



Ministry of the Interior
Finland

Internal security | Publications of the Ministry of the Interior
2021:19

Prevention of Violent Radicalisation and Extremism 2020

Annual Report

Publications of the Ministry of the Interior 2021:19

Prevention of Violent Radicalisation and Extremism 2020

Annual Report

National Cooperation Network for the Prevention
of Violent Radicalisation and Extremism

Ministry of the Interior Helsinki 2021

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Ministry of the Interior

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ISBN pdf: 978-952-324-319-4

ISSN pdf: 2490-077X

Layout: Government Administration Department, Publications

Helsinki 2021 Finland

Prevention of violent radicalisation and extremism 2020 Annual report

Publications of the Ministry of the Interior 2021:19	Subject	Internal security
Publisher	Ministry of the Interior	

Group Author	National Cooperation Network for the Prevention of Violent Radicalisation and Extremism	
Language	English	Pages 66

Abstract

On 19 December 2019, the Government adopted a resolution on the National Action Plan for the Prevention of Violent Radicalisation and Extremism. So far, three action plans have been drawn up (2012, 2016, 2019). The Action Plan is cross-sectoral, and non-governmental organisations, religious communities, young people and researchers were also involved in its preparation and implementation.

The implementation of the Action Plan is coordinated by the Ministry of the Interior and the national cooperation network set up by the Ministry of the Interior.

In line with the government resolution of 19 December 2019, the progress of the implementation and the results of the Action Plan must be reported annually. The annual report for 2020 contains information on how the objectives and measures set out in the Action Plan were implemented in 2020. The information is based on the data produced by the parties involved in the implementation, and the report was finalised by the national cooperation network.

Good progress has been made in the implementation of the Action Plan, and the results can be considered particularly good, especially considering the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and the exceptional circumstances caused by it.

Keywords internal security, violent extremism, radicalisation, prevention, violence, radicalism

ISBN PDF	978-952-324-319-4	ISSN PDF	2490-077X
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URN address <http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-324-319-4>

Väkivaltaisen radikalisoitumisen ja ekstremismin ennalta ehkäisy 2020 Vuosisraportti

Sisäministeriön julkaisuja 2021:19		Teema	Sisäinen turvallisuus
Julkaisija	Sisäministeriö		
Yhteisötekijä	Väkivaltaisen radikalisoitumisen ja ekstremismin ennalta ehkäisyn kansallinen yhteistyöryhmä		
Kieli	englanti	Sivumäärä	66

Tiivistelmä

Valtioneuvosto teki 19.12.2019 periaatepäätöksen väkivaltaisen radikalisoitumisen ja ekstremismin ennalta ehkäisyn toimenpideohjelmasta. Ohjelmia on tehty tähän mennessä kolme (2012, 2016, 2019). Ohjelma on poikkihallinnollinen ja sen valmistelussa ja toimeenpanossa ovat olleet mukana myös järjestöt, uskonnolliset yhteisöt, nuoret ja tutkijat.

Toimeenpanoa koordinoi sisäministeriö ja sen asettama kansallinen yhteistyöryhmä.

Valtioneuvoston periaatepäätöksen 19.12.2019 mukaisesti ohjelman toimeenpanosta ja tuloksista tulee raportoida vuosittain. Vuosisraporttiin 2020 on koottu tiedot siitä, miten ohjelmassa päätettyjä tavoitteita ja toimenpiteitä on toteutettu vuonna 2020. Tiedot perustuvat toimeenpanoon osallistuvien tuottamiin tietoihin, ja raportin on viimeistellyt kansallinen yhteistyöryhmä.

Ohjelman toimeenpano on edennyt hyvin ja tuloksia voidaan pitää erityisen hyvinä erityisesti ottaen huomioon koronapandemia ja sen aiheuttamat poikkeukselliset olosuhteet.

Asiasanat sisäinen turvallisuus, radikalisoituminen, ennaltaehkäisy, väkivalta, radikalismi

ISBN PDF 978-952-324-319-4 **ISSN PDF** 2490-077X

Julkaisun osoite <http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-324-319-4>

Förebyggande av våldsam radikaliserings och extremism 2020 Årsrapport

Inrikesministeriets publikationer 2021:19		Tema	Inre säkerhet
Utgivare	Inrikesministeriet		
Utarbetad av	Den nationella samarbetsgruppen för åtgärdsprogrammet för förebyggande av våldsam radikaliserings och extremism		
Språk	engelska	Sidantal	66
Referat	<p>Statsrådet fattade den 19 december 2019 ett principbeslut om ett åtgärdsprogram för att förebygga våldsam radikaliserings och extremism. Det har genomförts tre program (2012, 2016, 2019) hittills. Programmet är sektorsövergripande och även olika organisationer, religiösa samfund, unga och forskare har deltagit i beredningen och verkställandet av programmet.</p> <p>Inrikesministeriet och den nationella samarbetsgrupp som tillsatts av ministeriet samordnar verkställandet.</p> <p>I enlighet med statsrådets principbeslut som fattades den 19 december 2019 ska det årligen sammanställas en rapport om hur programmet verkställts och vilka resultat det haft. Årsrapporten för 2020 innehåller uppgifter om hur målen och åtgärderna i programmet genomfördes under 2020. Uppgifterna är baserade på uppgifter från de aktörer som deltar i verkställandet av programmet och rapporten har färdigställts av den nationella samarbetsgruppen.</p> <p>Verkställandet av programmet har framskridit väl och resultaten kan anses vara mycket goda, särskilt med tanke på coronapandemin och de undantagsförhållanden som pandemin orsakat.</p>		
Nyckelord	inre säkerhet, våldsbejakande extremism, radikaliserings, förebyggande, våld, radikalism		
ISBN PDF	978-952-324-319-4	ISSN PDF	2490-077X
URN-adress	http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-324-319-4		

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1 Background

The government adopted a resolution on the National Action Plan for the Prevention of Violent Radicalisation and Extremism on 19 December 2019¹. Violent radicalisation and extremism in Finland has been prevented systematically by various authorities, non-governmental organisations and other actors working in cooperation since 2012. The results of the work are reported on regularly to the parties involved in the operations and to decision-makers and the general public in the form of an annual report available in the public domain.

The action plan includes a decision on the national objectives and intersectoral measures aiming to prevent violent radicalisation and extremism for 2019–2023. The action plan steers preventive measures nationally and locally and it has been prepared and will be implemented in cooperation with authorities, non-governmental organisations and associations. Researchers and religious communities will also participate in the implementation.

The government resolution specifies how the action plan's implementation is monitored and reported on. Accordingly, the progress of the implementation will be reported on annually to the Ministerial Working Group for Internal Security and Justice. The measures can be revised and complemented in connection with the reporting. The non-governmental organisations participating in the implementation produce the necessary information for reporting. The report will be prepared by the National Cooperation Network established by the Ministry of the Interior.

The report presents the objectives confirmed in the action plan and the results by the fields involved. Chapters 2.1–2.8 describe measures carried out by the various actors together. Chapters 2.9–2.12 describe the measures by which four authorities are developing their own capacity and operations in the prevention of violent radicalisation and extremism. The measures included in the action plan have been prepared in intersectoral cooperation, excluding the measures described in Chapters 2.9–2.12, which were prepared by the authorities mentioned in the relevant headings.

¹ The previous action plans were published in 2012 and 2016.

In 2020, the coronavirus pandemic impacted all operations of the authorities and other actors. The planned measures had to be adapted to the decisions aiming to contain the pandemic which took effect in the spring of 2020, were eased slightly in the summer, and went back into effect in early autumn. Despite this, the measures decided on in the action plan have been implemented quite well and extensively. The action plan is valid until the end of 2023 and the work continues as decided on in the action plan.

2 Implementation and results of the national action plan in 2020

2.1 Preventing violent extremism and radicalisation locally

2.1.1 Objectives

- To locally prevent, in cooperation between the authorities and with non-governmental organisations, the radicalisation of individuals and groups and their involvement in the activities of violent extremist movements.
- To combat and prevent the impacts of violent extremist movements on people's living and residential environments as well as on their security and sense of security.
- To take into account, in preventive work, the activities of extremist movements in social media, and to increase the presence of authorities and non-governmental organisations in social media.
- To ensure that violently radicalised individuals or those in danger of radicalisation are referred to services provided by the authorities and other actors that assist them in rejecting violence.
- To intervene in factors that promote violent radicalisation, such as confrontation, punishable hate speech, racism, and discrimination.
- To increase knowledge of the ways in which municipalities can reduce violent radicalisation and the impact of factors increasing extremism as part of the basic work done by their subdivisions.
- To utilise the information produced by and cooperation opportunities offered by universities and other research institutions in local work.

2.1.2 Implemented measures and results in 2020

Development of Anchor work

- The details of local Anchor teams on the ankkuritoiminta.fi website were updated.
- On 18 May 2020, the steering group of the Ministry of the Interior's Police Department approved the plan for developing the compilation of statistics and data collection on Anchor work. An intersectoral working group, which included representatives of the Anchor teams, was set up on the basis of the decision to compile the key indicators and metrics on which extensive data will start to be collected. As of the beginning of 2021, all of the Anchor teams will be saving the data on the platform implemented in connection with the ankkuritoiminta.fi website. The objective is to obtain nationally reliable and comprehensive data on Anchor work by the end of 2021.
- A national Anchor seminar will be held in 2021, and the seminar will focus on, among other things, the data collection and the experiences gained from it.
- Anchor work was presented to, for instance, the participants of the "National support to the local level" meeting of the European Commission's Project Based Collaboration, held on 6 November 2020. The presenters were Tarja Mankkinen, Head of Development, and Emilia Hämäläinen of the Ministry of the Interior's Police Department as well as by psychiatric nurse Sari Seppänen of the Riihimäki Anchor team.
- The website of the Finnish National Agency for Education includes up-to-date information on Anchor work from the perspective of the teaching sector: <https://www.oph.fi/fi/koulutus-ja-tutkinnot/vakivaltainen-ekstremismi> .
- In Turku, the forum for young Muslims (Nuorten Muslimien Foorumi, NMF) carried out the Muvenna project, aiming to prevent factors causing violent radicalisation among young immigrants and Muslims and offer support to people who have come into contact with the phenomenon of extremism, so they can reconnect with society. The project engaged in good and productive cooperation with Turku's Anchor team.
- In Tampere, Anchor work is coordinated by the steering group of a multi-professional working group of authorities, with representatives from the City of Tampere and the Central Finland Police Department. The Central

Finland Police Department has had resource problems in relation to Anchor work, and efforts to resource the operations in the desired way have been unsuccessful.

- Anchor work has been presented and regularly brought up at various events and functions.

Measures for ensuring that individuals for whom concern about violent radicalisation arises are referred to services (referral from tip-off to support)

- Referral to service requires that the person can be referred to both basic services and the special services customised for this target group.
- As a special service intended for the target group, the Deaconess Foundation launched an EXIT service supporting the rejection of violent extremist movements in the summer of 2020. The operations are funded with an appropriation from the EU's Internal Security Fund and the funding has been secured until the summer of 2021. The service's steering group includes representatives of various authorities and non-governmental organisations. Together with the team producing the services, the service's steering group disseminates information on how people subject to recruitment attempts can be referred to the support.
- The applicability of the risk assessment model developed by the Danish Centre for Prevention of Extremism in terms of Finland and its use in Anchor work will be investigated during 2021. The Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare has recruited a senior specialist for the task for a period of two years as of the beginning of 2021.
- A doctoral thesis study related to the prevention of violent radicalisation is underway. Its perspective is the development of the services and tools of social welfare and healthcare. A master's dissertation in law, focusing on multi-sectoral cooperation and information exchange issues and the legal challenges involved, is likewise underway.
- The RO3 (Reach Out) project of Finn Church Aid was launched with the support of the Internal Security Fund in February 2020. The project aims to promote cooperation between the authorities and communities to develop the referral to services. All of the project's activities were digitalised as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. They were also largely carried out as planned in

cooperation with the partners: Erätauko – Timeout Foundation and the local networks in Turku, Tampere, Oulu, and Helsinki.

