

**Action plan for the prevention of
violent radicalisation
and polarisation**

Overview of actions and measures

The Government of Flanders advocates a society that is shared by everyone. In this society, democratic citizenship is a key aspect and there is room for different ideologies, ideas and convictions about life as long as they do not undermine the continued existence of our constitutional state. Violent radicalisation however is a substantial threat to the fundamental rights and freedoms of our democratic constitutional state and should be dealt with firmly.

Prevention and repression go hand in hand here. The most important levers for repression are federal matter. The most important levers for (primary, secondary and tertiary) prevention are held by the Regions and the Communities. Consultation and harmonisation between governments is therefore necessary.

Through this action plan the Government of Flanders primarily wants to prevent persons from radicalising, and to detect any signs of violent radicalisation at the earliest possible stage. The majority of the measures therefore focus on primary and secondary prevention. The key principle in this is an integrated preventative approach where every policy area assumes its responsibilities within its respective powers. The intention is not to create new structures, but rather to strengthen the existing regular provision and the competencies of the first-line workers.

Municipalities are the Government of Flanders' first partners within this approach. After all, radicalisation often occurs in a local context. Municipalities have the task to report any alarming developments in time and to react thereto. Moreover, they are closest to the citizens and are the first point of contact for local services and organisations. Starting from their coordinating role, they have to bring about harmonisation and cooperation between all important local partners.

The action plan also pays attention to the approach adopted to polarisation. Polarisation affects personal relations and undermines social participation and stability. Radicalisation may pave the way to polarisation, but (inter)national developments and events can also be a trigger. Conversely, a polarised society can be a fertile breeding ground for intolerant radical ideologies. That is why the prevention of both radicalisation and polarisation are jointly dealt with in this plan.

This action plan for the prevention of violent radicalisation and polarisation describes the integrated approach along five policy lines : (1) coordination and cooperation in the implementation; (2) support for the local approach; (3) organisation of a person-centred approach; (4) reinforcement of knowledge and expertise; and (5) mobilisation of civil society.

Specific measures for the prevention of violent radicalisation and polarisation are only useful when, at the same time, the focus lies on an inclusive society, where everyone feels at home and has equal opportunities. This broader focus is reflected, among other things, in the measures taken in the Horizontal Integration Policy Plan, the Horizontal Equal Opportunities Policy Plan and the Flemish Poverty Reduction Action Plan.

The action plan indicates which measures already exist (indicated with the letter 'B'), which measures are reinforced (indicated with the letter 'V') and which measures are new (indicated with the letter 'N'). The action plan contains a list of concepts with a description of the terms and abbreviations used.

Coordination and cooperation in the implementation			
Action 1: Coordination at Flemish level			
<i>Description</i>	<i>Actors</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Minister in charge</i>
<p>1.1 (B) Coordination through the Flemish Platform on Radicalisation – a network of contact points from the various policy areas (KB, OV, WVG, CJSJ, WSE). For the purpose of harmonisation with the federal authorities and the local authorities, the Platform also comprises a representation of the OCAD, the FOD Justitie, the VGC and the VVSG. KB (and in concrete terms ABB) is responsible for the coordination of the Platform.</p>	<p>KB (coordination) OV WVG CJSJ WSE</p> <p>VVSG VGC OCAD FOD Justitie</p>	<p>Within the regular resources</p>	<p>Minister for Local and Provincial Government, Urban Policy, Integration and Civic Integration Minister for Education Minister for Welfare Minister for Youth and Media Minister for Work</p>
<p>1.2 (B) Feedback and reflection on the policy pursued with experts (academics, field workers, ...).</p>	<p>KB OV WVG CJSJ WSE</p>	<p>Within the regular resources</p>	<p>Minister for Local and Provincial Government, Urban Policy, Integration and Civic Integration Minister for Education Minister for Welfare Minister for Youth and Media Minister for Work</p>
<p>1.3 (N) Start of the evaluation of the action plan for the prevention of violent radicalisation and polarisation in the autumn of 2018. This evaluation has to provide insight into the execution and results of the measures from the action plan.</p>	<p>KB (coordination) OV WVG CJSJ WSE</p>	<p>Within the regular resources</p>	<p>Minister for Local and Provincial Government and Urban Policy</p>
<p>1.4 (V) Transparent flow of information and announcement of the existing provision with regard to the prevention of violent radicalisation and polarisation. The different policy areas ensure a clear, low-threshold (and joint) communication about the policy and the provision.</p>	<p>KB OV WVG CJSJ WSE</p> <p>VVSG</p>	<p>Within the regular resources</p>	<p>Minister for Local and Provincial Government, Urban Policy, Integration and Civic Integration Minister for Education Minister for Welfare Minister for Youth and Media Minister for Work</p>

