

## Countering Radicalisation for a Safer World

Privacy-first situational awareness platform for violent terrorism and crime prediction, counter radicalisation and citizen protection

# 1° Webinar Counter Project 20 April 2022

## Findings from D2.2 Psychological factors of the radicalisation process

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# Agenda

- Objectives
- Theoretical framework
- Methodological framework
- Emerging findings
  - From scoping review
  - From TRA-Is analysis
  - From scoping review and TRA-Is analysis
  - Connecting D 2.1 and D 2.2
    - Motivations and needs
    - Radicalised subjectivity



## D 2.2

### Objectives

- **Understand** the **radicalisation process**, in terms of **factors**, from a **psychological** and a **psychosocial** point of views
- **Connect** social factors presented in ***D 2.1 - Sociological Factors of the Radicalisation Process*** and psychological and psychosocial factors presented in ***D 2.2 - Psychological Factors of the Radicalisation Process***



## D 2.2

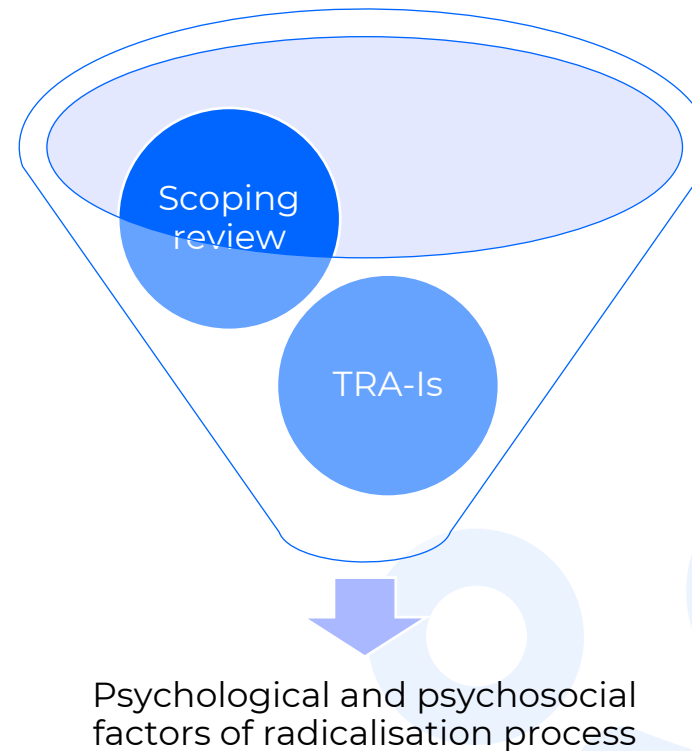
### Theoretical framework

- Psychosocial point of view
- Social psychology of
  - Family
  - Groups
  - Communication
- Sociocultural approach
- Utterance intersubjectivity model



## D 2.2

# Methodological framework



*Figure 1 -Methodological approaches in D 2.2 - Psychological Factors of the Radicalisation Process*



## D 2.2

### Methodological framework: scoping review (1)

- RQ: what is known from literature **about factors** that lead to the **radicalisation process**?

Sub-questions:

- **Which are** the psychological and psychosocial factors that lead to the radicalisation process?
- **Which** have been the **forms of radicalisation** of which psychological and psychosocial factors have been studied?
- **Which countries** have studied the above-mentioned forms of radicalisations?
- **Which** are the **motivations and needs** that lead to the radicalisation process?
- **Which** are the **dynamics between individual and groupal dimensions** that allow the emergence of the radicalisation process?



## D 2.2

### Methodological framework: scoping review (2)

- Eligibility criteria
  - **Citing or introducing or listing or defining psychological and/or psychosocial factors** that lead to the radicalisation process
  - **From 2014 to 2021**
  - English language



## D 2.2

### Methodological framework: scoping review (3)

- Information source
  - Four **psychological scientific databases**: PsycINFO, Scopus, Web of Science, and PubMed
  - **CORDIS EU Research Results**





## D 2.2

### Methodological framework: scoping review (4)

- Data extraction process (11 variables)

| Info source | Retrieval path | Source of evidence included | Year | Authors | Source of evidence typology | Typology specification | Origin | Relevant info about typology of radicalisation | Relevant info about psychological /psychosocial factors | Relevant info about factors: definitions |
|-------------|----------------|-----------------------------|------|---------|-----------------------------|------------------------|--------|--|---|--|
|-------------|----------------|-----------------------------|------|---------|-----------------------------|------------------------|--------|--|---|--|

