

Seminar on Radicalisation Prevention

Concept Note and Agenda

Background and rationale

Terrorist attacks, risks to public security, rise of radicalisation leading to violent extremism, and violations of fundamental rights in the EU Member States (MS) continue to occur, affecting many countries throughout the EU. The criminal justice response to these phenomena has to be enhanced and there were concrete steps taken at European level.¹ Radicalism towards terrorism has materialised in the last three years, with EU terrorist acts in several places in Europe (Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Spain, UK). Indeed, countering terrorism and radicalisation –among CoE priorities- is urgent on EU soil. One of the major threats highlighted in the April 2017 annual report by the Secretary General “Populism - How strong are Europe’s checks and balances?” is the surge in extremist violence that Europe faces, showing the damaging effects of hate speech, incitement to hatred and most particularly of Islamophobia. The SG highlighted the importance of human rights education as a “fundamental component of any measure taken to address discrimination, prejudice and intolerance, thus preventing and combating violent extremism and radicalisation in a sustainable and proactive way”.

¹ Actions in this regard were included in the European Agenda on Security adopted in 2015, and in particular in the Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) Council Conclusions on enhancing the criminal justice response to radicalisation. Those problems are also reflected in research and surveys of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency and the May 2015 annual report by the CoE Secretary General “A shared responsibility for democratic security in Europe” and his follow-up report of April 2016 “State of Democracy, Human Rights and the Rule of Law: A security imperative for Europe” which conclude that Human rights (HR), democracy and security are threatened across the continent and that HR foster democratic security. The reports analyse the situation in Europe, based on the findings of the CoE monitoring mechanisms and bodies (including high number of cases reaching the ECtHR). Radicalisation was a concern raised in several events organised by the Council of Europe, such as the high-level meetings organised under the Turin Process in 2016, focusing on discussing on how full enjoyment of social rights could help resolve the economic crisis, ensure migrants’ integration and promote societies in which radicalisation ceases to be an option for young people.

Terrorist and violent extremist activities in the EU are not always the exclusive domain of hierarchical organisations. Threats also consist of lone actors, small cells, cross-border terrorist travel, terrorist training or financing of terrorism.² Many terrorists planning and perpetrating attacks on European soil are themselves European citizens. Such attacks and threats cause more than loss of life and economic damage; they can sow the seeds of division between communities in Europe, giving rise to increasingly reactionary and extremist views in other parts of society.

This contributes to a breeding ground for extremism, perpetuating a vicious circle of radicalisation, aggression, and violent responses. Prevention, though difficult, becomes imperative.

The EU and CoE work together in this area and strongly believe in eradicating terrorism at its source, with tackling terrorist radicalisation and recruitment among their priorities. While there is no universally agreed definition of radicalisation, the [Council of Europe Guidelines for Prison and Probation Services regarding Radicalisation and Violent Extremism](#), adopted some terminology for the purpose of the guidelines, including radicalisation and violent extremism. According to them, “radicalisation represents a dynamic process whereby an individual increasingly accepts and supports violent extremism. The reasons behind this process can be ideological, political, religious, social, economic or personal.” The causes are complex and recruitment often follows extremist propaganda by terrorist organisations, sometimes with roots abroad but operating in Europe. Recent studies on radicalisation recommend examining the processes of recruitment, be it online or in places such as schools, detention centers and prisons. As recruitment often takes place in prison, alternative measures to detention for young persons below the age of 18 should be considered to the extent possible. According to the above-mentioned Guidelines, “violent extremism consists in promoting, supporting or committing I acts, including acts which may lead to terrorism and which are aimed at defending an ideology advocating racial, national, ethnic or religious supremacy and opposing core democratic principles and values.”