Action 2: Cooperation with the federal level			
<i>Description</i>	<i>Actors</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Minister in charge</i>
<p>2.1 (V) Involvement and harmonisation on the basis of the Flemish responsibilities within the framework of the update and implementation of the federal Plan against Radicalism, among other things through participation in the National Task Force and relevant working groups (on themes such as prisons, prevention and strategic communication). The flow of information between the federal authorities and the Flemish actors is ensured, with clear agreements on the flows and use of information. The approach is fine-tuned through the Platform.</p> <p>Moreover, with regard to the approach adopted to violent extremism and disengagement programmes, mutual alignment is achieved between the IMC Justice Centres, the interfederal working group on the flow of information, the expertise networks of the Board of Prosecutors General and the standing working group Board of Prosecutors General and the Justice Centres.</p> <p>Finally, the Government of Flanders is also represented in the working groups of the Global Security and Prevention Plan of the Brussels Capital Region. Alignment with the Flemish policy can thus also be achieved with the Brussels region.</p> <p>Within the different consultation platforms, the importance of alignment between the administrative, police and criminal follow-up is included in the disengagement programmes. This alignment is made concrete in the LIVC (Local Integrated Security Cell) manual.</p>	KB OV WVG CJSM WSE OCAD FOD Justitie VWSG	Within the regular resources	Minister for Local and Provincial Government, Urban Policy, Integration and Civic Integration Minister for Education Minister for Welfare Minister for Youth and Media Minister for Work
<p>2.2 (N) Distribution of the contact details PLP41, keeping the police contact points up to date through a database, and the update of good practices.</p>	OV	Within the regular resources	Minister for Education
<p>2.3 (N) Organisation of a consultation across the networks with the Brussels police districts and the education umbrella organisations/GO! in order to make good work arrangements.</p>	OV	Within the regular resources	Minister for Education
Action 3: Cooperation with other regions and countries			
<i>Description</i>	<i>Actors</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Minister in charge</i>
<p>3.1 (V) Reinforcement of the involvement in the European Commission's initiatives, by joining the Network of Prevent Coordinators and by providing representatives in the different RAN working groups; An information flow to the Platform is provided and recommendations are taken into account if relevant.</p>	KB OV WVG CJSM WSE	Within the regular resources	Minister for Local and Provincial Government, Urban Policy, Integration and Civic Integration Minister for Education Minister for Welfare

<p>A specific initiative in this respect is the participation of youth department in the expert group of the European Commission 'Defining the specific contribution of youth work as well as non-formal and informal learning to fostering active citizenship and participation of young people in diverse and tolerant societies and preventing marginalisation, radicalisation potentially resulting in violent behaviour'. The distribution of the toolbox and good practice examples is ensured from the different participating member states to the youth work sector.</p>			<p>Minister for Youth and Media Minister for Work</p>
<p>3.2 (B) Exchange of knowledge and expertise with other regions and countries. Whenever opportunities arise, (bilateral) partnerships are developed. The departments are supported in this process by the Flanders Department of Foreign Affairs with the General Representatives of the Government of Flanders providing an inventory and reports on all information, actions and reporting on radicalisation in the country to which they are detached. Moreover the General Representatives of the Government of Flanders also ensure on-site knowledge sharing of the Flemish policy. The approach is fine-tuned through the Platform.</p> <p><u>Concrete examples:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A round-table meeting is organised with the Netherlands on the exchange of good practices within the framework of the prevention of radicalisation and the fight against polarisation. • Following an exchange moment in North Rhine-Westphalia, facilitated by the General Representatives of the Government of Flanders in Germany, the Platform will welcome a delegation from North Rhine-Westphalia. • The Department of Education and Training regularly meets the French Community in order to inform one another about new developments, and to align new initiatives. 	<p>KB OV WVG CJSM WSE IV</p>	<p>Within the regular resources</p>	<p>Minister for Local and Provincial Government, Urban Policy, Integration and Civic Integration Minister for Education Minister for Welfare Minister for Youth and Media Minister for Work Minister for Foreign Policy</p>
<p>3.3 (B) Active participation in the ET2020 working group to follow up the 'Paris Declaration on the promoting of citizenship and the common values of freedom, tolerance and non-discrimination through education'.</p>	<p>OV</p>	<p>Within the regular resources</p>	<p>Minister for Education</p>
<p>3.4 (N) Organisation of four study days on the occasion of the joint declaration of the Ministers for Youth in France and the three Belgian Communities. The aim of these study days is to exchange and share knowledge about the role of youth policy and youth work in the prevention of violent radicalism. The Flemish study day in May 2017 will focus on the role of youth workers regarding hate speech and violent radicalisation, and provide an exchange in terms of training and good practices.</p>	<p>CJSM Representatives of the other Communities and France JINT</p>	<p>15,000 € TCA (Transnational Cooperation Activities) resources JINT YiA (Youth in Action) December 2016 – December 2017</p>	<p>Minister for Youth</p>

Support for the local approach			
Action 4: Supporting the municipal coordinating role			
<i>Description</i>	<i>Actors</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Minister in charge</i>
<p>4.1 (B) Financial support of municipalities with a high risk potential, in order to assuming their coordinating role in structuring and harmonising the local provision, inclusive of the additional provision provided by the Flemish authorities.</p>	<p>KB</p> <p>Aalst, Antwerpen, Gent, Maaseik, Mechelen, Menen, Oostende, Vilvoorde, Zele</p>	<p>568,311 € (annually, 2017-2018)</p>	<p>Minister for Local and Provincial Government and Urban Policy</p>
<p>4.2 (N) Financial support of a number of urbanised centres within the district Halle-Vilvoorde that are confronted with the metropolitan problems of the Brussels Capital Region. The municipalities concerned can use the resources, among other things, within the framework of the prevention of violent radicalisation and polarisation.</p>	<p>KB</p> <p>Vilvoorde, Dilbeek, Halle</p>	<p>3,000,000 € (annually, 2017-2019)</p>	<p>Minister for Local and Provincial Government and Urban Policy</p>
<p>4.3 (V) Advice and support provided by the Vereniging van Vlaamse Steden en Gemeenten to municipalities through the development of expertise and the sharing of knowledge regarding the local approach to violent radicalisation and polarisation.</p> <p><u>Concrete initiatives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to function as a help desk for municipalities, providing customised advice and support ; • to bring together local civil servants with a view to networking and peer review; • to outline the support needs; • to collect good practices; • to draw up and to cooperate in supporting publications; • to organise study days; • to carry out on-site visits in order to provide customised support and advice and to participate in local consultation; • to support international exchange. 	<p>KB</p> <p>VVSG</p>	<p>344,575 € (2017-2019)</p>	<p>Minister for Local and Provincial Government and Urban Policy</p>
<p>4.4 (B) Advice and support provided by AgII to municipalities and local services and facilities in case of questions about interculturalism, living together in diversity, and social cohesion. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to promote living together in neighbourhoods where people of different origins live together? • How to make service provision accessible for people of foreign origin? • How to involve people of foreign origin in the local policy? 	<p>KB</p>	<p>Within the regular resources</p>	<p>Minister for Integration and Civic integration</p>

