

Identification of radicalisation leading to violent extremism

by

Vasileios Roussakis

Dokument from the Internet documentation
of the German Congress on Crime Prevention www.gcocp.org.
Edited by Hans-Jürgen Kerner and Erich Marks on behalf of the
Deutsche Stiftung für Verbrechensverhütung und Straffälligenhilfe (DVS)

To the citation:

Vasileios Roussakis: Identification of radicalisation leading to violent extremism, in: Kerner, Hans-Jürgen and Marks, Erich (Ed.), Internet documentation of the German Congress on Crime Prevention. Hannover 2019, www.praeventionstag.de/documentation.cms/4544



ΚΕΝΤΡΟ ΜΕΛΕΤΩΝ ΑΣΦΑΛΕΙΑΣ
CENTER FOR SECURITY STUDIES



RADICALISACTION

**IDENTIFICATION OF RADICALISATION LEADING
TO VIOLENT EXTREMISM**



**European Union
Internal Security Fund
"Equality, Solidarity, Protection"**



1 The program

The Center for Security Studies (KEMEA) is a research and scientific organisation, on security issues, and the official think tank of the Hellenic Ministry of Citizen Protection. The program entitled “Enhancement of Law Enforcement Agencies to identify and counter radicalisation and extremism” that is implemented from KEMEA is funded as 75% from the Internal Security Fund – Police (2015-2020) of European Commission and 25% from national funds. It started on July 2018 and will be completed on September 2020. The Target groups of the action are the Returned Foreign Terrorist Fighters, the immigrants/refugees entered in E.U. and the imprisoned population. The field of research focuses on Prisons and Deportation Detention Centers, Migrant/refugee Reception Centers (HOTSPOTS) and Accommodation Facilities as well as Schengen Entrances. The Beneficiary population are Law Enforcement officers as Police, Coast Guard, Prison staff, Customs, Migration and Asylum Services.

The following scheme depicts the structure of expert teams and the distinct roles of 26 in total associates that are involved in the different phases of the Action.



The implementation plan of the programme is based on a rational sequence of seven interdependent work packages. In order to proceed in the next package, it is required to have successfully finalized the objectives of the previous stage. In specific, the package are: WP1: Study of the Needs of Law Enforcement Agencies, WP2: Development Risk Assessment Methodology, WP3: Design of 3D Simulation Game , WP4: Writing of Educational Material and Practical Handbooks , WP5: Delivery of Training Programmes, WP6: Organisation of Tabletop Simulation Exercise , WP7: some Dissemination activities

When the seven work packages are accomplished, the main purpose of RADICALISATION project, which is outlined in its title “Enhancement of Law Enforcement Agencies to Identify and Counter Radicalisation And Extremism”, will be achieved.

2. Risk Analysis

The project focuses on the identification and countering of the potential threats and risks in the borders of European Union with Middle East and North Africa.

According to Hellenic Police and FRONTEX Reports, since 2015, when the crisis outbreak, an estimated number of 1,2 million immigrants/refugees, the majority of them from high risk countries (Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan), have entered in the EU, through the eastern maritime and terrestrial borders. Among them, approximately 900.000 have been moved or relocated to Central and Western European countries.

European Internal Security Strategy (2015-2020) places radicalisation and foreign terrorist fighters on the top of its agenda. In this line of reasoning, FRONTEX emphasizes the hazard of Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs) to return to their countries of origin. EUROPOL, also, warns about the threat the FTFs to infiltrate into migration/refugee flows. The passing of non-European terrorist fighters, after the consecutive defeats of ISIS, is something that we have to take under consideration as well.

For the reception and control of migratory populations 5 HOTSPOTS in respective Greek islands, opposite of Turkey, have been established. Furthermore, across the country operate several accommodation infrastructures. A great number of National, European and International LEAs and organisations are actively involved in the administration of this humanitarian crisis.

This new established security context may be vulnerable for the adoption and acceleration of the process of radicalisation. Phenomena of xenophobia and polarization that may be appeared amongst the people that live inside and outside the facilities could justify rhetoric of hate and separatist doctrines. Minors and young people that have been living and growing up within these areas may be of high-risk to express a negative behavior.

As it concerns the radicalisation in prisons, on December 2018, the imprisoned population in 27 prisons of Greece was 10.580 inmates.

3. Study of the Needs

Before designing the enhancement package, a team of experts studied the needs and capacities of the beneficiary group in three levels.

In the first level, the researchers conducted qualitative interviews with high-rank officials from Greece (Ministries, Law Enforcement Agencies) and high-expertise Officers from European and International services (Europol, RAN Network, German, American and French Embassy, Belgium Police).

