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EUROPEAN COMMITTEE ON CRIME PROBLEMS
(CDPC)

Council for Penological Co-operation
(PC-CP)

FEEDBACK FROM PARTICIPATION IN OTHER MEETINGS

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1. Kick of meeting T.R.A.I.N project (30 January 2018, Rome, Italy)

The project Transfer of Radicalisation Approaches in Training aims to improve the knowledge about violent radicalization in Italy and partner countries. It also aims to establish a common working method for practitioners who in various phases and at various levels participate in identifying, treating and managing subjects at risk of violent radicalization or already radicalized, also by building a system of exchange of information to prevent and fight against terrorism.

2. Regional meeting „Which type of integration of migrants can be applied to prevent radicalisation: the role of parliaments and diaspora associations,, (Rabat, Morocco, 8 February 2018)

A regional meeting organised by the Parliamentary Network on Diaspora Policies of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) and hosted by the Moroccan Parliament was held in Rabat, Morocco.

The meeting brought together around 80 participants from 22 countries, including Diaspora NGOs, MPs, high level government officials, experts and diplomatic representatives who came together in order to share their experience on the topic. The purpose of this meeting was also to provide members of parliaments and community representatives with the opportunity to exchange views, raise questions, draw conclusions and make recommendations on "What kind of community integration can be applied to prevent radicalization. Additionally the meeting was a good opportunity to expand the geographic scope of the network from Europe's neighbouring countries. The event was divided into three panels.

The first module was focused on cultural and religious differences in the context of the integration of migrants. It has been noted that migrants with their differences contribute to cultural exchange in society but the lack of sufficient awareness of their language, culture and traditions poses serious difficulties for their social and economic inclusion.

The second module of the event of which I was Chairperson was dedicated to the role of the Diaspora in preventing extremism and radicalization. It has been noted that migrants are often exposed to discrimination and racism in host countries. The radicalization of Muslims in the diaspora is often triggered by a crisis of identity linked to "cultural marginalization", discrimination and alienation. In some cases individuals are more prone to establish a new identity by rediscovering their religious roots. Diasporas and their associations can be a strong response and contribute to breaking down already existing negative stereotypes in countries of origin or in host countries.

The third module was dedicated to the topic of social and economic inclusion as a key element for successful integration. The economic development of any country depends upon its capacity to better utilise skills and talents of all of its residents and to promote innovative technologies and businesses. A possible solution, according to the speakers is the inclusion of amendments in the national legislation which regulates the migrant workforce and their access to working visas and work permits, as well as to ensure the recognition of their diplomas and professional qualifications.

According to the speakers the social security for migrants is very important for the process of their social inclusion and can be considered as a very good investment for the economic development of the country concerned. A recommendation was made that the creation of a European mechanism for fostering social protection of working migrants and their families would be very useful.

3. **Conference on Radicalisation in Prisons, 27 February 2018, Brussels, Belgium**

The Conference on Radicalisation in Prisons was held on 27 February 2018, organized by the European Commission in close cooperation with the Bulgarian Presidency and with the support of EuroPris and the Confederation of European Probation (CEP). The participants were prison and probation experts, judges and prosecutors, international organisations, academics and relevant NGOs. The objective of the Conference was to take stock of the state of play of the projects in the area of radicalisation co-funded by the European Commission. The discussions were focused on finding responses in the criminal justice sector. Particular attention was paid to the use of de-radicalisation, disengagement and rehabilitation programmes, risk assessment tools and alternatives to detention.

In her speech Commissioner **Jourová** said that **a vast majority of Europeans believe that fighting terrorism is important for the internal security of the EU and to really minimise the risk of terrorist attacks we need to tackle the root of the problem. She said that radicalisation can take many forms and nobody has a "monopoly on it", whether it is Islamist extremists, or right-wing extremists or other.** She outlined what steps should be taken, first to improve the exchange of information, secondly to mobilise practitioners, create platforms for exchange and mobilise funds. She informed that €25 million have been allocated for **Radicalisation Awareness Network Centre of Excellence** and €314 million until 2020 for different anti-radicalisation projects across the EU. She concluded that we need all-hands-on-board approach in managing the rehabilitation and reintegration of violent extremist offenders, both whilst in prison and upon release to the community. Prison authorities must work closely with judges and prosecutors, police, security services, and other law enforcement agencies tasked with tackling extremism.

Different project dealing with the topic were presented:

A. DARE (*Database and Assessment of Risk of Violent Extremists*).

The project addresses critical shortfalls in competence and performance of professionals in European criminal justice agencies and the security services in assessing and managing violent extremists and terrorists. The main objectives of the projects are a training programme of the Violent Extremist Risk assessment tool (VERA-2R) for professionals in criminal justice agencies of 6 European MS and a European Database on judicial files with personal and judicial information of convicted and deceased terrorists and their acts.

B. R2PRIS (*Radicalisation Prevention in Prisons*)

Mr Pedro das Neves presented the project. The aim of the project is to reduce radicalization and extremism inside prisons by enhancing the competences of frontline staff (correctional officers, educational staff and psychologists, social workers) to identify report and interpret signals and radicalization and respond appropriately. At the end of the working day of the conference, workshops were held in small groups where real cases were discussed.

4. **HELP (*Seminar on Risk Assessment Tools, Strasbourg 15 and 16 March 2018*)**

A Seminar focusing on Radicalisation prevention and risk assessment tools was held on 15 and 16 March in Strasbourg, gathering over 50 participants from more than 10 countries and covering several professional categories such as judges, prosecutors, prison and probation officers and experts, as well as academics and members of international associations.

The Seminar is the first of a series of three to be organised under the European Union-Council of Europe Radicalisation Prevention Project, which is funded by the EU and implemented by the Council of Europe HELP Programme. The Project aims at improving the criminal justice response in the EU to prevent radicalisation leading to terrorism and violent extremism by increasing the capacities and mutual trust of primarily justice practitioners dealing with radicalisation prevention through training, inter-agency and cross-border cooperation.

The event included presentations of the Council of Europe's relevant framework, namely the work concerning international cooperation on criminal matters, the guidelines for prison and probation services regarding radicalisation and violent extremism (*speaker Nadya Radkovska*), as well as the European Court of Human Rights' case-law related to prevention of terrorism.

This was followed by general discussions on risk assessment tools and models used. Several participants made presentations of the national approach in their countries (Belgium, France, Italy, Morocco, Spain, UK as well as brief mentions of the work carried out at national level in Austria, Netherlands and Sweden in the course of other sessions). The speakers covered several areas of intervention (judicial response, prison and probation context) and focused on challenges encountered, methods used and practices developed. More detailed interventions were made on risk assessment in the penitentiary and probation context respectively in two dedicated sessions. The participants finally engaged in discussions to identify the core aspects and issues to be included in an ideal training curriculum for justice professionals on radicalisation prevention, in view of the future HELP online dedicated course. The five separate working groups brainstormed on the most important topics to be included in the specific modules of the course, namely the general module, the two specific modules for judges and prosecutors as well as for prison and probation staff and the module on collection and use of evidence in counter-terrorism cases.