

Multi-Ideological Radicalisation Assessment towards Disengagement

D6.1 MIRAD's Opening Online European Conference implementation report

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Contents

Introduction	5
MIRAD Overview	5
Continuity in Counter-radicalization Programs: MIRAD threefold approach - overview	7
Conference format.....	7
Agenda	7
Registration process and participants.....	8
Promotional process	9
Host, presenters and keynote speeches	10
After the event – participants’ opinion	19
Key Findings and conclusions	20



Introduction

The MIRAD project started in January 2022, and on February 24, 2022, an open online European conference was held to open the MIRAD project to a wider group of stakeholders. The conference was entitled "Continuity in Counter-radicalization Programs: MIRAD threefold approach". The aim of the conference was to familiarize a wider group of interested stakeholders with the project's scope, background, and foreseen outcomes. The involvement of stakeholders from the early stage of the project is crucial to building MIRAD's network and cooperation with target groups.

The event was addressed to a wide range of stakeholders and practitioners involved in monitoring, preventing and counteracting radicalisation especially NGO organisations working with extremist/radical individuals, prison and probation staff, judicial staff, researchers, practitioners, networks, civil society organisations, and other stakeholders in the field of Violent right-wing extremism and Islamist Extremism risk assessment and intervention; and other entities interested in this topic.

The conference was organized by the Polish Platform for Homeland Security with the support and involvement of all consortium partners.

MIRAD Overview

MIRAD's main goal is to build upon IRS (Individual Radicalisation Screening), a radicalisation risk assessment instrument previously developed during the R2PRIS project. The IRS is part of the Radicalisation Risk Assessment in Prisons Toolset (commonly known as RRAP), which was considered as promising practice in this field by the European Commission.

MIRAD intends to develop specific, add-on ideological-centred assessment sheets to the IRS, having in consideration two different extremist typologies (right-wing extremism and Islamist extremism), as well as the role of gender. MIRAD also aims to train practitioners from prison, probation, and non-governmental organisations via e-Learning and virtual-reality scenarios. In addition, the project also foresees the development of an instrument to assess the trustworthiness and capability of NGOs that work with extremist/radical individuals, which could later be used by prison and probation systems in EU.

Objectives

The MIRAD project aims to enhance the efficiency of radicalisation disengagement and reintegration programmes, whilst in parallel raising awareness and promoting the joint implementation of risk assessment tools (i.e., the IRS).

- To attract, engage and collaborate with the key stakeholders of prison and probation service staff and NGOs professionals, MIRAD works towards 5 primary objectives
- To construct and pilot a methodological evaluation approach (and associated instrument) for ensuring the trustworthiness and capability of NGO's as non-institutional partners involved in disengagement and reintegration programmes – Linked to Impact 1
- To design and validate ideology-specific add-on sheets to the IRS, adequately adapted to the right-wing and Islamist extremism phenomena, so to enhance the assessment of inmates' risk of radicalisation, from individual vulnerabilities to a more advanced and deepened involvement with radical groups - Linked to Impact 2



- To build upon and complement previously developed capacity-building interventions on the use of risk-assessment instrument (i.e., the IRS tool), rolling-out training and learning on exit strategies for prison, probation and non-governmental professionals - Linked to Impact 3
- To provide innovative training offers in the field of radicalisation assessment, harnessing the benefits of by technological advances - Linked to Impact 4
- To design and promote the adoption cross-sectoral and inter-institutional collaboration models and protocols, drawing the different professional categories' attention to the central relevance of inter-institutional collaboration for the efficiency of the disengagement programmes - Linked to Impact 5

Expected outcomes

- Foster expanded collaboration in the field of disengagement and reintegration programmes between governmental bodies and trustworthy community organisations;
- Quality training and learning opportunities on the use of the ideological and gendered-specific IRS;
- Enhanced productivity of disengagement programmes;
- Catalyse and promote transversal transition programmes for VETOs.

MIRAD Consortium

The MIRAD's consortium consists of carefully chosen partners, coordinated by the Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers. In total, there are 8 project partners from 7 EU countries, all experts in their field of competencies.



“Continuity in Counter-radicalization Programs: MIRAD threefold approach” – overview of the event

Conference format

The conference was a half-day event in an online formula. The conference lasted 2 hours and 40 minutes and was held from 12:00 to 14:40 CET. The event was organized using TEAMS platform. The organizers have chosen this well-known and widely used tool taking into account the easy and user-friendly management of the event both from participants and presenters perspective. The registration to the event was mandatory, each registrant received on provided e-mail address link with access to the event.

Agenda

The conference started with an introduction by the moderator of the event – Mariyan Sabev from the Center for the Study of Democracy. Then the participants were greeted by the project coordinator – Elyamine Settoul (CNAM) and Pedro das Neves (IPS).

The substantive part of the conference was divided into two panels. The first was to familiarize participants with the new MIRAD project. Two presentations were planned as part of this panel:

- Multi-ideological assessment, mixed-method training, and interinstitutional trustworthiness: The path to the successful rehabilitation of extremist offenders – presented by Pedro Liberado and Joana Apostolo from IPS_Innovative Prison Systems.
- MIRAD project’s scope, objectives and expected outcomes – presented by Elyamine Settoul from Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers.

The second part was devoted to the presentations of the keynote speakers:

- Working with Returning Foreign Terrorist Fighters: Specific implications for risk assessment, rehabilitation, and multi-agency cooperation – presented by Aisyah Qadri Yuliani from United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.
- The Norwegian approach on assessing and rehabilitating extremist offenders: Challenges and lessons learned – presented by David Hansen from University College of the Norwegian Correctional Service.



