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### **Contribution of protection and promoting of human rights to prevention and countering violent extremism**

The Committee for the prevention and elimination of racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and other forms of intolerance is the sole advisory body to the government of Slovak Republic for that matter. The secretariat of this committee is located at the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak republic (Department of Crime Prevention). Apart from the government authorities, non-governmental organizations and leading experts from academic sphere are represented at the committee as well.

The Action Plan for the prevention and elimination of racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and other forms of intolerance for the years 2016-2018 was proposed under the auspices of the committee in 2015, which was subsequently approved by the Government of the Slovak republic on 13<sup>th</sup> of February 2016. In line with the recommendations of HRC no. 30/15, the prevention of racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance is one of the tools for preventing radicalization initiatives leading to violent extremism. The above-mentioned committee has a significant role in monitoring of implementation of individual measures of the Action Plan and in informing the public on measures taken in this area.

To respond to the modern trends and the increasing incidence of extremism in cyberspace, since 2014 the Ministry of Interior is implementing a project entitled "EMICVEC - Effective monitoring, investigation and countering violent extremism and of cyberspace, co-funded by the European Commission.

Extremism on the internet changes rapidly - its focus and the goals of extremist groups as well. Along with these changes, the level of knowledge and professionalism of extremists to use the Internet to recruit, spread ideology, organize public events and intimidate their opponents is increasing. Regarding this facts, it is necessary that the Police officers are able to respond adequately to these changes, as well as use all the possibilities offered by cyberspace for effective monitoring, detection and investigation of extremism and prevention such behavior. The outputs EMICVEC project will therefore be:

1. Training course for Police officers and students of Police academy schools focused on the issue of extremism on the Internet.
2. Practical Handbook for the Police – investigation and monitoring extremism on the Internet.
3. Practical Guide for the Police - extremist symbols (expanded and updated version).
4. Educational Curriculum of extremism on the Internet.
5. Manual for students on extremism on the Internet.
6. A new IT tool for Police in monitoring and detection of extremism on the Internet.
7. Comprehensive campaign „Without hate“ with several print and online outlets.

In the area of the fight against violent extremism, the Police Force carries out several activities. In addition to the repressive measures specific for the Police Force, preventive and educational activities are carried out as well, which are provided not only to the police officers but also to the employees of other institutions. There are several types of trainings and programs with different purpose, regarding to the target groups.

For the Police officers, who are dealing with the issue of extremism, is established the training program covering all relevant areas (with the scope of radicalization to violent extremism). It focuses particularly on best practices and new trends.

Police officers carry out the training for teaching staff and social workers as well. These training courses are conducted mainly with regard to recognizing the early signs of extremism and participants are given a general overview of this issue important to their profession.

Strategy on countering extremism in the Slovak Republic for the period of 2015-2019 is the strategic document in combatting extremism, which is in line with The European Union Internal Security Strategy in the area of prevention of violent extremism and radicalization. The main objective of the strategy is to prevent and combat radicalization leading to extremism by early intervention and systematic training of individual target groups. The Police Force is currently the coordinator of this document. Responsible bodies in this context are central government authorities, mainly ministries, and other state institutions and NGOs.

The Police Force is also actively involved in various projects, e.g. in development of tools serving the members of the Police Force during the searching for extremist manifestations in a virtual environment.