

TERRORISM IN THE EU IN 2019

Islamist terrorism attacks, attempted attacks and plots

Summary

In 2019, **25 terrorist incidents** targeted the European Union, including 3 attacks, 5 attempts and 17 terrorist plots.

France was the most targeted country in Western Europe with one attack, 3 attempts and 4 plots.

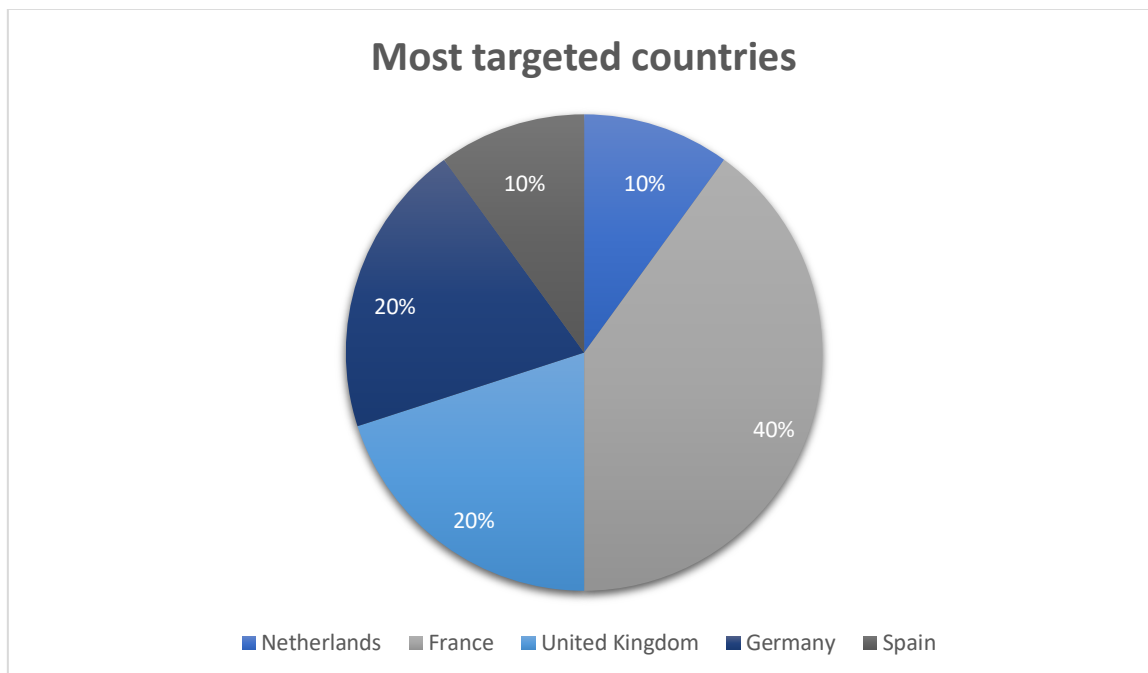
Terrorists have mostly targeted **security forces with 32 percent** of the incidents in Western Europe **and 75 percent¹ of the incidents in France**

Firearms were the most selected weapon. In 40 percent of the plots, the perpetrators projected to use firearms.

