Overview

> *Terrorism remains a key threat to the EU's internal security. 15 completed, foiled and failed terrorist attacks were recorded in the EU in 2021.*
>
> - [Europol Report](#)

According to the Europol Report, there were three jihadist terrorist attacks and one left-wing terrorist attack among the four completed attacks. France had the most attacks (5), followed by Germany (3) and Sweden (2). Austria, Denmark, Hungary, Belgium, and Spain all reported a single attack.

The majority of reported terrorist attacks were classified as jihadist terrorism. Jihadism continues to pose a significant threat in Europe. The coalition has defeated ISIS in Syria and Iraq in recent years. After months of fighting, the self-proclaimed "caliphate" of the Daesh group was completely destroyed following the conquest of the last territory held by the jihadists in Syria by an ArabKurdish force supported by the US on the night of March 22 to March 23, 2019. Daesh controlled a territory the size of Britain in Iraq and Syria at its peak in 2014. Between 5,000 and 6,000 Europeans have joined the Syrian-Iraqi buffer zone. Between 1,500 and 1,800 of them had returned to Europe. The issue of prevention, specially in the prison and probation system is a key to fight radicalisation in Europe.

We know that prison is a breeding ground for jihadism. In 2021, the average prison sentence for terrorist offenses in reported Member States proceedings was six years, which was lower than in 2020 (eight years). Other detainees who have already joined a terrorist organisation can easily recruit detainees. That is why the detection tool we are about to present has been designed to be useful to prison administration staff. Its goal is to detect signs of radicalisation as soon as possible by understanding the factors that lead people to jihadism.

The IRS Goals

**Prevention begins with identifying vulnerable inmates who are at risk of radicalisation**. Thus, risk assessment of terrorists within prison settings has emerged as a particularly critical issue in the area of radicalisation prevention.

The R2PRIS project conceptualised the Radicalisation Risk Assessment in Prisons Toolset (RRAP) between 2015 and 2018, which represents a battery of assessment instruments for prison staff at various hierarchical levels to assess the risks, signals, and vulnerabilities for radicalisation that may allow the staff to act in specific situations. One of these instruments is the Individual Radicalisation Screening (IRS), which aims to assess inmates' risk of radicalisation through a process that progresses from individual vulnerabilities to more extreme involvement with radical groups.

The Islamist extremism add on sheet is a deliverable centered on indicators of radicalisation and protective items in order to help the prison administration to understand the risk factors that can lead individuals to join a terrorist organisation. The development of a specific set of Islamist extremism-centred dimensions, indicators, and protective items to compose an IRS add-on assessment sheet (characteristics of FTFs/HTFs and gender issues will be considered) fall under this task.

The IRS is divided into three categories: low, moderate, and high vulnerability by the development of different dimensions revealing whether inmates are likely to be experiencing certain stages of the radicalisation process.

This add-on sheet takes into account the specific challenges laid out by the RAN Rehabilitation Manual and also includes protective items.
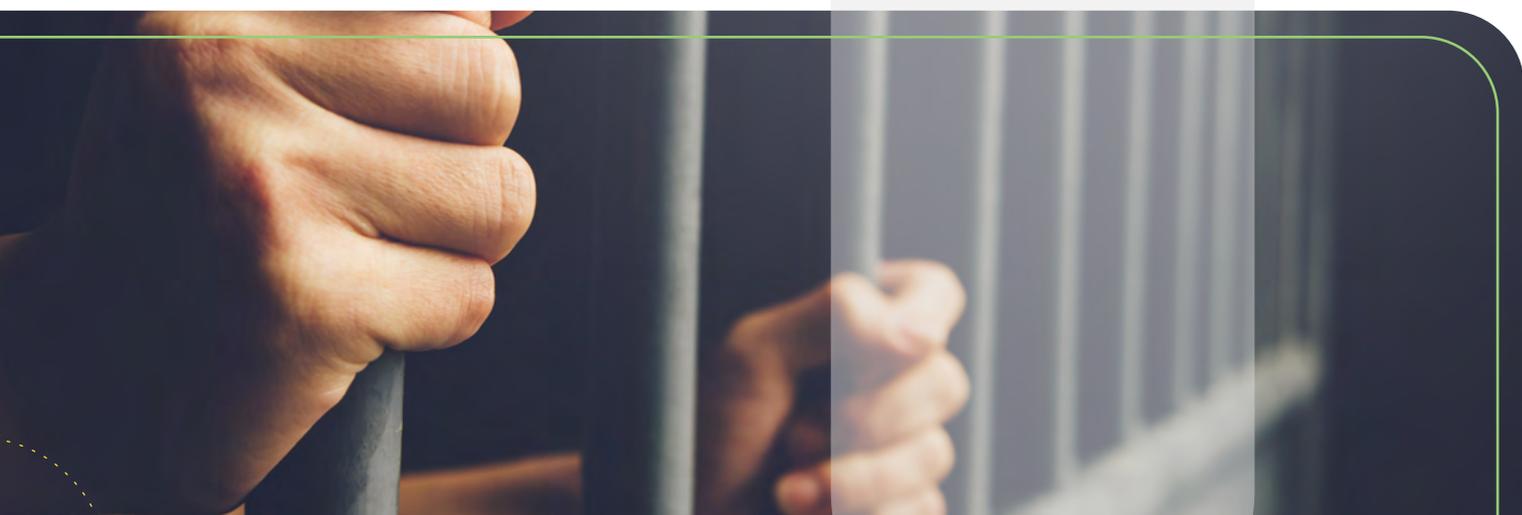
The 9 dimensions that the MIRAD team had chosen to develop this new tool

Need to Belong

Activism

Mental Health

Perceived Self-Esteem

Legitimisation of Terrorism

Perceived In-Group Superiority

Identity Fusion and Identification

Distance and Societal Disconnection

Protective Items

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