

# Monitoring radicalisation risks in Central and Southeast Europe

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# Addressing Radicalisation in Southeast and Central Europe

## • Thematic Focus

- Right and left wing radicalisation
- Islamist radicalisation
- Football Hooliganism

## • Objectives

- **Baseline review of threats and trends;** identified risk factors (BG, EL, CZ)
- Review of **institutional needs and gaps** in monitoring and countering radicalisation
- Tailored **monitoring tools for practitioners**, based on transferrable EU good practices

## Islamist radicalisation – a new threat for CEE/SEE?

### External Threats

- ▶ Terrorist activities by international Islamist groups (EL, BG)
- ▶ Transnational terrorist fighters in TRANSIT (BG, EL, CZ)

### Home-grown threats (highly debated)

*Old Muslim minorities - 12 % (BG); 1,3 - 0.7% (EL) - Hanafi Sunni tradition*

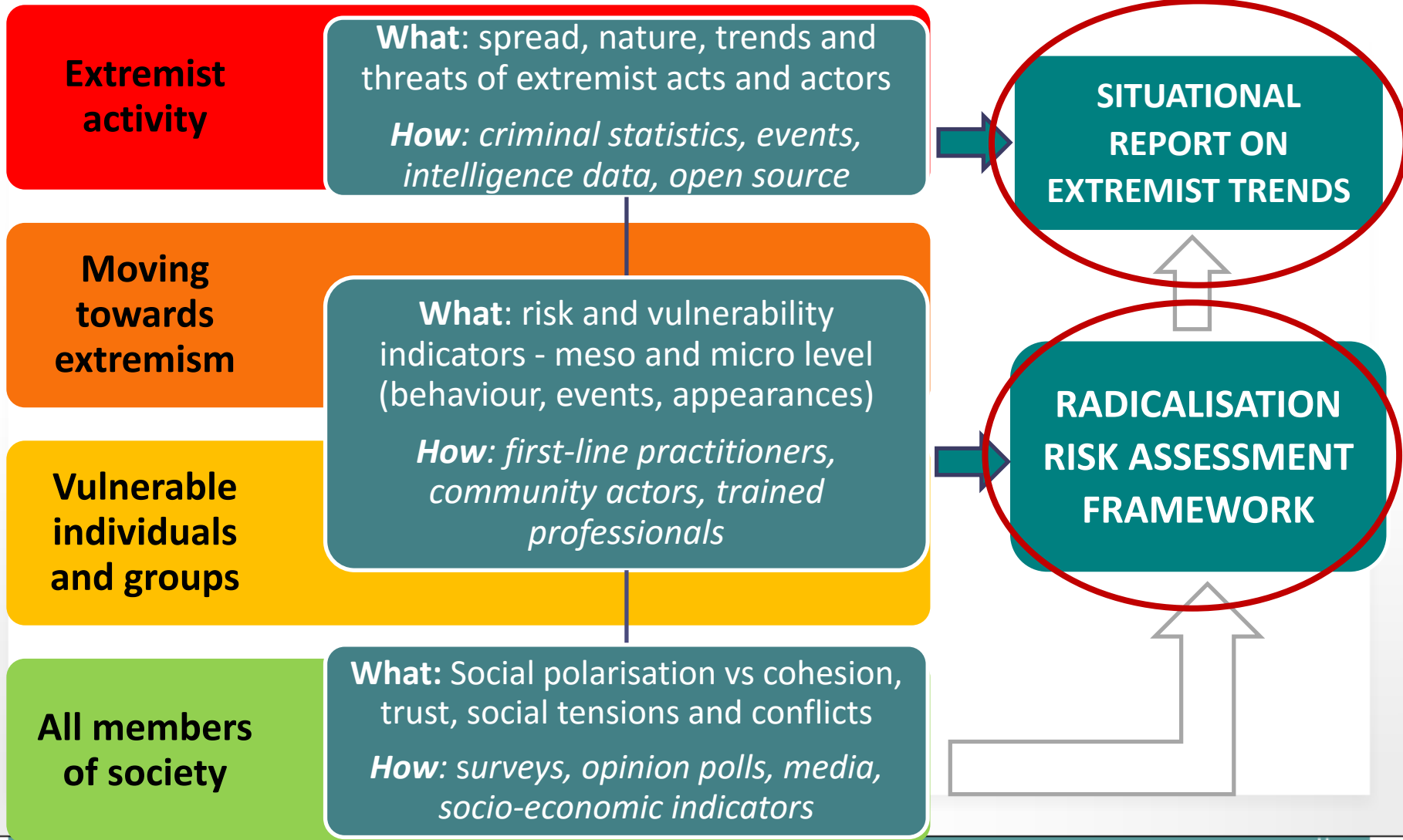
*Immigrant Muslims - 0.01% (BG and CZ); 1,8 – 2.8% (EL)*

