



# ▶ FINAL REPORT



Violence  
Prevention Network

With the financial support from the Prevention of and “Fight against Crime Programme” of the European Union, European Commission – Directorate-General Home Affairs 2012 – 2013.



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With the financial support from the Prevention of and “Fight against Crime Programme” of the European Union, European Commission – Directorate-General Home Affairs.

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## Editorial

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European experts on extremism prevention and deradicalisation gathered in October 2010 in London. They met at the concluding conference of an international project to analyse different deradicalisation approaches undertaken jointly by the London Probation Trust and the Violence Prevention Network e.V. The participants included numerous members of quite varied non-governmental organisations, which work on the front line and have a rich store of experience and background knowledge with and about the target groups of 'extremists/terrorists'.

As I was sitting on the plane back from London and reflecting again on the impressive, moving and sometimes breath-taking stories of conference participants, it became clear to me that all these people who do such valuable work in their organisations need a common voice. A network that brings their experiences together and passes them on to others who are also engaged in the effort against extremism and for deradicalisation in Europe. Because even during the conference, it became clear to everyone that this topic is too large for each nation to be able to handle it alone.

It has taken four years until the idea led to a project and finally to establishing a European Network of Deradicalisation. We have now reached the point that we have created a network supported by the power of 26 organisations in 14 countries which stands for joint objectives and generally applicable standards and which can attract an audience at both national and international levels. I should like to sincerely thank all the members of the European Network of Deradicalisation for the fact that we have achieved this in the last two years. And on the same note, I look forward to further cooperation and to the extension of our circle.

Judy Korn  
December 2013



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## I. Needs and Objectives

Hate crimes, radicalisation and extremists' recruitment leading towards terrorism have increased in numbers and severity throughout Europe and will continue to pose a major challenge for the future democratic societies. Community and grass-root organisations, as well as social entrepreneurs such as non-profit NGOs can play a major role in preventing polarisation and violence and intervening into emerging conflicts. Likewise, the Stockholm Programme emphasises: "Key to our success will be the degree to which non-governmental groups ... across Europe play an active part".

Unlike government employees, NGO-practitioners find it easier to access even the most vulnerable environments and penetrate the culture and language of (ex-)offenders, their followers and victims alike. It is also easier for NGO-practitioners to build relationships based on respect and "mutual trust" which are indispensable for successful involvement in deradicalisation work. However, to fulfil their tasks NGO-practitioners do need: (1) professionalisation, (2) adherence to quality standards and control, (3) methodological transparency, (4) academic and consultancy support, (5) (inter) national exchange of good practice, (6) a more stable relationship with governmental bodies, so that their knowledge, skills and services can be systematically maintained, further developed and mainstreamed into ongoing work. And they need a stable and sustainable financial basis, of course.

### ► The European Perspective

Throughout several EU projects it has become quite obvious how indispensable community NGOs and social entrepreneurs are,

when it comes to the complex issue of preventing hate crime. Also the cooperation with colleagues from other European countries made it clear how much deradicalisation in its various aspects – offenders, vulnerable persons, ex-radicals, victims – relies on independent and experienced practitioners who have direct access and profound influence. Jihadist motivated adolescents need Muslim community representatives they respect and trust; young Swedish White Power radicals or German Neo-Nazis need highly experienced practitioners – also ex-offenders/-radicals – who are independent from 'state structures'; the victims need acknowledgement by respected community representatives as well; and the community needs all these voices to be heard and integrated.

The added value of a European local-to-local network of those practitioners experienced in deradicalisation lies in its potential of providing international exchange, professional assistance, academic research and political lobbying across borders and national political habits. Becoming able to see the diversity – and similarities – across different European hate crime contexts and the selection of intervention methods, is in itself a factor in strengthening resilience against extremism and fundamentalism. Therefore, achieving an even wider geographical spread is a target for the future.

### ► Objectives

One clear priority of the "Prevention of and fight against crime programme – ISEC" is: "examining radicalisation leading to terrorism" and thereby "addressing the motivations of terrorists", the "increased vulnerability of

some places”, as well as “strengthening civil society’s engagement to address the phenomenon more effectively at the grass-roots level”. The project to set up a European Network of Deradicalisation does meet these target criteria, because it handles the issues of how we can better include the “grass-roots level”, work successfully on the “motivation” of vulnerable individuals and “places” alike, and “strengthen civil society”.

The European Network of Deradicalisation aims at developing a European network and platform of NGO-practitioners engaged in direct face-to-face work (not only informational) in deradicalisation and prevention of hate crimes. It is about: where these NGOs are, who they work with (offenders/vulnerable individuals, victims), how they methodologically work in intervention and prevention, what qualification and quality standards exist, how success can be measured and good practice identified, what – if any – professional and/or academic assistance and evaluation they have, whether they engage in (inter)national exchange, what further quality development is envisaged/possible, what kind of public standing, governmental acknowledgement and institutional security they have, what their challenges and (perceived) needs are, and to what extent their knowledge and skills can be maintained and mainstreamed.

#### ► Impact

A short term impact is that rather insular NGOs contact and communicate with other initiatives in the field on a national and European level; they also begin to establish relationships with academic researchers and statutory agents.

A medium term impact is that quality standards and methodological issues become more transparent. They facilitate quality management for a process of maintaining, developing and mainstreaming the NGOs’ knowledge and skills, whilst statutory bodies remain included in the process.

Thus, a long term impact is that the quality and cost-effectiveness of European deradicalisation work will increase – and simultaneous EC initiatives of European capacity building in deradicalisation may gain momentum.



## 6 2. Acquisition of the Participants

The members interested in the European Network of Deradicalisation were searched for and first approached across different channels. An initial attempt was to contact NGOs and frontline groups through public state institutions. These were, for instance, embassies, ministries and the police. Universities and scientific institutions were also approached. In addition, it was very helpful to contact the existing networks which were then able to establish other contacts. Web searches with key words such as 'hate crime' and 'deradicalisation' also proved successful. However, most contacts were made personally at conferences and other events focused on the theme of 'deradicalisation'. Some of the current members of the European Network of Deradicalisation were already partners of the Violence Prevention Network. They recruited

further members by word of mouth. In some countries, citizens' initiatives also played an important part, since these often filled a role as precursors or replacements for active civil society structures in the form of NGOs.

At the second stage, the NGOs, initiatives, institutions and frontliners were identified which seemed likely to fit into the 'deradicalisation' profile and these were approached by email. The concept to establish a European Network of Deradicalisation was described through a project presentation and personal telephone calls. If the potential members showed interest, personal meetings at conferences or at the location of the NGOs were arranged. During the personal meetings, a standardised in-depth interview was then carried out on the basis of the following questionnaire:

1. Name of your organisation – website if available

2. a) Your NGO/your organisation:

- ▶ What is the **history** of your NGO/organisation of first-line deradicalisation (or similar) work?
- ▶ How did it come **into existence**?
- ▶ What is **moving** the NGO and how come it survives?

2. b) Your objectives:

- ▶ What are the **objectives** of your organisation/work?
- ▶ What do your practitioners **aim for** in their firstline interventions with their target group?

2. c) Firstline deradicalisation work:

- ▶ Firstline deradicalisation and **Anti Hate Crime** work with at-risk young people – do you already do this? If not, do **you intend** to do this at some future point within your work context? **Where exactly** in your organisation/NGO would you attempt to do this?

3. The firstline practitioners:

- ▶ What are the **motivations** and professional **backgrounds** of the practitioners in your organisation?
- ▶ Where does their **personal inspiration** come from? Why do they usually **persist and continue** their work even under difficult circumstances?

4. a) Your clients:

- ▶ Who are the clients of your work? Which client groups does your organisation/NGO typically work with?
- ▶ Which kinds of radicalisation, (violent) extremism do they reflect?
- ▶ Are there any kinds of extremism that you have realised but don't work with (yet)? Why is that?

4. b) Issues and victim groups:

- ▶ What kinds of group-related hatred and exclusion can be found in your area – and country – of work?

4. c) Your clients' behaviours, believes, and personality:

- ▶ What are the behaviour patterns, be-

lives, personality traits, and typical life histories of the clients?

