INDEED

Evidence – Based Model for Evaluation of
Radicalisation Prevention and Mitigation

Deliverable 4.3

D4.3 Repository of Evaluations and Evidence-Based Practices

September 2024 (M37)

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Abstract:

This document introduces the INDEED Digital Repository of Evaluations and Evidence-Based Practices which forms the deliverable D4.3. The repository provides an overview of practices and initiatives, and evaluation reports based on evidence in the field of P/CVE and De-radicalisation. It gathers initiatives from European, national, regional and local level which offers a wide range of different types of practices and evaluation reports with a diversity of evaluation methods. To facilitate the navigation of the database, the repository offers various search filters including Type of initiative, Thematic area, Target group, Ideological strain, Location, Evaluation type, Evaluation method, Author, Keyword, which enable the users to search for specific documents according to their needs. The repository's database currently includes 68 practices. The last update was performed in August 2024.

Information table

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1.0	27.09.2024	Submitted to EC	Marzena Kordaczuk-Was (PPHS); Natalia Jarmuzek-Troczynska (PPHS).	Final approval and submission

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List of Acronyms

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

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1 THE INDEED PROJECT AND DELIVERABLE 4.3

This section situates deliverable 4.3 (D4.3) within the larger framework of INDEED and its Work Package (WP) 4.

1.1 THE INDEED PROJECT

INDEED aims to strengthen the knowledge, capabilities and skills of PVE/CVE and De-radicalisation first-line practitioners and policy makers in designing, planning, implementation and in evaluating initiatives in the field, based on evidence-based approach. INDEED builds from the state-of-the-art, utilizing the scientific and practical strengths of recent activities – enhancing them with complementary features to drive advancements and curb a growing rise of radical views and violent behaviour threatening security.

The INDEED methodological framework is based on the '5I' approach i.e. 5 project phases: Identify; Involve; Innovate; Implement; Impact. At the core of INDEED's work methodology is an interdisciplinary and participatory approach, which includes the co-creation of individual project phases and implementing them with the close engagement of multi-sectoral stakeholders. The creation of SMART Hubs (Stakeholder Multisectoral Anti-Radicalisation Teams) as part of INDEED is intended to facilitate this process.

The selected results of the project are:

1. A universal Evidence-Based Evaluation Model (EBEM) for evaluating radicalisation prevention and mitigation initiatives.
2. A practical EBEM-based evaluation tool.
3. Professional e-guidebooks.
4. A collection of user-friendly repositories (repository of risk and protective factors, repository of evaluations and evidence-based practices) for practical use by practitioners and policy makers.
5. Targeted curricula and trainings (onsite/ online).
6. Lessons learnt and policy recommendations.

All results are integrated and openly accessible in the INDEED multilingual Toolkit for practitioners and policy makers in the field for the entire lifecycle of PVE/CVE and De-radicalisation initiatives, from design to evaluation.

INDEED promotes the EU's values and principles, heeding multi-agency and cross-sectoral methods, including gender mainstreaming, societal dimensions and fundamental rights.

1.2 INDEED (TARGET GROUPS) STAKEHOLDERS

First line Practitioners: This category includes first line practitioners from Law Enforcement Agencies, prison and probation services, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), civil society organisations (CSOs), social and health services, youth organisations.

Policy makers: This category comprises policy makers including local, regional, and national authorities, and governmental organisations.

Education and Research: This category includes universities, think-tanks, academic institutions, research organisations, educational institutions, training institutions, staff college, etc.

Other: This group includes all other relevant stakeholders that fall outside the above three groups; people and groups interested in the topics of the project such as citizens and youth organisations, media, social groups, and schools.

1.3 WP4 OVERVIEW

The aim of WP4 is threefold:

1. To continue and complete the mapping of PVE / CVE / De-radicalisation initiatives that begun under WP1[1] of INDEED.
2. To select a representative sample of those initiative to be evaluated using the Evidence-Based Evaluation Model (EBEM) and the Evidence-Based Evaluation Tool developed under WP3.[2]
3. To formulate Lessons Learnt and Policy Recommendations drawing from the planning process of evaluation of the selected initiatives.

