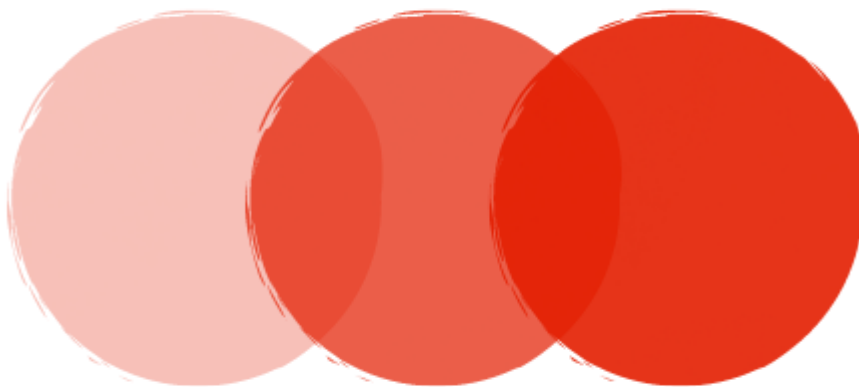


# Executive Summary

## JOINT REPORT

Restorative Dialogue against Violent Radicalization

RDaVR



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## Introduction & Context

The partnership of the project focuses on the question of the radicalization of young adults in sectarian or political groups which is an issue that researchers in the fields of humanities and social sciences have dealt with for many years. Several researchers from the fields of information, education, science, and sociology approach the digital social networks and, in the broader sense, the digital universe (games, media, videos, blogs, forums) in their growing role in the increasing danger for young adults who are exposed to the will of recruitment and indoctrination.

After the recent events and the voiced citizen mobilization, many researchers ask themselves about their efforts to promote research as a tool for understanding the world, a tool of collective intelligence and social engineering enabling knowledge sharing and interaction between basic and applied research.

Our project working from grass root levels in local communities aims to be a possible answer. We aim to introduce restorative dialogical methods against violence/radicalization as working tools in detention / correction centers for young adult offenders in order to break the circle of violence where they are victims and perpetrators. Our method is to start at grassroots level, and this is why our target group is involved in all the steps of the project. Our general aim is to train the educators to address young adults in difficult situations that are at risk of radicalisation and to educate and prevent, and more important to work with the local communities.

Restorative Dialogue Against Violent Radicalisation (RDaVR) has been put together to provide an alternative approach to preventing violent radicalization and extremism based on dialogue and restorative justice.

It will use the power of adult education and the restorative justice principle of power sharing to bring together 7 organisations from the UK, Turkey, Ireland, Romania, Italy and Spain to form a strategic partnership, who will support the development, piloting and transfer of an innovative model for the capacity building of criminal justice professionals and volunteers (e.g. prison officers, probation staff, police and community based practitioners) working with offenders, ex-offenders or individuals who are at risk of being groomed into violent radicalization and/ or group offending.

IO1- RDaVR Training Programme will be split into three phases leading to the design and development of the RDaVR Training Programme face-to-face course for criminal justice professionals (prison and probation staff, police, prosecutors, community practitioners) working with offenders, ex-offenders or individuals at risk of violent radicalization/ group offending:

- Phase 1: Fieldwork with end users
- Phase 2: Course design, accreditation and development
- Phase 3: Implementation and evaluation of the face-to-face course

In this publication, **Phase 1** (regarding the fieldwork with end users) will be presented and evaluated deployed from the project partners' executive summaries and eventually their reports. All partners carried out specific fieldwork that will allow the training programme to be aligned with the local and current realities of criminal justice professionals, but also put it in the cultural, social and geographical context of the communities in which it will be implemented. Each partner country held 6-10 interviews with professionals working with offenders, ex-offender and those at risk of violent radicalisation, and conducted 1-2 focus groups with stakeholders resulted with one executive summary for each.

# Conclusions from the United Kingdom



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Restorative Justice for All encourages that U.K. counter-radicalisation policies integrate the iNEARJ model, a restorative justice, psychosocial intervention that aims to increase resilience and prevent anti-social behaviour. The RDaVR research project is informed by this alternative, positive approach (RJ4All, 2021), that aims to build mutual trust, safety, resilience and engaged citizenship in European communities. Given the desktop research and mixed methods research findings, we conclude that that six course online and face to face course topics be offered to professionals working individuals at risk of violent radicalisation who are children, youth, and adults:

1. Self Awareness, Trust Building and Dialogue Skills When Working People at Risk of VR
2. Potential Causes, Signs and Vulnerabilities of VR: Assessing Risk Without Racial Profiling
3. Capacity Building for Children, Youth, and Adults at Risk of VR
4. Prevention and Intervention Strategies for Families, Schools, Political, Police and Civil Society Organisations
5. Individualised Plans for Youth and Adults Transitioning from Prison, Mental Health and War Environments and
6. Restorative Dialogue Skills to Assist People Exited from VR, and Victims of VR.

**Training Needs** Professionals in civil society organisations that support individuals and families, schools, prisons, probation, police and political offices need to be trained on foundational self-awareness, listening and conversational skills to support children as young as three, up to school age, and adults up to 60-70 years old, to provide awareness, open dialogue, support structure and trusting relationships with positive role models and mentors that help to prevent and intervene into the process of violent radicalisation.

Professionals should be trained to assess risk without racial profiling, to offer individualized support for individuals and their families to support neurodiversity e.g. autism, and strong mental health and value systems, self-regulation skills and capacities like education and job goals, critical thinking and social media/online literacy to avoid being recruited or slip back into violent radicalisation. People leaving prison, mental health and traumatic environments such as war zones need individualized support. Professionals need training in how to build support structures of belonging and co-regulation with positive, trusting relationships among friends, family, schoolmates, co-workers, faith, political and cultural communities.

