INDEED

Evidence-Based Model for Evaluation of
Radicalisation Prevention and Mitigation

INTERNATIONAL POLICY & PRACTITIONERS FORUM SUMMARY REPORT

11 | 2023

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Aims and Scope of the International Policy & Practitioners' Forum on Advancing Evidence-Based Practice & Evaluation in PVE/CVE/De-Radicalisation and Crime Prevention

The 2-Day International Forum was organized on November 15-16, 2023, online, and brought together leading international experts, researchers, practitioners, and policymakers across Europe and beyond.

The primary objectives included sharing leading innovations, lessons learned, and recommendations to enhance evidence-based evaluation, policy, and practice within PCVE/DeRad and Crime Prevention.

The Forum adopted an innovative 'online summit' format and included key-note presentations, workshops, communities of practice sessions, policy forums, and networking events, creating a dynamic, participatory, multi-sectoral platform.

The event was attended by 230 participants, endorsed by more than 40 contributing event partners, 50 speakers and moderators that engaged in 19 sessions.

The findings, recommendations, and outcomes of the Forum will be compiled in a Results Briefing Paper shared with participants and key institutions, including the European Commission. Forum sessions were recorded and will be made available on the INDEED Project website.

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FORUM AGENDA

WEDNESDAY | 15th NOVEMBER - DAY 1

12:30 – 13:00	'Pre' Opening & Arrival of Participants
13:00 - 13:30	**OPENING OF THE INDEED 2023** **International Forum on Evidence Based-Evaluation, Policy & Practice** Welcome by the Forum Hosts and European Commission[1]
13:30 – 14:40	**KEY PANEL EVENT** **Why Evidence Based Evaluation, Evidence-Based Policy and Evidence-Based Practice Matter in PVE, CVE, De-Radicalization and Crime Prevention?**
14:40 – 15:00	Networking & Lunch Break
15:00 – 16:30	**SESSIONS**

1.Evidence-Based Evaluation: A Key Step Forward for P/CVE Policy & Practice	2.City Spotlight: Showcasing and Assessing local P/CVE Initiatives	3.Evaluation of P/CVE Strategies & Policies	4.Evaluation of the Mayor of London's Shared Endeavour Fund	5. Compendium of Good Practices in Measuring Results in Counter-Terrorism and Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism

16:30 – 16:40	Networking Session
16:40 – 17:30	**INDEED SMART Hub** Addressing critical challenges and innovations in improving evidence-based policy and practice in Europe and internationally. A dynamic, collaborative and 'design-based' participatory session engaging all Forum participants to map and identify key challenges, innovations, needs and good practices drawing upon all participants experiences and expertise.
17:30 – 18:30	**Evening Talk** Special evening session open to global participation with invited speakers - leading international experts in evidence-based evaluation.

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FORUM AGENDA

THURSDAY 16th NOVEMBER – DAY 2

12:00 – 12:30	**Pre-Conference Networking & Meetings**
12:30 – 13:00	**HIGHLIGHTS FROM DAY 1 OF THE FORUM** Sharing select key Highlights from Day 1
13:00 – 14:00	**Introducing the INDEED Evaluation Package** How to plan and conduct evidence-based evaluations of P/CVE and Deradicalization initiatives

14:00 – 15:30	**SESSIONS**			
	6: Designing Evidence-Based Practice: How to use evidence to design P/CVE/De-Radicalization & Crime Prevention Interventions	7: Dealing with issues of inclusion, voice, cultural competency and gender, social and ethical issues in evaluation in the P/CVE/De-RAD field	8. An Evidence-Based Evaluation with challenges and opportunities working with young people with high complex needs	9. Training and Building National Capacities for Evaluation and Evidence-Based Policy Making and Practice

15:30 – 16:00	**Networking Break**		

16:00 – 17:20	**SESSIONS**		
	10.Evaluation of Exit Programs	11: Designing Evidence-Based Policy: How to use evidence to design local and national strategies and policies for P/CVE/De-Radicalization & Crime Prevention	12. The Role of Regional & National Networks and Platforms as Tools for Learning and Improving Practice

17:20 – 18:00	**Charting the Way Forward** Key Conclusions, Highlights, Insights & Recommendations from the Forum

Opening Session

An overview of the session

The Opening Session of the INDEED 2023 International Forum featured welcome remarks by the hosts of the event, the INDDED Project and from the European Commission. The topics and questions addressed during the Opening sessions were:

- The INDEED Project's approach to Evidence-based Evaluation (EBE)
- The broader landscape, international developments, priorities and challenges of Evaluation, Policy and Practice in PCVE/DeRad and Crime Prevention.
- Role and value of evaluation for responding to the emerging forms of extremism and hate-based ideologies.

Key points raised during the session

- INDEED approach to EBE is that it is an immanent process of Evidence-based Policy and Evidence-based Practice (EBP).
- Harvesting from the knowledge and experience of practitioners, from the evaluation results of projects, policies and strategies, ad-hoc interventions may lead to lessons learned, innovations and to advancing the field of PCVE/DeRad.
- Projects do not work in silos, cooperation with stakeholders is key. Evaluation important for PCVE efforts – and it should be a common effort, a work of solidarity between practitioners, policymakers, academics/researchers.
- Evaluation is a mainstreaming priority for the European level activities for PCVE for 2024-2025.
- The EU Knowledge Hub on prevention of radicalisation that will be launched in the 2nd half of 2024 continues and develops further the work of the Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN). The Hub will work as an aggregation of relevant research and innovation, by disseminating the outcomes of the EU funded projects and could support the dissemination of the results of the INDEED project.
- The PCVE landscape is changing, the blurring of ideologies, emerging new manifestations of extremism such as, anti-system and anti-government extremism (ASAG), challenge the trust of citizens in governments, institutions, and democracy. Strengthening the evidence-based approach to our policies and practices responds to this challenge.
- The evaluation culture will develop by increasing the number of evaluations.

