



ISSUE 3 09.12.2024

# ARENAS

ANALYSIS OF AND RESPONSES  
TO EXTREMIST NARRATIVES

EUROPEAN  
AWARD FOR  
ARENAS  
WORK

ARENAS  
LAUNCHES  
PODCAST

MEET OUR  
PARTNERS

[www.arenasproject.eu](http://www.arenasproject.eu)



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101094731

# CONTENTS



**01**  
PAGE 3

**Media Literacy Ireland promotes the work of ARENAS**



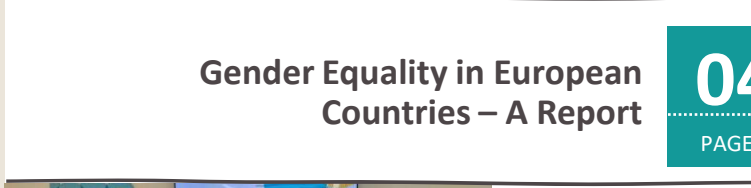
**ARENAS research presented at conferences in Europe and Asia**

**02**  
PAGE 4



**03**  
PAGE 5

**A Glimpse into the LAMPA Festival and the Fight Against Extremism**



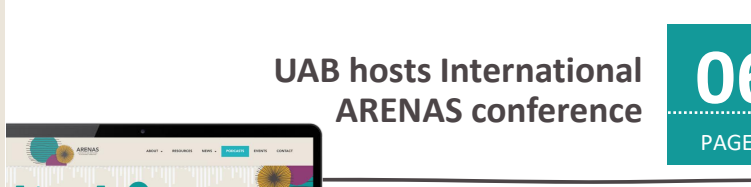
**Gender Equality in European Countries – A Report**

**04**  
PAGE 6



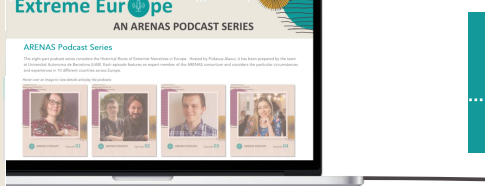
**05**  
PAGE 7

**Analysing preliminary data to counter extremist narratives in the European Union**



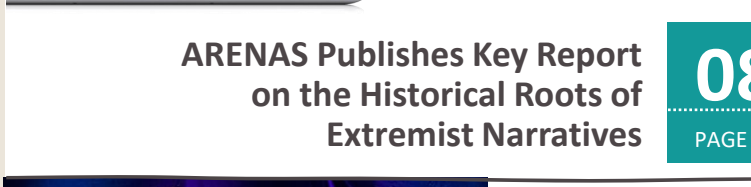
**UAB hosts International ARENAS conference**

**06**  
PAGE 8



**07**  
PAGE 9

**ARENAS launches podcast series**



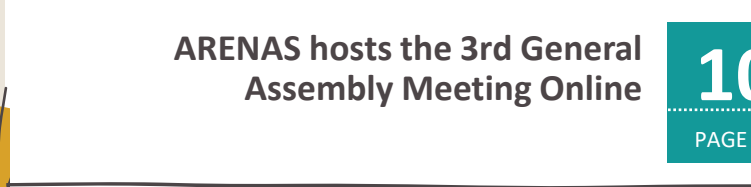
**ARENAS Publishes Key Report on the Historical Roots of Extremist Narratives**

**08**  
PAGE 10



**09**  
PAGE 11

**Major European Award for project ARENAS supported**



**ARENAS hosts the 3rd General Assembly Meeting Online**

**10**  
PAGE 12

## MEET THE PARTNERS

**11** PAGE 13  
**12** PAGE 14  
**13** PAGE 15

**Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf**  
**University of Genoa (UniGe)**  
**The University of Cyprus**



# MEDIA LITERACY IRELAND

## PROMOTES THE WORK OF ARENAS

*ARENAS was recently featured in a news story on the [Media Literacy Ireland website](#) in an article written by WP7 leader, Denise Callan of [Momentum Educate and Innovate](#). Media Literacy Ireland (MLI) is an informal alliance of individuals and organisations who work together, mainly on a voluntary basis, to promote media literacy in Ireland. Facilitated by [Coimisiún na Meán](#), Ireland's media regulator, MLI has over 250 members, drawn from a broad range of sectors.*

Its vision is for all Irish people to be empowered with the skills and confidence to be able to access and critically evaluate content and services across all platforms, understand and question how media and digital technology operate, identify and manage risks, and participate in the public sphere in a responsible, ethical and effective manner.

