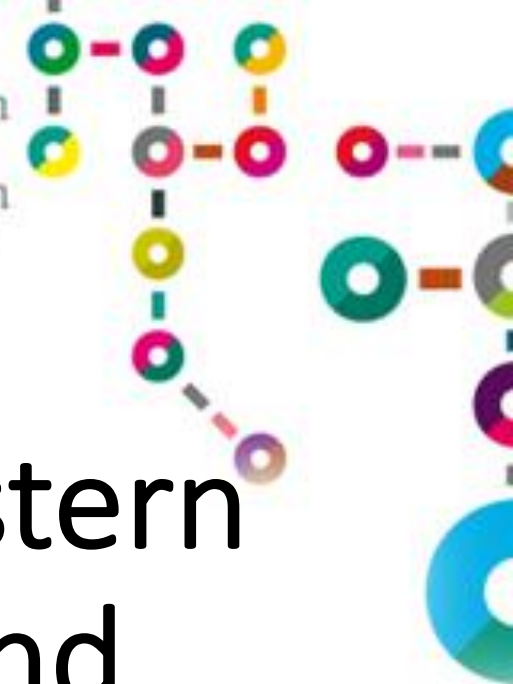




European
Forum for
Urban
Security



Radicalisation in Central and Eastern Europe – trends, challenges and opportunities to counteract

Presentation for the RADPol Webinar 2

25.06.2020

Staņislavs Šeiko and Raimonds Nitišs

Chief specialists of Riga Municipal Police

Email: stanislavs.seiko@riga.lv; raimonds.nitiss@riga.lv





About EFUS

EFUS founded in 1987 and now an association gathering 250 European local and regional authorities, the European Forum for Urban Security (Efus) has a long track record in preventing radicalisation, violent extremism and terrorism.



About Practices

The European PRACTICIES (“Partnership Against Violent Radicalisation in Cities”) project, launched in 2017 with the financial support of the European Commission, is a concrete response to these challenges and an illustration of these principles. During three years, it examined the phenomenon of radicalisation in all its different facets and developed concrete tools that European cities can use to locally prevent radicalisation, adapting them to their needs and particular contexts.

Trends observed

But before we observe some trends...

What is radicalisation?

«...the factors that lead to radicalization are poorly understood» *(Della Porta, Donatella, Social Movements, Political Violence, and the State: A Comparative Analysis of Italy and Germany).*

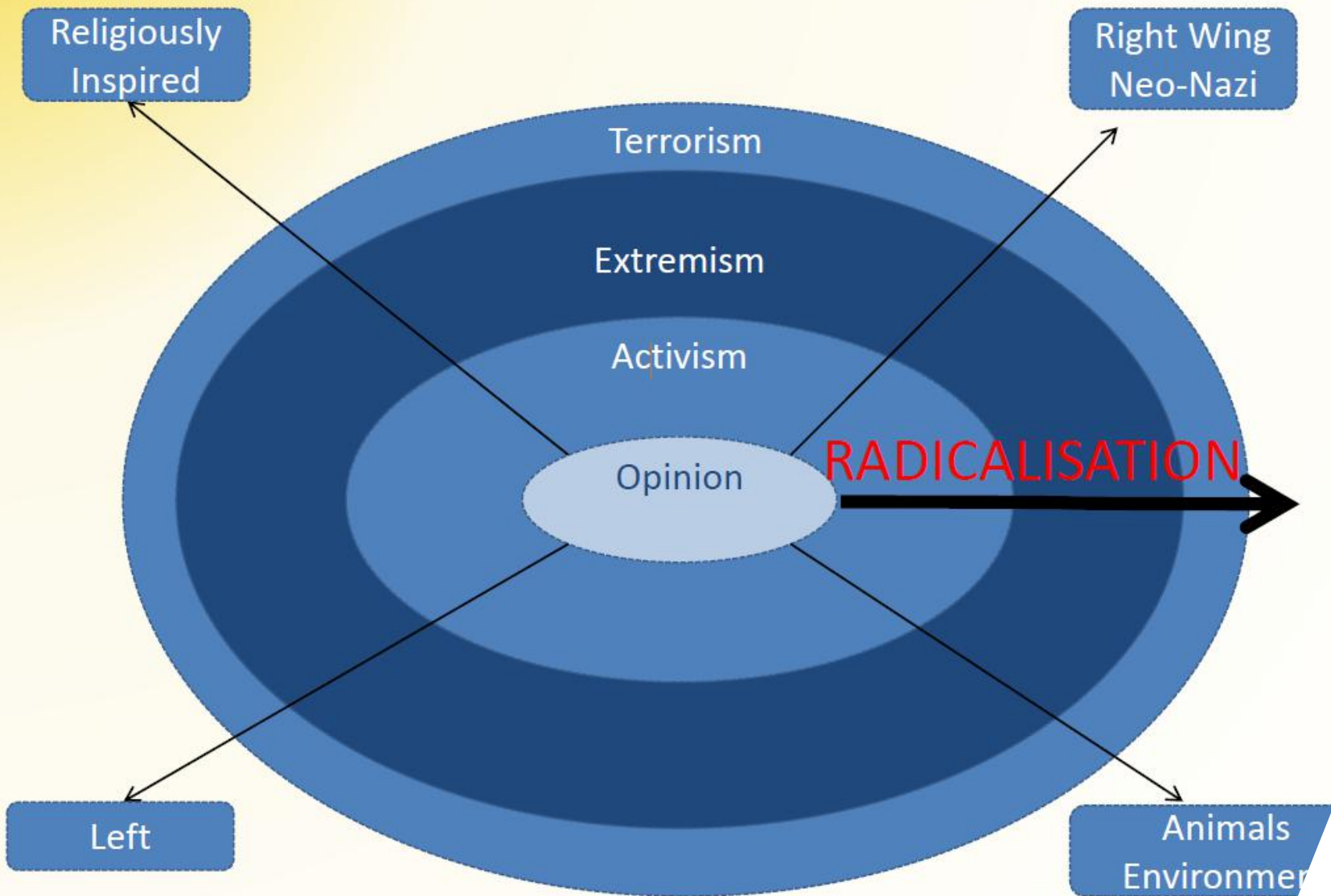
«[radicals are] persons who advocate institutional change» *(Thelma Herman McCormack, «The Motivation of radicals»).*