The agenda is presented in a table with a blue header and footer. The header includes the MIRAD logo and the word 'Agenda'. The table has three columns: time, topic, and moderator. The footer includes a funding notice from the European Union's Internal Security Fund – Police.

Time	Topic	Moderator
12:00 - 12:15	Welcome and brief overview of the event's schedule and speakers Welcome speeches by CNAM & IPS	Moderator: Mariyan Sabev Center for the Study of Democracy Elyamine Settoul (CNAM) Pedro das Neves (IPS)
12:15 - 12:40	Multi-ideological assessment, mixed-method training, and interinstitutional trustworthiness: The path to the successful rehabilitation of extremist offenders	Pedro Liberado Joana Apostolo IPS Innovative Prison Systems
12:40 - 12:55	MIRAD project's scope, objectives and expected outcomes	Elyamine Settoul Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers
12:55 - 13:10	Q&As	Moderator: Mariyan Sabev Center for the Study of Democracy
13:10 - 13:25	Coffee break	
13:25 - 13:55	Working with Returning Foreign Terrorist Fighters: Specific implications for risk assessment, rehabilitation, and multi-agency cooperation	Aisyah Qadri Yuliani United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
13:55 - 14:25	The Norwegian approach on assessing and rehabilitating extremist offenders: Challenges and lessons learned	David Hansen University College of the Norwegian Correctional Service
14:25 - 14:35	Q&As	Moderator: Mariyan Sabev Center for the Study of Democracy
14:35 - 14:40	Wrap-up and closing the meeting	Moderator

This project is funded by the European Union's Internal Security Fund – Police (CA no. 101038878)

Figure 1. Agenda of the conference



Registration process and participants

Registration to the event was mandatory. The registration was opened on 15th February 2022 and lasted till 24th February 2022. 83 participants registered in total from 23 countries. Finally, 63 participants from 15 countries attended the event.

