



# Criminal Justice Platform Europe

## Radicalisation and Violent Extremism – Barcelona 26<sup>th</sup> April 2016

### Workshop 2: European Initiatives and Good Practice

**Chair:** Willem van de Brugge

**Experts:** Serge Roman  
Nikhil Roy

**Participants:** 30

**Notes:** Rodica Popa

Serge Rooman: A 7-day programme was developed in 2015 by the Belgian Prison Service with the help of the Belgian Police Service, who already had a project on radicalisation – Coppra. Trainers of the Coppra have also been used in the Islam and Radical Islam module, the trainees had one day training on theory and in practice. They have learned how it is to live in a radicalised neighborhood in Brussels. In another two day module they practiced positive interaction with a lot of role playing. They also did role plays to practice identifying signs of radicalisation in a prison setting.

Nikhil Roy: To add a few points to the plenary presentation:

1. Essential for PRI, is what we call a human rights based approach, even if it seems counter intuitive, it should be based on the Mandela rules and international standards.
2. The need for more research, in Europe but especially worldwide – South Asia, Middle East, Africa. He is interested in finding out more on methodology – very interesting was the EuroPris 2015 report on radicalisation.
3. One issue is de-radicalisation for the ones that are already radicalized and the second issue is preventing – what we do for the ones that are vulnerable to radicalisation.
4. The importance of rehabilitation and reintegration. We need programs inside the prison but also take into consideration what happens when they go out into community and have mentoring programme outside.
5. How do we use imams? Tariq Mahmood Awan talked about Islamic approach to rehabilitation of Muslim prisoners (in his book *An Islamic Approach to Rehabilitation of Muslim Prisoners: An Empirical Case Study*) . Imams can play a very important role in this process.



Katharina Schwarzl, Austria: Asks about Vera2 assessment tool.

Serge: with For the assessment tool Vera2 a training was organized for all staff members who are working in specialized and satellite wings. The training institute is now working on developing a train-the-trainer program on Vera2. The staff is now applying the Vera assessment tool.

Marc Ceron, Catalonia: For European projects it would be good to found a network of people that are interested in applying and to work together for constructing a proper application.

András Radvánszki, Hungary: Could you give more information on CELEX?

Serge: CELEX is a new service that has been established within the prison service. It has 1 full time and 2 part time staff and they have systematic meetings with prisons and police. When a radicalised offender is coming to the prison CELEX automatically receives information. When there is new information about a prisoner, the prison sends information to them. CELEX have been working on normalization of satellite wings, they have a file on every radicalized prisoner and share that also with the police.

Willem van der Brugge, Netherlands: Would like to know more about the specifics of women in this context.

Nikhil: these issues came up during the conference in Amman. It was very clear that special attention needed to be given to this target group, particularly in Middle East. It appeared that experts from had little experience on this subject and also the CoE guidelines do not refer to these women who are compelled to travel to marry (sexual jibab), victims of sexual violence – all of them mostly young girls. Saudi Arabia representatives presented a model of a high cost rehabilitation project. These women are held in women only prisons with only female staff. It often shows that they are influenced by family members. There are few rehabilitation programs especially for women and interestingly the Bangkok rules are silent about women extreme offenders. The PRI report mentions that 40% of ISIS are women. This is an issue, that needs more research and attention. CoE does mention children – young offenders - even if it is a small reference. Two types – the ones that become radicalised in prison and the ones that are vulnerable. In the Amman conference it became clear that children are exceptionally capable of rehabilitation (quote from the report<sup>1</sup>).

Phil Wragg, Northern Ireland: He would like to know how to get to the reasons for radicalisation and violent extremism and compare to those who just want to feel safe as part of a gang. In his experience being member of a larger group gives a safe feeling. We should be more focused on seeing the differences between these two groups.

Nikhil: He agrees that we are still in the process of finding out how to address radicalisation and that more research is needed. This sort of issues keeps coming up on seminars, meetings and reports (such as the recent report on radicalisation in England and Wales). The Quillem foundation gave an interesting presentation (a think tank of de-radicalised ex offenders/foreign fighters) about the need to look at push/pull factors. There was a suggestion to use prisoners in the de-radicalisation process.

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<sup>1</sup> Full report of the Amman conference can be downloaded at [http://www.europris.org/resources\\_package/international-expert-roundtable-on-preventing-radicalisation-in-prisons-developing-a-coordinated-and-effective-approach/](http://www.europris.org/resources_package/international-expert-roundtable-on-preventing-radicalisation-in-prisons-developing-a-coordinated-and-effective-approach/)



Serge noted that RAN recommends to use returnees that have de-radicalised in the programmes.

Phil: From Northern Ireland perspective – there are people extremist by nature that have no chance of changing. These individuals are segregated.

Willem: ICCT published 25 best practices on how to face radicalisation and a Canadian research on how to deal with radicalisation, but this is just the beginning, there should be more.

Nikhil: the seminar in Amman was chaired by Andrew Silk and he looked on 28 MS of EU, differences and similarities. Spain mentioned that ETA detainees were dispersed, causing prisoners to leave ETA; but practice for terrorist offenders is to concentrate them. In UK a system of dispersal has been used, but now is being reviewed.

Kiliaan Toorenaar, Netherlands: Are data analysis and big data used?

Serge: Not yet, we are not at that point yet. The minister wants an integrated system to be used by prisons and police but it is work in process.

Marc: The RAN Prison and Probation group considers radicalisation as a new item but we should think of what we already have and apply assessment tools and programs in a more individualized way. Nikhil mentioned that there is a lack of research but for sure there are lessons to learn from Europe. What are these lessons?

Nikhil: PRI are at the start of the journey for this issue, we are still learning. We do not want to create problems where there are no problems. Talking about women and juvenile offenders for example, because this group is a small group with little impact at the moment. Every discussion is around finance –there is austerity and resources are being diverted to crisis issues such as refugees – so there is a lack of resources to develop new trainings and implement them. We need to find new ways how we deploy the existing resources. Start looking at international standards, such as CoE guidelines and UNODC working on the worldwide level.

Willem: Sharing knowledge and data is a way of dealing with the lack of resources.

Frank Borst, Netherlands: Netherlands also using Vera2, but Serge talked about the role-play and shaving example. Where did you get them?

Serge: Most of this came from the Coppra training. When ‘something’ is noticed it could indeed be ‘something’ - but then it needs to be put in a context. For example, a beard is nothing, but when putting it in a context it could become relevant.

Luisa Ravagnani, Italy: What does it mean involving the outside society?

Serge: In Belgium it is an important point to have an imam in the radicalised wing. Also, in the development and implementation of de-radicalisation programs the imams will be involved.

