

Radicalisation Awareness Network



Current practical approaches in dealing with
violent extremist offenders and countering
radicalisation within the EU probation and
rehabilitation context

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In this presentation...

- Definitions;
- Challenges to rehabilitation of violent extremist offenders;
- Promoting de-radicalisation and disengagement;
- Practical approaches.



A little reminder on definitions

Overall term used: **Violent extremist offenders**

This includes:

- People who have committed and have been charged with terrorist (related) acts
- People who have committed and have been charged with violent extremist acts
- People who have been charged for other crimes but who show clear signs of violent extremism
- People who have been charged for other crimes but are vulnerable to radicalisation

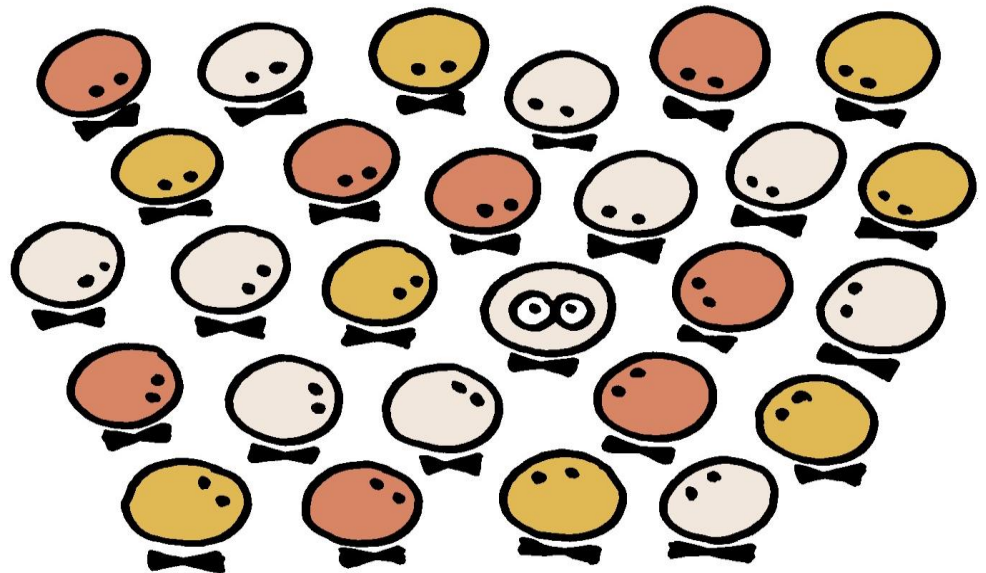
Challenges to rehabilitation of violent extremist offenders

- **Shorter sentences** leave less time to work on rehabilitation;
- An additional element of **hatred/disrespect** (probation service as part of a State);
- **Acceptance and understanding** among the general public is low;
- **High profile** cases in which returning to society in anonymity is complex.



Challenges to rehabilitation of violent extremist offenders

- Additional **pressure** on the probation officers due to high profile;
- **Previous radical or extremist contacts** might complicate re-socialization (temptations or blackmailing);
- The **probation time and exit-process** will probably not coincide;
- **Partnerships** between state/public services and civil society organisations can be difficult.



Practical approaches

Current practical approaches in dealing with violent extremist offenders and countering radicalisation within the EU probation and rehabilitation context:

- **General rehabilitation** and disengagement programmes and interventions (education, employment, mental health care etc.);
- **Specific rehabilitation and disengagement** programmes and interventions for violent extremist offenders.



Promoting deradicalisation and disengagement

General bottom-line probation:

- Resettlement plans;
- Transition management;
- Individualised risk and needs assessments;
- Capacity building;
- Trust;
- Social and organisational support;
- Positive relationships.

Example: Good Lives Models (GLM)



Practical approaches

Specialised rehabilitation and disengagement programmes and interventions for violent extremist offenders:

- Continuity of support;
- Material and social support;
- Cooperation with offender's social network;
- Mentoring programmes;
- Mental health services.



Practical approaches

Obligatory or voluntary interventions to stimulate disengagement:

- Counselling sessions (psychological, religious, emotional);
- Dialogue sessions;
- **Family involvement;**
- Mentor programmes;
- **Ideological/theological support;**
- Peer groups;
- Working with victims / formers.




Practical approaches

- Special attention to specialisation of probation staff dealing with VEO's.
- Some countries have special probation teams dealing with VEO's (e.g. TER team Netherlands).
- Special training courses.



Conclusions

- Rehabilitation and reintegration not an easy task, especially with VEOs;
 - High pressure on prison and probation officers;
 - Pressure on offenders, as well;
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- In addition to all good principles mentioned.....
 - ... specialised training is key and can make the difference.

Thank you for your attention!

Contact

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http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/networks/radicalisation_awareness_network/index_en.htm