



Polish Platform
For Homeland Security



**Collegium
Civitas**

Developing Competencies of Practitioners Working in the Field of Preventing Radicalisation

Summary report

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Funded by the European Commission

Moderators



PPHS



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Participants

The event was attended by representatives from various sectors, including the police, Prison Service, probation officers, representatives from public institutions, non-governmental organisations, education sector and academia.





1. Disinformation leading to radicalisation.



2. Training needs in the field of preventing radicalisation – how to identify them in order to design tailor-made training.



3. Effective response through proper design of preventive initiatives and evidence-based evaluation.

Aim of the meeting

The purpose of the event dedicated to practitioners was, among other things:

- presenting practical tools within the topics discussed during the meeting,
- gathering participants' needs and recommendations for future actions to effectively prevent and counteract ,
- networking, exchanging knowledge and best practices.

Video coverage



Discussed topics



[EU-HYBNET](#) project focuses on developing a European network of practitioners empowering them to detect, prepare for and counter hybrid threats.

This panel addressed the following topics:

- mechanisms of disinformation and the link to radicalisation,
- fears, stereotypes and cognitive biases,
- relationship between radicalisation and disinformation,
- countermeasures (including media literacy and fact-checking).





The meeting was based on selected results from several European projects funded by the European Commission, in which PPHS and the meeting moderators are actively involved.

The main goal of [MIRAD INDEED](#) and [PARTICIPATION](#) projects is strengthening knowledge, abilities and skills of practitioners and policy-makers involved in preventing and countering radicalisation.

During the meeting we discussed:

- professional planning and designing of training based on training needs assessment and analysis and what this means in practice,
- comprehensive prevention initiative and effective response through proper design and evidence-based evaluation.



A professional analysis of training needs within the topic of prevention of radicalisation at the local level was carried out as part of PARTICIPATION project.

This study, through questionnaires, qualitative interviews and participatory workshops, involved frontline practitioners from Italy, Greece, Poland, the Netherlands, Romania and Belgium.

Training organised within MIRAD project was shown as an example of a tailor-made training for practitioners:

Integrated Approach to Radicalisation for Prison, Probation and Community

More than 160 practitioners from Poland have completed e-learning and classroom training using virtual reality (VR) technology.



Check the video from the training



MIRAD

The MIRAD project

National Cascade Training Events

Co-funded by the European Union

Invited guests also had the opportunity to find out what a systemic approach to the design of prevention initiatives is, what the essence of conducting a risk diagnosis in the local environment is and, in response to it, the design of preventive programme assumptions, including evaluation.

This is the topic addressed by the INDEED project. The first version of the evaluation tool was presented at the meeting, as well as other products, that can be used by practitioners working in this area, such as INDEED's two [e-guidebooks](#) on designing initiatives and evidence-based evaluation, which are available in 10 languages, including Polish.



Recommendations



During the workshop part participants shared their recommendations within the subjects raised during the event:

1. Need for a simplified evaluation tool;
2. Involvement of non-governmental organisations representatives in trainings for LEAs practitioners;
3. Engaging policy makers in the topics discussed at the meeting;
4. Supervisors participating in counter-radicalisation trainings;
5. "Radicalisation" as a vocational training for practitioners;
6. It is necessary to teach and show how to talk about evaluation in simple language of benefits (awareness-raising activities);
7. Developing evaluation standards for prison staff;
8. Multisectoral and interdisciplinarity cooperation in preventing radicalisation including trainings;
9. Trainings and workshops aimed at improving critical thinking skills.

About the meeting



„Due to such meetings, it is possible to exchange knowledge and information among national organisations that are interested in the topic of prevention of radicalisation - sharing different information, networking and building national capacity in this area.”

Natalia Jarmużek-Troczyńska, PPHS

„One of the most important topics discussed today is a systemic approach to the design and evaluation of preventive initiatives. It is crucial to understand the importance and need for evaluation and to include it at the design stage of prevention actions, programmes, but also in strategic documents that build the ground for prevention and ad-hoc interventions that are undertaken, for example, by LEAs.”

Marzena Kordaczuk-Wąs, PPHS

„We are observing an increasing need for systemic approach to training needs in the Prison Service. These topics are a key element and need of prison staff representatives who deal with preventing and countering radicalisation.”

**Cezary Mecwaldowski,
Central Training Centre of Prison Service**

About the meeting



„Such meetings are much needed for us as prison officers. The issue of radicalisation is beginning to be noticed in prisons. If officers are aware of the topic of radicalisation and we are able to notice essential signs, this will certainly promote safety in prisons. It is as much about the safety of the inmates, the officers, as it is about the safety of the public, because we will be able to undertake various initiatives to help these people exit radicalisation process.”

Anna Kruk, Prison Staff

„We need to develop in terms of recognising and countering radicalisation, to broaden our competences, because these phenomena will not pass us by and we will have to face them. It is important that we are not passive, not helpless, because being helpless is the worst.”

**Joanna Piotrowska-Dyrka,
Probation officer, Lublin-Zachód District Court**

Thank you note



PPHS team would like to thank Collegium Civitas, in particular dr Agnieszka Bukowska and dr Pawel Kuczynski, for their participation and co-organisation of the event.

Useful links



1. Vide summarising the event „Developing skills of practitioners ...” click [here](#).



2. Article „Hybrid Threats – Contemporary Forms of Exerting Political Pressure”. Click [here](#).



3. Report on training needs in the field of countering radicalisation and enhance social inclusion with recommendations. Click [here](#).



4. Article „Training Poland's Prison Staff: Status Quo, Obstacles, and the MIRAD Project”. Click [here](#).



5. MIRAD Booklet Justice Trends Magazine. Click [here](#).



6. Article „Effective evaluation – how to plan and conduct it”. Click [here](#).



7. INDEED e-guidebook „Evidence-based Evaluation of PVE/CVE and De-radicalisation Initiatives. Principles, Challenges and Methods”. Click [here](#).



8. INDEED e-guidebook „How to Design PVE,CVE and De-radicalisation Initiatives and Evaluations According to the Principles of Evidence-based Practice”. Click [here](#).

Associated Projects



Evidence-Based Model for Evaluation of Radicalisation Prevention

indeedproject.eu



Multi-Ideological Radicalisation Assessment Towards Disengagement

mirad-project.eu



Analyzing and Preventing Extremism Via Participation

participation-in.eu



Empowering a Pan-European Network to Counter Hybrid Threats

euhybnet.eu

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