

Abstract of the presentation:

***Europe at the abyss of "securitisation" – some unsaid truths
about "inter-agency cooperation"***

based on: *Seven reasons why the "Joint Case Conferences" in the
deradicalisation of so-called "dangerous persons" should no longer take place*

at the Annual EENeT Conference 2022
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by

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While combating and preventing so-called Islamist terror over the last decade, Europe has gotten to the verge of messing up what it so vigorously strives for: human rights based civil society – and serving as humanistic role model in the world for good governance in democracy, which would require a clear-cut division of functions and powers. Yet, a key division – between security work on the one hand and education, social work, counselling/ rehabilitation, e.g. deradicalisation, on the other – has been systematically violated through "inter-agency cooperation" since about ten years. This in turn caused widespread "securitization" of education, counselling etc. which is anathema to liberal democracy.

In particular, since many years, quite a number of civil society exit workers in Europe have been exchanging information about their clients in "joint case conferences" with representatives of national security agencies. This seems to be done on a continual basis while personal data protection is suspended – namely with clients who have been assessed by police as so-called "endangerers"/ high-risk clients, according to a provisional policing concept. Additionally and sadly, in the past decade, it was only individuals from perceived Muslim populations who were subjected to this procedure. Ongoing security and risk assessments of the clients seem to be the main purpose of this procedure.

These "joint case conferences" raise important questions of how the interaction between independent civil society derad practitioners/ counsellors on the one hand and state security agencies on the other should actually be organized. For, observing any individual's unalienable fundamental rights and data protection – as well as the separation of powers and

functions (as e.g. security and counselling/ educational) – is key to constitutional democracies. Moreover, the practice of "joint case conferences" is in breach of confidentiality in the ethical codes of counselling and social work. It thus damages the public credibility/ reputation of derad/ exit work – and thus limits its reach and impact. Not to mention that any added-value to public security through these join conferences may well be doubted since only forensic psychiatric experts could possibly add to the risk assessment – which is not the expertise of intelligence officers. In turn, "joint case conferences" (always on the level of classified administrative action!) favour collusions of interest between governmental agencies and chosen CSOs. Finally, they set a bad example for other sectors (civic education/ schools) so that even colleagues in secondary and primary prevention increasingly feel compelled to enter into such "inter-agency cooperation" with security agencies.