



VET Teachers and Trainers Contra Radicalisation

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Vocational schools, secondary schools and vocational training institutions are often confronted with learners coming from different social, cultural or racial backgrounds. Often frictions arise that are born out of prejudice, low self esteem and latent xenophobia. When young people do not see positive perspectives, a critical minority, but in rising numbers, is attracted by extremist ideologies, such as Neo-Nazi groups or the djihadist movement of the „Islamic State“.

The Radicalisation Awareness Network of the European Commission states that *„the best prevention is to stop people from getting involved in violent extremist or terrorist activities in the first place, or to convince them to turn away from such ideas and methods.... The people best placed to tackle the phenomenon of radicalisation are the so called first-liners – people in direct contact with targeted individuals or vulnerable groups of population.“*

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Radicalisation in schools: What can teachers and trainers do?

Teachers and trainers – called „first-liners“ - need new skills and competences to be better prepared to deal with intercultural tensions between diverse groups of learners. They should be able to detect, at an early stage, indicators of radicalisation among their learners. However, many of them have had their vocational education years ago, and many of them are completely or partially unprepared to the changes in the way in which our society is organized and which conceptual aspects of radicalisation pose a threat.

Our project will provide vocational teachers and trainers with information and good practice about effective tools and methods, in order to help them do their work better. They will be able to acquire skills and knowledge to apply interventions in a preventive stage, and to focus on self-esteem, empathy towards out-groups and managing negative emotions. In the long run, this approach will lead to a better learning climate, better learning results and will reduce racism and xenophobia in the classroom.

What does our project want to achieve?

The specific objectives are

- to implement an e-platform that will support the access to all initiatives and learning materials identified and collected in the project, especially for teaching in multicultural groups that give background information how to handle groups with intercultural tensions, based on social learning, ethics of participation, social language, social and emotional intelligence, conflict solving strategies.
- to summarize the findings in a “Catalogue of Good Practice: VET Teachers Contra Radicalisation” that will give an overview about the current situation of the specific project environment in the partners’ countries, present the initiatives, projects and materials, and provide best practice examples for VET teachers and for practitioners working with marginalized people in vocational education.

When are these materials available?

You can find the first materials on our homepage www.vetcontra.eu.
The Catalogue of Good Practice will be presented in autumn 2017.