



Practical Guide to the Deradicalisation of Youngsters

Practical Guide to the Deradicalisation of Youngsters



‘From radical to normal’

FORUM has been involved in addressing the problem of radicalisation since 2003. Throughout the years, we have set up various projects designed to combat the radicalisation of both right-wing and Muslim extremist youths. The aim of these projects is not only to combat and prevent radicalisation but to ensure that the issue is placed higher on the policy agendas of the national government, municipalities and societal institutions.

The radicalisation of Muslim youths is a much-discussed topic, in which field the state and municipalities have implemented a series of instruments. The radicalisation of young right-wing extremists, however, has often remained underexposed or even dismissed as negligible. This practical guide therefore explicitly invites municipalities to pursue serious policy in the field of radical right-wing youths.

On the 1st of January 2009, FORUM established an exceptional Chair at the University of Amsterdam, held by Professor Frank Bovenkerk. This chair is named after the Dutch radicalism researcher who died in 2007, Frank Buijs: The FORUM Frank Buijs Chair in Radicalism Studies.

In 2007 and 2008, FORUM was in charge of several pilot projects which were designed to yield the insight required to launch a process of deradicalisation among youngsters. A separate document was also published, which describes the experience and insight gained during the course of these pilots: Van Donselaar, Wagenaar and Demant (2009). *Deradicaliseren in de praktijk. Monitor Racisme en Extremisme: Amsterdam* (Deradicalisation in practice. Racism and Extremism Monitor: Amsterdam).

FORUM compiled this guide largely on the basis of the findings of the aforementioned pilots – the pilot in Winschoten in particular yielded highly valuable insights and experience. Although the guide is primarily intended for municipal authorities, other chain partners, such as youth work agencies, the police, educational boards, teachers and job centres may also avail themselves of the useful instruments and recommendations that it contains. This guide is primarily focused on the process of developing a specific local approach to deradicalisation, instead of attempting to provide a blueprint for such an approach that is to be implemented nationally. The local context is and remains a determining factor for the manner in which process and approaches of this kind are developed.

This guide focuses on young radical right-wing extremists who have become or are at risk of becoming gradually involved in an apparently inescapable, ever-increasing process of radicalisation. Experience and insight gained previously shows that, in a large number of cases, the process in which the youngsters are enveloped can be brought to a halt or averted through the timely implementation of an accurate and adequate approach specifically designed for this purpose.

The guide is the Netherlands' first instrument for a curative approach to combating right-wing extremist radicalisation throughout the country. Various other countries have already developed projects in this field. These are described in the Racism & Extremism Monitor (2006) ¹

Chapter 9 contains further information on FORUM and how and whom to contact to address issues of deradicalisation and the approach to combat it.

Chris Huinder,
Secretary to the Board of Directors of FORUM

¹ S. Grunenberg & J. van Donselaar, 'Deradicalisering: lessen uit Duitsland, opties voor Nederland?', in: J. van Donselaar & P.R. Rodrigues (red.), Monitor Racisme & Extremisme: zevende rapportage, Amsterdam: Anne Frank Stichting/Universiteit Leiden 2006, p. 158-178. ('Deradicalisation: Lessons from Germany, options for the Netherlands?', in: J. van Donselaar & P.R. Rodrigues (ed.), Racism & Extremism Monitor: seventh report, Amsterdam: Anne Frank Foundation / Leiden University 2006, p. 158-178. An English translation of this chapter can be downloaded separately at www.annefrank.org/upload/Downloads/Mon7-UK-Ch8.pdf).

Introduction

This guide to the Deradicalisation of Youngsters is intended for all municipalities in the Netherlands, with the objective of providing guidelines for the development of a local approach to the deradicalisation of extreme right-wing youths². However, the municipality's local chain partners, such as the police and youth work agencies, can naturally also benefit from this guide.

Any approach to deradicalisation adopted has to be aligned with the particular problem encountered within a municipality. The main focus of this guide is therefore not a single standard approach for all municipalities, but rather the process that leads to the development of such a specific local approach. Furthermore, the guide contains a number of examples of successful methods of approach applied either in the Netherlands or abroad.

‘Radicalism: The pursuit and/or support of highly fundamental changes in society that may pose a threat to the democratic rule of law, perhaps by applying undemocratic methods, which may prove detrimental to the operation of the democratic rule of law.’

In this guide, radicalisation is viewed as a process. A person enveloped in such a process (certainly) need not display all the characteristics of one who has become entirely radicalised in the sense of the aforementioned definition of radicalism. Particularly during the initial phases of a process of radicalisation, one may not or hardly encounter evidence of (complete) ideological indoctrination or any organised association in which the person in question is involved. A youth may therefore become increasingly attracted to or involved in a group which is already in the process of radicalisation. However, a group of youths may also become increasingly or more deeply ‘entangled in’ a process of radicalisation.

The individual youth and/or group of youngsters need not necessarily exhibit characteristics of ideological radicalisation and extremist behaviour, despite the fact that they are either already involved in or destined for a process of radicalisation.

2 F. Demant, W. Wagenaar & J. van Donselaar, Racism & Extremism Monitor, Deradicalisation in practice, Amsterdam: Anne Frank Foundation / Leiden University, 2009.

Right-wing extremists in Winschoten:

How incidents can affect public order and safety.

A group of radical *Lonsdale youths* formed in the Dutch city of Winschoten around 2004/2005. In the spring of 2005, a number of these youths also attended a training camp organised by *Blood & Honour* (international neo-Nazi skinhead organisation) and the *Nationale Alliantie* (National Alliance) in the Belgian Ardennes. This same group got itself into trouble in April that year, when it posed for group photos in front of a Jewish monument in Winschoten, wearing and bearing Nazi insignia and flags. Also, members of the group urinated against the monument. Pub-goers who noticed this became furious at this behaviour and a fight ensued in which the pub in question was vandalised. In November 2006, a group of seven *Lonsdale youths* aged 13 to 23 were arrested, suspected of committing grievous bodily harm and attempted manslaughter in Winschoten. The police had already been familiar with the group to which these youngsters belonged for some time, as it had been responsible for intimidating behaviour and incidents. In March 2007, a series of confrontations between *Lonsdalers* and youngsters from the local asylum seekers centre in Winschoten prompted intense police intervention.

1

Why this guide?

During the past few years, there has been a marked increase in racist and right-wing extremist sentiments among youngsters in the Netherlands. A further study of this problem was performed within the context of the Racism & Extremism Monitor 2006, which also addressed steadily recurring questions, such as: 'To what extent are *Lonsdale youths* racist or right-wing radicals?' and 'Are extreme right-wing "gabbers" part of a youth culture, or simply youth delinquents?'.

