

# Action Plan for the Prevention of Violent Radicalisation, Extremism, Terrorism and Polarisation 2020-2024

## 1. Introduction

The policy for the prevention of violent radicalisation, extremism, terrorism and polarisation was elaborated when Flanders was confronted with jihadism and departing Syrian fighters (Foreign Terrorist Fighters or FTFs). The horror of the terrorist movements Islamic State and Al Qaeda was no longer just something from abroad, but also took root in our cities and municipalities. This resulted in several successive attacks in the West, including in our country in 2016. The fact that certain people, mainly young men, but also women and minors, within our society were drawn to different religious extremist views and even acted accordingly, made it necessary to adopt an appropriate approach.

Many structures and policies and a lot of expertise have been developed in recent years, at the federal and the Flemish level. This translated into several action plans: the Plan R (Action Plan against Radicalism) at the federal level, and the Action Plan for the Prevention of Violent Radicalisation and Polarisation at the Flemish level. Because a new Government of Flanders has taken office which places new emphases and seeks to take into account several recent developments, there is a need to revise Flanders' previous action plan.

Religious extremists, especially Salafists and Islamists, continue to pose the biggest threat for terrorist attacks in our society. We should also be alert to other forms of radicalisation and extremism, because, apart from the religious ones, there are also right-wing and left-wing extremist variants. For instance, a rise in right-wing extremist ideas is currently reported in Belgium and internationally. Both State Security and CUTA are currently observing that threats and extremist ideologies have evolved in that sense. Europol also stated in its Terrorism Situation and Trend Report (TE-SAT) 2020 that violent right-wing extremism is on the rise. In the case of right-wing extremism, where certain individuals allow themselves to be manipulated by right-wing extremist ideologies based on racist motives or conspiracy theories, there have, so far, been a relatively limited number of terrorist acts in our country, compared to a number of other European countries. As a government, we must, however, take preventive measures to tackle this breeding ground as well. We also pay attention to left-wing extremism and to right-wing extremist movements and organisations within the minority groups in our country, as these forms of extremism pose a great threat to minorities within those minority groups. All real threats to democracy in our country must therefore be tackled, including, for example, Madkhali Salafism, Blood and Honour, and the Grey Wolves.

In other words, radicalisation is a broad concept that is not necessarily limited to one phenomenon. Extremism can manifest itself in different ways. Of the 79 hate propagandists registered in the Common Database (CDB), 49 (62%) adhere to a form of Islamist extremism, 22 (28%) to a right-wing extremist ideology and 8 (10%) are from the left-wing extremist scene.<sup>1</sup>

It is therefore advisable to develop a more comprehensive policy for Flanders that considers the diversity of the different forms of violent radicalisation, extremism and terrorism and formulates adequate responses, all the more so since the same mechanisms of social alienation and isolation often underlie them. All variants of extremism indeed share the common danger that they fundamentally ignore democracy and the plurality of interests, the separation of powers and the universality of human rights. The growing polarisation, which is a fertile breeding ground for violent radicalisation, extremism and terrorism, should also be included in this policy.

The prevention of violent radicalisation, extremism, terrorism and polarisation requires a very broad approach. We therefore strengthen our society, our structures and our individual citizens. We pay special attention to the crucial role that local authorities, local integrated security cells (LISCs) and socio-preventive and curative services and facilities can play in this. The individual is also approached in a tenacious, customised and multidisciplinary manner.

In order to be able to continue to guarantee the fundamental freedoms of our society, the security structures in Flanders should be strengthened and adapted. It is therefore extremely important that Flanders can form an accurate picture of the most current threats to our society. Good cooperation and information exchange with and information flow to and from the intelligence and security services, local authorities and LISCs is also crucial here.

We also pay special attention to the victims of violent radicalisation, extremism, terrorism and polarisation. After all, next to the preventive fight against all forms of extremism and polarisation, the main objective of Flanders' policy is of course to avoid new victims.

In addition, we will build additional knowledge and expertise within the Flemish public administration. Radicalisation, extremism, terrorism and polarisation are evolutionary processes. It is therefore crucial that recent scientific research and international insights and trends can be implemented in Flanders.

This action plan addresses all specific measures that the Flemish public administration is taking in the area of violent radicalisation, extremism, terrorism and polarisation. *Certain themes may also be dealt with in other Flemish and inter-federal action plans.* Actions that are part of the regular policy of the different policy areas or that are already included in other cross-sectional policy plans can, in a broad sense, also contribute

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<sup>1</sup> Figures CUTA of 11 June 2020.

to the achievement of this objective. However, they will not be included again here. In this context we refer to the policy and budget explanatory notes of the relevant ministers. In practice, there is interaction of course: by taking preventive measures against the phenomena of extremism and polarisation, it also tried to strengthen society, and by strengthening society it is tried to combat the spread of extremism and polarisation.

This action plan will therefore mainly focus on preventing and combating violent radicalisation, extremism, terrorism and polarisation, including the manifestations thereof in society, both online and offline, which pose a threat to our democratic legal order. This is all done in order to avoid new victims.

*Meanwhile, the analysis by the Flemish Peace Institute of the previous action plan was completed and published (December 2020) and the Association of Flemish Cities and Municipalities (VVSG) has again conducted a survey among the local authorities. The results and recommendations of these studies were analysed and, where appropriate, taken into consideration in the drafting of the current action plan.*

*The policy initiatives will be regularly updated and any new actions can be included. After two years, a mid-term evaluation will be carried out by the Flemish Platform.*

## 2. Terminology - definition of concepts

It is important to point out that the term ‘radicalisation’ does not only refer to the well-known form of extremism (i.e. Syria fighters), but also to other less obvious forms of radicalisation and extremism that are more latent in society.

As for the terminology, ‘radicalisation process’, ‘extremism’ and ‘terrorism’ are all defined in the 11 December 1998 Act regulating the Intelligence and Security Services. The following three definitions constitute the legal basis of the mandates of both State Security and CUTA and are therefore best reflected in Flanders’ action plan.

- The ‘radicalisation process’ is “a process whereby an individual or a group of individuals is influenced in such a manner that this individual or group of individuals is mentally shaped or prepared to commit terrorist acts”.<sup>2</sup> To clarify, radicalisation does not always lead to terrorism. These are all complex concepts that require some qualification. Radicalisation is essentially a process that largely determines the attitudes towards the use of violence. When becoming radicalised, individuals and groups go through a gradual, dynamic evolution in which they copy or develop radical ideas, opinions and views. It is thus a process that may lead - but does not necessarily lead - to violent extremism. It is the willingness to accept the use of violence to achieve extremist goals, without actually resorting to violence.

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<sup>2</sup> Art. 3, 15° of the 30 November 1998 Act regulating the Intelligence and Security Services

- 'Extremism' is understood to mean "racist, xenophobic, anarchistic, nationalistic, authoritarian or totalitarian views or aims, regardless whether they are of a political, ideological, religious or philosophical nature, which in theory or in practice conflict with the principles of democracy or human rights, with the proper functioning of democratic institutions or with other foundations of the rule of law". This also includes the radicalisation process.<sup>3</sup>
- 'Terrorism', finally, is "the use of force against persons or material interests for ideological or political reasons with the aim of achieving its objectives by means of terror, intimidation or threats". This also includes the radicalisation process.<sup>4</sup>

'Deradicalisation' is also a controversial concept and requires some qualification. Initially, this is often considered to be the reversal of the radicalisation process. Yet, in reality, it is more complex than that. Can a radicalised person even be completely deradicalised? When does one return to 'normalised' behaviour, and what is that exactly? It is therefore better to focus on disengagement and curative projects, which is exactly what we are doing in this action plan. Disengagement has to do rather with behaviour and means the reduction and neutralisation of actions, and especially of (the willingness to resort to) the use of violence. The aim is to achieve individual disapproval of the violent behaviour of the group with which one associated. Deradicalisation rather involves a psychological component and a change in the person's cognitive framework of thought with regard to their ideological and personal beliefs. It thus implies a fundamental change in the ideology of the radicalised person. Curative projects help people with radicalisation issues reconnect with society and offer them future prospects. They include guidance initiatives and pathways for reintegration. Deradicalisation and disengagement can thus be part of a curative approach.

Polarisation is the sharpening of contrasts between groups in society, which results or may result in (an increase in) tensions between groups and in risks to social security. Social insecurity can be defined as the feeling of insecurity in a neighbourhood as a result of committed crime, (perceived) nuisance or conflicts between groups or citizens in that neighbourhood.<sup>5</sup> In this plan, polarisation only means polarisation that leads to radicalisation or violence, such as the glorification of violent actions or even the actual commission of acts that violate the law.

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<sup>3</sup> Art. 8, 1° c) of the Act of 30 November 1998 regulating the intelligence and security services

<sup>4</sup> Art. 8, 1° b) of the Act of 30 November 1998 regulating the intelligence and security services

<sup>5</sup> Note 'Curative approach, disengagement and deradicalisation initiatives in Belgium' [Curatieve aanpak, disengagement- en deradicaliseringsinitiatieven in België] by CUTA, May 2018.

### 3. Objectives and actions

Each action is presented as follows:

Action	Coordinating minister	Promoter	Timing	Budget
Existing action to be extended/adapted	Ministers involved	Partner		
Existing action to be continued				
New action				

#### OBJECTIVE 1: WE STRENGTHEN OUR SOCIETY AGAINST POLARISATION, BOTH ONLINE AND OFFLINE

Salafists, jihadists and other extremist groups propagate a highly polarised world view. In this context, CUTA states that the polarisation of society, with the mutual antagonism between right-wing extremism and Islamism, is a fact of real life and life on the Internet.