- ▶ Salafi influences (foreign emissaries, charitable aid, own preachers)
- ▶ Residents with links to Jihadist groups (200 in EL)
- ▶ Non-violent acts of approval of terrorist organisations (BG)
- ▶ Logistical support for FTFs (BG)

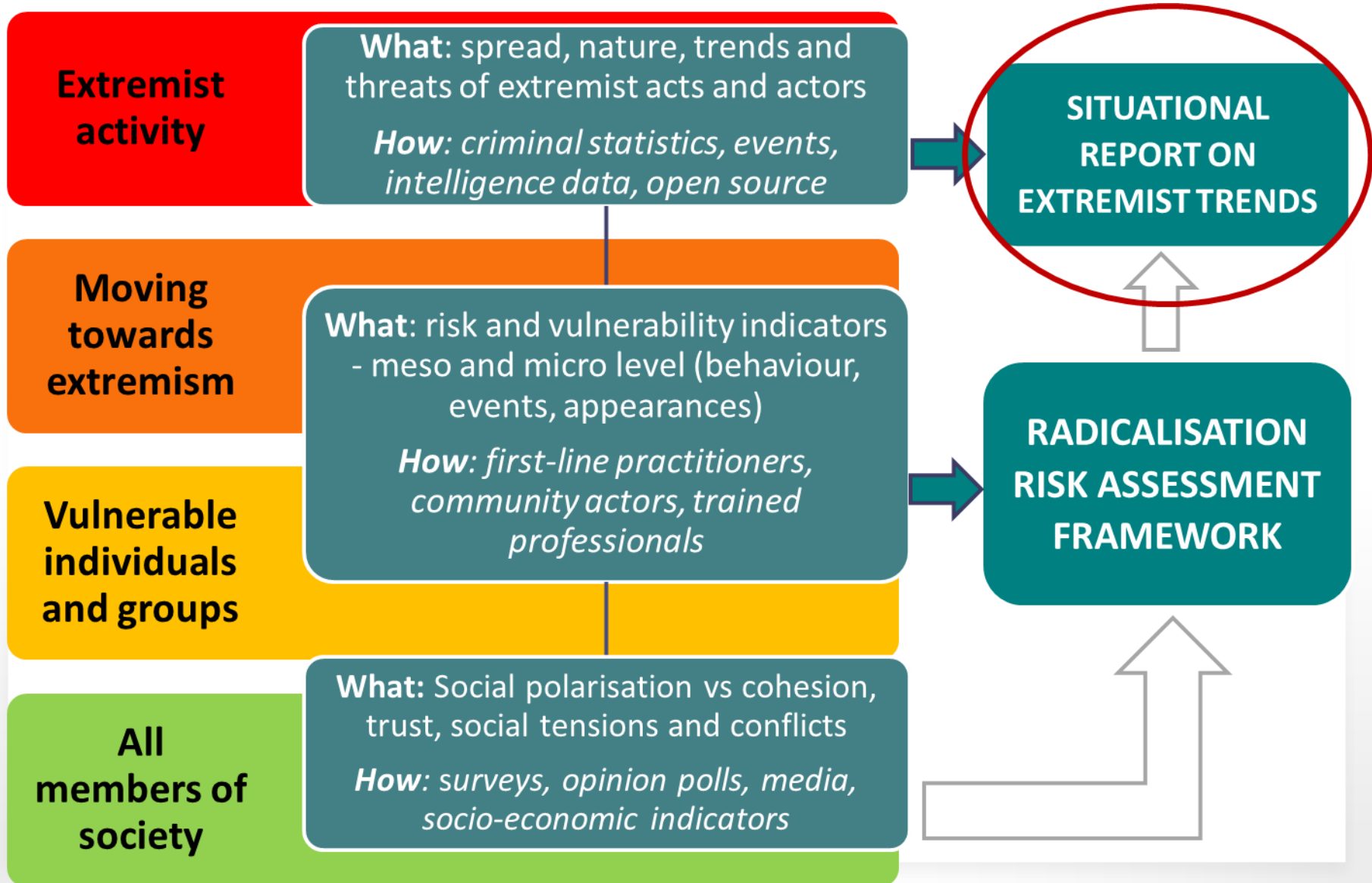
## Radicalisation as a new policy issue in CEE/SEE