WP4 OBJECTIVES

1. Enhance stakeholders' skills in planning and designing evaluation of P/CVE/ De-Radicalisation initiatives using the Evidence-based Evaluation Tool.
2. Gather comprehensive knowledge on the status and quality of evaluation of P CVE / De-radicalisation initiatives, to find out what are the strengths and weaknesses of evidence-based evaluation.
3. Formulate Lessons Learnt and Policy Recommendations derived from the results of conducted planning process of evaluation.

WP4 TASKS (AS PER THE GRANT AGREEMENT)

1. Task 4.1 Mapping and selection of P/ CVE / Deradicalisation initiatives for further evidence-based evaluation (Leader: KEMEA. Participants: All except ITTI) [M18-M24]. [3]
2. Task 4.2 Conducting of planning process of evidence-based evaluation of PVE / CVE / De-radicalisation initiatives (Leader: CENTRIC, Participants: All) [M25-M34].
3. Task 4.3 Evidence-based practices, Lessons Learnt from the planning evidence-based evaluation and Policy Recommendations (Leader: EFUS, Participants: All) [M32-M36].

TASK 4.3 AND DELIVERABLE 4.3 SCOPE (AS PER THE GRANT AGREEMENT)

Task Leader: Efus
Participants: All.

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[1] WP1 Identification and analysis of the scientific concepts and approaches to the evidence-based evaluation of initiatives on PVE / CVE / De-radicalisation.
[2] WP3 Development of the Evidence-Based Evaluation Model (EBEM) for radicalisation prevention and mitigation and an Evaluation Tool dedicated to the PVE / CVE / De-radicalisation initiatives.
[3] As per the initial Document of Action (DoA), the duration of T4.1 was from M18 to M24. Following a consortium's request to the EC, the duration of T4.1 was extended by one (1) month, until M25 (September 2023).

Duration: M32 – M36 (April 2023 – August 2024)

Aim: The aim of T4.3, based on the 'Evidence-based evaluation and data analysis report' (D4.2), is to create a Repository of Evidence-based Practices (D4.3). This task also aims to formulate a set of Lessons Learnt and Policy Recommendations resulting from the evidence-based evaluation process of selected initiatives.

2 BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

This section briefly outlines the rationale for and the key objectives of the INDEED Repository of Evaluations and Evidence-based Practices.

2.1 BACKGROUND

The INDEED Digital Repository of Evaluations and Evidence-based Practices serves as a vital tool for advancing the field of P/CVE and De-radicalisation by facilitating knowledge sharing, promoting evidence-based practices, and supporting continuous improvement in preventing violent extremism.

It serves as a centralised hub for sharing knowledge and best practices in P/CVE and De-radicalisation efforts. This allows practitioners, policy makers, and researchers to access a wide range of initiatives and evaluation reports, learning from successful strategies implemented across Europe and avoiding repeating ineffective approaches.

By providing access to evaluation reports and evidence-based practices, the repository supports informed policymaking, the development of more effective P/CVE programs and the allocation of resources to strategies with proven results.

The initial development of the repository is based on T4.1, which established a methodology for selecting and mapping PVE, CVE, and De-radicalisation initiatives. Four initiatives were later selected for supporting them with the T4.2 in using the EBEM-based evaluation tool to plan, conduct, and apply evidence-based evaluations.

The repository includes initiatives from various levels and offers a wide range of practice types, different evaluation methods and insights into addressing various ideological strains of extremism; this diversity allows users to gain a comprehensive understanding of the P/CVE landscape. The repository's search filters (e.g., Type of initiative, Thematic area, Target group) enable users to quickly locate relevant information, compare similar initiatives across different contexts and identify trends and gaps in current P/CVE efforts. Practitioners can adapt their approaches in response to emerging threats and successful strategies.