- ▶ Hence, who is – or should – be regarded as a “radicalised or violent extremist person” in your country?

#### 5. a) Your methods:

- ▶ What is your **approach**?
- ▶ What particular **methods/tools** do you work with in your organisation/NGO?
- ▶ What **principles** and guidelines would you say apply to your approach of first-line deradicalisation work – or to your social work in general?
- ▶ What do you think are the key **impact factors** of your approach?
- ▶ How do you **recognize** success or failure at early stage? Which criteria do you apply in judging your own work? Which are the typical successes and failures that happen in applying these methods?

#### 5. b) Case stories (optional)

Case story about ...

- ▶ a client and her/his way through your intervention work
- ▶ the success and/or failure of firstline deradicalisation work as you know it from your work or other colleagues' work
- ▶ What stories of success/failure are typical in your field and country?

#### 6. a) Local and national work context:

- ▶ Which forms of **employment** exist in your organization? How many **persons are employed** to what extent?
- ▶ What are the **general work conditions** of your organisation/NGO?
- ▶ What issues of **financing, government support** are there?

#### 6. b) Public, media, and quality management:

- ▶ What are the issues of **public perception**, stakeholders, **media** coverage (e.g. TV), and **party-political** rhetoric?
- ▶ Do you receive **professional help** and assistance?
- ▶ Are there procedures of **quality management/evaluation** in place?
- ▶ Do you interact with **research, academia/university** in your country?

#### 7. Your main messages to Brussels/the EU

- ▶ Other than needing more finances, how may your work – and good-quality of your work – be supported and strengthened?
- ▶ What are your main messages to Brussels and to EU policy-making on ‘deradicalisation’ practice in your country?

The questionnaire initially included many further points. It became rapidly clear, however, that the time required for the participating NGOs had to be kept within a reasonable limit. The scope was therefore concentrated on the key points of target group(s) and strategies for approaching them, methods and settings, activities and work context. The primary goal of the questionnaire was to work out the differences and similarities between the countries and NGOs with respect to these points, in order later to be able to prepare a comparison (see the chapter “Similarities and Differences” for this).

With reference to this, the following points were of interest: 1. What is the starting

basis/position of NGOs in the different countries of the European Union? 2. How are organisational structures created? Is there a functioning civil society structure at all? Is there a well-developed NGO landscape, or are topics such as racism, anti-Semitism or deradicalisation rather dealt with through citizens’ initiatives? 3. Is the work carried out by firstline groups, or are other methods used? 4. Is deradicalisation work performed by using former members/defectors from the extremist circles, or is the work done more by public security officers or other institutional staff? A total of 180 contacts in 22 member states of the European Union were approached.



### 3. Problems and Reorientation

During the development of the European Network of Deradicalisation, unexpected complications occurred which made it necessary to change direction.

First, it proved far more difficult than expected to identify NGOs corresponding to the 'deradicalisation' profile in some countries. The reason for this was partly that the civil society structures are not equally developed in all countries. The NGOs in the member states are at a very different level with respect to effective cooperation with the relevant official state bodies and therefore, partly operate at a very local level, making an internet search practically impossible. Identifying the relevant channels to these small NGOs and initiatives was very time-consuming. This also led to a delayed launch of the website. Moreover, in many countries 'deradicalisation' and 'hate crime' are not on the political agenda or are differently defined. For example in Greece, France, Spain and Eastern Europe the concern about 'hate crime' is often only found to a limited extent at the level of initiatives or just on the basis of social commitment. Here in particular, communication with wider networks was needed which could create more contacts by word of mouth for the European Network of Deradicalisation. A good example of this is France, although it is a large country, it has got only one member in the European Network of Deradicalisation. Insofar as the concept had not yet been introduced in the political debate in these countries, partners needed first to be found which would consider working in the 'deradicalisation' field in the future, possibly also in cooperation with universities.

The project was not only aimed at NGOs, but also at firstline practitioners working within other structures, since these – often working individually as firstliners – could also make an invaluable contribution to the network. The consequence was that state authorities could unfortunately ban some individual firstliners from taking part in the European Network of Deradicalisation.

A further challenge was the extent of the information requested from the NGOs and its processing. The information provided through the questionnaires was often insufficient for the profile and had to be supplemented by verbal information and web pages. This was always done in agreement with the members. The initially far more complex questionnaires needed to be substantially abbreviated and focused on important points, since the NGOs did not have sufficient resources to complete them. In particular, the personnel structure and time resources of smaller initiatives required consideration. Contrariwise, some profiles were much too long and needed to be shortened for the website.

## 4. Members Profiles

The complete profiles of all members of the European Network of Deradicalisation can also be found at [www.endo.eu](http://www.endo.eu). The profiles are presented in alphabetical order below:

### ► Active Change Foundation, the United Kingdom

The Active Change Foundation (ACF) is an NGO that has been set up to deal with serious violence such as gangs, violent extremism and hate crime. The objective of the organisation is to produce and further develop intervention tools and trainings that help to create a better, safer and stronger society by both strengthening community resilience and directly intervening with targeted individuals. In the area of prevention ACF works on the promotion of religious and societal harmony for the public benefit by facilitating knowledge and mutual understanding between ethnic groups and persons of different faiths. Particularly, ACF promotes a greater inclusion of young people in activities of preventing violent and hateful crime as well as a more trustful rapport between young people and other members of the community, including statutory bodies.

As far as methodology is concerned, ACF practitioners have developed a varied and flexible set of sophisticated strategies in the area of intervention to engage in one-to-one interaction with difficult to access individuals that are considered high-risk. To this end, tailor made action plans are developed. As a result, ACF engages their clients in a process of challenging, readjusting and broadening their world-view and developing protective factors to insulate them from being recruited.

### ► Back on Track – Ministry of Social Affairs and Integration / Department of the Prison and Probation Service, Denmark

Back on Track (BOT) has been designed to target the growing number of inmates in Danish prisons that are sentenced for terrorism offenses and pose a threat of fuelling in-prison radicalisation and recruitment. BOT is the second EU-financed project by the Danish Ministry of Social Affairs and Integration in cooperation with the Department of Prison and Probation Service. BOT is designed as a personal mentoring scheme and follows the Danish tradition of local inter-agency cooperation between schools, police, municipalities and social services.

BOT's main activity is the training and coaching of mentors who then work with their clients – inmates who have committed offenses out of extremist or terrorist motivation. However, BOT defines extremism in a broad sense, including all sorts of – rightwing, left, religious or other – violent extremism and most importantly referring explicitly to hate crime. Moreover, following a preventive social work perspective, BOT also targets prisoners who are not sentenced for extremist offenses, but are deemed vulnerable to radicalisation. In methodological terms, BOT strengthens their mentees' skills in dialogue techniques, coping strategies for every-day life and conflict management. The tailor-made mentorships are designed to accommodate the client's personal situation, assets, risks and social background.



► **Centre for European and North Atlantic Affairs, Slovakia**

The Centre for European and North Atlantic Affairs (CENAA) is an NGO and think tank in the field of security policy that provides research and training programmes for representatives of civil society, young professionals, policy makers and governmental employees. CENAA focuses on external security issues (e.g. NATO, terrorism, European security and defence policy etc.) and also to an increased extent on new security threats in terms of internal security.

Since the main internal security issue in the country and neighbouring regions are extreme rightwing/neo-Nazi groups and since the societal mainstreaming of such extremism seems imminent, CENAA is about to develop awareness raising and prevent agendas and it seeks to establish close cooperation with local grass-roots organisations.

A particularly promising aspect of these activities might be that CENAA is an international research organisation based in the country's capital and that it is now starting to interact with local practitioners in rural areas on specific questions of methodology, approach and strategy.

Presently, CENAA is starting its first regional participatory project in local monitoring, awareness and prevention work in a region that is highly affected by rightwing extremism and ethnic friction, working with communities, schools, municipal staff and police forces.

► **Co-operation Ireland, the Republic of Ireland**

Co-operation Ireland (Colre) is an NGO that works to sustain peace on the island of Ireland by helping to build a shared and cohesive society, addressing conflict risks and aiming to prevent vulnerable young people from engaging in sectarian hate crime and extremist/paramilitary activities.

