Processes of Radicalization and Development of Terrorist Activity

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Abstract:*Terrorism as a phenomenon has a complex structure in which ideological, social, religious, ethnic, psychological and other elements are intertwined. Modern terrorism is a complex and dynamic phenomenon that successfully adapts to the political and economic situation. In its modern manifestations, terrorism increasingly relies on synergy between different influences and approaches. This allows for the impact, the effect of which significantly exceeds the mechanical sum of the effects of the individual forms and approaches. The main component and motivational tool of terrorism is the process of radicalization. Despite the lack of consensus on the understanding of the phenomenon of radicalization, this phenomenon is imposed as a consequence and result of increasingly complex social processes in modern and postmodern societies. Effective counteraction is beyond the power of any independent specialized institution or individual country. Understanding of the concept of terrorism is linked to the analysis of the common features of modern terrorism. Based on the content of ideology and motivation, as well as the specifics of the methods of action, there are differences between terrorism based on left and right ideologies, on nationalism and separatism, and with different religious motivations.*

Keywords:*terrorism, radicalization, motivational tool, counter-terrorism and radicalization.*

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Introduction

Modern terrorism is a manifestation of a clash, of a conflict between powerful economic interests that are often disguised in religious and ethnic terms. Criminally accumulated free money seeks its realization around the world. According toNatio naleconomiccrimecenter,the movement of financial flows from the so-called „dirty money" annually amountsto 100 billion pounds per year only in the UK[2] and to the colossal amounts of about 800 billion to 1 trillion dollars worldwide. These financial flows cause enormous damage to the world economy, as they seriously threaten the security of the global financial system itself.

Interest in terrorism is growing in direct proportion to the victims of the attacks. Strategies to combat it are constantly being drafted, legislation is being changed to punish perpetrators of crimes, but this cannot eliminate terrorism. The constant terrorist attacks, the numerous casualties and damage caused by terrorism make it one of the most terrible and sinister phenomena that exist today.[3]

Terrorism is a strategic risk and this means that national security systems must address this risk and establish the necessary regulatory, financial, informational and human capacity for early warning, prevention, response, counteraction and effective management of its consequences. Countering such a complex and multifaceted phenomenon requires political will and decisions that require vision, strategy, leadership, statehood, as well as focusing the entire national security system on society and its individual citizens. This presupposes a strategic level of counteraction and engagement of serious managerial and institutional resources and the efforts of the strategic management of the state.[4]

The process of radicalization is the main component and motivational tool of terrorism. Despite the lack of consensus on the understanding of the phenomenon of radicalization, this phenomenon is occuring as a consequence and result of increasingly complex social processes in modern and postmodern societies.

[2]   https://nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/news/national-economic-crime-centre-leads-push-to-identi-fy-money-laundering-activity. Accessed 30.01.2021.

[3]   Savov, I. A Look at Counteracting Hybrid Threats in the European Union. International Conference "Asymmetric Threats, Hybrid Wars and Their Impact on National Security", New Bulgarian University, March 2018, ISBN 978-619-7383- 09-6, pp. 179-185

[4]   Stoykov, S., Dimitrova, S., Marinov, R. The development of educational capacity of human resources in the field of security-main priority of national security, International Conference on Creative Business for Smart and Sustainable Growth, CreBUS 2019, March 2019, Article number 8840062, Category number CFP19U17-ART; Code 152084, ISBN: 978-172813467-3, DOI: 10.1109/CREBUS.2019.8840062

Similarly to other phenomena with transnational characteristics, it has its universal features, but also its unique and local distinctive lines.[5]

In recent years, there has been a tendency to redistribute the number of ethnic and civilizational groups by quantity and geography. On the other hand, the constant changes in the concepts of education and development of the young generation, as well as the uneven global distribution of resources and goods, lead to a change in the value system of large social groups. Individual regions are impoverished and encapsulated and a microenvironment which is significantly different from the basic characteristics of the respective regions is formed. Respect for the state and state institutions is strongly marginalized. At the same time, more and more attempts are being made to exploit the basic instincts for preserving an ethnic or national group for political or immoral purposes (e.g. ethno festivals, marketing campaigns, etc. are organised) or to channel those feelings and emotions as a motivator for inciting right-wing extremists, even left-extremist ideologies and movements in society. Most often, these processes are a counterpoint to the intensifying processes of radicalization on religious and ethnic grounds, taking place in certain regions and ethnic groups in Europe and on the Balkans. Despite the existing stereotypes, signs of marginalization can also be identified among representatives of the main and dominant ethnic and religious communities, which are beginning to exhibit degradation of the value system and functional illiteracy.[6]

The **aim** of the present study is to study and analyze the impact factors on the radicalization and development of modern terrorism, to determinetheir modern features and to derive a basic algorithm underpinning the process of radicalization.

