

POLITICAL RADICALISATION OUTSIDE THE FOOTBALL ENVIRONMENT

AIM

Reduce the salience of negative group norms pertaining to the most radicalised groups and possibly create positive norms against radicalised and violent behaviours to be shared with the wider community

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Steps and actions which may be followed when political radicalisation is present outside of the football environment may be more difficult to define. Indeed, if religious institutions have been included in the guidelines when considering religious radicalisation, in the case of political radicalisation no comparable institutions can be mentioned. As mentioned at the beginning of this second chapter, in these guidelines we refer to political radicalisation as an umbrella term which refers to those groups (nationalistic or separatist groups; extreme right or left-wing groups or single issue groups; for a discussion see Table 1 present in the guidelines) holding extremist views towards different groups or topics. Thus, if for religious radicalisation it is clear which types of institutions to include in public events, when working on fighting political radicalisation outside the football environment this choice is less straightforward. Below, two possible steps which may be followed in the fight against radicalisation outside the football environment are presented (see Figure 10):

Step 1. Creation of a solid work group between football associations and football fans. A first step should be that of establishing a close collaboration between football associations and football fans aimed at creating and consolidating a working group to enhance



communication among these actors on possible problems and suggestions for improving well-being of the football community.

Step 2. Include football fans and football associations in public events aimed at benefitting the community. In this respect, several events may be organised with the aim of strengthening the connection with part of the fans' community most in need. This may be done by:

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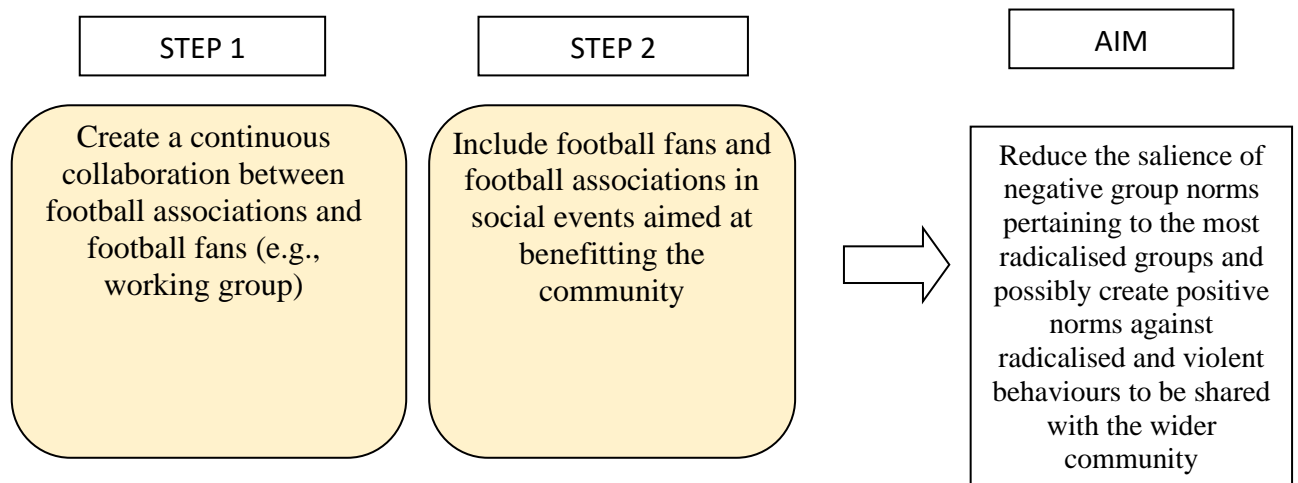
- a) organising public (e.g., charity) events revolving around football and football identity where football fans and football associations raise funds for those most in need, as in the case of hospitals or schools. For example, funds may be collected for “the young team supporters most in need” which may help not only to strengthen the relationship between football fans and associations, but also bring football fans closer to the community through positive initiatives.
 - b) organising public events near the stadium (before and after the matches) aimed at collecting funds for away matches (and other necessities) for those most in need. The organisation of such positive initiatives may shift the attention from negative actions which are often carried out near the football stadium to positive events carried out by football fans. Inclusion of a fanzone outside the stadium may help achieve this aim.
- ➔ *Very gradually, (charity) events where football is always made salient may then extend to include other groups (women, specific ethnic communities, etc.) believed to be vulnerable in that specific context as targets of the initiative.*

Similarly to the activities which may be carried out within the football environment which follow a temporal path from an intragroup context to an intergroup context, the



activities carried out outside the football environment should also first focus on the intragroup level and only later gradually consider the possibility of including other groups in the activities. This may not always be possible, so it is recommended to carefully consider each situation prior to the introduction of other groups in the activities.

Figure 10. Hypothesised steps and aim of the action phase relative to political radicalisation “outside the football environment”



A list of activities which may be conducted outside the football environment are summarised in Figure 11.



Figure 11. Example of activities which may be carried out outside the football environment to fight political radicalisation

ACTIVITIES WHICH MAY BE CARRIED OUT OUTSIDE THE FOOTBALL ENVIRONMENT TO TACKLE POLITICAL RADICALISATION

- **Collaboration** aiming at creating a cooperative network between football fans and football clubs to enhance communication among these actors on possible problems and suggestions for improving well-being of the football community;
- **Public events** organised by football fans and associations which may include activities such as:
 - **public (charity) events** aimed at raising funds for those most in need (e.g., “Let’s raise funds for the young team supporters most in need!”);
 - **public (charity) events near the stadium** (before and after the matches) aimed at collecting funds for away matches (and other necessities) for those most in need. Including a fanzone outside the stadium could help achieve this aim.
 - **Games.** To include as more individuals as possible during the public events and incentivate their participation in the event, games should be included. This would allow individuals to have the possibility of winning free tickets for football matches, t-shirts and autographed footballs by football players.

Importantly, these activities should be carried out at the intragroup level while the intergroup level should carefully be considered prior introducing other groups within the activities.



Project supported by

