Speaker Bio & Contribution

**Biography**

**Mr. Leif VILLADSEN**

Senior Programme Officer, United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI)

Mr. Villadsen has over 19 years of international experience with the United Nations in management and operations of criminal justice and crime prevention programmes, including programmes to strengthen cross border information sharing, international judicial and law enforcement cooperation, and to develop services for the rehabilitation and reintegration of violent extremist offenders. Mr. Villadsen has developed and managed technical cooperation programmes in several regions, including in countries of the Middle East and North Africa, Asia and Europe. Currently, Mr. Villadsen acts as Senior Programme Officer for the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI).

**UNICRI, Countering the appeal of terrorism**

There is a growing global consensus on the fact that Member States' efforts to detect, disrupt, pursue, detain and/or prosecute terrorists cannot defeat violent extremism without interventions to counter the ideologies that stimulate the flow of recruits into these criminal organizations. Many Member States have expressed a desire to learn and share information about each other’s experiences, lessons learned and good practices in this respect. The UNICRI action in this field is conceived to meet the need to identify innovative means to prevent and counter radicalization and terrorist recruitment, and provide Member States with actionable knowledge to strengthen national capacity. Examples of UNICRI's work will be introduced during the presentation.