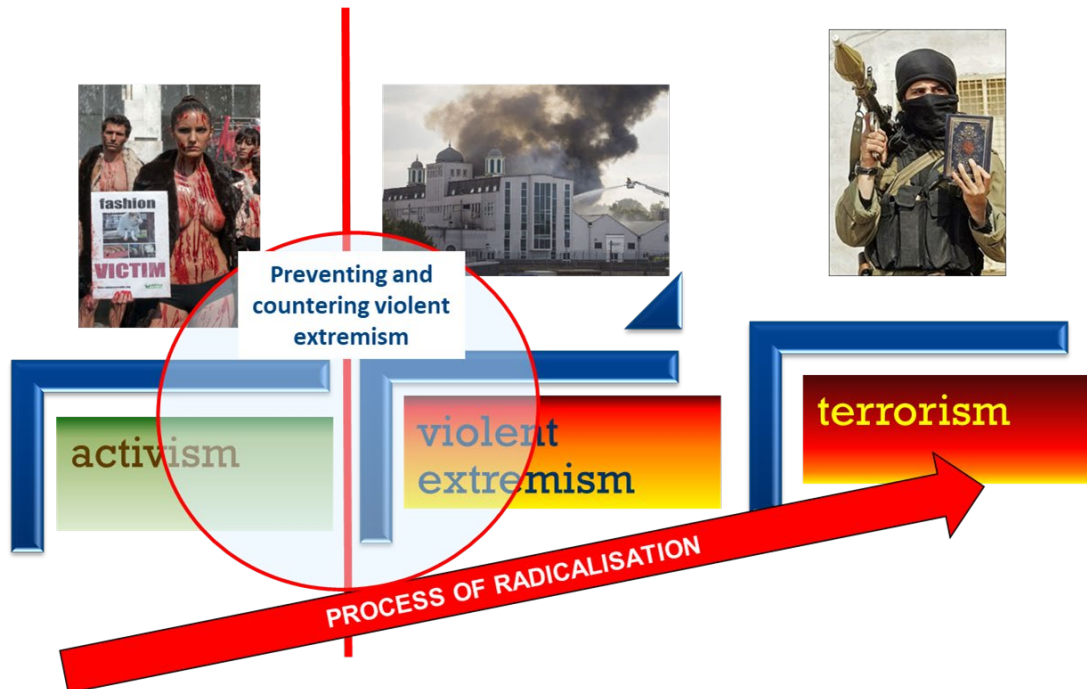# Community Policing and Prevention of Radicalisation

Executive Summary

'The majority of terrorist suspects involved in recent attacks in Europe were born and raised in EU Member States, but were radicalised and turned against their fellow citizens.'

European Commission – EU Mayors' Conference: Building Urban Defences against Terrorism (8 March 2018)

Radicalisation is a complex process in which people embrace radical ideology that could lead to the commitment of violent and terrorist acts. With Europe experiencing a significant increase in terrorist attacks and fatalities in recent years, radicalisation is a major problem.

Radicalisation needs to be tackled through a balanced approach of prevention and combating. The prevention policy should mobilise local partnerships for crime prevention and social cohesion to strengthen individual and community resilience to the risk of radicalisation. To achieve these, community policing can play a major role.

Community policing is an approach that broadens the nature and number of police functions compared with traditional policing. It promotes a partnership-based collaboration between the police and the community which encompasses the building of trust and proactive problem-solving to address the issues of concern, such as radicalisation.

The e-learning module on Community Policing and the Prevention of Radicalisation is aimed at all law enforcement officers. It aims to illustrate ways in which police can build relationships with the community through interactions with local agencies and members of the public. It also aims to:

- enhance the capacity of police officers to recognise risk factors – indicators that can lead to radicalisation and pre-incident indicators;
- describe the EU and other international initiatives and networks in this field.

The module consists of an introduction, 10 topic chapters and a glossary of terms and abbreviations in the field. In the My Progress section, users can check their levels of understanding of each of the topics by considering a selection of true/false statements.

The topic chapters are:

1. **Introduction**
2. **Concepts:** This chapter covers the radicalisation process from legal activities to criminal ones, through the stages of activism, extremism, violent extremism, and finally to terrorism.

3. **Extremist Ideologies:** This chapter summarises the main ideologies related to radicalisation: nationalism/separatism, right wing, left wing, anarchism, religion-based, single issues, lone actors (lone wolves) and foreign terrorist fighters.

4. **Process of Radicalisation:** The aim of this chapter is to characterise risk factors that make the individual more likely to become radicalised. It explains the way in which behaviour gradually becomes more radical, as well as presenting the so-called 'trigger factors' that can start or advance the process of radicalisation.

5. **Strategies:** This chapter introduces the development of EU and UN strategies regarding counter-terrorism and radicalisation. It also highlights that besides these supra-national strategies, each country has to produce its own national prevention strategy.

6. **Community Policing:** The aim of this chapter is to give a short overview about community policing in order to better understand what it is, what it aims to do and how it works.

7. **Preventive Measures:** This chapter describes preventive measures that can be implemented at the three different levels of prevention. It includes several examples of good practices from EU Member States.

8. **Indicators of Radical Attitudes and Behaviours:** This chapter discusses the 'signs' or 'indicators' of radical attitudes and behaviours that police officers and other frontline professionals may encounter during their daily work. It also covers the assessment of these indicators and its limitations.

9. **Pre-Incident Indicators:** This chapter is concerned with the indicators that a violent or even terrorist activity is being prepared. It includes many practical examples.

10. **Symbols and Context:** This chapter is the third one on indicators. It covers why people and in particular extremists use symbols, and the influence of context on what symbols they choose to use.

11. **Multi-Agency Cooperation:** This chapter covers the cooperation of police and other frontline professionals, such as teachers and social workers, in the detection and prevention of radicalisation. It includes discussion of the challenges faced in such cooperation, and the use of action plans.