

# Newsletter # 3 Netherlands

## EDURAD: ADDRESSING VIOLENT RADICALISATION: A MULTI-ACTOR RESPONSE THROUGH EDUCATION

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## Podcasting Challenging Conversations

By William Stephens

This issue spotlights a pedagogical tool developed in the Netherlands that explores podcasting as a tool to open up and extend conversations about important and challenging problems. As well as discussing the podcast series in the Netherlands, an educational module is introduced, meant for those who wish to create podcasts in their own settings.

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## Why Podcasts?

Podcasts seem to be an appealing format for many people, and listenership continues to grow (Quah, 2021). Part of their appeal might lie in the fact that they can be listened to anytime and anywhere. But other appealing aspects made them seem a good fit for what we were looking for as a pedagogical tool. In our conversations with youth workers and teachers, one of the things they made clear was that, while they did not lack access to training on issues around extremism, they did want more space to reflect, to go a bit deeper.

Through creating a podcast series, it has been possible to capture the reflections of practitioners and youth themselves on what can be challenging topics. The conversational tone of podcasts seemed well-suited to enabling people to 'listen in' to these reflections and experiences. We hope that not only do they prove inspirational, but that they invite reflection on the part of the listener as well, that they instigate a conversation. Finally, the versatility of podcasts means that they are a tool that almost anyone can create with little expense. They allow you to be as elaborate or simple as you like. To tap into this potential, we have created a module that looks at how people can use podcasting on their own to initiate conversations about difficult topics.

## What is the podcast series in the Netherlands about?

We developed a podcast series supported by the national Platform for Youth Prevention against Extremism (Platform JEP, <https://www.platformjep.nl>) that focuses on different inspiring practices from around the Netherlands and Belgium, featured in Stijn Sieckelinck and Femke Kaulingfreks forthcoming book 'Speelruimte voor Identiteit'.

Each episode brings together young people and practitioners and invites them to explore the nature of their work to help build resilient identities in the face of influences that could cause extremism to appear attractive.

In the first episode, available [here](#), we become familiar with work in Rotterdam based on the Theatre of the Oppressed. We hear from a young person who experienced the power of theatre in his own life and now is a facilitator for others. The theatre provides young people with a space to find their voice and enter into a dialogue with the institutions in their neighbourhood. In the podcast, for example, in one of the forum spaces created by the theatre group, a young person asked why the three police officers who came to participate were all white. This question was uncomfortable to ask but an important one and relevant for the police to reflect on.

In autumn, five other episodes will be released, each foregrounding a different practice. Each practice is quite different, yet they all work in some way on building resilient identities. Over the coming months, we are eager to learn how these podcasts give rise to further reflections and conversations amongst practitioners, policymakers, and young people themselves.

## What is available for people outside the Netherlands?

Podcasting on extremism-relevant topics seems to offer a promising means of engaging in a deeper conversation around these important issues. It is not only the content of the podcasts that is helpful, but the creative endeavour of producing a podcast in itself can enable people to grapple more deeply with complex issues (Ferrer, Lorenzetti & Shaw, 2020).

WHAT IS AVAILABLE FOR  
PEOPLE OUTSIDE THE  
NETHERLANDS?

A practice-based module

WHAT COMES NEXT?

The community of practice

Considering this, we have developed an online module to enable practitioners to create their own podcast series based on issues relevant to their community. Drawing on the insights gained in the Netherlands, the module provides both practical and reflective tools for producing a podcast on challenging topics. Central to the module is the idea of creating the conditions for meaningful conversation, and points to the importance of being able to identify the issues that matter and the people who have something to say on these topics, and then creating an environment in which a frank and constructive conversation can take place.

The module will shortly be available on the EDURAD website, and we hope it will spark different creative endeavours. The fact that these endeavours will be grounded in local settings is essential, while there are common issues related to extremism, how these play out and what matters in local settings differs (Stephens & Sieckelinck, 2020). The accessibility of podcasting offers the possibility of opening conversations about those things that may otherwise be missed.

### **What comes next?**

Creating something interesting to listen to has been a valuable outcome in itself, but we are particularly interested in the conversations and reflections sparked by the podcast series. The ideas presented are not thoughts to be passively absorbed but to be engaged with and discussed. To enable this, we are forming a community of practice in the Netherlands, bringing together practitioners, policymakers, and scientists. In this space, the podcasts will serve as a point of reference to reflect on practitioners and policymakers' issues. The community of practice will provide an arena for collectively exploring and addressing these issues, benefiting from the exchange between people with different backgrounds and experiences.

### **References**

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