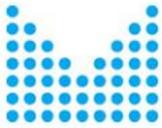


MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR  
OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

# Psychological aspects of radicalization

results of research in Czech prison population

Štěpán Vymětal, Andrea Šíchová



## Purpose

- From the needs of the **Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic**
  - The profile of the potential radicals is different in the Eastern and Western European countries, the research helps us to understand the situation in the Czech Republic
- Cooperation with the **Prison Service of the Czech Republic** and Department of Psychology at the **Charles University**
- The aim was to map the situation related to radicalization in Czech prisons and to provide the materials for further education of the prison staff and other involved security service



# Participants

## 18 prisons in the Czech Republic

### 67 men in the potential risk of radicalization

(analysis of the court files)

- average age - 34
- nationality - 61 Czech, 3 Slovak, 2 Algerian and 1 Russian
  - 11 identified as belonging to Roma ethnicity
- average sentence duration - 7 y. 9 m.

### 26 prison staff

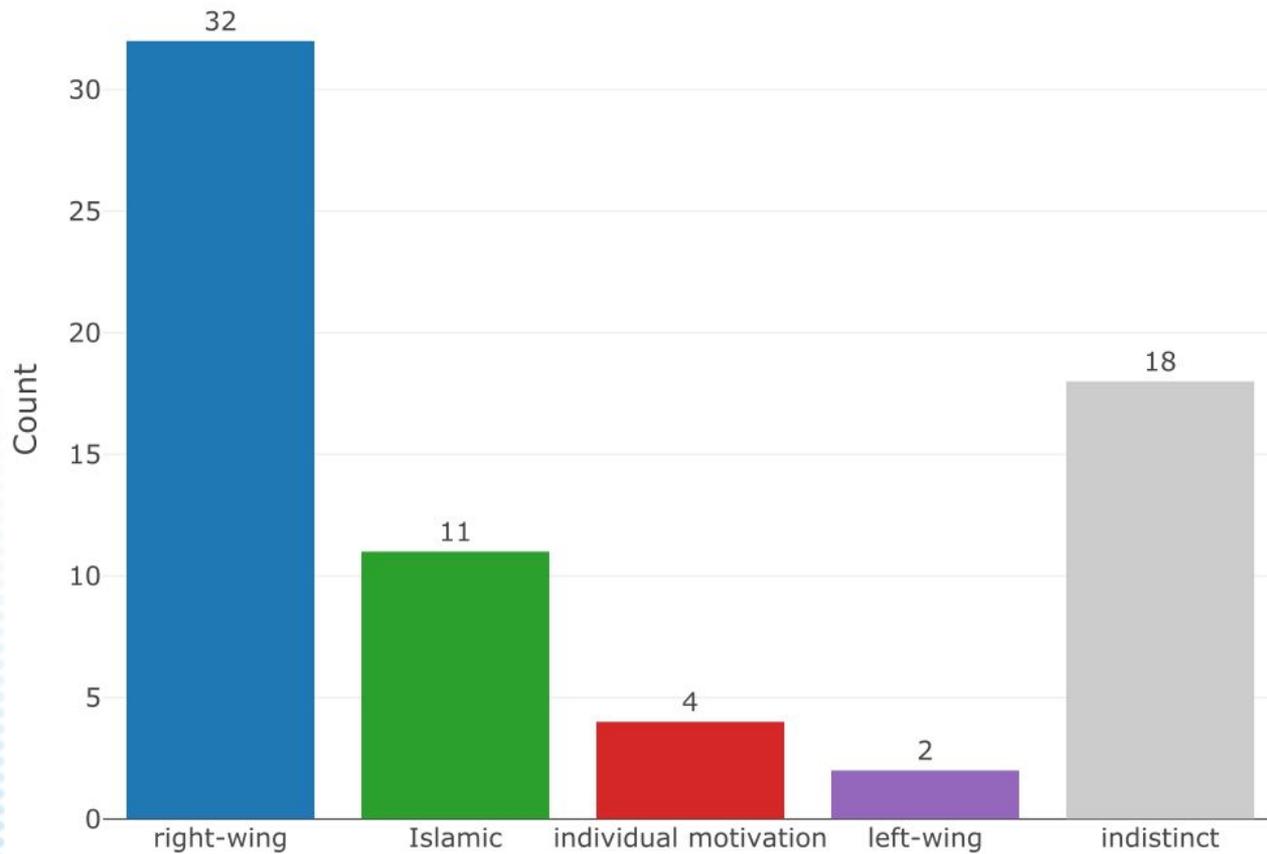
(structured questionnaires)

