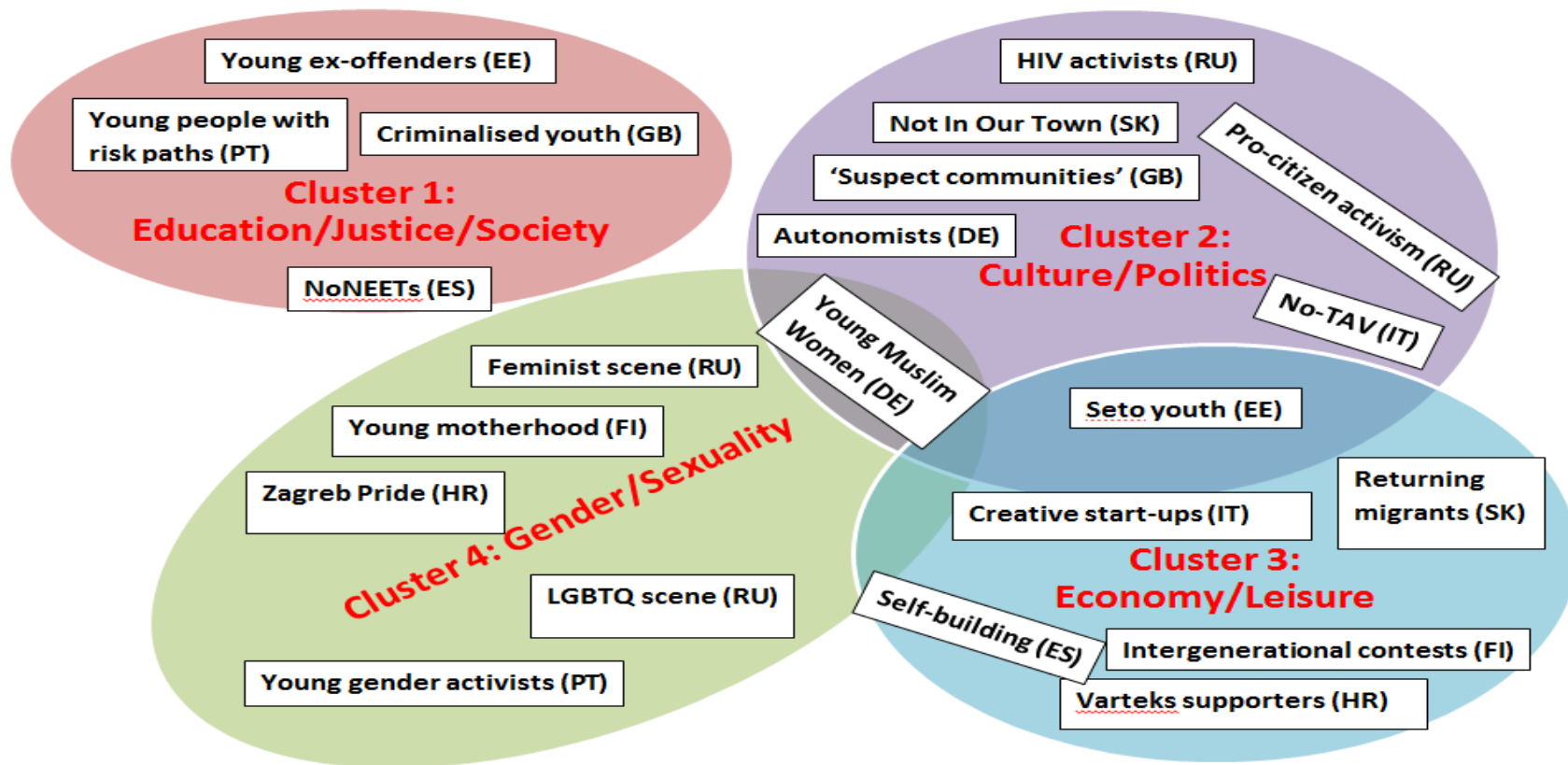


Youth-quakes? Desires, Needs and Actions

Cluster 2: Politics and Culture

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This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 693221



What enables young peoples engagement?

- Concern about social problems and injustice
- Doing ,the right thing‘
- Construction of self-efficacy
- Personal contact
- Family
- Feelings of community and belonging

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Concerns about social problems and injustice

Since childhood, I have always been upset by injustice and the like and I always experienced it almost personally [...] I studied law, and seeing the discrepancy between what you study and what actually happens... It really made me question, wonder 'shouldn't they [the police] protect the citizens, make sure rights are implemented and respected?' (Francesca, No-TAV, IT)

After 7/7 [date of terrorist bomb attack in London, 2005] ... I was both really upset, but also slightly angry - angry at people who decided to use what I think is a perfect religion and pervert it and use it for their own means, angry at people who started to, kind of, label all Muslims as extremists or terrorists. [...] I felt really angry but in a controlled way and realising I wanted to affect change at a broader level, but not necessarily knowing quite how to do it and I became much more politicised. (Ruksana, SC, GB)

“Do the right thing”

Some day when I'm old and someone asks me: 'Well, what did you do there?', I don't just want to say I read the papers and got a bit wound up. I want to be able to say: 'Yeah, I just went onto the street.' And at least be able to say: 'I gave everything I could' [...] did as much as anybody could to try and somehow change it or at least to say that I don't agree with it, even if it was most likely not to change anything. (Lothar, AUT, DE)

Feelings of community and belonging

The main thing was that I was really drawn [to the movement] ... by its spirit, which gave the sense of being part of some pirate brotherhood. (Vera, HIV, RU)

I like to be with my comrades, with people from the movement, because I really feel part of a community, a family, I feel good as well. (Alice, No-TAV, IT)

Expressions of (political) participation and (political) agency



Concepts

- Self-organisation
- Mobilisation
- (Alternative forms of) communication and articulation
- (Alternative) life-styles and (alternative) forms of interaction
- Activities and festivities, direct and indirect (political) action and activities, including demonstrations and solidarity campaigns
- Participation as the (in)capacity to act.

Self-organisation

'getting organised' is important 'because you won't get anywhere on your own.' - Bernd (DE)

Mobilisation and outreach: Increasing numbers

'The focus [...] is to raise awareness among young people on the issue of high speed - but also on other [...] current issues. The aim is to involve as many young people as possible in the Valley... (Anna, IT)

(Alternative forms of) communication and articulation

I like spreading Islam and showing we are different. It is really, really important to me to show that we are different to what they show in the media, and that we are not like those weird bearded brothers with the long dress, who are running around shouting at people. (Necla, DE)

(Alternative) life-styles and interaction forms

It really has an influence [...] people are grateful to you for doing this and it is really nice to hear that. And new people come along and we can see the work being done – people are finding out that it is possible to live in a different way. (Alex, RU)

Activities (against social injustice)

[...] we had like a social media project, where [...] we'd encourage people to buy a meal for a homeless person [...] hear about their story and then like report their story on social media I think, over two hundred people got involved. And the Huffington Post did a small article on that and it was, it was mainly focused around the stigma pertaining to homeless people. But then they also, towards the end, mentioned [...] how it was encouraging that the Islamic Society was doing that, and, yeah, that was quite motivating in that sense, yeah. (Ashraf, GB)

Participation as the (in)capacity to act

young people's aspirations to participation are experienced not only as capacity but also (perceived) incapacity to act. This incapacity is often associated with experiences of marginalisation, which evokes a desire for change:

If you've never felt [...] marginalised or anything like that, well then you don't feel the need to create change.

Because you don't need anything to change, because actually none of these issues are affecting me. (Fiza, GB)