



GROWTH THROUGH **JOB AND EDUCATION**

CITY OF COPENHAGEN
THE EMPLOYMENT AND INTEGRATION ADMINISTRATION

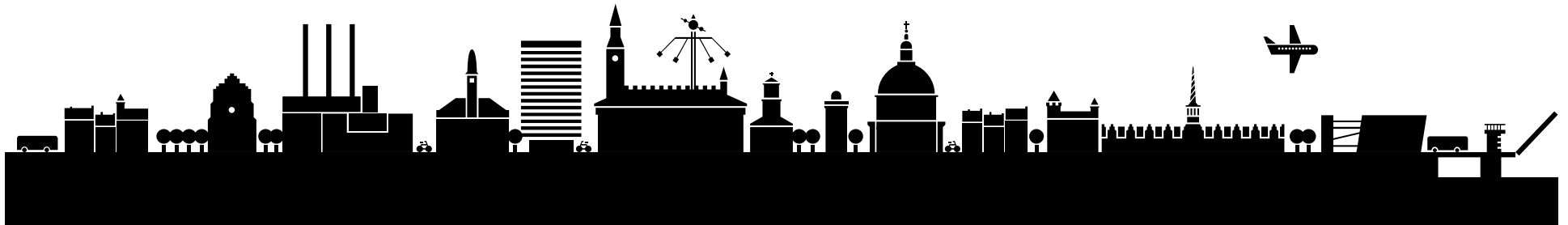
PREVENTION OF EXTREMISM IN COPENHAGEN

SEMINAR

**EUROPEAN DAY OF REMEMBRANCE OF VICTIMS OF TERRORISM
LISBON, MARCH, 2018**

MUHAMMAD ALI HEE

**VINK - PREVENTION OF EXTREMISM AND RADICALIZATION,
CITY OF COPENHAGEN**





OVERVIEW

1. MY BACKGROUND
2. BRIEF ON HIZB UT TAHRIR AND OTHER ISLAMIST GROUPS IN COPENHAGEN
3. THE PREVENTIVE MULTIDISCIPLINARY COLLABORATION SCHEME (THE DANISH MODEL)
4. THE PROPORTIONALITY OF RADICALIZED YOUNGSTERS IN COPENHAGEN (THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE MUNICIPALITY)
5. VINK'S SPECIALIZED 1-1 INTERVENTIONS (MENTORS AND PARENTAL COACHES)



MY BACKGROUND

THEORETICAL EXPERIENCE

- M.A. IN ARABIC AND MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES (2009)
- THESIS ON THE INTERPLAY BETWEEN MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD AND THE DIFFERENT EGYPTIAN REGIMES (1952-2009)
- AUTHOR OF BIOGRAPHY "THE DEFECTOR" – 6 YEARS IN HIZB UT TAHRIR (2009)

PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE

- MEMBER OF (NON-VIOLENT) ISLAMIST GROUP HIZB UT TAHRIR (1998-2004)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- SOCIAL WORKER – TARGET GROUP AT RISK YOUTH IN SOCIAL DEPRIVED AREA IN COPENHAGEN (2009-2011)
- PROJECT MANAGER – VINK – EARLY PREVENTION OF RADICALICATION AMONGST YOUNGSTERS (2011-2018)



BRIEF ON HIZB UT TAHRIR AND OTHER ISLAMIST GROUPS IN COPENHAGEN

KNOWN ISLAMIST GROUPS IN COPENHAGEN:

NOT MILITANT

- HIZB UT TAHRIR
- OTHER GROUPS WITH IKHWANI INFLUENCE OR TURKISH ISLAMIST INFLUENCE



MILITANT-TAKFIRI

- THE CALL TO ISLAM (KALDET TIL ISLAM)
- MILLATU IBRAHIM (DENMARK)
- STUDY GROUPS UNDER ABU AHMAD AL-FILISTINI

PET/DANISH SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE SERVICE: JANUARY 2018

AT LEAST 150 PERSONS TRAVELLED TO SYRIA/IRAQ SINCE SUMMER 2012. PRIMARILY YOUNG MEN. UP TO 10 PROCENT ARE WOMEN. THEIR RELATIVE PROPORTION HAS INCREASED SINCE SUMMER 2014. ALMOST HALF HAVE RETURNED TO DENMARK. ALMOST 25 % ARE IN THE CONFLICT ZONE, AND AS MANY HAVE BEEN KILLED.

