

Challenge

The number of individuals incarcerated in prisons across Europe for violent extremism and terrorist-related offences has increased in recent years. The management and rehabilitation of these individuals both during incarceration and after release is therefore one of the biggest P/CVE challenges facing EU Member States today. This work is both complex, has multiple challenges and requires multi-stakeholder cooperation.



388 individuals have been arrested in 2021 for terrorism-related offences



423 convictions and acquittals for terrorist offences in 2021



6 years average prison sentence for terrorist offences

People involved in rehabilitation in prisons

The disengagement, rehabilitation and reintegration of individuals convicted of terrorism-related offences involves the participation of a number of individuals and organisations, including:

Prison officers
Intervention providers

Psychiatrists
Prison chaplains

Probation officers
Exit workers

Papers



[Rehabilitation Manual](#)

[Risk Assessment in Prison](#)

[Effective management of the prison-exit continuum](#)

[Spotlight on prisons](#)

The rehabilitation process

(Pre-)trial detention

This phase covers the time from the moment of arrest until a prison sentence is passed, i.e. the investigative period before and during (Pre-)trial detention, until the latter is concluded.

Reception

Once the court has finalised its verdict and issued a prison sentence, the reception phase begins. The length of this phase may be subjective, depending on the prisoner's perspective.

Serving the sentence

Offenders become prisoners once they are lawfully convicted to a prison sentence for committing a criminal offence. Offenders might have the opportunity to attend rehabilitation programmes.

Preparation for release

This phase begins towards the end of the sentence or when offenders are deemed fit for probation. As the most critical transition point, exposing and often testing offenders' vulnerabilities and susceptibility to recidivism, this phase is crucial to achieving successful long term rehabilitation.

Post release

This phase covers the first 3-12 months outside prison. This is a challenging period for ex-prisoners, who might experience crises in readjusting to life outside of prison.

Reintegration

Reintegration is a long-term process that has to be planned for, monitored and facilitated throughout the rehabilitation process. During this time, vital social contacts must be called on, and support networks expanded and strengthened.

Stabilisation

Stabilisation is the final step of the rehabilitation process. Completing this phase is the long-term goal of the process, and it takes years after people are released from prison.



Practices

Violence Prevention Network

Violence Prevention Network (VPN) has worked with over 1,800 individual cases of radicalised people with an Islamist extremist and right-wing extremist background within prisons - and many more outside prison - to change violent behaviour and extremist mindsets.

PAIRS

PAIRS (Programme d'Accompagnement Individualisé et de Réaffiliation Sociale) provides individualised support to people convicted or suspected of terrorist offences or who have become radicalised during their detention.