



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

September 2024 (M37)

Authors: Andrzej Adamczyk (ITTI), Stephan Klose (VUB), Katarzyna Kakohon (ITTI), Robert Orczyk (ITTI), Kamila Stroińska (ITTI), Mina Prokic (UoH)

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 274 studies and the last update was performed in September 2024.



This project has received funding by the European Union's
Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme
H2020-SU-SEC-2020 under grant agreement no 101021701



Information table

Project Acronym	INDEED
Deliverable Number	1.3
Deliverable Title	Two digital repositories of (1) factors/pathways leading to radicalisation and (2) M12 factors strengthening resilience to radicalisation that present the most recent findings.
Version	1.2
Status	Version Re-submitted to EC
Responsible Partner	ITTI
Main authors	Andrzej Adamczyk (ITTI), Stephan Klose (VUB), Katarzyna Makohon (ITTI), Robert Orczyk (ITTI), Kamila Stroińska (ITTI), Mina Prokic (UoH)
Contractual Date of Delivery	31.08.2022
Type	Other
Actual Date of Delivery	07.10.2022 Previous update (1 st re-submission): 15.06.2024 Final update (2 nd re-submission): 22.09.2024
Dissemination Level	Public

This document reflects only the author's views and not that of the Research Executive Agency. The Research Executive Agency is equally not responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained in this document. This document may not be reproduced or copied without permission. © Copyright in this document remains vested in the Project Partners.





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
	11.08.2022- 25.08.2022	First version	Task 1.3 Partners	Review of the draft of the deliverable description by Task 1.3 Partners
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
1.0	07.10.2022	Submitted to EC	PPHS	Final approval and submission
1.1	16.05.2023	First Draft of revised report	VUB	Revision of D1.3 to accommodate comments provided by reviewers in the INDEED mid-term review
	08.06.2023	Final version of the revised report	VUB	Final draft of the revised version of D1.3. which integrates feedback from key project partners (UoH, ITTI, PPHS)





1.2	16.09.2024	Final update of VUB the report	Final report which includes descriptions of content and design updates made in the final year of the project
	22.09.2024	Re-submitted to EC	PPHS Final review, approval and submission





Table of Contents

1 THE INDEED PROJECT AND DELIVERABLE 1.3	4
1.1 THE INDEED PROJECT	4
1.2 WORK PACKAGE 1	4
1.3 DELIVERABLE 1.3	4
1.4 LINK TO OTHER INDEED WPS AND TASKS.....	5
2 BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES.....	6
2.1 BACKGROUND.....	6
2.2 OBJECTIVES:	7
2.3 LINK TO THE EVIDENCE-BASED EVALUATION MODEL AND TOOL	8
2.4 TARGET GROUPS	8
3 METHODOLOGY	9
3.1 REQUIREMENTS 1 +2: THE REPOSITORY MUST BE COMPREHENSIVE AND UP TO DATE	9
3.1.1 INCLUSION CRITERIA	9
3.2 REQUIREMENT 3: THE REPOSITORY MUST BE INFORMATIVE	10
3.3 REQUIREMENT 4: THE REPOSITORY MUST BE EASILY NAVIGABLE.....	10
3.4 REQUIREMENT 5: THE REPOSITORY MUST BE USER-FRIENDLY.....	11
3.5 REQUIREMENT 6: THE REPOSITORY MUST BE SUSTAINABLE	11
4 IMPLEMENTATION.....	12
5 DISSEMINATION, UPDATES AND SUSTAINABILITY	17
5.1 DISSEMINATION & COLLECTION OF EXTERNAL FEEDBACK.....	17
5.2 UPDATES	19
5.2.1 UPDATES OF REPOSITORY FUNCTIONS	19
5.2.2 UPDATE OF REPOSITORY CONTENT	20
5.2.3 UPDATE OF REPOSITORY MOBILE VERSION	21
5.3 SUSTAINABILITY.....	21
6 STRENGTHS, LIMITATIONS AND ROLE IN EVIDENCE-BASED EVALUATION AND INITIATIVE DESIGN	23
6.1 STRENGTHS OF THE DIGITAL REPOSITORY.....	23
6.1.1 AN UPDATED AND COMPREHENSIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY	23
6.1.2 A NEEDS-ORIENTED OVERVIEW OF THE LITERATURE	23
6.1.3 AN EASILY ACCESSIBLE AND NAVIGABLE TOOL	23
6.2 LIMITATIONS.....	24
6.2.1 SCOPE AND PRESENTATION OF THE DATABASE.....	24
6.2.2 EVALUATION AND SYNTHESIS OF STUDY FINDINGS	24
6.3 ROLE OF THE REPOSITORY IN EVIDENCE-BASED EVALUATION AND INITIATIVE DESIGN	24
6.3.1 THE REPOSITORY IN EVIDENCE-BASED INITIATIVE DESIGN	24
6.3.2 THE REPOSITORY IN EVIDENCE-BASED EVALUATION.....	25
7 REFERENCE LIST	26
8 ANNEX	27
8.1 ANNEX 1: QUESTIONNAIRE FOR GATHERING FEEDBACK ON THE REPOSITORY AT SMART HUB MEETINGS	27





