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# Terrorism and violent radicalisation PROTON WP2 results

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**PROTON**

Modelling the processes leading  
to organised crime and terrorist networks

## *Modelling the PRocesses leading to Organised crime and TerrOrist Networks*

- Funded by the **Horizon 2020** Research Programme of the **European Commission** (grant n. 699824)
- Started on 01/10/2016, **3 years** duration ž
- Project Leader: Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (**UCSC**) ž
- Co-coordinator: Hebrew University Jerusalem (**HUJI**) ž
- **Partners (19)**: Fraunhofer, IBM, ITTI SP ZOO, National Research Council, Stichting VU, Universitat de Barcelona, Friedrich Alexander Universitaet Erlangen Nuerneberg, The University System of Maryland Foundation, University of Cambridge, Università degli Studi di Palermo, Università degli Studi di Pavia, Youris.com, Comune di Palermo, Brottsofbyggande Radet, European Crime Prevention Network, EUROPOL, Italian Ministry of Interior, Ministerie Van Veiligheid en Justitie, UNODC

## OBJECTIVE 1

Identify **social, psychological,** and **economic** factors **leading to** organized crime and **terrorist networks** (OCTN) – and cyber related offenses

### Develop **PROTON-S**

- agent-based modelling (**ABM**) simulations
- made by **virtual societies** in a computer laboratory
- to study the **effects** of **societal/environmental** changes on individuals' **recruitment**