Professionals also need to be trained to encourage community cohesion via intra group and intergroup cross cultural and cross faith activities through theatre/art, sport and food that build engaged citizenship including non-violent identity, political and faith expression, with engaged, trusting community members that provide belonging and open dialogue. These training should be

offered online and face to face with skilled professionals who communicate in engaged ways, help learners to develop restorative and open dialogue skills. Trainers should also include formers who work at de-radicalisation support organisations, and victims of terrorism to help explain how people become recruited, and who can illustrate the harmful impact of violent radicalisation.

## Statistical Data

### Statistical Data related to Violent Radicalisation, Violent Extremism, Terrorism and Restorative Justice in the U.K.

Between April 2019 and March 2020, the UK's PREVENT Programme recorded a 10% increase in those at risk of radicalisation (Home Office, 2020). Out of 6,287 referrals, 88% were males and 54% were 20 years or younger, with 1,424 referred to a Channel Panel and 697 identified as a genuine case (Home Office, 2020). Within the UK, there is a one in ten chance of being a victim of violent extremism (VE) or knowing someone who has been targeted (Bellis & Hardcastle, 2019, p.3). Over the year 2020-2021, the UK's national security service (MI5) has recorded the threat level as either 'substantial' or 'severe' which means an attack is either likely or high likely to occur (this includes Islamist, Northern Ireland, left-wing and right-wing terrorism).

This highlights a clear and critical need to share insights, knowledge and experience on how to improve the delivery of anti-radicalisation programmes through a multi-agency approach. RDaVR focuses on using restorative dialogue against violent radicalisation. Restorative justice (RJ) works by bringing together those affected by violence or conflict with the objective to identify, understand and repair the harm caused through the process of involving both victims and offenders (restoratedialogue.org, 2021).

Within this process, is the practice of core RJ principles such as respect, inclusion, dignity and fairness (RAN, 2020, p.2). A RJ approach to preventing radicalisation therefore relies upon high levels of accountability and support and the need to engage in respectful dialogue about the problem and the causes (RAN, 2020, p.3).

When applying restorative justice, this involves understanding potential causes of radicalisation otherwise known as push and pull factors. The Centre for the Prevention of Radicalisation Leading to Violence outlines that the process of radicalisation is a "non-linear, non-redetermined path, shaped by multiple factors- personal and collective, social and psychological". In a systemic review of 148 articles written between 2011-2015 on the causes of radicalisation, Vergani et al identified 78.4% citing radicalisation from pull factors, 57.4 % of radicalisation resulting from push factors and 39.2% of those resulting from personal factors (2018, p.7).

Previous studies into the benefits of a restorative approach to prevent radicalisation have found those at risk or offenders develop greater resilience against violence (Gavrielides, 2020). In addition, a restorative approach is gaining traction in the development of practical and actionable steps at city and community level.

In 2019, the Counter Terrorism Preparedness Network released a report examining the impact of policy design and implementation on the susceptibility of those at risk of radicalisation (Prior & Proctor, 2019). In particular, the issue of discrimination, Islamophobia and hate crime were highlighted as contributing factors towards radicalisation alongside inequality in social policy leading to isolation and polarisation in society (Prior & Proctor, 2019, p.8).



Whilst these are just a few of many other factors cited, the UK's CONTEST strategy recognises the importance of civil society working together to share information that will help counter terrorism. As stated in the CONTEST strategy, "communities that do not or cannot participate in civic society are more likely to be vulnerable to radicalisation" (Home Office, 2018). Accounting for this, a restorative justice approach and the core outcomes of RDaVR provides a platform to share the knowledge and expertise of those who work with offenders and those at risk. This, in turn, creates more opportunities for an exchange of honest dialogue about the problem and causes to occur, at all stages of its implementation.

## Best Practices

Within the UK, several campaigns have been established to reach those at risk of violent radicalisation. Youth Empowerment and Innovation Project (YEIP) conducted an Erasmus+, three-year research project that studied iNEARJ, a positive policy prevention framework for tackling and preventing the marginalisation and violent radicalisation among young people in the U.K., Italy, Greece, Cyprus, Portugal, Sweden and Romania (Gavrielides, 2020). Restorative Justice for All has several programmes based on the iNEARJ model, such as YEIP, Positive Futures, RDaVR, RADEX, and FRED (RJ4All, 2021).

Across the UK, London Tigers works with socioeconomically disadvantaged individuals with a focus on community cohesion. It operates with many agendas, one of which includes tailored programmes backed by research to counter radicalisation and extremism. Funded by the Home Office, its 'Building Community Resilience' project informs and trains individuals to understand theological issues and enables them to become proactive and positive leaders within their communities (Winter and Furst, 2017, p.17). In September 2016, London Tigers teamed up with the University of Essex to carry out research into the needs of its target communities (Winter and Furst, 2017, p.17).

The report highlighted areas in which to improve its services, along with the need to target more at-risk females and older people within its programme (Winter and Furst, 2017, p.17). With a wide outreach across Facebook and other social media platforms, it offers mainly offline experiences to help integrate those at risk of exclusion within the city.

In 2015, Manchester created a campaign called RADEQUAL aimed at overcoming prejudice, hate and extremism (European Commission, 2020). Its objective is to problem-solve conflicts and tensions that arise within the community and the programme follows three core principles known as the three C's (ibid, 2020). It aims to 'Challenge, Connect and Champion' Manchester's reputation for 'equality, inclusion and diversity' by examining people's responses to real life events and incidents (ibid, 2020). Through connecting people from different communities, it focuses on how to build relationships and provides a platform for credible voices delivered through podcasts on equality issues, teaching resources and creative arts workshops (ibid, 2020). The organisation also prepares people for responding to difficult questions and encourages critical thinking skills to increase levels of resilience against extremism and conflict within its community (ibid, 2020).