Whatever the case, a 2005 report by the Netherlands General Intelligence and Security Service (AIVD) shows that this youth subculture is one of the largest among the Dutch youth. These youngsters distinguish themselves by exhibiting xenophobia and threatening or even violent behaviour. The Dutch Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations alerted municipalities to devote closer attention to these youths, with a view to maintaining public order and safety. There is after all a risk of these youngsters' behaviour giving rise to social contingencies, with all the repercussions these entail.

Also see: *Handboek Sociaal Calamiteiten Plan*.³

Approach in the Netherlands

The approach adopted to tackle right-wing radicalism in the Netherlands is mainly one of general prevention, or repressive action in the case of punishable offences. In 2007-2008, pilots were held in several Dutch municipalities, whereby a curative approach was developed with a view to deradicalising radical youths. Incidentally, the approach proved more successful in the one municipality than in the next ⁴. Successful or not, the methods adopted may serve as lessons to other Dutch municipalities. Various neighbouring countries can also provide examples of a curative approach to right-wing radicalism, on which Dutch municipalities might base their methods.

Stay alert; recognise the signs!

Lonsdale - If one wears a shirt of this brand and wears a jacket on top, then the two beginning and end letters of the brand are covered, leaving only 'NSDA' visible. The 'NSDAP' was Adolf Hitler's political party of *National Socialist German Workers*, or Nazis.

³ In 2009, FORUM developed the *Handboek Sociaal Calamiteiten Plan* or Social Calamities Plan manual. This manual explains how municipalities should respond in the event of social calamities, the division of responsibilities, and how early action can be taken to prevent social unrest and escalation. The manual can be downloaded at www.forum.nl/scp.

⁴ See: F. Demant, W. Wagenaar & J. van Donselaar, *Racism & Extremism Monitor, Deradicalisation in practice*, Amsterdam: Anne Frank Foundation / Leiden University, 2009.

Individual level

One central element of every curative approach adopted so far, has been the attempt to remove individual radical youths from groups and/or organisations before extreme radicalisation can occur. This approach is designed to prevent the further decline of these youngsters to such levels of social isolation, that they (increasingly) exhibit undesirable behaviour, such as vandalism, acts of violence and threats.

Before adopting an individual approach, however, it is sometimes necessary to examine and distinguish the various motives of the youngsters in the group in question. In this way, one can start ‘peeling’ the group as it were. By peeling the group, after all, one can gain a different image of it and, more specifically, the individual youngsters and their particular problems.⁵

No standard approach

Every municipality in the Netherlands faced with the problem of (groups of) youngsters in the process of radicalisation, can benefit from the (preventive) development of a deradicalisation programme. Given that the youngsters involved, the status of their process of radicalisation, the local circumstances and the problems in this field may vary greatly from one municipality to the other, it would be pointless to develop a single standard approach, to be subsequently imitated in each municipality.

This guide is therefore primarily intended to provide municipalities with pointers that should prove useful in the process of developing a specific local approach. However, they also first have to consider the question: ‘What is the current situation with regard to extreme right-wing youths within our municipality?’ Once the answer has been clearly mapped out, then the next logical questions are the following: ‘Is the current situation identified within our municipality such that it calls for action to be taken?’ and if so, ‘How do we as a municipality intend to tackle the issue in cooperation with our chain partners?’

5 See: FORUM, 2008, *Aan de slag met Lonsdalejongeren. Een curatieve groepsaanpak in Hendrik-Ido-Ambacht* (Tackling extreme right-wing youngsters. A curative group approach in Hendrik-Ido-Ambacht), FORUM: Utrecht. This document can be downloaded at www.forum.nl (Publications tab).

No approach required

A municipality may naturally conclude that the trouble it faces from groups of young right-wing extremists is negligible, and that no approach need therefore be developed. Even if it does not suffer any direct problems in this field, however, it nevertheless remains necessary that the municipality and chain partners regularly exchange views with one another, while continuing to monitor the possibility of the increasing isolation of (a group) youngsters from the rest of the community.

Experience gained both in the Netherlands and abroad has shown that there are risks involved in the failure to anticipate the identified problems caused by groups of young right-wing extremists on a timely basis:

- The contacts that the groups of extreme right-wing youths forge may continue to expand, thus developing a much larger and often more radical network. These groups may seek affiliation with Blood & Honour for instance. This renders it increasingly difficult to approach individual youths to participate in deradicalisation processes.
- The behaviour of individual youngsters within such a group may continue to deteriorate.
- These groups of youngsters may cause increasing nuisance, disrupting public order more and more frequently.
- The problems may even escalate to the level of social unrest.
- The media attention attracted may (suddenly) portray a negative impression of the municipality and municipal council in the public eye.



Stay alert; recognise the signs!

Sig runes - The SS insignia, which stands for 'Sig, sol, victory'. The Sig runes design was adopted by the SS during WW II. The use of this insignia is prohibited in the Netherlands.

The role of the media

A series of confrontations between *Lonsdalers* and youngsters from the asylum seekers centre in Winschoten, ultimately led to several families from the asylum seekers centre being relocated to centres elsewhere in the Netherlands. This drew public attention to right-wing extremists in Winschoten in both the local and national media. The attention reflected poorly on the municipality of Winschoten.

During this period, FORUM approached the municipality of Winschoten to enquire whether it might be interested in taking part in the 'Deradicalisation' pilot. Both the Mayor and the alderman for Youth Affairs responded affirmatively. In their opinion, radicalisation among their youth population was becoming increasingly worrying. Participation in this pilot project was expected to yield pointers for a plan of approach for the deradicalisation of youngsters living in their municipality.

During the term of the project, major changes did indeed occur within the radical right-wing group in Winschoten. The main effect that the project appears to have had, is that it literally restricted the scope of this group.

2

The first step: Chart the situation

‘What is the current situation with regard to extreme right-wing youths within our municipality?’ This is the first question that municipalities have to ask themselves. Has the municipality spotted signs of problems involving extreme right-wing youths? Are these problems associated with increasing levels of nuisance, alcohol or drug abuse, discriminatory behaviour or fights? Might there be personal connections between this group/these youngsters and more organised right-wing extremist associations? Or are there no such signs present? In the case of the last, is there an absence of this sort of problem, or are the authorities simply not in touch with these youngsters?

Conclusion

Let us assume that, having answered the questions above and acquired further information, a municipality comes to the conclusion that there are indeed individual or even one or more groups of extreme right-wing youths present.⁶

In that case, it is time to take the first step: Charting the local situation and answering the subsequent questions: ‘Is the current situation identified within our municipality such that it calls for action to be taken?’ ‘If so, how do we as a municipality intend to tackle the issue in cooperation with our chain partners?’ ‘If not, what are the risks involved and how might the municipality continue to monitor the local situation?’