The following **research tasks** have been defined:

1. To analyze the essence of modern terrorism and the development of comprehension of the essence of terrorism.

2. To study the essence of radicalization, the factors which influence it, and to present an up-to-date description of the phenomenon.

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[5]   Manual - to the contract URI №5785 opm-26 5785mpd-6 / 24.01.2018 - "Conducting a national expert study on the topic of Early recognition of signs of radicalization for early prevention", under the project "Improvement of expert capabilities of the employees of the Ministry of Interior for prevention of aggression in the society, anti-corruption and countering radicalization ", contract № BG05SFOP001-2.004-0003-C01 / 27.12.2016, for providing gratuitous financial aid under the Operational Program "Good Governance".

[6]   Marinov P. (2017) Contemporary Challenges to the Management of the System for Security and Countering Terrorism. Sofia: Iztok-Zapad Publishing House., Sofia, 2016, ISBN 978-619-01-0027-0

3. To outline the interrelationships between radicalization and modern terrorism.

The research methodology includes the application of an analytical and conceptual approach, which uses methods of collecting data and information from various sources, including field research and in-depth interviews with representatives of various religious and social strata of society, data preparation, data formation. evaluation, structural, theoretical analysis and synthesis, logical and comparative analysis. The combined use of these methods allows the implementation of links between different results and conclusions, which allows for a comprehensive and in-depth study of the process of radicalization and motivation for terrorist activity.

The first part attempts to analyze the development of perceptions about the nature of terrorism, including the available official definitions. The accepted definitions in NATO and the contradictions caused by the clear distinction between preventive and reactive measures to counteract theorism are considered. On this basis, the main features of modern theorism are derived. This would allow concretizing the analysis of emerging crisis situations, clearly distinguishing theorism from other forms of violence and taking adequate countermeasures.

in the second part a model for motivation for theoretical activity is proposed. The main phases are clearly defined and a connection is made with the intensity of the expression of extreme behavior leading to theorism.

Seven levels of radicalization have been identified, which can serve as an indicative mechanism for the presence of radicalization and can be included in the training of public and private sector employees who may encounter radicalization processes.

The essence of modern terrorism and the development of comprehensionof the nature of terrorism.

Terrorism as a phenomenon has a complex structure in which ideological, social, religious, ethnic, psychological and other elements are intertwined. In addition, very often terrorism as a form of violence is associated with war,guerrilla warfare, crime, and similar destructive for the society activities and actions. As a result of its complex structure, there is no generally accepted definition of *terrorism*. In defining modern terrorism, account should be taken of the fact that the development of the information environment changes the nature of existing security systems, forcing them to work in a complex information environment and

to create and implement a number of new complex policies, approaches and tasks. Modern terrorism is a complex and dynamic phenomenon that successfully adapts to the political and economic situation. Effective counteraction is beyond the power of any independent specialized institution or individual country. Real results in the fight against terrorism can only be achieved through joint efforts and the creation of legislation that is effective and counteracts terrorist acts and threats.[7]

All of the above leads to serious difficulties in the legal grounds for the fight against terrorism, because if there is no definition, there is no punishment.

Understanding of the concept of **terrorism** is linked to the analysis of the common features of modern terrorism. Based on the content of ideology and motivation, as well as the specifics of the methods of action, there are differences between terrorism based on left and right ideologies, on nationalism and separatism, and with different religious motivations.[8]

The new global and asymmetric threats posed by international terrorism, insurgency, organized crime, the proliferation of dangerous technologies and components of weapons of mass destruction, actions threatening the state, information manipulation and misinformation, pose a significant danger to both global security and each national security.[9]

The security environment within the European Union (EU) has in recent years been characterised by the development of a number of crises, complex emergencies and acts of terrorism. The risks and dangers in Europe are growing in numbers and character. The attacks that took place in European in 2012 in Bulgaria (Burgas), 2014, 2015 and 2016 in France (Paris, Nice) and in Belgium (Brussels) are proof that an adequate response is needed from each country.[10]

At the same time, the essential nature of terrorism as a specific types of action and approach must be considered. While classical warfare is based on physical dominance and victory, terrorism is an asymmetric approach aimed at psychological impact.

[7]   Marinov, P. Terrorism: Abstractions and Realities. Sofia: Iztok-Zapad Publishing House. 2016, ISBN 978-619-152-866-0

[8]   European Commission's Expert Group on Violent Radicalization (2008). Radicalization Processes Leading to Acts of Terrorism, submitted to the European Commission on 15 May 2008.