While the notion of radicalisation refers to a process that an individual or group goes through, the concept of polarisation pertains to the relationship between distinct groups or individuals. Polarisation can therefore be regarded as a mechanism that should be interpreted more broadly than radicalisation. After all, it concerns the relationship between various actors in society, whereas radicalisation can be limited to individuals or a group, without this manifesting itself in a process of polarisation (and therefore involving other individuals or groups).<sup>6</sup>

Obviously, not every form of polarisation is undesirable. We should be careful not to dismiss the debate, which is an organised difference of opinion and driver of social evolution, as undesirable polarisation. When polarisation is used for purposes of radicalisation and extremism, however, or even to legitimise violence, it should definitely be tackled.

Moreover, polarisation and radicalisation mutually perpetuate and reinforce one another. On the one hand, radicalisation - or radically motivated acts - can lead to polarisation. On the other hand, polarisation can be a breeding ground for radicalisation. Take, for example,

<sup>6</sup> [https://www.kennisplein.be/Documents/Eindrapport%20%27Polarisering%20en%20radicalisering\\_een%20integrale%20preventieve%20aanpak%27%20.pdf](https://www.kennisplein.be/Documents/Eindrapport%20%27Polarisering%20en%20radicalisering_een%20integrale%20preventieve%20aanpak%27%20.pdf)

the terrorist attacks and Syrian fighters. The polarisation created by hate preachers was an important breeding ground for the religious extremist attacks in our country. The attacks themselves have fuelled right-wing extremist ideology, which in turn leads to increasing segregation, both physically and mentally. Together with social alienation, this form of polarisation can again lead to extremism and the perpetration of extremist acts. We must break this vicious circle of mutual polarisation.

Polarisation can also occur within certain communities, e.g. between moderate and radicalised Muslims, or between certain communities that adhere to right-wing extremist or even fascist ideologies, for example, and in doing so threaten other minority groups within their communities. We should, for instance, start from an early age onwards to prevent certain forms of hate speech<sup>7</sup> towards other communities and teach our children that glorifying certain extremist ideologies only leads to polarisation. It is therefore important to create a unifying narrative for other forms of extremism within minority groups as well. Online hate propaganda and social media in particular play a determining role in some cases. Other hate acts include sending anonymous letters of intimidation or threats, holding demonstrations, committing acts of vandalism or daubing hate messages. Another worrying observation is that extremist groups are adapting their communication strategies, which means they can stay much more under the radar. We must therefore respond to and counterbalance the content of these messages (both online and offline) and strengthen the resilience and critical faculties of our society and of individuals who are vulnerable to such messages.

To prevent polarisation from escalating and stirring up radicalisation and extremism, efforts should be made to develop, spread and embed a positive perception and connecting narratives. We are committed to improving the relationships of trust and to supporting institutions and social actors who are taking up a constructive role in this.

We develop a specific approach to debunk disinformation, fake news and conspiracy theories and to break down concepts of the enemy. Critical and resilient thought should also be nurtured, for example by focusing on media literacy both within and outside education and by using a familiar environment for entering into in-depth and critical discussion with young people about radicalisation, extremism, terrorism and polarisation.

For those people who are already in a process of alienation or who are in danger of heading down a path towards radicalisation, we encourage a sense of citizenship and social engagement in society as a means of reconnecting with society. We show people that they can all be part of our society. Everyone is invited to do their bit and to shape tomorrow's society together. When people feel (re)connected to society and to their neighbourhood and when they can take the future of their neighbourhood into their own hands, the process of alienation can be countered. By actively engaging in living together with

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<sup>7</sup> As for the legal definition of hate speech, see e.g. Article 22 of the Federal Anti-Discrimination Law and Article 31 of the Equal Opportunities Decree in conjunction with Article 444 of the Penal Code, and the case law of the Constitutional Court on the subject.

each other instead of alongside each other, by countering ‘ghettoisation’, and by looking for connections instead of divisions, we remove the breeding ground for radicalisation and extremism.

<p>Action 1.1: Coordinating and providing a support offer to combat polarisation via an umbrella network</p>	<p>Flemish Minister for Home Affairs, Public Governance, Civic Integration and Equal Opportunities</p>	<p>KBBJ (Agency for Home Affairs) KBBJ (Agency for Integration and Civic Integration)</p>	<p>1 April 2021 - 31 March 2023</p>	<p>€104,320/year</p>
<p>Partners on the ground need an improved support offer to combat polarisation, as the existing offer is fragmented and incomplete. In order to enable a targeted response to demand, the existing offer should be better coordinated and it should be examined if an additional offer can be developed and where. We want to achieve this via an umbrella network for combating polarisation.</p> <p>Kazerne Dossin set up the Them-Us Network (Wij-Zij-netwerk) project to create a network and a hub around this topic according to the demand for support in the fight against polarisation. The network will build knowledge and expertise on polarisation, including e.g. on the dynamics, stages and manifestations of polarisation, the underlying ideology, and possible de-escalation strategies. The tools and strategies developed are intended to provide professional guidance to local authorities, organisations, associations and practitioners who are currently looking for answers as to what polarisation is exactly and how it can be tackled more effectively.</p> <p>Within the framework of the Them-Us Network, an online knowledge platform will first be developed (further). On this platform, studies, best practices, training courses and experiences will be shared. The network will also employ an additional project officer to provide services. More specifically, training courses will be organised for professionals, both tailored to specific needs and during open training days. In addition, various services such as peer reviews (intervisies) are offered to governments and organisations. Finally, all these actions are communicated to the general public.</p>				
<p>Action 1.2: Building expertise and developing an approach to polarisation, hate speech and disinformation for local authorities</p>	<p>Flemish Minister for Home Affairs, Public Governance, Civic Integration</p>	<p>KBBJ (Agency for Home Affairs) KBBJ (Agency for</p>	<p>2021-2024</p>	<p>Within the regular resources</p>

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		Integration and Civic Integration] Local authorities		
<p>Local authorities are currently very much in search of how to deal, within the local context, with these forms of polarisation, hate speech and disinformation that can prove a breeding ground or legitimisation for extremism, or actually even lead to violent acts. We will therefore first of all build the necessary relevant knowledge and expertise. We are also developing an approach specifically tailored to local authorities that represents the local reality.</p> <p>To that end, we focus on initiatives that provide local authorities with tools to address these forms of polarisation, hate speech and disinformation, e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Agency for Home Affairs (ABB) will, together with the Association of Flemish Cities and Municipalities (VVSG), offer communication training for local authorities (2021 -2022). After all, 'communication' is currently being underestimated as a factor that may contribute to polarisation, which may be a breeding ground or legitimisation for extremism. On the other hand, it is also becoming increasingly important to work on connection. We therefore offer communication training to provide local authorities with practical tools. The actual content of the training will be in line with the needs and requirements of the local authorities (e.g. 'Mediative Speech and Mediative Behaviour').</li> <li>• Furthermore, in recent years, the Agency for Integration and Civic Integration (AGII) developed an approach to support local authorities in concrete cases of polarisation and social tension. The Agency's offer will be further shaped and deepened to meet new challenges in living together in diversity.</li> <li>• In addition, the Agency will, in cooperation with VVSG and the Network for Combating Polarisation, provide local authorities with a bespoke offer, including the organisation of webinars for staff of local authorities who want to work on local challenges posed by polarisation.</li> </ul>				
Action 1.3: Setting up one or more awareness campaign against hate speech	Flemish Minister for Home Affairs, Public Governance, Civic Integration and Equal Opportunities	KBBJ (Agency for Home Affairs)	2021-2024	ABB (€200,000 )

In addition to the deliberate hate speech communication and strategies used by extremists and extremist organisations there is also the wider population who is exposed to this. Sometimes, people are not always aware of the limits of what is acceptable or not, contribute to the spreading of such messages whether consciously or unconsciously, or simply do not know how to react ('silent majority'). Awareness of and critical thinking on this topic should therefore be enhanced. To that end it is tried to develop one or more awareness-raising campaigns on the issue of hate speech and its impact on individuals, groups and society as a whole. We are organising an

<p>awareness campaign offering tools for eliminating any embarrassment to act as well as guidance on how best to react when confronted with different forms of hate speech (e.g. anti-Semitic or homophobic hate messages). Partnerships are also sought with other relevant sectors and organisations to shape and roll out the campaign(s). Joint campaigns, if any, are tailor-made, contemporary and as creative as possible, and their form and content are decided in mutual agreement.</p>				
<p>Action 1.4: Building, strengthening and disseminating expertise on polarisation</p>	<p>Flemish Minister for Brussels, Youth and Media</p>	<p>CJSM (Department of Culture, Youth and Media)</p>	<p>2020-2024</p>	<p>Within the regular resources</p>
<p>Together with experts, partner organisations and partnerships, we contribute to the acquisition and broad dissemination of knowledge, skills and attitudes to deal with media in a conscious, critical and creative manner and to build resilience in detecting, signalling and processing polarisation issues, including the issue of (online) hate speech. We identify effective tools and methodologies. Initiatives such as the creation and distribution of educational packages are encouraged. In this context we take due account of the distinct target groups, including children and young people, persons responsible for upbringing, support persons and citizens.</p>				
<p>Action 1.5: Embedding the expertise of the project ‘Living together and social cohesion in times of social tensions’</p>	<p>Flemish Minister for Home Affairs, Public Governance, Civic Integration and Equal Opportunities</p>	<p>KBBJ (Agency for Home Affairs)</p>	<p>1 January 2020 - 31 December 2021</p>	<p>€85,000</p>
<p>The organisation Ceapire makes its expertise available to set up mobile environments of trust throughout Flanders. These are safe and easily accessible online or physical spaces where people can discuss topics that are sensitive in the context of polarisation and radicalisation, such as controversial social issues, identity issues and culturally sensitive topics. Participants are given the space to ask questions and express their opinions, under the guidance of a Ceapire expert. In this way, the organisation wants to connect people.</p>				