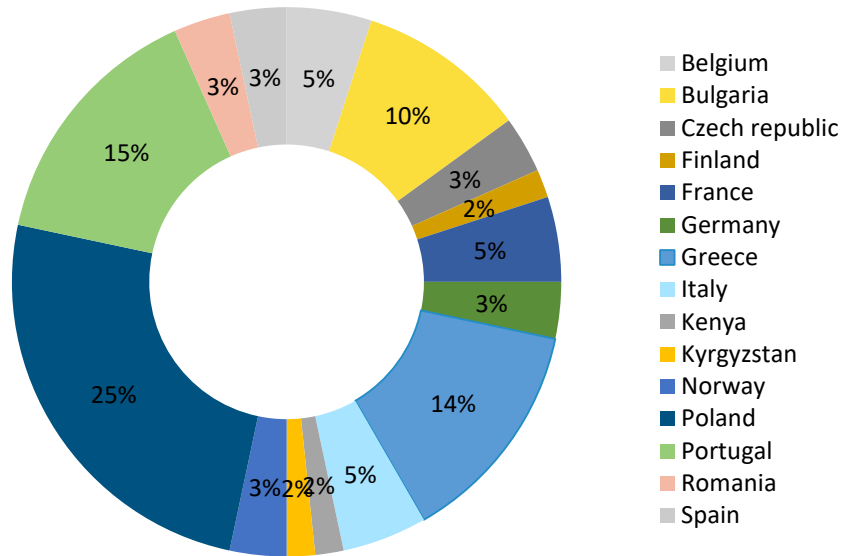


Diagram 1. Participants by country of origin

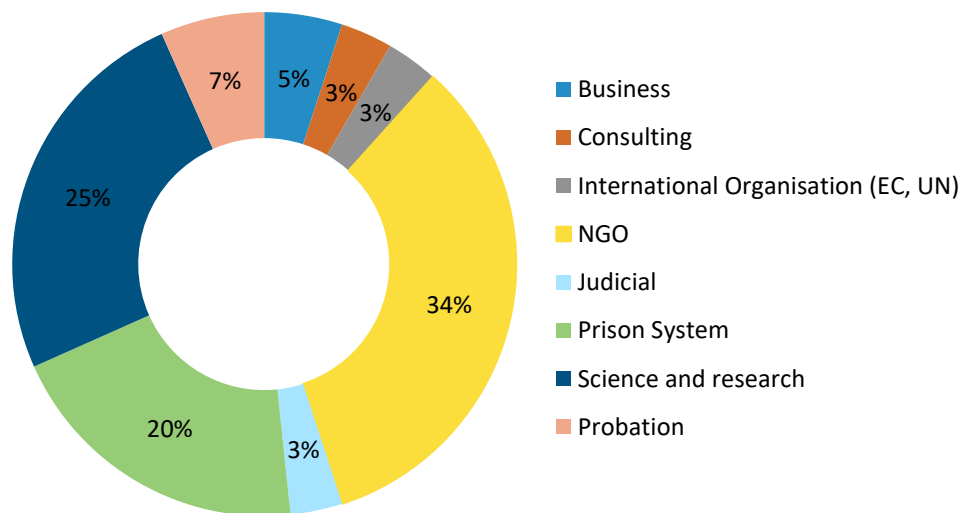
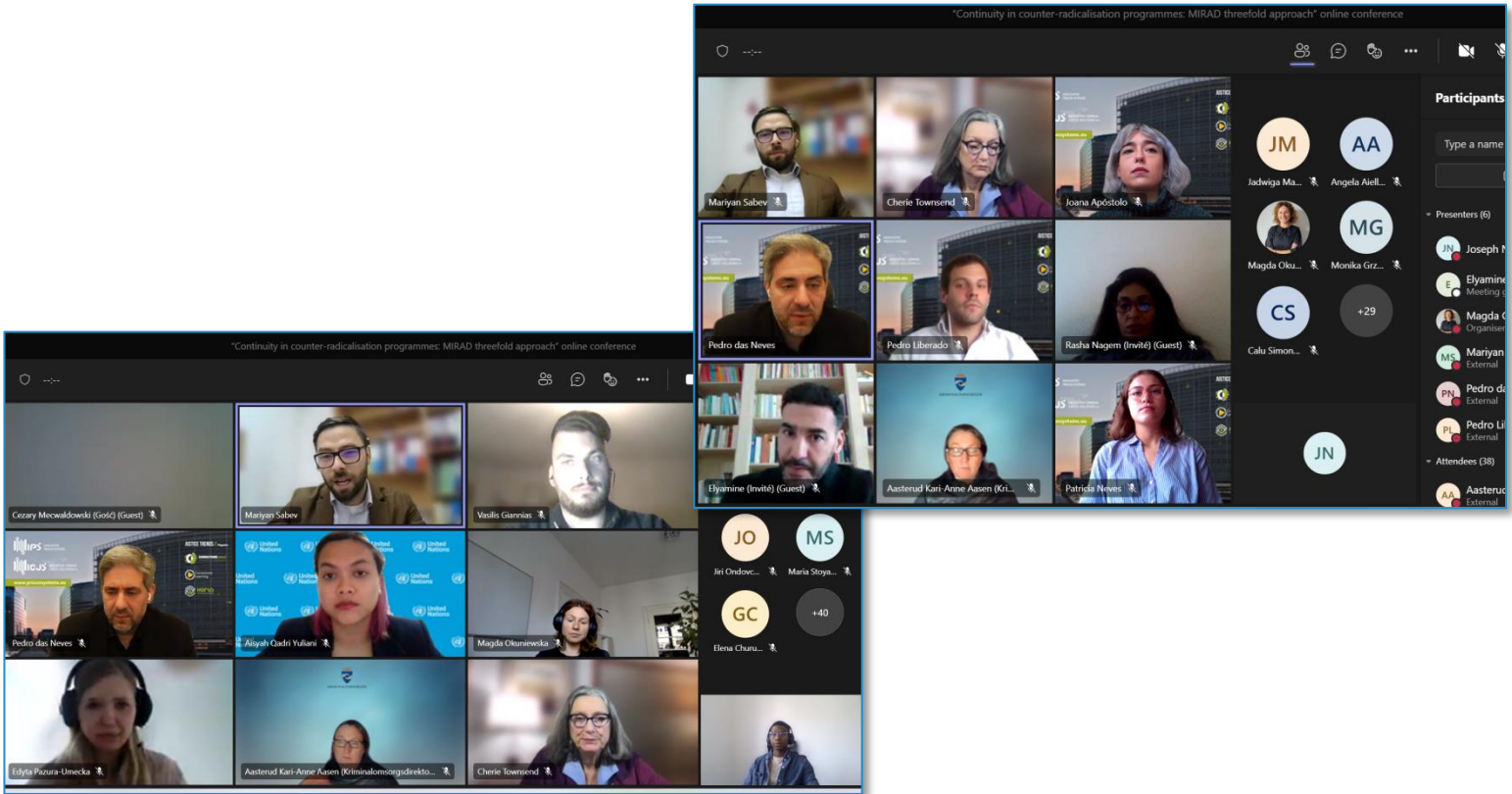


Diagram 2. Participants by type of organisation





Picture 1. Screenshots from the conference

Promotional process

To promote the event a dedicated sub-website was created where updated information was presented: <https://ppbw.pl/en/mirad-conference/>. To create a sub-webpage, Polish Platform for Homeland Security (WP6 Leader) internet domain was used, due to the fact, that the project's website was launched after the conference. To promote the event a set of promo materials was created such as an online banner, graphics to use in social media, and an event leaflet. To spread information about the conference partners' channels of communication were used, especially newsletters, social media, websites and direct mailing.



Picture 2. Promotional materials



Host, presenters and keynote speeches

The **host** of the event was Marian Sabev (CSD).



Mariyan Sabev is a Security analyst and Coordinator of Communications at the Center for the Study of Democracy. Having previous background in criminal justice and national security, over the past four years his research is focused on holistic approaches to the prevention of radicalization and countering violent extremism. Mariyan has been continuously contributing to the work of both RAN Practitioners and RAN Policy Support networks on the topics of early identification, deradicalisation and reintegration of offenders and also providing capacity building for prison and law enforcement officers.

Short introduction, cordial welcome of attendees of the conference, and the important role of the projects aimed at C/PVE actions was emphasized by Pedro das Neves.