THE THREAT OF TERROR IS PRIMARILY FROM MILITANT ISLAMISM. MAINLY FROM THE SOCALLED ISLAMIC STATE (ISIS)



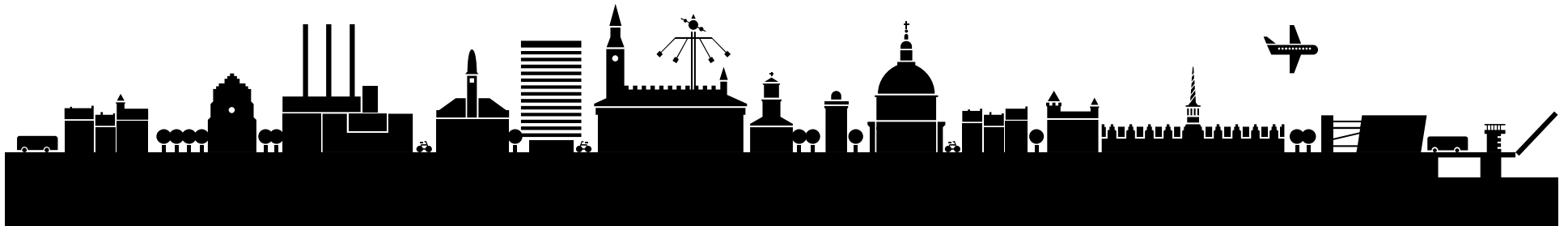


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THE DANISH MODEL

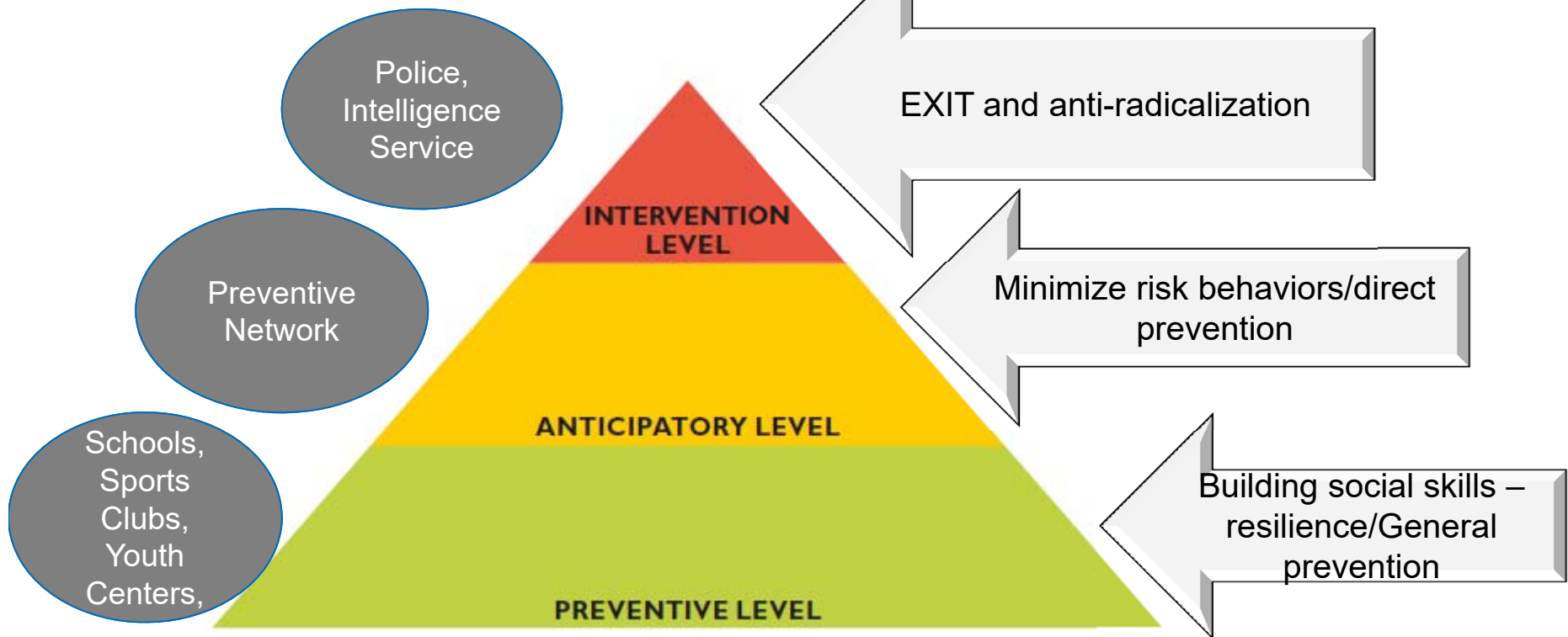
SETTING UP A PREVENTIVE NETWORK





DIVISION OF LABOUR

THE PREVENTIVE TRIANGLE





