

TRANSVERSAL BRIDGE

METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH POLITICAL VIOLENCE GROUPS

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I. CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK OF THE RESEARCH

1. TRANSRAD OBJECTIVES

1. Outline a preliminary Threat Analysis for a new emerging threat (radicalization, extremism, insurgency). Low intensity conflicts in post-modern liquid societies.
2. Gather primary and secondary data with specific focus in Italy, Cyprus, Greece and Spain and their ties with Switzerland, Germany, UK, Austria and Western Europe, as well as other Northern EU countries.
3. Identify common paths and shared narratives
4. Identify push and pull factors
5. Training for national contact points
6. Outputs: videos, papers, leaflets, press releases, tool kit

2. CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

It's not our aim to get a consensus between the hundreds of definitions that are used. We only try to explain a basic conceptual framework in order to focus the project.

Political Violence

When individuals or groups resort to violence to attain change of a political nature, one speaks of political violence. As Van den Haag established, *"violence only becomes political when used instrumentally to influence or control the distribution of power and the future actions of people"*. Individual violent acts are political when it has such social claims; group violence is at all times political to all intents and purposes (Van den Haag, 1972: 60-61).



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The sociologist Buijs focused on defining and elaborating upon three central aspects of political violence that can be used to obtain a typology: *“the instruments that are used, the aims that the perpetrators aspire to, and the effects that are brought about”* (Buijs, 2001: 9).

Political violence is a broad concept that works from citizens to states, but from states to citizens too. Because of that we can talk about (Schmid, 2011):

- State political violence:
 - o Violent repression for control of power.
 - o Political justice
 - o Mass arrests
 - o Banning
 - o Deportation
 - o Assassination
 - o Massacres
 - o State terrorism (torture, death squads, disappearances, concentration camps)
 - o State sponsored terrorism
 - o Counter-insurgency
- Non state actors:
 - o Insurgency
 - o Terrorism
 - o Warfare
 - o Vigilantes
 - o Narco insurgency

Insurgency

“A general overarching concept that refers to a conflict between a government and an out group or opponent in which the latter uses both political resources and violence to change, reformulate, or uphold the legitimacy of one or more of four key aspects of politics” (O’Neill, 2002).

These aspects of politics are:



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“(1) The integrity of the borders and composition of the nation state, (2) the political system, (3), the authorities in power, and (4) the policies that determine who gets what in societies” (O’Neill, 2002, as cited in Taber, 2002: viii).

Insurgent activity is a form of *“movement - a political effort with a specific aim”*.

Later O’Neill gives his revision of the term insurgency:

“Insurgency may be defined as a struggle between a non-ruling group and the ruling authorities in which the non-ruling group consciously uses political resources (e.g., organizational expertise, propaganda, and demonstrations) and violence to destroy, reformulate, or sustain the basis of legitimacy of one or more aspects of politics” (O’Neill, 2005).

Department of Defence Joint Publication (JP) 1-02, used in counterinsurgency doctrine, is still based on the dominant American thinking that insurgencies are revolutionary movements. Hence, JP 1-02 defines the term insurgency as:

“An organized movement aimed at the overthrow of a constituted government through the use of subversion and armed conflict” (Department of Defence, 2004).

In his paper, *The Basics of Counterinsurgency*, R. Scott Moore argues that this characterization has changed little over the past several decades, and fails to reflect the wider scope and complexity of insurgencies today, especially their protracted and **transnational nature**.

Moore states the term insurgency is used interchangeably and imprecisely with *“irregular warfare, unconventional warfare, revolutionary warfare, guerrilla warfare and even terrorism”* (Moore, 2007).