Table 1 -Tool for data extraction



## D 2.2

### Methodological framework: TRA-Is analysis (1)

- Selected TRA-Is (12)
  - A Revised Religious Fundamentalism Scale
  - Assessment Model for Concerns for Extremism (MACE)
  - Extremism Risk Guidance (ERG 22+)
  - Historical-Clinical-Risk Management-20, Version 3 (HCR-20V3)
  - Identifying Vulnerable People (IVP)
  - Islamic Radicalisation – 46 (IR-46)
  - Level of Service Inventory – Revised (LSI-R-R)
  - Multi-Level Guidelines Version 2 (MLG 2)
  - RADAR
  - Structured Assessment of Violence Risk in Youth (SAVRY)
  - Terrorist Radicalisation Assessment Protocol – 18 (TRAP-18)
  - Violent Extremism Risk Assessment Version 2 Revised (VERA 2R)



## D 2.2

### Methodological framework: TRA-Is analysis (2)

- Analysis of general dimensions (Heide et al., 2019)

| General information                       | Information from TRA-I                   |
|---|--|
| <b>Full Name</b>                          | A Revised Religious Fundamentalism Scale |
| <b>Country of origin</b>                  | USA                                      |
| <b>Developer(s)</b>                       | Bob Altemeyer and Bruce Hunsberger       |
| <b>Organisation</b>                       | Academy                                  |
| <b>Background developers</b>              | Academic                                 |
| <b>Approach</b>                           | Survey                                   |
| <b>Basis/sources for tool development</b> | Literature review                        |

Table 9 -A Revised Religious Fundamentalism Scale: general information

| Structure                             | Information from TRA-I                 |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Number of indicators</b>           | 12                                     |
| <b>Categories/Dimensions/Sections</b> | Religious dimensions                   |
| <b>Type of categories</b>             | Religious beliefs; religious attitudes |

Table 10 -A Revised Religious Fundamentalism Scale: structure



## D 2.2

### Methodological framework: TRA-Is analysis (3)

- Analysis of specific dimensions

| Factors in radicalisation process according to TRA-I |                              |                      |                       |                          |   |                 |                   |
|--|------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|---|-----------------|-------------------|
| Dimensions and factors                               |                              |                      |                       |                          |   |                 |                   |
| <b>Socio-demographic</b>                             | Family background/ childhood | Education and career | Religion and ideology | Radicalisation variables | Military, paramilitary, foreign fighting experience variables | Crime variables | Network variables |

Table 2 -Dimensions for the TRA-Is factors analysis



# Emerging findings

From scoping review



## D 2.2

### Emerging findings: trends (1)

- Radicalisation process has gained a **lot of attention** in the last years

| Date | F  | %     |
|------|----|-------|
| 2014 | 5  | 5,10  |
| 2015 | 1  | 1,02  |
| 2016 | 5  | 5,10  |
| 2017 | 8  | 8,16  |
| 2018 | 7  | 7,14  |
| 2019 | 7  | 7,14  |
| 2020 | 17 | 17,35 |
| 2021 | 48 | 48,98 |

Table 3 -Sources of evidence by date



## D 2.2

### Emerging findings: trends (2)

- Radicalisation process and its psychological and psychosocial factors are **studied all around the world**



Figure 3 -Where radicalisation factors are studied



## D 2.2

### Emerging findings: degree of formalisation

- Factors have **not** been **sufficiently formalised**: lack of definitions
- **Taxonomies** and **typologies** of factors are the **most formalised** element: sometimes pleonastic definitions





# Emerging findings

From TRA-Is analysis



Counter

## D 2.2

# Emerging findings: distribution by dimensions

N = 369



92 health-mental health, addictions

52 radicalisation variables

48 network variables

41 religion and ideology

38 crime variables

36 family background/childhood

26 education and career

24 socio-demographic

11 military, paramilitary, foreign fighting experience

1 other (i.e., time)



