EU supports a global initiative to strengthening resilience to violent extremism

Brussels, 26 May 2015 - The European Commission has signed a €5 million grant agreement with 'Hedayah', the first International Centre of Excellence for Countering Violent Extremism, as part of the EU’s efforts to counter terrorism and violent extremism worldwide. Hedayah, based in Abu Dhabi, was established to serve as the premier international institution for expertise and experience in countering violent extremism in all its forms.

Terrorism and violent extremism poses a risk to the lives and livelihoods of people. International cooperation is crucial to counter the spectre of terrorism and greater emphasis needs to be placed on this.

This new project will make use of Hedayah’s expertise and global mandate to support local, grassroots initiatives on countering violent extremism around the world terrorism while continuing to respect human rights and international law. It will do so through the allocation of financial support to third parties civil society organisations, including the provision of expert support, targeted training and capacity building.

This grant agreement and partnership with Hedayah marks a crucial step in implementing the Conclusions of the Council of the European Union of 9 February 2015 on Counter Terrorism, which call to reinforce international cooperation and support international initiatives on countering radicalisation and terrorism.