

WHAT MAKES A CRIME-TERROR NEXUS? EVIDENCE FROM 11 EU COUNTRIES

GLOBSEC, with the help of partners from 11 EU countries, has assembled a database of 326 individuals either arrested for terrorism offences, fugitives from justice, or attackers who died while staging terrorist attacks during 2015, a peak year of jihadism in Europe. The team investigated the criminal pasts of these individuals and collected data on radicalisation, foreign fighting experience and financing of activities to establish commonalities and differences amongst the European jihadis. 11 September 2019 will see GLOBSEC and its European collaborators launch their crime-terror nexus project's final report which takes stock of two years of research devoted to this topic. At the same time, GLOBSEC will also take a closer look at prisons and radical mosques in Europe: two key "pathways to jihad," and integral components of the nexus.

WEDNESDAY, 11 SEPTEMBER, 2019

9:00 – 9:30 Registration

9:30 – 9:40 OFFICIAL WELCOME

VENUE: THON HOTEL, WETSTRAAT/RUE DE LA LOI 75, 1040 BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

9:45 – 10:35 RADICALISATION – THREAT OF PRISONS

VENUE: THON HOTEL EU, WETSTRAAT/RUE DE LA LOI 75, 1040 BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

Not every single terrorist dies in a terrorist attack and not every criminal successfully avoids imprisonment. Quite some of them end up indeed in a jail and a remarkable amount of them leave prison radicalised. In fact, however, very little is known as to what actually happens behind the prison walls. How big / serious the threat actually is? How the radicalisation process is conducted and how can we minimize / prevent the risk? Is there a single prototype of a personality of a certain individual making him/her more prone towards the radicalisation behind the bars? Can we confirm that the individuals are getting radicalised solely with a help of an imprisoned renowned jihadist recruiter towards which we should then draw special attention? Is it feasible to identify and to consequently contain each and every such radical to a separate cell? How can we avoid the radicalisation which is being "imported from the outside" – either via the phone calls or through visits in prison? What about those imprisoned individuals who will be released in the upcoming years?

ORLA LYNCH, University College Cork, Cork

BART SCHUURMAN, Institute of Security and Global Affairs (ISGA), Leiden University, Leiden

ELENI FOTOU, Forensic Psychologist, Kavala

LED BY **THOMAS RENARD**, Senior Research Fellow, EGMONT, Brussels

10:35 – 10:50 Coffee Break

10:50 – 11:40 PATHWAYS TO JIHAD: MAPPING OUT THE RADICAL MOSQUES IN EUROPE

VENUE: THON HOTEL EU, WETSTRAAT/RUE DE LA LOI 75, 1040 BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

GLOBSEC's research into pathways to jihad identified some of the European mosques as still, 18 years after the 9/11's Hamburg cell, a viable route into jihadi milieu. Little is known, however, how does that process work in practice or what is its methodology, i.e. who exactly animates this pathway for impressionable individuals, and how is that happening? How much do the elders or founders know, and what pressures do they come under? And finally, what is the best way of countering this threat and can it at all be achieved within the European framework?

DAMIEN SAVEROT, Ecole Nationale Supérieure, Paris

OLIVIER GUITTA, GlobalStrat, London

LED BY **RODERICK PARKES**, Senior Analyst, EU Institute for Security Studies, Brussels

11:45 – 12:35 OVERBLOWN, UNDERAPPRECIATED OR JUST ABOUT RIGHT? THE CRIME-TERROR NEXUS IN EUROPE

VENUE: THON HOTEL EU, WETSTRAAT/RUE DE LA LOI 75, 1040 BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

The most well-known ISIS terrorist atrocities in Europe, including the 2015 Paris and 2016 Brussels attacks, saw individuals who in the past had been involved in organized crime and illegal trade graduate into the ranks of the world's most successful terrorist organisation. It is now widely assumed that Europe's terrorists are no longer radicals first and foremost but criminals who turned to political violence at some stage throughout their ordinary crime careers. Thus, a threat emanating from the "crime-terror nexus" hangs over Europe. But does it? GLOBSEC and its European collaborators spent two years investigating the issue and have some answers on the issue.

JOHN MORRISON, Royal Holloway, University of London, London

GIOVANNI GIACALONE, ITSTIME, Milan

WIM HARDYNS & THOM SNAPHAAN, Institute for International Research on Criminal Policy, Ghent University, Ghent

LED BY **KACPER REKAWEK**, Head of National Security Programme, GLOBSEC, Bratislava

12:35 – 12:45 CLOSING REMARKS

VENUE: THON HOTEL EU, WETSTRAAT/RUE DE LA LOI 75, 1040 BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

12:45 – 14:00 Buffet Lunch