



# INDEED

Evidence - Based Model for Evaluation of  
Radicalisation Prevention and Mitigation

## Deliverable 1.3

### D1.3 Two digital Repositories of factors/pathways leading to radicalisation and factors strengthening resilience to radicalisation that present the most recent findings

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#### Abstract:

This document introduces the INDEED digital repository for studies on risk factors/pathways to radicalisation and protective factors (strengthening resilience) which forms the deliverable D1.3. The repository, which is the first of its kind, offers a digital library of empirical studies investigating the significance of factors which may facilitate or prevent processes of radicalisation. The document discusses the rationale for and key objectives of the repository as well as its design and implementation process. It further reflects on the repository's added value by outlining its key strengths and limitations. The repository's database currently includes 162 studies and the last update was performed in May 2022.



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## Information table

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## Document history

Version Number	Date	Status	Author	Description
0.1	01.06.2022	First Version	demo ITTI	First demo version of the repository
	15.06.2022	First Version	demo WP1 Partners	Review of the demo version by WP1 Partners
0.2	21.07.2022	Second version	demo ITTI, UoH, VUB	Second demo version of the repository
	21.07.2022- 29.07.2022	Second version	demo WP1 Partners	Review of the second demo version by WP1 Partners
0.3	11.08.2022	First draft	VUB	Frist draft of the deliverable description
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0.4	24.08.2022	Third version	demo ITTI, UoH, VUB	Third demo version of the repository
0.5	26.08.2022	Second draft	ITTI, UoH, VUB	Second draft of the deliverable description
0.6	26.08.2022-	Partners reviewed and accepted	WP1 Partners	Review of third demo version of the repository and the second draft of the deliverable description by WP1 Partners
0.7	29.08- 12.09.2022	Final version	VUB, ITTI, PPHS	Finalisation of the document
0.8	13.09- 05.10.2022	Final version PC & PMO accepted	DBL, ITTI, PPHS	Technical preparations to launch the repository on the website under TOOLKIT sub-domain
<b>1.0</b>	07.10.2022	Submitted to EC	PPHS	Final approval and submission





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## List of Acronyms

Acronym	Definition
EBEM	Evidence-based evaluation model
EU	European Union
INDEED	Strengthening a comprehensive approach to prevent and counteract radicalisation based on a universal evidence-based model for evaluation of radicalisation prevention and mitigation
P/CVE	Preventing violent extremism/ countering violent extremism
WP	Work Package





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## 1 THE INDEED PROJECT AND DELIVERABLE 1.3

This section situates deliverable 1.3 (D1.3) within the larger framework of INDEED and its Work Package (WP) 1.

### 1.1 THE INDEED PROJECT

INDEED aims to strengthen the knowledge, capabilities and skills of P/CVE and De-radicalisation first-line practitioners and policy makers in designing, planning, implementing and evaluating initiatives based on an evidence-based approach.

INDEED aims to develop:

1. A universal evidence-based evaluation model (EBEM) for evaluating radicalisation prevention and mitigation initiatives.
2. A practical EBEM-based evaluation tool.
3. A collection of user-friendly repositories of studies on risk and protective factors
4. Targeted curricula and trainings (offline/ online).
5. Lessons learnt and policy recommendations.

### 1.2 WORK PACKAGE 1

WP1, titled “identification and analysis of the scientific concepts and approaches to the evidence-based evaluation of initiatives on PVE/CVE/De-radicalization”, aims to prepare the ground for the development of an evidence-based approach to evaluation in the field of P/CVE and Deradicalization. The main objectives of WP1 are:

1. To support the development of an evidence-based evaluation model (EBEM) for radicalization prevention and mitigation initiatives which is planned in WP3
2. To gather and analyse previous approaches, models and tools which have failed in tackling radicalization; as well as those which have supported or strengthened resilience and prevention
3. To provide updated knowledge on existing factors and pathways into radicalization, and factors influencing resilience to radicalisation as a key element of the methodological evaluation framework for WP3

### 1.3 DELIVERABLE 1.3

Deliverable 1.3. addresses objective 3 of WP1, as well as the above-noted objectives 2 and 3 of INDEED. It represents the main outcome of WP1’s task 1.3 which aims to update and map “existing factors and pathways into radicalization and factors influencing resilience”. The central objectives of this task are:

1. To collect the latest (incl. post-COVID-19) existing factors and pathways into radicalisation (so-called risk factors).
2. To collect factors influencing resilience to radicalization [so-called protective factors], with a focus on groups deemed to be most at risk

Building on task 1.3, the central aim of D1.3 has been defined as:





1. The development of two digital repositories of (1) factors/pathways leading to radicalisation and (2) factors strengthening resilience to radicalisation that present the most recent findings.

