

**Multi-agency approach and joint-action initiatives
to tackling radicalisation/violent extremism:
success stories and good practices**

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on Radicalisation in Central and Eastern Europe
Countries*

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WHY multi-agency approach is important and works

- ▶ Radicalisation as **complex social problem** - **can only be addressed by a team** of various experts and practitioners working together
- ▶ **Pooling resources**: knowledge, information, competences, experience, funding etc.
- ▶ Working together as a team and succeeding - **a sense of enthusiasm and commitment**

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Example: local multi-agency team in Dąbrowa Górnicza, Poland

- ▶ Established in **December 2019** as **Poland's first such team**, thanks to the CHAMPIONS project funded by the European Commission
- ▶ Approx. **20 permanent members**: representatives of a variety of municipal departments and local civil society organisations
- ▶ **Two workshops and meetings**, six more planned before the team is consolidated
- ▶ Main local focus: **prevention** and **education**
- ▶ Supported by **National Advisory Board** (training, consultations etc.)

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Challenges - how to make it work

- ▶ Highly politicised issue in Poland - the need to **secure genuine support and understanding** for the problem from decision makers
- ▶ **Open-mindedness and willingness to learn, to experiment** and to address issues which are delicate, unpopular and rather ignored in society
- ▶ **Lack of awareness** of the concept of radicalisation in Poland - the need to provide initial training
- ▶ **Trust-building** and **previous successful practices of multi-agency co-operation** - the need to have a certain/high level of trust in the group we work with
- ▶ **Resistance or backlash** from radicalised groups
- ▶ Limited **time and funding**

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Lessons learnt and recommendations

- ▶ **Make it formalised and sustainable** - appoint a team leader embedded in municipal structures, with decision-making powers, or ideally a plenipotentiary for preventing radicalisation
- ▶ **Ensure the team has decision-making powers** - effectiveness of planned measures
- ▶ **Shared ownership** of the local team - enthusiasm, effectiveness and sustainability
- ▶ **Meet regularly** and **build trust** based on dialogue and meeting needs of the team members and institutions involved
- ▶ **Systemic solution - National Agency**, based on **(a)** best EU practices and RAN expertise, **(b)** bottom-up civil society initiatives and experts and **(c)** networking with and training government officials

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Thank you!

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