

# Policy Recommendations



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TAKEDOWN focussed on creating new insights on Organized Crime and Terrorist Networks (OC/TN) through quantitative and qualitative research as well as in-depth analysis. Based on the research, a multidimensional model for analysing cases and assessing risks as well as impacts of prevention and intervention strategies was created.

The research insights were also taken into account for the development of the online platform [www.firstlinepractitioners.com](http://www.firstlinepractitioners.com), which provides information, services and support for practitioners, researchers as well as the public. Additionally, the requirements from the research informed the programming of the digital solutions platform [www.fightcrimeterrorism.com](http://www.fightcrimeterrorism.com), which aims at increasing the cooperation between law enforcement agencies and the (cyber) security solution developers.

The TAKEDOWN policy recommendations are based on insights from the different stages of the project and aim at improving policies in the field of organized crime, radicalisation and terrorism.



## ORGANIZED CRIME, RADICALISATION AND TERRORISM



### Make wiser and more effective use of knowledge to design policies

Policy making and policy implementation need to make wiser and more effective use of the knowledge, skills, and capabilities of national or international stakeholders. First of all, this implies integrating the existing or to-be-produced knowledge and experiences on the phenomena into the policymaking process more systematically. In other words, it is important to capitalise on what it is known about terrorism and organised crime and employ what already exists and works in tackling these threats.



### Provide sufficient financial means for both “hard” and “soft” measures of crime prevention and activities for countering violent extremism leading to terrorism

Both “hard” measures such as surveillance and “soft” measures such as education or social work are crucial for fighting organized crime and violent extremism leading to terrorism. It is therefore important to avoid that hard measures are played off against soft measures and vice versa when it comes to the distribution of financial means.

### Create a policy framework for clarifying the collaboration options and the boundaries between the work of law enforcement agencies and first-line-practitioners



A broad variety of policing approaches is existing in Europe. While in some countries, police work is very much focused on core responsibilities, other countries are following a more open approach and put a particular focus on practices such as community policing. However, even if police officers are entering the domain of social work, they are still operating under another legislation. On the other hand, social workers need to take advocacy for their clients and don't execute the law. A policy framework needs to clarify the overlaps and boundaries.

### Build relationships and social ties with young people



Relationship building often fails due to a lack of resources (time, funding, personnel). Therefore, youth work often can't fulfill its tasks regarding relationship building. Vulnerable young people need case-oriented counselling and individual assistance.

## ORGANIZED CRIME, RADICALISATION AND TERRORISM



### Create trend-related response teams for the prevention of online crime and radicalisation

Online crimes and radicalisation do not create instant effects of terror or fear. Rather than that, everyday cyber criminality causes distrust and panic that create tipping points which might turn into criminal action. Therefore, prevention and protection activities must aim at reducing the 'slow-release' effects of online criminal actions that lead to radicalisation and illicit behaviour.



### Encourage law enforcement agencies (LEAs) to participate in European research and innovation projects in the domain of security, and provide them with a legal framework for facilitating their participation as a project partner

In order to address the needs and develop solutions along the requirements of law enforcement agencies, it is crucial that research and innovation include these end-users as project partners. However, several EU countries are rather restrictive when it comes to the full integration of LEAs in a consortium. The reasons range from a lack of political will to administrative issues. Hence, it is crucial that policy makers both on the national and the European level promote the positive impacts of a LEA participation in EU projects and set up a legal framework that facilitates their participation as a project partner.

### Organize "Helper conferences" and building trust



"Helper conferences" for special cases are very effective. Helper conferences are a useful tool for clarifying the task and the context of the problem. Helper conferences are valuable in order to create a differentiated diagnosis and a more detailed help plan, as well as for planning resources for a differentiated psycho-social diagnosis.

### Establishing European central desks for each subcategory of organized crime and terrorism



Since organized crime and terrorism are not limited to single national states or even the EU, it is paramount for countries to operate across borders. The coordination itself could be managed from the European level, for example by **European central desks** for each subcategory of organized crime and terrorism.

Policy Focus:

## ORGANIZED CRIME



### Support research on the modus operandi and the networks of organized (financial) crime, where new business models emerge due to digital technologies

Due to digital technologies, the challenges related to organized crime are constantly changing. Organized crime is operating both in the physical world as well as in cyberspace, which makes investigations by LEAs more difficult. Especially the transformations of the networks per se and new emerging business models such as crime-as-a-service need more in-depth research for a better understanding and for more effective solutions.