Moore states that an insurgency is *“a group that seeks radical change of the existing political or social order through the use of violence and political upheaval”* (Moore, 2007). It employs terrorism as one of the means to achieve its objectives. Terrorism is not, however, the primary focus of insurgent movements. Insurgencies focus more on their country’s political, economic and social elements, which, Moore explains, are at the “heart of the conflict, both its causes and its effects” (Moore, 2007). Based on his understanding of insurgencies, Moore offers the following expanded and refined definition of the term:



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"An insurgency is a protracted violent conflict in which one or more groups seek to overthrow or fundamentally change the political or social order in a state or region through the use of sustained violence, subversion, social disruption, and political action" (Moore, 2007).

Means of action:

- Subversion
- Riots
- Terrorism
- Coup d'états
- Propaganda
- Other ways of non-violent political action: demonstrations, social protests, civil disobedience, and boycotts...

Terrorism

Terrorism has been defined by the European Union's Framework Decision on Combating Terrorism of 2002 as *"an intentional act which may seriously damage a country or an international organisation, committed with the aim of seriously intimidating a population, unduly compelling a Government or an international organisation to perform or abstain from performing any act, seriously destabilizing or destroying fundamental political, constitutional, economic or social structures by means of attacks upon a person's life, attacks upon the physical integrity of a person, kidnapping, hostage-taking, seizure of aircraft or ships, or the manufacture, possession or transport of weapons or explosives"*.

While radicalism can pose a threat it is extremism, and particularly terrorism, that ought to be our main concern since it involves the active subversion of democratic values and the rule of law. In this sense violent radicalisation is to be understood as socialisation to extremism, which could manifest itself in terrorism (European Commission's Expert Group on Violent Radicalisation)

http://www.clingendael.nl/sites/default/files/20080500_cscp_report_vries.pdf



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The revised academic consensus definition of terrorism (Schmid, 2011):

“Terrorism refers on the one hand to a doctrine about the presumed effectiveness of a special form or tactic of fear-generating, coercive political violence and, on the other hand, to a conspiratorial practice of calculated, demonstrative, direct violent action without legal or moral restraints, targeting mainly civilians and non-combatants, performed for its propagandistic and psychological effects on various audiences and conflict parties”.

Differences between insurgency and terrorism:

- Insurgency is a movement. Terrorism and warfare are means. Terrorism can be one of the actions of an insurgency.
 - Insurgency doesn't look for terror; it aims territorial control or change of the political or social order.
 - The insurgency seeks support from sections of the population.
 - Insurgency acts against the state and its representatives. Terrorism act against no combatant, civilians.
1. Insurgency is a civilian attacking their own government with the intent to overthrow it.
 2. Terrorism is a civilian attacking other civilians with the intent to frighten them into a specific action.

We could focus the project, as was told in previous meetings, in insurgency, but taking care that it's a figure connected to terrorism (as one of the possible manifestations of insurgency), radicalization (in the sense of a process), violent extremism, and to other ways of political action (non violent, or less violent).

POLITICAL ACTION

	PERSUASIVE POLITICS	PRESSURE POLITICS	POLITICAL VI
STATE	Rule of law	Oppression Censorship Electoral manipulation	Violent repression for control of power Political justice, mass arrests, banning, deportation Assassination State terrorism (torture, death squads, disappearances, co



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		Surveillance Harassment Discrimination Legislation abuses	State sponsored terrorism Massacres Counter-insurgency		
NON STATE	Constitutional opposition politics	Extra parliamentary action, non-violent actions, social protest, demonstrations, strikes, boycotts, civil disobedience.	INSURGENCY Subversion Riots Terrorism Coup d'état Propaganda	TERRORISM	WARFAR
TYPES			LEFT WING RIGHT WING NATIONALIST/SEPARATIST RELIGIOUS OTHER ISSUES		

II. KNOWLEDGE FRAMEWORK

WHAT SHOULD WE KNOW?

1. Information about groups acting in Europe, and related to the objectives of the project.

How:

- Open Sources.
- Interviews

Collect and register:



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- Template in document below (number 2, 3), based on group profiling (Crenshaw and others), for “gateway organizations”¹ and for violent groups.

