



managed by the Institute for Strategic Dialogue

CASE STUDY REPORT

Project Name/Country:

RASMUS Network, Finland

Aims/Objectives:

To facilitate a network of national (and in some cases international) organisations, and promote events and activities to oppose racism and xenophobia in Finland.

Description/Activities:

The RASMUS Network against Racism and Xenophobia is a not-for-profit organisation that opposes racism and xenophobia in Finland. In practice, the network accomplishes this goal by bringing together actors from Finland that share the same ideals, and facilitating an exchange of ideas, theories, practices and approaches between them. They aim to raise awareness of, and contest, the structures and narratives that obstruct citizens from recognising the concept of equality between human beings. By promoting and stimulating this concept in mainstream society, RASMUS aim to be a catalyst of a diverse society free from prejudice and social stigma against people from different cultures and ethnic backgrounds.

RASMUS acts as an umbrella-organisation for regional organisations and networks that bring together local actors, organise events and discussions, and promote multiculturalism at a local level. It is financed by membership fees, donations and the Finnish Slot Machine Association (RAY). Their website hosts information about upcoming events, affiliated organisations and charities working on similar issues around Finland and Europe. It also lists hyperlinks to affiliated organisations, and provides contact details for key actors. Potential members can connect with their local network coordinator to discuss joining or to participate in local events.

The organisation's Facebook group, '*RASMUS – valtakunnallinen rasismien ja muukalaispelon vastainen verkosto*', hosts discussion forums to enable members to debate issues such as racism, extremism, discrimination and xenophobia. Their online portal presents information about activities and events held as part of 'Action Week Against Racism'. RASMUS encourage people to submit their own activities or events onto the website to publicise them. Members of the network also receive a monthly newsletter detailing upcoming events, publications, and other work countering racism and xenophobia.

Key Points/Lessons Learned:

- Raise awareness of the structures and narratives in society that lead to prejudice against others
- Bring together regional actors working on racism and xenophobia
- Promote events and activities and seminars that discuss or explore racism and xenophobia and actively oppose them
- Hold discussion forums on the organisation's Facebook group



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