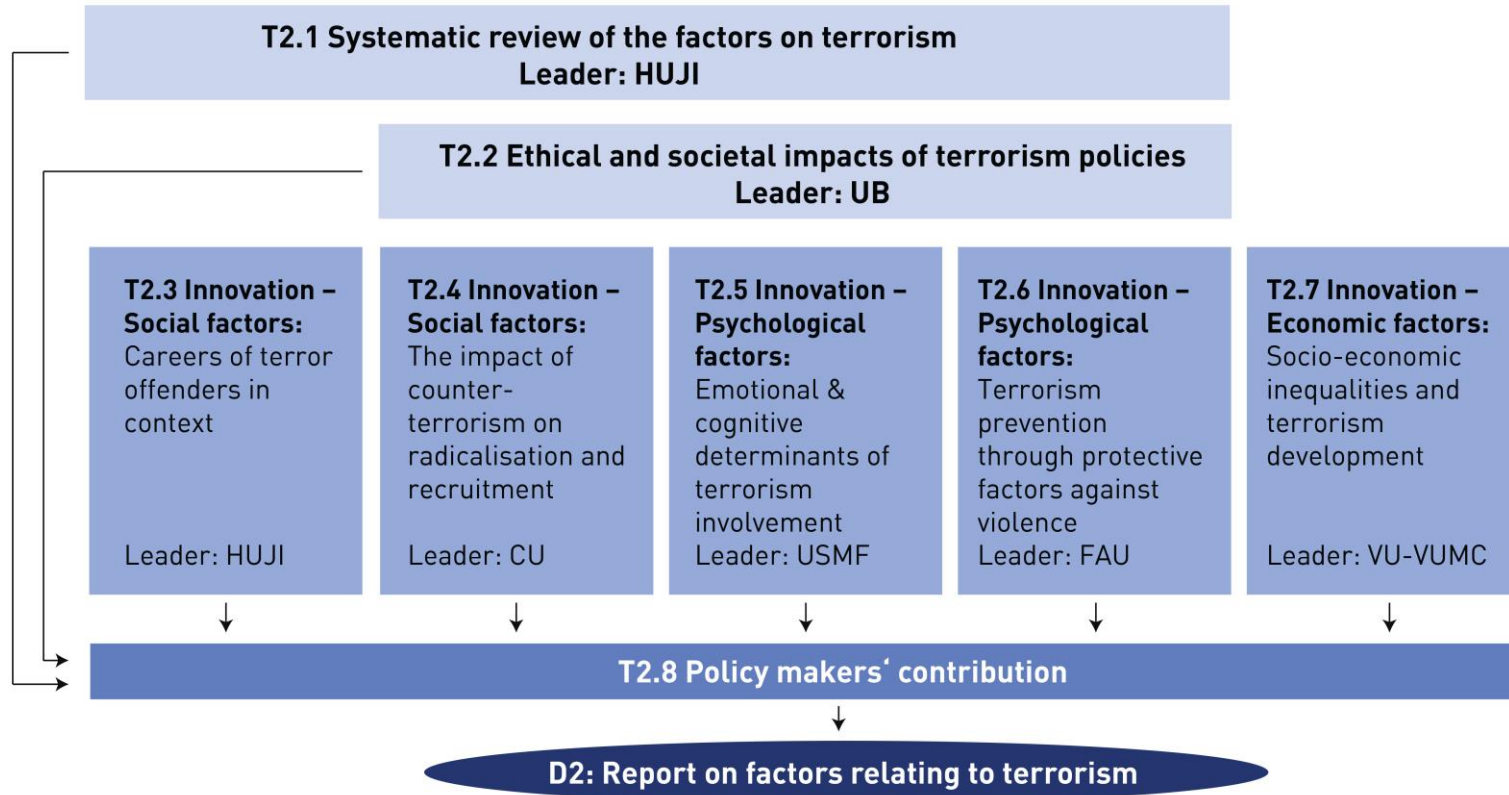


## OBJECTIVE 2

Develop **PROTON Wizard** to improve the quality of **prevention policies** on OCTN

- user-friendly **software** tool embedding results of ABM simulations
- first **support tool for policy makers** at the international, national and local level

## WP 2: Terrorism Networks: Social, Psychological & Economic Factors



## WP 2: Terrorism Networks: Social, Psychological & Economic Factors

**T2.1 Systematic review of the factors on terrorism**  
Leader: HUJI

**T2.2 Ethical and societal impacts of terrorism policies**  
Leader: UB

**T2.3 Innovation – Social factors:**  
Careers of terror offenders in context  
Leader: HUJI

**T2.4 Innovation – Social factors:**  
The impact of counter-terrorism on radicalisation and recruitment  
Leader: CU

**T2.5 Innovation – Psychological factors:**  
Emotional & cognitive determinants of terrorism involvement  
Leader: USMF

**T2.6 Innovation – Psychological factors:**  
Terrorism prevention through protective factors against violence  
Leader: FAU

**T2.7 Innovation – Economic factors:**  
Socio-economic inequalities and terrorism development  
Leader: VU-VUMC

**T2.8 Policy makers' contribution**

**D2: Report on factors relating to terrorism**



PROTON

# Hebrew University of Jerusalem

T2.1 – Systematic review of the social, psychological, economic and environmental risk factors in radicalization and recruitment to terrorism

