

TRAINING COURSE FOR CASE WORKERS

Resource-oriented distancing from extremist behaviours and ideologies



WHO IS THE TRAINING FOR?

The training course is designed for professionals who work closely with people who are radicalising towards or holding extremist views, show extremist behaviour, and/or have been convicted due to crimes motivated by their ideologies, and wish to enhance their ability to guide, structure and track distancing processes for these individuals.

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY DISTANCING?

For the purposes of the training course, “distancing” is understood as the process by which individuals let go of, or turn away from extremist mindsets, worldviews, and/or behaviours and gradually embrace more democratic ways of thinking and acting. It is a highly individual, complex, and non-linear process, which consists of multiple dimensions. This means that for each individual different distancing aspects are relevant, such as family, employment or mental health. Distancing work draws the attention to resources and skills rather than deficits. It is not primarily about understanding the causes of radicalisation but acknowledging small successes in ideological and behavioural changes that gradually leave extremism behind.



FEBRUARY 22–24, 2023 – BERLIN, GERMANY

COURSE TOPIC: Resource-oriented distancing from extremist behaviours and ideologies

TYPES OF EXTREMISMS CONSIDERED: right-wing extremism, Islamist extremism, and others

COURSE LANGUAGE: English

COSTS: The training course is free of charge for participants. Travel, food, and accomodation will be covered.

WHAT WILL YOU LEARN? | ABOUT THE DesistKit

Participants will learn how to use the DesistKit. The DesistKit is an instrument which helps professionals to identify and track objectives and structure distancing processes with the affected individuals, prioritising their unique needs and available resources for change. The DesistKit can help professionals better plan and track their interventions. The DesistKit also allows case workers to gain an even more nuanced understanding of the situation of the individuals and the progress they make throughout the distancing process. To strengthen a resource-oriented perspective in working within CVE, the icommit project further focuses on improving communication about the values, purpose and goal of the interventions with stakeholders from other professional backgrounds, such as law enforcement or health professionals.

WHAT IS UNIQUE ABOUT THE DesistKit?

RESEARCH-BASED:

The DesistKit is based on the latest research findings on distancing and desistance research. This means that most of the distancing aspects included in the toolkit, such as narrative identity, emotions and community connections, have been empirically explored and evaluated by experts in the field.

FOCUSED ON PRESENT & FUTURE:

The focus of the DesistKit is squarely on the current and future life situation of the individual, rather than lingering on the past radicalisation process. This allows for a more change-oriented point of view. The goal is for individuals to take responsibility for the present and their future. Reappraising past events can play an important role once distancing processes have been set in motion.

RESOURCE-FOCUSED:

The DesistKit strengthens the individual by making them more aware of their potentials, skills and capabilities and helps them tap into their social networks and environment. This distinguishes it from other prevalent tools within CVE, which focus on identifying the risk the individual may pose to society. In contrast, the DesistKit helps identify and activate available resources collaboratively with the individual.

LANGUAGE-SENSITIVE:

Great importance is attached to a sensitive language that does not stigmatise, alienate, or demotivate the individual and therefore aims to refrain from a security-oriented use of language. In practice this means that the individual is seen as a person with multiple identities and characteristics. Therefore, words like 'terrorist' or 'extremist' are avoided.

GENDER-RESPONSIVE:

Gender is seen as a social construct, that influences norms, assumptions, and perspectives that affect the distancing process. The DesistKit supports both the professional and the individual to reflect on their gender roles. The impact of gender is considered across individual distancing aspects, such as living conditions, family, personality traits, employment.

To learn more about the concepts and values that form the foundation of the DesistKit, please go to our website: multiagencycooperation.eu

WHAT WILL YOU WALK AWAY WITH?

- You will have the opportunity for peer-to-peer exchange with a variety of stakeholders working in the field of CVE across Europe.
- You will receive access to the DesistKit tool, including a manual explaining its approach and effective uses, which you can share with your team/colleagues.
- You will be empowered to present and explain your working methods to stakeholders from other professional backgrounds.
- Each participant will receive a certification listing the topics covered and learning outcomes of the training.

HOW CAN YOU REGISTER?

If you would like to participate in the training course, please fill in this registration form:
<https://multiagencycooperation.eu/contact-us/>

ABOUT THE **icommit** PROJECT

The **icommit** project seeks to **strengthen city-level multi-disciplinary teams** across Europe that work collaboratively on preventing and countering extremism (P/CVE). **icommit** is a collaboration between Violence Prevention Network, the European Forum for Urban Security (Efus), modus|zad – Centre for Applied Deradicalisation Research and the University of Bucharest. Key ingredients to sustainable city-level P/CVE work are an understanding of local contexts and investment in long-term, multi-stakeholder partnerships between municipalities, civil society, law enforcement and other local actors. The project seeks to support cities in building and improving these vital structures, further professionalize distancing work and strengthen the perspective of professionals supporting distancing processes of individuals.

VIOLENCE PREVENTION NETWORK/**icommit** PROJECT

Alt-Reinickendorf 25

D-13407 Berlin

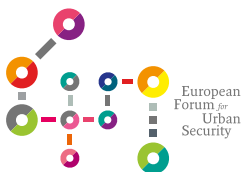
☎ +49 (0)30 407 55 122

✉ icommit@violence-prevention-network.de

🌐 www.multiagencycooperation.eu

🌐 www.twitter.com/VPNDeradINT

GET IN
TOUCH
WITH US



modus | zad



icommit is funded by the "Internal Security Fund – Police" of the European Union.

The content of this publication represents the views of the author only and is his/her sole responsibility. The European Commission does not accept any responsibility for use that may be made of the information it contains.