The article outlined the work and objectives of ARENAS, the role of Irish partner Momentum Innovate and Educate in the consortium and how the work of the project is particularly pertinent in the run-up to European elections in June.

MEDIA  
LITERACY  
IRELAND



### ARENAS – Analysis of and Responses to Extremist Narratives

29 April 2024

By Denise Callan, EU Projects and Communications  
Specialist

We are facing the "post-truth" world, characterised by  
conspiracy theories, overwhelming disinformation,



CLICK  
TO VISIT



## ARENAS RESEARCH PRESENTED AT CONFERENCES IN EUROPE AND ASIA

*The research being carried out by the members of the ARENAS consortium is already yielding valuable results and insights. Project partners have taken the opportunity to present their findings at several events across Europe and in Asia in the past six months.*

**Events where ARENAS findings have been presented include:**

A meeting of **Ulysseus European University**, this year's **SINFRA workshop** in Singapore, **The European Sociological Conference** which is Europe's largest sociological conference, The **Computer-Mediated Communication and Social Media Corpora Conference** in Nice and a **seminar** organised by the Spanish Association of Political Science and Administration (AECPA).



# A GLIMPSE INTO THE LAMPA FESTIVAL & THE FIGHT AGAINST EXTREMISM

*On July 5-6, 2024, the vibrant Latvian town of Cēsis became a hub for meaningful dialogue as 20,000 attendees gathered for the LAMPA Conversation Festival. The “Think Slowly” series stood out among the festival’s many initiatives, presented by the Association – Creative Ideas – Latvia in collaboration with the Latvian Association of Young Researchers (LIJA).*



This engaging campaign was part of the EU’s “ARENAS project”, dedicated to understanding and countering extremist narratives—a timely and crucial mission in today’s polarised world. [Read more](#)



# GENDER EQUALITY IN EUROPEAN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES – A REPORT

*The Work Package 5 group in ARENAS recently published a comprehensive report based on their research to date.*

*This report aims to provide a concise overview of gender equality activities in the partner countries over the past decade, to understand the current situation.*

The report shows that although many actions have been taken, are being taken and are planned for the coming years to reduce gender discrimination and promote gender equality in all European partner countries, it is clear that these two issues, which are strongly linked to cultural practices, beliefs and behaviours, remain problematic at many levels in many countries, despite all the actions taken at different institutional levels.



***You can learn more about their work or download a copy of the report [here](#)***



# ANALYSING PRELIMINARY DATA TO COUNTER EXTREMIST NARRATIVES IN THE EUROPEAN UNION



*Members of the **ARENAS WP4** team gathered in **Barcelona** to analyse preliminary data from recent surveys completed just before the European Parliamentary elections in 2024.*

*Upon deeper analysis, this data began to reveal patterns, pointing toward understanding who among European citizens may be most vulnerable to extremist narratives and, more importantly, why.*



Each participant brought unique perspectives from their home countries—Latvia, France, Spain, and Cyprus. Their discussions revealed not only trends but also the nuances that make this challenge complex and interesting.

The team delved into the layers of psychological drivers, political beliefs, and trust in institutions that shape people’s receptivity to extremist ideas. It’s a challenge that transcends borders. You can read an overview of the preliminary data [here](#).

UAB HOSTS

INTERNATIONAL

ARENAS

CONFERENCE

*The Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB) hosted an **international conference** recently to address some key topics of the ARENAS project. Going Extreme: History, Narratives and the Threat to Democracy in Europe was held at the **Center de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona (CCCB)** from September 25th – 27th.*



The conference was extensively covered in the Spanish media and prompted significant activity on the ARENAS social media channels and website from across Europe.

