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United Nations
Interregional Crime and Justice
Research Institute



The Coordination Center for
**COUNTERING
VIOLENT
EXTREMISM**
- Albania

Pilot Training

on the Policy Toolkit on
The Hague Good Practices
on the Nexus Between
Transnational Organized
Crime and Terrorism

**MATERIAL FOR TRAINEES
FROM THE REPUBLIC OF
ALBANIA**

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1. Introduction

The present booklet has been prepared within the framework of UNICRI's Nexus initiative. It aims to be used as a reference tool both in preparation for and throughout the delivery of the whole UNICRI & The Coordination Center for Countering Violent Extremism – Albania training programme for the Republic of Albania on **the Policy Toolkit on The Hague Good Practices on the Nexus Between Transnational Organized Crime and Terrorism**. The booklet contains background, substantial and technical information (including details regarding the online participation) which can be useful to the trainees and lead them towards a better understanding of the course itself, its overall purpose and actors involved.

UNICRI is grateful to Fondazione Compagnia di San Paolo for its generous contribution to this training, and gives special appreciation to The Coordination Center for Countering Violent Extremism – Albania, for facilitating the organization of this event.

2. About UNICRI

The United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) was established in Italy in 1968 to conduct research, training and field activities within the sphere of crime prevention and control. Article 2 of UNICRI's statute, as approved by the UNGA, defines the Institute's objectives and functions, which include:

- Formulating and implementing improved policies in crime prevention and control;
- Integrating such policies within broader policies for socio-economic change and development, and for the protection of human rights;
- Promoting, conducting, coordinating and supporting research;
- Establishing a reliable base of knowledge and information;
- Devoting special attention to new, frequently transnational forms of criminal phenomena;
- Designing practical models and systems aimed at providing support for policy formulation, implementation and evaluation;
- Providing action-orientated research and training on crime prevention and justice;
- Carrying out activities in close collaboration and co-ordination with institutes and other bodies within and outside the United Nations system.

As crime has evolved, so too has UNICRI, which now sits on the forefront of cutting-edge research and specialized capacity-building programmes in several key cross-cutting fields in contemporary discourse on crime and justice. This includes crimes impacting the environment, illicit exploitation of natural resources, transnational organized crime, cybercrime, artificial intelligence and robotics, urban and event security, illicit financial flows, recovery and management of stolen assets, counter-terrorism, rehabilitation and reintegration of violent extremist offenders (VEOs), and risk mitigation of Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) material.

3. The Nexus Initiative

In response to growing evidence and Member States' concerns about the links between transnational organized crime and terrorism, and in continuation of the [work of UNICRI on the Nexus from 2016](#), the Institute has established a partnership with the Government of the Netherlands and the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF) to capitalize on achievements and support the efforts of the international community on this matter. The Nexus Initiative seeks to expand on existing knowledge as well as to develop new strategies that can allow for effective interventions where the nexus is present.

The Nexus Initiative focuses on the regional variations of the nexus, in all its forms and manifestations, and is underpinned by several regional workshops:

- Algiers, Algeria, October 2017, covering the West Africa and Sahel region – in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Algeria.
- **Tirana, Albania, February 2018, focusing on the Balkan region – in collaboration with Government of Albania, specifically the Coordination Center for Countering Violent Extremism.**
- Singapore, Singapore, March 2018, focusing on the Southeast and South Asia region – in collaboration with INTERPOL.
- Nairobi, Kenya, May 2018, focusing on the Horn of Africa and East Africa region – in collaboration with the National Counter-Terrorism Centre (NCTC), Kenya.

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A diverse range of relevant stakeholders partook in the meetings, including representatives of different governmental agencies, members of the academia, the private sector, international and regional organizations and civil society and non-governmental organizations. From the information and data gathered during the meetings, and further consultations with relevant stakeholders, UNICRI in cooperation with the Netherlands and under the auspices of the Global Counter terrorism Forum (GCTF) developed [The Hague Good Practices on the Nexus between Transnational Organized Crime and Terrorism](#). The Good Practices document was endorsed at the GCTF ministerial meeting in New York in September 2018 and presented at the [Open briefing](#) of the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) on “The nexus between international terrorism and transnational organized crime” in October 2018.

