

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.

Swedish method of working with formers in Exit work

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.

This practice involves former extremists working as exit workers within Exit Sweden. Visualising a 'violent extremism spectrum' (see Figure 1 below) can aid understanding of how this approach works. On this spectrum, -10 represents the most extreme/negative and +10 the most tolerant/positive, with zero being neutral. Former extremists can help bring (violent) extremist up the scale, from -10 to -1, then back to zero and above.

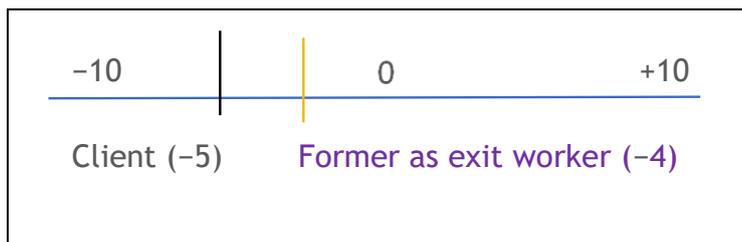


Figure 1 The violent extremism spectrum

When starting work with a client, it's necessary to know where they are located on the scale. For any one person, hundreds of different scales could be created, e.g. one for social contacts, another for power relations, yet another for tolerance, etc. This means that a client might be classed -8 on willingness to use violence but +5 on social skills. Similarly, formers can also be placed on this scale: this is helpful when determining which individual will be useful at which stage of the deradicalisation process.

	<p>For example, to get through to a violent extremist classed at -10, you will need to use someone who has been at that level (i.e. -10) and understands what this means, in order to get the message across.</p> <p>One should be aware, though, of a certain aspect of using formers in this way: as the client deradicalizes and eventually reaches a level of -3 on radical thoughts, for instance, it may well be possible that they have surpassed or overtaken the former — and another, more appropriate person will be needed to take over.</p> <p>The former does not have to agree with the client, but they must know what it feels like to be at level -5. Discussions are pitched at around level -4, and critical thinking skills matching that level are introduced. When the client reaches -4, discussions are pitched at -3, etc. In this way, the client gradually moves towards zero.</p> <p>Another significant aspect needing extra attention is the initial analysis: if this is incorrect, it could have the unintended result of further radicalising the client rather than deradicalizing them. For instance, if a client is mistakenly categorised as -8 when they are actually -3, sending in a former with experience matching level -8 will be counterproductive. The client might feel the need to measure up to the former’s level. It is therefore vital that those responsible for carrying out the initial analysis have experience and a deep understanding of exit work.</p> <p>This approach asks a lot of formers who works with clients. They constantly need to self-assess where they are on the spectrum, and be aware of their own development and path. This assessment can be difficult, and may occasionally backfire. Sometimes, the client’s exit process is faster than that of the former assigned to work with them. In such cases, a chain or referrals may be necessary.</p> <p>This deradicalisation approach can be used in similar ways with both right-wing and jihadi extremists, as well as with people who have joined criminal gangs.</p>
<p>Peer reviewed</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Key themes</p> <p>Please <u>choose</u> 2 key themes most corresponding with the practice.</p>	<p>Rehabilitation</p> <p>Formers</p>

<p>Target audience</p> <p>Please <u>choose</u> a minimum of one target audience most corresponding with the practice.</p>	<p>Youth / Pupils / Students</p> <p>Formers</p> <p>Add additional target audience.</p>
<p>Geographical scope</p> <p>Please indicate where the practice has been/is implemented (countries, regions, cities).</p>	<p>Sweden</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: 2003</p> <p>Ending year: 2005</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>This method does not result in concrete deliverables. It has been implemented in everyday work for between 12 and 14 years.</p>
<p>Evidence and evaluation</p> <p>Short description on <u>performance measures</u> of the practice, including</p>	<p>Tina Wilchen Christensen carried out an empirical case study in 2015.</p> <p>Christensen, T. W. (2015). A Question of Participation–Disengagement from the Extremist Right: A case study from SwedenEt casestudie fra Sverige. Roskilde Universitet. Retrieved from http://www.humanculture.dk/wp-content/uploads/dlm_uploads/2018/04/Phd-Thesis-A-question-of-participation-TWC.pdf</p> <p>Material from each individual client case is also available, but this information cannot be shared.</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>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 method can be transferred to similar contexts involving formers and extreme/violent groups. In Sweden, it was developed as part of Exit and has since 2010 also been used by our sister organisation Passus, which works with gang members.</p> <p>Educated staff and access to formers are two elements required to transfer this practice.</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 joint C&N and EXIT meeting</p> <p>Date: June 2017</p> <p>Place: Bordeaux</p> <p>Subject: Working with formers</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</p>	<p>-</p>

<p>(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>Exit Sweden is a part of the Fryshuset youth centre (a non-governmental organisation) and is funded primarily by governmental grants.</p> <p>From time to time, Exit Sweden participates in projects funded by the European Commission (Prevention of and Fight against Crime (ISEC), Erasmus+, etc.).</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: Sweden</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: Exit Sweden Mårtendalsgatan 6 Box 92022 120 06 Stockholm Sweden Contact person: Sofia Hegner Email: sofia.hegner@fryshuset.se Telephone: Click or tap here to enter text. Website: https://exit.fryshuset.se/</p>
<p>Last update text (year)</p>	<p>2018</p>