It could be useful to consider characteristics of the research on social movements (Diani, Della Porta). The study of social movements, as a part of a social science, can aid in the study of insurgencies and terrorism. Some of the points that could be considered and used in the research of insurgent groups are:

a) The degree of organization. Some movements are structured, organized, with a centralized leadership. But on the other hand, others have features of decentralization, network formed as well by a multitude of actors who take autonomous decisions, formal minimum degree, without a centralized communication. In this case the forms of coordination are very informal, through meetings in public places, cultural or alternative centres. There are many intermediate forms of organization, such as neighbourhood groups, cultural associations or even professional groups.

Scott (1981) distinguishes between rational (aimed at a clear objective, with a defined structure), natural (same interest, but low level of structure) and open systems (multiple interests, the sum of different groups). Apart of this, the network model of organization is quite characteristic of social movements: independent members who can act coordinated within a framework of autonomy and flexibility.

b) Their national or transnational character. Multitude of local, regional groups, including ad-hoc created for a campaign, which bind beyond its borders with a common goal. A clear case was the manifestation Global Change on October 15, 2011, held in many cities and countries, based on the links between “indignados” or “occupy” movements from Iceland, Madrid or Occupy Wall Street in the United States.

c) Its habitat in the digital world and the physical realm. Technology has influenced all facets of social movements. Internet is an element for communication, for the creation of identity, for information, for mobilization, for the action itself (cyber attacks), or even for fundraising and financing. Network organization systems find a magnificent ecosystem online.

¹ “Gateway organizations”: non-violent but acting as a previous phase in the radicalization process (i.e. Hizb-ut-Tahrir).



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- d) The degree of troubled relationships. It would take into account the capacity of mobilization or protest, as forms of manifestation of social conflict. Social movements are diverse in objectives and in courses of action. They can stay in mere protest or go beyond it. And that protest, defined as "spaces where bodies, symbols, identities, practices and discourses are used to pursue or prevent changes in institutionalized power relations" (Taylor and van Dyke, 2004), use "methods of persuasion and coercion that are, most of the time, original, non-orthodox, dramatic and of questionable legitimacy" (Wilson, 1973). This grade is given, in part, by how discontent manifests. The protest is nothing more than a politician resource used by those who lack power (Lipsky, 1965).
- e) Actions developed, that could be oriented only to protest or even to act as a service provider. Multitude of social movements accompanies protest activities with the development of multiple health, educational and social services (as we see in extremist groups as Amanecer Dorado, Hezbollah, or Muslim Brotherhood).
- f) The ways in which such action is manifested. In classical forms such as the presence or peaceful resistance, or new ways (such as feminist collective FEMEN protests, but also rooted in the feminist movements of the previous century, it is also a classic revival phenomenon). Other ways would be signing petitions, boycotts, civil disobedience, peaceful resistance, sit-ins, traffic interruptions, occupations, closures, etc.
- g) Orientation toward more or less violence. It is always a possibility, the radicalization of a movement that seeks to justify the use of violence.
- h) Demand or cause for conflict. From this point of view we can distinguish movements "franchise" style, grouping diverse demands on the political (democracy, participation) and economic (mortgages, rescue, investment and debt), as well as cultural, environmental or social. They represent what is being called new social movements or "global justice". On the other hand there are movements that focus only on some of these aspects.
- i) Their maturity. Some movements are in progress and delivery, being able to reach a level of maturity that ensures its maintenance and continuity, at least while the current crisis and the claims are maintained. Or make the leap to the system, seeking political representation and thus be leaving social movements. Other movements radicalize their actions...

In order to know if a group is extremist the model proposed by Schmid (EMI20) could be applied. While a few of these factors (a total of 20) from this list might be insufficient to identify extremist speech or correctly interpret extremist militancy, the presence of multiple factors lends weight to an assessment of an individual or group as being "extremist". The more of these indicators that can be found in documents or action patterns of militants, the more likely they



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have to be considered “extremists” and as such need to be considered as serious threats to liberal-democratic societies.