- 19 psychologists, 3 internal crime and prevention staff, 2 special education teachers, 1 tutor, 1 therapist
- 9 women, 17 men



## Prisoners

Type of the radicalization

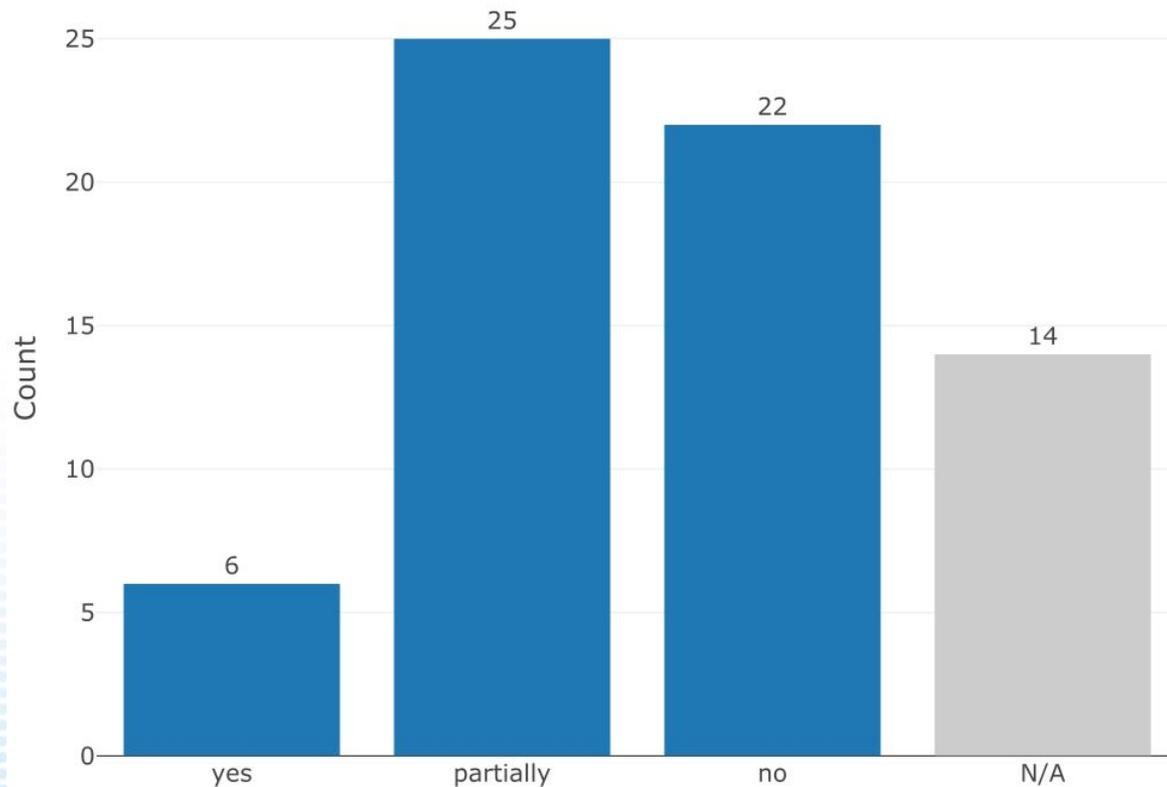




## Prisoners

- Previous criminality - 87% (30% repeatedly imprisoned)
- Low positive evaluation of the resocialization potential