2.2 THE TITLE

Initially, the repository was titled " Repository of Evidence-Based Practices." However, after careful consideration with consortium partners, it was agreed to revise the name for greater clarity and accuracy. The repository's final title, " Repository of Evaluations and Evidence-Based Practices," reflects a more comprehensive scope by explicitly including evaluation reports. This change underscores the importance of integrating evaluations into the repository's offerings, further enhancing its value as a resource for those engaged in P/CVE and De-radicalisation efforts.

2.3 OBJECTIVES

The Repository of Evaluation and Evidence-based Practices is designed to help researchers, policy makers and practitioners to efficiently review the evidence base for different P/CVE initiatives. The repository aims to:

1. Develop a digital library of relevant evaluation reports and practices in the field of P/CVE and De-radicalisation.
2. Develop a library which offers information on the key results of each evaluation.
3. Develop an easily navigable library which offers the possibility to search for and focus on specific types of practices.
4. Develop a platform that is more accessible and user-friendly than traditional platforms.

2.4 LINK TO THE EVIDENCE-BASED EVALUATION MODEL AND TOOLKIT

The repository aims to complement and support the implementation of the INDEED Evidence-Based Evaluation Model (EBEM) and Evidence-Based Evaluation 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 mapping of P/CVE approaches and evaluations and support the process of designing, planning and evaluating P/CVE and De-radicalisation initiatives. By offering an accessible and easily navigable tool, the repository strengths stakeholder participation and transparency in this process. Thus, it can be seen as a tool for promoting greater rigour and transparency in the implementation of an evidence-based evaluation in the field of P/CVE and De-radicalisation.

The repository is integrated and openly accessible in the INDEED multilingual Toolkit for practitioners and policy makers in the field for the entire lifecycle of PVE/CVE and De-radicalisation initiatives, from design to evaluation.

2.5 TARGET GROUPS

The Evaluations and Evidence-Based Practices Repository primarily targets stakeholders who are tasked with or involved in the evaluation and design of initiatives in the field of P/CVE and De-radicalisation, such as project managers, practitioners and policy makers. To strengthen engagement with the tool by a wide range of stakeholders, the partners will disseminate the repository through different means and within the different project's channels.

3 METHODOLOGY AND DATA COLLECTION

The INDEED Repository follows a structured, multi-step approach to collect, validate, and curate data on evaluations and evidence-based practices in P/CVE and De-radicalisation. This comprehensive methodology ensures that the repository remains a credible, relevant, and up-to-date resource for practitioners, policy makers, and researchers. In addition, the methodology builds on the previous WP4 tasks, T4.1 and T4.2, through including the evaluation's results of four selected initiatives in the digital repository.

3.1 IDENTIFICATION OF DATA SOURCES

The first step in the data collection process involves identifying reliable and diverse sources of information. This was critical to ensuring that the repository reflects a wide spectrum of P/CVE initiatives, including different ideological strains, geographic regions, and target groups. Data is collected from the following primary sources:

- Program evaluation reports from government agencies, international organisations (e.g., the United Nations, EU), and NGOs involved in P/CVE and De-radicalisation efforts.
- Academic research and peer-reviewed articles that provide empirical insights and assessments of P/CVE and De-radicalisation practices.
- Policy briefs and case studies contributed by think tanks, research institutions, and practitioners.
- Publicly available reports and evaluations from governmental bodies and international organisations focused on violent extremism.

For strategic purposes, the repository primarily relies on open-source data, as it is designed for practitioners and policy makers who often lack access to specialised research platforms and academic journals. This ensures that the information remains widely accessible to these key stakeholders, enabling them to make informed decisions without the barriers posed by restricted access to academic resources.

3.2 SUBMISSION AND VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

In addition to proactive data gathering, the repository encourages voluntary submissions from practitioners and researchers working in the field of P/CVE/ De-radicalisation. Stakeholders can submit their evaluation reports, case studies, and documented best practices through the INDEED contact form. To guide contributors and ensure consistency, the repository provides submission guidelines.