- Situate themselves outside the mainstream and reject the existing social, political or world order;
- Seek to overthrow, with the help of a revolutionary vanguard, the political system in order to (re-) establish what they consider the natural order in society – whether this envisaged order be based on race, class, faith, ethnic superiority, or alleged tradition;
- Are usually in possession of an ideological programme or action plan aimed at taking and holding communal or state power;
- Reject or, when in power, subvert the liberal-democratic conception of the rule of law; use the political space provided by it to advance their cause in efforts to take state power;
- Reject universal human rights and show a lack of empathy and disregard for rights of other than their own people;
- Reject democratic principles based on popular sovereignty;
- Reject equal rights for all, especially those of women and minorities;
- Reject diversity and pluralism in favour of their preferred mono-culture society, e.g. a worldwide Islamic state;
- Adhere to a (good-) ends-justify (-any)-means philosophy to achieve their goals;
- Actively endorse and glorify the use of violence to fight what they consider “evil” and to reach their political objectives (e.g. in the form of jihad);
- Show a propensity to engage in mass violence against actual and potential enemies when in power or when enjoying impunity;
- Are single-minded, black-or-white thinkers who want to purify the world and demonise, debase and dehumanise their enemies in hate speech, characterising them as “inferior” and earmarking them, implicitly or explicitly, as expendable;



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- Subordinate individual freedoms to collective goals;
- Refuse to engage in genuine (as opposed to tactical and temporal) compromises with the other side and ultimately seek to subdue or eliminate the enemy;
- Exhibit intolerance to all views other than their own dogmatic one and express this in anger, aggressive behaviour and hate speech;
- Exhibit fanaticism, portray themselves as threatened and embrace conspiracy theories without necessarily being irrational in their strategic choices;
- Exhibit authoritarian, dictatorial or totalitarian traits;
- Are unwilling to accept criticism and intimidate and threaten dissenters, heretics and critics with death;
- Expect obedience to their demands and commands rather than allowing to subject their views and policies to discussion even within their own group; and
- Have fixed ideas and closed minds and believe there is only one truth – theirs. In its pursuit, they are often willing to face punishment or even death and sometimes actively seek martyrdom.

2. Information about individuals

How:

- Open Sources.
- Interviews

Collect and register:

- Template in document below (number 5), based on individual factors.

3. Selecting case studies.



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It could be possible to research at two levels. The first one focused on groups and individuals. The second one, selecting a concrete set of case studies of violent actions (for example violent attacks in Italy –anarchism- or Spain –Resistencia Galega-).

How:

- Open sources.
- Policy databases

Collect and register:

- Fill template of groups (number 2, 3) and a new template for the concrete cases of the action to study (number 4). Information to collect (based on Global Terrorism Database –GTD-, and RAND Corporation):
 - Perpetrator (group, individual)
 - Date
 - Country, city.
 - Attack type
 - Target type
 - Weapon
 - Fatalities
 - Injured
 - Domestic or international action
 - Domestic or transnational perpetrators.
 - Attack claimed

4. Information about root causes of insurgency or violent extremism

How:

- Literature review.
- Interviews.
- Case study

Collect and register:



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- Fill templates on macro environmental factors (number 1), in order to be analysed with the other templates.

