



*Constructing the 'Other': Latvian State
Radicalization and Media Framing of
Russian Speakers (2014–Present)*

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“Dare to Think”

Type of company/organisation: Research-intensive University

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Country: Latvia

Experience

Identity Politics, Criminology, Education, EU Security Policy, European Integration, Social Inclusion, Social Research

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Role in the Proposal: B) Partner

B) In the case of Partner, Ghent University brings strong academic credibility to the consortium, particularly in the fields of criminology and societal security. My research – approved by supervisor – provides unique insights into radicalization, specifically focusing on the issue radicalization of the state. We offer qualitative approaches that support inclusive strategies for radicalization prevention.

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List the Destination/s and topic/s that are of your interest:

Destination: Better protect the EU and its citizens against Crime and Terrorism

Call: HORIZON-CL3-2025-01-FCT-02: Open topic on prevention, detection and deterrence of various forms of crime and terrorism through an enhanced understanding of the related societal issues

Outline your Project Idea: The project looks at how the Latvian state has marginalized Russian-speaking minorities since 2014 through laws, media and exclusionary policies. It uses qualitative methods to explore how the state frames them as “Others” in time and space, offering insights into governance-driven radicalization and its impact on democracy and minority rights in the EU.

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What is the problem/s you seek to address?

This project addresses how democratic states, like Latvia, can radicalize through exclusionary policies that deepen social cleavages—dividing Latvian and Russian-speaking communities and weakening social cohesion and democratic resilience. This ultimately hinders full European integration—an essential factor for ensuring both societal inclusion and state security in today’s increasingly polarized and uncertain geopolitical environment.

What is the research/technology/expertise/skills you own to solve the problem.

Critical discourse analysis, socio-legal studies, identity politics and minority exclusion in post-Soviet and EU contexts.

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Outline any experience in EU R&I projects or other.

Ghent University has extensive experience in EU-funded research and maintains strong connections with Horizon Europe, having participated in numerous interdisciplinary projects on security and societal resilience.

Discuss the Team, any key player that will be working on the project
The team represents both me and the IDC consortium at Ghent University. The consortium brings together 21 professors and their teams from six departments. In the future, possible partners would include Latvian human rights organizations and institutions like NATO StratCom or independent media channels.

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Conclusion and Key Take Aways Messages, if any...

My project brings a new perspective by showing how even democratic states can become radicalized when they exclude minority groups—going beyond the usual focus on extremist individuals.