List of Figures

FIGURE 1: NUMBER OF STUDIES ON RISK AND PROTECTIVE FACTORS PUBLISHED BEFORE APRIL 2020, BASED ON WOLFOWICZ ET AL. (2021)	6
FIGURE 2 PUBLICLY AVAILABLE REPOSITORY VIA THE INDEED WEBSITE	12
FIGURE 3 REPOSITORY LANDING PAGE	13
FIGURE 4 SELECTING SEARCH CRITERIA	14
FIGURE 5 LIST OF SEARCH FINDINGS.....	15
FIGURE 6 LOGIN SCREEN	15
FIGURE 7 BACK OFFICE INTERFACE	16
FIGURE 8 INDEED NEWSLETTER #4	17
FIGURE 9 VIDEO TUTORIAL FOR THE INDEED REPOSITORY OF STUDIES ON RISK AND PROTECTIVE FACTORS...18	18
FIGURE 10 "SEARCH BY AUTHOR" FUNCTION	19
FIGURE 11 UPDATED DISPLAY OF DETAILED SEARCH FINDINGS FOR INDIVIDUAL STUDIES	20
FIGURE 12 SELECTION OF FILTERS ON A MOBILE PHONE AND A LIST OF DISPLAYED RESULTS	21

List of Acronyms

Acronym	Definition
EBEM	Evidence-based evaluation model
EENeT	European Expert Network on Terrorism Issues
ECRI	European Commission against Racism and Intolerance
EU	European Union
HP	Hellenic Police
INDEED	Strengthening a comprehensive approach to prevent and counteract radicalisation based on a universal evidence-based model for evaluation of radicalisation prevention and mitigation
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PPHS	Polish Platform for Homeland and Security
P/CVE	Preventing violent extremism/ countering violent extremism
SSRN	Social Science Research Network
VUB	Vrije Universiteit Brussel
WP	Work Package





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-radicalisation”, aims to prepare the ground for the development of an evidence-based approach to evaluation in the field of P/CVE and De-radicalisation. The main objectives of WP1 are:

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

1.4 LINK TO OTHER INDEED WPs AND TASKS

Deliverable 1.3 directly contributes to the realization of several tasks within the INDEED project. Specifically, the repository will:

1. Support WP3 by complementing the INDEED evidence-based evaluation tool developed in T3.2 (see sections 2.3 and 6.3 for detailed information)
2. Support WP4 by creating a tool which facilitates the implementation of an evidence-based evaluation, as foreseen in T4.2
3. Support WP5 by contributing a key element of the INDEED toolkit to be developed in T5.4.1
4. Support WP7 by creating a tool suitable for dissemination to a wide range of project stakeholders (see section 5 for detailed information)





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 radicalisation - and protective factors which mitigate or prevent radicalisation dynamics. The number of studies in this area has grown substantially, as illustrated in Figure 1 below.

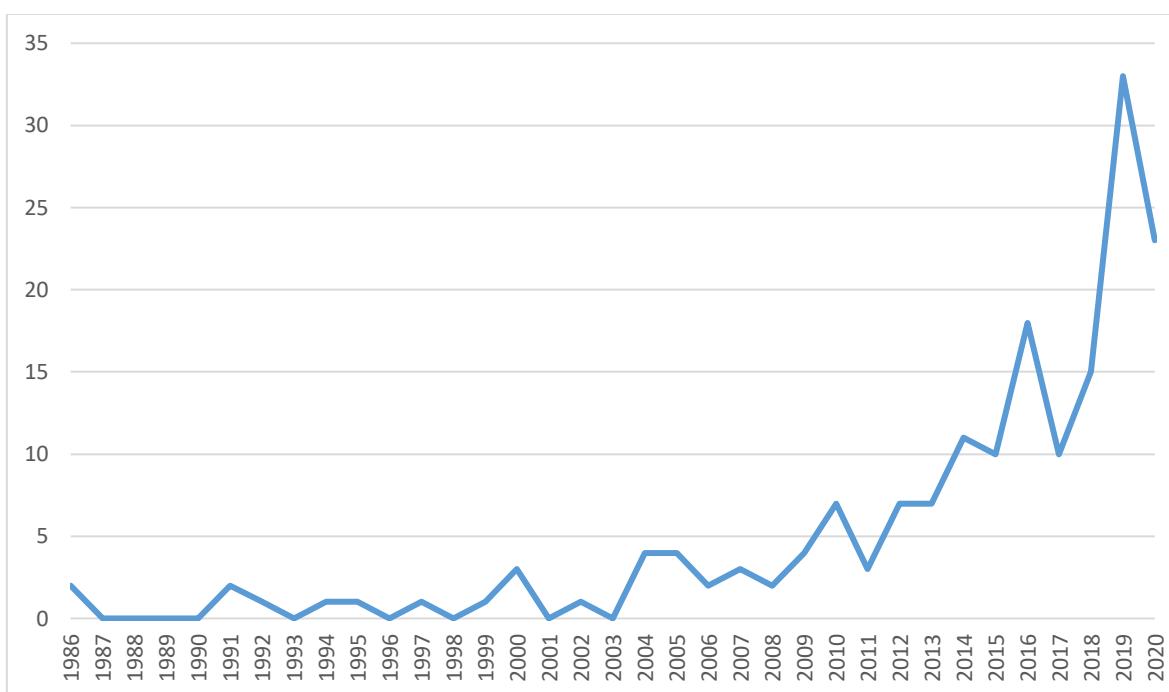


Figure 1: Number of studies on risk and protective factors published before April 2020, based on Wolfowicz et al. (2021)