Drawing on this formulation, the following section will further specify the rationale and objectives which have driven the process of developing and implementing D1.3 in practice.





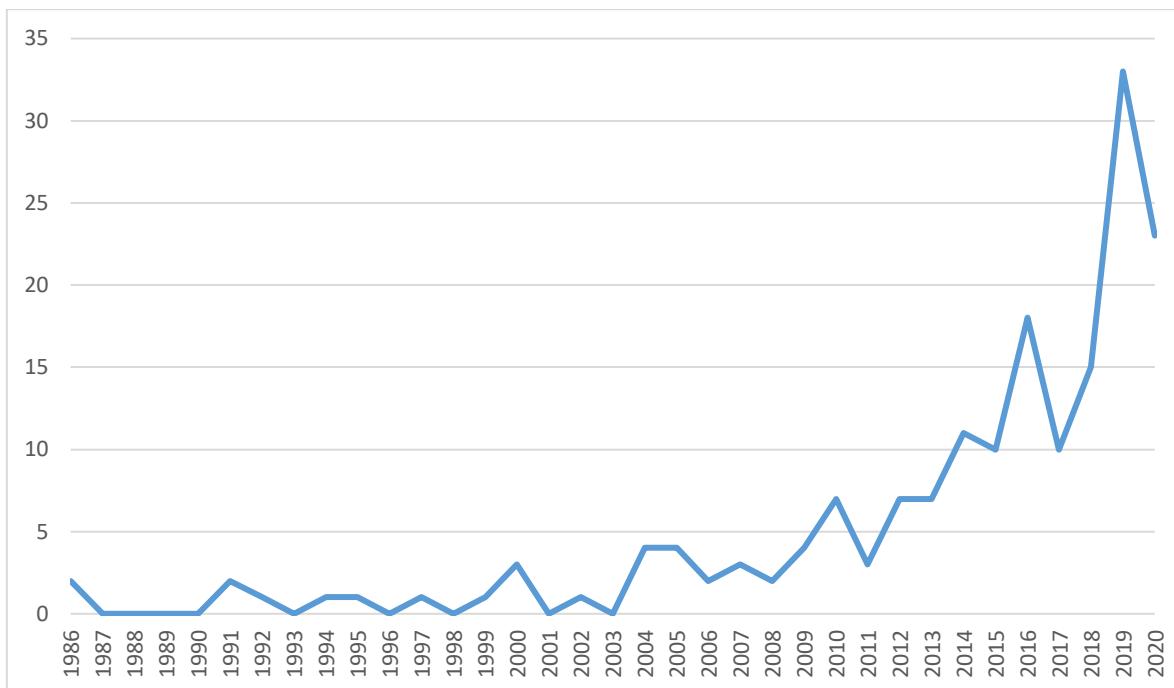
## 2 BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

This section briefly outlines the rationale for as well as the key objectives of the INDEED digital repository of studies on risk and protective factors (D1.3)

### 2.1 BACKGROUND

In recent years, the field of P/CVE has increasingly concerned itself with the identification and study of so-called risk factors – factors which facilitate processes of radicalization - and protective factors which mitigate or prevent radicalization dynamics. The number of studies in this area has grown substantially, as illustrated in figure 1 below.

Figure 1: Number of studies on risk and protective factors published before April 2020, based on Wolfowicz et al. (2021)



The rapid expansion of the literature on risk and protective factors promises to provide important insights into the significance of individual risk and protective factors. These insights, in turn, can be valuable for practitioners involved in the design and implementation of measures aimed at preventing or countering radicalization. Currently, however, practitioners who want to stay informed about or gain an overview of this literature, face multiple challenges. On the one hand, the existing literature is evolving very rapidly which makes it difficult even for researchers in this field to stay up to date. On the other hand, contributions to the literature are dispersed across multiple journals and disciplines, and often stored behind a paywall. To resolve this situation, platforms are needed which allow for the “state of the art” to be accessible and disseminated efficiently.