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## Conclusions from Turkey



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[facebook.com/bosevorg](https://facebook.com/bosevorg)  
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Today meta-narratives, like modernization, post modernization and globalization, which came up by means of technological improvements and industrialization, have affected the structure and functions of the societies. This effect has brought along some problems like individualism, alienation and deprivation with the individuals making up the society. And this has led to social problems that came from the past become larger and more complicated. Crime and criminality are today in our societies quite serious problems that should be solved. This article, handling the reasons of the tendency towards crime, while emphasizing the influence of the activities that are done in prison for the rehabilitation of the criminals, it tries to find out what should be done to rehabilitate them. For that purpose, to prevent criminals from committing offence again, on the basis of the activities programmed in the prisons, it is considered that prisoners to be monitored and the issues which were mentioned by the criminals who were interviewed in prison will be evaluated.

**Training Needs** In the Law no. 5275 on the Execution of Penal and Security Measures, the main purpose of execution services in article 3 is: "... to encourage the convict for re-socialization, to be productive and to be in compliance with a responsible way of life that respects social rules easily." Within the main purpose of execution, the re-socialization of individuals who commit crimes has an important place.

Except for the communal living spaces of prisoners in correctional institutions

to socialize and rehabilitate in different environments, it has been seen that it is tried to be applied in some way in the fields of education, social, cultural, religious and sporting activities.

As a result of this study, which is carried out in the institutions of correctional institutions, the effect of social, cultural, religious and sporting activities on rehabilitation and to what extent it affects prisoners, where there are serious effects of these activities; it is understood from the statements reflected in the statistics and interviews that the prisoners have made significant gains thanks to the activities they participated in.



However, the participation rate of prisoners who experienced change here represented a lower rate than in general; it is important to remember that not all prisoners participate in these activities. Therefore, though it is not possible to say that these activities have had a positive effect on all prisoners, we can also say that they have significantly affected many of them.

Many of the prisoners we interviewed stated that they participated in reclamation activities and experienced positive changes in their thoughts and behaviors because of the activities they participated in. The prisoners stated that their knowledge and culture levels increased because of educational activities, they gained the ability to express themselves easily, and their interaction and communication together as a result of social, cultural and sporting activities contributed to positive behavioral changes.

According to the statistical information obtained with all these facts, it has been seen that crime rates and number of criminals are increasing day by day in our country, people have re-entered correctional institutions by committing repeated crimes around 30%, and criminal execution institutions are trying to serve above their capacity. Therefore, with the increase in the number of prisoners, we can say that it is becoming more important to carry out reclamation activities effectively and efficiently.

### Statistical Data:

The crimes committed by the prisoners we interviewed: violent crimes, economic crimes, crimes against property and sexual offences in four categories examined. Traffic, environment among the prisoners interviewed and no one executes him for computer crime. Homicide wounding, armed threats, extortion and looting offences, violent crimes evaluated. Trafficking in drugs or stimulants or supply, trade in weapons and bullets, import drugs, drug dealing and use offences are among economic crimes evaluated. Theft, property damage, purchase of criminal property or accepted for crimes against property.

Simple sexual abuse of a child, sexual assault, crimes of inciting or making anyone prostitution are in the category of sexual offences evaluated.

#### Distribution of Crimes in Correctional Institutions with Historical Reputation of 02/03/2015 Throughout Turkey:

CRIMES	n	%
<b>Violent crimes</b>	68487	42.7
<b>Economical crimes</b>	40970	25.5
<b>Crimes Against Property</b>	35663	22.2
<b>Sexual Offences</b>	15375	9.6
<b>SUM</b>	160495	100

Source: Ministry of Justice General Directorate of Corrections and Detention Bureau of Statistics (02/12/2015, <http://www.cte.adalet.gov.tr>)

The crimes of prisoners in our country's correctional institutions

Violent crime ranks first with **42.7%**

Economic crimes are followed by **25.5%**

### Personal Characteristics of Prisoners

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission under the Erasmus+ Programme. This Publication [Communication] reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein. 2020-1-UK01-KA204-079115"

In this section, the prisoners are professions are treated as a variable.

<b>GENDER</b>	<b>n</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>MALE</b>	59	93.7
<b>FEMALE</b>	4	6.3

As seen on the table ; 93.7% of the prisoners interviewed were men; Women make up 6.3% of the time. According to interview information, 58.7% of the convicts are single, 38.1% are married and 3.2% are divorced.

**Distribution of Convicts by Profession and Types of Crime :** workers make up 23.8% of prisoners.

This is followed by tradesmen with 20.5% and farmers with 15.8%.

Distribution of Convicts by Age of Criminality and Types of Crime :

<b>Age and Range of Criminal Offences</b>	<b>n</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>16-18</b>	3	4,8
<b>19-21</b>	11	17,5
<b>22-29</b>	23	36,5
<b>30-39</b>	15	23,7
<b>40-49</b>	7	11,1
<b>50-59</b>	4	6,4
<b>Total</b>	63	100

As shown in Table , 36.5% of offenders aged 22-29 appears to be dense. When we look at the types of crimes, the convicts, It is seen that 42.8% of them have committed violent crimes. 82.5% of convicts is between the ages of 16 and 39.

**Best Practice examples:**

### **Educational Activities and Their Effect of Correction**

Training activities carried out in Toprakkale Open Correctional Institution

and the prisoners participating in these activities in literacy courses, Open Education

Middle School, Open Education High School and Open Education Faculty students

in four different groups. There are no prisoners in the sample group who receive distance education and study formal university. In this context, the level of learning of the prisoners when they enter the correctional institution is lowered.

<b>CHANGE IN LEARNING STATUS IN THE CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION</b>	<b>n</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Change in Education Status</b>	25	39.7
<b>No change in education status</b>	38	60,3
<b>TOTAL</b>	63	100

Illiterate people in correctional institutions are obliged to be admitted to the Literacy 1st Level Course. But not every time I read he cannot learn to read and write. In relation to this, prisoners who are illiterate and cannot learn even though they attended the course they have expressed

their psychological problems. Some of them are anti-depressants. they were being treated with medication, and some of them had difficulty understanding, so they stated that they could not learn to read and write.

