



# STRONGER TOGETHER

- *Prevention of Radicalization in Schools*

# Stronger Together

- ▶ Radicalization has become one of the greatest challenges in today's Europe.
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- ▶ In 2016 in Europe:
  - ▶ Over 1000 persons arrested for terrorist offences, 1/3 of which are below 25 years old.
  - ▶ An increasing number of young people seek radicalized movements in their search for identity and a meaningful role in society.
- ▶ Education is key to prevention of radicalization, and the best protection against extremist environments.
- ▶ Early prevention has to start from primary schools:
  - ▶ Teaching pupils methods to develop resilience
  - ▶ To resist extremist narratives
  - ▶ Acquire social and emotional skills to overcome doubts and engage constructively in society
- ▶

- ▶ Vejle Municipality in Denmark has built its crime prevention work on the Situational Action Theories of Professor Per Oluf Wikström.
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- ▶ Vejle Kommune has developed an interdisciplinary crime prevention education.
  - ▶ Trained over 500 employees
  - ▶ The knowledge and insights that Vejle Municipality have gained through the crime prevention education have been the basis for the Stronger Together project.
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- ▶ The Age group is important:
  - ▶ Wikström's research shows that if to prevent crime among adults, this must be done before they turn 12, as opportunities to influence their moral and education are greatly reduced in adolescence.

# Defintion of Radicalization

(based on the Danish Center for Terror Analysis' (CTA) definition)

Radicalization is a dynamic psychological process, where a seeking and engaged individual to greater extent:

- ▶ Questions the existing society and/or the world's order
- ▶ Moves towards more extreme religious or political worldviews, often with a more simplified - black and white - understanding of the world
- ▶ Creates his/her new identity in compliance with this worldview (and often as part of a group of people who share the same worldview)
- ▶ Expresses personal responsibility to change the existing order
- ▶ Expresses the will to apply violence as the medium to reach the goal

# Facts about STRONGER TOGETHER

- ▶ Erasmus + project, Strategic partnership for schools
- ▶ September 2018- February 2021
- ▶ Five partners:

*Etterbeek Municipality (Belgium)*

*CSCI - Consorzio Scuola Comunità Impresa (Italy)*

*Eco Logic (Republic of Macedonia)*

*Östra Göinge municipality (Sweden)*

*VNB - Verein Niedersächsischer Bildungsinitiativen e.V. (Germany)*

*VIFIN - Videnscenter for Integration (Denmark) - Coordinator*

- ▶ Budget € 290.244,00

# The project's General Objective

- ▶ To reduce the number of young people who become radicalized by teaching values such as: morality, inclusion, self-control, and critical thinking among young pupils
- ▶ To develop a curriculum that creates awareness about prevention of radicalization in a fun and educational way through social and cooperative gaming.

# Objective

- ▶ To develop a Stronger Together Curriculum :
  1. Based on five modules with the themes: 1. morality, 2. self-control, 3. diversity and inclusion, 4. critical thinking and 5. prevention of radicalization; and
  2. Engaged by a digital board game, where the pupils in practice learn that they are stronger together.

The curriculum targets young pupils in the age of 10-12 years old.

The project has developed materials - *The Stronger Together Handbook* - for the teachers who will teach the curriculum after the test-period in class.

# Results

- ▶ Stronger Together Curriculum: five modules and a digital board game
- ▶ Stronger Together Handbook
- ▶ Teacher Training Event
- ▶ Evaluation of Stronger Together Curriculum
- ▶ Evaluation of Stronger Together project
- ▶ Final Conference
- ▶ Multiplier events



# Participants

- ▶ Three teachers per country, who teach 4th, 5th or 6th grade
- ▶ Three classes per country (a 4th, 5th and 6th grade)
- ▶ Parents of the pupils in class

# Intellectual Outputs

- ▶ O1: Development of curriculum and design of the five modules (Etterbeek Municipality)
- ▶ O2: Technical Development of the Digital Board Game (VIFIN)
- ▶ O3: Development of the Stronger Together Handbook (Eco Logic)
- ▶ O4: Evaluation of the curriculum and of the project (CSCI)

# Multiplier events & Teacher Training event

- ▶ **Teacher Training Event** in Macedonia. October 2019. Three days. 18 teachers.
- ▶ **Final conference** in Belgium, now done online due to COVID 19. January 2021.
- ▶ **Local multiplier events** in Germany, Italy, Republic of Macedonia, Sweden, Denmark.



▶ For more information:

▶ <http://strongertogetherproject.eu/>

▶ Facebook:

▶ <https://www.facebook.com/strongertogether2020/>