

# RADICALIZATION, EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

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## RADICALIZATION

- The increasing readiness to support extreme ideas that come in conflict with/seek to undermine the democratic order and include the support or the use of violence such as terrorism.
- Radicals are not necessarily violent extremists, since radicalism does not necessarily include violence and is not necessarily anti-democratic.
- Extremists are not necessarily violent.
- Fundamentalists do not necessarily have political objectives.

## WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

Violent extremists are not (the) poor(est); (the most) unemployed; (the most) uneducated  
YET. terrorism is a job

Alan B. Krueger and Jitka Maleckova (2003) *Education, Poverty and Terrorism: Is there a Causal Connection?*

-> inverse relationship: level of education and/or level of employment – involvement or support for terrorism

-> education combined with lack of opportunities might in fact correlate with terrorism and violent extremism

-> Daesh recruits notoriously un- or underemployed yet not necessarily uneducated

**Terrorism is an occupation: tasks, training, skills, professionalisation.**

**Terrorism is a choice.**

Terrorism is relative to other options and opportunities in a particular situation.

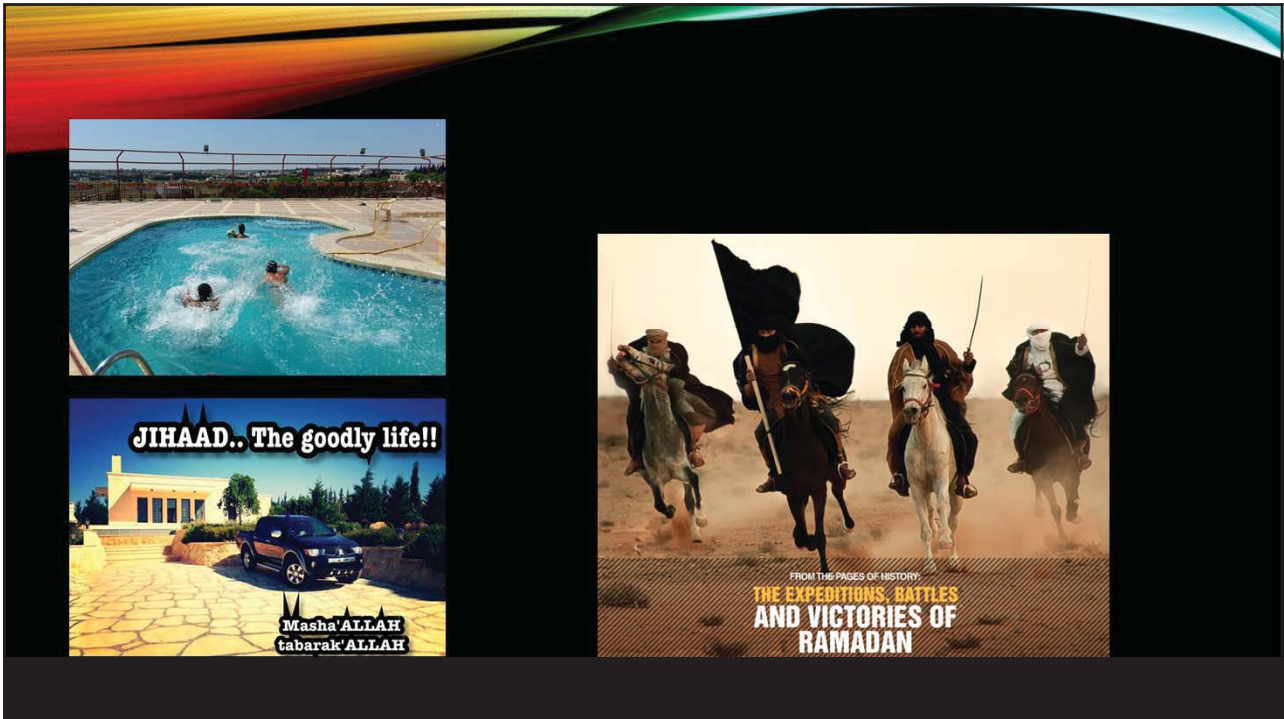
Terrorism must be morally and socially acceptable.

Terrorism can end with an alternative occupation and an alternative moral system.

The pop element: Terrorism is exciting and becomes subcultural.