Currently, overviews of the literature are primarily available in the form of systematic reviews (see, for example, Lösel et al., 2018; McGilloway, Ghosh and Bhui, 2015; Wolfowicz et al., 2021) which offer concise discussions of relevant arguments and debates, as well as an overview and





syntheses of relevant findings. Systematic reviews, while overall highly useful, however, have notable limitations.

First, systematic reviews provide only a snapshot of the literature at a particular moment in time rather than a consistently updated library of existing studies. Reviews of the rapidly evolving literature on risk and protective factors, thus, are quickly out of date. Second, systematic reviews primarily summarize and synthesize the literature instead of providing a concise overview of the findings of individual studies, or subsets of the literature. As such, they are only of limited use to those who seek information about particular (groups of) studies (e.g. studies focused on a specific country or ideological strain). Finally, systematic reviews, which are usually published in the form of a long report, can be challenging to access and navigate. Their reach beyond academia and usefulness to practitioners, thus, is often limited.

## 2.2 OBJECTIVES:

This deliverable builds on and aims to complement systematic reviews through the creation of a digital repository for studies on risk and protective factors.

The repository aims to complement systematic reviews in four notable ways.

1. It seeks to develop a digital library of relevant studies on risk and protective factors which, unlike systematic reviews, can be easily extended and updated.
2. It aims to develop a library which offers information on the key findings of each individual study.
3. It seeks to develop an easily navigable library which, unlike systematic reviews, offers the possibility to search for and focus on a specific segment of the literature.
4. It aims to develop a platform which is more easily accessible and user-friendly than traditional systematic reviews.

By complementing systematic reviews in these four ways, the digital repository aims to provide an efficient and accessible tool through which academics and practitioners can receive updated and user-tailored overviews of the literature on risk and protective factors, and subsets thereof.

In view of the above-described objectives, the development of the digital repository is driven by six key requirements. Specifically, the repository strives to be:

1. Comprehensive: it aims to include all relevant studies on risk and protective factors
2. Up to date: it seeks to include the latest studies on risk and protective factors
3. Informative: it aims to provide succinct information about the key findings of individual studies, and (segments of) the wider literature
4. Easily navigable: it seeks to provide a clear set of search tools and criteria
5. User-friendly: it aims to design a visually attractive and easy-to-use interface
6. Sustainable: it seeks to develop a data storage tool which allows for the library to be easily maintained

In the following section, this document will describe in more detail the methodology which has been used to meet each of the six demands outlined above.





## 3 METHODOLOGY

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This section briefly describes the methodology which has been used to meet the repository's six key requirements.

### 3.1 REQUIREMENTS 1 + 2: THE REPOSITORY MUST BE COMPREHENSIVE AND UP TO DATE

To ensure that the repository is as comprehensive and up to date as possible, a three-step process has been implemented for identifying relevant publications.

In a first step, consideration was given to all publications included in two recent systematic reviews developed by Lösel et al. (2018) and Wolfowicz et al. (2021). While the former review focuses on the literature on protective factors, the latter provides an overview of all research conducted on risk and protective factors in OECD countries. The repository, by combining results from both reviews, partly performs the function of an aggregating tool.

In a second step, the repository considered all publications which were identified by but excluded from the systematic reviews developed by Lösel et al. (2018) and Wolfowicz et al. (2021). The repository, in this step, considered publications which were, for instance, excluded on the basis of their geographical focus or study design. This second step was taken to ensure that a wide range of studies is covered by the digital repository, including qualitative studies and studies conducted in non-OECD countries.