- During the operational audit conducted by the party providing the funding, the project was found to surpass the targets set for it. The increase of social influence in the form of a university course – in which the research data on the operating models for the prevention of violent radicalisation gathered during the project will be put into practice in cooperation with Tampere University – garnered special praise. The project’s researcher Marko Juntunen is in charge of the course’s content and implementation, and the course is part of the 2021 spring curriculum.
- The police have developed cooperation with non-governmental organisations operating on the national or local level as well as with other authorities. The development of the cooperation has not proceeded according to plan due to the coronavirus restrictions.
- In Helsinki, referral to services is being carried out with the concern reporting model in situations where concern about violent radicalisation arises.
- The Turku cooperation network drew up and distributed an updated version of the When Concern Arises (“Kun huoli herää”) diagram, along with a diagram on the (youth) services of various parties.
- In Tampere, the When Concern Arises operating model has been updated and deployed in the non-governmental organisations. Information exchange is estimated to be on a good level and individuals at risk of radicalisation can be referred to support services with the help of the model.
- The measures to be taken and the key people to be contacted in a situation where an individual returns to the area of the city of Tampere from the conflict areas in Syria or Iraq have been planned and identified.
- In Oulu, action is taken according to the HAH² operating model, which also accounts for family and social networks.
- The Aggredi-Pirkanmaa operation funded by the Funding Centre for Social Welfare and Health Organisations (STEA) was launched as planned. The

2 HAH (huolta aiheuttava henkilö) = individual of concern

operation aims to reduce violent crime on an individual level. The principal target group consists of people aged 18–49 and, regarding school shootings and mass murder, also of individuals less than 18 years of age. The operation increases the number of services provided to this target group and the opportunities for referring the individuals to services.

Plan procedures through which persons providing tips receive feedback indicating that the tip has reached the recipient and has been taken into consideration, within the framework of legislation

- The Ministry of the Interior intended to convene a group to plan the procedures. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, only remote events are possible and planning new operations remotely, without interaction and discussion, is challenging.
- The National Police Board has given the management of the Ministry of Education and Culture progress reports in relation to the security of educational institutions. The aim is to provide feedback to persons providing tips whenever this is possible within the framework of legislation. In August 2020, the police briefed the Ministry of the Interior on the situation in the exchange of information between authorities aiming to prevent violent situations (information to be disclosed for the purpose of threat assessments). The information exchange has developed over the years. Senior controllers of legality have taken notice of the possibility for the police to disclose information to other actors on its own initiative. Even so, it seems that the expectations and legislation/powers applicable to information exchange are mismatched. The Ministry of the Interior has initiated a legislative investigation for issuing provisions on the powers of the police's preventive operations.

Procedures for continuing the work of the existing local cooperation networks and establishing new networks in locations where they do not yet exist and where need for such operations exists based on the local overview and threat assessment

- The Helsinki-based Safe Helsinki (“Turvallinen Helsinki”) network intended to hold four meetings during 2020, but due to the coronavirus situation, it held only three meetings. The meetings focused on residential segregation, the dynamics of confrontation, symptoms of criminal behaviour among youth, the coronavirus situation's impact on urban safety, the safety situation in

the quarter of Kontula and ongoing projects and initiatives related to the prevention of violent radicalisation. The participants also widely discussed the situation of young people who spend their time on the streets and the related phenomena. The network's operations and composition were reviewed at the end of 2020, and the new term started at the beginning of 2021. The focus areas of the 2021 term are the prevention of extremism, combatting confrontation and disinformation, phenomena related to the segregation of residential areas and phenomena related to the situation of young people.

- The cooperation network in Turku held four meetings in 2020 and a more wide-scale network meeting in November. In the spring, meetings had to be cancelled due to Covid-19. Joint training sessions were not organised, but Turku University of Applied Sciences, for example, organised internal training (3/2020). The Criminal Sanctions Agency has trained its own staff and the staff of Health Care Services for Prisoners as well as stakeholders on the phenomenon and its identification. The Turku cooperation group includes a representative of the educational division (primary and secondary level). The wider network includes representatives of the university of applied sciences, the adult education centre and the university/Migration Institute of Finland.
- In Turku, the forum for young Muslims (NMF) has been carrying out the Muvenna project. The project has organised meetings and events, with participants comprising representatives of the Anchor team, the community, and other local actors as well as an imam. The topics have focused on locally conducted preventive work. The events have focused particularly on phenomena related to gangs and the violence and unrest in suburbs related to gangs. According to NMF's observations, the number of loose gangs has increased to some extent in the suburbs of Turku. NMF has attended meetings with the police and an imam where the participants have tried to come up with measures for solving the situation.
- The Tampere cooperation network maintains a situational picture with the help of the information exchange taking place between the actors participating in the cooperation. The network has set annual targets based on the situational overview. The local cooperation group convened four times during 2020. Regular cooperation with the participating actors also takes place on a wider scale. The activities are considered to be on the level required by the situational overview. Goal-oriented and regular cooperation improves wellbeing, security, and the sense of security. The

communications-related development targets have not been achieved due to the workload caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

- The Oulu cooperation network has included young people and parties working with multicultural youth (the Kaasi team) in the cooperation network's activities. A review of the local situation is underway.

Measures to increase local dialogue and interaction on topics related to violent radicalisation and extremism

- The Helsinki-based Safe Helsinki network has initiated a survey of ongoing or planned measures related to the prevention of violent extremism as well as of key contact people and possible information needs in the city's divisions. The network organises biannual topical seminars aimed at background organisations on topics addressed by the network. The biannual seminars were not held in 2020.
- The meetings of Turku's cooperation network have focused on, among other things, the operations of Aggredi Turku and the Anchor team's topical issues. The more wide-scale network meeting focused on a presentation of the implementation of NMF's Muvenna project and the security organisation of Turku University of Applied Sciences as well as its operations and measures aiming to prevent extremism. This meeting was attended by representatives of the Administration Group and divisions of the City of Turku; the Southwestern Finland Police Department; the Finnish Security and Intelligence Service (Supo); the Criminal Sanctions Agency; Turku University of Applied Sciences; the Turku adult education centre (Turun AKK); the town of Raisio; the association of local parishes (seurakuntayhtymä); the Finnish Red Cross; the Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment; AggrediTurku; NMF; and the Anchor team. The Criminal Sanctions Agency has advanced the possibilities for cooperation between Muslim communities and the Criminal Sanctions Agency and mapped out the cooperation parties. The interactive communications consisted of information on the cooperation network's project funding possibilities, training and other events as well as on the materials produced by the network, which were distributed to the members of the wider network and case-specifically to the city's divisions, for example.
- The forum for young Muslims (NMF) has been cooperating with the network of imams in Turku. NMF participated in the planning of the Crisis

Management Now event, but the event had to be cancelled due to Covid-19. NMF's representatives have served as introducers in a number of events, including a seminar on how to prevent violent radicalisation and extremism in Finland, held by the Ministry of the Interior on 25 February 2020, and a round table discussion on the violent far right in Finland, held on 15 October 2020. In cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Finn Church Aid, Kölvi, and the UN Youth of Helsinki, NMF was involved in the planning and organisation of a round table discussion on the theme of peace and security in the everyday life of young people in Finland and around the world, held on 11 December 2020.

- The City of Tampere organised numerous events for residents in cooperation with key partners over the year. Identified problems have been discussed with residents in the quarter of Hervanta, for example.
- In Oulu, the coronavirus pandemic made operations more difficult. Encounters with different population groups have been emphasized in connection to community policing, for example. The pandemic has intensified the exchange of information between the police and municipalities, and information on the perceptions and experiences of different groups in relation to it has been gathered with a low threshold.
- Organising sports events with the aim of building trust and promoting dialogue between communities in the event of conflict situations
- The goal was to organise football matches in line with the Peace United (PU) concept between different groups. The activity aims to prevent violent radicalisation and promotes local conflict resolution by defusing distrust and suspicion as well as by easing tensions and conflicts with the help of football, in cooperation with local actors and networks. Efforts to secure separate funding for the measure were unsuccessful and no requests for cooperation in relation to the adoption of the operating model have been received from local cooperation networks.

Increasing the competence of persons with a key role in the operations to identify polarisation and dismantle polarisation development

- On 26–27 January 2021, the Police University College organised supplementary training on polarisation, identity conflicts and defusing confrontations in police work. The target group of the training, for which

16 people signed up, consisted of police officers whose work involves preventive operations, Anchor work, the use of a local problem-solving method or the prevention of violent extremism. The Police University College planned the training in cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior, the National Police Board, and the Depolarize project, funded by Kone Foundation.

- The cooperation network in Helsinki, Safe Helsinki, has increased knowledge and competence in relation to the prevention of polarisation. It joined the University of Helsinki's SEPOS (Social exclusion, polarization and security in the Nordic welfare state) project as a partner. The Nordic Safe Cities network is also involved in the project as another partner. The Depolarize project funded by Kone Foundation, which aims to increase knowledge and competence on how to address the dynamics and process of confrontation and polarisation within an organisation, was presented in a meeting of the Safe Helsinki network in the spring. The Safe Helsinki network organised training and events which improved the identification of polarisation and depolarisation skills among key parties. Other training included coaching sessions open to everyone and focusing on, among others, the I See You See ("Minun Silmin Sinun Silmin") operating model. The Safe Helsinki network addresses polarisation and issues related to its prevention as cooperation between the authorities and other non-governmental organisations. In addition, the human rights network of the City of Helsinki organised a training event on hate speech and intervening in it for its members.

Improve the ability of the authorities to identify violent radicalisation and assess the related threat and competence among the authorities in referring an individual to services

- The Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare is developing an online course for social welfare and healthcare professionals to support the identification and prevention of violent radicalisation.
- The threat assessment model confirmed as a measure particularly for municipal authorities has not been developed. The applicability of Denmark's risk assessment model to Finland, and its use in Anchor work, will be investigated in 2021.
- Youth workers' ability to identify violent radicalisation and competence in what to do in such situations has been improved in the RadicalWeb project implemented by Save the Children. Save the Children held five training

sessions for youth workers during 2020. In addition, Save the Children organised, in cooperation with the University of Helsinki and with funding provided by the Ministry of the Interior, a two-day introductory training for educational staff, youth work professionals, and police officers. Another five training events, 15 advanced workshops, and an online course will be held in 2021. Because of the coronavirus pandemic, the training was organised through digital means, which also allowed the organisers to reach more professionals working with young people than they expected.

- Turku's cooperation network has not been able to organise training as planned due to the coronavirus pandemic. The non-governmental organisations participating in the operation did, however, hold several smaller training events during the year.