"Policymakers and practitioners need courage and confidence to carry out evaluations in countries in which societies and politics are quite polarized".(Tarja Mankkinen)

KEY PANEL EVENT

Why Evidence Based Evaluation, Evidence-Based Policy and Evidence-Based Practice Matter in PVE, CVE, De-Radicalization and Crime Prevention?

The Key Panel Event of the INDEED 2023 International Forum featured speakers from the Counter-Terrorism Coordinator Office and the United Nations Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism and set the stage for the event.

The aim of the key panel session was to:

- Advance understanding of the importance of evaluation and of learning from evidence, experience and expertise – what works, what doesn't, why, how, and pathways or ideas for what we need to do to improve evidence-based policy making and evidence-based practice.

- Engage all stakeholders in thinking innovatively and creatively about how we can improve as a field – and how to approach practically improving evaluation and learning practice – within our countries, across the EU and internationally, and engaging with all key stakeholders to build a culture and practice of evaluation and learning into our work, while ensuring we authentically engage with key stakeholders and communities whose voices need to be heard.
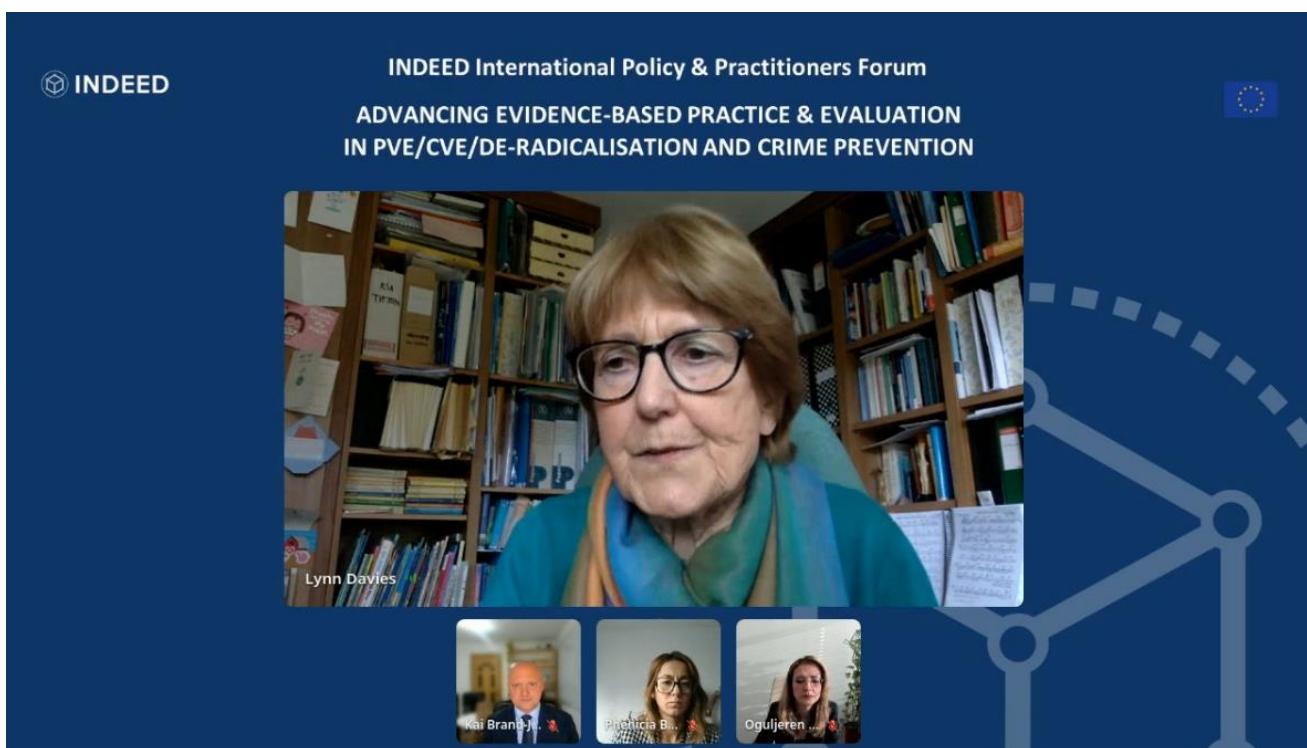
"Spend time on what does not work!" (Lynn Davies)

KEY PANEL EVENT

Why Evidence Based Evaluation, Evidence-Based Policy and Evidence-Based Practice Matter in PVE, CVE, De-Radicalization and Crime Prevention?

Key points raised during the session

- Synergies between the Forum topics and priorities at EU and UN for Evidence Based Evaluation, Policy and Practice: Evaluation of EU PCVE policies at national and European level is a priority. Common culture of EBE is a crucial step for organizational learning and PCVE efforts.

- Information exchange between stakeholders through the INDEED Smart Hubs which bring together FLPs, policymakers and experts in PCVE enhance PCVE efforts. There has been significant EU support for developing useful and variable tools, the EBEM Model, multistakeholder and multisectoral approach in INDEED, are just an example, however practitioners and policymakers need to be creative and innovative as there are no generic tools and models.

- Conflicts in the Middle East, borderline content, the increased difficulty of preventing terrorist threats and attacks, carried out by lone actors rather than organized structures, underline the urgent need to develop research on what makes people radicalize and have violent thoughts, the stringent need to focus on softer policies that mainstream inclusion, and early prevention programs. To this end, the EU Knowledge Hub on preventing Radicalization will facilitate evaluation and EBE approach, streamline policies and instruments.