<p>The provision is made available as a priority to municipalities that have challenges concerning radicalisation or polarisation.</p>			
<p>4.5 (N) Focus on the reinforcement of social cohesion and the creation of a sustainable connection at municipal or neighbourhood level. This also contributes to the quality of life and security, and allows for possible breeding grounds for violent radicalisation to be dealt with. Successful methodologies and interventions, as well as inspiring examples of good practice will be inventoried and distributed to the municipalities.</p>	KB	Within the regular resources	Minister for Local and Provincial Government and Urban Policy
<p>4.6 (N) In order to prevent extremism from spreading, it is important that the underlying values and standards of the constitutional state are shared and propagated. That is why a call is launched to municipalities and the Vlaamse Gemeenschapscommissie to take initiatives regarding standards and values, rights and obligations, and active and shared citizenship, on the basis of their coordinating role and in cooperation with civil society. The projects will be evaluated, among other things, on the basis of their target group orientation.</p>	KB	1,000,000 € (AMIF)	Minister for Integration and Civic integration
<p>4.7 (B) To guarantee structural (inter)sectoral consultation by bringing together local and Flemish civil servants and organisations in order to learn about each other's provision, to align the needs and make efficient work arrangements. Organisations or persons who play a role in the approach to radicalisation, are involved in this.</p> <p><u>Concrete examples:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To outline local needs in the relation between education actors and municipalities in order to organise targeted training sessions on the basis thereof. • To organise training sessions for civil servants and collaborators who have direct contacts with schools (among others the education inspectorate, the experts of the local consultation platforms, ...) and to develop guidelines for them. • Structural sectoral consultation providing alignment with umbrella organisations and local organisations that work on the development of a positive identity (o.a. De Ambrassade, VVJ, Formaat, JES, Uit de Marge, Groep Intro and several local organisations) through specific support and/or the representation of the interests of these young people (especially the highly vulnerable) and their counsellors. Useful policy information is thus opened up to the organisations, and the Youth division keeps abreast with the needs and the reality of the organisations and young people. 	KB OV WVG CJSM WSE VVSG	Within the regular resources	Minister for Local and Provincial Government, Urban Policy, Integration and Civic Integration Minister for Education Minister for Welfare Minister for Youth and Media Minister for Work

Action 5: High-quality and locally embedded assistance and guidance			
<i>Description</i>	<i>Actors</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Minister in charge</i>
5.1 (B) The 'Huizen van het Kind' (Children's Centres) serve as a not problem-related front office accessible to all families, including families with a radicalisation problem. The aim is to have a Children's Centre in every Flemish municipality by the end of the current term of office, whether or not through inter-municipal cooperation.	WVG	Within the regular resources	Minister for Welfare
5.2 (V) Funding of the project 'Prevention of radicalisation in Vilvoorde' which actively focuses on connecting social organisations, the Muslim community and the city council. This project aims at making the network of existing (youth) assistance in Vilvoorde visible, at identifying bottlenecks and formulating proposals in order to eliminate these bottlenecks, by maintaining contact with the police, educational institutions and all other relevant partners. The project results in a manual to transfer good practices to other cities, municipalities or organisations. The results of the first part of the project, which ran from 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2017, are included in this script. We work on a structural embedding of the provision of 'De Cocon' in Vilvoorde and 'Hou-Vast' by 'De Touter' in Antwerp.	WVG Cocon-Vilvoorde De Touter	55,000 € (extended by 1 year as from 1 April 2017)	Minister for Welfare
5.3 (N) Support for the project 'Theological approach to Islamic radicalisation'. The project's provision focuses on the reversing operating dynamics for advanced radicalisation processes, early detection, early intervention and setback/relapse prevention. It provides remediation of irrational and radical/extreme thinking patterns from a theological perspective within the assistance framework.	WVG Platform Vlaamse Imams en Moslimdeskundigen EMB	Within the regular resources	Minister for Welfare
5.4 (V) Extension and expansion of the project 'Network Islam experts'. Through this network of experienced Islam experts, who have a thorough knowledge of the Islamic theology and are also familiar with young people's social environment, clarification on the Islam and the Islamic standards and values can be provided to young people, class groups and first-line workers (teachers, staff members of the pupil guidance centres, time-out project assistants). The network of Islam experts will become better known as a result of, among other things, posters, flyers, a website and a report 'In de hielen van een islamexpert' ('On the heels of an Islam expert').	OV EMB	137,000 €	Minister for Education
5.5 (V) Extension and expansion of the project 'Connect'. The project aims at developing expertise very rapidly in those schools in Flanders and Brussels where a concentration of young people with extreme risk behaviour exceeds the capacity and resilience of the teachers' team and the schools.	OV Arktos	190,000 €	Minister for Education