[9]   Savov, I. A look at the inviolability and protection of personal data in the digital age, bulletin no. 37, Faculty of Police, Academy of the Ministry of Interior, 2017, ISSN 1312-6679, pp. 79-97

[10] European Commission's Expert Group on Violent Radicalization (2008). Radicalization Processes Leading to Acts of Terrorism, submitted to the European Commission on 15 May 2008.

In its modern manifestations, terrorism increasingly relies on synergy between different influences and approaches. This allows the resulting impact to exceedsignificantly the sum of the effects of the single forms and approaches. In addition to the traditional attacks on unarmed individuals and public facilities, the development of DAESH(IS)has shown that it is possible the ambitions of terrorist organizations are to reach the levels of classic military formations and even establishment of a state entity. Understandably, DAESH(IS)focuses the attention of the world community, but this does not exclude the study and analysis of still existing terrorist groups with different motivations. Destabilisation in the Middle East has led to an increase in the migrant wave, which in turn has caused economic, social and civilisational problems. This sparked the resurgence of right and left extremism.

The religion - politics interrelations

The development of each cause, ideology or its higher form – religion (for short we will call it *the Cause*) follows almost the same pattern (model). It is characterized by a birth, a period of enthusiasm and increase in followers, a period of enthusiasm and radicalization, a warlike period, and a climax which is inevitably followed by marginalization. It is worth noting that during the warlike period there is a desire for rapid and mass dissemination and imposition of the Cause, and this is accompanied by the deep conviction that this is in the interest of the people who are forced to accept the Cause. At the climax, all followers sincerely believe and personally accept any Cause issue.

No matter thepattern of development, leaders emerge at an early stage. The spread and expansion of the Cause brings power over people and resources, and power inevitably turns leaders into elite. The more the power of the Cause grows, the more the elite moves away from the masses; thus the social, economic and social differences increase and become clear and noticeable. Of course, this cannot be an endless process. At a certain critical moment, the connection between the elite and the masses becomes thinner until it breaks. The trust of the masses in the elite is compromised, and this in turn erodes faith in the Cause itself. This is also the beginning of marginalization.[11]

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[11] Lasch, Ch. (1995) The Revolt of the Elites and the Betrayal of Democracy. New York: W.W. Norton&Company

The lifespan of a Cause is determined by its scale. When it comes to a specific idea, with clearly defined and physically achieved goals, the life of the Cause can last for months. With political causes, this period can be from several years to decades, even centuries. However, when it comes to higher Causes, such as the world's major religions the lifespan can be as long as millennia. The attempt to compare the development of world religions, following the proposed model, confirms many similarities. The specifics of the ideological construction of a religion, which have an additional supporting or deterrent effect on the process, must also be taken into account.

The political motivation and the proclamation of a certain ideology, religion or ethnic rights as a cause which plays a strong role as a stimulant serves the purpose of manipulation and violence.

From all the above, it can be concluded that the argument about the multifaceted nature of terrorism as a phenomenon and the objective impossibility to reach a uniform and generally accepted definition is confirmed.

NATOdefinition of terrorism and counter-terrorism

Although there is no generally accepted definitions on terrorism and counter-terrorism, we can present NATO's themfrom AAP 6 Nato Clossary of terms[12] and definitions where the Terrorism is considered as: …..The unlawful use or threat of violence, the imposition of fear and terror on individuals or property in order to force or intimidate governments or societies, or to establish control over the population, to achieve political, religious or ideological objectives. In the same document, the definition of counter-terrorism is: all preventive, protective and protective measures taken to reduce the vulnerability of forces, individuals and property to terrorist threats and/or actions in order to respond to terrorist acts. Within the framework of the comprehensive approach. This may be combined with or followed by measures to allow recovery after acts of terrorism. The basic NATO documents related to countering-terrorism like the Military Concept for Defence against Terrorism (MC472) use these initially agreed definitions.

The analysis of the definition shows that terrorism is a form of violence or a threat of violence, subordinated to or justified by a specific cause - political, religious or ideological. The second emphasis is on the purpose of the violence,

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[12] AAP-6, NATO Glossary of Terms and Definitions, https://www.nato.int/structur/AC/310/pdf/nov2000.pdf

namely submission of the public consciousness through fear and shock in the interest of the cause. In addition to the emerging features of terrorism, the need to refine the definition is clear, as it is scientifically unacceptable to define an object, phenomenon or process with the same word used to name the object, phenomenon or process. In our case, if we consider the content of the term TERROR – derived fromthe Latin verb *terrere*to frighten, to terrify,we will see that a tautology is formed and that is why it is necessary to refine the definition.

