



# Prevention of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism in Aarhus

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# We hit the front pages – unexpectedly



The Washington Post

Ad

Europe

## Denmark tries a **soft-handed approach** to returned Islamist fighters

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A Print **642**

In other countries, Talha – one of hundreds of young jihadists from the West who has fought in Syria and Iraq – might be barred from return or thrown in jail. But in Denmark, a country that has spawned more foreign fighters per capita than almost anywhere else, the port city of Aarhus is taking a novel approach by **rolling out a welcome mat.**



# Heated debate – Not always based on facts

The **ACTIVIST** M<sup>MMY</sup>

Home » Blog » Ridiculous "Hug A Jihadi" Program Aims To Fight Islamic Extremism With Love

Blog

## Ridiculous "Hug A Jihadi" Program Aims To Fight Islamic Extremism With Love

By admin · August 11, 2017

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if forslag til budget

**OUTRAGEOUS** 'Hug a Terrorist' Program Aims to Stop Spread of Extremism in Denmark

share this email

Denmark to start "hug a jihadi" program  
Denmark to start "hug a jihadi" program

**DENMARK: 'HUG A TERRORIST' TO DE-RADICALIZE**

VIDEOTEK WAHL 2017 EINWANDERUNG KRIMINALITÄT ISLAM LINKE MEDIEN AKTIVISMUS

## POLIZEI-PROJEKT "HUG A JIHADI"

# Dänen hätscheln Dschihadisten

15. August 2017 50

Promo: Hug a Jihadi

Bystron: Zustände im Merkelismus wie im Kommunismus

15. August 2017

ØSTJYLLANDS POLITI  
DET TVÆRGÅENDE OM

# Location

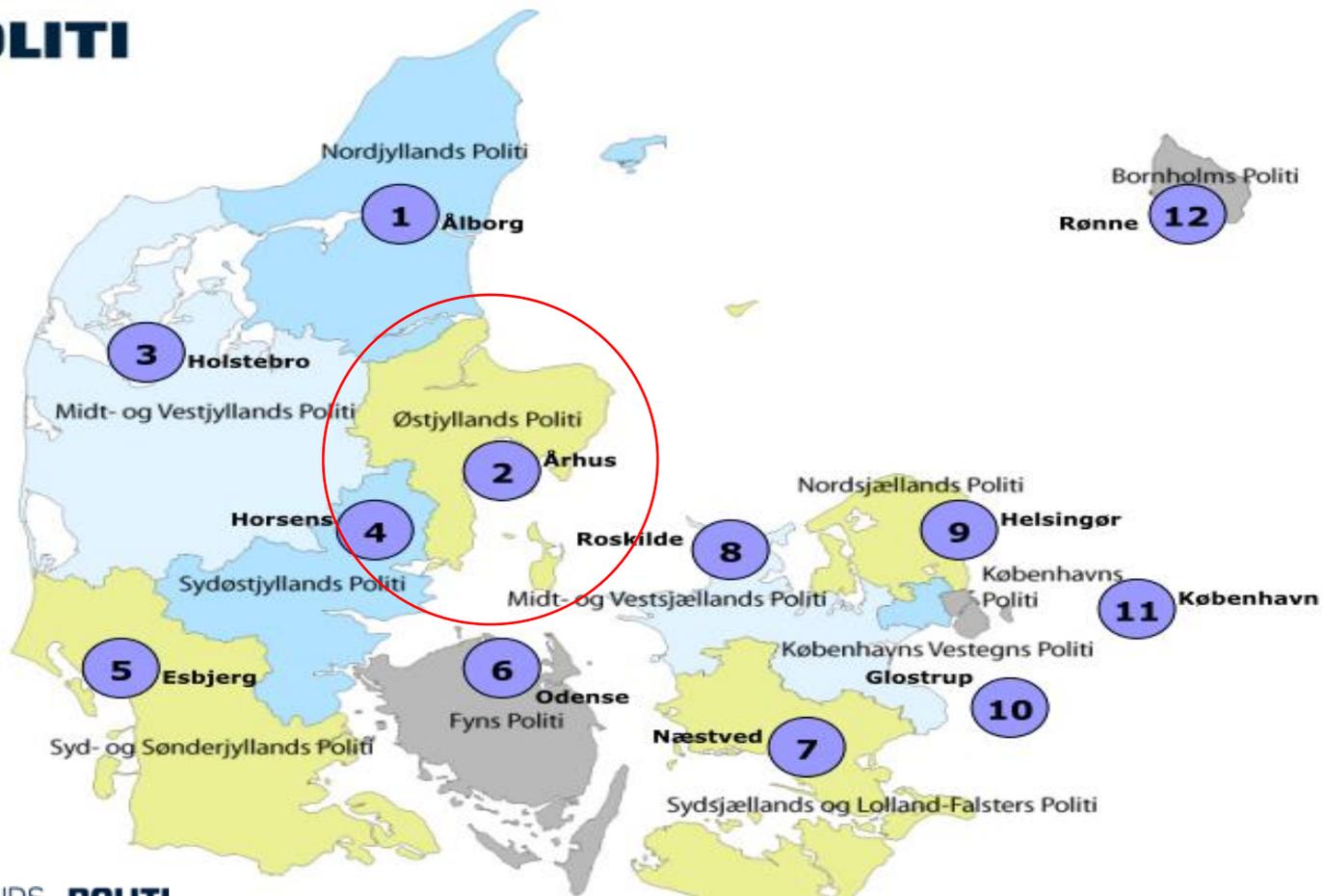


ØSTJYLLANDS POLITI

DET TVÆRGÅENDE OMRÅDESAMARBEJDE

# Location

## POLITI



# Police District



**Pop. Police-district:  
581.000**

**Pop. Aarhus Municipality:  
352.000**

**City of Aarhus is 2nd.  
largest city in Denmark**

**Biggest deprived area is  
located here.**