Evaluation of resocialization potencial

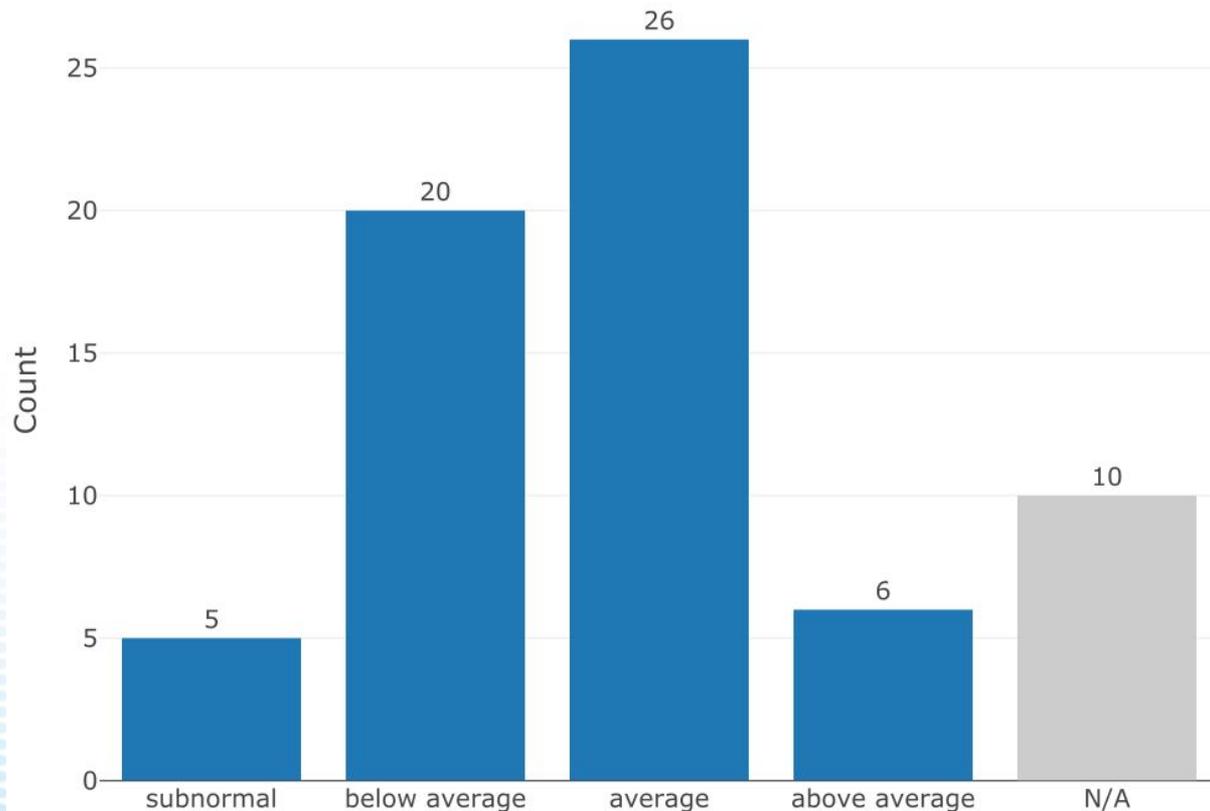




## Prisoners

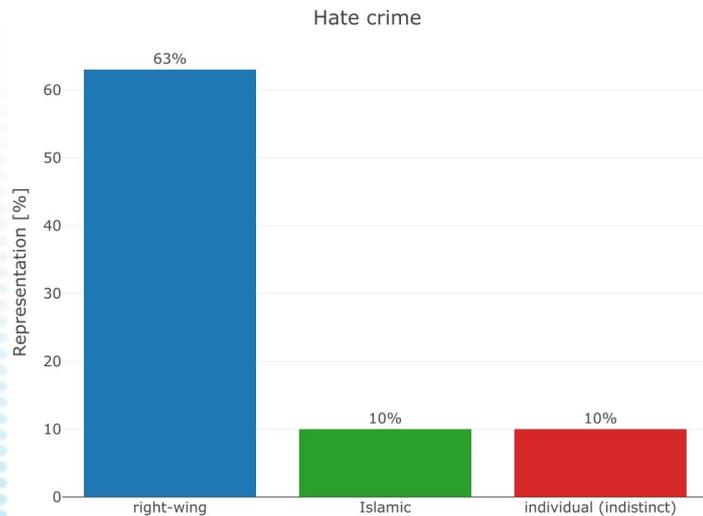
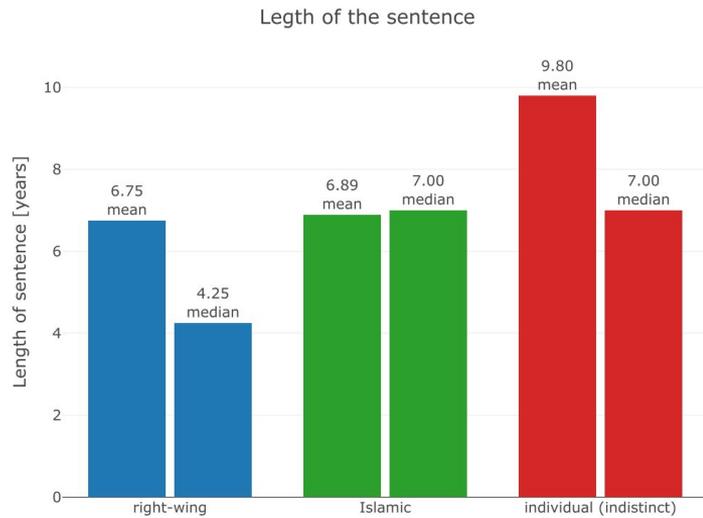
