



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL MIGRATION AND HOME AFFAIRS



HOME/2015/ISFP/AG/LETX/8772

Islam inspired terrorism
**Towards a Multi Agency approach
to Radicalized Youth in Probation:
The state of the art in 6 European Countries**

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The MATES project

Where are we now?

PROJECT PARTERSHIP

- **Psychoanalytic Institute for Social Research, IPRS
PROJECT COORDINATOR, Italy**
- **Tartu University (TU), Estonia**
- **Università La Sapienza, Italy**
- **Alma Mater Europaea – Maribor (ECM), Slovenia**
- **Christlichen Jugenddorfwerk Deutschlands (CJD),
Germany**
- **Universitat Autònoma Barcelona (UAB), Spain**
- **Catholic University of Porto (CUP), Portugal**

DEFEAT RADICALIZATION AND TERRORISM

MULTI-AGENCY and MULTI-DICIPLINARY SCIENTIFIC APPROACH IN PROBATION

Common Curricula

EXIT STRATEGIES

DISENGAGEMENT PROGRAMMES

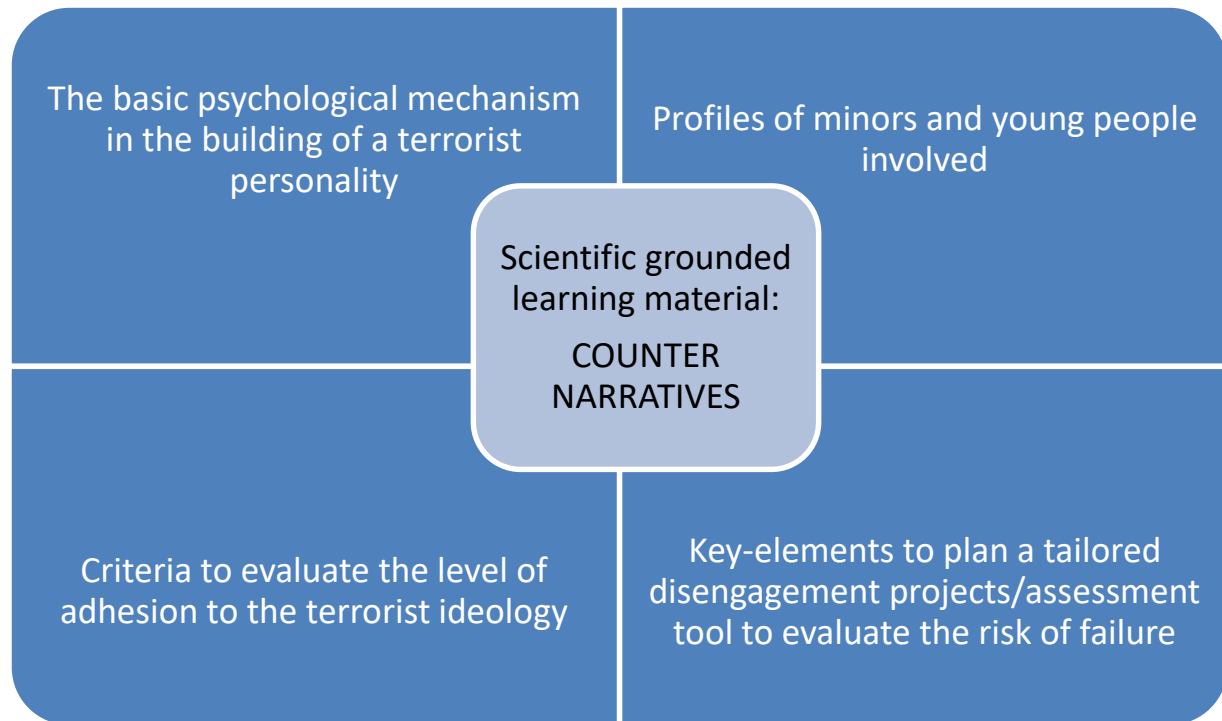
LIASON WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES

MULTI-AGENCY and MULTI-DICIPLINARY SCIENTIFIC APPROACH IN PROBATION

Provide professionals - **PROBATION OFFICERS** and **FRONTLINE PRACTITIONERS** working with young people in probation - with **SKILLS AND CAPACITIES** that allow them **TO NETWORK** and carry out coordinated interventions:

- To **participate in** implementing **multi-agency re-educational programmes**
- **Liason with local communities** for successful reintegration programmes targeting young radicalized persons
- To **de-sensitize already radicalized youth** through **counter-narratives** and foster their social integration
- To help **prevent the risk of re-recruitment** of youths to terrorism
- **Monitor cyber material**

MATES COMMON CURRICULA: *Based on the Common Curriculum Counter Terrorism approach used by CEPOL*



Key areas of work

Assessment of Probation services

- *Intervention strategies with vulnerable young people (agencies and stakeholder involved in Probation intervention systems)*
- *Sensitivity/awareness about the risk of radicalization*
- *Information and training needs*
- *Have multiagency strategies been revisited to work with radicalized people?*

Counter narrative approach targeting individuals:

- *What is the message we are countering?*
- *Who are the messengers? Which are the channels?*
- *Level of adhesion to the radical ideology*
- *Psychological profiling*
- *Countermessage*

Minors and Young people

- 1) Individuals who have been **convicted for crimes directly related to violent extremism** (potential agents of proselytisms) once they exit detection;
- 2) Individuals who may have been **convicted for other crimes**, who are serving alternative measures to detection that may exhibit different degree of risk for violent radicalization (potential/actual targets of proselytisms).

PROJECT WPs and duration

- **Work package 0** – Management and Coordination of the project
- **Work package 1** - Set up of Local Networks and development of common curricula/training toolkit
- **Work package 2** - Training package testing and transnational validation
- **Work package 3** – Dissemination

18 months: End date 30th April 2018

National Assessment Activities

Probation Systems

FOCUS ON PARTNER COUNTRIES

GERMANY

- Increasing number of court cases of returning foreign fighters constitute challenge to German justice system.
- Federal initiative to fund de-radicalization programs in prisons and probation in all German states (Bundesländer) – great variation in approaches between individual states (security focus vs. social rehabilitation).
- Moderate involvement of Muslim Communities – debates around the role of religious knowledge in intervention strategies.

ESTONIA

- No experience with radicalized individuals in Prisons or on Probation
- Professionals in correctional institutions lack even general knowledge on radicalization and violent extremism.

FOCUS ON PARTNER COUNTRIES

SPAIN (Catalunya)

- Primary prevention multi-agency strategies under scrutiny (Spanish National plan against radicalization, 2015).
- Local government plans involve key social actors (teachers, doctors, social workers, psychologists, Muslim associations...).
- Local plan for Catalunya (2016) under criticism for lack of transparency. Several Muslim actors have severely opposed these initiatives: main focus on jihadism, potential stigmatization effects.
- Work with individuals judicially linked to violent radicalization in Probation is individualized with little standardization and no detailed protocols yet. There are some best practice that could be scalable.

PORTUGAL

- Professionals in the Juvenile Justice are alerted to spot radicalized persons but lack specific knowledge on Jihadist extremism.
- Current effective approaches to work in Probation can be used as framework of disengagement programs.

FOCUS ON PARTNER COUNTRIES

ITALY

- No concrete experience with radicalized individuals in Probation
- Cultural homogeneity of probation intervention systems.
- Moderate Islam willing to help, aware and capable to intervene in the area of de-radicalization strategies of violent extremists.
- No strategy designed so that Islamic Communities can be real partners in the fight against radicalization.

SLOVENIA

- Perceived risk of radicalization especially among the Bosniak Minorities.
- Prevention mainly based on intelligence
- Unknown number of radicalized.
- No specific de-radicalization programs, urgent need for protocols regarding radicalisation.

PROBATION SYSTEMS AND DE-RADICALIZATION STRATEGIES

Year 0

Perceived risk but very small numbers
No specialized approaches
No common approaches

Discussions ongoing at a national level on
how Probation systems should respond to
jihadist radicalization

**Multiagency approaches:
WHO SHOULD BE INVOLVED?**

MULTIAGENCY: WHO SHOULD BE INVOLVED?

