



Evaluating interventions to counteract violent-radicalisation: challenges ahead

Joanna Hofman, RAND Europe

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What is IMPACT Europe?

- **Innovative Methods and Procedures to Assess Counter-violent-radicalisation Techniques in Europe**
- Key project information:
 - Project funded by the European Union Seventh Framework Programme
 - 42-months: January 2014 – June 2017
 - 14 consortium partners from 9 countries

Rationale of IMPACT Europe

- Tackling terrorism and violent radicalisation have been on the top of policy agendas.
- Vast resources have been invested in counter-terrorism policies and interventions but measuring the effectiveness of this work is still challenging.
- As a result:
 - We do not know what is best practice in tackling violent radicalisation.
 - There is no standardised methodology for identifying best practice.
 - Some organisations/programmes do not have the knowledge and understanding necessary to design and carry out appropriate evaluations.

Our goal is to...

- Introduce evaluation to a policy area where robust and rigorous evaluations have not yet become the norm.
- Move beyond existing practice to:
 - Help practitioners choose suitable evaluation approaches and methods.
 - Assess the effectiveness of their interventions.
- Develop an evaluation toolkit consisting of:
 - A standardised methodology (knowledge management software that is accessible yet secure and easy to use)
 - An evaluation results database
 - A training course
 - A training manual.

Context and nature of the society

- Limited understanding of what leads to violent radical behaviour
- Potential recipients difficult to identify
- Difficulty to define success and rarity of violent events
- Highly dynamic nature of CVR work



BBC NEWS UK

12 March 2015 Last updated at 13:48 GMT

Syria girls: Man arrested 'for helping UK trio'

A man has been arrested for allegedly helping three British schoolgirls cross into Syria, Turkey's foreign minister Mevlut Cavusoglu has said.

The man is said to work for the intelligence agency of a country which is part of the coalition against Islamic State (IS) militants.

It is believed Shamima Begum, Amira Abasa, 15, and Kadiza Sultana, 16, left last month to join the extremist group.

It is not known what country the arrested man is from.

BREAKING NEWS

Pressure to act adds to complexity

- Situation and context change continuously limiting opportunities for the feedback loop through evaluation
- Multiple actors engaged in CVR pursue different and sometimes conflicting aims

Outcry over French Intelligence Bill

INFOSOCIETY

15/04/2015 - 07:11



Despite the heated debates around the implications of the French Intelligence Bill on civil liberties, a tentative agreement between right and left may guarantee its adoption. [EurActiv France reports.](#)

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elsewhere. [EurActiv France reports.](#)

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LAW & ORDER

Government Has Failed to Combat UK Radicalisation, Says Former Advisor

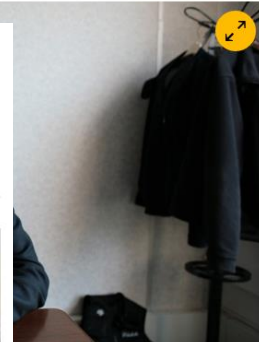
By Amelia Smith 1/12/15 at 5:43 PM



Prevent strategy: Is it failing to stop radicalisation?

By Frank Gardner
BBC security correspondent

6 March 2015 | UK

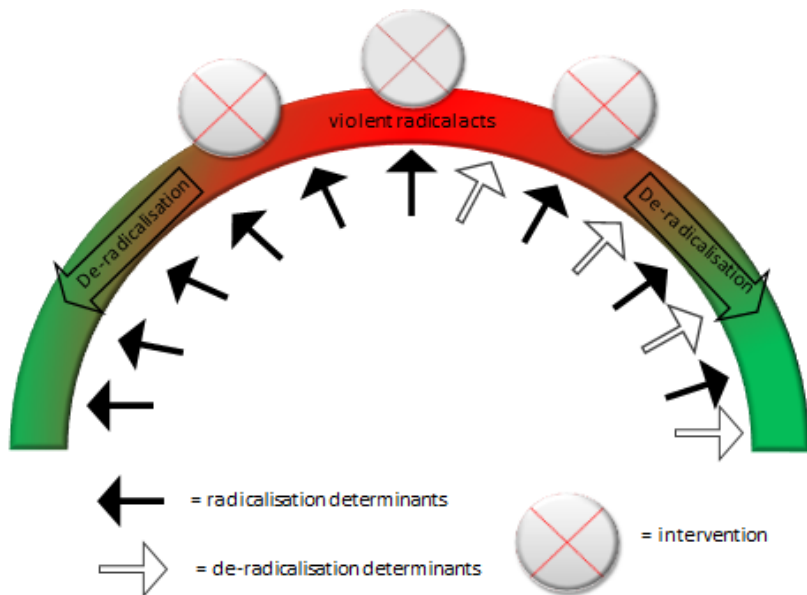


Photograph: Martin Godwin

Teenage schoolgirls from East London absconding to join Islamic State in Syria, 3,000-plus Europeans already in their ranks, and an endless stream of persuasive, slickly-produced online videos pouring into young people's computers and smartphones.

Wide range of (multifaceted) interventions

De-radicalisation in relation to violent radical acts, including differences in the timing of interventions



Source: TNO (2014)

Selected approaches:

- Raising awareness of first line practitioners
- Re-integration and disengagement programmes to dissuade radicals from violence
- Bridging gaps by conversation methods
- Engagement and empowerment of communities at risk
- Education of young people
- Family support
- Delivering counter-communication challenging extremist propaganda and worldview
- Creating institutional infrastructures

Source: RAN (2014)

Implications for the CVR evaluation toolkit:

- Consider developing evaluation guidelines, rather than a toolkit: not a counsel of perfection but pragmatic steps
- Be clear about the purpose and causal pathways of interventions – inspire well-designed interventions, rather than just focus on evaluation
- Seek to *gradually* develop evaluation capacity among the intervention providers
- Consider a broader range of evaluation designs and methods to measuring impact

