

A EUROPE
THAT PROTECTS:

EU CITIES AGAINST RADICALISATION

26 FEBRUARY 2019

STEPPING UP THE FIGHT AGAINST RADICALISATION OFFLINE

Radicalisation leading to violent extremism and terrorism is a complex and rapidly evolving phenomenon.

Local actors and cities find themselves at the forefront in preventing and countering radicalisation.

Preventing radicalisation is at the heart of the EU response to terrorism. It requires long-term, sustainable efforts involving all relevant actors at local, regional and national as well as EU level. The **EU Mayor's Conference of 8 March 2018** witnessed a strong interest of EU cities in exchanging best practices, but also in establishing and strengthening links and the potential for closer cooperation. Urban security goes beyond measures to protect citizens against terrorist attacks, requiring a holistic approach addressing radicalisation at the earliest possible stage.

EU Cooperation Mechanism

The role of the European Commission is to facilitate cooperation between the activities of different EU initiatives and networks to support cities and local stakeholders in tackling the challenges of radicalisation.



Strategic Orientations 2019 set out the main challenges, priorities, objectives and initiatives, with Action Plans in different areas including on a multi-agency approach and the local dimension.

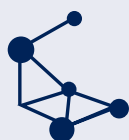
Supporting policy-makers: Steering Board for Union Actions

Following the final report of the High-Level Commission Expert Group on Radicalisation in 2018 the Steering Board on Union actions on the prevention and countering of radicalisation was set up to advise the Commission on how to strengthen the EU policy response in this area, enhance cooperation at local, national and European level, and identify strategic priorities and orientations.

Supporting front-line responders: Radicalisation Awareness Network

In 2011 the Commission established the **Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN)**, bringing together frontline and grassroots practitioners, who are often best placed to identify early warning signs of radicalisation and to address them. The network brings together a multitude of different actors – NGOs, civil society, schools and police, as well as regional coordinators or national policy-makers.

In 2015, the Commission strengthened the network by setting up the **RAN Centre of Excellence** to develop more targeted guidance, support and counselling services to stakeholders in Member States and increase expertise and skills of different actors.



The RAN connects around **5,000 front-line practitioners**. There are **10 RAN Working groups**: Communication and Narratives, Education, EXIT, Health and Social Care, Prison and Probation, Local, Police, Remembrance of Victims, Youth, Families and Communities, and RAN Young.



The Commission has allocated **€25 million** over **4 years** to support the work of the RAN and will launch a call for tender for the period 2020-2024 to continue the work.

The RAN Collection is a collection of approaches and practices from EU Member States that have been peer reviewed by RAN practitioners and illustrate lessons learned and good practices. The RAN Collection includes practices at local level in a variety of areas, including multi-agency cooperation, building networks, civic and media education, social and youth work, community, interfaith dialogue, role models, etc.

PREVENTION OF RADICALISATION: THE LOCAL LEVEL

Local Prevent Framework

The **High Level Commission Expert Group on Radicalisation** prioritised the multi-agency approach at local level. Local actors working in this area find a platform for exchanges in the **RAN LOCAL Working Group**. Members of the group have been key in developing concrete guidance and toolkits on how to set up local prevent strategies, action plans and interventions, including multi-agency cooperation models, engagement with communities, use of social media and communication.



► RAN LOCAL papers:

The RAN discussed a number of topics resulting in insights and guidance on:

- how to create local networks, and how to develop an action plan;
- cooperation between local authorities and schools in multi-agency interventions;
- how to cooperate with religious organisations and communities;
- the role of the police, exit work and the prison sector;
- developing counter and alternative narratives together with local communities;
- training programmes.

EU FUNDS TO SUPPORT LOCAL ACTIONS

The High-Level Commission Expert Group on Radicalisation recognised that first-line responders at the local level need to be equipped with the necessary skills, resources as well as an appropriate policy and support framework.

The **Internal Security Fund - Police (ISF-P)** funds projects on prevention of radicalisation. A current call for proposals aims at funding projects in the area of community engagement, multi-agency approach, local dimension and support to children and young people. Cities are eligible to apply.



Deadline for submitting applications:
19 March 2019
17:00



ISF-P Fund: **€346 million** is available under direct management (2014–20). Around one-third of this funding is for projects and actions related to prevention of radicalisation.



Horizon 2020 funds research projects, some of which have an impact on the local dimension, such as the project **PRACTICIES** "Partnership against violent radicalisation in the cities". It aims to mobilise networks of European cities and experts from humanities, political sciences, information sciences to better understand the roots of violent radicalisation and build concrete tools and prevention practices.



► ISF-P projects supporting cities and local authorities

- **LIAISE and LIAISE II** – “Local institutions against violent extremism” aims to create exchanges between local authorities and strengthen their capacities to implement projects against violent radicalisation.
- **BRIDGE** – “Building Resilience to reduce polarisation and Growing Extremism” aims to build local actors’ awareness and capacities to reduce individual and collective vulnerability to radicalisation by mitigating polarisation. The project aims to develop local polarisation detection and management tools and assist local authorities to tackle tensions and social unrest, by promoting community-based initiatives for cooperation between different public services and private actors.
- **BOUNCE** – “Methodological toolbox for resilience” aims to train professionals from 10 pilot local authorities to use a methodological toolbox to strengthen resilience among young people and prevent them from falling into a radicalisation process.
- **MOBILE TEAMS** – The project coordinates the efforts of the local level in Belgium in the prevention of violent radicalisation. With 81 field visits, the Mobile Team has moved to many municipalities to work on different topics with local actors. The team has an offer of initiatives for cities where expertise already exists but also remains open to other issues that cities and towns face in their efforts to prevent violent radicalisation. Following the success of the first project, the Ministry decided in 2019 to develop the Radix Team project, also funded through the ISF, and aiming at pursuing the same objectives, but with an extended team and an extended set of tasks.