

# 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.

## Kacsakő Experience Camp

### 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.

By organising recreational sports and adventure activities in Hungary, Kacsakő Association is building an inclusive community of 9-17year-old children and youngsters who otherwise would never meet under regular circumstances due to the different and distant social bubbles they live in. They invite underprivileged children who come from low-income families, Roma settlements and from segregated schools together with children who come from majority, non-Roma, privileged backgrounds. The aim is to bring children closer to each other to reduce their own and each other's prejudices and to improve those social-psychological skills that help to prevent radicalisation and overcome conflicts that usually are rooted in miscommunication and misunderstanding of each other.

The main tools for the activities in the project are non-formal, outdoor and experience-based learning methods. Team sports in the spirit of fair play is one of the main activities. Laying down the rules of the matches together lets the children practice democratic decision-making, and by playing the games without a referee and only with the support of adult mediators, participants are empowered to stand up for themselves when they experience injustice. A safe space is provided for children who come from different backgrounds and when conflicts occur between them, adults are there to mediate and prepare the children on how to solve conflicts in a restorative way. After each game there is a reflection session, where participants are invited to reflect on their personal and group experiences.

Main sports activities cover "Kacsakő rugby", quidditch, ultimate frisbee, football, basketball, capture the flag, orienteering and several other cooperative games.

	<p>The children adult ration os 2:1 and the team is very well prepared: prior to the camp there are two days long preparation training taking place two times, and the camp is followed by a two days long evaluation.</p> <p>By 2024 there is a group of youngsters who have been attending the Kacsakó programs since 5-6 years, they are now implementing their own social action that they chose: they are organising and implementing non-formal educational workshops for younger children in the topic of anti-racism.</p>
<p><b>Key themes</b></p> <p>Please <u>choose</u> 2 key themes most corresponding with the practice.</p>	<p>Sports</p> <p>(Early) prevention</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>Youth / Pupils / Students</p> <p>Families</p> <p>General public</p>
<p><b>Geographical scope</b></p> <p>Please indicate where the practice has been/is implemented (countries, regions, cities).</p>	<p>Youngsters are recruited from different regions of Hungary. Most of the 1-day-long activities are organised in Budapest, and the summer camps are organised in the countryside at a camp site.</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: 2018</p> <p>Ending year: Still running</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>N/A</p>
<p><b>Evidence and evaluation</b></p> <p>Short description on <u>performance measures</u> of the practice, including</p>	<p>The main results are those little stories and moments that might not be easy to show in a quantitative research study but can be presented by sharing the greatest memories. To name an example, in the beginning of the first camp, most children were a bit afraid of one of our participants who</p>

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.

herself had to face a lot of challenges in her life. She was raised in a state care institution, she faced racism due to her Roma ethnic background, and because of all these challenges she built up a shield around herself and was angry at the world. In the beginning she rejected to cooperate, she was swearing loudly, trying to bully the other kids, and so on. In the end however, when the bus arrived back to Budapest, and it was time to say goodbye, she started crying just when she realised that the week is over. Those girls, who in the beginning kept distance from her, got closer to her throughout the week and ran to her and comforted her with their hugs assuring that they will see each other next year. What was the main cause of this change of behaviour? There is no one element that can be highlighted. For sure there were plenty of conflicts where an adult was needed to step in and mediate, however some of the activities engaged her as well since they offered something new. She also had a role model in the camp, a camp counsellor, who was well respected by her, and it can be assumed that she sensed that all the adults work in the camp for her benefit and they do it with love.

To be able to provide actual data, changes were measured with a questionnaire. Children were asked before the camp about their expectations and after the camp about their experiences. A sociometric questionnaire was also used to measure the changes in group dynamics.

Sociometry:

According to the questionnaires, on the first day of the camp the socially underprivileged children (who came from state care institutions or Roma settlements, or segregated schools) were addressed only with negative relations from the outer group. It was interesting to see that by the effect of their life experience and the rejection of the outer group made a sharply separated group out of the children with similarly low socioeconomic status even if they previously did not know each other. They formed a convergent, closed group, and they sympathised almost exclusively with the "in-group".

Nevertheless, the sociographs drew our attention to an interesting phenomenon: there were two Roma children who took a mediator role between the groups.

Attention was paid to forming small groups and rooms where children were mixed from diverse backgrounds. An artificial group setting was created in order to provide the opportunity to spend more time with each other for those kids who would most likely never be able to do it in the outer world.

By the end of the camp, amongst the majority group members the antipathy towards the underprivileged children lowered whilst the positive opinions about them increased. In the meantime, underprivileged children also became more open to the outer social group and their positive social network significantly increased. Despite the initial differences and difficulties, thanks to the shared experiences the children got to like each other more, and several friendships were born, especially amongst those children who belonged to the same small group and shared the same room.