Colre's Youth Leadership Programme focuses on marginalised urban and rural communities across Northern Ireland. The programme employs a combination of detached and centre-based work and follows established youth work models (such as Brendtro's Circle of Courage and Huskin's progression model). These approaches aim to develop key life and social skills, create positive pathways to further education and employment, and facilitate participants to positively re-engage in and contribute to local community life.

The Youth Leadership Programme is delivered by professional youth workers, with support from peer mentors and facilitators trained in community development and conflict resolution work. Currently Colre is looking to develop the programme further by strengthening their evaluation approaches, including through engagement with academic expertise, and exploring replication of their model in different community settings.

► **Cultures Interactive e.V., Germany**

Cultures Interactive (CI) is an NGO that works both in prevention and firstline deradicalisation with at-risk young people that are susceptible to violent rightwing extremism or ethno-nationalism/religious fundamentalism –



as well as to xenophobic, racist and other forms of hateful and exclusionary behaviour. CI works in both inner-city and rural areas, mostly in community, youth club, and school settings, in individual instances also in youth prisons. There CI applies the 'Fair Skills' deradicalisation approach, which combines youth-cultural workshops with civic education and deradicalisation interventions, anti-bias and democracy pedagogy and prevocational training modules; furthermore, it includes the elements of psychologically based open-process and self-awareness group-work.

Since the time of its federal model project 'Culture Areas' (Kulturräume) in 2008, CI has continued to develop cross-sectorial 'Regional Development' approaches. In this area of work CI promotes human rights and radicalisation awareness in the regions/districts that find themselves strongly affected by extremism and hate crime, especially in ex-GDR, rural and small town areas. Bottom-up youth group interviewing, assessments of the young people's socio-cultural neighbourhoods, training firstline youth-workers in sensitive areas as well as open space and community conferencing are employed. The acquired knowledge is then brought into multi-agency roundtables of community stakeholders from schools, social/youth work, police and local government.

#### ► ERUDITIO PUBLICA o.p.s., the Czech Republic

Eruditio Publica (EP) is an NGO that is in the process of developing prevention approaches towards radicalisation and hate crime. EP is presently beginning to work with practitioners in youth work, schools and local authorities, who are in close contact with various groups

of hard to reach and at-risk young people. These adolescents tend to display hostility towards minorities, Roma, immigrants, LGBT (lesbian, gay, bi- and transsexual) communities, old or disabled people and lean towards a rightwing extremist stance. Such at-risk target groups need to be fully incorporated into a socially informed life-long learning perspective.

EP practitioners work at schools, youth institutions, as well as within communities and also provide awareness-raising with regard to hostile sentiments present among the general public. By means of its consultancy and training EP provides expert knowledge and capacity building in the prevention of violent extremism and hate crime. As far as methodology is concerned, settings of in-depth practice exchange and experience sharing in multi-agency workshops are applied. A particularly promising aspect of EP's approach might be that it attempts to also work with latently extremist and anti-liberal sentiments within the mainstream population; thus it promotes an adequate societal and educational perspective for the implementation of the more targeted interventions with at-risk young people.

#### ► EUISA (European Union of Independent Students and Academics), Austria/Germany

EUISA is an umbrella organisation for the following independent organisations in Austria and Germany: TSÖ (Turkish Student's Union), ÖSSU (Austrian Student's Union), ÄÖJ (Egyptian-Austrian Youth), MJCN (Muslim Jewish Conference National), GMJFF (Global Muslim Jewish Friendship Forum), (RAMSA, Council of Muslim Students and Academics) and MKZ (Muslim Competence Centre). The organisa-



tion has been created by associating similar independent organisations, with the same goals and activities based on mutual understanding, intercultural and interreligious dialogue, Muslim Jewish dialogue and social cohesion, prevention and deradicalisation.

EUISA's practitioners conduct prevention and deradicalisation work at schools, youth clubs, in churches, mosques and within the community on a voluntary basis. They come from a variety of professional backgrounds and most of them invest their free time in order to conduct various projects. The projects are aimed at for example creating social cohesion and mutual understanding, encouraging empathy among perpetrators and victims as well as stimulating awareness of anti-Semitism, racism and xenophobia.

► **EXIT S.C.S. Onlus, Italy**

EXIT S.C.S. Onlus (EXIT) is a cooperative social enterprise which provides specialized social services in preventing and intervening with violence and psychological abuse across different sectors of society, such as harassment/bullying at the workplace and school, domestic abuse, maltreatment in groups, especially due to religious cults and in manipulative groups, but also in families and clans.

EXIT facilitators come from counseling, education, law, mediation, and psychotherapy backgrounds. Throughout their work they have observed that abuse in religious and psychological cult groups often coincide with issues of xenophobia, group-oriented hatred, racism, extremism, and hate crime.

As they promote distancing and disengagement processes, EXIT practitioners use intensive one-to-one settings that employ

strategies of empowerment/coping, resilience, reflexion, biography work, family counselling, conflict transformation and mediation. As secondary measures, the strategies of enhancing critical thinking and responsibility of choice are applied that may be compared to civic education strategies in other countries. The EXIT methodology follows the principles of social and psychotherapeutic interaction, such as building up empathy, trust and work-relationship, confidentiality, clear contract, commitment to non-manipulative procedures and quality management.

► **Foresee Research Group Nonprofit Ltd., Hungary**

Foresee Research Group (FORESEE) is an NGO that deals with consultancy, prevention, intervention and network building in the field of constructive conflict solution, restorative justice and prevention of social polarisation and exclusion. Within this context, FORESEE has begun to tackle the phenomena of social hatred and extremism, as expressed by acting and speaking against minorities, Roma, Jews, immigrants, LGBT (lesbian, gay, bi- and transsexual) communities, as well as the homeless, elderly, disabled or otherwise marginalised people.

FORESEE's multi-agency team of researchers and facilitators works with disadvantaged groups, local communities, schools, NGOs, as well as with practitioners and policy makers in the areas of criminal justice (victims, offenders, persons on probation and in prison), social welfare and education. With regard to methods, FORESEE flexibly applies a range of techniques, such as mediation, conferencing, peacemaking circles, family group

conferencing, facilitated discussions and one-to-one restorative dialogues. A particularly promising aspect of FORESEE's approach is that it is safely anchored in the well established restorative justice methodology and that it adapts and further develops this methodology into prevention work against hate crime and extremism.

#### ► **Fryshuset, Passus, Sweden**

Fryshuset (FH), which means "cold store" in Swedish was founded in 1984. Formally FH was a foundation headed by the YMCA of Stockholm. FH's Passus project was started in 2010. It provides hands-on support for persons wanting to leave criminal gangs or networks by cooperating with various housing corporations, the police, social services, the legal system and also with the client's own family and friends.

The aim of Passus is to offer firstline intervention and support for those young people and their educators, parents and related professionals. One key-element in the work of Passus is the use of "bridge-builders" or "key-personalities", who have own experiences of criminal gangs or networks.

Another key-element is the application of a method called MRP (Motivation, Relation and Passion) for dealing with the needs and new identities of the clients. A promising aspect of Passus is its adoption of firstliners with biographical experiences from criminal gangs or networks.

#### ► **Gangway – Straßensozialarbeit in Berlin (Social Streetwork in Berlin), Germany**

Gangway – Straßensozialarbeit in Berlin (GW) is an NGO that provides detached

street work in at-risk neighbourhoods of Berlin. It combines prevention and firstline anti-violence, anti-hate crime and exit interventions with young people that are susceptible to gang-conflict, ethno-nationalist, as well as rightwing extremist violence.

GW's staff members generally have a licence to act independently from statutory agencies and thus, they may guarantee confidentiality. GW practitioners use various settings of open group, individual, focussed training and project work, which include mediated get-togethers of members from adversary groups, as well as community organising approaches. Diversity trainings, the 'World of Difference' approach and the middle-term 'Anti-Violence-and-Key-Competency Training' (AKT®) are applied. A particularly promising aspect of GW's approach might be the way it combines city-wide detached street-work with both inter-agency activities in the community and more intensive and targeted interventions with young people.