EXAMPLES OF SERVICES – PREVENTIVE TRIANGLE WISE

FOR CITIZENS

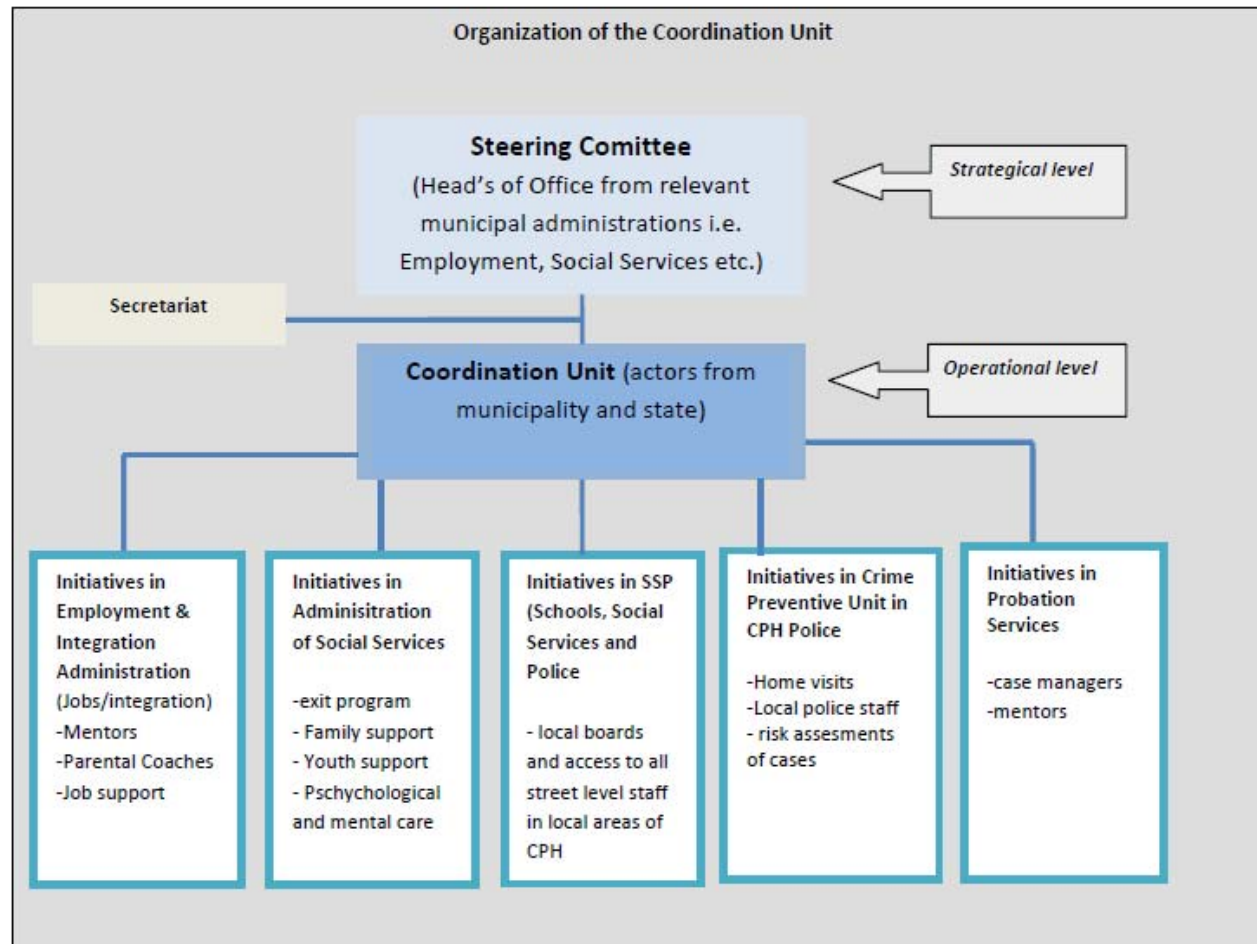
- Mentor programs for youth
- Mentor programs for parents/siblings
- Debate programs for citizens and residents of deprived social housing areas
- Parental networking
- Civil society involvement
- Telephone hotline (08-22)
- National hotline

