

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 19 April 2018
PC-CP\docs 2018\PC-CP(2018)7_E

PC-CP (2018) 7

EUROPEAN COMMITTEE ON CRIME PROBLEMS
(CDPC)

Council for Penological Co-operation
(PC-CP)

**Italian contribution on two projects co-funded by the European
Union Rasmorad**



Ministero della Giustizia

DIPARTIMENTO GIUSTIZIA MINORILE E DI COMUNITA'
UFFICIO II DEL CAPO DEL DIPARTIMENTO

**To Mrs Ilina Taneva
PC-CP Secretariat
Council of Europe
67075 Strasbourg Cedex**


Subject: 18° meeting of the PC-CP Working Group. 11-13 April 2018 Strasbourg.

Dear Mrs Taneva,

Please find enclosed the Italian contribution on the two projects co-funded by the European Union Rasmorad (*Raising awareness and staff mobility and violent radicalization in prison and probation*) and TRA in Training (*Transfer radicalization approaches in training*), as requested.

Best regards.

The Head of Department
Gemma Tuccillo



Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak of the two Projects co-funded by the European Union of which the Italian Ministry of Justice is coordinator, which are Rasmorad and TRA in Training.

First of all, with respect to these projects I would like to underline that the Italian approach is multidisciplinary. It does not only imply the repressive dimension of the phenomenon but the developing of prevention and integration policies, focused on the rehabilitation of the individual, even with the involvement of the civil society.

The objective of the prevention of violent radicalization is carried out through the development of a protocol on risk assessment and de-radicalization pathways for persons sentenced for terrorism offences.

I would like to distinguish between **deradicalisation**' (leaving radical ideology), **'disengagement'** (leaving radical environment and violent behaviour) or **'re-socialisation'**.

Since 2008 prison Administration participates in the Counterterrorism strategic analysis Committee, a permanent panel established at the Ministry of the Interior, where law enforcement and intelligence agencies share information on domestic and international terrorist threat.

First Project

Rasmorad (Raising awareness and staff mobility and violent radicalization in prison and probation).

PROJECT PARTNERSHIP

Applicant: Department of Penitentiary Administration and Department for Juvenile and Community Justice – Italy

Partner

ISISC - Istituto Superiore Internazionale di Scienze Criminali Italy

Department of Penitentiary Administration -France

Directorate-General of Reintegration and Prison Services - Portugal

General Directorate "Execution of Sentences" - Bulgaria

Department of Penitentiary Administration - Romania

UCOII – Unione Comunità Islamiche d'Italia

Romanian Center for Penitentiary Studies West University of Timisoara

IPRS – Psychoanalytic institute for social research Italy

EXIT Italy

Associate partners

Prison service - Belgium

Prison Department - Cyprus

Laboratorio Religioni – LABREL – Università di Padova

The **overall purpose** of the project is the prevention of radicalisation in prisons, mainly by **adopting specific preventative measures, developing risk assessment methodology, developing expertise** in the identification of the risk, and enhancing prison and probation staff's professional competences in order to **implement exit strategies before release**.

The **identification of good practices** that are meant to provide prison personnel with tools, information and resources necessary to identify signs of radicalisation and developing an appropriate response are of utmost importance when tackling the issue.

Those **good practices** pertain to **administration and management of prison facilities, staff training, risk assessment, classification procedures, accountability and responsibility, intelligence and communication, support religious services, rehabilitation/derad/disengagement programmes and community/stakeholders involvement.**

Project's specific objectives:

- The **first objective** is the development of a common risk assessment methodology and tool to detect violent radicalisation in prison.
- The **second objective** is the implementation of a common operational tool for the risk identification, evaluation/analysis and management and to provide the community of practitioners with the right competences to counter the intensification of extremist beliefs.
- The **third objective** is to work on exit strategies and the implementation of rehabilitation/disengagement programmes in prison, boosting measures alternative to imprisonment.

The project actions will take into consideration suggestions coming from the theory of '**desistance**' so much fostered by RAN (*Radicalisation awareness network*) the Council of Europe guidelines (March 2016), and as indicated in the European Agenda on security¹, according to which the prevention of radicalization is the fundamental element of fight against terrorism.

It is important to work on a *desistance*-based approach and to involve the inmate in setting up his own rehabilitation/resettlement programme with the help of P&P professionals, the social network outside prison and stakeholders.

Activities:

- **Transnational workshops** on trending topics/challenges and **study visits** to prison facilities to take place in the beneficiaries/applicant countries;
- **Scouting (*esplorare*) methodologies, tools and practices** adopted in identifying, assessing and managing risk of violent radicalisation in prison and probation settings;
- **Sketching a common operational tool for CVE in prison/probation** transferable to national administrations/services. Said tool will be delivered to practitioners through 5 **webinars**;
- **Setting up a website** for the project's outputs and the dissemination of the project activities;
- Working out a **model of cooperation memorandum** among various professional bodies interacting with the offenders on radicalization issues.
- **Cascading activities** to disseminate and inform community of practitioners and stakeholders

Expected outcomes:

- **Improvement of detention conditions** in open prison regimes and in high security regimes;
- **Implementation of a pilot common risk assessment tool** to help frontline workers to carry out targeted interventions.
- **Improvement of multi-agency approaches** in tackling the issue of violent radicalisation in prison/probation settings.
- **Supporting actions for policy makers** in the prevention of violent radicalisation leading to terrorism (national radicalisation networks, helplines).

¹ European Agenda on Security, COM (2015) 185 of 28 April 2015.