Following the Good Practices, the Nexus Policy Toolkit was developed to assist Member States in providing an overview of the nexus, and practical implementable steps for consideration by countries in the application of

the good practices. The **Policy Toolkit on The Hague Good Practices on the Nexus Between Transnational Organized Crime and Terrorism** was presented at the **Joint special meeting** of the CTC, the 1267/1989/2253 Committee and the 1988 Committee on “The nexus between international terrorism and organized crime” in April 2019.

The Policy Toolkit has been used as a practical training tool for interested Member States. In June 2019, relevant stakeholders from Albania underwent **a training focused on specific good practices (GPs)**.

Most recently, an online pilot training on the Nexus Policy Toolkit was undertaken by participants from different agencies in Kenya from 14-18 September in partnership with the National Counter Terrorism Centre of Kenya, with the sponsorship of the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

4. Course rationale, concepts and model

A significant number of Albanian radicalized youth have become foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs) in Syrian Arab Republic, both within Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as Da'esh) and Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) ranks in the years following 2013. Some were radicalized by self-proclaimed imams (later arrested and charged for inciting terrorism) while others were lured to ISIL and HTS through social media. Growing youth unemployment in Albania coincided with the height of the Syrian insurgency in 2014. The lack of economic opportunities and/or incentives is known to be a strong push factor that drives people, especially the youth, into the arms of extremists and criminals. Moreover, evidence from across the Western Balkans have shown that young people involved in illicit enterprises are vulnerable to radicalization by Violent Extremist Offenders (VEOs) who prey on their grievances and reckon their criminal skills. ISIL is well known for its recruitment propaganda aimed at attracting criminals to its ranks.

Albanian organized crime groups have developed global networks intensely involved in transnational crimes such as drug trafficking, weapons and human smuggling, money laundering among others. They often come into direct contact with VEOs, especially in underdeveloped regions where state control is weak. Since ISIL's caliphate has collapsed and scores of its foreign fighters, facilitators and their families are going back to their home countries, Albania faces an additional threat since these extremists might not find employment opportunities in the legal economy. Thus, still mobilized and fuelled by their grievances and ideology, these seasoned fighters might be recruited by Albanian organized crime groups that value their combat experience. Data has shown that Western Balkans is the European region with the highest concentration of returning foreign fighters from Syria/Iraq. Reports indicate that the returning FTF in Western Balkans have travelled back home using forged/stolen travel documents. They were aided by human smuggling organizations that operate across the Middle East and Europe. Some of these FTFs can dodge state authorities by using numerous counterfeited identification documents provided by criminals.

Moreover, reports have identified the potential of social media for extremist recruiting and radicalizing within Albania. ISIL and HTS' militants and fighters have operated dozens of channels and pages in Albanian language that have drawn thousands of subscribers who have frequently followed these outlets and have therefore been exposed to extremist propaganda videos, info graphics and jihadi nasheeds promoting extremism. These ISIL and HTS cadres engaging with welcoming audiences online not only disseminate propaganda but also use the social media for raising and channelling funds, smuggling, incitement to violence and eventually plotting of attacks.

The training you will be undergoing is based on the **Policy Toolkit on The Hague Good Practices on the Nexus Between Transnational Organized Crime and Terrorism**.

The course will have a deep focus on the following Good Practices as deemed particularly relevant and a matter of priority for authorities and other stakeholders involved in the fight against terrorism and organized crime in the Republic of Albania:

- GP 20: "Increase the awareness and capacity of relevant practitioners about the nexus between transnational organized crime and terrorism";
- GP 22: "Increase capacities to monitor the cyber space."

Due to the cross-cutting nature of the nexus, in addition to GP 20 and GP 22, references will be made to other good practices, in particular to GP 23 "Strengthen the capacity of the judicial systems to combat the nexus, and ensure that legal professionals are trained to recognize links between transnational organized crime and terrorism" and GP 24 "Work with prisons and probation services to impede cooperation and transfer of skills and knowledge between transnational organized crime and terrorism".

5. Learning Objectives

The training aims to help domestic authorities and other relevant stakeholders to develop a better understanding of the nexus and the measures currently in place to effectively detect and counter it. To that end, the course foresees a series of technical presentations and lectures on the nexus itself, including its different forms and manifestations; on selected good practices from the Policy Toolkit; and the discussion of potential scenarios through table top exercises (see Annex I of the booklet).