«bound together by strong personal ties, as well as their shared activist experiences» *(Della Porta, Donatella, Social Movements, Political Violence, and the State: A Comparative Analysis of Italy and Germany).*

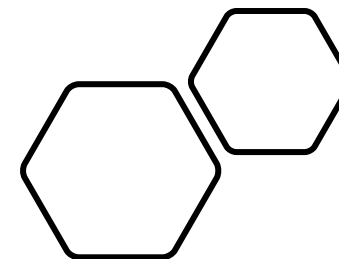
«in terms of histories ideas, radicalism and extremism stem from different socio-political (party) movements» *(Alex Schmid Radicalisation, De-Radicalisation, Counter-Radicalisation – A Conceptual Discussion and Literature Review).*

«The link between radicalism and terrorism are much weaker than those between extremism and terrorism» *(Astrid Botticher, Towards Academic Consensus Definitions of Radicalism and Extremism)*

Process of Radicalisation



Is this chart better?



A process of radicalisation that results in violent extremism is characterised by a **cognitive development** toward a steadily more **unilateral perception of reality**, where there is **no room for alternative perspectives**.

But if it's not violent?

So, trends...

Pick any color you want...

...and you will find any form of radicalisation



How Dare
You?!



That's why what we made

We focused not on the radicalisation itself, but on the people. And made some tools...

A variety of tools were produced by the project to help local and regional authorities tackle radicalisation. They were tested on the ground through the pilot projects developed by the PRACTICIES participant local authorities.

Citizens Agora - the methodology has been developed by the Salzburg University of Applied Sciences. Citizens Agoras can address the broader public or specific target groups such as young people, immigrants or certain ethnic and religious groups.

Desistance-Pro - the software and the user manual have been created by the consulting cabinet Bouzar Expertises. Professionals from public or associative institutions tasked with identifying and supporting radicalised individuals

Digital Me - the toolkit has been developed by the Belgian association Media Actie Kuregem - Stad (MAKS) and it targets youngsters ages 14-18.

Serious Game: Newscraft – the game has been developed by the company Vertical and the University of Lille, through the GERiiCO research laboratory, it targets ages 14-20 but primarily 14-16.



Recommendations for local authorities

- Inclusion and well-being of the population
 - Professional culture and collaboration
- Local democracy and citizen involvement
 - Innovation and new technologies
- Local and regional authorities and the EU
 - Local governance and strategies



**Thanks for you attention!
Questions?**