Pedro das Neves is the CEO of IPS_Innovative Prison Systems and Executive Director of ICJS Innovative Criminal Justice Systems Inc. (IPS' North American branch). Pedro holds a Sociology degree from UBI University and a MA from the College of Europe in Bruges, having as well other learning experiences in international universities. Has worked on public administration reform for 20 years, and on Criminal Justice Innovation Systems (since 2002) in different countries. He is the founder and editor of JUSTICE TRENDS, a magazine on innovation and best practices in prison and probation systems. In 2017 he was awarded the ICPA Correctional Excellence Award. He is a board director of ICPA, the International Prisons and Corrections Association, and a board member of the BSAFE LAB Law Enforcement, Justice and Public Safety Lab of Beira Interior University. Pedro is a member of the European Commission ('DG JUST') group of experts on European Judicial Training and an alternate member of the DG JUST expert group on the implementation of the European Arrest Warrant. He's been involved in coordination duties of EU-funded initiatives in the area of criminal justice innovation and staff training for several years, with radicalisation prevention being one of his main intervention topics. In Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Tunisia, Pedro has also supported the UNODC team on the adoption of inmate risks and needs assessment instruments. He has been invited as a guest observer to European Commission, Council of Europe and EUROPRIS meetings and as a speaker in several international events organised by the Council of Europe, EUROPRIS, ICPA (International Corrections and Prisons Association), EPEA (European Prison Education Association), COMJIB (Conference of Ministers of the Justice of the Ibero-American countries), the Inter-American Development Bank, the European Commission and governments from the different Member States.

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BSAFE LAB Law Enforcement, Justice and Public Safety Lab of Beira Interior University. Pedro is a member of the European Commission ('DG JUST') group of experts on European Judicial Training and an alternate member of the DG JUST expert group on the implementation of the European Arrest Warrant. He's been involved in coordination duties of EU-funded initiatives in the area of criminal justice innovation and staff training for several years, with radicalisation prevention being one of his main intervention topics. In Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Tunisia, Pedro has also supported the UNODC team on the adoption of inmate risks and needs assessment instruments. He has been invited as a guest observer to European Commission, Council of Europe and EUROPRIS meetings and as a speaker in several international events organised by the Council of Europe, EUROPRIS, ICPA (International Corrections and Prisons Association), EPEA (European Prison Education Association), COMJIB (Conference of Ministers of the Justice of the Ibero-American countries), the Inter-American Development Bank, the European Commission and governments from the different Member States.

Then Pedro Liberado and Joana Apóstolo delivered the first presentation about **“Multi-ideological assessment, mixed-method training, and interinstitutional trustworthiness: The path to the successful rehabilitation of extremist offenders”**.



Pedro Liberado is Chief Research Officer and Head of Radicalisation, Violent Extremism and Organised Crime Portfolio at IPS. Pedro is a PhD Researcher in Criminology at the University of Granada, holds an MSc in Criminology from the University of Porto, a PgDip in Strategic and Security Studies from the NOVA University of Lisbon and the Institute of National Defence (Portuguese Ministry of National Defence), and a BA in Sociology from the University of Coimbra. Pedro is a former researcher at the University of Lisbon and the University of Tampere. At IPS, he is responsible for the design, management, and sustainability of projects in the field of P/CVE and radicalisation prevention, contributing to the implementation of over 10 EU-funded projects in this area. In the field of P/CVE, Pedro has developed extensive work related to criminal justice staff training, radicalisation risk screening and assessment, implementation of exit programmes (incl. evaluation), among others. Pedro is also a certified trainer, a Full Member of the International Corrections and Prisons Association, a Member of the American Probation and Parole Association, and an active member within RAN Practitioners' meetings and RAN Policy Support.



Joana Apóstolo is Head of the Judicial Cooperation Portfolio at IPS. Joana holds a binational Master's and Bachelor's degree in International Relations (University of Coimbra, Portugal and SciencesPo Bordeaux, France). At IPS, she is responsible for the design and management of projects in the field of judicial cooperation and fundamental rights, having developed research on Human Rights in the criminal justice system, mutual recognition instruments, and legal responses to radicalisation and violent extremism. Among others, Joana is a certified trainer, a Full Member of the International Corrections and Prisons Association, and has recently been appointed as the representative of IPS in the EU Commission Expert Group on the European Arrest Warrant.



Pedro Liberado and Joana Apóstolo started their presentation with a brief introduction and setting the context of the continuous threat of radicalisation in Europe. They continued with a brief analysis of EU strategy and political agenda evolution and went on to emphasize why MIRAD is needed and what European needs it will address.


Prevent

Prisons, rehabilitation and reintegration

- ✓ Early identification so as to initiate demobilisation;
- ✓ Control and risk assessment of radicalised prisoners and VETOs, and the training of professionals in this area will be encouraged;
- ✓ Personalised guidelines regarding the rehabilitation and reintegration of radicalised inmates, including after their release;
- ✓ Methodology that has norms and indicators in common, so that it is possible to evaluate the efficacy of reintegration programmes.

Picture 3. Prevent radicalization slide

Pedro Liberado and Joana Apóstolo addressed the fact that NGOs are crucial for disengagement and reintegration efforts. That is why MIRAD will address this need by developing a tool and training for assessing NGOs trustworthiness.