3.3 DATA COLLECTION TECHNIQUES

The data entered the repository was collected using a combination of techniques, ensuring a comprehensive and up-to-date representation of P/CVE and De-radicalisation practices. The primary methods used include:

- Literature Review: A dedicated research team conducted regular reviews of the academic and grey literature on P/CVE/De-radicalisation practices, ensuring that significant findings are incorporated into the repository. Publications were identified through a review of electronic databases, specialised journals and databases of organisations working in the

P/CVE field. Additionally, the project team searched for publications using Google scholar. The key search terms used to identify studies were Extremism, Radicalisation, and Evaluation. The search was conducted between July and August 2024.

- Consortium support: The project also leveraged the expertise of its consortium partners, who were invited to propose evidence-based practices and evaluations. These contributions were collected through a shared folder, allowing for a collaborative approach to data gathering. Consortium partners were also encouraged to directly input data into the repository, further enriching its content with diverse perspectives and practices from various regions and contexts. This collaborative effort ensured that the repository reflects a wide array of approaches to P/CVE and De-radicalisation, contributing to its robustness as a resource.

3.4 VALIDATION AND QUALITY CONTROL

To ensure the credibility and accuracy of the data, the INDEED Repository of Evaluations and Evidence-based Practices uses a rigorous validation process. Every submission or data source is first screened for completeness, ensuring that it meets the basic requirements (e.g., clear objectives, methodology, and outcomes); incomplete or unclear submissions are sent back to contributors for revision. Then partners reviewers assess the methodological soundness, relevance, and evidence base of each submission.

3.5 CATEGORISATION AND DATA STRUCTURING

To enhance accessibility and usability, the collected data is categorised and structured in a way that allows users to easily filter and compare initiatives. Data is organised according to:

- Type of Initiative: (e.g., education, community engagement, rehabilitation).
- Thematic Area: (e.g., religious extremism, far-right radicalisation).
- Target Group: (e.g., youth, at-risk individuals, returning foreign fighters).
- Geographic Scope: (e.g., local, national, or transnational initiatives).

Each initiative is also linked to its Ideological strain, Evaluation type and Methodology (e.g., qualitative, quantitative, mixed methods) and outcomes, giving users a clear overview of both the initiative's context and its measured impact, in addition to the possibility of searching it within the name of the Author and Keywords.

3.6 DATA UPDATES AND MAINTENANCE

To ensure that the repository reflects the most up-to-date evaluations and practices, the data collection process is continuous. Contributors are encouraged to provide regular updates on ongoing initiatives, particularly when new evaluation results become available. The repository's team periodically conducts data audits to remove outdated or less relevant practices, ensuring the highest quality and relevance of information over time. In addition, the back office allows for efficient maintenance of the digital repository, as well as easy handover of maintenance duties from one responsible individual or organisation to another.

The sustainability plan for the repository was developed in the second part of the INDEED project and outlined in more detail as part of task 7.4 "Exploitation and Sustainability activities".

3.7 ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Data collection was performed with strict adherence to ethical guidelines, particularly when it involves sensitive information. The repository's development methodology took steps to:

1. Ensure that all collected data complies with data protection regulations, including GDPR when applicable.
2. Anonymise sensitive data, particularly when initiatives deal with high-risk individuals or groups.

All ethical considerations were discussed and validated within WP6 through focus group meeting with GELSA experts.

The methodology used to collect data for the INDEED digital repository is thorough and structured to ensure that the repository remains a valuable, reliable, and comprehensive resource for advancing the field of P/CVE and De-radicalisation. By combining voluntary submissions, proactive data collection, and rigorous validation, the repository maintains its integrity while continually adapting to emerging practices and its key evaluation's results.

4 IMPLEMENTATION

This section briefly demonstrates the implementation of the INDEED digital repository of evaluations and evidence-based practices.

The repository was implemented as an online application that is integrated into the INDEED Toolkit – a software suite delivered at the end of the project cycle. The repository can be found through the INDEED website, the Results tab, and Toolkit tab.