Action 1.6: Committing to the inclusion of vulnerable groups in the labour market	Flemish Minister for Economy, Innovation, Work, Social	WSE (VDAB)	Continuous	Within the regular resources
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	Economy and Agriculture			
<p>As part of its social remit, the public employment service of Flanders (VDAB) offers special employment pathways for vulnerable groups in the labour market. The methodology used by VDAB to guide jobseekers into work as quickly and sustainably as possible is based on making jobseekers self-reliant by offering them a bespoke approach using suitable methodologies (setting a job target, strengthening application skills, drawing up a good CV, strengthening labour market competencies, sharpening technical competencies, etc.). Within the framework of this tailored approach, extra attention is paid to young people who are becoming radicalised. The formal prohibition on VDAB clients to propagate an extremist discourse of a religious or political nature by whatever means in VDAB offices is also discussed here. VDAB mediators receive information and training to be alert to signs of radicalisation and extremism, in cooperation with partners. In this context, the VDAB focuses on all forms of radicalisation.</p>				
Action 1.7: Promoting online positive narratives to prevent radicalisation in education in Flanders	Flemish Minister for Education, Sports, Animal Welfare and the Vlaamse Rand	OV (Education)	1 January 2020 to 31 December 2021	€991,248 (of which 90% financed by EU and 10% by Department of Education and Training)
<p>No Cap seeks to support young people, teachers and school management teams in education in Flanders in promoting accurate, consistent and positive communication on deradicalisation in a broad sense, in order to contribute to a positive school and classroom climate. This is done by offering online learning modules, livestream sessions and teaching materials for teachers on polarisation, identity in a diverse society and fake news and their role as teachers in these topics. Influencers use social media to empower young people between the ages of 14 and 18 to become more resilient and as such contribute to the positive development of their personalities during this vulnerable period. KU Leuven is responsible for the evaluation of the project.</p>				

OBJECTIVE 2: WE ADOPT A VIGOROUS APPROACH TO ALL FORMS OF EXTREMISM IN OUR SOCIETY, BOTH ONLINE AND OFFLINE

The Internet, which is a powerful medium, and especially websites and discussion forums, are extremely suitable breeding grounds for gaining supporters. Internet forums and chat boxes can be a persuasive means of influencing people both directly and indirectly. The Internet is also an effective tool for pushing those who have already been radicalised towards even more radical views.

In contrast to left-wing extremism, in which different groups engage more in mutual cooperation, right-wing extremism is also making strong headway, especially online. The Internet is still the most widely used tool worldwide and continues to be a hotbed of ideas, recruitment, funding and even direct action. Lone actors, for example, will mainly find their inspiration online. We are therefore jointly developing a firm approach to all forms of online extremism, taking into account the challenges posed by certain online techniques (misuse of algorithms, click bots, trolling, etc.) and specific online forums (e.g. gamers, incel) or tools (e.g. Snapchat, Whatsapp, etc.).

We also combat the different manifestations of online extremism (hate speech, conspiracy theories, glorification of and incitement to violence, dismantling or destruction of democracy, human rights or the rule of law, etc.) through targeted cooperation with other partners, including the federal (e.g. Internet Referral Unit) and European level (European Union, Council of Europe), online platforms and other stakeholders.

A firm approach should also be adopted to offline extremism. In doing so, we reinforce and embed good practices already developed by the local authorities and the various policy areas of the Flemish public administration, such as civil servants working on the prevention of extremism in certain cities and municipalities, the contact point for radicalisation and polarisation in education, the role and tasks of the Association of Flemish Cities and Municipalities (VVSG), specific training courses on how to recognise and deal with radicalisation, etc. Where possible, we will extend these good practices to include other forms of extremism and other relevant sectors. New initiatives may also be considered here, such as the development of targeted training courses, support pathways and awareness campaigns, the establishment of networks and partnerships, and the development and provision of expertise and advice, within the local authorities as well as the various policy areas of the Flemish public administration.

Action 2.1: Continuing the Radicalisation Helpline within the Parenting Helpline and Support Group	Flemish Minister for Welfare, Public Health, Family and Poverty reduction	WVG (Growing Up Agency)	2020 - 2021	€80,000
<p>Support for the Radicalisation Helpline within the Parenting Helpline is continued up to and including 2021. Parents and other persons responsible for upbringing can contact this Helpline to ask questions or express concerns about this topic.</p> <p>Support for the Support Groups (parents confronted with these kinds of questions) is also continued within the Children’s Centres (Huizen van het Kind). Both projects focus on supporting those responsible for upbringing.</p> <p>The Helpline will be evaluated after 2021.</p>				

Action 2.2: Reviewing the procedure for the accreditation of new schools	Minister for Education, Sports, Animal Welfare and the Vlaamse Rand	OV (Education)	Concept paper: expected in autumn 2021	Within the regular resources
The procedure is reviewed for strict compliance with the application of fundamental and human rights as set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the European Convention on Human Rights. In this context, we also pay attention to tackling problematic funding.				
Action 2.3: Organising guided visits to Kazerne Dossin as a learning measure to counter hate crimes	Flemish Minister for Home Affairs, Public Governance, Civic Integration and Equal Opportunities Flemish Minister for Justice and Enforcement, Environment and Spatial Development, Energy and Tourism	KBBJ (Agency for Home Affairs) WVG (WVG, Houses of Justice Division)	1 May 2021 - 1 May 2024	€232,540 (3 years)
<p>As an alternative approach to hate crimes, suspects are today already occasionally brought to Kazerne Dossin for a visit as a learning measure. In this case the visit is part of a procedure of mediation and measures initiated by the public prosecutor's office, but it may also be a condition of probation imposed by the court. At the moment, these visits are supported on an ad hoc basis.</p> <p>In close consultation with the public prosecutor in Antwerp, a more structured and sustainable approach was developed to be applied initially in the judicial districts of Antwerp and Limburg. The measure of a guided visit to Kazerne Dossin is intended as a learning process with predefined content and appropriation by the individual concerned. The idea behind the process is to use an interactive approach to gain insight into one's own ability to act and to effect a change in behaviour. The individual concerned is confronted with the risks and consequences of their behaviour for others and for themselves.</p>				

**OBJECTIVE 3: WE CONTINUE TO DEVELOP COOPERATION AND COORDINATION BETWEEN ALL LEVELS AND STRUCTURES AND STRENGTHEN INFORMATION EXCHANGE**

The existing structures and institutions generally function well. At the level of the Flemish public administration, coordination with the local and federal levels is guaranteed via the Flemish Platform for Combating Radicalisation. Other structures, such as Flanders' representation in the National Task Force and specific working groups under the Action Plan against Radicalism (prevention, communication, prisons) will be continued in order to coordinate a preventive and a repressive approach in the best possible way.

Good cooperation with and information exchange and flow to and from the intelligence and security services, the prison system, local authorities and the Local Integrated Security Cells (LISCs), and between the services in charge of the enforcement of sentences, are crucial as well. After all, a joint approach is based on sharing information so that all actors involved are informed in time and can intervene when necessary. In its report, the Parliamentary Committee of Inquiry into the Terrorist Attacks also pointed out the need for a better flow of information between the different government and security services, as well as between the different policy levels and government departments. We will therefore engage in constructive and proactive collaboration with all actors to further optimise this exchange of information. To achieve an efficient and effective security approach, we will strengthen cooperation with the federal level and all parties in the security chain within the security policy context, inter alia by making a contribution to the Framework Memorandum on Integral Security and the National Security Plan. The liaison officer appointed by the Government of Flanders also plays a key role in this.

In addition, each policy area involved continues to develop its own networks and is in charge of internal and external information sharing and coordination within its own sector in the context of implementing its own remit (laid down by decree).

Finally, it is important to keep abreast of international developments and to coordinate, where possible, and cooperate, where necessary, e.g. with the Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN) of the European Union.

#### COORDINATION AT THE FLEMISH LEVEL AND WITHIN THE POLICY AREAS/SECTORS



<p>Action 3.1: Coordinating the Flemish Platform that prepares, implements and monitors policy</p>	<p>Flemish Minister for Home Affairs, Public Governance, Civic Integration and Equal Opportunities</p> <p>Flemish Minister for Education, Sports, Animal Welfare and the Vlaamse Rand</p> <p>Minister for Welfare, Public Health,</p>	<p>KBBJ (Agency for Home Affairs)</p> <p>OV (Education)</p> <p>CJSM (Sports)</p> <p>WVG</p> <p>WVG (WVG, Houses of Justice Division)</p>	<p>Continuous</p>	<p>Within the regular resources</p>
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	<p>Family and Poverty Reduction</p> <p>Flemish Minister for Justice and Enforcement, Environment and Spatial Development, Energy and Tourism</p> <p>Flemish Minister for Brussels, Youth and Media</p> <p>Flemish Minister for Economy, Innovation, Work, Social Economy and Agriculture</p>	<p>CJSM (Department of Culture, Youth and Media)</p> <p>WSE</p> <p>KBBJ (Agency for Integration and Civic Integration]</p> <p>CUTA</p> <p>VGC</p> <p>FPS Justice</p>		
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A Flemish Platform is put in place. This is a network of contact points from the different policy areas and entities (KB, OV, WVG, CJM, WSE, Sports), CITA, FPS Justice, VGC (Flemish Community Commission) and VVSG.

The actors in the Platform prepare the policy on the prevention of violent radicalisation, extremism, terrorism and polarisation by exchanging knowledge and expertise. More specifically, they inform each other about new developments and projects, detect gaps and needs and reflect on possible approaches for remedying these gaps and meeting these needs. In doing so, they can also formulate policy opinions.

When implementing and monitoring this policy, the initiatives across the different policy areas and levels are harmonised. The Flemish Platform is also responsible for updating this action plan and, after two years, conducting a mid-term review of it.