5.6 (N) Focus through projects on a preventative provision that is specifically oriented towards target groups for whom the threshold of the regular services is often still too high.	OV	Within the regular resources	Minister for Education
5.7 (N) Launching a call to support projects that focus on polarisation management and by extension resilience training, restoration-oriented methods, conflict management.	OV	Within the regular resources	Minister for Education
5.8 (V) Providing support within the framework of trauma assistance, for example through Solentra to care providers, both in case of an assessment and within a support process.	WVG	546.000 € (for CGG and Solentra)	Minister for Welfare
5.9 (B) Offering special employment trajectories to radicalised and vulnerable young people. The methodology used by VDAB to guide jobseekers as rapidly and as sustainably as possible to a job is based on empowering the jobseeker through a customised approach using the appropriate methodologies (setting a job target, reinforcing the application skills, drawing up a good CV, strengthening the labour market competences, cultivating the technical competences, ...) to help the jobseeker find work as rapidly and as sustainably as possible. Within the framework of this customised approach, extra attention will be paid to radicalising young people (preventative) and former FTFs (curative). The VDAB mediators have been trained to watch out for any signs of radicalisation.	WSE	Within the regular resources	Minister for Work
5.10 (N) Establishing a working group Brussels/ Flemish Periphery in order to map the needs, exchange information, and realise a provision for young people from Brussels and the Vlaamse Rand.	OV CJSM KB WVG VGC	Within the regular resources	Minister for Education Minister for Media, Youth and Brussels Affairs Minister for Welfare Minister for the Vlaamse Rand

Organisation of a person-centred approach

Action 6: Guidance for radicalised persons

<i>Description</i>	<i>Actors</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Minister in charge</i>
<p>6.1 (V) Supporting municipalities and socio-preventative actors within the framework of guidance for radicalised persons, among other things through disengagement programmes and, in addition, the development of LIVCs. The approach is fine-tuned through the Platform.</p> <p>A disengagement programme that aims at social reintegration is an individually customised programme within the approach adopted to violent extremism, which encroaches on several spheres of life and active factors. Within such a programme, various actors are de facto involved. Guidance comprises both security-related and socio-preventative aspects within a long-term perspective, with continuity of follow-up being guaranteed. Given the importance of the social context, the programme is also in line with the individual's local reality and is supported by the local partners.</p> <p>When developing the programme, at least the following spheres of life are examined: psycho-social assistance, training and employment, trauma-specific or specialist mental healthcare, including addiction care, involvement and support of the social context, and associating persons who can offer an alternative discourse to the ideas of violent extremism, such as persons with religious authority and other supporters. The provision included under action 5 can, among other things, be used for developing such a programme.</p> <p><u>Concrete initiatives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • developing guidelines for first-line workers on returning FTFs, their families and children; • participating in the federal government's initiative to develop an integrated and coherent manual on LIVCs, which includes the part on disengagement programmes, and for which the Government of Flanders pays attention to the participation of the Flemish socio-preventative actors; • organising training programmes/study days; • distributing and publishing good practices (e.g. Radix tool); • distributing information on professional secrecy/official secrecy within the sectors concerned. 	<p>KB (coordination) OV WVG CJSM WSE</p> <p>VVSG OCAD</p>	<p>Within the regular resources</p>	<p>Minister for Local and Provincial Government, Urban Policy, Integration and Civic Integration Minister for Education Minister for Welfare Minister for Youth and Media Minister for Work</p>

<p>6.2 (V) Reinforcement of the assistance and service provision in the prisons, by means of two consultants, specialised in the problem. They provide support to the social workers and service providers, bring in expertise, participate in the policy development and can be used to take up disengagement programmes as described in action 6.1.</p>	<p>WVG (coordination) WSE OV CJSM KB</p>	<p>200,000 € on an annual basis + regular budget for assistance and service provision in prisons</p>	<p>Minister for Welfare Minister for Work and Sport Minister for Education Minister for Culture Minister for Housing, Integration and Civic integration</p>
<p>6.3 (V) Development of a joint approach to the disengagement/guidance programmes, as described in action 6.1, in collaboration with the Directorate-General of Penitentiary Institutions. An official working group develops disengagement programmes and guidance pathways (that are customised and take into account the radicalisation phase), in order to apply them in various contexts of assistance (during detention and after detention, in Community facilities, in follow-up assistance, ...) and that implement the insights from a multi-agency approach and are linked to the coordinating role of municipalities within the framework of the operation of the LIVCs.</p>	<p>WVG (coordination) WSE OV CJSM</p>	<p>Within the regular resources</p>	<p>Minister for Welfare</p>
<p>6.4 (V) Development of a framework for judicial assistants who follow up litigants who are suspected of or condemned for participating in a terrorist organisation. In addition, supplementary training programmes for dealing with the radicalisation problems will be organised for these judicial assistants, and an intervision system will be launched.</p> <p>Through the Global Plan, the Justice Centres Division uses resources for partners that flesh out the implementation of conditions imposed in radicalisation cases. In consultation with the clients, the justice centres translate workable conditions - as an operational translation of the definition of a disengagement programme as discussed at the IMC Justice Centres - that may be imposed in radicalisation cases.</p> <p>In order to develop an effective programme in radicalisation cases, partnerships will be established between partners that may flesh out the conditions imposed in such cases.</p>	<p>WVG</p>	<p>Within the regular resources</p>	<p>Minister for Welfare</p>
<p>6.5 (B) Development of an agreement framework with the local Muslim chaplains, on the appointment of Muslim chaplains in the community facilities and in the Flemish detention centre.</p>	<p>WVG</p>	<p>Within the regular resources</p>	<p>Minister for Welfare</p>