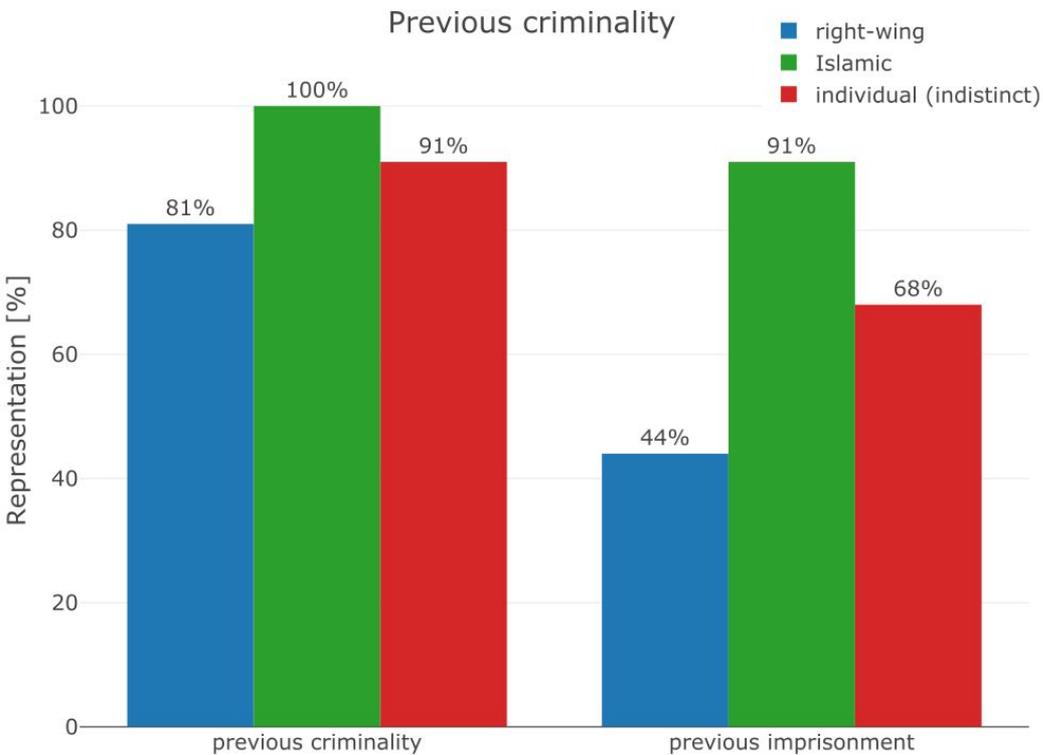
- Psychopathology - 36%  
(personality disorder,  
alcohol / drug  
dependence, anxiety)
- Social pathology - 63%
- Intellect below average