General causes alleged in terrorism/insurgency (from literature review):

- Micro: Individual
 - Sense of power, revenge, significance, etc.
 - Existential sense of loss, deprivation, alienation from the countries in which they live
- Meso: Social/Groups/Networks
 - Radicalization process, charismatic leaders, internet,
 - Family, school, associations, etc.
- Macro:
 - Cultural
 - Alienation and humiliation
 - Narratives and historical memories (“just cause”)
 - Cultural conflicts in countries
 - Local and ethnic conflicts
 - Political
 - Political discontent
 - Nationalism, revolution, religion.
 - Failed or fragile states
 - The action of government at home and abroad
 - Disillusionment over the possibility of change through non-violence
 - Rise of intolerance
 - Corruption
 - Armed conflicts
 - State violence and repressive regimes
 - Economic
 - Inequality
 - Employment
 - Economic crisis
 - Religious
 - Divided societies because of religion
 - Rise of religious intolerance



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5. Information about triggers, push and pull factors

How:

- Open sources
- Literature review.
- Interviews

Previous list of possible pull factors (from Literature Review):

- Globalization
- Global diffusion of certain political cultures and ideas.
- An international system dominated by hegemonic powers
- Low measures of freedom and democracy.
- Semi-authoritarian or semi-democratic countries
- Participation in wars
- Historical contingencies or radicalized political conspiracies
- Highly contentious polities.
- Political deprivation of groups.
- Transitional or new democracies.
- Societies with rapid modernization
- Rapid economic development, measured in growth of real GDP.
- High levels of social distance or social polarization
- High level of cultural and relational distance
- Ethnic diversity
- The size of the young male population
- Modern mass media
- Low educational status (according to Lia, connections between poverty, education and terrorism are indirect and probably weak).
- Diasporas
- Charismatic ideological leaders
- Prisons
- Contagion processes between different countries. Successful operations in one country are imitated by groups elsewhere

Push factors:

- Social politics



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- Democratic participation
- Education level
- Strategies against radicalization and extremism
- Community policing
- Engagement with minorities and communities.

6. Links between groups

In order to evaluate the existing transnational links between different groups, two research approaches are proposed:

- The three Rs
- Hard and soft links.

Desouza and Hengsen touches upon the theory of the three Rs for transnational terrorist cooperation by stating that 'Terrorist groups seldom operate in isolation as the economics of the situation [in which the groups find themselves] will not allow for strictly independent actions' (2007; 594). The three Rs include Resources, Reciprocity and Reach and are a terrorist group's limitation. Resources stand for means, reciprocity is exchanging ideas in an open and mutual way, and reach embodies effective, reliable, and like-minded contacts (Ibid.). Concerning the reach, the underlying thoughts on what these terrorists are trying to achieve are relevant. Means to accomplish terrorist attacks, like funds, technology, and knowledge, are scarce and therefore terrorists seek allies in order to be effective.

A second distinction is to be made between hard and soft links (Desouza and Hengsen). Hard links are the most concrete features of collaboration between terrorist groups. Soft links between terrorists include shared ideologies and beliefs, opportunities and chances, and even media strategy.

Soft links can more or less be defined as intangible while hard links are tangible. These hard and soft links are addressed throughout the case study in order to discuss the levels of connections between the groups.

a) Soft links

- Solidarity – This includes all actions that express solidarity with the cause or actions of another terrorist organization.



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- Ideology – This category contains the connection between different organizations with an ideological resemblance or an ideological influence.
- Strategy – This category covers the overall strategy of a terrorist organization based on or influenced by another organization's strategy. It also contains strategy developed in conjunction with other organizations.
- Media strategy – This category includes in particular the media strategy that terrorist organizations undertake together with another organization, under influence of, or as a tribute to that other organization.

b) Hard links

- Alliance – This category contains all alliances through declarations (communiqués, statements etc.) of forming an alliance and in addition all declarations of the existence of an alliance, between two or more terrorist organizations.
- Methods and tactics – This category describes the methods and tactics that organizations use based on or influenced by the methods and tactics of others. It can be closely linked to the category AOBO (see below). For example: hijacking airplanes.
- Organizational assistance – This category includes providing the necessary logistics and supplies (other than weapons and finance) for another terrorist organization.
- Joint attacks – This covers all the attacks and operations in which more than one terrorist organization participated.
- Action on behalf of (AOBO) – This category covers all the actions that are conducted on behalf of another organization.
- Training – All the trainings that are given or received by another organization fall into this category.
- Protection – This category includes, for example, providing safe houses for other organizations.