In the second level, the team organised seven Workshops, in Athens, during which 109 officers from different agencies answered anonymously an electronic questionnaire. During the workshops experts and practitioners had the opportunity to share knowledge and discuss about the actual needs.

In the third level, the questionnaire was answered from 260 officers that work on migrant/refugee centers and prisons around Greece.

4 Risk Analysis Methodology

A scientific team implemented a number of research tools and theories in order to design the risk analysis methodology. A set of indicators, structured in four categories, facilitates the identification of radicalisation and terrorism in different vulnerable contexts as migrant areas, prisons and Schengen entrances.

1st Category - Methods

Observation (indicators: external characteristics and behavior etc.)

Interview (indicators: war trauma, extremist beliefs, violent character etc.)

Background Research (indicators: country of origin, affiliation with terrorists, travels to conflict areas)

2nd Category - Levels

Micro – focuses on the Individual. (indicators: tattoos, wounds, personal items, photos, mobile)

Meso – focuses on Wide Radical Milieu. (indicators: daily social surround in prison / centers, daily contacts with radicalized persons)

Macro – focuses on events on the hosting country and country of origin. (indicators: adverse government migration policies, a new defeat of ISIS from Western alliance)

3rd Category - Time

Long-term concerns the process of radicalisation that takes place in vulnerable environments. It includes all the phases that a non radicalized person must pass until to adopt an extremist behavior

Short-term concerns the instant identification of a Foreign Terrorist Fighter or a dangerously radicalized individual

4th Category - Process

Cognitive is the process of learning violence from the others

Behavioral is the process of expressing violence

The two target groups of the action display the following indicators:

a) Foreign Terrorist Fighters:

Methods of observation, interview and background research: external characteristics and behavior, war trauma, extremist beliefs, violent character, country of origin, affiliation with terrorists, travels to conflict areas etc.

Micro-level: tattoos, wounds, personal items, aggression, origin, travels, affiliation with terrorists etc.

Short time: instant identification in Schengen entrances, prisons etc.

Behavioral process: hate speech, extremist action, preparatory terrorist acts etc.

b) Population under the process of radicalisation (prisons, migrant centers):

Method of observation: external characteristics and behavior

Micro/meso/macro level: changing of behavior, radical milieu, government etc

Long time: escalating process from innocence to extremism

Cognitive and behavioral process: acceptance of extremist ideology, hate speech violent action.

5 3D Simulation Game

For optimal results an educational simulation game will be designed. Its objective is to constitute a permanent training mechanism and source of knowledge for LEA officers to identify and assess the risk of radicalisation leading to violent extremism.

6 Training

Ten (10) training programs with participation of 250 officers will be organised. The curriculum is shared in three parts: General (theory), Special (risk analysis methodology, indicators, best practices) and Practical (3D Simulation Game). Training main subjects concern:

- Theoretic approach of radicalisation
- Islamist radicalisation in E.U. communities
- Returned foreign terrorist fighters
- Radicalisation process in migrant/refugees' populations
- Radicalisation process in prisons

7 Tabletop Exercise

The last activity of the project concerns an exercise. An expertised team will design and conduct a tabletop exercise with escalating crisis scenarios related to radicalized individuals and terrorists. Exercise's aim is to test and reinforce the level of preparedness and response of law enforcement officers. In addition, front line practitioners will have the opportunity to share experience and best practices as well as to establish a national contact point network. A scenario, an exercise map and an audio-visual material will be developed for the successful execution of the exercise.

8 Dissemination

The dissemination plan is based on the following activities:

- RADICALISATION website where the public can be informed about the targets/activities/outcomes of the action
- Production of dissemination material (flyers, posters, banners)
- Organisation 5 Info-days in respective Greek cities
- Participation in 2 European Security Conferences.
- End-conference

9 Long-term impact

RADICALISATION targets to constitute a prototype paradigm for EU to:

PERCEIVE the threat of radicalisation before being evolved in the experience of terrorism.

Early PREVENT the radicalisation in migrants and asylum seekers.

COUNTER radicalisation and terrorism risks that may be evolved in migrant communities.

Work all together on a model that PROTECT the integration of migrant/refugees.

First, we must PERCIEVE the treat, then to PREVENT it and as last solution to COUNTER it in an effort to PROTECT ALL, not US or THEM, but ALL. These are the project expectations.

Vasileios Roussakis
Police Major/Project Manager

Center for Security Studies (KE.ME.A.)

✉ P. Kanellopoulou 4, P.O. 10177, Athens

☎ +30 2107710805 (ext. 318)

@ radicalisation@kemea-research.gr

🌐 <http://www.kemea.gr/en/>