## D 2.2

# Emerging findings: intra-dimensions organisation (1)

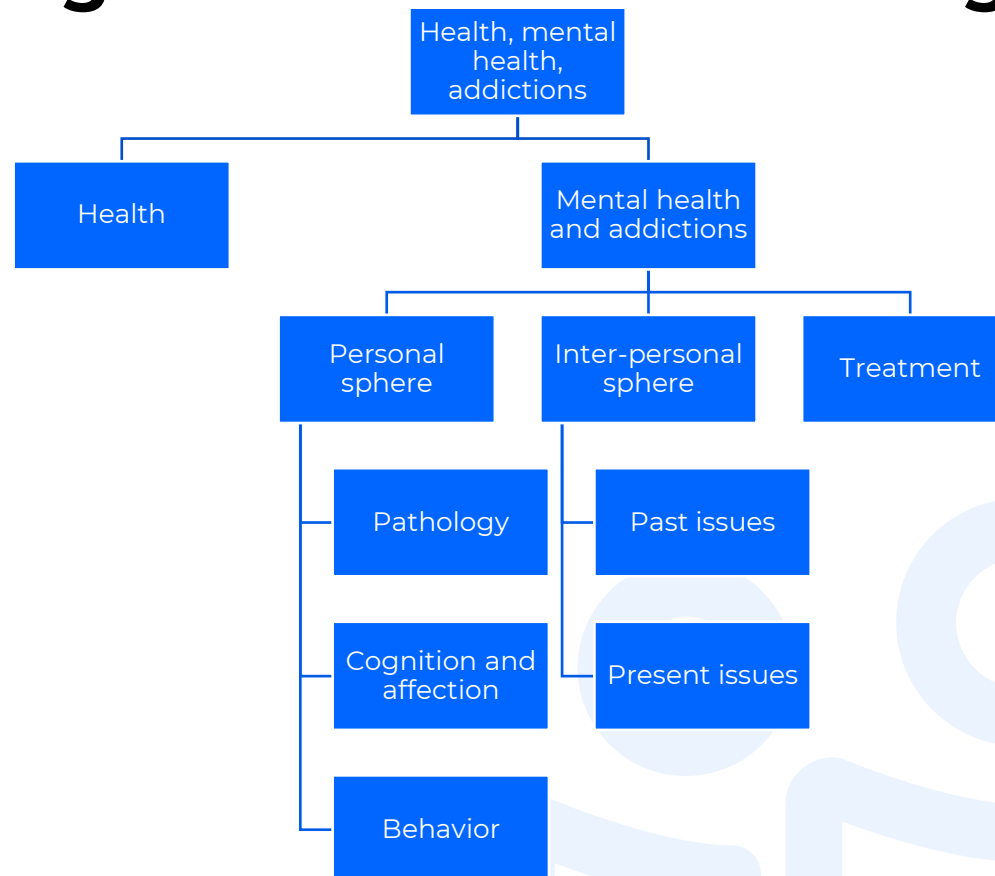
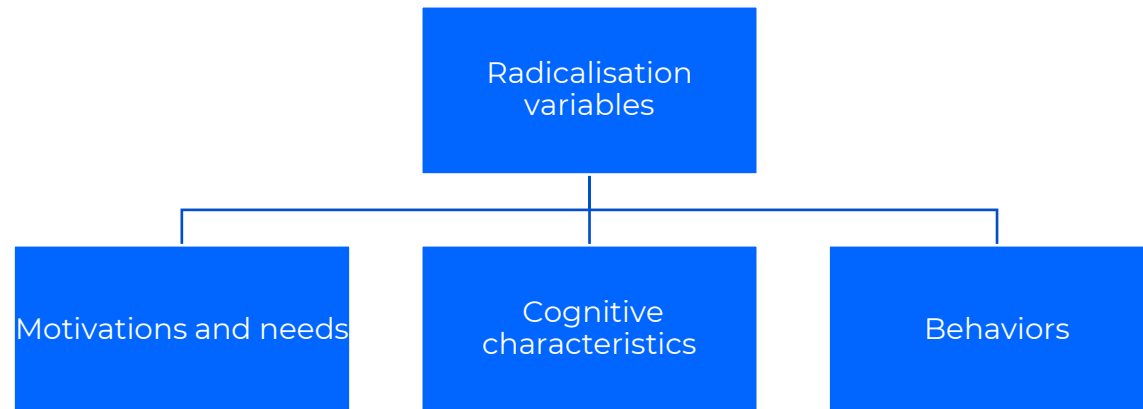