In 2019, the attacks in the European Union killed **10 and wounded 34.**

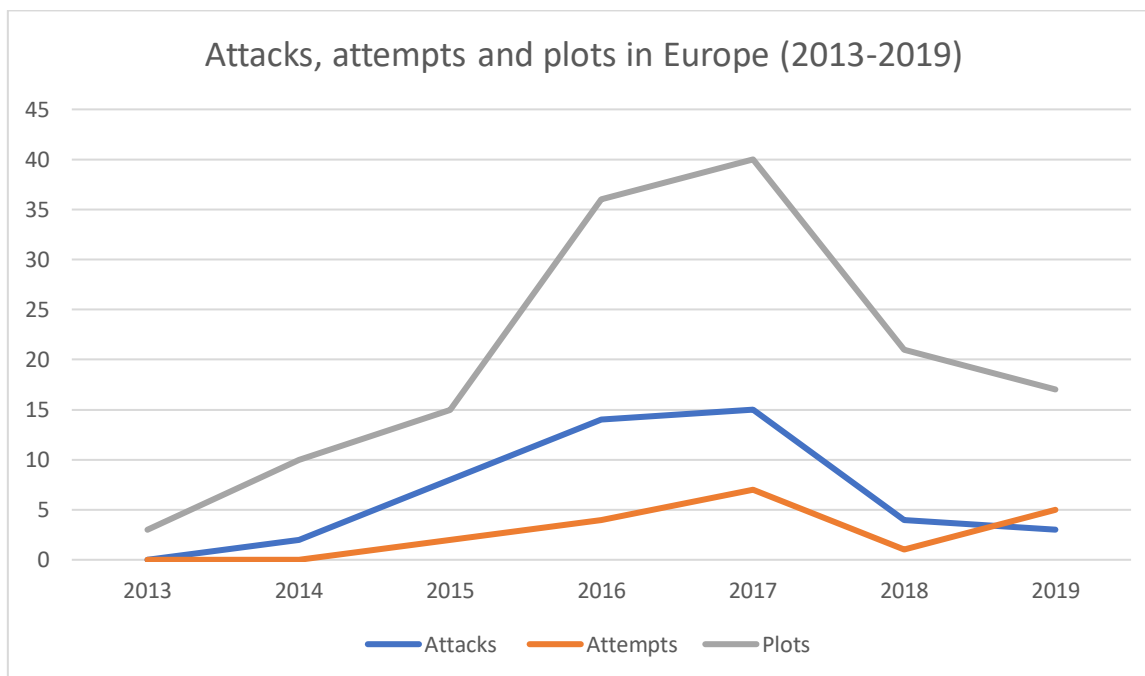
Two “returnees” were involved in attacks, attempts and plots.

Country breakdown



¹ 6 of the 8 incidents

Number of attacks, attempts and plots In Europe (2013-2019)



In 2019, 3 terrorist attacks, 5 attempts and 17 terrorist plots have been carried out inside the European Union in connection with Islamist terrorism against 4 attacks, one attempt and 21 plots in 2018.

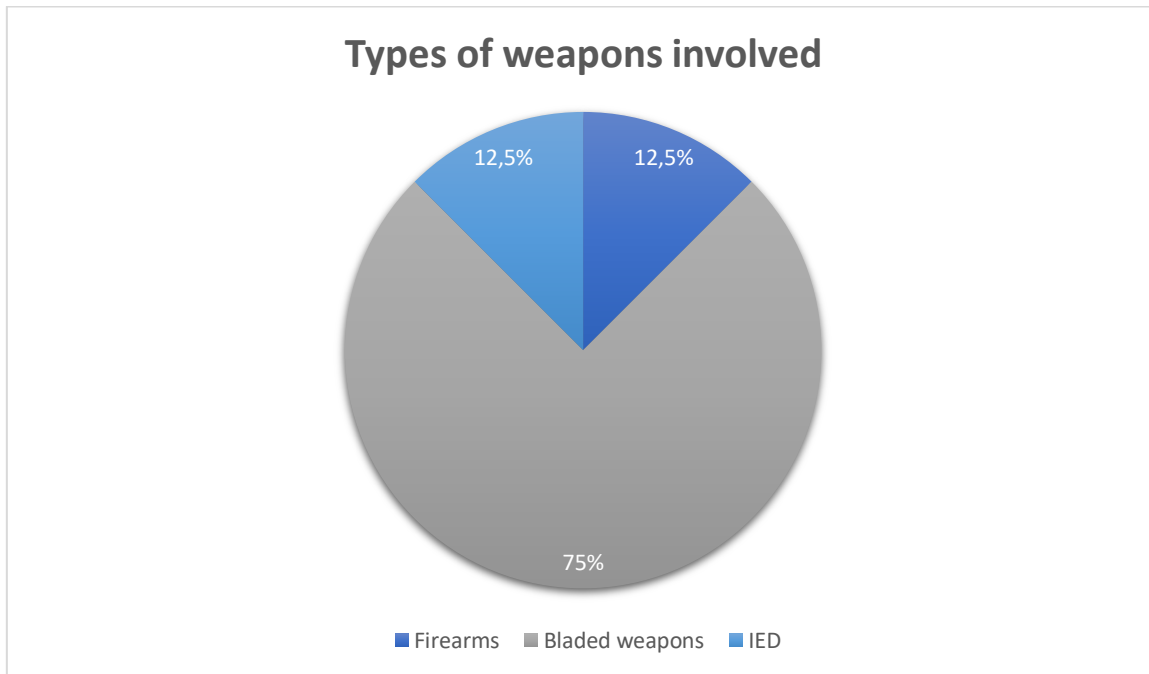
France was the most targeted country (32 percent of the incidents), ahead of the United Kingdom (16 percent), Germany (16 percent), Spain (8 percent) and the Netherlands (8 percent)².

