

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.

WomEx – Women/Gender in Extremism and Prevention

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.

The WomEx practice was derived from the following observations: (i) violent extremist, terrorist or hate crime offenders very frequently also hold sexist and homophobic attitudes, i.e. have highly rigid and conflictive issues related to gender (especially when linked to the two major threats of violent extremism, right-wing extremism and religious fundamentalism, both Muslim and Christian); (ii) these conflictive gender issues not only coincide with violent extremism and hate crime, but also constitute key psychological driving forces behind these phenomena; (iii) methods designed to address issues of gender and gender identity may therefore have a powerful and sustainable impact on prevention and deradicalisation interventions – one that often carries more weight than ideological/religious issues.

For example, practitioners have recurrently found that violently extremist young men compensate for an insecure sense of male identity and masculinity by acting out in hateful ways against women, homosexuals and others who by appearance or behaviour may confuse the restrictive gender role order valued by these young men. Moreover, findings have shown that women active in extremism overwhelmingly tend to support and actively reconfirm such restrictive gender roles: they thus share these sexist and homophobic attitudes and draw motivation from them for extremist activities. Practitioners note that at the same time, these women may feel empowered thanks to their newly gained opportunities for extremist engagement and activities (e.g. as ideological supporters) – by providing internal social cohesion, by helping to prepare terrorist actions, and

	<p>occasionally, by committing such hate crimes and attacks themselves.</p> <p>In turn, extremist movements take strategic advantage of such socially imposed gender roles: they position their female followers in inconspicuous positions where they can propagate extremism unobtrusively. For instance, in Germany, right-wing extremist women may participate in child daycare, parents' organisations, schools, and family welfare and professional social work. Their aim is to infiltrate these systems and support the current mainstreaming of right-wing extremist attitudes into the middle classes.</p> <p>Thus, both WomEx's gender-specific interventions with girls/women and its gender-focused methods across different settings are necessary components of any prevention strategy, and may be applied to great effect in deradicalisation and prevention settings.</p> <p>Originating in the Cultures Interactive (CI) 'Girrrl Power' workshops, WomEx has provided young at-risk persons with various methods for increasing awareness of gender roles and the part they play in key situations of conflict, hatred and escalation in their lives. In particular, WomEx interventions aim to make participants more aware of the intrinsic connection between rigid/restrictive gender roles, polarisation and violent extremism. Participants also learn how certain biographical and milieu-specific conditions (violent/relational/sexual abuse, neglect, degradation and psychological trauma) may lead to the adoption of restrictive and exclusionary gender role concepts, and at the same time may make women susceptible to violent extremist behaviour. WomEx methods work on promoting alternative and more inclusive modes of male and female identity practices, and training to establish alternative patterns of behaviour which comply with a human rights-based and prosocial understanding of gender within democratic citizenship.</p> <p>The WomEx project was a 'Prevention of and Fight against Crime' (ISEC) national starter measure in 2013-14.</p>
<p>Key themes</p> <p>Please <u>choose</u> 2 key themes most corresponding with the practice.</p>	<p>Gender/women</p> <p>Deradicalisation/disengagement</p>
<p>Target audience</p> <p>Please <u>choose</u> a minimum of one target audience most corresponding with the practice.</p>	<p>Families</p> <p>Local Community Organisations / NGOs</p>

	<p>Youth / Pupils / Students</p>
<p>Geographical scope</p> <p>Please indicate where the practice has been/is implemented (countries, regions, cities).</p>	<p>In Germany and internationally</p>
<p>Start of the practice</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Starting year: 2008</p> <p>Originally emerging from CI's 'Girrrl Power' workshops in 2008, WomEx was an ISEC national starter measure in 2013-14, and has cooperated with RAN Derad and with OSCE. WomEx methods constitute part of the CI's Fair Skills (FS) approach as well as the LocalDerad (Hako_reJu) youth worker training; in 2014, they were also part of a university education module for social workers.</p> <p>WomEx methods will be further developed as part of the CI's mission as Federal Centre of Excellence for Youth-Cultural Prevention of Violent Extremism and Xenophobia.</p> <p>The practice is currently being further developed through the German Federal Model Project 'Fair*in — gender conscious prevention of racism', where the topic is combined with work for refugees and mixed groups of locals and refugees in East and West Germany (http://cultures-interactive.de/de/fairin.html).</p>
<p>Deliverables</p> <p>Please indicate if the practice has led to concrete deliverables, such as (links to) handbooks, training modules, videos.</p>	<p>The WomEx.org website has been under development since late 2014. Various resources and materials (borrowed from similar approaches and organisations in the field) were added in 2015 and thereafter.</p> <p>Notably, a manuscript about the research underpinning the WomEx practice has been drafted and is available online (http://cultures-interactive.de/de/fachartikel.html).</p> <p>Reports have been drafted about two international WomEx conferences (in cooperation with the Radicalisation Awareness Network Deradicalisation (RAN Derad)).</p>