Reinforcement of knowledge and expertise			
Action 7: Scientific research into radicalisation and polarisation			
<i>Description</i>	<i>Actors</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Minister in charge</i>
<p>7.1 (B) Conducting research in order to map radicalisation and polarisation. To inventory investigations and measuring tools that are (inter)nationally available, and to examine the options for their implementation in Flanders, among other things through the publication 'Deradicalisering: Wetenschappelijke inzichten voor een Vlaams Beleid' ('Deradicalisation: Scientific insights for a Flemish Policy'), from the Flemish Peace Institute. The approach is fine-tuned through the Platform.</p>	KB OV WVG CISM WSE VVI	Within the regular resources	Minister for Local and Provincial Government, Urban Policy, Integration and Civic Integration Minister for Education Minister for Welfare Minister for Youth and Media Minister for Work
<p>7.2 (V) Organisation of a (follow-up) round table with academics and researchers from various disciplines. They reflect, each from their own area of expertise, upon the current approach to violent radicalisation and polarisation, and map needs and opportunities. The approach is fine-tuned through the Platform.</p>	KB OV WVG CISM WSE	Within the regular resources	Minister for Local and Provincial Government, Urban Policy, Integration and Civic Integration Minister for Education Minister for Welfare Minister for Youth and Media Minister for Work
Action 8: Training offer for first-line workers			
<i>Description</i>	<i>Actors</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Minister in charge</i>
<p>8.1 (V) Organisation of different training programmes for first-line workers (teachers, support workers, youth workers,...) within the framework of radicalisation/polarisation. Each policy area cooperates with the sectoral support centres and umbrella organisations in this. The approach and contents are fine-tuned through the Platform. <u>Concrete initiatives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A pool of training workers from the different sectors, who all completed a train-the-trainer programme about the development of a positive identity and dealing with radicalisation, will organise further training and knowledge sharing within their sector. • Organisation of training days in order to increase and deepen the knowledge of the assistance and service providing actors in the prisons with regard to radicalisation and violent radicalism. 	KB OV WVG CISM WSE	Within the regular resources	Minister for Local and Provincial Government, Urban Policy, Integration and Civic Integration Minister for Education Minister for Welfare Minister for Youth and Media Minister for Work

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organisation of training sessions about the target group and the approach to minors. This is a multidisciplinary training programme, in cooperation with the IGO (Institute for Legal Training), which focuses on the exchange of experiences and the reflection upon forms of collaboration with regard to radicalising or radicalised minors and (returning) FTFs. • The youth work sector organises a training provision for and by youth workers in order to work with young people on intercultural encounters and the development of a positive identity. Both the training programme with young people and the train-the-trainer initiatives for youth workers provide the opportunity to work on skills and resilience in order to better resist signs of polarisation, stigmatisation and exclusion. Some crucial aspects are to engage in a dialogue with an open mind, to build a relationship of trust, and to recognise the search for identity. Youth work has built a great deal of expertise in this area, and continues to use it in order to strengthen young people and youth workers. • Organisation of a training provision on radicalisation and interculturalisation for actors within the social welfare services and youth assistance sectors, aimed at gathering knowledge and being able to use concrete guidelines, as well as the development of an organisational structure and policy in order to allow facilities to deal with a possible radicalisation problem in a more preventative and qualitative manner. • AgII organises training programmes, informs and supports its own collaborators in dealing professionally with disturbing behaviour of clients or groups in society. • To examine how polarisation/diversity and dealing with polarisation and conflict situations can be included as priority in-service training for teaching staff. 		200,000 € for 4 OTAs + 75,000 € for De Touter (2017)	
Action 9: Distribution of expertise, good practices and methodologies			
<i>Description</i>	<i>Actors</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Minister in charge</i>
9.1 (V) The support structures within the different sectors see to the development of (intersectoral) expertise and the accessibility of good practices, methods and materials. <u>Concrete initiatives:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved access and reinforcement of knowledge and expertise for professionals working in parenting and family support initiatives, assistance, ... • Organisation of intersectoral peer review with actors involved in the prevention of radicalisation in order to reach harmonisation (e.g. within the framework of the involvement in the LIVCs). 	KB OV WVG CJSM WSE	Within the regular resources	Minister for Local and Provincial Government, Urban Policy, Integration and Civic Integration Minister for Education Minister for Welfare Minister for Youth and Media

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outlining the youth assistance provision aimed at radicalisation, and drafting a guideline for the various partners. The aim is to gather and share good practices. These will provide a guideline for actors in youth assistance who are confronted with radicalising young people, so as to know whom to address in case of general and/or specific questions about the assistance provided to these young people. • OTA's provision within the youth assistance sector has been reinforced and should be made sustainable. • Update of the multimedia file Klasse developed on Radicalisation, and deepening this file by means of additions on polarisation, identity development in young people, insights into nonviolent communication and other forms of radicalisation. • Reworking, updating and improving the accessibility of the canvas emergency planning. • The Special Committee for Remembrance Education and the Flemish Peace Institute organise research and a webinar series on polarisation. • To propose, through the reference persons in education, a provision for schools in terms of awareness-raising and education on radicalisation and polarisation. • To translate the existing support provision for compulsory education into a provision for higher education and adult education. Together with the providers of higher education and adult education, possible supplementary needs are identified and a smooth flow of information is worked on. • To open up information to youth organisations that indicate they have little insight into the activities and roles the Government of Flanders and more specifically the Youth Division play with regard to this theme. This is realised by setting up structural consultation (see measure 4.7). The information is also published on line. • Documentary "IS in het vizier" ('IS in sight'). This four-part VRT documentary tries to offer an insight into the conflict with IS from different angles. The series is also combined with lectures for young people and a multimedia teaching package specifically aimed at young people. This package is available, among others, through "Het Archief voor Onderwijs" ('The Archives for Education') of VIAA. 			Minister for Work
Action 10: Support for first-line workers through reference persons			
<i>Description</i>	<i>Actors</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Minister in charge</i>
10.1 (B) For the Youth Welfare Agency:	WVG	Within the regular resources	Minister for Welfare