- **History** of right-wing and left-wing extremism (EL, CZ)
- Emerging external and internal risks of **Islamist radicalisation** (BG, EL, CZ)
- Institutional response dominated by **national security** considerations (mostly repressive)
- **Lack of rigorous monitoring and evaluations** of radicalisation factors and risks; early warning mechanisms
- **Lack of reliable data and diagnostic mechanisms** impede evidence-based formulation of measures
- **Prevention** not part of the overall strategic approach or the mandate of key practitioners

# A monitoring toolkit model



# Situational Assessment of Extremist Trends



## Situational Assessment of Extremist Trends (2)

# National significance

Active threat

High risk

Potential risk

1. Crimes  
(spread)

2. Crimes  
(nature)

3. Actions  
(spread)

4. Actions  
(nature)

5. Approval/social  
penetration

Incidence  
(crimes)

Share of crimes of interest in violent criminal activity

Share of crimes of interest in overall criminal activity

Proportion of specific crime types

Number of notable events

Average number of participants in notable events

Events by type

Violent attitudes represented

Membership in extremist and support organizations

Share of people willing to provide active support beyond electoral

Share of people willing to provide electoral support only

Share of people admitting general agreement with essential ideas



## Situational Assessment of Extremist Trends

### Core Indicators (quantitative)

Criminal activity  
(active threat)

Actions / notable  
events (high risk)

Social penetration  
(potential risk)



### Supplementary and thematic indicators

Right-wing extremism

Left-wing extremism

Islamist extremism



### Trend analysis

Short term

Medium term

Long term

## Application of the situational tool (BG, EL, CZ)

- Develop clear **definitions and guidelines for statistical recording** and classification of crimes of interest (police, prosecution, courts)
- Introduce a **unified institutional mechanism** for reporting, collection and analysis of relevant data
- Need for regular **sociological surveys on attitudes and victimisation** to measure supplementary indicators
- Assessment of available evidence and trend analysis should become the primary source of **strategic and operational decision-making**

# **Monitoring radicalisation: A Framework for risk indicators for first line officers**

## AIMS

To monitor:

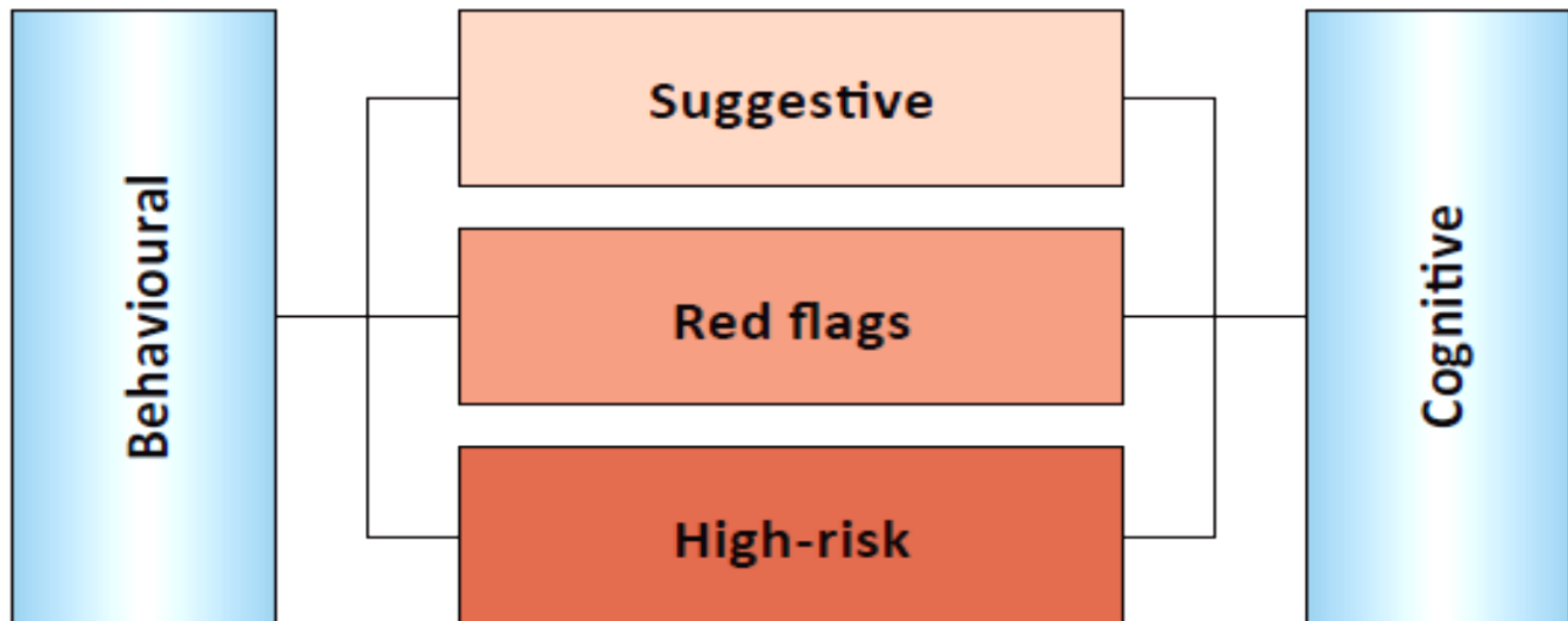
- Radicalisation processes and risk factors that have not yet led to violence
- Individuals or groups that are vulnerable to or moving towards extremism but have not yet committed criminal acts

