisms and to protect citizens from threats and recruitment by violent extremist groups. These actions must be accompanied by supporting confidence-building measures at the local level by providing appropriate



platforms for dialogue and early identification of grievances.

42. Promote training processes for civil society and the tertiary sector to strengthen their capacities in terms of preventing violent extremism.

43. Prioritize actions that use culture or sport to allow the establishment of a value transmission strategy that strengthens community resilience in the face of the rhetoric of organizations or violent extremist recruiters. It is essential that these actions be adapted to the needs and diagnoses carried out with the young Tunisian population in the regions where terrorism is located.

44. Implement educational programs that promote global justice, soft skills and critical thinking, tolerance and respect for diversity, with the aim of promoting peace and non-violent values.

45. Promote anti-rumor networks to address hatred and intolerance and build local resilience to messages of violent extremism.

46. Promote the strengthening of the social fabric contributing to the strengthening of the resilience of individuals. Socialization in peace and respect for diversity and social inclusion can truly strengthen resilience in the face of violent extremist drift.

## **OBJECTIVE 7: Promote democratic values and protect the space of civil society**

47. It is essential to strengthen the capacity of young people and youth movements to communicate with each other, in particular with regard to the ENP and the general improvement of their democratic values. This should be done through the identification of credible actors, especially vis-à-vis young people, beyond the large

historical CSOs. There is a real need for a dynamic civil society, strong, connected with the youth and having the capacity to use public space without restrictions, without repression and without discourses disconnected with reality.

48. Ensure access to justice for the entire population and strengthen, at all levels, institutions to make them more just, effective, accountable and inclusive, in accordance with the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. In this sense, we support the efforts made within the framework of the transitional justice process started in Tunisia in 2013 with the objectives of identifying and combating the human rights violations committed by past regimes by revealing the truth, by asking those responsible for these violations to account for their acts, by compensating the victims and restoring their dignity, to preserve the collective memory, to establish guarantees to prevent these atrocities from recurring. We recommend that the authorities concerned remove the legal obstacles in progress in the chambers specializing in transitional justice.

### **Key results of the field study related to this objective:**

According to all the results of the field study carried out for the making of this Road Map, the level of social capital in the governorates selected for the study is extremely low.

83% of the people questioned declared that there is no association or associative work in their neighborhood. 86% of those polled declared that they had never participated in any associative activity when 14% of those questioned stated that the associative activities in which they took part were mainly charitable actions. Only 2% of respondents say they have participated in social or cultural activities organized by civil society actors.

**All study results are available at [www.opecv.org](http://www.opecv.org).**

49. We engage in advocacy on national and regional dialogues on the prevention of violent extremism, bringing together a chain of actors, taking into consideration commitment for young people and for gender equality, including marginalized groups and municipalities (or local communities), with awareness campaigns through social networks and other virtual platforms. Strengthen the role of culture and art in creating a culture of dialogue.

50. Raise awareness of respect for rights and the role of civil society in their protection. Eliminate all obstacles to the activities of civil society organizations in Tunisia, including amending Law 30-2018 which provides for the inclusion of associations in the register of companies, ultimately mixing non-profit associations with for-profit companies. This law restricts the space of civil society in Tunisia, as small associations will most likely be unable to fulfill the material obligations necessary for registration as well as for obtaining funding. We recall that in order to prevent violent extremism, restricting the space of civil society can only be a counterproductive measure.

51. We plead for a reform of the Ministries of the Interior and of Justice, scheduled from 2011 and not yet completed.

52. Promote the enjoyment of democratic values, economic and social rights, including human rights-based initiatives, so as to assist in the elimination of conditions leading to violent extremism.

53. Provide strategic support to civil resistance and non-violent movements championing social change that face injustice or political violence and terror. Strengthening the legitimacy of non-violent movements operating in areas of violent conflict appears to be the most

effective strategy to confront injustice, transform conflict and build resilience at the local level.

