



**REHABILITATION  
WG**

# Released violent extremist or terrorist offenders – Continuity between prison, probation and reintegration'

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- The context: Background of RAN and the paper
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# Radicalisation Awareness Network

- Commissioned by the European Commission since 2011
- Bringing together practitioners working on or whose work is impacted by P/CVE in order to:
  - Exchange
  - Disseminate
  - Advice
- Covering all kinds of radicalisation leading to violent extremism
- Information is available open source:  
<http://www.ec.europa.eu/ran>



# RAN Working Groups

- Communication and Narratives
- Families, Communities and Social Care
- Local
- Mental Health
- Police
- Prison
- Rehabilitation
- Victims of Terrorism
- Youth and Education

# RAN Policy Support

- Policy support for the EU MS and DG HOME
- Research

Cros-cutting event = RAN practitioners + RAN Policy Support working on 1 topic.

6 October 2021: 'Released violent extremist or terrorist offenders – Continuity between prison, probation and reintegration'

# Prison-exit continuum (1)

The challenges of working with VETOs along the **prison-exit continuum**:

- **continuity** and **sustainability** throughout offender transitions, from **prison** to **probation**, and then into the **community** without legal conditions.
- need to **balance** rehabilitation and reintegration on one hand and **protecting the public** on the other.

# Prison-exit continuum (2)

## Topical as

- Over 1400 Violent Extremist and Terrorist Offenders (VETOs) detained in EU prisons (end 2021).
- The rate of reoffending amongst VETOs is low (2-7 %) compared to “regular” offenders (40-60 % worldwide). However:
  - I. Reoffending has severe consequences.
  - II. Is not reoffending sufficient?

# Recommendation 1:

## **Diversify opportunities**

- Reform, opportunity, second chances are possible
- Exhibit optimism and positivity when discussing and assessing rehabilitation options and opportunities



# Recommendation 2

## **Reconsider the balance between rehabilitation and public safety**

- Feeling observed is not an ideal climate for rehabilitation
- Legal limits can complicate rehabilitation

# Recommendation 3

## **Use a multi-agency approach and tailor-made interventions**

- No single approach or solution, and no single authority or actor, can address the needs of all VETOs
- One-size fits all doesn't work -> RNR
- Need for quality management.

# Recommendation 4

## **Emphasise risk management, not risk assessment**

- Limits of Risk Assessments (time, availability of data)
- From risk assessment to RNR
- Need for long perspective

# Recommendation 5



Gleichnis vom verlorren Sohn.

Ich sage euch: also wird auch Freude im Himmel sein über einen Sünder, der Buße thut, vor neun und neunzig Gerechten, die der Buße nicht bedürfen.  
Ev. Luc. Cap. 15. v. 7.

## Manage expectations before release through a scenario testing approach, to avoid disappointment

- Engage with various scenarios VETOs may face after release
- Be honest about the public perception VETOs may confront

# Recommendation 6

## **Involve NGO/CSOs in rehabilitation programming**

- Trust
- Need for framework of cooperation agreed on between non-government and government actors

# Recommendation 7

## **Enhance the flow of information**

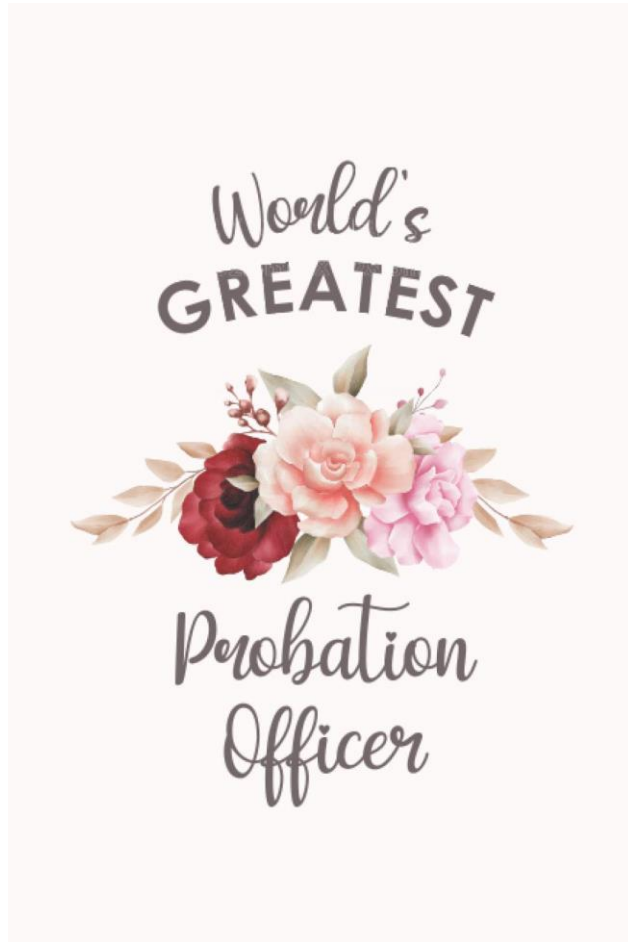
- To avoid suboptimal supply
- State, NGO, professional secrecy
- Consent of VETO

# Recommendation 8

## **Enhance efforts to connect offenders to communities**

- On top of mental and practical support to the VETO.
- Prepare communities in advance
- Expectation management

# Recommendation 9



## Communicate the success of interventions to the public

- Press (and audience) mostly most only see incidents
- Negative perception has consequences for rehabilitation programme providers and their clients/participants



# Recommendation 10

## **Strengthen policy and practice relating to interventions for female offenders (gender roles)**

- Smaller numbers
- Role of women in extremist/terrorist organisations
- Opportunities for reintegration into society

# Recommendation 11

## **Invest more in training and awareness raising amongst prison and probation staff**

- On public perception
- Dealing with media

# Recommendation 12

## **Intensify efforts to share lessons learned and practices**

- Transperancy
- On the brink of / exploratory
- Best and worst practices
- Duplications rarely work

# Recommendation 13:

## **Encourage more research on the effectiveness of rehabilitation programming**

- Body of evidence-based knowledge is limited
- No consensus on definitions
- Theory of change
- Collaboration between researchers and practitioners

# Further reading

## Conclusion paper cross cutting event:

[https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/whats-new/publications/ran-cross-cutting-thematic-event-released-violent-extremist-or-terrorist-offenders-continuity\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/whats-new/publications/ran-cross-cutting-thematic-event-released-violent-extremist-or-terrorist-offenders-continuity_en)

## Rehabilitation manual:

[https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/networks/radicalisation-awareness-network-  
ran/publications/rehabilitation-manual-rehabilitation-radicalised-and-terrorist-offenders-first-line-  
practitioners\\_nl](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/networks/radicalisation-awareness-network-<br/>ran/publications/rehabilitation-manual-rehabilitation-radicalised-and-terrorist-offenders-first-line-<br/>practitioners_nl)

Available in English, French and German

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[http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/radicalisation\\_awareness\\_network/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/radicalisation_awareness_network/index_en.htm)