Measures for strengthening the resilience of children and young people

- To support the implementation of curricula, the Finnish National Agency for Education has produced two publications for the subjects Religion and Worldview Studies under the heading Linguistic, Worldview and Cultural awareness in the teaching of Religion and Worldview Studies. Large-scale training events have not been possible due to the coronavirus situation. The school network has been coordinated and provided with training. EDUFI has coordinated the PVE-school network and provided them training.
- The Finnish National Agency for Education has prepared a handbook titled Building Resilience. The handbook's launch was held on 10 March 2020. It is available in three languages. In addition to student organisations, the participants included basic education teachers and their pupils.
- A project aiming to improve the resilience of children and youth and to prevent violent extremism and radicalisation, confrontation as well as bullying in schools and educational institutions will be carried out in the education division of Helsinki between 1 August 2020 and 30 June 2021. The project tests and assesses various operating models' applicability to different situations and operating environments. It will also produce new practical information for the better utilisation of methods. The programmes relied on in the project in addition to the I See You See ("Minun Silmin, Sinun Silmin") operating model include Friends, Askeleittain, VERSO, and the KiVa Antibullying programme.

- The Tampere cooperation network aimed to ensure that educational institutions have the ability to identify emerging issues and take action in a situation which raises concerns. Threatening situations are recorded and included in statistics and can be responded to. Training has been provided, but the training should be regular and annual. It is important that the theme continues to be discussed in the form of training, for instance, through which awareness of it can be increased. Regularity provides the necessary readiness to understand the operating environment and the ability to act in situations which raise concern.
- The Muvenna project, carried out by NMF, and the Anchor team have planned meetings and seminars for the pupils and staff of local schools. The events aim to improve the pupils' resilience. Due to the restrictions related to the coronavirus pandemic, the schools have not yet been visited. The Somali Association of Western Finland organised a camp in October. Representatives of Muvenna and NMF attended the camp, providing parents with information on preventive work. Some of the young people at the camp were known to the police. The parents of the young people were also present. The results of the camp were particularly good, and NMF passed on greetings and messages from the police to both the parents and the young people. The work continues, and the Muvenna project will hold an evening of discussion for the young people, in which they can discuss their own views freely, without their parents being present.
- Finland's first Muslim scout troop was established in Turku (in the Scout District of Southwestern Finland). The troop was registered on 21 November 2020, but its activities had begun at an earlier date.
- In November 2020, Save the Children applied for funding under the Ministry of Justice's programme for special grants for operations supporting the prevention of violent radicalisation. Save the Children's project aims to improve the resilience of youth aged 15–19 and increase their participation in the prevention of violent radicalisation in ten localities. The funding has been secured, and the operations will begin in 2021.

Measures for strengthening the participation of the business sector and companies in local efforts to prevent violent radicalisation

- The Ministry of the Interior and the National Police Board have been planning measures aiming to increase the participation of the business sector in

cooperation with the Federation of Finnish Enterprises, the Helsinki Region Chamber of Commerce and Suomen Yrittäjät. The principal objective is to increase the business sector's and companies' awareness and knowledge of the phenomenon, and a training event related to this will be organised during 2021.

2.1.3 Measures decided on in the action plan the implementation of which did not progress in 2020

Measures for arranging training that promotes cooperation for the Anchor teams and other collaborating actors, including the national Anchor seminar

- The planned training could not be held because of the coronavirus pandemic. The training can be carried out remotely, but this would not support the interaction and networking between the participants which is a key objective in developing the cooperation between the Anchor teams.

Measures for extending the Show Racism the Red Card project in football and other team sports as well as for increasing the visibility of the project in sports events

2.2 Strengthening the participation of young people in the prevention of violent extremism and radicalisation

2.2.1 Objectives

- Young people are involved in the planning and implementation of measures to prevent violent radicalisation and extremism.
- To increase the opportunities and capabilities of young people to participate in the operations by strengthening their competence and influencing possibilities in everyday questions of peace and security.
- The involvement of young people is based on their own actions, and it is supported by the authorities and other adults, where necessary.

2.2.2 Implemented measures in 2020

Create safe places and events in which topics related to violent radicalisation and extremism can be discussed with young people

- NMF published three podcasts on topical issues in 2020. The forum has also recorded podcasts which have not been published yet. The work will continue in 2021, and funding for the My Finland (“Minun Suomi”) podcast is being sought. NMF held approximately ten discussion sessions with young people.
- The youth organisation Mahdin Nuoret (Helsinki) organised a summer camp themed around the history and interpretation of the Quran. The core message was criticism of sources and increased appreciation of the fact that the Quran cannot be interpreted by just anyone. Every evening the participants gathered around the campfire and had the chance to ask questions from the imam on any subject whatsoever and discuss among themselves issues that were on their minds. Not all planned events could be held due to the coronavirus situation. These were substituted by videos which included answers to questions on young people’s minds.

Increasing the use of plain language when talking about violent radicalisation and extremism

- The website ‘Resilience and violent attitudes in education’ lists materials for the use of professionals in the educational sector. The open seminar planned for the autumn of 2020 did not take place due to the coronavirus pandemic. The seminar will be held in March 2021, possibly remotely. In addition to the above, researchers at the University of Helsinki have written a handbook for people working with youth in the context of a project (“Huolena nuoren radikalisoituminen?”) funded by the Ministry of Justice. The handbook aims to support educators in holding discussions related to violent radicalisation and extremism with young people. The handbook was introduced in the Vamos operations of the Deaconess Foundation in December 2020. During this pilot project, young people’s comments on the concepts etc. used in the framework for discussion were collected.

Involving young people in planning and implementing measures to prevent violent radicalisation and extremism

- On 31 March 2020³, the Ministry of the Interior set the National Cooperation Network developing and coordinating the prevention of violent radicalisation and extremism for a new term. Youth representation in the network was strengthened by inviting a representative of the Union of Local Youth Councils in Finland (NUVA) to join the network. Other youth representatives in the National Cooperation Network include NMF and Mahdin Nuoret. The Ministry of the Interior has encouraged local cooperation groups to increase their cooperation with young people and invite them to join the activities of the local cooperation groups.
- With NUVA's entry into the network, the activities will reach an increasingly large group of young people. The development of the cooperation was planned in a cooperation meeting held on 12 August 2020.
- Due to the coronavirus pandemic, no events in which the participants would have been physically present have been held since March 2020. Events with young people – such as the round table discussions held on 15 October 2020 and 11 November 2020 – have been held remotely.
- In Oulu, more representatives were invited to join the local cooperation group with the hope of giving a clearer voice to youth and multicultural youth.

Strengthening young people's competence and possibilities of influence in everyday questions of peace and security by organising the Reach Out Peace Academy, which brings together young people from different backgrounds who are interested in peace work and social influence

- NMF and Finn Church Aid have applied for funding from the Ministry of Justice under the programme for special grants for operations supporting the prevention of violent radicalisation. If the funding is secured, the operations will be launched in 2021. In 2020, Finn Church Aid organised, in cooperation with the members of the National Cooperation Network as well as youth organisations and young people, two round table discussions (on 15 October

3 The network was set up for the first time in 2016.

2020 and 11 December 2020) in which young people and experts discussed what role violent extremism as well as issues of peace and security play in young people's daily life and how the inclusion of young people and their perspectives can be supported and taken into account on all levels of preventive work.

- Mahdin Nuoret strengthened young people's trust in the authorities. The measures involved included active communication about tasks in which Mahdin Nuoret works in cooperation with the authorities. Questionnaires in which young people had the chance to convey their messages to the authorities were carried out on social media before and after representative tasks. The feedback and concerns of young people were brought up in the meetings.

Clarifying the content and objectives of democracy education

- In June, the Ministry of Education and Culture established a steering group for the development of democracy and human rights education. The steering group is charged with supporting the democracy and human rights education of schools and educational institutions, the inclusion of pupils, and the implementation of sections in Government Programmes pertaining to increasing the readiness of teaching staff as well as with making proposals on concrete measures. The steering group is responsible for considering the following measures, among others:
 - The supplementary training of teachers and other staff in educational institutions.
 - The implementation and deployment of the Council of Europe's democracy competence work and other similar instruments.
 - Pilot projects in which a school and its pupils play an active role in the surrounding community and in reinforcing its democratic ways of life; making the reports on the pilot projects available to others.
 - Updating the practices of pupil and student activities as well as pupil and student democracy; creating a student bodies 2.0 manual and making the class council practice a stronger part of the daily life of schools and educational institutions.

- Taking advantage of existing projects and cooperation between non-governmental organisations, the nationwide expansion of proven practices and the development of new methods and procedures; compiling existing good practices; for the national collection, dissemination and coordination of communication or educational campaign practices.
 - Launching a research and development project in cooperation with the universities and universities of applied sciences in charge of teacher training. The project supports national cooperation and development activities aiming to improve teachers' human rights competence as part of democracy and human rights education.
 - Following academic research and development activities on the subject matter and assessing the realisation of democracy and human rights education in early childhood education, pre- and primary education, secondary education and in teacher training in accordance with the new grounds for the early childhood education plan and the curriculum.
- The Finnish National Agency for Education set up a democracy skills team in the summer of 2020. The team's operations will get underway once the Covid-19 pandemic and the urgency related to it have subsided.

Making sure that young people receive help with mental health problems

- A new National Mental Health Strategy was drawn up under the leadership of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health. The five focal areas of mental health policy selected for the strategy are the following: 1) mental health as human capital; 2) mental health for children and young people; 3) mental health rights; 4) broad-based services that meet people's needs; and 5) good mental health management. The strategy's implementation will proceed as part of the Future Health and Social Services Centres programme.
- A working group on mental health rights, focused on the implementation of the Mental Health Strategy's focal area in terms of special minority groups, will be established as part of the strategy's implementation. The special minority groups include sexual and gender minorities, indigenous peoples,

and linguistic minorities, which have also been established as groups at risk of suicide in terms of their young people.

- As part of the development of future health and social services centres, the skills of student welfare teams will be improved by introducing them to proven psychosocial methods for the prevention and treatment of mental and substance abuse disorders. Treatment and service chains will be built, and staff will be trained, for this purpose at the initial stage. In the autumn of 2020, work in all five areas of the joint operations was underway. The mental health know-how of people working with children, young people and families will also be strengthened through a government grant project aiming to improve mental health know-how in municipalities.
- The government proposal on shifting student welfare's school social worker and psychologist services to the wellbeing services of counties was submitted to the Parliament at the end of 2020. The reform and the additional funding related to the shift will further the building of streamlined service paths for young people showing symptoms of mental health problems. The mental health support and treatment needed by a child or young person can be arranged more comprehensively than today once all health and social services professionals in a school or educational institution are under the same service provider.
- The Ohjaamo guidance centres' psychosocial support project Onni, coordinated by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment and implemented in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health and the Ministry of Education and Culture, has secured additional funding and will continue at least until the end of 2021.
- The implementation of the Mental Health Strategy in terms of the adoption of the psychosocial methods for young people, to be implemented within the context of the Future Health and Social Services Centres programme, has begun, as has the training of experts of evidence-based psychosocial methods, counsellors and instructors.
- Experts have discussed the development of operating models on a local level with the aim of providing timely support within a young person's living environment. The discussions have taken place within the network of attending physicians in youth psychiatry and locally as well as in hearings on the level of specific catchment areas, which have also been attended by representatives from the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health and the Finnish

Institute for Health and Welfare. The work will be continued by organising into a national network for improving the availability and quality of the psychosocial methods for work with young people.

