

“Prevent–Refer–Address” Mechanism – P-R-A

A comprehensive multi-level policy solution in the area of Prevention and Countering Violent Extremism (P/CVE) in the Western Balkan region



The Western Balkan Counter-Terrorism initiative–WBCTi has been implemented as a coordinated and needs-based response to Radicalisation leading to Violent Extremism and Terrorism in the Western Balkan region. Based on their improved mutual coordination, the WBCTi Partners¹ have so far recognized and acted upon several new and useful synergies in the solutions they offer to the WB countries in filling the gaps in strategic, policy and operational-level cooperation, and in embracing new and improved standards.

The **P-R-A concept originates** from within the WBCTi policy platforms, and has been developed throughout 2016 based on findings of the region-wide assessments in the framework of the project “First Line” led by the Slovenian Ministry of the Interior-Police. Setting up the P-R-A’s represents a core effort of the IPA II 2016 regional action², launched in April 2017 and supporting the further implementation of the WBCTi utilizing the *Integrative Internal Security Governance–IISG*. The improvement of P/CVE at national and local levels was also reaffirmed as the first priority by regional CT and P/CVE experts during the ongoing needs assessment for the next multi-annual WBCTi Integrated Plan of Action 2018-2019.

Relevant efforts of WBCTi Partners addressing P/CVE are coordinated under the WBCTi, where we work on avoiding duplication and on directing any partial solutions toward optimal functionality and integration. The WBCTi will thus continue to identify potential new synergies and to optimize the added value of our Partners’ investments in order to provide *sustainable and cost-benefit efficient solutions and arrive to a functioning P-R-A in each Beneficiary*.

¹ The partnership of the WBCTi extends to EU agencies and institutions, regionally owned entities and instruments, international organizations based in/out of the region, and 3rd state donor efforts and projects.

² “Support to Prevention and Countering Violent Extremism – P/CVE in the Western Balkans”

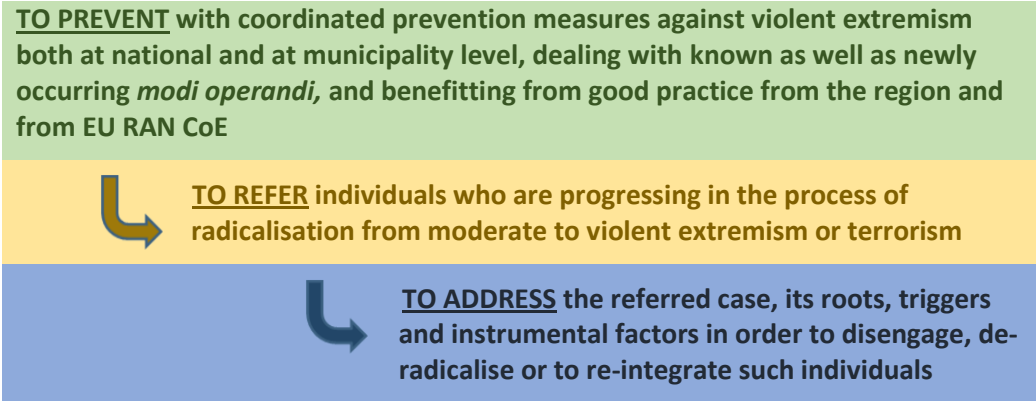
What is the P-R-A Mechanism?

The “Prevent-Refer-Address” (P-R-A) is a concept for setting up efficient inter-agency platforms in each of the WB Beneficiaries, intended to prevent, refer and address cases of Radicalisation leading to Violent Extremism and Terrorism. While established primarily at the state level, the arrangement will be mirrored at the local level – the municipality/local community, using relevant existing structures at that level. The P-R-A will enable both top-down guidance to practitioners, as well as bottom-up feedback to policy-makers. Taking into consideration the EU-inspired practices, the operation of the P-R-A’s in the WB countries will be supported by the foreseen “Western Balkan Radicalization Awareness Network–WB RAN”, sharing up-to-date expertise and transferring the knowledge of the EU RAN CoE.

Main elements

- **The inclusion of all relevant authorities both at state and local levels, including those who have not traditionally been involved in the CT-related domain**, namely educational and health authorities, civil society and NGO partners, academia, religious communities, law enforcement, prison and probation, local communities, national authorities responsible for strategic communication, ministry of labour, family affairs and social welfare, ministries responsible for culture, youth and sports;
- **A two-way venue for providing guidance** – a. guidance developed at the state level, considering relevant EU, regional and international standards, and delivered to local-level practitioners who handle concrete cases of RA & VE in order to support their measures in early prevention, referral as well as response; and b. local practitioners’ feedback to state level on gaps and good practices;
- **Delivery of efficient and coordinated early prevention measures** where they are most efficient, i.e. in the local community, and the ability of stakeholders at this level to cope both with existing as well as any newly occurred radicalisation *modi operandi*;
- **Optimal use made of existing state, local structures and EU and international platforms**, including municipal safety councils, national coordination arrangements/structures established in the framework of national P/CVE strategies; transferring the knowledge of the EU RAN Centre of Excellence and the existing RAN networks focusing on the different sectors;
- **Academia and researchers’ contribution to policy** – a research identifying the most sensitive areas from the perspective of Violent Extremism in the WB region is foreseen to be delivered by a consortium involving the most relevant research institutions, based on a specifically developed methodology;
- **Identifying synergies within the WBCTi and opting for sustainable solutions.**

For more information on the WBCTi and the Integrative Internal Security Governance (IISG) framework, please visit our webpage: www.wb-iisg.com.



State-of-Play

The assessments in the Western Balkan Countries concluded in early 2017 (Project “First Line”) and offered detailed insight into what ground conditions currently existed in each Beneficiary to nourish our further work to develop – and to direct the efforts of WBCTi Partners toward – sustainable P-R-A’s. In July 2017, a first interactive “First Line” workshop was conducted in Kosovo*, where relevant representatives of all P/CVE partners supported the recommendations, revealing the needed steps toward the development of a P-R-A.

In terms of WBCTi-generated synergies, as late as June 2017, a clear identification of potential synergies was made in a recent effort in Kosovo* to establish a so-called P/CVE-related “referral mechanism” with a pilot project in the municipality of Gnjilane, where in order to prepare the ground more efficiently, the pilot will be used to test the environment and the results will be fully incorporated in the sustainable and comprehensive P-R-A solution.

Further developments

- Continued interactive workshops in Albania, BiH, FYROM, Montenegro and Serbia and formed P-R-A recommendations (late 2017 – mid-2018; *Project First Line and WBCTi team*);
- Support provided in the framework of the WBCTi and the IPA II 2016 regional action to the formal establishment of P-R-A in all 6 Beneficiaries (2018–2019; *WBCTi partners under the framework of the future WBCTi iPA 2018-2019*);
- Seeking for synergies and the integration of efforts toward “referral mechanisms” establishment into the P-R-A comprehensive solutions;
- Setting up of the regional WB RAN, which will connect all P-R-A’s (2018–2019; *WBCTi team*)
- Donors will be invited to financially support a scientific research that will contribute to P-R-A policy work in all 6 Beneficiaries (2018-2019; *research consortium*).

*This designation is without prejudice to the position on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/99 and the ICJ opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.