## **OBJECTIVE 8: Counteracting hate speech on social networks and Generate alternative narratives**

54. It is essential to set up a serious online campaign program which offers attractive tools for users (such as gaming or through the most "fashionable" social networks) and which offers alternative speeches to extremist groups discourses. It is important to focus on young people at risk of radicalization and send them messages through influential people suited to the target. Some ideas that were discussed such as: (1) "creating" influencers through activities that offer the possibility for young people to participate in the artistic field. (2) Engaging local associations, youth centers, local institutions, in the organization of artistic activities in which they can actively participate (3) promoting the role of young people as creators of artistic products.

55. Design and implement awareness campaigns informing about the negative impact of ideologies of violent extremism and targeting the same audience of promoters of hate speech.

56. Contribute to the design and development of local, regional and national communication strategies, with emphasis on social networks. These strategies must be gender sensitive and based on international human rights standards, in order to challenge mass narratives associated with violent extremism.

57. Consider the creation of an action plan to lead to the construction of a legislative framework against hate speech and protection for victims of hate crimes.



58. Consider training to deal with violent extremism in the media.

59. Fight against all types of censorship and guarantee freedom of opinion.

60. Strengthen the existing platform for the counter message within institutions and establish closer collaborations between government actors and civil society organizations.

**Key results of the field study related to this objective:**

According to all the results of the field study carried out for the making of this Road Map, there is a strong perception that social networks play a very important role in radicalization processes.

41.6% of those polled said they see the internet as the main medium that facilitates radicalization. This percentage is significantly higher than the second option chosen by respondents which is mosques, with 24.3% of responses.

In terms of meaningful data to consider, we believe it is important to note that, according to recent research conducted by Facebook, in 64% of cases where a person joins an extremist group on Facebook, it is because the platform recommends it. This means that Facebook's algorithm has helped in the radicalization process of two-thirds of radicalized people on this social network.

All study results are available at [www.opev.org](http://www.opev.org).

## **OBJECTIVE 9: Monitoring PVE activities and the national action plan**

61. Promote the establishment of a formal system of census and monitoring of PVE activities and of the National Strategy of the CNLCT, which is

participatory and transparent, capable of conveying the importance of taking responsibility and trust between stakeholders which brings together the data compiled which will allow the analysis and monitoring of the advance or decline of violent extremism in Tunisia. This process must involve all stakeholders: government, civil society, universities, media, international organizations, private sector.

62. Given the general context in which there are strong gaps in the indicators of success of effective PVE programs, close monitoring of programs as a whole and of the action plans adopted turns out to be of an even more crucial importance.

63. Monitoring is necessary in order to be able to combine the lessons learned and bring together the most diverse data about PVE activities. In this way, it will be possible to create a culture of exchange between governmental and non-governmental stakeholders and to establish more meaningful evaluation criteria, as well as indicators of progress and impact of projects from a more holistic point of view.

64. The information collected through this monitoring process can be used to inform decision-makers regarding PVE policies.

# 04

## Main contributors to this Road Map. —

This roadmap was developed by the Tunisian Secretariat of the Observatory for the Prevention of Violent Extremisms:



**Tunisian League of Human Rights (LTDH):** association founded in 1976 and aimed at the observation and defense of human rights in Tunisia, dean of human rights leagues in Africa and the Arab world.



**General Tunisian Labor Union (UGTT):** main trade union center in Tunisia, founded in 1946, with strong expertise in sectoral social dialogue and high-level political advocacy.



**Tunisian Association of Democratic Women (ATFD):** organization created in 1989, which campaigns for a modern and democratic Tunisia, which respects equality between men and women, human dignity, freedom, secularism and social justice.



**Free Sight Association (FSA):** organization founded in 2011 that works in the defense of human rights, and the dissemination of the culture of dialogue, peace and citizenship.

**NOVACT** **Novact:** organization that fights to achieve a society free from armed conflict and violence in all its dimensions, based on human security and non-violence.

**We World GVC Onlus (WW-GVC):**



Italian organization that works for the promotion and respect of human rights, especially of women and children, throughout the world.

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