- Terminology used for PCVE efforts and how it might influence their effectiveness: Evaluation on the terms used and labelling of policies and projects as Deradicalisation, Counter-terrorism, the labelling of initiatives as PCVE, needs to be prioritized to enhance radicalization prevention.

- The UN Meta-synthesis study from 2021 revealed a generalized best practice in the area of evidence-based programming. The study found the need to invest in evaluation, develop evaluation capacity among Compact entities, to harness knowledge and to have a knowledge -sharing platform for lessons learned. In response to these gaps and recommendations the UNOCT together with the EU have elaborated the Compendium of Good Practices for Measuring Results in Counter-Terrorism and Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism: A Joint EU-UN Publication, and the platform, a community of practice for disseminating good practices, joint evaluation on CT & PCVE that unites Compact entities has been set up;

- Key things to improve when it comes to evaluation, practice and policy on addressing CT and PCVE are: re-branding the technical language of evaluation, communicate evaluation findings into "simple speak", open the space for dialogue and collaboration, set up fora for socializing knowledge further and develop training and training programs on evaluation;

Forum Session 1
Evidence-Based Evaluation: A Key Step Forward for P/CVE Policy & Practice

An overview of the session

– The Session brought forward and addressed key issues and questions such as:
  • What is evidence-based evaluation?
  • What do we mean by 'evidence' in the P/CVE and De-Radicalisation Field? How do we understand evidence and how can we 'gather', learn, understand 'evidence' in ways that 'fit' and work for the field and for informing better policy and practice?
  • What is the importance, value, and role of evaluation in the field?

Key points raised during the session

– The principles and potential of EBE: EBE is an approach or framework for evaluation practice which integrates external evidence, professional expertise and stakeholder values, preferences, and circumstances; a rigorous evaluation process in which available research (e.g. on evaluation designs, research methods and the topic under evaluation) is carefully considered; EBE promotes evaluation designs and processes which are ethically sound, reflective of stakeholder interests and suitable to organizational learning.

– The challenges and limitations of EBE in the field of PCVE include insufficient allocation of time and resources to the evaluation process, sensitivity of data which can hinder the full and transparent inclusion of key stakeholders in the evaluation process, underdeveloped evidence base which can compromise the ability of evaluators to conduct relevant background research.

Forum Session 1

Evidence-Based Evaluation: A Key Step Forward for P/CVE Policy & Practice

Key points raised during the session

– Measuring success for P/CVE interventions is challenging, especially when traditional metrics do not work. Presentation of case studies with M&E in Afghanistan and Cameroon underscored the need to put the social back in social science to determine effectiveness in countering VE, in fragile, conflict and violent contexts. Culturally sensitive data collection methods that highlight cultural competency in evaluation, narratives and success stories that provided real-time feedback to donors and stakeholders, the feedback loop which allowed for built-in flexibility and innovation to adapt to unfolding implementation challenges in rapidly evolving contexts, go beyond traditional metrics, enabling more meaningful impact evaluation of P/CVE interventions.

– Evaluation of PCVE policies at national level in Spain, Portugal and Tunisia has revealed the following challenges, gaps and needs: the need to bridge the gap between researchers and policymakers and turning available knowledge and evidence, which has become a broader category with more types of evidence available than before, into applicable knowledge for policymakers; the need for integrated prevention strategies; co-design of prevention strategies and the need to adapt them for the national context; insufficient training for PCVE professionals, insufficient political support and scarce resources for local PCVE policies, as well as lack of strategies and structured approach for addressing radicalization of young people;

– Some of the misconceptions that hinder M&E for CT and PCVE policies, the impossibility of measuring prevention efforts, that concepts are too abstract, that interventions are too politically sensitive, the lack of time for M&E, can be debunked by addressing the underlying challenges, such as establishing causality and specific outcomes, the lack of agreed-upon definitions and clear set of methods or standards for evaluating the impact of PCVE work, the sensitive nature of PCVE interventions and the heavy media scrutiny, that M&E is time consuming. These underlying challenges can be addressed by using the following good practice: use theories of change and break down outcomes into measurable sub-components, focus on contribution rather than attribution, work towards shared definitions of resilience and radicalization, establish smart indicators in the design phase, use existing tools, use proactive communication and transparency, use strategic planning and resource allocation for saving time and advance institutional knowledge by archiving and documenting results.

Forum Session 2

City Spotlight: Showcasing and Assessing Local P/CVE Initiatives of key findings

An overview of the session

Regional and local authorities play a central role in preventing violent extremism because, in an interconnected world, there are no limits to the circulation of crime, and the effects are more tangible and visible at the local level. Municipalities can develop policies and strategies adapted to local realities and stratification.

The session highlighted the importance of collaboratively producing and evaluating PVE/CVE/de-radicalization strategies aiming at learning from different municipalities and exchange perspectives with cities heavily involved in this field, including presenting municipalities of:

- Strasbourg

- Mechelen

- Liege

- L'Hospitalet de llobregat

Forum Session 2

City Spotlight: Showcasing and Assessing Local P/CVE Initiatives of key findings

Key points raised during the session

- In Strasbourg: The local strategy, adopted in 2016 after the Charlie Hebdo attacks, is built on six important pillars: Communication, Training and Awareness Raising, Mobilization, Detection and Referral, Prevention, and Victim Support. Evaluation focuses on feedback from the various involved actors.

- L'Hospitalet de Ilobregat: The city grapples with right-wing groups, and the social climate is permissive toward such tendencies. The strategy for preventing and countering PVE involves multi-agency collaboration, gathering the Local Police, Health Department, Community Mediation Center, Social Welfare, and Youth Department, with an emphasis on a communitarian approach and mediation role.