<p>Action 3.2: Providing transparent flow and publication of the existing offer and instruments for the prevention of violent radicalisation, extremism, terrorism and polarisation</p>	<p>Flemish Minister for Home Affairs, Public Governance, Civic Integration and Equal Opportunities  Minister for Education, Sports,</p>	<p>KBBJ (Agency for Home Affairs) OV (Education) CJSM (Sports) WVG</p>	<p>Continuous</p>	<p>Within the regular resources</p>
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	Animal Welfare and the Vlaamse Rand Flemish Minister for Welfare, Public Health, Family and Poverty Reduction Flemish Minister for Justice and Enforcement, Environment and Spatial Development, Energy and Tourism Flemish Minister for Brussels, Youth and Media Flemish Minister for Economy, Innovation, Work, Social Economy and Agriculture	WVG (WVG, Houses of Justice Division) CJSM (Department of Culture, Youth and Media) WSE KBBJ (Agency for Integration and Civic Integration]		
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The various policy areas provide clear, easily accessible (and joint) communication about the policy and the existing offer and instruments. Other partners such as VVSG can also deliver information. The central portal website, managed by ABB, is continuously updated.

In addition, it will be examined how the existing database on Social Cohesion can be better coordinated and expanded. A biennial workshop is also organised around this topic. Depending on concrete initiatives and developments, a smooth flow of information to stakeholders will be ensured at all times.

Action 3.3: Radicalisation/Polarisation Project Group and regional contact points within the Growing Up Agency	Flemish Minister for Welfare, Public Health, Family and Poverty Reduction	WVG (Growing Up Agency)	2020 - 2024	Within the regular resources
<p>Within the Growing Up Agency the necessary interlinkages have already been established for streamlining the communication and information on radicalisation. The Radicalisation Project Group, which is composed of representatives from each entity within the Growing Up Agency, is operating at the central level</p>				

to make sure the implementation of the action plan is monitored centrally. In addition, it will provide a forum for monitoring concrete cases of radicalisation. This project group is also the link to external contacts regarding radicalisation.

Furthermore, the project group is responsible for developing policy in the field of radicalisation and polarisation within the Growing Up Agency. Existing and new trends in society are examined against our societal duties of prevention and support. We believe, for example, that work should be done in the coming years to further explore the phenomenon of right-wing extremism. This ties in with CUTA’s findings that right-wing extremism is gaining ground in our society and with the Government of Flanders’ desire to tackle all forms of extremism.

The central contact point in the Growing Up Agency maintains regular contacts with the regional contact points for radicalisation (reference consultants). They remain continuously informed about relevant developments regarding minors who are becoming radicalised. Each year, three to four peer reviews are organised with the regional contact points, where they mutually exchange their experiences of working with minors in a context of radicalisation/polarisation in youth assistance. The purpose of these peer reviews is to learn from and inform each other, and to jointly discuss and solve concrete bottlenecks in specific cases. The regional contact points are assisted in this by the central contact point. During these peer reviews we also offer a forum for external experts and interesting new projects or studies to come and present themselves and make their work known to the reference consultants.

Action 3.4: Using reference persons within compulsory education, higher education and adult education	Flemish Minister for Education, Sports, Animal Welfare and the Vlaamse Rand	OV (Education)	Continuous	Within the regular resources
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The reference persons within compulsory education, higher education and adult education are deployed, on the one hand, to provide information and support, and on the other hand, to keep abreast of developments. These reference persons also act as contacts for the central contact point for purposes of consultation, information flow and knowledge sharing. These reference persons meet regularly and have already been able to build and share a great deal of expertise on the theme of radicalisation/polarisation. They also offer support to colleagues who experience problems with regard to these topics, and they have already attended various training courses.

Action 3.5: Committing to information sharing and exchange via Youth Sector Consultation	Flemish Minister for Brussels, Youth and Media	CJSM (Department of Culture, Youth and Media)	2020 - 2024	Within the regular resources
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We work on clear information sharing and exchange with the sector via the Youth Sector Consultation. The sector consultation consists of youth organisations at the Flemish level that work with children and young people. The purpose of the sector consultation is, on the one hand, to open up information about the policy and offer concerning the prevention of violent radicalisation, extremism, terrorism and polarisation to the organisations involved and, on the other hand, to keep a finger on the pulse of the needs and reality of the sector and of children and young people.

Action 3.6: Calling on support experts in cases of radicalisation	Flemish Minister for Justice and Enforcement, Environment and Spatial Development, Energy and Tourism	WVG (WVG, Houses of Justice Division)	Continuous	Within the regular resources
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The Houses of Justice Division developed a model of support experts in cases of radicalisation for the houses of justice within the Flemish Centre for Electronic Monitoring. Every judicial assistant who is assigned to a concrete radicalisation case is supported by one of these experts. The experts already attended various training courses. This model will be developed further in the coming years and the expertise will be fine-tuned to the needs.

## COOPERATION WITH FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICES

Action 3.7: Strengthening cooperation with federal public services	Flemish Minister for Home Affairs, Public Governance, Civic Integration and Equal Opportunities  Flemish Minister for Education, Sports, Animal Welfare and the Vlaamse Rand	KBBJ (Agency for Home Affairs) OV (Education) CJSM (Sport) WVG (Growing Up Agency)	Continuous	Within the regular resources
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	Flemish Minister for Welfare, Public Health, Family and Poverty Reduction	WVG (WVG, Houses of Justice Division)		
	Flemish Minister for Justice and Enforcement,	CJSM (Department of Culture, Youth and Media)		

	Environment and Spatial Development, Energy and Tourism Flemish Minister for Brussels, Youth and Media Flemish Minister for Economy, Innovation, Work, Social Economy and Agriculture	WSE KBBJ (Agency for Integration and Civic Integration] CUTA FPS Justice VGC		
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Cooperation with the federal public services is mainly strengthened by the representation of the Flemish public administration in the National Task Force (NTF) and the relevant working groups of the federal Action Plan against Radicalism. In this regard, ABB participates in the meetings of the Prevention, Strategic Communication and Asia Minor Working Groups, and the Houses of Justice Division takes part in the meetings of the Sentence Enforcement Working Group (formerly Prisons Working Group). In 2020-2021, ABB will also chair the Prevention Working Group. Flanders' new liaison officer will also sit on the NTF.

ABB, together with the members of the Flemish platform, is also contributing to two training courses developed by CUTA:

- training courses aimed at the *information officers*, given their role within (the coordination between) the Local Task Force (LTF) and the Local Integrated Security Cell-Radicalism (LISC-R), with Flanders informing them of Flanders' socio-preventive actors within an LISC-R (ongoing)
- training courses for local authorities (currently under development).

<p>Action 3.8: Continuing to focus on good cooperation between education and the police and organising networking opportunities between local authorities and the police</p>	<p>Flemish Minister for Education, Sports, Animal Welfare and the Vlaamse Rand</p> <p>Flemish Minister for Home Affairs, Public Governance, Civic Integration and Equal Opportunities</p>	<p>OV (Education)</p> <p>KBBJ (Agency for Home Affairs)</p> <p>WVG (WVG, Houses of Justice Division)</p> <p>WVG (Growing Up</p>	<p>Continuous</p>	<p>Within the regular resources</p>
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	Flemish Minister for Justice and Enforcement, Environment and Spatial Development, Energy and Tourism	Agency) VCL P KBBJ (Agency for Integration and Civic Integration) Local authorities		
	Flemish Minister for Welfare, Public Health, Family and Poverty Reduction	CUTA		

Police and education are sometimes still insufficiently aware of each other's work methods, as a result of which cooperation often reaches its limits. This sometimes makes it difficult to find the right contact persons, to build a relationship of trust, to focus on prevention, to know what to expect from each other, etc. To promote and ensure good cooperation and understanding between education actors and police forces, we are taking the following initiatives:

- We ensure that the database is kept up-to-date and that the contact points for both police forces and education actors are known.
- We explore opportunities for regional cooperation between education and the police and facilitate such opportunities whenever possible.
- We highlight good practices.
- We consider, together with the Local Police Standing Committee, how attention can be devoted to preventive actions in schools.
- Together with the Local Police Standing Committee, we focus on training and awareness raising.

Education already organised a networking day with the police in Brussels in the past, which proved successful. ABB will therefore, together with the federal government and VVSG, organise similar networking activities between local authorities and the police, which other sectors can join as well. These networking activities are aimed at bringing together the different actors in order to get to know each other's remit and duties better and to generally exchange knowledge, views and expertise, thus stimulating mutual trust between the police and other actors.

<p>Action 3.9: Reviewing the framework of agreements for cooperation and coordination between the various actors in prisons with a view to the disengagement of radicalised prisoners</p>	<p>Flemish Minister for Justice and Enforcement, Environment and Spatial Development, Energy and Tourism</p> <p>Flemish Minister for Home Affairs,</p>	<p>WVG (WVG, (Houses of Justice Division) KBBJ (Agency for Home Affairs)</p>	<p>2020 - 2024</p>	<p>Within the regular resources</p>
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	Public Governance, Civic Integration and Equal Opportunities Flemish Minister for Welfare, Public Health, Family and Poverty Reduction	WVG (Welfare and Society Division)		
<p>In 2020, a start was made on reviewing the joint roadmap between the Penitentiary Service of the FPS Justice and the coordination of assistance and service provision in prisons. This roadmap will describe the approach to countering radicalisation in prisons. In 2021, this will be finalised and widely communicated to all the actors in prisons.</p> <p>In addition, we are examining whether Article 458ter of the Criminal Code can be made applicable to multidisciplinary consultation in prisons on the basis of a cooperation agreement between the federal state and the Flemish Community.</p>				

COOPERATION WITH THE FEDERAL INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY SERVICES

Action 3.10: Strengthening cooperation between the Education and Training policy area and State Security	Flemish Minister for Education, Sports, Animal Welfare and the Vlaamse Rand	OV (Education)	Continuous	Within the regular resources
<p>In the cooperation between the Education and Training policy area and State Security, special focus is placed on data sharing and information provision, among other things, in the context of the screening of new schools that apply for accreditation.</p>				