- Several applications for grants have been made in relation to the programme for improving mental health know-how in municipalities with the aim of promoting the mental health of young people, streamlining the chains of mental health services, and improving the timely provision of multi-sectoral support. The projects will be launched at the beginning of 2021.
- Information related to the coronavirus pandemic collected from emergency services aimed at young people has been compiled on the website of the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare. The institute's report identified students as a group whose mental wellbeing has declined during the pandemic. Likewise, the need for help among school-aged children and young people had increased while school healthcare services in many locations were closed. Referrals to specialised medical care had even reduced, given that referrals from the basic level were not received.
- A review on the service models of the mental health services provided for youth not in employment, education or training (also referred to as NEET youth) is being prepared and the relevant recruitment is underway.
- The Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare has also launched internal cooperation and cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Culture in terms of designing a brief description of an operating model for schools in situations where someone has attempted or committed suicide. An equivalent description already exists, and it will be updated in terms of some sections and its adoption will be ensured.
- A handbook on support for and the treatment of mental health problems of school-aged children and young people in basic level services ("Kouluikäisten mielenterveysongelmien tuki ja hoito perustason palveluissa: Opas tutkimiseen, hoitoon ja vaikuttavien menetelmien käyttöön")⁴ was released in the publication series of the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare.
- A good-mood camp for young people organised by the Muvenna project, implemented by NMF, attracted 25 participants. Due to the prevailing

4 Aalto-Setälä, Terhi; Huikko, Eeva; Appelqvist-Schmidlechner, Kaija; Haravuori, Henna; Marttunen, Mauri (2020).

pandemic, the camp was not easy to organise, and the organisers observed all Covid-19 recommendations and measures. A mental health professional was invited to the camp to give the young people a presentation on mental health. The camp's programme included plenty of time spent together, games, sauna bathing, discussions held around the campfire and other activities, such as a photography contest. The young people also got together to watch a documentary on social media's impact on mental health. NMF's premises have posters on the walls with additional information on mental health and the contact details of services aimed at young people. The planned social media campaign has not been carried out yet. NMF took part in the Mental Health Power training organised by MIELI Mental Health Finland.

Arranging round table discussions between young people and the authorities

- On 15 October 2020, the Ministry of the Interior, the Finnish National Agency for Education, Finn Church Aid, and Save the Children held a round table discussion with young people, teachers, and youth workers on the topic of the violent far right in Finland.
- On 11 December 2020, Finn Church Aid, the Ministry of the Interior, the Reach Out 3 initiative of the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers, the UN Youth of Helsinki, NMF, the Kólvi operations of Pakolaisnuorten tuki ry, and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs held a round table discussion with young people on the topic of how international crises and recent terrorism reflect on young people's sense of security and everyday life in Finland.

Promoting low-threshold sports activities open to everyone

- NMF has provided girls with an opportunity for hobbies in sports, but the activity has remained minor due to the coronavirus pandemic. After a discussion evening organised by Muvenna, young people got a chance to try cosmic bowling.
- Mahdin Nuoret aimed to reserve time slots for young people at gyms, but this was not possible due to the coronavirus pandemic. Even so, Mahdin Nuoret organised a number of sports activities, including ice-skating, futsal for boys, swimming for women, volleyball, and paintball. Summer camps provided

the opportunity for physical activities. Tips on how to keep up sportiveness during Ramadan and a training challenge were shared on social media.

Improving the ability of the authorities interacting with and encountering young people through the internet as well as that of volunteers to prevent violent radicalisation

- MoEC/the Centre of Expertise for Digital Youth Work published a situational overview on grooming in social media: <https://koordinaatti.fi/ajankohtaista/tilannekatsaus-seksuaalinen-houkuttelu>. The conceptual work is about to get underway as a collaborative effort between different administrative branches.
- Negotiations on cooperation have been held between MoEC/the Centre of Expertise for Participation and Influencing and Mol's officer responsible for coordinating the implementation of the action plan. The measures will take shape in the summer of 2021.
- Youth workers' ability to identify violent radicalisation and competence in terms of what to do in such situations has been improved in the RadicalWeb project implemented by Save the Children. Save the Children had held five training sessions for youth workers by the end of 2020. The training also emphasizes violent radicalisation manifesting in online environments.

2.3 Identifying and combatting recruitment into the activities of violent extremist groups

2.3.1 Objectives

- Ensuring that professionals have enough up-to-date information to identify the emblems, symbols, propaganda, and recruitment methods of violent extremist movements.
- Identifying the connection between hate speech and violent radicalisation and extremism.
- Identifying situations and channels in which recruitment takes place and intervening in the recruitment.

- Supporting the individual subject to the recruitment with the aim of preventing them from becoming influenced by violent extremist activities.
- Strengthening the capabilities of people working with adults to identify affected individuals and families within violent extremism's sphere of influence and enhancing their ability to offer services that help individuals reject violent ideology.

2.3.2 Implemented measures in 2020

Increasing professionals' knowledge concerning the emblems and symbols of violent extremist groups

- The Finnish National Agency for Education prepared a booklet for vocational education aiming to increase knowledge on the subject among people involved in vocational education. The booklet is available at: https://www.ooph.fi/sites/default/files/documents/vakivaltaisen-radikalisoitumisen-ja-ekstremismin-ennaltaehkaisy-ammattillisessa-koulutuksessa_1.pdf
- The Finnish National Agency for Education organised a distance lecture for a training network which was also open for the agency's personnel. The lecture was given by Daniel Sallamaa, a researcher at the University of Helsinki, and it also concerned the websites of violent extremist groups.
- The design of an online course for social welfare and healthcare professionals is underway. The online course will include existing knowledge of emblems and symbols.

Measures aiming to ensure that premises maintained through public financing are not used for activities aiming to promote confrontation between different population groups and instigate people to hate and violence

- A precedent in the issue was provided when the City of Tampere did not provide Suomalaisapu ry a chance to present its activities in an event held on 1 October 2019, the day of civic participation. The grounds for the decision stated that the association's activities are contrary to the ethical principles of the City of Tampere. The association filed a complaint on the matter with the Parliamentary Ombudsman of Finland. The Ombudsman's reply stated

that no unlawful action or dereliction of duty in terms of the actions of the City of Tampere was found in the case. The Ombudsman's decision also referred to the objectives and measures of the National Action Plan for the Prevention of Violent Radicalisation and Extremism. The National Cooperation Network will hold a training event on the topic for cities, in which it will go through the case involving the City of Tampere and review how cooperation between the police and cities can be developed in this respect. Based on the Ombudsman's decision, the Ministry of the Interior's Police Department initiated a study on how information could also be disclosed to private parties.

- The City of Turku drew up special lease terms for conference and event venues controlled and leased by the city to associations and private individuals. Based on the ethical principles adopted by the City Board in 2019, such venues and premises will not be leased or made available to events that violate human rights, promote discrimination, or include hate speech.
- A training event in which the decisions and the grounds for them will be presented to municipalities will be held in 2021. The event will also function as an opportunity for developing cooperation between the police and municipalities.

2.3.3 Measures decided on in the action plan the implementation of which did not progress in 2020

Measures aiming to increase the ability to identify and remove recruitment material, such as labels and other materials

The measure is important, but its practical implementation has proved difficult. Individual citizens are active in removing labels, etc. This issue also involves the activity of some extremist movements and actions against parties deemed as opposing extremist groups.

Increasing information about the methods and practices used in recruitment

Knowledge about recruitment methods will be increased in 2021–2023. The operations will make use of research and knowledge, which will be increased during the implementation of the action plan. The work will make use of the operations and projects of the EU's Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN) and Peacebuilding Commission (PBC).

Developing a recruitment monitoring and analysis method together with the authorities and researchers

The objective is to carry out a project related to the subject matter in 2022.

2.4 Combatting terrorist propaganda and punishable hate speech

2.4.1 Objectives

- To increase the knowledge and understanding of the general public and professionals about communications related to violent extremism and hate speech.
- To broadly increase knowledge about the key concepts and narratives used in the communications and hate speech.
- To strengthen the ability of people working with young people to talk about propaganda and hate speech.
- To increase the identification of hate speech as well as intervening in such speech and support for the victims of hate speech.
- To strengthen equality by intervening in all terrorist propaganda and hate speech in the same way regardless of their author.
- To increase research related to the topic and produce more information on the types of material disseminated over the internet, how people react to, consume, and understand it as well as how the material is treated in journalistically produced media.

2.4.2 Implemented measures in 2020

Measures aiming to strengthen the media literacy of adults

- The government grants distributed by the literacy initiative Lukuliike⁵ in the autumn of 2020 support work that prevents social exclusion. Lukuliike distributed a total of EUR 325,000 to projects advancing the literacy of young people and adults. The projects also support multilingualism and a sense of community born through multiculturalism. Examples include the extensive reading and writing activities of the association of Somali families in Lieksa (Lieksan somaliperheyhdistys), the Romani language communities of Romano Missio, and the Sanat Haltuun initiative, which reaches marginalised young people in correctional facilities, for example. The projects are gathering together the expertise of cultural, educational, and social welfare services. In 2021, Lukuliike will be distributing an increased amount of funding as government grants. The pilot project "Lukuliike koulussa", which reaches roughly 1,000 education professionals, includes supplementary training for teachers which also accounts for multilingualism and the prevention of social exclusion. In addition, Lukuliike collaborates with the "Uudet lukutaidot" programme (the Finnish National Agency for Education and the National Audiovisual Institute (KAVI)), which focuses on developing media and critical reading skills.

Increasing knowledge of and the ability to identify the concepts and narratives used by extremist groups

- The Ministry of Social Affairs and Health is preparing training material related to the topic in cooperation with the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare. Information needs concerning concepts and narratives are accounted for as part of the implementation of online training aimed at social welfare and healthcare professionals. The planning began in 2020.
- The Finnish National Agency for Education is promoting the identification of antisemitism by having the OSCE/ODHIR handbook "Addressing Anti-Semitism in Schools, Training Curriculum for Secondary Education Teachers" translated into Finnish.

⁵ Lukuliike is a continuous programme included in a section of the Government Programme. It aims to promote the literacy of people living in Finland, with an emphasis on children and young people. Lukuliike expands the concept of literacy and highlights computer and information literacy as well as multilingualism.

Increasing research-based information on narratives and information on the types of material disseminated over the internet, how people react to, consume and understand it as well as how the material is treated in the journalistic media⁶

- A joint analysis, assessment, and research project⁷ on speech that accepts violence and dehumanises opponents in the Finnish online environment (“Väkivallan hyväksyvä ja vastustajia epäinhimillistävä puhe suomenkielisessä verkkoympäristössä”), conducted under the leadership of the Ministry of the Interior, will be published in early 2021. The study was conducted by a research team of the University of Helsinki. The study will discuss extremist narratives and how they manifest in Finnish online discussions.
- The topic of the other review of violent extremism in 2020 being prepared under the leadership of the Ministry of the Interior is the coronavirus pandemic and the related extremist communications and conspiracy theories online. The review aims to increase knowledge and understanding of harmful and extremist material being spread online.
- In March 2020, the Ministry of the Interior held a round table discussion with the media on the violent far right. In the event, researchers provided an overview of the violent far right’s communications, symbols, websites as well as online games and their use in the dissemination of propaganda and in recruitment.
- In March 2020, the RadicalWeb project implemented by Save the Children published the review “Violent Extremism Online”, which examines violent radicalisation and extremist communication in the Finnish online environment. The review aims to increase knowledge and understanding of extremist materials spreading online.