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 anyone involved in the design and implementation of measures aimed at preventing or countering radicalisation. Currently, anyone who wants to stay informed about or gain an overview of this literature, however, faces multiple challenges. On the one hand, the existing literature is evolving very rapidly which makes it difficult for researchers and practitioners alike to stay up to date on available studies. 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 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. Together, these shortcomings limit the utility of systematic reviews for the realization of an evidence-based evaluation or project design.

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 (e.g. programme managers involved in the design and evaluation of P/CVE and De-radicalisation initiatives) 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

The following part of this report will describe in detail the methodology which has been used to meet each of the six demands outlined above.





2.3 LINK TO THE EVIDENCE-BASED EVALUATION MODEL AND TOOL

The repository aims to complement and support the realization of the INDEED evidence-based evaluation model (EBEM) and tool developed in WP3. The INDEED EBEM, as described in D3.2, provides a conceptual framework which anchors the principles of evidence-based practice in the field of evaluation. These principles highlight the integration of available external evidence, professional expertise and experience, and stakeholder values, needs and circumstances at every stage of the evaluation process.

The repository supports the implementation of the INDEED EBEM by offering a platform which can facilitate the collection and presentation of available external evidence about the role and relevance of individual risk and protective factors targeted by the initiative under evaluation. By providing an accessible and easily navigable tool, the repository further promises to strengthen stakeholder participation and transparency in this process.

Against this backdrop, the INDEED Tool highlights how the repository can be used to realize evidence-based initiative design and evaluation. The [tool](#), for instance, highlights that the repository can be used to map and identify relevant research evidence, and to generate robust theories of change, in the process of designing P/CVE initiatives. Likewise, the tool stresses that the repository can be employed to assess the soundness of an initiative's theory of change, to develop suitable indicators, and to interpret findings during an evaluation process.

The role of the repository in the implementation of an evidence-based evaluation is further described in the INDEED reports D3.4.1 and D3.4.2 as well as in a professional [e-guidebook](#) which details the function of the repository in the process of evaluating and designing evidence-based P/CVE initiatives.

2.4 TARGET GROUPS

The repository, which is designed to facilitate the collection of relevant information on risk and protective factors, primarily targets stakeholders who are tasked with or heavily involved in the evaluation and design of initiatives in the field of P/CVE and De-radicalisation, such as project managers, consultants, policymakers, or researchers.

The repository, however, is not exclusively directed at this group. It is also directed at other stakeholders, including front-line practitioners, who can draw on the repository to gain an overview of existing research findings on particular risk and protective factors which can inform intra-organizational discussions about the design and implementation of P/CVE initiatives. Additionally, as has been repeatedly stressed by consortium members representing front-line practitioners, the repository offers a valuable resource for the development of (in house) trainings on matters related to P/CVE.

The different uses of the repository for key groups, including policy makers, researchers and front-line practitioners have been highlighted and discussed in a greater detailed during an [online webinar](#), attended by more than 100 P/CVE stakeholders, which is available on the INDEED website and YouTube channel.





3 METHODOLOGY

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 Radicalisation Awareness Network and UN policy papers.

The key search terms used to identify studies were Terrorism, Extremism, Radicalisation, and Risk and Protective factors. The initial 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 (after four updates of the database in 2022-2024, the number of publications included in the database increased to 274, see section 5.2 for details). 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. Study locations (countries, regions)
6. Studied ideological strains
7. Author

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. Next to internal deliberations, feedback was also collected from external partners during Smart Hub meetings which, in turn, fed into the development of the repository (see section 5.1 for further information).

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. To ensure that the repository remains up to date throughout the project phase, the INDEED consortium moreover decided to extend WP1 to M36 (end of the project). This extension has allowed for regular updates of the repository's database which (led by the VUB) have been performed every six months (for more information, see section 0).

Finally, INDEED has reflected on and sketched out a process designed to guarantee the sustainability of the repository beyond the project funding period (see section 0). This process foresees the development of guidelines for the maintenance of the repository as well as the identification of an institution which is committed to performing regular updates of the repository after the end of the project.





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, was 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. The repository is available on the INDEED website at <https://www.toolkit.indeedproject.eu/RepositoryMainView> (

Figure 2).

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 3). The latter represents the back part of the application which allows for the dataset to be edited (Figure 7).



Figure 2 Publicly available repository via the INDEED website





DIGITAL REPOSITORY OF STUDIES ON RISK AND PROTECTIVE FACTORS

ABOUT THE REPOSITORY

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 study locations, populations, ideological strains and radicalisation outcomes.

Study Population +

Ideological Strain +

Risk Factors +

Protective Factors +

Study location +

Observed outcome +

Author

SHOW STUDIES Reset Selection

INDEED TOOLKIT
This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme under grant agreement No.101021701.