Presently, GW intends to develop a Street College pilot project that facilitates a non-directive, peer implemented programme of tailor-made activities, combining capacity building and anti-bias and anti-violence training in the streets.

#### ► **Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation, the Republic of Ireland**

Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation (Glencree) is an NGO that works in conflict transformation and violence prevention with adults and young people who may be at risk of adopting a sectarian worldview, engaging in paramilitary organisations or else in developing racist behaviours (or have previously man-



ifested such). Glencree also works with victims/survivors of paramilitary violence in order to help them to come to terms with their loss and suffering and in order to avert inter-generational revivals of conflict and violence.

Glencree tries to engage with people from marginalised backgrounds where political conflict has been a reality and cooperates with schools, community, women's organisations, political groups, students, ex-prisoners/former combatants and youth organisations within the island of Ireland (North and South) and between Britain and Ireland.

Glencree employs methods of relational work, single identity group work, facilitated dialogue, activity based workshops, restorative circles and participants' forums. Basic ground rules to create safety through respect, equality, honesty, self-expression and voluntary engagement apply to all formats of work.

► **HelsinkiMissio, Aggredi, Finland**

HelsinkiMissio (HM) is a non-governmental organisation for social services that was founded in 1883. HM's Aggredi programme, which was started in 2006 and formerly called Aikalisä (Time Out), addresses many different target groups. Working with the 18 to 39-year-old offenders, the only thing that defines the clientele is their history of violent crimes, ranging from former gang members and members of right wing organisations. However, the main target group in deradicalisation work are people planning school or mass killings (lonely wolves).

Aggredi's main goal is to decrease or entirely stop violence on the personal level. The other goal is to develop methods of working

with outdoor violence offenders. To this end, the five employees working for the Aggredi programme have created and developed a system for bringing hard-to-reach and poorly motivated clients into the area covered by interactive support services and therapeutic working methods. To an outsider, the sessions at Aggredi resemble cognitive psychotherapy that focuses on questioning the acquired mental images that guide bad behaviour (automatic thoughts) and making them less automatic.

► **Libera. Associazioni Nomi e Numeri contro le mafie (Libera. Associations, Names and Numbers against mafias), Italy**

Libera (LI) is an NGO that engages both in prevention and targeted firstline work of mafia-disengagement and human rights/social skills education. Within this context LI engages with at-risk or afflicted young people leaning towards involvement in mafias and towards life-styles characterised by prejudice, xenophobia, racism, sexism, machismo and violence.

LI practitioners come from various backgrounds such as teaching and social work; LI collaborates with more than 4,500 schools and 1,600 national and local organisations on and around youth work and social issues in Italy, and increasingly worldwide. The focus is on disenfranchised and mafia-afflicted communities.

LI's approach combines the elements of social re-integration, non-repressive and restorative justice methods, alternative conflict resolution, intensive and long-term awareness and activity settings (the one year first-offender project "Amuni"), violent act reflection work with ex-offenders, the "Casa della Memoria" (Memory House) approach, and

“liberated lands” setting in confiscated mafia estates. While LI works mostly with young people and first-offenders, it recognises the need to also work with the more hardened and older offenders and to participate in developing suitable training and rehabilitation programmes in the future.

► **Never Again Association, Poland**

Never Again Association (NA) is an NGO that works in awareness raising, research, monitoring of racist and hate crime incidents and, on some recent occasions, carries out firstline deradicalisation work with rightwing extremist football fans on an individual basis. Those young people are inclined to engage in violence, racist aggressively nationalist and xenophobic behaviour, anti-state offenses and also fundamentalist Roman Catholic discourse.

NA works on a national scale, providing educational programs for teachers, police staff and community workers on how to deal with racism and hate crime. The underlying methodology includes principles of information and training. NA practitioners come from various professional backgrounds, such as political and social studies, social work, and education/schools.

A particularly promising aspect of the NA approach might be that it works closely with the national authorities and promotes some confidence building with politics; also NA integrates football work and general awareness raising. At present, NA occasionally looks into the field of prison work, attempting to develop the methods of firstline perpetrator work with the more hardened extremists and hate crime offenders.

► **NIACRO Northern Ireland Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders, the United Kingdom**

NIACRO is an NGO that has been working for 40 years to reduce crime and victimisation by means of offender reintegration, prevention, community work, multi-agency communication and since recently, also in targeted perpetrator rehabilitation interventions. While the terms ‘radicalisation’ and ‘deradicalisation’ are not used in Northern Ireland, practitioners of social services acknowledge that individuals, groupings and communities have been radicalised by events in a way that leads up to terrorist violence.

However, the concept of hate crime is not fully accepted or acted upon by the various stakeholders. In its most recent EU project, Challenge Hate Crime (CHC), NIACRO in conjunction with the Northern Ireland Prison Service sought to examine a range of intervention methods that international partners had developed for perpetrators in prison, relating to hate crime, violent polarisation and in particular to violence going back to sectarian motivations.

As far as methodology is concerned, the CHC approach is holistic and follows the logic of open-process intervention work as opposed to cognitive behavioural trainings. It is based on voluntary participation, informed intervention, engages in individual case work, narrative methods and involves victims of hate crime either directly or by proxy through a restorative process.

► **Race on the Agenda, the United Kingdom**

Race on the Agenda (ROTA) is a social action organisation which was founded 30 years ago



as a result of joint efforts for a representative body to ensure that the Race Relations Act 1976 and its underlying principles were implemented by public authorities of London and beyond.

The gendered strategy of Rota regarding deradicalisation is based on policy shaping and building community capabilities and practices that could support victims of racial discrimination, dealing with white rightwing extremists or having an impact on girls affected by gang violence. Rota does not engage directly in the deradicalisation of youth. From a Rota perspective it is important to focus on the front-line staff with regard to building up capacity and knowledge in restorative justice as a process to deradicalise for example right wing extremists and those involved in low level racial violence. All projects undertaken aim to increase the awareness among skilled personnel and their clients of the damage caused to humans and how to deal with this.

► **The RecoRa Institute, the United Kingdom**

The RecoRa Institute (RecoRa) is a partnership of organisations and individuals from Sweden, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. It works on a not for profit basis to embed expertise relating to recognising and responding to ideological violence underpinned by global jihadist and right wing ideologies. RecoRa works on a number of inter-related levels:

1. directly engaging in work with at risk individuals or groups;
2. mentoring and training frontliners engaged in deradicalisation work;
3. training community activists, and
4. training policy makers in municipalities, po-

lice and security services to develop effective policy.

RecoRa provides a number of services and trainings which include for example courses and master classes for frontline staff, mentors, governmental organisations and communities. It embeds expertise within organisations by train the trainer programmes, organisational development, mentoring and customised support to deal with ideological violence and to increase resilience in the community. RecoRa links research to policy to practice by arranging seminars, conferences and forums with local and national authorities, performing research assessment and participating in the European Radicalisation Awareness Network, UNICRE and The Global Forum for Counter Terrorism.

► **Sankofa – 7E Youth Academy, the United Kingdom**

7E Youth Academy (7EYA) is an organisation which works at ground level with young people in gang/extremist communities; classified as hard to reach by local government departments. The philosophy is that the most precious resource of humanity are young people; it is them who possess the greatest potential for the overall improvement of the human condition globally and so, the work is with young people, their communities and their families. 7EYA wants the young it works with to have a positive worldview, to disengage from negative behaviour and become creators of their own personal development. It also wants 'ghettos' to become safe and productive areas for people to stay in, where people of different ethnic and religious backgrounds can live in peace, mutual appreciation

and respect. 7EYA uses education, heritage study and information sharing as tools to improve the self esteem of the clients, their personal economic circumstances and help them along the path towards self improvement and personal development. 7EYA uses empirical methodology combined with established research and best practice to continuously improve the methodological approaches. It wants the work to be effective in helping individuals and communities cope with the challenges caused by gang violence, extremism, racism, social exclusion and financial exclusion/poverty.