Increasing information about the types of material that young people encounter on the internet

- Support materials, which emphasize media literacy, for example, have been prepared for all subjects and extensive learning in support of the new grounds for the upper secondary school curriculum. Material supporting the

⁶ ‘Journalistic media’ refers to media outlets which belong to the Council for Mass Media (CMM) and are committed to abide by the Guidelines for Journalists.

⁷ The Government’s analysis, assessment and research activities.

teaching of religion and worldview studies has been produced under the title of “Kieli-, katsomus- ja kulttuuritietoisuus katsomusaineiden opetuksessa” (Linguistic, Worldview, and Cultural awareness in the teaching of Religion and Worldview Studies).

- Youth workers’ ability to identify violent radicalisation found in online environments has been improved in the RadicalWeb project implemented by Save the Children. Save the Children had held five training sessions for youth workers by the end of 2020. The training also emphasizes violent radicalisation found in online environments and how extremist groups aim their communications at young people.

Promoting the ability and possibility of the authorities to combat and remove terrorist propaganda and punishable hate speech efficiently from the internet by making effective use of the opportunities of the current legislation, strengthening the operations of the national VIPU group of the Helsinki Police Department and the National Bureau of Investigation as well as police activity taking place in social media

- Attention has been paid to the dissemination of punishable hate speech, and the police have also carried out a communication campaign in relation to this. The centralised anti-hate speech group (VIPU) which operated under the Helsinki Police Department was discontinued as a separate function and integrated into the department’s other operations. Based on a report published in November 2020, the number of hate crimes in 2019 remained on the same level as in the year before, although the amount of punishable hate speech has increased. The number of ethnic agitation offences that has come to knowledge of the police has tripled. This indicates that the discontinuation of the VIPU group has not had an impact on the operations and investigations of the police. Hate crimes exposed by the police are a metric in the National Police Board’s performance agreement. The metric aims to increase the police’s activeness in exposing hate crimes and punishable hate speech on its own initiative. The National Police Board supports the legislative proposal being prepared in the Ministry of Justice for adding gender in the motives for hate. The objective is to address particularly hate crimes against women.
- Due to the coronavirus pandemic and the incomplete stage of other projects related to the subject matter, the Ministry of the Interior has not convened the team of experts engaged in the preliminary work. This is meant to take place in 2021.

Promoting dialogue between cultures and accounting for the prevention of hate speech in grants allocated by the Arts Promotion Centre Finland to activities that promote cultural diversity and combat racism

- In 2020, MoEC/the Arts Promotion Centre Finland distributed a total of EUR 625,000 to 53 associations for activities promoting cultural diversity and combating racism.

Participating in international cooperation aiming to remove terrorist propaganda and punishable hate speech from the internet and taking the necessary steps related to the initiative of the European Commission to remove terrorist propaganda from the internet, if the initiative is approved

- The European Commission's initiative to remove terrorist propaganda from the internet (TCO) was approved at the end of 2020. The Ministry of the Interior has been in charge of the national preparation and drafting with the support of other ministries and the National Bureau of Investigation.
- The Commission is drafting the Digital Service Act proposal, which includes proposals regarding the liability of online platforms. Key contents of the proposal include users' safety in the online environment, the liability rules of platforms as the hosts of services, problems attributable to the gatekeeper position of the platforms, the challenges of platform workers, administrative and regulatory control in the platform economy as well as other problems, such as online marketing and smart contracts.

Implementing the sections of the Government Programme of Prime Minister Marin in respect of intersectoral measures which will intervene increasingly forcefully in systematic harassment, threatening, and online shaming that threatens freedom of speech, the operations of authorities, investigation and communications

- On 20 May 2020, the Ministry of the Interior established a working group to draft proposals on the enhancement of measures against online shaming. The working group's report was published on 11 February 2021. During the work, online shaming was examined as an activity in which the immediate target is an individual who is targeted because of their work or position, but in which the actual objective is to influence the operation's of society's institutions and the trust felt in them. The working group was tasked with assessing the extent of online shaming and making recommendations on how to improve

the realisation of victims' rights in police work and victims' referral to support services. During its work, the working group also drew up a definition of online shaming in broad cooperation with various administrative branches.

- The Ministry of Justice has drafted the government proposal which proposes to amend the provision of the Criminal Code of Finland pertaining the right to bring charges for an illegal threat in such a way that the act would be subject to public prosecution if the threat is targeted at an individual because of their work and the offender is not a member of the workplace's personnel. The prosecutor could also bring charges for an illegal threat if the act is targeted at an individual due to their public fiduciary function. The act would also be applicable to freelancers and it is intended to take effect in the autumn of 2021.
- The government appointed rapporteur Mika Ilman to assess the legislation related to online shaming and the report in question ("Järjestelmällinen häirintä ja maalittaminen: Lainsäädännön arviointia")⁸ was published on 3 December 2020.

Taking intensified action against hate speech and online bullying

- The measures against hate speech which are the responsibility of the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Education and Culture have been gathered into a summary, with the help of which their implementation is followed on a regular basis. The measures include the recommendations and proposals made by the working groups and research projects. The number of measures underway at the end of 2020 was 64.
- The EU project Facts Against Hate is being implemented and the EU project Capable will be launched at the beginning of 2021 under the coordination of the Ministry of Justice. Both projects focus on carrying out measures aiming to develop the prevention of hate speech and hate crimes. In addition, the latter project is running a prevention centre for combatting hate speech in the form of a pilot project.

8 Valtioneuvoston selvitys 2020:3

2.4.3 Measures decided on in the action plan the implementation of which did not progress in 2020

Increasing cooperation between the authorities and companies with the aim of expanding the knowledge of the authorities, parents and companies of the way in which terrorist organisations and extremist actors utilise computer games and mobile applications in communications and networking

Knowledge on the way in which violent extremist groups utilise computer games and mobile applications in recruitment and the dissemination of violent ideology, for example, has been increased within the context of the EU/RAN cooperation. Practical measures to be implemented nationally in 2021–2023 are being planned on the basis of this knowledge.

2.5 Promoting the safety and security of religious communities and their participation in efforts to prevent violent radicalisation and extremism

2.5.1 Objectives

- To increase the crisis preparedness of religious communities, the security of their places of worship as well as the safety and feeling of safety of their members by enhancing the investigation of hate crimes, including hate speech that fulfills the criteria of a crime.
- To strengthen the ability and opportunities of religious communities to participate in the prevention of violent radicalisation and extremism by increasing cooperation and competence in the prevention of violent extremism and in efforts to combat the impacts of polarisation and hate speech.
- To increase trust and cooperation between the authorities, religious communities, particularly the communities' women, and non-governmental organisations. The aim is to ensure that information on the prevention of violent extremism, the existing services and opportunities to receive support reaches vulnerable individuals and families in need of support.

- To increase the religion literacy skills of authorities working with religious communities and their knowledge of the role of the communities as a local partner and bridge builder.

2.5.2 Implemented measures in 2020

Investigating threats aimed at the premises of religious communities and planning training to improve their preparedness for security threats and crises

- On 20 June 2020, the Ministry of the Interior set up a working group tasked with identifying security threats to the premises of religious communities and drawing up proposals for improving their safety and security. The working group is reviewing issues related to the safety of all religious communities, prioritising the premises of Islamic communities and Jewish congregations due to, among other factors, the international situation and the increased threat against these mosques, chapels and synagogues. The working group should finish its work by 31 May 2021. The working group conducted a survey concerning threats in relation to the subject. The results of the survey will be analysed in early 2021, after which the measures defined in the working group's assignment will be continued on the basis of the analysed results. The Ministry of the Interior has entered into a cooperation agreement with the University of Helsinki on the completion of two theses within the framework of the agreement.

Investigating how procedures for funding security measures for religious communities (excluding the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Finland) should be reformed in view of the elevated threat level

- In cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Culture, the Ministry of the Interior prepared, in the spring of 2020, for the government's framework preparation, a proposal which would have allocated an appropriation for measures improving the security of religious communities. The funding would have been based on criteria that describe the development taking place in the security situation and security threats. The proposal was not approved.
- The Ministry of Education and Culture/General Fiscal Plan for 2021–2023 includes EUR 150,000 a year for improving the security of the Jewish

Community of Helsinki. In its budget proposal for 2021, the government proposes that a further EUR 150,000 be reserved for improving the security of the Jewish Community of Helsinki, thereby increasing the appropriation allocated to the community in 2021 to a total of EUR 300,000.

- During its work, the working group established by the Ministry of the Interior on 20 June 2020 will review the funding of the security measures of religious communities and submit related development proposals.

Increasing the knowledge of religious communities about what happens after a hate crime is reported and how the matter proceeds from the police to the prosecutor and court

- In connection with preventive operations, the police have increased awareness of what happens after a hate crime is reported. The coronavirus restrictions have slowed down the implementation.

Organising supplementary training for imams and the people in charge in religious communities

- In December 2019, the Ministry of the Interior took part in a fact-finding trip to Berlin organised by the EU Commission. The fact-finding trip provided information on how the training of imams and, from a broader perspective, social workers, has been organised by communities and universities in Germany. In the spring of 2020, the Ministry of the Interior and Diaconia University of Applied Sciences (Diak) negotiated on how to organise supplementary training. The preparations were suspended due to the coronavirus pandemic.
- The seminar on linguistic, worldview, and cultural awareness in teaching, to be organised by the Finnish National Agency for Education, has been postponed, presently until the autumn of 2021. If the pandemic persists, the event's organisation in webinar form will be taken under consideration.
- Non-governmental organisations and associations have initiatives and plans for organising training for imams and the people in charge of religious communities, but securing funding for such efforts has often proved difficult.

Increasing interaction and dialogue between religious communities

- The Stand4Hussain campaign organised by Mahdin Nuoret was carried out virtually because of the coronavirus pandemic. The virtual implementation consisted of a video that increases awareness of Shiism and dismantles prejudices against Shiism.
- Mahdin Nuoret made a joint podcast episode in cooperation with Nuoret Muslimit (NUMU) which focused on the significance of community spirit. In addition, the associations shared a video during the festival that marks the end of Ramadan in which different religious communities send out their Eid greetings and stress the importance of a sense of community. A social media challenge which included several ideas on how every young person can contribute to an increased sense of community was also carried out.
- On the International Women's Day, Mahdin Nuoret handed out roses at Tallinnanaukio together with young people. The goal was to increase positive encounters and build a bridge between the Muslim community and the original population.

Increasing interaction and dialogue between the authorities and religious communities by regularly arranging round table discussions about topical and important issues

- The events were not organised due to the coronavirus pandemic. Discussions with religious communities have been held in the meetings of the working group surveying threats against the security of religious communities and measures that would improve security, established by the Ministry of the Interior on 20 June 2020. The group's members include representatives of religious communities and authorities.

Increasing the participation of religious communities in local cooperation by implementing the recommendations presented in the Ministry of the Interior report "Observations about the case management interface and recommendations for the development of operation" (2019:17)

- The Reach Out 3 project got underway in 2020 with the support of the Internal Security Fund and one of the project's key objectives is to deploy the model for referring young people to services as described in the report. The community counsellor training concerning referral to services has been

planned and its contents were produced during 2020. The training will be deployed digitally in cooperation with the project's steering group and local networks in early 2021.