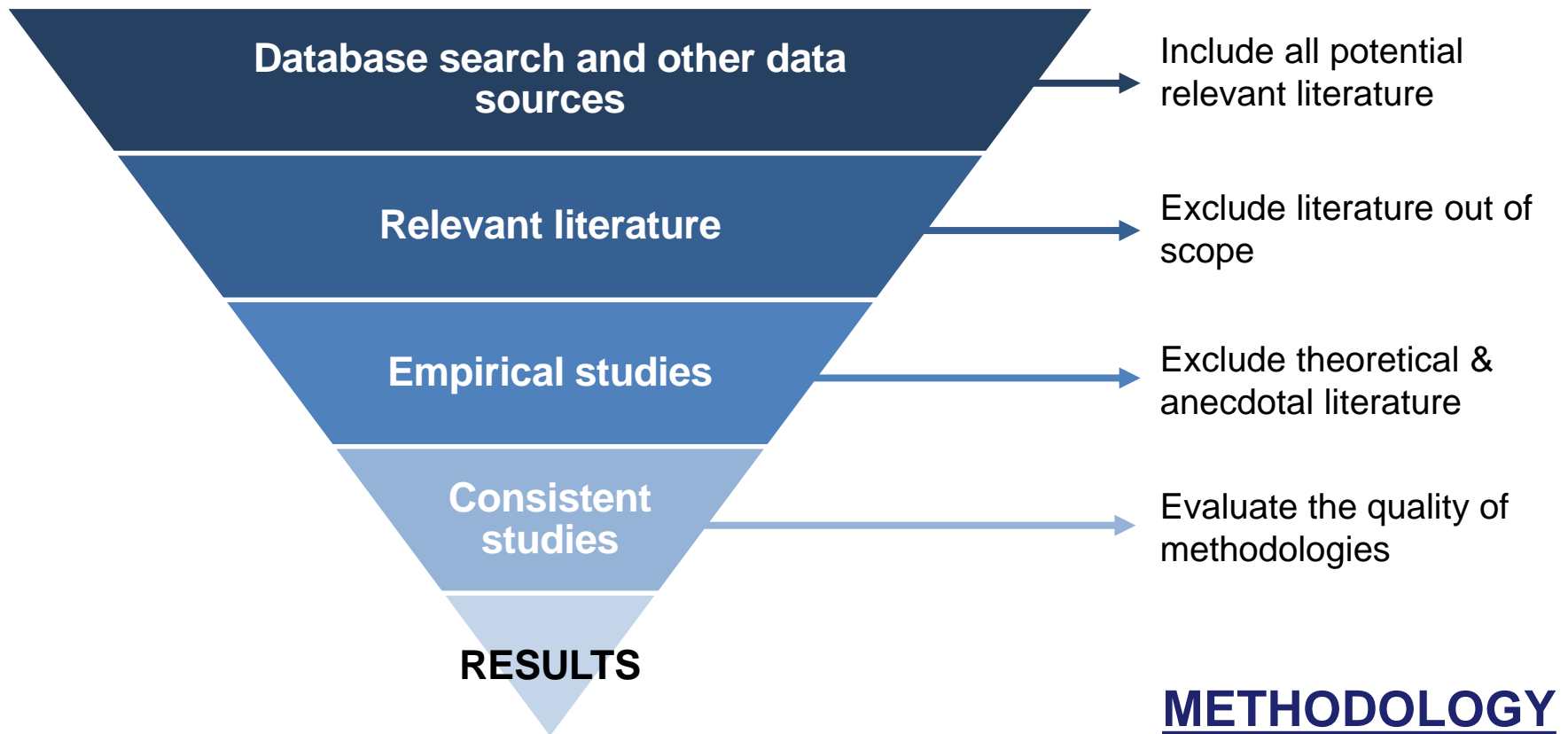
**Wolfowicz, Litmanoviz, Weisburd, and Hasisi (2017). Systematic review of the social, psychological, economic and environmental risk factors in radicalization and recruitment to terrorism**

## OBJECTIVES

Identification and analysis of the **social, economic, psychological, and environmental risk factors** associated with **radicalization and recruitment**.

→ similarities/differences, levels of significance, effect sizes, contextual variations, ideological variations

**Wolfowicz, Litmanoviz, Weisburd, and Hasisi (2017). Systematic review of the social, psychological, economic and environmental risk factors in radicalization and recruitment to terrorism**



## METHODOLOGY

Systematic review



**Wolfowicz, Litmanoviz, Weisburd, and Hasisi (2017). Systematic review of the social, psychological, economic and environmental risk factors in radicalization and recruitment to terrorism**

## RESULTS (Narrative)

### High risk

### Medium risk

### Low risk

Loss/grievance, experienced violence	Education, behavioural conduct, poor integration, mental health	Marital and immigrant status, Criminal history
Differential associations, social media	Meso-Level SES, Collective relative deprivation	Individual SES, employment
Religious fundamentalism, religious identity	Interfaith hostility, West Vs. Islam	Religiousness, mosque attendance, prayer frequency
Institutional trust, politics, anomie		Discrimination



PROTON

# START Center University of Maryland

T2.5 – Correlates of violent political extremism in the United States

# VIOLENT EXTREMISM – USMF, results of T2.5

LaFree, Jensen, James, and Safer-Lichteststein (2017). Correlates of violent political extremism in the United States