The number of attacks in Europe constantly increased between 2013 and 2017 (2 in 2014, 8 in 2015, 14 in 2016 and 15 in 2017). The number of attacks has been declining since 2018 (4 attacks in 2018 and 3 in 2019).

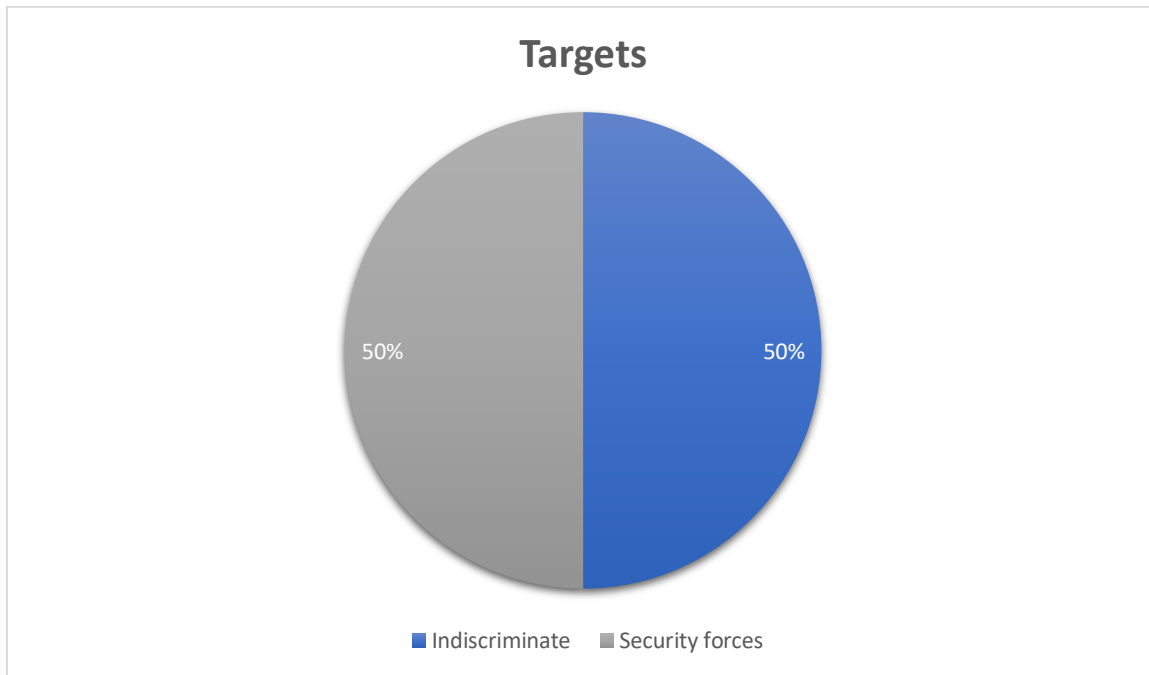
² Other targeted countries included Italy, Bulgaria, Belgium, Austria and Denmark