Figure 4 -Structure of health-mental health, addictions dimension



## D 2.2

# Emerging findings: intra-dimensions organisation (2)



*Figure 5 -Structure of radicalisation variables dimension*



## D 2.2

# Emerging findings: intra-dimensions organisation (3)

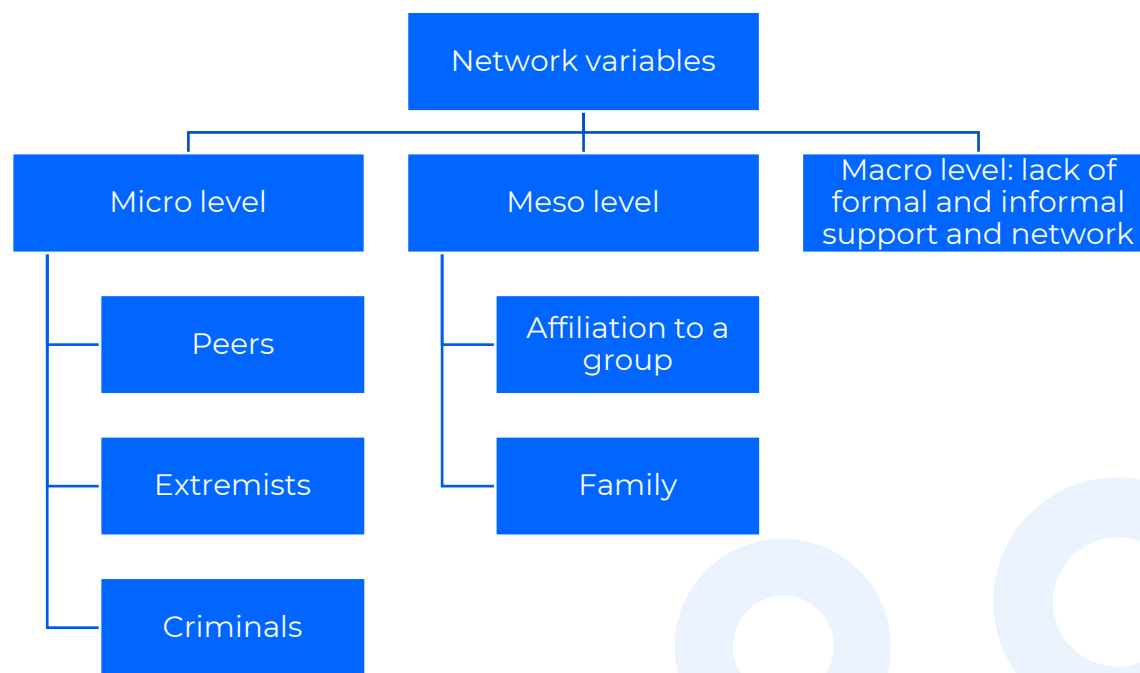


Figure 6 -Structure of network variables dimension



## D 2.2

# Emerging findings: intra-dimensions organisation (4)

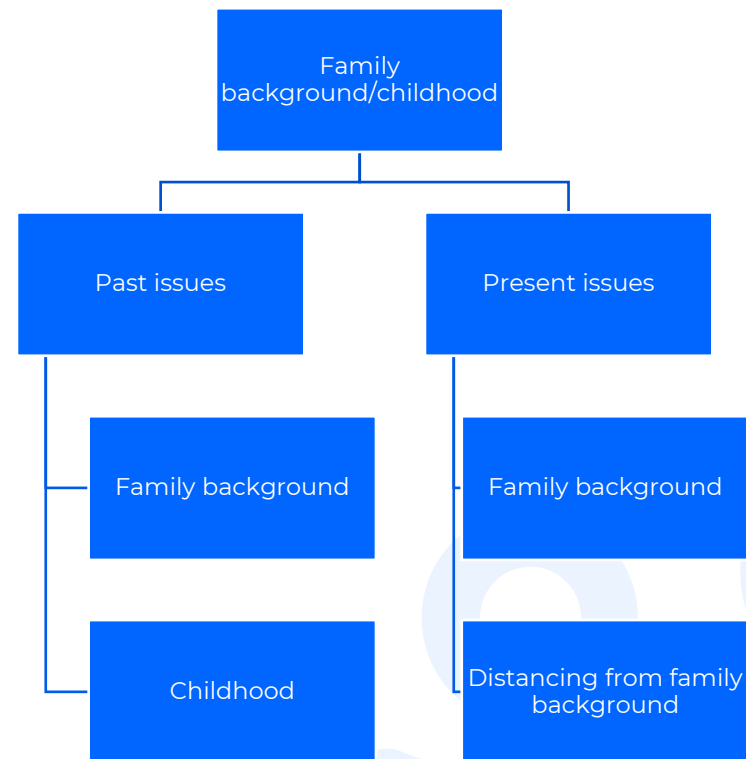


Figure 7 -Structure of family background/childhood dimension



## D 2.2

# Emerging findings: intra-dimensions organisation (5)

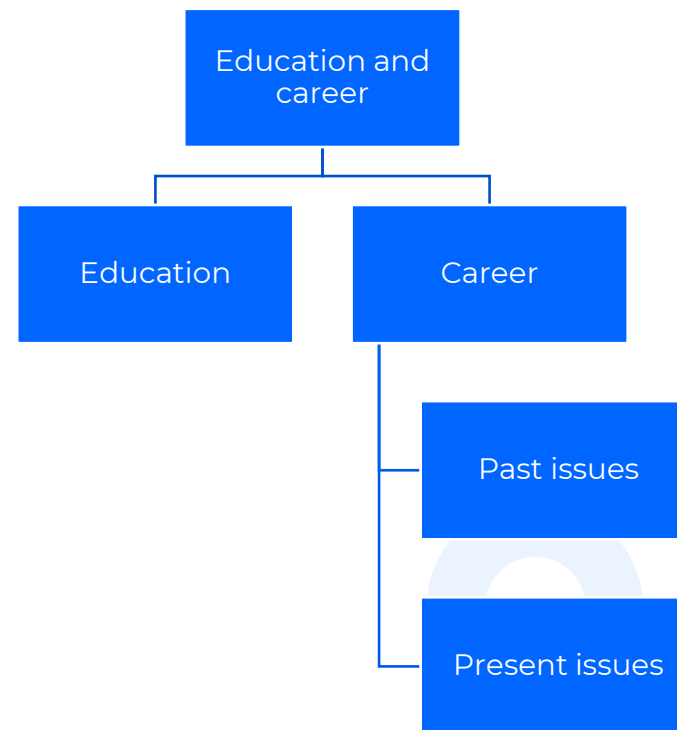


