

Dick Schoof, National Coordinator for Security and Counter Terrorism of the Netherlands

Prevention of radicalisation is very important. Youngsters are looking for meaning in their lives during puberty. Most of the times, it goes well, but occasionally they are influenced negatively. The marketing strategy of Daesh functions very well and reaches these vulnerable youngsters. We can drive Daesh out of the so called caliphate, the ideology and level of fanaticism stays and might even increase. Youngsters radicalize in networks, they influence each other, which is a long term threat online and offline. Many are born and raised in our own societies and they might pose a threat to society, friends and family.

Integrated and multi-agency local approach is key. On all levels local, national and international practitioners need to connect and work together. Involvement of all relevant organisations is necessary. Not only police and law enforcement, but also, youth work, social work, schools, mental health care etc. And find a good balance between preventive and repressive measures. Intervention and prosecution of radicalized persons if needed but also reconnection and reintegration if possible. Approaches that work in The Netherlands are:

- Involving families and mothers; first step is calling the mothers, they can play an important role in deradicalisation. This special programme focussed on mothers started in The Hague and is now is being rolled out throughout The Netherlands. The programme teaches mothers how to recognize radicalization and tells them what they can do in response.*
- Families plays a vital role in preventing radicalization. That's why over a year ago the Netherlands launched a family support unit. It offers support to families of strongly radicalized persons such as foreign fighters and returnees. This could be advice on how to communicate with government bodies and care agencies or on how to communicate with a radicalized family member. Another important aim is preventing brothers and sister from radicalization.*
- Multi-agency case management teams on a local level are a key element in the integrated approach of the Netherlands. In these meetings radicalized individuals who pose a threat and may be willing to use violence are discussed to determine an individualized, tailor made intervention strategy. Depending on the case, the local government, the police, the public prosecutor's office, but also NGO's, psychologists and psychiatrists, youth care, schools etc. may participate in the team. Interventions can be of a repressive or preventive nature (or combination of both).*

We need to work together, only then we will be successful. Now that the so called caliphate might collapse, there is a risk in returning FF. This underlines the importance of prevention and local authorities work. The CoE provides support to practitioners and Member States. We support that. Think globally, act locally!