► **Stichting voor Interculturele Participatie en Integratie (Foundation for Intercultural Participation and Integration), the Netherlands**

The Stichting voor Interculturele Participatie en Integratie (SIPI) in Amsterdam is an independent organisation financed through projects and language lessons by municipalities, ministries and funds. SIPI developed deradicalisation training for young migrant people and a train the trainer-formation programme. The name of the training programme is Diamond. SIPI offers coaching and advice on the local training implementation.

SIPI “Diamond” anti-radicalisation training for youngsters mainly includes group trainings and personal coaching. The objective of the training for Muslim youngsters is to empower them and to make them more resilient to risks of radicalisation, polarisation, criminality, school dropout and psychological problems, all as a consequence of identity problems. Components of the training are empowerment and personal skills (= turning point),

moral development and conflict management. Training effects on youngsters include leaving isolation, restoring contacts with parents and family, gaining new perspective on their own life and more resilience to risky temptations. SIPI colleagues took part in the “diamond train the trainer programme” and want to support young people who struggle with their identity.

► **Straathoekwerk (Street Corner Work) in Zaanstad, the Netherlands**

Straathoekwerk in Zaanstad (SWZ) started as a small NGO of street workers in the 1980s and is now financed by the local government. SWZ reaches out to all at risk young people who are entangled in problems of addiction, housing, job and social life, and/or show signs of radicalisation and violence, which includes rightwing and somewhat increasingly also some Islamist sympathisers and related low-level gang activity.

SWZ colleagues are qualified social workers and operate in a detached manner, directly on the street. The methodological principles are trust and relationship-building, open-process, participatory and group-focused approach, supportive-challenging basic attitude and intersectional perspective. Faced with temporary waves of neo-Nazi group formations SWZ developed an interdisciplinary team method engaging colleagues from social work, school and community police, and developed a method of preventive/motivational family interviewing with group members and their families.

In the future SWZ intends to explore preventive/motivational family interviewing in other social contexts; SWZ would also like to



increase its engagement in international practice exchange.

► **Tarjama, France**

Tarjama (TA) is a non-governmental organisation/community initiative that works in religious education, community work and prevention in Sevran, a French “sensitive urban area” with a majority Muslim population. In Sevran young disenfranchised people from north-African family backgrounds are subject to social disintegration, drug trafficking and Salafist radicalisation supported by organisations from the Persian Gulf countries. It is here that the 2006 Parisian banlieue riots took place.

TA works mostly around Arab speaking mosque communities and reaches out by audio translated Friday sermons and on the ground community work to those young people who increasingly separate from mosques. TA applies various methods from religious education, social media activities as well as the internet and uses community organising strategies. TA’s practitioners mostly grew up in the community and often are returning professionals serving as role models for the young people at risk of exclusion and radicalisation.

► **ufuq.de – Jugendkultur, Religion und politische Bildung in der Einwanderungsgesellschaft (ufuq.de – Youth culture, religion and civic education in migration societies), Germany**

Ufuq is an NGO that works primarily with youngsters from Muslim and/or immigrant background. It aims at empowering youngsters in their daily life and initiates discussions

about questions of identity, belonging and religiosity. This also involves the phenomena of Islamism and ethnic-nationalist ideologies.

Ufuq operates at the junction of education, research and public debate and therefore, it also focuses on teachers, administration employees, police officers and Muslim organisations.

Ufuq develops and uses educational short-films and other teaching materials in peer-guide-moderated workshops aimed at stimulating youngsters to critically discuss experiences of discrimination and marginalisation, religious values as well as questions of belonging and identity and empower them with alternative narratives of engagement, activism and success.

Ufuq is currently developing an innovative deradicalisation project that focuses on the Web 2.0.

► **Verein zur Förderung akzeptierender Jugendarbeit e.V. (Association to promote acceptance-based youth work), Germany**

Der Verein zur Förderung akzeptierender Jugendarbeit e.V. (VAJA) is an NGO which started acceptance-based youth work, in the 1990s, in Bremen. Besides other target groups, VAJA deals with rightwing orientated youth groups and youngsters attracted by Islamism and Salafism, respectively, youths displaying extremely intolerant behaviour in terms of group-focused hostility, misanthropic attitudes and/or youngsters susceptible to violence in general. VAJA also offers advisory services for parents and persons who are in direct contact with the affected youth.

VAJA works on the basis of a street work approach and mainly meets the youngsters at

the public places of their own choice; but it also runs prevention and deradicalisation activities in a range of different social sectors and institutions. Therefore, VAJA uses an approach which includes clique work, individual aid and parental involvement as well as project and community work. A fundamental prerequisite for VAJA's method is building trustful relationships with the young persons concerned.

A particularly promising aspect of VAJA's work might be their biographical work, concentrating on the individual biographical and life-related aspects of various clique members, which can be identified by staff as critical elements of right-extremist or other extremely intolerant orientation.

#### ► Violence Prevention Network e.V., Germany

Violence Prevention Network (VPN) is an NGO that works both in prevention and first-line deradicalisation with (young) people that are susceptible to violent rightwing extremism or religious fundamentalism. VPN works at youth detention centres as well as in youth and adult prisons, and also conducts stabilisation coaching after the participant's release throughout the country.

VPN applies a deradicalisation approach, which combines anti-violence-training with civic education and pedagogical training modules. The training is performed for 5 months during imprisonment and is followed up by coaching after release.

All VPN coaches have had many years of relevant work experience with violent youths before joining the team. In addition to their other existing qualifications, every coach is required to take a 12 month long, advanced

methodological training course to become an AKT®-Trainer [Anti-Violence-and-Key-Competency-Trainer]. The low recidivism rate, based on an external independent evaluation during the last four years, is a particularly promising aspect of that approach because it helps to avoid new crimes (and victims) and thus, saves high expenses which would otherwise be borne by the society.

#### ► West London Initiative, the United Kingdom

West London Initiative (WLI) is an NGO that works in firstline deradicalisation with young people at risk of developing extremist beliefs based upon erroneous ideologies that are propagated by extremist ideologues. The focus is towards the targeted clientele of converts, second and third generation Muslims born and brought up in the United Kingdom, including those from other countries and their families.

WLI works in inner-city areas; it is primarily aimed at young Muslim youths in West London communities. WLI's approach is grass roots and non-judgemental. The NGO identifies the dilemmas faced by the youth community through interaction during debates, safer platform or workshop discussions and aims to deliver intervention methods which educate, empower, build resilience and promote participation in civil society.

WLI's work includes the direct and indirect targeting of members of other organisations who directly or indirectly promote or entice others towards acts of violence in the name of race, religion, colour, creed etc. WLI also works in conjunction with various Muslim/non-Muslim youth organisations, mosques and



Islamic centres as well as with local authorities, schools, colleges, the civil service, embassies and international delegations.

► **Profiles by country:**

**Austria:**

EUISA– European Union of Independent Students and Academics

**The Czech Republic:**

ERUDITIO PUBLICA o.p.s.

**Denmark:**

Back on Track – Ministry of Social Affairs and Integration / Department of the Prison and Probation Service

**Finland:**

HelsinkiMissio, Aggredi

**France:**

Tarjama

**Germany:**

Cultures Interactive e.V.

EUISA - European Union of Independent Students and Academics

Gangway – Straßensozialarbeit in Berlin (Social Streetwork in Berlin)

ufuq.de – Jugendkultur, Religion und politische Bildung in der Einwanderungsgesellschaft (Youth culture, religion and civic education in migration societies)

Verein zur Förderung akzeptierender Jugendarbeit e.V. (Association to promote acceptance-based youth work)

Violence Prevention Network e.V.

**Hungary:**

Foresee Research Group Nonprofit Ltd.