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

Figure 1: Repository landing page
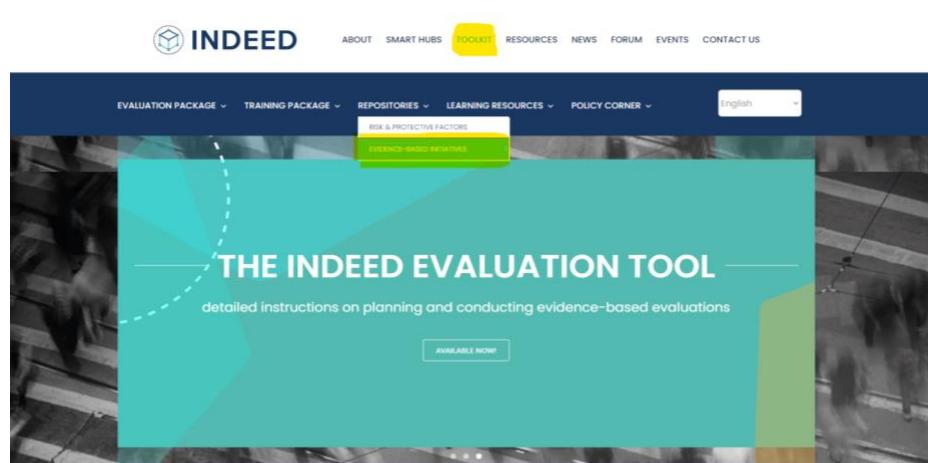
Figure 2: Publicly available repository via the INDEED website

The publicly available front part of the tool enables users to search for practices and evaluation reports through an easily navigable graphics user interface (GUI). The interface gives users the opportunity to filter the dataset for practices with specific categories and filters. The search filter function is illustrated in figure 3:

Figure 3: Selecting search criteria

Figure 4: 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 5).
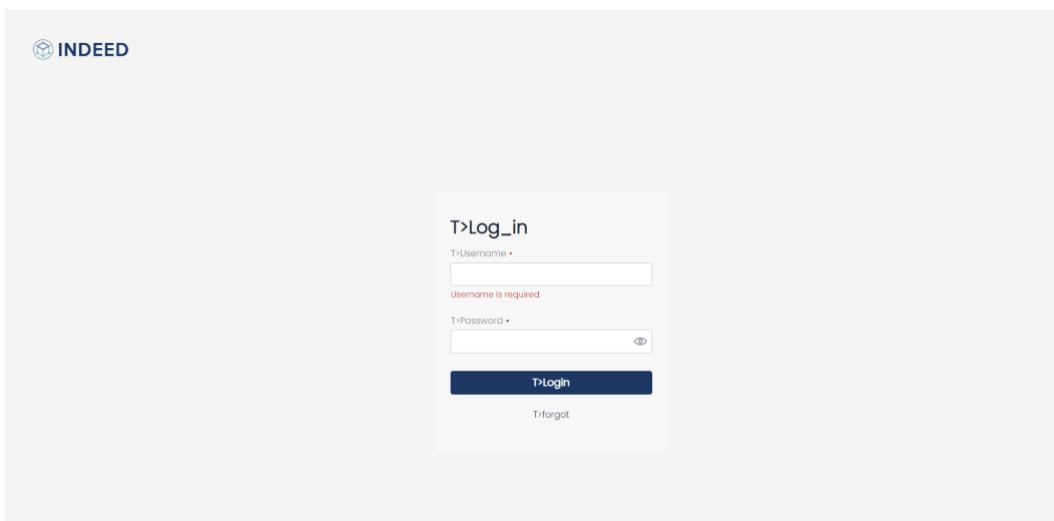
Figure 5: Login screen

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

Figure 6: 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 **5 STRENGTHS AND LIMITATIONS**

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

5.1 STRENGTHS OF THE DIGITAL REPOSITORY

The INDEED Repository of Evaluations and Evidence-based Practices has the potential to add significant value to the current P/CVE landscape and contribute to the development of the evaluation culture in the field. This section below highlights some of the repository's potential key contributions.

