



## Counterterrorism: the approach at a glance

June 2025



### Keeping the Netherlands safe. Alertness and continuous efforts

The current threat level requires a heightened state of alertness among all security partners in the Netherlands. The [National Counterterrorism Strategy](#) describes the efforts for the 2022-2026 period. The [National Extremism Strategy for 2024-2029](#) provides frameworks for strengthening the resilience of the democratic legal order in the face of extremism. There is no such thing as 100% safety and security, which is why continuous efforts are required to keep the Netherlands safe and prepared to respond to potential incidents. The [National Extreme Violence and Terrorism Crisis Plan](#) (in Dutch) was drawn up for this purpose.



### Local approach. Ideology-neutral

The local approach to radicalisation, extremism and terrorism is an essential part of the overall strategy and can be applied to all forms of extremism. Municipalities are responsible for overseeing the local approach, including its development and implementation, in collaboration with the relevant partners. The local approach consists of three components that are closely interlinked: Knowledge & skills, Network and Interventions. The updated [Guidelines for the local approach to radicalisation, extremism and terrorism](#) were recently issued. Cooperation between partners in the security sector and care sector is playing an increasingly important role.



### International cooperation. A strong international network

Terrorism doesn't stop at national borders. There is extensive information sharing and cooperation at international level, involving police as well as intelligence and security services. For example, the Netherlands is investing in cooperation within [Europol](#). It is also actively engaged at other levels, including bilateral contacts, contributions in a European context, such as the [EU Knowledge Hub](#) – where policymakers, operational partners and experts collaborate – and efforts within the Council of Europe, the UN and the [Global Counterterrorism Forum \(GCTF\)](#).



### Online approach. Making young people more resilient

A strategy has been developed to counter online radicalisation and recruitment, known as the [Enhanced Approach Online for extremist and terrorist content](#). A structural commitment has been made to engage in dialogue with the internet sector, European legislation, a local approach focusing on prevention and joint international efforts. Liaising with partners in the social and care domains is important in order to make young people – often very young teenagers – more resilient to the appeal of extremist ideology and to identify radicalisation at an early stage.



### National cooperation. Working with operational partners

A wide range of partners – intelligence and security services, police, investigative agencies, the justice system, healthcare organisations, municipalities, local professionals and many others – are committed to preventing terrorist violence. They do this by exchanging information, identifying individuals who pose a threat in time and offering them counselling where appropriate, prosecuting those suspected of crimes, and ensuring their safe reintegration into society. The need for additional measures – visible or out of the public eye – is continuously assessed on the basis of the latest threat developments. Partners within the migration system also work together during the asylum and family reunification process to ensure that individuals posing a threat are detected.



### Promoting expertise. Developing knowledge and expertise

Central government supports partners involved in counterterrorism by promoting knowledge and expertise. For example, the [National Training Institute for Countering Radicalisation](#) trains professionals and the [National Support Center for Extremism](#) provides advice and assistance in dealing with radicalisation and extremism. Central government also offers additional funds in this area for the local work of municipalities, and invests in [research and science](#).