

Draft Guidelines for prison and probation services regarding radicalisation and violent extremism

Ilina Taneva, Secretary to the Council for Penological Cooperation (PC-CP), DG - I, Council of Europe

Work started in February 2015 by the PC-CP

- Urgency because of the big social outrage
- Topical political issue
- Concern that prisons are places where persons are radicalised
- Washington Summit on Countering VE - 19.02.15
- need for urgent measures worldwide

Time line:

- Outline structure - February
- Preliminary draft - April
- Re-drafting - April - May
- Consultation with the Directors of Prison and Probation Services - June
- Re-drafting - September
- Approval by the PC-CP plenary- 17-19 November
- Approval by the CDPC - 2-3 December
- Adoption by the CM - early 2016

Draft Guidelines

- Three definitions:
- **Radicalisation** represents a dynamic process whereby an individual increasingly accepts and supports violent extremism. The reasons behind this process can be ideological, political, religious, social, economic or personal.
- **Violent extremism** consists in promoting, supporting or committing acts which may lead to terrorism and which are aimed at defending an ideology advocating racial, national, ethnic or religious supremacy and opposing core democratic principles and values.

Definitions continued:

- **Dynamic security** is a concept and a working method by which staff prioritise the creation and maintenance of everyday communication and interaction with prisoners based on high professional ethics. It aims at better understanding prisoners and assessing the risks they may pose as well as ensuring safety, security and good order, contributing to rehabilitation and preparation for release. This concept should be understood within a broader notion of security which also comprises structural, organisational and static security (walls, barriers, locks, lighting and equipment used to restrain prisoners when necessary).

Scope:

- Prison and probation staff are the primary actors but it is recommended to involve also representatives of other agencies, religious representatives, family members and peer groups.
- Underlined that radicalised prisoners are a small minority and that prison is only one among other places where radicalisation may occur.

Some important safeguards

- Nothing in the Guidelines shall be interpreted as precluding the application of relevant international human rights instruments and standards and in the first place the European Convention on Human Rights. They shall be read together with the rules contained in the relevant Council of Europe legal texts.

Structure:

- I. BASIC PRINCIPLES
- a. Respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms
- b. Respect for data protection and privacy
- c. Imprisonment as a measure of last resort
- d. Good prison management

Structure (continued)

- **II. PRISON AND PROBATION WORK**
- a. Assessment
- b. Admission to prison and allocation
- c. High-security prisons or high-security sections in prison and prison transfers
- d. Culture and religion
- e. Inter-agency co-operation

Structure (continued)

- **III. DETECTION, PREVENTION AND DEALING WITH RADICALISATION AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM IN PRISON**
 - a. Use of dynamic security
 - b. Procedures for detection
 - c. Special programmes
- **IV. POST-RELEASE WORK**
- **V. RESEARCH, EVALUATION AND COMMUNICATION**

The End

Thank you for your attention!

For more information:

www.coe.int/prison