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# Council of Europe principles and standards regarding radicalisation and violent extremism

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# Council of Europe Action Plan for fighting violent extremism and radicalisation leading to terrorism

two objectives: (a) to reinforce the legal framework against terrorism and violent extremism; (b) to prevent and fight violent radicalisation through concrete measures in the public sector, in particular in schools and prisons, and on the Internet



# **The Guidelines and the Handbook for prison and probation services regarding radicalisation and violent extremism**

The Guidelines were adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 2 March 2016. The Handbook was approved by the CM on 22 March 2017



## Definitions in the Guidelines

- **Radicalisation** – dynamic personal process of acceptance of VE
- **Violent extremism (VE)** - promoting, supporting or committing acts which may lead to terrorism
- **Dynamic security** – a concept and a working method by which staff prioritise the creation and maintenance of everyday communication and interaction with prisoners based on professional ethics



## Basic principles - Guidelines

- Respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms
- Respect for data protection and privacy
- Imprisonment as a measure of last resort
- Good prison management
- Selection, training and tasks of prison and probation services



## Council of Europe Handbook

- VE and radicalised offenders have no one single profile, no size fits all
- Identification - motivations, needs, grievances, attitudes, personal history, vulnerability
- Screening, assessment, classification
- Not necessarily a need to invest in new programmes and methods - use resources better
- Staff has a very important role - staffing issues come first, frontline staff



## Managing of rehabilitation of VE

- Interventions - focus, approaches, goals
- Disengagement, deradicalisation, desistence
- Information sharing and communication
- Multi-agency co-operation
- Specific groups



## **November 2016, Strasbourg, Round table of prison and probation staff designated to deal with VE**

- Allowed to promote the Guidelines and the Handbook
- Allowed to create networks, to exchange information, experience, good practices and lessons learned
- The summary of the discussions together with the Guidelines and the Handbook will soon be published in English and French





## Risk assessment

- Both the Guidelines and the Handbook insist on this
- The most important principles:
  - General RA and sentence planning for all
  - VE RA only in cases where necessary
  - Only trained staff, multidisciplinary teams best
  - Adapt RA tools and revise regularly



**Thank you for your attention!**

**For more information:**

**[www.coe.int/prison](http://www.coe.int/prison)**