FOR FRONT LINE WORKERS

- Awareness presentations – what is going on in certain areas of the city and what can we offer local staff?
- Daylong workshops on themes related to radicalization
- Workshops with school pupils
- Training and counseling in one-to-one cases
- Telephone hotline (08-22)
- National hotline
- Website with information



THE COORDINATION UNIT





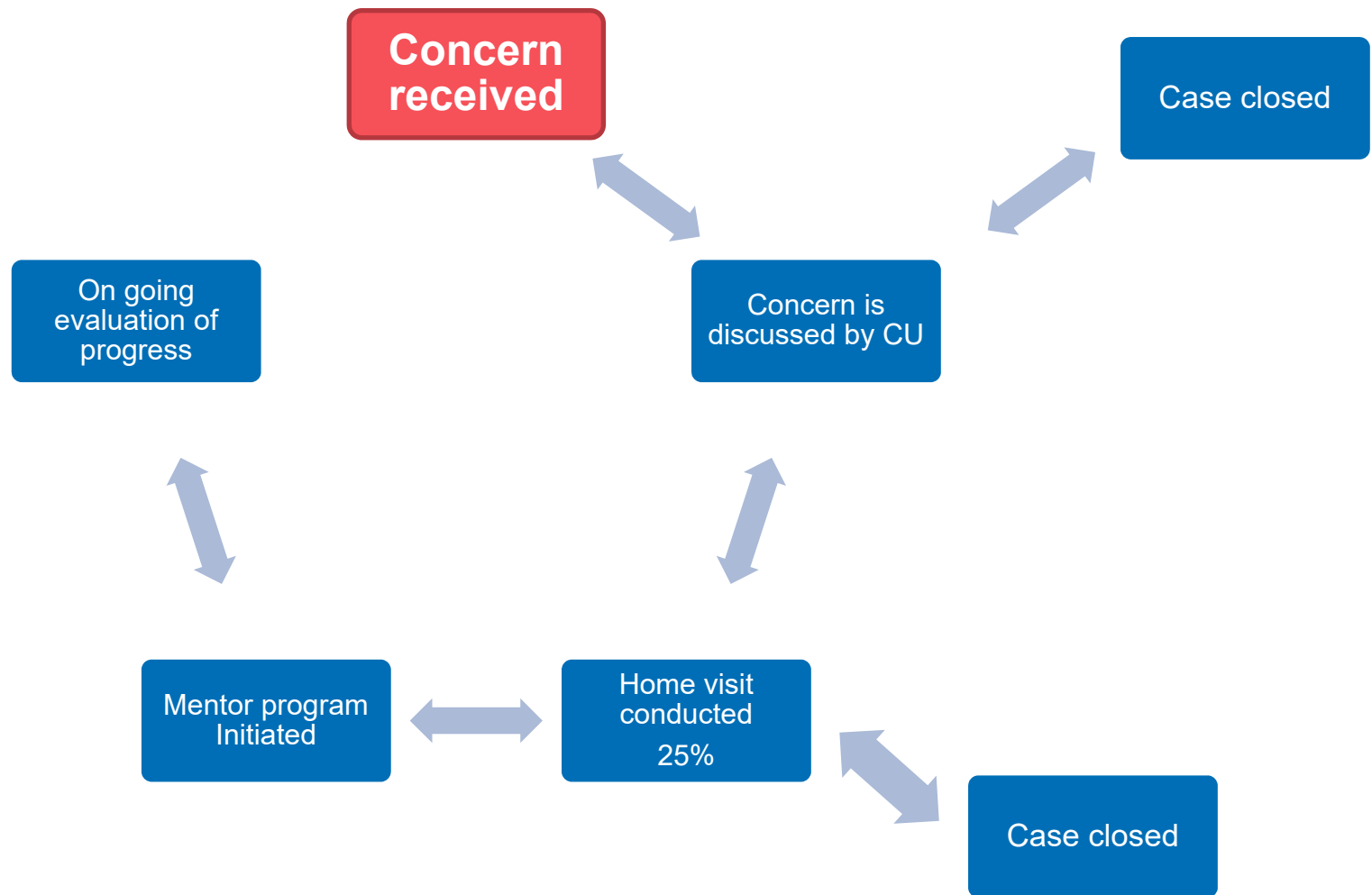
CREATING A PREVENTIVE NETWORK

THE COPENHAGEN COORDINATION UNIT

- The Copenhagen Coordination Unit/INFO house – consists of VINK, employment counsellors, SSP (Social Services Department), Copenhagen Police - Crime Prevention Section, the gang exit unit and the national jail probation services
- It is vital to have a wide range of **competences** represented
- The Coordination Unit meets every two weeks to discuss individual cases that have been brought up by frontline workers and relatives.



HOW DO WE WORK – SIMPLIFIED



THE PROPORTIONALITY OF RADICALIZED YOUNGSTERS IN COPENHAGEN (THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE MUNICIPALITY)



	2014	2015	2016
Concerns received	60	100	104
Substantiated concerns	22	18	10
Not related to radicalization	63 %	82 %	90 %

- Most concerns are assessed as not related to radicalization. Some of these cases are handed over to the relevant authorities, such as the social authorities or the psychiatric system.
- The Coordination Unit work with all forms of radicalization and has an increased focus on right-wing extremism.
- Most of the received concerns are related to militant Islamism and issues concerning Syria, Iraq and ISIS.

1-1 INTERVENTIONS

CHARACTERISTICS OF RADICALIZED YOUNGSTERS



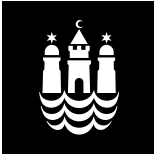
CHARACTERISTICS BASED ON SUBSTANTIATED CASES since 2014	
<p>CITIZEN LEVEL YOUNGSTERS What characterize the youngsters?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizens from deprived areas in Copenhagen • Often known by social authorities or the police. • Often limited knowledge about religion and religious tradition. • Often problematic school background, low degree of education and employment. • Some have mental illnesses (i.e. ADHD, Asperger syndrome) • Some are secondary traumatized, and from homes with refugee parents. • Ethnically a diverse group - from Danish converts to individuals with MENA background. • Young men, often in their early twenties, increase in young women.
