

ORPHEUS EVENT

30 November 2022, Mechelen (Belgium)



HOW TO FOSTER RESILIENCE IN YOUTH

NEW APPROACHES WITHIN ONLINE AND OFFLINE PREVENTION

Join us at the final event of the ORPHEUS project on prevention of violent extremism.

Learn from international experiences from the UK, Belgium, France, and the Netherlands.

[Register now](#)

For whom? A conference for professionals, policymakers and anyone interested in learning more about resilience against violent extremism

Where? Lamot Conference Centre - Haverwerf, 2800 Mechelen (Belgium)

When? Wednesday 30 November from 9 AM - 5 PM. Followed by a networking reception.

Entrance is free of charge, but registration is mandatory.

What can you expect?

The ORPHEUS project provides youth workers, educators and policymakers with tools and knowledge to support young people in becoming more resilient.

Learn how to:

- Generate safe/brave spaces
- Stimulate critical thinking
- Increase online resilience

Eventually, ORPHEUS provides guidance to restore, create and strengthen social cohesion between young people and society.

For further information, please contact us: orpheus@mechelen.be.

Photos will be taken during the event for communication purposes.



PROGRAM OF THE FINAL ORPHEUS EVENT

HOW TO FOSTER RESILIENCE IN YOUTH – 30 NOVEMBER 2022

9.00 – 9.45	Registration and coffee
9.45 – 10.00	Welcome to the final event of ORPHEUS
10.00 – 10.15	Welcome by your host City of Mechelen
10.15 – 11.00	What is ORPHEUS all about? Sofa talk with the project partners
11.00 – 11.30	Coffee break
11.30 – 12.30	Broadening our horizon: inspirational speakers on youth, prevention and policy
12.30 – 13.30	Networking lunch
13.30 – 14.30	Deep dive into ORPHEUS principles, methods, and practices. Parallel workshops session 1 (see below for details)* <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. From Safe to Brave Spaces2. Controversial Issues in Safe Spaces: Managing the Unexpected3. The Dark Side of “Fake News”. Protecting Young People and Professionals from Online Misinformation, Propaganda and Deepfakes4. How to develop Alternative Narratives Preventing Violent Extremism5. Online dialogue in chatrooms and on social media
14.30 – 15.30	Deep dive into ORPHEUS principles, methods, and practices. Parallel workshops session 2 (see below for details)* <ol style="list-style-type: none">6. 'Ask them yourself!': proven methods to really reach young people7. Online Safe Spaces8. The Impact of Social Gaming9. Get Up, Stand Up. Supporting Young People in the Expression of Grievances10. Policy Development Process: ORPHEUS Project as a Case Study
15.30 – 16.00	Coffee break
16.00 – 17.00	Spoken word by Sesa, panel discussion and Q&A
17.00 – 18.00	Networking reception

StampMedia will be present during the event to report and collect footage from a young people's perspective.



* DEEP DIVE INTO THE ORPHEUS PRINCIPLES, METHODS AND PRACTICES

PARALLEL WORKSHOPS SESSION 1 (13.30 – 14.30)

WORKSHOP 1. FROM SAFE TO BRAVE SPACES

Reyhan Görgöz, Artevelde University College (BE); Denoix Kerger, Artevelde University College (BE); Alexander Van Leuven, City of Mechelen (BE)

In 'safe spaces' a group of people can meet each other free from pressures they experience elsewhere. People who share characteristics, experiences or grievances can explore these in a safe environment. Exchanging and exploring their experiences are therefore very important on an individual level.

But these safe spaces also raise very important questions. Are they not in danger of becoming islands of like-minded people? Or a form of folding back on one's own group and cultivating resentment, withdrawing from the public debate and public space, and remain stuck in the role of victim? If these people demand changes in society to have a better position, then going public with their grievances and demands is key.

In other words: the power of a safe spaces has many sides. Doors may sometimes be closed, but this is not always the case. Among the plethora of safe spaces, a large amount of them opens the gates. Safe spaces can also function as a springboard where young people learn to and evolve to standing up for themselves and their peers, build more self-confidence and draw the courage to ... jump. In these cases, safe spaces become brave spaces.

During this workshop we present good practices of working towards 'brave and braver spaces' and reflect on the context of these spaces and the specific role of the supervisors.