In a third step, the repository search for publications published since March 2020 (the final month covered by Wolfowicz et al., 2021) to provide an updated overview of the literature. To identify relevant recent publications, the project team followed the same search process as the one used and outlined by Wolfowicz et al. (2021). Publications were identified through a review of electronic databases, specialized journals and databases of organizations working in the P/CVE field. Additionally, the project team searched for publications using Google scholar. Consulted databases, journals and organizations include:

- Databases: ECRI, Hein Online, Wiley Online Library, Web of Science, EBSCO, Essentials Ebsco, PubMed, SSRN, Social Care Online, Social Work Abstracts, Soc Index, Sociological Abstracts and Bybis.
- Specialized journals: Perspectives of Terrorism, Journal of Deradicalisation, Journal for the Study of Radicalism, Terrorism and Political Violence and Perspectives on Terrorism.
- Organizations: publication databases of the International Center for Counterterrorism, the Radicalization Awareness Network and UN policy papers.

The key search terms used to identify studies were Terrorism, Extremism, Radicalisation, and Risk and Protective factors. The search was conducted between March and June 2022.

#### 3.1.1 INCLUSION CRITERIA

Each publication under consideration was carefully read by one of the team members. A publication was included into the digital repository if it provided an analysis based on primary data (qualitative or quantitative) or a meta-analysis of the significance of individual or a set of risk and protective factors. Publications based on secondary data, including literature reviews, opinion pieces and discussions of theoretical models, as well as publications based on primary





studies which were not directly linked to risk and protective factors were excluded from the database. Studies were included irrespective of their language and publication status.

After careful consideration, 164 publications were selected for inclusion into the digital repository. The list of included publications comprises primarily journal articles, but also other scholarly publications, such as books, book chapters and doctoral dissertations, as well as reports by think tanks and international organizations. The key findings of studies written in a language other than English were identified and translated into English for their inclusion into the database.

## 3.2 REQUIREMENT 3: THE REPOSITORY MUST BE INFORMATIVE

To ensure that the repository is as informative as possible, its content was developed in five steps.

1. All WP partners, including academic researchers and practitioners, discussed and agreed on the information displayed in the repository. The agreed parameters were noted in D1.1, and further updated during the data collection process.
2. Based on the agreed parameters, WP partners were given the task to review and extract information from the studies included in the data set by filling in an online excel sheet.
3. The extracted data were checked for their completeness and quality, amended where necessary, and transferred to the digital repository.
4. All partners were given the opportunity to review the content of the digital repository and to provide feedback on the quality and completeness of the information displayed for individual studies.
5. The feedback from WP partners was included and the content of each individual study reviewed another time to ensure that the displayed information is complete, accurate and accessible.

In step 1 of this process, the WP partners agreed that the repository should display the following information about each included study:

1. The title, author name and publication year
2. The link to the publication
3. The studied population
4. The studied location (country)
5. The studied outcome
6. The studied ideological strain
7. The key findings of the study related to risk and protective factors

## 3.3 REQUIREMENT 4: THE REPOSITORY MUST BE EASILY NAVIGABLE

To ensure that the repository is easily navigable, a set of relevant search criteria was developed which enables users to gain an updated overview of the literature according to their individual needs and interests.

The search criteria were identified and refined in a collaborative process involving all WP partners. It was agreed that the digital repository should allow for filtering the database based on six search criteria:

1. Putative risk factors
2. Putative protective factors
3. Study populations





4. Studied outcomes
5. Studied locations (countries)
6. Studied ideological strains

To enable users to navigate the database through the above-noted search criteria, a dictionary was developed for each search criterion. The development of such a dictionary was most challenging for putative risk and protective factors which are numerous and difficult to categorize. To meet this challenge, a process of three steps was followed:

1. Based on the key findings of each individual study, an initial list of suggested risk and protective factors was created.
2. This initial list was reviewed to detect overlaps, and to merge or pool synonymous or similar factors. The factors included into the list were divided into several categories.
3. The consolidated list of (categories of) risk and protective factors was shared with WP partners and amended in line with the provided feedback.

The same procedure was used to identify the dictionary for other search criteria, including the dictionary for studied ideological strains or studied populations.

## 3.4 REQUIREMENT 5: THE REPOSITORY MUST BE USER-FRIENDLY

To ensure its user-friendliness, the digital repository has been tested at different stages of its development by potential end-users, including academics and practitioners in the field of P/CVE.