Radical and deradicalisation

In order to answer these questions correctly, it is important to establish at the earliest possible stage a clear view of how all the parties involved define radicalisation and deradicalisation. Furthermore, what does one hope to achieve by means of the deradicalisation programme? Is it the intention to reduce the amount of nuisance, to detach people from the radical group, or to change people’s radical views?

⁶ This guide is based on the assumption that a group of radical youths exists. Your municipality may naturally conclude that there are ‘only’ one or two such individuals present. As this guide ultimately focuses on an individual-oriented approach, however, it may also prove useful in such cases.

The more eyes watching, the more they are inclined to spot

In order to gain a clear impression, it is naturally important that municipalities maintain effective relationships with chain partners, such as professionals and key figures in society. The more eyes watching, after all, the more they are inclined to spot! Various professionals, such as the police, social workers, youth welfare officers and teachers are in a good position to spot the telltale signs while performing their duties and to notify the authorities accordingly. This sort of image forming network can be (swiftly) set up under the management of the municipality.

Impression & opinion-forming guideline

The following questions may serve as a guideline when it comes to charting the local situation:

- What do the parties involved consider radical behaviour and possible radicalisation?
- What signs have been spotted and by whom?
- Have all parties who may spot the signs in question been involved?
- How do the responsible authorities and the chain as a whole deal with reports of such signs?
- What is the general impression of circumstances at the moment, and what is required to gain a fuller picture?
- Which knowledge and insight are the professionals involved lacking that would allow them to form an adequate impression?
- Does the general impression of circumstances suggest that there are problems locally? And if so, what is the problem? What does it actually entail?
- How serious is the problem and what are the actual and envisaged social repercussions?
- Is it sufficiently clear which people we are talking about?
- What are envisaged societal developments if no action were to be taken?
- What sort of picture of this social problem do the media portray?

“Do’s and don’ts”

during the first step:

Do’s:

- Forge effective partnerships with chain partners.
- Ensure that everyone involved shares the same view of the definitions of the terms *radicalisation* and *deradicalisation*.
- Bear in mind that the preparatory phase of a withdrawal programme is generally rather protracted.

Don’ts:

- Municipalities should not underestimate the problem, nor should they assume that there are no problems involving extreme right-wing youths, simply because no signs have yet been identified.
- Municipalities should not expect efforts in this field to prove very effective in the short term.
- Don’t allow the media to present a distorted picture of the situation, which may have an (adverse) effect on public opinion.



3

The second step: Create support

Once the situation within a municipality has been charted, the parties involved will have to consider whether the joint and individual circumstances give sufficient cause to develop an approach within the municipality. A deradicalisation programme for right-wing extremist youths has every chance of success, provided all parties involved – i.e. both the municipality (usually in a directive role) and the chain partners – offer sufficient support and commitment. This support and commitment has to be clearly apparent at both executive and administrative levels. The impression & opinion-forming network jointly set up during the first step should automatically generate support for the development of an effective approach.

From the very beginning of the process, various meetings have to be held with all parties involved, with a view to create further support. During the process, it should also be made/become clear what sort of budget (may) be available for the development of the activities and measures considered necessary.

Management

Well-organised management at administrative level is also essential to the success of a deradicalisation process. Furthermore, setting up the appropriate structure on commencement of a deradicalisation programme is a crucial aspect of the continued favourable operation of all parties involved throughout the process. This implies that duties and responsibilities have to be clearly allocated.

For the purposes of this guide, it has been assumed that the municipality, for at least the duration of the process of development of the programme, takes on the management role. As the party ultimately responsible for public order and safety, the Mayor should take direct charge of the administrative management of this process. In assuming management of the process, furthermore, the municipality should endorse the urgency of the problem identified and support the measures to be implemented.

Should it occur that a municipality does not endorse the urgency of the problem, then a different structure should be implemented, whereby one of the chain partners assumes charge of administrative management. It may naturally also be the case that, although the municipality supports the approach ultimately chosen, a different party proves a more obvious choice to take charge. In fact, a different party in charge may even prove to be more preferable in certain circumstances.

“Do’s and don’ts”

during the second step:

Do’s:

- Ensure that all parties share a clear impression of the problem identified.
- Clearly record all agreements and decisions made.
- Ensure that the organisational structure is also clear.
- Firmly establish who is to take charge of management.
- Operate on the basis of short lines.
- Make appropriate agreements concerning the budget required.

Don’ts:

- Don’t cause misunderstandings, differences in interpretation or priorities.
- Partnerships should not be forged on a non-committal basis.
- Ensure that there is not too much leeway for people to interpret matters according to their ‘own’ ideas.
- Avoid repeatedly debating the matter of a fixed budget.

From: *Aan de slag met Lonsdale jongeren* (Getting to work with Lonsdale Youth)

Provide a solid foundation

Generally speaking, the following applies: In order to perform quality youth work – and to vouch for its continuity – one requires a solid ‘foundation’. In other words: The youth work agency has to be able to rely on both administrative and official support. If one strives to build a solid foundation, then people will be less inclined to (continually) debate matters of composition and required budget.

4

The third step: From group to target group

The local situation is clear: it has been established that there is a local problem, which needs to be addressed. The partners involved have shown sufficient support and commitment. The third step entails the specific definition of the programme's target group. When forming an impression, however, it is important to differentiate between the youngsters in this target group. Only then is it feasible to define the target group for which a particular approach may prove effective.

The role of a group

Research has shown that youngsters who join right-wing extremist groups or a group of youths that is becoming radical, do not (immediately) share pronounced racist opinions, ideology and/or organisational attitudes. Many youths who associate with right-wing extremist circles, are initially inclined to focus on the group as such, and the feeling of 'belonging' to it. However, other factors may also play a role. For instance, the group may serve as an opportunity to purchase and use drugs. Some youngsters join in order to escape problems of a domestic nature, or purely in search of excitement and thrills. Youths may also take part because participation in a group provides a sense of protection, from other groups for example. Only later in the process of radicalisation does the matter of ideology come into play.

Latent racist opinions become more manifest and stronger as time passes and the youngsters become more closely involved in the group. These opinions may be imparted as part of the general impression within the group, but may also be due to personal unpleasant experiences, such as violent confrontations. The group therefore assumes an important precautionary and protective function, perhaps serving as a substitute for a normal circle of friends.

In the case of long-term membership, youngsters become increasingly deeply rooted in the group and isolated from society. Furthermore, the risk of violent confrontations with others rises. Increasing isolation also makes it more difficult to maintain (harmonious) relations with the outside world, for the simple reason that the community does not want to be associated with such figures. Social ties are sometimes even severed completely, either by the youngsters themselves or the outside world.