### Adopt more stringent regulations on financial crime and corruption

As far as organized crime is concerned, more stringent regulations on financial crime and corruption should be adopted. Laws should support relevant authorities to “follow the money”, confiscate any possessions of illicit origin and pursue corruption more severely. One main issue arising with regard to the adoption of these measures concerns the lack of support from policy makers and, in some cases, financial institutions. It seems there is not sufficient and fully shared motivation or commitment to enact measures against these types of crime. Commitment or motivations are boasted when the public opinion “challenges” policymakers.

### Reconsider the policies for countering criminal organisations and organized crime (modus operandi) in the online dimension



Criminal organisations online are different from those offline. The way they are organised is more ephemeral (committing crimes and dissolving) and hybrid, with a range of small hubs, rather the traditional Mafia-type. Online crimes and the online crime-terror nexus have to be considered in the light of this different dimension. Policy must take into account this conceptual ‘shifting’ into account in order to devise adaptive measures.

## RADICALISATION AND TERRORISM



### **Integrate radicalisation prevention as a horizontal topic in policy making processes covering different domains**

A successful radicalisation prevention can happen in many different domains, such as sport, schools, culture, social welfare, housing or probation. It therefore needs to be taken into account in many different domains. Only if it is seen as a horizontal topic, radicalisation can be prevented or detected at an early stage.



### **Include gender-oriented approaches in de-radicalisation and prevention programmes**

The experience of social workers show that mothers have more access to their children than their fathers. Gender plays a central role and understanding gender (role models) has a strong influence on how prevention work can be successful. Therefore, it needs to be an integral part of any counter-radicalisation policy.



### **Foster critical thinking and digital literacy in the education sector as a main pillar of radicalisation prevention**

All forms of extremism are using a set of narratives that address basic dispositions and needs of people. These include the victim-, conspiracy-, inequality- and the community-narrative. Furthermore, they are working with clear attributions between “good” and “bad”. Hence it is crucial to train critical thinking and digital literacy already in schools in order to equip future generations with the skills for decoding and countering extremist narratives.

### **Differentiate radicalisation and violent extremism in the public discourse and create a precise terminology**



Radicalisation and violent extremism often meshed up in the media and in the public discourse, as the topic is very emotional. There is a lack of knowledge and understanding because radicalisation is often equated with violence. It is therefore crucial to differentiate between radicalisation and violent extremism and to put diversity to the fore. Diversity includes the fact that although some people might have radical views, they are no threat to society. Furthermore, the public discourse should promote more common values shared by all communities such as fundamental human rights.

### **Develop impact assessment tools for counter terrorism financing (CTF) policies, strategies and measures**



Terrorism financing, an important field of the crime-terror nexus, explains how terrorists find innovative solutions and strategies for acquiring financial means. Partly, the global terrorism context results from the evolutions of terrorist organizations searching for subsistence and money. That’s why accompanying impact assessment of CTF policies may be useful to avoid unexpected impacts and new challenges deriving from terrorism financing.



### Study and control of counterproductive practices on custody with prison inmates

Different practices within prisons may encourage narratives of victimisation of the Muslim population. There are already documented cases in Denmark and the United Kingdom. The Danish Institute for Human Rights warned in a report of 2017 about the negative consequences that reports linked to attacks abroad had for individuals in custody both during their stay in prison and after their release. The prison service of England and Wales detected similar negative effects in 2010. In this regard, prison administrations in other countries need to be aware of that.



### Facilitate specific training and recognize to training programs on violent extremism

Police officers, prison officers, judges, prosecutors and many first-line practitioners recognize the importance of training programs and are willing to take part. They often can't attend due to lack of time or difficulties to get permissions. Such specific training activities therefore need to be supported by national institutions and recognized. Specific training activities, developed on the local level, serve as mechanisms to foster cooperation and coordination between local stakeholders.

### Design specific approaches for the preventive work with youth and integrate them in curricula to foster prevention and youth resilience



Research on the engagement in radicalisation, criminality, violent extremism or terrorism, has identified many different influencing factors and mechanisms that can be part of the work with young people in order to help them creating resilience towards narratives and recruiters. This includes psychosocial abilities, emotional skills and communication skills as well as conflict or anger management. They can be completed by critical thinking and media literacy.

### Create accessible narratives in order to reach vulnerable individuals and individuals at risk



Any „frame“ or narrative that social workers use to reach individuals at risk needs to establish a relationship to them. First line practitioners should use frames without discriminating or stigmatizing young vulnerable individuals. In order to connect different communities, first line practitioners should find common interest and a common ground.



# TAKEDOWN

Identify . Prevent . Respond



## PROJECT FACTS

### DURATION

09/2016 to 08/2019

### REFERENCE

700688

### PROGRAMME

H2020

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Research & Innovation Action

### COORDINATOR

SYNYO GmbH

[www.synyo.com](http://www.synyo.com)



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