



RESEARCH: Questions to be answered by partners

1. What do you understand by the term RADICALIZATION?

Becoming sharp-edged and obsessive about a political or social issue.

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

The Turkish government has two significant programs to counter radicalization to violence and violent extremism :

- a) Administered by the TNP, is a broad-based outreach program to affected communities, similar to anti-gang activities in the United States. Police work to reach vulnerable populations (before terrorists do) to alter the prevailing group dynamics and to prevent recruitment. Police use social science research to undertake social projects, activities with parents, and in-service training for officers and teachers. Programs prepare trainers, psychologists, coaches, and religious leaders to intervene to undermine violent extremist messages and to prevent recruitment.
- b) Administered by the Turkish government's Religious Affairs Office (Diyanet), works to undercut violent extremist messaging. In Turkey, all Sunni imams are employees of the Diyanet. In support of its message of traditional religious values, more than 140,000 Diyanet religious officials throughout Turkey conducted individualized outreach to their congregations. The Diyanet similarly worked with religious associations among the Turkish diaspora to provide them with access to instruction and to assist them in establishing umbrella organizations. The Diyanet supported in-service training for religious officials and lay-workers via a network of 20 centers throughout Turkey (<https://tr.usembassy.gov/country-report-terrorism-2014-turkey/>).

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

The Ministry of National Education provides programs aiming at ;

- Rehabilitation and counselling programs to be used following difficult periods of life, like death, suicide, violence, accident, manmade or natural disasters and release of terror-related criminals from prison (Within the framework of the rehabilitation programs after release of terror-related criminals, 200 trainers have been trained in a pilot project involving 10



provinces. The target is to train 700 more trainers in the domain and enlarge the implementation area to all provinces).

- Organization of programs for vocational training and successful integration of youth to the economy, including those released from prison or socially disadvantaged (8095 persons graduated from different such courses and programs in 2015)

Turkish General Directorate of Prisons and Detention House is a partner of « R2pris » project which aims to offer an innovative training programme for prison staff on how to recognise and prevent the process of radicalisation inside prisons.

Turkey also has a prison program. One of its distinctive features is the use of family members to effect changes in the prisoners. Mothers, in particular, are brought into sessions to “talk sense” to their sons. Since the mother-son bond is so strong in Turkish culture a mother’s strong emotional pleas to her son to give up commitment to the militant jihadi ideology can be quite persuasive, especially if she shows the suffering his imprisonment has caused her and their family.

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

Not in the prison yet, but within the “R2Pris » international training, from the 24th to the 29th September 2017, 25 experts representing seven jurisdictions (Belgium, Norway, Turkey, Romania, USA, Switzerland and Portugal) have gathered to participate in the R2PRIS Radicalisation Prevention in Prisons staff training event that took place in the historical Lisbon prison, in Portugal.