<p>Action 3.11: Ensuring data exchange between the intelligence and security services via the Common Database (CDB) on the one hand and the Growing up Agency and Houses of Justice Division on the other</p>	<p>Flemish Minister for Welfare, Public Health, Family and Poverty Reduction Flemish Minister for Justice and Enforcement,</p>	<p>WVG (Growing Up Agency) WVG (WVG, Houses of Justice Division)</p>	<p>2020 - 2024</p>	<p>Within the regular resources</p>
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	Environment and Spatial Development, Energy and Tourism			
<p>In 2018 and 2019, work was already done on the exchange of data with CUTA.</p> <p>As regards the Growing Up Agency specifically, CUTA provides monthly lists of underage FTFs on which feedback is given on the status update in youth assistance. This practice will be continued for the time being, pending the operationalisation of the database.</p> <p>The houses of justice which have reading and writing rights in the CDB will step up their information exchange with CUTA and conclude a protocol to share more specific information. In turn, CUTA will share more information with the houses of justice, e.g. when reviewing an individual's risk level.</p>				
Action 3.12: Information exchange via Flanders' liaison officer	<p>Flemish Minister for Justice and Enforcement, Environment and Spatial Development, Energy and Tourism</p> <p>Flemish Minister for Foreign Affairs, Culture, Digitalisation and Facility Management</p> <p>Flemish Minister for Economy, Innovation, Work, Social Economy and Agriculture</p> <p>Flemish Minister for Home</p>		2020 - 2024	Within the regular resources



	Affairs, Public Governance, Civic Integration and Equal Opportunities Flemish Minister for Education, Sports,			
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	Animal welfare and the Vlaamse Rand Flemish Minister for Welfare, Public Health, Family and Poverty Reduction Flemish Minister for Finance and Budget, Housing and Immovable Heritage Flemish Minister for Mobility and Public Works Flemish Minister for Brussels, Youth and Media			
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Flanders' liaison officer, who has 'top secret' security clearance, was appointed by the Government of Flanders in 2021, to allow the Government to form a picture of global security in Flanders. The officer will ensure a smooth exchange of information between the federal intelligence and security services and the Flemish public administration, including information flows on radicalisation, extremism and terrorism. To this end, the liaison officer is preparing a uniform protocol agreement on the exchange of information between the intelligence services and the services of the Flemish public administration and institutions. The existing protocols will be incorporated into this protocol.

<p>Action 3.13: Participation in the Strategic Memorandum on Extremism and Terrorism and the Framework Memorandum on Integral Security and the National Security Plan</p>	<p>Flemish Minister for Justice and Enforcement, Environment and Spatial Development, Energy and Tourism</p> <p>Flemish Minister for Home Affairs, Public Governance, Civic Integration and Equal Opportunities</p>	<p>WVG (WVG, Houses of Justice Division)</p> <p>KBBJ (Agency for Home Affairs)</p>	<p>2020 - 2024</p>	<p>Within the regular resources</p>
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	<p>Flemish Minister for Foreign Affairs, Culture, Digitalisation and Facility Management</p> <p>Flemish Minister for Economy, Innovation, Work, Social Economy and Agriculture</p> <p>Flemish Minister for Education, Sports, Animal Welfare and the Vlaamse Rand</p> <p>Flemish Minister for Welfare, Public Health, Family and Poverty Reduction</p> <p>Flemish Minister for Finance and Budget, Housing and Immovable Heritage</p> <p>Flemish Minister for Mobility and Public Works</p> <p>Flemish Minister for Brussels, Youth and Media</p>			
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Flanders will participate as a fully-fledged partner in the compilation and implementation of the Strategic Memorandum on Extremism and Terrorism and the Framework Memorandum on Integral Security and the National Security Plan.

The Strategic Memorandum on Extremism and Terrorism will be an update of the concepts, structures, partners, tools and work methods set out in the existing Action Plan against Radicalism (Plan R). We are actively contributing to this under the coordination of the Flemish Ministers for Home Affairs and Justice and Enforcement.

Flanders will also make a contribution, under the coordination of the Flemish Minister for Justice and Enforcement, to the Framework Memorandum on Integral Security and the National Security Plan. Although these plans extend far beyond the themes of radicalisation, extremism and terrorism, Flanders' contribution will put forward these topics as priorities.

Action 3.14: Establishment of a Flemish Information and Screening Service	Flemish Minister for Home Affairs, Public Governance, Civic Integration and Equal Opportunities	KBBJ (Agency for Home Affairs, Information and Screening Service)	From 1 September 2021	Within the regular resources
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Within the Agency for Home Affairs a body will be set up for the monitoring of local religious communities, called the Flemish Information and Screening Service. This service will start on 1 September 2021 from the entry into force of the new decree on the recognition and monitoring of local religious communities.

It is the task of the Information and Screening Service to permanently monitor both the recognised local religious communities and those applying for recognition, and to identify and investigate possible shortcomings in terms of recognition criteria and administrative obligations. These obligations include, inter alia:

- The obligation that no one can, on the grounds of religious or ideological beliefs, evade the applicable rules of law, the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and the Constitution, or restrict the rights and obligations of others.
- The obligation not to partake in any way in activities that incite discrimination, hatred or violence against any person, group, community or members thereof.
- The obligation to make all reasonable efforts to exclude persons who incite discrimination, hatred or violence against any person, group, community or members thereof from the organisation and activities of the local religious community.



<p>Action 3.15: Enhancing the involvement in initiatives of the European Commission and other international forums, if any</p>	<p>Flemish Minister for Home Affairs, Public Governance, Civic Integration and Equal Opportunities</p> <p>Flemish Minister for Education, Sports, Animal Welfare and the Vlaamse Rand</p> <p>Flemish Minister for Welfare, Public Health, Family and Poverty reduction</p> <p>Flemish Minister for Justice and Enforcement, Environment and Spatial Development, Energy and Tourism</p>	<p>KBBJ (Agency for Home Affairs) OV (Education)</p> <p>CJSM (Sports)</p> <p>WVG (Growing Up Agency)</p> <p>WVG (WVG, Houses of Justice Division)</p> <p>CJSM (Department of Culture, Youth and Media)</p>	<p>Continuous</p>	<p>Within the regular resources</p>
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	Flemish Minister for Brussels, Youth and Media  Flemish Minister for Economy, Innovation, Work, Social Economy and Agriculture	WSE  KBBJ (Agency for Integration and Civic Integration)  CUTA		
<p>Each policy area can participate in exchanges within European and international forums. Existing international exchanges are continued and expanded where possible. Flanders is already represented in the expert meetings of the Confederation of European Probation (CEP) and in the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) work stream on Promotion of Sport and its Values as a Tool to Prevent Violent Extremism (via the Sports Flanders Agency). In addition, Flanders will accept invitations from the EU Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN) to take part in the expert meetings.</p>				



Even more active focus is placed on information flow and monitoring of relevant recommendations. The various international and European reports, opinions, etc. on the current situation and on new developments in relation to this topic are being monitored by ABB and exchanged with relevant partners via the Flemish Platform.

Action 3.16: Exchanging knowledge and expertise with foreign countries	<p>Flemish Minister for Home Affairs, Public Governance, Civic Integration and Equal Opportunities</p> <p>Flemish Minister for Education, Sports, Animal Welfare and the Vlaamse Rand</p> <p>Flemish Minister for Welfare, Public Health, Family and Poverty Reduction</p> <p>Flemish Minister for Justice and Enforcement, Environment and Spatial Development, Energy and Tourism</p>	<p>KBBJ (Agency for Home Affairs) OV (Education)</p> <p>CJSM (Sports)</p> <p>WVG (Growing Up Agency)</p> <p>WVG (WVG, Houses of Justice Division)</p> <p>CJSM (Department of Culture, Youth and Media)</p>	Continuous	Within the regular resources
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	Flemish Minister for Brussels, Youth and Media Flemish Minister for Economy, Innovation, Work, Social Economy and Agriculture	WSE KBBJ (Agency for Integration and Civic Integration) Local authorities		
Each policy area can give shape to potential new partnerships and strengthen current ones, possibly in combination with site visits.				

ABB will also involve the local authorities in the partnerships via VVSG. This will facilitate the exchange of practice-oriented expertise with foreign cities and municipalities.

**OBJECTIVE 4: WE SUPPORT AND STRENGTHEN LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND LOCAL SERVICES**

Local authorities play a crucial role in terms of the detection of signs as well as the actual response and targeted approach to violent radicalisation, extremism and polarisation. Constructive cooperation with local services and facilities is therefore indispensable.

To support local authorities and local services and facilities, we will provide additional levers and instruments (capacity building, financial support, promotion of knowledge and expertise building, flow and exchange of good practices, etc.).

The development of local networks is another important element, for example in the context of setting up local initiatives, cooperation with LISCs, and community initiatives in cooperation with the police or in the context of the monitoring of former detainees.

The various local actors also call for more support, guidance and training on how to tackle polarisation, extremism, radicalisation and terrorism. We are therefore committed to raising awareness and providing guidance and training to local authorities, the various local services and facilities and other stakeholders on how best to deal with the various forms of extremism and polarisation.

<p>Action 4.1: Providing advice and support to local authorities and building and exchanging knowledge and expertise for and between local authorities</p>	<p>Flemish Minister for Home Affairs, Public Governance, Civic Integration and Equal Opportunities</p>	<p>KBBJ (Agency for Home Affairs) KBBJ (Agency for Integration and Civic Integration) Local authorities</p>	<p>15 January 2021 to 14 January 2025</p>	<p>€500,000</p>
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Local authorities take up a directing role, which is why it is necessary to support the role of the local authorities and civil servants concerned.

VVSG plays a key role in this process by developing expertise, building networks and sharing knowledge about the local approach to radicalisation and polarisation. By doing so, VVSG will support the local authorities in successfully implementing Flanders' objectives

concerning the prevention of violent radicalisation, extremism, terrorism and polarisation.

