

# Déterminer l'efficacité des mesures prises dans la lutte contre l'extrémisme de droite en Suisse

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## Résumé des principaux résultats

**Ce projet de recherche poursuit deux objectifs: d'une part, élaborer un guide en vue d'évaluer les mesures conçues pour lutter contre l'extrémisme de droite. D'autre part, il vise à cerner l'efficacité des moyens d'action.**

The research project pursues two goals. First, to review extant knowledge of the effectiveness of specific measures taken against right-wing extremism in a systematic manner, and to examine the underlying evaluations with respect to their methodological quality. The research question for this first part is: What are the most effective measures taken against right-wing extremism in Switzerland, and why are they successful?

Second, at the methodological and conceptual level, this research is oriented toward improving the understanding of evaluating measures taken against right-wing extremism. The key research question for this second part is therefore: How can the effectiveness of measures taken against right-wing extremism be best evaluated?

To investigate these questions, the research project utilized a multilevel procedure involving six elements (or modules). A variety of research instruments were employed (see Table 1).

<p><b>Module 1: Meta-evaluation and evaluation synthesis</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• survey of evaluation studies</li> <li>• methodology quality control</li> <li>• synthesis of results</li> </ul>	<p><b>Module 2: Inventory of measures</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• survey of measures (in Switzerland)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Module 3: Consultation with experts and selection of measures</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• survey of experts</li> </ul>
<p><b>Module 4: Evaluative case studies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• conceptual work</li> <li>• case studies 1-7</li> </ul>	<p><b>Module 5: Comparison of case studies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• systematic comparison</li> </ul>	<p><b>Module 6: Synthesis and recommendations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• synthesis</li> </ul>

Table 1: The Six Elements (Modules) of the Research Project

The key results from the individual modules may be summarized as follows:

### Module 1: Meta-Evaluation and Evaluation Synthesis

A meta-evaluation of twelve evaluation studies of measures directed against right-wing extremism, racism, and antagonism toward foreigners that had been carried out in Switzerland, Germany, England, Australia, the U.S. and the EU revealed considerable qualitative heterogeneity in the studies. Overall, one can judge the quality of most of these studies as good. However, there are systematic weaknesses with respect to accuracy and utility.

The meta-evaluation revealed similar problems with respect to the conceptualization and implemen-

tation of the evaluations, tracing them back to the specific challenges posed by the phenomenon of “right-wing extremism” itself. Thus, various studies showed that it was difficult to delimit this phenomenon; an ambiguous use of the term at the level of the measure(s) undertaken creates difficulties for evaluation(s) as well. Given the nature of the specific object(s) of interest, evaluations move in an environment that is tricky (or delicate) for both political and legal reasons, and that poses special challenges for the evaluation.

### Module 2: Inventory of Measures

Our inventory of measures listed a total of 105 counter-measures undertaken in Switzerland from 1980 to 2005 in the area of right-wing extremism, racism, and antagonism toward foreigners. Most of these measures were undertaken in the area of education or in various problem-sensitization projects that were directed at the general public. The inventory also revealed that such measures were mostly resorted to only once a right-wing incident directly endangered public safety and order, and/or when the public image of a political institution was negatively impacted as a result of the incident. As a result, measures have tended to be sporadic or have arisen as an immediate response to a particular situation; measures showing continuity over time were largely absent.

### Modules 3, 4 and 5: Evaluation of Selected Measures (Case Studies)

Seven specific measures that have been undertaken in Switzerland were evaluated (Table 2). In this evaluation, the measures were examined with respect to their effectiveness. The various challenges posed by the specific contexts of the measures were investigated from the evaluation point of view as well.

*Table 2: Selected Measures for Evaluative Case Studies*

<i>Measure</i>	<i>Societal Sponsor</i>	<i>Level</i>	<i>Arena</i>	<i>Intent</i>	<i>Frequency</i>
Special Office in the Army (2002-06)	army, public administration	national	army, administration	coordination, sensitization	permanent, repeated
‘Respecting – Disrespecting’: Teaching Materials (2001)	publisher	community	education	sensitization, information	selective, repeated
Federal Report on Right-wing Extremism (2000)	public administration	national	administration, various	various	mixed
Basel Land Report on Right-wing Extremism (2001)	public administration	canton	administration, various	various	mixed
‘Fritz und Fränzi’: Parent’s Magazine (2006)	foundation	civil society	parents	sensitization, information	selective, one-time
‘White Terror’: A Documentary Film (2006)	film production	civil society	culture	sensitization, information	permanent, repeated

Advanced Training Course in the Army (2002-06)	army	national	army	sensitization, prevention	permanent, repeated
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In all the evaluated case studies, it was possible to discern effects that could be traced back to the measures themselves. However, from a methodological point of view, it is worth noting that such short-term effects are frequently found immediately after a particular measure has been implemented. If one assumes that the underlying phenomena occur in waves, then one frequently can observe a weakening of the problem or issue even in the absence of adopting a particular measure; this should be kept in mind when a measure is undertaken as an immediate response to an acute situation.

The particular measures evoked quite differing effects among the individual groups of addressees; the degree of implementation also differed by the respective measure. To what extent the actual addressees of the measures could actually be reached is questionable particularly in those projects that are based on a voluntary use of the measure (or what it has to offer). In the case of measures intended to sensitize, it is often the case that the primary target group – those poorly sensitized to the issue or problem and/or poorly informed – cannot be reached at all: a certain basic sensitivity to the issue is a prerequisite for utilizing what a measure has to offer.

#### Module 6: Synthesis and Recommendations

We have developed two instruments that are based on what we learned from the various modules. They are directed at different target groups:

The Guidelines for Evaluating Measures Taken against Right-wing Extremism wishes to reach those who are responsible for measures undertaken against right-wing extremism. They are intended to transmit basic information about evaluation as well as the knowledge gained about the specific evaluation of such measures; the goal is to make the implementation, as well as the evaluation accompanying that implementation, easier.

Specifics in Evaluating Measures Taken against Right-wing Extremism is primarily directed to those evaluation specialists who stand faced with the challenge of carrying out an evaluation of measures undertaken against right-wing extremism. They have general knowledge, as well as experience, of evaluation itself but lack the specific knowledge of, or experience with, measures undertaken against right-wing extremism.

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