To flag:

- Risks and vulnerabilities (**not identify radicalised individuals**) for the purposes of early prevention

## A framework of radicalisation risk indicators

- \* to be applied only in combination
- \* to be assessed in light of the local context/ individual circumstances



# **Risks of Islamist Radicalisation in the case of the Iztok Neighbourhood of the City of Pazardzhik, BG**

## The Salafi community

- 100 – 600 members
- Mainly Turkish Roma (less converts)
- Labor migration to WE countries (AT, DE)
- Salafism penetrates since late 1990s
- Transnational community
- Average social status within the Iztok quarter
- Stratification
- Own mosque (2002)
- Presently – younger age of followers (families)

## FACTORS

- Labor migration – contacts with the transnational umma
- Powerful leader
- Robust social cohesion
- Own mosque
- Avoiding the stigma of Roma identity
- **Powerful leader**
- **Timeframe**  
(rise of IS; 2<sup>nd</sup> trial against the group leader)
- **Contacts with radical mosques in WE**
- **Individual “demand”**
- **Feeling of social “prestige” and aura of mysticism**



## Recommendations: monitoring of radicalisation risks and prevention in CEE/SEE

***Develop institutional infrastructures***

- Central coordination body
- Multi-agency structure at local level
- Clear division of roles

***Early warning and referral mechanisms***

- Framework of indicators
- Risk/vulnerability assessment methodology
- Referral to tailored prevention measures
- Community engagement

***Build knowledge, capacities and expertise***

- Train frontline practitioners; integrate prevention in daily tasks
- Expertise among key professionals
- Bridge academic knowledge and policy

## Ways forward

### EU

- Consider the context specifics of CEE/SEE countries in formulating transferable best practices (indigenous communities vs migrant background)
- Greater involvement of practitioners from CEE/SEE in RAN

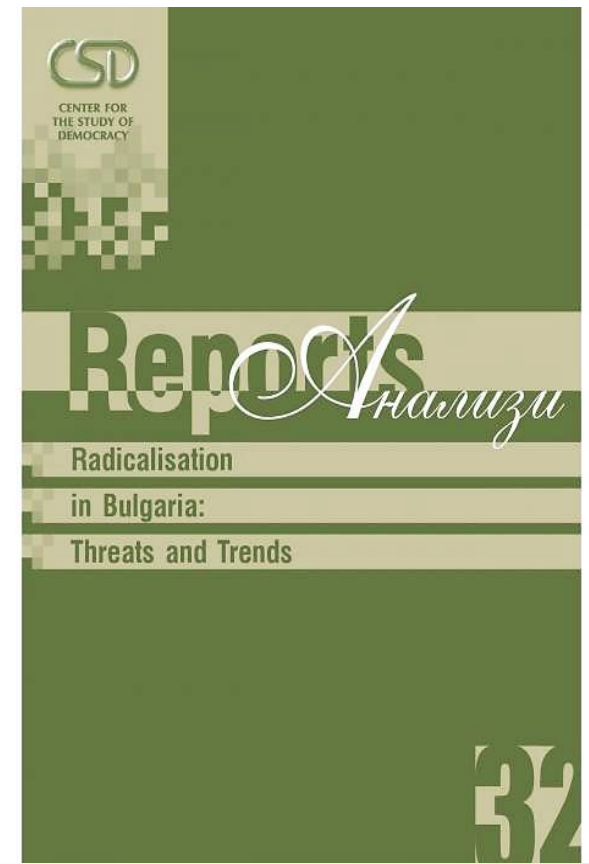
### National governments CEE

- Develop CVE infrastructures
- Develop knowledge, capacities and expertise
- Put in place reliable diagnostic tools to guide policies
- Involve communities

### Civil society, academia

- Awareness raising of local specifics
- Generate sound evidence and policy advice based on research findings
- Advocate for community involvement in prevention

Further reading: [www.csd.bg](http://www.csd.bg)



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