

# 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.

## Living with Controversy: Teaching Controversial Issues through Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights (EDC/HRE) Training Pack for Teachers

## 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.

This training pack is a professional development programme for use primarily by teachers and school leaders, but also by NGOs, community organisations, and others in education settings. It is designed to support and promote the teaching of controversial issues to young people across Europe. The pack is a response to urgent calls from policymakers and practitioners in a number of European countries for more effective teacher training in teaching controversial issues.

The pack contains:

- a scoping paper, which provides the rationale for teaching controversial issues;
- a supporting programme of training activities that form a continuous two-day course of practical training but can also be used flexibly as stand-alone sessions.

The pack helps strengthen the role of education in promoting the core values of democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. It also advances the concept of education being on the frontline in countering social evils such as violent extremism and the radicalisation of youth, xenophobia, and discrimination, as well as violence and hate-speech.

<p><b>Key themes</b></p> <p>Please <u>choose</u> 2 key themes most corresponding with the practice.</p>	<p>Training</p> <p>Formal/informal education</p>
<p><b>Target audience</b></p> <p>Please <u>choose</u> a minimum of one target audience most corresponding with the practice.</p>	<p>Educators / Academics</p> <p>Youth / Pupils / Students</p> <p>Local Community Organisations / NGOs</p>
<p><b>Geographical scope</b></p> <p>Please indicate where the practice has been/is implemented (countries, regions, cities).</p>	<p>Across all member states of the Council of Europe. Countries involved in developing the tool include the UK, Ireland, Cyprus, Austria, Montenegro, Spain, Albania, France, and Sweden. The training pack has also been used in south-east Europe, south Europe, central Europe, and most recently, with countries in the Baltic and Nordic regions, as well as Germany, Denmark, Greece, Luxembourg, and Cyprus. The pack is not country-specific and is suitable for use on a Europe-wide basis.</p>
<p><b>Start of the practice</b></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: 2014</p> <p>The practice was developed and piloted from June 2014 to June 2015, and the training pack was published in September 2015. The practice is ongoing, with translation into additional major European languages.</p>
<p><b>Deliverables</b></p> <p>Please indicate if the practice has led to concrete deliverables, such as (links to) handbooks, training modules, videos.</p>	<p>Concrete deliverables from the practice include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• training pack, available online from the Council of Europe website;</li> <li>• training pack translated into several European languages, available online;</li> <li>• training pack adapted for Nordic countries and translated into the main Nordic languages;</li> <li>• series of training sessions organised by the Council of Europe and the European Wergeland Centre (EWC) across a number of European countries, as part of efforts to combat extremism, hate speech, xenophobia, and racism;</li> <li>• supporting website at the Council of Europe with further details on the practice, its origins, aims, and outcomes.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pack used in Luxembourg in 2023 to help design a training course and pack on Addressing Controversial Issues which is now being rolled out to all new teachers in the country.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Evidence and evaluation</b></p> <p>Short description on <u>performance measures</u> of the practice, including</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>qualitative views and quantitative (statistical) data</u> e.g. measure of the success of your project or intervention.</li> <li>2. <u>evaluation and feedback</u>, 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?</li> <li>3. <u>peer review</u> which feedback did the practice receive in the RAN working group and/or study visit where the practice was discussed.</li> </ol> <p>Please elaborate on the outcomes of your monitoring and evaluation efforts.</p>	<p>The training pack promotes an open and collaborative approach to managing, teaching and learning about controversial issues, with an emphasis on self-reflection and thoughtful, informed action.</p> <p>Those using the pack are encouraged to develop professional competences, as performance measures, in three categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• personal (e.g. self-reflection)</li> <li>• theoretical (e.g. understanding the role of dialogue in democracy)</li> <li>• practical (e.g. teaching and learning strategies)</li> </ul> <p>The training pack has been piloted in seven European countries by policymakers and NGOs with teachers and school leaders. Both qualitative and quantitative feedback was received from over 600 people, and the final pack takes this feedback into account.</p> <p>It was recently subject to an evaluation after being used in training for educators from the Nordic countries in Utoya, Norway. The evaluation highlighted its practical use in schools and education settings, and its role in helping those who have been trained to train others in using the tool at their schools/settings. This helped to spread the impact and reach of the tool within and across countries.</p> <p>The training pack was subject to expert peer review by both the RAN Young People (YP) working group and also by Karin Heremans and RAN Education working group co-chair and expert. The reviews took place in 2020/21. Both peer reviews were very complimentary about the pack and its uses to support the work of RAN. As Karin Heremans noted in her expert review conclusion:</p> <p><i>'The pack deals on a very proactive and professional way with prevention of radicalisation. It offers tools that can be used in every context and every European country. One of the strengths is that this is an ongoing process based on real practices, tested in several countries and based on a lot of research. It is also very well structured and practical to use.'</i></p>