With regard to the understanding of the concept of counter-terrorism, the use of the word ‚Counter' is of importance. According to the definition, the term counter-terrorism includes all possible preventive, offensive and defensive measures. The basic meaning of the terms in the Bulgarian language with the prefix ‚Counter' is an action, which is a reaction to another action or event that has already taken place: counterattack, counteroffensive, counter-coup, counter-revolution and others. This in turn creates ambiguity and a lack of clear distinction between the various forms of counter-terrorism and especially between preventive and reactive measures.

After the initial publication of the NATO definitions on terrorism and counter-terrorism, there are no new attempts to change the agreed ones. The conclusion is that when developing new or reviewing existing documents, there is no identified need for a new edition.All publications on terrorism share the view that it is a form of violence. Regarding its other characteristics, there is a great variety of opinions. For example, its goal is defined as causing fear, intimidation, achieving political, economic, ethnic goals, gaining popularity, and more. There is a great diversity when defining terrorism characteristics of means and organization in over a hundred definitions. The most common elements in those definitions are'violence' and'force', found in 83.5% of the definitions, followed by 'political' - 65%, 'fear' - 51%, 'threat' - 47%.[13]

Political motivation is found in all major types of terrorism - left-wing extremist, right-wing extremist, separatist (ethnic), religious. For this reason there is no need to add „ethnic", „religious" or other goals to the definition.

Unlike legitimate political organizations, terrorists use violence to seize power. There is also violence in other social phenomena - war between states, civil wars, guerrilla warfare. Therefore, the differences between terrorist violence and other types of violence needs to be clarified.

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[13]   Alex Schmid,Terrorism - The Definitional Problem, 36Case W. Res. J. Int'l L.375 (2004)

The common element in the definitions is thatthere is no uniform definition of terrorism and most probably, despite the international efforts, such a definition will not to be adopted. This is caused by the differences in political views, interests and conditions. In our view, it is imperative to eleborate on the main features of terrorism as an activity and to characterise direct terrorist acts in order to distinguish them from other forms of confrontation.

On this basis, as well as on the basis of modern examples of terrorist activity, an attempt can be made to derive and suggest a definition of terrorism:

politically motivated activity, incriminated by domestic and international law, which involves violence against citizens to achieve its goals.

Political motivation - each terrorist act or activity is based on a political motive. Most often the driving emotion is the sense of injustice and a desire to change the state system orthe political (religious) system, or desire for power and control over resources and others. It is worth mentioning that even in the most recent examples of acts committed by individuals, the so-called „lone wolves", their motivation is based on affect caused by a sense of injustice, or a desire to identify oneself with an idea or group (terrorist, religious, political, including individual movements with specific causes, etc.), or the wish tobecome noticable, as well as to contribute to the accomplishment of the accepted cause with the terrorist act.

Publicity is the second characteristic of terrorism. Since the political goal cannot be achieved without establishing control over the society, group or population in a certain region, the main goal is to spread the results of the terrorist act as wide as possible. In almost all cases, a point for monitoring and filming the terrorist act is established. Next, the information, very often additionally manipulated and with added elements (sound, inscriptions, messages, symbols, etc.), which enhance the psychological impact, is disseminated/broadcast with the use of various media techniques. This is the basic method used in the „Islamic State" media campaign. The distribution/broadcast of video materials and photos from attacks, executions and tortures, through the media, the Internet and other media channels, increases the effect of the acts in a geometric progression and allows the achievement of the goal by terrorist organizations at a very low cost. This raises the question of the involvement of public media in the spread of the information and the degree to which public media should inform society,because there is a certain moment after which the media can become (willingly or unwillingly) accomplices in the terrorist act.

Indiscriminate and mass casualties - Unlike other forms of armed confrontations, terrorism most often targets innocent people. In some cases, depending on the specific purposes of the terrorist act, the target could be representatives of a particular ethnic group or religion. What is more, the planners and perpetrators of terrorist acts are not interested in the number of victims; on the contrary, very often they aim at masses of people. This characteristic complements the above described first and second characteristics. Very often this is the leading goal, which neglects the importance of traditionally respectedsites, such as religious temples, health facilities, children's centers, etc. An example of this is the cascading terrorist attack with improvised explosive devices on a mosque in the Yemeni capital during Friday prayers, and the armed attack and random shooting of doctors and helpless patients in a hospital in Sanaa. Both attacks were filmed and the recordings were broadcast in the Internet.

Intentional cruelty - this characteristic is directly related to the desire to cause shock and awe as a result of the exerted violence; its main purpose is to intensify the desired effect in combination with the other characteristics.

The suggested main characteristics of terrorism are the basis for a classification of the types of terrorism. Such classification is essential for the successful identification and analysis of a terrorist activity or a specific act and for taking decisions on an adequate response of the security system.

Based on outlinted spesifics and modern terrorism key features **the following basic motivation algorithm [14]**can be derived and suggested.