## Frame

### Quick rundown of the Scandinavian Welfare State

#### State

Government  
Law Enforcement  
Judicial System  
Universities

#### Region

Public Health: Hospitals and  
private practices by contract

#### Municipalities

Daycare, schools and leisure,  
parks and recreation, Social  
Services,

**Disclaimer when thinking transferrability**

**High taxes**

**Expansive welfare system**



**3/11-2004**



**Project starts in Aarhus 2007**

**9/11-2001**



**7/7-2005**





## Countering radicalisation and violent extremism

**Intelligence and  
sveillance:  
Intelligence Service**

**Intelligence,  
prosecution and  
deterrence:  
Police districts**

**Prevention:  
Police, national and  
local authorities, civil  
society**

# Strategy

ØSTJYLLANDS **POLITI**

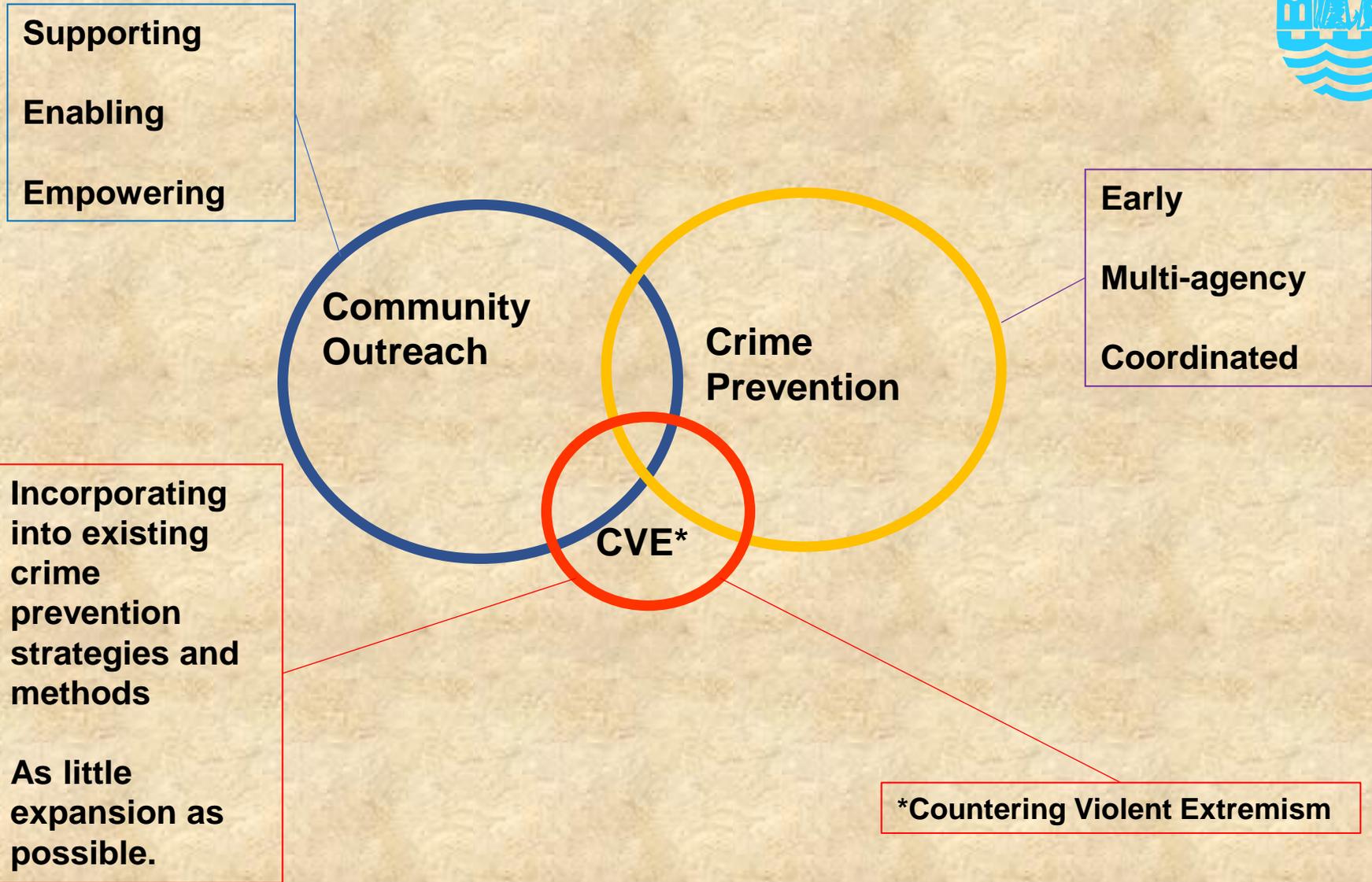


**Proportionality**

**Multi-agency  
cooperation**

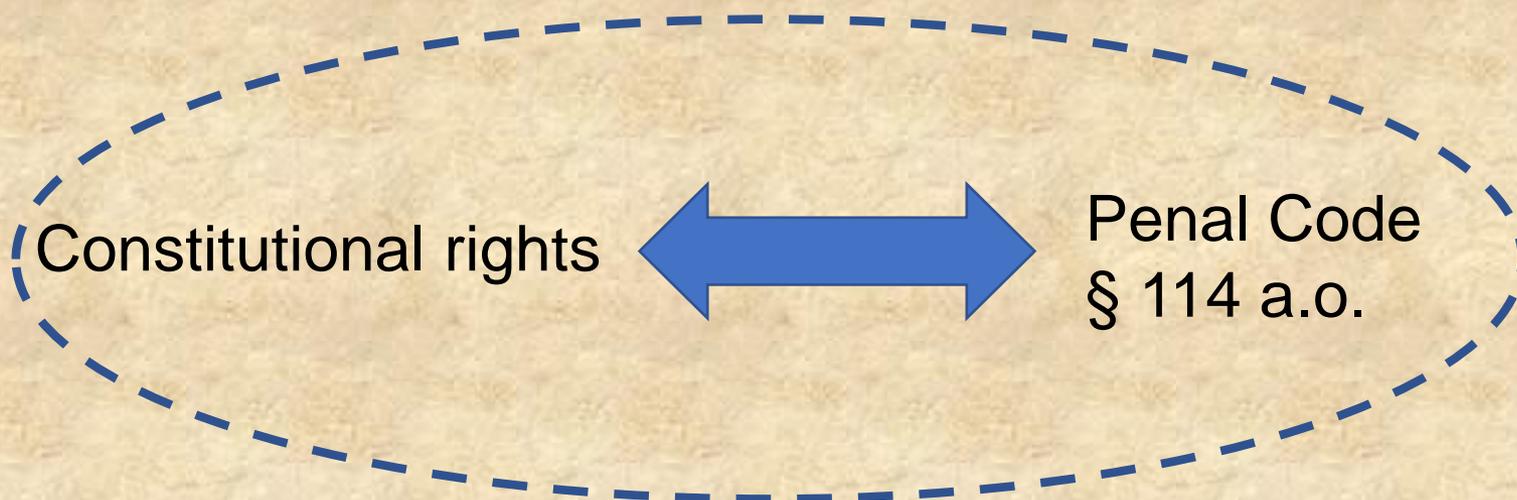
**Use existing  
possibilities and  
systems**