Differentiation

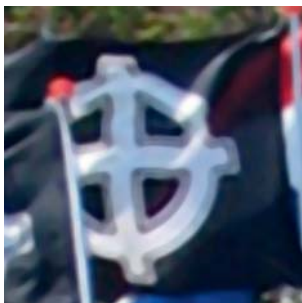
It is vital that insight be acquired into the group(s) of radical youths present within the municipality, so as to establish the various levels and structures. This differentiation of the group(s) also enables the identification of subgroups, each of which can then be approached separately and – if necessary – different programmes might be developed. A programme may also focus on just one or a few subgroups. Such differentiated insight into the group is necessary to avoid tackling the entire group as a whole, which can prove counterproductive.

Three categories

Generally speaking, three categories can be distinguished within groups of extreme right-wing youths: The hard core, the hangers-on and the potential group members (newcomers). Various studies have shown that processes of deradicalisation are different for members of the hard core than those for the newcomers and the hangers-on. People in the hard core have, after all, almost inevitably been involved in a radical organisation for quite some time. They are therefore well-versed in the ideology, their isolation from the outside world has reached an advanced stage and there are bound to be more factors preventing them from withdrawing from the group. In the case of hangers-on, it is important to ensure that they do not become further isolated as (there is a risk that) this will only push them further along in the process of radicalisation. It is therefore essential to emphasise the negative aspects of the radical group and the practical disadvantages of group membership. People in the hard core, in contrast, do need to be isolated, and preferably quickly, so that they cannot pass on the radical ideas to others.

Broad or targeted

A programme may be broad-based and aimed at the entire group, comprising the hangers-on, the potential members and the hard core. However, one may also opt for a targeted approach, focusing solely on the members of the hard core for instance. The choice of either a broad-based or a targeted approach within a municipality depends on factors such as the problem identified and the human and financial resources available. It is nevertheless crucial that the choice of approach is a unanimous one, supported by all partners involved.



**Stay alert;
recognise the signs!**

Celtic cross - As its name suggests, the Celtic cross is part of Celtic heritage. However, the origins of its use in a right-wing extremist context are rather vague. In the Netherlands, the symbol first appeared in the nineteen nineties, in the 'gabber' scene, where it remains highly popular.

Most effective

Each municipality therefore has to choose the category that the approach is to initially focus upon. Previous experience has shown that an approach targeting the 'hangers-on' is generally the most effective. These youngsters are usually more readily approachable for withdrawal programmes than the 'hard core'. In addition, this group of hangers-on – once charted – is generally smaller than the group of potential (future) members. Furthermore, hangers-on are often already known to professionals, such as youth welfare officers or the police.

In many cases, these professionals are already in contact with the youngsters or can establish contact with them relatively easily.

However, this does not necessarily imply that a deradicalisation programme is doomed to fail among the hard core. They can also benefit from support in addressing their problems and close attention to their future prospects. The approach aimed at this target group nevertheless requires a great deal more effort than those targeting newcomers or hangers-on. In many cases, however, support in addressing their problems will have to go hand in hand with an active approach to removing the stumbling blocks that prevent those involved from withdrawing from the group. Members of the hard core are generally more socially isolated than the hangers-on.

Guideline in establishing the target group

The following questions and measures may serve as a guideline to parties involved when establishing the target group:

- What is the link between the prospective target group and the gravity of the problem identified?
- What kind of youngsters are involved, and in what numbers?
- Who is to be involved in the approach? Next, form a group of people (professionals, organisations, authorities) who can be involved in the withdrawal programme for youngsters in the envisaged target group. Create both 'inner' and 'outer' circles within the group, comprising a few authorities (officials) that are to be invariably involved, and a larger group of authorities (officials) that are to be engaged in individual withdrawal programmes for the youngsters in question respectively.
- What do we aim to achieve with the programme?
- Who is to be targeted: everyone (broad-based) or the hard core (targeted)?
- Which approach is the most suitable for which target group?

“Do’s and don’ts”

during the third step:

Do’s:

- Apply clear criteria to the target group on which the approach is to focus: people who apply voluntarily, or people who have to be actively approached?
- Formulate in advance exactly what the programme is designed to achieve.
- Clearly notify everyone involved of the choice of target group that the programme is to focus on.

Don’ts:

- Don’t simply assume that a programme aimed at members of the hard core is doomed to fail.
- Don’t apply one and the same approach to the various target groups.
- Don’t target the entire group with a single programme.

From: Racism & Extremism Monitor 2006

Reasons to withdraw

Reasons that may persuade hard core extremists to consider withdrawing include impending criminal cases, pressure from one’s partner or family, a sense (albeit misplaced) of insecurity, the realisation that one has become isolated through participation in right-wing extremist circles, and a perceived lack of prospects.

Although these reasons are also applicable to the so-called hangers-on, they are not so much viewed as a reality, but rather circumstances which they are likely to face if they do not withdraw from right-wing extremist circles. Making these youngsters aware of such risks can prove a successful approach.



Stay alert; recognise the signs!

14 - This number stands for fourteen words, namely: 'We must secure the existence of our race and the future for white children.' An American neo-Nazi slogan that is popular among extreme right-wing skinheads and *gabbers*.

18 - The first and eighth letters of the alphabet, or AH: Adolf Hitler.

28 - 28 stands for the second and eighth letters of the alphabet, which are the initials of the neo-Nazi organisation Blood & Honour.

88 - H is the eighth letter of the alphabet. 88 therefore stands for HH, or *Heil Hitler*.

From: Racism & Extremism Monitor 2006

Profiles of right-wing extremists

Diagrammatically, the first profile is as follows: skinheads or neo-Nazis, aged 18 to 25, with an alcohol dependency, no regular working life, sometimes with a history of violence or criminal record, and psychological disorders in some cases. The second profile applies to a less delinquent group of new recruits and hangers-on. The age category is often a little lower than the first. Youngsters who fit the second profile run the risk of becoming increasingly radical.

Source: IMES report, *Decline and withdrawal*

Extract from an interview with an ex-hooligan:

'You only find the doctrine among the diehards. The largest group are the hangers-on. They don't even know the significance of a swastika. A group had clad the walls of an old-folks' home with swastikas, and so I asked them "do you know what it means?" They thought it meant "foreigners out". So I told them "No, it means something entirely different". Then I explained about the fascists and the war, and that you can upset older people who witnessed the war by doing that.'



5

The fourth step: From target group to individual youngster

During the fourth step, the envisaged target group is reduced to the individual youngster(s) and a tailored programme is subsequently developed.

Which individual youngsters

It has to be clearly established which youngsters in the chosen target group are to be approached. The next logical step in the deradicalisation process is to establish a list of potential candidates for withdrawal. The following questions may serve as a guideline in doing so.