- Mechelen: The Mechelen Model for preventing violent extremism and de-radicalization focuses on three main pillars: community building, empowerment, and prevention. To ensure the effectiveness of the strategy, the municipality identified three directions to invest in: capturing frustrations at the community level, reducing individual alienation, and reintegrating isolated individuals through a regular and project-based approach. In terms of evaluation, the focus is on an impact evaluation approach using the EMMASCAN platform (emmascan.eu), the SocPrev tool, and organizing focus groups with stakeholders.

- Liege: Based on three layers of action, the local strategy for preventing violent extremism includes educational prevention, situational prevention, and targeted prevention. The result is a holistic approach centered on multi-agency consultation between schools, law enforcement, the academic environment, and social, intercultural, and youth stakeholders.

Forum Session 3
Evaluation of P/CVE Strategies & Policies

An overview of the session

The Session featured speakers from the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and the Flemish Peace Institute. The aim of this Session was to place a spotlight on and bring forward and address key issues such as:

- The importance of evaluating local, national and regional strategies and policies
- Identifying what is involved and what do you look at when evaluating policies and strategies;
- How to address the gap that sometimes exists between 'practice' and 'policies'. An experience found in many EU countries – and not only – is that practitioners (from law enforcement to civil society, educators, social workers and more broadly) often feel that their voices, experience and expertise are not listened to and very often do not inform the development of national or supra-national policies and strategies .

Forum Session 3

Evaluation of P/CVE Strategies & Policies

Key points raised during the session

– Evaluation is an element that can make or can break action plans; Evaluation is necessary to strengthen and update policies, especially in the field of PCVE as violent extremism is a very evolving phenomenon and for policymakers it's also crucial to justify allocated personnel and finances;

– An evaluation of the policy design of the Flemish Action Plan, which included an analysis of policy documents, a review of PCVE literature, and 60 plus qualitative interviews with people that were part of the implementation of this action draws the following conclusions and recommendations:

  • Objectives need to be realistic, measurable and they need to be clearly defined, describe short term outcomes as well as medium term outcomes; broad objectives such as prevent individuals from radicalizing and detect signals of violent radicalization as early as possible, are difficult to assess; concrete measures and actions are important for assessing whether the measures have been successful.

  • An evaluation framework that identifies indicators for measuring the success of specific actions and measures is needed.

  • Responsibility for evaluation rested with the implementing partners which were grassroots organizations, many of them lacked the capacity and know-how, thus policymakers may also want to reach out to experts in this field to conduct adequate impact assessments of this type of projects.

– PCVE is one of the most difficult policy areas to engage in evaluation as it includes limitations to measuring intangible outcomes like social cohesion, the inability to measure the absence of something, for example, a terrorist attack, and access to sensitive government data can be a challenge.

– Specific challenges are the lack of an enabling environment for monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL), and the whole of society approach to PCVE which means that MEL in this space requires a lot of coordination. UNODC has recently published a MEL toolkit to support PCVE action plans;

– MEL should be integrated into the overall management of the PCVE policy or strategy.

Forum Session 4
Evaluation of the Mayor of London's Shared Endeavour Fund

An overview of the session

In 2020 the Mayor of London launched the Shared Endeavor Fund as a prevention funding scheme for civil society organizations. The goal of the Shared Endeavor Fund is to support initiatives that build London's resilience to radicalization and extremist recruitment and to reduce racism, intolerance, hate and extremism in the capital.

The Strong Cities Network (SCN) served as an external evaluator for the Fund, assessing the impact of the projects, their contribution to the scheme's strategic objectives and their fidelity with planned outputs.

Key points raised during the session

For evaluating this fund, the team proposed a scheme of evaluation containing three levels:

- **Project:** Monitoring the project fidelity, Assessing the project results
- **Grantee:** Monitoring training activities, Assessing Organisational capacities
- **Fund:** Monitoring fund management, Assessing collective results, Collating learning

As for the measurable outcomes, the evaluating team used a set of criteria building on the four strategic priorities that the program assumed:

- **Raise awareness:** Awareness and recognition, Message inoculation, Digital literacy
- **Build Psychosocial resilience:** Emotional resilience, Meaning and purpose in life, Self-esteem, Sense of belonging, Perspective-taking, Tolerance of difference
- **Strengthen prevention capabilities:** Prevention capacity
- **Promote prosocial behaviours:** Civic engagement and responsibility, Reporting hate incidents on- and offline, Reporting radicalization, Bystander intervention

Forum Session 5

Compendium of Good Practices in Measuring Results in CT and PCVE

An overview of the session

This Session was dedicated to the presentation of the Compendium of Good Practices for Measuring Results in Counter-Terrorism and Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism, developed by the the European Union (EU) and the United Nations (UN). The Session brought forward and provided participants with good practices, tools, and case studies from across the world to support the efforts of implementing, monitoring, evaluating, and learning from interventions in the fields of countering terrorism (CT) and preventing and countering violent extremism (PCVE). The Session featured experts from United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund, Hedayah, United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism.

Key points raised during the session

- The Compendium is a result of the first UN-wide meta-synthesis of 118 evaluations and oversight reports of CT and PCVE projects under the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, produced in 2021. This effort was led by the Resource Mobilization, Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group (RMME WG) of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, through its Sub-Group on Evaluation.

- The Compendium was developed as one of the responses to the key recommendation from this meta-synthesis to enhance evaluation knowledge and capacities among internal and external stakeholders, to support programme managers, evaluators, and other experts in reliably measuring and evaluating the results of CT and PCVE interventions.

- Besides demonstrating the results of CT and PCVE work across the EU and UN, the Compendium provides examples and practitioners and policymakers can draw insights from evaluations that are safe, ethical, and inclusive.