WORKSHOP 2. CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES IN SAFE SPACES: MANAGING THE UNEXPECTED

John Webster, Portsmouth City Council (UK); Charlie Pericleous, Portsmouth City Council (UK); Bart Van Bouchaute, Artevelde University College (BE); Jon Nicholas, Tim Parry Johnathan Ball Peace Foundation (UK)

An interactive session that allows participants to hear how safe spaces were delivered but also provides an opportunity to respond or to discuss different scenarios.

The focus will be to highlight the methods in the ORPHEUS manual/pack alongside experiences in practice. We will all link back to the key ORPHEUS objectives of allowing young people the chance to discuss and to raise practitioner confidence.

- Establishing a safe space
- Valuing the multiple transactions
- Managing the unexpected
- Wrapping up the session

WORKSHOP 3. THE DARK SIDE OF "FAKE NEWS". PROTECTING YOUNG PEOPLE AND PROFESSIONALS FROM ONLINE MISINFORMATION, PROPAGANDA AND DEEPPAKES

Dr. Annie Kirby, Cybercrime Awareness Clinic - University of Portsmouth (UK); prof. dr. Vasileios Karagiannopoulos, Cybercrime Awareness Clinic - University of Portsmouth (UK); Ameenah Begum, Unloc. Developing Young Potential (UK)

Join us for an interactive workshop inspired by the Project ORPHEUS training on cyberawareness and online critical literacy, including:

- An overview of the ORPHEUS training modules and how these will ultimately help to keep young people safe from online grooming by extremist groups
- A discussion about how you can adapt the ORPHEUS training to suit your own local context
- Practical activities to test your own skills in verifying online information



WORKSHOP 4. HOW TO DEVELOP ALTERNATIVE NARRATIVES PREVENTING VIOLENT EXTREMISM

Prof. dr. Marcin Sklad, University College Roosevelt (NL); Isa Boere, University College Roosevelt (NL); Céline Devienne, GRETA Grand Littoral (FR); Youcef Naimi, Ceapire (BE)

* Writing your own story: Identifying stories and models to empower, support and inspire youth to prevent violent extremism.

A workshop for developing narrative means, for online and offline prevention of ideologically-inspired violence among youth. The workshop will help content creators, whether they are on online or offline platforms, educators or young people themselves, to create, locate and promote media content which can potentially protect against grooming into violent extremism.

The workshop has been created on the basis of a thorough review of empirical research and relevant theories, in order to provide strong and scientifically supported advice. The principles introduced in this workshop are universal and not focused on one particular issue or ideology and are intended to be widely applicable, so they can fit the needs of different target groups and build resilience against different radical narratives.

Participants will gain competence and confidence in identifying or creating content to help vulnerable youth build resilience against attractive narratives that might lead to violent extremism.

WORKSHOP 5. ONLINE DIALOGUE IN CHATROOMS AND ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Peter Van Mullem, Artevelde University College (BE)

* How to get started? Or not? And what works and what doesn't? And what dilemmas do you encounter?

In some organizations professionals are reluctant to post on social media. Moreover, sometimes they have disabled the comment function on the website or other channels because they do not know how to deal with the offending comments that are posted.

This statement articulates the feeling of professionals working with young people as they face their lack of competence in dealing with offending and extremist expressions in an online setting. It is clear that the (online) world of young people has changed dramatically in a short period of time. Young people spend plenty of time on their smartphones or computers. Being online has many advantages for them. From finding information quickly, to joining groups to hang out with friends. However, there is also a downside, such as being easily influenced by all kinds of ideas. This makes some young people vulnerable to fake news, disinformation, conspiracy myths and extreme opinions. There is also an absence of a shared norm about online behaviour. This makes aggressive and transgressive behaviour easier and more likely.

It is important for teachers and youth workers to talk to young people about what is happening online and to be present in that world to understand what is going on in this area. For young people, the online and offline worlds merge seamlessly. Consequently, more and more professionals, such as youth workers, are online. They do so to reach out to young people and understand what concerns and moves them.

Setting up direct online dialogue in chat rooms and on social media is not something you do overnight. Organizations and professionals are called upon to think about the necessity and feasibility of this kind of dialogue. It requires vision, choices and an investment of people and resources. But how do professionals approach this wisely? What works and what doesn't? And what dilemmas do they encounter?