MIRAD will address this need by developing a tool and training for assessing NGOs trustworthiness

Creating a database of European NGOs working within the CJS

The database will be developed and then implemented online thus centralizing contacts and communication between 3 stakeholders (prison, probation and community) in a single network

Developing an evaluation framework to assess NGOs trustworthiness and capability

An Advisory-Board will be set up to conceptualise and validate the developed tool and a set of indicators/dimensions under evaluation will be established

High trustworthiness, credibility, and reliability

Moderate trustworthiness, credibility, and reliability

Low trustworthiness, credibility, and reliability

Picture 4. MIRAD's approach to engage NGOs



Then presenters explained that MIRAD will adapt a risk assessment tool to consider the role of gender and ideology in the radicalisation process:

MIRAD

MIRAD will adapt a risk assessment tool to consider the role of gender and ideology in the radicalisation process

Radicalisation Risk Assessment in Prisons Toolset (RRAP) (from R2PRIS project)

- Represents a battery of assessment instruments for prison staff, at different hierarchical levels, to assess the risks, signals and vulnerabilities for radicalisation that may allow the staff to act in specific situations
- It is **one of the 14 'best practices'** currently considered by RAN

The **Individual Radicalisation Screening (IRS)** is one of these instruments – it assesses inmates risk of radicalisation following a process that goes from individual vulnerabilities to more extreme involvement with radical groups

The IRS will be adapted to consider the role of gender and ideology in the radicalisation process by

- ✓ Adding a right-wing centred add-on assessment sheet
- ✓ Adding an Islamist-extremism centred add-on assessment sheet
- ✓ Adapting for implementation during exit programmes towards inmates' disengagement/deradicalisation

Picture 5. Adaptation of a risk assessment tool

IPS speakers' presentation emphasized also the below topics:

- need for correctional staff training on radicalisation prevention and intervention;
- mix-method training approach;
- multi-folded training approach;
- need for multiagency cooperation.

"Continuity in counter-radicalisation programmes: MIRAD threefold approach" online conference

Request control

AA +36 JN

Attendees: Aasterud, Aisyah Q, Angela A, Anna D

MIRAD

Multi-ideological assessment, mixed-method training and interinstitutional trustworthiness
The path to the successful rehabilitation of extremist offenders

Pedro Liberado & Joana Apóstolo

IPS

24th February 2022

This project was co-funded by the European Commission's Internal Security Fund – Police

Request control

AA +41 JN

Attendees: Aasteru, Aisyah, Angela, Anna D, Ariadni, Atanas, Calu Sir, Chafaa, Cherie, Diletta

MIRAD

New tendencies / Emerging threats

- **Changes in Islamist extremism:** fewer attacks; individual actions; the return of foreign fighters and terrorists;
- **Increase of far-right violent extremism:** increase of far-right groups manifestations (online and offline); concern over the support these groups receive from young people and adults;
- **COVID-19 and new disturbing dynamics:** increase of attacks motivated by conspiracy theories (i.e., QAnon, anti-vax and anti 5G).

Picture 6. Screenshots from the Pedro Liberado and Joana Apóstolo presentation

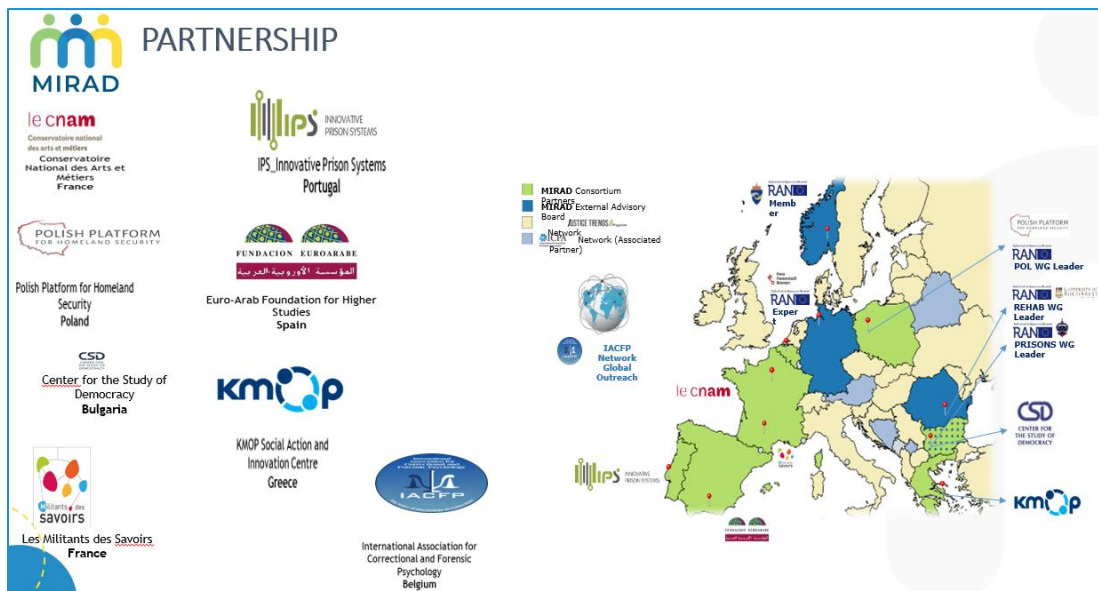


After that, Elyamine Settoul delivered a presentation about “**MIRAD project’s scope, objectives and expected outcomes**”.



Elyamine Settoul is a lecturer at the Conservatoire national des arts et métiers and a PhD in political science at the Institut d’études politiques de Paris (2012). His research focuses on security/defence issues, immigration issues and radicalization. He has participated in various European research projects and is an expert on radicalization phenomena at numerous structures (radicalization observatory, ministries, local authorities, prison administration, etc.).


Elyamine Settoul first presented brief information on CNAM as the Project Coordinator and the whole project consortium:



Picture 7. MIRAD's consortium



Then he went on to present an overview of the project including theoretical background and project objectives.




THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

- Growing number of terrorist convicts in EU countries
- Security risks of newly released radicalised/vulnerable individuals or VETOs
- Need to create risk assessment tools, rehabilitation efforts and to train frontline staff
- However, risk assessment tools have a tendency to discuss radicalisation regardless of gender and ideology; multi-agency cooperation is less well established in the violent extremism field and there are several barriers to information-sharing across agencies; and civil society organisations that work within the CJS are not assessed or screened.
- Thus, in order to respond to the priorities set by the EU in tackling radicalization
- Need for risk assessment tools to consider the role of gender and ideology in the radicalization process, for multi-agency cooperation to be strengthened, for civil society organisations to be assessed and screened, and for frontline staff to be trained through emerging technologies.

Picture 8. MIRAD's theoretical background

He finished with presenting all the participants the expected outcomes of the project:



EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Expanded collaboration in the field of disengagement and reintegration programmes amongst governmental bodies and non-institutional organisations;
- Enhanced proficiency in the application and management of specific and tailor-made radicalisation screening and risk assessment tools, among prison and probation staff, and NGOs working closely with the prison and probation services
- Deepened staff capacity to handle radicalised/violent extremist individuals, or those at risk, by prison, probation and NGO staff;

Picture 9. MIRAD's expected outcomes

After Elyamine Settoul's presentation, Vasilis Giannias from KMOP (MIRAD consortium partner) took the floor and informed all the participants of the event about the database of NGOs working in the field of



radicalisation that will be created within the project. He shared the file on the event's chat and asked all participants to provide their input if only they know such NGOs.

Aisyah Qadri Yuliani from United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime presented **“Working with Returning Foreign Terrorist Fighters: Specific implications for risk assessment, rehabilitation, and multi-agency cooperation”**.



Aisyah Q. Yuliani (Yuli) is an International Project Coordinator for the implementation of the Returning Foreign Terrorist Fighters Detention Program and Post-release Monitoring and Probation of Returning Foreign Terrorist Fighter and Violent Extremist Offenders for the UNODC Project office in the Kyrgyz Republic. Previously, she has worked in UNODC Programme Office in Indonesia as a national programme coordinator and managed the portfolio on terrorism prevention, management of violent extremist offenders, and crime prevention in addition to overall support for DMNE and reporting for the office. She also provided thematic and program development support for the prison reform programmes in Southeast Asia, Maldives, and Bangladesh. Prior to joining UNODC, Yuli has worked at the Raoul Wallenberg Institute as a Programme Officer and managed the fair and efficient justice program, which focused on promoting the systematised monitoring of compliance with international standards in correctional facilities and assisting the government of Indonesia on the implementation of the new juvenile justice law. She has also worked with Search for Common Ground (Washington DC and Jakarta) in creating a youth and PVE programme in Africa and Asia; with ACCESS Youth in Washington D.C. which supported the restorative justice and youth diversion programme of the Office of the Attorney General; and, with ACREP (Nairobi) on post-conflict peacebuilding and crime prevention. Yuli holds a master's degree in international peace and conflict resolution with a specialisation in transformative justice and post-conflict development and an undergraduate degree in international studies.

Aisyah Q. Yuliani began with an overview of implication for risk and needs assessment. Then she went on to discuss consideration for noncustodial measures with special emphasis on:

- distinguishing between different categories of individuals;
- consideration for children;
- being available at all stage of the justice system;
- being clear, transparent, and public.

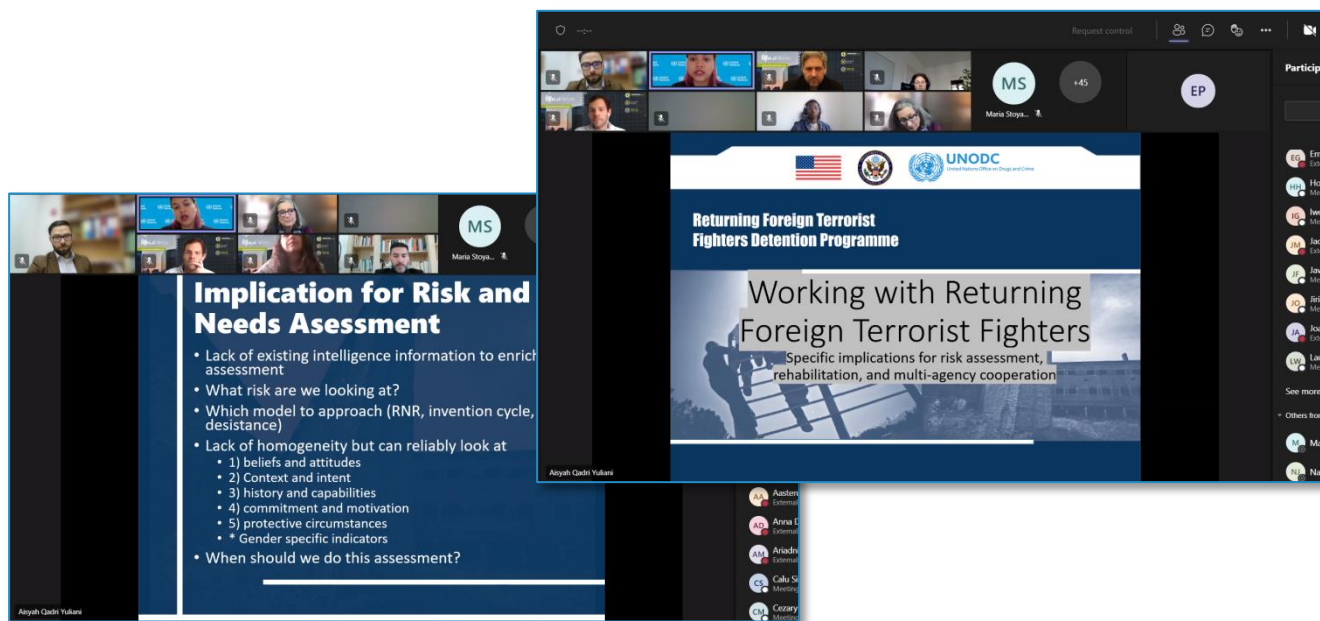
After this, Aisyah Q. Yuliani brought up such important features connected with rehabilitation as:

- What is the goal of rehabilitation process?
- Should it be mandatory or voluntary?
- What about the use of formers?
- Health service (mental and physical).
- Challenge prejudice and belief (it is crucial).
- Vocational and entrepreneurship trainings.

The final question raised during rehabilitation segment, which still remains open for discussion, is how to measure the success of rehabilitation.



Aisyah Q. Yuliani finished her presentation with emphasizing the importance of multi-agency cooperation and public-private partnership.



Picture 10. Screenshots from Aisyah Q. Yuliani presentation



Last presentation was panel about **“The Norwegian approach on assessing and rehabilitating extremist offenders: Challenges and lessons learned”** led by David Hansen from University College of the Norwegian Correctional Service.

David Hansen currently works as an Associate Professor at the University College of Norwegian Correctional Service (KRUS). At KRUS, David conducts comprehensive empirical research relating to Muslims in Norwegian prisons, teaches and supervises on the issue of radicalisation in prisons, and supports the directorate in activities aimed at preventing radicalisation in Norwegian prisons. His published work includes (2018) ‘Radicalisation in Norwegian Prisons: The Story of ‘Zubair’’, published by Cambridge Scholars. Moreover, he is currently a member of the Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN), having attended several events related to the issues of radicalisation and violent extremism in the prison and probation contexts.

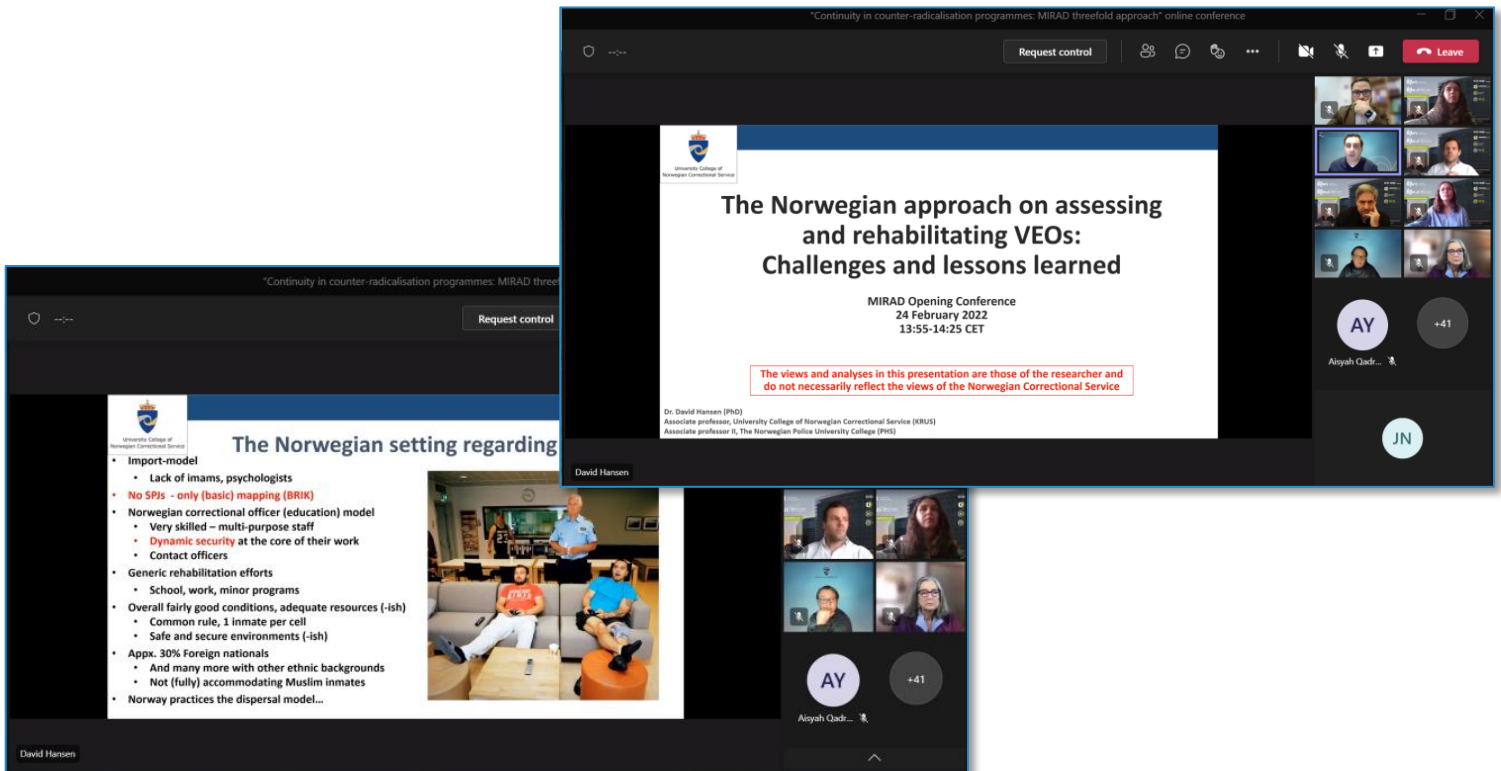
David Hansen started his presentation by introducing the participants to the Norwegian setting regarding VEOs. Then he went on to present the correctional service’s guidelines to prevent and manage radicalization in prisons (including best practices) such as:

- Good execution of sentences;
- Dynamic security as a core theme;
- Information exchange regime;
- Organizational analysis – helicopter view (R2PRIS);



- Mentoring-scheme.