In particular, by the end of the training, participants will have, inter alia:

- Enhanced knowledge of the linkages between organised crime and terrorism;
- Increased understanding of the various forms and manifestations the nexus can have;
- Strengthened awareness of the legal and operational instruments that can be used to prevent, detect and counter the nexus;
- Improved understanding of ways to operationalize the Nexus Policy Toolkit GPs 20, 22 and mentions of GP 23, 24.
- Increased awareness of the current loopholes in the domestic legal and operational frameworks to combat terrorism and organized crime;
- Strengthened understanding of the relevant international instruments to combat terrorism and organized crime as well as of the ways to effectively comply with them at national level.
- Better understanding how cyberspace can be misused for malicious purposes.
- Enhance capacity to detect terrorist activity (incitement to terrorism) online.
- Enhance law enforcement capacity to detect terrorist and extremist content online.

6. Audience

A selection of about 20 participants from different organizations (see Annex IV) in the Republic of Albania involved in preventing and countering terrorism, violent extremism and organized crime (for instance, representatives from relevant Ministries, such as Ministry of Interior/Home Affairs and Ministry of Education, Specialized Courts, law enforcement agencies, Municipalities, Attorney's Office, etc.

7. Training details and agenda

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- UNICRI personnel and trainers will deliver the training sessions from remote through the online platform Zoom.
- The training participants will be attending the training from the Tirana International Hotel and Conference Center in Tirana, located in Scanderbeg Square in Tirana.
- The venue of the training was selected taking into consideration the need to ensure the social distancing measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Simultaneous interpretation ENG><Albanian will be provided.
- Lunch and coffee breaks will be provided during the training.
- The training methodology will include:
 - ▶ Presentations delivered by the trainers;
 - ▶ Table-top exercise based on two real case scenarios addressing issues pertinent to GP 16 and GP 17. The developed scenarios reflect real events in which the nexus between organized crime and terrorism is present.
 - ▶ The output of the table-top exercise can serve as basis for the development or the improvement of national policies and practices.

PILOT TRAINING ON THE POLICY TOOLKIT ON THE HAGUE GOOD PRACTICES ON THE NEXUS BETWEEN TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME AND TERRORISM

1 OCTOBER 2020

**Module on Good Practice 20: “Increase the awareness
and capacity of relevant practitioners about the
nexus between transnational organized crime and
terrorism”**

10.00-12.00 a.m.	Introduction to the course and to the Nexus Policy Toolkit Meet and Greet, with Ice Breaking session
12.00-12.30 p.m.	Meet & greet with Ice breaking session General introduction to the Nexus (concepts, definitions, variations)
12:30-01:00 p.m.	Overview of the scenario for Table-Top Exercise on GP 20 Q&A
1.00-2.00 p.m.	Lunch
2.00-2.50 p.m.	Table-Top Exercise in groups
2.50-3.30 p.m.	Debrief of groups and Q&A
3.30-3.45 p.m.	Break
3.45-5.00 p.m.	Debrief of groups and Q&A

PILOT TRAINING ON THE POLICY TOOLKIT ON THE HAGUE GOOD PRACTICES ON THE NEXUS BETWEEN TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME AND TERRORISM

2 OCTOBER 2020

Module on Good Practice 22: “Increase capacities to monitor the cyber space”

11:00-11:15 a.m.	Welcome & outstanding issues from Day 1
11.15-12.00 p.m.	Table-Top Exercise on GP 22
12.00- 1.00 p.m.	Debrief of groups and Q&A
1.00- 3.00 p.m.	Lunch
2:00- 3.40 p.m.	Debrief of groups
3:40-3.45 p.m.	Break
3:45-3:55 p.m.	Presentation on topic and Q&A
3:55-4:55 p.m.	Evaluation & feedback on the training
4:55-5:00 p.m.	Closing

Annex I

Scenario Exercise with Albanian Participants Background for Exercise - The Case

(The exercise case presented below is inspired by an actual case. The press releases about the real case are attached).

Albania's citizen Arvin joined the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as Da'esh) in 2014. To link up with other ISIL supporters, he left Albania overland to Greece and then to Turkey. In Turkey, he contacted an ISIL-connected human smuggling ring that helped him cross the country and enter ISIL territory in Syria at the border in Jarabulus. ISIL then trained him as one of its Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTF). Years later, after the fall of ISIL last crucial stronghold at Baghouz, Syria and the end of ISIL physical caliphate, Arvin ordered by his regional ISIL commander in Syria to return to Albania. Such dispersion and return home of some of its FTFs has been a key strategy of ISIL. ISIL leadership hopes that the FTFs who return to their home countries will be able to form cells and eventually carry on attacks in their home countries or the region.