Terrorist attacks and attempts in Europe (2019)

Weapons

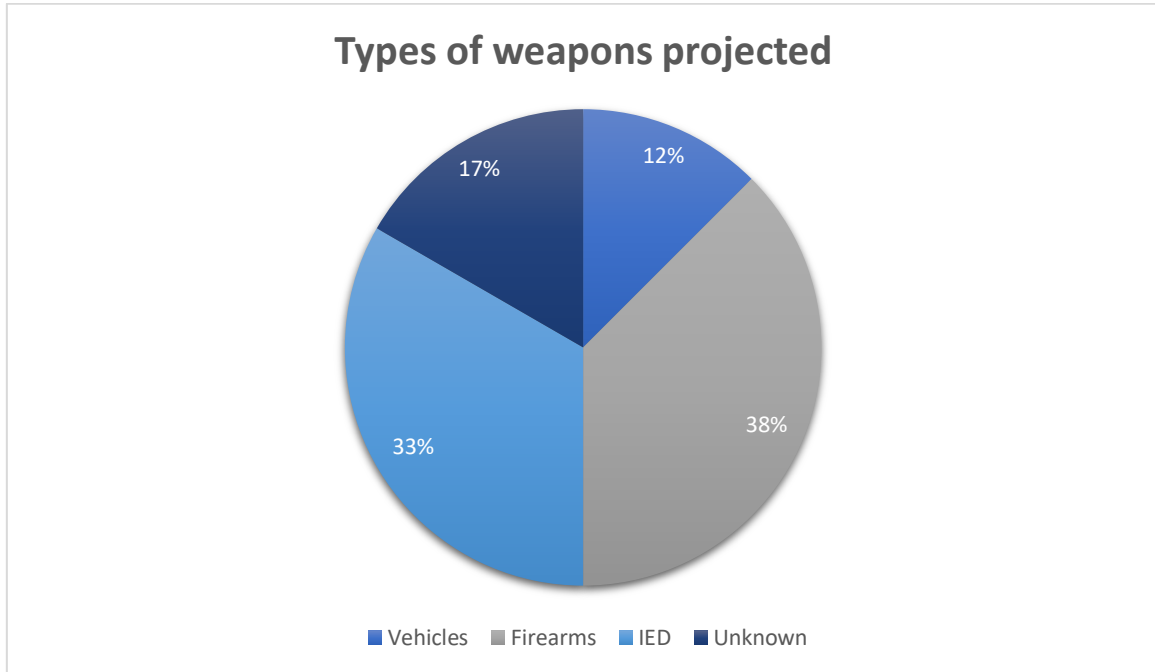


Targets

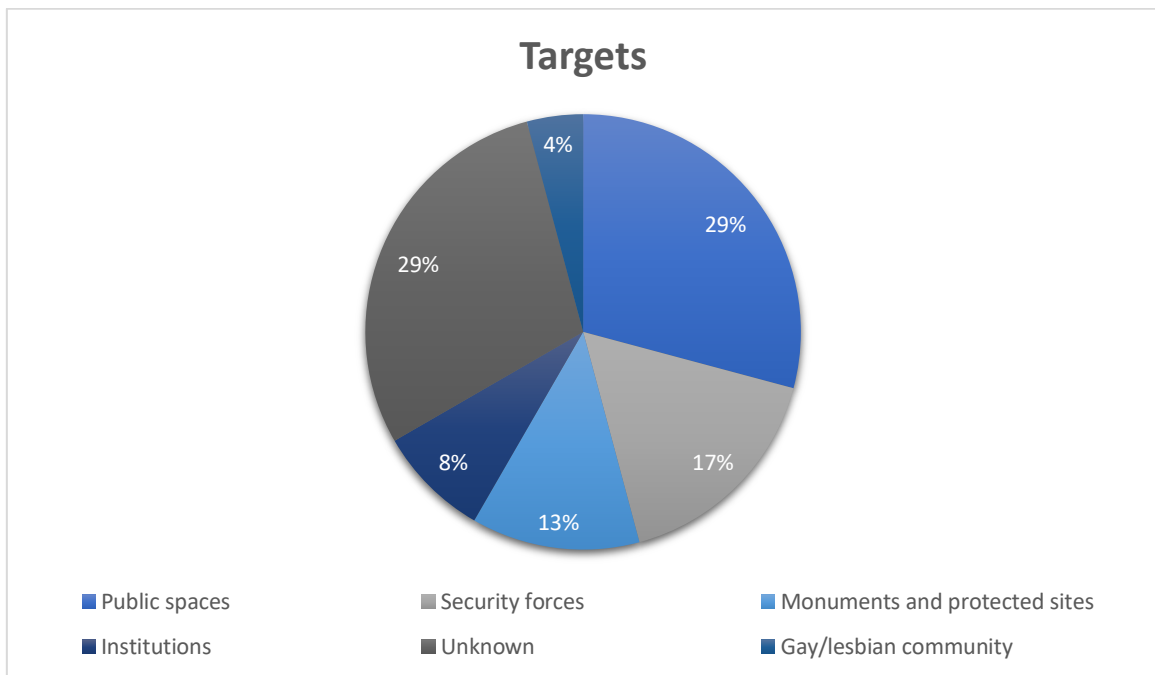


Terrorist plots in Europe (2019)

Weapons



Targets



Profiles

In 2019, 74 individuals were involved in the documented incidents. Two of them were returnees. Among the incidents, **2 women were involved in plots and one in an attempt.**

Directional link

Terrorist actions can be directed (planned and carried out by one or some individuals from Syria tasked by their organization), remotely-guided (carried out by individuals without jihadist experience abroad and in contact with a remote-planner abroad) or inspired (carried out by individuals responding to calls from a terrorist organization without having a direct link to it). **In 2019, no action was directed. 29 percent of the documented incidents were inspired and 4 percent were remotely-guided.**

In 2019, the threat was mainly endogenous due to the evolution of the military situation in Syria which reduced the jihadist activity and the capacity of the Islamic State to launch attacks in Europe.

Victims

In 2019, 44 individuals were victims of the Islamic terrorism in the European Union with 10 dead and 34 injured, compared to 13 dead and 37 injured in 2018.

Focus on France

In 2019, France was the most targeted country by Islamist terrorism despite the significant decrease of the terrorist incidents. In 2018, 7 terrorist attacks were foiled compared to 4 in 2019. France faced 3 attacks in 2018 against one in 2019

Between 2013 and 2019, France was targeted by 94 incidents: 14 attacks, 20 attempts and 60 plots.

3 of the terrorist actions (37.5 percent) were prepared in jail and targeted prison guards.

