UNDERSTANDING RADICALISATION PHENOMENON

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WHAT IS RADICALISATION?
BEHAVIOURAL VIOLENT RADICALISATION
violence is used as a way to affirm ideologies and beliefs

COGNITIVE RADICALISATION
Ideologies and beliefs opposed to democratic values

VS

**DEFINITION**

**VIOLENT RADICALISATION**

(It does not exist a common definition)

We could say that it is a multi-stage process of personal evolution, in which the individual, by changing his behavior, beliefs and feelings, start to support and encourage a conception of the world prone to violence and intolerance.

As a process, radicalisation leading to violence would imply:

- The adoption of an ideology whose rationale becomes a way of life and a framework for meaningful action for the individual
- The belief in the use of violent means to promote a cause
- The merging of ideology and violent action

*Centre for the Prevention of Radicalisation Leading to Violence, 2016*
VIOLENT RADICALISATION PROCESS CAN LEAD TO DIFFERENT FORMS OF EXTREMISM
Can you think about other forms of extremisms?
Think about the previous slide, how easy or difficult would it be to challenge Cognitive Radicalisation and/or Violent Radicalisation in your fieldwork?
Article 3
Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

Article 18
Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.

Article 19
Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.
Think about the previous slides, where is the limit between freedom expression and cognitive radicalisation?
WHAT DO YOU THINK THE MOST PERVERSIVE FORMS OF EXTREMISM ARE?
EU (EUROPOL 2017)

142 terrorist’s attacks on 2016

- ONLY 47 WERE COMPLETED
- 99 ETHNIC-NATIONALIST AND SEPARATISTS
- 27 LEFT WING and ANARCHISTS
- 13 JIHADISTS (10 COMPLETED WITH HIGHEST DEATHS RATES)
SOME FACTS:

➔ ATTACKS CLASSIFIED AS ETHNO-NATIONALIST AND SEPARATIST ARE 137 (99 IN 2016)

➔ JIHADIST ATTACKS INCREASED TO 33 IN 2017. ONLY 10 OF THEM WERE COMPLETED.

➔ LEFT WING ATTACKS DECREASED TO 24, MOSTLY REPORTED IN GREECE.
Online propaganda and networking via social media are still essential to terrorist attempts to reach out to EU audiences for recruitment, radicalisation and fundraising. As IS’s capacities to produce new propaganda material are severely affected by losses of both operatives and infrastructure, the group continues to spread its message to wide audiences, by increasingly redistributing older material by new means.

Jihadist attacks are committed primarily by home-grown terrorists, radicalised in their country of residence without having travelled to join a terrorist group abroad. This group of home-grown actors is highly diverse, consisting of individuals who have been born in the EU or have lived in the EU most of their lives, may have been known to the police but not for terrorist activities and often do not have direct links to the Islamic State (IS) or any other jihadist organisation.

The violent right-wing extremist spectrum is expanding, partly fuelled by fears of a perceived Islamisation of society and anxiety over migration.
INTERNATIONAL AND EUROPEAN LEGAL FRAMEWORK

International Legal Framework:

UN:
Security Council:
• *Security Council Resolution 2178 (2014)* on threats to international peace and security caused by foreign terrorist fighters. → BOUNDING

General Assembly:
• Resolution A/ RES/60/288 *Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy*, 2006
• *Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism (A/70/674) 2015*

European Legal Framework:

Council of Europe (CoE):
• *Convention on the prevention of Terrorism (2005)*
• *Council of Europe Action Plan 2015-2017 «The fight against violent extremism and radicalisation leading to terrorism»*

EU:
• Directive no. 2017/541/UE of 15 March 2017
WHICH GROUPS OF PEOPLE DO YOU THINK ARE MOST SUSCEPTIBLE TO RADICALISATION?
Think of some examples of how stereotyping can take place in your fieldwork:

Western stereotypes

*https://me.me/i/professor-terrorist-worshipper-terrorist-future-future-hero-terrorist-terrorist-hero-7028616*
What is the profile of Violent Extremists:

- Many offenders come from stable intact families. Others do not.
- Some are leaders and others are followers or even criminal opportunists.
- 'normal' functioning individuals who have a commitment to a specific ideology and are willing to use unlawful violence to further their goals.
- Offenders in the past have been more notably male but increasing numbers of women are becoming involved in violent extremist offences.
- There are highly trained professionals such as doctors and engineers who are known violent extremists. Others have limited education or have been school drop-outs.
- Some offenders are young adults, others are older adults and some are juvenile offenders.
- Although not intrinsic to this population, some violent extremists and those radicalising to violence do possess mental health vulnerabilities.