Since the prevention of radicalisation is a key part of the fight against terrorism it is worth mentioning that the CoE has developed legal standards to prevent and suppress acts of terrorism

² Without official statistics, according to the Soufan Group, it is estimated that over 27,000 foreign fighters have travelled to Iraq and Syria since fighting broke out in 2011, out of whom approximately 6,000 people from Europe - with the most fighters leaving France, Germany and the UK and most of them being young people including 10% young women. The fact that the number of foreign fighters from Western Europe has more than doubled since June 2014 shows that efforts to contain the flow of foreign fighters are limited. At least 20% is presumed to have returned home, many of whom come back radicalised and with potentially deadly new skills.

through criminal law and other measures, and works to improve international co-operation in bringing terrorists to justice, in synergy with the 19 universal legal instruments and EU work.³

The Project

The EU-CoE Radicalisation Prevention project (EUCoE Radicalisation) 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 (RP) through training, inter-agency and cross-border cooperation. The 2-year project is implemented by the CoE under the HELP Programme and will target legal professionals (judges, prosecutors and lawyers), prison and probation staff as well as (a limited number of) law enforcement officers.

Description of the activity

The Seminar is the first of a series of three to be organised under the Project (EUCoE Radicalisation), aiming at **mutual learning, exchange of good practices and cooperation**. It will focus on (penitentiary and judiciary) risk assessment tools, mainly to evaluate practices and use.

The Seminar is planned to be organised in Strasbourg on **15-16 March 2018** and will gather core actors in the field of radicalisation prevention from several Member States (MSs) with a view to exchanging on the issue of structured professional judgment and use of risk assessment tools evaluation prior to sentencing (pre-sentence report) and follow-up through the execution of the sentence for each person, with particular attention to ensure communication and collaboration from prison to probation.

³ In 2015, an Additional Protocol to the CoE Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism (or the Riga Protocol) that aims to further strengthen the efforts to prevent and suppress terrorism in all its forms, while respecting human rights and the rule of law and, i.a., addresses the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters, as well as an Action Plan on the fight against violent extremism and radicalisation leading to terrorism were adopted. The Action Plan has two main objectives: (1) to reinforce the legal framework against terrorism and violent extremism; and (2) to prevent and fight violent radicalisation through concrete measures in the public sector, in particular in schools, detention centers and prisons, and on the Internet.

EU-CoE HELP Radicalisation Prevention Project

The event will be organised for approximately **60 participants** and will benefit from the expertise of several key experts in the field and representatives of relevant departments of the CoE.

The Seminar will also serve as a very useful forum for gathering feedback on the structure of the future online course and may constitute a useful platform for confirming the most suitable experts for the development of the HELP online course on radicalisation prevention.

Outline of the agenda

The seminar will serve to exchange information, views and best practices on several topics of interest, namely: risk assessment models, process and role of the authorities, capacities, challenges and best practices; radicalisation prevention in the penitentiary and in the probation context; capacity building on radicalisation prevention.

Discussions will try to highlight the current situation against the standards developed under the CoE various mechanisms and would also serve to identify the most relevant aspects and issues to be included in an ideal training curriculum on radicalisation prevention and risk assessment tools, in view of the HELP online course to be developed under the present project on Radicalisation Prevention, complemented with the module on collection and use of evidence in counter-terrorism cases (the latter module funded under the EU-CoE Project “HELP in the EU”).

Organisational details

The seminar will be held at the Council of Europe premises (AGORA Building, Room G1) in Strasbourg on 15-16 March 2018. The working language will be English.

The participation is covered by the organisers. For further information, please send an email to ana-maria.telbis@coe.int.

Agenda

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15 March 2018 - AGORA, room G1

8.30 - 9.00	Arrival and registration of participants
9.00 - 9.15	Welcome address <i>Mikhail Lobov</i> , Head of Human Rights and Policy Co-operation Department, Council of Europe
9.15 - 10.00	HELP - the Programme and the Radicalisation Prevention Project <i>Eva Pastrana</i> , Head of the HELP Programme, Council of Europe
10.00 - 10.30	Tour de table
10.30 -11.00	The Council of Europe's framework and approach: - International Cooperation in Criminal Matters; The case-law of the ECHR of relevance for mutual assistance in criminal matters <i>Erik Verbert</i> , Senior Deputy legal advisor with the Federal Public Service of Belgium and Chairman of the Committee of Experts on the Functioning of the European Conventions on Co-operation in Criminal Matters (PC-OC), Council of Europe
11.00 - 11.30	Coffee break and group picture
11.30 – 11:50	The Council of Europe's framework and approach (continuation) - CoE Guidelines for prison and probation regarding radicalisation and violent extremism <i>Nadya Radkovska</i> , Head of the Department for International Relations and Training of Staff, General Directorate Execution of Sentences, Ministry of Justice of Bulgaria
11.50 - 12.00	- The cooperation work of the Council of Europe related to radicalisation prevention - overview of selected examples <i>Raluca Ivan</i> , Project Coordinator, Criminal Law Cooperation Unit, Council of Europe
12.00 - 12.45	Introduction to risk assessment tools <i>Hans Meurisse</i> , Senior adviser and International Expert, EuroPris <i>Christopher Dean</i> , Senior Fellow, Global Center on Cooperative Security

