

ARENAS

ANALYSIS OF AND RESPONSES
TO EXTREMIST NARRATIVES

Educator Resources

Work Package 3: Circulation of Extremist Narratives

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01

INTRODUCTION

Work Package 3 (WP3) studies the **historical roots** of extremist narratives in Europe over the last century, their **process of adaptation and transformation** in different geographical, historical and linguistic contexts, and the **circulation** of these narratives in the political sphere - Parliaments - and media - traditional and new media - from a **national and transnational perspective**.



**Work
Package
3**

WP3 helps us recognize harmful narratives earlier, by understanding their historical roots and how they are circulating between Parliaments and medias.



**“Circulation of extremist
narratives”**

What is WP3 trying to do?

WP3 focuses on three key tasks:

Detect the historical roots of extremist narratives and their re-adaption

Analyse the circulation of extremist narratives in the parliaments

Analyse the circulation of extremist narratives in the medias

Why now?

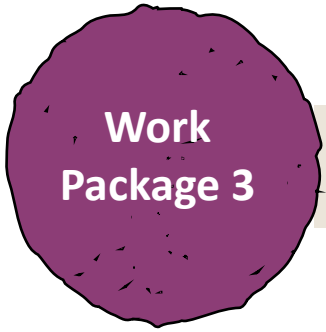
Extremist narratives are not new. Usually, we are facing “old” narratives adapted to new historical and geographical contexts.

Work
Package 3

The key questions WP3 explores

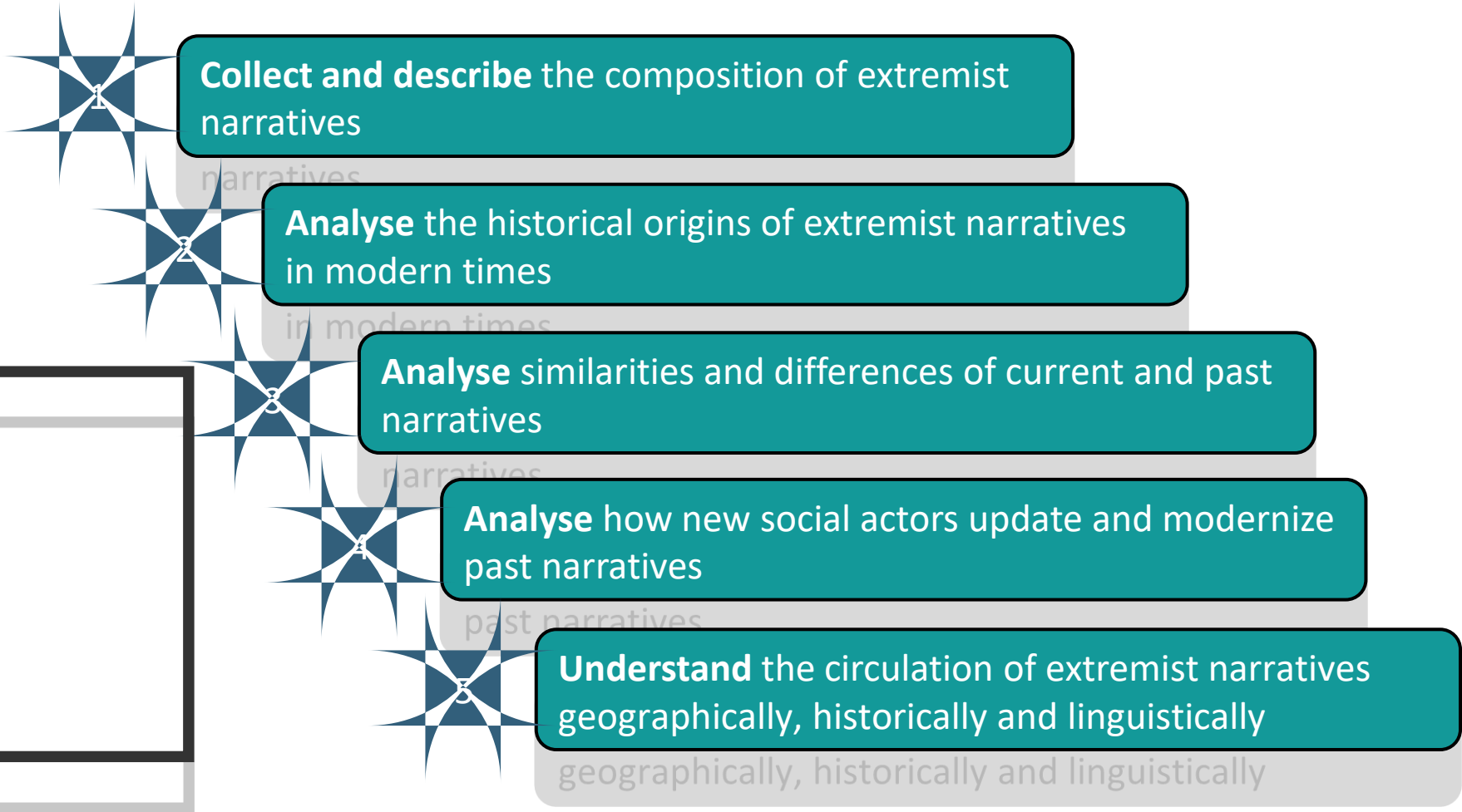
What are we trying to understand?