In Albania, however, Arvin was arrested. To disguise his future terrorist plans, Arvin claimed during his interrogations and trial that he had defected from ISIL because he became disillusioned with the group and angered by ISIL treatment of FTFs and their families in Syria. Still, he was sentenced to four-year imprisonment. Once in prison he joined a group of inmates who had access to jihadist materials in Albanian. Amidst a sense of deepening camaraderie and commitment to radical jihad, Arvin felt confident to reveal his real intentions and the mission he was assigned to the others.

Two of his radicalized prison mates, Murat and Erag exhibited same fanaticism. Both had long criminal past as drug traffickers. Both remained connected to their terrorist and drug trafficking circles outside the prison through their wives Rita and Dori and their lawyer, Bujar. Several years earlier, Murat and Erag had sought to join ISIL in Syria. At the time, their cell had been monitored by the Albanian police and they were arrested a few days before departing for ISIL territory. Their drug trafficking networks were nonetheless not disrupted and continued operating even after their sentencing to prison.

Moreover, their wives Rita and Dori continue to head an online women jihadist network that uses Telegram channels to collect money through crowd funding campaigns. Some of that money is sent through alternative

remittance systems¹ such as hawala networks to the Albanian ISIL wives in Al Hawl camp for internally displaced people (IDPs), located in Syria's Kurdish territory. The collected money also supports widows of Albanian FTFs killed fighting for ISIL in Syria. Rita and Dori also hope that the money will help the ISIL widows at Al Hawal to hire human smugglers and bribe their way out of the camp and out of Syria and back to Albania.

Through the use of social media, Rita and Dori are also in frequent contact with Murat's and Erag's jihadist cell members in Albania. Through the use of Bujar and smart phones smuggled into the prison, Rita and Dori are also obtain to communicate with their imprisoned husbands and learn of the attack planned by Arvin. Erag's and Murat's cell is able to provide the necessary finance, as it has generated significant illicit proceeds through years of cocaine smuggling through the Western Balkan countries. Two kilograms of explosives and a van have thus been purchased for the attack. Meanwhile, two of the ISIL widows in Al Hawl camp have been relaying the Arvin's cell's intentions and preparations to the remnants of ISIL leadership in Syria. The leadership urges that the attack is carried out as soon as possible.

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The law enforcement (LE) investigation:

Albanian Law Enforcement (LE) authorities receive information that a mosque in a village on the outskirts of Tirana may be a place conducive to terrorist radicalization and recruitment of Albanian ISIL sympathizers, including those willing to travel to Syria to become ISIL fighters. LE authorities start to investigate the mosque and identify some of its members, such as those with criminal pasts. LE authorities also learn that this mosque operates outside the Islamic Community of Albania (ICA) authority. LE agencies previously learned that the majority of Albanian FTFs who joined violent extremist groups in Syria were radicalized and recruited in mosques outside ICA control.

¹ Money or value transfer services also include alternative remittance systems, such as hawalas. Hawalas are traditionally associated with a money transfer mechanism that operates with ties to specific geographic regions or ethnic communities and generally operate outside formal banking channels and frequently without oversight by the authorities. Money or value transfer service providers should: (a) be subject to monitoring for compliance with anti-money-laundering/counter-financing of terrorism policies; (b) ensure that their agents are licensed or registered by a competent authority and maintain an updated list of their agents; and (c) include their agents in their anti-money-laundering/ counter-financing of terrorism programmes and monitor them for compliance with those programmes.

Albanian LE have also encountered and dealt with the threat of the returning FTFs, making an effort to closely monitor them. During a routine inspection in the prison where Arvin, Murat and Erag are incarcerated, prison guards receive a tip off from an informant (who is also an inmate) that Arvin has a smart phone hidden in his cell. The guards search his cells, are able to locate it, and transfer it to a counter-terrorism (CT) unit within the police. A search through the list of recent incoming and outgoing calls and messages allow Albanian LE authorities to identify Arvin's contacts outside the prison, including two radicalized members of the suspected mosque. These two members, Frenk and Saban, also have drug trafficking criminal records and are linked to Murat's and Erag's drug-dealing ring. They also find Arvin's exchanges with his wife Arberie and learn that she frequently communicates with Rita and Dori.