The conference examined the historical roots of the main extremist narratives currently circulating in Europe. Then looked at how have they transformed over the last century and how they have been adapted to different historical

and national contexts. Finally, it considered how these extremist narratives circulate and are disseminated in the present time in the political space and the media.

The entire conference was recorded and you can read more about the speakers, and the topics presented and also watch videos from each conference session on our [website](#).





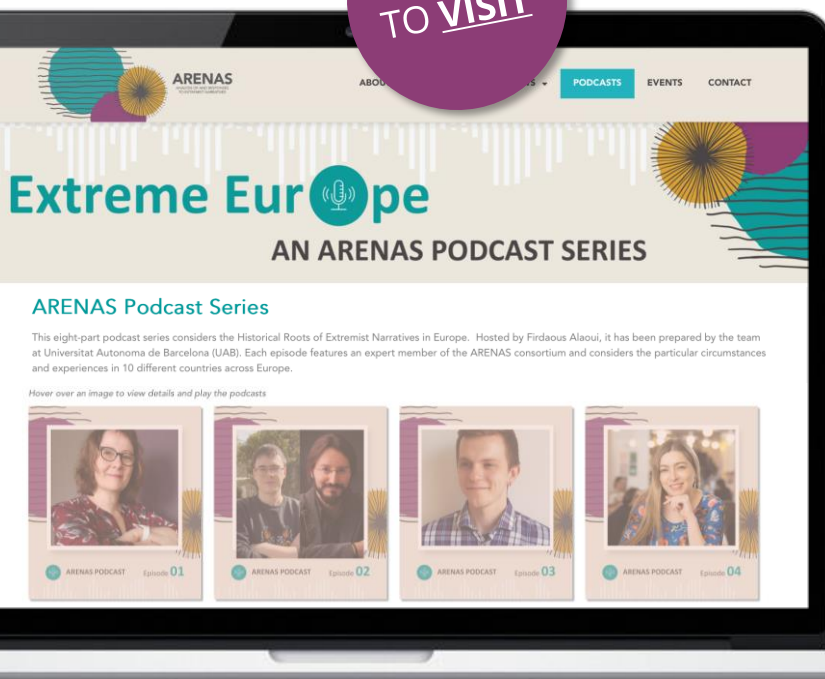
## ARENAS LAUNCHES

## PODCAST SERIES

*Following the successful international conference **Going Extreme**, hosted by **Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB)**, we launched the **ARENAS Podcast series**.*

*This eight-part podcast series considers the **Historical Roots of Extremist Narratives in Europe**. Hosted by **Firdaous Alaoui**, it has been prepared by the team at (UAB).*

