

GREASE Indicators Metrics: Overview

For use with the GREASE Indicators Toolkit

From the EU-funded GREASE project

<http://grease.eui.eu>

Indicator 1: Relations between state and religious institutions

This first set of indicators assesses the relationship between the state (represented by government institutions and legal frameworks) and religious institutions in a given country. It includes eight specific measures that focus on participation of religious institutions in political decision-making, presence of religiously-based political parties in political life, interference of the state in the administrative and religious matters of religious communities and religious institutions, the existence of religious educational institutions and religious media. Each of the eight sub-indicators contains a legal and a practical dimension. The legal dimension measures the relevant legal provisions in a country's Constitution or other laws, while the "practical" dimension measures what happens in practice. For instance: Does the Constitution allow for the existence of religious parties? And do such parties exist? And if so, are they allowed to operate in full freedom or do they face specific restrictions or regulations?

Indicator 2: Religious diversity & status of religious minority groups

The second set of indicators focuses on the level of religious diversity and the status of religious minority groups in a given country. By "religious minority group" we refer to all religious groups/communities/collectivities that are not considered to be part of an existing majority religious group regardless of whether they have legal recognition or not. Within this set of indicators we first assess the level of religious diversity among the population of a given country as a baseline, contextual information. We then assess seven different types of issues that pertain to the status of religious minority groups in that country, notably their legal recognition, their participation in political life, their ownership of houses of worship and their access to public funds. Here too each measure includes a legal and a practical dimension distinguishing between the letter of the law and the reality on the ground.

Indicator 3: Radicalisation levels

The third set of indicators looks at the scale and intensity of religiously-inspired radicalisation and violent extremism in a given country, including structural factors, social drivers such as experienced discrimination and alienation, the incidence and magnitude of religious extremist violence and the role of significant violent extremist actors and mobilising networks. This set of indicators includes three sets of measures (also see graph below):

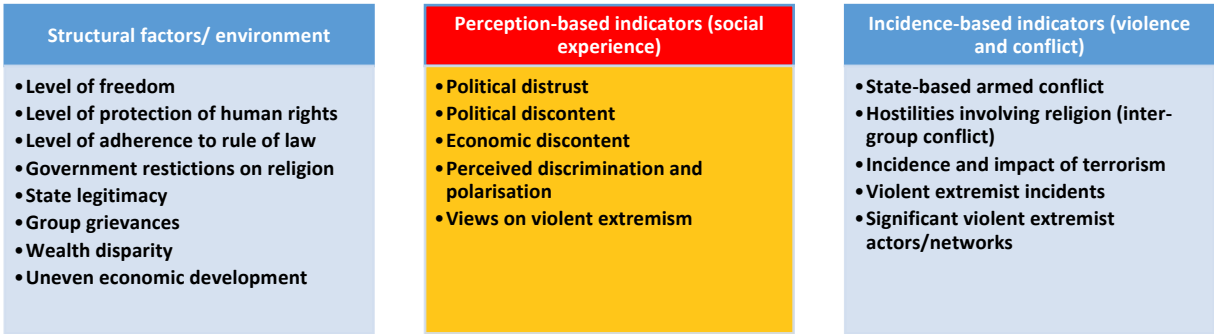
Structural factors/environment: we include here eight measurements that capture broader contextual factors in a given country that may give rise to societal grievances and discontent. These include the level of respect of human rights, civil liberties and political rights, adherence to the rule of law, economic inequality, as well as government restrictions on religion. A decline in any of these may greatly contribute to an "enabling" environment where religiously attributed radicalisation and extremism may flourish.

This set of indicators is largely based on existing global indices such as the Freedom in the World Index, the Fragile States Index and the Rule of Law index.

Perception-based indicators (social experiences): This set includes 10 measures that capture individual and group experience of social alienation, which can produce conditions that may push individuals or groups to become vulnerable to violent extremist ideological frames and mobilising networks. This set of indicators captures political, economic and social grievances (incl. economic and political discontent, institutional distrust), as well as perceived and experienced discrimination on behalf of minority groups. Two items from this category also measure to what extent there is popular support for certain violent extremist (religious) ideas, actors or actions, as well as to what extent extremism is already perceived as a major concern for a society. These sub-indicators are measured by data on social values, attitudes and perceptions from national, regional or worldwide surveys (such as Eurobarometer, Arab Barometer, Pew Research Global Attitudes Survey).

Incidence-based indicators (religious violence and conflict): This set of indicators measures the incidence of religiously-motivated violence and conflict, including terrorist incidents and their impact (based on the Global Terrorism Index data), state-based armed conflict, incidence of violent extremist acts (based on criminal statistics, including hate crimes), the scale of violent religious hostilities and inter-group conflict (based on the Social Hostilities Index BY Pew Research Center) as well as the existence of significant violent extremist actors/networks. This set of measures assesses the extent to which there are significant religiously-motivated violent extremist actors (encompassing formal and informal organisations, loose networks or individual actors such as influential recruiters) present in the country.

Overview of GREASE Indicator 3: Violent radicalisation



Indicator 4: Radicalisation prevention measures

This set of indicators assesses the extent to which the government is engaged in preventing and combatting religiously-inspired violent radicalisation. The relevant measures look at the criminalisation of violent extremist acts and terrorism as well as the existence of prevention and de-radicalisation programs. To design and structure the components of this indicator we rely on baseline documents such as the UN Secretary General Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism. There are 10 measures included here that refer both to the legal dimension (legislation and policy, the existence of relevant programs) and the implementation dimension (the extent to which such programs are developed in practice, the areas addressed and the stakeholders involved).