Participating in training activities in this regard Convicted Open Education Secondary School student, 22-year-old M.Ç., sentenced to escape from school before entering the execution institution, and then to study he expressed regret for the beginning:

I enrolled in the open Education Secondary School in the correctional institution. When I first came to the institution, I was not able to register. I have been through a while. I did not read it in time, I didn't finish school. When I entered the correctional institution, it was the right situation with me. but not by starting the pushing activities that are more than a year old. I am going to be a good friend of yours who is in high school. But still. I'm in for it.

**T.A., 32, a graduate of Open Education Secondary School, is literacy here is how he changed because of graduating from secondary school.**

*expressed: I could not read or write when I went into the correctional institution. Before literacy certificate. I graduated from open education Middle School. That is how I did not know I have got a good point. The one who brought me to the correctional institution. I've noticed the reasons.*

From these statements, the educational activities carried out in the penal institutions the effect of rehabilitation cannot be ignored, their literacy and because of other open education activities, only literate or we see that they do not graduate. Prisoners with such activities; culture and increased knowledge, a significant distance from reading books that they have traveled, that their view of life has changed and that they have become better equipped they have expressed. As stated above, educational activities participation is not just a matter of obtaining a diploma from an educational institution. It is also a means of survival from several harmful activities or bad habits.

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## Conclusions from Romania



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### Introduction & Context

In the specific context of Romania, radicalisation, violent extremism, and terrorism are not considered to pose a major threat to the nation's security (UNDP, 2015; DIICOT, 2020). However, it is important to acknowledge that Romania has the potential to become a target of violent radicalisation, extremism, and terrorism due to its membership to collective security institutions, unstable geographical settings and the country's ongoing contribution to international peace operations and anti-terrorist efforts. Furthermore, conditions of relative deprivation paired with a weak state capacity and the denial of basic needs, considered by the UNDP as the main root causes of radicalisation (UNDP, 2015), can increase Romania's potential to become a target of violent radicalisation and extremism.

The likelihood of domestic radicalisation and violent extremism is smaller in Romania than in Western Europe, and the threat level is considered to be medium (Crisis24, 2020), with rumours of Romanians encouraging online extremist propaganda being countered by increased monitoring efforts to identify possible threats by the national security service. In the published activity report for 2017, the Directorate for Investigating Organised Crime and Terrorism stressed that, in the context of European developments and despite Romania not having been exposed to terrorist threats in 2017, Islamic radicalisation can be considered an increasing risk (DIICOT, 2018).

The incidence of radicalisation in Romania has seen an increase in recent years, particularly among residents from areas with active terrorist entities, as well as among Romanian citizens converted to Islam (DIICOT, 2018). According to the official statement, the number of radicalised Romanians has been growing but manifestations have primarily maintained a verbal-attitudinal characteristic, which could explain the lack of available data on the matter.

An important consideration is given to the fact that in many instances, radicalisation has been observed to overlap with other social problems, including but not limited to unstable financial status, unemployment, legal issues, and mental health problems (DIICOT, 2018). In the same statement, Daniel Horodniceanu, the chief prosecutor of DIICOT, addressed the fact that radicalisation incidences amongst youth and adolescents draw attention to the "power of contamination of extremist ideologies", which urge and justify violence, emphasising that the legislative and institutional mechanisms of intervention must be adapted (DIICOT, 2018).

In the Directorate's activity report for 2020, the risk of violent radicalisation and terrorism appears to remain low, with (auto)radicalisation of Romanian citizens, mostly expressed through active online propaganda on behalf of foreign terrorist organisations, representing one of the primary concerns (DIICOT, 2021). A main risk of external origin could be posed by individuals with violent radicalism ties attempting to cross national borders and the promotion of radical ideologies in the online space (particularly on encrypted communication platforms), pushing the need to prioritise the development of dedicated prevention and early-intervention programmes higher on the national agenda (DIICOT, 2021).



Officially, at the time of the statement, the Directorate did not foresee any substantial changes in 2021 regarding the nature and level of violent radicalisation threats in Romania, stressing that the restrictive measures employed to combat the spread of the COVID19 virus (both nationally and in the wider EU context) would have a positive but temporary impact on the number of individuals tied to terrorist entities arriving in the country (DIICOT, 2021). The Directorate also acknowledged the presence of terrorist entities adherents who continued to engage in support and propaganda activities throughout 2020 but, following investigations, such activities were considered inconsistent and lacking breadth.

In the specific context of extremism and violent radicalisation in prison populations, despite not employing specific measures against radicalisation (in part due to risks considered low at the level of the country), the Romanian prison service has engaged in efforts to develop strategic programmes adapted to the educational, social, and psychological needs of inmates which, if adequately implemented, can reduce the risk of radicalisation and the recruitment of individuals at risk (Ionescu, Nadolu, Mozqa, & Lobont, 2017).

The mandatory quarantine and observation period of individuals who enter the prison system allows units to evaluate and assess potential risks, and individuals identified to have possible ties with terrorist entities are classed as inmates at risk and execute their punishment in more restrictive detention regimes. Despite the Romanian penitentiary system not experiencing the radicalisation phenomenon at the same intensity as other European countries, more cohesive monitoring and prevention efforts are needed (Rasia & Vasile, 2020).

Individuals deprived of their freedom, convicted of committing or supporting activities for the purpose of promoting violent radicalisation comprise a special category of the prison population, defined in the Romanian legislation as “vulnerable detainees”, emphasising the need to develop specific activities dedicated to both prevention of radicalisation as well as other issues related to the efficient management of aggressive behaviours in the Romanian prison context (Rasia & Vasile, 2020). The risk of terrorism and violent radicalism in the prison environment is analysed in a broader context of security risk indicators however, the creation of an intended enforcement and detention practice specifically for violent radicalism and terrorism is strongly dependent on the level of radicalisation and the risks identified, which have so far been reported as low (Rasia & Vasile, 2020).