Different draft versions of the repository were presented to and discussed with WP1 partners. Partners were provided with a feedback form in which they were asked to assess the design, content and navigability of the repository. The feedback provided by WP1 partners was carefully integrated into the development of the tool.

## 3.5 REQUIREMENT 6: THE REPOSITORY MUST BE SUSTAINABLE

To ensure the sustainability of the digital repository, an easily navigable and user-friendly back office was created in which the dataset can be edited and further updated. Different WP1 partners have been given access to and trained in the use of the back office during the development phase of the digital repository.

The back office allows for an efficient maintenance of the digital repository, as well as for an easy handover of maintenance duties from one responsible individual or organization to another.





## 4

## IMPLEMENTATION

This section briefly demonstrates the implementation of the INDEED digital repository of studies on risk and protective factors.

The repository was implemented as online application which, at a later stage of the project, will be integrated into the INDEED Toolkit – a software suite delivered at the end of the project cycle. **It was agreed that the previously planned two repositories for risk and protective factors (see section 1.3) will be merged in a single application to avoid overlaps and enhance the navigability for end users.** A demo version of the repository is available on the INDEED software demo server under the toolkit sub-domain at <https://www.toolkit.indeedproject.eu/RepositoryMainView/>. Due to the fact that the Toolkit will be fully available only in the 24th month of the project implementation, the repository can be found through the INDEED website, the Results tab, Toolkit tab.

The digital repository works in two access modes: an anonymous (regular webpage) access mode and a registered-user access mode. The first mode represents the publicly available front part of the tool (figure 2a and 2b). The latter represents the back part of the application which allows for the dataset to be edited (figure 6).

Figure 2a: Publicly available repository at the Toolkit sub-domain



The INDEED Digital Repository of Studies on Risk and Protective Factors provides an overview of the scientific research on factors which may facilitate (risk factors) or prevent (protective factors) processes of radicalisation. It facilitates the mapping of empirical studies and offers a tool to decision makers/ policy makers and first-line practitioners to support the process of designing, planning, implementing and evaluating P/CVE and de-radicalisation initiatives. To allow for an efficient navigation of the database, the repository offers six search filters which enable users to view research findings for specific (categories of) risk and protective factors, as well as for individual countries, populations, ideological strains and radicalisation outcomes. The repository's database currently includes 162 studies. The last update was performed in May 2022.