TOOLKIT ASSISTANCE
toolkit@indeedproject.eu

FOLLOW US
YouTube Twitter LinkedIn

Figure 3 Repository landing page



This project has received funding by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme H2020-SU-SEC-2020 under grant agreement no 101021701



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. Finally, the repository enables users to look for studies published by a specific author. The search filter function is illustrated in Figure 4.

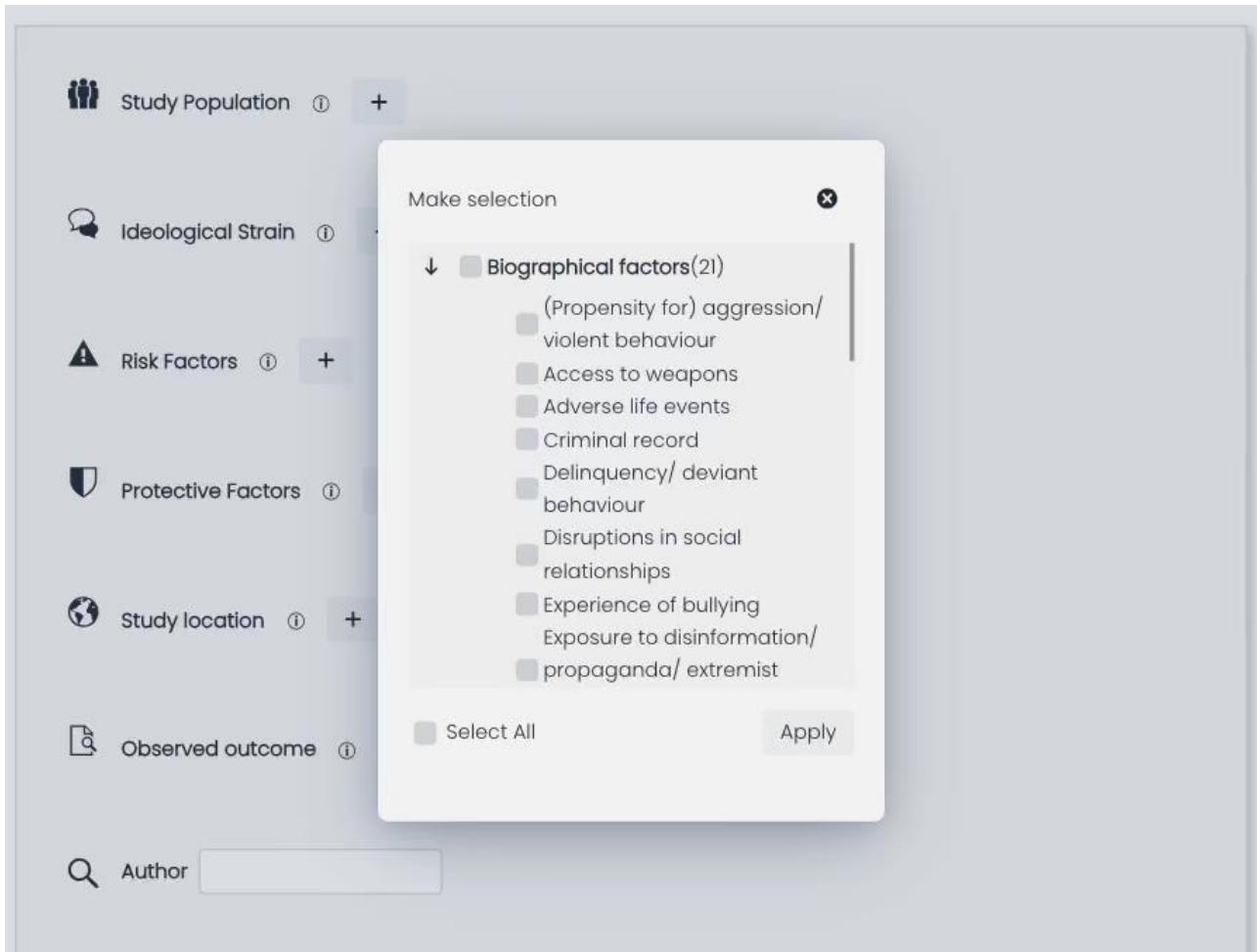


Figure 4 Selecting search criteria

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 5). 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.





RESULTS (10 results)

Understanding the progression to violence: background characteristics and risk factors for radicalisation to violent extremism.

Belton, E. 2024 The University of Queensland

Is There a Relationship between Psychotic Disorders and the Radicalization Process? A Systematic Review

Catapano, P., Cipolla, S., De Rosa, C., Milano, S., Vozza, D., Guadagno, D., Perris, F., Sampogna, G. & Fiorillo, A. 2024 Medicina, 60(6), 926

Participation in Anti-authority Protests and Vulnerability to Radicalisation

Morgan, A., Cubitt, T., & Voce, I. 2024 Australian Institute of Criminology

Figure 5 List of search findings

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 6).

