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This newsletter will drive everyone who share, with us, MINDb4ACT's value throughout the project's life span, updating you monthly on relevant findings and insights. One year is now passed, and there is no better occasion to start our Newsletter service than celebrating the one-year anniversary of the project.



Policy Event, 28 November 2019, European Policy Centre, Brussels.

Expert Round table: Sharing the insights on the Maghreb and EU approaches in radicalisation and violent extremism

Europe is now affected by a polarised climate, which has resulted into phenomena like hate crime, radicalisation and homegrown terrorism. Recently, prison radicalisation, foreign fighters, interns' rehabilitation policies, community engagement, counter-narratives and women empowerment have become the most debated issues in terms of radicalisation. Similar trends are shared in other areas as it might be the case of North Africa.

This [2nd Expert Round Table "Sharing the insights on the Maghreb and EU approaches in radicalisation and violent extremism"](#) – with speakers from Belgium, France, Morocco and Spain – aimed to analyse the phenomenon of violent radicalisation leading to terrorism on both geographical areas, particularly focusing on identifying effective and repeatable preventing and countering practices.

In order to ensure an efficient exchange among practitioners, the organiser Elcano Royal Institute, in collaboration with Women Without Borders, the Institute for European Studies at VUB and the European Organisation for Security (EOS), counted on the participation of social workers, teachers, police officers as well as researchers such as Lurdes Vidal i Bertran, from the European Institute for the Mediterranean (IEMed), Thomas Renard, from the Egmont Institute, and Koert Debeuf, Director of the Tahir Institute for Middle East Policy Europe.

About 25 selected experts participated, among which, Isabelle Meslier Renaud and Clara Süß, Members of the European Commission; Elena Gomez Aoiz, Political Advisor of the European Union Special Representative for the Sahel; Maram Anbar, Team leader in the MORSE Project of the Royal United Service Institute for Defense and Security (RUSI); Béchir Hani Counsellor the Embassy of Tunisia in Brussels; and Tewfik Abdelkader Mahi, Minister Counsellor at the Algerian Embassy in Brussels.

The next edition of the Expert Round Table is organised by MINDb4ACT in cooperation with the BRAVE and CHAMPIONS projects. This time the focus will be on right wing extremism in Central and Eastern Europe, and the event will take place in the Region of Poznan (Poland) hosted by the MINDb4ACT partners Polish Platform for Homeland Security (PPHS).

Launch of the Expert Learning Capsules

MINDb4ACT has just come up with a new idea to give its followers the opportunity to stay updated on the currently debated issues of radicalisation. The [Project Youtube Channel](#) now offers **knowledge pills** in the format of short interviews made to experts in the field of P/CVE.

By now, we asked **Richard English** (Queen's University of Belfast) to define activism; **Maximilian Ruf**, from Prevention Violent Network, to explain the difference between deradicalisation, disengagement and distancing; while **Götz Nordbruch**, Co-Founder and Co-Executive Director of the association Ufuq.de, identified the correlation between violent extremism and polarization.

Many more will follow! Do not miss them, subscribe to our [channel](#).



The 1st Policy Brief of our Project Collection is out!

Policy Brief N° 1

November 2019

European Union and United States: Common trends and challenges in violent radicalisation leading to terrorism¹

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Europe is now affected by a polarised climate, which has resulted into phenomena like hate crime and radicalisation. These are consequential effects of social imbalances such as the economic and refugee crisis, the spread of terrorist attacks, the lack of confidence at institutions and political parties, as well as the growing power of right-wing and populist parties, and nationalist ideologies (Akghar, Wells and Blanco, 2019: 12). Similar threats are currently faced by the United States. Specifically, five common trends of radicalisation have been identified among the two sides of the Atlantic. However, States still struggle to identify effective prevention and counter policies. By looking at similarities and differences of the two case studies, this policy brief identifies recommendable P/CVE practices.

Common trends of radicalisation

First and foremost, States are facing the issue of **prison radicalisation**. The rise and collapse of Islamic States well as the spread of separatists and right-wing radical movements caused a sharp increase of prisoners convicted of terrorist crimes, prisons into breeding grounds for violence (Europol, 2019: 15-16, 33). This requires States a clear grouping policy for terrorist offenders and a standardised application of risk assessment tools. In the case of Europe, it is not just about 'keeping' measures, but rehabilitation and reintegration policies to ensure, within the next decade, a safe reintegration of around 500 individuals who have been convicted in Europe for terror-related crimes or radicalised in prison and will be released.

Europe: a trendsetter?

The identification of five general common trends of radicalisation helps to understand the

Marginalisation and discrimination of certain groups of civil society concern another generalised issue. While in the US this mostly refers to second and third generations which lack a sense of community; in Europe factors such as limited education, low employment, and high criminality rates have been causing social exclusion. Such elements are mostly used by hate preachers, a figure diffused in Europe, who prey on deprivation to drive individuals into radicalisation (Ranstorp, 2016: 3). The third trend is related to political factors and **social narratives** used by extremists to radicalise individuals. In both regions, opposite forms of extremism tend to share common narratives like the distrust of political leaders and public institutions as well as a feeling of helplessness or ineptitude about how to find success and fulfilment in modern society (Europol, 2019: 42).

An alarming trend refers to the re-gained importance of **ideology** and the fact that different forms of extremism, especially Jihadism and right-wing extremism, happened to help each other growing (TSC, 2019: 28). Finally, the last trend regards the use of **social media** for terrorist and extremist purposes. Although in Europe social media likely accelerate the process of radicalisation, but do not really initiate it as in the US, the presence of the Internet and social networks transformed radicalisation into a more individualistic phenomenon, highly difficult to detect, and it also helped connecting internationally like-minded individuals – transforming, in most of the cases, extremism into a trans-national threat (TSC, 2019: 40-41)

size of the phenomenon, driving the conclusion that the United States and Europe often

UPCOMING EVENTS/ACTIVITIES

[Journées Euro-Méditerranéennes](#), Rabat - 12/13 December

[International Security Expo](#), London - 3/4 December

WE ARE TALKING ABOUT...

[Are P/CVE practices transferable from an extremism to another?](#)- MINDb4ACT

[Improving the understanding of radicalisation cognitive processes in prison](#)- Elcano Royal Institute

[Improving structure to prevent and counter radicalisation in schools](#)- Freie Universität Berlin

[Improving radicalisation prevention in local initiatives](#)- Polish Platform for Homeland Security

YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN...

[Crime and Terror: Examining Criminal Risk Factors for Terrorist Recidivism](#)

Despite the increased number of individuals recently incarcerated for terror-related offences in the West, many of which will be released soon, little is known about recidivism of terrorist offenders. By using the Israeli case study, researchers from the **PROTON Project**, suggest unique findings which likely have an implication in policy.

[Investigating Radicalization Trends](#)

This book provides a detailed insight into the complex dynamics of radicalisation that are in play amongst contemporary society. The author **B. Akhgar** and **D. Wells** from MINDb4ACT's partner **CENTRIC** and **J.M. Blanco** focus on emerging trends and models that can be used to analyse and understand modern violent extremist and xenophobic discourse.

[Global Terrorism Index 2019](#)

The GTI report is now in its 7th edition and is produced by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) using data from the Global Terrorism Database (GTD). The document provides a comprehensive summary of the key global patterns of terrorism from 1970 to 2018, especially focusing on trends since 2014, which corresponds with the start of the fall of the Islamic State.

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