

ARENAS

ANALYSIS OF AND RESPONSES
TO EXTREMIST NARRATIVES



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The Department of Modern and Contemporary History and the CEDID announce involvement in prestigious new European project.

The Department of Modern and Contemporary History and the CEDID were in Paris last week for the launch of a prestigious new Horizon Europe project, ARENAS (Analysis of and Responses to Extremist Narratives) project as part of a three-day transnational partner event. The project is funded by the EU Horizon Programme, the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2021-2027) and is co-ordinated by Julien Longhi and his team in **CY Cergy Paris Université**, France. It brings together a multidisciplinary consortium of nine Universities, an NGO, two SME's as well as five associated impact partners comprised of an International Association, two National Associations, and two NGOs.

Over the next four years, ARENAS puts the spotlight on extremist narratives that affect political and social life in Europe. The team will examine the nature of these narratives and seeks to understand the discourses they impact, particularly with regard to science, gender and the nation. By understanding of how these narratives work, ARENAS will empower people to resist them. To foster a spirit of people living together in harmony across Europe, policy recommendations will be made as to how prevent such narratives taking hold in the future.

Thus, the overall objective of ARENAS is to characterise, measure and understand the role of extremist narratives in discourses that have an impact not only on political and social spheres, but importantly on the stakeholders themselves. Leading an innovative and ambitious research programme, ARENAS will significantly contribute to filling the gap in contemporary research, make recommendations to policy makers, medias, lawyers, social inclusion professionals and educational institutions, and propose solutions for countering extremes narratives for developing more inclusive and respectful European societies.

At the launch event, the UAB team with Steven Forti, lecturer at the Department of Modern and Contemporary History, researcher at the Center for Studies on Dictatorships and Democracies (CEDID) and local coordinator of ARENAS, joined participants from across the consortium to examine and validate the project's goals, methodology and activities. Each of the seven Work Package teams shared their specific research and innovation objectives, strategies and the outcomes that will emerge. Partners also put the spotlight on Project Management and Communications, the setting up of Governance bodies and an introduction to the ARENAS Ethical Board. Partners also benefitted from a highly interactive session on Data Management and Data Security and the opportunity to hear from sister Horizon Europe projects currently working on connected themes.

Dynamic presentations, discussions, and breakout groups helped to build relationships and support collaboration between the partners as they embark on this project together. The kick-off meeting welcomed representatives from lead partner **CY Cergy Paris Université** (France), and **Institute of Contemporary History** (Slovenia), **Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona** (Spain), **Institut de Ciències Polítiques i Socials** (Spain), **University of Helsinki** (Finland), **CNRS** (France), **Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf** (Germany), **Università degli studi di Genova** (Italy), **University of Cyprus** (Cyprus), **Creative Ideas** (Latvia), **Momentum Educate + Innovate** (Ireland), **Water On Mars** (Italy), and **Fundacio OXFAM Intermon** (Spain). For more information, please contact the Momentum team on info@momentumconsulting.ie

www.arenasproject.eu



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