As many municipalities and cities have already acquired knowledge and expertise on this topic over the past years, whereas other cities and municipalities are looking to do so, efforts should also be made to pool and disseminate this knowledge and expertise.

VVSG is also setting up a learning network, making the tools of the EMMA project (see Action 5.2) accessible and applicable for the LISCs in Flanders.

Action 4.2: Allocating grants to local authorities to support the directing role of local authorities in addressing problems in a targeted manner and in building networks	Flemish Minister for Home Affairs, Public Governance, Civic Integration and Equal Opportunities	KBBJ (Agency for Home Affairs) KBBJ (Agency for Integration and Civic Integration) Local authorities	2021 - 2024	€1,500,000/year
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Local authorities are central actors in the prevention of violent radicalisation, extremism, terrorism and polarisation. A call for projects was launched to support the local authorities in this role. The aim of the call is twofold: On the one hand, local authorities are supported in taking up their local directing role with regard to extremism and terrorism in the best possible way. On the other hand, the project call aims to develop and strengthen networks, combine forces across municipal borders and respond to specific problems. Via the LISC-R, local partners can also be consulted in terms of needs and signs.

After all, it is important for local authorities to connect with the groups that live in their municipalities or cities. Not just to be able to discuss issues about living together, but also to be able to intervene in time when things get out of hand or public safety is undermined. Apart from developing partnerships and exchanges with relevant partners in the field, it is crucial to develop networks between government, police and citizens so that potential incidents can be anticipated at an early stage and public safety is guaranteed. In addition, local authorities should be able to respond in a targeted manner to certain problems that arise. On the basis of a concrete problem analysis, local authorities, possibly in cooperation with other local partners, can make targeted and bespoke interventions. Interventions may, for instance, be needed for a specific neighbourhood, group or issue (e.g. online hate speech).

To this end, partnerships between local actors, services and facilities are strongly promoted in order to achieve the best possible result.

Action 4.3: Providing specialist expertise to address local problems	Flemish Minister for Home Affairs,	KBBJ (Agency for	First phase: 2021	First phase: (field research)
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	Public Governance,		€50,000
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	Civic Integration and Equal Opportunities	Home Affairs) KBBJ (Agency for Integration and Civic Integration)	Second phase: end of 2021 - 2024	Second phase: €500,000/year
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Local authorities need a support offer for tackling extremism, especially when they are confronted with acute or escalating problem situations on the ground. In such situations, it is important to respond very quickly and adequately and to develop and apply a quality approach as soon as possible. Moreover, local authorities are confronted with phenomena such as the rise of right-wing extremism and other extremist movements or themes, as well as (online) hate speech, statements that incite hate against the LGBTQ community, disinformation via social media, etc.

Since the local authorities often do not have the necessary expertise in-house to respond to this, and these acute or escalating local problems require a quick and adequate response, the necessary expertise is brought together and offered to the local authorities.

In the first phase, a field study is carried out to map the existing offer on the basis of (already identified) needs. This can be used to identify gaps and formulate proposals for optimising the existing offer or providing an additional offer. This analysis should also focus specifically on a very practice-oriented offer that can be put into practice on the ground in acute or escalating problem situations.

In a second phase, agreements will be drawn up with certain specialist service providers. The idea is to create a pool of experts, each with their own specialist expertise in the prevention of violent radicalisation, and to put them at the disposal of local authorities. This will enable local authorities to specifically consult the relevant service provider(s) in case of a particular problem. One example is a local authority that sees an increase in online hate speech against a specific community or population group and wants to receive support in terms of both CT and a communication strategy to be able to provide a targeted and binding response. Other local authorities may be confronted with Salafist statements and writings, the threat of which they cannot really assess because they are unable to adequately frame the language and content. In this case, theological expertise and support as well as expertise by experience may prove helpful. Furthermore, some events may give rise to unrest and even riots, e.g. when prayer buildings, graves, statues, certain symbols, etc. are vandalised. Again, a swift and adequate response is required, whereby both knowledge of the underlying situation and of tried and tested methods of de-escalation will be offered to local authorities that are confronted with this.

Action 4.4: Strengthening the educational institutions and pupil guidance centres (CLBs)	Flemish Minister for Education, Sports, Animal Welfare and the Vlaamse Rand	OV (Education)	Continuous	Within the regular resources
A specific offer is put in place by continuously publicising study days and webinars, keeping the existing material and offer up-to-date, highlighting a transparent website, bundling all material concerning radicalisation and polarisation on Klascement and spotlighting the operation of the central contact point. We also continue to lead the working groups on radicalisation in compulsory education and higher education.				
Action 4.5: Supporting schools whose capacity and resilience is challenged by extreme risk behaviour	Flemish Minister for Education, Sports, Animal Welfare and the Vlaamse Rand	OV (Education)	2020 - 2021	€178,000/year
Based on the work done in previous years, the current needs in education and the available offer of seamless, flexible pathways (naadloze flexibele trajecten/NAFT) for secondary education, it is decided to extend the Connect project from the 2020-2021 school year, but to use it mainly for primary education. Secondary schools will only be included as an exception and in case of serious problems. A transition period is provided for secondary schools which, due to COVID-19, could not complete an ongoing pathway in the 2019-2020 school year.				
Action 4.6: Supporting schools and CLBs which receive a returnee	Flemish Minister for Education, Sports, Animal Welfare and the Vlaamse Rand	OV (Education)	Continuous (until end of term of office)	Within the regular resources
When returnees enter education, schools and CLBs are confronted with a number of practical questions, inter alia, as to what support and guidance they should offer and how they should deal with worried parents of fellow pupils. We will provide the necessary support for this. The existing roadmap will, together with policies and procedures on underage returnees, be optimised and updated using the experiences of Education and Training.				



Action 4.7: Further rolling out the management agreement of the Network of Islam Experts	Flemish Minister for Education, Sports, Animal Welfare and the Vlaamse Rand	OV (Education)	2019 - 2023	€188,000/ year
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The Network of Islam Experts helps schools to prevent extremism and polarisation and tries to find a bespoke response:

- They explain Islam and how and why young people become radicalised.
- They supervise class discussions while allowing young people to get to know each other's beliefs.

- They inform and coach teachers to make them feel more confident to talk to pupils and parents themselves.
- They not only have in-depth knowledge of Islam, but are also familiar with young people's social environment.

The support is targeted at young people, class groups and first-line workers (teachers, CLB staff, NAFT support workers), and can take various forms, e.g. individual conversations, class discussions, lectures, webinars and study days.

In addition to its regular activities, the network also focuses on new challenges and developments in the roll-out of its management agreement. For example, at the request of professionals on the ground, the network now also provides peer review opportunities for CLB and education staff from compulsory education, higher education and adult education.

#### OBJECTIVE 5: WE FOCUS ON THE EARLY DETECTION OF SIGNS, WHILE ADOPTING A BESPOKE TENACIOUS AND MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACH TO INDIVIDUAL CASES

Both local authorities and socio-preventive actors can play an important role in the early detection, reporting and further monitoring of individual cases. The Local Integrated Security Cell - Radicalism (LISC-R) is of fundamental importance to this.

In order to optimise cooperation and strengthen the relationship of trust between the socio-preventive actors and the LISCs, a clear decree will be drawn up on the provision of information and the professional secrecy within the LISC, based on the voluntary participation of the socio-preventive actors. We will also, in consultation with the sectors, draw up a framework of action for the practical implementation, taking into account the specificities and remit of the respective sectors. We will also communicate extensively on this subject, both to the local authorities and to the relevant departments of the Flemish public administration.

We offer support and levers from the various policy areas to allow individuals to (re)connect to society. In this context, we adopt a multidisciplinary approach and consider each case from the perspective of the individual's strengths and weaknesses. We offer advice and support in improving individual living conditions and in developing positive coping strategies. It is therefore important to give maximum support to the actors who are going to apply this in practice (e.g. teachers, youth workers, staff of the centres for general welfare work). Radicalisation always takes place in interaction between an individual and their environment, which is why it is important to involve young people's wider social network in the prevention and approach. More attention should therefore also be devoted to the indispensable role parents can play in this.

Good coordination should also be pursued with actors working inside and outside prisons and the LISC-R about individuals who leave prison (either at the end of their sentence or as a result of a sentence enforcement measure) and who need further monitoring and/or guidance.

<p>Action 5.1: Local Integrated Security Cells - Radicalism, Extremism and Terrorism: drafting a Flemish decree, developing an accompanying roadmap and holding negotiations on a cooperation agreement</p>	<p>Flemish Minister for Justice and Enforcement, Environment and Spatial Development, Energy and Tourism</p> <p>Flemish Minister for Home Affairs, Public Governance, Civic Integration and Equal Opportunities</p> <p>Flemish Minister for Education, Sports, Animal Welfare and the Vlaamse Rand</p> <p>Flemish Minister for Welfare, Public Health, Family and Poverty Reduction</p> <p>Flemish Minister for Brussels, Youth and Media</p>	<p>WVG (WVG, Houses of Justice Division)</p> <p>KBBJ (Agency for Home Affairs)</p> <p>OV (Education)</p> <p>CJSM (Sports)</p> <p>WVG</p> <p>CJSM (Department of Culture, Youth and Media)</p> <p>WSE</p> <p>KBBJ (Agency for Integration and Civic Integration]</p>	<p>2021</p>	<p>Within the regular resources</p>
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	Flemish Minister for Economy, Innovation, Work, Social Economy and Agriculture			
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With the development of the LISC decree (decree on the authorisation of participants in Flanders in the Local Integrated Security Cells - Radicalism, Extremism and Terrorism and on the regulation of the terms of this participation), a legal basis is given to and clarity is created for actors falling within Flanders' competences who are authorised by this decree to take part in case consultations within an LISC-R. All this takes place within Flanders' competences and on the basis of an assessment between the professional secrecy, the rights (and duties) and interests of the parties involved and the ultimate goal of the LISC-R.