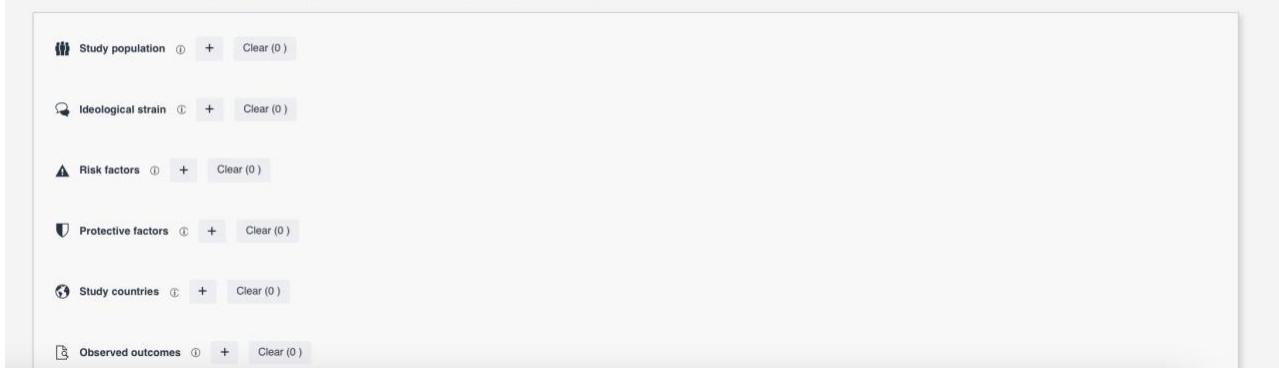
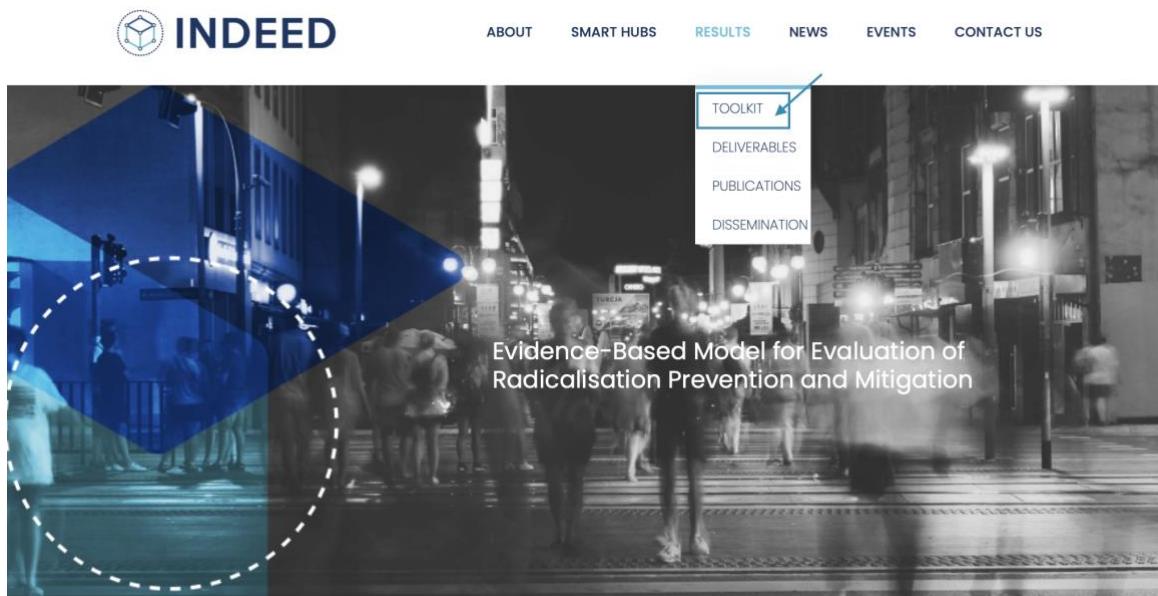


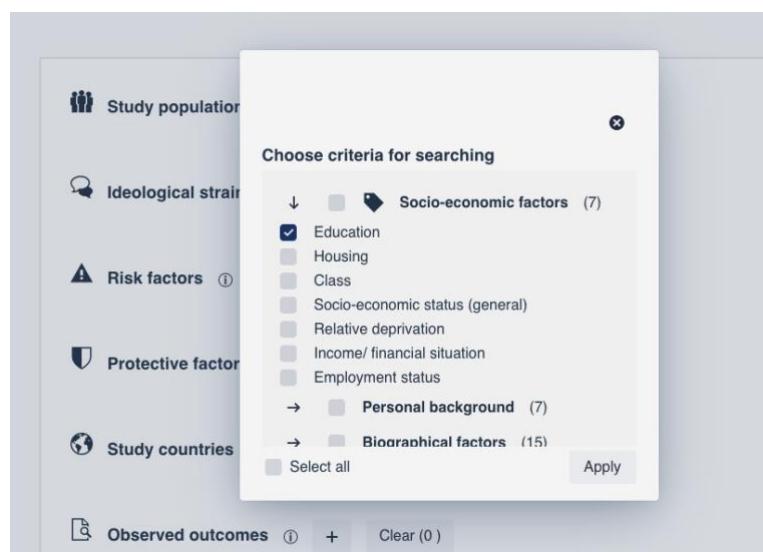


Figure 2b: Publicly available repository via the INDEED website



The publicly available front part of the tool enables users to search for studies on risk and protective factors through an easily navigable graphics user interface (GUI). The interface gives users the opportunity to filter the dataset for studies on specific (categories of) risk and protective factors. It, moreover, enables users to search for publications which study particular populations, ideological strains, countries and outcomes. The search filter function is illustrated in figure 3:

Figure 3: Selecting search criteria



Altogether, the repository enables end users to search directly for studies on 124 individual (and ten wider categories) of risk factors as well as studies on 85 individual (and twelve categories of) protective factors. It further gives end users the opportunity to filter the database by 17 different study populations (e.g. women, adolescents), eight different ideological strains (e.g.





right-wing extremism), 55 different study countries and five different types of outcomes (e.g. radical attitudes).