- Some of the good practice areas in evaluation design and process for measurable outcomes identified by the Compendium include leveraging innovative tools and rigorous approaches, advancing a Do No Harm approach, integrating gender perspectives, learning and purposeful use of evaluation results;

- Presentations included challenges revealed by the meta- synthesis – enabling environment for evaluations and using evaluations to improve interventions, case studies showcasing the benefits of ex-post evaluations for evaluating impact and sustainability, outcome harvesting, as well as examples of interagency and joint programming as a good practice for leveraging expertise and oversight and for high possibility of sustainability and impact;

Plenary Session
INDEED SMART HUB SESSION

An overview of the session

The aim of this Session was to address critical challenges and innovations in improving evidence-based policy and practice in Europe and internationally. This was dynamic, collaborative and "co-design based" participatory session engaging all Forum participants and drawing upon their experiences and expertise in mapping and identifying key challenges, innovations, needs and good practices.

Key points raised during the session

– Among the mapping of challenges the following has been mentioned: understanding the role and value of evaluation beyond a compliance procedure, gender approaches to evaluation, engaging diverse communities, managing the process of evaluation, how to choose evaluation methodologies that are inclusive and culturally-sensitive, developing internal capacity for evaluation, how do programme managers navigate evaluations and evaluations results when the general perception is that evaluations should be positive to please donors and secure financing for their initiatives.

Special Session

Evening Talk: Special evening session with leading international expert in evidence – based evaluation.

An overview of the session

The Special Event Talk featured Michael Quinn Patton, one of the world's leading practitioners and front-of-field innovators in evaluation. The mechanism and process for using evidence were the focus of the evening special event and reflection, including the dangers of misusing evidence.

The Special Event Talk addressed key issues and questions such as: "What it takes to make sense of and act on evidence."
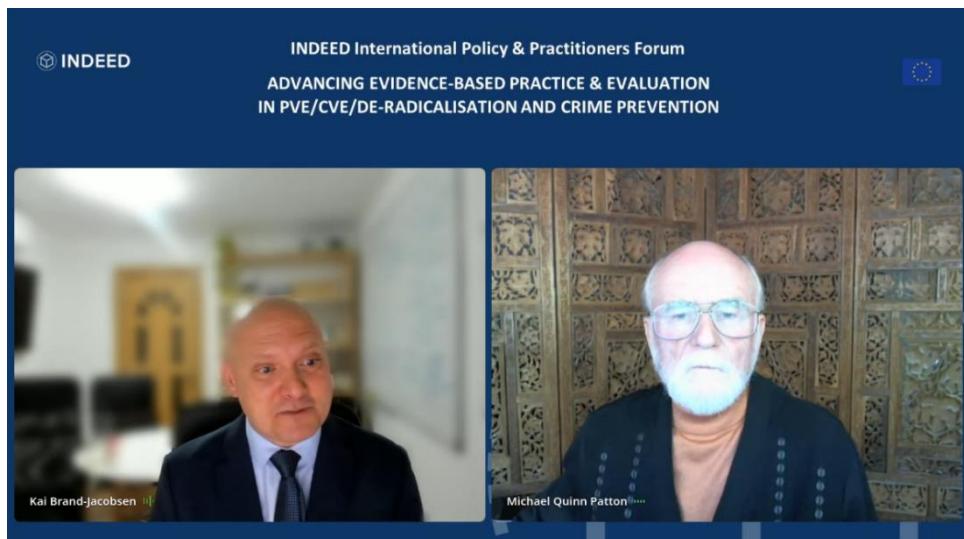
Key points raised during the discussion

- Evidence by itself is relatively useless, interpretive capacity are key for good decision-making, emphasizing substantive significance rather than mechanistic statistical significance – thinking deeply about what the data means.
- Much evaluation evidence and reporting manifests the evil of banality – perceiving evaluation as pro forma, bureaucratic, a compliance activity.
- The Utilization Focused evaluation principle is to target delivery findings to be timely and useful for informing decisions and learning opportunities.
- Policymakers and general citizenry need training and facilitation to understand and interpret evidence thoughtfully and dialogically.
- Rigor does not reside in methods and measurement;
- The global polycrisis requires a different approach to evaluation evidence in all aspects. Addressing the polycrisis, including extremism, requires major systems transformations. To evaluation transformation, evaluation and the traditional approach to evidence must be transformed.

Plenary Session
Introducing the INDEED Evaluation Package

How to plan and conduct evidence-based evaluations of P/CVE and Deradicalization initiatives

An overview of the session

This Special Session was dedicated for presenting the INDEED Evaluation Package and sharing 'what it is', it's 'value' and use to the field. The session featured speakers from the University of Helsinki and Vrije Universiteit Brussel, partners in the INDEED project.

Key points raised during the session

- The INDEED Evaluation package is designed for policy makers and practitioners in the PCVE field, to support them in designing, implementing, and evaluating initiatives. The evaluation package includes step-by-step instructions on how to do evaluations.

- The INDEED Evidence-Based Evaluation Model (EBEM) is universal, a theoretical construct, that can be applied to all types of initiatives in different contexts and in different sectors; it can be applied to policies and strategies, but also small-scale initiatives in different fields, from law enforcement to social work and including initiatives that are run by NGOs. The model was elaborated using a co-design approach, involving practitioners and stakeholders in a gap analysis of needs in PCVE evaluation; The model was tested and validated using networks of policymakers, of academics, with RAN practitioners, law enforcement agencies, NGOs. We collected a lot of input and we tried to integrate and refine the model.

- The INDEED E-Guidebooks are "a manual for implementing the INDEED evaluation model", meant for policymakers and practitioners, for professional evaluators or academics who evaluate initiatives, or anyone who wants to learn more about evaluations. They explain the principles and practices of evidence-based evaluation and how to conduct or participate in evaluations, tips and examples and guidelines for doing evidence-based evaluations.