- What are the historical roots of the most important extremist narratives in the fields of Nation, Gender and Science?
- How they change through time and space in the last century?
- How new social actors update and modernize past narratives?
- How extremist narratives circulate in the political context (Parliaments) and in the media, both traditional and social?



What work is being done

What WP3 actually does, step-by-step



What WP3 produces (outputs people can use)

An **historical overview** of the most relevant extremist narratives in Europe in the last century

An **analysis of how extremist narratives circulate** in parliaments and in traditional and new media

What WP3 creates

A **glossary** of the main concepts currently used by the far right

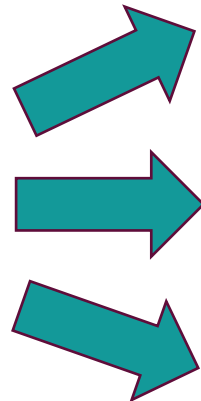
An **exhibition that explains how extremist narratives work** in the areas of nation, gender, and science, aimed at students.



Why these
three themes?

ARENAS focuses on Nation, Gender and Science because they are three major areas where public debate can become highly polarised and emotionally charged.

In practice,
WP3 looks at
how narratives



turn **gender** into stereotypes or threats

turn **nation** into “us vs them” ideas about belonging

turn **science** into false certainty, doubt or mistrust of evidence





Work Package 3

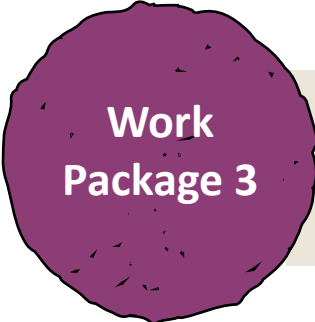
Why WP3 matters for the ARENAS project

WP3 is a crucial step in the project

WP3 supports the whole project because **you cannot respond to extremist narratives well unless you can understand their historical origins, their transformation and adaptation and how they circulate in the public debate.**

It feeds the wider goal of ARENAS to **track and map extremist narratives**, develop practical responses and strengthen prevention through education and institutions.

WP3 = track
later WPs = impact and respond



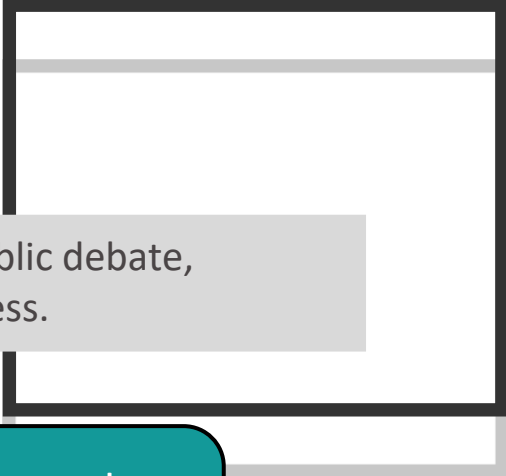
Work Package 3

Why WP3 matters for schools, communities and EU society



Why this matters beyond research

Extremist narratives affect real trust, relationships and public debate, especially in periods of uncertainty and social stress.



Young people: to understand how social media can be dangerous for democratic values

Educators: safer ways to teach critical thinking without inflaming conflict

Stakeholder relevance

Civil society: improved awareness of how narratives circulate and disseminate

Policy makers: clearer evidence for prevention and response strategies



Work Package 3

Links and resources

Explore WP3 resources

Key outputs:

Podcast “Extreme Europe”:

<https://arenasproject.eu/arenas-podcast-series/>

Glossary of Extremism Narratives:

<https://arenasproject.eu/arenas-glossary-a-powerful-tool-against-extremist-narratives/>

Italian version:

<https://www.micromega.net/category/glossario-dellestremismo-di-destra>

Spanish and French version:

<https://legrandcontinent.eu/es/2025/12/19/apocalipsis-monarquia-remigracion-las-palabras-de-un-ano-extremo/>

Short explainers:

Interview with Steven Forti about ARENAS

Glossary of Right-Wing Extremism:

<https://arenasproject.eu/arenas-glossary-of-right-wing-extremism/>

Recommended reading:

[Link placeholder: summaries, articles, public deliverables]

Deliverable:

<https://arenasproject.eu/publications/>

1. D3.1: Historical Roots
2. D3.2: Circulation in Parliaments: **soon link in ARENAS web**



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