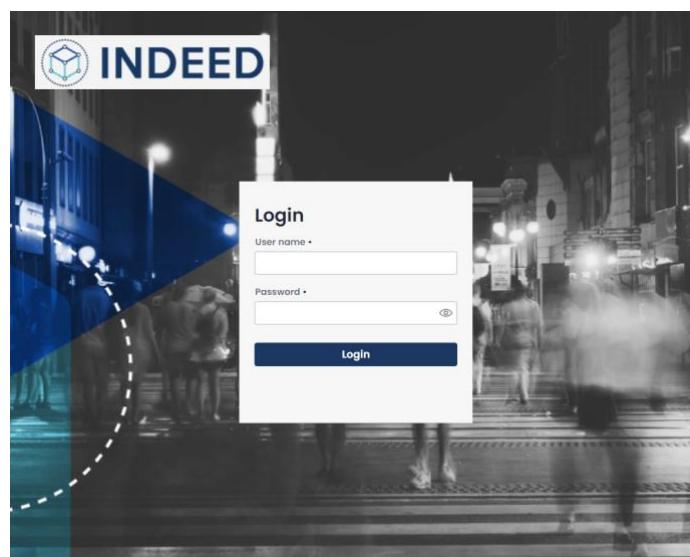
The results of the search appear in a comprehensive list of studies matching all stated criteria. The initial list of findings provides end users with information about the title, year, publisher, and author of as well as the link to the publication (for an illustration see figure 4). Users can click on a finding to receive a more detailed description which includes findings on specific risk and protective factors, the abstract of the publication as well as information about the studied country, population, outcome and ideological strain.

Figure 4: List of search findings

Around 161 of results.					
Year	Author	Title	Publisher	Study	Details
1998	Boehnke, K., Hagan, J., & Merkens, H.	<b>Right-wing extremism among German adolescents: Risk factors and protective factors.</b>	Applied psychology, 47(1): 109-126.	<a href="#">🔗</a>	<a href="#">↗</a>
2003	Post, J. M., Sprinzak, E. and Denny, L. M.	<b>The Terrorists in Their Own Words: Interviews with 35 Incarcerated Middle Eastern Terrorists</b>	Terrorism and Political Violence, 15(1), 171-184	<a href="#">🔗</a>	<a href="#">↗</a>
2005	Schbley, A. and McCauley, C.	<b>Political, Religious, and Psychological Characteristics of Muslim Protest Marchers in Eight European Cities: Jerusalem Day 2002</b>	Terrorism and Political Violence, 17(4), 551-572	<a href="#">🔗</a>	<a href="#">↗</a>
2007	Berrebi, C.	<b>Evidence about the Link Between Education, Poverty and Terrorism among Palestinians</b>	Peace Economics, Peace Science and Public Policy, 13 (1): 18-53.	<a href="#">🔗</a>	<a href="#">↗</a>
2008	Krausser, A. R.	<b>What makes a homegrown terrorist? Human capital and participation in Economic Lobbies</b>	Economic Letters	<a href="#">🔗</a>	<a href="#">↗</a>

The back part of the application is not public and can only be accessed by registered users. Registered users enter the back part of the application through a login screen (see figure 5).

Figure 5: Login screen





In the back part of the application, registered users can manage the content and modify or adjust all central elements of the repository. The back part of the office, for instance, enables registered users to add new publications to the database or modify the search filters. It thus facilitates the maintenance and sustainability of the repository (see figure 6 for an illustration of the back office interface)