## WHAT TO DO?

- Addressing the problem: ‚wanting more‘ in combination with ideas and a social environment that makes it morally acceptable.
- Offer better occupational alternatives + challenge ideology + enlightenment.
- Make terrorism/violent extremism less attractive and other occupations more.
- *Attractiveness is relative to the current situation and motivation: money vs. playing war vs. making a real difference where it matters.*

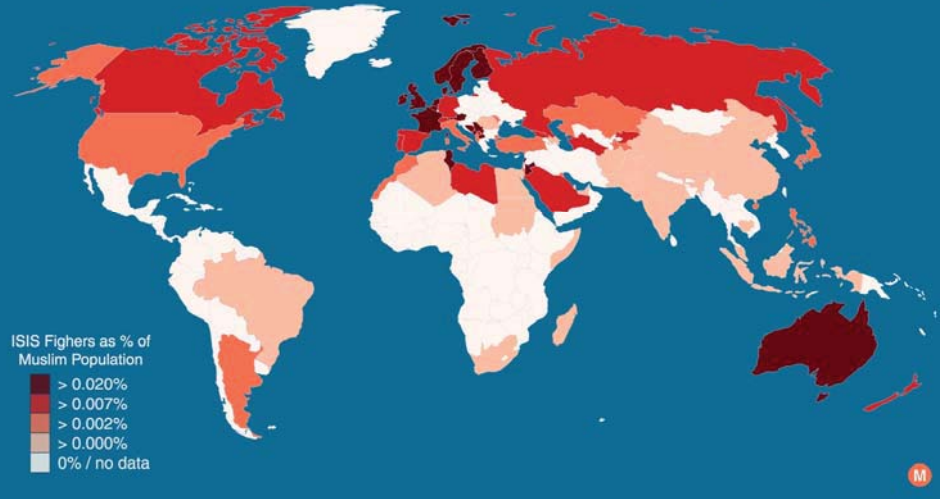


## HOW TO DO IT?

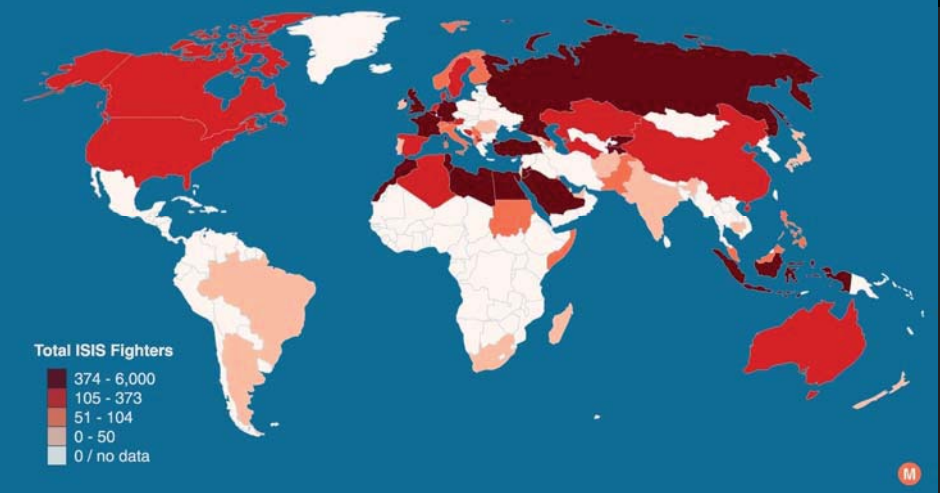
- Targetted measures: the right measures for the right people.
  - E.g. workshops for education and awareness raising targetting communities and groups of interest, rather than the entire population or the elite.
- Work without fun is boring.
  - Invest in initiatives that combine political education with possibilities for spending free time
- Be realistic: vocational training and education coupled with realistic employment options.
- Be inclusive: involve as many stakeholders as possible as the solutions are as complex as the problem.
- Go local: use the knowledge and capacities of local actors to identify cliques and engage the community.
- Fundamental importance of field missions.
  
- Look outside the OSCE area.

## Who's Joining ISIS?

Foreign ISIS recruits as a percentage of each country's Muslim population



## Foreign ISIS Fighters by Country of Origin





THANK YOU

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