

How can far-right extremism be tackled through policy?

Lessons from 10 European Countries

*Vidhya Ramalingam,
Institute for Strategic Dialogue*

*COMPAS Breakfast Briefing
14 May 2014*



7 Policy Approaches



Legal/
repression

Public order
management

Prevention

Deterrence

Exit
programmes

Information and
public
communications

Training and
capacity
building

Challenges to Implementation



Definitions

Poor data

Public debates
and attitudes

Lack of awareness
by first-line
responders and
general public

Working together
– who does what?

Securitisation of
the issue

Balancing
democratic values
and regulation

Responses are out
of touch with
modern
developments



Key Policy Recommendation

A background image showing a crowd of people, likely at a protest or rally. Several individuals have their fists raised in the air. Some people have visible tattoos on their arms, and one person is wearing a white wristband. The image is slightly blurred and has a blueish tint.

1. Underpinned by clear and consistent legal frameworks – starting with hate crime

2. Public agencies need to work with communities to deliver effective public order management responses

3. Serious long-term investments in preventive measures, also focusing on deterrence – offering alternatives

A background image showing a crowd of people at what appears to be a protest or rally. Several individuals have their fists raised in the air. Some people have visible tattoos on their arms, and one person on the right is wearing a white wristband. The image is slightly blurred and has a blueish tint.

4. Put in place national Exit programmes to help individuals to leave far right movements and groups behind

5. Improve and streamline data gathering, within countries and across the EU

6. Governments and NGOs should work together to enhance public understanding of the threat, underpinned by clear political messages

7. Major capacity building initiatives to enhance ability of frontline workers to spot and respond to the signs of radicalisation





Vidhya Ramalingam
vramalingam@strategicdialogue.org