It should be emphasized that reaching a certain level (stage)of the algorithm does not automatically mean execution of terrorist activity. The transition or non-transition from one levelto the next depends on many factors: literacy, personal qualities and value system, the environment, historical and socio-political factors. Very often, the first two levels, and sometimes the third (radicalization) can be occupied by highly educated people and even sometimes by employees in the security system, but this does not make them terrorists. At the same time, the transition along the algorithm stages and reaching the final stage by illiterate persons, or persons with specific personal characteristics, can be done very quickly and at the cost of very little effort (manipulation, motivation, etc.)

What are the distinctive characteristics and the main factors influencing the levels (stages)in the algorithm?

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[14]   See Figure 1

Sense of injustice - this feeling is basic in the human psyche and it can be triggered by various reasons related to the psyche and life of the individual (e.g. satisfaction, professional development and personal sense of adequacy of the assessment of efforts, material and social status, recognition and level in the hierarchy of the individual group or society, etc.), as well as by global **causes**.

It should be emphasized that the larger and more global a cause is, the higher its potential to attract and unite more individuals is.[15]

Although developed with a focus on business and human resources management, this theory can find its modern and more general relations to the processes of radicalization, including relations to personal emotions, religious beliefs and established moral and value system. In this sense, in modern conditions, to form a sense of injustice towards a religion or a particular civilizational model of social relations is easy. Some examples include the global response and negative reactions of large masses of people after the publications of the French magazine Charlie Hebdo.Those publications were actually based on the democratic values and on the freedom of speech right. However, the result clearly shows that global understandings of these two concepts are quite different and when ignoring these differences or disregarding civilizational and religious specifics, the result could be generation of radicalization instead of democracy.

Affect / Anger - Without going deeply into the scientific aspects of personality psychology and the characteristics of the states of affect, we must underline that the negative emotional mood caused by a deep sense of injustice can have several expressions. Preliminary manifestations of anger should hint unequivocally that there is a serious problem. This type of anger has its characteristic features: abuse of alcohol or other intoxicants, increased tone of speech, usage of swearing and insulting vulgar language, typical facial expressions, finger pointing, sudden movements of the hands near hips, stiffness of the body, prolonged staring, deliberate violation ofthe personal space, etc.[16]

What matters more in the described algorithm for a person's transition to terrorism, is the suppression of anger. This type of anger is not of an immediate threat, but it is much more intense than the manifested (aggressive) anger, as it

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[15] Adams, J.S. (1965) Inequity in Social Exchange, Advance Experimental Social Psychology, 2, 267-299

[16] Dzhekova R, Mancheva M., Stoynova N., Anagnosto, D. (2017) Monitoring of the risks of radicalization. Center for the Study of Democracy. Sofia, ISBN: 978-954-477-300-7, p.22.

harbours a lot of negative thoughts and emotions based on a long-time accumulated negative attitude towards a person or problem, or in this case - the reason for the sense of injustice. It is the extreme leves of supressed anger that are the beginning of the process of radicalization and reaching extremes in assessments, positions, rejection of any alternatives and, at a later stage, the decisive readiness to impose the embraced Cause on the others.[17]

The essence of radicalization. The processes of radicalization and their connection with terrorist activity.

In its modern manifestations, terrorism increasingly relies on synergy between different in character influences and approaches. This synergy allows for impact, the effect of which significantly exceeds the sum of the effects of the single approaches. At the same time, the new information environment has changed the operation of existing security systems. This puts them in a difficult position and causes them to function in a complex information environment. This requires the implementation of a number of new complex policies, missions and tasks and underlines the increasing complexity of governance, which is the basis for improving their organisation and skills on scientific grounds[18]. The Internet serves as fertile ground for terrorist networks such as al Qaeda or „Islamic State" to spread their ideas and plan the destruction of life and property[19].

The main component and motivational tool of terrorism is the process of radicalization. Threats are changing their forms and become unconventional, such as modern forms of terrorism, information attacks in cyberspace against government institutions or against energy, transport, and financial critical infrastructure among others. Attacks by radicalised people who were born or newly arrived migrants in the community have been recorded in the European Union. These attacks on the population aim to create and maintain panic and fear and disrupt normal social processes[20].

