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RAN Collection practice template

Name of the practice

Please note that by practice we mean an activity/method/tool that has been used or is in use by professionals and/or community members.

Description

(max. 300 words)

Short description of the aim and working method of the practice. Please note that in this description, it must be clear that there is an explicit connection to preventing and/or countering radicalisation and/or violent extremism. This means that in the aims and/or the activities/methods/tools of the practice, there is a link to preventing and countering radicalisation and/or violent extremism. Practices without this link cannot be included in the RAN Collection.

Returnee Coordination Berlin

Seven German federal states were developing a strategy on how to re-integrate people who had left Germany in order to join Islamist groups, primarily the Islamic State in the Levantine. In charge are the so called "Returnee Coordinators" funded by the Federal Office of Migration and Refugees and affiliated to either state departments or national security agencies. In 2019, the federal State of Berlin decided to employ its Coordinator at the Senate Department for the Interior and Sport.

The core task of the Coordinator is to create a multi-professional and interdisciplinary network in which various responsibilities are defined, case-related information is shared, and individual measures are taken. This establishment of a multi-agency network, in addition to the already existing facilities, is set as a basis for a rapid action response in the event of a pending repatriation while insuring a well-structured support system with the aim of stabilising, re-socialising and eventually re-integrating returnees into the majority society. The returnee network includes partners in the field of security, intelligence, employment, education, housing, social welfare, family, counselling, medical and psychological support.

Key themes

Please <u>choose</u> 2 key themes most corresponding with the practice.

Rehabilitation

Local strategies/cities

Target audience

First responders or practitioners





Please <u>choose</u> a minimum of one target audience most corresponding with the practice.	Authorities Local Community Organisations / NGOs
Geographical scope Please indicate where the practice has been/is implemented (countries, regions, cities).	Berlin, Germany
Start of the practice Please indicate when (year) the practice was developed and implemented to indicate the maturity of the practice. In case the practice is no longer active, please indicate when it ended.	Starting year: 2019
Deliverables Please indicate if the practice has led to concrete deliverables, such as (links to) handbooks, training modules, videos.	
Evidence and evaluation Short description on performance measures of the practice, including 1. qualitative views and quantitative (statistical) data e.g. measure of the success of your project or intervention. 2. evaluation and feedback, including surveys and/or anecdotal evidence e.g. have you done either an internal or external evaluation, have you encouraged any feedback from	Qualitative or quantitative data on the success of the Returnee Coordination has not been obtained. The Returnee Coordinator is required to identify problems, challenges, and good practices by reflecting on the daily work. These findings are then shared at regularly organised roundtable meetings for the Returnee Coordinators by the Federal Office of Migration and Refugees. The meetings provide an opportunity to analyse internally and to evaluate distinctive features within the respective Federal State, and accordingly develop proposals for further optimisation. Furthermore, the impact of deradicalisation strategies for individuals that have returned are also assessed. However, since the position of Returnee Coordinator was recently introduced to Berlin (August 2019) a premature evaluation of the project would be inadequate. An external evaluation for long-term results of the project is, however, currently being discussed.

The participants' feedback on the RAN Study Visit was exceptionally positive. The input shared by the coordinators seemed to be especially supportive for practitioners who are still in the early phase of establishing such a coordination within their respective country. In addition, the feedback of the Study Visit was also beneficial to the Returnee Coordinator as it revealed that practitioners in other EU Member States also faced similar challenges such as different perspectives and interests between governmental institutions and civil society practitioners. Hence, it is essential to find

Please elaborate on the outcomes of your monitoring and evaluation efforts.

where the practice was

discussed.

3. <u>peer review</u> which feedback did

the practice receive in the RAN

working group and/or study visit

your target group?





strategies that enforce a trust-based cooperation and transparent information sharing.

Sustainability and transferability

(maximum of 200 words)

Short description on the sustainability and transferability of the practice, including e.g. information on the costs of the practice. Please elaborate on which elements are transferrable and how.

With the aim of developing a best practice model, the model of Returnee Coordination has developed and implemented a new strategy for the re-integration of persons who had once joined violent Islamist groups abroad. It has also steered and managed a multi-agency network of governmental as well as civil-society practitioners. Additionally, the Returnee Coordination has been working on raising awareness among the state institutions in order to work towards improving the exchange of case-related information and interdepartmental cooperation.

The experience gained within the returnee network can serve as a basis of further optimisation in the area of combating extremism as well as providing a framework for the establishment of a support system for other focus groups. The three main transferable elements are:

- 1. The establishment of a network of governmental as well as civil society practitioners with the emphasis on one focus group.
- 2. The creation of a regulated reporting chain that secures the reliable sharing of case-related information and prevents the information from being passed on to unauthorised individuals such as media representatives or the community.
- 3. The establishment of case-tailored round table meetings that ensure the transparent exchange of information, clarify responsibilities, and plan individual measures effectively. Furthermore, they provide the opportunity to build trust-based relationships and resolve prejudices amongst different actors as well as intensive work relationships.

Presented and discussed in RAN meeting

Please note that to be included in the Collection, the practice is preferably nominated through one of the RAN meetings. Add name of the RAN Working Group/event, date, place and subject of meeting. Name: RAN Policy Support Workshop (Prevent)

Date: 20/06/2022

Place: Berlin

Subject: Information-sharing mechanisms for the follow-up of child returnees: data processing and

multi-agency approaches

Name: RAN in the Western Balkans Study Visit

Date: 28-29/04/2022

Place: Berlin

Subject: Returnee Coordination Berlin: Management of Returnee Foreign Terrorist Fighters and their Family

Members in Berlin



Name: RAN Policy Support Virtual Study Visit

Date: 19-20/01/2022

Place: Berlin

Subject: Exploring Germany's approach to dealing with

FTF returnees

Name: RAN EU-US Study Visit

Date: 24-25/03/2021

Place: Berlin

Subject: A First Exchange

Name: RAN Study Visit

Date: 24/06/2020

Place: Berlin

Subject: Returnee Coordinators in Germany: Visit to

Hesse and Berlin

Linked to other EU initiatives or EU funding

(maximum of 100 words)

Please indicate how your project was funded, if your practice is linked to other EU initiatives or projects, AND explicitly note if it is (co-) funded by the EU, and if so, by which funds? Such as Erasmus +, Internal Security Funds (ISF), European Social Fund (ESF), Horizon 2020, etc.

The Returnee Coordination was funded by the German National Programme for the Prevention of Islamic Extremism (NPP) through the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees of Germany (BAMF) and has now been transferred to federal-state-owned structures.

Organisation

(enter maximum of 100 words and select organisation type)

Please briefly describe the organisation behind the practice including the legal status e.g. NGO, governmental, limited company, charity etc.

The Returnee Coordination in Berlin is employed at the division of "Public Safety and Order – Strategic Control of the Fight against Islamist Terrorism, Deradicalisation and Prevention of Radicalisation" at the Senate Department for the Interior and Sport with the supervision of the police and fire brigade in Berlin.

Type of Organisation: Governmental institution

Country of origin

EU or EEA country: Germany



Country in which the practice is based.	
Contact details Please provide contact details of who can be contacted within the organisation, with name and email address.	Address: Senate Department for the Interior and Sport, Klosterstr. 47, 10179 Berlin, Germany Contact person: Amanie Dassan (Returnee Coordinator Department III – Public Safety and Order Strategic Control of the Fight against Islamist Terrorism, Deradicalisation and Prevention of Radicalization) Email: IIIC1@seninnsport.berlin.de Telephone: +49 30 90223 – 2185 Website: www.berlin.de/sen/inneres/
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