Figure 8 -Structure of education and career dimension



## D 2.2

# Emerging findings: inter-dimensions organisation (1)

- **Dimensions are related** to each other





# D 2.2

## Emerging findings: inter-dimensions organisation (2)

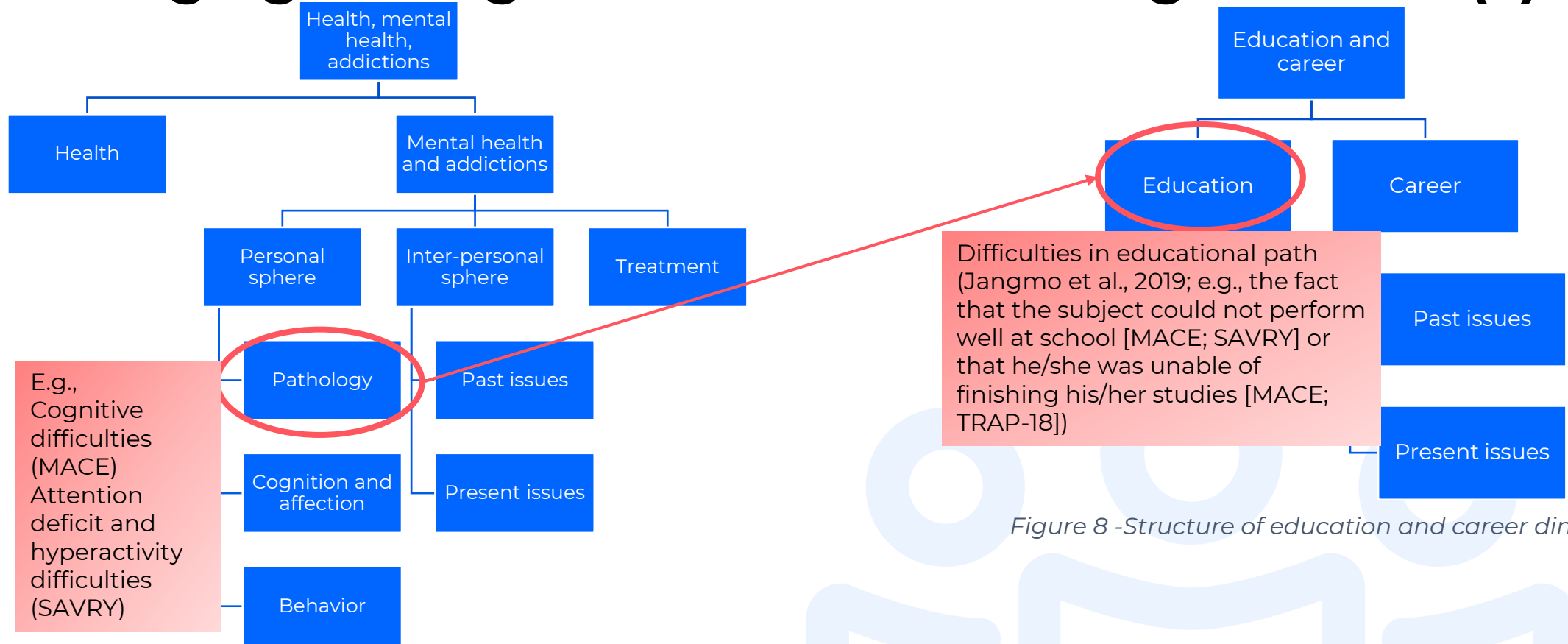


Figure 4 -Structure of health-mental health, addictions dimension

Figure 8 -Structure of education and career dimension



## D 2.2

### Emerging findings: degree of formalisation

- Well-structured and provide, through their manuals and related materials, **clear and wide definitions** of radicalisation factors



