

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.

Dialogue between polarised groups

The aim of the practice is to build a safe space for dialogue among groups from radical right wing to radical left wing in the city of Wrocław and three smaller cities of Lower Silesia Region in Poland, using knowledge from the field of mediation and restorative justice. It is aimed to reduce polarisation and escalation of social conflicts in local communities. Thanks to creating a common space for understanding and decreasing common prejudices, we prevent violence and further radicalisation.

Our understanding of polarisation is that it stems from poorly established democratic mechanisms, a low level of cultural diversity, low social capital, and economic and ideological stratification in Polish society. The problem is also caused by narration of media that is based on populist slogans, stereotypes and antagonism. This can be seen outside large urban centres, in the Rust Belts (homogeneous ethnic structure and negligible activities to promote diversity).

Stages of the dialogue between polarised groups:

1. Diagnosis on inflammatory subjects (media analysis and preliminary interviews with leaders of the social hubs of their community).
2. Actors mapping (desk research and interview with opinion makers) and looking for allies, who are in good relations with extremist organisations (for example, representatives of Catholic Church and Human Rights Commissioner).
3. Preparatory process (individual meetings with representatives of extremist organisations open for

	<p>dialogue, building relations and trust, introducing rules of dialogue).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Dialogic process – cycle of meetings between up to 30 participants (closed group) on subjects that are important for the group led by qualified facilitators. 5. Individual mediation or smaller facilitated meetings around specific, problematic issues (for example, members of LGBT+ community and members of Catholic Church). 6. Trainings for journalists about their role in the disinformation process and about impact of language in the context of conflict escalation. Building a network of journalists involved in counteracting disinformation. 7. Scaling, mainstreaming and systemic change – Equal Treatment Council and Restorative Justice Council in Wrocław.
<p>Key themes</p> <p>Please <u>choose</u> 2 key themes most corresponding with the practice.</p>	<p>Violent right-wing extremism</p> <p>Violent far-left extremism</p>
<p>Target audience</p> <p>Please <u>choose</u> a minimum of one target audience most corresponding with the practice.</p>	<p>Local Community Organisations / NGOs</p> <p>General public</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>Poland, especially region of Lower Silesia</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: 2020</p> <p>Ending year: Select ending year of practice in case practice has ended.</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>Educational podcasts and videos showing the challenges of local media and impact of language in the context of conflict escalation, Handbook 'Model of building dialogue step by step': https://frsi.org.pl/wp-content/uploads/Jak-rozmawiac_Model-budowania-dialogu_A5.pdf</p>

<p>Evidence and evaluation</p> <p>Short description on <u>performance measures</u> of the practice, including</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>qualitative views and quantitative (statistical) data</u> e.g. measure of the success of your project or intervention. 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? 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. <p>Please elaborate on the outcomes of your monitoring and evaluation efforts.</p>	<p>The programme of dialogue between polarised groups was tested and positively assessed by the Polish Commissioner of Human Rights in 2020 (former ombudsman: Adam Bodnar) (unfortunately this evaluation was not published).</p> <p>The internal evaluation process is planned for the end of 2023 – focus groups and interviews with participants of the dialogic processes in four cities.</p> <p>After each dialogic session we are asking participants for feedback through email. The main outcomes were changes in the planning of big national religious and other types of marches and parades, so that they do not collide. The indirect communication allows to avoid violence of the most extremist groups. Participants have also referred to their changing attitude – dialogues allowed them to reduce fear of the opposing groups and partially define common values and ground in social life (for example, eradicating poverty).</p> <p>The practice was presented at the RAN FC&S meeting on 'Preventing Polarisation on a Local Level: Bringing Communities Together' (4-5 October 2022 in Stockholm) and received very positive feedback as one of the few dialogic projects reaching out to radical groups.</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>Part of our programme consists of a training for dialogue facilitators and can be offered to trainers and local community leaders. While starting a dialogic process we are offering a training for those participants who are willing to cascade it and continue the process in their communities.</p> <p>To make the programme sustainable, we also built a partnership with the Local European Commission Office in Wrocław.</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 FC&S meeting</p> <p>Date: 05/10/2022</p> <p>Place: Stockholm</p> <p>Subject: 'Preventing Polarisation on a Local Level: Bringing Communities Together'</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</p>	<p>Active Citizens Fund (Iceland, Lichtenstein, Norway) European Commission Office in Wrocław</p>

<p>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>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>The House of Peace Foundation is an NGO based in Wrocław, Poland. It runs programmes in the field of peace education, conflict management and peer mediation. Since 2013, in close cooperation with the Municipality of Wrocław and the Municipal Social Assistance Center, it has been conducting pilot projects implementing conflict management methods in the Polish education system and in local communities. The foundation is also managing the cross-sectoral 'Romanian Roma Residents of Wrocław Program', which has been listed as one of '50 Out-of-the-box Housing Solutions to Homelessness and Housing Exclusion' and has been presented as a good practice in Brussels during a meeting of the European Commission in 2019.</p> <p>Type of Organisation: NGO</p>
<p>Country of origin</p> <p>Country in which the practice is based.</p>	<p>EU or EEA country: Poland</p> <p>or:</p> <p>Non-EU country: Enter name if non EU country</p>
<p>Contact details</p> <p>Please provide contact details of who can be contacted within the organisation, with name and email address.</p>	<p>Address: Fundacja Dom Pokoju, Lokietka 5/1, 50-243 Wrocław</p> <p>Contact person: Maja Zabokrzycka</p> <p>Email: m.zabokrzycka@dompokoju.org</p> <p>Telephone: +48 731733614</p> <p>Website: https://www.dompokoju.org</p>
<p>Last update text (year)</p>	<p>2022</p>