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- Weapons – This category covers all the weapons that were distributed to or shared by other terrorist organizations. This includes for example the explosives stolen by CCC and used by CCC, RAF and AD.
- Finance – This category includes the flow of money to other terrorist organizations.

In order to study the links and the paths from social movements to violent actions it could be useful the model proposed by Donatella Della Porta in “Clandestine Political Violence”.

III. TEMPLATES (COLLECT AND REGISTER)

The pictures shown below are not questionnaires. These are organized templates to structure the relevant information in each case or actor.

It is important to consider that, in time, the different individual/actors interact with each other, and this situation produces different dynamics and different extremism degrees.

1. TEMPLATE TO RECORDING CONTEXT OF MACRO CONDITIONS

If we want to understand an insurgence phenomenon (no matter whether it is movements, groups or individuals), we need to know the macro conditions of the context and the way in



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which are perceived by each actor (Della Porta)

In these different perceptions is where we can understand the different role-plays. Despite the next template, it's recommended to make a small history background of each country to have as more data as possible. It's a key factor to establish findings and trends.

COUNTRY / REGION:	
DATE: 00/00/0000	
Number: 0000	
POLITICS	
Political system:	Democracy Index:
Freedom of expression:	Press Freedom:
Civil rights:	
Fragility of the state:	
Poorly governed or ungoverned areas:	
Corruption rate:	
Impunity for well-connected elites:	
Former dictatorial or military systems:	
Political instability:	
Human Rights:	
SOCIAL / CULTURAL	
Population:	
Youth %:	
Freedom of religion:	



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 Religion polarization:

 Ethnic polarization:

 Migration:

- Receiving or sending country
 - In case of receiving: origin
-

ECONOMIC

 GDT growth:

 GDT per capita:

 Unemployment rate:

 Youth unemployment %:

 Inequality (Gini, others):

 Human Development Index:

SECURITY

 Legal certainly:

 Credibility security forces:

 Use of repression:

 Internal conflicts:

 Independence movements / nationalisms:

 Ethnic conflicts:

 Criminal violent rate:

 Terrorism record:

KEY ACTORS

 Main social movements:

 Main violent groups:

 Main political parties:



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Main workers groups:

Main extreme political parties or organizations:

Militia online networks:

OTHERS

Other data / notes:



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2. TEMPLATE TO IDENTIFY AND DEFINE “GATEWAY ORGANIZATIONS”

In order to: identify and record social movements, know possible trends and detect the existence with third movements, among others.

NAME:	
RECORD DATE: 00/00/0000	
Number: 0000	Beginning of the activity:
Other names:	- Date: 00/00/0000
	- Location:
Nature of the official claims (ideology):	
Other interests (secondary):	
Defined identity:	
Membership profile:	
Defined leadership: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	Type of leadership:
Structure:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local - National - International 	
Network organization system:	
Financial resource:	
Local support:	
Communication channels:	
Types of communications:	
Recruitment methods:	Recruitment venues:



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Actual impact:

Capabilities:

Action area:

Ways of acting:

Range of methods:

Violent actions: Yes ☐ NO ☐

Justification of violence: Yes ☐ NO ☐

Kind of violent actions:

Links with cultural associations:

Links with workers groups:

Links with other movements (national and international):

Political representation or ties:

Other data / notes:



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3. TEMPLATE TO IDENTIFY GROUPS

In order to identify and record violent radical groups:

NAME:	
RECORD DATE: 00/00/0000	
Number: 0000	Beginning of the activity:
Other names / alias:	- Date: 00/00/0000
Nature of the official claims (ideology):	- Location:
Alleged causes:	
Non-negotiable claims:	
Structure:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local - National - International 	
Network organization system:	
Activism activities:	
Financial resource:	



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Local support:

Communication channels:

Types of communications:

Defined leadership: Yes ☐ NO ☐

Type of leadership:

Main leaders:

Recruitment methods:

Recruitment venues:

Actual impact:

Capabilities:

Action area:

Membership:

Violent actions: Yes ☐ NO ☐

Timeline and description of violent actions:

National grievances:

Transnational grievances:

Range of methods:

Success of the attacks:

Links with other extremist groups:

Opposite / enemy extremist groups:

Political representation or ties:

Other data / notes:





4. TEMPLATE TO RECORDING CONCRETE VIOLENT CASES (VIOLENT ACTIONS)

NAME:	
RECORD DATE: 00/00/0000	
Number: 0000	Action:
Perpetrator:	- Date: 00/00/0000 - Location:
Attack type:	
Target type:	
Weapons used:	
Fatalities:	



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Injured:

Domestic or international action:

Local and/or international support:

Attack claimed:

Description:

Other data / notes:

5. TEMPLATE TO RECORDING INDIVIDUAL CASES

In order to identify and record violent radical individuals ("n" cases per group)

FULL NAME:	
RECORD DATE: 00/00/0000	
Number: 0000	Start date: 00/00/0000



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PERSONAL / EMOTIONALGenre: M ☐ F ☐

Date /place of birth: 00/00/0000

Second names / alias:

Family origin:

Nationality:

Others nationalities: Yes ☐ NO ☐

What:

Travel to third countries:

Reasons of the travels:

Current residence:

Previous residences:

Education level:

Religion:

Family:

Relation to the community:

Personal values:

Hobbies:

Employment:

Other income sources:

Usual feelings of:

- Frustration
- Alienation
- Persecution
- Hate

Opinion about the political system:

- Political discontent
- Perception of poverty, inequality
- Sense of injustice
- Perception of discrimination, racism, intimidation, etc.

Victim of injustice / grievance:



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Previous criminal record: Yes ☐ NO ☐ Type of criminal record:

IDEOLOGY

Ideology:

Activism activities:

Self-recruitment way:

Violent extremist materials: seeker / consumer / developer

Personal identity:

Group identity:

Rejection of democratic society and values:

Link with the cause:

- When
- Where
- Why
- How long
- How to meet them

Nature of the perceived enemy:

Personal motivations to join the cause:

GRIEVANCES

Violent actions: Yes ☐ NO ☐

Scope of the grievances:

Dehumanization of identified targets of injustice:

Identification of target in response to perceived injustice:

ROLL GROUP / AFFILIATIONS

Operational role in the group:

- Relevant technical skills
- Level of operational experience



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-
- Level of ideological influence
-

Recruitment way (in case not to be self-recruitment):

Radicalization degree:

Actual training: tactical / paramilitary / explosives

Online activities:

Limited of the influence in the group:

Contacts with other radical groups:

Kind of contacts: permanent / temporary / for what

In case of disengagement:

- When
 - Where
 - Why
 - How
-

In case of disengagement:

- Still other groups ties
 - Still political ties
 - Still personal activism activities
 - Community support for non-violence
 - Family support for non-violence
-

OTHER DATA

Other data / notes: cultural / social / religious...

IV. AN APPROACH TO INTERVIEWS



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The project aims to select a broad number of stakeholders (individuals in prison, disengaged members of violent groups, social movements representatives, experts, mass media, etc.).

The interview would be different in each case:

- For example, interviewing members or former members of groups should provide the information established in the template number 5 (individual cases), and the possible items about templates number 2 and 3 (information about social movements or groups).
- Interviewing experts should provide information established in template 1 (macro environment) and the possible knowledge about templates 2 and 3.

According to John Horgan (2011) there are two types of structured interviews that could be applied:

1. The semi-structured interview. These interviews allow greater latitude in phrasing questions, alternative lines, and broader alternative lines, but it requires a higher degree of training, experience and exploratory research.
2. The highly structured interview. This interview can minimize the role of inference and can be used by individuals with a minimum of training.