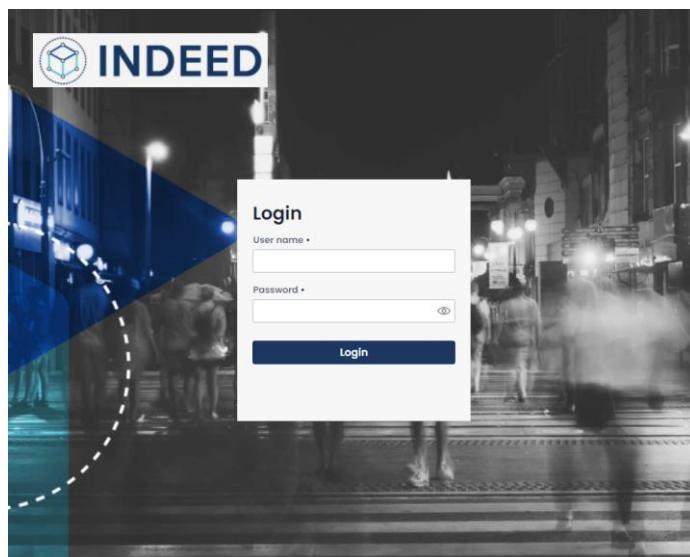


Figure 6 Login screen





In the back part of the application, registered administrators can manage the content and modify or adjust all central elements of the repository. The back part of the office, for instance, enables registered administrators to add new publications to the database or modify the search filters. It thus facilitates the maintenance and sustainability of the repository (see Figure 7) for an illustration of the back-office interface).

List of Resources									
Filters		Clear all		+ Add new Resource					
Title	Publis...	Author	Link	To (year)	From (year)	Country	is in the first...	is in the sec...	Link
Develop...	Journal ...	Nivette, ...	https://j...	2017	2013	Switz...	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
A test o...	Boston ...	Abdi, S.M.	https://...	2019	2013	Unite...	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Youth In...	Internat...	Pauwel...	https://...	2014	2012	Belgiu...	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Religion...	Journal ...	Aceved...	https://...	2015	2007	Unite...	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Positive ...	Peace ...	Adam-...	https://...	2019	2018	Brazil	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
What fa...	Transcu...	Ahearn...	https://i...	2020		Unite...	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Number of results: 329				1	<	1	>	1	Number of items 1000

Figure 7 Back office interface

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 DISSEMINATION, UPDATES AND SUSTAINABILITY

This section provides an overview of the repository's dissemination, updates to the repository since its launch in September 2022 and of measures taken to strengthen the repository's sustainability.

5.1 DISSEMINATION & COLLECTION OF EXTERNAL FEEDBACK

Since its launch in September 2022, the repository has been disseminated through a wide range of communication channels, including INDEED's social media pages (Twitter, LinkedIn), the INDEED website and the INDEED Newsletter (see figure 8 below).

INDEED developed a digital repository of risk and protective factors



DIGITAL REPOSITORY OF STUDIES
ON RISK AND PROTECTIVE FACTORS

In its first year, INDEED developed a digital **repository of studies on risk and protective factors** which can be accessed [here](#). The repository, which is the first of its kind, provides an overview of the research literature on factors which may facilitate (risk factors) or prevent (protective factors) processes of radicalization. The repository includes a total number of 181 primary studies, and will be updated regularly.

[READ THE NEWS](#)

Figure 8 INDEED newsletter #4

To further enhance the visibility of the repository and to facilitate its use by a wide range of stakeholders, INDEED has moreover produced a video tutorial, accessible via the project's YouTube channel as well as on the INDEED website and the repository's landing page, which explains the repository's rationale and key functions (see Figure 9).