**The Republic of Ireland:**

Co-operation Ireland

Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation

**Italy:**

EXIT S.C.S. Onlus

Libera. Associazioni Nomi e Numeri contro le mafie (Libera. Associations, Names and Numbers against mafias)

**The Netherlands:**

Stichting voor Interculturele Participatie en Integratie (Foundation for Intercultural Participation and Integration),  
Straathoekwerk (Street Corner Work) in Za-anstad

**Poland:**

Never Again Association

**Slovakia:**

Centre for European and North Atlantic Affairs

**Sweden:**

Fryshuset, Passus

**The United Kingdom:**

Active Change Foundation

Northern Ireland Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders

Race on the Agenda

The RecoRa Institute

Sankofa – 7E Youth Academy

West London Initiative

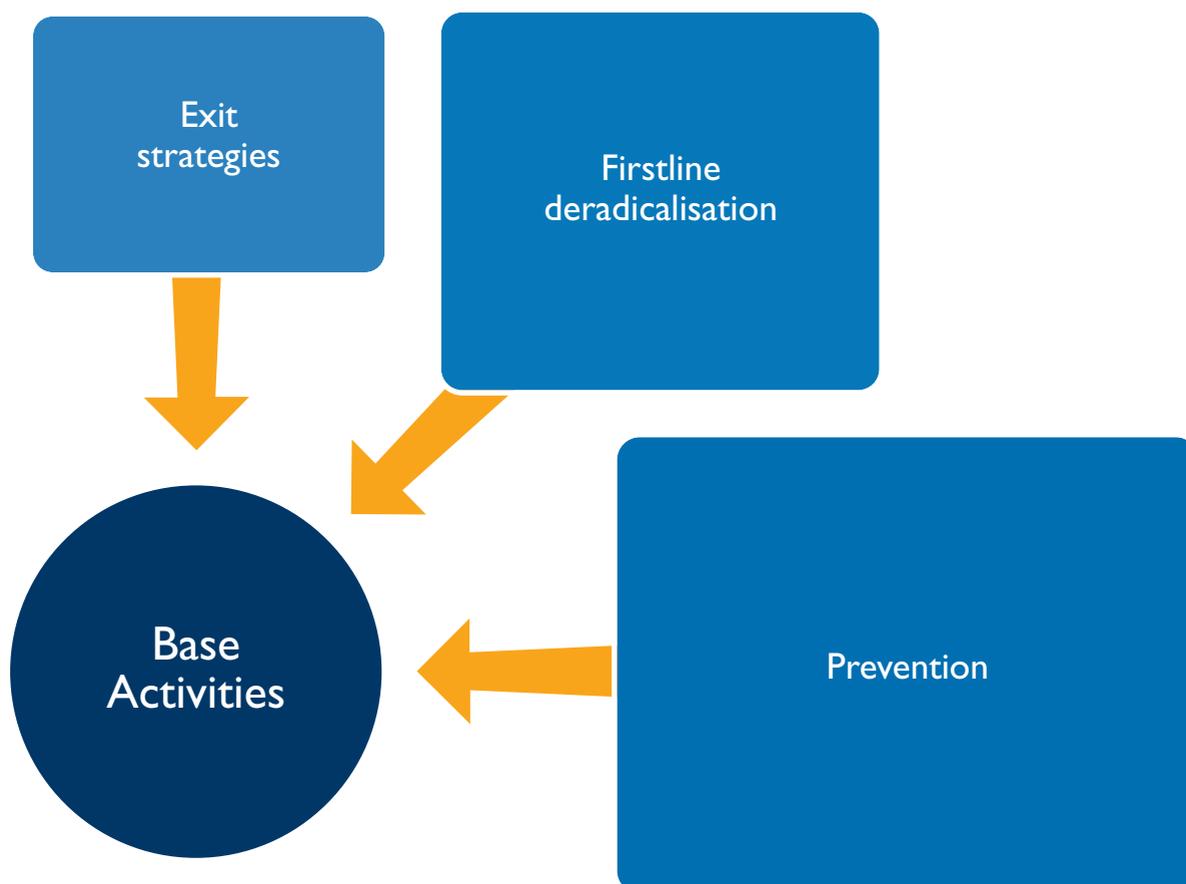
## 5. Similarities and Differences of Methods and Approaches

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The European Network of Deradicalisation combines together the expertise of international institutions and NGOs in the field of deradicalisation. In the process, both common and different areas of work and approaches have been found. The varied similarities and differences will be described below. The criteria being investigated can be found in the central part of the following figures, including Base Activities, Target Groups, Work Areas and Methodological Approach. The categories arranged around the centre indicate frequent or less frequent procedures.

With respect to the area of Base Activities, it can be determined that (violence) prevention is seen as the main focus of work. Firstline deradicalisation has not yet been implemented by all members. Next come exit programmes which are found more rarely among current members. Prevention projects are numerically overrepresented in comparison to the other two procedures. The combination of focal areas of work thereby becomes the representation of an actual range of measures as found in Europe.

Figure 1: Base Activities

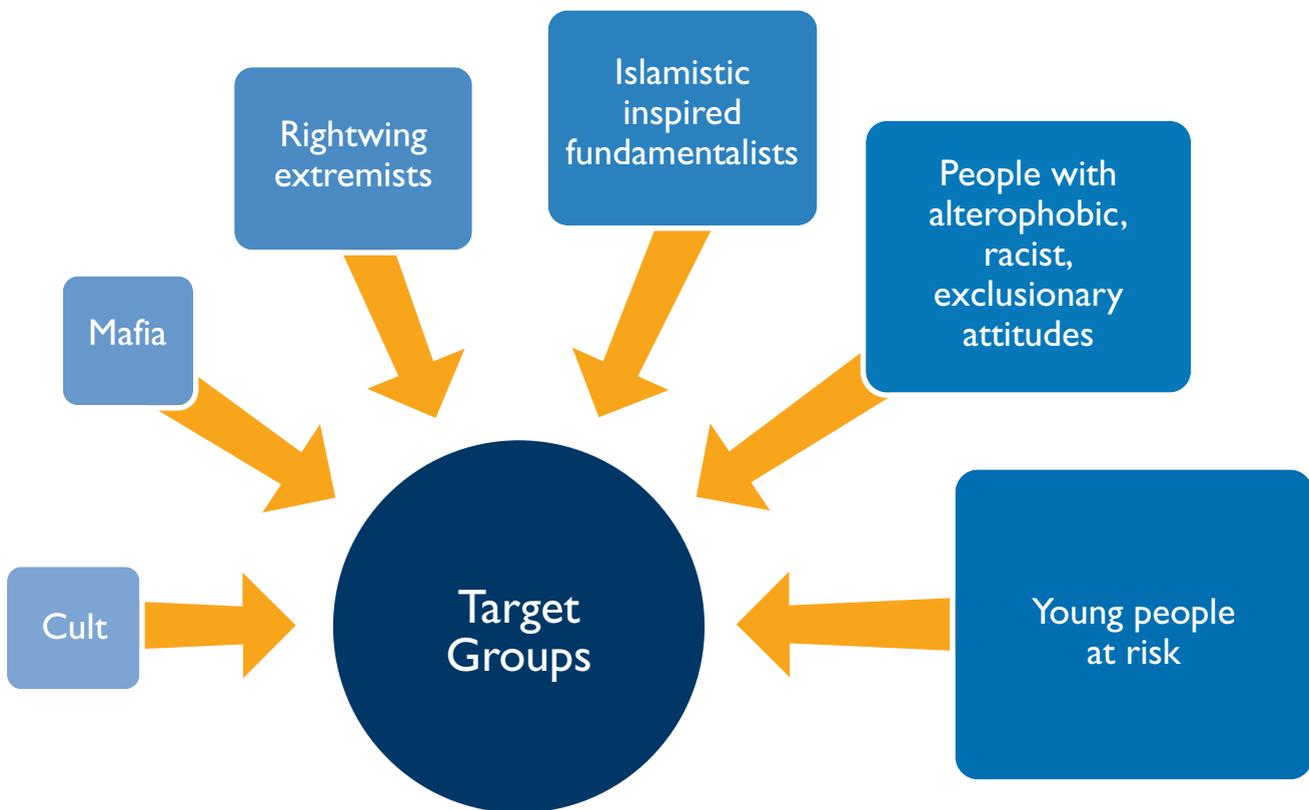




The target groups which the members of the European Network of Deradicalisation work with are more wide-ranging. The range of individuals who are addressed by the network operators are mostly adolescents and young adults who are in danger of turning to an ideological environment prepared for violence. However, work is almost as frequently done with people showing alterophobic attitudes and belonging to the so-called majority society. In this context alterophobic means the rejection of anything unfamiliar; i.e. people who do not correspond to a personally defined norm. This prejudice-dominated way of thinking often leads to systematic discrimination.

