



P&P
RASMORAD



This project is funded by the European Union's
Justice Programme (2014-2020)

Towards an Italian Multi Agency approach to Radicalized Youth

Catia-Isabel Santonico Ferrer

ISTITUTO PSICOANALITICO
PER LE RICERCHE SOCIALI

Rome, 5th of July 2017



1. Where are we now?
2. Multiagency de-radicalization approaches in probation
3. Targets
4. Partners
5. Preliminary results of assessment activities in Torino, our pilot site

Jihadist radicalization in Italy

Commission on radicalization and jihadist extremism

Where are we now?

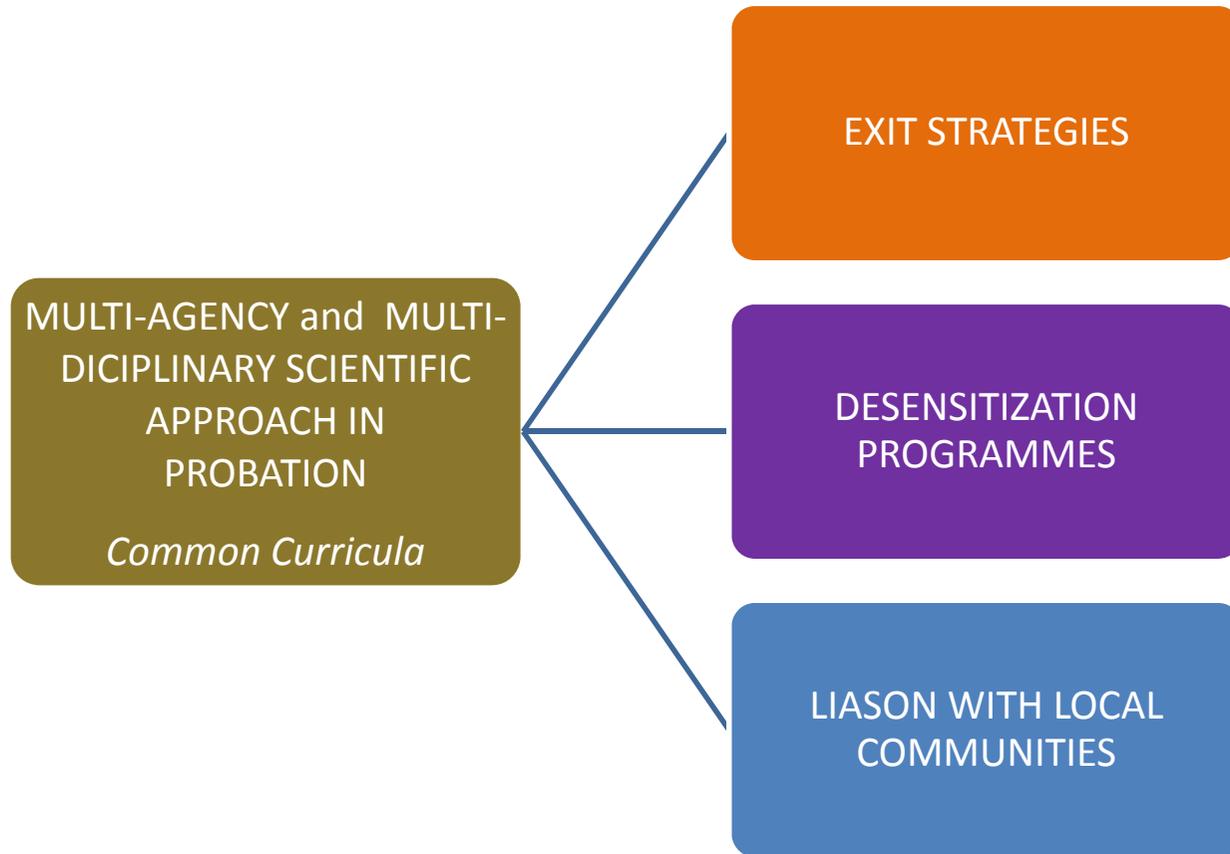
Jihadist Radicalization in Italy

Commission on radicalization and jihadist extremism

- **Not comparable either in size or intensity of the threat to most Central European countries** (110 FFs in Italy against 1700 in UK, 1500 in FR, 1000 in DE; 500 BE; 300 AT)
- Italy has **not registered a massive movement to areas of conflict or mass recruitment chains or attacks** of the scale of those occurring elsewhere:
 - ✓ Fewer 2G or 3G members in Italy,
 - ✓ no dominant ethnic group among the Muslims,
 - ✓ no concentration in specific neighborhoods,
 - ✓ active Muslim associations in Italy in supporting dialogue and moderate Islam
 - ✓ good coordination between police and intelligence,
 - ✓ experience with terrorism and organized crime,
 - ✓ use of extradition.