5.1.1 AN UPDATED AND COMPREHENSIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY

The digital repository builds on and complements existing systematic reviews by offering a comprehensive digital library of evaluation and evidence-based practices in the field of P/CVE and De-radicalisation. 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 that capture the literature at one moment in time. On the other, the repository provides an overview of different evidence-based practices at different levels (local level, national level, and in different countries) and of different kinds. Furthermore, this repository includes evaluation reports of different practices.

5.1.2 A NEEDS-ORIENTED OVERVIEW OF THE EVALUATION REPORTS

The repository offers filtering tools that allow for users to scan the reports according to their needs and interests. Specifically, it includes filtering tools that enable users to search the database for practices and evaluation reports which address specific ideological strains, countries, target groups or observed outcomes. The digital repository, by providing such search filters, enables users to directly engage with the evaluation results that are most relevant to them.

5.1.3 AN EASILY ACCESSIBLE AND NAVIGABLE TOOL

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

5.2 LIMITATIONS

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

5.2.1 SCOPE AND PRESENTATION OF THE DATABASE

While the repository aspires to provide a selected overview of evaluation reports and evidence-based practices, it includes studies found in open sources and that are publicly available. The repository, therefore, does not offer a complete overview of all available work on evaluation reports and P/CVE De-radicalisation practices. The repository currently builds on a limited initial screening of the literature, and that further updates will be necessary to provide a complete overview of the evaluation landscape.

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 that is 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.

The digital repository of evaluation and evidence-based practices aspires to provide a comprehensive overview of the practices and evaluation reports in the field of P/CVE De-radicalisation. However, when collecting the practices, a lack of systematic public evaluation reports has constituted a limitation. In the report D4.4 "Lessons learnt and policy recommendations from the planning process of evidence-based evaluation" of the INDEED project, we recommended to "prepare and share evaluation reports in a way that encourages uptake beyond institutional boundaries"[4] to allow practitioners and policymakers to build on what already exists in terms of evaluation.

5.2.2 EVALUATION AND SYNTHESIS OF PRACTICES

While the repository aims to provide a thorough overview of available evaluation reports and evidence-based practices, it does not attempt to evaluate or synthesise these findings. The repository, thus, does not provide specific policy recommendations.
It gives the user the opportunity to learn about the evidence base for different initiatives in the field of P/CVE De-radicalisation and also to consult evaluation reports and develop knowledge and competencies based on them.

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[4] Report D4.4, August 2024. Lessons learnt and policy recommendations from the planning process of evidence-based evaluation. A.KAOUECH & A.BOISSEAU, Efus

6 CONCLUSION

The INDEED Repository of Evaluations and Evidence-Based Practices represents a transformative step forward in the evaluation of P/CVE and De-radicalisation initiatives. By consolidating a diverse array of evaluation reports and evidence-based practices into a single, accessible platform, it provides an essential resource for practitioners, policymakers, and researchers. The repository's strengths—its comprehensive, up-to-date content and its user-friendly, searchable interface—empower stakeholders to make informed decisions and adopt evidence-based approaches. Additionally, the integration with the INDEED Toolkit and dual access modes ensures wide accessibility while maintaining a robust system for more specialised users.

A key aspect of the repository's value lies in its role in promoting the sharing of evaluation results. By making evaluation findings widely accessible, it encourages transparency and knowledge exchange, which are crucial for refining strategies and improving practices. Sharing these results contributes to building a stronger evaluation culture, where stakeholders are not only informed by data but also motivated to assess and improve their own initiatives. This culture of continuous evaluation enhances accountability and ensures that P/CVE and De-radicalisation initiatives are both effective and adaptive to new challenges.

As the field evolves, the repository's ongoing relevance will depend on its ability to continuously update and expand, addressing emerging issues and incorporating new insights. By doing so, it will maintain its vital role in guiding and supporting different stakeholders. The INDEED repository is not just a static tool but a living resource, evolving alongside the needs of the community it serves, fostering a culture of evidence-based decision-making and ensuring that evaluation remains at the heart of strategic progress for years to come.