# Emerging findings

From scoping review and TRA-Is analysis



## D 2.2

### Emerging findings: general considerations (1)

- Radicalisation process is **generated by constellations of factors** and these constellations can be **organised in subdimensions and dimensions** that interact with each other
- Factors of the radicalisation process do not lead to sustaining the hypothesis that the **roots of the radicalisation** reside only in the subject: the **interrelation** of the **subject's characteristics** and of **contextual factors** generates the radicalisation process



## D 2.2

### Emerging findings: general considerations (2)

- **Some types of radicalisations** have received **more attention** than others
- **Many contributions** included in the scoping review and the TRA-Is do **not focus on a specific type** of radicalisation



# Emerging findings

Connecting D 2.1 and D 2.2



## D 2.2

# Emerging findings: general considerations

|                     | D 2.1  | D 2.2  |
|---------------------|--|--|
| <b>Relevance of</b> | Aspects of <b>sociological</b> nature (macro level).<br><br>E.g., international relations  | Aspects of strictly <b>psychological</b> nature (micro level)<br>E.g., subject's mental health |
| <b>Gender</b>       | Radicalisation is depicted as a phenomenon that is related to <b>male</b><br>E.g., "young, single males are the most susceptible to radicalization and indeed make up the largest number of radical offenders" (HUJI, 2018, p. 25) |  |



## D 2.2

### **Emerging findings: thematic areas to read the combination of the various factors inside the ecosystems (1)**

- Communication
- Identity
- Culture
- Electronic technologies





## D 2.2

# Emerging findings: thematic areas to read the combination of the various factors inside the ecosystems (2)

- Communication
  - Given the importance of **contextual variables and the social context** for the radicalisation process and, consequently, of **relationships, communicative interaction must be studied** within ecosystems
  - Studying communicative interaction from a psychological and psychosocial point of view implies the following **assumptions**
    - **Not only** having **verbal data**
    - The transmission of radicalised visions does **not pass only by what is said** and this is supported by found factors of the radicalisation process such as: possession of extremist material (e.g., literature; material that he/she uses [RADAR])



## D 2.2

# Emerging findings: thematic areas to read the combination of the various factors inside the ecosystems (3)

- Identity
  - **Subjectivity**, because it is the identity phenomenology, is what is concretely observable of identity **in actions** and in **ecosystems**



## D 2.2

# Emerging findings: thematic areas to read the combination of the various factors inside the ecosystems (4)

- Culture
  - The contents of sociological factors of the radicalisation process in relation to culture (e.g., attention to the relationship between cultural aspects typical of the Islamic religion and those of Western societies) find their declination in the constants produced by the **subject's actions** belonging to one ecosystem or similar ecosystems