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 your target group?
3. peer review which feedback did the practice receive in the RAN working group and/or study visit where the practice was discussed.

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

The CI's practices were evaluated by the Association of Quality Assurance in NGO Work (Phineo) and were awarded the Phineo 'Method-works' certificate in 2014.

Previously, the CI's practices were evaluated, received scientific counselling and were showcased by the Federal Model Projects' evaluation and counselling department (attached to government programmes).

Throughout the European Fair Skills (EFS) project, the CI developed a '(self-) evaluation tool for quality assurance', which provided indicators and guiding questions to help evaluate and self-assess a prevention of violent extremism (PVE) intervention — and how well its concepts and tools can be transferred to other national settings.

The quality assurance tool was developed in cooperation with associate partner Phineo Association and the EU Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) research project 'Innovative methods and procedures for assessing counter-radicalisation techniques in Europe' (IMPACT Europe), which designs strategies to evaluate PVE activities.

Moreover, self-evaluation and client feedback collection have been and remain standing practice in the CI; they may be used as training modules for young peer-facilitators, who can then employ them in their own fledgling peer workshops.

WomEx has received positive feedback from RAN Derad specifically and RAN in general. Two international WomEx conferences were co-organised by the CI and RAN Derad (in Berlin, 2013 and Frankfurt, 2014).

On several occasions, WomEx and the CI have also worked with the Transnational Threats Department (TNT) of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) in the area of women and extremism/prevention. OSCE recently published its final report online (<http://www.osce.org/secretariat/120964>), incorporating many WomEx perspectives (mainly from the perspective of women as perpetrators).

WomEx results were also included in several OSCE conferences, and in a podcast recorded in 2014 at an international workshop ('Advancing women's roles in countering violent extremism and radicalisation that lead to terrorism') by the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF) and OSCE. Titled 'Women and girls as perpetrators of violent extremism', the podcast is available online

	<p>(https://soundcloud.com/osce/women-and-girls-as-perpetrators-of-violent-extremism).</p> <p>In OSCE and United Nations (UN) contexts, the CI/WomEx worked alongside Sisters Against Violent Extremism (SAVE). This collaboration led to a joint EU project application in 2015.</p>
<p>Sustainability and transferability (maximum of 200 words)</p> <p>Short description on the sustainability and transferability of the practice, including e.g. information on the costs of the practice. <u>Please elaborate on which elements are transferrable and how.</u></p>	<p>As demonstrated by UN, OSCE and RAN joint efforts, approaches to women/gender and extremism/prevention are highly transferable.</p> <p>Together with SAVE, CI/WomEx is applying for EU funding which would allow the practice to be developed further.</p> <p>WomEx sustainability will be supported thanks to the CI's appointment as Federal Centre of Excellence for Youth – Cultural Prevention of Violent Extremism and Xenophobia (by the government's Prevention Department) in 2015.</p> <p>There has been significant and sustained EU and global interest in the WomEx approach. For more information, see the sections 'overview activities' and 'dissemination activities' online (http://cultures-interactive.de/en/overview-activities.html).</p> <p>The WomEx approach and methods were subsequently incorporated into the European Fair Skills (DG Home/ISEC) and the 'Central and Eastern European Network for the Prevention of Intolerance and Group Hatred' (CEE Prevent Net) (DG Justice/REC) projects, which seek to exchange good practices in prevention and build local and international networks with a focus on central and eastern Europe. More information is available online (http://europeanfairskills.eu and http://ceepreventnet.eu)</p> <p>The WomEx approach and methods were also included in the following projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - German Federal Model Project 'Fair*in – gender conscious prevention of racism', working with locals and refugees in one East and one West German small town (http://cultures-interactive.de/de/fairin.html). - Berlin city project 'Spot on, Girls!', focusing on refugee and local young women and girls (http://cultures-interactive.de/de/spotongirls.html). - Phäno_Cultures, a project that develops and tests approaches towards prevention of religious and right-wing extremism among youth, based on the CI's youth culture