- What is known about the youngsters in question?
- What data on them is available?
- What are their domestic circumstances?
- What is their position with regard to work and qualifications?
- In what sort of environment do they live?
- Which authorities have records of these youngsters?
- Are there established disadvantages that the youngster will face as a result of his or her group membership?
- What sort of information is required to gain a fuller impression?

Focus on the individual youngster

The ultimate programme places its focus on the individual youngsters within the (sub-) target group. The police, municipality, youth work agencies and other authorities jointly analyse the target group of radical youths. Parties involved first have to familiarise themselves with and distinguish between the various motives of the group of youths in question. What are the risk factors that (may) impede the withdrawal of the individual youngsters? What are the factors that persuade these individuals to join and remain within the group, etc.?

Source: IMES report, *Decline and withdrawal*

The desire to withdraw from right-wing extremist groups is often based on factors related to the wish to lead a quiet life. The impression that dropouts present is that right-wing extremist involvement has substantial consequences. It becomes almost impossible to lead a normal life due to exclusion from and stigmatising mechanisms applied by the rest of society.

“Do’s and don’ts”

during the fourth step:

Do’s:

- Create clarity with regard to the composition of the target group and those who are to be approached.
- Ensure that the people who are to forge relations with the target group and intervene are suitably professional.
- Check meticulously that every possible scrap of information on the individual has indeed been acquired.
- Be frank about the availability and quality of professionals involved. If necessary, also amend the expectations and objectives accordingly. It is prudent to take such steps at an early stage, rather than having to conclude later that the expectations and objectives were overenthusiastic, thus running the risk of disappointment, miscommunication, etc.

Don’ts:

- Don’t be tempted to rely solely on one source of information.
- Don’t tar all the individuals in a subgroup with the same brush.
- Don’t implement too large a core team.

Source: IMES report, *Decline and withdrawal*

Extract from an interview with a dropout:

‘I was sacked when my employer heard about my right-wing extremist activities. I was discovered on the Internet. Everything put on the Internet remains accessible for quite a long time, even photos. It’s a pity. I had to go to a lot of trouble to have all of it removed from the Internet.’

Source: IMES report, *Decline and withdrawal*

Germany has an extensive range of programmes aimed at combating and preventing right-wing extremism. There are currently some fifteen to twenty projects being run in Germany to deradicalise right-wing extremists.

We have learned from these German deradicalisation programmes that attention should be focused on at least the following elements:

- Profiling the dropouts
- Reasons to withdraw from extremist level
- The withdrawal programme
- Scope of the objective
- Budget
- Partners and network
- Attention to women and girls
- Professional counsellors
- Monitoring

Source: IMES report, *Decline and withdrawal*

Extract from an interview with a dropout:

'There's a lad that wants to get out. He's having trouble. I don't know if he'll succeed. He's come out of jail and hasn't a thing to his name. There's no aftercare in the Netherlands. That means that you find yourself on the streets with just ten euros in your pocket. So yes, most of those guys have to approach their families for help. But if they can't do that, then they turn to friends. And that usually means their old friends.'



Stay alert; recognise the signs!

Hammer and sword - The hammer and sword symbolise the nation of soldiers and workers idealised by the Nazis. The symbol became widely known largely as a result of its use by the revolutionary pre-war wing of Hitler's NSDAP. The insignia is primarily worn by neo-Nazis nowadays.



6

The fifth step: Develop an approach

This fifth step addresses the development of and decision-making involved in defining the local and specific approach to the target group in question. This approach should focus primarily on supporting and counselling the individual youngsters during their withdrawal (deradicalisation). The approach should endeavour to emphasise the disadvantages of group membership to the youngsters in question, while making the greatest possible effort to alleviate the difficulties that the youngsters involved face when withdrawing from a radical group. The difficulties that the individual youngster experiences need to be described in greater detail.

Cooperation

In addition to the professionals (the so-called inner circle) that maintain either direct or indirect (via a third party) contact with the dropouts there are various authorities and organisations (the outer circle) which can play a significant role in the withdrawal process. This relates primarily to those authorities involved in providing care, school and/or job counselling, opportunities in the field of housing and possibilities to participate in other pastimes, etc. Cooperation between the various authorities is crucial to the success of the approach. The approach has to be firmly embedded in a support structure comprising the police, school, social work, youth welfare and neighbourhood community work bodies. Combining the insight possessed by the various authorities is, after all, the best means of developing an integrated approach. One may opt to have the professional contact person, who communicates directly with the (potential) dropout, also coordinate contact between the various authorities involved in the individual case in question. It is prudent to forge ties with existing partnerships wherever possible when cooperating in this field.

Structure

The direct implementation of the approach is the task of professionals. Furthermore, administrative commitment is invaluable in ensuring that sound implementation takes place. After all, this is the only means of assuring the professionals involved in its implementation of the necessary administrative and organisational support, time and scope for the approach. The administrative commitment needs to be laid down in a partnership contract or some other form of agreement chosen by the partners. This commitment also needs to be vouched for within the organisation by appointing a steering committee, which supervises and supports the implementation process behind the scenes. It is, however, advisable to set up a core team to perform the

actual implementation and coordination. A broader partnership of chain partners needs to be formed surrounding the core team. The former should also be involved in identifying potential dropouts.

Making contact

As mentioned in the fourth step, experience has shown that those youngsters in the category ‘hangers-on’ in particular are approachable for withdrawal. This is partly due to the fact that a certain impression/profile of these youngsters is usually available, as the professionals involved are already in contact with them. These professionals play a central role in providing support and counselling, and – wherever necessary – coordinating the individual withdrawal process. In certain cases, however, it may prove that other people have better contact with the potential dropout. These may include such people as a football trainer, neighbourhood volunteer, or a teacher. In such cases, it may be preferable to (continue to) maintain direct contact with the (potential) dropout through this person. In those circumstances, the person in question can rely on the direct support and supervision of one of the professionals. A joint effort has to be made to devise solutions to the problems that the individual youngster faces, such as providing employment, schooling, care and accommodation.

Guideline to an individual approach

The following questions and measures may serve as a guideline when establishing an individual approach for potential dropouts:

- Who is to play either a direct or indirect role in this approach? In other words: who does what, when and with whom? Which/who are the main implementers?
- Who is to serve as the youngster’s contact person, and who is therefore to make initial contact with the youngster?
- The initial objective is to coax the youngster out of isolation (which only encourages further radicalisation). This might be achieved by offering accommodation, schooling or work placement, or by holding various coaching sessions.
- What is the case file to comprise (contact, talks with the youngster)?
- What are the desired results (SMART)?
- What particular method is to be adopted?
- Set up a registration system in which to record details of all relevant steps and action during the withdrawal programme.
- Observe data protection legislation when recording this data.
- Safeguard the continuity of the process: continue to monitor these youngsters on a regular basis.