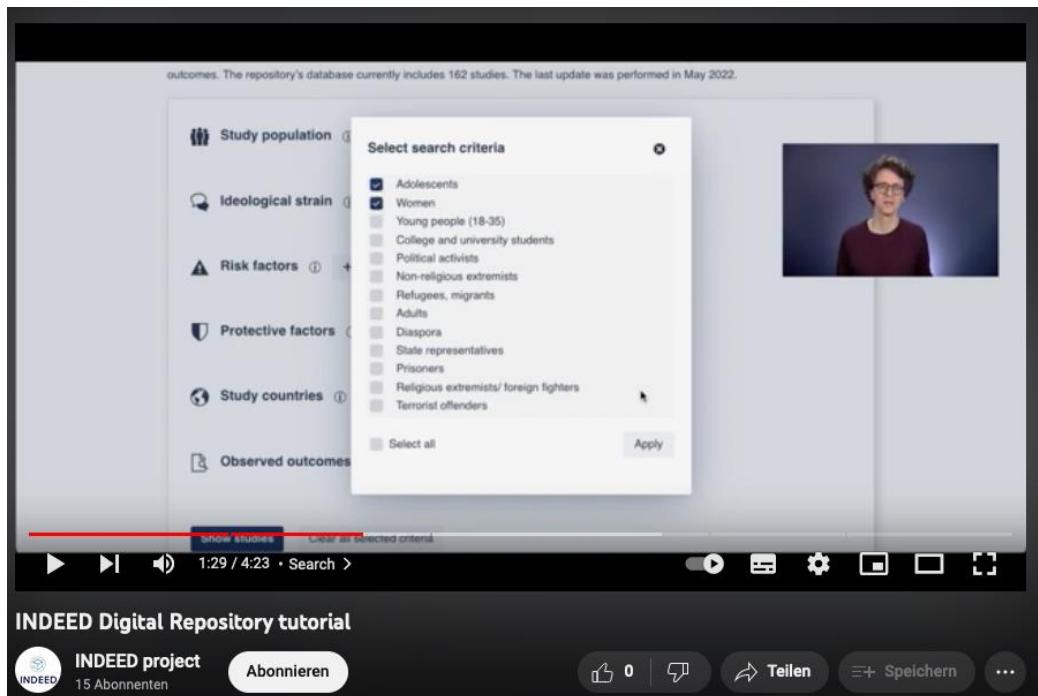


Figure 9 Video tutorial for the INDEED repository of studies on risk and protective factors

To disseminate the repository to relevant stakeholders and to collect external feedback, the repository has been presented at several INDEED SMART Hub meetings including in Finland (17 November 2022), Greece (14 December 2022) and Belgium (16 February 2023; 4 March 2024; 12 March 2024). Additionally, the repository has presented and discussed in a dedicated webinar for first-line practitioners and other interested stakeholders which was organized on 12 April 2024. The webinar was organized as part of the INDEED webinar series and attended by more than 100 people. The webinar included an opening presentation about the objectives and functions of the repository (VUB) which was followed by the remarks of three discussants who focused on exploring the repository's ability to advance evidence-based initiative design (PPHS), evidence-based policing (HP) and evidence-based P/CVE research (Teresa Silva, Mid Sweden University). To collect feedback from the audience, the webinar included a Q&A. Additionally, all participants received a questionnaire after the event which was filled in and returned by more than twenty attendants.

Based on the feedback which was received during Smart Hub meetings and the webinar, the repository's design and content were updated. In response to the feedback, for instance, a search-by-author filter was created to allow for researchers to check whether their work has been included. Additionally, the "detailed view" page has been updated and re-designed to allow for a smoother navigation of the repository, and to enable practitioners to download and print search findings.

Finally, to further disseminate the repository within the P/CVE community, it has been presented at several key events, including the annual conference of the European Expert Network on Terrorism Issues (EENeT) in Brussels (5-7 June 2024), the Nordic Conference on Violent Extremism in Oslo (17-19 June 2024) and the INDEED policy & practitioner forum in Warsaw (11-13 September 2024). Additionally, the repository has been presented and used during the INDEED trainings in Bremen (February 2024), Madrid (March 2024) and the INDEED training of trainers in Cluj (May 2024).



5.2 UPDATES

Several updates have been performed between June 2022 and September 2024 to strengthen the design and content of the repository.

5.2.1 UPDATES OF REPOSITORY FUNCTIONS

Based on collected internal and external feedback on the repository's content, functions and user friendliness, two updates of the repository were implemented in January-March 2023 and August-September 2024. The most significant changes to the repository include the integration of a "search by author" function (

Figure 10), the inclusion of a print and download option, and modifications to the display of search findings.

The newly developed “search by author” function enables users of the repository to look for individual studies by entering the name(s) of the study’s author(s). This function is especially useful for researchers who want to check whether certain studies, including those authored by themselves, are available in the repository’s database. It thus allows for researchers to identify the potential absence of relevant studies, and facilitates an effective feedback loop which can further enhance the utility of the repository.

Author wolfowicz

RESULTS (5 results)

The Whole Is Greater than the Sum of Its Parts: Risk and Protective Profiles for Vulnerability to Radicalization

Clemmow, C., Rottweiler, B., Wolfowicz, M., Bouhana, N., Marchment, Z., & Gill, P. 2024
 Justice Quarterly, 41(1), 140-166.

Examining the interactive effects of the filter bubble and the echo chamber on radicalization.

Wolfowicz, M., Weisburd, D., & Hasisi, B. 2023
 Journal of Experimental Criminology, 19(1), 119-141.

Figure 10 "Search by author" function

The newly designed display of search findings presents the detailed findings for each study on a separate page (

Figure 11). This design presents a more compact and easily navigable overview of the findings for individual studies on risk and protective factors. It also enables users to print and download findings for individual studies. This function facilitates the every-day usage of the repository. It



enables users to save the results of their search, as well as to share these results within their colleagues (e.g. during the design or evaluation of a P/CVE or De-radicalisation initiative).

The screenshot shows a study record with the following details:

- Title:** Perceived Group Threat, Perceived Injustice, and Self-Reported Right-Wing Violence: An Integrative Approach to the Explanation Right-Wing Violence
- Year:** 2020
- Author:** Pauwels, L. J., & Heylen, B.
- Publisher:** Journal of interpersonal violence, 35(21-22): 4276-4302
- Link:** <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/0886260517713711>

ABSTRACT

The present study aims at explaining individual differences in self-reported political violence. We integrate key concepts from the field of criminology that are conceptually related to social identity theory (Flemish identity, feelings of group superiority, and ethnocentrism) and the dual process model on prejudice (perceived injustice, perception of threat, and right-wing authoritarianism). In our model, social identity concepts are hypothesized to play a mediating role between mechanisms derived from the dual process model and political violence. To test the integrated model, a model was run for testing the strength of direct and indirect effects of perceived injustice, authoritarianism thrill-seeking behavior, feelings of superiority, Flemish nationalism, ethnocentrism, right-wing extremist beliefs, and exposure to racist peers on political violence. The analyses are based on a web survey (N = 723) among adolescents and young adults in Flanders, Belgium. Results indicate that social identity variables play an important mediation role between perceptions and ideological attitudes related to injustice, and political violence. The main path revealed by our study is that perceived injustice may result in heightened perceptions of threat, which in turn positively influence levels of right-wing authoritarianism. Mediated by ethnocentrism, this variable has a significant and positive effect on right-wing beliefs, which in turn has a positive effect on political violence.