**Narrow expertise –  
Widespread  
awareness**





”Area of operation”





- ◎ **Radicalization** - a process leading to a persons gradual acceptance of the use of violence or other illegal means to further political og religious agendas
- ◎ **Violent extremism** - the use of violence or other illegal means to further political or religious agendas
- ◎ **Terrorism** - the use of violent means to purposefully scaring a population with the intent to destabilize or destroy a nations political, economic or social structure

# Radicalisation as a proces



**NB!** Legal political/religious  
activism – majority

Protective factors

Risk factors



# No type-casting!



## Protective factors - resilience

- Inclusion and citizenship
- Care and strong social bonds in the immediate environment
- Positive group dynamics
- Life skills, fx.:
- Identity complexity
- Ambiguity tolerance

Condi-  
tions in  
life



making  
sense

## Risk factors

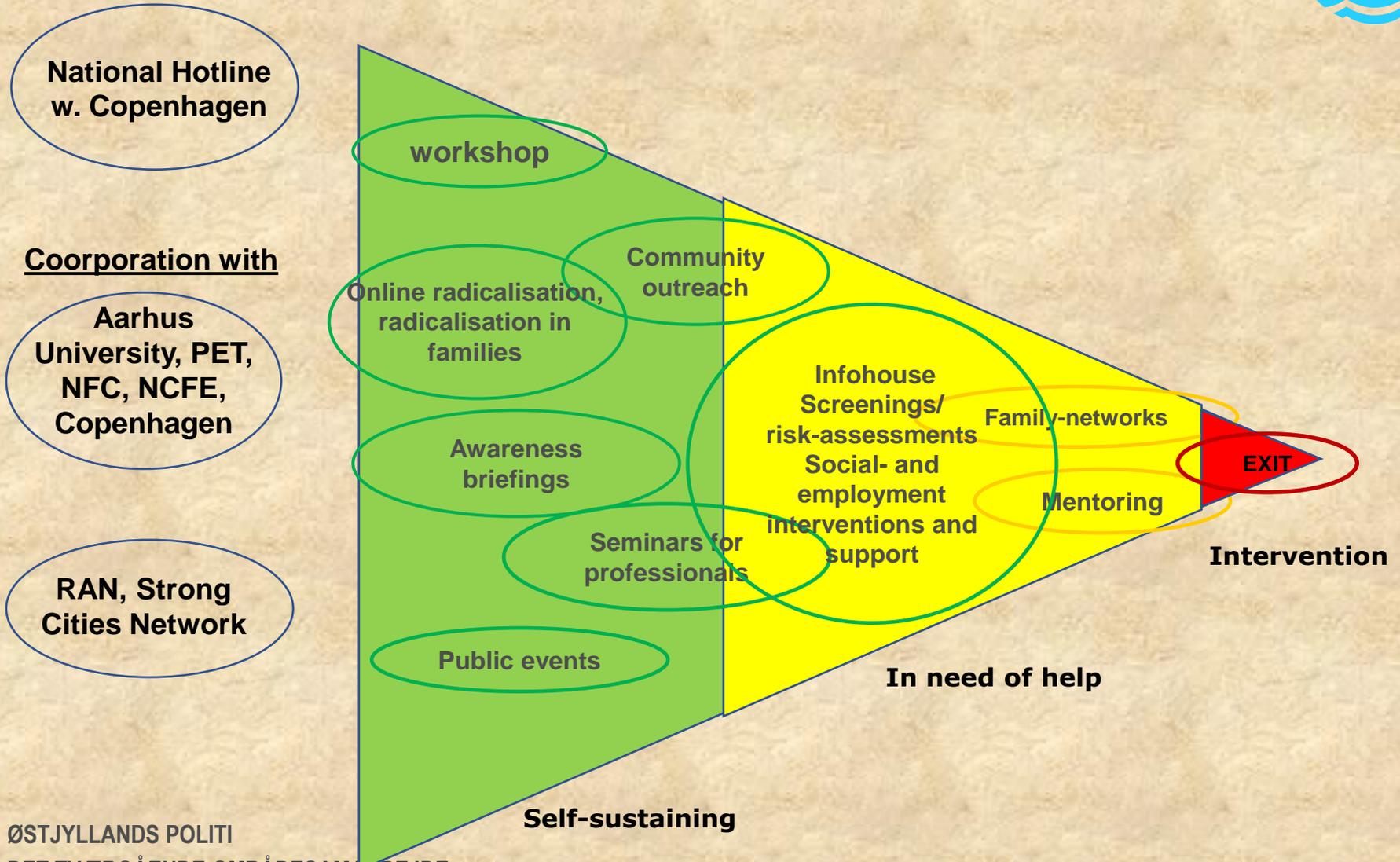
### Push

- Exclusion, discrimination
- Poor living conditions
