Cross-cutting policy-making and ILP in preventing violent extremism and radicalization in Finland

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Cross-cutting policy making and multi-professional work in Finland

• Already a long history

  – high-level policy documents, but concrete and locally implemented
  – involved authorities, NGOs and business
  – approach: phenomena, not organisations
    • eg. violence, victims of crime, sexual crimes, business security

• First Action Plan preventing violent extremism 2012-
  – involved authorities, NGOs, researchers

• Multi-professional working methods since 1990’s
  – Anchor–model: youth delinquency, early intervention
  – MARAC – risk-assessment in domestic and partner violence
  – "Clear and sober road" – care intervention, young drunk drivers
Why promote cross-cutting policy-making and multi professional working methods

- Lack of resources – need for more effective policies and working methods

- Criminality as a phenomenon, not just a symptom – need to involve also other actors than law enforcement
  - mental health problems, social marginalisation, substance abuse
  - according to the statistics of the Helsinki Police in 2013, 80% of the Anchor team's young clients had mental health problems as the underlying cause of criminality

- Mental health problems and violent radicalisation
  - youth driven to violent extremism have different types of vulnerabilities, mental health issues often one of them
  - specifically prevalent in "school shooter" profiles: anxiety, depression for longer periods prior to act of violence
The "Finnish Model" to prevent violent radicalisation and extremism

• Revised National Action Plan adopted in April 2016
  – based on the experiences of the first plan (2012-)

• Drafted and implemented together with
  – authorities, NGOs and communities including religious communities
  – not only cooperation or hearings but actually working together as partners (joint seminars, NGO representation in formal structures)
  – young people are involved – summer camp in June 2016
  – constant interaction with the Muslim community

• Important to be clear and exact
  – when different actors from different professional backgrounds
  – importance of common guiding principles
Definitions - for the purpose of this Action Plan

- violent extremism refers to using, threatening with, encouraging or justifying violence on ideological grounds.

- violent radicalisation is a process through which individuals resort to violence or the threat thereof, urge someone to commit acts of violence or justify it on ideological grounds.

- ideology means the kind of shared worldview that stems from attitudes about groups of people, the world, religion, relations between people and states, human dignity, what is sacred and what is profane as well as corresponding beliefs that constitute a moral compass for an individual.
Guiding principles

1. The prevention of violent extremism refers to the specific measures focused on those groups and individuals which run the risk of becoming, or are already, radicalised

2. The primary goal of prevention is to reduce violence against people, and the threat of it

3. Target all forms of violent extremism in Finland

4. Participation and transparency, clear coordination

5. Action that counters violent radicalisation and extremism as well as the promotion of democracy and human rights are mutually supportive

6. Interaction, both vertically and horizontally between different authorities, organisations and communities

7. An implementing organisation based on networking and networks

8. Effective and clear communications constitute an element of prevention
Threats are assessed in the national situation overview

- Published twice a year
- Public document
- Thematic structure
  - violent right-wing extremism, extreme left-wing and radical alternative movements, violent extremism justified by religion and lone actors
- Special reports (usually one of two annual reports)
  - Violent extremism and its signs are observed in upper secondary schools and vocational institutions in Finland February 2015
  - Extremist crimes 2015 (to be published in June)
Objectives and follow-up

• Both long and short term goals

• Reporting once a year to the internal security and judicature Ministerial Group
Concrete measures - examples

- Create effective and viable **structures and measures** for the prevention of violent radicalisation and extremism
  - multi professional Anchor –teams, cooperation networks
- Launch the **RADINET (Exit)** service and Helpline
  - services delivered by the NGOs
- Increase competency, expertise and awareness regarding prevention of violent extremism and radicalisation
  - police, social workers, teachers, youth workers
- Efficiently **detect and investigate hate crime**, support the victims and the target communities of hate crime
- Prevent the dissemination of violent radical propaganda and recruitment to violent extremist movements among asylum seekers
- Strengthen the **ability of children and adolescents** to identify, and guard against, violence-inducing messages and propaganda
- Prevent **right-wing extremist recruitment** and increase the competency and the **preparedness of the police in countering left-wing extremist violence**
- Establish a **process for dealing with those returning** from conflict zones
Implementation the Action Plan and the Police

• Police is a very important actor in the implementation of the Action Plan
  – Come across with radicalised people or people committing crimes motivated by violent extremism
  – The multi-professional early intervention model (Anchor model) is situated within police structures
  – Interviews, criminal investigation instruments, refer people onwards to services provided by organisations and the other authorities
  – Support to the partners
Information exchange

• "Need to know" → "need to share"
  – between the local police and the intelligence service
  – with other actors

• Effective information sharing requires
  – that the police understands the role, capabilities and working methods of other actors
  – constant cooperation and interaction – increases trust
  – reciprocity – you get more if you give more

• Language problems should be recognised and solved
  – Quite often common aims but different language and words
Thank you!

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