Figure 11 Updated display of detailed search findings for individual studies

The changes made to the repository interface also include the addition of a button to return to the main toolkit page. All the changes described above affect the usability and user-friendliness of the system.

5.2.2 UPDATE OF REPOSITORY CONTENT

Since its first publication, the repository has been updated every six months to ensure that its database presents an updated overview of research on risk and protective factors. Updates have been performed on four occasions in January 2023, July 2023, January 2024 and July 2024. In each update, studies on risk and protective factors published over a period of the past six months were systematically identified and integrated into the repository's database. Based on the data collection procedure outlined in section 3.1, the consulted databases, journals and organizations included:

- **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 Radicalisation Awareness Network and UN policy papers.

Following the inclusion criteria outlined in 3.1.1, studies eligible for inclusion into the database had to be based on empirical primary data (qualitative or quantitative) or a systematic review/meta-analysis indicating the significance of individual or a set of risk and protective factors.





After four updates, the database includes a total of 274 studies on risk and protective factors (up from 164 studies).

5.2.3 UPDATE OF REPOSITORY MOBILE VERSION

In the last two months of the project, the work focused on adapting the repository to the mobile version. Users strongly emphasized how important it is for them to work with tools available on mobile devices (cells and tablets). Therefore, a number of improvements were made, in line with Responsive Web Design rules. The changes mainly concerned displaying the list of filters and results (Figure 12).

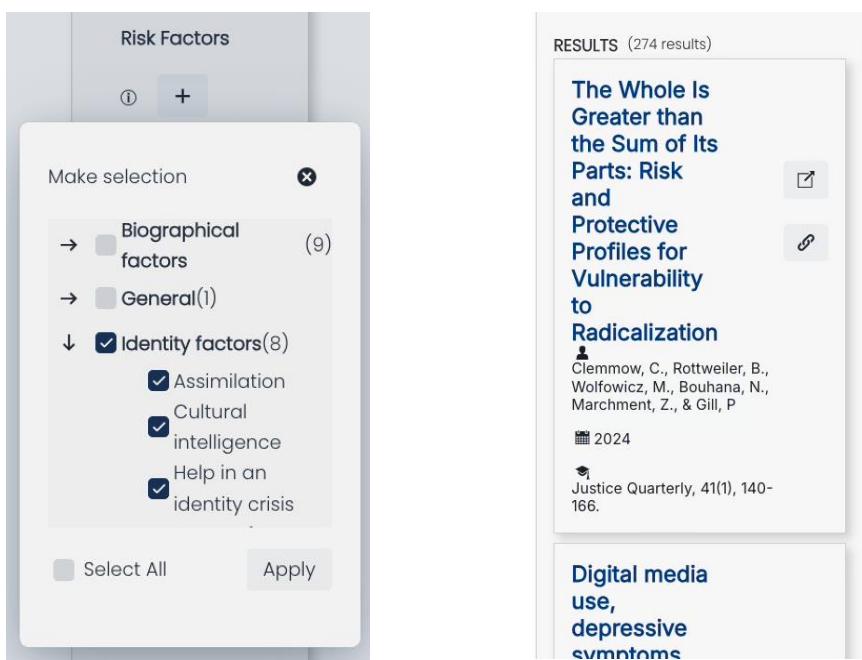


Figure 12 Selection of filters on a mobile phone and a list of displayed results

5.3 SUSTAINABILITY

To enhance the sustainability of the repository during and beyond the INDEED project phase, several measures have been taken.

To ensure that the repository remains up to date throughout the project phase, WP1 has been extended to M36 (end of the project). The extension of the work package has allowed for regular updates which have been performed every six months by the VUB (following the procedure described in the previous section).

To further strengthen the sustainability of the repository beyond the project duration, INDEED intends to sign a letter of intent with a partner (or multiple partners) from the INDEED consortium and/or with a partner from outside the consortium who is interested in and capable of maintaining the repository by performing regular updates of the database. To facilitate the





handover of maintenance duties from the VUB to another partner after the end of the project phase, INDEED has created a user-friendly back office which allows for a smooth implementation of updates to the database. The VUB prepared a script with guidelines for the implementation of regular updates in the second half the project, based on the procedure outlined in section [5.2.2](#).

The sustainability plan for the repository will be outlined further as part of deliverable D7.8 'Final report on Exploitation activities'.





6 STRENGTHS, LIMITATIONS AND ROLE IN EVIDENCE-BASED EVALUATION AND INITIATIVE DESIGN

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

6.1 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.