In the EU Terrorism Situation and Trend Report (EUROPOL, 2020) a possible risk emphasised is posed by radical Islamist groups attempting to take advantage of vulnerable asylum seekers. This is of utmost importance for the Romanian context as the transit routes have experienced a shift in recent years, and the incidence of illegal mobilities has increased. Despite the Romanian territory being used as a transit area, official statements emphasise that the increasing migration flows have so far not influenced the level of violent radicalisation risk. An additional potential risk highlighted by the report is the ongoing financing of foreign terrorist organisations through EU sources – in this respect, Romanian officials reported a continuation of active funding collection efforts through annual fundraising campaigns of the PKK (Kurdistan Workers Party) (EUROPOL, 2020).

**Training Needs:** Romania has little to no experience with violent radicalisation, and front-line staff have not yet been confronted with radicalisation in their place of work. Moreover, most interviewed practitioners have very little knowledge of Restorative Justice approaches and believe that a dialogue between a perpetrator and their victim would most likely result in a negative outcome. Despite this, reports and information gathered through fieldwork highlight that there is an

increasing need for cohesive training and education, particularly focused on the prevention of radicalisation.

The representatives of civil society and the Timis County Probation Service have knowledge of radicalisation and extremist worldviews but have benefitted from limited formal training on the prevention of violent radicalisation and identification of risk groups.

As far as the Prison Service is concerned, the implementing Regulation of the Law regarding the serving of penalties in Romanian prisons states a number of criteria to take into consideration when including an inmate in a special category called “inmates at risk”. One of the criteria is the terrorist risk. The inmates being included in this category execute their punishment in a maximum-security regime, which involves more restrictive detention measures (FAIR, 2018).

There is an increasing rhetoric against non-Caucasians and, despite extremism and hate speech being addressed in public policies, the public attitudes are still concerning. Civil society statements indicate that hateful language is still prevalent both online and offline, and is generally manifested towards ethnic minorities, the LGBTQ+ community, as well as the Jewish and the Muslim community (ECRI, 2019).

This is of great importance for the goals of the RDaVR efforts, as it highlights that attitude at the level of community towards the other are precarious. Despite the country being significantly impacted by emigration, the territory is used both as a transit route as well as a destination country for migrants and individuals in need of protection, vulnerable to isolation, discrimination, and alienation.

Official data highlights that until 2018, over 18000 persons applied for asylum, and 4700 were granted refugee status and/or subsidiary protection (ECRI, 2019). ECRI highlights those amendments made to existing legislation have pushed the country to become more responsive in matters related to the successful integration of non-nationals however, there are still no formal, specific integration indicators in place, making it difficult to assess the real situation of vulnerable persons and the results of integration programmes (ECRI, 2019).

The othering tendency of the wider community becomes apparent in the distrust of minorities and aggression towards discriminated upon groups. ECRI reports that two refugees were attacked in a public space in 2016 (ECRI, 2019) and NGOs have documented incidents of violence towards Muslim women, highlighting a concerning intersectionality of gender and religion and directly increasing their vulnerability. Unofficial sources and anecdotal information on the changes of transit routes for asylum seekers emphasise the need for community attitudes to be shifted in light of growing numbers of migrants. Despite Romania not having had formalised prevention of radicalisation interventions, there is growing concern that the vulnerabilities of certain groups are heightened by the public hostility.

Following direct engagement with professionals working with vulnerable risk groups, it is apparent that the public opinion is in dire need of multicultural understanding, with reports revealing that 90% of Romanians are portraying growing anger towards the settlement of refugees in the country, for example (ECRI, 2019).

### Statistical data

Reliable statistical data on violent radicalisation, extremism and terrorism is hardly available for the Romanian context. The only major terrorist attack took place in 1921 in Bolgrad (now Ukrainian territory) resulting in a 100 deaths and numerous casualties however, details are scarce.

Data provided by Romania to EUROPOL and disseminated through the TE-SAT Report of 2020 regarding arrests in 2019 per affiliation:

Jihadist Terrorism	Right-wing Terrorism	Left-wing & Anarchist Terrorism	Ethno-Nationalist & Separatist Terrorism	Single-issue Terrorism	Not specified Terrorism-related arrests	Total
3	-	-	-	-	1	4

### Best practice samples

<http://www.r2pris.org/> - 3-year project coordinated by BSAFE LAB aiming to reduce the potential of radicalisation and violent extremism in prison by increasing front-line staff competencies. Aimed at creating awareness on the broad picture of terrorism, the mindset, and the narratives by understanding:

- Why prisons are a breeding ground for radicalisation
- The difference between conversion, radicalisation and moving to extremist views
- The pathways and levels of radicalisation, role in the networks
- Recruitment tactics employed within prison environments
- Indicators on how to identify vulnerable people at risk of radicalisation

<https://jsafeproject.eu/jsafe-project/> - project that supports judges and prosecutors to pronounce informed decisions on radicalisation cases across all stages and levels. Through a coherent set of programmes, the project proposes multilevel and multiagency collaboration

FAIR - aimed at delivering a number of documents raising awareness and building on knowledge based on the whole spectrum of radicalisation—from recognising the early signs to the resettlement of released inmates. Looking at radicalisation from an individual country perspective gave FAIR a stronger contextual sphere since each country has its own unique radicalisation and terrorism issue; some countries might have problems of religious extremism, others political, others none at all.

<https://concordia.website/> - Harnessing the power of digital media tools to prevent the radicalisation of vulnerable youth.