With the help of prison authorities, the investigating officers manage to map the prison and identify members of the cell on the outside. With a court order in their hands, authorities soon start to wiretap the ring members' phones and to conduct digital and physical surveillance on all the suspects in Albania.

The progressing investigation thus learns the details of the plot and of the cell's recruitment efforts and other activities, such as Rita's and Dori's fundraising and hawala transfers and their contacts with human smugglers in Turkey and Syria. The latter had previously arranged fake Albanian passports for the travel of Albanian FTFs to Syria, including those of Arvin's. The use of these fake passports allow the FTFs to escape the notice of Albanian migration authorities.

Ultimately Albanian authorities locate Rita, Dori, Arberie, Bujar, Frenk and Saban and arrest them. They are charged under the Criminal Code of the Republic of Albania with an array of crimes that include: acts of terrorism intention (Article 230), collection of funds for terrorism financing (Article 230-D), manufacturing military weapons (Article 234-A), belonging to a terrorist organization (Article 234-A), Organizing the involvement in military operations in a foreign state (Article 265).

Module I:

Increase the Awareness and Capacity of Relevant Practitioners about the Nexus between Organized Crime and Terrorism

(Good Practice # 20)



Objectives:

The aim of this session is primarily to raise awareness of the nexus and identify specific needs in order to design capacity-building programs and policy development at the national level.

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To enhance the awareness on the nexus attention should be paid to training needs in specific areas such as (but not only):

- Correctional system, since convicted inmates of crime and terrorism can develop ties and networks within prison settings;
- Border control, increasing the capacity of border control agents to identify suspicious flows of people and goods across.
- Design and deliver training activities stressing the importance of enhancing inter-agency cooperation at all levels.



Discussion questions:

1. Do the responsible authorities ensure proper initial separation of prisoners according to their legal status (pre-trial from convicted), age (children from adults) and gender? Do authorities respect the same process in female or juvenile facilities? Do they conduct proper intake and regular risk and needs assessments, which inform prisoners' classification and allocation? Are there any programmes aimed at addressing the risks of terrorist radicalization and recruitment in prisons and ensuring that prisons can serve to rehabilitate and reintegrate prisoners?
2. Is there a protocol in place inside the prison for reporting information/intelligence, including on terrorist activities? Which actions should the prison administration take to collect further information/evidence inside the prison? Is there a protocol in place to provide/share information collected in prison by the prison administration with national agencies (e.g. probation services, intelligence services, law enforcement and counterterrorism agencies)?
3. What is the current legislation regarding returning foreign terrorist fighters? And what about their accompanying family members, including spouse and children? Are they all monitored after returning? Is there any deradicalization or disengagement program to be used in case of returning FTFs? And, in particular, is there any relevant programme aimed at facilitating the reintegration and rehabilitation of returning FTFs who happen to be minors and/or women? If so, is this program different from other extremism deradicalization programs used in Albania?
4. What agencies are responsible for border protection? What kind of cooperation is there among law enforcement agencies, border agencies, and other LE and anti-terrorism agencies? What are the ways to improve the cooperation and what obstacles hamper it?
 - ▶ Is there a protocol or shared system in which the agencies responsible for border control can exchange information on border crossings of goods and people in a timely manner with airport control and maritime port control?
 - ▶ When a listed terrorist or criminal is detected at the land, air or sea border attempting to travel, or has already departed from or arrived in Albania, how is this information passed onto the organization/agency responsible for countering terrorism?
 - ▶ How does Albania contribute and make use of INTERPOL databases for screening travelers at air, land and sea ports of entry?

- ▶ What kinds of technology (such as drones, geo-intelligence analysis, etc.) are currently deployed to monitor Albania's borders? How is information from these different assets integrated and disseminated? How can be shared with international LE counterparts?
- ▶ Does Albania share information regarding lost and stolen travel documents with INTERPOL in order to enhance the operational effectiveness of INTERPOL databases and notices? If so, how?

Module II:

Increase the capacities to monitor the cyber space

(Good Practice # 22)

Objectives:

The aim of this session is primarily to raise awareness of the capacity-building initiatives that should be implemented to disrupt activities pertaining to the nexus between terrorism and organized crime that take place online, including through the Internet, social media platforms, messaging apps and the Deep web.

