



**FINDINGS OF A MAPPING STUDY OF EFFORTS TO COMBAT
ANTI-SEMITISM, RACISM AND XENOPHOBIA AT THE LOCAL,
COMMUNAL AND GRASSROOTS LEVELS IN EUROPE**

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FIELDWORK FOR THIS REPORT WAS CARRIED OUT BY THE FIVE FIELDWORKERS LISTED IN APPENDIX ONE. DR KEITH KAHN-HARRIS SUPERVISED THE FIELDWORK AND WROTE THE REPORT. DR ROGER HEWITT DIRECTED THE PROJECT. THE PROJECT WAS SUPERVISED BY AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSISTING OF PROFESSOR LES BACK, PROFESSOR MICHAEL KEITH, PROFESSOR JOHN SOLOMOS, DR CHARLES SMALL AND DR BEN GIDLEY.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- This report surveys and evaluates organisations and initiatives committed to activism against racism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism in France, Germany, the UK, Belgium, Poland, Hungary and Italy.
- The report was commissioned to look at the following kinds of activism:
 - Inter-faith dialogue
 - Cultural activities that celebrate difference whilst promoting shared values.
- In order not to miss relevant organisations and initiatives that do not fit into the above two categories, the report used two broader categories of activism:
 - *Inter-faith activism* in which participants' identities as members of religious groups is the primary object of concern.
 - *Cultural activism* in which in which participants' cultural, racial, ethnic and national identities are the primary object of concern.
- We identified a number of different categories of activism against racism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism:
 - *Dialogue*. Including three sub-categories:
 - *Sharing experiences and beliefs.*
 - *Discussion of similarities and differences.*
 - *Conflict resolution.*
 - *Shared rituals and/or worship.*
 - *Social activities.*
 - *Cultural activities*. Including two sub-categories:
 - *Culture as art.*
 - *Culture as way of life.*
 - *Social activism*. [not discussed in this report]
 - *Education*. [not discussed in this report]
- We identified four types of activist organisation or initiative:
 - *Activist organisations*
 - *Activism as one of a number of activities*
 - *Umbrella organisations*
 - *Ad-hoc initiatives*
- Activist organisations and initiatives draw on the following sources of funding:
 - *Governmental*
 - *Charitable/Philanthropic*
 - *Public donations*
 - *Participants*
 - *Unfunded*
- Activist organizations and initiatives work on the following scales:

- *International*
 - *European*
 - *National*
 - *Regional*
 - *Local*
- The number of relevant organisations and initiatives for which we collected information are as follows:

Belgium	32
France	76
Germany	88
Hungary	18
Italy	34
Poland	19
United Kingdom	98
Total	365
 - There are considerable differences in the form that activism takes in each of the seven countries. Among the factors influencing these differences are:
 - *Demography*
 - *History*
 - *Construction of culture and faith*
 - *Funding*
 - Findings for Belgium:
 - Belgian activism is heavily concentrated in Brussels; development is patchy elsewhere.
 - Inter-faith activism is not strongly developed in Belgium.
 - Belgian activism is often tied into social activism, particularly anti-racist campaigning and integration of immigrants.
 - Findings for France:
 - Inter-faith activism is not well-developed in France in most areas.
 - France has strong regional differences in the provision of activism.
 - A lack of state funding is one reason for the patchy provision of French activism.
 - There are many French ‘friendship societies’ focused on developing links with France and other countries
 - As in Belgium, French activism is often tied into social activism, particularly anti-racist campaigning and the integration of immigrants.
 - Findings for Germany:
 - German inter-faith dialogue has a long history, particularly between Christians and Jews.
 - Germany has developed sophisticated forms of ‘intercultural’ dialogue.
 - The state plays an important part in funding German activism.

- Integration of and campaigning for immigrants are important parts of German activism.
- Findings for Hungary
 - Activism in Hungary is undeveloped compared to Western European countries.
 - Activism is slowly being developed in Hungary as part of the wider development of civil society in the post-communist era.
 - The Roma are a priority for activism in Hungary, particularly through educational activities.
- Findings for Italy:
 - The Catholic Church is an important sponsor of activism in Italy, as is the state.
 - There appears to be a lack of grassroots organisation of activism in Italy.
 - Italian cultural activism often concentrates on developing relations with other countries.
 - Italian immigrant communities are not the major focus of Italian activism.
- Findings for Poland
 - As In Hungary, activism in Poland is slowly being developed as part of the wider development of civil society in the post-communist era.
 - Inter-faith activism is well-developed in Poland, particularly Christian-Jewish.
- Findings for the United Kingdom:
 - The UK is the country in our sample where inter-faith activism is most well-developed and resourced.
 - Inter-faith and cultural activism are more sharply delineated in the UK than in other countries.
 - Cultural activism in the UK is also well-developed but provision is more patchy than inter-faith.
 - State support is a major reason for the strength of activism in the UK.
- We found a number of pan-European and international organisations and initiatives based in our sample countries. EU funding is also an important factor in the support of activism in Europe.
- In most countries, the groups that are most involved in cultural and inter-faith activism tend to be:
 - From the majority ethnic/religious group.
 - From minorities that have historically experienced racism or have had problematic relations with the majority population.
 - From the three monotheistic faiths.
 - From the largest ethnic minorities in the countries involved.

- In the seven countries we surveyed, inter-faith cultural activities are less widespread than inter-faith dialogue. Cultural dialogue is less widespread than cultural activities.
- We define ‘effectiveness’ in activism against racism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism as follows:
 - An organisation or initiative is effective if it contributes to improved relations between members of different ethnic, religious or national groups in a particular location.
- We identify the following categories of effectiveness:
 - *Popularity*
 - *Visibility*
 - *Impact*
- Activism needs to respond to local conditions if it is to be effective in developing relations between groups in a particular locality.
- Funding organisations can play an important role in developing activism but they need to *both* respond to *and* shape local priorities.
- The report concludes with the following recommendations/ideas for funders:
 - To think about the language funders use in defining the fields in which they work and seek to create a common language amongst the organisations they think of supporting.
 - To develop effectiveness criteria for the field of activism against racism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism in Europe and disseminate them widely.
 - To initiate further research on particular case studies of activist organisations and initiatives. Funders should prioritise research that seeks to look at the ‘grassroots’ impact of particular organisations or initiatives.
 - To address the gaps in provision that we have identified in this report.
 - To anticipate the forms that activism should take in the future by suggesting new areas of work to the organisations and initiatives that may be supported.