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[17] See Figure 2

[18] Stoykov, S., Dimitrova, S., Marinov, R., The development of educational capacity of human resources in the field of security-main priority of national security, International Conference on Creative Business for Smart and Sustainable Growth, CreBUS 2019, March 2019, Article number 8840062, Category number CFP19U17-ART; Code 152084, ISBN: 978-172813467-3, DOI: 10.1109/CREBUS.2019.8840062

[19] Savov, I. A look at the inviolability and protection of personal data in the digital age, bulletin no. 37, Faculty of Police, Academy of the Ministry of Interior, 2017, ISSN 1312-6679, pp. 79-97

[20] Savov, I., A Look at Counteracting Hybrid Threats in the European Union, International Conference "Asymmetric Threats, Hybrid Wars and Their Impact on National Security", New Bulgarian University, March 2018, ISBN 978-619-7383-09- 6, pp. 179-185

Radicalization is perceived as a change of views, feelings and behaviour, which results in intergroup violence and requires self-sacrifice in the name of protecting one group at the expense of another. It can also be explained as a strategic use of violence to change the behavior of certain social groups or state institutions. This diversification of interpretation also explains the multilayered nature of the factors that have led to the beginning of the process, as well as the achievement of the corresponding state, namely radicalism. It is not uncommon in the research on the topic to equate radicalism with extremism and terrorism. If we analyze the various definitions of „radicalization", we will notice that it is most often associated with extremism[21].

There are numerous analyzes of the reasons leading to the radicalization of individuals, groups and countries. They can be grouped into socio-economic (poverty, social inequality, social hopelessness, etc.), psychological (fear, loss of sense of belonging to one's own social or political group, etc.), ideological (desire to change the status quo in competition with another social group), religious (hyperbolizing certain dogmatic norms in order to show superiority over other religious communities), political (the use of violence in order to achieve dominance in government), and others.[22]

Radicalisation resulting in extreme behaviour, violence and terrorism, is not a new phenomenon, but the process is evolving at an alarming rate and scale. This process is not limited to one Member State, but affects the whole European Union. Policies and measures undertaken at the EU and national levels must be further developed to match the scale of the challenge.[23]

There is no official data of the number **of radicalised people** currently on the territory of the European Union who may pose a potential security threat. However, various databases at a national level give an idea of the scale of the problem: around 20 000 people have been reported in France; 20,000 in the UK, 11,000 in Germany. At the same time, threat analyses show an increase in **right-wing** extremism promoting hate speech. This fuels violent extremism as well as division in society. The number of attacks carried out on the basis **of left and right radicalisation** is on the rise.The **return of members of militants to terrorist** organizations

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[21] Chukov, V. "Radicalization - a complex and contradictory social process"
[22] https://www.nato.int/structur/AC/310/pdf/nov2000.pdf
[23] Marinov P. (2017) Contemporary Challenges to the Management of the System for Security and Countering Terrorism. Sofia: Iztok-Zapad Publishing House., Sofia, 2016, ISBN 978-619-01-0027-0

and their families, including adolescents, together with local extremists and those prone to self-radicalization, are the main challenges to preventing radicalization. In the long term, the Member States of the European Union must take proactive measures and balance strong and soft approaches. [24]

Regardless of the type of radicalisation or country-specific circumstances, some specific tools of terrorist groups or extremist organisations can be identified. They include:

1) the use of **the internet and social media** for propaganda and recruitment purposes;

2) reqruitmet of persons in prisons;

3) actions to increase polarisation and, more broadly, to **undermine public peace and shared values.** These **multifaceted challenges require multilateral responses** from all public domains that involve all relevant actors at local, regional, national, European and international levels with policies aimed at preventing and combating radicalisation, while complementing other measures as part of a more comprehensive approach to combating terrorism.[25]

Another factor for radicalisation is the role of foreign influence. Many countries in the region have seen students leave for the Gulf States, where they are being educated in the more conservative relidious thought. Upon their return to the region, these students continue to advocate for the 'purification' of traditional religious. The core of the Salafi proselytisation effort revolves around Bosnians who are educated through this scholarship scheme, and who have established local NGO's and madrassas.

Research that explores the extent to which foreign influences play a radicalising role and thus contribute to violent extremism in the region and in diaspora communities, is crucially important. Analysis of links between Gulf-funded scholarship schemes, the funding of Salafist NGOs, and a recent influx of foreign investments could prove incredibly valuable to uncovering patterns that inform policy-level intervention strategies.

~~Based on~~ the described radicalization factors and the existing definitions,

[24] European Commission's Expert Group on Violent Radicalization (2008). Radicalization Processes Leading to Acts of Terrorism, submitted to the European Commission on 15 May 2008.

[25] https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/crisis-and-terrorism/radicalisation_en- Accessed 19.05.2020.

Radicalization Levels can be formulated. This will contribute to increasing the descriptiveness of ongoing analyzes and also to focusing more precisely on prevention policies and measures, and deradicalization programs. Synthesis can be applied to the definition in the "Strategy for Counteracting Radicalization and Terrorism 2015-2020" and it can bepresentedwith details about conditions and signs that characterize each level:[26]

1) **Level 1** - Determined, firm position, accompanied by signs of supressed anger.