Experiences from Norway

The local police make contact with the potential dropout, requesting that the youngster and his/her parents attend an appointment at the police station. An interview is held on the basis of the actual issue that gave cause for concern (e.g. theft, drug abuse, participation in a right-wing extremist group). The emphasis is clearly placed on the problems that the youngster is set to encounter, and the fact that he/she is throwing his/her future away. The object of this interview is not to punish the youngster, but to create a basis for reorientation and a change of behaviour. The interview is based on a structured procedure which is designed to make the youngster aware of the consequences of his/her behaviour, while also seeking to propose possible (legal) alternatives.

This method has proven highly suitable as a preventive measure among youngsters in danger of straying into delinquency. A prime example of its effectiveness is the operation held in 2003, targeting the Norwegian neo-Nazi group *Vigrid*. Within a period of 40 days, 109 interviews were held with 95 members of the group. The parents were also present in 39 cases; 60 youngsters ultimately withdrew from the group on the basis of these interviews.

The *Nightravens* project has been operating throughout Norway since the early nineteen nineties, deploying teams of parents, who patrol the city's nightlife areas talking to the youngsters they encounter there. The aim of the project is to reduce levels of alcohol and drug abuse and violence among the youth. The *Nightravens* teams invariably patrol from ten in the evening till four in the morning, operating in close cooperation with the police. *Nightravens* are currently operating in some 450 municipalities throughout Norway.

“Do’s and don’ts”

during the fifth step:

Do’s:

- Develop an approach that is suitable to tackle the problem identified.
- Form a core team at operational level, and an outer circle of chain partners around it.
- Chain partners may hold highly varied interests and insights. It is therefore no easy task to achieve general consensus. This is nevertheless absolutely essential to the success of the approach.
- Discuss the developments achieved with all the youngsters involved in a structured manner within the core team.
- Allocate each member of the core team several youngsters with whom they are to make and maintain contact and intervene.
- Jointly compile (e.g. within the core team) a form of operating protocol as a guide to which the individual professional contact person can refer.
- Set up an adequate registration system.

Don’ts:

- Avoid adopting too passive an attitude as a core team.
- Don’t be careless with people’s personal data.
- Don’t simply assume that professionals possess the skills required to make contact with potential dropouts.
- Don’t throw individual professional contacts in ‘at the deep end’ (set up a network and provide counselling and support, through the municipal management structure for instance).

The sixth step: The implementation

The implementation largely consists of taking away the advantages of group membership and undoing the radicalisation that membership entails, while also clearly pointing out the disadvantages involved. This is also a topic for discussion with the individual. A joint effort should be made to examine and apply alternatives. What other ways of feeling safe are available? What problems has one encountered, and how might these be resolved without reverting to group membership? How might one emerge from increasing isolation and tackle the difficulties it causes? Wherever possible, agreements are also made concerning (desisting from) certain behaviour, extremist attitudes, participation in the group, etc.

Deradicalisation is a complex process comprising a large number of interwoven factors, often devoid of clear causal links. If the approach is to be implemented properly, then the entire process (method, contacts and agreements between the professionals directly involved) has to be well and clearly organised and structured.

Core team

It is advisable to form a core team comprising the professionals directly involved. However, for matters of practicability and decisiveness, this core team should be limited in size.

Matters including progress, individual development and the like are frequently discussed within such a core team. The core team (operational) and the aforementioned steering committee (management/administration) are in direct communication with one another, for instance through the party responsible for management. In the event that the municipality assumes this management role, then the core team can be coordinated at official level, while the Mayor assumes the post of Chair of the steering committee. The exact organisation of the approach has to be specified at local level.

Embedded

While an approach is under development, measures should be taken to establish whether it might be integrated in an existing consultation process or approach within the municipality. If it cannot – e.g. because the approach first has to be defined during implementation – then steps may be taken on the basis of a prearranged period of time and criteria, to establish where it is to be accommodated.

An approach to deradicalisation within a municipality can also be temporarily set up independently. In that case, it is only embedded once it has proven successful. However, clear consensus is required concerning the criteria applicable to adjudge the success of an approach: what does the municipality wish to achieve in implementing the adopted approach? Embedding might also be achieved by integrating the temporary, project-based (launch of the) approach in existing policy.

On the agenda

The situation with regard to extreme right-wing youths within the municipality and the approach to individual (potential) dropouts has to remain a fixed point 'on the agenda', and not only that of the municipality, but also the agendas of all manner of authorities involved in tackling the problem. It is therefore essential that cases be regularly discussed during general youth welfare consultations.

In addition, the aftercare administered to the dropouts has to be regulated, primarily with a view enabling the early identification of possible decline.

One possible means of drawing constant attention to the problem is to designate the subject of deradicalisation a standard point on the agenda of the 12+-consultations. During implementation of the approach to the chosen target group, remain constantly alert to the possibility of the emergence of new radical groups or individuals and – if necessary – include them in the approach following close analysis.

Source: IMES report, *Decline and withdrawal*

Safety and social security are major issues within the withdrawal programme. Does the dropout have a place of work where he or she can perform their duties without risk to their personal safety? Are they otherwise entitled to benefits? Does his or her home comply with the security requirements? If so, does the benefits authority pay the rent? The creation of a social network is also a crucial aspect. Dropouts often have to make new friends outside the right-wing extremist groups.

Aftercare

It is not always clear how durable the effects of an approach are. Have the youngsters in question actually withdrawn permanently from the radical group, or are they likely to rejoin eventually? Dropouts therefore have to be continually monitored. As a result, a period of aftercare has to be agreed upon with the youngster involved. Even when the aftercare period has expired, however, it is important to ensure that one can continue to talk to the dropouts regularly, by introducing a number of contact moments. Various levels of 'monitoring' should be incorporated in this process, such as the following:

- intense, while a person is participating in the withdrawal programme;
- less intense, when circumstances have improved/been satisfactory for some time (do agree on an average period for this process in advance, however);
- extensive (solely on the basis of signs one receives) once a person has remained withdrawn from the group for some time (also agree on an average period for this process in advance, however).

Reversion or not

The following are important aspects when investigating whether dropouts revert to their old ways or not:

- participation in right-wing extremist groups;
- wearing clothing bearing right-wing extremist insignia;
- right-wing extremist remarks at school, at work or on the Internet;
- offences in the field of right-wing extremism.



Stay alert; recognise the signs!

Odal rune - The Odal rune symbolises kinship and family and the bringing together of people of similar blood or race. It was adopted by the SS during WWII.

Winschoten withdrawal programme

The withdrawal programme can be implemented by following the steps listed below. However, it is also advisable to adopt a flexible attitude in doing so. It is vital that attention be devoted to the local circumstances.

