

CHAMPIONS Newsletter 04/2020

Introducing the CHAMPIONS Training Yard on FirstLinePractitioners

The Training Yard platform is one of three pillars of the CHAMPIONS project and serves as a digital learning portal for the First Line Practitioners (FLPs) from various disciplines. The newsletter highlights their core pillars and the implementation roadmap.

The following outline incorporates all previous project experiences, including the findings from the surveys and interviews, as well as the evaluations of the collected online tools and materials and general suggestions. In the following, the structure of the Training Yard is introduced, as well as individual elements and functions. This is followed by the concept of simulation exercises.

The Training Yard will

- offer tools that can be used for roundtables/workshops developed within the CHAMPIONS Project and possibly above for FLPs and for offline trainings.
- be optional usable for single FLPs for self-training without offline meetings.

Tools and Material

To address these options for use, the CHAMPIONS Training Yard will offer a mixture of newly created and already available tools and material in alternative structured ways (containing the same tools/material):

Learning Modules: Here, the tools are arranged by general aspects. Offline trainers can pick tools by their choice. In addition, FLPs get an easy overview of general aspects. Examples of learning modules include: information, awareness and victim protection.

Simulations cases: Here, the tools are arranged along simulation cases giving typical examples of political polarisation and radicalisation in an escalation ranging from everyday racism to strong right-wing extremism in local contexts. Single FLPs, who enter the platform on the search for information and help, can select the simulation case most appropriate to their problem/question and will then be lead to the relevant tools. This arrangement is particularly suitable for beginner FLPs, who do not know which tools already exist. To exemplify, here are two possible simulation cases: a) a teacher at a school where everyday racism is common wants to understand better the problem and know what to do; b) in a local community, right-wing extremists want to rent a room for a regional meeting. The communal administration want to know how to deal with the problem.

List of tools: Here, the tools are arranged along specific topics. FLPs and trainers of offline workshops can look for specific topics and also look for inspiration based on what else is available. Examples of listed tools include racism, Group-focused Enmity, right-wing extremism and self-awareness.

Free Search: Here, the tools can be searched by terms (similar to google search). Single FLPs and trainers can use the free search if they already have a rough idea of what they are looking for. Examples of terms for the free search include what is radicalisation, training against racism.



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The structure of the CHAMPION Training Yard should be as easy as possible for users unfamiliar with the phenomenon and not particular familiar with internet platforms to easily navigate and find useful information.

Implementation Roadmap

As it becomes apparent when browsing through EU and national projects in the field of security (and also in other domains), a vast number of online platforms have been developed in the past years as part of such projects. However, many platforms provide content, tools and services that are produced and shaped for the same target group. Although the different platforms might have a slightly different focus or are structured in different ways, there are often overlaps and duplications.

Furthermore, the more platforms are released, the less traffic and visibility each of them will have – especially if they are targeting the same or similar end-users. As a platform is usually related to one particular project, it is always a challenge to establish a system of maintenance after a project has ended because of effort and resources that are needed to keep it updated and running.

Users are moving fast and if a platform is not maintained, the platform gets outdated and might disappear. Therefore, the CHAMPIONS consortium decided to integrate the tools and services, which are developed in the project, to the existing www.firstlinepractitioners.com platform. The platform has already a strong identity including a recognizable URL and it includes content for the target group. Introducing the CHAMPIONS outcomes as new modules and functionalities on the www.firstlinepractitioners.com platform will make sure that it is visible, has impact and will be sustainable.

The Training Yard is currently programmed and implemented in the www.firstlinepractitioners.com platform, including filtering options and search functionalities. Furthermore, the Alert and the Arena services are developed in parallel and finalized for the implementation. Afterwards, the Beta testing round will make sure that bugs and compatibility issues are eliminated, before the new modules are released to the public.

CHAMPIONS - Cooperative Harmonized Action Model to Stop Polarisation in Our Nations

The main objective of the project is to develop collaboration models for establishing working groups between first-line-practitioners. The offline approach is supported by collaborative online tools, practitioner trainings and digital services.

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