<https://armourproject.eu/> - Aimed to address societal polarization via strengthening resilience of individuals, communities and vulnerable groups (such as children, youth, etc.) to polarisation, and to promote interaction and cooperation between different local actors from public sectors, i.e. law enforcement, social services, etc., that specialise in working with vulnerable groups in preventing extremism through development of cooperation models.

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## Conclusions from Ireland



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### General conclusion:

It is quite clear that restorative justice does not yet have a very strong standing in the Republic of Ireland justice system. It would prove to be less costly and more beneficial for the majority if restorative justice had a larger role in Ireland's society. One factor that prevents the expansion of this practise is lack of knowledge. There are not many articles about restorative justice research in Ireland nor is education provided on this subject. This could change with more support from the Government to achieve a restorative justice society. Somewhat recently they have started to show more of an interest in these methods and approach to justice, which is why there has been a slow growth of restorative justice in some communities.

More restorative justice initiatives have been introduced into Ireland, such as the 'Le Chéile' program in Limerick and the Tallaght West initiative in Dublin. They are both extremely successful practises. We believe it would be greatly beneficial to look towards Northern Ireland (or other European Countries) for guidance and inspiration as their approach towards a new justice system has been very successful. It would be good to slowly start implementing more restorative justice methods into smaller sectors such as schools, before introducing them into the criminal system as time and practise will only improve the restorative justice models.

### Conclusion related to restorative justice in Terrorism or Violent radicalization

As a result of carrying out this desk research we have concluded that the various agencies, organisations, associations or charities involved in restorative justice in Ireland make no mention of, have no spatial programmes for, and are not prepared to carry out their functions in relation to crimes involving domestic terrorism, international terrorism or extra-terrorist violence.

This is because Ireland has not had a major terrorist attack since the end of the 1960s period known as "The Troubles" and has never suffered an international terrorist attack in its entire history.

It is estimated that there are five people within the Irish prison system who have been convicted for Islamist extremism related offences. Security sources suggest that all of these relate to terrorism funding offences, as opposed to active engagement in terrorist plots.<sup>27</sup> This reinforces other evidence which suggests that ISIS and its affiliates regard the Republic of Ireland as a target for criminal exploitation for fundraising, as opposed to a target for a terrorist attack. A small number of prison staff have received training by the Irish Prison Service to identify signs of radicalisation.<sup>28</sup> Domestic terrorists – largely dissident republican terrorist groups – are the predominant extremist threat group in the state.

They are held separately in a high-security wing, E Block, in the country's maximum-security Portlaoise Prison. The perimeter of this prison is protected by the Irish Army which maintains a permanent presence there. It would be logical to assume that any new generation of Islamist terrorist prisoners would also be housed in secure and separate conditions. These arrangements



also have value in separating ideologically inspired prisoners from criminal gangs and thus preventing networks from being established across the two groups.

It is clear that, like other member states, the Irish prison system does suffer from endemic gang problems. A union official, speaking at the Irish Prison Officers' Association conference in May 2019 referred to the existence of 28 active gangs in one medium-security prison with up to 230 prisoners isolated for their own protection. Gang members were reported of using violence and intimidation against staff and exploiting vulnerable people to subvert the power structure in the prison environment and carry on criminal activity.

However, it is clear that, like other member states, the Irish prison system does suffer from endemic gang problems.

### Best practice examples:

#### 'Our Shared Future' – Draft Programme for Government 2020+

IPRT strongly welcomes many of the proposals in the draft Programme for Government which has been agreed between coalition parties Fianna Fáil, Fine Gael and the Green Party. While the draft has been officially published, it should be noted that the document will need to be approved by party members before it is signed off.

The commitments relating to prisons and penal reform in *Our Shared Future*, if adopted by party memberships and implemented by the next government, will help to build safer and more equal communities for everyone. Taken together, the justice proposals offer a strong basis for a joined-up approach that is led by the evidence of what works to prevent and reduce crime, support victims, improve rehabilitation, and reduce inequalities.

In advance of the 2020 General Election, IPRT campaigned vigorously on 5 key recommendations for the Programme for Government 2020+. **It is heartening that all of these priorities, in some form, have made it into the draft Programme for Government.** This, in no small part, is due to successful collaborative working and information sharing with other civil society groups, academics, and IPRT supporters.

#### Commitments relating to IPRT's 2020 General Election recommendations

- Ratify and implement the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture within 18 months of the formation of the Government.
- Establish a high-level cross-departmental and cross-agency taskforce to consider the mental health and addiction challenges of those imprisoned and primary care support on release.
- Review the Criminal Justice (Spent Convictions and Certain Disclosures) Act 2016 to broaden the range of convictions that are considered spent.
- Establish a Penal Policy Consultative Council to advise on penal policy.
- Work with all criminal justice agencies to build capacity to deliver restorative justice, safely and effectively.
- As well as the key priorities IPRT campaigned on for inclusion in the Programme for Government 2020+, other longstanding areas of IPRT's work towards progressive reform of penal policy are reflected in the draft Programme, including:

- Examine increasing the age limit for the application of the Garda Youth Diversion Programme to 24 years old.
- Implement a new Youth Justice Strategy, drawing on learnings for the Icelandic model and emphasising prevention, early intervention, and inter-agency collaboration.
- Review the existing functions, powers, appointment procedures and reporting processes for prison visiting committees.
- Fully implement the EU Victims of Crime Directive including the full provision of victim liaison officers.
- Ensure that aftercare and transition plans and protocols are developed for vulnerable homeless people or those at risk of homelessness leaving hospital, state care, foster care, prison, or other state settings.
- Examine the introduction of a new ground of discrimination based on socio-economic disadvantaged status to the Employment Equality and Equal Status Acts.

These draft commitments indicate an intention to build a government that prioritises evidence-led legislation and policies, supported by research. Should these commitments be approved by the parties' memberships, IPRT will work constructively with the next government and all stakeholders in order to progress action on these areas. Where necessary, IPRT will continue to be a strong independent voice in holding the State to account in realising their commitments.