2) **Level 2** - Extremeness, contrast in assessments and perceptions.

3) **Level 3** - Rejection of alternatives. Rejection of discussions. Declaring a position without argumentation.

4) **Level 4** - Negative reaction at each alternative opportunity, even in cases of verbal expression of other opinions and positions.

5) **Level 5** - Manifestations of verbal or behavioral aggression in defence of the cause. Clear signs of manifest anger.

6) **Level 6** - Determined readiness to impose one's opinion on others through personal example (change in behavior, appearance, etc.) and active propaganda.

7) **Level 7** - Determined readiness to impose one's opinion on others by force.

Extremism and violent extremism - According to definitions in dictionaries, extreme means being far beyond the ordinary, the norm. In this sense, the transition from the seventh level of radicalization to extremism will be associated with behavior or reactions that go beyond what is accepted, expected, beyond imposed moral and legal norms or stereotypes. At this stage, this behavior does not have to be aggressive. This can be violation of work discipline, a manifestation of civil disobedience, participation in protests, or when someone is undertaking unexpected actions, personally or professionally. As feelings and perceptions deepen, this extreme behavior can escalate into aggression. By its nature, it can be directed at the individual himself and take the form of self-aggression (e.g. eating disorders, physical training to the point of exhaustion, self-harm, etc.). As much as it is not desirable to reach this stage, in terms of the basic algorithm, it is the more favorable outcome, as they most often it can lead to injuries affecting

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[26] Strategy for Counteracting Radicalization and Terrorism 2015-2020 (2015). Sofia: Republic of Bulgaria, Council of Ministers.2015.

only the radicalized person. The more unfavorable development of the algorithm is the manifestation of aggression towards the others. These conditions, which in many cases are borderline, are defined as a form of terrorism or violent extremism by many researchers.

On the basis of the analyzed factors for radicalization, a typology of the causes on which it is based can be derived, and hence - specific profiles of extremism can be defined. Generally, we can divide them into four larger groups, namely:[27]

1) **Right-wing extremism. It** can be associated with fascism, racism, ultra-nationalism, or superiority of a particular social group. This form of radicalisation is characterised by exploiting people's fears about their racial, ethnic or pseudo-national identity. Its main manifestations is extreme hostility towards state authorities, minorities, immigrants and/or left-wing political groups.

2). **Political-religious extremism**. This form of radicalisation is based on political interpretations of religion and the protection of religious identity. It takes various forms, i.e. international conflicts, foreign policy, public debate, etc. Any religion can result in this type of radicalization.

3) **Left extremism.** It focuses mainly on anti-capitalists claims and calls for the transformation of political systems that are considered responsible for the social inequality. This form of radicalisation can also resort to the use of force and all forms of violence in defence of its cause. This category includes anarchists, anti-globalists, Maoists, Trotskyists and Marxist-Leninist groups, and others who use violence.

4) **Single-issue extremism.** With this type, motivation is most often one-Cause. It often includes environmental and animal rights movements, anti-abortion extremists, some anti-gay and anti-feminist movements, and ultra-individualistic or independent extremist movements.

It is difficult to put a clear line between violent extremism and terrorism. In addition to the basic characteristics of terrorism described, some researchers also require evidence of a particular form of organisation for the use of violence in order to classify a violent act as terrorism. for the use of violence so that an act to be classified as terrorism. However, this requirement is refuted by the cases of self-radicalized persons that have become more frequent in recent years, in which the

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[27]   European Commission's Expert Group on Violent Radicalization (2008). Radicalization Processes Leading to Acts of Terrorism, submitted to the European Commission on 15 May 2008.

supporting factors prevail over the deterrents, and they reach the final levels of the applied algorithm: they grab a certain cause and are unequivocally convinced that this cause will compensate for the deficits that have led to radicalization, so they commit terrorist acts. This phenomenon has gained wider popularity with the name of „Lone Wolf".[28]

Almost every adult person has a position on certain issues and very often it is extreme, unappealable and difficult or impossible to change. Thus, this is a condition very close to the first level of radicalization, defined above, and sometimes even close to higher levels of radicalization. The balance, or its disturbance, of the described influencing factors leads to transition along the basic algorithm. In most cases, the deterrents prevail and the „movement" along the levels of the algorithm stops at a certain level. However, when they are not stable, especially the part that concerns the individual and society (system of moral values, intellect, education, public relations and norms, etc.), the supporting factors prevail. Depending on the amplitude, this can significantly accelerate the radicalization process. This is especially true for people whose values and morals are not yet well established (children and adolescents) or people who have an identity crisis. Therefore, it cannot be argued that radicalization necessarily leads to terrorism, and that a certain person who has extreme positions, even if they are accompanied by a certain form of extreme behavior, is not necessarily a terrorist. Still, the transition from extreme states to the level of terrorism is expected to be easier in such cases. However, it must be strongly emphasized that every terrorist has gone through the process of radicalization at a certain speed.