We agree with Horgan in his conclusions, betting by the use of semi-structured interviews. In that case the templates used in the “Information Framework” could be used as guidelines by the interviewers, who could adapt them to the nature of the person being interviewed and to the development of the meeting.

Horgan (2009) states that the individual perspective in the study of terrorism (that we could use as a broader framework) should be one that encompasses the following types of questions:

1. How, when, where and with whom, do people become involved in violent actions?
2. What reasons do they give for becoming involved? What are others' representations of those reasons and how do we interpret them.
3. Are there any a priori qualities, traits or other common features that might act as reliable risk factors for involvement?
4. How does the individual acquire the qualities inherent in, a necessary for, sustained violent group membership?
5. What is the meaning of involvement (thinking about, involved and focused, thinking about leaving, having left)?



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6. How, when and to what extent does the individual make decisions as a member of the movement?
7. What are the ways in which ideological content and ideological processes impinge upon the individual behaviour?
8. How decisions emerge, the meaning of those decisions and their consequences.

So, feel free to ask the individuals about any topic that would aid to learn about roots, push and pull factors, or who support, commit, or associate with persons who commit violent extremism acts, trying to cover the following questions:

General information:

- Identity.
- Full name, date and place of birth, citizenship and any other identifiers. To the extent possible, the individual's identity should be verified by reviewing any identification that the individual is able and willing to provide. If the individual produces a passport or other document that records past travel, you should make an effort to note where the documentation was issued and any information that it provides about the individual's travel history.
- Age.
- Residence. You should ask the individual where he is residing and about any other residences that he has used. Identities of people who live with him.
- Employment and sources of income.
- Education. What, where, when.
- Foreign Travel.
- You should ask the individual what foreign countries he has visited, the dates of those visits, and the reasons he went to those countries. You should inquire specifically whether he or anybody he knows has ever visited Afghanistan.

Looking for radicalization factors, push and pull factors



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a. Individual and psychological level

You should inquire whether the individual has suffered any violence or threats because of his religion or nationality. If the individual claims to have been the victim of such a crime, you should obtain all relevant information and take any appropriate action to investigate the allegation.

- o Feeling of power
- o Revenge
- o Existential sense of loss. Life motivations.
- o Grievances (examples)
- o Creation of extremist ideas at a personal level.
- o Political discontent
- o Personal values and ideologies
- o Violence as the only way of change. Acceptance of political violence.
- o Involvement in political violence.
- o Perception of poverty/ inequality and other factors. Injustice sense.
- o Opinion about the political system/state
- o Prison experiences

b. Social/group/network level (Meso).

- o Group integration. How, why, when.
- o Recruitment way
- o Possible training
- o Online activities
- o Violent extremist materials used.
- o Belonging to other groups, social movements, ONGs, etc.
- o Social life. Friends, activities, hobbies,
- o Perception about how the state and other nationals treat minorities, communities, etc.
- o Social/community grievances. Racism. Repression. State hostility.
- o Sense of group power, sense of belonging. Identity
- o In case of disengagement. When, how, why. Consequences.
- o About the group:
 - Group leaders.
 - Group values and ideology. Injustice sense. Opinion about system/state.
 - Financing



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- Training
- Modus operandi
- Enemies
- Alliances. National and international

c. Macro level (political, economic, social, cultural)

- o Opinion about political factors: democracy quality, corruption, globalization, citizens participation, legitimacy, change needed, political intolerance, repression, provocative actions of government, international conflicts
- o Opinion about economic factors: poverty, inequality, corruption, development, unemployment, and housing.
- o Opinion about social factors: education, health, citizen services, racism, and social grievances...
- o Opinion about cultural factors: narratives and historical memories, culture of alienation and humiliation, local and international conflicts,
- o Opinion about religion: personal views, acceptance of other views



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