# D 2.2

## Emerging findings: thematic areas to read the combination of the various factors inside the ecosystems (5)

- Identity and culture

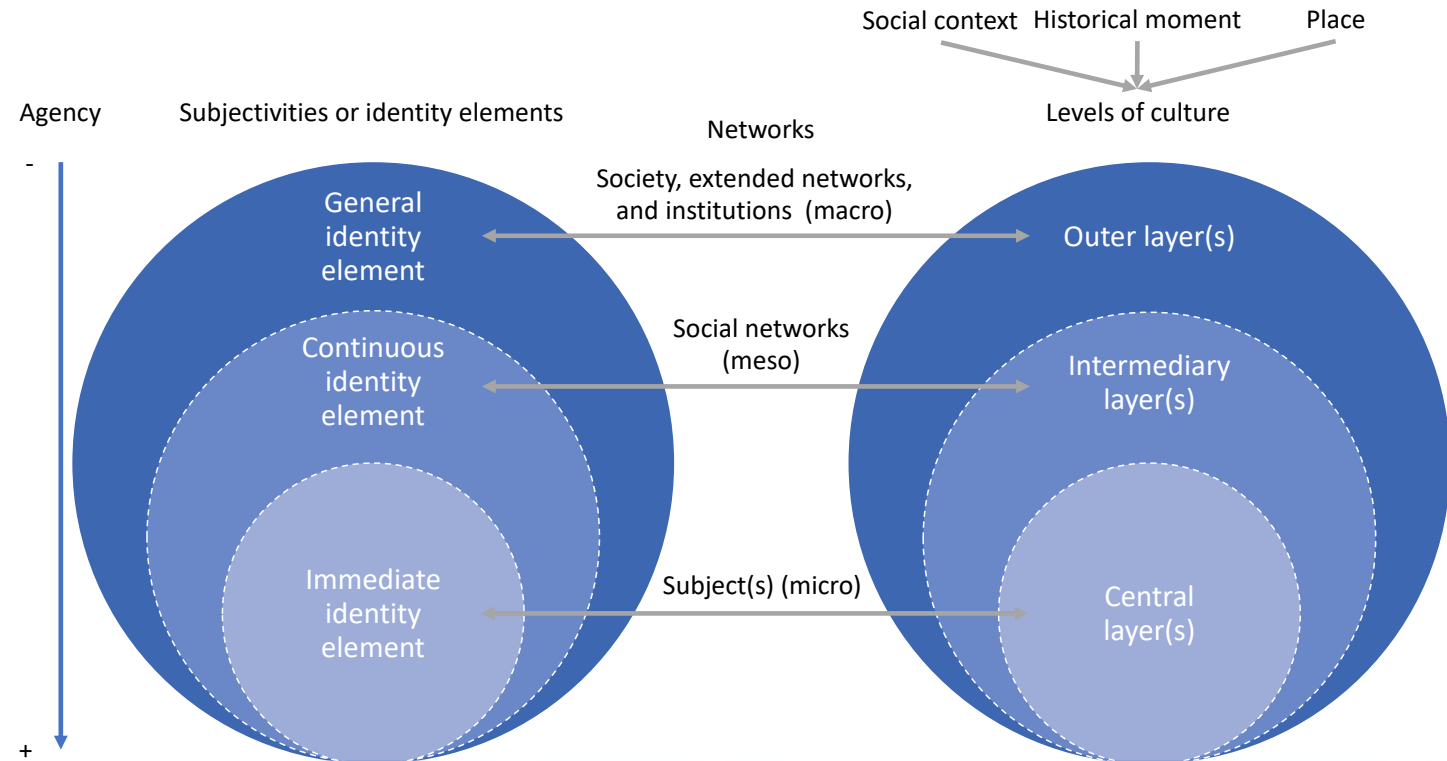


Figure 9 -Production of identity: subjectivity



## D 2.2

### Emerging findings: thematic areas to read the combination of the various factors inside the ecosystems (6)

- Electronic technology
  - It has generated numerous **new digital environments**
  - It has changed the subjects' actions and, consequently, this has **impacted communication** (Jones et al., 2015; Kress & Leeuwen, 2001; Scollon & LeVine, 2004; Sindoni, 2013)
  - A first **attempt** in the study of radicalisation in digital environments has been **made by TRA-Is** that includes factors on what happens in these environments



## D 2.2

### Emerging findings: motivations and needs

- Communication
  - Motivations and needs can **be inferred** by communication
  - Be very cautious in sustaining the detection of the radicalisation factors that address motivations and needs, **talking with the suspected subject** can be the only way to ascertain the presence of these factors
- Identity
  - In case the subject chooses, consciously or unconsciously, to **manifest a radicalised subjectivity** or an attacker subjectivity it could be possible to sustain that the subject is trying to strategically **fulfil the purposes that depend on his/her motivations and needs.**
- Culture
  - Motivations and needs are **influenced by the social context/society**, the **historical moment**, and the broader **place** in which identity is produced.
- Electronic technologies
  - Everything that was stated about motivations and needs **is valid in a context generated by electronic technologies**



