

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.

Distance learning for children in Daesh-affiliated camps

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 suggested practice is a long-distance education programme for Finnish children living in the al-Hol refugee camp in northern Syria that was conducted by the Finnish government between May 2020 and mid-2021. The innovative long-distance teaching model was commissioned by Finland's foreign ministry and conducted by a Finnish educator entirely via the messenger service WhatsApp. Children in the al-Hol camp received lessons via text message on their mothers' phones and were taught Finnish, geography, history and English, depending on their age. This helped the children, who barely spoke Finnish and knew about Finland, to prepare for their repatriation. Above all, it gave the children and their mothers a purpose, routine and self-confidence. The project was initially kept secret from the public - hence the name secret school – and publicised only after its completion. By enabling their children to participate in the programme, the mothers were taking a risk of losing their phones to the guards since phones are generally forbidden in the camps. The only way for the organisation to mitigate this risk has been to keep this project in secrecy and not become public.

Key themes

Please <u>choose</u> 2 key themes most corresponding with the practice.

Foreign Terrorist Fighters and their families

Vulnerable youth and youth engagement in P/CVE



Target audience

Please <u>choose</u> a minimum of one target audience most corresponding with the practice.

Authorities

Educators / Academics

First responders or practitioners

Geographical scope

Please indicate where the practice has been/is implemented (countries, regions, cities).

The practice has been implemented in the Syrian al-Hol camp, by the Finnish government.

Start of the practice

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.

Starting year: 2020 Ending year: 2021

Deliverables

Please indicate if the practice has led to concrete deliverables, such as (links to) handbooks, training modules, videos.

https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20211129-finland-s-secret-school-for-children-of-is-fighters

Concept Model:

https://kansanvalistusseura.fi/wpcontent/uploads/2022/03/Concept-Model-for-Distance-Mobile-Education.pdf

Evidence and evaluation

Short description on <u>performance</u> <u>measures</u> of the practice, including

- 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?
- peer review which feedback did the practice receive in the RAN working group and/or study visit

Performance was only mentioned implicitly and in terms of qualitative not quantitative measures. The aim of the presented practice was to prepare children of foreign terrorist fighters for their repatriation to Finland from Daesh-affiliated territories. Twenty-three out of 35 Finnish children living in the camp signed up for the programme. Educators from the Finnish Lifelong Learning Foundation exchanged hundreds of text and voice messages with the children on a daily basis, teaching them one or two subjects each day. After having received lessons over the course of a few months, one mother reported that her 6-year-old daughter had learned to read.

There was no mention of an evaluation and no feedback was given about the practice during the meeting.



where the practice was discussed.

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

Sustainability and transferability

(maximum of 200 words)

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

The practice seems transferable to the extent that other Member State governments would be interested in preparing children for repatriation. It is not clear how much it costs and whether the practice would be feasible on a larger scale than the Finnish case.

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 Study Visit to Helsinki

Date: 01/12/2021

Place: Digital meeting

Subject: Management of child returnees

Linked to other EU initiatives or EU funding

(maximum of 100 words)

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.

The project was funded by the Finnish government.

Organisation

(enter maximum of 100 words and select organisation type)

Please briefly describe the organisation behind the practice including the legal status e.g. NGO, governmental, limited company, charity etc.

The project was implemented by the Finnish Lifelong Learning Foundation (Kansanvalistusseura sr., Kvs Foundation).

Type of Organisation: Foundation



Country of origin Country in which the practice is based.	EU or EEA country: Finland or: Non-EU country: Enter name if non EU country
Contact details Please provide contact details of who can be contacted within the organisation, with name and email address.	Address: The Finnish Lifelong Learning Foundation, Kvs Museokatu 18 FI-00100 HELSINKI Contact person: Tuija Tammelander or Lauri Tuomi Email: tuija.tammelander@kvs.fi, lauri.tuomi@kvs.fi Telephone: +358 503833969, +358 50 47 69 977 Website: https://kansanvalistusseura.fi/en/
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