### **Restorative Justice: Strategies for Change**

In collaboration with nine other European countries, Ireland is participating in a new cross-European venture entitled 'Restorative Justice: Strategies for Change'. The purpose of the project is twofold:

- To contribute towards refocusing European criminal justice systems, agencies, policies and practices around restorative principles and processes; and
- To determine how the Council of Europe Recommendation CM/Rec (2018) concerning restorative justice in criminal matters could be used to support this work.

The purpose of the strategy is to help embed restorative justice and restorative practices within the Irish criminal justice system, building on existing practices and stimulating new work to fill gaps in policy and practice.

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## Conclusions from Spain



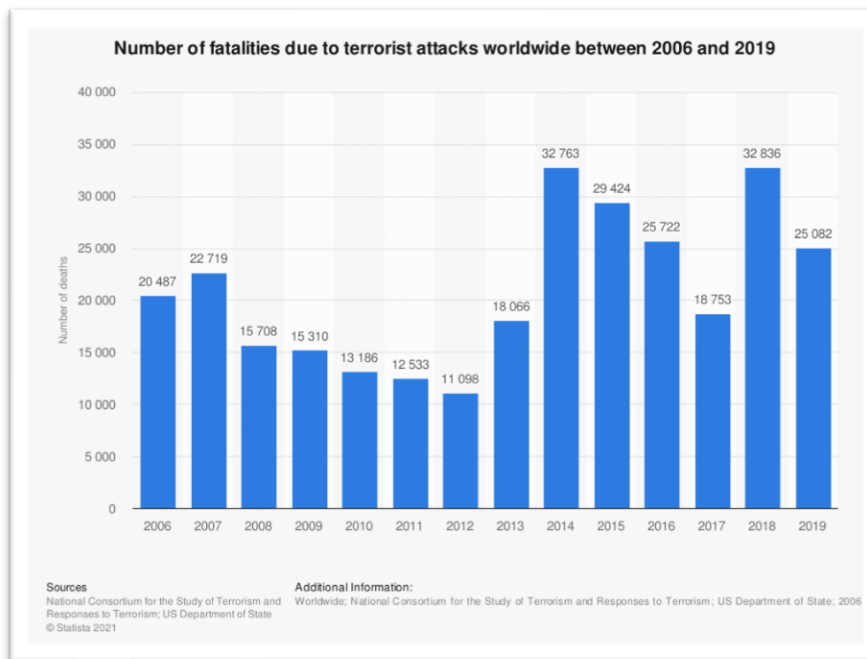
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Professionals from justice institutions and education system as well as leaders of diverse religious communities have expressed their worries and needs to prevent radicalization in the best ways possible. One of that solutions might be specific trainings.

**Training needs** to be covered by this project are as following:

- Make definition of a problem easy go target for experts of different fields, making clear why, when, how, and what for of violence,
- Offer trainings on formation for soft skills for professionals in order to help young people develop
- them and not easily become target of radicalization recruitment
- Get knowledge to help families in observing young people behaviour and see the signs of weakness,
- doubts, aggressiveness or any other sign of possibility of being engaged in some different activity
- Get education how to help teachers to prevent appearance of radicalization in schools and in groups of peers
- Offer trainings for creating activities of for restorative justice and help the victims to recover from that experience
- Get training in digital ways of radicalization, how to recognize and how to prevent them
- Get trainings with intercultural and interreligious groups

## Statistical data



## Best practice samples

Based on unfortunately big history and experience with terrorism Spain was obliged to create a plan for the fight against violent radicalization and it is still actual with modifications with a name: National

Strategic Plan (PEN-LCRV).

“The Ministry of the Interior is the department responsible for coordinating all the State action, it has designated the Intelligence Center against Terrorism and Organized Crime (CITCO), to implement and develop the Strategy, and coordinate a specific working group for its drafting, of representatives from twelve ministries, the National Intelligence Center (CNI) and other agencies attached to the Administration. It has also consulted its design with other departments of the Ministry of the Interior, social assistance organizations or observatories to ensure respect for the fundamental rights of citizens, and also sought advice from private institutions and specialized areas of different university centers. The objective of the Plan is to "constitute an effective instrument for early detection and neutralization of outbreaks and outbreaks of violent radicalism, acting on those communities, groups or individuals at risk or vulnerability".

“There is a history of for more than 60 years fighting with ETA, with a presence of an international element in that conflict – Spanish-French cooperation. International dimension has become even broader, Spain as a member of UE implemented the security policy of the European Union within the Spanish domestic legal order. The National Plan also has treated broadly international jihadist radicalization and terrorist violence translating the European Union Strategy for Combating Terrorism to the national level.

As for Spanish society the most important is the implementation of security policies, as well as responsibility of citizenship: “

The Plan sets this Objective: “to constitute an effective instrument for early detection and neutralization of outbreaks and foci of violent radicalism, acting in those communities, groups or individuals at risk or vulnerability.”

There is no way to avoid seeing the danger of a terrorist threat: The attacks in 2001 in the United States, in 2002 in Indonesia, in 2003 in Morocco, in 2004 and 2017 in Spain, in 2005 in the United Kingdom, and recently in January 2015 in France are too many of a kind to be neglected. There is a strong need to combat violent radicalization and have a clear plan of action as national security is one of the government's priorities. That’s why Spain has created several plans for fights against the terrorist threat such as:

- The internal security strategy of the European Union: towards a common security model, 2005
- The national security strategy (ESN-2013)
- Comprehensive strategy against international terrorism and radicalization (EICTIR), which

was approved in 2010 and ratified in 2012.

There is much still to be done but the base is created and the process has its methodology which is still to give results. National training is implemented for local and national law enforcement agencies. There are also schools and vulnerable communities involved in this plan. There are three areas of action: the internal, the external and cyberspace and the city of Malaga and the Community of the Basque Country were the first not only to cooperate but to create the Transversal Plan for Coexistence. The impact of the plan remains to be evaluated.