## D 2.2

# Emerging findings: radicalised subjectivity

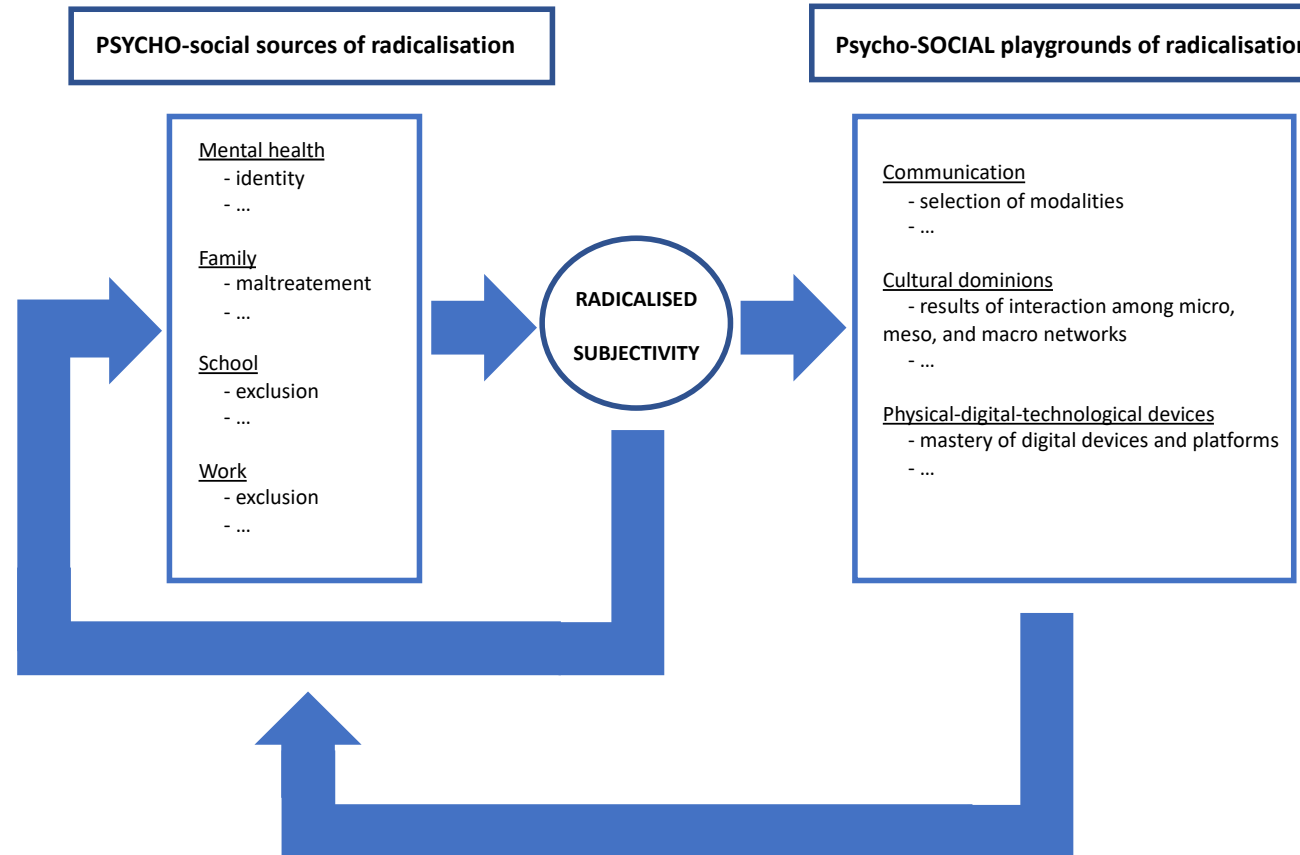


Figure 10 -Synthesis on radicalised subjectivity sources of radicalisation and playgrounds



# Recap

- Objectives
- Theoretical framework
- Methodological framework
- Emerging findings
  - From scoping review
  - From TRA-Is analysis
  - From scoping review and TRA-Is analysis
  - Connecting D 2.1 and D 2.2
    - Motivations and needs
    - Radicalised subjectivity

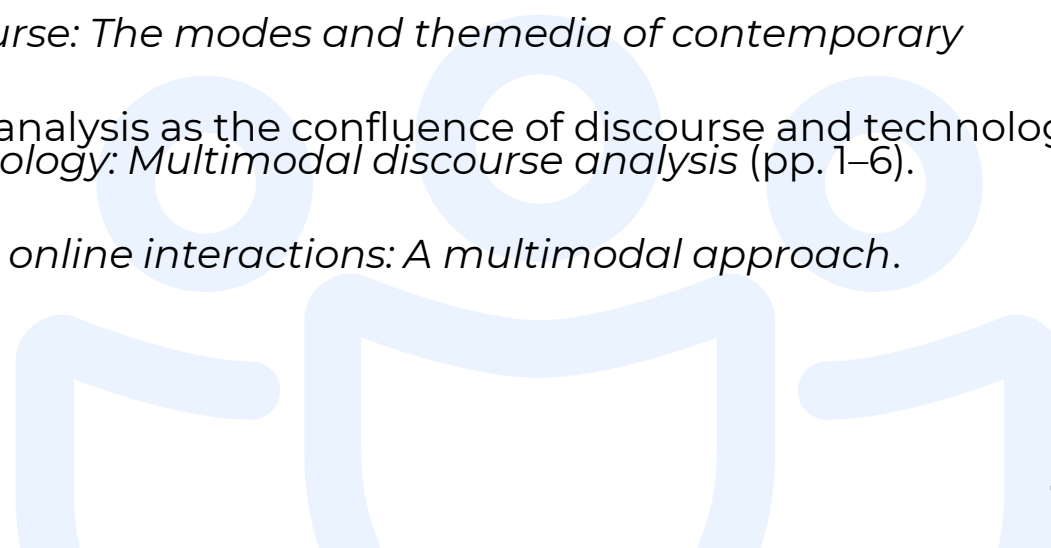




## D 2.2

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A man in a dark suit, white shirt, and dark tie is standing in a meeting room, gesturing with his right hand. He is wearing glasses. In the background, there are several computer monitors displaying maps and data. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. A large blue horizontal bar is positioned across the middle of the image, containing the text 'Thank you' and 'counter-project.eu'.

# Thank you

[counter-project.eu](http://counter-project.eu)