Extremism, Radicalisation and Citizenship

Evaluation report on the radicalisation indicator tool

Deliverable N°: D3.2

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Contents

1. Introduction

The fight against radicalisation that leads to violent extremism is a complex phenomenon with multiple risk and protective factors, being associated with individual, micro and macro-environmental factors. Radicalisation is not a new phenomenon, but it has become a more serious threat in recent years. More specifically, youth radicalisation and the associated use of violence have become a growing issue of concern in Europe and its neighbouring regions. In that context, empowerment of youth is a priority for the EU Member States as they craft sharper strategies to prevent violent extremism. Radicalisation leading to violence of young people has an impact on their wellbeing, as well as on the wellbeing and stability of their communities and the entire world, as it challenges the democratic values of society[1].

Under the above framework, the RAD2CITIZEN (Radicalisation, Extremism and Citizenship) project, funded by the Internal Security Fund (ISF) of the European Commission, aims to prevent and reduce the violence associated with radicalisation and the different forms of extremism in the territory of Toulouse Métropole. The 2012 terrorist attacks in Toulouse (Mohamed Mérah) demonstrated how young people can commit acts of extreme violence following a process of radicalisation, generating a feeling of fear and anxiety that undermines social cohesion and the attractiveness of local areas. These feelings are reinforced by a lack of understanding of the process of radicalisation and the various forms that extremism can take. To address this phenomenon, RAD2CITIZEN is aimed particularly at young people, with a view to deconstruct this pathway to violence and radicalisation as early as possible.

1.1   Scope of the deliverable

Under Work-package 3 (WP3) of the RAD2CITIZEN project, an "Identification manual for radicalisation indicators" has been generated in order to help front-line actors to detect and deal with radicalized individuals and situations. The aim of this deliverable is to evaluate the structure and content of the aforementioned manual, according to the input provided by the relevant experts. Therefore, this feedbak will be used by TM (Task Leader of Activity 3.2: Creation of an

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[1] Extremism and radicalisation leading to violence, Council of Europe, December 2018. Retrieved July, 6, 2022, from https://pjp-eu.coe.int/en/web/youth-partnership/extremism-and-radicalisation-leading-to-violence

identification manual for radicalisation indicators), in order to modify the content of the respective manual, taking into consideration experts' recommendations/comments.

2. Methodology

The methodology followed to carry out the evaluation process of the «Identification manual for radicalisation indicators » was based on the completion of an online survey. This online survey was launched in a way that the maximum number of experts can be reached in order for them to provide their valuable input. This survey was designed by KEMEA as a structured questionnaire and implemented through the EUSurvey platform[2]. Anonymity was preserved during the conduction of this survey.
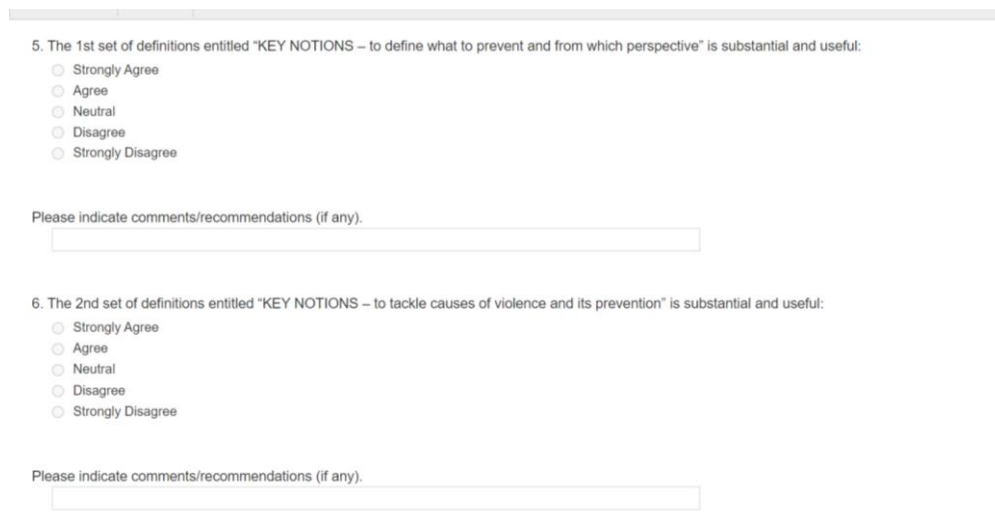
The method of questionnaires is commonly used during an evaluation process, as they generate actionable results and they consist of a trustworthy data-collection source.

To this regard, each partner of RAD2CITIZEN Consortium was asked to engage from 2 to 4 external experts (ideally a mix of Social workers, LEAs, Policy makers, Academics), who would give their feedback regarding manual's content. From the 4 experts, partners had the option to engage one (1) internal expert within their organization.

The above questionnaire was designed with the form of both closed-ended and open-ended questions. The first type of questions allows the respondent to choose a single choice from a list of pre-selected options. The available options had a Likert – type format and varied from 'Strongly Agree' to 'Strongly Disagree'. Additionally, an open-ended question for each question has been

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[2] See https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/home/welcome

added to allow participants to be expressed and offer a broader point of view on manual's improvement (Figure 1).

Figure 1 : Example of closed-ended and open-ended questions of RAD2CITIZEN Evaluation Questionnaire

2.1 Online survey

The questionnaire constsits of the following sections :

- ➢ Instructions

- ➢ A. Demographic Information

- ➢ B. Evaluation Questions

- ➢ C. General Questions

The first section of "Instructions" includes some general information about the RAD2CITIZEN project and the purpose of this questionnaire. The second section of "A. Demographic Information" contains questions about the gender, the type of organisation, the origin country, and years of experience. The third section of "B. Evaluation Questions" contains questions about the content and the structure of the manual and lastly, the fourth section of "C. General

Questions" contains questions about the usefullness of the manual in general and possible recommendation of this knoweldge to be shared with other professionals.