- The report's proposals have been taken into account in cities when developing referral to services and the related cooperation.

Strengthening the competence of religious communities by arranging training on the prevention of violent extremism and efforts to combat the impacts of polarisation and hate speech

- In 2020, Finn Church Aid's peace network took part in the work of the working group established by the Ministry of the Interior which surveys threats against the premises of religious communities and draws up proposals for improving security. The work will continue in 2021. In addition, Finn Church Aid participated in the international workshop of the EU project Facts Against Hate, combatting violent extremism and the impact of hate speech, on 23 October 2020. In accordance with the funding decision, the measure will not be organised in the form of training as part of the Reach Out 3 project. Separate funding for this measure will be sought in 2021.

Arranging training on religious literacy skills for authorities working with religious communities and strengthening their knowledge and awareness of the role of the communities as a local partner and bridge builder

- Finn Church Aid designed a six-module digital training package, of which the Ministry of the Interior, at the recommendation of the National Cooperation Network, ordered a three-module training to serve as a pilot project. The training is aimed at authorities working with religious communities and constitutes part of the National Action Plan's implementation. The design and production work was carried out in the autumn with the help of funding provided by the Ministry of the Interior. The pilot projects concerning the training will be rolled out in 2021 in cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior.
- The publication 'The Challenges of Religious Literacy. The Case of Finland' was published in 2020. The publication describes the Finnish model and operations in relation to cooperation with religious communities.

2.5.3 Measures decided on in the action plan the implementation of which did not progress in 2020

Increasing research-based knowledge of the types of concerns and needs that Muslim communities have about violent radicalisation and security

- The measure's implementation will be taken into account when preparing research projects to be carried out in 2022.

2.6 Understanding the role of gender in the prevention of violent radicalisation and extremism

2.6.1 Objectives

- To increase knowledge and awareness of the ways in which violent radicalisation and extremism affects girls and women in Finland and what can be done to support them in situations where they are subjected to the actions of violent extremist groups or to their influence.
- To support prevention by increasing knowledge about the factors and motives which result in girls and women becoming radicalised and joining violent extremist groups.
- To strengthen the participation of girls and women in the prevention of violent radicalisation.

2.6.2 Implemented measures in 2020

Conducting research into the involvement of girls and women in violent extreme movements in Finland

- The research will be conducted in 2021.

Promoting the participation of young women in the planning and implementation of measures preventing violent radicalisation

- Young women's participation in the planning and implementation of preventive measures has been promoted and supported by a variety of means, including the round table discussion held on 11 December 2020.
- Misogyny and incels have surfaced strongly in discussions with young women and will be taken into account in future work preventing violent radicalisation and extremism.

2.7 Preventing radicalisation in prisons and reducing threats connected with released prisoners

2.7.1 Objectives

- To identify radicalised prisoners, individuals radicalising other prisoners, prisoners in danger of radicalisation as well as customers serving a community sanction.
- To prevent the activity of radicalising individuals.
- To target measures at individuals in danger of radicalisation in order to prevent their radicalisation.
- To target rehabilitative measures at all individuals showing signs of radicalisation.
- To target measures at individuals released from prison and subject to probationary supervision that reduce the threat of terrorism they may pose.
- To increase the early identification of radicalisation and appropriate further referral within healthcare services for prisoners.

2.7.2 Implemented measures in 2020

Ensuring that regional cooperation between authorities and exchange of information is regular and continuous and that regional meetings are organised if necessary

- The regular meetings between managements decided on in the action plan have not materialised. There were a total of 18 regular meetings between local authorities in 2020. The number of meetings has reduced significantly due to the coronavirus pandemic, and not all meetings could be held remotely because of information security reasons. The police have participated in local cooperation and in developing the exchange of information. With respect to the exchange of information, the amendment of the criminal sanctions legislation is likely to enable the police to disclose information on its own initiative in certain situations.

Ensuring training and expertise. Preventing violent radicalisation in prisons and interacting with released prisoners requires that sufficient, regular training is arranged for the personnel

- A total of ten training events were organised in relation to the subject matter during 2020. The amount of training was impacted by the coronavirus pandemic; in a normal situation, there would have been more training events. Some of the training has been held remotely.

Ensuring that radicalisation is identified and that the relevant target persons and groups are subject to surveillance. The target persons can be ordinary prisoners, those serving life, remand, or fine sentence as well as community sanction customers

- A liaison has been named for all units. The liaising activity facilitates the development of cooperation and the flow of information between the units and the planners in the regional centres.

Promoting the reporting of observations related to violent radicalisation and extremism. Officials of the Criminal Sanctions Agency report the concerns they have observed to officials, who are responsible for processing the information for the identification of radicalisation. Observations can be related to the behaviour of individuals, the atmosphere in a cell block or the property in an individual's possession

- The reporting is promoted by reminding the staff of the issue in the context or training, for instance. Experience has shown that units report their observations with a low threshold. All observations are responded to in the form of feedback and potential recommended action.

Early prevention is supported through interactive work done with customers in which individuals representing different cultures and religious backgrounds are met with dignity and in a culturally sensitive manner

- Cultural sensitivity is reviewed and discussed during training.

Dynamic security and continuous interaction with customers. These play an important role in identifying and preventing radicalisation. Active interactive work is done with customers and convicted prisoners, with the aim of helping the authorities identify possible changes in the individual's behaviour and to support them in rejecting extremist ideology

- Dynamic security and interaction have been key parts of the training.

Dealing with radicalised and radicalising individuals. If a person is considered to have become radicalised or to be in danger of radicalisation, their situation is assessed and they are subjected to customised measures to interrupt the development of radicalisation.

- Each case is subject to an individual assessment and recommended measures. The risk of radicalisation is accounted for if necessary and insofar as possible in the placement of prisoners. The work is continuous. Customers are met and referred forward on a case-by-case basis within a multi-professional organisation. Fewer customers have been met due to the coronavirus pandemic. Organisational actors which work with violent radicalisation have been mapped and opportunities for cooperation with them have been investigated.

Holding Friday prayers in prisons. According to Chapter 11, section 3 of the Imprisonment Act (767/2005), where possible, church services, devotional services and other religious events must be arranged in a prison in accordance with the prisoners' needs. Prisoners must be given the possibility to meet a pastoral counsellor or another representative of their own religion. Prisons must have premises suitable for the practice of religion. As a rule, practicing Christianity in prisons is ensured, and some prisons have prison priests who belong to the Criminal Sanctions Agency's personnel. The opportunities for Muslim prisoners to practise their religion are not always adequate. The challenge is to ensure that the imams visiting prisons are mainstream Muslims and do not spread an interpretation urging violence. Developing procedures to enhance the right of Muslim prisoners to practise their religion and ensuring that the imams visiting prisons are mainstream Muslims.

- Progress has been made in some regions and in some units, but most of the units are not able to organise Friday prayers for Muslim prisoners. The operations have not progressed as planned.

Preparing a manual or handbook to promote equality in the implementation of imprisonment, especially with a view to Muslim prisoners.

- The manual's preparation is still underway, which is why it has not yet been delivered to the Criminal Sanctions Agency for approval.

Offering individuals in danger of radicalisation alternatives, such as means for self-development, with the aim of distancing them from factors sustaining radicalisation.

- Preventive work in prisons focuses on functional self-development offered to individuals or activities in line with the goals of the plan for the term of imprisonment, such as the processing of violent behaviour. However, the goals of the plan for the term of imprisonment are not, as a starting point, drawn up from the perspective of distancing an individual from violent radicalisation, unless this is considered particularly important. The goals of the plan for the term of imprisonment broadly support crimelessness and promote settlement in society.

Identifying, in the healthcare services for prisoners, signs of radicalisation observed in connection with normal work and being able to refer individuals to appropriate services.

- The identification of radicalisation has been promoted by one training event held for the healthcare services unit during 2020.

Preparations for a prisoner's release from prison are begun before the release. The release is planned in accordance with the statutory release plan. Among other things, the plan covers housing, education, job and family situation. For municipalities, it is important to receive information on violently radicalised prisoners who are about to be released so that the necessary support measures can be planned. In some cases, a released prisoner relocates to a reception centre or detention unit. Support measures play a decisive role in the case of violently radicalised prisoners. Without them, they may end up dealing with the same people they used be in contact with before imprisonment. The individual may have become radicalised by these people or may themselves have acted as a radicaliser.

- A release plan is drawn up for every prisoner about to be released. Information on a prisoner's release is delivered to the local police. Municipalities and the Finnish Immigration Service cooperate with each other and information is passed on within the confines of the law.

When a prisoner identified as having become violently radicalised is released, the Criminal Sanctions Agency delivers details of the prisoner to police units, the Finnish Security and Intelligence Service and the police department of the prisoner's home municipality. The necessary cooperation between the authorities is arranged at every police department so that the situation of the individual to be released can be assessed and monitored comprehensively.

- The Criminal Sanctions Agency delivers details of violently radicalised prisoners about to be released.

Develop legislation related to the exchange of information with the aim of making information key to decision-making available to the Finnish Immigration Service when it makes decisions. The Finnish Immigration Service makes decisions about residence permits and granting citizenship in relation to prisoners about to be released. Currently, information in the security information register can be disclosed only to the police, Defence Command Finland, Finnish Customs, and the Finnish Border Guard. Criminal sanctions authorities cannot independently disclose data in the security information register to the Finnish Immigration Service. Legislation should be revised in this respect so that the disclosure of such data to the Finnish Immigration Service would be possible. This also requires training the personnel of the Finnish Immigration Service in the processing of confidential information.

- Mol included the proposal in the summary for reforming the counter-terrorism legislation processed by the government at the end of 2019. The matter has not progressed.

Ensuring that municipalities have sufficient information on organising services for persons who are released from prison and identified as being at risk of violent radicalisation. According to the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, section 35 of the Social Welfare Act can be applied in cases where a person of age returns to the municipality from the conflict areas in Syria and Iraq. Investigating whether municipal authorities can be informed under section 35 of the Social Welfare Act of persons to be released from prison and involving the risk of violent radicalisation so that this can be taken into consideration in assessing their service needs.

- The Criminal Sanctions Agency has not investigated whether the disclosure of information pursuant to section 35 of the Social Welfare Act is possible.
- In the future, individuals and families who have spent time in the conflict areas in Syria and Iraq and have since served a prison sentence can be relocated to municipalities. A modelling on long-term multi-professional support for children and their families returning from a conflict area drawn up under the leadership of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health supports municipalities in their work. Socca, the Centre of Excellence on Social Welfare in the Helsinki Metropolitan Area, will publish the handbook at the beginning of 2021.

2.8 Developing training and competence

2.8.1 Objectives

- To arrange regular training on the prevention of violent radicalisation for the authorities and other actors engaged in the work.
- To set goals and priorities for training and implement the training nationally and for different sectors.
- To also take up matters related to the prevention of violent radicalisation in an effective manner in connection with other training.

2.8.2 Implemented measures in 2020

The goals and priorities of training are confirmed every year in connection with preparing the national implementation plan for the prevention of violent radicalisation and extremism

- No centralised funding for the organisation of training was available during the preparation of the implementation plan in 2020 and no plan for the training could be devised. The government has allocated funding for the action plan's implementation in 2021–2023, and the practice according to the measure will get underway in 2021.