CLICK  
TO VISIT

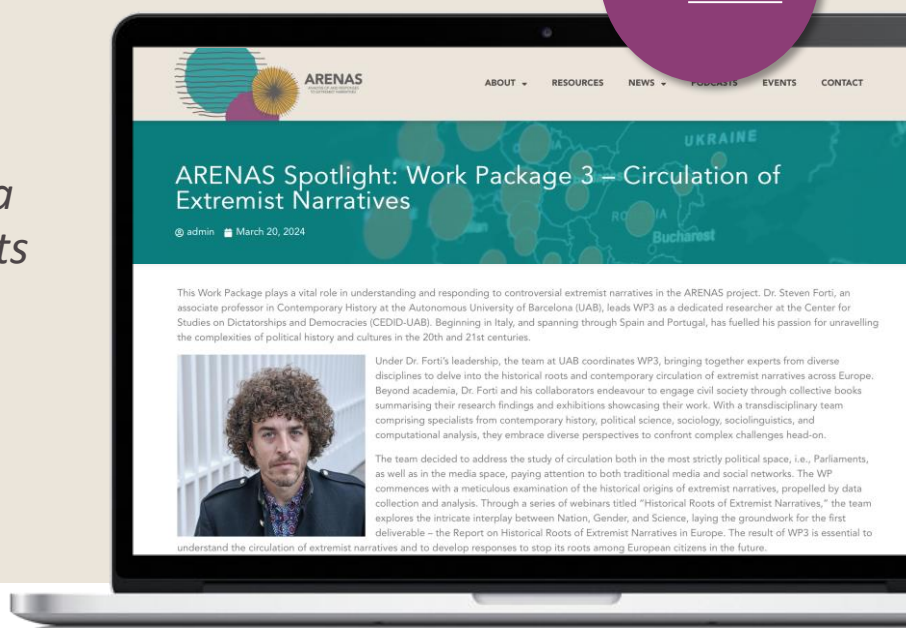


Each episode features an expert member of the ARENAS consortium and considers the circumstances and experiences in 10 countries across Europe. New episodes are released every two weeks and you can listen to them [here](#).

# ARENAS PUBLISHES KEY REPORT ON THE HISTORICAL ROOTS OF EXTREMIST NARRATIVES

CLICK  
TO [VIEW](#)

*As part of their work on the ARENAS project, the **Work Package 3 team**, led by Dr. Steven Forti, has published a report on the **Historical Roots of Extremist Narratives**.*



This report delves into the historical roots and evolution of extremist narratives in Europe, from the late 19th century to the present. It includes case studies from Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Finland, Poland, Hungary, Slovenia,

Croatia, and Serbia. This study is the first step in analysing the current circulation of extremist narratives in the political and media spheres and their impact on European society.



*The report is available to download from the [ARENAS website here](#)*

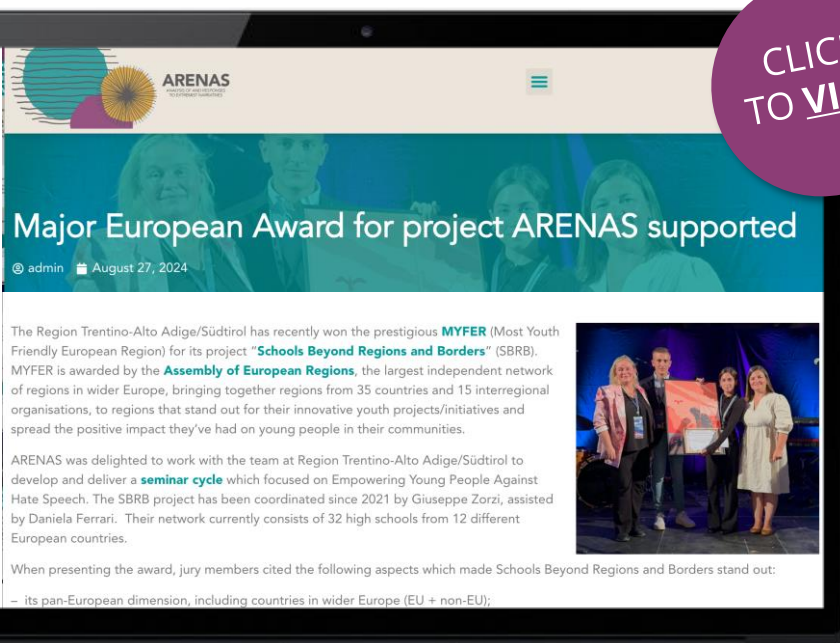


# MAJOR EUROPEAN AWARD FOR PROJECT ARENAS SUPPORTED

*The Region Trentino-Alto Adige/Südtirol has recently won the prestigious **MYFER** (Most Youth Friendly European Region) for its project “**Schools Beyond Regions and Borders**” (SBRB). ARENAS was delighted to work with the Region Trentino-Alto Adige/Südtirol team to develop and deliver the seminar cycle, which focused on Empowering Young People Against Hate Speech.*

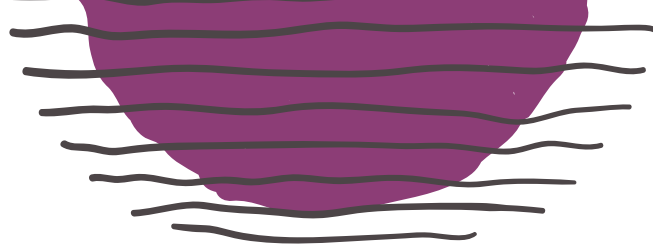


CLICK  
TO VISIT



The SBRB project has been coordinated since 2021 by Giuseppe Zorzi, assisted by Daniela Ferrari.