The total duration for the completion of this survey was about 30 minutes.
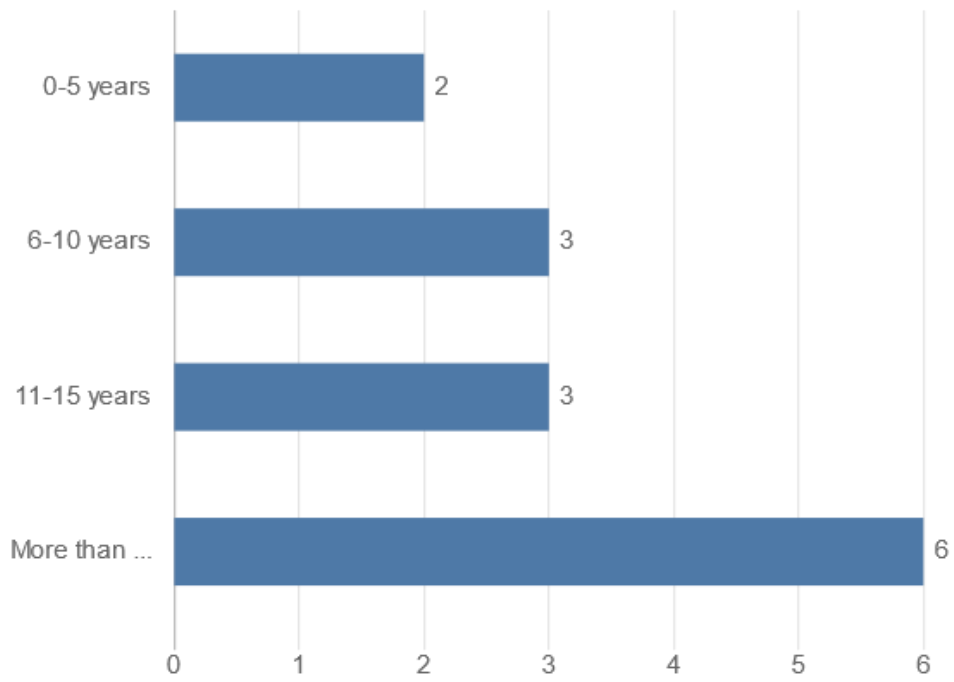
3. Analysis of the syrvey results

A. Demographic Information

In this section, participants were asked to provide demographic information. Their answers are grouped as follows:
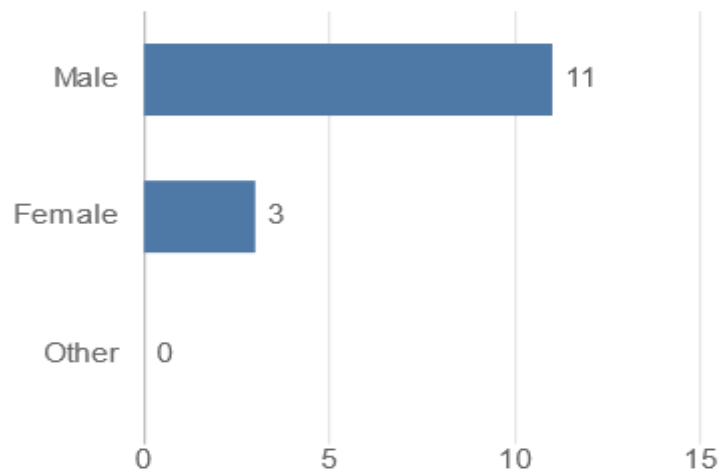
1. In which country do you work?

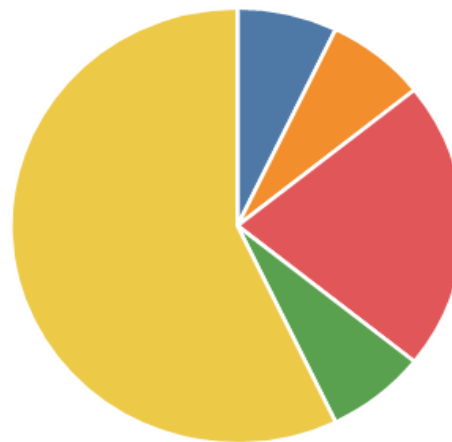| Austria	France	Greece	Spain	No answer
3	3	3	4	1

