

The aim of the research project is an examination of methods and procedures used to assess the efficiency – process of evaluation - of selected, non-secret anti-terrorist policies and programs (understood as CT - counter-terrorist) and PCVE (preventing and countering violent extremism) and programs in two groups of states: Belgium, France, the Netherlands and Spain. The research team intends, firstly, to check whether evaluation procedures are employed at all in particular anti-terrorist activities, secondly, to carry out comparative analysis of evaluation methods and procedures used in each state selected for the research in order to seek any patterns, similarities and differences in respective areas.

In all states selected for the purpose of this study, the terrorist threat levels are considered to be significant today, these states are currently endangered with terrorist activity of various terrorist groups and networks, particularly of the jihadist and far-right origins. The 21st century brought new threats and after 11 September 2001 terrorist attack and its influence on the international situation, in 2004 and in 2005 major terror attacks in Madrid and London took place in Western Europe. In 2005 the EU has introduced comprehensive anti-terrorist strategy based on four pillars: prevent, protect, pursue and respond. Each and every state selected for this research has developed intensively anti-terrorist activities and capabilities in answer to the increasing terrorist threat. We are interested in finding the role of bilateral and multilateral co-operation schemes between selected states in the area of the evaluation of the anti-terrorist procedures, as well as the impact of the EU institutions in this area. For these reasons our interests are limited to states' activities carried out for the fifteen years since the beginning of the year 2005 till the year 2020.

The research will be based on the comparative analysis method, which aims at finding similarities and differences and possible patterns and determine specific variables influencing assessment of current and development of new policies in the respective area of studies.

The data will be conducted with the use of compilation of several research methods, techniques and tools: *Continuous desktop study* - analysis of publicly available documents, procedures and data already produced by the institutions involved in the evaluation of the counter-terrorist and preventing and countering violent extremism policies and programs as well as research papers and publications on this subject; *Free-form interviews based on expert (judgment) sampling*: the project aims at carrying out at least twenty interviews with experts in the field of CT and PCVE policy (i.e. at least five experts from each state); *Survey-questionnaires based on purposeful sampling*: the project aims at carrying out at least sixty survey-questionnaires obtained from organizations and institutions involved in CT and PCVE activities (at least fifteen institutions, both GOs and NGOs, involved in CT and PCVE policies and programs from each state); *Statistical analysis* of available qualitative and quantitative data i.e. results of free-form interviews, survey-questionnaires, data taken from obtained documents and publications; It may be concluded that the scientific analysis and research of the problem of the impact of evaluation procedures on the development of anti-terrorist policies in Western Europe is currently in its nascent stage. Only few comprehensive scientific studies on these issues are already available. This issue becomes more and more important within the frame of studies on terrorism. Our research team intends to develop proper methodology, analyze relevant documents and literature and carry out field research, including survey-questionnaires and free-form interviews with officials and experts involved in the process of evaluation in order to answer research questions and verify research hypotheses, thus we intend to create new knowledge in our field, not only synthesize already existing knowledge. Final scientific effect should be a research report (in Polish and English) available online, a paper published in an international scientific journal and a monograph (both in English), which should leave a lasting imprint on contemporary research in this field.