<p>In each region, at least 2 reference consultants have been appointed, spread over the regions and over the services (SDJ and OCJ). They received training on the issue (through peer review and the exchange of information, case discussion, training sessions) to make sure they can support their colleagues.</p> <p><u>For the justice centres:</u> In every justice centre, an effective and an acting reference justice assistant have been appointed. After an initial training in 2016, they will receive new training sessions on radicalisation to make sure they can support their colleagues and fulfil their role of internal contact point.</p> <p><u>For the Centres for General Welfare Work:</u> In every CAW a reference person (or team) has been appointed in order to follow up requests for support with regard to radicalisation (as back office of the “Opvoedingslijn” (‘Parenting Helpline’) or through direct contact).</p>			
<p>10.2 (B) Reference persons on radicalisation are appointed within the educational umbrella organisations, GO! and the sector of pupil guidance centres. They develop expertise on the theme and make it accessible to their colleagues. Regular alignment with them is provided.</p>	OV	Within the regular resources	Minister for Education.
<p>Action 11: Training and professionalisation of imams and mosque associations</p>			
<p><i>Description</i></p>	<p><i>Actors</i></p>	<p><i>Budget</i></p>	<p><i>Minister in charge</i></p>
<p>11.1 (B) Development of a targeted and integrated training provision (social orientation and Dutch as second language) for imams, which responds to their specific learning needs and better matches with the work field of the imams in Flanders. Within that framework, two pilot projects have been launched (one in Flemish Brabant by AgII, and one in the city of Antwerp by Atlas). In order to deepen the project and broaden the focus towards a structural provision customised to ministers of other recognised religions, the Atlas project has been extended by one year (until July 2017). Based on gained experiences and in alignment with all partners, it is examined how the provision could be anchored.</p>	KB Atlas	70,000 € (extension of the Atlas project)	Minister for Integration and Civic integration
<p>11.2 (B) To sensitise the representatives of the Muslim community to the importance of qualitative training for imams in Flanders, in which knowledge of the Dutch language and of the social context are key components. A steering group Imam Training Programme has been set up to that end. Through internal working groups, the EMB (Muslim Executive of Belgium) examines the possibilities to create a fully-fledged imam training programme.</p>	OV EMB	Within the regular resources	Minister for Education
<p>11.3 (B) The KU Leuven and the AUHA (Antwerp University Association) in cooperation with the EMB examine the possibility to extend and/or to reinforce the existing provision. The Government of Flanders is taking a facilitating role in this regard.</p>	OV EMB	Within the regular resources	Minister for Education

	KU Leuven AUHA		
11.4 (B) Mosque presidents and imams are informed on the provision of education, youth assistance, welfare and employment services so that they can refer young people to these.	WVG (coordination) OV CJSM WSE KB EMB	Within the regular resources	Minister for Welfare Minister for Education Minister for Youth and Media Minister for Work Minister for Integration and Civic integration

Action 12: Focus on citizenship competences			
<i>Description</i>	<i>Actors</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Minister in charge</i>
12.1 (B) Focus on working on and reinforcing citizenship competences through the support of teachers. The Department of Education and Training actively supports the BCH in cooperation with the VVI within the framework of remembrance education. To support organisations that develop an educational provision and training sessions in order to support the implementation of citizenship education.	OV	Kazerne Dossin (Dossin Barracks): 10,000 € (2017) BCH: = 60,000 € per dossier KBS: = 103,000 € per year Forms: 0.5 FTE Studio Globo: 1 FTE	Minister for Education
12.2 (N) If necessary, formulate attainment targets concerning citizenship, taking into account the conclusions of the debate on attainment targets.	OV	Within the regular resources	Minister for Education
12.3 (B) Focus on working on and reinforcing media wisdom through the support of teachers. To support the knowledge centre 'Mediawijs' and to distribute and develop tools to deal with hate speech and media wisdom within the education sector.	OV	7,000 €	Minister for Education
12.4 (B) Based on the idea that interfaith dialogue can be used as a lever in conversations between pupils with different convictions, the representatives of recognised organisations and the educational umbrella organisations concluded a charter concerning the implementation and promotion of interfaith competences. This charter was fleshed out and refined, and will be annually evaluated and updated. The Government of Flanders has a facilitating role in this regard.	OV	Within the regular resources	Minister for Education
12.5 (B) To gather good practice examples of working on interfaith dialogue, and to increasingly publicise the provision, among other things by having the education inspectorate on philosophical subjects organise a joint study day on interfaith dialogue.	OV	Within the regular resources	Minister for Education
12.6 (N) To draw up a statement of commitment with the EMB, in which EMB's action plan 'Islamic religion' is translated. A steering group will monitor the implementation of this statement of commitment.	OV EMB	Within the regular resources	Minister for Education

Mobilisation of civil society			
Action 13: To involve and support parents, family and acquaintances			
<i>Description</i>	<i>Actors</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Minister in charge</i>
13.1 (V) To back up peer support groups, which are important confidential persons who lend support to afflicted families. They are also intermediaries/role models to prevent (violent) radicalisation and to facilitate guidance towards assistance, schools and pupil guidance centres. We continue to gear this action with the developments in the back office of the 'Opvoedingslijn' ('Parenting Helpline'). We embed the support of fellow sufferers within the 'Huizen van het Kind' (Children's Centres).	WVG OV	Within the regular resources	Minister for Welfare Minister for Education
13.2 (B) To support a help desk for educational questions in case of radicalisation, for parents, family, friends and acquaintances. The help desk provides parenting support, problem clarification, information and can refer to the appropriate mainstream services. The help desk can be contacted by phone and on line. Alignment is provided with other helplines and hotlines. The help desk can rely on a network of experts for the back office and a sounding board group. We continue to gear the activities with the parenting support for family members and the support for fellow sufferers.	WVG 'Opvoedingslijn' by non-profitmaking organisation De Keerkring Partners in the back office and sounding board group	80,000 € per year (until 30 November 2017)	Minister for Welfare
13.3 (B) Structural attention to reaching the target group parents within the framework of the current management agreement between the Government of Flanders and the umbrella parent organisations.	OV	Within the regular resources	Minister for Education
13.4 (B) To support parents and family through 'Kind en Gezin' (Child and Family Agency), among other things through the 'Huizen van het Kind' (Children's Centres) which strongly focus on encounter, parenting support, and an accessible point of reception. Within a context of integrated youth support, the CAW, the CLB and 'Jongerenwelzijn' (Youth Welfare Agency) adjust their offer to take account of radicalisation and assure a regional and adequate offer (through 'IROJ' - intersectoral regional consultation on youth assistance), among other things through attention for an outreaching approach, house calls, bringing together individuals going through the same situation, counselling, dealing with bereavement ...). Alignment is also provided with the projects regarding family support that are backed up by the KBS.	WVG OV KBS	Within the regular resources	Minister for Welfare Minister for Education
13.5 (N) To examine, in consultation with the Flemish Pupils' Association, how peer support can play a role within the framework of polarisation. Young people indeed tend to turn first to their peers for advice and support regarding their questions and problems. Peer support is a way of cooperating and supporting each other. Peers help each other by means of their own knowledge, insights and experience. 'Peer' means you are equal or experience similar circumstances in many ways.	OV VSK	Within the regular resources	Minister for Education