## PIRUS DATABASE

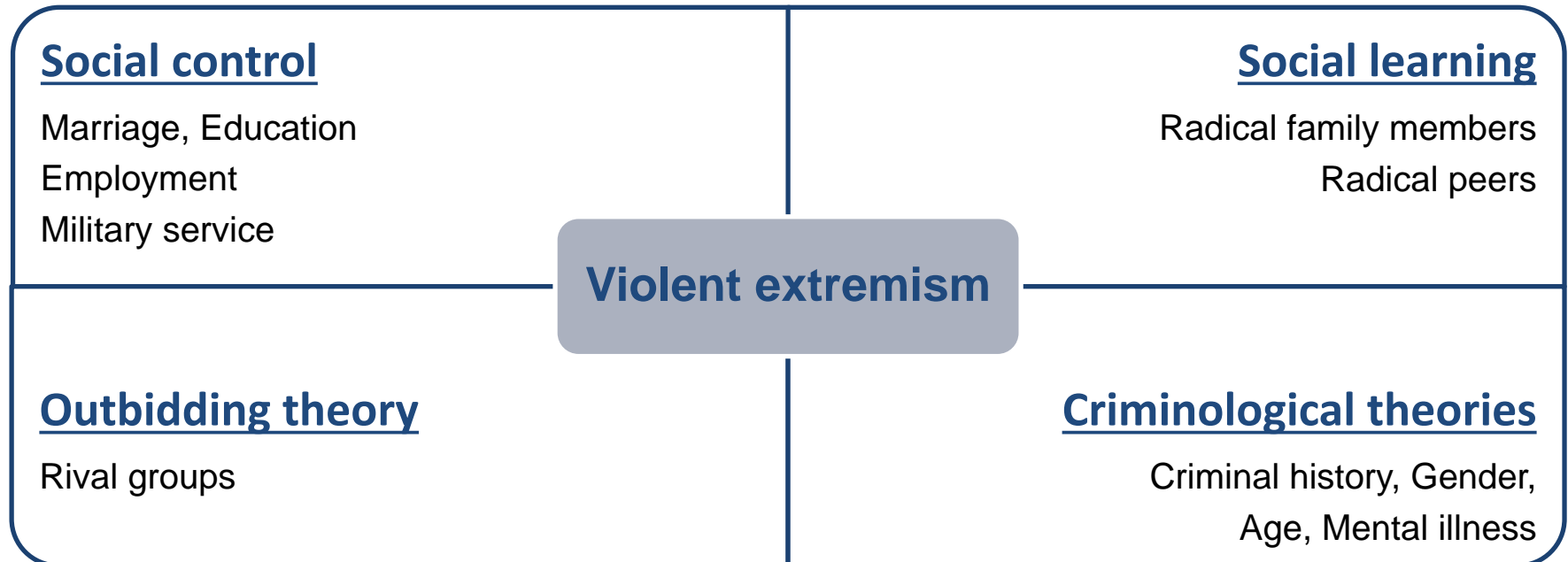
- **Data source:** open sources
- **Individuals:** 1,473 US-based violent/non-violent extremists
- **Inclusion criteria:** arrested, indicted, killed in action, member/associated with a terrorist organisation, member/associated with a terrorist organisation with leader(s)/founder(s) indicted of a ideologically motivated violent offense
- **Average age at exposure:** 34
- **Gender:** Male = 1351, Female = 152
- **Citizenship:** 87% U.S. citizen
- **Ideological category:** Islamist: 226 (15%); Far right: 647 (43%); Far left: 316 (21%); Single issue: 314 (21%)

# VIOLENT EXTREMISM – USMF, results of T2.5

LaFree, Jensen, James, and Safer-Lichtstein (2017). Correlates of violent political extremism in the United States

## OBJECTIVE

Testing **relationship** between violent extremism and 12 individual-level attributes



# VIOLENT EXTREMISM – USMF, results of T2.5

LaFree, Jensen, James, and Safer-Lichteststein (2017). Correlates of violent political extremism in the united States

## BIVARIATE ANALYSES (I)

	<b>Social control variables</b>	<b>Dependent variable VIOLENT EXTREMISM</b>	<b>Rejected / accepted</b>
H1	Poor work history	Higher probability	<b>Supported</b>
H2	Higher education	Lower probability	<b>Supported</b>
H3	Unmarried, separated, widowed	Higher probability	<b>Supported</b>
H4a	Past military experience	Lower probability	<b>Rejected</b>
H4b	Currently active military	Lower probability	<b>Supported</b>

# VIOLENT EXTREMISM – USMF, results of T2.5

LaFree, Jensen, James, and Safer-Lichtstein (2017). Correlates of violent political extremism in the United States