Step 1: Problem definition

The first step focuses on the problem of radicalisation / alienation. During this stage, the core team and other relevant parties (schools, employers, parents) jointly delineate and prioritise the problem. It is vital that insight be acquired into radical behaviour, by both groups and individual youngsters.

Recommendation by FORUM:

Continual discussion regarding the definition of the problem proved necessary in Winschoten. Not only at the beginning of the process therefore, but also at later stages is it essential that one continues to discuss the matter. We recommend that municipalities embrace this as a positive development (and an indication that the partners are becoming more closely related) instead of viewing it as a negative side-effect.

Step 2: Spotting and reporting

A youngster is spotted or reported as a result of radical behaviour and/or remarks. The criteria agreed by the core team are applied in this regard. The report can be submitted by either a member of the core team, an official body (school, welfare department) or another individual (family member, football trainer, etc). The core team is given the youngster's name, whereupon it discusses the report and/or signs on the basis of the agreed criteria. At this stage, the youngster is allocated a contact person, who will proceed to take charge of progress of the process.

Step 3: Case study & file compilation

Between the point that the youngster is registered and that of proceeding to make contact, certain personal details have to be established. These details are required to form an impression, and can be acquired by collecting data on the youngster. The youngster's data is then recorded in a case file, which is accessible to the core team.

Step 4: Making contact

Should the core team decide that it is necessary, then the youngster will be contacted. This should preferably take place in an environment that is familiar to the youngster (at school, in a youth club, in the street or at home). However, it is sometimes more effective to make contact at the police station. During this initial contact, the youngster is clearly informed why he or she has been approached. This relates to their radical behaviour (possible punishable offences) on the one hand, and (previously) identified problems which the youngster faces. He or she is then given the opportunity to discuss matters further.

Step 5: Interview / intake

Here as well, the interview should be held in a familiar environment. It is advisable to let the youngsters explain their behaviour by giving practical examples, on the basis of which one may pose further questions. For instance, one may ask how the youngster responded to certain circumstances and what the others present thought of such behaviour.

Step 6: Programme

The implementation of the programme can be laid down in a covenant or programme plan. The contact person should discuss the steps of the programme that are to be taken with the youngster.

Step 7: Implementation of the programme

The contact person discusses the programme with the core team. These discussions should be aimed primarily at problem solving. The contact person then contacts the relevant authorities to present the case and seek solutions. The contact person counsels and encourages the youngster to adopt a proactive stance. Wherever possible, the youngsters themselves should take the initiative to proceed. The contact person remains in charge of all stages of the programme and what happens to the youngster. He or she remains approachable to all parties involved. In short, the contact person keeps constant track of developments for the duration of the programme.

Step 8: Conclusion and evaluation of the programme

When the core team considers it prudent, the programme is brought to a close and its effects are assessed.

Step 9: Aftercare

Following conclusion of the programme, the contact person makes arrangements with the youngster to provide aftercare for a period of at least three months. In these circumstances, aftercare amounts to regular reciprocal contact, either by telephone or other means. In addition, at least one personal interview should be held with the youngster in his or her new surroundings (school, workplace, etc.) during the aftercare period. The aforementioned contact and interview serve as a basis for the decision to either relaunch the programme or permanently release the youngster.

“Do’s and don’ts”

during the sixth step:

Do’s:

- Cooperate with as many partners as possible, including bodies such as the probation service.
- Continue to boost the morale of the implementers to continue during the course of the often difficult process.
- Decide in advance the point at which a programme is to be concluded.
- Ensure that sound and continuous evaluation is carried out.
- Remain on the lookout for the emergence of any other radical groups and individuals.

Don’ts:

- Don’t let opportunities relating to the envisaged target group pass by.
- Don’t forget the significance of the aftercare.
- Don’t continue to monitor people if it is no longer absolutely necessary.



8

The seventh step: The appropriate preconditions

Registration

In order to apply a continuous process within a municipality, it is essential that information on all steps to be taken and results are registered in the proper manner and in accordance with established procedures throughout all stages of the programme. During the preparatory phase, registration will generally consist of charting the various groups present within the municipality and identifying the individual youngsters who may be eligible for a withdrawal programme. At a later stage of the programme, however, it is important to compile an adequate case file for each dropout. A registration system has to be set up for each withdrawal programme, in which all relevant measures and actions taken during the programme are recorded. Furthermore, it is important to record the moment of and reason for any reversion, so that future programmes may devote attention to such aspects.

From: Racism & Extremism Monitor. Deradicalisation in practice, 2009

Monitor on the approach in Winschoten: the registration system

In Winschoten, the decision was taken after a few months to set up a registration system with a view to rendering information more orderly and accessible. The setup adopted there involved the various core team members regularly submitting relevant information and details of developments to a single member of the team. One of the team's policy officers was designated the party responsible for keeping records up to date. However, it proved rather difficult to gather all the data in an accessible format. The system was not suitably compatible with the practice of verbal exchange of information, and therefore did not prove very successful.

Recommendation:

It is advisable to organise the registration of a deradicalisation programme in such a manner as to ensure that relevant information is simultaneously collected and recorded during core team meetings. One might opt to adopt the approved method of a body such as the youth & safety consultation or 12+-consultations as a basis.

From: Racism & Extremism Monitor, Deradicalisation in practice, 2009

Moreover, the municipality's attention was accompanied by a considerable amount of media focus, which increased the group's visibility. One of the older, more experienced members of the Blood & Honour network – who had played a major role in facilitating the group – withdrew during this same period, possibly as a result of the increased attention and visibility.



**Stay alert;
recognise the signs!**

Swastika - The swastika is basically a sundial whose spokes represent the four seasons. The sundial is supposed to guarantee good fortune, beneficence and resilience to adversity. It was originally a religious symbol, which has been in use in India for several centuries. In the Western world, however, it is better known as the symbol of national socialism adopted by the Nazis during WWII. The use of this symbol is prohibited in the Netherlands.

Privacy legislation

When setting up a registration system, one naturally has to carefully consider and take into account the requirements applicable in the field of the privacy protection: how data registration and the exchange of information are to be dealt with. The basic principle in this respect has to be that not everyone need to know everything about the individual dropout. The professional who acts as the contact person is pivotal in this regard.

Communication plan

During a deradicalisation programme, everyone involved has to be kept informed of all major developments. In the case of such thorough information provision, a clear and unambiguous communication plan should be drawn up, which contains agreements as to who is to be informed of what and when. The data protection legislation should, however, also be carefully considered during this process. The communication plan to be drawn up should comprise the following lines of information:

- information among the 'inner circle' (e.g. the core team) itself;
- information between the 'inner' and 'outer' circles;
- information between operational and administrative levels;
- information on (potential) dropouts to the parties involved;
- the provision of information from outside the municipality on 'dropouts';
- information between the handlers and dropouts;
- and wherever applicable: information to the general public, organisations, etc., who are not directly involved.

