

RAN Collection practice template

Name of the practice	Preventing policing unit
<p>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.</p> <p>Description (max. 300 words)</p> <p>Short description of the aim and working method of the practice. Please note that in this description, it must be clear that <u>there is an explicit connection to preventing and/or countering radicalisation and/or violent extremism</u>. 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.</p>	<p>The Preventive Policing Unit of the Helsinki Police Department consists of 4 teams that use preventive measures on their respective fields. Some are focused on supporting children and youth involved in criminal activities and their families, some on youth gang related activities and EXIT -work and some on dealing with issues concerning honour-based violence. Much of the work aims to prevent polarisation and increase social cohesion.</p> <p>One of the teams is specifically concentrated on preventing radicalisation and violent extremism on all aspects; radical Islam, far-right, far-left and environmental extremism.</p> <p>This is done by building trust between the police and the citizens, especially people from communities of ethnic minorities and socially disadvantaged people. We also monitor phenomena and events that have an impact on the political climate.</p> <p>Community engagement and recognition and participation of key persons of said communities are some of the most valuable tools in use. This work is done in cooperation with social workers and a psychiatric nurse that are included in our multi-professional team, "the Anchor". We also follow statistics on related crimes, such as hate-crimes.</p>
<p>Key themes</p> <p>Please <u>choose</u> 2 key themes most corresponding with the practice.</p>	<p>(Early) prevention</p> <p>Social cohesion and polarisation</p>
<p>Target audience</p>	<p>Local Community Organisations / NGOs</p>

<p>Please <u>choose</u> a minimum of one target audience most corresponding with the practice.</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>City of Helsinki, Finland</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: 2012</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>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>Case 1: In 2019, a group of young men, presumably skinheads, began to abuse people of foreign origin in a residential area of Helsinki. There were also a number of disruptive incidences related to alcohol consumption in the area. In addition to the criminal investigation, one of our teams began to find out who exactly were part of the group and what were the underlying causes for their actions.</p> <p>All the members of the skinhead group were interviewed and their overall situation was mapped out. A meeting was held with the actors in the region, and the situation was also discussed with a local ethnic community. Together with third-sector actors, we were able to solve some of the problems causing the behaviour in the group, including housing and employment issues. The area was also subject to increased visible police surveillance for a short period.</p> <p>The statistics on crime and number of police missions were monitored before and after the intervention. According to statistics, the violent crime and disturbance rates had fallen in the area.</p> <p>Case 2: In 2022, an anti-petrol price, anti-Covid-19 restrictions and anti-government event with rapidly</p>

	<p>increasing number of participants was detected in the social media. The intention of the event was to block the streets of Helsinki with vehicles for a long period of time. This was a direct result of the then ongoing events in Canada, a demonstration called Freedom Convoy.</p> <p>One of our teams contacted the organizers of the demonstration early on. An attempt was made, through discussions with the organizers, to resolve the situation so that the demonstration would not be chaotic and that the confrontation with the authorities would be as low as possible. During the event, a dialog was established with the organizer and the demonstrators. In the end, the event lasted two days and was reasonably calm. According to the feedback from demonstrators and organizers, the possibility to negotiate with the police was considered to be a key factor for having a successful and peaceful demonstration.</p> <p>Case 3: In 2019, much like many other countries, Finland was facing a unique and difficult situation: how to handle the matter of the women and children returning from the Islamic State. Beside of the heated political discussion, the public seemed to have very strong opinions about the situation. There seemed to be a lot of anger and fear involved and not only from the general public. Many Muslim communities were expressing discontent against the women who were possibly coming back. The identities of the women were exposed due to close-knit communities and word-of-mouth.</p> <p>One of our teams participated in a large-scale project that included professionals from many levels and branches of the government, including child protective services and health care. Our main focus was to help with the reintegration and alleviate the pressure on all parties involved by offering a sense of security and acting as a coordinator. The work also included participating in discussions in communities and schools, and also by listening to the other professionals and the returnees themselves.</p> <p>According to the feedback and the end result, both the general public and government officials were grateful for the work and expertise provided by our team. Also, the families have seemingly been able to integrate back in to the society.</p>
Sustainability and transferability	<p>A permanent unit of the Helsinki Police Department since April 2012. Basic elements of the model could be transferrable to other local police departments, too.</p>

<p>(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>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: Enter name of the RAN working group or event.</p> <p>Date: 17/05/2015</p> <p>Place: Riga</p> <p>Subject: Enter subject of meeting.</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>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>Preventive Policing Unit, Helsinki Police Department (a local police department/law enforcement authority)</p> <p>Type of Organisation: Governmental institution</p>
<p>Country of origin</p> <p>Country in which the practice is based.</p>	<p>EU or EEA country: Finland</p> <p>or:</p> <p>Non-EU country: Enter name if non EU country</p>
<p>Contact details</p>	<p>Address: Pasilanraitio 11, 00240 Helsinki, Finland</p> <p>P.O. Box 11</p>

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