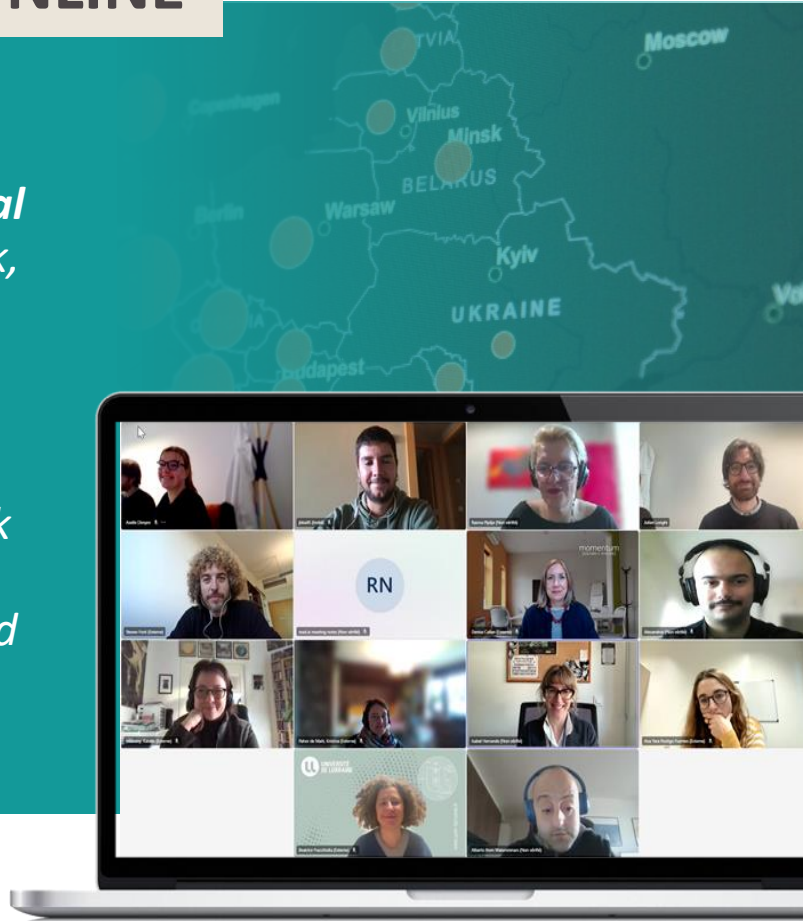
Their network currently consists of 32 high schools from 12 different European countries. You can learn more about the contribution of ARENAS and the seminar series [here](#).



## ARENAS HOSTS ITS 3<sup>RD</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING ONLINE

*On 19 November, the ARENAS project held its **half-yearly general meeting**. After 18 months of work, the different project partners had a significant amount of information and content to share.*

*WP1 began by presenting its work in terms of management and administrative, organisational and financial planning for the project.*



The presentation of the various scientific work packages, WP2, WP3, WP4, WP5 and WP6, was an opportunity for the WP leaders to present not only the work carried out over the last 6 months but also the activities to come over the next 6 months.

Of particular note were the promising advances in corpus linguistics and artificial intelligence (WP2), the roots and circulation of extremist narratives (WP3), the impact of extremist narratives in a polarised electoral context in Europe (WP4), institutional initiatives in the various European

countries in the consortium (WP5), and the ethical and scientific issues involved in conducting research on a sensitive subject (WP6).

In terms of communication and dissemination, WP7 outlined the large and growing audience that is learning about the work of ARENAS, the impact that communication activity on ARENAS has already achieved and plans to reach an even wider audience over the coming months.