2. How long is your working experience?

3. What gender do you identify yourself as?
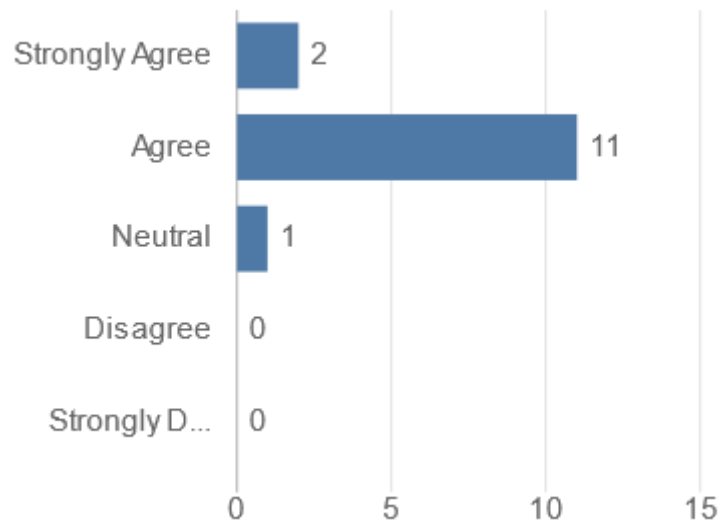

4. Which professional sector do you belong to?

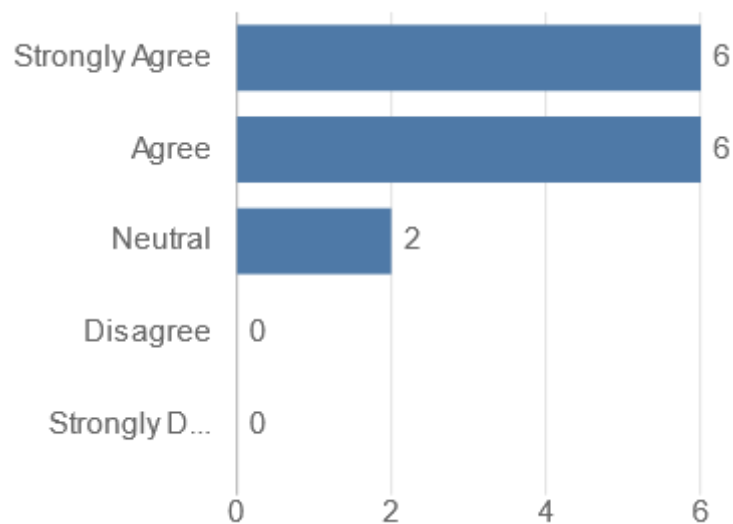|		
NGOs/Community Organizations	1	7.14 %
Law Enforcement Agencies	1	7.14 %
Social Services	3	21.43 %
International Organizations	0	0.00 %
Public Bodies/Ministries	1	7.14 %
Universities/Research Institutes	8	57.14 %
No Answer	0	0.00 %

B. Evaluation Questions

Within this part (question 5 to 16), the structure, content and clarity of manual's sections have been evaluated by experts. Moreover, experts were asked to indicate comments and/or recommendations in each evaluation question.

5. **The 1st set of definitions entitled "KEY NOTIONS – to define what to prevent and from which perspective" is substantial and useful:**

In the 5th question, the majority of experts answered "agree" regarding the substantiality and usefulness of the 1st set of definitions. It should be noted that those experts answered "strongly agree" are coming from Public Bodies/Ministries and Social Services professional environment. No comments / recommendations were provided by experts.
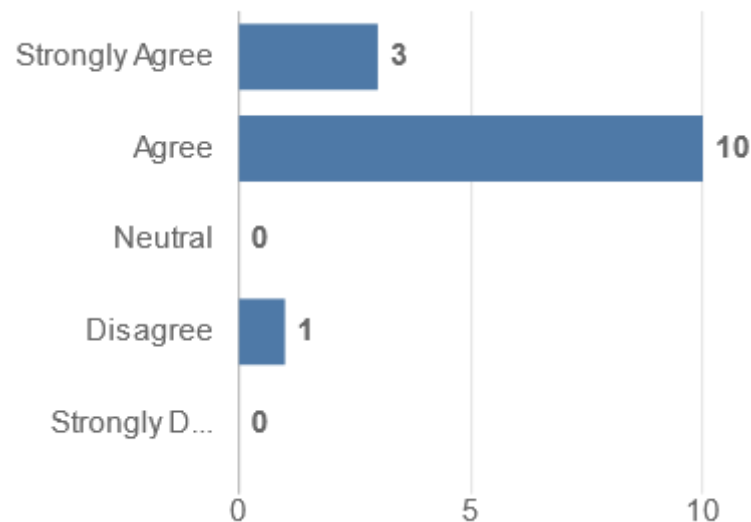
6. **The 2nd set of definitions entitled "KEY NOTIONS – to tackle causes of violence and its prevention" is substantial and useful:**

In the 6th question, the majority of experts answered "strongly agree" and "agree" regarding the substantiality and usefulness of the 2nd set of definitions. It should be noted that those experts

answered "neutral" are coming from Universities/Research Institutes professional environment. No comments / recommendations were provided by experts.

7. **The 3rd set of definitions entitled "SIDE NOTIONS – to understand environments where violence can raise" is substantial and useful:**

In the 7th question, the majority of experts answered "agree" regarding the substantiality and usefulness of the 3rd set of definitions. It should be noted that those experts answered "strongly agree" are coming from Universities/Research Institutes and Social Services professional environment. Among those experts who answered "agree", 2 of them coming from Public Bodies/Ministries and Universities/Research Institutes professional environment indicated the below comments respectively:
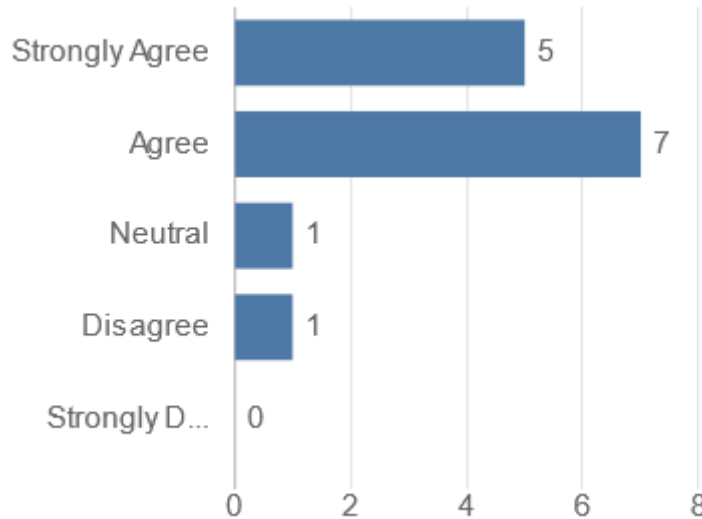
> *"Definition of secularism fit more with secularization than secularism. Secularism may be defined as the political and modern project that emerged during the XIX in western world to separate of religious belonging and political status. It proposes to separation state institutions from religious ones and the allocation of religious belief to the private sphere. Laicity may be defined as the sociohistorical experience of secularism in France."*