- **Nevertheless, there is also an informal jihadist scene in Italy**
 - ✓ social tensions,
 - ✓ new charismatic leaders,
 - ✓ developments in the geopolitical sphere,
 - ✓ young Muslims entering adulthood,
 - ✓ "Collective fervour" due to high level of political violence in Countries with a majority of Muslims.



DEFEAT RADICALIZATION AND TERRORISM



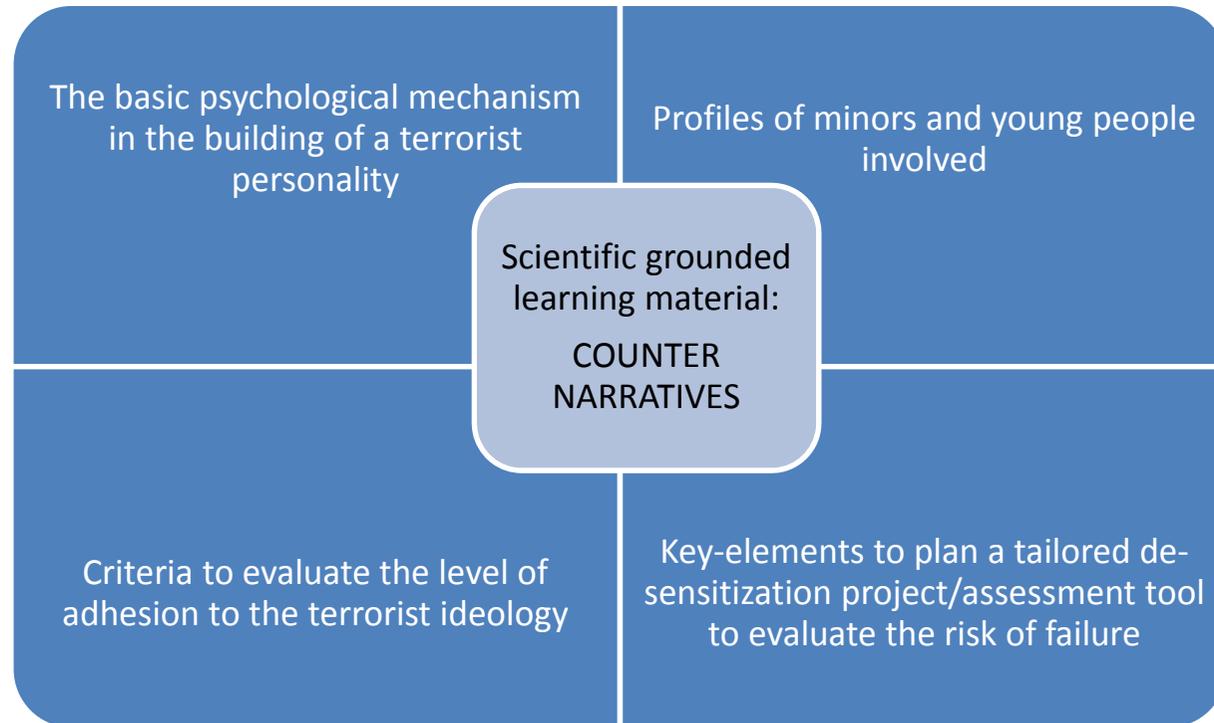
MULTI-AGENCY and MULTI-DICIPLINARY SCIENTIFIC APPROACH IN PROBATION

Provide professionals - **PROBATION OFFICERS** and **FRONTLINE PRACTITIONERS** working with young people in probation - with **SKILLS AND CAPACITIES** that allow them **TO NETWORK** and carry out coordinated interventions:

- To **de-sensitize already radicalized youth** through **counter-narratives** and foster their social integration
- To help **prevent the risk of re-recruitment** of youths to terrorism
- To **participate in** implementing **multi-agency re-educational programmes**
- **Liason with local communities** for successful reintegration programmes targeting young radicalized persons
- **Monitor cyber material**



MATES COMMON CURRICULA: *Based on the Common Curriculum Counter Terrorism approach used by CEPOL*



Specific challenges

- 1) How to work in a Probation settings with vulnerable minors and young people?
- 2) Counter narrative approach targeting individuals.