	<p>concept (http://www.cultures-interactive.de/de/phaenocultures.html).</p>
<p>Presented and discussed in RAN meeting</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Name: RAN DERAD</p> <p>Date: 2013, 2014</p> <p>Place: Berlin, Frankfurt</p> <p>Subject: WomEx conferences</p>
<p>Linked to other EU initiatives or EU funding (maximum of 100 words)</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>The WomEx practice is a key element in the current EU project CEE Prevent Net (October 2018-September 2020), funded by the DG Justice programme 'Rights, Equality and Citizenship', under the priority 'contributing to prevent and combat racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance'.</p> <p>CEE Prevent Net collaborates with nine central and eastern European partner organisations from seven countries, and will include peer evaluation; it is co-funded by the Visegrád Fund, the Democracy and Human Rights Education in Europe (DARE) network and the German national Prevent programme 'Live Democracy!'.</p> <p>CI is a member of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - European Network for Non-Violence and Dialogue (ENND) - Dialogue about Radicalisation and Equality (DARE) - European Network of Deradicalisation (ENoD) - IMPACT Europe - European Experts Network in Terrorism Affairs (EENeT), run by the Federal Criminal Police Office in Bonn/Germany - European Platform of Deradicalising Narratives (EDNA) <p>CI has (associate) partnerships with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - European Forum for Urban Security (EFUS) - Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF) <p>In similar European contexts, the CI cooperates with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - OSCE (Transnational Threats Department)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Professional Open Youth Work Europe (POYWE) - Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES) - Robert Bosch Foundation, the international stipend programme 'Civic Education in Action for practitioners from Eastern Europe'
<p>Organisation (enter maximum of 100 words and select organisation type)</p> <p>Please briefly describe the organisation behind the practice including the legal status e.g. NGO, governmental, limited company, charity etc.</p>	<p>'Cultures Interactive e.V. (CI) — Intercultural Education and Violence Prevention' is an NGO that works both in prevention and first-line deradicalisation with at-risk young people that engage in or have shown susceptibility to violent right-wing extremism or ethno-nationalism/religious fundamentalism, or to xenophobic, racist, and other forms of hateful and exclusionary behaviour.</p> <p>In 2005, the CI tackled right-wing extremist/neo-Nazi subcultures which emerged in East Germany after reunification. Since 2008, the CI has also worked in inner-city districts suffering from migration-related ethnic and religious radicalisation and hate crime.</p> <p>The CI's Federal Model Projects and EU-ISEC and EU research projects focused on developing methods for prevention and rehabilitation work with high-risk youth populations which have largely been failed by existing measures. Methodologically, the CI approach for prevention and deradicalisation combines youth-cultural creativity workshops with civic education and psychologically based self-awareness group work. The CI also provides gender-specific and gender awareness methods (WomEx), and offers advanced training in methodology for youth work practitioners, to enable them to proactively and efficiently handle incidents of hate speech/crime and extremist indoctrination/recruitment (LocalDerad). The beneficiaries and partners of such CI interventions are schools/teachers, youth centres, street/youth workers, prisons, local authorities/police, communities and local press/media — especially around social hotspot areas.</p> <p>In 2014, the CI began working more closely with partners in central and eastern European Member States, and started acting as co-chairing organisation for the RAN working group on Deradicalisation, comprising an EU-wide first-line workers' organisation involved in deradicalisation processes for all forms of extremism, including religious extremism and gangs. In 2015, the CI was appointed a Federal Centre of Excellence for Youth-Cultural Prevention of Violent Extremism and Xenophobia (by the government's Prevention Department).</p>

	Type of Organisation: NGO
Country of origin Country in which the practice is based.	EU or EEA country: Germany or: Non-EU country: Enter name if non EU country
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