



**Preventing violent radicalisation  
through local integrated strategy :**

# **Experiences of european cities**

**Véronique KETELAER**

Programme Manager EFUS

**European Forum for Urban Security**

(Detached Official from City of Brussels )



# Violent radicalisation: context in Europe

- **Recent islamist attacks raised awareness** : Toulouse (F) with M. Merah/Al Quaida, Jewish Museum in Brussels (B) in 05/2014, Charlie's redaction in Paris in 01/2015 (F),.. Copenhague 02/2015
- **New phenomenon for most of UE countries** (2012 in B, first leavings of FF)
- **Complex and new >> Definition ?** : see definition of Moghaddeem, 2005; Mc Cauley and Moskalenko, 2009 > “a process...lead to violence for political or religious reasons”. Models that explain process of RAD, profiles of FF (typologie)
- **Complex to raise awareness** : taboo in cities meetings, in communities, among local staff..



# Who are candidates for Syria/Irak?

## > 2015 (average) figures in some EU countries:

- **10.000 FF** in Syria/Irak < **4.000 from UE**
- **600 FF** from Germany, **430 FF** from Belgium (120 returnees, 50 dead in Syria,..)
- in BE: 70% from Moroccan origin (**2d, 3d generation**)
- Age : mostly **20-30 y old** ( $\frac{2}{3}$  < 30 y old, but in Brussels = majority of +30 y)

## > Different profiles:

- under-qualified young people with limited economical and professional future prospect (BE),
- highly educated people (NL),
- converts
- mostly men, but gradually women/girls is increasing (fighter's wife, foster mother, settle in the califat..)



# How are they recruited?

- > **Mostly on internet** (cases of self-radicalisation)
- > **Radicalisation often spreads easier in groups of people having close relationships: peers groups, families**
  - Families and peer groups at risk are the ones in which one of the members has radicalised. Example of families where all the sons are gone and some dead
- > **Active presence of recruiters in associations, cafés and chicha bars**, rarely in mosques
- > **Facilitating ideological context:** more conservative practices of islam in occident (« back to the roots » ideology)



# What can we do?

## Is a Municipality legitimate to deal with this problem?

- Neighbourhood impact > legitimacy (population ask for reaction, information, support)
- Violent radicalisation is reaching the city's residents, has an impact on safety (feeling and real), but also on the capacity of peaceful coexistence and social cohesion in the city (exclusion is not acceptable).
- Roots can be local (community feeling discriminated, not given the same chances towards employment or social and cultural evolution).

## Capacities exist at local level

- Actions possible in schools, police and prevention services, social services, communities partnerships, ...
  - >> multidisciplinary and global approach
- **Mayor is legitimate pilot:** foster actions of services at local level



# What can we do?

## What a municipal Prevention service should NOT DO:

- **Intelligence** Agency job (strictly detection)
- Break the law concerning **professionnal secrecy**, put our social workers in danger.
- **Avoid our responsibility** :  
the problem is real and serious and we have to face it  
!! Do not leave the problem only on municipalities's shoulders  
(diagnostic, intervention, deradicalisation, .. is not easy)

### **Set up a local integrated strategy:**

- Local Diagnostic > Fix objectives and partnership
- Info point /service / local referent
- Train his professionals (school, prevention actors, social mediators in communities) to raise awarness, fix procedures, organise intervention (also in case of terrorist's attack)
- Organise follow up for returnees, case management
- Evaluation of actions (together) + communicate on strategy



# LOCAL PREVENTION ACTIONS

## Information > Trainings > Prevention > Deradicalisation

- + local coordination Cells : info exchange between police /socio-prevention / Mayor
- + keep contact with families/parents (meetings with Mayor,..)
- + Specific Prevention & global prevention (work on resilience in youth centers, at school, organize debates about citizenship, multiculturalism,..)
- + cooperation with local associations and communities (Mosk)

### Examples in Cities:

- **“Deradicalisation” or specialized agent** in Vilvoorde, Antwerp,...
- **local RAD Prevention Cells:** Brussels, Antwerpen, DK,..
- **“Info House”** in Amsterdam, Aarhus (DK),..
- **Organize a psycho-social follow-up programme** for (non dangerous and volunteer) returnees:
  - > EXIT program in Aarhus (DK), preventive programme in Brussels, deradicalisation in Antwerp, Vilvoorde, London,..
- **Trainings** for local professionals in Paris, Brussels, Flanders,...



# EFUS's Actions ?

- **Raise awareness on RAD among local authorities since 2012-2013..** (debates between cities..)
- **Networking and promote importance of local approach at EU and International levels** (network on radicalisation, Parliament debates, conferences,..): RAD/UE, Internal Aff Ministries...
- **Helping cities in there local prevention strategy** : traning programmes, coaching of cities, info on web platform, get UE fundinsg for project LIAISE 1, LIAISE 2..
- **EU Programme LIAISE :**
  - 9 cities, 2 experts (ISD / Ufuq) : Brussels, Vilvoorde, Liège, Malmo, Hospitalet, Augsburg, Dusseldorf, Reggio Emilia
  - 2014 > 2016
  - Objectives : organise **training programmes** for local professionals, **designing a local integrated strategy**, improving cooperation between different levels of governance

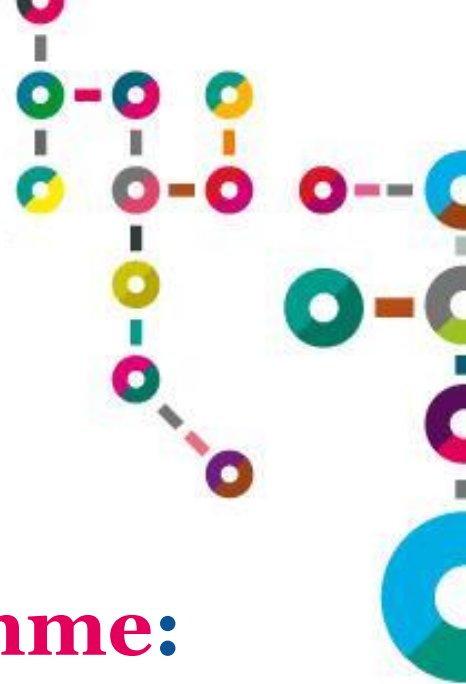




# Conclusions

- 1. Global and Partnership approach = essential:**  
school, prevention services, police, Justice,...Asset when **local history of partnership** exist already (DK, ...)
- 1. Integrated approach at international, national, local levels:**  
Governments need to be clear on the strategy (don't let the local authorities alone...or without means to tackle the challenge)
- 2. Develop Early and LT Prevention** (frustrations and resilience, citizenship,..): after protection > work on causes + ! extremisms
- 3. Issue of information exchange** between services (police/prevention/social..): not easy to solve...
- 4. Need for 2nd line specialised services for expertise and case management** (avoid charlatans..)
- 5. Trainings of local professionals** essential: what shall I do? What's the strategy? where to refer cases?
- 6. Good diagnostic** : not RAD but cohabitation problems?
- 7. Support from experts/academic sector** (Aarhus worked with universities to create model , tools..)
- 8. Exchange of best practices** : cities's network, specific experts  
WGp , Platform of national Ministries,..

# Thank you *for* your attention



More Info about **LIAISE Programme:**

→ Sebastien SPERBER, Pgme Manager,  
**Sperber@efus.eu**  
**www.efus.eu**

Contact Véronique KETELAER:

[ketelaer@efus.eu](mailto:ketelaer@efus.eu) (mobile: +32.(0)498.588.753)

[contact@efus.eu](mailto:contact@efus.eu) - T: + 33 1 40 64 49 00 -