

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.

Building a sustainable online prevention P/CVE approach

The overarching aim of this project is to build an online branch of our local approach of preventing and countering violent extremism (P/CVE) – one that complements and strengthens our current offline approach. To achieve this we aim to develop:

- New tools

There's a need for new tools to recognise and reach out to individuals vulnerable for extremism online. These tools include the **software** used to automatically capture signs of alienation. For instance, the City of Mechelen organised a pilot project co-creating and testing this kind of software in 2019. The results suggested the following:

- 1) Software can capture signs of alienation
- 2) Currently there's no clear juridical framework

These tools can also serve as **new working methods** like the creation of **online safe spaces** where youth can freely express their grievances. In 2020, the project held a first trial of an online safe space where they organised a gaming tournament. The idea was to connect with youth and discuss serious topics during an informal event. Another example of new working methods the project will implement is building an **online outreach** approach in which prevention workers reach out and connect with individuals online.

- New frameworks

The project aims to develop clear frameworks to act upon these captured online signals of alienation. These are **frameworks that bridge online detection and re-**

	<p>inclusion with offline social institutions. There's a need for clear legislation and for the role of each partner in the P/CVE approach to be defined (as is the case offline). To achieve this, the project will study its current workflow (AS-IS) and outline a TO-BE workflow together with partners.</p> <p>In addition to legislation and frameworks that define the workflow of this new process, there is also a need for ethical and juridical frameworks in regards to online prevention approaches.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New skills <p>The project aims to increase <i>online skills</i> in order to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - understand online alienation by better understanding the online context. What are real signs of frustration and what is trolling? - better connect to individuals online by speaking the online slang. <p>It is also important to develop a better understanding of several online mechanics like disinformation and hate speech.</p>
<p>Peer reviewed</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Key themes</p> <p>Please <u>choose</u> 2 key themes most corresponding with the practice.</p>	<p>Internet and radicalisation</p> <p>Local strategies/cities</p>
<p>Target audience</p> <p>Please <u>choose</u> a minimum of one target audience most corresponding with the practice.</p>	<p>First responders or practitioners</p> <p>Authorities</p> <p>Online Community</p>
<p>Geographical scope</p> <p>Please indicate where the practice has been/is implemented (countries, regions, cities).</p>	<p>This practice is being developed by the City of Mechelen (Belgium)</p>
<p>Start of the practice</p> <p>Please indicate when (year) the practice was developed and implemented to indicate the</p>	<p>Starting year: 2020</p>

<p>maturity of the practice. In case the practice is no longer active, please indicate when it 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>The official starting date of this project is July 2021. As such, the project has no concrete deliverables yet.</p> <p>At the end of the project's first year, the following documents will be prepared:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A white book that outlines good practices on how to identify online signs of frustration and radicalisations (actively & passively). • Ethical & Juridical framework that has been approved by our local P/CVE partners <p><i>It is worth noting that for the juridical framework, the project is working together with a local law firm. For the ethical framework the project is working with a knowledge institution.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A recorded and tested workflow on how to bridge online detection and offline social institutions. <p><i>It is worth noting that the project will use the BPMN-standard (Business Process Model & Notation) to describe our AS-IS and TO-BE processes.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A description of the project's experiences with testing several methods of online interventions (online outreach work, online safe spaces etc.).
<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? 	

<p>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> <p>Please elaborate on the outcomes of your monitoring and evaluation efforts.</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>The project aims to build a practice that is sustainable and easily transferable to other local governments (see specifics of the online approach in the description). It believes the online world is an important part of our daily life and this makes it important to examine ways to become a part of this world.</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 LOCAL Online P/CVE approach for local authorities: how to manage it?</p> <p>Date: 27/05/2021</p> <p>Place: Online</p> <p>Subject: Online P/CVE</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>No.</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>City of Mechelen (BE)</p> <p>Type of Organisation: Governmental institution</p>

Country of origin Country in which the practice is based.	EU or EEA country: Belgium
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