The fact that the target groups of politically and religiously motivated extremists only play a lesser role is simply due to the fact that not all network partners are (yet) active in deradicalisation (see figure 1). In addition, there are two members in the network that are respectively involved in exit programmes for people in mafia structures and cults.

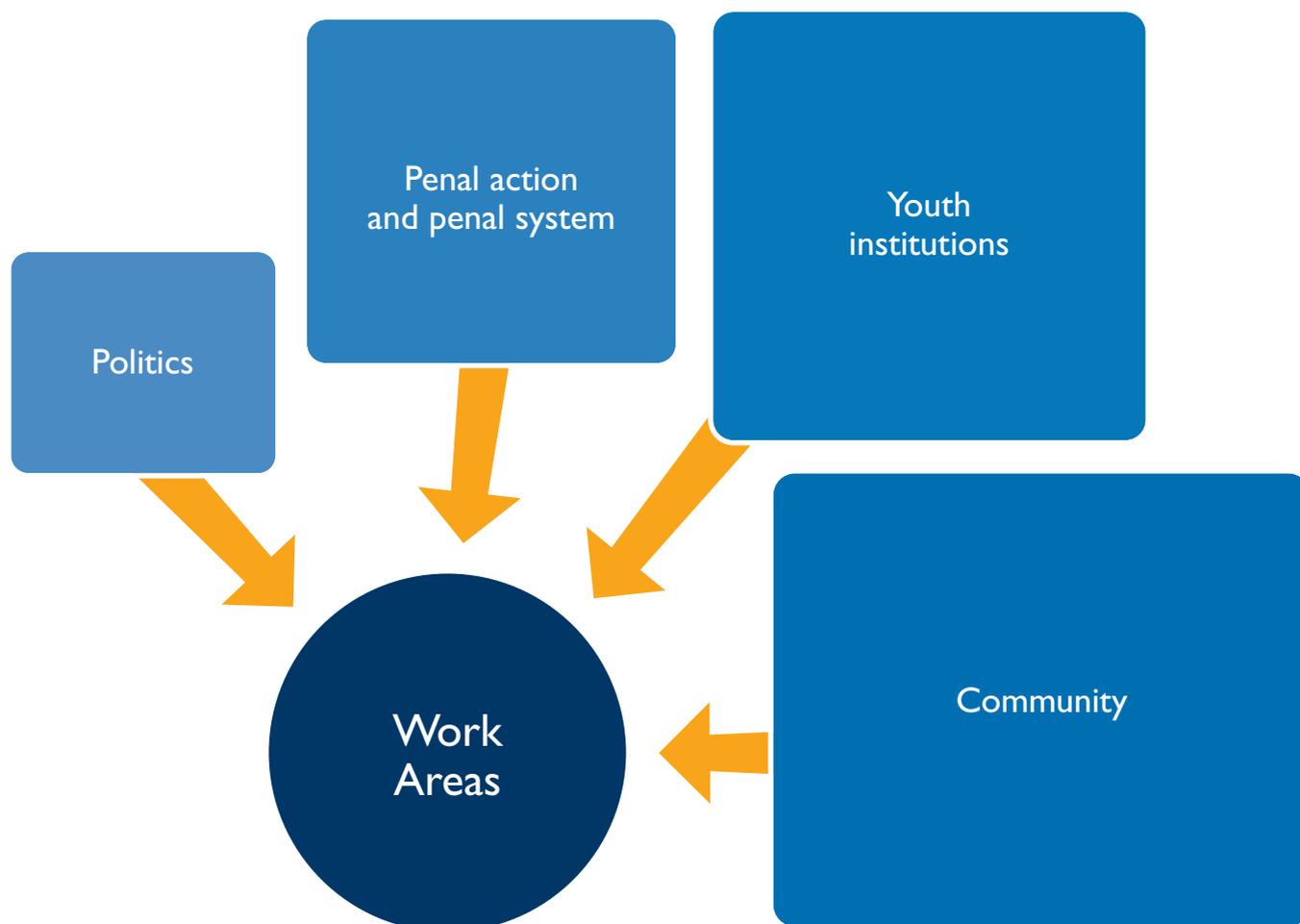
Figure 2: Target Groups



The fields of work of the members of the European Network of Deradicalisation appear somewhat more homogenous than the target groups addressed. Many members have a local area of activity in common. Whether in a rural area or a city – the work in the local community, partly including the search for contact, is numerically the most common. Activity areas in youth institutions follow closely behind. This includes schools, youth clubs and places where young people usually spend

time. Some members work together with penal institutions and the penal system. Their efforts are directed at advice and education of professional staff who have contact with this target group in the course of their work. However, prisons are also not ruled out as places of work. Work in cooperation with institutions of political decision-makers are by contrast less common.

Figure 3: Work Areas

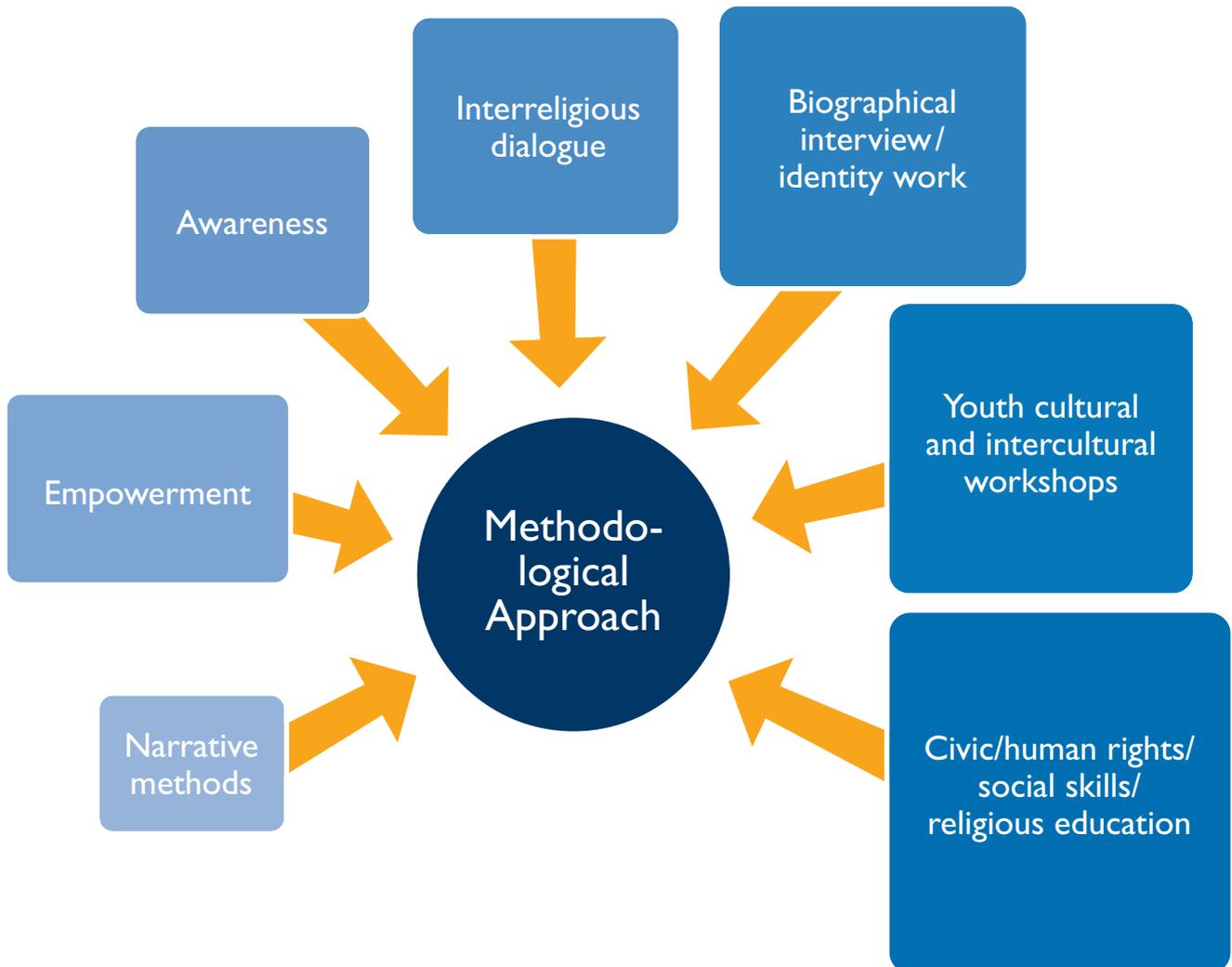




The methodological approaches can almost all be summarised under the headings of conflict management and/or reconciliation. The majority of network partners put the emphasis here on forms of political education, the explanation of human rights and social competencies. Religious education is also an important element in this complex of topics, in order, for instance, to counter different interpretations of the Koran and the conflicts arising from these. In many cases, youth-oriented and intercultural approaches are offered.