# MEET OUR PARTNER

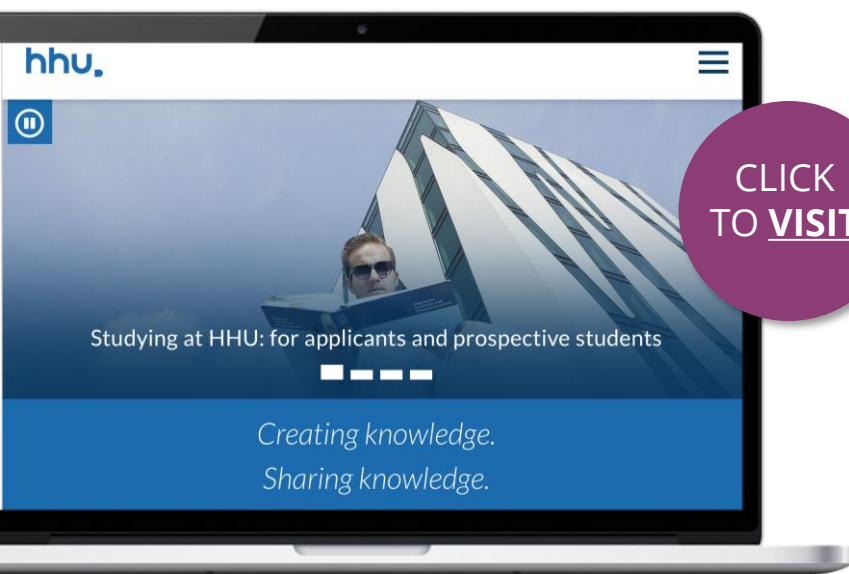
## UNIVERSITY OF DÜSSELDORF

### – HEINRICH HEINE



*Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf is one of the younger universities in the state of North Rhine Westphalia, founded in 1965. Since 1988, the university has borne the name of the city's great son. Today, around 35,000 students find the best conditions for academic life on the modern campus.*

As a campus university with short distances, all buildings, including the university hospital and specialist libraries, are centrally accessible. In addition, the state capital Düsseldorf offers an attractive environment with a recognised high quality of life. Please visit our website [to meet the HHU team](#) working on ARENAS.



**hhu** Heinrich Heine  
Universität  
Düsseldorf

# MEET OUR PARTNER

## UNIVERSITY OF GENOA

*With 5 Schools, 22 departments and 137 courses, the **University of Genoa (UniGe)** is one of the best-known generic universities in Italy, with a strong focus on research, innovation and technologic transfer. Since 2014, UniGe has participated in 94 Horizon 2020 projects, 26 Horizon Europe projects and 30 other EU-funded research projects.*



UniGe is constantly working on strengthening the connection between the academic community, stakeholders from the public and private sector, and industry on a regional and national level. Visit our website [to meet the team from the UniGe](#) who are working on ARENAS.







# MEET OUR PARTNER - UNIVERSITY OF CYPRUS

*The University of Cyprus aims to establish itself as a Pioneer Research Institution achieving International Scientific Recognition in European Higher Education, offering Competitive Programmes and becoming a Centre of Excellence in the wider Euro – Mediterranean Region.*



The main objectives of the University are twofold: the promotion of scholarship and education through teaching and research, and the enhancement of the cultural, social and economic development of Cyprus. In this context, the University believes that education must provide more than simply an accumulation of knowledge. It must also encourage students' active participation in the process of learning and acquisition of those values necessary for responsible involvement in the community. The University sets high standards for all branches of scholarship. Research is promoted and funded in all departments for its contribution to scholarship in general and for its local and international applications. Visit our website to [meet the team from the University of Cyprus](#) who are working on ARENAS.