- Personal or social crisis
- Ambiguity intolerance, fundamentalism
- Victimized narrative
- Simplified identity, monomania
- Violence as accepted and preferred expression

### Pull

- Recruitment
- Simple solutions to complicated problems (dogmatic ideologies)
- Cult-like group dynamics
- Closed groups with care, respect and strong social bonding

# "The Aarhus-model"



# Infohouse



**Social Services / Social Psychiatry**

**Department for Children and Youth**

**Employment services**

**Police**

**Prison Service**

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**Visitation – Screening.**

**Risk assessment**

**Individual profiling**

**Coordination**

## "Foreign Fighters"



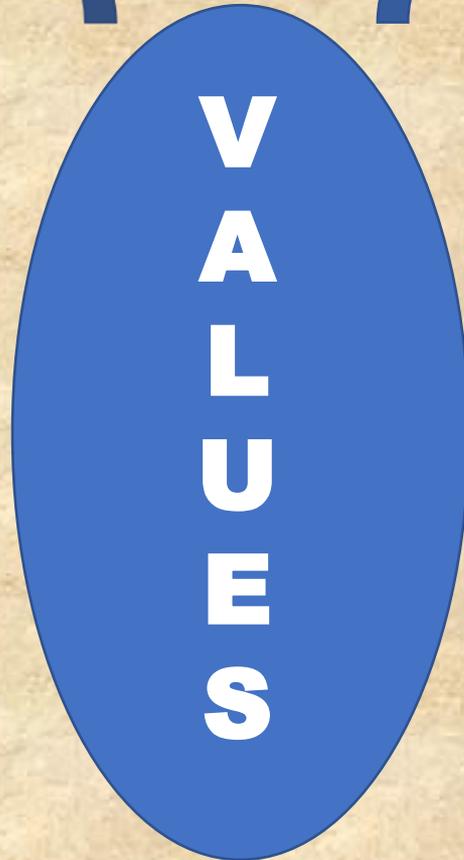
Syrian volunteers (Syria/Iraq)  
The Situation in Aarhus

- ◎ 36 persons from December 2012 until now
- ◎ 11 reported killed
- ◎ 21 returned
- ◎ 4 still in Syria/Iraqe/Turkey (presumably)
  
- ◎ Danish Citizens with various ethnic backgrounds:  
Somali, Turkish, Palestinian, Jordanian, Sudanese,  
Danish, mixed ethnicity.