> *"As long as there is such an immense inequal distribution of wealth, power, political influence and as long as middle and lower class citizens are not allowed to take part in WEF, Bilderberger and more, and the contents, outcomes and topics of these elite-meetings are not published through media, it would be a good idea to not label conspiracy theories as something which is just not possible. Debunking through seeking for transparency and inclusion in such elite circles would be the only thing that helps in my mind."*

1 expert who answered "disagree", coming from Universities/Research Institutes professional environment and have more than 15 years of professional experience, stated that:

> *"could be elaborated more, overall, the definitions are too simplified."*

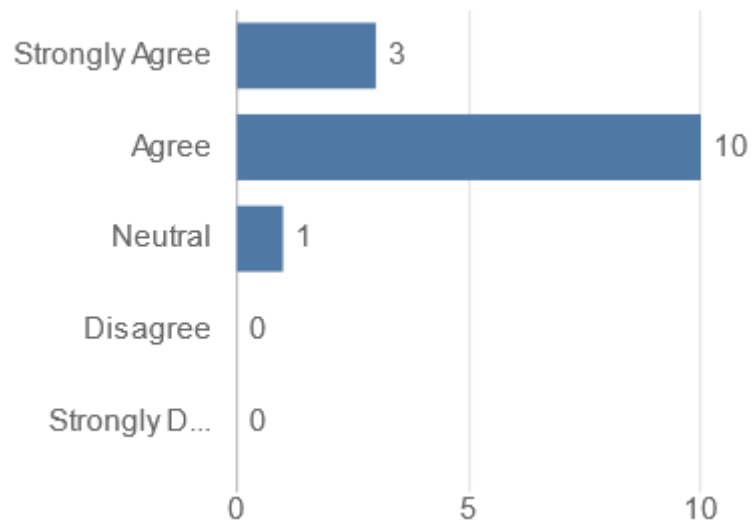8. **I now have a better understanding of the terminology provided in this manual:**

In the 8th question, the majority of experts answered "agree". It should be noted that those experts answered "strongly agree" are coming from Universities/Research Institutes and Social Services professional environment.

1 expert who answered "disagree", coming from Universities/Research Institutes professional environment and have more than 15 years of professional experience, stated that:

> *"I think a bit deeper approach could be used in explanations, even if manual would grow in volume."*

9. **The section "When should I be worried?" has clear and concise structure. The categorization of levels is clear to me:**
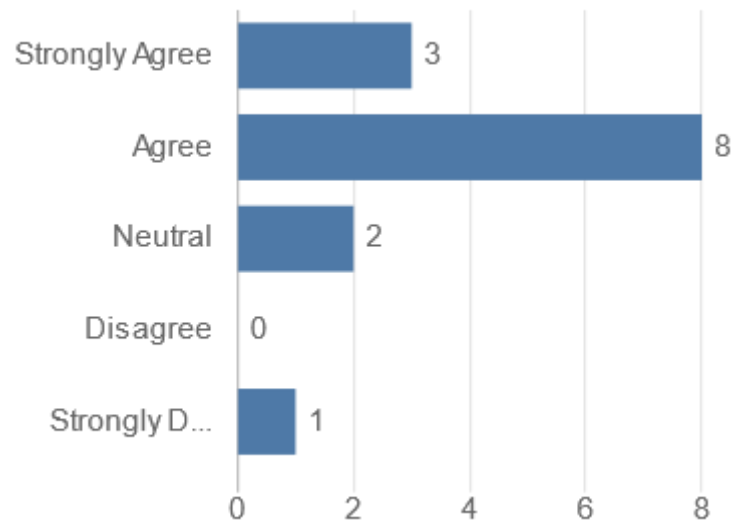
In the 9th question, the majority of experts answered "agree" regarding the clarity and concise structure of "When should I be worried?" section. Among those, 1 expert coming from Public Bodies/Ministries professional environment stated that:

"Maybe it would be visually easier to insert examples within borders"

It should be noted that those experts answered "strongly agree" are coming from Universities/Research Institutes and Social Services professional environment. Among those, 1 expert highlighted that:

"Examples are very clear"

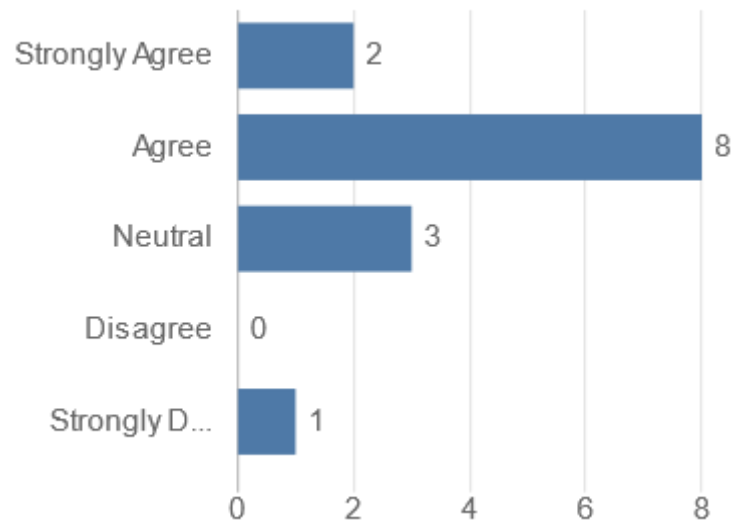**10. The content of the section "When should I be worried?" is useful for my daily work:**

In the 10th question, the majority of experts answered "agree" regarding the daily work usefulness of the "When should I be worried?" section's content. Among them, 1 expert coming from Universities/Research Institutes professional environment emphasized that:

> "I think, the examples on individual level are very useful for
> practitioner in the social field"

It should be noted that those experts answered "strongly agree" are coming from Universities/Research Institutes, Public Bodies/Ministries and Social Services professional environment. The 1 expert who answered, "strongly disagree", coming from Universities/Research Institutes professional environment and have more than 15 years of working experience, stated that:

> "As a researcher that has studied these concepts, the Manual is too
> superficial for me but this is not a critic, I assume I'm not the primary
> audience."