<p><b>Sustainability and transferability</b> (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>The Training Pack continues to go from strength to strength. Following its launch, it was subsequently used extensively in participating countries, as well as in European training programmes in south, south-east and central Europe, and in Baltic and Nordic countries, organised by the Council of Europe and the EWC. Translation into other European languages continues, so as to increase accessibility. This is a sign of the usefulness and currency of the pack, indicating that it meets a training need across many European countries. It has also been picked up and used in other contexts beyond Europe in the Middle East, South East Asia, Central America and the USA.</p> <p>The Council of Europe and European Commission sponsored a new project for 2018-19, which aimed to capture and promote the lessons learned from use of the tool within and across European countries. The outcomes were published and shared in 2022 by the Council of Europe in a new publication entitled <i>Learning How to Handle Controversial Issues in Schools and other Education Settings: A Good Practice Guide</i>. This new publication compliments this training pack.</p>
<p><b>Presented and discussed in RAN meeting</b></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 EDU</p> <p>Date: 01/02/2021</p> <p>Place: Helsinki</p> <p>Subject: The Right Training for the Right People</p>
<p><b>Linked to other EU initiatives or EU funding</b> (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 practice was developed through a partnership between the Council of Europe and the European Commission, as part of the actions both before and after the Paris Declaration of 2015 on strengthening democracy, human rights and combating violent extremism and terrorism across Europe. It was co-ordinated by the Council of Europe to strengthen work in democracy, cooperation and inclusive approaches in education.</p>
<p><b>Organisation</b> (enter maximum of 100 words and select organisation type)</p>	<p>Young Citizens (YC), (formerly the Citizenship Foundation (CF)), is the leading NGO in the field of citizenship and legal education in the UK. YC inspires young people to take part in society as equal members. It helps them to understand the</p>

<p>Please briefly describe the organisation behind the practice including the legal status e.g. NGO, governmental, limited company, charity etc.</p>	<p>law, politics and democratic life. YC promotes participation, helps teachers to teach citizenship and works with young people on issues that concern them. It strives for a democracy in which everyone has the knowledge, skills and confidence to engage as effective citizens.</p> <p>This practice was jointly funded by the Council of Europe (CoE) and European Commission as part of an Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education (EDC/HRE) DISCO Pilot Projects Scheme.</p> <p>Type of Organisation: <a href="#">NGO</a></p>
<p><b>Country of origin</b></p> <p>Country in which the practice is based.</p>	<p>EU or EEA country: Choose from list of EU and EEA countries.</p> <p>or:</p> <p>Non-EU country: United Kingdom</p>
<p><b>Contact details</b></p> <p>Please provide contact details of who can be contacted within the organisation, with name and email address.</p>	<p>Address: 37 Heneage St, London, E1 5LJ, England</p> <p>Contact person: David Kerr Email: <a href="mailto:david.kerr@youngcitizens.org">david.kerr@youngcitizens.org</a> Telephone: +44 7867 301960 Website: <a href="http://www.youngcitizens.org">http://www.youngcitizens.org</a></p>
<p><b>Last update text</b> (year)</p>	<p>2023</p>