6.1.1 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.

6.1.2 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.

6.1.3 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.





6.2 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.

6.2.1 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.

6.2.2 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.

6.3 ROLE OF THE REPOSITORY IN EVIDENCE-BASED EVALUATION AND INITIATIVE DESIGN

The repository, as noted in section 2.3, aims to support the implementation of an evidence-based design and evaluation of P/CVE and De-radicalisation initiatives. The final section of this report briefly highlights how the repository, considering the strengths and limitations described above, can be used towards this end. Further details about the repository's utility, including its role within the INDEED evidence-based tool, will be provided in the WP3 reports D3.7 and D3.8 as well as in a professional e-guidebook (D3.6).

6.3.1 THE REPOSITORY IN EVIDENCE-BASED INITIATIVE DESIGN

The digital repository of studies on risk and protective factors promises to provide a helpful tool for the implementation of an evidence-based initiative design. An evidence-based approach to designing P/CVE or De-radicalisation initiatives requires project planners to carefully reflect on





the factors which may cause or prevent violent extremism within a specific context. Project planners, as part of this process, should engage with key stakeholders and review available external evidence on the role and significance of individual risk and protective factors. Through this process, project planners should develop a robust theory of change which clarifies the rationale, guides the implementation and facilitates the evaluation of an initiative.

Throughout this process, the above-presented repository of studies on risk and protective factors can play an instrumental role. For project planners, the repository can provide a quick and comprehensive overview of available studies on specific risk and protective factors which can be used to check whether (and to what extent) assumptions held about such factors are supported by the existing literature, to identify relevant risk and protective factors not previously considered, or to establish indicators which can guide the monitoring and evaluation of project activities. The repository, in this regard, allows for the development of a more robust theory of change, and the overall efficient integration of available evidence in the planning, design, monitoring and evaluation of an initiative.

Furthermore, the repository, by making study findings more easily accessible, may also serve to aid discussion among a wider group of stakeholders about the premises and focus of an initiative. The repository, therefore, may promote a more inclusive process in which stakeholders, who do not otherwise have the time and resources to closely follow scientific debates, can take part in an informed discussion and hold each other accountable.

6.3.2 THE REPOSITORY IN EVIDENCE-BASED EVALUATION

The repository, next to supporting an evidence-based initiative design, furthermore, promises to strengthen the implementation of an evidence-based evaluation which describes an evaluation process which integrates external evidence, professional expertise and stakeholder values, needs and circumstances. Notably, the repository can play a key role in (formative) evaluations which assess an initiative's theory of change. In such evaluations, the repository can provide an instrument for establishing the state of the art against which the adequacy of an initiative's premise and underlying assumptions can be evaluated. An example of such an evaluation can be found in Cops, Pauwels and Van Alstein's (2020) evaluation of the adequacy of underlying assumptions in the Flemish Action Plan to Prevent Violent Radicalisation and Polarisation which are systematically reviewed in light of the existing academic literature.

Next to the evaluation of an initiative's theory of change, the repository can moreover play a key role in impact evaluations where the use of the tool can provide stakeholders involved in the evaluation process and design with indications for the expected impact of initiatives directed at addressing specific risk or protective factors, and possible benchmarks for measuring their effects. In both formative and impact evaluations, the repository, furthermore, not only allows for a more efficient inclusion of external evidence into the evaluation process, but also promotes an inclusive process which enables a range of stakeholders to, for instance, identify evaluation needs based on available studies which challenge an initiative's key premises.





7 REFERENCE LIST

Cops, D., Pauwels, A. and Van Alstein, M. (2020) 'Gewelddadige radicalisering & polarisering. Beleid & preventie in Vlaanderen: Evaluatie en uitdagingen'. Vlaams Vredesinstituut. Available at: <https://vlaamsvredesinstituut.eu/rapport/gewelddadige-radicalisering-en-polarisering-beleid-preventie-in-vlaanderen-evaluatie-en-uitdagingen/>.

Lösel, F., King, S., Bender, D. and Jugl, I. (2018) 'Protective Factors Against Extremism and Violent Radicalization: A Systematic Review of Research'. *International journal of developmental science*, 12 (1-2): 89-102.

Wolfowicz, M., Litmanovitz, Y., Weisburd, D. and Hasisi, B. (2021) 'Cognitive and behavioural radicalization: A systematic review of the putative risk and protective factors'. *Campbell Systematic Reviews*, 17: e1174.





8 ANNEX

8.1 ANNEX 1: QUESTIONNAIRE FOR GATHERING FEEDBACK ON THE REPOSITORY AT SMART HUB MEETINGS

Questions for discussion:

- 1 Do you consider the repository useful? Could you imagine using this tool in the planning, design and evaluation of a P/CVE or De-radicalisation initiative?
- 2 How do you experience the current design of the repository? How could it be improved?
- 3 How do you experience the search categories? How could the current labels for individual risk and protective factors, study populations etc. be further improved/clarified?
- 4 How do you experience the displayed search findings? How could the displayed content be improved?
- 5 How do you experience the repository as a whole? Do you have any further suggestions for how the tool could be strengthened?

