

Review

Evaluation of the role of the police in preventing radicalisation and PET's exit project

Background and objectives:

- This report contains evaluations of i) the police districts' efforts to prevent radicalisation and ii) the Danish Security and Intelligence Service's (PET) efforts to prevent radicalisation in Denmark, which is implemented through an exit project. The efforts are coordinated across sectors and consist of dialogue and implementation of initiatives such as social measures for the purpose of reducing the risk of crime connected to radicalisation.
- The evaluation is completed based on the national action plan for preventing and fighting extremism and radicalisation published in October 2016.
- The evaluations contain a description of the division of tasks between the police districts and PET and the characteristics of the target group for the two initiatives.

Research design:

- The evaluations are primarily based on qualitative interviews and a few quantitative inventories.
- The data was collected at the end of 2017. It should be emphasised that efforts have been made to improve the initiatives since then.

Findings:

- There is a division of tasks between the police and PET. PET deals with people or networks with a more severe degree of radicalisation than those dealt with by the police.
- Radicalisation can take place in all settings and all parts of Denmark. The process of radicalisation is complex and the target group is often characterised by different problems.
- Quantitative inventories regarding the target group show that they are often young men from areas in or surrounding the major cities. In addition, the interviewees underline the vast differences from case to case.
- A large portion of the efforts made by the police is targeted at info houses, a collaboration between the police and the municipalities where they share experiences at a more general level. Furthermore, they have discussions on a case-by-case basis.
- Most interviewees from the police express satisfaction with how the work to prevent radicalisation takes place, but in one police district they feel that other tasks take time away from the screening of inquiries and conferences on concerns of radicalisation. The interviewees from the police express a feeling of being well prepared to work with the prevention of radicalisation.
- The police interviewees mention a relatively effective detection system where people at risk of radicalisation are disclosed to the police through reports from municipal personnel and citizens, and the interviewees mention that they depend on the reports.
- The cases that the police are made aware of include both relevant and irrelevant cases of radicalisation. However, the police emphasise that they would rather receive 10 too many inquiries than one too few.
- The police interviewees consider the collaboration between the municipalities and the police districts to be close and fruitful. The same with the Prison and Probation Service (*Kriminalforsorgen*).
- PET participate in the info houses at a general level.
- PET's process contains five elements: Screening, opening, mapping, motivation and an action plan.

- The interviewees from PET describe the collaboration with the police as efficient and functional, but sometimes the coordinators in the police districts can be very busy with other types of work. Furthermore, information sharing between the districts could be improved.
- It is the experience of the interviewees from PET that the municipalities in some cases struggle to put an arrangement in place fast enough.
- The general collaboration between PET and the Prison and Probation Service is considered fruitful.