Action 14: To provide room for dialogue, dissenting opinions and identity development			
<i>Description</i>	<i>Actors</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Minister in charge</i>
14.1 (B) Continued follow-up of the projects that were started in 2016 until the end of 2017 within the framework of the call 'Development of a positive identity in young people'. A closing performance will be organised in order to further distribute the expertise and tools that were developed.	KB CJSM Jeugdclubs vzw, Zonder Handen vzw, Arktos vzw, Victoria Deluxe vzw, Groep Intro vzw, Partage en Couleurs vzw, MSC Ahlan vzw	398,374 € (Integration) 250,183 € (Youth) (2016-2017)	Minister for Integration and Civic integration Minister for Youth and Media
14.2 (N) To launch a project call in order to mobilise counternarratives. This concerns small-scale initiatives which send out messages that undermine the extremist discourse, both through local networks and meeting and through social media. Moreover, by means of a call to municipalities, there will also be focus on initiatives regarding standards and values, rights and obligations, and active and shared citizenship (see measure 4.3).	KB	500,000 € (2018 - 2019)	Minister for Local and Provincial Government and Urban Policy
14.3 (N) VRT launches the on-line platform 'Stemmen uit het kalifaat' ('Voices from the caliphate'). This platform gathers testimonies from IS victims, the mothers of their fighters, the youth workers who have experience with their recruiters, and former fighters. The platform is part of the documentary 'IS in het vizier' (see measure 10.1).	CJSM VRT	Within the regular resources	Minister for Media
14.4 (B) Flanders participates in the 'No Hate Speech Movement,' a youth campaign by the CoE, through the 'No Hate Speech Platform Vlaanderen' (NoHate). This platform aims at pushing back on-line and off-line hate speech and dissemination by sensitising children and youngsters and their counsellors (youth workers, teachers, parents, ...), by training them and by providing guidelines to be resilient and take action. <u>Concrete examples:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiatives on the occasion of the Flemish week against bullying and the International Human Rights Day. • Vlog competition on dealing with on-line hate messages. • Participation in international training initiatives and programmes. • Targeted communication to stakeholders: newsletter, website with tools and tips, translation of CoE publication on other real-life stories, ... • Launch of the call for partners 'No Hate AlterNarratief'. This initiative intends to support, train and activate young people and their counsellors by means of tested work forms in order to react peer-to-peer and as restoratively as possible manner to on-line hate speech and disinformation that may lead to the 	CJSM WVG OV Mediawijs, Tumult, Stampmedia	10,000 € (Youth) 20,000 € (Welfare)	Minister for Youth and Media Minister for Welfare Minister for Education

discrimination of or violent attack on people on the basis of origin, nationality, religion, culture, gender, sexual orientation, ... An explicit link is established to the social welfare services at large (through knowledge improvement and training of first-line and social welfare workers).			
14.5 (V) To counter polarisation in the media by means of the project 'rePresent'. Young people of foreign origin from urban areas set up a dialogue with professional media makers about the representation and public perception of young people of foreign origin in the media. The results of this project are distributed by means of joint advice from young people and media makers about the representation and reports in a concrete media product and a training programme for editorial staff from the media.	CJSM Mediawijs Stampmedia	Within the regular resources	Minister for Media
14.6 (N) Sport can play a valuable role in reaching and working with young people who threaten to no longer feel connected with their society - also young people who are vulnerable to extremist ideas. Moreover, sport can also establish contacts between people of different origins and thus contribute to social cohesion and sustainable connection. <u>Concrete initiatives:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To stimulate the 'Buurtsport' ('Neighbourhood sports') methodology and develop its contents: The Flemish Institute for Sport Administration and Recreation Management stimulates municipalities to create neighbourhood sports activities and to provide high-quality support to the existing neighbourhood sports initiatives (among other things concerning the competence development of young people through sports, and by means of knowledge -building and the development and sharing of models). • Support to associations: By means of a project, methodologies are developed in order to reinforce the policy-making capacity of local sports clubs. This will improve the sports clubs' future ability to adequately respond to social challenges from their environment. • 'Risico Vechtsport Platform' (Platform for Martial Arts and Combat Sports'): Certain martial arts are a great source of attraction to young people who do not or barely join in with or feel connected with the existing sports and leisure provision. In order to improve the quality of the martial arts providers, the 'Risico Vechtsport Platform' was created: http://www.vechtsportplatform.be/. This platform provides support to federations, clubs and municipalities. 	CJSM	Within the regular resources	Minister for Sport
14.7 (N) Within the framework of 'Focus op Talent' ('Focus on Talent'), a mobilising strategy is used to eliminate prejudices and to accelerate the change of mentality towards a talent- and competence-oriented approach in society at large. Employers' organisations (VOKA and UNIZO), employees' organisations (ACV, ABVV and ACLVB) and own organisations of disadvantaged groups (GRIP and the Minorities Forum) play an	WSE	Within the regular resources	Minister for Work