David Hansen concluded that the system is overall good, however, has a few shortcomings which he enumerated and discussed, for example no deradicalisation, more gangs and violence, no imams, no special programs – except from the mentoring scheme.



Picture 11. Screenshots from David Hansen presentation

After all the presentations were delivered, Mariyan Sabev proceeded to the Questions and Answers panel. Among the topics raised during the discussion were:

- non-custodial and non-mandatory measures and solutions;
- deciding who is the victim and who is the offender (in the light of people returning from war regions);
- the necessity to have different approaches for those who committed crimes and for those who haven't committed crimes yet;
- social stigma towards former extremists;
- good practices in rehabilitation – what works and what doesn't work.

After the last panel, Mariyan Sabev thanked all the participants, speakers and organizers who participated in the event. The meeting was closed at 14:40 CET.

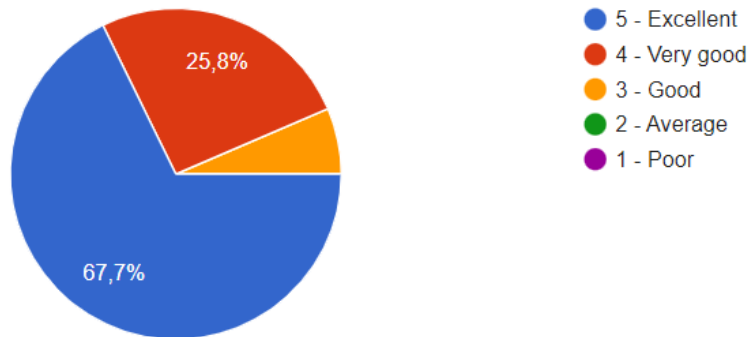


After the event – participants' opinion

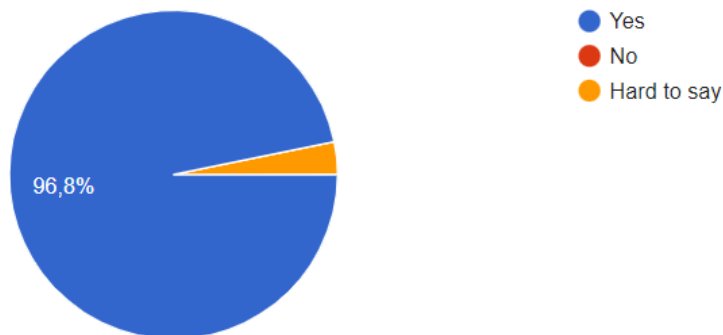
After the event, all participants received a thank-you email from organizers together with a request to complete an evaluation survey.

The results of the survey were collected via Google Forms and the results of 33 survey responses are as follows (as of 1 March 2022):

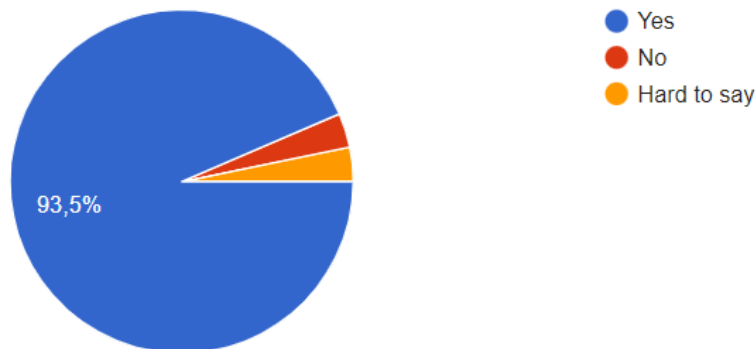
1. How do you rate MIRAD's event?



2. Was the event interesting and valuable for you?



3. Did the event meet your expectations?



All of the above questions were mandatory. The last (5th) question was about any additional comments and remarks that participants may have and want to share them. This question was not mandatory and among the comments left were:

- The moderator's presentations and the audience were excellent.
- I am interested how to find solutions with right-wing radicalisation in prisons.
- I am waiting impatiently for next conference.

Key Findings and conclusions

The opening online conference “Continuity in Counter-radicalisation Programmes: MIRAD threefold approach” marked the launch of MIRAD project for a wide audience of interested stakeholders. Among 63 participants of the conference there were representatives of prison and probation systems, NGOs, science, research and other branches. During the conference, organisers familiarized participants with the project’s objectives, theoretical background, expected outcomes and timeframes. The underlying spirit of MIRAD project’s foundations were emphasized by presentations delivered by 2 invited keynote speakers and the discussion panel closing the conference. The evaluation survey clearly shows that the main goals of the opening conference were presented and well noted by the participants and they are looking forward to more actions delivered within MIRAD project.