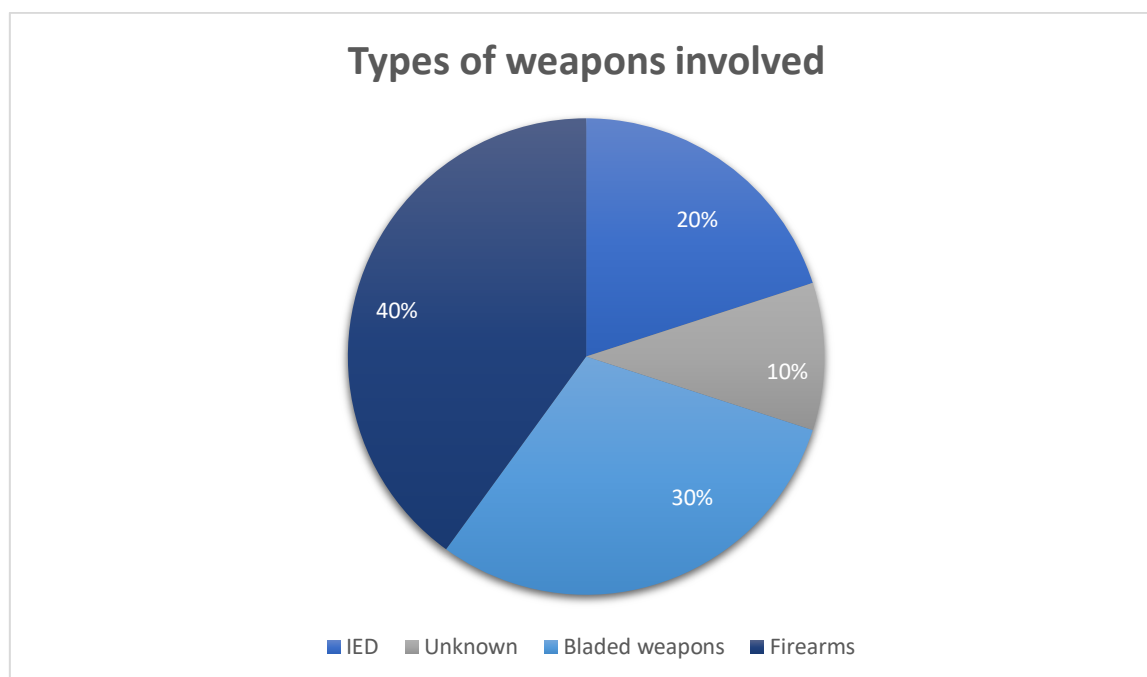
One terrorist act involved an individual³ who was released from prison after having served his sentence. He was convicted of having tried to join the Syrian-Iraqi area.

One “returnee” from Syria to be released the following month was involved in a plot to attack prison guards.

From a global perspective, the security forces (police, military personnel and prison guards) were targeted in 75 percent of the plots, attempts and attacks in 2019, against 25 percent in 2018.

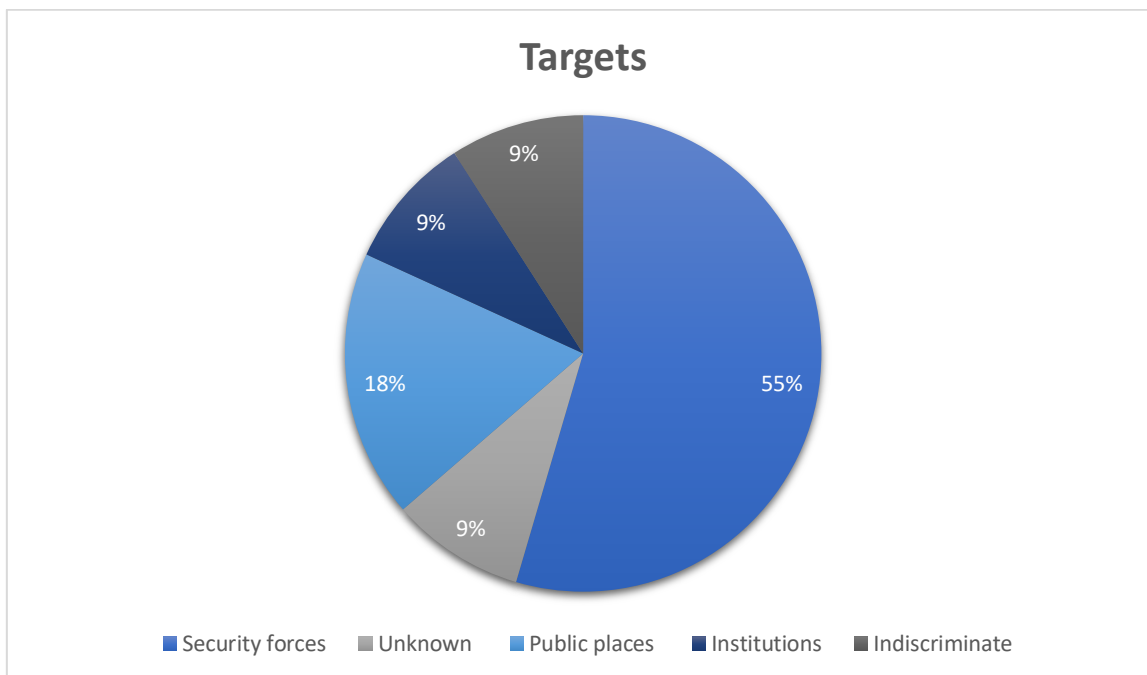
Attacks, attempts and plots in France (2019)