## Active citizenship

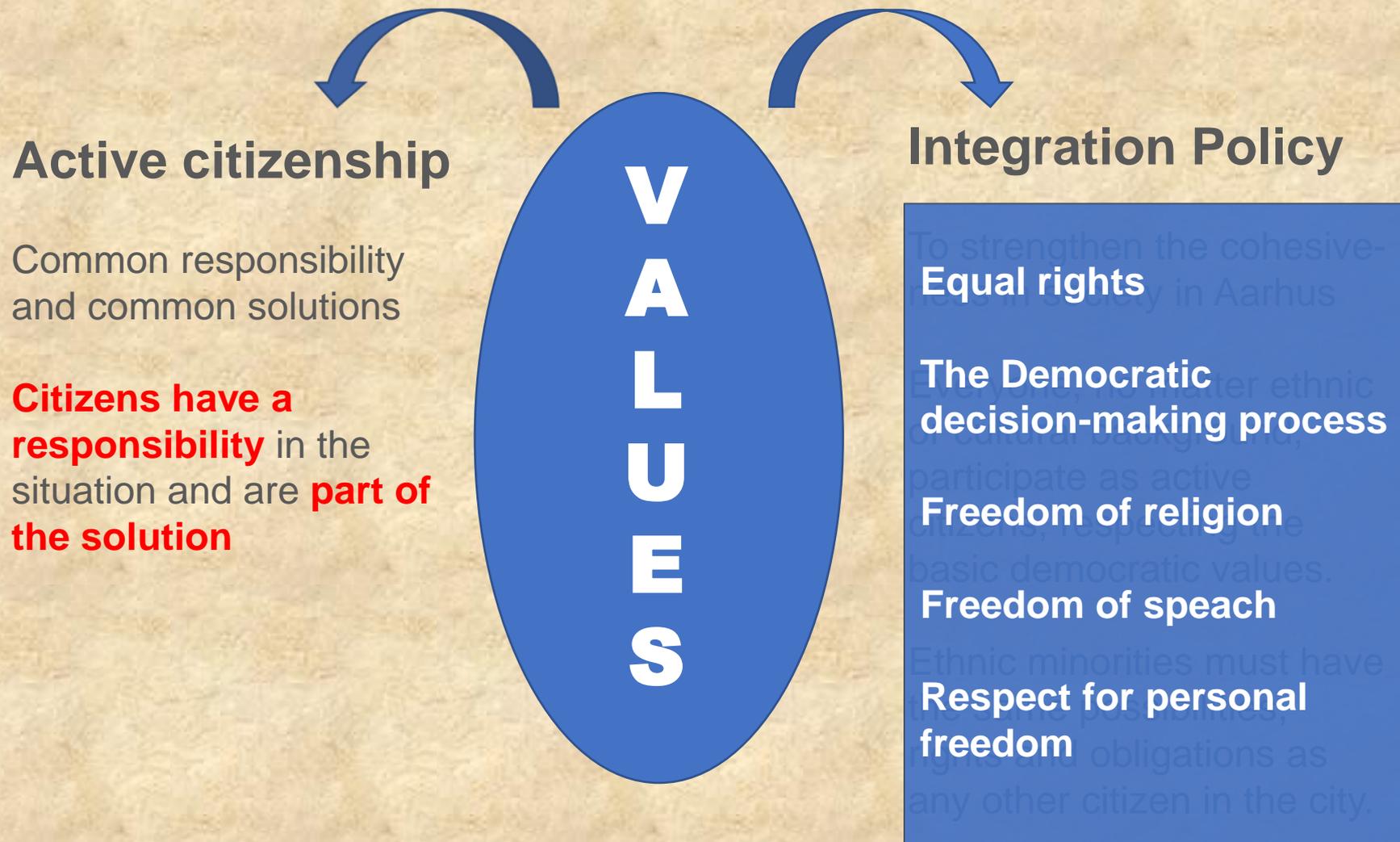
Common responsibility  
and common solutions

Citizens have a  
responsibility in the  
situation and are part of  
the solution



## City of Aarhus' core values in preventing radicalisation – June 2014

- Dialogue
- Inclusion
- Strengthen citizenship





## Examples of Implementation of rules, old and new

1990

2015

2016



§ 115 Civil  
Rights Code

§ 2.4  
Passport Code

§ 114J  
Penal Code



# **New challenges:**

**Children returning from conflict zones**

**Psychiatry/Violent extremism**

**Autism/Conspiracy Theories/Algorithms**



**Thank you for  
your patience**