

Should European NGOs should withdraw from the EU Radicalisation Awareness Network's 'Collection of Practices'

- and what does the planned German „Federal Agency
of Quality Control“ mean anyway?

Abstract

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The European Commission's DG Home Affairs (Interior) is currently setting out to conduct an unwarranted selection measure among European NGOs/ approaches of PVE work, executed by the Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN) - without clear mandate nor clear informed consent procedures from the European RAN NGOs and with little to no transparency about procedure and criteria of assessment. Concurrently, the German government announces its plans to install a „Federal Agency of Quality Control“ reporting to the Ministry of Interior, while first-line practitioners of the prevent program “Live Democracy!” have been working to prepare an independent and civil society-based modus of quality development and evaluation since years.

Further symptoms indicate an unfortunate policy development that endangers resilience, trust and inter-agency in democracies throughout Europe; e.g., the RAN Rehabilitation Manual, stipulating “information-sharing” about exit work clients, or an EU funding call from DG Home inspiring distrust of NGOs and civil society - thus shifting us towards more Eastern European style administrations.

Thankfully, a silver lining of hope emerges, presenting the option of a truly civil society-based architecture of PVE work and quality management - which would truly live up to the standards of constitutional democracies. Here, independent NGO practitioners self-organize their work and quality management, together with equally independent academic expertise, aiming at the systematic build-up of an association or professional chamber with solid methodology and ethics standards. However, a basic design flaw of DG Home's setup of European PVE work, the notorious 'securitization', needs to be corrected, the plans for a „Federal Agency of Quality Control“ in Germany cancelled accordingly. Hence, the notorious “P/CVE” compound (Preventing/ Countering Violent Extremism) will eventually be duly separated and thus key

democratic divisions of powers and functions kept. This then will enable Europe to become a prime example of “best practice in policy making” on a global scale.