



CONCEPT NOTE

Regional Forum

“Youth employment and the Prevention of Violent Extremism in Central Asia”

20 - 22 December 2022

Antalya, Republic of Türkiye

“If we are serious about prevention, and particularly about preventing conflict, we need to be serious about engaging with and investing in young women and men.”

-- UN Secretary-General António Guterres remarks at "Investing in Youth to Counter Terrorism" on 12 April 2018

Context

Young people under the age of 29 make up more than 50% of the population in Central Asia. Prevention of Violent Extremism (PVE) measures aim to create an environment where, young people can be in control of their own lives, free from manipulation by violence, propaganda, and hate speech. Young people, as important stakeholders, can play a vital and irreplaceable role in efforts to build social resilience, bring societies together, generate prosperity and employment, and resolve personal, community and large-scale conflicts and grievances, many of which drive radicalization.¹

Youth is, however, especially vulnerable to the lure of violent extremism if they are marginalized, excluded, unemployed and frustrated. Foreboding indicators from the International Labour Organization highlight how, despite substantial progress in reducing youth unemployment among both women and men during the first half of 2022, “

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