



Pericles

Policy recommendation and improved communication tools for law enforcement and security agencies preventing violent radicalization

The meaning of cooperation and proper evaluation

Country: Greece

Organisations involved: CTU, Local Police, Prison service.

Governmental institution: Ministry of Education

Target Audience: Police units and Professional in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE)

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Issue

A Prison Guard from the Jail of Korydallos reports to his supervisor that in the last 8 months, a young girl visits a leading member of a terrorist group once per month. After this report the Counter Terrorism Unit, runs a background check and finds out that this young girl was at the same University with another member of the above terrorist group. Furthermore, CTU after investigating through ELAS central archive notes that this young girl has never been arrested or charged with anything. Two months later her father declares her disappearance to the local police, stating that they have had no communication over the past month.

During this time, the correctional service reports that a member of another terrorist organization escaped from the same prison, who was being held in the same wing as with the other members of the above terrorist organization.

Response/approach taken

The nexus between the Prison Service, the Counter-Terrorism Unit, the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, through the Ministry of Education and the local department, led to the collaboration of different authorities and institutions to combine and evaluate the details of the events and to decide how the case should be approached by the counter-terrorism unit.

Lesson Learned – Do's and Dont's

If all available information had not been brought together from the beginning, evaluated and exploited properly, CTU would have been led to the wrong conclusion and might not have taken action. Moreover, they probably would not have managed to prevent the mass escape from the prison of Korydallos that members of the terrorist organization had been planning.