11. The content of the section "When should I be worried?" advances my knowledge on radicalisation process. It is now clearer to me how the radicalisation process works:
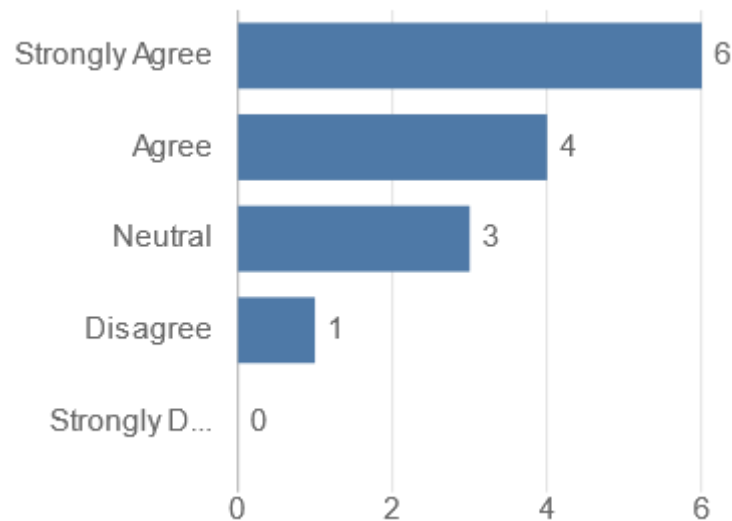
In the 11th question, the majority of experts answered "agree". It should be noted that those experts answered "strongly agree" are coming from Universities/Research Institutes professional environment. Among those experts who answered "neutral", 1 expert coming from Universities/Research Institutes professional environment commented that:

> *"like in previous comments: deeper explanations would be preferable, especially if the manual is oriented for the practitioners, who already understand these terms."*

1 expert who answered, "strongly disagree", coming from Universities/Research Institutes professional environment repeated his/her comment, as in the 10th question:

> **"***As a researcher that has studied these concepts, the Manual is too superficial for me but this is not a critic, I assume I'm not the primary audience."*

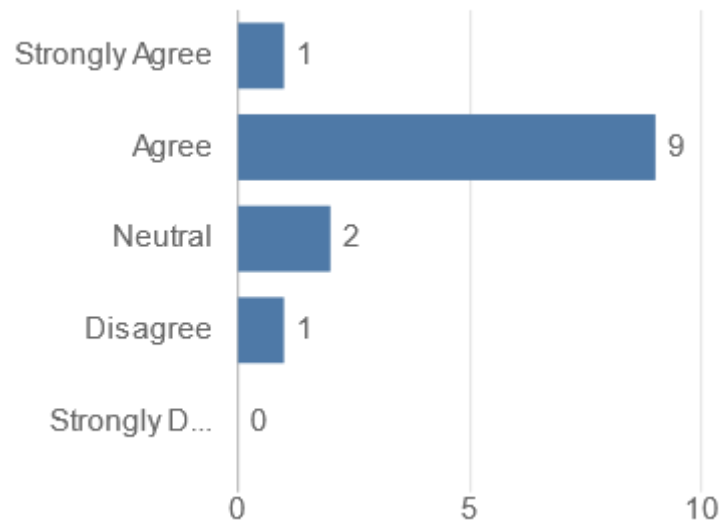12. **The examples provided in the section "When should I be worried?" are understandable and useful:**

In the 12th question, the majority of experts answered, "strongly agree" regarding the comprehension and usefulness of the examples provided in the section "When should I be worried?". Among those who answered "agree", 1 of them coming from Universities/Research Institutes professional environment indicated that:

> **«**Good point on using examples, though again as case studies they could be elaborated. But still good points on using them in clear and precise manner to support the terms. (The examples should be proofread, as there are some grammar and syntaxes mistakes). **»**

The 1 expert who answered "disagree", coming from Universities/Research Institutes professional environment commented that:

> "Intermediate Level No. 1: Most of the politicians, if not the vast majority are exactly expressing things that the people want to hear. Politics nowadays is seeking for votes, instead of taking care of the people and politicians most of the time behave like flags led by the wind - so there's in my mind better examples than the one of the unvaccinated major"

13. The section "What to do?" has clear and concise structure. The categorization of levels is clear to me:

In the 13th question, the majority of experts answered "agree" regarding the clarity and concise structure of "What to do?" section. Among those, 1 expert coming from Public Bodies/Ministries professional environment recommended that:

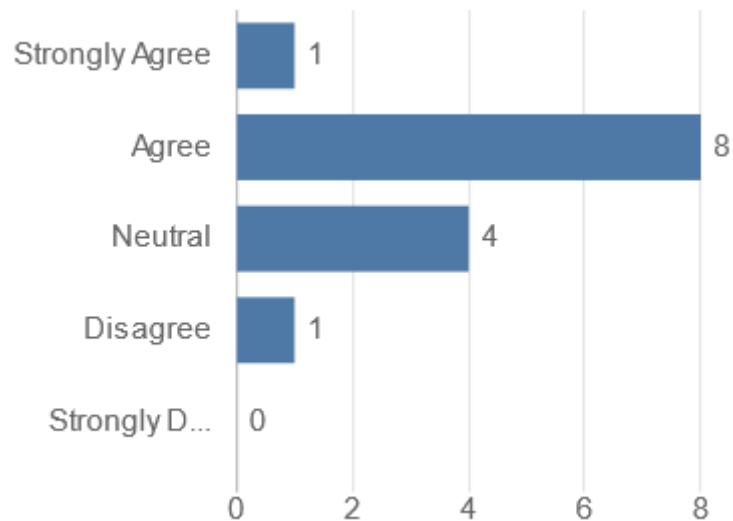*""time for documentation" and professional training"*