Who are we targeting?

Minors and Young people

- 1) Individuals who have been **convicted for crimes directly related to violent extremism** (potential agents of proselytisms) once they exit detection;
- 2) Individuals who may have been **convicted for other crimes**, who are serving alternative measures to detection that may exhibit different degree of risk for violent radicalization (potential/actual targets of proselytisms).



Who are we targeting?

Minors and Young people

Muslims

Either professing
or because of
family
background

Converted to Islam

Any origin

Homegrown terrorists

*First
generation
immigrants
from Muslim
Countries*

***Second and Third
generations*** with
*Muslim
background/
Basically Italians*

*Refugees
from Muslim
Countries*

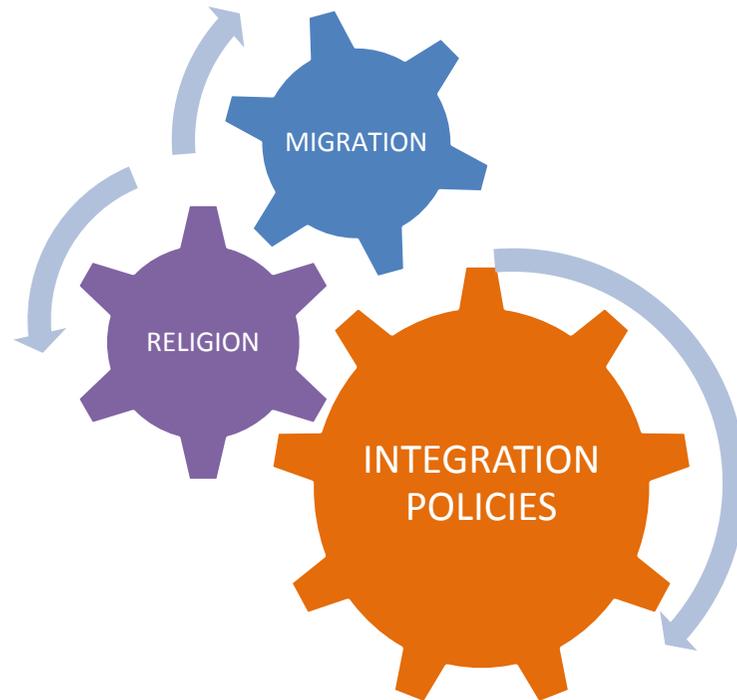




Who are we targeting? 2° and 3° generations

*Are non
discrimination
policies enough?*

*Can we still look
at religion as a
purely private
issue?*



Liason with
Muslim
communities

Integrate
migrant
communities

Remove obstacles
to full integration

Positive
integration
measures

Who are we targeting?

Minors and young adults

The **suffering of children and young adults** in our society grows, whose indicators are many (suicide, drug addiction, alcoholism, bullying, eating disorders, peer violence, drop outs):

- **Growing disaffiliation from Western Societies.**
- **Vulnerable people 1° and 2° generation immigrants** facing specific challenges to successful integration.
- **Engagement in violent radicalization** is an **extreme choice**, but **not the only possible outcome of social marginalization.**
- **Islam is the FLAG under which vulnerable persons gather** but also the **WALL** against which they may crash.
- **There is no West against Islam:** Muslim Communities are fighting radicalization from within!

Who to partner with?

Urgent Need for **PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION STRATEGIES** designed to **target vulnerable persons and multi-problematic cases** by networking and strengthening the role of immigrants' associations and communities in carrying out interventions.