In addition to this decree, a roadmap is also being developed to provide guidance on participation in an LICS-R. This includes a practical guide with examples of best practices. This is done with the input and involvement of the sectors in Flanders and by raising their awareness.

We are negotiating with the federal and other governments to reach an inter-federal cooperation agreement on data exchange, among other things.

In cooperation with the Federal Ministers of Justice and the Interior, we are examining how the LICS structure can be extended to include an LICS in prison. This would mean that the local authorities and the houses of justice would, so to speak, be 'pulled into' the prison, either when a radicalised person is just admitted to prison, or a few months before they can request a sentence enforcement measure. In this way, a 'bridge' is made between the inside and the outside in good time, which allows for a smooth flow of information.

Action 5.2: Developing the evaluation framework for the LICS-R via the EMMA project	Flemish Minister for Home Affairs, Public Governance, Civic Integration and Equal Opportunities Flemish Minister for Justice and Enforcement, Environment and Spatial Development, Energy and Tourism	VVSG	1 February 2020 - 31 January 2022	European Commission ISF-P fund
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The EMMA (Evaluation and Mentoring of the Multi-Agency Approach to Violent Radicalisation) project provides answers to the challenges of a multi-agency operation through self-evaluation and mentoring within the approach to radicalisation (the LICs-R for Belgium). This project is carried out in cooperation with Germany and the Netherlands.

The VVSG acts as project coordinator and receives European funds for this from the European Union's Internal Security Fund (ISF-Police).

Action 5.3: Continuing the roll-out of the management agreement with the umbrella parent organisations	Minister for Education	OV (Education)	01/01/2019 - 31/12/2021	Within the current education subsidy
<p>Within the framework of the theme-based (project) work of the umbrella parent organisations, attention is paid to raising parents' awareness of radicalisation and polarisation and for the prevention thereof. The umbrella parent organisations are making a number of videos about radicalisation and polarisation together with external parties and experts. They are also developing a tool to accompany each video. The purpose of this tool is to get the discussion with parents in parent organisations going or to deepen the discussion on these topics.</p>				

**OBJECTIVE 6: WE FOCUS ON DISENGAGEMENT AND AFTERCARE WITH A CURATIVE, MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACH TO IMPROVE REINTEGRATION AND REDUCE RECIDIVISM**

In recent years, a growing number of individuals who were convicted under anti-terrorism law have been released from prison. A high outflow is also expected in the coming period: this and next year, 60 radicalised individuals will be released from prison. Currently, 9 (18%) Islamist extremist hate propagandists are still in detention. Thirty-eight (76%) of these hate propagandists have already been released (whether or not following a prison sentence). No right-wing extremist or left-wing extremist hate propagandists are currently in detention.<sup>8</sup>

Some shifts have taken place in recent years in terms of reintegration and aftercare. There are, for instance, hardly any departing Syrian fighters, but instead more and more returnees, including a lot of women and minors. This is owing to the fact that, since the 2015 law amendment, leaving or entering our territory with the intention of committing a terrorist crime is also a criminal offence. This means that almost every returnee is criminally prosecuted and subject to prosecution, monitoring and guidance. Of the returned Foreign Terrorist Fighters (category 3), 31 are currently in detention and 3 are under electronic monitoring<sup>9</sup>. Of the returnees who settled in Belgium, 65% is now at liberty whether or not after having served a prison sentence. CUTA figures indicate that about 80% of male returnees who are no longer in detention show signs of deradicalisation, disengagement or positive evolution. Among women, this percentage is 95%. Among the men who are still in detention, just under half are reported to show signs of deradicalisation and/or disengagement. This percentage is even much lower among detainees of the specific D-Rad-Ex sections.

<sup>8</sup> CUTA Figures of 2 July 2020.

<sup>9</sup> CUTA memorandum 'Public Perception of Foreign Terrorist Fighters' (Beeldvorming Foreign Terrorist Fighters), 27/04/2020.

In any case, it is important to provide appropriate guidance and monitoring, both during and after detention, which is always tailored to the individual. This is why, as a community, we do not wait until the moment of release to intervene, but strengthen our efforts to start disengagement pathways already at an earlier stage during detention. The federated states carry great responsibility in this. Prisoners convicted or suspected of violent extremism or of disturbing radicalisation receive specific guidance aimed at disengagement. *This guidance was structurally embedded in the operation of the centres for general welfare work (CAWs) in early 2021.*

In addition, there are also people who have not been convicted under anti-terrorism law, but who have, for example, been placed on probation or confined in institutes or divisions of social protection because of radicalisation issues. For them, too, we will provide proper guidance and bespoke monitoring.

With regard to the monitoring policy, greater focus is placed on a stronger approach for reducing recidivism. Risk assessment will play a major role in this, in order to achieve a targeted approach. It is also important that the methodologies of the different links in the judicial chain are aligned with each other. We take a multidisciplinary approach to this, because it has been demonstrated that various other causes and problems can lie at the root of radicalisation. That is why we focus on professionals and support workers from different disciplines, both during and after detention, so that underlying problems can be treated in time and this treatment can be continued after detention.

Action 6.1: Launching a pilot project with regard to the mandate of the houses of justice in the ‘preparation for rehabilitation’	Flemish Minister for Justice and Enforcement, Environment and Spatial Development, Energy and Tourism	WVG (WVG, Houses of Justice Division)	2020 - 2022	Within the regular resources
<p>Work is being done on the new mandate of the houses of justice during detention. The essence of the new mandate is to bring in the rehabilitation expertise of judicial assistants during detention already in the form of advice provision to the prison director in order to improve the ‘bridge’ between ‘during’ and ‘after’ detention. The pilot project introduces a new advisory function for judicial assistants vis-à-vis prison directors in the context of the preparation of the rehabilitation of individuals who are being monitored by prisons for (potentially) violent extremism.</p> <p>This pilot project will be evaluated by late 2022.</p>				
Action 6.2: Developing a specialist and multidisciplinary guidance offer for violent extremists	Flemish Minister for Justice and Enforcement, Environment and Spatial	WVG (WVG, Houses of Justice Division)	2021 - 2022	Within the regular resources



	Development, Energy and Tourism			
<p>For a period of one year, the Houses of Justice Division subsidises an external partner, the non-profit organisation Ceapire, to provide specialist, multidisciplinary guidance tailored to the needs of a potentially violent extremist who is being monitored by the houses of justice within a given mandate.</p>				

During this subsidisation period, the Houses of Justice Division examines the best way for organising this specialist offer in the future. In this context account is taken of the pathway-based nature of the monitoring of potentially violently radicalised individuals in our society, and the role and remit of all the actors involved in this monitoring.

Based on this analysis, it will be determined how the specialist guidance will take shape from autumn 2021 onwards.

Action 6.3: Continuing psychosocial guidance in the context of disengagement	Flemish Minister for Welfare, Public Health, Family and Poverty Reduction	WVG (Welfare and Society Division) CAWs	2021 et seq.	€ 248,498.53
In order to achieve a successful approach to radicalisation in prisons, CAW Limburg offers psychosocial guidance to radicalised prisoners with a view to disengagement. This guidance capacity is used in all prisons in Flanders and Brussels.				
Action 6.4: Providing treatment for radicalised prisoners with mental health problems in the context of disengagement	Flemish Minister for Welfare, Public Health, Family and Poverty Reduction	WVG (Agency for Care and Health)	15 December 2020 - 31 December 2023	€228,125
Long-term guidance pathways in which working on disengagement takes centre stage. The mental healthcare centres (CGGs) do not take on the entire pathway guidance, but provide specialist treatment pathways in consultation with the CAW Limburg consultants, who offer psychosocial guidance in the context of disengagement (cf. treatment of trauma, depression, anxiety, etc.).				
Action 6.5: Implementing the VERA2R risk assessment tool	Flemish Minister for Justice and Enforcement, Environment and Spatial Development, Energy and Tourism	WVG (WVG, Houses of Justice Division)	2020 - 2022	Within the regular resources

The Houses of Justice Division implements a specific risk assessment tool for violent extremism (VERA2R) in the monitoring of individuals convicted of a terrorist crime.

In order to provide the proper monitoring, agreements were made with the Directorate-General of Penitentiary Institutions (DG EPI) to exchange information on the VERA2R assessments performed. Feedback will be organised with DG EPI on the implementation of the tool so that activities can be harmonised as much as possible.

**OBJECTIVE 7: WE PUT VICTIMS AT THE CENTRE OF THE POLICY FOR COUNTERING VIOLENT RADICALISATION, EXTREMISM, TERRORISM AND POLARISATION**

Victims of terror and attacks deserve special attention in this action plan. These are acts of a different order than regular crime: the number of victims per act is usually higher and the physical and mental impact is very traumatising. Victims of the 22 March 2016 attacks still suffer the consequences of that day. Some because they are suffering physical or mental trauma, others because they have lost loved ones. We must do better for all these victims.

The Parliamentary Committee of Inquiry into the Terrorist Attacks reported that there is a need for a coordinated contact point for all victims. Following this, the central dedicated desk for victims was set up at the level of the federal public prosecutor to improve aftercare for all victims. We will commit to this and cooperate where necessary.

Children of IS fighters did not choose this situation either. They still suffer the consequences of the ideology and actions of their radicalised parents. According to CUTA, approximately 180 Belgian minors are living in Syria and Iraq, most of them aged under six. They are likely to have suffered trauma and need proper support and guidance towards reintegration. Again, a large part of this responsibility lies with the federated states, which must also provide for the necessary monitoring.