In order to establish the level of implementation of the radicalization risk assessment, each country partner will have to answer a questionnaire which will allow open answers in order to collect as much information as possible and feed the **analysis** dedicated to risk assessment.

The **analysis** of the data will allow **to identify promising practices**. The analysis may identify gaps and/or overlaps in the processes implemented by the different prison and probation services. 3 questionnaires have been delivered:

1. On the prevention of prison and probation radicalization;
2. On risk assessment;
3. On exit strategies.

State of Art

On 13-14 February 2018 a Workshop was held in Agen. The workshop held in Agen had the objective to share the training activities which are carried out to raise awareness in the staff on the topic of violent radicalization in prison.

The European Commission has approved the mid-term report, presented on 31st January 2018.

Next four deadlines of 31 March 2018, concerning the **report on good practices on prevention of P&P radicalization** (by **ISISC** – deliverable D2.1-D3), the **draft on common methodology of risk assessment by France** (deliverable D2.2-D4), the **reports on good practices on exit strategies** (D4.1-D7 and D4.2 D8) by the applicant (**Ministry of Justice**). (Department of Prison Administration and Department of Juvenile and Community Justice).

Next meetings:

Lisbon 10-14 April

Siracusa September

Rome November

End of Project December 2018

Second Project

T.R.A. in Training (Transfer radicalization approaches in training)

Partnership:

- Applicant: Ministry of Justice - IT

Beneficiaries:

- University of Naples “L’Orientale” – IT
- Transcrime - Centro di Ricerca Universitario sulla Criminalità Transnazionale – IT
- University of Padova – Department of Philosophy, Sociology, Pedagogy and applied Psychology – Religions workshop – LabRel – IT
- ISISC – Istituto Superiore Internazionale di Scienze Criminali – IT
- Higher School of Judiciary – IT
- Ministry of Home Affairs – Central Directorate of Prevention Police (DCPP) – IT
- Prison and Probation Service of Bulgaria - BG

- Instituut voor Gerechtelijke Opleiding – Institut de Formation Judiciaire IGO – Belgium

Associate Partners

- Network of European Penitentiary Training Academies (EPTA)
- Tunisia – Ministry of Justice

Overall objective

The Project *Transfer Radicalisation Approaches in Training – TRAiN TRAINING*, aims at **improving the knowledge about violent radicalization and about signals and means of prevention and fight against it, both in Italy and in partner countries. Our initiative proposes the regular use of the new risk assessment protocol worked out during the previous project led by our Ministry, that is RASMORAD P&P.** It also aims at establishing a **common working method** for all those practitioners who, in various phases and at various levels participate in identifying, treating and managing persons at risk of violent radicalization or already radicalized, also by **building a system of exchange of information** useful to prevent and fight against terrorism and through the review of working methods possibly already active in partner countries.

As for staff training, the project focuses on learning and use of counselling and counter-narrative techniques by front-line practitioners.

Project's specific objectives

- **enhancing & updating knowledge of ever-changing phenomenon of radicalisation in prison and probation (PP)**, to provide professionals with skills to interpret and promptly identify signs of violent radicalization.
- **training on use of risk assessment protocol** worked out by RASMORAD P&P project, co-funded by EU.
- **developing a common working method** to identify & manage subjects at risk of radicalisation or radicalised, by setting an efficient system of information exchange & sharing of results from said risk assessment tool.
- **building workers' capacity** to observe offenders and react to radicalisation pathways with adequate rehabilitation programmes and prompt deradicalisation practices. Strengthening network with people working outside PP settings (local authorities).
- **Involvement of key actors against radicalisation**: PP managers, judges, front-line workers, etc.
- **Best practices exchange**, training, communication & dissemination through dedicated website.

Activities

- **Research** on radicalisation in PP services & methods on existing information flows
- **50 training courses** (per two editions)
- **Development of operational tool for CVE in PP services**
- **3 transnational seminars**
- **3 study visits** to project partners' PP service
- **Establishment of Project website**
- **4 advocacy webinars**
- **6 SC meetings**

Beneficiaries

- **2800 practitioners (PP, judges, police officers, healthcare staff, teachers, chaplains, etc.)**
- **800 policy-makers/stakeholders**
- **2 European countries: Belgium, Bulgaria**

- **European Penitentiary Training Academies network and Tunisian Ministry of Justice (associate partners)**

Expected results

- **Improve knowledge on radicalisation in PP settings**
- **Regular use of RASMORAD PP risk assessment tool**
- **Set-up common evidence-based method in information flow**
- **Share practices & methodologies**
- **Disseminate research-action & training results**

Type of results

- Teaching material, workgroups' reports
- Activities' reports
- counseling methodologies, counter-narratives

The kick-off meeting has been held in Rome on 30-31 January 2018.

State of Art

The **first two phases** of the project, starting from the result of Rasmorad project, shall aim at:

- 1) the collection of best practices to fight the phenomenon;
- 2) the development of a risk assessment tool.

All this in order to define training curricula to enable practitioners to acquire the knowledge to recognize the phenomenon through behaviours considered at risk and manage the sharing of information.

The following phases shall implement knowledge and competences of the practitioners to use instruments and methodologies to tackle the phenomenon, through research and training.

A) Objectives of the research:

- identify training needs in prison and probation settings on radicalisation phenomenon.

B) Objectives of training courses:

- promote the acquisition of a risk assessment tool in prison and probation settings.
- promote the acquisition of knowledge useful to detect and deal with possible risk signals.

Who are the **trainees**:

- staff working in prison;
- staff working in probation services;

Time of implementation September 2018 - April 2019.

