

Name of the practice	<i>Training for prison guards: 'Identification of signs of radicalisation'</i>
Description	<p>The training addresses currently limited knowledge of how to recognise signs of radicalisation among prison staff. Staff appear to often lack both knowledge about simple signs, as well as knowledge of the radicalisation process itself. As a consequence, they are not able to report signs of radicalisation to the relevant services.</p> <p>The training set up by the Belgian Ministry of Justice was devised to overcome this challenge. It is delivered by an internal trainer from the prison service over two days.</p> <p>The training approaches radicalisation from a psychology perspective. The main focus is on 1/ getting to know the process of radicalisation, 2/ recognising different signs of radicalisation, 3 / interpreting signs of radicalisation in relation to the external context in which they are perceived, 4/ reporting appropriately on these signs.</p> <p>The training was not developed from scratch. Training on radicalisation was already used by the federal police service, and was known as 'copra-training'. This previous training was embedded in the philosophy of community policing, and so required adaptation to be relevant for a penitentiary context.</p> <p>Setting up the training requires a and at least one simulation room to apply the observation skills learned.</p>
Approach	<p>Training for first line practitioners</p> <p>Prison and Probation</p>
Target audience	<p>Prison/probation/judicial practitioners</p>
Deliverables	<p>This classical face-to-face training takes place in a classroom setting. Course participants receive handouts of the PowerPoint presentation and links for further study. The exercises take place in simulation rooms, some with actors. Either real footage is used, or fragments involving actors, games and computer games. Course participants are assigned take-home observation exercises.</p>
Evidence and evaluation	<p>The training starts with broad information on beliefs, religions and diversity as a theoretical / legal framework. This is considered necessary for participants to learn how to recognise signs of radicalisation and the radicalisation process.</p> <p>The training also covers the need for a clear reporting policy to clearly describe the entire process of radicalisation, and the role and responsibility of prison staff. It shows how, for instance, a number of processes should be in place to avoid having knowledge, but no reporting.</p> <p>The original training programme needed to be adapted to a penitentiary context. This took time but was considered a success.</p> <p>Since its launch, the training has been gradually improved by increasing the course participants' involvement. This was done by</p>

	<p>giving them observation exercises and assignments to carry out on their own during the two days of training.</p> <p>A reporting tool developed was tested on the basis of experiments during the training, and was then optimised.</p> <p>Prior to the training, there was insufficient knowledge and therefore a certain degree of suspicion of the new course. However, in subsequent courses there was no further resistance to participating, and more demand than course places.</p> <p>The training was evaluated by the first group of participants, and feedback led to further refinement. Evaluation of the training (internal and external) has not (yet) been carried out.</p>
Sustainability and transferability	<p>The training is ongoing and does not depend on external funding. It is organised and funded by the prison service.</p> <p>The training can be easily used by other Member States if it is translated into their language and if they already have some sort of a 'train the trainer' provisions. The use of a simulation room is not obligatory.</p>
Geographical scope	The training is applied in the Dutch-speaking part of Belgium.
Start of the practice	2015
Presented and discussed in RAN meeting	This practice was collected in collaboration with EPTA and EuroPris.
Relation to other EC initiatives	None.
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Country of origin	Belgium
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