Estimated intellect





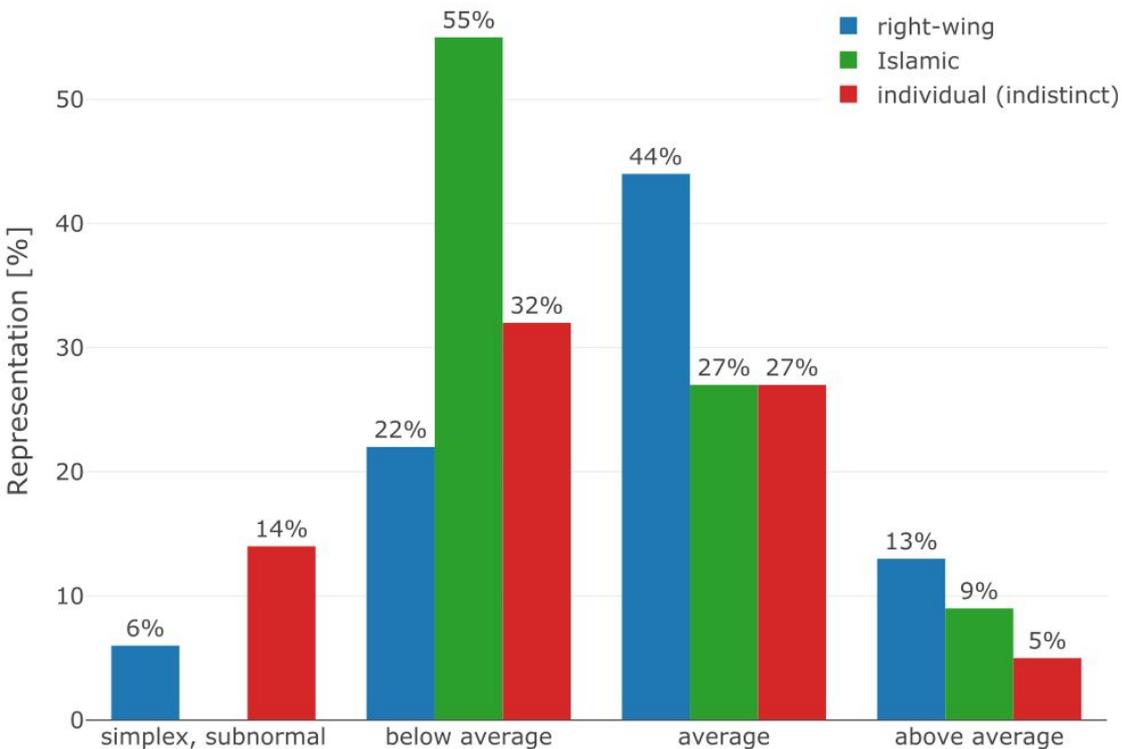
# Prisoners - comparison



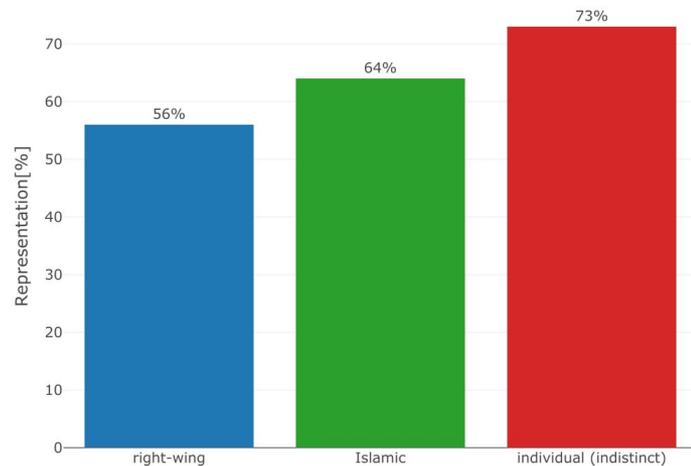


# Prisoners - comparison

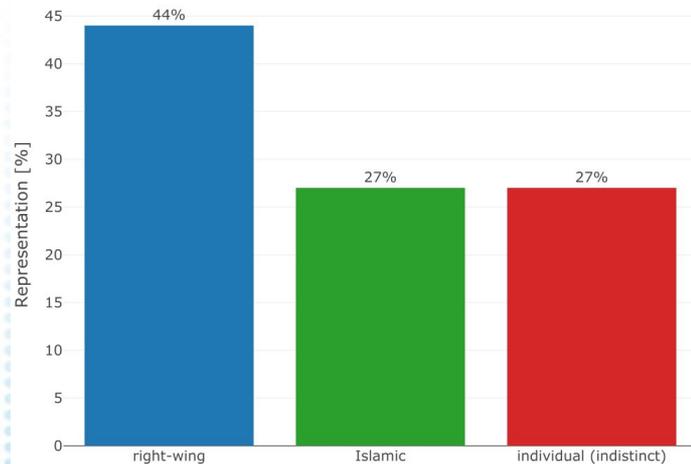
## Estimated intellect



## Social pathology



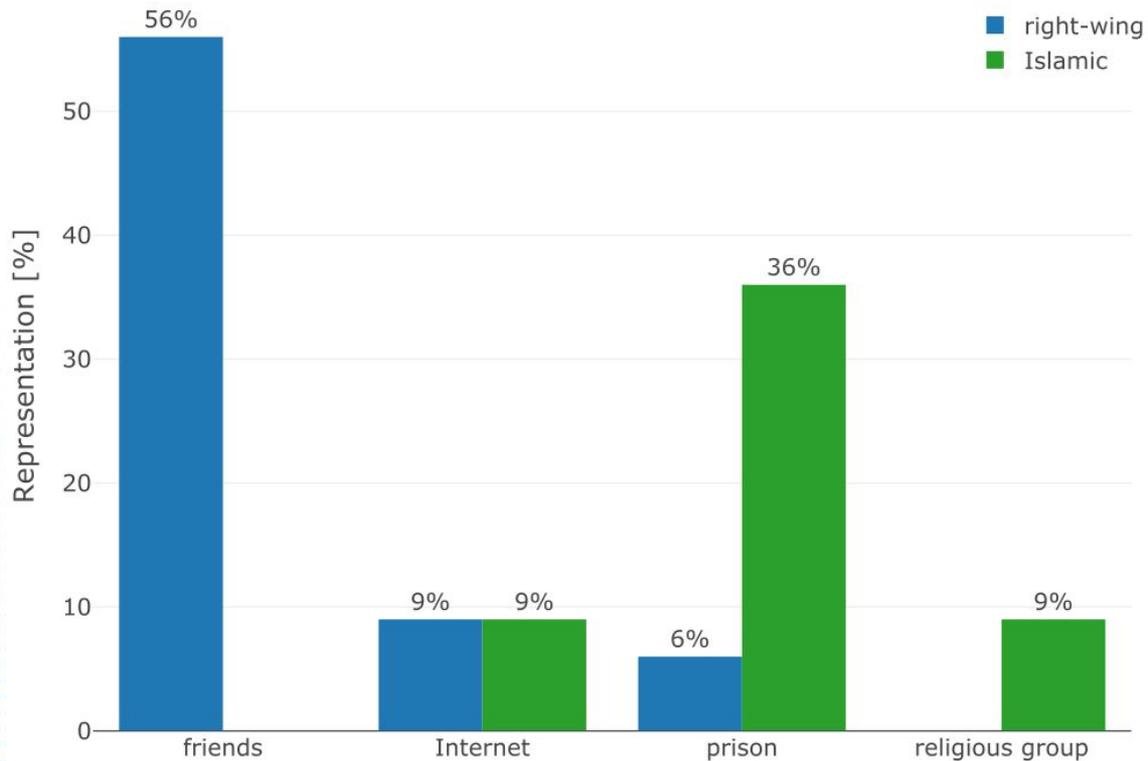
## Psychopathology

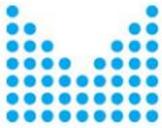




# Prisoners - comparison

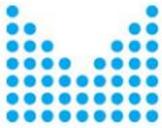
Potential radicalization environment





## Prison staff

- **Preparedness** of the staff in prison (1-10): **5**
- Potential **risk of radicalization** in the prison (1-10): **2,4**
- Situation in the individual prisons is **diverse**
- Request for **more training** (especially for tutors)
- Lack of **sharing good practice** between the prisons
- Deeper focus on the **right-wing radicalization** would be needed



## Conclusion

- Information about the current situation regarding radicalization and its forms in Czech prisons
- The profile of the radicals can change quickly
- Different challenges than in Western European countries
- Specific threats: **right-wing radicalization** and **self-radicalization** of individuals
- Results serve to raise the awareness of the staff involved in the field of deradicalization
- Other current topics in the context of the Czech Republic: **political polarization**, **radicalization of the public**, **hybrid threats** and **propaganda**



MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR  
OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Thank you for your attention!

[a.sichova@gmail.com](mailto:a.sichova@gmail.com)