

## TERRORISM PREVENTION CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

### a new department within the counter-terrorism strand of the Internal Security Agency

The Terrorism Prevention Centre of Excellence (TP CoE) of the Internal Security Agency is a typical training department. Its activity is based on the provisions of the Act on anti-terrorist activities of 2016 and is focused on domestic and international cooperation forums remaining outside the sphere of the activity of the Counter-Terrorism Centre of the Internal Security Agency, which serve to acquire and exchange knowledge and good practices in the field of training to increase anti-terrorist awareness of institutions and citizens of the Republic of Poland at home and abroad.



The overt activity of the TP CoE related to training initiatives for the public is facilitated by participation in national and international conferences, workshops and other forms of information exchange that bring together academics and practitioners from different countries, and allows them to operate freely in order to obtain the best possible results from teaching activities.

In 2021, the TP CoE continued to conduct anti-terrorist trainings in the field of terrorism prevention and prophylaxis on three levels: directly by the Centre's trainers, online with the participation of external experts and through an e-learning platform. These trainings were based on a concept developed as a result of cooperation between foreign and national representatives of the academic sector, special services and EU institutions. The recipients of these training courses were other security services, ministries, central offices, government institutions and agencies, universities and business entities of key importance

to Poland's security. Over 3,000 people were trained in the framework of direct meetings.

Due to the very high interest of the entities of the Polish public administration and the private sector, which in the course of last year asked in large numbers for training of their employees, as well as due to the lack of possibility of direct meetings with these persons, the TP CoE trained over 50 thousand persons in 2021 in the framework of an e-learning course on terrorism prevention. This course is available on a website designed for government employees and public officials.

Simultaneously, the TP CoE actively cooperated at the national level by participating in conferences and thematic seminars organised in agreement with, among others, the University of Wrocław (Centre for Security Studies and Education) and the Civil Aviation Authority, as well as by undertaking its own initiatives, i.a. connected with raising the level of knowledge in the field of responding to threats of a terrorist nature in facilities having the status of critical infrastructure.

Conclusions resulting from the aforementioned activities will serve more effective acquisition and expenditure of external financing of projects and undertakings concerning security of CBRN and IED promoted at the European level, as well as support establishment and development of contacts with potential partners interested in project cooperation with the Internal Security Agency.

Furthermore, based on the positive reception of the 4U! Social Campaign (Watch out!, Run!, Hide!, Stop the attack!) launched in 2019, the TP CoE, in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior and Administration, presented

a unified procedure for providing information in the event of a terrorist incident involving an armed perpetrator in November 2021. The recommended procedure for providing

information to the operators of voivodeship emergency notification centres is an important step towards developing a uniform security culture in the emergency notification system related to a possible terrorist incident (covering the entire territory of the Republic of Poland).



The aforementioned initiatives carried out at the national level were based on the activity of the TP CoE abroad, in particular within the framework of European Union bodies (EU Working Party on Terrorism, Steering Board on Radicalisation, Network of Prevent Policy Makers, Radicalization Awareness Network, EU Internet Forum) and other forms of cooperation between EU Member States based on common objectives of project cooperation, inter alia in the area of counteracting radicalisation in penitentiary institutions and schools.

Thanks to the activity of the TP CoE, an agreement on scientific and didactic cooperation in the field of countering radicalisation and terrorist threats was signed by the Head of the Internal Security Agency, Colonel Krzysztof Waclawek, and the Director General of the Prison Service, General Jacek Kitlinski, on 27 October 2021. The TP CoE also actively participated in the works of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the OSCE Steering Committee for Counteracting Terrorism. In turn, activities undertaken in Poland in the area of aviation security would not be possible without cooperation with the European Civil Aviation Commission (ECAC) and the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO).

At the same time, of the TP CoE conducted bilateral cooperation with partners from EU and non-European countries, as well as participated in projects co-financed from external funds, such as: “EU-HYBNET - Empowering a Pan-European Network to Counter Hybrid Threats”, “PREVENT PCP - Pre-Commercial Procurement of innovative technology solutions to support security in public transport”, “INDEED - Evidence-based model for evaluation of radicalisation prevention”, “More efficient identification of asymmetric threats - trends, indicators, dependencies” and “Increasing the competences of state security services, public administration employees

<b>The TP CoE in 2021 – in numbers</b>	
Face-to-face (direct) trainings	103
Persons trained directly	3 150
Persons trained online	53 405
Meetings with foreign partners in Poland	4
Meetings with foreign partners abroad	3
International meetings online	51

and scientific and research centers and the development of their cooperation in the area of national security”. Within the framework of the last project a Terrorism Prevention Brochure was developed (in paper and electronic versions), which is distributed to selected representatives of public administration and entities cooperating with the TP CoE. The study is available in Polish and English language versions and constitutes a compendious summary of a five-module training programme, which was prepared by external experts in 2020 in the framework of the EU project PO WER (“Operational Programme Knowledge Education Development”).