Preparing a plan for national training annually and applying for centralised funding for its implementation

- The government has allocated funding for the action plan's implementation in 2021–2023, and the plan for the training will be drawn up every year from now on.
- In early 2020, the Ministry of Justice set up a national government aid application process for special grants for operations supporting the prevention of violent radicalisation. The distributable project funding totalled EUR 200,000 and this sum was divided among four projects. The funding application process for 2021 was open in October–November 2020 and the results will be published in January 2021.

Making sure that the various sectors annually arrange targeted, systematic training in the prevention of violent radicalisation and provide financial support for it

- Intersectoral training on violent radicalisation and its prevention was arranged for the police, youth workers and the staffs of educational institutions with the funding of the Ministry of the Interior in the autumn of 2020. Some 200 experts participated in the training and the feedback received on it was excellent.
- In 2020, the Ministry of the Interior funded a pilot training programme on Islamic communities in Europe and Islamic culture and practices in daily life. The programme was carried out by Finn Church Aid. The programme involved the production of a teaching package which includes three 20-minute animated video presentations. The videos focus on the following questions: what forms of organisation has European Islam sought, how have the organisations changed over the past five decades, and how is religious authority formed in the Western Europe of the internet age. The teaching package aims to promote cooperation between the authorities and Islamic communities by increasing the authorities' knowledge about factors influencing the cooperation and key to its success.
- Turku University of Applied Sciences held three training events for its personnel on the prevention of extremism and radicalisation.
- The Criminal Sanctions Agency has trained its own staff and the staff of Health Care Services for Prisoners as well as stakeholders on the phenomenon and its identification.

Participating in training organised by the EU's Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN) for the representatives of Member States

- Milla Perukangas of Finn Church Aid's group RAN Families, Youth and Social and Anneli Portman of RAN Local Authorities, serve as the heads of the RAN sub-working groups. Perukangas and Portman are also members of the National Cooperation Network for the Prevention of Violent Radicalisation and Extremism, and this ensures, for its part, a connection between RAN and national operations.
- Experts from Finland have taken part in the Project Based Collaboration (PBC) projects organised jointly by the Commission and Member States. The

projects in which Finland participated in 2020: National support to the local level; Right-wing extremism (joint responsibility with Sweden); Improving Member States' capacity to prevent the promotion of extremist ideologies in supplementary schools, denominational schools, and home-schooling; and Risk assessment tools in prison.

- The forum for young Muslims in Turku (NMF) also participated in the meetings of RAN. NMF is a member of the RAN Youth and RAN Families, communities and social care working groups.
- Experts of the Finnish National Agency for Education have attended the following RAN training sessions: Australia fact-finding trip, 23–24 September 2020; Conspiracy myths and violent extremism, 7 December 2020; An update on Islamist extremism and implications for PVE, 19 November 2020; RAN Y&E Meeting on Youth isolation, how to get them out of it?, 26–27 November 2020; and a number of training events related to the prevention of antisemitism.
- Save the Children has participated in the meetings of the RAN LOCAL and RAN Youth working groups.
- Representatives of the National Police Board have participated in RAN events concerned with threat assessments and the violent far right.
- Finnish experts have had an increasingly better chance to take part in RAN seminars, because the normal limitations on the number of participants have not applied due to Covid-19.

2.9 Prevention of violent radicalisation and extremism in social and health services

2.9.1 Objectives

- Social welfare and healthcare professionals are able to help persons of concern individually and in a timely fashion with the methods developed in the sector, together with other professionals, or by referring individuals to other services.

- Professionals work to enhance the individual's sense of participation in order to strengthen their functional capacity against the sense of social exclusion.
- Improve the safety and security of the individual, their friends and relatives as well as society in general.

2.9.2 Implemented measures in 2020

Social welfare and healthcare professionals deal with a person who has become or is in danger of becoming radicalised

- When encountering a person who has been or is facing the threat of being radicalised, social welfare and healthcare professionals first investigate whether the case shows signs of committing violent acts or urging others to commit them. If a threat of violence or instigation to it is observed, the professional first finds out whether the person or their friends and relatives can be assisted through the means available to the professional or the work community or whether the person should be referred to the services of other authorities. The professional must also find out to which party and how the possible identification should be reported. Social welfare and healthcare professionals have the right to report to the police any information necessary for assessing a threat to people's life or health or preventing a threatening act without prejudice to the confidentiality obligation.
- Social welfare and healthcare services have given instructions on the disclosure of information to the police.
- There are separate instructions for multi-professional Anchor teams operating in police departments.

Strengthening inclusion in social welfare and healthcare services

- Multi-professional and multi-sectoral work that reinforces inclusion plays a key role in preventive work. Social welfare and healthcare actors participate in Anchor work. Ohjaamo guidance centres and workforce services support integration with the rest of society. The proper treatment of mental disorders contributes to the prevention of violent extremist ideas. It should be noted,

however, that extremism is not a mental disorder and that a mental disorder does not involve extremist violent ideas.

- The Ministry of Social Affairs and Health is implementing the Non-Violent Childhoods programme and promotes multi-professional cooperation. The programme to reform child and family services and develop family centres (the LAPE programme) continues in the counties. The programme aims to strengthen early support for and the wellbeing of children, young people, and families, to halt the rise of inequality, and secure multi-professional services for children in need of special support. The development work aims for multi-sectoral service structures which allow for considering the need for support and any weakening in the conditions for inclusion among children, young people, and families at as early a stage as possible. Social welfare and healthcare services will be deployed in schools and educational institutions, and the mental health and substance abuse work of student welfare services will be strengthened. The LAPE work is being carried out as part of the Future Health and Social Services Centres programme and in government grant projects involving the multi-sectoral development of child welfare services.

Preventing the violent radicalisation of children and young people

- The child's own environments, such as early childhood education and school, are important factors in prevention. Early childhood education is supported by maternity and child health clinics and family centres in the healthcare system. Student welfare and school healthcare services are available at schools, and student healthcare and student welfare services in tertiary education. If a child or young person is suspected of having a mental disorder, they can be referred to more detailed examinations in specialised medical care. Approximately 20–25 per cent of young people suffer from mental disorders and the treatment of the mental disorder is beneficial when seeking to improve an individual's possibility to act as a member of their community and society.
- The implementation of the Future Health and Social Services Centres programme is proceeding, and the training and adoption of evidence-based methods in student welfare has begun in all areas of joint operation. The methods support children and young people showing symptoms of depression and anxiety in the school and studying environment. The availability of low-threshold support for mental health and substance abuse problems is being improved in the development of family centres as part of

the daily life of children, young people, and families. The centres of expertise and support (OT centres) are intended to support the dissemination of the methods.

- Cooperation between educational services and the Right to Learn programme, conducted under the Ministry of Education and Culture, is being built within the context of the LAPE programme. The objectives of the Right to Learn programme include inclusion and the promotion of educational equality as well as the reduction of inequality. The programme reinforces the learning conditions and transitions of children and young people with an immigrant background. The multi-sectoral VIP network, on the other hand, aims to help professionals in regional networking (educational, cultural, health and social services) and bring the resources for demanding special support and the children and young people in need of such support together. The VIP networks work in close cooperation with the central OT network.
- The deployment/implementation of the Mental Health Strategy supports the objectives and measures set in the prevention of violent radicalisation and extremism.
- From the perspective of the operations of authorities, the radicalisation of children and young people is a new phenomenon in Finland, and there is a lack of even international research that would provide evidence of the results of the various methods used in the care of radicalised children and youth. The principle in their care is the same as for adults. The social support received by children, young people and their families affects the environment in which children are brought up. Where necessary, social welfare or non-institutional child welfare measures are targeted at the family. If needed, a child or young person can also be placed in a suitable growth environment where they can abandon violent ideologies and activities, supported with other specific support, should it be required.
- The Ministry of Social Affairs and Health has granted EUR 5.8 million for the multi-sectoral development of child welfare for 2020–2022. The aim is to improve the cooperation between child welfare and mental health and substance abuse services. The final report of the working group appointed to reform demanding substitute care in child welfare (Reports and Memorandums of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health 2020:28), on the other hand, proposes that a law be enacted on the content, purpose and organisation of demanding substitute care. This would strengthen the functionally integrated cooperation of social welfare and healthcare

to improve demanding substitute care. The working group's proposal is currently about to start circulating for a round of opinions.

Utilising the services of regional centres of expertise and support in the prevention of violent radicalisation

- Services requiring highly demanding special expertise have been regionally focused in five centres of expertise and support (OT centres), from which the necessary services can be provided equally throughout the region. Support and care for helping children and young people to reject a violent radicalisation process is very challenging and requires special expertise. Although most of the social and healthcare professionals do not encounter these children and young people in their work, it is important for them to know what to do if they do encounter them.
- The proposals and final report of the working group preparing the centres of expertise and support for the most demanding services of children and young people, which functions under the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, were completed in late 2020. The Barnahus project is already carrying out the work of the OT centres and three areas out of five have been granted funding from the state for pilot projects involving OT centres (structural fund). The steering of the areas subject to the pilot projects will continue the national coordination.

Increasing research-based knowledge to support prevention

- Scientific research plays an important role in developing the operations, legislation in the field and the exchange of information. The Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare supports the identification of violently radicalised individuals as well as the development of suitable means of care and support through research and education. Multi-professional cooperation is being developed with the police, education sector and immigration authorities, for example. The research and investigations basically serve practical work, study the phenomenon and its impacts as well as assess the implementation of the chosen strategy.
- The study on the development of the operations, services and their future implementation launched in 2020 will continue in 2021–2023. In addition, a master's dissertation soon to be completed at the University of Eastern

Finland studies the legal basis and problematics of the exchange of information, particularly from the perspective of healthcare services. The Ministry of Social Affairs and Health and the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare jointly prepared an international seminar that was meant to be held in the spring of 2020. The seminar has been postponed due to the prevailing pandemic. It will be implemented as a webinar in the summer of 2021.

Preparing and providing online training and other supplementary training

- The Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare plans and prepares an online training package to support social welfare and healthcare professionals and their partners, consisting of videos, inserts, background material, group work materials as well as questions for assessing learning. The training package also includes instructions and support material for arranging workshops and in-person teaching days. The planned training is free of charge and can be used freely. Its use is assessed and it is updated on a regular basis. The planning and background work for the online training has begun.

Participating in international cooperation

- In the healthcare and social welfare sector, European-wide cooperation takes place through bilateral contacts and the sector's own EU/Radical Awareness Network (RAN). There is also a Nordic RAN in the healthcare and social welfare sector. Some of the research and development work on the theme is conducted with international partners.

2.10 Prevention of violent radicalisation and extremism in the reception system

2.10.1 Objectives

- The basic work done in the reception system is of a high quality and based on the common operating models shared by the Finnish Immigration Service and all reception centres as well as on the regular guidance and training of the reception centre personnel.

- The quality of the centres's operations is consistent and their aim is to treat all customers equally.
- Customers with special needs are assisted and supported according to the possibilities available.
- The observations made by the personnel about violent radicalisation, healthcare and social welfare services, guidance as well as an approach that accounts for security issues all help prevent violent radicalisation at an early stage.
- Close local cooperation between different authorities and actors promotes intervention in violent radicalisation at a stage as early as possible, supports the work done in the centres and also allows for referring individuals to services provided by outside service providers.

2.10.2 Implemented measures in 2020

Training reception centre personnel to identify violent radicalisation

- The Finnish Immigration Service organised two training sessions on the topic, held by the Finnish Security and Intelligence Service and local police, for the staffs of reception centres. Reception centres were also provided with training on violent radicalisation organised independently by the actors in their respective regions, including the Finnish Security and Intelligence Service.