*COUNCIL OF EUROPE HANDBOOK FOR PRISON AND PROBATION SERVICES REGARDING RADICALISATION AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM https://rm.coe.int/16806f9aa9*
WHAT ARE THE CAUSES?
Individual factors
Meso system
Exo system
Macro system
- INDIVIDUAL FACTORS:
factors range from socio-economic circumstances, the personal employment situation and level of education, perceived marginalisation or exclusion, perceived (lack of) opportunities, witnessing violence against family, friends or certain groups, personal and identity crisis, search for purpose, beliefs and values, age and gender, criminal record, mental health etc.

- MICRO SYSTEM:
contact with peers and belonging to social networks promoting radicalised thinking, authoritarian or unstructured family, perceptions and stereotypes of gender roles, following charismatic leaders – political or religious, and absence of constructive relations with adults.

- MESO SYSTEM:
isolated (ethno-cultural) communities facing problems of integration into the larger community/society, presence of a sub-culture of radicalisation, and the use of cultural differences as an excuse for heating up social or political conflicts

Source:
YOUTH WORK AGAINST VIOLENT RADICALISATION
Theory, concepts and primary prevention in practice
Council of Europe and European Commission, April 2018
EXO SYSTEM:
The exosystem consists of the social structures that directly shape the communities and relations an individual takes part in. At this level, a main factor that can influence radicalisation leading to violence is weak or corrupt state institutions. This can include a lack of democracy, lack of civil liberties, and illegitimate or absent law enforcement agencies, as well as discriminatory state or welfare policies. The exosystem also includes material changes to society, such as migration that has transformed societies perceived as relatively homogeneous into heterogeneous ones, or armed conflicts affecting the lives of the individuals.

MACRO SYSTEM:
at this level we can find structures that do not directly influence the lives of individuals, but instead define prototypes of how local settings should be structured. Media would also fall into this category, due to the way in which the messages from the media influence society and create a context in which individuals operate. The main identified factors contributing to radicalisation leading to violence are: male-dominated patriarchal societies that value aggression, lack of social integration and sense of alienation from society and an authoritarian ideology of how society should be organised. Cultural ideas of one’s own race or religion as superior would also be part of the macro system, even if they are not widely held in a given society, or the idea that one is under threat and needs to preserve one’s own way of life (Chaudhry 2017).

Source:
YOUTH WORK AGAINST VIOLENT RADICALISATION
Theory, concepts and primary prevention in practice
Council of Europe and European Commission, April 2018
CAUSES

Not possible to identify a single cause or even a single combination of factors

- Exposure to radical environment
- Feelings of discontent and frustration
- Discrimination and social exclusion
- Humiliation, oppression and injustice
- Factors of individual vulnerability
- Identity problems
- Possible psychological problems
- Personal trauma
- Ideological factors
- Social issues
- Age. Young people are more vulnerable
ACTIVITY
CAUSES

*Via slides carnival
ARE THERE ANY SOLUTIONS?
MINIMISING RADICALISATION IN EDUCATIONAL CONTEXTS

• Provide young people with a **structure of activities** in their everyday life giving them a **sense of belonginess**

• Offer **counselling services**, taking into account the culture and the particular characteristics of the individual

• **Implementation of training programmes** based on knowledge, skills and specific needs young people (i.e.: sports, arts, crafts, etc.)

• Inform families, educational institutions and community bodies on the topic and **enhance networking and cooperation** between them
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION. ANY QUESTION?

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