



FRANCE

1. What do you understand by the term RADICALISATION?

Radicalisation (also **Radicalization**)

Radicalisation represents a dynamic process whereby an individual increasingly accepts and supports violent extremism. The reasons behind this process can be ideological, political, religious, social, economic, moral or personal.

The term radicalisation can refer to a set of gestures that are described as "extreme" or that result from a more literal interpretation of the principles of a system, whether political, religious or economic. Radicalisation leads to "different types of extreme activism, including terrorism,"



according to The International Center for the Study of Radicalisation and Political Violence.

To radicalize, it is not only to dispute or to refuse the established order. Jihadist radicalisation is driven by the desire to replace democracy by a theocracy based on Islamic law (sharia) using violence and weapons. It therefore presupposes the adoption of an ideology that gives a framework of life and guidelines guiding the set of behaviors. Radicalized people divide men and women into two categories: those who adhere to their cause (and are, as such, called to die) and those who do not share it.



Jihadist radicalisation is the result of an evolutionary process and not a sudden "tilting". It is the consequence of personal paths and there are no systematic explanations for these paths. However, research has established three profiles of people tempted to join jihadist terrorist groups:

- Non-radicalized: these people are not radicalized in the strict sense of the word. Instead, they are inspired by idealist, humanitarian, "romantic" motives ... The identity, religious or political aspects of their ideology are virtually absent. Their "enrollment" is more or less strong, but it can be relatively fast.
- Radicalized identities: the term refers to individuals who break with French society and Western values. These people feel excluded or humiliated and make their identity a refuge as much as a solution to their problems. Their radicalisation is slow and the religious dimension of it is only partial.
- Radicalized politico-religious: for these individuals, the idea of a holy war is a political project of central importance. Their identity is religious before being national or ethnic. For them, the Sharia must impose itself on the world. Their radicalisation is the result of a slow ideological process maintained by jihadists trained in religious doctrines, their interpretations and their currents.



Another interlocutor talks about the confusion between behavioral radicalization and cognitive radicalization (either one or the other, perhaps both). He cites the difference between radical commitments and:

- economic segregation (Northern Ireland)
- political marginalization (Corsica)
- ethno-political marginalization (Boko-Haram, Nigeria)

Violent extremism consists in promoting, supporting or committing acts which may lead to terrorism and which are aimed at defending an ideology advocating racial, national, ethnic or religious supremacy or opposing core democratic principles and values.

De-radicalization involves "making an already radical individual change to make him abandon his



views". According to two French senators (Mrs Esther Benbassa and Mrs Catherine Troendlé) specialists of the subject who wrote several notes and reports in 2017, the term too often resumed by the press betrays an insufficient reflection and they invite to prefer "de-indoctrination", "de-regimentation", "de-ideologization". *I'm not sure about the translation of this "de"... means to retire from indoctrination, regimentation, ideologization... will have to speak about this in Almeria.*

2. Has there been any specialized training with regards to radicalisation?

YES. French government, through its relevant ministries has the aim to train all civil servants by a national training plan to fight radicalization. It's a 20 hours-training course that is delivered by relevant ministries such as Justice, Education, Defense,... Please see attached the course details¹.

3. Does the prison have any type of policy with regards to radicalisation?

YES. Please see attached document titled "Fight against radicalisation in prison, the government is mobilizing"².

4. Are there any courses in the prison that address radicalisation? If YES, can you describe them?

4.1 - In prison, NO. The solution, on 1st hand, was to group these people in specific units but since September 2016, the French government has backtracked for lack of significant results.

¹ Comprendre et prévenir les processus de radicalisation - un enjeu éducatif et de politique publique

² Lutte contre la radicalisation en prison, le gouvernement se mobilise



4.2 - Outside prison, France had one experience but...

September 2016: 30 people in the process of radicalization aged from 18 to 30 years can be accommodated in a center of prevention, integration and citizenship in Pontourny (the name of "radicalization" is not pronounced). There young adults in the process of radicalization but who want to escape will be welcomed for a maximum period of ten months.

January 2017: Excluding its closure, the Minister of internal affairs acknowledged that it would be necessary to "evaluate and make corrections" at the first "de-radicalization" centre in Pontourny. Planned to host thirty residents, it shelters only three, against a background of tensions with the local population and lack of candidates.

February 2017: "It's a rush job", that is the impression left by the visit of the first center of "de-radicalization" opened in September in Pontourny (Indre-et-Loire) to the senator Esther Benbassa. In charge of carrying out an information mission on de-radicalization alongside her colleague Catherine Troendlé, senator as well, the elected representative refers to a "fiasco" and an "unsuitable framework": "When we visited the site on Friday 3 February 2017, there was only one resident left".

July 2017: The center had been under observation since February 2017. The controversial de-radicalization center of Pontourny, will close its doors, less than a year after its opening. The site of de-radicalization, which was aimed at welcoming young people "at risk" of radicalization on a voluntary basis, was running empty. "The experience has not been conclusive" the ministry said in a statement and added "The experimentation of an open reception center, operating on a voluntary basis, has shown its limits".

4.3 - Some specific day units dedicated to de-radicalisation as experimentation in some French big cities like Bordeaux, Le Havre, Strasbourg, Toulouse

In Bordeaux, they opened beginning of 2016 and they do not publish yet any evaluation on results. They run a conference on 9 June where they gave some figures for our area of Nouvelle Aquitaine (but they admitted that our region is not too badly impacted by the phenomenon of radicalisation):

Typology of publics

- 39 % are minors
- 89 % are less than 30 years old
- For 30+ it's mainly psychiatric problems
- In 2016, there were 55% male and 45% female (in the 1st six months of 2017, it was 50/50)
- 70% of them are from Bordeaux and its surrounding cities, 24% were from the rural area and 6% from other cities than Bordeaux and its surrounding cities.



Typology of care

- ☞ 48% are vulnerable: among them 63 % are female minors (under 18 years old) and 56% are women. **They need a family support (65%) and professional guidance (38%)**
- ☞ 35% show psychiatric troubles: 100% of them are adults (more than 18 years old) among them 92% are male. The task there is to guide them to some **therapeutic consultation for treatment**.
- ☞ 16% are identified as violent radicalized persons: 60% are female minors and 60% are women – 100% need **therapeutic work** with their family – 60% need **social and/or therapeutic care**.

In Bordeaux day centre of CAPRI³, they received 33 persons in total for 2016 but for the 1st five months of 2017 (01.01.2017-01.06.2017), they already welcome 41.

Common points between all of them: few of ideology – ignorance of Islam

³ http://www.radicalisation.fr/capri_mission.php