- The INDEED Evaluation Tool is designed for the PCVE field specifically and for general crime prevention, helping you build knowledge on what evaluation is and understand what evaluation includes, plan an evaluation that follows the principles of evidence-based evaluation. The tool gives step-by-step instructions for planning and conducting three common main types of evaluation, formative, process, and outcome evaluation. The tool facilitates integrating evaluation from the design stage so that when the initiative is designed it is already envisioned how it will be evaluated in the future. The tool will be available through the Toolkit on the INDEED website late this year.

Forum Session 6

Designing Evidence-Based Practice: How to use evidence to design P/CVE/De-Radicalization & Crime Prevention Interventions

An overview of the session

The Session featured speakers from the Violence Prevention Network, Mid Sweden University and INDEED Project advisory board. The aim of this Session was to place a spotlight on and bring forward and address key issues such as:

- How practitioners – from law enforcement agencies to probation systems, local and national governments, NGOs and more – use and engage with evidence when designing, developing, planning and doing interventions – from short-term projects and ad hoc interventions to long-term programming;

- What evidence and what types of evidence are important for practitioner organisations and agencies and practitioners to engage with? How should they use or work with evidence to inform practice? Where and from whom can they gather this evidence – including how can they gather evidence from their own experience and practice?

Key points raised during the session

- Needs assessment or situation analysis is carried out to generate evidence that a specific type of program is needed. Planning and designing interventions imply using evidence previously generated by other interventions, and during implementation and evaluation new evidence is created and generated;

- Repositories, such as the one elaborated in the INDEED project, are a collection of studies on risk and protective factors for PCVE and that show the efficacy and effectiveness of interventions, which practitioners may use to facilitate evidence-based design of interventions. Campbell Collaboration is an open access tool for systematic reviews and meta-analyses, which gather all the studies with certain characteristics and compare what works and what does not. Systematic reviews are available in education, international development, social welfare, and other areas.

- Developing capacity for internal, in-house evaluation will help us develop our own monitoring evaluation learning system. Internal evaluation is more flexible, there is no pressure of publishing results and having data available when it is needed, when strategic decisions are being made or the next funding period is being prepared is important for orienting strategic decision making.

Forum Session 7

Dealing with issues of inclusion, voice, cultural competency and gender, social and ethical issues in evaluation in the P/CVE/De-RAD field

An overview of the session

The aim of this Session was to place a spotlight on and bring forward and address key issues such as:

- How to address issues of inclusion and participation – authentic inclusion and participation – in all aspects of evaluation – from development, design and planning of evaluation processes to implementation of evaluation and utilization of evaluation results;
- How to address gender in evaluation? What are the issues in working to do this, why is it important, how can it be done practically?
- What are social and ethical issues in evaluation that are important to be aware and think of – and practically address in evaluation and improving evidence-based policy and practice?

Key points raised during the session

- Human rights-based approach (HRBA) and GELSA (gender, ethical, legal, and societal issues) should underpin PCVE initiatives in all stages: design, execution, evaluation and utilisation. HRBA is based on the following 5 key principles: Participation, Accountability, Empowerment, Non-Discrimination and Equality, Legality. GELSA is based on the principles of Diversity and Inclusion, Transparency, Data Protection and Privacy, No Harm.
- Good practices on HRBA and GELSA include stakeholder participation, reducing disparities and empowerment, human rights indicators, and human rights as the ultimate goal of intervention.
- INDDED outcomes regarding practitioners' awareness of gender, ethical, legal, and societal issues when working in the field of P/CVE have identified gaps when it comes to gender specificity of radicalisation processes, involvement of communities and safeguarding unintended consequences.
- Gender- responsive measurement & evaluation of PCVE initiatives and testing for gender differences in outcomes and drop-outs, is based on gender-responsive M&E before, during and after data collection.
- Evaluations generally measure self-reported sex rather than gender, as most initiatives record the self-reported sex of beneficiaries;
- Recommendations when planning to test for gender differences include careful thought of sample size and sample design, , minimizing selection bias and removing barriers to participation for men and women, incentivizing participants, coding the sex of data collectors, etc.

Forum Session 8

An Evidence-Based Evaluation with challenges and opportunities working with young people with high complex needs

An overview of the session

The Session featured speakers from the social enterprise ConnectFutures and brought forward and addressed key issues related to monitoring of education programs in fragile contexts.

Key points raised during the session

- Evaluating and monitoring initiatives that build resilience against harmful messaging, violent extremism, the exploitation of young people, via violent extremist organization or via gang organizations or other forms of exploitation, can be challenging and complex when working with particularly vulnerable young people.

- Dealing with uncomfortable feedback is also an important aspect that should be considered, since a large proportion of the donors always expect good results by the end of the project.

- M&E of programmes involving young people with very high and complex special educational needs or disabilities need to be inclusive, consider learning abilities and include young people in the evaluation methodology. Reworking evaluation methods is needed and evidence for program improvement can be gathered though qualitative and semiformal interviews with the practitioners who work with the youth participants, the youth workers or the teachers, who can help understand the needs of the target group and develop new theories of change to create a more accessible program that could be more holistically evaluated for its outcomes.

- Language awareness and inclusive language - thinking really critically about the language that we're using when working with young people with social, emotional, mental health needs or social special educational needs or disabilities, is important, as they create kind of a feeling of deficit, the feeling of problem and feeds into the experience of those young people.

