



NEWSLETTER

Summer 2018

What HEADS-UP is about...

The HEADS-UP project, funded by under the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Commission in 2017, aims to develop the skills of front-line educators and youth workers so that they can be better placed to protect young people from the dangers they face online. Specifically, this project aims to up-skill front-line educators so that they can understand and identify how radicalisation of vulnerable young people happens online; and how the radicalisers use social media channels, videos, online games and chat forums to engage with vulnerable young people and to manipulate them, provoking radical thought and even radical behaviour.

This project aims to highlight the key message among front-line educators, support workers and parents that the Internet has become the new 'incubator' of radicalisation. Through the manipulation of social media algorithms, radicalisers succeed in creating an online environment where radical ideals can become widespread and where empathy to their cause is garnered, supported by other sympathizers online. Extremist organisations have also developed calculated strategies to radicalise, recruit and even train people, spread their message and gather data through social media platforms, such as Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, through online chat forums and through online games. It is this use of new media platforms to promote radical ideology online that the HEADS-UP project aims to tackle through the development of targeted training materials and awareness raising resources.

What HEADS-UP will achieve...

So how will the project achieve its aims and support front-line educators to understanding and identify the threats that young people face online? Through our project work, we will develop a suite of simulation resources – videos, comic strips, worksheets and tutor handbooks – which show how radicalisation can happen online and which highlight how vulnerable young people in particular are to these online threats. These simulation resources focus on highlighting how, at a vulnerable age, young people often live their lives wholly online, and seek to make meaning and find their identity through online influences.

To support front-line educator and support workers to use these simulation resources in their work with young people, the project will also develop an in-service training programme, which will providing up-skilling opportunities for educators to feel confident in using interactive, digital simulation resources in their work with young people.

Furthermore, HEADS-UP aims to educate parents on the dangers of social media and other online platforms, so that they can be supported to take steps to protect their children online.

Through this holistic approach, the HEADS-UP project will empower educators, parents and young people themselves to protect themselves and each other from radical threats online.

Who HEADS-UP is....

The HEADS-UP consortium comprises 8 partners representing Croatia, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Finland, Ireland, Portugal, Spain and United Kingdom

- ▶ [Dante Adult Education Center - Croatia](#)
- ▶ [AKLUB - Czech Republic](#)
- ▶ [Cardet - Cyprus](#)
- ▶ [Innoventum - Finland](#)
- ▶ [Future in Perspective - Ireland](#)
- ▶ [Storytellme - Portugal](#)
- ▶ [Jaitek - Spain](#)
- ▶ [Creative Exchange - UK](#)



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What has already happened...

To date the project has developed a set of 9 digital resources, including 5 simulation videos, 2 comic strips and 2 short animation videos which showcase examples of how young people can be reached online by radicalisers and influencers. To support stakeholders in using these resources with young people, we have also developed lesson plans, activities and tutor workbooks for educators to use with these simulation resources; and a set of guidelines for parents which will raise their awareness of the process of radicalisation and will help to ground the content of the simulation resources in real-life experiences of their children.

In addition, to support young people to protect themselves and their peers online, we have also developed a set of peer-support guidelines for young people. These guidelines were written with young people in mind and they help to highlight the process of radicalisation and to identify the symptoms of radicalisation, while also providing advice on what they can do if they suspect one of their peers is being radicalised.

To access this full suite of resources, we invite you to log on to the HEADS-UP website at: www.heads-up.online. Feel free to test these resources with young people, and don't forget to send us your comments and feedback on the materials developed so far.



Coming next...

In the next phase of the project, HEADS-UP partners will develop the targeted training materials for front-line educators and parents. The in-service training for front-line educators will be signed off at the next partner meeting in Madrid in January 2019, and will be tested at a transnational training event for educators that will be held in Ireland in March, 2019.

How to get connected with HEADS-UP...

If you would like to join the stakeholder forum in your local area, please contact the partner in your home country.

Follow us on Facebook or send a message and the local partner will be in touch
<https://www.facebook.com/headsupproject/>

If you would like more information about the project log on to our project website <https://www.heads-up.online/>



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