Imams, Mosques and the associations of immigrants

Over time, not only the numbers, but also the characteristics and profiles of the foreign population in our country have changed:

- **The communities of third-country nationals** with different origins in Italy have grown in numbers and **become organized**.
- The **Moroccan, Tunisian, Egyptian, Bengali, Pakistani communities**, just to name a few, have expressed associations that **run a growing number of Mosques**, taking on **significant social relevance**.
- They **reach out young people** - among young Muslims there is 4 time the level of attendance of religious associations (12%) compared to Catholics (3%).



PROJECT PILOT SITE IN ITALY

TORINO, Piemonte

- Selected in cooperation with DAP and DJCJ
- Relevant immigration from Maghreb
- Region discussing local prevention CVE strategies
- Targeted programmes for Young TCNs (social integration, early school leaving, involved in bullying)
- Integrated strategies and successful networks targeting different vulnerable groups
- Cooperation with Imam in prison and, although limited, in probation (although role of Imams and immigrant associations not formally established...)

YET...

- No evidence of radicalized people in the local probation services (USSM and UEPE).

ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES: meetings and interviews

1 PRELIMINARY MEETING AND 10 INTERVIEWS WITH:

- USSM - Torino director and social worker
- Director of alternative care community Stella Polare
- Bureau of Foreign Minors of the Municipality of Tourin
- UEPE - Torino Director and
- ABELE lavoro, support to social and employment reintegration
- USCITA SICURA, support to social and employment reintegration
- Parish of San Luca
- ASL Torino
- Islamic association delle Alpi managing 2 Moschee
- UEPE Asti and Ivrea Social workers

ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES: Preliminary Results

Merging UEPE/USSM Probation services (D.P.C.M. 15 June 2015 n. 84, entered into force on July 14°, 2015)

- Need to find **common procedures to work with minors and young adults (16-25)**: mapping Probation intervention networks, key local actors, services and procedures.
- Seen as an opportunity to give **new impetus to multiagency approaches in Probation targeting multiproblematic situations**, based on the experiences and competences acquired by UEPE and USSM in collaboration with the partners in their respective intervention networks.

ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES: Preliminary Results

Probation services and justice systems are struggling to meet the needs of foreign citizens (the conventions with language mediation services have expired and have not been renewed), that is providing real listening to their needs and offering concrete opportunities for re-integration.

- ✓ **Certified Imams in prison** to guarantee the right to worship controlling for proselytism.
- ✓ **Cultural mediators with Muslim background** in Prison, as educators in alternative care communities, supporting targeted reintegration projects in probation settings.
- ✓ **Moderate Islam willing to help and more aware and capable to intervene** in the area of de-radicalization strategies of violent extremists than very central actors.

**NO STRATEGY DESIGNED SO THAT THEY CAN BECOME
REAL PARTNERS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST RADICALIZATION**



ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES: Preliminary Results

Islamic communities, Mosques and the associations managing them are still very **MARGINAL ACTORS** in the **prevention and intervention justice systems**, despite the fact that the **proportion of non-EU citizens in the justice system is significant** (34% of people in detection are not Italian citizens, and over 75% of foreign prisoners are Muslims).

Parishes and other actors with a Catholic background traditionally play a relevant role in the reintegration process of vulnerable people whatever the cultural and religious background of the person in the justice system.

The intervention system in Probation is culturally homogeneous and has not changed during the last 30 years

Society is not. Different **community stakeholders are able to work with cultural and religious diversity in the Probation system**, bring in new skills and capacities.

ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES: Preliminary Results

Limited exploration of the **cultural and religious background** of individuals taken in charge by the justice system by the social workers, because it appears to be **opaque and difficult to interpret**, leading to:

- Underestimating the **needs** of the person (e.g. exercise of the right to worship and respect for religious prescriptions).
- Reinforcing the **perception** by young people in the justice system of being discriminated against.
- Untapped **intervention opportunities**. e.g. active involvement in the reintegration process of the cultural/religious community they belong to.
- **Risk underestimating radicalization signals**: “social workers do not know where and what to look at”.

Multiagency approaches in Probation

- Promote the reciprocal recognition of roles/duties on the part of all actors involved
- Guarantee that all actors understand the role/duties of all the professionals within a specific network
- Clearly define the specific duties of each actor involved
- Clearly define the shared area of operation
- Highlight the opportunities and/or complexities regarding the specific cases
- Define shared practices
- Formalize collaboration agreements/protocols

Thank you!