PARALLEL WORKSHOPS SESSION 2 (14.30 – 15.30)

WORKSHOP 6. 'ASK THEM YOURSELF!': PROVEN METHODS TO REALLY REACH YOUNG PEOPLE

Alexander Van Leuven, City of Mechelen (BE); Martine van Gool, R-Newt/Contourdetwern (NL)

Governments and organizations often find it difficult to really reach young people. Nevertheless, there are many initiatives that, sometimes for decades, have a good reach among young people and can talk to them about difficult topics, such as about the policy during the pandemic years, the legitimate concerns about 5G, how to deal with structural discrimination, and how to take democratic action. In this workshop we ask ourselves two central questions:

What do we do to restore the bond with young people whom we threaten to push further and further away through certain policy priorities?

What do we do to prevent young people from dropping out and then joining undemocratic groups?

The speakers will give you a taste of their approach and share their experiences with various safe and brave spaces in Mechelen, Dordrecht, Portsmouth and Calais.

WORKSHOP 7. ONLINE SAFE SPACES

Youcef Naimi, Ceapire (BE)

In this workshop, practitioners will take you through their shift from offline safe spaces to an online environment, the challenges they face and future opportunities.

WORKSHOP 8. THE IMPACT OF SOCIAL GAMING

Cristian Van der Stoep, R-Newt/ContourdeTwern (NL)

During the months where social distancing was at its peak, youth workers were forced to digitalise their activities and host their events online. Through these unorthodox moments, a lot of creative methods and information was gathered. Online streaming, social media and digital tournaments are examples of how this was realised: a new branch of youth work and interaction was unlocked.

During this workshop we will reflect on this period, the rise of social gaming, the application of hybrid (online/offline) gaming, the significance of this and future applications of social gaming within youth work and general education.

WORKSHOP 9. GET UP, STAND UP. SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE EXPRESSION OF GRIEVANCES

Bart Van Bouchaute, Artevelde University College (BE); Peter Cristiaensen Artevelde University College (BE); in cocreation with UIT DE MARGE

In co-creation with young people and youth workers, Artevelde University of Applied Sciences developed Get Up Stand Up: a hands-on manual and a training for professionals about supporting young people in their struggle against injustices.

This training tackles grievances as a risk factor for violent extremism (Hafez & Mullins, (2015). In a research summary Miller & Chauhan (2017) conclude: "Both the subjective perception and objective existence of unfairness, discrimination and injustice can be important drivers of violent behaviour both when it objectively exists and when it is perceived."



Young people often express grievances about perceived disadvantage and injustice. These can be economic grievances e.g low income or poor housing. Or they experience cultural grievances e.g. suffering hatred and humiliation because of skin colour or religion. Or they experience political grievances because they feel powerless. Young people need more, not less space to express these grievances. How can professionals support young people in these processes? With the manual and training program Get Up Stand Up ORPHEUS wants to make them feel more confident.

WORKSHOP 10. POLICY DEVELOPMENT PROCESS: ORPHEUS PROJECT AS A CASE STUDY

Dr. Siddik Ekici, City of Mechelen (BE); prof. dr. Vasileios Karagiannopoulos, Cybercrime Awareness Clinic - University of Portsmouth (UK); Werner Van Herle, City of Mechelen (BE); Bruce Marr, Portsmouth City Council (UK)

The workshop is about introduction of several methods how policies make the agenda, how they are formulated, their endorsement and application phases followed by feedback and amendments or cancellation.

The well-known policy development cycle is compared with other policy development paths. Then a comparison is made between the processes with a discussion of their pros and cons by some actual policies as examples for their development process and their application results for the purpose to find out where the ORPHEUS policy recommendation development process fits in and whether that was the actual or the best method to be applied.

MORE INFO, TOOLS, GUIDELINES, TRAININGS, VIDEOS, POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS, ...

ON: [HTTPS://WWW.ORPHEUSPROJECT.EU/](https://www.orpheusproject.eu/)

COME TOGETHER – THINK CRITICALLY – SPEAK FREELY

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ORPHEUS

Who We Are ▾ Toolkit ▾ Inspirations & Publications ▾ Get Started ▾

Come together

Welcome to ORPHEUS, a project designed to provide youth workers and educators with the tools and knowledge to help young people become more resilient to violent extremist narratives.

ORPHEUS supports youth workers, teachers and other educators working with young people by providing resources to:

- **Generate** safe/brave spaces
- **Stimulate** critical thinking
- **Increase** online resilience