These are mostly implemented in the context of workshops. Likewise, biographical interviews are frequently used for the practical work. Supporting models help here in the search for one's own identity. Individual members of the European Network of Deradicalisation, however, attach more importance to inter-religious dialogue. Awareness and empowerment, like narratives, are only rarely used. The approaches mentioned are implemented as part of training and coaching sessions, mentoring programmes and mediation.

Figure 4:  
Methodological Approach



## 6. Establishing the European Network of Deradicalisation

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The highpoint up to now and the conclusion of the two-year pilot phase was the conference aimed at establishing the European Network of Deradicalisation which was held from 31st October to 1st November 2013 in Berlin. 26 member organisations from 14 countries met for the first time to experience personal exchanges on a large scale in the framework of the European Network of Deradicalisation. The content dealt with the different working and environmental conditions in the member states, as well as their wishes, needs and expectations for the future of deradicalisation work in Europe that can be taken up by the European Network of Deradicalisation. The stated objective of the conference was to agree on joint standards and objectives for all members and to establish the European Network of Deradicalisation officially.

The first day started with the national perspectives of the NGOs. The organisations reported to regional working groups about their working conditions and the significance of deradicalisation work in their respective countries. Another topic was the perception of radicalisation and extremism in society at a political and social level. The following themes were discussed:

- ▶ perception of the topics 'extremisms' and 'deradicalisation' in your society
- ▶ structure of civil society/importance of NGOs in your country
- ▶ political agenda
- ▶ national activities in the field of deradicalisation

During the plenary session, the results were then directly compared (see also the chapter "Similarities and Differences" on this).

During a second working group session on the same day, the discussion turned to the need and demands regarding finances, knowledge transfer, political discourse and legislation in order to improve the national working conditions.

The conclusion of the day was the self-assessment by all organisations of their expertise and access to networks which they could bring to and share with the European Network of Deradicalisation (see figure 5).

Figure 5:  
Distribution of Expertise

Knowledge Transfer	Discourse/ Political Agenda	Legislation	Finance
Back on Track	Back on Track	Back on Track	Fryshuset/Passus
CENAA	Cultures Interactive	ERUDITIO PUBLICA	The RecoRa Institute
Cultures Interactive	EUISA	EXIT S.C.S. Onlus	Violence Prevention Network
ERUDITIO PUBLICA	ERUDITIO PUBLICA	Foresee Institute	
EXIT S.C.S. Onlus	EXIT S.C.S. Onlus	Libera	
Foresee Institute	Foresee Institute	Never Again Association	
Fryshuset/Passus	Libera	NIACRO	
Glencree	Never Again Association	ROTA	
HelsinkiMissio/Aggredi	NIACRO	West London Initiative	
Libera	The RecoRa Institute		
Never Again Association	SIPI		
NIACRO	Straathoekwerk		
The RecoRa Institute	Tarjama		
SIPI	VAJA e.V.		
Tarjama	Violence Prevention Network		
VAJA e.V.			
Violence Prevention Network			
West London Initiative			



▶ **My Vision – My Contribution**

The second day followed the motto “Design your European umbrella association”. This day was to be devoted to considering the visions of each participant for an independent European network structure. The participants were to present their wishes and ideas regarding the following questions:

- ▶ expectations on a European network/umbrella association
- ▶ What is it fighting for? (Level 1: content)
- ▶ How is it built up? (Level 2: structure)

The participants discussed their individual expectations and utopias for an ideal European Network of Deradicalisation in mixed, non-regional working groups.

During the plenary session, all the visions and expectations were presented and discussed. In addition, the organisations identified their individual possible contributions to the European Network of Deradicalisation in respect of competence, knowledge, access and resources. In conclusion, the participants could jointly commit themselves to the following points:

The European Network of Deradicalisation

- ▶ ... is an independent voice of firstliners across borders.
- ▶ ... facilitates active and equal involvement.
- ▶ ... offers strategic exchange (expert exchange, practical exchange).
- ▶ ... promotes fair and transparent sharing.
- ▶ ... is a structure to facilitate the process of sharing knowledge and resources.
- ▶ ... is non-hierarchic.
- ▶ ... is an online network for permanent exchange.

- ▶ ... organises meetings when needed.
- ▶ ... has a democratic, loose structure with rotating chairmanship.
- ▶ ... will not foster parallel structures but use what is there.
- ▶ ... will not foster narcissism.

Moussa Al-Hassan Diaw (EUISA, AT) said he was ready to set up a Facebook group to facilitate further exchanges. After the above-mentioned discussion six people, Wilma Aarts (SIPI, NL), Pat Conway (NIACRO, UK), Judy Korn (Violence Prevention Network, D), Yousiff Meah (The RecoRa Institute, UK), Julia Reinelt (Violence Prevention Network, D), Petri Salakka (HelsinkiMissio/Aggredi, FIN), agreed to promote the European Network of Deradicalisation further and to formulate a binding mission statement as well as to plan the next steps.

## 7. Future Prospects

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Establishing the European Network of Deradicalisation is the start of further-reaching, systematic cooperation between the individual members. The specific goals and tasks for the coming years are: networking and extension, sustainability and exchange of expertise.

The 26 organisations from 14 countries which already participate have formed the foundation stone for the number of members in the network to increase. It will be a future task to attract further European partners. The main focus is on approaching NGOs and firstliners from countries with poorly-developed civil society structures. A growing alliance which has got the varied expertise of its members is the consistent and necessary response to the increasing internationalisation of extremism and terrorism. Considering the above, international partnerships going beyond the borders of Europe will also be important. The experiences of recent years show that also Europe, increasingly serves as a location for radicalisation processes of young people and as the starting point for attacks on a global level. This is an alarming development which makes trans-national exchanges essential.

In addition to the effort for networking and cooperation, a further question is how the European Network of Deradicalisation can finance itself independently and above all sustainably, in order to live up to the self-imposed claim of independent work. Four member organisations will jointly study the issue of financing and further development.

Last, but not least, an informal professional exchange is also an objective. This is not so much about a modular form in the sense of »Train the trainer« education. Rather, the idea is much more about mutual visits. Direct ob-

servations of the work and accompanying network partners should provide those involved with deradicalisation with new ideas and approaches for their own work. In this way, it will be made possible for the interested members to experience the working methods of network colleagues in daily activity at close range, without a time-consuming series of lectures. This form of hosting aims to offer efficient, realistic knowledge creation which remains feasible in terms of time in addition to the normal work.

Establishing the European Network of Deradicalisation provides the framework for a common alliance for violence prevention and deradicalisation in Europe. It will now be the task of members to achieve the goals together, in order to be able to implement deradicalisation successfully.



[www.enod.eu](http://www.enod.eu)

[www.european-network-of-deradicalisation.eu](http://www.european-network-of-deradicalisation.eu)

## Imprint

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PD Dr. Harald Weillböck played an important part in the conception and structure of ENoD.

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Layout:  
Ulrike Rühlmann  
Picture credits cover:  
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