Action 7.1: Optimising policies and procedures regarding underage returnees from IS conflict zones	Flemish Minister for Welfare, Public health, Family and Poverty Reduction	WVG (Growing Up Agency)	2021	Within the regular resources
The policy and procedures concerning underage returnees are being optimised on the basis of experiences and the input from the Child and Family Agency (Kind & Gezin). The roadmap ‘Radicalisation in Youth Welfare: Guidance for preventing, approaching and tackling radicalism in Youth Assistance - Youth Welfare’ also includes the target group of minors (mainly very young children) who may be returning from conflict zones. The roadmap outlines a specific approach, in partnership with various security services, judicial bodies and support services, to guarantee a smooth return of these minors as well as their monitoring within youth assistance. The roadmap, together with the policies and procedures concerning underage returnees, will be optimised and updated on the basis of the experiences of the Growing Up Agency.				
Action 7.2: Participating in the central desk for victims of terrorism and major disasters	Flemish Minister for Justice and Enforcement, Environment and Spatial Development,	WVG (WVG, Houses of Justice Division) WVG (Welfare and	Roadmap: 2020	Within the regular resources

	Energy and Tourism, Flemish Minister for Welfare, Public Health,	Society Division)		
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	Family and Poverty Reduction			
<p>The central desk is a partnership between the National Victims Unit of the federal public prosecutor's office, the aftercare coordinators of the Communities and the competent services of the Communities, to act as a point of contact and guide for victims following a terrorist attack or certain major disasters. The central desk is manned by employees of the National Victims Unit. Only when the number of victims requires it, can the federal public prosecutor (in consultation with the National Victims Unit and the Communities) decide to 'reinforce' the central desk with staff from the Communities' services (judicial assistants from the victim support services of the houses of justice and CAW support workers).</p> <p>When victims contact the central desk, they will receive an answer to their questions, be put in touch with specialist services whenever necessary and be informed of the possibility of being referred to a reference person if they so wish. CAW support workers and judicial assistants for victim support can be designated as reference persons.</p> <p>The Houses of Justice Division and the Welfare and Society Division also take part in the working group in charge of preparing the central desk roadmap and will also sit on the coordination body which is yet to be set up and will be attached to the central desk.</p>				
<p>Action 7.3: Monitoring and providing assistance to victims of the 2016 attacks in the context of the upcoming assize court proceedings</p>	<p>Flemish Minister for Justice, and Enforcement, Environment and Spatial Development, Energy and Tourism</p>	<p>WVG (WVG, Houses of Justice Division)</p>	<p>May 2021 to mid-2023</p>	<p>Within the regular resources</p>
<p>Between 2016 and 2020, the Victim Support Service of the houses of justice provided intensive assistance to victims of the 2016 attacks who requested it. In the context of the upcoming assize court proceedings, the victims will be contacted proactively to offer them assistance and they will be actively assisted by the Victim Support Service throughout the proceedings. To this end, various houses of justice will be joining forces to be able to deal with the large number of victims, and extra judicial assistants will be recruited if necessary. After all, assize court proceedings can take a very long time and be very intense, which is why we will also offer the necessary supervision and peer review to the judicial assistants themselves.</p> <p>In addition, we will make it possible for foreign victims, who do not wish to attend in person, but are able to follow via videoconference, to also be assisted by the Victim Support Service during the videoconference.</p>				

OBJECTIVE 8: WE UNDERPIN OUR POLICY WITH SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND BY BUILDING AND DISSEMINATING KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERTISE

Throughout these objectives, research, knowledge and expertise should be built and disseminated on a cross-sectional basis. After all, radicalisation, extremism and polarisation are evolutionary processes. It is therefore crucial that recent scientific research and international insights and trends can be implemented in Flanders. In other words, that a policy is being developed which is based on scientific evidence to the maximum extent possible. Efforts will be made to build knowledge and expertise within specific research lines, to develop a specific centre of expertise and to coordinate with other experts and academics.

## RESEARCH

<p>Action 8.1: Bringing together existing research and conducting additional research on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- specific aspects of extremism and polarisation</li> <li>- certain (online) phenomena, such as disinformation, conspiracy theories, hate speech</li> </ul>	<p>Flemish Minister for Home Affairs, Public Governance, Civic Integration and Equal Opportunities</p>	<p>KBBJ (Agency for Home Affairs)</p>	<p>2021-2022</p>	<p>€200,000</p>
<p>The evaluation study conducted by the Flemish Peace Institute (VVI) was published in December 2020. One of the recommendations was to continue to focus on knowledge dissemination and expertise building, particularly on topics where such needs still exist. This could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- differences and similarities in (the preventive approach to) various forms of violent radicalisation</li> <li>- (online) dimensions of (the prevention of) violent radicalisation and polarisation.</li> </ul> <p>We will bring together existing research as well as, where necessary, conduct additional research into the various manifestations of (online) phenomena such as disinformation, conspiracy theories and hate speech (e.g. homophobic messages) and the underlying technicalities and mechanisms that promote these phenomena, and the way in which policy can provide a response, whether or not in cooperation with other policy levels or partners.</p> <p>On the other hand, existing research on the various forms of violent radicalisation and extremism will be pooled and, where necessary, be subject to additional research. Similarities and differences will also be zoomed in on, in terms of both manifestations and the underlying ideas and characteristics.</p> <p>Whenever possible, an action-oriented component will be linked to this research with reference to the local authorities.</p>				



Action 8.2: Conducting research into online polarisation and hate speech	Flemish Minister for Brussels, Youth and Media	CJSM (Department of Culture, Youth and Media)	2020 - 2024	Within the regular resources
<p>We strengthen our media literacy policy by promoting research on the themes of online polarisation and hate speech on social media. We focus in particular on specific aspects of polarisation, such as the use of memes as online propaganda images. We translate the insights and results into education and training material to counteract social disconnection. We disseminate the translation of those results to different sectors and target groups.</p>				
Action 8.3: Taking part in research on returnees from IS conflict zones	Flemish Minister for Welfare, Public Health, Family and Poverty Reduction	WVG (Growing Up Agency)	2020 - 2024	Within the regular resources
<p>The Dutch Child Protection Board is setting up a longitudinal study into the monitoring of underage returnees. To this end, cooperation has been set up with the Growing Up Agency to extend this research to Flanders.</p> <p>A learning session is organised around children returning from Syria and Iraq.</p>				
Action 8.4: Participating in European research projects and monitoring European funding opportunities	Flemish Minister for Home Affairs, Public Governance, Civic Integration and Equal Opportunities  Flemish Minister for Justice and Enforcement, Environment and Spatial	KBBJ (Agency for Home Affairs)  WVG (WVG, Houses of Justice Division)	2020 - 2022	Within the regular resources

	Development, Energy and Tourism			
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International research projects are actively sought to learn from or to join. As such, we want to use and share the acquired expertise across Flanders.

The Houses of Justice Division is participating in European research to evaluate and improve VERA2R, which is a risk assessment tool for violent extremism that is also being used within the Houses of Justice Division. The Houses of Justice Division is involved as a 'linked third party' in the research project.

ABB sits on the advisory board of the European research project 'Human factors and social, societal and organisational aspects to solve issues in fighting against crime and terrorism'.

European funding opportunities are screened on a permanent basis and potential partners are looked for to respond to such opportunities. Partners will be facilitated, supported and invited to submit a project application.

## CREATION AND DISSEMINATION OF KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERTISE

Action 8.5: Feedback and reflection with experts (academics, field workers, experts by experience, etc.) on the policy pursued	Flemish Minister for Home Affairs, Public Governance, Civic Integration and Equal Opportunities	KBBJ (Agency for Home Affairs) OV (Education) CJSM (Sports)	From 2021	Within the regular resources
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	<p>Flemish Minister for Education, Sports, Animal Welfare and the Vlaamse Rand</p> <p>Flemish Minister for Welfare, Public Health and Family</p> <p>Flemish Minister for Justice and Enforcement, Environment and Spatial Development, Energy and Tourism</p>	<p>WVG (Welfare and Society)</p> <p>WVG (WVG, Houses of Justice Division) CJSM (Department of Culture, Youth and Media)</p> <p>WSE</p> <p>KBBK (Agency for Integration and Civic Integration)</p>		
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	<p>Flemish Minister for Brussels, Youth and Media</p> <p>Flemish Minister for Economy, Innovation, Work, Social Economy and Agriculture</p>			
<p>In order to continuously shape the policy for the prevention of violent radicalisation, extremism, terrorism and polarisation and to tailor it to current needs and challenges, we are calling on the advice and input of academics, experts and experts by experience via periodic focus tables. In this way, we will obtain regular input on the policy conducted, and on the problems, gaps and needs and will, where possible, adapt our actions accordingly. The form this will take will be determined in consultation with the Flemish Platform and will be coordinated with the work of the umbrella network for combating polarisation, in cooperation with VVSG (see objective 1).</p>				
<p>Action 8.6: Continuing to focus on increasing the expertise of and providing support to prison staff</p>	<p>Flemish Minister for Justice and Enforcement, Environment and Spatial Development, Energy and Tourism</p> <p>Flemish Minister for Welfare, Public Health, Family and Poverty Reduction</p>	<p>WVG (WVG, Houses of Justice Division)</p> <p>WVG (Welfare and Society)</p>	<p>Global action continuous process</p>	<p>Within the regular resources</p>

Continued efforts are being made to increase the expertise of and provide support to prison staff through:

- Guaranteed expertise within the team providing support and services to detainees to tackle radicalisation and extremism
- Intensive cooperation with the various support and service providing partners, under the auspices of the Joint Committee on Support and Service Provision to detainees
- The instruments that were developed during a vision process between the partners in Flanders and DG EPI offer concrete tools for employees to get started in the workplace. In practical terms, it concerns a roadmap that describes the joint vision and objectives, a roadmap for the implementation of local case consultation, a joint agreements framework for information sharing during local case consultation, a reporting procedure for feedback following group activities, and a communication and implementation plan. In relation to this, visits to the local prisons are organised to offer support in translating the instruments to the local context

(answering questions and detecting education and training needs or additional support needs).