Although a separate communication plan need not be drawn up for each individual dropout, certain measures in the area of communication do need to be implemented for each withdrawal programme.

The role of the media

Communication is an important (control) instrument in the event of incidents involving groups within the local community. Sound communication can prevent (further) escalation of incidents, while also contributing to good image-forming. A municipality should therefore ensure that both the public and the media remain suitably informed, while defining the various target groups and the available means of communication. A municipality should also take measures to prevent the circulation of rumours.

Also consult the Communication Checklist contained in the Handboek Sociaal Calamiteiten Plan, FORUM: Utrecht, 2008 (Social Calamities Plan manual, FORUM: Utrecht, 2008). This checklist can be downloaded separately at www.forum.nl/scp.

Monitoring and assessment

Every single phase of the programme needs to be both monitored and regularly assessed. Furthermore, everyone involved needs to receive feedback, to promote progress of the withdrawal process. This is not only crucial to the successful progress of the programme, but also with a view to identifying possible regression at the earliest possible stage. Moreover, each withdrawal programme is a separate process, which yields its own particular learning moments.

Promotion of expertise

The available knowledge of and insight into (right-wing) radicalism may vary greatly from one chain partner to the other. Parties involved, including the local administration, chain partners and professionals, can boost their expertise in the area of radicalisation and coordinate it with one another, primarily in the area of identification of this problem. In the field of education for instance, this enables teachers to gain (greater) insight into the interpretation of certain comments, use of language, insignia, brands, clothing, etc.

The same applies to youth workers. The promotion of expertise can assist people working in the youth welfare sector in becoming more alert to youngsters who become increasingly withdrawn from social contact, which is one of the signs of increasing radicalisation.

Police officers are also better equipped to assess whether nuisance or criminal behaviour is no more than that, or whether it is perhaps (also) a sign of radicalisation. All partners involved require sound insight not only into the ideology of right-wing extremists, but also into the possible motives for withdrawal from such groups.

Expert contacts

During the implementation phase of the withdrawal programme, the promotion of expertise should also be focused on potential contacts for the dropouts. Such a contact person is often the sole social contact that the dropout has during a certain period of the withdrawal programme. In that case, it is certainly a benefit when the contact person is capable of viewing matters from the dropout's perspective. Furthermore, such contacts have to be sure of themselves. After all, dropouts are often inclined to seek the boundaries of the acceptable, which the contact person has to be capable of clearly pointing out. On the other hand, however, the contact person has to be adept at gaining the confidence of potential dropouts.

Expertise during all phases

This promotion of expertise has to focus on the following during all phases of the programme:

- Thorough understanding of the (local) right-wing extremist scene is crucial to any withdrawal programme.
- The dissemination of general knowledge of radicalisation and over deradicalisation, perhaps focusing specifically on the particular type of radicalisation which the municipality in question has encountered.
 - Object: to promote expertise and therefore boost the chances of correct and early identification.
 - Target group: all parties involved.
- General knowledge of group processes.
- Knowledge and skills in the field of making contact with potential dropouts.
- General knowledge of the chain approach.
- Knowledge and skills in the field of management in a municipal capacity in particular.
- The issue of how the outside world is to be notified of this problem. This is likely to apply particularly to the administrative/operational manager or the municipality's communication department.

Stay alert; recognise the signs!

EVE - EVE is an abbreviation of the Dutch right-wing extremist slogan '*Eigen Volk Eerst*' or *Own People First*.

ZOG - ZOG is an abbreviation of Zionist Occupied Government, which is an aspect of the anti-Semitic notion/ideology that the world is dominated by a Jewish conspiracy.

As early as 2008, steps were taken within the framework of the Netherlands Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations' Approach to Polarisation Radicalisation (*Aanpak Polarisatie & Radicalisering*) with a view to promoting expertise at local level by means of various training courses for the education sector, police, youth welfare and the probation service. This support for professionals is to be continued and expanded for the next few years. Businesses and societal institutions are also to receive support in the area of identifying and tackling radicalisation.

9

Epilogue and further information

In 2007/2008, a pilot project for a deradicalisation programme for right-wing extremist youngsters was held in the Netherlands. The programme has been developed at the behest of the FORUM Institute for Multicultural Development, the Racism & Extremism Monitor (Anne Frank Foundation / Leiden University) and the Institute for Migration and Ethnic Studies (IMES / University of Amsterdam). The programme was implemented in the municipalities of Winschoten and Eindhoven. The approach adopted in both municipalities focused on the individual youngster. The Racism & Extremism Monitor monitored and reported on both projects (www.monitorracisme.nl).

This guide contains the basic knowledge required to also develop and implement a plan of approach to tackle the deradicalisation of individual extreme right-wing youths in your own municipality.

FORUM can also advise municipalities in developing a plan van approach to tackle the deradicalisation of extreme right-wing youths. FORUM is capable of supervising the entire programme, from image-forming to implementation.

Should you wish to pose/place any questions or comments, or require a further explanation, please do not hesitate to contact:

Rob Witte (r.witte@forum.nl)

FORUM, Institute for Multicultural Development
P.O. Box 201
3500 AE Utrecht
The Netherlands
Tel: 00 31 (0)30 297 43 21

This guide, further information and other documents, including the Winschoten Plan of Approach, can be downloaded at www.forum.nl

Recommendations

- In 2009, FORUM developed the Social Calamities Plan manual, which explains how municipalities should respond in the event of social calamities, who bears responsibility for which matters, and how measures may be implemented at an early stage with a view to preventing social disorder and escalation (English translation in progress).
- Brochure: '*Aan de slag met Lonsdale Jongeren*', een curatieve groepsaankpak in Hendrik-Ido-Ambacht, FORUM: Utrecht, 2008 (Tackling extreme right-wing youngsters. A curative approach in Hendrik-Ido-Ambacht, FORUM: Utrecht, 2008, only in Dutch).

Both the Manual and the Brochure can be downloaded at www.forum.nl

- www.monitorracisme.nl
- Kafka carries out research into extreme right-wing movements and developments in the Netherlands. Kafka publishes the research findings on its website www.kafka.nl and in various magazines, including its own newsletter and Alert!: A publication by Anti-Fascist Action (AFA) Netherlands.
- Alert! Theme issue: Symbolism in right-wing extremist youth subcultures, revised edition, April 2008.
Can be downloaded at http://www.xs4all.nl/~afa/alert/artikel/special_v2.pdf.
- www.nuansa.nl

Copy and editing:

Rijken & Jaarsma,

Nieuwerkerk aan den IJssel

Design:

Boulogne Jonkers, Zoetermeer

Photography:

Kafka, Boulogne Jonkers

Printing:

PlantijnCasparie,

Capelle aan den IJssel