To enhance the capabilities of cyber space monitoring the following are some of the issues to be addressed:

- Identification of the responsibilities and mandates of the government actors involved in online monitoring to assure adequate and specific capacity building for each actor;
- Development of training activities for government agencies and identification of relevant areas of expertise that further development, such as deep & Dark web monitoring, social media assessment and monitoring, virtual currencies, use of big data analytics, monitoring systems and cyber patrol;
- Development of partnerships with cyber experts to support government agencies in specific technical areas;
- Development of partnerships with the private sector (social media corporations, internet providers, among others);
- Promotion of international police cooperation and exchange of ideas among policy makers, experts and practitioners;
- Development an adoption of national legislation and organizational structures to facilitate the flow of relevant information across agencies;
- Compliance with the United Nations' member states' obligations under international law, including human rights law and fundamental freedoms, regarding processes to remove terrorist-linked and radicalization content from the internet; and
- Improvement of information technology infrastructure.



Discussion questions:

1. What is the current legislation in place regarding online monitoring/investigation of violent extremist/terrorist content on social media? What are the responsibilities of online platforms/social media? What are the responsibilities of the national authorities? Are there other actors involved in such online monitoring? Is there a special unit or agency dealing with illegal online content? If yes, how does the agency disseminate information? What are the responsibilities of your agency regarding monitoring/collecting information from online platforms/social media? How can you collect relevant information? What kinds of information can you collect? What are the legal and other limitations on data collection? How can you use the information collected? Is the national legislation adapted to support collection and analysis of information originated in the cyber space? Does the national legislation allow the regular flow of relevant information in-between agencies?
2. Does the legal framework allow for the blocking, filtering or removing of illegal content and what are the human rights safeguards in this regard?
3. How does your agency enhance cyber-monitoring capabilities? Does it rely solely on in-house capacities? Does your agency partner with private companies, such as start-ups, IT companies, and consulting firms, for cyber-monitoring capabilities? Does your agency design and deliver training activities for relevant areas of expertise in cyber-monitoring, e.g. deep web, social media and virtual currencies? Does your agency make use of cyber experts for delivering these trainings?
4. Is there any current counter crime/CT cyber-monitoring cooperation between national agencies? Is there a counter crime fusion center that gathers national agencies responsible for cyber-monitoring? How does your agency cooperate in the international level on the fight against cyber-crime/CT?
5. Are there any gaps in the laws/policies related to online monitoring/investigation or any challenges related to their implementation?

Annex II

UN Treaties, Security Council resolutions, Secretary General's reports and other instruments which may be relevant reference tools throughout the delivery of the training

United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols Thereto

- Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children
- Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air
- Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition

United Nations Convention against Corruption

UN Security Council resolution 2178 (2014)

UN Security Council resolution 2195 (2014)

UN Security Council resolution 2322 (2016)

UN Security Council resolution 2368 (2017)

UN Security Council resolution 2370 (2017)

UN Security Council resolution 2396 (2017)

UN Security Council resolution 2354 (2017)

UN Security Council resolution 2462 (2019)

UN Security Council resolution 2482 (2019)

Action taken by Member States and United Nations entities to address the issue of linkages between terrorism and organized crime

Eleventh report on the threat posed by ISIL (Da'esh) to international peace and security and the range of United Nations efforts in support of Member States in countering the threat

Annex III

Biographies

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DR. VANDA FELBAB-BROWN

is a senior fellow in the Center for 21st Century Security and Intelligence in the Foreign Policy program at Brookings. She is the co-director of the Brookings series on opioids: "The Opioid Crisis in America: Domestic and International Dimensions." Previously, she was the co-director of the Brookings project, "Improving Global Drug Policy: Comparative Perspectives Beyond UNGASS 2016," as well as of another Brookings project, "Reconstituting Local Orders." Felbab-Brown is an expert on international and internal conflicts and nontraditional security threats, including insurgency, organized crime, urban violence, and illicit economies. Her fieldwork and research have covered, Afghanistan, South Asia, Burma, Indonesia, the Andean region, Mexico, Morocco, Somalia, and eastern Africa.

A frequent commentator in U.S. and international media, Felbab-Brown regularly provides congressional testimony on these issues. Felbab-Brown received her doctorate in political science from MIT and her bachelor's in government from Harvard University.



MR. CHRISTIAN AZEVEDO

has been a Special Agent with the Brazilian Federal Police for the past 19 years. Before joining the Federal Police, he was a Tax Lawyer with KPMG International for 4 years. He holds a degree in Law (JD) and an MA in International Relations.

