Work against Violent Extremism in the Swedish Prison and Probation Service

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Government assignments to the Swedish Prison and Probation Service (SPPS)

2015  Mapping methods and approaches

2016  Build on the identified needs of methods and approaches to implement into SPPS work

2017  Proceed with ongoing activities and broaden work
       – develop SPPS’s preparedness to work with returnees (foreign terrorist fighters)
       – develop the knowledge on overlap between violent extremism, organised crime and other criminal activities
       – develop and strengthen cooperation with the civil society

2020  Final report to the Government
Measures taken within the project

- Staff education
  - VE in basic training
  - Educational material
  - Video lectures

- Research and evaluation
  - Knowledge review
  - Research studies

- Treatment and risk assessment
  - VERA-2R
  - Entré

- Cooperation/collaboration
  - International
  - Inter agency
  - Internal

- Security
  - Identify, Follow, Assess
  - Disseminate information

- Prison chaplaincy
  - Through the Swedish Christian Council
  - Register Control
  - Vetting

- Governing documents
Preconditions

- Many small prisons
- Small wings
- High staff density
- One agency – Probation, Remand and Prison
- Placement based on individual risks and needs
- Internal intelligence organization
- Central placement organization

SPPS practices

- RNR
- Supportive environment
- Intelligence based
- Placement strategy
- Dynamic security concept
Secuity Strategy

– Based on four visions
  – No escapes
  – No drugs
  – No criminal activities
  – No violence, threats or harassments

– And the dynamic security concept

Security in Probation is evolving

– Probation governors in Regional Intelligence Centers
– Security officers
– Standardization of Probation offices
– Security strategies
– Intelligence in Probation in 2020
Dynamic Security concept

- Physical and Technical safety
- Attitude and Approach
- Available and trained staff
- Governing documents
  - Regulations, Instructions, Routines
- Placement process
- All parts of the concept to be applied simultaneously
Security and risk assessment

Intelligence and dynamic security

Accommodation

- Aims to integrate radicalized offenders in an open, general population while permitting the physical/geographical separation of certain radicalized offenders from other offenders when circumstances necessitate.
- Offender’s risks, behavior and needs remain the focus of the management strategy.

Risk assessment

- Radicalized offenders are provided the same intake assessments as other inmates. Referrals to programs are made as required, based on assessed need and level of risk.
Situational picture in Sweden

Violent extremism milieus in Sweden according to the Swedish security service (estimated numbers).

- 2010 - 1 000 violence-promoting extremists
- 2017 - 3 000 violence-promoting extremists
- 2019 - Growing numbers

Returnees

- Approximately 150 returnees in Sweden; predominantly from the Islamicist violence-promoting milieu but exiting in all three milieus

Within the SPPS

- 110 individuals with connections to violence-promoting extremist milieus
- 3 convicted terrorists in prison
Situational picture in Sweden

— No right-wing related terror sentences but...
  several right-wing related violent crimes
— Right-wing milieu strong in late 80’s and early 90’s
— A growing milieu – from hidden and masked to open and proud

— A complex right-wing milieu
  — White power, Radical nationalism, Counter jihad
  — Right wing populism
  — Alt-right movement, Identitarian movement
  — Movements with some ideological connections - Incels
Swedish terror legislation

- Terrorist Offences Act (2003:148)
- Recruitment Act (2010:299)
- Terror Travels (2016:95)
- Financing Act (2002:444)

- Committee directive (Ds 2017:62) – Legislation in 2020?
Situational picture in Sweden

- About 110 people with connections to violent extremist environments within the SPPS
- About 80 with links to violence-promoting Islamist extremism, of whom about 30 in Probation Service (Parole clients only)
- About 30 with connections to violence-promoting right-wing extremism, of whom about 30 in Probation Service (Parole clients only)

- Few with connection to violent left-wing extremism
- Right-wing and jihadist lone actors currently poses the largest risk according to National security
Right-wing extremism in the SPPS

- Dispersed and outnumbered
- Intention and ability to radicalize
- Differences from the jihadist and left-wing milieus
  - Strong in rural areas
  - Political ambitions
  - Mental illness, drugs/alcohol
  - Conditions for rehabilitation?
- Connections to organized crime – 2 out of 30
- Organized right-wing extremists. 8 out of 30 (NRM)
- Common crimes
  - Agitation against ethnic group, violent riot, assault, weapons offences
Rehabilitation

- Individualized plan for the sentence
- RNR (Risk, Need, Responsivity)
- Probation office as process owner
- Additional measures for individuals with high risks and needs
  - Control measures
  - Contact frequency
  - Programs
  - Multi agency approach

- Additional opportunities to take measures with upcoming legislation
Prison and Probation today

- Case management
- Treatment programs
  - The Entré-program
- Risk assessment
  - VERA-2R
- Release measures
- Inter-agency collaboration and cooperation
- Staff education
- Governing documents
Lessons learned and conclusions

- Low numbers of high risk VE-inmates
- Criminogenic factors resembles other groups of inmates
- Collectivistic milieus
  - Strong loyalty towards the group
  - Distances society
  - High level of suspicion and distrust
- No special regime for VE clientele
- If evidence is missing, fall back on proven experience
The SPPS Strategy against OC, VE and HRC

- One strategy for the work against Organised crime, Violent extremism and Honour related violence.

- Basic correctional work fulfils basic needs also for VE clientele

- Individual risks and needs determines additional measures ex:
  - Control measures
  - Contact frequency
  - Programs
  - Multi agency approach
The SPPS Strategy against OC, VE and HRC

- Three starting points
  - Existing structures
  - Evidence and proven experience
  - Flexibility
The SPPS Strategy against OC, VE and HRC

- Seven strategic areas
  - Prioritization of specific actions
  - Supportive environment
  - Intelligence-based correctional work
  - Identification, management and control
  - Protection against threats, violence and undue and unlawful influence
  - Knowledge-based correctional work
  - Targeted relapse prevention work
    - Exit
    - External cooperation and collaboration
Thank you for your time!

Any questions?