Forum Session 9

Training and Building National Capacities for Evaluation and Evidence-Based Policy Making and Practice

An overview of the session

The aim of this Session was to bring forward insights into training and capacity building for the field of PCVE/DeRad, focusing on:

- Findings from INDDED Project on explorations of current existing capacity-building approaches in the design and evaluation of P/CVE initiatives
- Training personnel
- Building institutional and organizational capacity; and
- Building national and sectoral capacity

Key points raised during the session

- INDEED extensive desk research, expert/trainers' interviews, and workshops in 14 countries, outline existing cross-sectoral training and learning tools, gaps, needs, and standards for the evaluation and intervention design of initiatives, showcasing the need to develop solid evidence-based evaluation practices, lack of adequate training opportunities for evaluators, practitioners need to develop and harness knowledge in the field, into prevention work and radicalization.
- Recommendations for good practices include creating opportunities for knowledge exchange and sharing, training of trainers approaches to ensure that the know-how reaches as many practitioners as possible, make evaluation tools part of trainings so that practitioners know how to use them, besides good practice, share lessons learned and bad practice, and organize trainings in the target group's language.
- Instruments and processes in place within our institutions that can value and recognize the expertise of our practitioners are important for developing internal capacity for evaluation and utilization of results. Fit-for- purposes approaches to evaluation which facilitate on the job learning, spaces, and opportunities for practitioners to themselves reflect and bring forward their experiences, where practitioners are also given agency and empowered in case assessments in bringing forward their learning, are important for building institutional and organizational learning.
- Putting in place the systems and institutions, national and regional or sector- wide networks and platforms which can facilitate learning exchange and knowledge management within the field are key steps for advancing capacity building, policy and practice in PCVE.
- Beyond training to build capacity for evaluation, evaluation can be in itself a capacity building tool, strengthening the capacity of practitioners and stakeholders and communities both for doing evaluations but also for engaging and working with the learnings of evaluations.

Forum Session 10

Evaluation of Exit Programs

An overview of the session

The Session brought forward and addressed key issues and questions such as:

- What are the main goals and challenges of exit programs?
- How can exit programs navigate between different types of evaluations?
- What challenges do exit programs face in terms of measuring success?

Key points raised during the session

- Exit programs are about altering behaviour, encouraging critical reflection, and challenging old ideologies. The main goals of exit programs are to reduce the potential for action, the number and intensity of actions; to reduce the number of actors/members of the group; to reduce the number of offences; to protect victims, both potential victims of extremist violence and the person who leaves extremist groups and thus may become a victim.
- There are several challenges to exit work, including group dynamics, ideologies, and behaviours of individuals leaving extremist movements, societal polarization, criminal behaviour, and prejudice faced by those in the exit process.
- SADeRa (Structuring Aid for the Analysis of DeRadicalisation Processes) is a risk assessment tool designed for counselling practice supporting counsellor for structuring case information.
- Some things to consider when doing evaluations of exit programs: independence and funding sources of the evaluation, the purpose of the evaluation, whether it is about measuring success/failure or qualifying the project/approach;
- Resources for evaluation should be planned and allocated from the beginning of a project, avoiding disruptions to ongoing work, and ensuring the independence of evaluation funding.

Forum Session 11

Designing Evidence-Based Policy: How to use evidence to design local and national strategies and policies for P/CVE/De-Radicalization & Crime Prevention

An overview of the session

This Session featured speakers from the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare, University of Ottawa and The European Forum for Urban Security (Efus), the only European network dedicated to cooperation and support among local and regional authorities in the field of crime prevention and urban security.

The aim of this Session was to place a spotlight on and bring forward and address key issues such as:

- What type of evidence is needed when designing policies in the field?
- How can that evidence be gathered? What approaches to evaluation are useful / important to support evidence-based policy development?
- Sharing hands on experience working with governments and policy and decision-makers to use evidence to support policy design and development.
- What needs to be done – going forward – to improve our ability as a field to design and develop policies better and more robustly informed by expertise, experience, and evidence?

Forum Session 11

Designing Evidence-Based Policy: How to use evidence to design local and national strategies and policies for P/CVE/De-Radicalization & Crime Prevention

Key points raised during the session

- The strategic approach for urban security involves three phases: audit, strategy, and action, and requires political backing, stakeholder mobilization, and continuous evaluation. Recommendations for local authorities include strong political support, careful selection of personnel, planning task attribution, utilizing available resources, and focusing on priority areas.

- World leaders, as well as local authorities, are urged to redirect investment, use proven examples and guidelines, and learn from successful cities. Intergovernmental organizations should invest in violence prevention, provide safety monitoring tools, and foster exchanges for sharing success stories.

- In 2015, governments as part of the United Nations, agreed to certain goals. Goal 5.2 - to stop violence against women and girls, Goal 16.1 - on reducing homicides and street violence, and Goal 16.2 - to reduce violence against children. Despite international efforts and agreements, there hasn't been significant progress in achieving these goals. Recent UN meetings have highlighted a lack of improvement, with millions still falling victim to violence.

- Evidence suggests outreach to vulnerable young men, changing community norms, helping people control reactions to violence, and promoting mentoring and employment as effective solutions towards violence reduction in cities. Cities should focus on risk factors, receive sustained funding, and address root causes and social equity. Success stories from cities like Bogota, Glasgow, and Palmyra should be studied and replicated. Lessons from success stories emphasize the importance of evidence-based approaches, community involvement, sustained investment, and training officials.

- Societal factors like social cohesion, trust, and addressing social inequities play crucial roles in violence reduction. Success stories demonstrate that even short-term interventions can make a significant impact when implemented with the support of the community and evidence-based practices.

Forum Session 12

The Role of Regional & National Networks and Platforms as Tools for Learning and Improving Practice

An overview of the session

The Session featured speakers from the PrEval platform which provides a systematic overview of currently existing evaluation capacities in Germany and the European Crime Prevention Network (EUCPN). The aim of this Session was to place a spotlight on and bring forward and address key questions such as:

- How can national and regional networks play a role in facilitating exchange of experiences, learning and expertise?
- Is there a value in multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral platforms, and networks to promote exchange and learning?
- How do platforms and networks approach evaluation and helping to foster learning from expertise, experience and evidence?
- Recommendations on how to improve the role of national or regional networks and platforms, and how they engage to foster learning and knowledge/expertise development.