Quantitative questionnaire:

Analysing the questionnaires about the children's expectations and experiences at the summer camp, the following conclusions are shown:

In the beginning of the camp, the main expectations were to gain new friends, to experience good programmes and to eat good food, and their biggest fears were bullying, the fear that the experience won't be as good and homesickness.

At the end of the camp, children explained that they experienced love, happiness, friends, food, new games and good feelings, and they explained some elements they now see differently such as their opinion of some campers and that the camp got better; the only thing some would have changed was the music (we let the children set the music) and some would be more strict with not allowing swearing.

Another big result is the sense of belonging and group identity the project managed to create with the activities.

The programmes also have a huge impact on the volunteers' lives. For instance, one of the volunteers, who joined the project for the first camp, and stayed with the group ever since then (for 6 years), had never worked with children before the camp. Due to the experiences she gained at Kacsakő, she got inspired and started to study Special Education in university and now she works as a full-time teacher in a school with underprivileged children.

At the moment the data analysis of the last two camps (2022 and 2023) is running, mixed-methods were used (quantitative questionnaires measured the children and youngsters's changes of attitudes, and sociometry measured the changes in group dynamics, furthermore 20 interviews were conducted with volunteers, which is being analysed at the moment with the method of thematic analysis.

### **Sustainability and transferability**

(maximum of 200 words)

Short description on the sustainability and transferability of

The informal group of people was formed in Budapest in 2018. By now we have organised five 1-week-long summer camps and several 1-day-long team-building occasions both for children and the participating volunteers. By now, a formal entity has been established, an association with the

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

name of Kacsakő Közösségépítő Egyesület (Kacsakő Community Building Association).

As the organisation grows, more and more effort is invested in sustainability, a new website has been created, the organisation reaches out to companies with a corporate social responsibility department, and members of the crew constantly attend trainings to improve the association and to work in a democratic and efficient way together with all members.

The core team regularly attend conferences and seminars to present the Kacsakő methodology; they believe that such inclusive programmes could be organised in any part of the world, the key element of it is only to have a sufficient number of motivated volunteers with an open-minded spirit (in the camp the adult-children ratio is 1:2).

All amounts of donations and project-funded support are spent on the organisation and implementation of the programmes. Depending on the camp site, and on the yearly budget collected, the percentages differ.

In 2020, the budget was very small (EUR 5 000), and accommodation was expensive, so 80 % of the budget went to accommodation and food, 5 % went on transportation costs, and 15 % went to tools, and everybody was working on the project fully voluntarily without any financial remuneration.

In 2021, due to the support of a company, there was a bigger budget (EUR 7 000), and the organisation won a tender for a cheap camp site provided by the municipality of Budapest. In that year, 26 % of the project budget was spent on accommodation and food, 14 % on transportation, 20 % on tools and programme fees, and 40 % on symbolic amounts of remuneration costs of organisational and implementation work of the staff and the volunteers involved.

In 2022 the organisation joined to an international network (Generation Europe-The Academy) which enabled to organise more programs than before, and the possibility to organise and implement further international youth exchanges for 13+ year old participants of the Kacsakő community. This program raised the yearly budget turnover to 12.000 EUR.

The cost of one Kacsakő camp in 2023 was 10.000 EUR with organisational costs and volunteer remunerations included.

### 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 Youth and Education online meeting

Date: 30/11/2021

Place: online

Subject: Inclusion through Sports

<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>In 2019, 2020,2022 and 2023, the project is co-funded as a Solidarity Project by the European Solidarity Corps.</p>
<p><b>Organisation</b> (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>Kacsakő Association (Kacsakő Közösségépítő Egyesület) was established in Hungary in 2021, however the organisation has been working as an informal group of young people since 2018.</p> <p>At the moment there are 2 staff members involved deeply in the daily organisational work and contracted part-time (president and vice-president and one paid employee works 40 hours/month to organise the monthly activities. There are 10-15 volunteers who participate in the activities during the year, and there are 20 volunteers in total involved in the implementation of the summer camp.</p> <p>Regarding the youngsters, there are about 80 youngsters in total who joined the Kacsakő inclusive community throughout the years, amongst whom around 50-60% are coming from an underprivileged background.</p> <p>Type of Organisation: NGO</p>
<p><b>Country of origin</b></p> <p>Country in which the practice is based.</p>	<p>EU or EEA country: Hungary</p> <p>or:</p> <p>Non-EU country: Enter name if non EU country</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: Hungary, 1124 Budapest, Meredek utca 21.</p> <p>Contact person: Borbála Takács</p> <p>Email: kacsako.egyesulet@gmail.com</p> <p>Telephone: +36207791799</p> <p>Website: <a href="https://en.kacsakoegyesulet.hu/">https://en.kacsakoegyesulet.hu/</a></p>
<p><b>Last update text</b> (year)</p>	<p>2024</p>