<p>PARENTAL LEVEL PARENTS What characterise the parents?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The father is often absent. • Often parents with low or no attachment to the labor market. • Many parents are shocked about the youngsters radicalization and do not accept it. • In rare cases parents encourage radicalization and travel to conflict areas.
<p>CASE LEVEL What characterise the cases?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primarily regarding attachment to militant Islamism • Few cases with militant ethnic separatism, and right-wing radical groups. • No cases on individuals in left-wing radical groups.
<p>LEVEL OF CONCERN What characterize the concerns?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many concerns from professionals are on Islamic extremism and how to handle individuals from groups such as Hizb ut Tahrir (the Liberation Party), Millatu Ibrahim (the Creed of Abraham) and The Call to Islam (kaldet til islam). • Few concerns on right-wing extremism and left-wing extremism • Few concerns on tensions and clashes due to sectarian and ideological divides



1-1 INTERVENTIONS

THE GENERAL SOCIAL PROFILE

- The majority of our mentor programs concerns mentees characterized by individual risk factors such as:
 - Living in deprived residential areas.
 - Often known by authorities (municipality or police)
 - Often a problematic school background.
 - Often mental illness (ADHD, autism)
 - Living with mother - father being absent and many siblings.
 - The mother has limited education and contact with the labor market.



1-1 INTERVENTIONS

MENTOR PROGRAMS

- In the Danish model extremist affiliation is considered as a risk behavior on an equal footing with other forms of risk behavior.
- Mentor programs work with prevention of radicalization by reducing other social dissatisfactions:
 - Securing stability through education
 - Practical help on how to search for jobs and internships
 - Challenging views and teaching critical thinking
 - Widening the circle of friends and leisure time activities, introduction to new environments, debates and NGO's
 - E.g. discussing partner (politics, religion)
 - Gang-exit
 - Psychiatric or psychological treatment
 - Parental coaches who work directly with parents and relatives to radicalized individuals



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THANK YOU