Between those experts answered "neutral", 1 of them coming from Law Enforcement Agencies professional environment stated that:

"A bit too generic promoting dialogue or search on topics without though giving a more precise view of action to be taken"

The 1 expert who answered "disagree", coming from Universities/Research Institutes professional environment stated that:

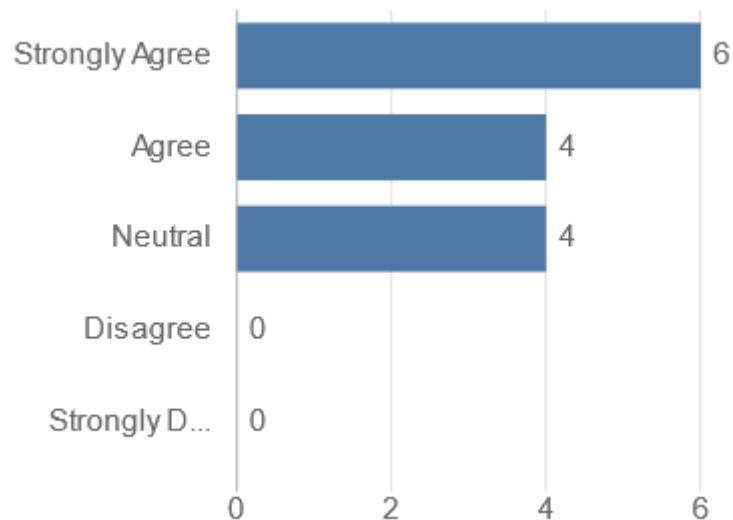*"I think more specific or more detailed recommendations could be given in this section"*

14. The content of the section "What to do?" advances my knowledge on the action I should undertake:

In the 14th question, the majority of experts answered "agree". 1 expert who answered "disagree", coming from Universities/Research Institutes professional environment stated, once more (the same comment as in question 10 & 11), that:

> *"As a researcher that has studied these concepts, the Manual is too superficial for me but this is not a critic, I assume I'm not the primary audience."*
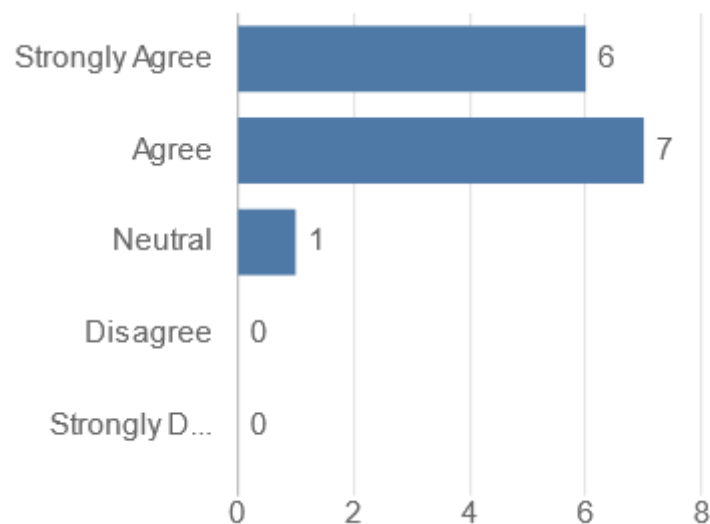
15. The examples provided in the section "What to do?" are understandable and useful:

In the 15th question, the majority of experts answered, "strongly agree" regarding the comprehension and usefulness of the examples provided in the section "What to do?". Among those who answered "neutral", 1 of them coming from Universities/Research Institutes professional environment indicated that in the page 20 of the manual:

"Example on Margot is not clear, what was the problem? especially the sentence: Margot agrees to meet with religious referents, but also sometimes to go to the theatre with her teacher."

16. It is clearer to me where I can find (additional) information/help once I face up radicalisation in my daily work, as provided in the "Online Resources" section:
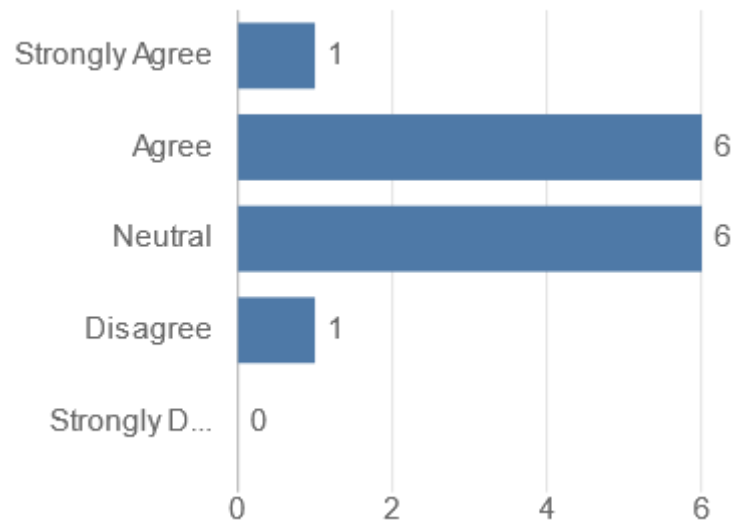

In the 16th question, the majority of experts answered "agree" regarding the usefulness of the "Online Resources" section. It should be noted that those experts answered "strongly agree" are coming from Universities/Research Institutes, Public Bodies/Ministries and Social Services professional environment. No comments / recommendations were provided by experts.

C. General Questions

Within this part (question 17 to 20), general content and usefulness of the manual have been evaluated by experts. Moreover, experts were asked to indicate comments and/or recommendations in each of general questions.