CLICK  
TO VISIT



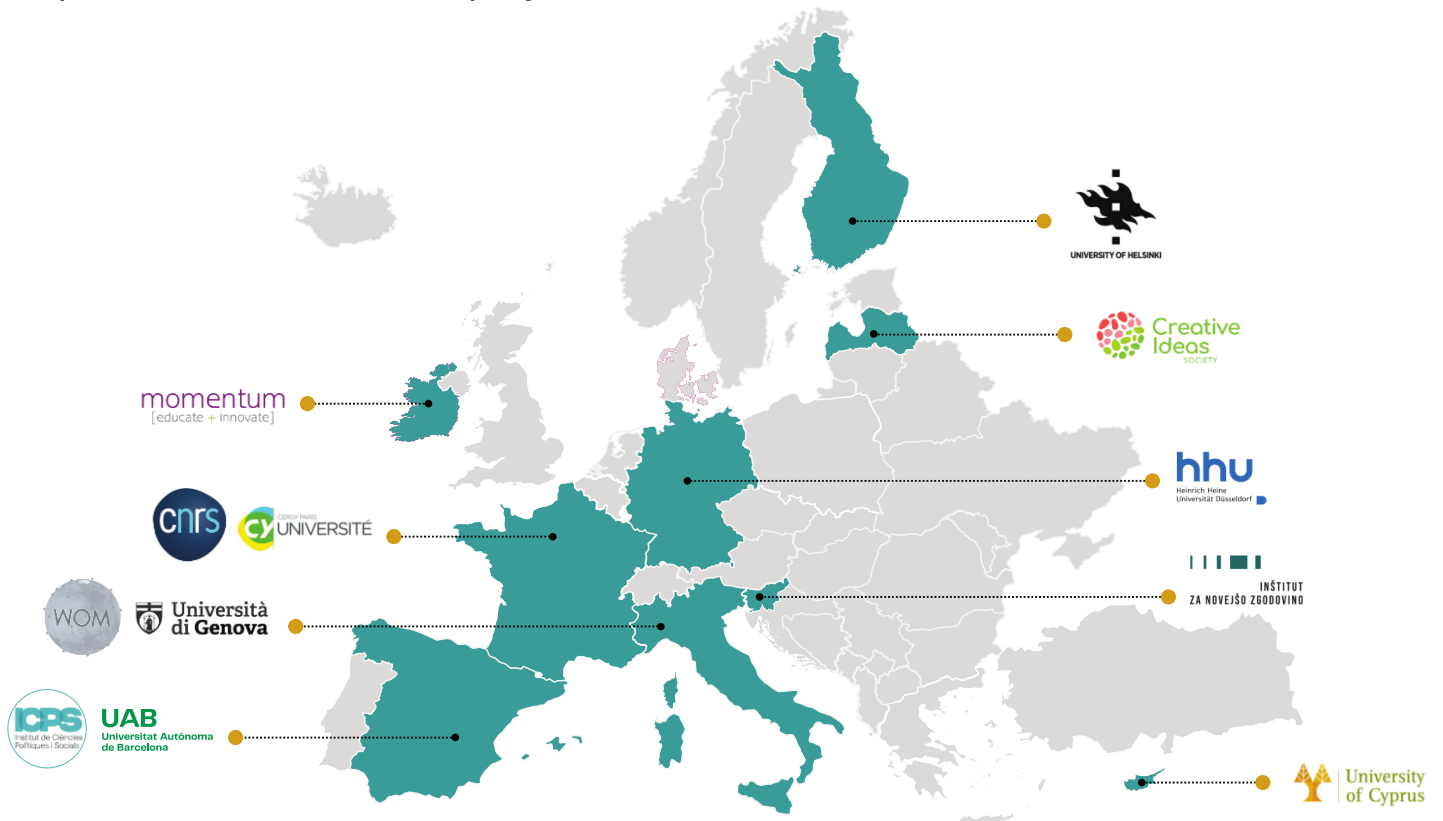
# ARENAS

ANALYSIS OF AND RESPONSES  
TO EXTREMIST NARRATIVES



## OUR PARTNERS

Our partnership consists of 12 organisations from 9 countries, each bringing unique experience, expertise and skills to the project.



[www.arenasproject.eu](http://www.arenasproject.eu)

Follow our journey



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101094731