Study: “The EU’s Policies on Counter-Terrorism. Relevance, Coherence and Effectiveness”
Objective of this study

Comprehensive assessment of the EU’s counter-terrorism policy architecture,

Identifying the various actors, the relevant policies, the gaps and overlaps in those policies, and

The overall relevance, coherence, legitimacy and effectiveness of the policies and their implementation in Member States
2017: Stockholm, London, Barcelona ...

- Lone actors and unnoticed radicalisation
- Weaponisation of ordinary life
- What can you do?
Was this threat foreseeable?

Rise in Lone Wolf attacks
Was this threat foreseeable?

Terrorist targets in the EU, 2004-2015
EU Policies: incident driven rather than analysis driven

Strategies, action plans, measures, 1996-2017
A lot has been accomplished
Examples: data sharing and border security

- Europol’s European Counter Terrorism Centre (ECTC) and the Counter Terrorism Group’ platform vs national agencies

- Border management systems sold as CT-measures, but added value for CT is limited
“Effective and timely information-sharing among relevant authorities is a prerequisite for successful counter-terrorism action. But there remains fragmentation at both national and EU levels which can lead to dangerous security gaps.”
Many actors steering CT policies
How to improve relevance, coherence and effectiveness?

- Invest in the **tools already in place**
  (e.g. improve data exchange rather than collection of more data)

- Invest in **future foresight studies** and **threat assessments** that combine the available intelligence, data and information
Theory of Change feeding a logical policy cycle

1. Analysis of terrorist threat/future foresight study
2. Monitoring impact and effectiveness; evaluation of policy; advise for improvement
3. Implementation of policy
4. Design of policy with clear SMART objectives
5. Policy needs assessment
How to improve relevance, coherence and effectiveness?

- Needs assessment
- SMART formulation of policy objectives
- Impact assessment
- Consultations
- Oversight
- Monitoring & Evaluation
Other reflections

- Political support for evidence based assessments of policies and measures is crucial
- Jihadist groups are more agile with strategic communication, propaganda and narratives than governments
- To avoid prevention-fatigue, success stories are vital
Other reflections

- More research is needed on the nexus of frustrated refugees and refused asylum-seekers, and radicalisation
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