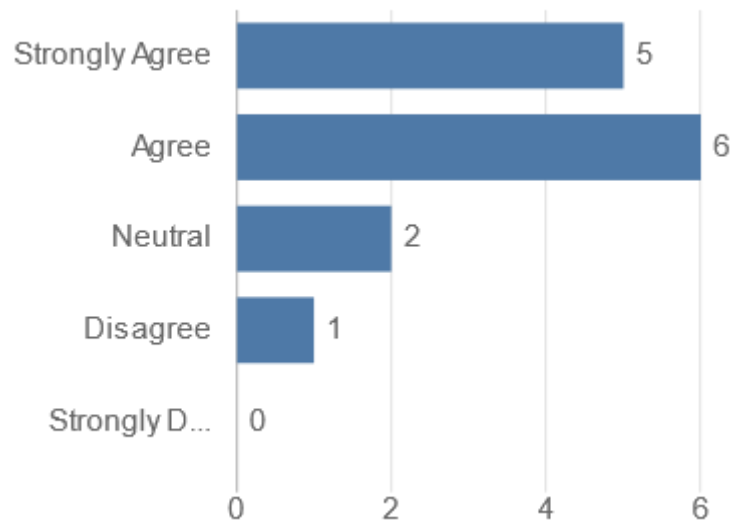**17. This manual is useful for my daily work:**

In the 17th question, the answers of experts are mostly split between, "agree" and "neutral" regarding the usefulness of the manual, in general, in their daily work. Among those who answered "neutral", 1 of them coming from Universities/Research Institutes professional environment stated that:

> *"It´s very useful for social workers, but I can´t tell how useful it would be for me as a junior researcher"*

The 1 expert who answered "disagree", coming from Universities/Research Institutes professional environment, also, stated that:

> *"I am not what could be considered a "front line practitioner", but rather a researcher on the matter."*
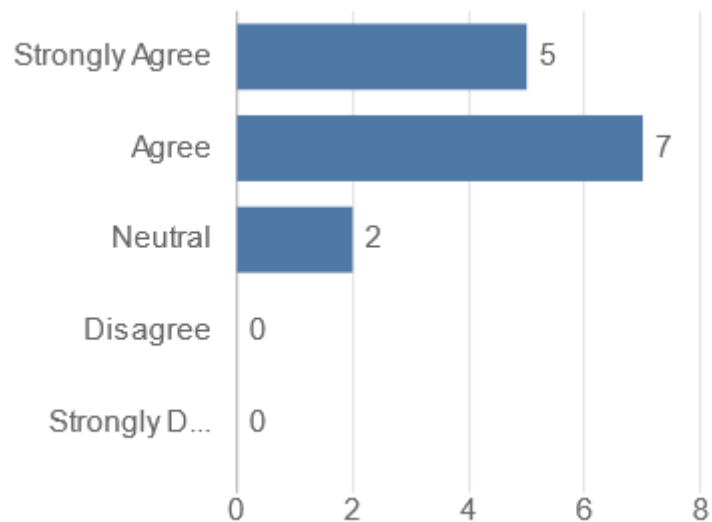
18. This manual advances my knowledge on radicalisation process:

In the 18th question, the majority of experts answered, "agree". The 1 expert who answered "disagree", coming from Universities/Research Institutes professional environment stated, once more, that:

> "Again, as a researcher that has studied these concepts, the Manual is too superficial for me but this is not a critic, I assume I'm not the primary audience."
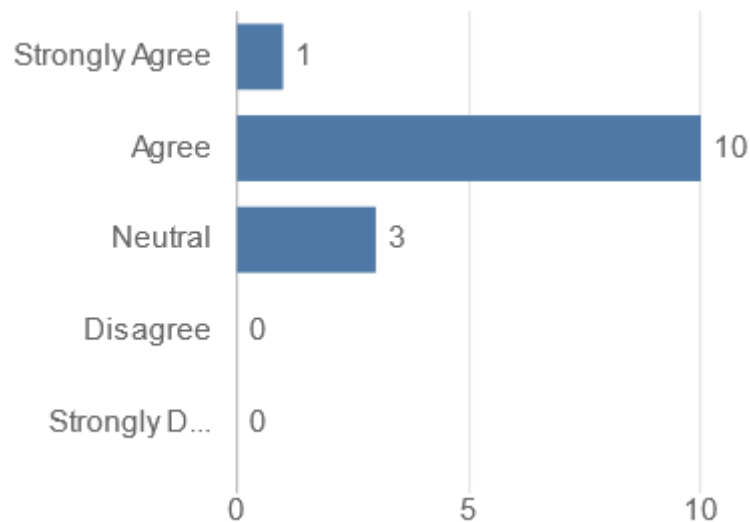
19. I would recommend this manual to other professionals:

In the 19th question, the majority of experts would, indeed, recommend the manual to other professionals, by answered, "agree" and "strongly agree". Among those who answered "neutral", the one is coming from Social Services. The other one coming from Universities/Research Institutes professional environment indicated that would recommend the manual:

*"ONLY TO THOSE WITH LIMITED KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE ISSUE JUST
TO GET INTRODUCED"*

20. I believe it will be worthwhile for me to apply what I learned:

In the 20th question, the majority of experts answered, "agree". It should be noted that those experts answered "neutral" are coming from Universities/Research Institutes professional environment. No comments / recommendations were provided by experts.

3.1 Suggestions for improvement for the « Identification Manual for Radicalisation indicators »

In general, experts evaluated the manual as useful, explicit, substantial and concise. First of all, regarding the three sets of definitions provided in the manual were evaluated as substantial and useful. It must be taken into account that in the 3rd set definitions, it is proposed that "secularism"

needs rewriting (question 7). In general, terminology (question 5 – 8) is evaluated as substantial, though is considered as "simplified" by 1 expert, coming from Universities/Research Institutes professional environment and have more than 15 years of professional experience. Taking into account that this manual is addressed to first line practitioners that deal with radicalisation and need a brief conceptualization of notions, request for more complexity or extended terminology could be considered as out of the scope of this manual.

