

RADICALISATION TRENDS IN BULGARIA, THE CZECH REPUBLIC AND GREECE

Round table

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Background Review

Four forms of radicalization

- **Right-wing radicalisation**
- **Left-wing radicalisation**
- **Islamist radicalisation**
- **Football hooliganism**

Ideas

Actors

Manifestations

Root causes

Institutional responses

Background Review

Methods and sources

I. Expert interviews (50)

- 18 interviews with law enforcement, intelligence, prison officers, prosecutors;
- 32 interviews with experts, journalists, football club fans, right, left wing activists.

II. Desk research:

- secondary literature;
- media coverage;
- normative documents;
- court case proceedings

Islamist Radicalisation

External Threats

- Terrorist activities by international Islamist groups (EL, BG)
- Passing transnational fighters (BG, EL, CZ)

Home-grown threats (highly debated)

Old Muslim minorities - 12 % in BG; 1,3 - 0.7% in EL

Hanafi Sunni tradition

Immigrant Muslims - 0.01% in BG and CZ

1,8 – 2.8% in EL

- Salafi influences (foreign emissaries, charitable aid, own citizens preaching Salafism)
- Residents with links to Jihadist groups (200 in EL)

Islamist Radicalization - External Threats

Manifestations

- Imported international terrorism originating in Muslim countries in EL (*hijackings, kidnappings, mortal attacks at civilians 1973 -1991*);
- Greece is presently used as logistical, recruitment and support basis by international Muslim terrorist groups;
- Terrorist act in Burgass, BG, July 2012;
- Passing transnational fighters (BG, EL, CZ)

(Potential) home-grown threats of Islamist radicalization - Manifestations

- Acts of approval of radical Islamist organizations (non-violent) (BG);
- Logistical support to passing transnational fighters (BG, EL);
- Proselytizing Salafi interpretations of Islam (purist in BG and EL);
- Professing Salafi interpretations of Islam (change in clothing and some rituals) (BG, EL)
- **No transnational fighters who are own citizens (BG, CZ, EL)**

Islamist Radicalization - Institutional Response

External threats (BG, EL)

- arrests of foreigners suspected of terrorism-related activities, being transiting foreign fighters

Home-grown threats (BG)

- Predominated of law enforcement actors: surveillance, police raids, arrests, court trials

NEED for:

- more institutional actors;
- soft measures and prevention;
- shared expertise on Islamist radicalism, Muslim Communities;
- Involvement of the Muslims themselves.

Understanding Islamist Radicalisation

Root causes of adoption of Salafism

- some knowledge about Pomak communities
- no knowledge about Roma communities/ local Muslim population in Greece

Charitable Islamic aid tied with proselytism of Orthodox

Islam (*pull*)

Identity dynamics/ weak Muftiate/ low level religious education/ economic conditions (*push*)

Signs of Islamist radicalisation and potential for growing into violence

- factors; social meanings

Factors for resilience of local Muslims to Islamist radicalisation