Training asylum seekers who have arrived in the country

- The Covid-19 situation prevented the possibility to arrange a course on Finnish society and work and study activities as well as the possibility of directing customers to take part in the operations of actors outside the centres. The reception centres nevertheless organised courses on society as well as work and study activities insofar as the coronavirus situation allowed it. A spot check on course performances was carried out in 2020 and, according to the results, the customers were primarily provided with the course at the reception centres. Shortcomings were detected mainly in the realisation of all lectures involved. In addition to the coronavirus situation, this was impacted by customers moving from one centre to another, reasons

related to the asylum process, and customers' leaving the reception system. The Finnish Immigration Service will update the course instructions and operating model in 2021 and will continue to actively steer the reception centres in the matter. The roll out of the electronic part of the course at the reception centres was postponed to 2021.

Strengthening work in reception centres

- The initial health examination model of healthcare was developed in cooperation between the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare and the Finnish Immigration Service, and it was deployed at reception centres to the extent allowed by the coronavirus situation in 2020. Essential social services were available at every reception centre, assessed and implemented by social welfare professionals and also as procured from external service providers. Efforts aiming to make the Let's Talk About Children model and its use take root in the structures of the Finnish Immigration Service and the centres' operations (a three-year joint project with MIELI Mental Health Finland) continued. The Psykke project trained the staffs of reception centres in mental health work on two different occasions during 2020. Multi-professional work at the centres was highlighted in the centres' self-supervision plans. A check of the entries under the 'Multiprofessional work' tab in self-supervision plans conducted through random sampling indicated that the centres have multi-professional working groups formed by representatives of different fields as part of the comprehensive support work.
- The Finnish Immigration Service included the deployment of the measures specified in the National Action Plan for the Prevention of Violent Radicalisation and Extremism in the reception centres' performance targets for 2020. The Finnish Immigration Service will review the achievement of said targets from the reporting submitted by the centres in the spring of 2021. The same target was also included in the performance targets for 2021.

Increasing cooperation with local authorities and other actors

- The reception centres worked in close regional cooperation with other operators within different networks, including the local cooperation groups for the prevention of violent extremism, the Against Hate network, local voluntary organisations, the police and the Finnish Security and Intelligence Service. The Finnish Immigration Service was involved in national networks

and working groups, such as the Lama working group and the Women, Peace and Security working group. The coronavirus situation had a partial impact on the cooperation.

The reception centre personnel inform the local authorities of any activities causing concern in accordance with the agreed procedures and the confidentiality provisions in force

- The Finnish Immigration Service has previously instructed reception centres on the contact details of local police and the centres are informed of how and who to contact with regard to a person or action that gives cause for concern. The Finnish Immigration Service can also provide reception centres with consultation on such matters.

2.11 Actions of the police to prevent violent radicalisation and extremism

2.11.1 Objectives

- In their work, the police identify individuals who are at risk of being violently radicalised or who have already been radicalised and deal with them in the manner required by the threat assessment.
- The police investigate tips and, where allowed by the legislation, give feedback to the whistleblower with the aim of strengthening the whistleblower's confidence about the proper handling of tips and about their leading to the necessary actions.
- Criminal intelligence plays an important role in the ability of the police to detect violent radicalisation. Police information systems are used effectively and comprehensively, based on legislation, for storing information, preparing analyses, and forming a national overview.
- Visible actions by the police on the internet and other intelligence activities taking place there increase the possibilities for detecting violent radicalisation and intervening in it as early as possible.

- The police effectively refer individuals facing the risk of radicalisation to services by implementing the operating method outlined in the Ministry of the Interior publication 2019:17 (Appendix 1).
- The police support other authorities and representatives of non-governmental organisations in actions related to the prevention of violent radicalisation and extremism by providing expert assistance and advice.
- The police participate in the work of local cooperation groups for the prevention of violent radicalisation and extremism and produce information, together with other authorities, for preparing a local threat assessment.
- The police target actions decided on in the national strategy for preventive work, especially in areas where violent extremist groups and related individuals have a negative impact on safety and security and sense of security of people and communities.
- The multi-professional Anchor teams operating within police departments prevent violent radicalisation and implement measures with which individuals at risk of violent radicalisation or already violently radicalised are supported to reject the violent activities and referred to other services, if necessary.

2.11.2 Implemented measures in 2020

Ensuring that the guidelines issued by the National Police Board to police units on the processing of tips concerning violence are known to all actors who need them in their work

- The National Police Board has established a working group to prepare the matter and the guidelines are currently being updated. According to the original schedule, the work was to be completed on 31 December 2020. Parts of the guidelines will nevertheless not be completed until early 2021. Instructions on how to make entries in the intelligence system of the police have been prepared simultaneously with the guidelines.

Developing the internal and external dissemination of information on violent radicalisation with the aim of ensuring it is up to date and making it available to every actor who needs it in their work

- The development work is underway. The most extensive and time-consuming targets of development pertain to knowledge management challenges, such as data interfaces, data processing as well as storage requirements, quality, and data management. In this context, 'knowledge management' refers to the different technologies, systems, and practices (processes) with which the information needed by the organisation are collected, processed, and managed in its operations. Knowledge management also responds to the question of how to put the knowledge of experts to the organisation's use. The organisation possesses a great deal of expertise and competence, intellectual capital and explicit information, and another aim of knowledge management is to make use of this.
- The communications of the police are guided by an annual calendar. Social exclusion has been noted as the preventive theme for 2020 and 2021, covering both the national and local perspective. Communications are supported by the continuous monitoring and analysis of the media and social media (OVI). Readiness for communications has been developed through the preparation of communication cards, among other things.
- The updated communication regulation of the police entered into force on 1 January 2020. It obligates police units to establish a communications task force. The instructions concerning the readiness of the police's communications has been updated.

Harmonising and clarifying the practices of police departments in preparing statistics on extremist crime

- The development of the compilation of statistics has begun. Hate crime has been accounted for as a statistical context in connection to IT system projects, for example. The preparation of the guidance note is underway and should be completed in early 2021.

Taking an extremist motive into consideration in pre-trial investigation with the aim of promptly completing the investigation of such a crime

- The preparation of the guidance note is underway and should be completed in early 2021.

Developing and harmonising processes used to assess threats related to people and phenomena

- The development and harmonisation of the threat assessment process is underway. Some of the work is continuous development work. Responsibility for the supplementary training related to threat assessments has been transferred to the Police University College. The counter-terrorism seminar was postponed until early 2021 due to the coronavirus pandemic and it may be even further postponed in 2021. Police officials have participated in EU/RAN events on the topic.

The police participate in the work of regional and local cooperation networks preventing violent radicalisation and extremism and, where necessary, adopt a coordination and management responsibility for their work

- The police have taken part in the cooperation with consideration for the restrictions attributable to the coronavirus pandemic.

Training the police in preventing polarisation and in dealing with polarised situations

- Supplementary training on polarisation, identity conflicts and defusing confrontations in police work was held at the Police University College at the beginning of 2021. The target group of the training, for which 16 people signed up, consisted of police officers whose work involves preventive operations, Anchor work, the use of a local problem-solving method or the prevention of violent extremism. The Police University College planned the training in cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior, the National Police Board, and the Depolarize project, funded by Kone Foundation.

The investigation of hate crime, including punishable hate speech, is enhanced and measures are taken to continue training the police in the identification and investigation of hate crime

- The course planned at the Police University College in November 2020 had to be cancelled due to coronavirus restrictions. The course is annual, and the intention is to hold it in 2021.
- The Police University College's separate study on the grounds for increasing the punishment for hate crimes is underway. A researcher has been recruited and the work is underway.
- The National Police Board has participated in the EU project Facts Against Hate, and the project's international workshop was held on 23 October 2020.
- A template for an online course on hate crime and equality has been drawn up and the course will be built in the Police University College's Moodle. This training, which will be mandatory for the entire administrative branch of the Ministry of the Interior, will be open for enrollment in early 2021.

The police implement Exit activities throughout the country with the aim of helping individuals break free from the influence of violent extremist movements and organised crime

- The Exit activities carried out by the National Bureau of Investigation did not get the project funding applied for them from the Internal Security Fund in the summer of 2020. The activities have nevertheless continued within the framework of available resources. The objective is to regularise the activities.

2.12 Prevention of violent radicalisation and extremism in the education sector

2.12.1 Objectives

- The content, methods, and goals related to broad-based prevention are based on the national core curricula and are an essential part of the daily operations of the education sector.

- Learners have the knowledge and skills to process topical issues needed to understand and reflect on the social phenomena around them.
- Educators know how to address themes and events related to violent extremism with learners as they come up in everyday life.
- Educational institutions are in a position to identify the specific needs that students may have and guide the person of concern to the right service. They can also act as a partner in the multi-professional cooperation network.

2.12.2 Implemented measures in 2020

Increasing the education sector personnel's basic knowledge of violent radicalisation and extremism

- The Building Resilience handbook is available in Finnish, Swedish and English at <https://www.oph.fi/fi/tilastot-ja-julkaisut/julkaisut/resiliensia-rakentamassa-de-mokratiakasvatuksen-tueksi>. The Finnish National Agency for Education participates in a network of experts coordinated by the University of Helsinki: <https://www2.helsinki.fi/en/networks/resilience-and-prevention-of-extremism>. The training aiming to improve security has been funded by the Finnish National Agency for Education.
- Inter-sectoral training for police officers, youth workers, and the staff of educational institutions on the prevention of violent radicalisation was implemented with funding from the Ministry of the Interior. Some 200 experts participated in the training and the feedback received on it was extremely positive. The training will be continued in 2021.

Arranging regionally comprehensive supplementary training to create a network of regional key instructors who support educators in early childhood education, general education, and vocational education

- The procurement of the online course was at the competitive bidding phase at the end of 2020. The commissioned education training for teachers has been planned and it will be implemented in early 2021.

Increasing cooperation and the exchange of information between different actors, such as universities, universities of applied sciences, researchers, and educational institutions

- The officials of the Finnish National Agency for Education who participate in the activities of the network of experts on Resilience and Violent Attitudes in Education, coordinated by the University of Helsinki, are Satu Honkala, Kati Costiander, and Kati Mikkola <https://www2.helsinki.fi/en/networks/resilience-and-prevention-of-extremism>
- The operations of the UNESCO Associated Schools Network (ASPnet) have been supported with an annual meeting and info letters. The network of teachers participating in PVE training projects has convened and the network's schools have taken part in various events.
- Democracy education has been supported with the help of the democracy education coordinator of Lycée franco-finlandais d'Helsinki (the French-Finnish School of Helsinki).

Continuing development work by participating in Nordic and international cooperation

- Satu Honkala and Kristina Kaihari, officials of the Finnish National Agency for Education, have participated in the activities of the DIS network. Rather than implementing a school project in 2020, the DIS network gathered experiences and information of previous projects.
- European work on the prevention of violent extremism has been followed through participation in a number of meetings: Education Policy Advisers Network (EPAN): Kristina Kaihari serves as a representative of the Finnish National Agency for Education; GENE: Satu Honkala serves as a representative of the Finnish National Agency for Education: the meeting in March was held in Tallinn, those in April, June, and September remotely; RAN: a virtual fact-finding trip to Australia in September.



Ministry of the Interior
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