



“Co-financiado por el Programa de Derechos, Igualdad y Ciudadanía de la Unión Europea”



PROXIMITY POLICING MUTUAL LEARNING NETWORK

1. INTRODUCTION TO THE NETWORK

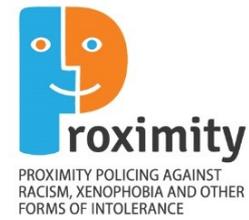
Proximity Policing Network is created as an instrument of continuity and sustainability for the PROXIMITY Project: “Police against racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance”.

The Project, developed between 2017 and 2019, held as main objective identifying and sharing of tools to broaden the capacity of the local authorities and that of the proximity police, to identify and fight racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance.

The project has been co-funded by the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme from the European Commission JUST/2015/RRAC/AG (Action grants to prevent and combat racism, xenophobia, homophobia and other forms of intolerance).

Led by the General Directorate of Integration and Humanitarian Attention from the Secretary of State for Migrations within the Ministry of Labour, Migrations and Social Security from Spain, through the Spanish Observatory of Racism and Xenophobia, several entities have been part to the consortium of the project:

- Ministry of Justice from Finland – Team for non-discrimination and Fundamental Rights;
- Local Police from Madrid – City Council of Madrid;
- Local Police from Riga;
- Police and Border Guard from Estonia;
- Police from Lisbon;
- University of Milan;
- TRABE Association;
- Foundation for Access to Rights from Bulgaria;
- Bradford Hate Crime Alliance from the United Kingdom.



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- Some partner agencies have participated as associated partners: the European Coalition of Cities Against Racism (ECCAR); the European Network of Policewomen (ENP); and the Ministry of Interior from Spain.

The importance of the proximity police to face racism and xenophobia in a specific district or neighbourhood where their work is taking place is understood due to the closeness to the citizens as well as their collaborative work with members of the communities, minority groups, associations and NGOs. This allows them to be in a privileged position to prevent and identify cases of xenophobia, racism, and other forms of intolerance.

One of the expected results of the Project was the creation of a Mutual Learning Network as a European network that would be practical, dynamic and flexible for the voluntary exchange of experiences and methodologies. It was also thought as a tool for the improvement of the coordination amongst authorities which were interested, especially local ones, municipal police, social organizations and the most vulnerable groups at risk of suffering from racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance in Europe.

2. OBJECTIVES

The aim of Proximity Policing Mutual Learning Network is to elaborate a diverse network in its composition which reflects, debates and shares knowledge and experiences from local authorities and, particularly, from proximity police, to identify and combat racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance.

The mission of the Network is to extend this considerations and experiences through city networks, public organizations and European institutions, universities, research centres, etc., which are part of the network and, thus, to provide new elements and proposals which are adjusted to the socio-political reality of the local entities in the context of intervention, training and investigation on racism and xenophobia for proximity police.

For this purpose, the **Proximity Policing Mutual Learning Network** will:

- a) Serve as a platform to share information among the member entities regarding racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance and regarding training and intervention experiences, especially those directed to local authorities and proximity police.
- b) Raise awareness at European and national level regarding the relevance of fighting racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance, especially at the local level and with the collaboration of the proximity police.



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- c) Promote the cooperation among institutions, organizations and individual members and to work as a possible source of collaboration for projects between potential partners, regarding the fight against racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance.
- d) Identify the existing European initiatives to develop new strategies for battling racism, xenophobia and hate crimes, especially at the local level and with the participation of proximity police.
- e) Contribute to the promotion, investigation and other actions to fight racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance at the local level with the collaboration of proximity police.

3. NETWORK WORKING STRUCTURE

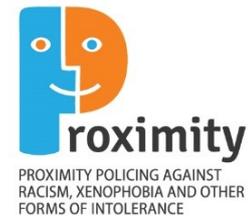
The network working structure intends to be operational and simple, to allow for the coordination and the continuous voluntary exchange and avoiding being a burden nor a responsibility or a compromise, only as far as each participant is interested.

The basic structure of the network is:

- **Technical Secretariat:** from the network that will be acquired by the Spanish Observatory of Racism and Xenophobia.
- **Working groups:** based on lines of work which share or foster the participating entities in the Network.
- **Information provided to the network:** information will be provided periodically regarding the activity of the network and, in any case, once a year.

The Technical Secretariat of the Network will develop the following functions:

- a) Managing the adhesion applications to the Network.
- b) Developing spaces which allow for the communication among the members of the Network in a way that they can construct actions, share experiences and knowledge where debates and reflections are fostered regarding the fight against racism, xenophobia and hate crimes, especially at local level and with the participation of proximity police.



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- c) Offering support to the institutions, organizations and individual members to establish contacts, communications and working alliances.
- d) Developing a dynamic, simple and practical system for the exchange of information among members of the Network, using the means which are deemed most appropriate (web, social media, bulletins, etc.).
- e) Implementing the Annual Plan of Work which will be passed by the members.
- f) Providing support to the working groups that are built.

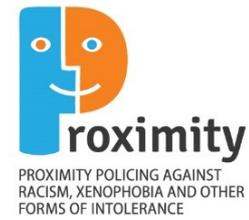
The Network will be able to consider having an annual gathering with the purpose of reflecting and debating about the subjects of interest, the action strands, the creation of working groups and the approval of the annual working plan.

4. WHO CAN BE PART OF THE NETWORK?

Any public or private institution, social organizations, and individual experts working in the areas of prevention and fight against racism, xenophobia and hate crimes in Europe, can be part of the Network especially at a local level and with the collaboration of the proximity police.

The institutions, organizations and experts wishing to be part of the network should develop actions in, at least, one these areas:

- Developing activities directed towards the fighting against racism, xenophobia and hate crimes, especially at a local level and preferably, with the involvement of the proximity police.
- Developing training actions about racism, xenophobia and hate crimes, including the training actions conducted with the security forces, especially with the proximity police.
- Carrying out investigations, analysis and research regarding racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance, at a national, regional and local level.
- Identifying, analysing, promoting and expanding good practices regarding the fight against racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance.
- Promoting the interculturality and respect for diversity in all areas of society and developing activities which are directed towards the fight against stereotypes and certain negative beliefs in relation to immigration (speeches with racist or xenophobic connotations).



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- Promoting the political, social, economic and cultural participation of immigrant people in the hosting societies.
- Preventing and fighting racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance.

5. HOW TO BE A PART OF THE NETWORK

The adhesion application to the Network will be carried out through the Technical Secretariat, which the Spanish Observatory of Racism and Xenophobia (OBERAXE) will process.

The institutions, organizations and experts wishing to be a part of the Network must:

- a) Send the adhesion questionnaire to the Technical Secretariat.
- b) Sign the Network Declaration with the rights and obligations of the Network members and send it alongside the adhesion questionnaire.

The Technical Secretariat will be the one responsible of confirming the adhesion to all individuals, institutions and organizations.

6. WHY BECOMING A MEMBER?

When participating in the Proximity Policing Network you will be able to:

- Exchange experiences and information with other public and private institutions, civil society organizations and experts in the fight against racism, xenophobia and hate crimes in Europe.
- Contact (through the Technical Secretariat or directly) with other entities which are members to the network to go in depth on the experiences or develop other joint initiatives.
- Collaborate on projects at a European Union level.



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- Maximize the impacts and the visibility of the actions that your institution or organization is developing in the framework of the battle against racism, xenophobia and hate crimes.