Types of weapons involved



³ Minor at the time

Targets in France (2019)⁴



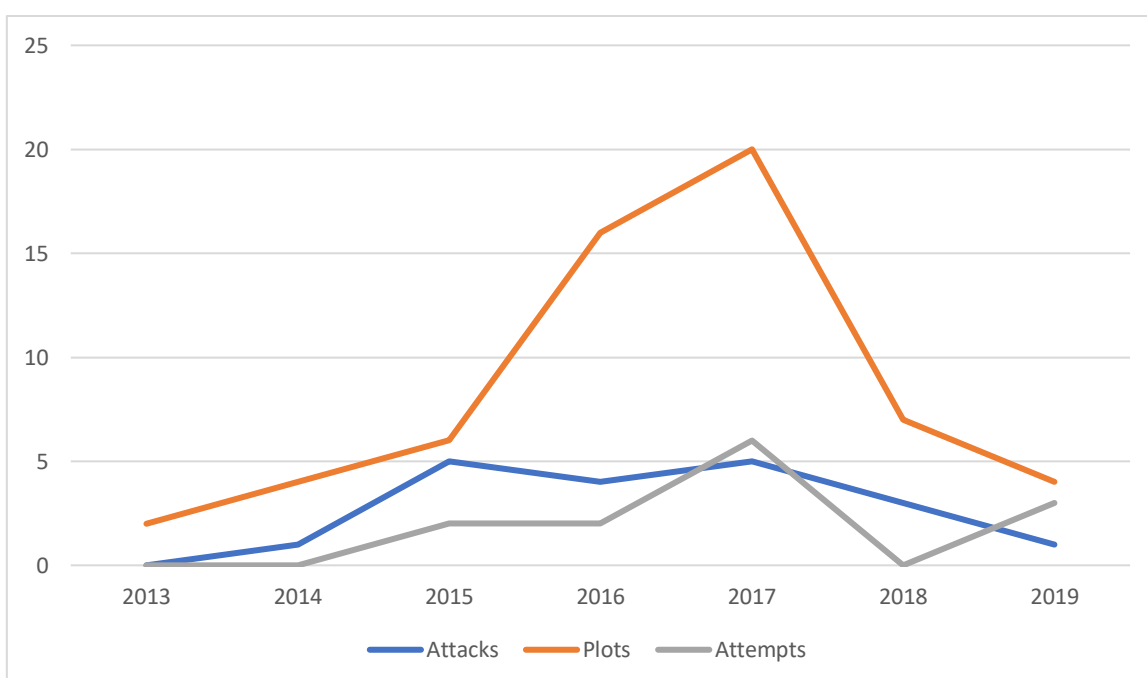
Profiles

In 2019, **16 individuals** were involved in the documented events. **Two returnees from the Syrian-Iraqi area were involved in the incidents.** The **average age of individuals involved in terrorist incidents is 28 years old.** 15 individuals were male and one female.

Victims

In 2019, the fatalities resulting from Islamist terrorism have decreased in France with 4 dead and 18 injured compared to 10 dead and 30 injured in 2018.

Terrorist attacks, attempts and plots in France (2013-2019)



⁴ For a single incident, several targets might be selected by the terrorists