Also, he is currently a PhD candidate in International Relations. He has an extensive experience in transnational crime investigations and counterterrorism, both in Brazil and overseas. He was recently deployed for one year in the Middle Eastern region to investigate transnational terrorism threats and terrorism facilitation (crime x terror nexus). He is a research fellow at the following research centers: TRAC (PUC Minas/Brazil), CeCOT (Universidad Nacional La Plata – Argentina), ANP/PF (Federal Police Academy/Brazil). He has written and published a number of articles and book chapters in Portuguese, English and Spanish. He also acts as a post-graduation level instructor in Brazil and overseas.





MS. VESNA BOJICIC- DZELILOVIC

Vesna Bojicic-Dzelilovic is Senior Research fellow at the Department of International Development at the London School of Economics and Political Science. She has worked on and researched the political economy of war and post-war recovery for over twenty five years. She has published widely on the topics of informal economy, governance, human security and international aid particularly based on the experience in the Western Balkans, and advised the EU, the UN, the UK government and others.

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ARTURO VARRIALE



In 2017 Mr. Varriale was appointed as Head of International Relations Unit within the Central Directorate for Preventive Police (DCPP) - Counter International Terrorism and Extremism Service.

He also partook as Italian representative in various high level CT initiatives such as the "Global Coalition Security Cooperation: Foreign Terrorist Fighters Working Group", a Multi-Regional project led by the US State Department, and the "Counter Terrorism Practitioners Sub Group (CTPSG)" of the "G7 Rome – Lyon Group". From 2013 to 2017 Mr. Varriale was Head of the European Relation Unit of the International Police Cooperation Service. From 2006 to 2013 he worked as Head of the Counter Terrorism Section of D.I.G.O.S. at Police Headquarter in Turin.

MRS. LEJDI DERVISHI

Mrs. Lejdi Dervishi is currently the Director of The Coordination Center for Countering Violent Extremism (The CVE Center) close to Prime Minister's Office, Tirana, Albania.



She has a vast professional knowledge of international affairs that she has acquired through a constant follow up training and information research. She speaks perfectly four languages: Albanian, Italian, English and French.

In her previous job position, she worked as a Seconded Expert on Diaspora and Migration for the Government of Albania close to the State Minister for Diaspora, on the behalf of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Tirana, Albania.

She has attained three second-level Master's degrees in the field of international and diplomatic relations, security studies and European studies from three prestigious Italian and Albanian institutions, which have contributed to accomplish her professional and academic skill set (Link Campus University, Italian Society for International Organizations (SIOI UN) and Institute of European Studies).

She has followed different professional courses and achieved certificates on issues related to P/CVE issues as well as studied the effect of geopolitical changes that this phenomenon may have, in particular with focus in the Western Balkans, NATO and MENA region.

In the last years, she has participated in various international workshops and conferences as a speaker, that have had as on their focus the prevention and countering of radicalization and violent extremism that can lead to terrorism (VERLT) organized by the OSCE, CoE, EU, UNICRI, UNODC, EUROPOL, ESCN, ICITAP, PAMECA V, RACVIAC, RCC, GCTF, DCAF, NATO TRADOC, IISG in cooperation with the Albanian Government, as well as several WB6i countries.

Since 2003, she has also attended over the years different educational seminars (webinars) with reference to the acquisition of managerial skills related to the business field, intercultural communication, development of project skills in the field of non-profit associations / international organizations as well as continuous professional updating in the framework of security and international relations.



LEIF VILLADSEN

Mr. Villadsen has over 20 years of international experience with the United Nations in managing and leading criminal justice, crime prevention and counter-terrorism programmes, including programmes on strengthening international judicial, security and law enforcement cooperation, on countering radicalization and violent extremism and on promoting rehabilitation and social reintegration of violent extremist offenders and foreign terrorist fighters.

Mr. Villadsen has managed and coordinated technical cooperation programmes in several regions, including in countries of the Middle East and North Africa, Asia and Europe.

Currently, Mr. Villadsen acts as Senior Programme Officer and Deputy Director for the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) and is responsible for the overall leadership and strategic planning, management and implementation of UNICRI programme, operations and research in the field of criminal justice, crime prevention, counter-terrorism, promotion of human rights and its contribution to socio-economic development.