Conclusion

From all that has been said so far, it can be assumed that in different force majeure or crisis situations, different parts of society, individual segments and / or communities in different regions, may demonstrate surprisingly different characteristics and behavior. This means that policies and measures for prevention of radicalization and terrorism must be different, specific and targeted for different communities, regions, age groups and literacy levels. This should have an impact not only on the planning and preparation of anti-terrorist operations, but also on the development of counter-terrorism capabilities in the armed forces. Attention to

[28] Marinov, P. Terrorism: Abstractions and Realities. Sofia: Iztok-Zapad Publishing House. 2016, ISBN 978-619-152-866-0

the prevention of radicalization and the role of the armed forces must be directed both „outwards" and „inwards" to the formations and structures, and towards prevention of radicalization of employees and servicemen. The complexity and multifaceted nature of the described influencing factors, as well as the need to conduct operations in anallied (NATO) format, necessitates the establishment of an alliance policy on the described issues, which will lead to the development of specific policies and approaches.

Moreover, all these unique policies and measures must be in the spirit and subject to the main regulatory documents: doctrinal and legal basis. On the other hand, the counteraction of terrorist or paramilitary groups or individual cells may face a new and unexpected enemy for the territory of the country, namely the environment and the local population. Those who conduct an operation may find themselves in the dilemma of „implementing preventive measures to counter terrorism or comply with the law and respect the rights of the country's citizens." In the uncertainty, asymmetry and network centricity of modern combat operations, commanders have to creatively apply the principles of the use of their subordinate forces and means[29]. This requires a complete rethinking of possible crisis options, reassessment of the environment with specific characteristics of the regions, as well as making the necessary changes in plans and procedures for the use of formations by the Armed Forces of NATO countries or in allied format.

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Appendix:

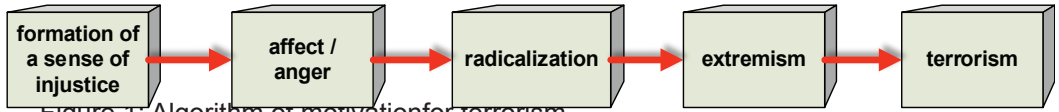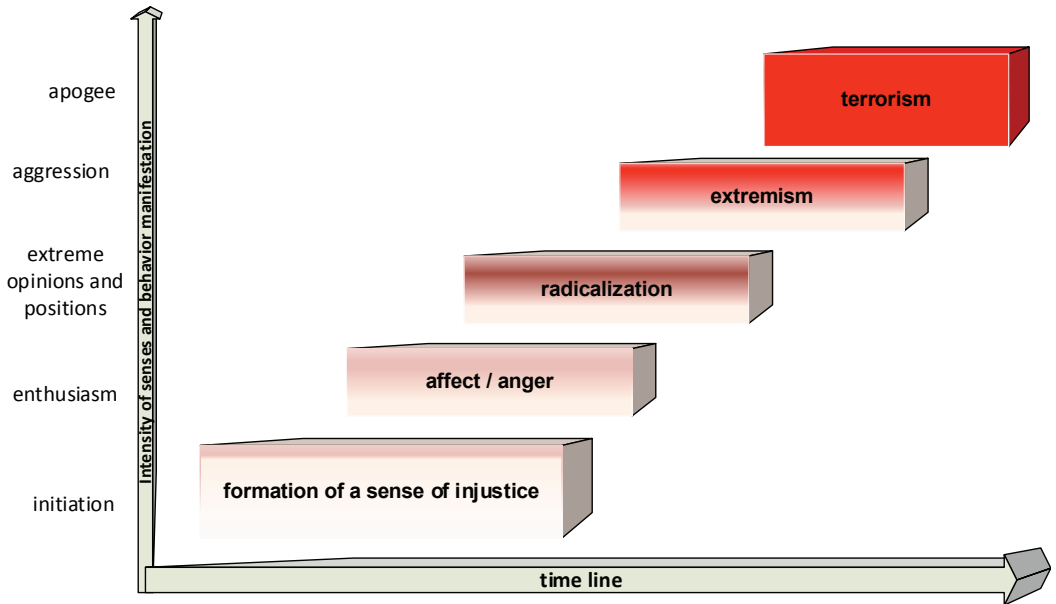Figure 1: Algorithm of motivationfor terrorism.

Figure 2:Progress of intensity of feelings and behavior expressionin accordancewith

themodelof motivation for terrorism.