Timid attempts of cooperation BUT mutual
DIFFIDENCE

Islamic communities seem to be more AWARE OF RISKS, better equipped and available to intervene.

Islamic communities, Mosques and the associations managing them are marginal actors in prevention and criminal justice systems

*Are they equipped to intervene?
What equipment do they bring in?*

CULTURAL
HOMOGENEITY/NEUTRALITY of
probation intervention systems

There is some evidence that the Islamic communities reach out to young people and can provide support in different areas of Probation interventions

EVIDENCE FROM MATES AND RASMORAD

No early risk assessment instruments (prevention)

Who should be involved in early detection/risk assessment?

Who should interpret the signs?

Under what cooperation agreement?

NO MULTI-AGENCY

Risk assessment in detention: complex issue

What about probation systems?
Is there any real room for multiagency approaches?

PROBATION SYSTEMS AND MULTICULTURALITY

Limited exploration of the **cultural and religious background of individuals taken in charge by the justice system** by the social workers, because it appears to be **opaque and difficult to interpret**, leading to:

- Underestimating the **needs** of the person (i.e. exercise of the right to worship and respect for religious prescriptions).
- Reinforcing the **perception** by young people in the justice system of being discriminated against.
- Untapped **intervention opportunities** (i.e. active involvement in the reintegration process of the cultural/religious community they belong to).
- **Risk underestimating radicalization signals**: “social workers do not know where and what to look at”.

National Assessment Activities

*Profiles of radicalized young people,
narratives,
perceptions*

TERRORIST NARRATIVES: 2 MAIN CHANNELS FOR PROSELYTISM

Research on the profiles of violent radicalized people show that the following two contexts have a predominant role in proselytism:

FACE TO FACE in PRISON

Prison regime choices (concentration, dispersal or a combination of the 2) to control for proselytism and monitoring.

No effective strategies to control for the risk of radicalization in prison.

ONE TO ONE

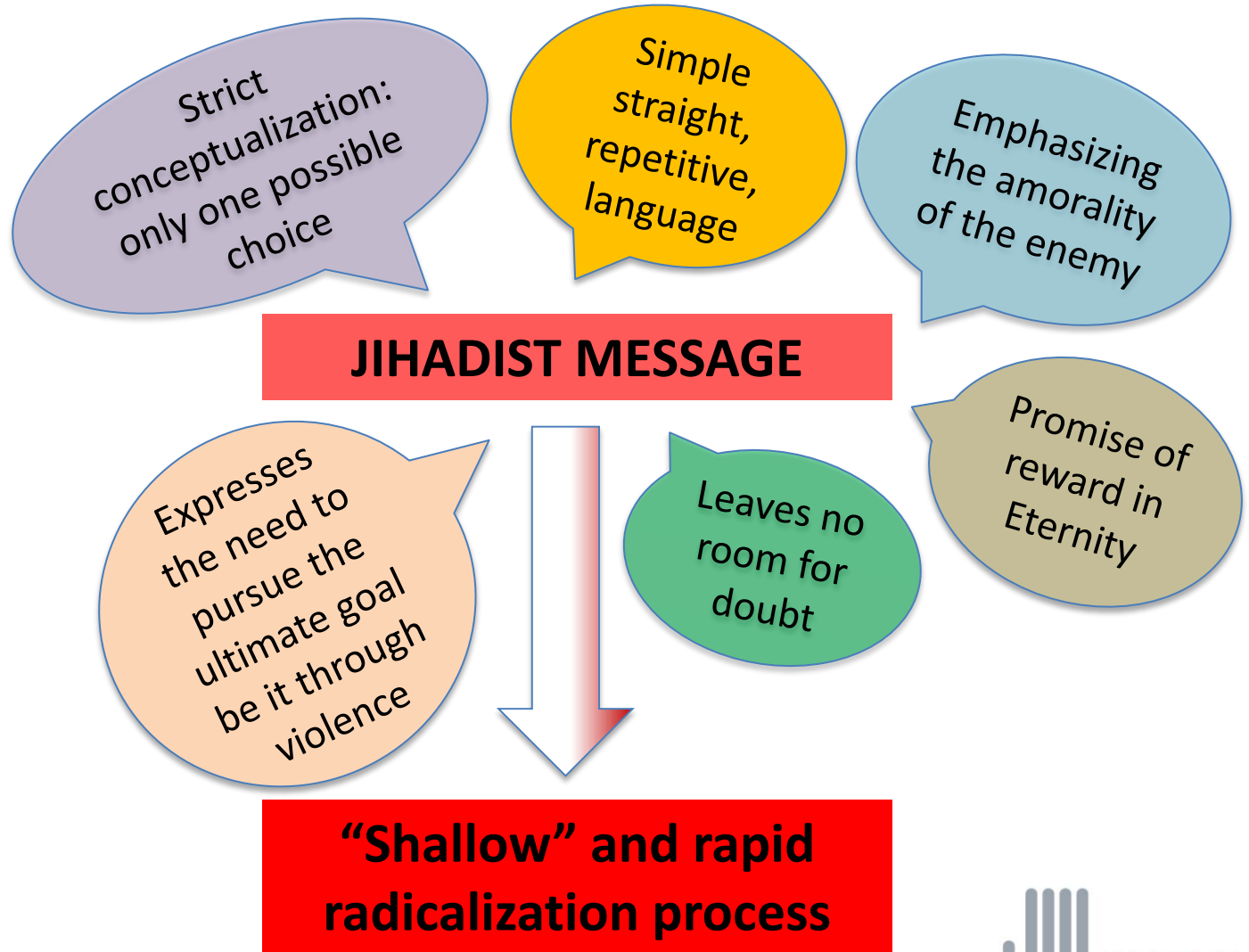
THROUGH THE INTERNET:

Mix of online- and offline-touchpoints:

- a. Central propaganda organs
- b. Radio stations
- c. Publishing houses
- d. Magazines and Instruction Manuals (i.e. Inspire, Rumiya)
- e. Forums and web sites
- f. Social Networks (i.e. Facebook, Twitter)
- g. Encrypted messaging applications (i.e. Asrar al-Mujahideen, WhatsApp, Telegram)
- h. Video-hosting platforms (i.e. Youtube)
- i. Video games

SOCIAL MEDIA/MASS MEDIA

TERRORIST NARRATIVES: 2 MAIN CHANNELS FOR PROSELITISM



KOWN TARGETS: Minors and young adults

PROJECT RESULTS AND LITERATURE:

- **Vulnerable young people**
- **1° and 2° generation immigrants** facing specific challenges to successful integration.
- **Growing disaffiliation from Western Societies.**
- **Engagement in violent radicalization** as an **extreme choice** – **JIHADIZATION OF EXTREMISM.**

PROBATION SYSTEMS AND JIHADIST NARRATIVES

Need to fill in gaps in Probation officers' knowledge about and understanding of radicalization/de-radicalization processes:

- A. Prejudice of ignorance and psychological frailty of radicalized persons** → the persuasiveness of jihadist message is underestimated.
- B. Anti Islamic prejudice** → the influence and power of the radicalized Islamic message is overestimated while the impact of discontent is underestimated (*"Jihadization of discontent"*).
- C. No need for ethnic or cultural specialization of the intervention systems** → all forms of radicalization in minors and young adults are an expression of discontent and distress: no need to enter into the specificity of jihadist discourse.

GUIDELINES FOR A MULTI-AGENCY APPROACH

GUIDELINES FOR A MULTI-AGENCY APPROACH

- A. **Involvement of different educational bodies** in prevention and disengagement/desensitization strategies.
- B. **Moderate Islam should be involved** in the intervention network.
- C. **Professionals should be capable of conducting psychological profiling and analysis of recruitment mechanism** (*the more rapid and informal the recruitment process, the more shallow the adherence to the radical ideology*)
- D. **The ideological content of the jihadist message** should not be underestimated
- E. **Professionals working in Probation** should acquire **skills** to participate in multi-agency re-educational programs.

Thank you!