MS. ROZANA BACI

Ms. Rozana Baci currently holds the position of Expert at the Coordination Center for Countering Violent Extremism (The CVE Center), a sub-ordinated body to Prime Minister's Office, Tirana, Albania. She is responsible for coordinating the National Strategy and its Action Plan of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection at central and local level for both, prevention and rehabilitation/reintegration processes. She has a 9-year of professional experience, a combination within private and public institutions as well as international ones. She speaks three languages: Albanian, English and Italian.

She has attained two Master's degrees in the field of International and European Law at the Gent University (LLM) as well as a joint master Democratization and Human Rights for South-East Europe at Sarajevo and Bologna University (MA). She has developed local and international expertise on issues related to P/CVE issues as well as restructuring reform in Albania.

In the last years, she has participated in various researches, publications and as well as workshops and conferences as a speaker, that have had as on their focus the prevention and countering of radicalization and violent extremism that can lead to terrorism (VERLT) organized internally, regionally and internationally by the CVE Center and different partners/donors/implementers.



MS. CHIARA BOLOGNA

is an Associate Programme Officer working at the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) since 2013, previously based in Rome and currently in the Turin Headquarters, in Italy. She holds a Masters degree in International Relations from King's College, London's War Studies Department. She has worked on programmes on counter-terrorism: preventing and countering violent extremism and in the rehabilitation and reintegration of violent extremist prisoners, juvenile justice and countering organized crime, with a focus on research and capacity building activities, covering mainly Southeast Asia and East Africa. She is currently managing the programme on the nexus between organized crime and terrorism at UNICRI.



MS. ALICE RENA

Alice Rena works as Associate Programme Officer at the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI). From 2012 to 2016 she provided substantive support to UNICRI's projects focused on vulnerable populations (inmates, drug users, women, minors victims of abuse etc.). She carried out research activities on various topics in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, supporting the design and implementation of data collection tools and methodologies. She conducted survey initiatives aimed at identifying needs, priorities and best practices in the field of drug prevention and treatment, with specific focus on gender issues and alternative measures to prison. In 2016 she joined the UNICRI Counter Terrorism Program, providing substantive support to several projects focusing on the issues of foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs), rehabilitation and reintegration of VEOs and the nexus between transnational organized crime and terrorism.

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Before joining UNICRI, she worked on social protection issues at the International Labor Organization in Turin and Geneva.

Alice is a Forensic Psychologist and she holds a Master in Criminology and Forensic Sciences from the University of Rome "La Sapienza", where she graduated summa cum laude.

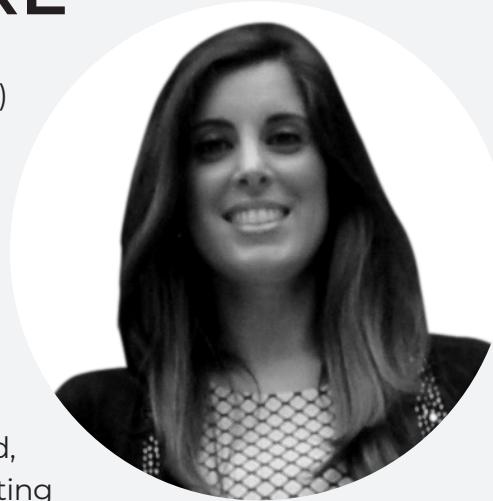
MS. CARLOTTA ZENERE

is currently Associate Expert in Counter-Terrorism (JPO) at the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) in the Turin Headquarters. She was previously based in New York where she worked at the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED); the Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations and the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT).

Her areas of expertise include: counter-terrorism (and, notably, countering the financing of terrorism); preventing and countering violent extremism; sanctions; organized crime; and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (including counter proliferation financing).

Ms. Zenere holds a Master Degree in Law from the University of Padova and a Master in Global Economics and Social Affairs from Ca' Foscari University in Venice (with a thesis on "Virtual currency: a brand new challenge in the fight against money-laundering and counter-terrorism measures").

She is fluent in Italian (mother tongue), English and French.



Annex IV

List of participating agencies

The Coordination Center for Countering Violent Extremism - Albania

Pogradec Municipality

Cerrik Municipality

Audio-visual media authority

Municipality of Elbasan

Bulqize Municipality

Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth

State Social Services

Municipality of Diber

University-Aleksander Moisiu

Intra-Religious Council

NGO-IANS

NGO-Luarasi

Tirane Municipality

State Agency for the Rights and Protection of the Child

NGO-Center for Legal and Civic Initiatives

NGO-SHIS

National Employment Service