Secondly, the section "When should I be worried?" was evaluated by experts as having clear and concise structure, and useful and substantial content, in general. Specifically, experts were very satisfied about the examples provided that are considered very useful for practitioners. However, experts recommended more elaboration on examples/case studies, ideas for more examples, while also commented on formation stating that: "it would be visually easier to insert examples within borders" and "the examples should be proofread, as there are some grammar and syntaxes mistakes".

Thirdly, the section "What to do?", was evaluated by experts as having clear and concise structure, and useful and substantial content, in general. However, experts suggested that more detailed, practical and tailor-made recommendations should be provided in this section. As far as the examples are concerned, it was noted that the example of p.20 -on Margot-, should be clearer and more explicit.

Fourthly, experts evaluated the "Online Resources" section as very useful and helpful.

Last, experts stated that the manual is useful for first line practitioners and especially social workers, that advances their knowledge on radicalisation process and that they would recommend it to other professionals. To conclude, it should be noted that experts with more than 15 years of professional experience and coming from Universities/Research Institutes professional environment, found the manual, reasonably, a bit superficial or simplistic for their status, but they recognized its usefulness for elementary level practitioners.

Annex A : Questionnaire template

RAD2CITIZEN EVALUATION QUESTIONNAIRE

Instructions

The RAD2CITIZEN (Radicalisation, Extremism and Citizenship) project aims to prevent and reduce the violence associated with radicalisation and the different forms of extremism in the territory of Toulouse Métropole. The ambition of the RAD2CITIZEN project is to enable local authorities to acquire strategic coordination and analysis processes, as well as practical tools for social intervention in order to implement participative, concerted and efficient public policies. Within this framework, the "Identification manual for radicalisation indicators" has been generated in order to help front-line actors to detect and deal with radicalized individuals and situations. The purpose of this questionnaire is to evaluate the structure and content of the manual you have been provided with.

Answering the questionnaire will take about 30 minutes. You are strongly encouraged to analyse your answers and fill in the comments/recommendations section.

The evaluation data will be only used within the purpose of RAD2CITIZEN project.

All information is completely confidential and no personal data will be needed.

Thank you in advance for your participation. Your feedback is invaluable to us.

A. Demographic Information

1. **In which country do you work?**
   …………..

2. How long is your working experience?

0-5 years
6-10 years
11-15 years
More than 15 years

3. What gender do you identify yourself as ?

Male - Female – Other

4. Which professional sector do you belong to?

NGOs/Community Organizations

Law Enforcement Agencies

Social Services

International Organizations

Public Bodies/Ministries

Universities/Research Institutes

B. Evaluation Questions

5. The 1st set of definitions entitled "KEY NOTIONS – to define what to prevent and from which perspective" is substantial and useful:

1 Strongly disagree	2	3	4	5 Strongly agree
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Please indicate comments/recommendations (if any).

6. The 2nd set of definitions entitled "KEY NOTIONS – to tackle causes of violence and its prevention" is substantial and useful:

1 Strongly disagree	2	3	4	5 Strongly agree
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Please indicate comments/recommendations (if any).

7. **The 3rd set of definitions entitled "SIDE NOTIONS – to understand environments where violence can raise" is substantial and useful:**

1 Strongly disagree	2	3	4	5 Strongly agree
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Please indicate comments/recommendations (if any).

8. **I now have a better understanding of the terminology provided in this manual :**

1 Strongly disagree	2	3	4	5 Strongly agree
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Please indicate comments/recommendations (if any).

9. **The section "When should I be worried?" has clear and concise structure. The categorization of levels is clear to me :**

1 Strongly disagree	2	3	4	5 Strongly agree
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Please indicate comments/recommendations (if any).

10. **The content of the section "When should I be worried?" is useful for my daily work:**

1 Strongly 26isagreed	2	3	4	5 Strongly agree
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Please indicate comments/recommendations (if any).

11. **The content of the section "When should I be worried?" advances my knowledge on radicalisation process. It is now clearer to me how the radicalisation process works :**

1 Strongly 26isagreed	2	3	4	5 Strongly agree
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Please indicate comments/recommendations (if any).

12. The examples provided in the section "When should I be worried?" are understandable and useful:

1 Strongly disagree	2	3	4	5 Strongly agree
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Please indicate comments/recommendations (if any).

13. The section "What to do?" has clear and concise structure. The categorization of levels is clear to me:

1 Strongly disagree	2	3	4	5 Strongly agree
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Please indicate comments/recommendations (if any).

14. The content of the section "What to do?" advances my knowledge on the action I should undertake:

1 Strongly disagree	2	3	4	5 Strongly agree
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Please indicate comments/recommendations (if any).

15. The examples provided in the section "What to do?" are understandable and useful:

1 Strongly disagree	2	3	4	5 Strongly agree
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Please indicate comments/recommendations (if any).

16. It is clearer to me where I can find (additional) information/help once I face up radicalisation in my daily work, as provided in the "Online Resources" section:

1 Strongly disagree	2	3	4	5 Strongly agree
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Please indicate comments/recommendations (if any).

C. General Questions

17. This manual is useful for my daily work:

1 Strongly disagree	2	3	4	5 Strongly agree
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Please indicate comments/recommendations (if any).

18. This manual advances my knowledge on radicalisation process:

1 Strongly disagree	2	3	4	5 Strongly agree
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Please indicate comments/recommendations (if any).

19. I would recommend this manual to other professionals:

1 Strongly disagree	2	3	4	5 Strongly agree
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Please indicate comments/recommendations (if any).

20. I believe it will be worthwhile for me to apply what I learned:

1 Strongly disagree	2	3	4	5 Strongly agree
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Please indicate comments/recommendations (if any).