Figure 6: Back office interface

The screenshot shows a web-based application interface for managing a digital repository. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links to 'FACTORS REPOSITORY', 'EVIDENCE-BASED EVALUATION MODEL', 'BEST PRACTICES & LESSONS LEARNED', 'E-LEARNING', 'CONTACT', 'ADMINISTRATION', 'HELP', and a gear icon. Below the navigation, a search bar contains the text 'Resource details: Youth Involvement in Politically Motivated Violence: Why Do Social Integration, Perceived Legitimacy and Perceived Discrimination Matter?'. The main content area displays various fields for this resource, including 'Attributes' (Outcome resource, Factor resource, Resource strain, Protective factor resource, Country resource, Population resource), 'Publisher' (International Journal of Conflict and Violence, 8 (1): 134-153), 'Title' (Youth Involvement in Politically Motivated Violence: Why Do Social Integration, Perceived Legitimacy and Perceived Discrimination Matter?), 'Authors' (Pauwels, L. and De Waele, M.), 'Link' (https://www.ijcv.org/index.php/ijcv/article/view/3050), and a 'Study limitation' section with a detailed text about the study's methodology and findings. At the bottom, there is a field for 'Study started from' with the value '2012'.

Finally, the repository has been designed to allow for maintaining different language versions of the interface, and thus future localisation of the application which is currently only available in English





## 5 STRENGTHS AND LIMITATIONS

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The final section provides a brief overview of the main strengths and limitations of the digital repository.

### 5.1 STRENGTHS OF THE DIGITAL REPOSITORY

The INDEED digital repository of studies on risk and protective factors is the first of its kind. As such, it has the potential to add significant value to the current P/CVE landscape. Below, this section highlights some of the repository's potential key contributions.

#### 5.1.1 AN UPDATED AND COMPREHENSIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY

The digital repository builds on and complements existing systematic reviews in offering a comprehensive digital library of studies on risk and protective factors. The added value of the content of the library is twofold. On the one hand, the library, which can easily be updated and further extended, offers a sustainable alternative to traditional (systematic) literature reviews which capture the literature at one particular moment in time. On the other, the repository provides an overview of the key findings of each individual study, including translations of key findings from non-English language publications. Such in-depth information, which is not provided by traditional reviews, can be especially useful to end users whose access to publications, which are often stored behind paywalls, is restricted.

#### 5.1.2 A NEEDS-ORIENTED OVERVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

The digital repository offers filtering tools which allow for users to scan the existing literature according to their individual needs and interests. Specifically, it includes filtering tools which enable users to search the database for studies which address specific (categories of) risk and protective factors, or particular ideological strains, countries, study groups or observed outcomes. The digital repository, by providing such search filters, enables users to directly engage with the segment of the literature which is most important to them; a function which traditional (systematic) literature reviews cannot fulfil.

#### 5.1.3 AN EASILY ACCESSIBLE AND NAVIGABLE TOOL

The digital repository, finally, provides a tool which is easy to access and navigate, as well as visually attractive. Unlike systematic reviews, which usually take the form of long reports, the digital repository offers an interactive platform through which end users of different backgrounds can efficiently search for relevant information.

### 5.2 LIMITATIONS

While the INDEED digital repository has several strengths, it is also subject to notable limitations. Below, this section highlights some of the repository's key constraints.





## 5.2.1

### SCOPE AND PRESENTATION OF THE DATABASE

While the digital repository aspires to provide a comprehensive overview of research on risk and protective factors, it only includes studies which empirically investigate the significance of such factors. The repository, therefore, does not offer a complete overview of all available work on risk and protective factors. The database, moreover, does not necessarily include all available primary studies on risk and protective factors “out there”, and will require further and regular updates.

Another limitation of the repository is that study findings are currently only displayed in English. Findings of originally non-English publications are displayed both in English and the original language. This is problematic insofar as practitioners in the field of P/CVE, may not be able or willing to engage with a tool unavailable in their mother tongue. Cognizant of this limitation, we have so far opted to only offer the tool in English as the translation of findings would require not only significant resources but also bring with it challenges for the repository’s maintenance and sustainability.

## 5.2.2

### EVALUATION AND SYNTHESIS OF STUDY FINDINGS

While the repository aims to provide a thorough overview of available research findings on risk and protective factors, it does not attempt to evaluate or synthesize these findings. The repository, thus, does not offer aggregated claims about the significance of individual risk and protective factors, nor does it provide specific policy recommendations. Rather than make judgements about the relevance of individual factors, it instead creates a platform through which users can learn about and engage with scientific arguments, and gain a more nuanced understanding of the extent to and context in which certain risk and protective factors have been suggested to matter.





## 6

## REFERENCE LIST

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