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## 10. Religious Basis for Islamic Terrorism: The Quran and Its Interpretations

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/10576100600781612?src=recsys>

## Conclusions from Italy



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According to the emerged information, referring to the identification of training needs/training topics, in Italy it is suitable training for professionals (justice and education services) on:

- VIOLENT RADICALIZATION: concepts, process, causes, signals, indicators, evaluation tools
- INTERVENTION/PREVENTION ON AUTHORS OF VIOLENT RADICALIZATION: “self-development of young people” (emotional awareness, personal project skills, active involvement in the society)
- INTERVENTION/PREVENTION ON FAMILIES: how to better equip parents with knowledges and skills to be referent point for the youth growth, to early identify signals of potential violent behaviour, to act in case of violent radicalization
- INTERVENTION/PREVENTION ON SCHOOLS: how to better equip teachers with knowledges and skills to be referent point for the youth growth, to early identify signals of potential violent behaviour, to act in case of violent radicalization
- INTERVENTION/PREVENTION ON COMMUNITY: how to better equip civil society with knowledges and skills to act in case of violent radicalization, for restorative justice (with victims and with community)
- INTERVENTION/PREVENTION ON VICTIMS: how to better equip victims with knowledges and skills to be involved in restorative justice projects

**Training needs:** Prison administration promotes trainings for the prison staff, to enhance the detection of prodromic markers of violent radicalization. In particular, the training has been reserved at first to prison police, commanders and chief of the penal institutions with sections reserved to prisoners for terrorism. Trainings concerns strategies aimed at a most appropriate management of the high security sections AS2 and provides information about the Islamic culture, in order to help prison staff to distinguish between appropriate ways to express religious faith and behaviors that could be first signs of radicalization or proselytizing. These trainings are focused on different topics:

1. Islam, culture and religion.
2. Religious practice and cultural mediation.
3. International terrorism: ideological sources and spread.
4. Radicalization and proselytizing.
5. Focus on case studies of violent radicalization.
6. Operational practices.

In addition, prison administration attended some National or European projects, such as the Train Training, a project that aims to:

- enhance the awareness about violent radicalization, its prevention and measures to contrast.
- create evaluation strategies of risks common to all subjects implied in the evaluation and treatment of individuals at risk of violent radicalization.
- train the front-line staff in the use of counselling techniques and counter-narrative.

There are examples of training initiatives also for third sector operators and volunteers, organized by public authorities (municipalities) or private entities, in the context of initiatives to prevent and combat violent radicalization.

### Statistical data

Statistical data referred to November 2019 shows that AS2 sections include 52 prisoners of crimes related to Islamic international terrorism. The total number of prisoners of AS2 sections includes also prisoners for national terrorism (red brigades, extreme right and anarchists).

		Men	Women	Tot
<b>AS2 high security sections</b>	International terrorisms	1	0	1
	International islamic terrorism	50	2	52
	National terrorism	24	7	31
<b>tot</b>		75	9	84

The report of the National Committee of Order and Public Security (2017) contains statistical data about the phenomenon of international terrorism in the Italian context.

	2016	2017
<b>Expulsion has been suspended for reasons of public policy</b>	37	67
<b>of which Imam</b>	3	3
<b>Arrested extremists</b>	25	29
<b>Monitored foreign fighters</b>	110	125
<b>of which deceased</b>	32	37
<b>of which returned to Europe</b>	17	22
<b>Monitored people</b>	77.691	190.909
<b>Monitored vehicles</b>	19.693	65.878
<b>Monitored motor vessels</b>	154	71

### Best practice samples

#### **TRIVALENT (Terrorism Prevention Via Radicalization Counter Narrative)**

The project **TRIVALENT** (Terrorism Prevention Via Radicalization Counter Narrative) aims to a better understanding of root causes of the phenomenon of violent radicalization in Europe, through a

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multidisciplinary analysis leading to a comprehensive approach, based on a firm commitment to respecting fundamental rights, promoting integration, cultural dialogue and fighting discrimination, in order to develop appropriate countermeasures, ranging from early detection methodologies to techniques of counter-narrative, involving LEAs together with academics, experts and civil society actors at local, national and European level, in collaboration also with communities of reference <https://trivalent-project.eu/>

### **Radicalization in prison: an empirical research (Ravagnani & Romano, 2017)**

Several authoritative sources have publicly stated that prisons are high-risk setting for violent radicalization of Islamic prisoners. The authors this empirical research carried out in Italy, provided a structured questionnaire to a sample of Islamic prisoners in order to investigate some personal characteristics and their migratory paths, the difficulties and opportunities for their integration in our Country and their point of view on the existing risk of radicalization in prison. The research was conducted in three geographic areas of the Country, North, Centre and South involving several prison facilities characterized by a considerable number of Islamic prisoners.

The University of Brescia has promoted this empirical research to provide a theoretical framework for preventive measures against violent radicalization implemented in the penal institutions. The study has been realized through an anonymous questionnaire administered to 175 prisoners, 165 of which profess the Islamic faith, and 10 profess another faith (or none).

One topic analyzed was the perceived risk of embracing fundamentalist teachings and developing forms of violent radicalization among the Islamic prisoners:

Is possible that someone could exploit the conditions of hardship of prisoners to propose to them fundamentalist teachings?	NO	YES	NOT ANSWERED
	66,2%	17,7%	16,1%

It means that about two-thirds of prisoners do not consider significant the risk of radicalization. The questionnaire also explored the prisoners' definition of fundamentalism; the results could be summarized in these categories:

- Fanaticism/lack of respect
- Ignorance of true values of Islam
- Distortion of the original religious teachings
- Policy instrument to gain power.

Individual problem related to psycho-pathological conditions.

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