## BIVARIATE ANALYSES (II)

<b>Social learning variables</b>		Dependent variable <b>VIOLENT EXTREMISM</b>	Rejected / accepted
H5	Radical family members	Higher probability	<b>Supported</b>
H6	Radical peers	Higher probability	<b>Supported</b>

### **Psychological effects**

H7	Mental illness	Higher probability	<b>Supported</b>
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# VIOLENT EXTREMISM – USMF, results of T2.5

LaFree, Jensen, James, and Safer-Lichtestein (2017). Correlates of violent political extremism in the united States

## BIVARIATE ANALYSES (III)

		Dependent variable <b>VIOLENT EXTREMISM</b>	Rejected / accepted
<b>Rival groups</b>			
H8	Engagement in competition with rival groups/members	Higher probability	<b>Rejected</b>

<b>Common criminology</b>			
H9	Prior criminal record	Higher probability	<b>Supported</b>
H10	Men	Higher probability	<b>Supported</b>
H11	Young people	Higher probability	<b>Supported</b>

# VIOLENT EXTREMISM – USMF, results of T2.5

LaFree, Jensen, James, and Safer-Lichteststein (2017). Correlates of violent political extremism in the united States

## MULTIVARIATE ANALYSES



## RESULTS

Four significant **predictors** of engaging in **violent** political extremism:

- **Unstable employment history**
- **Radical peers**
- **Record of mental illness**
- **Criminal record”**



# VIOLENT EXTREMISM – USMF, results of T2.5

LaFree, Jensen, James, and Safer-Lichtestain (2017). Correlates of violent political extremism in the united States

## POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- CVE programs that emphasize the acquisition of **job-relevant skills** may be effective for at-risk individuals
- CVE programs must **not overcommit** their attention/resources to countering the threat from **lone actor terrorists** at the expense of overlooking the **vital role that peer relationships** play in radicalization
- Programs based on **counter-narratives** must be aware of the **cognitive biases** that exist in cliques
- We must do more to untangle the relationship between **mental illness** and violent extremism, including better understanding of potentially compounding factors, such as heavy drug use
- CVE policy should **leverage existing programs** that are geared toward steering at-risk youth away from crime



PROTON

# Friedrich-Alexander-Universität University of Cambridge

T2.6 – Protective factors against extremism and violent radicalization: A  
systematic review of research

# PROTECTIVE FACTORS – FAU, results of T2.6

Lösel, King and Bender (2017). Protective factors against extremism and violent radicalization: A systematic review of research

## OBJECTIVE

**Identification** of the **protective factors** against extremism, radicalization and recruitment for terrorism (incl. de-radicalization)

## METHODOLOGY

Systematic review

# PROTECTIVE FACTORS – FAU, results of T2.6

**Lösel, King and Bender (2017). Protective factors against extremism and violent radicalization: A systematic review of research**

## RESULTS (I)

Protective factors	Type of extremism
<b>Individual factors</b>	
Self-control	right-wing, left-wing, religios/ethnic
Employment	religios/ethnic
Anxiety about getting incarcerated	religios/ethnic
Political disinterest, apathy	religios/ethnic
Intensive religious practice	religios/ethnic
Illness, disease	religios/ethnic
<b>Family factors</b>	
Parenting behavior (egalitarian style)	religios/ethnic
Incarceration of a family member	religios/ethnic
Family members not involved in violence	religios/ethnic
Ownership of residential property	religios/ethnic

# PROTECTIVE FACTORS – FAU, results of T2.6

Lösel, King and Bender (2017). Protective factors against extremism and violent radicalization: A systematic review of research

## RESULTS (II)

Protective factors	Type of extremism
<b>School factors</b>	
Educational level	religios/ethnic
Good school achievement	right-wing
Bonding to school	right-wing, left-wing
<b>Peer group factors</b>	
Contact to foreigners	right-wing
Non-violent peers	religios/ethnic
Low social capital	religios/ethnic
<b>Community factors/integration into society</b>	
Acceptance of police legitimacy	right-wing
Adherence to law	right-wing, right-wing, religios/ethnic
Basic attachment to society	religios/ethnic
Migrant of the first generation	religios/ethnic

# REFERENCE

**Work package 2 – Final report.** PROTON Project, Horizon 2020 funded by the European Commission (grant n. 699824)

**Published online**

<https://www.projectproton.eu/media-room/>