



Youth work against Violent Radicalisation and Extremism Community of Practice

In 2016 a group of National Agencies and SALTO Resource Centres started a long term process focusing on the role of Erasmus + as an EU programme and, specifically, about the role of local and international youth work in preventing violent radicalisation and extremism.

The strategy was born with the aim of understanding the role of Erasmus + Youth and the National Agencies on the emerging theme of new violent radicalism and extremism. The working group wanted to emphasize the importance of inter-regional cooperation and the role of youth work in the phases of prevention and accompaniment to the creation of resilient communities.

What did this strategy release till now?

In order to define the methodological frame and the scope of intervention, in 2017 a research about the role of youth work in the preventive phase and toward the end of the year a Conference in Malta as a sharing practice was organised.

The topic of **cross-sectorial** approach was explored in 2018 during a Seminar in Tirana where youth workers, practitioners, researchers and representatives of local authorities discussed the role and strategies of working on prevention at local and community level.

During **2019/2020**, the partnership decided to focus on strengthening more the empowerment of youth workers competencies in the field of preventing violent radicalisation, and at the same time offer more opportunities for NGOs for sharing their experience at the local/national level and enhance networking.

In 2019 the following was realised:

- A training course “*Youth work against violent Radicalisation: competencies development*” in Macerata (Italy);
- A Study Visit in Belgium “[*Belgium behind the scene*](#)” in Brussels (Belgium).

During the 2020, despite the difficulties linked to COVID-19, in order to full fill the mentioned focus, the partnership realised:

- “Competence Model for youth workers preventing violent radicalisation”(the research is in its final stages)
- [Tool Kit Youth work against violent radicalisation and extremism](#)
- [Online Partnership Building Activity for NGOs active in prevention phase](#) :“Match. Exchange. Develop. Youth Work against violent radicalisation and extremism”
- [Online Training course about Competence Model Development for youth workers](#)
- Update of the good practices of the 2017 1st Edition of the research.

Call for members for the Community of Practice: Together we learn; Together we create!'

‘Together we learn; Together we create!’ community of practice is a structured journey through which practitioners are invited to share experiences, passion, concern or practices within the YWAVRE² domain and together learn how to make it better.

The CoP³ has the interest to gather **practitioners** who would like to contribute to the setup of such CoP so that it fosters sharing their experience in the **role of youth work in preventing violent radicalisation** and at the same time synergises their efforts. This CoP is made up of practitioners who are not invited just to "consume", but also to **co-create content, methods or tools that could be implemented and contribute to the YWAVRE long term strategy**. The Community of practice in this sense will broaden the geographical scope, will valorise the local and national experiences and will bring at European level the national experience particularly through creating a YWAVRE awareness campaign. This is very important in a topic as radicalisation into violent extremism where local and global are interlinked.

¹ *This activity is subjected to the approval of the FR NA and SALTO EuroMed work plan by the European Commission*

² **Youth work against Violent Radicalisation and Extremism**

³ Community of Practice

General Aim:

- To broaden the geographical scope, valorise the local and national experiences of youth work practices and methodologies in the frame of preventing violent radicalisation and extremism and bring them at the European level.

Objectives:

- To foster sharing experiences of youth work and social/educational experiences preventing violent radicalisation and extremism among practitioners.
- To synergise efforts among the members of the CoP, but also widening within diverse sectors that are involved in the prevention work too.
- To co-create content, methods, tools and projects.

CoP principles:

We are expected to respect the inclusive wide framework of the CoP. This is an autonomous group. Synergy is at the heart of the CoP. Learning is also at the heart of the CoP where it should help the CoP members and team better explore understanding for YWAVRE, its scope of work, impact and potential. The CoP focuses on practices, methodologies and approaches rather than focusing on starting positions!

Who can apply?

- **Multi-sectoral profiles** are invited which may include –but not limited to; youth workers, social media specialists, network members (e.g. CPM), media specialists, community representatives, researchers, etc
- Potential CoP members are expected to be value driven and willing to grow with the other CoP members in the YWAVRE domain
- Practitioners active in the YWAVRE field who are willing to develop professionally, stay updated regarding the tendencies of the topic as well as build synergies with other team members. Both willingness to Learn and Create are needed for CoP members.
- Practitioners within organisations who would like to get more recognition for their organisational work, build more networks in the field and improve the impact of their YWAVRE efforts.
- Diversity among the CoP members is appreciated. Therefore, for this CoP we invite different YWAVRE actors of different roles (youth workers, researchers, etc...), different geographical scope (local, national, urban, rural or international) and different interventions against different VRE areas (religious, political, etc..).

Activities:

The CoP is planned to have **seven working stations** (mainstone for our work plan, each station is corresponding to 1 task and 1 meeting);

1. Building and defining the ‘community’: this is where we define the Framework in which the CoP will operate and where the community members can develop their team dynamics and set their own ‘priorities’ and ‘approach’ within the pre-set framework.
2. A station for sharing realities, good practices, challenges and needs.
3. A station with ‘substance’ to offer from the team side and community members that resonates with the framework of YWAVRE and the outputs of the third station. The process will be supported by continuous coaching.
4. A co-creation phase dedicated for designing local activities or parallel cross national YWAVRE activities. This must include a pre-set plan for proper valorisation and dissemination of results
5. Implementation phase based on station 5. A mutual YWAVRE awareness campaign is to be part of this phase.
6. A reflection station dedicated for community’s sharing processes, outputs, outcomes and recommendations. It will be great if here we – team and community members- can co-create an online campaign based on what will be learned by then and on what messages we would like to share with the public and relevant stakeholders. This material is also part of the valorisation dissemination process.
7. An evaluation meeting to think of what’s next and how it may look like. This should feed into the future dimension of the CoP.

Timeframe between May and December 2021 to be confirmed.

The community of practice will start online due to the pandemic supported by the YWAVRE strategy elements. Offline options might be considered depending on the overall pandemic situation.

We are expecting to meet online each month to develop one of the above stations. In case that specific station/topic will need further expertise, the organisers will invite experts to contribute to the overall reflection.

How to apply?

<https://forms.gle/q7U518GkyQp6R15V7>

Deadline: 11th April 2021

Selection on the 15th of April 2021