Forum Session 12

The Role of Regional & National Networks and Platforms as Tools for Learning and Improving Practice

Key points raised during the session

– PrEval Research on P/CVE Support Networks in 14 Countries identified support networks as among the most frequently represented support structures for PCVE, with formal and informal networks considered most useful in everyday work.

– Support networks provided opportunities for capacity building through knowledge sharing, collaboration, and coordination efforts and were identified as valuable for promoting mutual learning, sharing good practices, and discussing challenges.

– Personalized interactions and contexts were highlighted as essential, both in building networks and in formalized settings like conferences and workshops.

– Support networks allow for connecting policy, research, and practice, fostering better dialogue, and understanding; They can promote transparency, lessons learned, and innovative evaluation methods.

– Formalizing connections requires openness and commitment, and initiatives may face challenges due to lack of commitment from stakeholders or government authorities; Accessibility and visibility are key challenges, with financial restrictions and a growing field contributing to fragmentation; A Lack of a specific focus on Evaluation in the support networks analysed has been highlighted.

– Recommendations on how to improve the role of national or regional networks and platforms, and how they engage to foster learning and knowledge/expertise development include: Streamlining efforts by extending existing initiatives instead of creating new projects with similar objectives; Enhancing accessibility and making knowledge and practitioner networks more accessible by funding travel costs and ensuring the participation of underrepresented stakeholders; Increasing visibility of support networks by promoting relevant evaluation expertise; Addressing research gaps to understand the efficiency of different support structures and identify areas lacking in effective evaluation capacity building.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

"We're not only speaking about training for evaluation and training to build capacity, but evaluation when done well is a capacity building tool." (Kai Brand-Jacobsen)

- Evaluation is important for PCVE efforts – and it should be a work of solidarity between practitioners, policymakers, academics, and researchers. Several sessions have underlined the need to bridge the gap between researchers and policymakers and turn available knowledge and evidence into applicable knowledge for policymakers.
- Evaluation is a mainstreaming priority for the European level activities for PCVE for 2024-2025.
- The EU Knowledge Hub on preventing Radicalization will facilitate evaluation and EBE approach, streamline policies and instruments.
- Evaluation on the terminology used for PCVE efforts and how it might influence their effectiveness should be prioritized to enhance radicalization prevention.
- New forms of extremism underline the stringent need to develop research on what makes people radicalize and focus on softer policies that mainstream inclusion and early prevention programs.
- The UN Meta-synthesis study from 2021 found the need to invest in evaluation, develop evaluation capacity among Compact entities, to harness knowledge and to have a knowledge - sharing platform for lessons learned.
- Communicating evaluation findings into "simple speak", setting-up fora for socializing knowledge further and developing training programs on evaluation are some of the key factors to improve evaluation, practice, and policy on CT and PCVE.
- Some of the challenges of evaluation that have been mapped during the Forum include understanding the role and value of evaluation, managing the process of evaluation, gender approaches to evaluation, engaging diverse communities, and how to choose evaluation methodologies that are inclusive and culturally sensitive.
- Cultural competency in evaluation and culturally sensitive data collection methods, evaluation methods that go beyond traditional metrics, enable more meaningful impact evaluation of P/CVE interventions.
- Support networks connect policy, research, and practice, promoting evaluation expertise, lessons learned and innovative evaluation methods.
- The INDEED Evaluation package is designed for policy makers and practitioners in the PCVE field, to support them in designing, implementing, and evaluating PCVE initiatives.
- Repositories, such as the one elaborated in the INDEED project, are a collection of studies on risk and protective factors for PCVE that show the efficacy and effectiveness of interventions, which practitioners may use to facilitate evidence-based design of interventions.
- Policymakers and practitioners need training and facilitation to understand and interpret evidence, use evaluation results for improving practice and policy in PCVE.

Charting the way forward

Highlights

The Forum delved into critical areas of work and explored the importance of evaluation, innovative practices, the sharing of best approaches and crafting synergies to improve how we engage with preventing and countering violent extremism, addressing radicalization and to prevent violent crime.

The wealth of insights, depth of knowledge and experiences, evidence, and ideas that we are taking from the 2023 International Forum indicates that we are at a stage in our practice for innovation in evaluation.

Leading experts have called for courage, for ethics, for accountability and to really ask ourselves about the approaches that we're using and about what needs to be done to address challenges of radicalization and extremism, and the Forum has enabled us to map some of the priorities, issues, and steps we can take to improve policy and practice in the field.

The Forum sessions demonstrate some of the efforts and extraordinary work that is being done to bring the field forward, to make it more inclusive, more participatory, to develop empowerment-based approaches to evaluation in which stakeholders, practitioners and communities are directly engaged in making sense of and understanding evidence and working to improve upon policy and practice.

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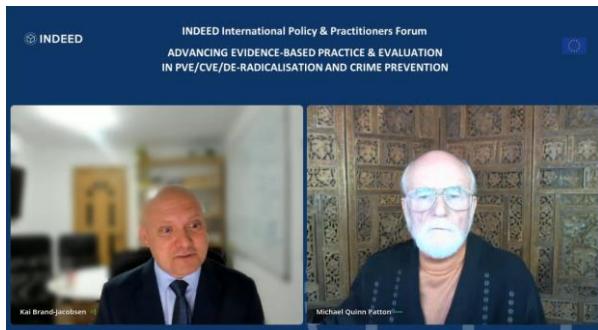
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INDEED

**Evidence-Based Model for Evaluation of
Radicalisation Prevention and Mitigation**

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