

## KNOWLEDGE

As an initial part of the guidelines, it is of the utmost importance to understand the concept of radicalisation. Within the current guidelines this aim is included in the first phase, this is the *Knowledge phase* (see Flowchart). Having in mind what is meant by radicalisation may help bodies to better define potential issues which may arise in their environment. Specifically, the first phase relies in clarifying this concept in order to understand whether radicalisation is present and how to recognise it. Thus, if the answer to the first question of the flowchart “*Is the term radicalisation clear?*” is “No”, understanding its meaning and gaining information on the topic should represent a first aim. Below, we report a very brief description of the term radicalisation.

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### 3.1.1 A brief description of the term radicalisation

Although widely used by politicians, academics, and also the general public, the term radicalisation has not yet reached a uniform definition. According to Doosje and colleagues radicalisation may be defined as “a process through which people become increasingly motivated to use violence against members of an out-group or symbolic targets in order to achieve behavioural change and political goals” (Doosje et al., 2016, p. 79). A more complex and general definition of radicalisation has been provided by Lenos and colleagues (2017) from The Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN) which defines it as “the process through which an individual comes to adopt extremist political, social, or religious ideas and aspirations which then serve to reject diversity, tolerance and freedom of choice, and legitimise breaking the rule of law and using violence towards property and people” (p. 5).



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Thus, violence may be seen as a common tool used by radicalised groups to reach their aims. Starting from Doosje and colleagues’ (2016) conceptualisation of radicalisation, below we report and briefly describe five types of radicalised groups (Table 3):

**Table 3.** Types of radical groups

Type of radical group	Main concern
Nationalistic or Separatist Groups	Secure a territory for the own group
Extreme Right-Wing Groups	To safe-guard the high status position of the ‘white race’ that is perceived to be threatened by immigrants
Extreme Left-Wing Groups	Achieve a just distribution of wealth and perceive capitalism as the main source of evil
Single Issue Groups	Their main concern focuses on one particular topic (not an extensive ideology), such as the environment, animal rights or abortion, team support, social issues
Religiously motivated Groups	They adhere to a very strict interpretation of their religion to justify violence against individuals who do not strictly adhere to that religion

*Adapted from Doosje et al. (2016)*

As far as the reasons as to why individuals radicalise, there may be several reasons (see Koomen & Van Der Pligt, 2015 for a discussion). Indeed, researchers agree on the fact that there is no single cause but a mixture of them may be at the basis of the phenomenon (Ranstorp, 2016).



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For example, among the different factors which may lead to radicalisation and violent extremism, threats are usually seen as possible triggers, as they may mobilise individuals to react to perceived negative situations. This is the case, for example, of discrimination and prejudice (real or perceived) experienced by some groups (Ranstorp, 2016), perceived threat deriving from higher status sections of the population (e.g., governments, authorities, and politicians; Koomen & Van Der Pligt, 2015) or perceived threat derived from how some individuals perceive the society to be structured which may be questionable by part of the population (Koomen & Van Der Pligt, 2015).

A more detailed account of the radicalisation process can be found at:

1. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/security/20210121STO96105/radicalisation-in-the-eu-what-is-it-how-can-it-be-prevented>
2. [https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/internal-security/counter-terrorism-and-radicalisation/prevention-radicalisation\\_en](https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/internal-security/counter-terrorism-and-radicalisation/prevention-radicalisation_en)

Having in mind what is meant by radicalisation should go hand in hand with knowing what the risks of radicalisation are. When presenting information regarding radicalisation, specific effort should be made to clarify the consequences of such phenomenon to reach a general understanding. According to stakeholders who participated in FAIRER's Living Labs (LL), information regarding radicalisation and its risks should be disseminated through different tools such as television, social media as well as face-to-face campaigns both during matches as well as in schools. Testimonials may play an important role in this respect as



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presenting short messages regarding radicalisation and its risks by different and well-known individuals such as football players may help reach a broader audience. Indeed, they could act as positive role models not only within football contexts but also among the wider community. In addition, effort should be put in creating opportunities for engagement in such topics which could ultimately enhance knowledge on radicalisation. Within football contexts, one example may be represented by introducing surveys and quizzes while individuals book their tickets for possible matches.

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Another important aspects concerns the target of such campaigns which, according to many stakeholders who participated in the Living Labs, should first of all be young people. Indeed, it has been argued that there is lack of awareness from young people who don't seem to see the intimidating nature and consequences of their language/behaviour which, at least within football environments, reaches its peak during derby and rival games. Nevertheless, the importance of implementing awareness programmes tailored to organisations and football clubs has also been emphasized during the LLs. These programmes could include workshops, training sessions, and educational materials to educate stakeholders about various forms of radicalisation. Last but not least, during the LL it was suggested that state institutions and football clubs establish channels of communication for sharing information related to radicalisation. This could ultimately facilitate the exchange of knowledge and especially insights to enhance awareness.