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12.45 - 14.00	Lunch break
14.00 - 14.30	The radicalisation leading to violent actions: causes, context, solutions; is there a magic formula? <i>Katharina Schwartzl</i> , Ministry of Justice, Austria
14.30 - 15.15	Radicalisation prevention, risk assessment and human rights : balancing some concerns <i>Maria Andriani Kostopoulou</i> , Chair, Ad hoc Committee for the Rights of the Child, Council of Europe <i>Avril Calder</i> , President, International Association of Family and Juvenile Judges <i>Sarah Williams</i> , Solicitor, UK
15.15 - 15.30	ECHR case law overview related to Prevention of Terrorism <i>Ana-Maria Telbis</i> , HELP programme Coordinator, former ECHR lawyer
15.30 - 16.00	Coffee break
16.00 - 17.15	National approach - reflections on good practices and models used, focusing on: <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. The risk assessment process (or structural professional judgment)b. Imprisonment regime choice: pros and cons of different systems.c. Radicalisation indicators and problems in case of different cultures and languages.d. Radicalisation assessment confirmation (peer and management support).e. Taylor made assessment processes viability. <i>Jose Maria Fernandez Villalobos</i> , Spanish Liaison Judge to Morocco <i>Astrid Boelaert</i> , Senior psychologist, Prison Service, Belgium <i>Sergio Bianchi</i> , Senior Researcher, Agenfor International
17.15 - 18.00	Risk assessment models <i>Martine Herzog Evans</i> , Professor, Law faculty, University of Reims, France (video recording)
18.00 - 19.00	Cocktail reception

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16 March 2018, AGORA, room G1

<p>9.15 - 10.15</p>	<p>National approach - reflections on good practices and models used (continuation) <i>Naoufel Gaied</i>, Deputy to the Head of the Fight Against Violent Radicalisation Mission, Prison and Probation Administration, France</p> <p>Facing Radicalisation in Prisons: Risk Assessment, Classification and Reintegration/National Perspectives <i>Abderahim Rahouti</i>, Director of the Training Academy, Correctional Department (DGAPR), Kingdom of Morocco</p> <p>Discussion on the presentations of the national approach</p>
<p>10.15 - 10.30</p>	<p>Risk assessment models</p>
<p>10.30 - 11.00</p>	<p>Coffee break</p>
<p>11.00 - 12.20</p>	<p>Risk assessment in the penitentiary context: tools, methods, practical challenges <i>Salvador Berdun Carrion</i>, Prison Officer, Associate Researcher, ACAIP Department of Studies <i>Werner Vanhout</i>, General Advisor, Federal Prison Service, Belgium <i>Franck Borst</i>, Programme Manager on radicalisation and extremism, Dutch Institute for Forensic Psychiatry and Psychology, Ministry of Justice, The Netherlands <i>Naoufel Gaied</i></p>
<p>12.20-13.00</p>	<p>Risk assessment in the probation context: tools, methods, practical challenges <i>Maria Lindström</i>, Liaison and Policy Officer, Confederation of European Probation <i>Jonathan Peromet</i>, Deputy Director, Brussels Maison de Justice, General Directorate of Maisons de Justice, Belgium</p>
<p>13.00 - 14.15</p>	<p>Lunch break</p>
<p>14.15 - 14.45</p>	<p>Capacity building of legal professionals on radicalisation prevention and risk assessment tools - mapping the existing resources <i>Ana Salinas de Frias</i>, Professor, Law Faculty, University of Malaga, Spain</p>

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14.45 - 15.30	Group discussion on the ideal curriculum on Radicalisation Prevention; from practice to training Project team
15.30 - 15.45	Conclusions and way ahead Project team
15.45 - 16.00	Coffee break

**Please note that the agenda may still be subject to last minute changes.*