<p>important role in this, given their expertise and network. Employers' organisations focus, among other things, on the creation of inclusive companies, by presenting a plan of approach for the various problem situations, but also by cooperating with individual employees who have more difficulties to join in with their working environment because of environmental conditions and culture, and through a supportive campaign. The mobilising strategy will be further reinforced by means of actions from civil society that were selected within the framework of an ESF call.</p>			
<p>14.8 (B) Follow-up of the projects that were selected within the framework of the call 'Straatburgerschap' ('Street citizenship'), for instance by means of interim meetings and work visits. The projects are aimed at urban youth culture and social inclusion in Brussels. After completion of the projects, the Government of Flanders (Brussels Coordination Unit) will organise an inspiration day, networking day or feedback moment during which young people who participated in the subsidised projects will talk about their experiences and the knowledge they acquired.</p>	KB	250,000 €	Minister for Brussels Affairs

Concepts:

- Federal Action Plan against Radicalism: a plan of approach striving to restrict as much as possible the development of radicalism and extremism in our society. The method to achieve this objective is an integrated collaboration between various public services, by realising two goals: mapping out the individuals and groups with a radicalising effect on their environment, and reducing the impact of the drivers of radicalisation.
- National Task Force (NTF): the strategic policy body of the federal Action Plan against Radicalism. The National Task Force is charged with the general management and the continuous monitoring of the Action Plan against Radicalism, under the presidency of the OCAD.
- LIVC (Local Integrated Security Cell): local consultation with prevention and social services within the framework of a personalised monitoring, on the basis of the 21 August 2015 circular of the Minister for Home Affairs and the Minister for Justice regarding the exchange of information about and the monitoring of the foreign terrorist fighters (FTF) coming from Belgium.
- Radicalism: Striving to and/or supporting drastic changes in society, which may pose a threat to the democratic system of laws (goal), potentially by using undemocratic methods (means), which may harm the functioning of the democratic system of laws (effect); or, more generally stated: "radicalism is the willingness of accepting the ultimate consequences of a certain way of thinking and putting them into practice.
- (Violent) radicalisation: a process during which a person or a group of persons experiences such influences that this person or this group of persons will at some point, be mentally moulded or disposed to commit terrorist acts.
- Extremism: any racist, xenophobic, anarchist, nationalist, authoritarian or totalitarian ideas or intentions, whether they are political, ideological, confessional or philosophical in nature, that are in theory or in practice in contravention of the principles of democracy or human rights, the proper functioning of the democratic institutions or other foundations of the constitutional state.
- Terrorism: the use of violence against persons or material interests for ideological or political reasons, with the aim of achieving one's goals by means of terror, intimidation or threats.
- Polarisation: a sharpening process of differences between groups in society which results or can result in (increased) tensions between these groups and in risks for social safety.²

Abbreviations:

- KB: Chancellery and Public Governance Policy Department
- OV: Education and Training Department
- WVG: Welfare, Public Health and Family Department

¹ For the concepts 'radicalism', '(violent) radicalisation', 'extremism' and 'terrorism', we use the descriptions used by the Coordination Unit for Threat Assessment.

² From: 'Starten met een aanpak van polarisatie en radicalisering - Een stappenplan voor het verkennen en ontwikkelen van een aanpak en voor het verzamelen en verwerken van informatie', developed by the COT Instituut voor Veiligheids- en Crisismanagement by order of the Centrum voor Criminaliteitspreventie en Veiligheid, 18 January 2007.

- CJSM: Culture, Youth, Sport and Media Department
- WSE: Work and Social Economy Department
- IV: Flemish Foreign Affairs Department

- AAVR: General Representative of the Government of Flanders
- ABB: Agency for Local and Provincial Government
- AgII: Agency for Integration and Civic Integration
- AgODi: Agency for Educational Services
- AJW: Youth Welfare Agency
- AMIF: European Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund
- Atlas: Agency for Integration and Civic Integration in Antwerp, non-profitmaking organisation
- AUHA: Association University/Colleges of Higher Education Antwerp
- BCH: Special Committee for Remembrance Education
- CAW: Centre for General Welfare Work
- CLB: Pupil Guidance Centre
- DBZ: Flanders Department of Foreign Affairs
- EMB: Muslim Executive of Belgium
- ET 2020: Education and Training 2020
- EXPOO: Flemish Centre of Expertise for Parenting Support
- FOD BiZA: Federal Public Service Home Affairs
- FOD Justitie: Federal Public Service Justice
- IGO: Institute for Judicial Training
- JH: Justice Centres
- JINT: Coordination Agency for International Youth Work
- K&G: Child and Family Agency
- KBS: King Baudouin Foundation
- KU Leuven: Katholieke Universiteit Leuven
- MO: Social Orientation
- NT2 Dutch as second language
- OCAD: CUTA, Coordination Unit for Threat Assessment
- OCJ: Youth Care Support Centre
- OTA: Immigrant Support Team
- RAN: Radicalisation Awareness Network

- RvE: CoE, Council of Europe
- SDJ: Social service Juvenile court
- VDAB: Flemish Service for Employment and Vocational Training
- VIAA: Flanders Institute for Archiving
- VRT: Flemish Public Broadcaster
- VSK: Organisation of Flemish Pupils
- VVI: Flemish Peace Institute
- VVJ: Association of Flemish Youth Services
- VVSG: Association of Flemish Cities and Municipalities
- VGC: Flemish Community Commission