



"We go online!"

On 30th June 2018 the opening event of the new project '5hoch4' took place in Berlin, which also celebrated the new website going live.

During this opening invitation event, more than 50 guests came to the premises of the DAFG to exchange ideas about the needs and possibilities for the concept of "5hoch4-Jugendclub im Netz".

5hoch4 is a prevention project against religiously motivated extremist on the Internet promoted by the EU Commission and the federal program "Democracy Live!", particularly in the social networks such as YouTube, Facebook and Instagram.

The opening of this event had been introduced by Aiman Mazyek, the chairman of ZMD, where he spoke about the enormous importance of civil society actors in combating every form of extremism, and about the growing Muslim hostility, which may be one of the reasons why young people can find their way back to discrimination and racist experiences in ideologies.

The already proven and successful methodology of the ZMD to bring about an immunization against extremist tendencies through education in religion is now to be continued via the platform with young people. After the speech, the word was handed over to Mr Moussa Al-Hassan Diaw, who described, 'How could there be a career for a radicalized young person? "Radicalisation in their own rooms".

He has been living in Austria since the age of three and is also known as a Salafism expert. In addition, as a doctoral student at the University of Osnabrück, Mr Diaw is doing his PhD on "Muslim Zealotism and Political Salafism"; and he previously worked as a research assistant.

In his talk, he explained the origin of Salafiyya, what the term means and how it has changed in the modern age. Thus the term 'salaf' in Islam stands for the ancients, for the first three generations of Islam, to which all Muslims refer. "Mainstream Islam" follows the traditional fiqh schools (law schools) and he also explained the base values such as peace, commonalities and togetherness. Only a very small proportion of fundamentalist groups in the Salafiyya would reject these traditions.

Religious extremists are trying to persuade young people of their views through increased propaganda and dissemination of their own ideology, especially on the Internet.

"What happens on the Internet matters!" Diaw continued. "Online prevention is especially important. Where the penal boundaries have been crossed, then finally the intervention, the deradicalization must begin". However, this does not mean that prevention begins when those affected have already become conspicuous, but before people accept this ideology and ideology of the radical groups.



Why are young people becoming more radical? What makes them join terrorist groups?

The cause cannot be found in a reason because there are several factors that play a role in radicalization. In many countries, most of which are Muslim, there are often social and political conflicts that are viewed from the point of view of different indicators. Is it then that these conflicts also take place among the clients themselves in the form of debates that are influenced by emotions and used by extremists and propagandists for their own purposes?

Looking at the "targets" of terrorist organizations such as Al Qaeda and the ISIS (Daesh), one inevitably realizes that the victims themselves are Muslims. Many of these terrible attacks are reported i.e. Even in mosques it is perpetrated during prayer times, since only those "Muslims", who follow the ideology blindly.

In the first place, Islam serves only as a bait of common values, culture and tradition. Later in the course of Islam it is misused by ideological and political views for their own agenda.

"The ISIS (Daesh) has everything you need to be happy".

Self-propaganda through propaganda is the common strategies here.

Especially for young men, often minors, are promised a life as an adventurer, which expresses masculinity, courage and dedication. In social networks, the young people get to know each

other and communicate with each other. Through this they form groups, "friendships" and networks that have created a sense of cohesion and are recognized as a group and members, and rebel against the "others". The result is a feeling of superiority, with which the young feel strong and invincible - they belong to an elite.

Not every adolescent is at risk when looking at such propaganda, but in one or the other, it can be a factor that leads to radicalization.

If these young people can be "rescued" in time, good care is especially important. Therefore, it is necessary to find educators and experts who are familiar with the situation and know how to recover these young people, without causing more confusion.



"We want to offer young people an alternative to propaganda websites that have so far answered the questions of young people. It is also important to us that we share motivational and empowering content with our users. This can be "personal quotes" on Instagram or even a motivational conversation with a successful person. We try to cover the preventive content through our youth workshops, which regularly take place on different topics throughout the Federal Republic.

In order to ensure that the adolescents also become part of our community by themselves, they themselves decide which topic they would like to work on via our voting module," says project leader Suphian Al-Sayad.



Our focus of our project is on social media and it is on these networks that posts are updated regularly, events promoted and videos uploaded. Interested parties should be given the opportunity to receive reliable information quickly and to speak about topics such as Islam, prevention, extremism and everyday life. At the same time, it should also be about introducing the right side of Islam in order to counteract prejudices and false images.

The sole intent for this, is to give them the chance to express opinions, ideas and criticisms through the platforms of 5hoch4, so it can speak for itself. Since it is no longer easy to distinguish correct information from false and there is a surplus of information, it is all the more important to develop pages that allow you to get uncomplicated and authentic answers.

This idea and the concept behind it, is well received and we were able to register the first "followers" after the event. Later, many of the guests were participants in the subsequent workshops in the project.

